

UNA-USA Model UN App Mini-Simulation Background Guide and Workbook

Topic: Human Rights of Refugees in Yemen

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)

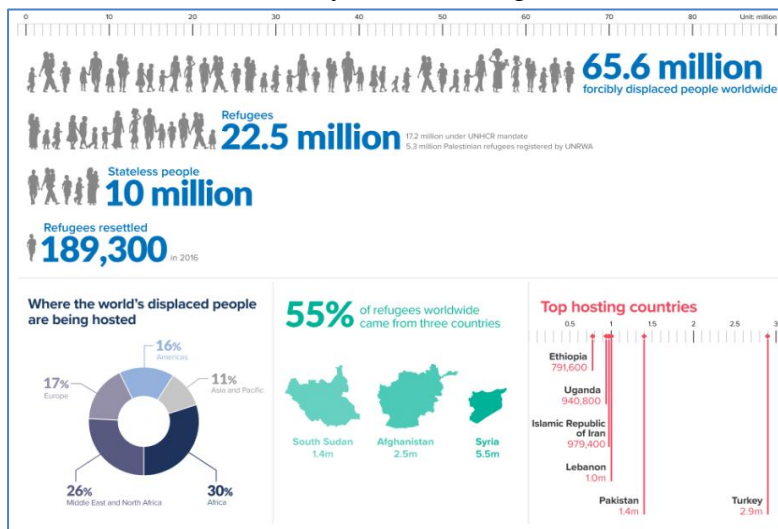
The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency on refugees. Created shortly after the end of the Second World War in 1950, they provide vital assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stateless people, many of whom have nobody left to turn to in need.

What are refugees and what is the “Refugee Crisis”?

According to an annual report made by the UNHCR, we are facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II, with more than 65.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide in 2015.

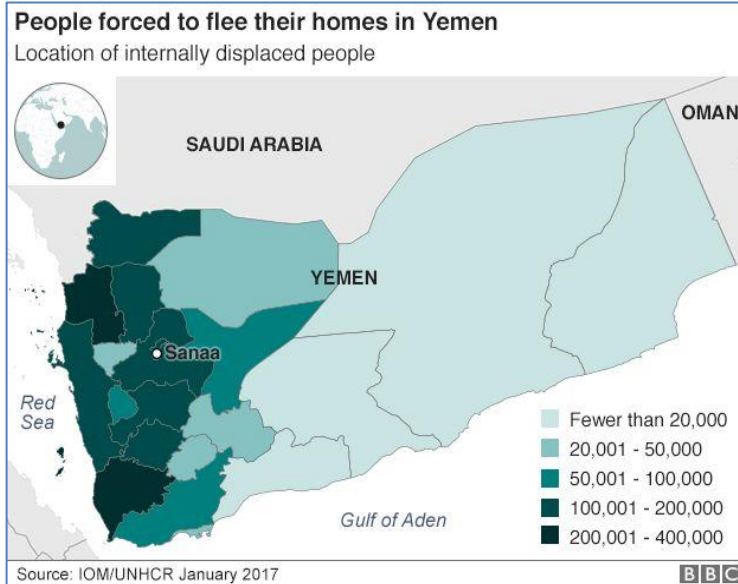
There are plenty of reasons that force people from their homes. Many are fleeing a violent conflict or civil war in which they could be targeted because of their beliefs or identity. Others may be fleeing the effects of a natural disaster or food insecurity that has made it impossible to live in their home country. This has put pressure on surrounding countries and the international community to provide aid and housing for all refugees, especially considering the increasing number of this population.



Source: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html?query=map>

Many countries do this enthusiastically, and are happy to help when others are in need. Other countries struggle with their own internal security and domestic issues, and are less willing to recognize someone as a refugee even when the UN and the international community have made it clear that a human rights violation in the home country has taken place. This situation can be worsened when citizens are not leaving their home country, but relocating to internal refugee camps classifying them as internally displaced persons (IDPs) as the international community relies on the government to grant permission to support them.

Yemen in Focus



According to a report by the UNHCR, more than 18 million people are in need of immediate assistance or aid in Yemen, which has been facing a very violent civil war since the beginning of 2015. A UN report states that over 7,600 people have been killed and 42,000 have been injured since the conflict's tensions began and up until now, making it one of the bloodiest conflicts with dire humanitarian consequences.

