

# EMN Educational Seminar “Forced Migration –Causes Possible Solutions”

## CAUSES OF CONTEMPORARY DISPLACEMENT AND CURRENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO FORCED MIGRATION

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Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

# Structure of Presentation

- 1. The UNHCR Regional Representation for Central Europe**
- 2. The Four Regional Protection Goals**
- 3. Displacement: Causes and Current Situation**
- 4. Mixed Migration**
- 5. Durable solutions**
- 6. Conclusion**

# Regional Representation for Central Europe

## RRCE - 8 countries

- 4 Representations: Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland and Romania
- 1 National Office: Czech Republic
- Hungary - by Hungary Unit with support of Regional Protection Unit
- Slovakia and Slovenia operations run from Budapest by the Regional Protection Unit.
- 2 Transit Centres in Humenne, Slovakia and Timisoara, Romania

# The Four Regional Goals

- Safeguard the effective **access** of asylum-seekers to EU territory and asylum procedures at the external borders of the Union;
- Continuously **monitor and improve the living conditions of asylum-seekers in reception centers** and other refugee facilities and make sure that they are treated with respect for their age, gender, diversity and special needs;
- Ensure that Refugee Determination Procedures are **fair and efficient** and that asylum legislation and the work of asylum authorities are in accordance with international legal standards;
- Seek to facilitate **durable solutions** through functioning **integration** and resettlement policies and promote a social climate that is welcoming towards refugees and **rejects xenophobia and racism**.

# Global Refugee Trends

## Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIL1mQv4vm8>



# Causes of Displacement

- Persecution
- Conflict/Generalized violence/Civil War
- Authoritarian rule
- Human rights violations
- Natural disasters (earthquakes, famine, drought)

# Statistics (as of end of 2013)

- **51.2 million** individuals **forcibly displaced** worldwide
- **16.7 million refugees** who are of concern to UNHCR (5 million Palestinian refugees who are supported by UNRWA)
- **33.3 million** people are currently displaced by conflict within their own country - **IDPs**
- **1.2 million** asylum seekers



# Current Situation with regard to forced displacement - UNHCR Emergencies/Major Operations as of 15/8/2014





# Current Situation with regard to forced displacement - UNHCR Emergencies/Major Operations as of 15/8/2014



## Africa

- **Central African Republic (CAR)** - (402,922 refugees/512,700 IDPs)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)-(432,945 refugees/ 2.6m IDPs)
- Mali (137,429 refugees/150,000 IDPs)
- Nigeria (51,700 refugees/ 646,700 IDPs)
- **Somalia** (944,000 refugees/1.1m IDPs)
- **South Sudan** (431,043 refugees/1.1m IDPs)
- Sudan (259,363 refugees/2m IDPs in Darfur)

# Current Situation with regard to forced displacement - UNHCR Emergencies/Major Operations as of 15/8/2014



## Americas

- Central America and USA (52,000 UASC)
- Columbia (400,000 refugees/ 5.6m IDPs)

# Current Situation with regard to forced displacement - UNHCR Emergencies/Major Operations as of 15/8/2014



## Asia

- **Afghanistan** (2.46m refugees/ 683,000 IDPs)
- Myanmar (249,000 refugees/ 455,000 IDPs)
- Philippines (4m IDPS due to typhoon Haiyan)
- Sea arrivals to South East Asia (86,000)

# Current Situation with regard to forced displacement - UNHCR Emergencies/Major Operations as of 15/8/2014



## Europe

- Sea arrivals in the Mediterranean (97,800 refugees and migrants arrived by sea in Italy in 2014) and (11,300 in Greece, Malta and Spain)
- **Ukraine** (139,170 IDPs(

# Current Situation with regard to forced displacement - UNHCR Emergencies/Major Operations as of 15/8/2014



## MENA

- Iraq (91,245 refugees/1.2m IDPs)
- Libya (>50,000 refugees/ >120,000 IDPs)
- **Syria** (2.92m refugees/ 6.4m IDPs)
- Yemen (245,852 refugees/ 334,512 IDPs)

# Globalized Refugee Population

**Global refugee populations**, are population which see the same community spread across dozens of countries around the world. These tend to be among the most protracted situations of exile, with conflicts that never end and people remaining as refugees or IDPs for ages.

