



Reflections on Lessons Learned

A Journey of Discovery

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Why We Started on this Journey?

- Current events
- The negative connotation of refugees presented by the media.
- Desire to learn more
- Roles or responsibilities that we have as individuals, communities and as a nation more broadly.
- Be part of the solution

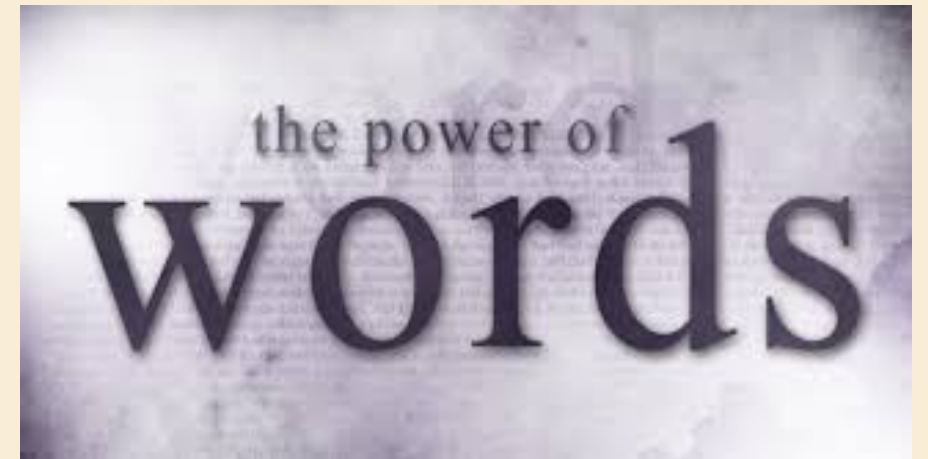


Reflections on the Forums

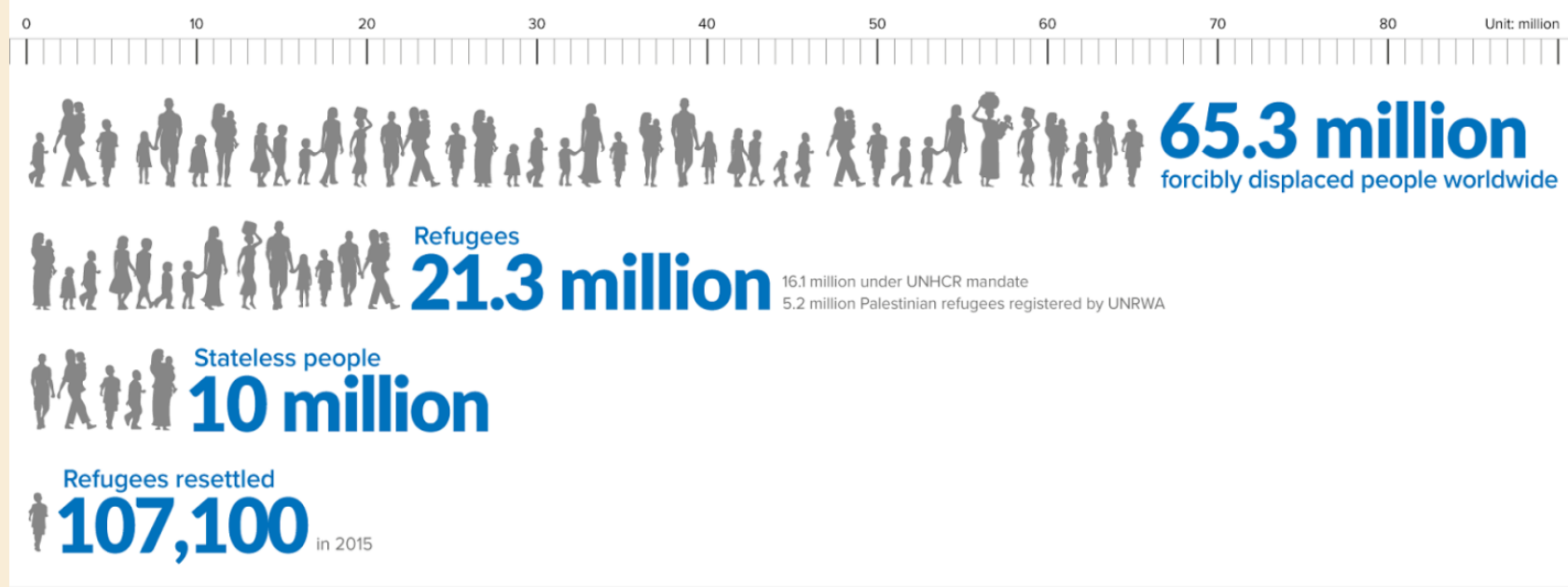


- It was very interesting to read and learn from other students' perspectives/posts on the three dialogues.
- Innovative ways to get communities more involved and engaged in the discussion
- How to engage with others to get involved or more informed about the crisis (including individuals who are more resistant to becoming involved)
- It is a complex issue that requires both individual and collective action
- How the issue needs to be addressed by using multiple perspectives (an interdisciplinary approach) to better meet the broad needs of refugees- physically, socially, mentally, emotionally, spiritually

