Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2016
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Forum: *Economic and Social Council*
Issue: *Finding a long term solution for Syrian refugees*

Position: *Presidents*

Disclaimer: this research report has not been checked by the LEMUN staff

Introduction

Since 2011, the amount of refugees has increased at an alarming rate due to the civil war occurring in Syria along with the emergence of the militaristic jihadist group in Syria and Iraq, ISIS.

After many incidents in Syria, the number of Syrian refugees reached over four million. Despite that, as middle-east countries around Syria such as Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and UAE do not accommodate Syrian refugees, many of them moved to places like Europe. Although Germany has already declared that they will actively accommodate more refugees, which may change because of terrorist attacks that have occurred in Germany. Not only Germany, but many other European nations are also refusing to accommodate refugees.

Within this issue, refugees are living in very harsh conditions. Since the number of refugees is very large, European nations aren't able to provide a place for all of them, they attempted to solve this problem by building refugee camps.

Definition of Key Terms

Refugees - A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

Financial Aid - Any grant or scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student meet his/her college expenses. Such aid is usually provided by various sources such as federal and state agencies, colleges, high schools, foundations, and corporations.

ISIS - an extremist militant group that rules by Wahhabi/Salafi law. In Arabic, the group is also known as Daesh. ISIS currently resides mainly in parts of Syria and Iraq.

General Overview

Although refugee camps might sound as a proper solution, many refugee camps have sanitation problems causing the spread of infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis. Many of the camps do not have electricity or a proper water supply. Some nations like Germany are spending a great deal of tax to provide financial aid and any other support to refugees. While Germany supported more than a million refugees and is still going to spend more than 10 million euro, the United States the richest nation only accommodated 1500 refugees and Canada only accommodated about a thousand refugees.

It also brings up the problem that these nations do not spend sufficient money or tax to solve refugee problem. The refugee problem is not a big problem in Middle-Eastern Asia and also not the problem of Europe. The solution of this issue is dependent on all countries which are willing to help. Drafting resolutions is necessary for the international society to reach an agreement about efficiently provide financial aid and other alternatives for solving this problem.

Major Parties Involve

Syria

A large percentage of the refugees originally comes from Syria so it is a country that should be included in the debates for a solution.

Russia

Russia is one of the crucial international supporters to the Syria government and has been highly blamed for constantly supplying weapons to the Syrian military. President Vladimir Putin stated that he has no thoughts about joining any tactic to support refugees and attributed the refugee migration crisis to other European countries. Recently though, the Russian government recently proclaimed to help out with the solving the crisis.

United States of America
The United States of American President has promised to accommodate at least 10,000 refugees.

Canada
Canada is making an effort to accommodate 25,000 Syrian refugees into the nation. It has implemented a Resettlement Assistance Program for refugees who are willing to settle both in and out of Canada, and is also providing Immigration Loans Program which covers expenses of medical check-ups abroad and transportation to Canada.

Turkey
Turkey is accommodating the largest amount of refugees in the Middle East. Turkey has been putting a lot of effort in being a member of the European Union, and is currently being criticized by the public for planning to take in more refugees in trade for joining the EU.

United Kingdom
The United Kingdom's Department for International Development is spending over 1 billion pounds on aid for Syria.

Timeline of Events

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15 March 2011	The day of rage: hundreds of protests in Aleppo and Damascus calling for reforms and changes.

