

ODMMUN 2024

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

STUDY GUIDE-UNHCR

Letter from the Executive Board

To the Delegates,

On behalf of the Secretariat, we warmly welcome you to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We are absolutely elated to be serving you as the Executive Board at ODM Model United Nations 2024 for the committee of UNHCR. We are looking forward to have you all as the part of the committee and rendered to make the two days of debating magnificent for you all.

We will always be there for you at every step, to encourage you, push your boundaries and re-centre the focus when there is an utmost requirement of it. We look forward to mutual growth and learning albeit within the frame of discipline and cooperation. This study guide is a mere framework for your deeper research. We cannot stress enough that you need to pursue your own sources, especially because the study guide will not cover your individual stances, the compliance of which is very important to stick to for the purpose of debate and diplomacy in the committee and also for proper representation of nations.

Read widely and extensively. Be aware of your foreign policies. It's crucial to bear in mind that your success in the committee shall highly depend on how well you have prepared yourself as this is an important aspect to fulfil, if you want success in the committee.

Wishing all of you the best of luck for your endeavour and would be glad to provide assistance at any given point. It is time for all of to you seize this opportunity to come up with good comprehensive solutions to implement in the global platform.

With Warm Regards,

Shrusti Nanda (High Commissioner)

Suryadeep Nanda (Deputy High Commissioner)

INTRODUCTION

AGENDA: Analysing challenges and formulating comprehensive solutions for addressing the influx of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia

The plight of refugees is a complex and pressing issue that has persisted throughout human history. Refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their country due to persecution, conflict, violence, or other circumstances that threaten their safety or well-being. This phenomenon has become increasingly prevalent in recent decades, driven by factors such as political instability, economic hardship, and natural disasters. The experience of refugees is often marked by trauma, displacement, and uncertainty. They may face challenges such as language barriers, cultural differences, and discrimination. Moreover, refugees often find themselves in precarious situations, lacking access to basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare.

The ongoing civil war in Sudan has led to a significant humanitarian crisis, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia. The influx of Sudanese refugees into Ethiopia has placed a strain on the country's resources and posed a major challenge for both the Ethiopian government and international aid organizations. Key factors contributing to the crisis include widespread violence and conflict, humanitarian access restrictions, protection risks, and economic hardship. The influx of refugees into Ethiopia has had a number of significant consequences, including strain on resources, social tensions, and economic impacts.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Refugees: Refugees are individuals who have been forced to flee their country due to persecution, conflict, violence, or other circumstances that threaten their safety or well-being. They have a well-founded fear of persecution and are unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin. Refugees are protected under international law, such as the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

Migrants: Migrants are individuals who move from one place to another, often in search of better opportunities, education, or employment. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but it is generally not motivated by a fear of persecution or violence. Migrants may have various legal statuses, including legal residents, temporary visitors, or undocumented immigrants.

Asylum Seekers: Asylum seekers are individuals who have fled their country and are seeking international protection as refugees. They are outside their country of origin and unable or unwilling to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution. Asylum seekers are individuals who have applied for refugee status but have not yet received a decision.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are individuals who have been forced to flee their homes within their own country due to conflict, violence, or persecution. They remain within their country of origin but are unable or unwilling to return to their homes due to safety concerns. IDPs are not protected under the same international laws as refugees, but they do have the right to protection from human rights abuses.

Stateless Persons: Stateless persons are individuals who do not have any nationality or citizenship. They may be stateless due to a lack of documentation, discrimination, or other circumstances. Stateless persons are particularly vulnerable and may face significant challenges in accessing basic rights and services.

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

The Sudanese refugee crisis, which has been ongoing for several decades, has intensified in recent years due to political instability, ethnic conflicts, and economic hardship in Sudan. The influx of refugees into Ethiopia has significantly increased, placing immense pressure on Ethiopia's resources and infrastructure. The purpose of this guide is to analyse the challenges faced by Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and to formulate comprehensive solutions to address these challenges effectively.

Sudan has experienced prolonged periods of conflict, including civil wars, the Darfur conflict, and recent political turmoil following the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. These conflicts have resulted in mass displacements, with many Sudanese seeking refuge in neighbouring

countries, including Ethiopia. Ethiopia, with its long history of hosting refugees, has seen a significant number of Sudanese refugees cross its borders, particularly into the Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.

As of 2024, Ethiopia hosts over 1 million refugees, with a significant portion being Sudanese. The number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia has surged in the past few years, largely due to renewed conflict in Sudan's Darfur and South Kordofan regions. The latest figures indicate that there are approximately 250,000 Sudanese refugees currently residing in Ethiopia, with the majority concentrated in the Gambella region.

The Sudanese refugee population in Ethiopia is diverse, comprising various ethnic groups such as the Nuba, Fur, and Beja. The demographic breakdown reveals that a large proportion of the refugees are women and children, many of whom have experienced trauma and require specialized support. The population also includes a significant number of young adults and elderly individuals, each with unique needs that must be addressed.

HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS IN SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES CRISIS

1. **Security threats** for refugees often stem from both external and internal sources, posing significant risks to their safety and well-being. