

REFUGEE CRISES AND THIRD-WORLD ECONOMIES

POLICIES AND
PERSPECTIVES



EDITED BY

SOURAV KUMAR DAS • NIDHI CHOWDHARY

Refugee Crises and Third-world Economies

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Refugee Crises and Third-world Economies: Policies and Perspectives

EDITED BY

SOURAV KUMAR DAS

NIDHI CHOWDHARY

**In collaboration with
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www.brassindia.org

Email: brassindia2016@gmail.com



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About the Editors

Sourav Kumar Das is pursuing a PhD at Vidyasagar University and is currently teaching Economics at Lalbaba College, Howrah, India. His area of interest includes rural development, tribal livelihood, consumption pattern and terrorism. He also edited books on tribal development and issues on globalization. He has contributed to numerous reputable national and international journals and has also edited a number of handbooks in the areas of tribal affairs, globalization and economic development.

Nidhi Chowdhary is presently pursuing a PhD from Presidency University and works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, Lalbaba College, Howrah, India. Her research interest lies in the field of global concern which includes human rights, peace studies, tribal studies, migration and terrorism. She has also contributed to several national and international edited volumes.

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About the Contributors

Bhajan Chandra Barman is Associate Professor of Economics, Netaji Nagar College, Kolkata. He has completed his PhD from North Bengal University. He mainly works on microfinance, environmental issues and rural development. His work has been published in many reputed journals.

Arundhati Bhattacharya is an Assistant Professor of Economics in West Bengal Education Service, Govt. of West Bengal and is currently posted in Sister Nibedita Government General Degree College for Girls, Kolkata. She has completed her MA and MPhil in Economics and BEd from The University of Burdwan.

Debesh Bhowmik completed his BA (Honours) and MA in Economics from Kalyani University and obtained a PhD from Rabindra Bharati University. He has written eight books, edited two books himself and edited two books with other co-authors. He has contributed more than 150 papers in national and international journals and edited books. In 2006, he received a gold medal from the Indian Economic Association as the best paper writer. In 1992, his paper was selected in the 10th World Congress of International Economic Association in Moscow. Presently, he is a retired principal. He is associated with Lincoln University College, Malaysia. He is life member of IEA, BEA, TIES, EAB, UPUEA and BRASS.

Tonmoy Chatterjee is Assistant Professor of Economics at Ananda Chandra College, India, and publishes mainly in the field of international trade and development. He is the recipient of Prof. M. J. Manohar Rao Award (2012) of The Indian Econometric Society. His research interests include international trade theory, development economics, health economics and panel data analysis.

Chhatradhar Das is an energetic and amicable personality, devoted to his work with a fair and moral lifestyle. He has been working as a College Teacher for almost three decades. He does his research works in the field of environmental movements and published valued papers in various national and international journals. Dr Das regularly participates in different seminars at national and international levels. He has authored different textbooks. His edited book contained various research papers. He is the life member of Indian Science Congress Association, Indian Science News Association, Belur Research Association of Social Science, etc. He is a distinguished actor. His performances in various plays have been notable. His endeavours towards development activities of different organizations is held in high esteem.

Raunak Das is a student in the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. He carries a moral and cordial character. His research-based outlooks are expressed in his day-to-day activities. Besides studies, his efforts in initiating various types of works are very significant. While studying in college, his final year research project was encouraged by the teachers. In addition to research, he is fond of photography. He has a research perspective and fellow feeling mentality. His enthusiasm for environmental protection and research activities is particularly noteworthy. At present, he is engaged in completing an eco-friendly research project on IOT-based power management system.

Kallol Debnath is presently engaged as Assistant Professor (WBES) in Political Science at Government General Degree College, Manbazar II, Purulia, India. He received his MA from the University of Burdwan. In his 10-year career he served different colleges of West Bengal. He had been engaged as guest faculty in Kazi Nazrul University from 2015 to 2018. His fundamental areas of interest are state and society in India, thinkers of modern India, and policy studies. He contributed a number of articles in different national and international acclaimed journals and chapters in books and edited volumes. He is currently working on the impacts of neo-liberal policies in welfare states with special reference to India. He can be contacted at debnathkallol@gmail.com.