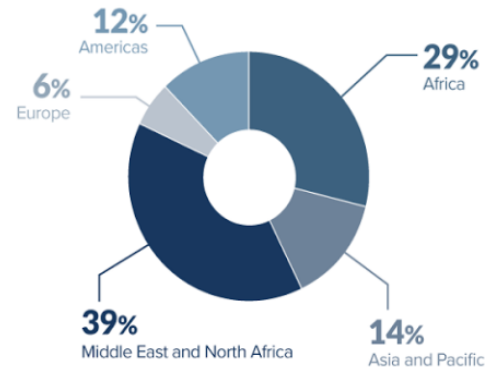
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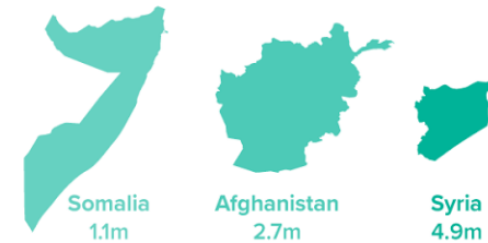
Extent of the Crisis: Record Breaking Displacement Levels



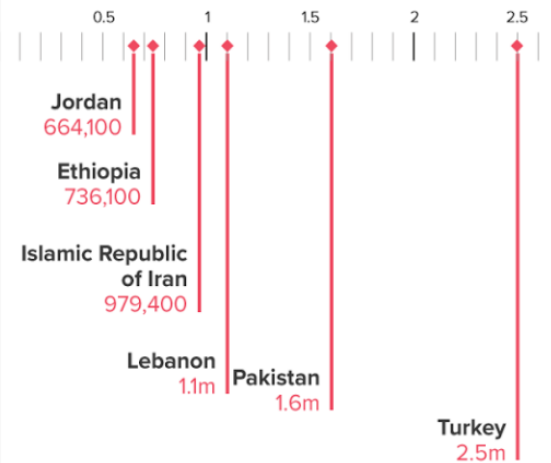
Where the world's displaced people are being hosted



53% of refugees worldwide came from three countries



Top hosting countries



33,972 people
a day forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution

10,800 staff
UNHCR employs 10,800 staff (as of 31 December 2016)

128 countries
We work in 128 countries (as of 31 December 2016)

We are funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions, with 86 per cent from governments and the European Union.



According to the UNHCR, in 2015
34000 people displaced per day
24 people every minute (UNHCR)

Our Reflection on the Crisis

- Among the millions of refugees in the world, less than 1% are resettled
- Even those that are resettled do not represent the most vulnerable or the needy of the needy mainly due to criteria of host countries
- The refugee crisis did not happen overnight and is a result of inextricably connected issues; therefore while resettlement is one durable solution for the very few, we need to focus on long term solutions for the majority that are displaced and for the new refugees being created as we speak
- As social workers, we will be guided by human rights, social justice and sustainable pieces and values to find other long lasting solutions for the majority by considering the whole system and the whole problem within its context

We do not learn from
experience... we learn
from reflecting on
experience.

- John Dewey

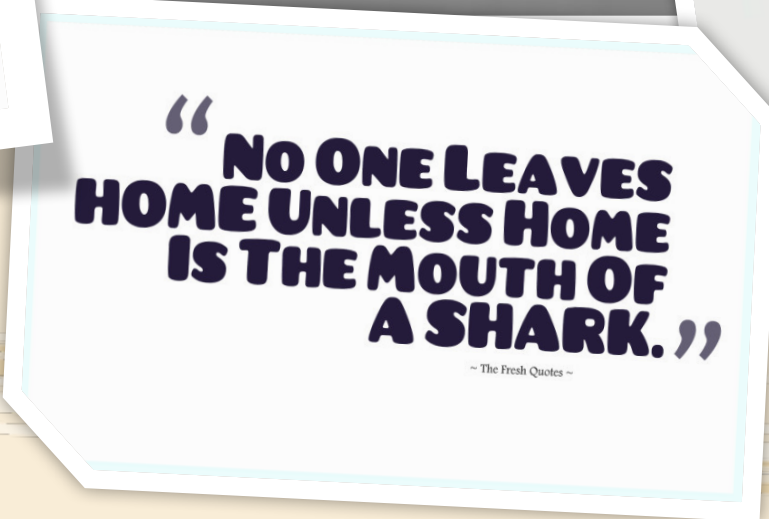
Two-Pronged Issue

Displacement

- Homes not safe
- Little is being done to prevent wars or for refugees to have their voices heard
- Refugee being created every minute

Settlement in the new country

- Anti-immigrant sentiment
- Islamophobia
- Integration and barriers



What Social Workers can share

- CASW Code of Ethics
- Value of the Narrative- an intercultural approach
- Advocate for the creation of multidisciplinary teams and work towards finding a collective solution
- Recognition of intersectionality



What is needed?

WISH LIST

- Collective action (working together)
- Community building and strengthening (making connections)
- Compassion for others
- Creation of safe spaces (including online like social media)
- Being aware and critical of our own actions and inactions (critical thinking skills)
- Being open minded
- At the macro level- adapting a sustainability-first agenda for economic development
- More unbiased media coverage of world events

What is being done?

Student/Community Level

- June 1-3 National Spring Consultation: Canadian Council for Refugees
 - Some of the students are either attending or volunteering
- Continue learning on the topic and the roles that we can play as future social workers and as global citizens
- Pro-immigration support
- Private sponsorship of refugees

Macro

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- United Nations Global Compact
- [Partnership for Refugees](#)
- <http://www.charta-der-vielfalt.de/en/diversity-charter.html>

References

UN Refugee Agency. (2016, June). Global trends: Forced displacement in 2015. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org/576408cd7>

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