

GAZETTE OF THE OASIS INTER-HOUSE MUN

INTER-HOUSE MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE 2021

Session: 1



AGENDA
The Impact of
COVID-19 on
the refugees
camps.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Nations ponder over the impacts of Covid-19 on refugee camps and asylum seekers

New York: On Friday, 6th of August 2021, the United Nations (UN) held a conference with the agenda-“Impact of Covid-19 on refugees”. Nations discussed the various motions being raised and spoke speeches pertaining to the topic.

Motion raised by Pakistan urged the requirement of vaccines and financial aid for Afghanistan refugee camps on the frontier of Pakistan in the northwest. However, seeing less majority from other nations, the motion failed. The Afghan refugees being unenlightened, demanded financial obligations rather than medical aid. However, the motion was specifically centered around the Afghan refugee and did not cover a large spectrum of the global refugee crises. Another motion raised by the delegate of South Sudan pondered over 'Sexual and Gender-based Violence on the Refugees'. Keeping in mind the motion passed, delegates spoke about the violations against women and children from their respective nations.



The New York Times

The Need for Safety

The first convention of the 'United Nations General Assembly' commenced on Friday, 6 August 2021.

The delegates commenced the conference with a GSLs on the agenda 'Impact of COVID-19'. The delegate of Syria acknowledged other delegates about the need for funds for refugees in Syria. After this motion, the delegate of Greece proposed to start an unmoderated caucus for the total time being 10 minutes.

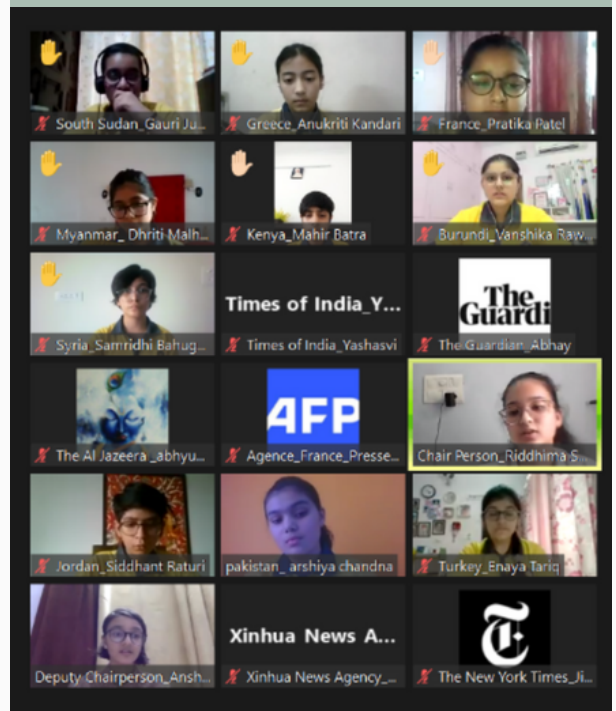
After the unmoderated caucus, there was another motion proposed by the delegate of Pakistan but due to fewer voters to agree, this motion failed.

The next motion proposed was to start a moderated caucus on the agenda 'Sexual and Gender-based Violence on refugees' by South Sudan. All the delegates majorly discussed the sexual violence on Female refugees. The delegates expressed the need for safety amongst the refugees. The delegate of Burundi reported that 'Children are most prone to this issue, so need an urgent solution.'



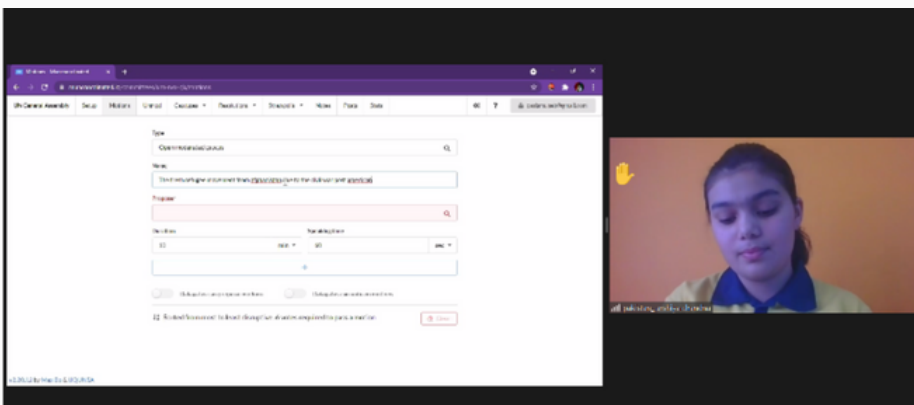
■ Yes ■ No

STATISTICS SHOWING THE DELEGATES WHO AGREED WITH THE MOTION RAISED BY GREECE.