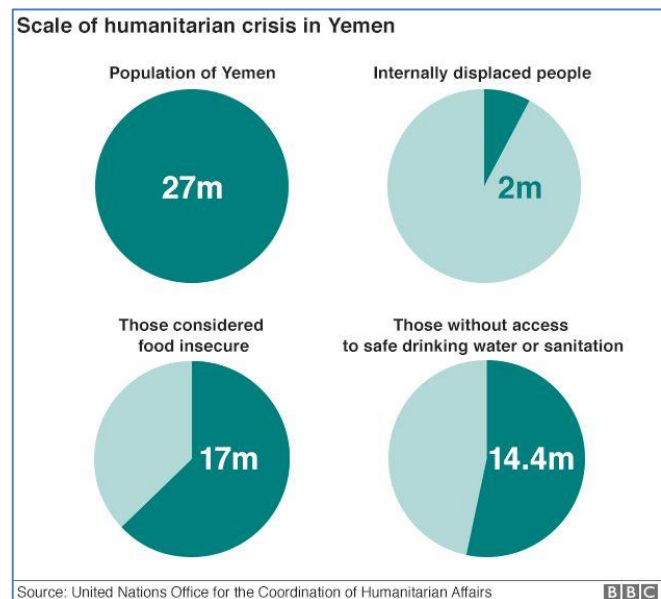
The civil war is between the Houthis allied with supporters of Yemen's former President Ali Abdullah Sale

and anti-Houthi forces supporting current President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Hadi and the anti-Houthi forces are mainly being supported through a Saudi Arabian-led coalition which has also received intelligence and logistical support from the United States, United Kingdom, and France. There is also discussion and speculation that Iran is playing a key role in supporting the Houthis forces. Taking advantage of the chaos, the Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) are increasing their attacks and control for territory in Yemen.

The political scenario and security problems in Yemen, alongside embargos and sanctions on the country, limits the humanitarian support provided by the UNHCR, creating almost impossible conditions for the adequate assistance needed.

Food Insecurity

The UN recognizes access to food and water as being a fundamental human right. The civil war in Yemen has helped to create a food crisis, alongside the ongoing refugee and IDP situation, leaving millions on the brink of starvation. Over 60% of the Yemeni population is in the state of food crisis or emergency based on reports by the World Food Programme (WFP). This has led to over a third of households in the country having a poor food diet quality and quantity, resulting most of the population going day and night without eating. Due to this, many Yemeni's are relocating to areas where they hope to receive food assistance within the country, or leaving Yemen to countries including Egypt.



Meanwhile, Yemen is also home to more than 270,000 refugees and asylum seekers mainly from Africa. This puts further pressure on the country and its lack of food resources and assistance.

The conflict in Yemen is currently the largest food security emergency in the world. With more than 17 million people struggling to feed themselves, malnutrition has passed the “emergency” status, reaching over 15% of the population and over 2 million children. Discussing and determining a solution to the ongoing food crisis is only one piece of the puzzle in helping the conflict in Yemen.

Priorities to be Discussed

- Efforts made so far by your country to aid refugees, IDPs, and displaced people
- Solutions that the UN have already tried and in which ways they can be improved or in which ways they have failed
- The role of external actors in supporting the civil war
- Securing international borders
- Allowing access to food and water
- Ability to support Yemeni IDPs
- The responsibility that the UN has to fight extremist terrorist organizations and if the **UN Security Council** should be called upon
- Using developed and developing nations and their unique resources to help achieve a peaceful solution to the issue at hand
- Solutions that could involve the host country and the home country of the refugees
- The challenges to solving this problem

Glossary

- **Refugee** – People who are forced to flee due to conflict, war and persecution due to their beliefs, race, religion, nationality and sexual orientation, being protected in the view of International Law. These people cannot return to their countries where their life and freedom are at risk.
- **Migrant** - People who leave their countries of origin usually for economic reasons or to seek material and lifestyle improvement. It should not be related to the refugee definition. These migrants are not entitled to benefit from international protection as refugees.
- **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** - People who are forced to flee their homes as a result and to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, violent situations, violations of human rights and natural disasters, and who have not crossed an international border of their country.
- **Stateless Person** - A person that is not considered as a national by any country under its national law.
- **Human Rights** – The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed in the same year as the UN was formed, was the result of a common understanding of what everyone has the right to do, be and express, according to the values of justice, peace and freedom. The right to education, freedom of thought and expression, democracy, food and shelter and education are the main aspects presented in the declaration, endorsed by almost all member countries of the UN.

- **Refugee Camp** – The UNHCR provide essential services in refugee camps with food, sanitation, health and education, where refugees are hosted temporarily. These camps are usually located at least 50 km away from the nearest international border to prevent attacks and raids to those staying there.

