

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: Mitigating the burden on developing economies caused by migration

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Introduction

Migration has been a matter of fact for years, significantly affecting the demographic structures and economies of states. Migration is triggered by various push factors, such as economic crisis, wars, political instability, and pull factors, including economic opportunities, political stability, and a higher quality of life.

Receiving countries, especially in the West, attract migrants with economic prosperity, political stability, and high living standards. Migration can be regular, with government management, or irregular, without legal status, posing challenges for host countries. Despite potential negative impacts, international laws often require acceptance of refugees, emphasizing the need to maximize their positive contributions.

Migrants can benefit host countries through remittances, employment, and entrepreneurship, boosting economies and filling labor shortages. An interdisciplinary approach involving governments, NGOs, and society is crucial to managing migration effectively, focusing on preventing irregular migration and enhancing the benefits of regular immigrants.

Definition of Key Terms

Emigration: The relocation or process of people leaving one country to reside in another. (Investopedia)

Political Unrest: Periods of social or political turmoil characterized by protests, demonstrations, violence, or instability within a nation.



Refugee: Someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence.

Hyperinflation: Rapid and unrestrained price increases in an economy, typically at rates exceeding 50% each month over time.

Immigrant: A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.

Civil war: A war between organized groups within the same state (or country).

Border: A line separating two countries, administrative divisions, or other areas.

Positive immigration rate: When the number of immigrants is greater than the number of emigrants.

Negative immigration rate: When the number of immigrants is less than the number of emigrants.

Pull factors: Something that attracts people to a place or an activity.

Push factors: Something that makes people want to leave a place or escape from a particular situation.

Background Information

Humanity has been actively immigrating from one region to another since prehistoric times. Even though the reasons and aims of these migrations have altered from yesterday to today, it is an undeniable fact that these migrations have a great impact on the demographic structure of societies and the economies of states. There are a variety of push factors and pull factors that lead people and communities to immigrate. In countries that emigrate, push factors such as economic difficulties, civil wars, political unrest, marginalization of minorities, environmental factors and corruption in state authorities that cause people to



migrate from that country or region can be observed. Numerous incidents have occurred and have been actively going on in the Middle East lately, which produced an overwhelming amount of refugees, such as:

Syrian Civil War (2011-Present)

The root of the conflict dates back to the Arab Spring and post-revolutionary protests against the Esad regime. A large-scale civil war has started between the government and the Free Syrian Army (FSA), which later escalated with the involvement of third party entities. Approximately 13 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes, around half of them being internationally. Especially states like Türkiye, Lebanon, Germany received immigrants from there.

Afghan Conflicts (1979-2021-Present)

Political unrest in Afghanistan has been a matter of fact since 1979 arising from the conflict between communist parties and İslamic sects. Soviet invasion in 1979, rise of Taliban, US invasion in 2001 and Taliban taking over the government in 2021. All these incidents produced thousands of migrants desiring a peaceful life away from war. People still are trying to escape Afghanistan because of the oppressive and radical policies of the Taliban regime.

Venezuelan Crisis (2014-Present)

The economic decline in Venezuela started with the global price drop in 2014, which kept snowballing with mismanagement and hyperinflation. Venezuela's currency depreciated so much that people started to measure currency with kilograms. This eventually caused unemployment, especially in the oil sector. With that much subemployment, poverty was inevitable. Over 5.4 million citizens fled from the country to other Latin American states like Brazil, Colombia, etc.

On the other hand, in receiving states, economic prosperity, political stability, fair and objective judicial system, high quality of life, employment and



comprehensive education can be considered as pull factors that attract potential immigrants seeking these privileges. As seen in Figure 1, usually a positive migration rate is observed in Western continents such as America and Europe since they substantially fulfill the requirements to be a destination country for immigrants with their economical and political stability. In contrast, regions like middle east, north & middle Africa and south-eastern Asia are more likely to have negative migration rates due to the lack of pull factors in these territories. This situation eventually causes an intense migration flow towards Western states.