THE DELEGATES VOTING ON THE MOTION RAISED BY SOUTH SUDAN

The major discussions in the committee session included 'the need for safety and education' which is indeed a very important issue to be discussed. There is a need to come up with a solution for this problem.



Session: 2

Lack of literacy among refugees is leading to less vaccination in South Sudan

We have been hearing that The United States, India, and Brazil are being referred to as the worst-hit countries by COVID-19, but what we often seem to overlook in such discussions is the condition of the refugees. A crisis was declared in the committee, which was about the death of a refugee in a refugee camp in South Sudan after receiving the second dose of the French-made Pfizer vaccine (due to a previous illness). because of which other refugees staying there were refusing to get vaccinated. To this issue, Pakistan suggested that blood tests should be conducted in order to prevent further mortalities. Countries like Turkey, Kenya agreed and Turkey came forward and proposed to fund such tests to help Pakistan. Other suggestions were made so that people do not refuse to get vaccinated, like holding conferences in the native language of the refugees to help them understand the situation and why it is important to get vaccinated.

France, South Sudan had Greece had the same suggestions. According to them, donations are required by other countries for the refugees in South Sudan along with medical equipment to conduct a postmortem which would help them to find the cause of death.

Awareness camps by the French government should be conducted in South Sudan. The delegate of France claimed that the government is planning to inspect the laboratories in charge of the production of such vaccines.

Countries are ready to help fund the vaccines and educate the refugee camps and people living there about the vaccine.

With the end of the second committee session of the United Nations General Assembly, all delegates anticipate a solution that proves to be favorable for all.





新华社
XINHUA NEWS AGENCY

Unemployment and Medical Equipment causes the Main problem in Camps

Unemployment has been a severe problem during the pandemic and has severely affected the refugees, as poverty has crept into their lives. The committee focused on the supply of vaccines and essential sanitary supplies. Due to the lack of vaccine supply in the country, refugees possess a life-threatening danger, as they live in very congested camps without maintaining any physical distance.

The delegates found agreeable solutions in the committee by raising campaigns, funds, and vaccine supply for the countries in need. The delegate of South Sudan asked for vaccines and funds from Greece but, but the delegate of Greece disagreed to raise funds as the country itself is economically poor, yet was ready to supply vaccines and proper medical equipment as the delegate of Myanmar also agreed with the delegate of Greece. Unemployment is causing a huge problem in this pandemic especially to the refugees, the delegates raising campaigns to provide jobs and providing government jobs to the refugees as well. As towards a conclusion the committee has come to a point where the French government is planning to run a research in the laboratories. The government of South Sudan should run awareness camps to win back the trust of local camp residents, the economically poor countries are asking for funds and vaccination equipment to help the refugee camps of their country. Many countries are also working with WHO and UNICEF to help the refugee camps.

“NO ONE PUTS THEIR CHILDREN IN A BOAT UNLESS THE WATER IS SAFER THAN THE LAND.”

-WARSAN SHIRE

INTERVIEW WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

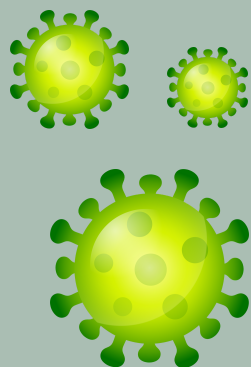
Xinhua News Agency got an honorable chance to interview the Secretary-General, who had wonderful viewpoints on the question regarding provision of jobs and need of proper precautions to be taken for the refugees. Both are important as no jobs will lead refugees to poverty and starvation and taking precautions will affect the health of the refugees, so maintaining a balance in both situations is important. So as a conclusion both providing jobs and taking proper precautions are equally valuable and a balance should be maintained.



Press Conference

Question: What will Jordan do to make the testing of refugees more prevalent?

Answer: By going through status determination processes and potentially being recognized as a refugee, individuals are legally protected by being granted legal documents that are issued from their country of asylum and are valid for a certain period of time, usually not less than one year at a time.