Kunal Debnath is an Assistant Professor and teaches Political Science at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, India. Before joining Rabindra Bharati University he taught at Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, India, for more than three years, and Murshidabad Adarsha Mahavidyalaya, India, for one year. He is currently pursuing his PhD on “A Comparative Study of the Naths of West Bengal and Assam”. His interest in research covers political philosophy, theories of comparative politics, political sociology, and state politics in India. Debnath contributed several research articles in some edited volumes like *Politics, Trend and Issues in India* (published by Levant, Kolkata) and also in some national and international peer-reviewed refereed journals including *Studies in Peoples History* (Sage), *Sexuality, Gender, and Policy* (Wiley & Policy Studies Organization, USA). He can be contacted at debnathkunal@ymail.com.

Kishor Naskar is presently an Associate Professor, Department of Economics at Budge Budge College. He is pursuing his PhD in Labour Economics from Vidyasagar University, West Midnapore, West Bengal. He has about five research articles to his credit in reputed national and international journals (*Journal of Bengal Economic Association*, *Indian Economic Journal*, *Assam Economic Review* and *SocioEconomic Challenges*). He has also published three book chapters (Aaheli Publications, Regal Publication and Serials Publications PVT. LTD).

Chandra Sekhar Sahu teaches Mathematics in Techno India Group. His area of interest is applied mathematics and applied statistics. His work has been published in many volumes.

Shusneha Sarkar completed her LLB (honours) from Calcutta University and LLM from Hidayatullah National Law University, with specialization in IPR. She later joined Ishan Educational Group as an Assistant Professor in Law and is presently pursuing a PhD from NIU. She has numerous publications and attended various seminars of national and international levels.

Sabina Yasmin is an Assistant Professor in SRM University, Amravati, in the Department of Economics, School of Liberal Arts and Basic Sciences and Research Fellow at LEAD-Krea University. She received her doctorate on Crop Insurance Program in India from Gauhati University, Assam. Her interest in experimental economics also led her to pursue a crash course in Experimental Economics from Tinbergen Institute, University of Amsterdam. Her research interests are in the areas of development economics, applied microeconomics and agricultural economics.

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List of Contributors

Bhajan Chandra Barman	Department of Economics, Netaji Nagar College, India
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Department of Economics, Sister Nibedita Government General Degree College for Girls, India
Debesh Bhowmik	Lincoln University College, Malaysia
Tonmoy Chatterjee	Department of Economics, Ananda Chandra College, India
Nidhi Chowdhary	Department of Political Science, Lalbaba College, Belur, Howrah, India
Chhatradhar Das	Department of Physics, Lalbaba College, India
Raunak Das	Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SJBIT, India
Sourav Kumar Das	Department of Economics, Lalbaba College, Belur, Howrah, India and owhrah and Research Scholar, Department of Economics with Rural Developement, Vidyasagar University, Midnapur, India
Kallol Debnath	Department of Political Science, WBES, Government General Degree College, West Bengal, India
Kunal Debnath	Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, West Bengal, India
Kishor Naskar	Department of Economics, Budge Budge College, India
Chandra Sekhar Sahu	Department of Mathematics, Techno International, India
Shusneha Sarkar	Ishan Educational Group, India

Sabina Yasmin

Department of Economics, Shree
Ramaswamy Memorial University,
Amravati, India and LEAD - Krea
University, India.

Preface

This volume began to take shape during an extension lecture on human rights in crisis, most of which had reflections on refugee crisis. We conceived of 'Refugee and Migration' in relation to the concern and actions being taken to deal with this crisis particularly in third-world economies. The need to understand different political, economic and geographical situations leading to such a crisis inspired this project from its inception.

Hence this volume is dedicated to expanding our understanding of the pursuit of refugees in third-world economies, but in identifying the cause and effect relationship of this crisis, it looks beyond the boundaries of many states.