For example:

- Afghans
- Somalis

# Globalized Refugee Population

## Afghans





# Globalized Refugee Population

## Afghans

- Still over **2.46 million refugees** spread across 80 countries at end of 2013
- Most of them remain in Iran (840,000) and Pakistan (1.62million)
- Some **5.8mm returnees since 2002**, representing 20% of the total population in Afghanistan. Refugee returns are at an all-time low; less than 39,000 in 2013, a 60% drop compared to 2012. 9,000 refugees returned to Afghanistan during the first six months of 2014.
- **683,000 IDPs**, with steady increase over the past few years; >50% live in poor urban areas.

# Globalized Refugee Population

## Afghans

- Meaningful durable solutions for this large refugee population remain elusive. Sustainable reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan has been a challenge for several years.
- **Continued instability, on-going insecurity** and a persistent lack of access to basic services and livelihoods.
- Various complex transitions facing Afghanistan this year (Elections/Withdrawal of ISAF) (What will happen?)

# Globalized Refugee Population

## Afghans

- UNHCR is working with governments and partners in the region and beyond to update contingency plans in light of possible population movements, although we expect that most of these movements will occur within Afghanistan.
- Afghans continue to leave. The majority are part of **mixed migration movements**, if they are in need of international **protection** they should be given **access to the territory and asylum procedures**.

# Globalized Refugee Population

## Somalis



# Globalized Refugee Population

## Somalis

- More than **1m Somali refugees** are currently registered in 109 countries. **1.1m are IDPs.**
- Kenya hosts by far the largest number 430,000 followed by Ethiopia with some 244,000, Yemen 231,000, Djibouti 19,000, and Uganda 18,000.
- There was some progress in Somalia recently, which has prompted the spontaneous return of thousands of internally displaced persons, diaspora Somalis, and refugees.

# Globalized Refugee Population

## Somalis

- **Volatile security situation. Terrorist attacks** claimed by Al Shabaab continue to hamper access to the displaced and returnees. Many key areas of return, especially in South and Central Somalia, remain fundamentally **insecure and inaccessible**,
- Many Somalis are still forced to seek safety elsewhere, including nearly **58,000 new IDPs** and over **20,000 new refugee arrivals in 2013**.
- Somalis continue to leave. The majority are part of **mixed migration movements**, if they are in need of international **protection** they should be given **access to the territory and asylum procedures**.



# Current Situation – Central African Republic (CAR)





# Current Situation – Central African Republic (CAR)

- **402,922 CAR refugees in neighboring countries**, 166,375 of whom fled since 1 December 2013: 120,016 in Cameroon, 19,528 in DRC, 18,675 in Chad, and 8,156 in RoC.
- **512,700 IDPs in CAR**, including 87,700 in Bangui. CAR hosts 8,047 refugees mainly from DRC and Sudan. Estimated 100,000 Third Country Nationals left CAR, the majority returning to Chad.
- Until last year, the Central African Republic was largely a stranger to religious violence.

# Current Situation – Central African Republic (CAR)

- Despite the widespread corruption and poverty, banditry and violence, Christians and Muslims had always lived side by side. Religious hatred was one of the few problems the Central African Republic did not have.
- State structures had largely disintegrated and banditry was rife when the Séléka an alliance of Central African rebel groups and foreign fighters, predominantly Muslim, seized power in late 2012. Creating an Islamic State was not part of their agenda.
- The widespread looting and killings committed by the Séléka and ex-Séléka members led to the emergence of the so-called Anti-Balaka, a combination of vigilante groups and bandits. While they called themselves Christian self-defence militias, they soon turned into an uncontrollable monster.

# Current Situation – Central African Republic (CAR)



- This gave rise to a sectarian divide, mostly along religious lines, that is now tearing apart the social fabric of the country.
- CAR is today one of the world's most dangerous places, with men, women and even children being driven from their homes and killed, just because of their religion. Thousands of people are dead and >900,000 are forcibly displaced
- Seleka rebels and anti-Balaka militia signed a ceasefire agreement on 24 July. As part of the deal, the Seleka dropped their demand for CAR's partition. Despite the ceasefire, fighting continued in the northwest and the east and thousands are displaced each week, and humanitarian access continues to be limited in these areas.