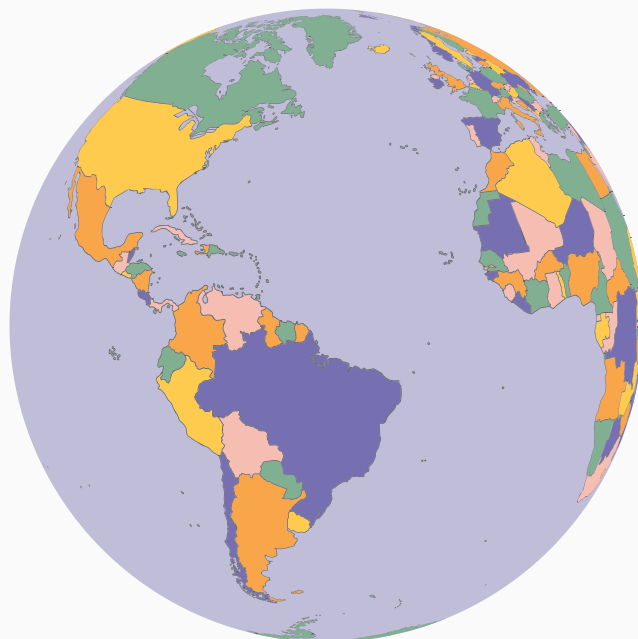


ALJAZEERA

Wealthy nations 'far from targets' on COVID-19 vaccine donations

An expert independent panel monitoring the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic said, "Wealthy nations have not done enough to transfer COVID-19 vaccines to developing nations where they are desperately needed as the Delta variant drives a new wave of infection around the world." In May, the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR), called for the reallocation of one billion doses of the coronavirus vaccine from high-income countries with adequate coverage to low and middle-income nations by September, with another billion by the middle of 2022.

"The world is far from meeting those targets," Helen Clark, the co-chair of the IPPPR, told the United Nations General Assembly, "Some commitments have been made but much more needs to be done, and it can be done urgently."





THE TIMES OF INDIA

UNGA sessions to be terminated: Resolutions made for the rectification of refugees and asylum seekers

During the PSL held at 2:00 pm on 7th August, the delegates made their speeches on the resolutions proposed by their respective nations on the current agenda, thereby conversing them in the committee, through their well-structured and concise speeches.

Firstly the delegate of Burundi spoke took over the PSL by speaking about the generous policies which it holds towards its refugees from 1.45 million refugees mostly from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Somalia. It's the 2006 Refugee Act that entitles the refugees- freedom of work, movement, access to education, and other basic forms of freedom, that allows them to live their lives normally. The Child Protection services remain the key priority since more than half of the refugees constitute children. The poverty rate is high, while the employment rate is decreasing, and food insecurity is increasing. Necessary requirements include- Women empowerment using barriers to access finance, returning children to school, creating job opportunities through skilled programs, providing medical aid, and all the other basic amenities.

The delegate of France concurred with the viewpoints; asking the service provider to give refugees daytime jobs; Taking the Covid-19 protocols more seriously; increasing the rate of vaccines; providing projectors and educational videos for children to study.

The delegate of Greece stated that it has experienced comparatively fewer cases than the other European nations. There are few preventive measures being undertaken by the government; to ensure equal opportunities to both males and females, medical assistance to women and children, and to help the unaccompanied children during the Covid-19 pandemic, and relocated them from overcrowded camps to other adequate shelters. Lastly, Greece has provided health and sanitation facilities to the refugees. The delegate was questioned by the delegate of Burundi on how the children are being treated in their refugee camps. The answer being provided was that they are being accompanied since they don't have shelters of their own and are being relocated to safer shelters for their betterment.

Session: 3

“TO BE CALLED A
REFUGEE IS THE
OPPOSITE OF AN INSULT;
IT IS A BADGE OF
STRENGTH, COURAGE,
AND VICTORY.”

— TENNESSEE OFFICE FOR
REFUGEES





The New York Times

Solutions to the problems

Breakout rooms were formed again to discuss the DR (Draft Resolution). The agenda for DR was 'Impact of COVID-19 on refugee camps.' The bloc distribution is shown in the graph below:



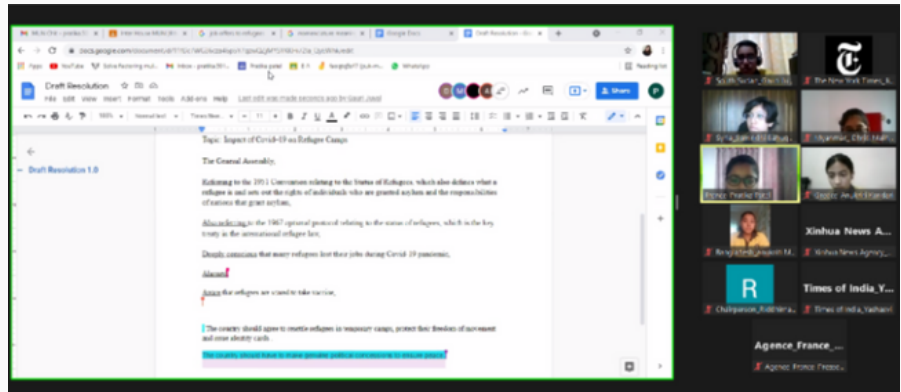
Some of the points discussed by the delegates in the PSL are mentioned below:

