



Refugee Crises and International Response Policy and Humanitarian Perspectives

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Abstract

The global refugee crisis remains a pressing humanitarian and policy challenge, requiring a comprehensive and coordinated international response. This paper examines the complex interplay between refugee crises, international response policies, and humanitarian perspectives. It provides an in-depth analysis of how political, economic, and security considerations influence refugee policies across different regions. The study explores the evolving landscape of refugee governance, including the role of international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Through a critical assessment of existing policies, the paper highlights discrepancies between international legal frameworks and their practical implementation, particularly in host countries facing resource constraints. The study further delves into the humanitarian dimensions of refugee crises, addressing issues such as access to basic needs, healthcare, education, and socio-economic integration. Special attention is given to protracted refugee situations and the challenges of finding durable solutions, such as repatriation, local integration, and resettlement. Additionally, the paper discusses the increasing role of climate change in forced displacement, emphasizing the necessity for global policy reforms to address emerging trends in climate-induced migration.



Introduction

Empirically, our understanding of the extent of selectivity remains limited, as the international community's response to humanitarian crises has yet to be systematically analyzed. This article seeks to bridge this gap by examining both the extent and nature of selectivity in humanitarian crises (Binder 2009). While the majority of these forced migrants are either internally displaced or remain in Syria's immediate vicinity, the number seeking refuge in Europe surged significantly in 2015 and 2016. During each of these years, over 1.2 million asylum-seekers submitted claims in the European Union (Aleassa 2024). Meanwhile, rise of development led approaches to refugee crises, commonly referred to as the humanitarian development nexus, represents a significant and recent shift in international responses to large scale, protracted forced displacement (Zetter 2020). However, rise of development led approaches to refugee crises, commonly referred to as the humanitarian development nexus, represents a significant and recent shift in international responses to large scale, protracted forced displacement (Obaidullah, Hossain et al. 2024). This Special Issue aims to conduct the first systematic assessment of the crisis by applying and refining key theoretical frameworks to analyze the sequence of events. Empirically, it presents original evidence to enhance our understanding of the crisis and the strategies employed in its management (Schramm 2024).

Despite the protections enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention, ratified by approximately 146 states, countries in the Global North have implemented a range of inconsistent and often contradictory policies toward refugees and migrants (Arya, Cameron et al. 2024). On June 20, 2017, in recognition of UN World Refugee Day, we organized an expert consultation as a pre-conference workshop during the 4th International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC) in Geneva (Bianchi, Fiacchini et al. 2024). Refugee commodification—the practice of leveraging refugee hosting to secure political and economic concessions—has garnered increasing scholarly interest in recent years (Irgil, Norman et al. 2024). Examining outcomes in border villages solely through the lens of refugees and the refugee crisis would have been insufficient. This paper advocates for evaluations of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies to extend beyond the immediate (Talleraas, Gezahegne et al. 2024). Therefore, to examine how the AKP government has framed the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkey, this article employs discursive governance as a theoretical framework the building blocks of the international refugee regime. A key event was Pragmatism, Moral Responsibility or Policy Change (İşleyen 2024). The UNHCR advocates resettlement as a crucial protection mechanism and a means of demonstrating solidarity with vulnerable refugees and host countries. However, since resettlement remains discretionary, its guiding principles and objectives lack binding force and can be reinterpreted by states and supranational organizations (Welfens 2024). Refugee identity is shaped through the integration of local realities, varied responses to migration, social interactions, and shared experiences in urban public spaces, which takes on different dimensions in encounters with local communities and urban bureaucracies (Topal Demiroğlu and Culture 2024). The global refugee crisis highlights the unique vulnerabilities of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons (FDP) as consumers navigating a dynamic and often precarious pathway. Trigger events disrupt or fracture essential marketing systems necessary for their safety and well-being, forcing them into dangerous journeys toward temporary or permanent settlements (Begum and Essays 2024).



