

Forum: UNHRC

Issue: Addressing the IDPs critical situation in Middle Eastern countries

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Introduction

In recent years, the Middle East has witnessed an escalating humanitarian crisis, revolving around the situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within the region. This crisis has not only become a matter of national concern for the affected countries but has also gained international attention, drawing focus from humanitarian organizations, governmental bodies, and the broader global community. As the IDP crisis in the Middle East takes over discussions on human rights, displacement, and conflict resolution, it has become an increasingly pressing issue on the global stage.

At the heart of the matter lie the displacement of 16.2 million individuals across the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, a consequence of persistent armed conflicts, political instability, and social unrest. These factors have collectively given rise to a multifaceted crisis, forcing people to abandon their homes in pursuit of safety, security, and the hope for a better future. The consequences of this displacement extend beyond the immediate disruption of lives, reaching into broader



issues such as regional stability, international relations, and the global commitment to upholding fundamental human rights.

Recognizing the urgency of the IDP crisis in the Middle East, both the United Nations and other international bodies have taken steps to address the matter. While the primary focus has traditionally been on conflict zones, where the impact of displacement is most keenly felt, the problem transcends national boundaries, calling for a cooperative and all-encompassing strategy to lessen the suffering of those impacted. Understanding the causes and factors that have contributed to the widespread population displacement in the Middle East is essential before diving deeper into the complexities of the IDP situation.

Definition of Key Terms

IDP (Internally Displaced Person)

A person who has been compelled to leave their native country because of violence, persecution, or natural disasters is known as an internally displaced person, or IDP. IDPs, in contrast to refugees, are not subject to international borders yet, they are equally vulnerable, having difficulty obtaining protection and basic supplies necessary for a sustainable life.

Humanitarian Crisis

A humanitarian crisis arises when a population's safety, well-being, or fundamental rights are widely threatened: this is frequently the outcome of armed conflicts, natural disasters, or other emergencies. When discussing the crisis of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Middle Eastern nations, a humanitarian crisis may entail the pressing need to provide food, shelter, medical attention, and protection for those who have been displaced.

Displacement Camp

A displacement camp is a temporary settlement established to provide shelter, basic services, and support for internally displaced persons. These camps are often set up in response to humanitarian crises, offering a safe space for those who have fled their homes. The goal is to meet the immediate needs of the displaced population while working towards long-term solutions for their wellbeing.

Middle Eastern Refugee Crisis

The complex and difficult situation in the Middle East, marked by a large influx of displaced people seeking safety within their own nations or across borders, is known as the "Middle Eastern Refugee Crisis." This crisis may be brought on by armed conflict, unstable political environments, or natural disasters, all of which need for extensive and well-coordinated efforts to meet the immediate needs of the impacted communities.

NGO (Non-Governmental Organization)

An independent, non-profit organisation committed to tackling social, humanitarian, and environmental issues is known as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). It functions autonomously and is not subject to governmental oversight. NGOs are essential in helping displaced populations by offering advocacy, support, and aid surrounding IDPs in Middle Eastern countries. This helps to advance efforts to lessen suffering and support sustainable solutions.

Background Information

Historical Context

Geopolitical rivalries, sectarian strife, and territorial conflicts have all contributed significantly to the millions of people who have been forced to flee across state borders of the Middle East. Particular conflicts and the fallout from these battles have created the foundation for the current crisis that internally displaced people are facing.

The Middle East has experienced events in recent decades that have permanently altered its social landscape. The 2003 invasion set off the Iraq War, which resulted in a major internal displacement as well as a change of the geopolitical balance in the region. IDPs first appeared in the wake of the war as a result of social disintegration, insurgency, and sectarian conflict. Waves of displacement hit cities like Fallujah and Mosul, making it difficult for the host nations to offer necessary assistance and services.

In addition, the 2011 outbreak of the Syrian Civil War brought an unparalleled humanitarian crisis. A substantial portion of the Syrian population fled across borders, making up one of the world's greatest refugee populations (730,000 syrian refugees), while millions of others were internally displaced and sought safety within their own nation. The violence has had a significant impact on people's livelihoods and added to the complexity of the IDP issue. It has been driven by conflicting



regional interests and made worse by the emergence of extremist groups in particular countries like Syria.