Very often refugees have been clubbed in the category of forced migration, but the basic difference that lies between them is that in case of migration, an individual's destination is pre-planned, which is not the case with refugees. They do not have that choice of destination; rather, they are in most cases completely left at the mercy of asylum countries.

This book contains a number of features that commend it to the reader. The entire work is divided into 10 chapters. The introductory chapter throws light on several policy documents and agencies who have been less active on their part in dealing with this crisis and also illustrates as to how global efforts are needed to look for a solution. The first chapter tries to identify the major parameters responsible for refugee generation. The lack of economic activities such as growth of GDP through improvement of industrial production and other facilities like social safety net and medical facilities help to generate refugees in a region. But it mostly depends on the political instability, unemployment and distress of availability of drinking water. The second chapter deals with integrating issues like refugee crisis and eco-political instability. Broadly speaking, here we want to examine the major cause of refugee formation and how it will affect the size of the so-called potential refugees. To categorize, the author has introduced a hybrid model which entails both the flavour of strategic game theory and rational expectations theory of macroeconomics. The third chapter examines the case study of environmental refugees of Bangladesh creating economic impact on neighbouring countries and also highlights the weaknesses of legislations to deal with such a major global crisis. The fifth chapter focusses on the program of action and provides a blueprint to coordinate with the relevant states, other UN agencies, refugees, NGOs and other stakeholders and support host countries and communities so that they can ensure the refugees have better access to health, education and labour markets and enjoy the opportunity of being included in

their host territories without any delay. The sixth chapter explores that countries that host refugees for long periods can experience long-term economic, social, environmental, and political and security impacts. While the impacts of a refugee presence on neighbouring countries are complex and context-specific, they are not necessarily only negative. The seventh chapter tries to examine the socio-economic status of the Tibetan refugees of the Choephelling Miao settlement and also to highlight the problems faced by the settlement. The eight chapter explores a retrospective study on the status of ecological refugees in respect to the Tehri Dam Project and their dilemmas pertaining to such a crisis. The ninth chapter addresses the present crisis of the Chakma refugees in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and looks into the causes of the current crisis to assess the impact of ethno-political issues on the refugee problem there. The last chapter highlights the need for possible legal protection that needs to be offered to refugees of all nature, with particular focus on the case study of Afghan women in Delhi, many of whom have been living in miserable conditions.

This text explores the broad and complicated ramifications of crisis by looking comparatively at most of the developing and under-developed economies. The chapters here include various case studies to understand the complexities of refugee crisis in different countries, with a resulting interdisciplinary orientation of the subject. We hope and expect the readers to get a wholesome scenario of the refugee crisis occurring across the globe.

Acknowledgements

This work *Refugee Crises and Third World Economies: Policies and Perspectives* has been a product of long discussion and articulation which could not have been possible without the contributing authors from all across India. We thank them for adding their valuable chapter to the matter of emerging concern through this volume.

We are most grateful to the Emerald publishing team for approving the proposal. We also express our gratitude to the academicians for their seamless efforts in guiding us throughout this project.

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Sourav Kumar Das
Nidhi Chowdhary
Editors

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Introduction

Refugees are specifically defined and protected in international law. *Refugees* are people outside their country of origin because of feared persecution, conflict, violence or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and who, as a result, require 'international protection'. Their situation is often so perilous and intolerable that they cross national borders to seek safety in nearby countries, and thus become internationally recognized as 'refugees' with access to assistance from states, UNHCR and relevant organizations. They are so recognized precisely because it is too dangerous for them to return home, and they therefore need sanctuary elsewhere. These are people for whom denial of asylum has potentially deadly consequences.

There is a significant boundary between refugees and migrants. As migration is a purely social and psychological phenomenon, it is difficult to enunciate general and rigorous principles and laws of migration.

