



Minsk International Model United Nations  
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Inclusion of vulnerable groups: Adolescents in focus

# Guide

## Economical & financial committee

Topic 1: Eradication of poverty as a measure for youth development

Topic 2: The need to provide adolescent refugees with skills and programs for future employment and social integration

Chairs: Sarah Haputantri, Shasidar Sureshkumar

# Topic 2: The need to provide adolescent refugees with skills and programs for future employment and social integration.

## Background & Definition

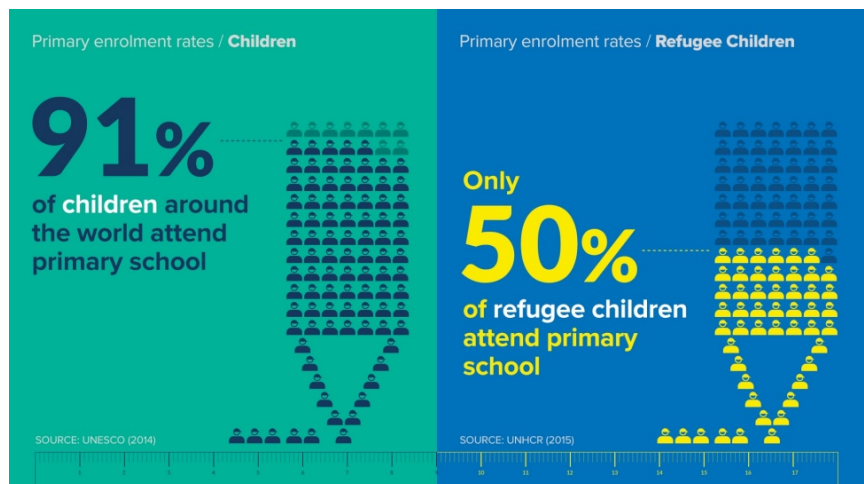
Definition of “refugee” according to the United Nations Refugee Agency:

*“A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.”*

Recent numbers suggest that nearly 50 million children and adolescents have been displaced, 28 million face war and brutality and millions more attempt to escape a life of poverty. Youth from countries such as, Iraq, Yemen and the South Sudan are fleeing to countries and cities where they believe, a better life awaits.

Unfortunately, this idea isn't entirely true. The United Nations Refugee Agency uncovered that Syrian refugee children and adolescents are experiencing a variety of hardships including isolation, psychological distress, extended disruptions of education and exploitative employment.

Such factors, combined with common refugee circumstances such as loss of family members, homes, violence etc. are dangerous for developing youth. Not only does it curb their abilities to mature, it also poses a threat to the countries they're seeking refuge in. Youth without proper guidance, support and education are more prone to leading a life of crime, drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment and overall, a life not much different from the one they left behind.



This essentially means that while Germany and Sweden have made commitments to take in hundreds of thousands of refugees between them, opening their doors is just the start of a much longer process which needs to be analyzed and tackled effectively.

This refugee crisis is the worst since World War II, essentially making it a humanitarian emergency that requires immediate attention. Youth are facing serious issues, and regardless of their backgrounds, it's a global responsibility to ensure that they are given the opportunity to flourish and become valuable members of society.

### Links:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2015/10/01/not-likely-to-go-home-the-challenges-of-integrating-syrian-refugees/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/01/13/europe-integrating-refugees-next-big-challenge>

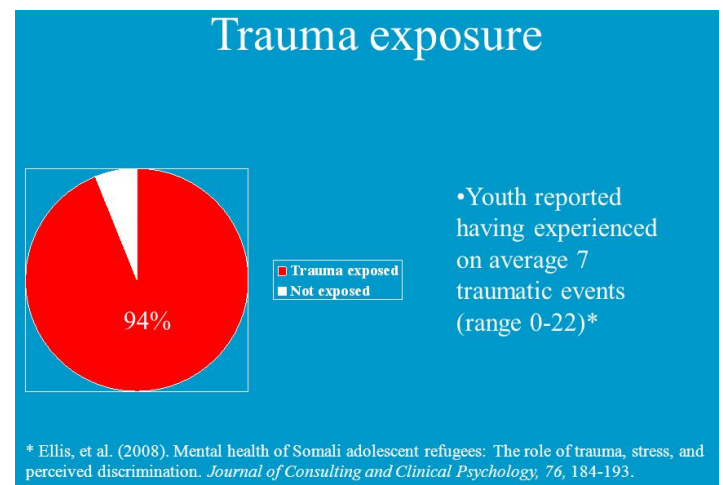
<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/exconc/3ae68c68c/refugee-children-adolescents.html>