The concept of humanitarian government has gained prominence in describing the simultaneous yet conflicting application of humanitarian aid and security measures in governing "precarious lives," such as refugees (Corcodel and Fragkou 2024). In contrast to traditional depictions of refugees as passive recipients of humanitarian aid, recent years have seen the rise of the 'refugee entrepreneur' as a prominent figure in humanitarian, media, and academic narratives, highlighting their agency and economic contributions (Harbisch 2025). The article highlights how the EU frames its actions and decisions using the term 'tragedy,' emphasizing the coexistence of humanitarian and border control discourses. It also offers a theoretical perspective on how these narratives are represented through news photography (Berg 2025). The refugee issue has gained significant importance due to ongoing humanitarian commitments since 1945. Following the establishment of the United Nations, extensive efforts were made to address Europe's humanitarian crisis caused by World War II, which placed a considerable burden on the European community (BANGO, DJAFAR et al. 2025). We examine the global refugee crisis, with a particular focus on its business and management implications. Our analysis explores the dynamics of refugee integration and settlement processes while highlighting the specific challenges that arise in addressing this ongoing crisis (Guo, Al Ariss et al. 2020).

With prolonged conflicts and crises becoming more persistent, coupled with the urgent need for sustainable development, the global community faces significant challenges in ensuring access to quality education for refugee learners (Yeo, Yoo et al. 2022). In reaction to the political upheaval triggered by the recent refugee crisis, destination countries rapidly introduced new immigration and asylum policies. However, the effectiveness of these counter crisis measures in alleviating political instability specifically by curbing anti-immigrant sentiment and diminishing support for radical-right parties (Solodoch 2021). The 2015 refugee crisis has been a focal point for Romanian news media, recognized as one of the most pressing challenges faced by the European Union in the past decade, despite Romania not being located along the primary routes taken by refugees (Vincze, Meza et al. 2021). This study examines how health systems in Southeast Asia have responded to the challenges posed by forced migration and refugee-related health issues. It explores the health needs of displaced populations, as well as the systemic barriers and facilitators that influence the effectiveness of health interventions (Legido-Quigley, Leh Hoon Chuah et al. 2020).

In 2016, the total number of displaced individuals reached an unprecedented 65.3 million, including 21.3 million refugees—the highest figure recorded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since its inception in 1950. Despite the scale of the crisis, only 107,100 refugees were resettled through official programs, while 3.2 million people applied for asylum worldwide (Almustafa, Politics et al. 2022). The protection of refugees is a critical global concern that necessitates a comprehensive approach, integrating both international legal frameworks and cultural or religious traditions. Islamic jurisprudence, with its deep-rooted emphasis on compassion, hospitality, and safeguarding vulnerable populations, provides valuable principles that closely align with contemporary international refugee law (Nasir and Wallace 2025). During the Angolan decolonization war, the humanitarian crisis caused by the mass displacement of hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing to the Congo was addressed by multiple actors, including the Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA) (Guardião 2025). This study examines the concept of life trajectory—encompassing personal growth, historical context, timing, and social



relationships—to analyze the efforts of Slovak citizens and NGOs in supporting refugees. Using a qualitative approach, the research integrates walking interviews with 11 Ukrainian refugees and focus group discussions with 12 Slovak NGO representatives (Seberini, Tokovska et al. 2025). It seems like you're working on a discussion about Pakistan's refugee policy and its impact. Would you like me to expand on this topic, perhaps by analyzing the socio-economic, political, and security challenges, or by comparing Pakistan's approach to international refugee frameworks (Hassan and Jalil 2024). It looks like you're developing a comprehensive discussion on refugee crises, possibly for an academic or policy-oriented paper. Do you want me to integrate this into your existing work, elaborate on specific causes and consequences, or provide a structured framework for analysis (Shaver, Krick et al. 2025). This is a strong foundational statement. Are you looking to expand on how developing countries navigate international legal frameworks, particularly in relation to refugee crises? I can help structure this discussion by highlighting key challenges, such as limited capacity for enforcement, geopolitical pressures, and economic constraints. Let me know how you'd like to proceed (Purnawati and Policy 2025). While, developing an introduction or rationale for a Special Issue on a recent crisis. Do you want me to complete the thought, refine the wording, or expand on the importance of academic contributions compared to press reports (Brand, Niemann et al. 2024). However, statement tying refugee policies to broader systemic factors. Do you want me to refine the wording, expand on specific elements (such as examples of conflicting/complementary priorities), or integrate it into a larger argument (Salehyan and Savun 2024). Furthermore, integrate this into a broader discussion or conclusion on refugee policies. Would you like me to refine it further, add specific examples, or link it to Indonesia's existing refugee framework and international obligations (Sudrajat, Jati et al. 2024).