# Current Situation – South Sudan



# Current Situation – South Sudan

- As of 31 July, there are over **431,043 South Sudanese refugees**: 180,054 in Ethiopia, 120,663 in Uganda, 88,876 in Sudan, 41,450 in Kenya.
- **1.1m IDPs.**
- At its independence (2011), the leaders of South Sudan were faced with daunting challenges. This was one of the most underdeveloped places in the world as a result of decades of war and neglect. As aid and money poured in, corruption, ethnic nepotism and competition over power and resources grew. Old disputes re-emerged and the country's leaders, all former rebels, were quick to come up with a military answer to political problems.



# Current Situation – South Sudan

- A political squabble turned into an **ethnic conflict** when antagonistic leaders rallied support along ethnic lines. Soon Nuers were fighting Dinka on a larger scale than ever before, deliberately targeting civilians and turning against moderate voices within their own communities.
- >10.00 have been killed since December 2013
- Conflict and displacement has forced millions to the brink of **starvation**. Many of the children are severely **malnourished**. SS is headed to **famine**. Some 3.9mm of S. Sudan's 11mm population are in emergency or crisis levels of food insecurity. Almost 1mm children under five years old will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2014.

# Current Situation – South Sudan



- Fighting continues, 5 NGO workers were killed in the north of the country in early August. UNHCR relocated non-essential staff to the capital Juba. In the meantime, South Sudan President Salva Kiir and rebel chief Riek Machar show little interest in making a deal to end months of fighting that has brought the nation to the brink of a "man-made" famine.



# Current Situation - Syria



# Current Situation - Syria

- **Syria** (2,92m refugees/6.4m IDPs)
- The conflict in Syria, has caused one of **the worst humanitarian crises** in decades, and is also **the biggest threat to global peace and security** the world has seen in a long time.
- Within a few years, Syria has gone from being the world's second largest **refugee-hosting** to becoming its fastest **refugee-producing** country.
- UNHCR has registered nearly **3m Syrians** as refugees in the region, although the real number is much higher.
- We fear that **over 4 million Syrians** may become refugees by the end of **2014**.

# Current Situation - Syria

- In addition, there are already over **6.4 m internally displaced Syrians**, and more than half of the country's population now depends on humanitarian assistance for survival.
- Over **100,000 have been killed** since the conflict started
- Syria's neighbors – **Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt** – have received an unrelenting stream of refugees and have provided them protection, at enormous cost to themselves.
- Few refugee influxes have ever generated this profound an impact on their host countries, with such dramatic demographic, economic and social consequences.

# Host Countries (COA) : Syrian refugees

## Lebanon (1,1m Syrian refugees)

- Measured against the total population of Lebanon, the number of Syrian refugees currently hosted there would be equivalent to 71 million in the United States, 18 million in Germany or nearly 15 million in France. Lebanon's population today is at the level it was expected to reach in 2050
- By the end of this year, the World Bank estimates that unemployment in Lebanon may double, an additional 170,000 Lebanese risk being pushed into poverty and the total cost of the Syria crisis to the country could reach US\$ 7.5 billion.

# Host Countries (COA) : Syrian refugees

## Turkey (815k Syrian refugees)

- Turkey, the second-biggest refugee-hosting country in the region has already spent over 2.5 billion dollars on assisting Syrian refugees since the beginning of the crisis, mostly from its own budget. Turkey alone has received ten times as many Syrian refugees as the entire European Union – some 500 new arrivals every day.

# Host Countries (COA) : Syrian refugees

## Jordan (609k Syrian refugees)

- Jordan is also feeling the heavy impact of the refugee presence, estimating the cost of hosting them at some 1.7 billion USD so far.
- In this resource-poor country, hundreds of millions of additional subsidies are being paid by the government to ensure refugees have access to water, bread, gas and electricity at the same prices as Jordanians.

# Host Countries (COA) : Syrian refugees

## Iraq (215k Syrian refugees)

- In northern Iraq, the population of Dohuk governorate has increased by over 10 per cent as a result of the refugee influx.



