

Concerns about the future

UN raised topic of quality education for refugees and displaced persons



Today's UN agenda is addressing the problem of refugees and displaced people (“Someone who has been forced to leave their home, especially because of war or a natural disaster [...]” Oxford dictionary) receiving good quality education after migration, as practice shows, companies like UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for refugees) aren't effective enough to help enormous quantities of displaced people. It's an important topic, as the quality of education can improve economic well-being and help get people out of the poverty cycle, foster critical thinking, self-reliance with informed decision-making, and lead to a better, more peaceful society. There are 117.3 million people worldwide currently, or 1 out of 69 people, who are being displaced. Around 43.4 million of these are refugees, with an estimated 40% being children, and approximately 49% of those children do not attend school. The main reasons for emigration are either natural disasters or socio-economic reasons: war, instability, and oppression. Most migrated countries are:

- Syria (-6.4m)
- West bank and Gaza (-6m)
- Afghanistan (-6.4m)
- Venezuela (-6.1m)

With neighbouring countries taking advantage of it and taking a big portion of immigrants:

- Jordan (+3.1m),
- Colombia (+2.9m),
- Turkey (+3.3m)
- Iran (+3.8m).



The UN, in order to achieve SDG #4, decided to put goals to achieve:

1. Building relevant skills for financial success;
2. Eliminate discrimination in education;
3. Universal literacy and numeracy;
4. Inclusive and safe schools;
5. Qualified teachers.

The UN is planning to base it on post-world war “The 1951 Refugee Convention,” which was adopted and contained the core fundamental principle of non-refoulement, meaning that the signatory countries must

“Not to expel or return in any manner whatsoever a person to territories where his/her life or freedom would be threatened, i.e., where there is a risk of persecution or any other form of serious harm.” and 15 by 30—plan consists of a pledge on refugee higher education and self-reliance, with the vision that 15% of refugee youth will have access and will be enrolled in higher education by 2030.

As the UN meeting is in progress, we have been interviewing delegates in order to piece together the whole picture and understand the balance of opinions in detail.

The Colombian delegation, with a great number of immigrants from Venezuela due to economic instability, hyperinflation, and low job expectations, had been quite negative about this, with plans to tighten the visa regime for migrants from Latin America, and increase control over the work permitted for immigrants. Additionally, in response to accusations of using immigrants as pillars of opposition in their own country to destabilise the current regime, the answer was given that at the moment such a practice is not being carried out, however if it is considered in the side pen due to historical reasons.

The Jordan delegation, on the other hand, is more neutral, with the position of absolute neutrality, assuming that the cost of the acceptance of refugees from Syria is the same as the benefits in the form of labour and specialists, but nevertheless, it was announced about the provision of free education on the basis of general wealth.

Lastly, the opinion of the delegate of Myanmar was more focused on protecting people from terrorist groups, due to the heavy situation in the country, as in its opinion, it should help with stopping immigrant outflow.

Al Jazeera believes that while there is a discussion going on and actions aren't taken, there is no point in it, and that the main goal should be to stop the conflict rather than to clear up the "symptoms" because there is a chance of recruiting migrants into the opposition to change the government to a more loyal one, stealing the best minds of the country and gaining an advantage at a time when the solution is already under our noses.