Forced Migration and The Global Refugee Crisis

“no one puts their child in a boat unless the water is safer than land”
What *IS* forced migration and the Global Refugee Crisis?

- “Refugees do not change places, they lose their place on earth”
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZNAh3EZV6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZNAh3EZV6w)
Overview of Today’s Session

• The Current Crisis of Forced Migration and its Scale
• A Definition of Terms:
  – types of forced Migrants
  – Types of Forced Migration
• Forced migration in History
  – Ancient history
  – Refugee convention and creation of UNHCR
  – Forced migration and expansion of the UNHCR mandate
• Refugees fleeing from Conflict today
THE WORLD ON THE MOVE

BY THE MIDDLE OF 2015:

- The global refugee total exceeded 20 million for the first time since 1992.
- The number of internally displaced people rose from 2 million to 34 million.
- Worldwide forced displacement is expected to exceed 60 million for the first time – 1 in every 122 people has been forced to flee their home.
- 4,600 people are forced to flee their countries every day.
- Voluntary returns are at their lowest levels in over three decades.
In 2014 the number of Forced Migrants was the biggest leap ever seen in a single year.
Flow of forced migrants to Europe 2012-2015

- Each point represents 25 people, or one busload
What is Forced Migration?

It is the *Coerced movement* of a person or persons away from their home or home region.

The International Organization for Migration defines forced migration as any person who migrates to "escape persecution, conflict, repression, natural and human-made disasters, ecological degradation, or other situations that endanger their lives, freedom or livelihood."

Voluntary migrants vs. Forced Migrants

• [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NethRULYorA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NethRULYorA)

• Refugees
• Asylum Seekers
• Internally Displaced Persons
• Development Displacees
• Environmental and Disaster Displacees

Other Important terms:

• Smuggled People
• Trafficked People
Where do they come from and where do they go? (2012 chart)

20 million
Where do most refugees go?
50% in 7 Countries
Internal Displacement 2016

40 million
Most Refugees/IDPs don’t live in camps

60%
Can you ever go home again?

- two-thirds of today’s refugees/IDPs remain refugees for years.
- Average has risen from 9 years in 1993 to 18+ years today
- Most refugees remain in some of the poorest and most unstable regions of the Global South
- Afghanistan: largest protracted refugee pop.
How many refugees are resettled?

• In 2014, 73,331 refugees were resettled in 30 countries
• Most were from Syria
• Three major resettlement countries: United States, Canada, Australia
3 Causes of Forced Migration

• Developmental Displacement
  – Three Gorges Dam in China - about 1.13 million displaced (recently increased to 4 million, but many could return).
  – Tokuyama Dam in Japan - some 600 displaced.
  – Donji Milanovac for Đerdap hydroelectric power plant
  – Sardar Sarovar Dam in India - between 1 and 2 million displaced

• Environmental and Disaster Displacement

• Conflict Displacement
Disaster-induced displacement worldwide in 2012

Worldwide
32.4 million people displaced

32.4 million
Third Cause: Conflict----Growing number of people displaced by war
History: Forced Migration is nothing new

Forced Migration of Jews.
Refugees and Asylum (Asylia) in Antiquity
The Mongol Invasions (13th-15th centuries)
Forced Migration

12 - 15 million people trafficked
The Great Removal: Forced Migration of Native Americans

100,000 people

The Trail of Tears, 1838
Forced migration to Australia
7.5 million people displaced after World War I
Forced Migration of Jews from Nazi Germany

2/3 of all Jews forced out
Little Refugee Protection for Jews

**U.S. July, 1938**

What is your attitude towards allowing German, Austrian and other political refugees to come into the United States?

- 4.9%: We should encourage them to come even if we have to raise our immigration quotas
- 18.2%: We should allow them to come but not raise our immigration quotas
- 67.4%: With conditions as they are, we should try to keep them out
- 9.5%: Don't know

Source: Fortune

**U.S. January 20, 1939**

It has been proposed to bring to this country 10,000 refugee children from Germany—most of them Jewish—to be taken care of in American homes. Should the government permit these children to come in?

- 30%: Yes
- 61%: No
- 9%: No opinion

Source: American Institute of Public Opinion

**U.S. April, 1939**

If you were a member of Congress, would you vote yes or no on a bill to open the doors of the United States to a larger number of European refugees than now are admitted under our immigration quotas?

(by religion of respondent)

- Yes, open doors: 69.8%
- No: 85.3%, 84.0%
- Don't know: 25.8%, 8.4%, 7.7%, 4.4%

Source: Fortune
1942-45 Forced Internal Displacement for Japanese American Citizens

110,000 Displaced
1951 Refugee Protection

1933: Convention on Refugees--First precedent to UNHCR

Refugees in the Cold War and After....

- 1956 – 89 Cold War: 3 million+ refugees into Western Europe, (200,000 Hungarians in 1956)
- 1992-95 Balkan + 1st Persian Gulf Wars: 1 million refugees
- 2003 – 2011 Iraqi + Afghanistan wars: 4 million refugees
From Asylum to Forced Migration: the broadening mandate of the UNHCR

Bigger and Bigger Problems......
• Growing numbers of stateless people and IDPs
• Growing number of “irregular” migrants, stranded migrants, and survival migrants
• Disasters and Climate Change (i.e. Asian Tsunami, Pakistan earthquake, Philippines floods)
• Growing Urban displacement

Why did the UNHCR respond by expanding?
• Nature of bureaucracy to grow?
• More forced Migrants: Fallout from 9/11 attacks and “war on Terror” and Global megatrends
• Growing media attention and international awareness
• International demand for UNHCR action
Growing mandate but not enough funds…..

• “The world, is witnessing new and more complex patterns of displacement and migration,” prompted by a combination of climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters and armed conflicts, some of them initiated and fuelled by a growing competition for scarce resources such as water and grazing land.”
Armed Conflict is responsible for most refugees

50% from Syria, Afghanistan, And Somalia
Afganistan
Central America
Myanmar
Nigeria

2.5 million people displaced since May 2013
4.7 million people across northeastern Nigeria and neighbouring areas in Chad, Niger and Cameroon who don’t have enough to eat (WFP)
South Sudan
Arab spring began in 2011: Yemen, Libya, Syria, Tunisia, Egypt
Displacement and civil war in Libya, Yemen, and Syria
Yemen

2.5 Million Displaced
Syria

Syria Is The Worst Refugee Crisis Of Our Generation
Refugees displaced by war in selected conflicts since 1991

Kosovo (1999) 863,000
Syria (2011-2015) 4.0m
Chechnya (1999-2000) 325,000
Armenia/Azerbaijan (1992) 500,000
Iraq (1991) 1.4m
Afghanistan (1979-2015) 2.6m
Liberia (1991-1992) 640,000
Rwanda (1994) 2.3m

@StatistaCharts Sources: UNHCR, News Reports, Berkeley University
Takeaways

• An unprecedented era of global forced displacement
• Differences between migrants, refugees, IDPs, people smugglers and human traffickers
• Causes of forced migration are growing and deepening; things will get worse
• most displaced people live outside of camps
• Displaced people remain so for almost 20 years.
• Forced migration is nothing new
• Refuge has a long history but is entirely inadequate
• Global conflict --- in particular in Syria---is creating the current crisis
• The response required to meet the crisis dwarfs anything seen before
Next Week

- The 4 lives required of refugees
- Why don’t they fly?