Literature Review

The humanitarian response to the global refugee crisis remains one of the most urgent challenges today. The Rohingya refugee crisis, in particular, holds significant implications for global stability while placing a substantial strain on Bangladesh (Obaidullah, Hossain et al. 2024). Despite the frequent provision of non-military services during crises, there is limited systematic research on how crisis-affected communities perceive the role of armed actors in responding to humanitarian crises and public health emergencies (Boland, Nylen et al. 2024). The alarming rise in involuntary displacement is a growing global concern, reflected in the increasing number of affected individuals. By the end of 2023, an estimated 117.2 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, or widespread violence, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (Hasan, Hossain et al. 2024). This article provides a critical assessment of how Bangladesh navigates the complex balance between national sovereignty and international refugee law, with a particular focus on its approach to the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis. As a non-signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Bangladesh's legal obligations are primarily shaped by international humanitarian norms, regional dynamics, and domestic policy frameworks (Hossain 2025). This study examines the connection between media coverage and humanitarian funding across three major crises: the 2023 drought in Kenya, the refugee crisis in South Sudan, and the earthquake in Syria. It explores how media portrayals of these crises shape the distribution of financial resources for relief efforts, highlighting the impact of public perception and global attention on humanitarian aid allocation (Orao 2024). The central argument asserts that Lebanon stands at a crucial



crossroads, where policy choices will profoundly influence its economic future. This chapter's evaluative and propositional approach serves as a key resource for stakeholders involved in shaping and adapting policies amid economic challenges driven by humanitarian crises (Zreik 2024). The refugee crisis has been linked to rising xenophobia, religious tensions, and political instability, significantly impacting global refugee policies and intervention strategies (Ahammad, Ahmed et al. 2024).

The crisis of forced migration and displacement impacts millions, representing a profound humanitarian challenge that demands solidarity, compassion, generosity, and a swift, practical commitment of resources (Seifert, Kunz et al. 2018). perspective on disasters, we take a human ecology approach, highlighting the interplay between civil crises and response mechanisms. This study introduces an innovative and adaptable model framework for rapid landslide risk assessment, designed to operate effectively at the scale and urgency required in humanitarian crises (Pollock, Wartman et al. 2019). Furthermore, review is organized into four key themes: complex and diverse communities, infrastructure systems, markets, and local governance structures and capacities. Its primary aim is to identify critical knowledge and evidence gaps, highlighting areas where further research is necessary to develop more contextually appropriate and inclusive strategies for urban humanitarian response (Brown, Boano et al. 2015). These negative attitudes have become particularly prominent with the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis, shaping responses in both Europe and the United States (Esses, Hamilton et al. 2017). This conceptual paper posits that Transformative Service Researchers (TSR) can contribute to addressing the global refugee crisis. By examining the crisis through the lens of TSR, we emphasize the importance of prioritizing "relieving suffering" as a key but often overlooked outcome (Nasr and Fisk 2019). We advocate for deeper research that focuses on fulfilling fundamental human needs, including education, healthcare, and freedom of speech, to create more impactful and sustainable solutions (Sciences, Medicine et al. 2016). research systematically examines existing studies to synthesize key perspectives, arguments, findings, and insights. The study concludes that the concept of justice in Islamic law is a fundamental principle within Islamic teachings, with broad applicability in addressing contemporary humanitarian challenges (Karimullah 2023). Half of the world's refugees continue to live in "protracted situations," often in unstable and insecure environments, primarily in densely populated urban areas or refugee camps. For instance, 314,000 individuals remain displaced from Darfur in Eastern Chad, while over a million Somalis live as displaced persons across Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen. Dadaab, a sprawling refugee camp in Kenya, has housed families for more than three generations, trapped in a cycle of displacement in a remote and precarious setting (Silove, Ventevogel et al. 2017). The cases of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway illustrate how the refugee crisis was perceived differently across the three nations, leading to distinct policy responses. Although all three countries tightened asylum regulations, they employed varying policy instruments to achieve this objective (Hagelund 2020). Understanding the Syrian refugee crisis necessitates a multidisciplinary approach. Effectively addressing the challenges faced by Syrians requires careful consideration of the sociocultural, historical, and political factors that shape their experiences and circumstances (Yalim and Kim 2018).