The region's problems are further highlighted by the ongoing conflict in Yemen, which began with the Arab Spring in 2011 and became more intense after Saudi Arabia led its involvement in 2015. The humanitarian crisis, airstrikes, and armed war in Yemen have resulted in massive displacement, making it more difficult for neighboring nations to meet the basic requirements of internally displaced people.

Current Situation

The aftermath of past wars, most notably the Iraq War and the Syrian Civil War, continues to have a significant influence on the position of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Middle East today. These conflicts have resulted in a complicated displacement problem that has real consequences for the Middle Eastern countries, along with regional geopolitical dynamics and power rivalries.

Iraq, a nation left damaged by the Iraq War (2003–2011), struggles to cope with the fallout from widespread internal displacement. The Watson Institute of Public Affairs estimates that there would be 1.1 million internally displaced people in Iraq as of March 2023. The length of the relocation makes it difficult for the country to reconstruct its infrastructure, deliver basic services, and promote social unity. The burden on the governments frameworks and resources is impeding the nation's post conflict recovery.

Comparably, the 2011 start of the Syrian Civil War has had disastrous effects for the area. Millions of Syrians have been domestically displaced, and large numbers of refugees are being hosted by neighbouring nations including Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. With almost 1.5 million Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, the country's infrastructure and resources are severely strained. The flood of displaced people has strained public services, increased social unrest, and presented financial difficulties.

The complexity of the current situation is increased by the dynamic nature of these conflicts and the emergence of new geopolitical variables. Yemen's instability, which is a

result of regional power conflicts, makes the country's displacement problem worse. Yemen's internally displaced population suffers from not receiving basic amenities, further increasing the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict.

Numerous nations and International Governmental Organisations (IGOs) have responded to the IDP issue by taking action to lessen its effects and offer assistance. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an essential actor in organising relief operations, offering support, and standing up for the rights of IDPs. Furthermore, regional institutions such as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab League have promoted talks and actions aimed at resolving the IDPs situation in the Middle East.

Foreign Reactions

The solution to the displacement problem also relies on national diplomatic initiatives. For example, neighbouring nations like Turkey and Jordan have arranged diplomatic discussions with the goal of resolving the continuous disputes that further increase the IDP problem on a political level. In an effort to lessen the impact of displacement, international organizations such as the Arab League have taken action to promote communication between parties involved in conflict.

International collaboration is also a part of the efforts to better circumstances faced by IDPs. For instance, in an effort to lessen the strain on its resources, Turkey has put in place programmes to assist host communities and upgrade infrastructure. Turkey has prioritised improving the living conditions of displaced people and the communities that are housing them through its all-encompassing strategy. In places severely impacted by the Syrian Civil War, the nation has made investments in the construction of schools, medical facilities, and other necessities, offering a lifeline to both IDPs and locals.

Furthermore, Germany has made significant humanitarian aid contributions, emphasising the provision of healthcare and education to displaced communities. Germany is committed to resolving the IDP situation and has set aside money to promote health and education projects in conflict-affected areas. In addition to providing for the

IDPs' urgent needs, this aid seeks to develop long-term solutions for their integration into host communities.

Countries and Organizations Involved

Republic of Syria, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and Kurdish Forces

The Republic of Syria, led by President Bashar al-Assad, has been engaged in a complex civil war. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), made up of mainly Kurdish fighters, have played an essential role in resisting extremist groups, including ISIS. The SDF continues to control parts of northern and eastern Syria, contributing to the stability of certain regions. However, the conflict has displaced millions of Syrians, leading to a humanitarian crisis. The Kurdish forces, including the People's Protection Units (YPG) and Women's Protection Units (YPJ), have been actively involved in protecting vulnerable communities.