Migration is not merely the shift of people from one place to another, but it is a fundamental factor helping to understand the ever-changing space content and space relations of a region or country. Migration may be classified on the basis of three criteria, namely, duration, boundary and motivation. There are permanent, periodic, seasonal and temporary migrations identified on the basis of duration. On the basis of boundary, internal and international subvarieties, such as inter-district, interstate, interregional and intracontinental, international, intercontinental migrations, have been recognized. Likewise economic, political, religious and marital motivations may give rise to similar migrations. However, the most commonly used classification is that which is based on the type of defining boundary and comprises two major categories, namely, internal when the migrants remain within the national territory, and international when they cross international boundaries.

A migrant is a person who makes a conscious choice to leave their country to seek a better life elsewhere. Before they decide to leave their country, migrants can seek information about their new home, study the language and explore employment opportunities. They can plan their travel, take their belongings with them and say goodbye to the important people in their lives. They are free to return home at any time if things don't work out as they had hoped, if they get homesick or if they wish to visit family members and friends left behind. Refugees are forced to leave their country because they are at risk of, or have experienced, persecution. The concerns of refugees are human rights and safety, not economic advantage. They leave behind their homes, most or all of their belongings, family

members and friends. Some are forced to flee with no warning, and many have experienced significant trauma or been tortured or otherwise ill-treated. The journey to safety is fraught with hazard, and many refugees risk their lives in search of protection. They cannot return unless the situation that forced them to leave improves (RCOA). The specific legal regime protecting the rights of refugees is referred to as ‘International Refugee Protection’. The rationale behind the need for this regime lies in the fact that refugees are people in a specific predicament which calls for additional safeguards. Asylum seekers and refugees lack the protection of their own country. Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the right of everyone to seek and enjoy asylum. However, no clear content was given to the notion of asylum at the international level until the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees [the ‘1951 Convention’] was adopted, and UNHCR was tasked to supervise its implementation. The 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as regional legal instruments, such as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, are the cornerstones of the modern refugee protection regime.^{1,2} They set forth a universal refugee definition and incorporate the basic rights and obligations of refugees.

The provisions of the 1951 Convention remain the primary international standard against which any measures for the protection and treatment of refugees are judged. Its most important provision, the principle of *non-refoulement* (meaning no forced returns) contained in Article 33, is the bedrock of the regime. According to this principle, refugees must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life or freedom would be under threat. States bear the primary responsibility for this protection. UNHCR works closely with governments, advising and supporting them as needed, to implement their responsibilities.

A uniform legal definition of the term ‘migrant’ does not exist at the international level. Some policy makers, international organizations and media outlets understand and use the word ‘migrant’ as an umbrella term to cover both migrants and refugees. For instance, global statistics on international migration typically use a definition of ‘international migrant’ that would include many asylum seekers and refugees. In public discussion, however, this practice can easily lead to confusion and can also have serious consequences for the lives and safety of refugees. ‘Migration’ is often understood to imply a voluntary process, for example, someone who crosses a border in search of better economic opportunities. This is not the case for refugees, who cannot return home safely, and accordingly are owed specific protections under international law.

Blurring the terms ‘refugees’ and ‘migrants’ takes attention away from the specific legal protections refugees require, such as protection from refoulement and from being penalized for crossing borders without authorization in order to seek safety. There is nothing illegal about seeking asylum – on the contrary, it is a universal human right. Conflating ‘refugees’ and ‘migrants’ can undermine public

¹<https://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10.html>.

²<https://www.unhcr.org/45dc1a682.html>.

support for refugees and the institution of asylum at a time when more refugees need such protection than ever before.

We need to treat all human beings with respect and dignity. We need to ensure that the human rights of migrants are respected. At the same time, we also need to provide an appropriate legal and operational response for refugees because of their particular predicament and to avoid diluting state responsibilities towards them. For this reason, UNHCR always refers to ‘refugees’ and ‘migrants’ separately, to maintain clarity about the causes and character of refugee movements and not to lose sight of the specific obligations owed to refugees under international law. Migrants – including those in irregular situations – are protected by international human rights law. This protection derives from their fundamental dignity as human beings. For some, failure to accord them human rights protection can have serious consequences. It may result in human rights violations, such as serious discrimination; arbitrary arrest or detention; or forced labour, servitude, or highly exploitative working conditions.