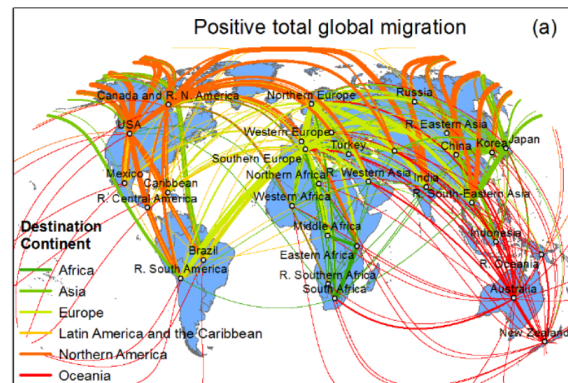


Figure 1

Migration can be examined under two main forms, which are regular and irregular migration. Regular migration is migration activities that are inspected, registered and regulated by the government, as the name implies. These migrants are usually given immigrant IDs enabling them to access their immigrant rights such as working, healthcare, education, banking, etc. The other form is irregular migration, which is the exact opposite of regular migration. Irregular immigrants enter their destinations via illicit ways which makes them completely anonymous and untraceable for the law enforcement. Hence, they are not eligible for employment, social service and exercising other immigrant rights unless they apply for asylum in official government departments. These irregular immigrants especially become a threat for the hosting countries' economy, demographic structure and society tranquility because of the absence of supervision and a filtering system.

Although immigrants may have adverse effects on the host state, they can not be rejected or deported in most cases according to international treaties and law. As stated in the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is prohibited to displace refugees and migrants to countries where they may face persecution based on race, religion, nationality, etc. Likewise, if the immigrants can prove their need for asylum and



qualifications, member states must welcome them as migrants and provide them with fundamental immigrant rights. Because of this circumstance, states should find ways to maximize the positive impact of immigrants. These asylum seekers actually can contribute to the state in many ways, such as but not limited to

Remittances

Remittances are one of the greatest sources of foreign currency liquidity for a country. States can tackle inflation with the currencies sent from immigrants from outside the country. Besides, the value of the currency of the host country would increase since immigrants send this currency to their homeland.

Employment

Approximately 70% of the immigrants of working age are either working or seeking employment worldwide, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Those migrants become an asset especially for the countries with labor shortage. They play a major role in maintaining the effective production of countries with low work power.

Entrepreneurship

A significant number of refugees are migrating to launch their start-ups and enterprises. Entrepreneurs who do not receive the necessary support from the government in their home countries immigrate to countries providing capital support, having an abundance of investors and vibrant markets. This situation creates competition in the market which prevents monopolies, as well as increasing the number of potential international companies originating in the host country.

In conclusion, an interdisciplinary approach should be taken for 2 different groups of migrants in order to reduce the burden on developing economies caused by migrants. Basically, prevention actions for irregular migrants and augmentation of



the benefits of regular immigrants are the key solutions for the issue in question. At this point, collaboration of law enforcement agencies, NGOs, outreach offices and society alongside with the government is essential for the achievement of these solutions.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Türkiye

Türkiye plays a major role in this regard due to its geopolitical position. As a country connecting Asia and Europe, it is being utilized as a transit route for many refugees and immigrants, especially for the ones from the Middle East, aiming to reach Europe. In addition, due to the refugee policy it has been pursuing in recent years, Türkiye is now seen as a direct target region for many migrants aiming to obtain citizenship, rather than just a transit route. Türkiye hosts the majority of the Syrian refugees today.

United States of America (USA)

The USA welcomes refugees from all over the world. Especially from South America, for people desiring better living conditions free from cartel activities and corrupt governments. People from India also migrate to the USA, due to its development and broad variety of job opportunities in the technology sector. However, some states' governments and citizens are protesting this policy recently. In fact, the Texas government has closed and reinforced the South border to stop immigrants from crossing, even though the White House didn't permit that.

Germany

European destination for immigrants since it provides asylum easily and supplies social service. The majority of the refugees and migrants consist of Turkish citizens. Germany has received large immigrant waves pursuing employment



especially after WW2 and the Berlin Wall. Also it has been hosting many refugees mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq since 2015.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is the main sub-branch of the United Nations (UN) regarding refugees. The UNHCR raises funds, provides humanitarian aid, legal protection and raises awareness in public. They offer financial support to the countries hosting decent amounts of refugees. They also work on integrating the immigrants into the society with their community outreach offices.