18 March 2011	Security forces open fire during a protest in Daraa, killing four people. This causes more riots but also more resistance from the government.
April 2011	The refugee crisis begins: around 5000 people flee to Lebanon.
June 2011	Policemen and soldiers who were supposed to stop the rebels, joined them in the town of Jisr al-Shughour, claiming this town. However it was reclaimed a couple of days later by the Syrian government.
June-July 2011	The immigrant flow into Turkey and Jordan increases greatly.
February 2012	Syrian government steps up bombing in Homs
March 2012	The refugees move into Lebanon's Bekaa valley
March 2012	UN Security Council endorses a non-binding peace plan drafted by UN envoy Kofi Annan.
April 2012	The Domiz camp in Iraq. The camp contains mostly Syrain refugees from Kurdish origin.
July 2012	The Free Syria Army (the rebels) blow up four officials, including Assad's brother-in-law in Damascus and seize Aleppo.
29 July 2012	UNHCR opens the Za'atari camp in Jordan.
August 2012	Kofi Annan quits as the Arab League envoy after the ceasefire failed.
September 2012	Hundreds of refugees protest against the living conditions in the Za'atari camp.
October 2012	Turkey opens fire on Syria after Syian mortar fire on the Turkish border kills 4 civilians
November 2012	The Syrian National Coalition is formed consisting of the main opposition fractions.
December 2012	The UN seeks $1 billion to support the countries that are hosting the refugees.
January 2013	A landmark: Lebanon starts registering refugees.
January 2013	UNICEF launches the #childrenofsyria to help raise awareness for refugee children.
March 2013	The number of UN-registered refugees hits 1 million, of which half are children.
March 2013	Syrian planes bomb Raqqa after rebels took control of it. US and the UK pledge

	non-military aid to the rebels.
September 2013	The refugee count hits 2 million people. Germany decides to resettle 5000 refugees, the largest resettlement plan yet. Sweden follows by offering permanent residency.
October 2013	Turkey decides to build a 2 metre high wall on the Syrian border.
November 2013	Bulgaria decides to build a wall on the Turkish border as a response to the spike in asylum seekers

The rise of the Islamic State

January 2014	Fighting amongst rebels spreads, pitting a variety of Islamic groups against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.
February 2014	Two rounds of peace talks led by UN-Arab league mediator Lakhdar Brahimi in Geneva do not lead to a breakthrough
May 2014	Lakhdar Brahimi resignes meaning another failure for the UN to end the civil war.
3 June 2014	Syrains in government areas vote, Assad wins with an overwhelming 88.7%.
July 2014	ISIL takes control of Syria's largests oil field: al-Omar.
September 2014	US-led coalition begins airstrikes against IS groups which increases the imigration flow.
October 2014	Jordan refusese entry to Syrian refugees. Kobani is taken over by IS. A decrease of the quality of the living conditions of refugee camps lead to an increase in infectious diseases.
December 2014	UN food aid program is suspended because donors fail to meet their commitments. UN starts to face 2015 humanitarian crisis.
January 2015	Kobani is seized by Kurdish troops with help from the coalition.
April 2015	European summit in Brussels after all the refugee victims in the Mediterranean Sea.
May 2015	ISIS controls half of Syria
August 2015	Germany starts its resettlement program.
September 2015	Hungary closes its border with Serbia. Russia launches its first airstrike in Syria.
February 2016	Syria donors conference in London.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Possible Solutions

Providing job opportunities to refugees is a very potential solution. Most Syrian refugees are well educated and they can be good human resources. Rather than just providing the refugees with financial aid, it is important to make them resettle in the country as well as having jobs. If they get a job after they are resettled, they can earn money, thus countries can stop providing financial aid, which would eventually allow them to pay taxes, making them integrated into the society.

Another possible solution could be the establishment of a refugee quota system. One of the reasons why accepted financial aid for refugees is currently impossible is because the refugees are not evenly spread over all the countries. However, all the countries should take responsibility and help solve this issue. A refugee quota system sets the numbers of refugees that certain nations have to take in. The number is generated according to the wealth of each nation. The use of a refugee quota system has already been discussed within European Union. This system would of course be more effective if the countries outside the European Union would also join and participate in the refugee quota system.

Useful documents + Appendix/Appendices

http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=224
https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/10/eight-solutions-world-refugee-crisis/
http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/humanitarian_responsesituations_crises/syria-syrie.aspx?lang=eng
http://www.ibtimes.com/europe-refugeecrisis-hungary-calls-eu-34b-financial-aid-package-syrias-neighbors-2094021
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-222_en.htm
http://www.uniteforsight.org/refugee-health/module3
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugee_camp
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w
http://syrianrefugees.eu/

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