## Causes

The reasons for the growing number of refugees aren't those which can be solved in a short time span of time. Youth are vulnerable groups and the main reasons for their issues in society, apart from their obvious lack in maturity, include psychological stress from what they endured in their native countries, disrupted and poor quality of education as well as being subjected to foreign ways of life, technology, ideology, all of which makes it incredibly difficult for their growth and development.

Countries providing refuge also need to prepare the general public in ways to help these individuals and also attempt to fill in the gaps between the two groups.

Effective programs and organizations dedicated to tackling these problems are close to non-existent, hence leading to the large crisis at hand.



Links:

<http://time.com/4030905/europe-migrants-integration/>

<http://www.borgenmagazine.com/4-problems-syrian-refugee-children-face/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugee\\_women\\_and\\_children#Adolescent\\_issues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugee_women_and_children#Adolescent_issues)

## Organizations

UNICEF is responding to this crisis across four continents: delivering lifesaving supplies to children and their families fleeing escalating violence in the Middle East and Northern Africa, providing water and tents to create safe spaces for the growing wave of children moving through Europe and working to improve the lives of children fleeing violence and abuse in Central America. Although such efforts are absolutely vital, in the long-term scenario, there is a desperate lack of measures to help these children fit into their new lives and societies

Mercy Corps, a well-known and large charity organization carried out a detailed study on the way Syrian adolescents and their host-community peers interacted, along with the problems they faced. In 2014 they conducted 16 focus group discussions in Jordan and Lebanon with over 150 adolescents. Based on these discussions, a report was compiled, with findings and recommendations that should guide investments in future-oriented strategies to facilitate and improve adolescent well-being and critical development skills for adolescents.

There are many more NGOs working hard to facilitate and support refugees, however they require guidance and proper foundation for their efforts to be effective in the battle against adolescent refugees' underdevelopment and isolation.

Links:

<https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/child-refugees>

<https://www.mercycorps.org.uk/>

<http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/ipi-rpt-syrian-refugee-youth-final.pdf>

<https://www.raptim.org/focus-on-ngos-27-organizations-that-help-refugees/>

## Solutions

War and poverty are the main reasons for the refugee crisis. Two issues that require delicate and effective handling, and as a result, a lot of time as well. In the

meantime, for adolescents already displaced, there is a need to provide education, social skills, integration opportunities and programs.

In order for these measures to be taken, investment is key. Of course, with regards to funding, numerous aspects need to be considered, such as:

- The source of funding (governmental, private, NGO etc.)
- An authoritative body to manage and distribute funds
- Employees and organizations to promote and work for the cause

There is also a requirement for the public to be aware of their role in helping these children developing and becoming a part of society. Outreach programs and education on such topics can raise awareness and bridge the gap between them.

Designing ways for children of various backgrounds to come together, be educated and grow up being aware of their differences and embracing them, are essential for future generations to end tension and segregation.

Countries such as the Netherlands are successfully handling the integration crisis. Nations need to unite and learn how to provide good lives for those seeing refuge and a forum for such discussions are required.

Although measures have been taken to fix the issue at hand, they're recent, still unrefined and lack proper aims, guidelines and structure, thus making it ECOFIN's responsibility to provide a resolution addressing every aspect of the matter.

Links:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/05/10-ways-countries-can-help-refugees-integrate/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwCvxPFX7c8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8KR4Bry2kA>