Timeline of Events

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| December 18, 1990 | The United Nations adopts the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. |
| 1991-1992 | The Yugoslav Wars, including the Bosnian War and the Croatian War of Independence, result in millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) |



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|---------------------------|---|
| 2001-2002 | The U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan leads to significant refugee flows, with millions of Afghans fleeing to Pakistan, Iran, and other countries. |
| December 9, 2003 | The Global Commission on International Migration is launched. |
| 2011 | The Syrian Civil War begins, creating one of the largest refugee crises in modern history. By the end of the decade, over 5.6 million Syrians had fled the country, mainly to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Europe. |
| September 19, 2016 | The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants is adopted by the UN General Assembly, laying the groundwork for the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). |



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| December 10-11, 2018 | The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is formally adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech, Morocco. |
| July 2020 | The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launches the Migration Data Strategy. |
| 2021 | The Taliban takeover of Afghanistan following the U.S. withdrawal causes a renewed refugee crisis, with many Afghans seeking asylum in neighboring countries and beyond. |
| December 1, 2021 | The UN Network on Migration begins operational activities to support the implementation of the GCM. |
| May 17-20, 2022 | The first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) meets to assess progress on the GCM implementation. |



Relevant UN Resolutions and Other Documents

- [UN General Assembly Resolution 45/158 \(1990\):](#)
 - The convention aims to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families, emphasizes international cooperation and the need to address the socio-economic challenges faced by migrant-sending countries was adopted with this resolution.
- [UN General Assembly Resolution 68/4 \(2013\):](#)
 - This resolution reaffirmed the importance of addressing the links between international migration and development and called for the integration of migration into the development agenda.
- [UN General Assembly Resolution 71/1 \(2016\):](#)
 - This declaration set the groundwork for the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, highlighting the need for comprehensive refugee responses and the support of countries hosting large numbers of refugees.
- [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees:](#)
 - This convention is a key legal document defining who is a refugee, their rights, and the legal obligations of states to protect them. It sets the standard for refugee protection and asylum processes globally.
- [1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees:](#)
 - This protocol removed the geographical and temporal limits of the 1951 Convention, expanding its scope to address new refugee situations globally.
- [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration \(2018\):](#)
 - This non-binding agreement aims to improve international cooperation on migration issues. It outlines 23 objectives covering various aspects of migration, including reducing the economic burden on developing countries, enhancing legal



migration pathways, and improving the safety and rights of migrants.

- [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (2018):
 - Complementary to the migration compact, this compact aims to provide a framework for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing among states to support host countries and enhance refugee self-reliance.
- [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development \(2015\)](#):
 - The agenda includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with Goal 10.7 specifically aiming to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people through well-managed migration policies.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The UN has always tried to solve this problem on paper. Through agreements and declarations, the concept of asylum seeker has been clearly defined and their rights determined. But there has never been a specific effort to mitigate the burden of migrants on developing economies. Although documents such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, mentioned above, have indirectly contributed to solving the issue, the lack of a current study that focuses primarily on this particular causes the problem to continue to grow. The UN held meetings like the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in order to collect data about migration which is crucial in policy-making and better management of the immigrants.

Possible Solutions

It can be said that the solution to this problem basically consists of two main phases. Preventing irregular migrants and maximizing the positive impact of regular migrants. Of course, in order to achieve these two main objectives, comprehensive interdisciplinary studies should be carried out. In particular, solutions that will support this process, which has so far been carried out only bureaucratically, should be produced in the field.



Border security should be increased to prevent the entry of irregular migrants. In addition, inspections should be increased in order to identify and deport irregular migrants already within the borders of the country.

In order to increase the positive impact of regular migrants on the country, asylum seekers can be qualified through institutions such as short-term vocational training schools. At the same time, attractive factors such as entrepreneurial grant funds and research facilities can be created to attract qualified migrants.

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