In addition, some migrants, such as unaccompanied or separated migrant children, or migrants who become victims of trafficking or are otherwise in a situation of vulnerability, may have specific needs for assistance and have the right to have those needs met. UNHCR fully supports approaches to migration management that respect the human rights of all people on the move. UNHCR’s preferred practice is to refer to groups of people travelling in mixed movements as ‘refugees and migrants’. This is the best way to allow for acknowledgement that all people on the move have human rights which should be respected, protected and fulfilled; and that refugees and asylum seekers have specific needs and rights which are protected by a particular legal framework.

Sometimes in policy discussions, phrases like ‘mixed movements’, ‘mixed flows’ or ‘composite movements’ are used to refer to the phenomenon of refugees and others on the move (including migrants, who may be in situations of vulnerability) travelling side by side along the same routes, using the same facilitators. ‘Mixed migration’ has also been used this way, but has sometimes been a source of confusion and is best avoided. The term ‘mixed migrant’, which has been used by some as a shorthand way of referring to a person travelling in a mixed movement whose individual status is unknown or who may have multiple, overlapping reasons for moving, is unclear. It can cause confusion and mask the specific needs of refugees and migrants. It is not recommended.

Sourav Kumar Das
Nidhi Chowdhary
Editors

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Section I

Theoretical Framework of Refugee Crisis

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Chapter 1

Why Does Refugee Generates? An Empirical Perspective

Sourav Kumar Das, Kishor Naskar and Chandra Sekhar Sahu

Abstract

Refugee can refer to movements of large groups of displaced people, who could be either internally displaced persons or other migrants. According to [UN High Commissioner Report for refugees \(2017\)](#), 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide because of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violation alone. Now we are witnessing a massive shift of humanity unlike any seen before. A huge population around the world, which is equivalent to the entire population of the UK, is displaced from their homes. More than 23 million of them are from five places: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, the Lake Chad Basin and Somalia. And the astonishing figures are 11.5 million people in five years between 2011 and 2016 in Syria, 4 million displaced from 2013 in South Sudan, 3.8 million in Afghanistan, 2.3 million in Africa's Lake Chad basin and 1.6 million in Somalia. All of the above have the reasons either being unemployment, insecurity and political instability or civil war or droughtlike phenomena, all of which can be summarized as economic crisis. Most of the time, we do our research on the subject about the wake of the crisis, but nobody do the prefacing matter analysis. This chapter is mainly based on the secondary data of the World Bank and the UNHCR and various governments' official data. In this chapter, we are trying to identify the major parameters responsible for refugee generation and also we are analyzing the cause of these phenomena, whereas no research has been done yet about the era prefacing that crisis.

Keywords: Refugee crisis; causes of refugee generation; last-decade refugees; African refugees; Asian refugees; host country refugees

Introduction

The word ‘refugee’, like the people it explain, can cover a lot of ground. Politicians, aid workers, academics and the press often approach the word from different points of view, and with varying concepts, roles and responsibilities the term implies. Such divergent views induce the global debate about how best to manage and protect refugees. The crux of the problem, as well as the many and vocal interest groups concerned, makes it difficult to sort out global refugee issues without answering two main questions. First, who qualifies as a refugee? Second, what are the most pressing issues facing them and the many institutions with which they interact? The most accurate answers can be had by zeroing in on the legal definition of ‘refugee’, then backing away for a broader look at those whom the definition encompasses and the issues associated to their situation.

Now the question is that Who are the Refugees? Understanding the problems facing refugees – and those striving to protect them – depends on grasping precise legal definitions. These definitions identify who qualifies for the protections, both legal and physical, that national and international bodies have developed to deal with people pushed across borders by conflict and persecution. They also play an important role in efforts to collect and interpret refugee statistics. The core definition of a ‘refugee’ is contained in the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which define a refugee as an individual who ‘owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable or – unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country’.