# Current Situation: Syria : Needs of countries in the region

## Financial assistance

- First, the generosity of Syria's neighbors needs to be matched by massive international support, in a true spirit of effective **burden-sharing**.
- This is essential to **preserving the asylum space** for people fleeing this brutal conflict, and also a crucial contribution to maintaining regional stability.
- The region needs much more financial assistance than it is currently receiving, to allow it to cope with an influx that would severely strain the capacities of even

# Current Situation: Syria – What countries need to do



- All countries – including, and perhaps especially, those beyond the region **must keep their borders open for Syrians** who are forced to flee and seek protection.
- Currently asylum-seekers **drown at sea** or are **pushed back** from land borders – people requiring protection are forced to risk their lives, or to submit themselves to appalling human rights violations at the hands of smugglers and traffickers, because they have no other way of accessing territories where they hope to find asylum.

# Current Situation: Syria Crisis - What countries need to do



- In the European context, this also requires more **solidarity** and more consistency among EU members, to ensure countries like Bulgaria and Greece have the capacity to adequately respond to the protection needs of Syrian and other asylum seekers arriving at their borders.

# Current Situation – Syria Crisis

## The need to provide additional forms of protection

- It is clear from the recent negotiations that **the Syria conflict will drag on for the foreseeable future**, more countries farther afield should provide Syrian refugees with additional forms of protection.
- UNHCR aims to find **third-country resettlement or humanitarian admissions** places for 30,000 Syrian refugees by the end of this year. Some 20 States have already pledged their support to this scheme. Germany's humanitarian admissions programme provides one third of these places.
- But the need for significantly larger programmes beyond 2014 is becoming more evident.

# Current Situation - Syria Crisis

## The need to provide additional forms of protection

- Alternative measures, such as establishing more **flexible visa arrangements** and **family reunification** mechanisms, can also help to allow Syrians find safety without having to resort to high-risk entry channels.



# Current Situation - Ukraine





# Current Situation - Ukraine

- **139,170 IDPs**, including 14,138 from Crimea and 125,032 from eastern Ukraine. Between 4 and 8 August, the number of IDPs increased by over 21,000. There is no centralised registration system; the number of IDPs is likely much higher.
- **68,800 Ukrainian citizens applied for international protection in the Russian Federation** as reported by the authorities; in addition, **119,416 Ukrainians applied for residence permits**. The scale of displacement remains relatively limited in the rest of the neighbouring countries.
- In **Belarus**, 199 Ukrainians applied for asylum as of 24 July, while 4,380 Ukrainian citizens received permanent or temporary residence.

# Current Situation - Ukraine

- Between 1 January and 30 June, over 2,700 Ukrainians have applied for international protection **in the EU**.
- In **Poland**, 1,072 Ukrainians applied for international protection.
- In the other neighboring countries (Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and the Republic of Moldova), the number of Ukrainians applying for international protection did not see a significant increase.
- Many Ukrainians fleeing abroad choose not to apply for asylum, but seek to obtain a different legal status such as residence permit or extended stay under a no-visa regime.

# Current Situation - Ukraine

- The humanitarian situation in east UKR is worsening daily. Significant erosion of the rule of law, violations of humanitarian law. In some towns 60% of all buildings were destroyed; with electricity infrastructure damaged, and scarce water and food supplies.
- Most displaced people **from the East** report having left for various reasons, among them:
  1. Security concerns due to intensified fighting & erosion of rule of law
  2. Disruptions of basic services. (e.g. water and electricity)
  3. Fear of forced conscription

# Current Situation - Ukraine

- **IDPs from Crimea report mainly fleeing due to:**
  1. Human rights restrictions
  2. Intimidations on ethnic Ukrainians and Tatars
  3. Loss of livelihood
- Continuous reports of **serious human rights violations.**
- **Forced recruitment** has been reported in the areas controlled by the anti-Government forces.

# Current Situation - Ukraine

- **Situation likely to worsen** with intensified fighting in the two eastern districts of Luhansk and Donetsk.
- There are 4.5 million people living in the areas controlled by the anti-Government forces.
- If the situation remains unchanged, 1,200 people will continue to flee every day. Another scenario is that another 200,000 people could become displaced in Ukraine in the next few weeks and more could leave to the Russian Federation.