- The delegate of Burundi started the PSL and talked about 'Child Protection in the refugee camps'. The speech of the delegate majorly focused on the need for Education for children in refugee camps.
- The delegate of Greece talked about Employment for refugees. The delegate informed that 'Greece has taken measures to give equal employment opportunities to male and female refugees'
- The delegate of Kenya discussed the Economical problems faced by refugees. The delegate even talked about financial problems and food shortage issues in the refugee camps.
- The delegate of South Sudan requested the UN and NGOs to prioritize high-quality patrolling in refugee camps to find out the threats and issues in these camps.
- The delegate of Turkey talked about the 'Impact of COVID-19 on refugee camps.'

The third convention of the 'United Nations General Assembly' commenced on Saturday, 7 August 2021 at 5:30 a.m. EST (3 p.m. IST). The committee started with the Provisional Speakers List (PSL) to find out the solutions for the agenda.

After the PSL, Secretary-General encouraged the delegates to create a strong DR (Draft Resolution). The delegate of Burundi raised a motion to start an unmoderated caucus for a total time of 15 minutes which was clearly passed due to the majority voting for the motion.

- The sponsors of the DR in Bloc 1 were the French Republic and the Republic of South Sudan. The DR prepared by this bloc was reliable and well prepared.



- Bloc 2 consisted of delegates of Pakistan, Burundi, Jordan, Kenya, and Turkey.

The delegate of Pakistan put forward some important solutions for the DR, these solutions included 'promoting mental health and psychological wellbeing and 'preventing and responding to GBV and ensuring services for women and girls are accessible despite lockdown.' After the end of the unmoderated caucus, by the chair's discretion, another unmoderated caucus was given to the delegates to complete their DR which was efficiently used by the delegates.

The DR created by the blocs were submitted to the EB and then they were voted upon. With the end of votings, the committee session came to an end.



REUTERS®

Impacts of COVID-19 on countries

In this crucial time of COVID-19, many countries have raised certain types of campaigns for the betterment of their country's people and the refugees who are covering up miles and miles in hope of help. But the main question which comes to one's mind is "From where does the fund come?" According to WHO in 2020 there was a total sum of \$1,002,852,458 which were donated by many countries.

The government's main task right now is to provide a proper dosage of vaccines as soon as possible to the country's people and the refugees because many people are worried about the side effects of the vaccines. The committee has decided to find a different solution concerning the headline. The delegate of Burundi asked the other delegates what they thought on the topic. The delegate of Pakistan and Bangladesh supported the delegate of Burundi on the topic.

The committee has many challenges which they faced to solve the problem but fortunately, all the challenges were solved. If no immediate action is taken to overcome the effects of the pandemic on refugee education, the future of millions of young refugees living in vulnerable and marginalized communities will be in danger. Even in some parts of the world refugee children already face discrimination when it comes to education. The spread of COVID-19 is forcing many countries to close schools and limit numbers in classrooms. Refugees should not be forgotten when countries address the needs of school children during the pandemic- for example by offering remote schooling. If schools close, all children must be able to return when they reopen. This means supporting families so that parents never have to choose whether to send a child to school or send them to work to keep their family from going hungry.

Keeping all the above in mind the committee session came to an end and found solutions for the betterment of the refugee as well as the people. Reuters have believed in this committee and surely thinks all the problems are going to be solved with the help of the UN and everything will be normal.

The New York Times: Press Conference

Interviewer: As the delegate of Burundi suggested in the bloc meeting that, "We can provide any other vaccines to the refugees in South Sudan except Pfizer vaccine.", What all vaccines can be provided and how can we provide them to the refugees?

Delegate of Burundi: China can provide its vaccines to South Sudan as they share bilateral relations



**NEWS
TODAY**

Opinion Editorials



The first committee session of the United Nations General Assembly on the topic – “Impact of COVID-19 on refugees-” was an insightful one. Delegates of countries from all over the world discussed the problems being faced by refugees of their respective nations. The problem which was most focused on was the increase in cases of sexual harassment and overcrowding in refugee camps which also led to a rise in the COVID-19 positivity rate.