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of ill treatment, war or violence. A refugee has a common fear or persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading factors of refugees fleeing their countries. More than half of the refugees worldwide come from just three countries: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. Crises in Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan have displaced more than 10 million people around the world – more than half of the refugee population worldwide (Mercycorps.org, 2019). Meanwhile, instability in Venezuela and violence in Myanmar have forced millions more to leave their homes behind.

The 1951 Geneva Convention is the main international platform of refugee law. The Convention clearly explained who a refugee is and the kind of legal protection, other assistance and social rights he or she should receive from the countries who have signed the document. The Convention also defines a refugee’s obligation to host governments and certain categories or people, such as war criminals, who do not qualify for refugee status. The Convention was limited to protecting mainly European refugees in the aftermath of World War II, but another document, the 1967 Protocol, extended the scope of the Convention as the problem of displacement spread around the world.

In the last decade the refugee generation has been taking up pace compared to the past decades. Particularly in the last five years, that is, between 2016 and 2011, more than 23 million of people have become refugees. Now among them 11.5 million refugees are from Syria, 4 million displaced from 2013 in South Sudan, 3.8 million in Afghanistan, 2.3 million in Africa's Lake Chad basin and 1.6 million in Somalia ([World Migration Report, 2018](#)). As we know, mostly economic and political instabilities are the reasons for refugee generation, but the major parameters for how refugees are generated have not been analyzed properly. This chapter will highlight the major parameters for which refugee crisis has been generated within an economy. Again the implications of those parameters have been analyzed on the five above-mentioned economies. This chapter is mainly based on the secondary data of the World Bank and UNHCR and various governments' official data of the studied country. So the main objective of this chapter is to analyze the cause of these phenomena, whereas no research has been done yet about the era prefacing that crisis.

Refugee Crisis in the Last Decade

Several decades later, the world is currently experiencing the greatest refugee crisis since World War II. The most recent report from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) figures a total refugee and displaced person population at approximately 55 million people, the result of conflicts from South Sudan to Syria. This considers over 14 million refugees, 1.8 million asylum seekers and 32 million internally displaced persons. The prime cause of increased displacement is the ongoing Syrian Civil War, a conflict that has killed between 250,000 and 470,000 people and forcibly displaced approximately 11.3 million people ([World Report, 2019](#)). The scope of the Syrian crisis is dangerous, with the country now comprising the world's largest source of refugees, while Turkey, which shares the longest common border with Syria, is now home to the world's largest refugee population.

Despite the enormity of the Syrian Refugee Crisis, many Western states have once again given up their moral duty to grant asylum to refugees. England has recorded less than 5,000 refugees, Canada has just recently accepted 25,000 refugees, Germany has provided asylum to 800,000 migrants which has been expected to increase to 1 million, and the US has pledged to accept a total of 100,000 refugees by 2017. Turkey, Lebanon, Germany and Jordan have so far registered 2.5 million, 1 million, 800,000 and 630,000 refugees, respectively; it is clear that affluent Western states have a moral duty to accept more refugees ([UNHCR, 2018](#)). Many countries that have signed and ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention have repeatedly violated the principle of rehabilitation. Specifically, at the borders of Greece and Turkey, Spain and Morocco as well as Europe guards have forcibly repatriated asylum seekers. In Australia, asylum seekers who arrive clandestinely are imprisoned in remote detention centres. State's unwillingness to accept refugees can yet again be largely give importance

to discrimination, specifically racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia. Fears and moral panics about the ‘other’, coupled with the emerging consensus that countries must control its borders and protect its territory resulted in the rise of xenophobic and nationalist political parties in the US, Australia and across Europe, and the further entrenchment of an aggressive anti-migration regimes. Critics of granting asylum to refugees often use the consequentialist rationale, as well as the language of economics when considering the case of migration. Arguments are made that focus on the consequences of refugee flows for those who already reside in the destination country. In response to the claim that increased migration harms domestic workers, proponents of freer international migration argue that migrants add value to the domestic economy. Clearly, both sides ignore the welfare of the people and families they are speaking of, as if their lives were of no concern. Furthermore, critics and advocates disregard the meaningful issues of ethics and justice beyond the primacy of economic consequential. Nor do they attend to the question of whether protecting the interests of citizens of destination countries justifies treating others inequitable. Ultimately, the international communities’ refusal to accept refugees is a tragic point in the history of migration, and future scholars will likely look back on this current crisis with horror ([Table 1.1](#)).