Model UN Vocabulary

- **Delegate** – A person who represents a country in an official capacity.
- **Placard** – A sign that is labeled with the country name in order to represent the delegate, in this case they are also country profiles as there is information on the back about country policies and positions.
- **Chair** – The moderator of the discussion, in this case the educator or leader.
- **Allies** – A nation that is associated with another for a common cause or purpose, a group of allies can also be called a **bloc**.
- **Resolution** – A document outlining a solution to an issue.
- **Yield** – Ending your speech, and giving remainder/left over time to the chair to continue discussion.
- **Preamble Clause** – Highlights the reason for addressing the topic and past international action.
- **Operative Clause** – Offer solutions to issue addressed, these clauses are action oriented.

Model UN Mini-Simulation Informational Videos

- Introduction <https://youtu.be/KGJLgA1rqJ8>
- Getting Started <https://youtu.be/10YS8HIgTHs>
- Sim Vocabulary <https://youtu.be/3mz6VkAsqrk>

Template: Opening Speech

Thank you honorable chair.

We, the delegates of _____, believe that Human Rights of Refugees [is/is not] a serious issue.

For Example _____

_____ [illustrative example about the issue in your country or in the world]

That is why we believe the UN should pass a resolution that encourages countries to [write some of the top priorities for your country using the country profiles provided]:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Thank you, I yield my time to the chair.

Conversation Starters for Unmoderated Caucus

When assessing how to approach other countries during unmoderated caucus, consider using the following conversation starters:

- I listened to your opening statement and we agree with your policy/opinion on...
- I heard you talk about [*committee topic*] during your opening statement, could you tell me more about your country's position on that topic?
- Our country has a great strategy that we would like to discuss with your country.
- Our country's ideas may be different, but we should brainstorm on how to work together.

Sample Draft Resolution

Topic: Human Rights of Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Reaffirming article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution”,
[comma after every preambulatory clause]

Taking into consideration past efforts made by the International Community Agency to tackle issues related to forced displacement,

1. **Encourages** the creation of an International Catalogue System for Refugees (ICSR) to be adopted by participating countries in order to reduce bureaucratic measures for registering refugees

1.1 The ICSR would include a digital archive containing basic information required for mobility purposes of refugee families in order to keep them together during the process of displacement;

[semicolon after every resolution clause]

2. **Further** invites the assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Member Countries in aiding and assisting in immediate humanitarian help in refugee camps, as well as in the allocation of families in their host countries.

[end your resolution with a period]

Template: Resolution

Topic: Human Rights of Refugees

Committee: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

[Preamble Clauses]

1. _____

_____;

2. _____

_____;

[Operative Clauses]

1. _____

_____;

2. _____

_____;

3. _____

_____.

Resolution Phrases

Use the following words and phrases to write your preamble and operative clauses. The **preamble or preamble clauses** of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. The **operative clauses** offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section.

Preambulatory Phrases	Operative Phrases	
Alarmed by	Accepts	Endorses
Approving	Affirms	Expresses its appreciation
Believing	Approves	Expresses its hope
Confident	Authorizes	Further invites
Convinced	Calls	Further proclaims
Declaring	Calls upon	Further reminds
Deeply concerned	Condemns	Further recommends
Deeply disturbed	Confirms	Further requests
Emphasizing	Congratulates	Further resolves
Fully aware	Considers	Has resolved
Further recalling	Declares accordingly	Notes
Having considered	Deplores	Proclaims
Having examined	Designates	Reaffirms
Keeping in mind	Draws the attention	Recommends
Observing	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Reaffirming	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Realizing	Further invites	Requests
Recalling	Deplores	Solemnly affirms
Recognizing	Designates	Strongly condemns
Referring	Draws the attention	Supports
Seeking	Emphasizes	Takes note of
Taking into consideration	Encourages	Transmits
Taking note		Trusts
Welcoming		

Media Assessment Form (Optional Activity)

Article Overview:

Title of article:

Date Published:

Where did you access this article?

Author/s of Publication:

Sourcing:

Consider the source: is this an academic or reputable source? How do you know?

Do you find this source to be trustworthy? Why or why not?

Analyzing Article Content:

What perspective do you think this article is written from? (i.e. local, national, international etc.) How do you know?

Why do you think the author/s chose to write this article?

Why might this news source portray the topic in this way?

Does the article have any images? If so, why do you think the author/s chose to include those images?

ESPeN Organization Chart:

Directions: While reading the article, reflect on the 4 categories in the chart below. Use words, quotes, or information that applies from the article to fill-out each category in your chart.

Categories Explained: **Economics:** Topics related to money, goods, services, production etc.

Social: Topics related to culture, the behaviors of a population, and quality of life. This may overlap with other categories.

Political: Government and various international organization’s decisions, laws, policies, etc.

Environmental: Topics related to natural resources, food, climate change, pollution etc.

<u>E: Economics</u>	<u>S: Social</u>
<u>P: Political</u>	<u>eN: Environmental</u>