Islamic Republic of Iraq, Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), and UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

The Islamic Republic of Iraq, is confronted with issues arising from the population displacement brought on by ongoing conflicts, such as the war against ISIS. Hashd al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF)), is an organisation that has been crucial in opposing extremist organisations and aiding the government in reestablishing stability. Humanitarian aid coordination and reintegration of displaced people have been actively coordinated by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). In order to meet the immediate needs of IDPs, UN agencies and international organisations like UNHCR and UNICEF work with the Iraqi government to provide food, housing, and medical care to IDPs.

Kingdom of Jordan and International Red Cross

As a major actor in the area, Jordan has taken a proactive approach to resolving the refugee crisis brought on by unrest in nearby nations. Under the direction of King Abdullah II, the Kingdom of Jordan has welcomed refugees and collaborated closely with global humanitarian organisations. The provision of emergency medical attention, shelter, and support to displaced communities in the region has been made possible in large part by the International Red Cross. Their initiatives, in coordination with NGOs and local government, are meant to improve the situation of internally displaced people and guarantee that they have access to basic amenities.

Timeline of Events

2003-2011

The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 resulted in widespread displacement of civilians.

Regional violence and insurgency contribute to the displacement of 1.1 million of Iraqis within and outside the country.

- 2011** Protests in Syria evolve into a fullscale civil war, leading to a significant refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs) crisis.
- 2014** The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) emerges, causing further displacement in Iraq and Syria. Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, falls under ISIS control.
- 2015** The refugee crisis intensifies as Syrians and 1 million seek asylum in Europe, highlighting the global dimensions of the problem.
- 2016** Iraqi forces, with international support, launch an offensive to retake Mosul from ISIS, causing mass displacement.
- 2017** The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces liberate Raqqa, the capital of ISIS, displacing many civilians.
- 2018** IDP camps in the region, including those in Iraq and Syria, face challenges in providing basic necessities, creating a humanitarian crisis.
- 2019-2020** Conflict persists in Syria, Yemen, and other areas, leading to continuous displacement and increased strain on humanitarian resources throughout european countries like the Netherlands, germany and Sweeden.
- 2020** The COVID-19 pandemic adds another layer of complexity to the situation, impacting the health and well-being of IDPs in the Middle East as well as the IDPs seeking asylum in other countries.
- 2022** The situation remains unstable, with new IDPs seeking asylum in neighboring countries . The struggle to address the needs of these people not only in the middle east itself but throught the world continue, as diplomatic efforts continue to find political solutions to conflicts throughou the region.

Relevant UN Treaties and Resolutions

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998)

The issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Middle Eastern countries is addressed through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GPID). These non-binding guidelines were created in 1998 and are based on international humanitarian law and human rights law. They lay a strong emphasis on stopping arbitrary deportations, shielding internally displaced people from abuse and prejudice, and upholding their rights to decent housing and living conditions. Along with voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement, the GPID supports longterm solutions for internally displaced people. The principles, which offer direction for humanitarian efforts, emphasise national accountability for protection while acknowledging the necessity of international cooperation when domestic authorities encounter difficulties. The GPID provides a thorough and rights-based approach to displacement in the Middle East, where conflicts and disasters frequently result in it.

UN Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015)

The situation of internally displaced individuals (IDPs) in the Middle East, particularly in Syria, is addressed by UN Security Council Resolution 2254, which was approved in 2015 in the context of the Syrian conflict. The resolution highlights the necessity of a national ceasefire, offering a chance for the distribution of humanitarian aid to assist impacted communities, especially internally displaced people. It presents a political process based on inclusive talks led by Syria and a dedication to the countries sovereignty and territorial integrity. The resolution emphasises how crucial it is to hold people accountable for violations of human rights since these things foster a sense of justice and security, which are necessary for IDPs to voluntarily return home.

UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182

In order to address the critical condition of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Middle Eastern countries, UN General Assembly 1991 approved Resolution 46/182. The resolution's main goals are to improve interagency cooperation and strengthen the coordination of humanitarian emergency aid by creating the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The resolution, which places a strong emphasis on humanitarian ideals like humanity, neutrality, and impartiality, directs the distribution of help without regard to race or circumstance. The resolution which emphasises the importance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), provides recommendations for aiding vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly. It emphasises the significance of upholding international humanitarian law and guaranteeing the safety of relief workers in conflict areas.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Iraq Crisis Response Plan 2022-2023

The Iraq Crisis Response Plan (2022-2023), implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with a funding requirement of \$128.7 million, addresses the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in post-ISIL Iraq. The plan focused on saving lives and protecting people on the move, strengthening preparedness, and contributing to a crisis response system. Key objectives involved: providing humanitarian assistance to IDPs in need, supporting returnees and communities, and enhancing disaster management and risk reduction efforts. The plan highlights the vulnerability of the humanitarian crisis, which is further exacerbated by limited physical access, problems with social cohesion, and the COVID-19 epidemic. Additionally, a budget shortage draws attention to the continued need for international support and funding.

Iraqi Law 20, 2009 and Law 57, 2015

Laws 20, 2009, and 57, 2015 in Iraq are crucial legal frameworks that address the complex issues of housing, land, and property that have arisen as a result of the country's displacement. Based on these regulations, the Compensation Guidelines are intended to help Land Partners and Humanitarian organisations compensate Iraqi residents who have had their property rights violated in the recent conflict. These rules highlight the entitlement to reparations and damages for destroyed housing, with an emphasis on persons who possess property ownership rights, in order to expedite the return of displaced households. The rules emphasise non-discrimination in providing HLP services, guaranteeing that impacted households, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or tribe,

can access these services. They are in conformity with international norms, particularly the UN Basic norms and rules on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation.

UNHRC efforts in the MENA region

In tackling the issues facing internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Middle East, especially in light of the Syrian crisis, the UNHRC has achieved notable progress. Reaching 5.2 million community members, interacting with 61,000 people with impairments, and offering online support to victims of gender-based abuse are some of the major accomplishments. The group registered more than 128,000 people, promoted non-refoulement, and obtained the release of 600 prisoners held in Libya. 303,000 children were enrolled in primary education, and 6,800 of them were given scholarships for postsecondary study. In addition, the UNHRC enhanced the submissions for resettlement, referring 33,000 refugees for resettlement, and enabled the voluntary return of 36,000 Syrian refugees. Financing monetary aid was made possible in large part by strategic alliances, such as those with the World Bank and Islamic Philanthropy. UNHRC attended to 4.9 million returnees and 1.2 million internally displaced people in Iraq. The organisation has a significant influence in the area thanks to its all-encompassing strategy, which includes emergency response, protection, education, mental health support, and strategic collaborations.

Possible Solutions

Ensuring Humanitarian Assistance in the Middle East

In order to help people displaced by conflicts in the Middle East, it's crucial to ensure that humanitarian organizations can freely access these areas. This involves diplomatic negotiations, international pressure on conflicting parties, creating safe corridors for aid delivery, and forming partnerships with local groups.

Getting adequate funds is also crucial. International donor conferences, multi-year funding commitments, and investigation of finance options such as impact bonds or crowdfunding can all help achieve this. Effective resource allocation and financing deficits must be addressed through coordination between governments, assistance organisations, and donors. This strategy seeks to offer prompt relief, stop additional damage, and clear the path for long-term fixes.

Education Programs for Displaced Children

For children who have been uprooted, offer language and integration classes with an emphasis on efficient communication and cultural awareness. Incorporate psycho-social assistance into the curriculum; to assist kids in coping, use safe areas and counselling. Make use of technology and adaptable learning methods to guarantee lifelong learning, particularly for kids with special needs.

Reconstruction and Infrastructure Development

In order to enable internally displaced people (IDPs) to return to war-torn places, reconstruction activities in these areas entail repairing housing and other vital infrastructure, resuming utility service, and boosting local businesses. Possible Economic initiatives could include investing in sustainable agriculture, creating industrial zones to create jobs, and offering skill development to those returning to their homes.. Developing social infrastructure could improve general well-being, and community engagement: guaranteeing local participation in decision-making. Creating long-lasting, sustainable chances for communities to flourish socially and economically is crucial in addition to the physical reconstruction of war torn regions in the middle east.

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