I personally feel that the host countries should create special plans for the refugees staying in their countries, which includes providing free vaccinations, masks, sanitizers, and all the essential items necessary to maintain a proper living standard, free from diseases which can very easily be avoided with a healthy lifestyle. With a large illiteracy rate among the refugees, countries should also provide proper information about the disease (COVID-19) to prevent any misconceptions caused by myths.

Another issue that I felt was concerning was the safety of the refugees, especially females. In today's times, when the cases of sexual abuse should be decreasing, an alarming rate of increase in the number of cases was found. Refugees, with poor living conditions, are already highly exposed to diseases. With the refugees already having a large number of issues to face every single day, sexual abuse should not be one. The governments should pay more attention to the refugees who do not have access to such a basic need as a washroom. They need to understand the issues being faced by the people. Not only the government, but the Non-Government Organizations, and even the citizens should come together and help provide for the refugees and help their nations be good hosts. In order to achieve this, social media can be put to good use by posting advertisements and creating special funds. All the countries are in this together and should help their neighboring countries come out of their pit of problems.

-Sahima Singh (Associated Press)

Refugee camps are helping the refugees, or are they?



Countries in Unity



COVID-19: The turning Point



The committee has been taking accurate decisions on helping the refugees I think the countries are doing an excellent job working with WHO and UNICEF for the welfare of refugees and their children. They are raising funds and campaigns are being held, countries are providing mutual support and supply of vaccines to the countries, the committee is working out on problems with accommodation.

The committee is doing a wonderful job by providing vaccines from one country to another but I think the delegates of their countries can atleast provide work from home for the refugees or remote school for children, which many countries are not doing. South Sudan has not been providing jobs to their refugees neither is it providing any facility for work from home. In many regions of the country refugees are not also Covid-19 tested. The government should work immediately on this.

The government should know how they can help their refugees. In many parts of the refugees don't have enough food supply the government should really work on this.

-Kabir Kriplani (Xinhua News Agency)

Covid -19 has led to a turning point in everyone's life and has resulted in the loss of human lives worldwide. Challenges have increased for people all over the world, it has affected the food system, economy, etc. Millions of people are at risk due to poverty, and loss of income, and I personally believe that if some rules and regulations such as wearing masks and social distancing even after getting vaccinated could be very effective but this is the only place the world has been lacking in. Many of the people are not taking responsibility as a citizen of the country and the world. In many places, it has been reported, that vaccine smuggling has taken place. The only way we can overcome this pandemic and hard time is by supporting the health departments. The vaccine has now been provided to almost every country. The main thing that is still being debated is that the side effects of the vaccine. But there are safety nets placed by the doctors and health departments. An overwhelming majority of people have been cured but there are few side effects such as pain and fever but the effect differs from person to person.

-Vidushi Bhatt (Agence- France Presse)

A VIRUS THAT RESPECTS NO BORDERS

Today, there are more than 79 million people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes; they include 26 million refugees and 4.2 million asylum seekers. Approximately 2.6 million refugees reside in camps that experience overcrowding and lack hygienic facilities, clean water, and adequate medical care.

When the pandemic began, governments and experts feared that it would spread rapidly in the camps and among other refugee populations. However, recent data suggests the opposite. As of December 17, 2020, the UN Refugee Agency had reported only 38,500 positive COVID-19 cases among refugees. But what does this number represent? Few refugees are being tested. Of the nearly one million refugees in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh, less than 1% had been tested as of August 2020. According to the World Health Organization's ApartTogether survey, published last December, almost 20% of refugees indicated that the higher levels of discrimination they had experienced since the pandemic began impacted their willingness and ability to seek medical care. As well, they feared that if they tested positive, they would be deported or further stigmatized. (Similar concerns and barriers could affect the ability of refugees to be vaccinated.) With most refugees untested and untended by healthcare providers, it is pretty certain that many cases of COVID-19 have gone unreported.

-Abhay Singh (The Guardian)

CHALLENGES FACED BY INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

Whenever refugees are displaced out of their hometown they are at higher risk because they cannot access healthcare services easily.

Refugees are frequently excluded from national healthcare systems, including affordable insurance and healthcare services.

Refugees with no legal rights face challenges while accessing essential services. These challenges are more prominent during natural disasters and pandemics.

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, as the crisis has deeply affected the health and well-being of refugees and displaced people.

Unshakable practices of inequalities in host countries not only increase the challenges of refugees being prone to health risks in a pandemic but also magnify the challenges to accessing sufficient healthcare services as compared to national populations.





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