Approximately two weeks later, facing immense pressure from a surge of arrivals in Bavaria, the German government partially reversed its stance by opting to temporarily reintroduce border controls at its internal Schengen border with Austria (Niemann and Zaun 2018). This paper examines a study of Angolan refugees in Zambia, proposing strategies to incorporate the perspectives and interests of the local population into the evaluation of relief interventions (Bakewell 2000). The influx of refugees has undeniably placed a significant strain on Bangladesh's resources. However, it is crucial to examine the evolving humanitarian discourse on the Rohingya crisis, which increasingly frames them as a burden rather than as individuals in need of protection and support (Obaidullah, Hossain et al. 2024). his study employs a qualitative approach to explore the disconnect between international legal protections and their practical implementation, with a particular focus on the Rohingya crisis. By analyzing policy shortcomings, institutional challenges, and the socio-political dynamics influencing refugee management, this research seeks to shed light on the obstacles preventing effective legal and humanitarian responses (Islam and Mia 2024). This article contends that modern strategies aimed at promoting resilience are driven by two contrasting perspectives. On one hand, they recognize the "other" as someone in need of support, while on the other, they perceive the "other" as beyond the scope of assistance. These conflicting interpretations shape the foundation of resilience-building efforts, influencing the way aid and intervention are structured (Bargués and Schmidt 2021). Global policies aimed at fostering the self-reliance and resilience of refugees seek to enhance their capacity to navigate challenges. In this process, these policies rhetorically reframe refugees from being perceived as merely "vulnerable" to being recognized as capable and proactive individuals (Bjørkhaug 2021). Drawing on empirical research, we examine the politics and practices of refugee reception through the lens of subsidiarity. This concept highlights the delegation of responsibility for refugee reception across multiple levels of governance, from national authorities to regional and local bodies, as well as from state institutions to civil society organizations (Kaya and Nagel 2023). Finally, the risk posed by anti-development and climate-skeptic platforms, which are frequently associated with nationalist parties, is highlighted. This underscores the importance of prioritizing in-state assistance as a complementary approach to refugee admission policies (Dalglish 2020). The prolonged duration of the Syrian War has not only inflicted immense devastation on the country itself but has also placed a considerable burden on host nations sheltering refugees. In response, the United Nations has been exploring innovative resilience strategies within aid networks (Al Adem, Schepis et al. 2022). They also demonstrate stronger preferences for aiding distressed refugees, exhibit lower levels of bias against outgroup refugees, and are more inclined to shelter non-coethnic, non-coreligious, and distressed individuals (Hartman and Morse 2020).

As of 2021, approximately six million refugees were residing in camps due to ongoing armed conflicts across the globe. The integration of refugees into host countries is often hindered by restrictive regulations, limiting their access to essential resources, employment opportunities, and social services. As a result, refugees rely heavily on humanitarian organizations (HOs) to meet their basic needs (Kotsi, Wu et al. 2022). This study illustrates how camp authorities gradually dismantled and suppressed refugee self-governance structures and informal economic activities. Additionally, it underscores the dominance of Jordanian state priorities in shaping the aid response, with the UN Refugee Agency playing a reinforcing role in upholding these national objectives (Pasha 2020).