Global Refugee Crisis

By the end of 2016, 65.6 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations ([UNHCR, 2018](#)). That was an increase of 300,000 people over the previous year, and the world’s forcibly displaced population remained at a record high. This includes:

- 22.5 million refugees in the world – the highest ever seen;
- 40.3 million internally displaced people and
- 2.8 million asylum seekers.

New displacement remains very high. One person becomes displaced every three seconds – less than the time it takes to read this sentence. That is 20 people are newly displaced every minute. One in every 113 people globally is either an asylum seeker, internally displaced or a refugee.

Let review the region specific refugee scenario.

Central African Republic Region

Since 2013, nearly 1 million men, women and children have fled their homes in desperation, seeking refuge within mosques and churches, as well as in neighbouring countries (Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and the Republic of the Congo).

Table 1.1. Refugees, Total Population of Concern, by UN Region, 2008–2016.

Region		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Africa	DNA	2,106,300	10,176,423	13,054,069	12,546,381	13,552,429	17,755,821	20,277,162	21,288,728	
Asia	803,500	18,567,061	6,112,716	14,525,986	15,448,253	20,071,389	25,940,393	29,704,046	31,168,078	
Europe	3,596,100	3,069,748	2,992,734	3,022,529	2,956,456	2,655,496	3,901,936	5,487,592	6,210,994	
Latin America and Caribbean	1,621,723	3,740,389	4,117,369	4,315,819	4,351,990	5,995,468	6,669,992	7,659,144	8,061,269	
Northern America	700	569,868	487,433	483,219	477,388	530,502	620,922	714,900	936,875	
Oceania	DNA	38,148	37,801	40,243	52,868	60,113	69,780	69,894	83,894	
Total	42,000,000	36,460,806	33,924,476	35,441,865	35,833,362	42,865,397	54,958,844	63,912,738	67,749,838	

Source: www.unhcr.org.

Central American Region

In recent years, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have experienced a dramatic escalation in violence by organized criminal groups, locally called *maras*. Current homicide rates are among the highest ever recorded in the region.

The number of people fleeing for their lives from Central America has grown by 10 times in the past five years. A total of 90% of asylum seekers in Mexico are from NTCA countries.

European Region

The ongoing conflict and violence in Syria, Iraq and other parts of the world is causing large-scale displacement, and refugees are seeking safety beyond the immediate region. The lack of an increased number of legal pathways leaves so many people fleeing persecution with few choices, including many trying to reunite with family members in Europe.

More than 1.4 million people take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate attempt to reach Greece, Italy and Spain en route to Europe since 2015.

Iraq Region

More than 3 million Iraqis have been displaced across the country since the start of 2014 and more than 240,000 are refugees in other countries, including Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Germany.

South Sudan Region

South Sudan has the world's fastest growing refugee crisis. Since December 2013, brutal conflict in South Sudan has claimed thousands of lives and driven 3.3 million people from their homes. While an estimated 1.9 million people remain displaced inside the country, 1.4 million have fled as refugees to neighbouring countries in a desperate bid to reach safety.

Uganda currently hosts the most South Sudanese refugees, having taken in more than 1 million people.

Syria Region

Syrians continued to be the largest forcibly displaced population in the world, with 12 million people at the end of 2016. That's more than half of the Syrian population. More than 5 million people have fled Syria seeking safety in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and beyond. In Lebanon, where more than 1 million Syrian refugees reside, there are no formal refugee camps and approximately 70% of Syrian refugees live below the poverty line.

In Jordan, over 660,000 Syrian refugees are trapped in exile. Approximately 80% of them live outside camps, while more than 140,000 have found sanctuary at