# Current Situation - Ukraine

- **The factors below may contribute to further displacement:**
  - Persistence/increase of further shelling in densely populated urban areas
  - Human rights violations .
  - Interruption of basic services (e.g. water and electricity supplies) and further impact on basic infrastructure in large cities.
  - Loss of livelihoods.
- **Much larger scale displacement may still occur**, depending on the conduct of military operations inside densely populated areas and given the further risks of disruption of essential services, in particular water supply.



# Current Situation - Ukraine

- **Humanitarian emergency**, the more acute humanitarian needs have to be addressed to prevent the situation from deteriorating further and become protracted.
  1. Winterization needs (shelters are in generally in good conditions, but ~ 60% cannot be used during the winter)
  2. dramatic increase of displacement,
  3. If quick assistance to voluntary repatriation is provided it may contribute where possible to reconciliation and reconstruction efforts,
  4. If we assist now we will help prevent the situation from becoming protracted
  5. If we do not help IDPs in Ukraine, they are likely indeed to seek protection/assistance elsewhere.

# Mixed Migration

- Despite barriers, millions of people move from one country to another in the hope of a better future, millions of others to save their lives. They often travel alongside each other, creating the so-called **asylum-migration nexus**.
- When international migration is managed by border controls only, in an effort “to keep people out”, human traffickers and smugglers are bound to prosper.
- Syrian and other refugees are being pushed back at the Bulgarian border, and let’s not forget that this is one of the European Union’s external borders, or drown in the Mediterranean, as they have no other ways to find asylum.

# Mixed Migration

- The risks and dangers faced by refugees, asylum seekers and others travelling in mixed migratory flows continue to be of major concern. These persons are often forced to rely on the services of smugglers, exposing them to harassment and exploitation, beatings, the risk of trafficking, or even death.
- One of the most harrowing examples is the high incidence of kidnapping and trafficking of mainly Eritrean asylum-seekers and migrants in eastern Sudan and along the route through Egypt to Israel and Europe.
- States have a duty to ensure that a/s and refugees who travel in mixed migratory flows have access to their territory and asylum procedures

# Mixed Migration

- Many of them, including a disturbingly high number of unaccompanied children, are held for ransom or sold to criminal gangs, being trafficked into slavery-like practices and heavily abused or even killed for illegal organ transplants.
- IOM and UNHCR have launched a regional project to help the Sudanese authorities address smuggling and trafficking in the east of the country. But that is just a drop in the ocean, and more needs to be done to enhance international cooperation on this issue to be more effective in cracking down on traffickers and smugglers, and more humane in responding to the needs of the victims.

# Durable Solutions

- While UNHCR safeguards the rights and wellbeing of refugees, the organization's ultimate goal is to help find durable solutions for refugees:
- **Voluntary Repatriation, in 2013 some 414,600 refugees returned home.** 206,000 with UNHCR's assistance (DRC, 68,400) (Iraq 60,900) (Afghanistan 39,700) (Somalia 36,100) (Cote d'Ivoire 20,000) (Sudan 17,000) (Mali 14,300)

# Durable Solutions

- **Local integration**, complex and gradual, refugees legally, economically, socially and culturally integrate fully in the host country. Limited information available. In 2013 refugees were granted citizenship in 31 countries, including Canada (14,800), Benin (3,700), Belgium (2,500), Ireland (730) and Guinea (300).
- **Resettlement, 98,400 refugees were resettled in 2013.** USA (66,200), Australia (13,200), Canada (12,200), Sweden (1,900) and the United Kingdom (970). 9,400 more individuals than in 2012 (89,000).



# Conclusion

- **The principle of giving refuge to those fleeing violence and persecution is a universal value.** At its core, it is not the product of modern civilization, much less an invention after the Second World War.
- This principle is deeply rooted in all of the world's major religions and runs through all cultures.
- Throughout human memory, people everywhere have sheltered strangers who desperately needed their help. Then and now, many of them have done so at enormous cost to themselves, often for years on end.

# Conclusion

- Let us stand together to protect this fundamental human value, for the millions of people around the world who depend on it. And let us join our efforts to make sure that those who help them are supported in doing so.

**Thank you**