Furthermore, the article identifies four key types of actors involved in the reception of asylum seekers. These "humanitarian" actors emerge from civil society and include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other civil society organizations (CSOs), social movements, and individual citizens, all of whom play a role in addressing refugee reception and integration (Ambrosini and Studies 2024). The media play a crucial role in shaping public perception during refugee crises. The way refugees are portrayed in the media influences public understanding of what it means to be a 'refugee' and significantly impacts policy decisions regarding who is granted inclusion or exclusion within host societies (Xu 2021). One key factor driving these contestations is the differing approaches to the solidarity challenge in addressing the 'refugee crisis.' Transit countries in Southern Europe and destination countries in Northern Europe perceive and respond to this challenge in distinct ways, leading to tensions in policy and burden-sharing (Kanellopoulos, Duru et al. 2021). This chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Jordanian NGOs and their adaptive strategies in response to the crisis. Drawing on primary field data and existing literature, it examines how these organizations have modified their activities, navigated challenges, and restructured their operations to address the evolving needs of Syrian refugees in Jordan (Ghreiz and Lebanon 2020). For the past four decades, ASEAN member states, particularly Malaysia and Thailand, have been key destinations for refugees fleeing violence and human rights abuses. In response to the ongoing Rohingya crisis, ASEAN has incorporated security mechanisms into its regional strategies, aiming to address the complex challenges associated with forced displacement and provide a coordinated response to the humanitarian situation (Shukri 2021). Migration has become an increasingly contentious issue worldwide, and Turkey is no exception. As the host to the world's largest refugee population, Turkey faces significant challenges in managing and integrating displaced communities. The majority of these refugees are Syrians, whose presence has shaped Turkey's social, economic, and political landscape, prompting complex policy responses and public debates (Apaydın and Müftüler-Baç 2022). Since sustainable development practitioners and humanitarian actors prioritize the agency of poor and vulnerable groups, it is essential to analyze their perspectives and preferences.

Understanding their needs, aspirations, and coping strategies can lead to more effective and inclusive policies that empower these communities rather than merely providing top-down assistance (Shehu and Abba 2020). The focus is primarily on how Turkey's refugee policy has evolved in response to European political pressures and public opinion, as well as its broader implications for EU-Turkey relations. By synthesizing existing research, this study aims to provide valuable insights for policymakers and researchers seeking to understand the intersection of migration management, international agreements, and geopolitical dynamics (Saaida 2022). The United States and Europe have maintained one of the most enduring alliances in the post-war era. A fundamental aspect of the transatlantic relationship has been their shared commitment to human rights, as reflected in key foundational documents such as the U.S. Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights. This alliance has historically played a crucial role in shaping global human rights policies, advocating for democratic values, and addressing humanitarian crises worldwide (Newsome 2020).



Conclusion

The global refugee crisis presents an enduring challenge that demands a comprehensive and coordinated international response. As this paper has demonstrated, refugee policies are shaped by a complex interplay of political, economic, and security concerns, often leading to inconsistencies in international responses. While humanitarian principles advocate for the protection and well-being of displaced populations, policy considerations sometimes prioritize national interests over global solidarity. The role of international organizations, host countries, and civil society remains crucial in mitigating the impacts of forced displacement and ensuring the rights and dignity of refugees. Despite ongoing efforts, significant gaps persist in current refugee policies, particularly in their ability to address protracted displacement, ensure equitable burden-sharing, and uphold international legal commitments. To build a more effective global response, there is a need for sustainable, rights-based approaches that integrate humanitarian assistance with long-term development strategies. Strengthening international cooperation, fostering inclusive policies, and enhancing support for host communities are essential steps toward achieving durable solutions for refugees. Ultimately, a more humane and coordinated approach is necessary to ensure that the fundamental rights of displaced individuals are upheld, fostering stability and resilience in both refugee and host communities worldwide.

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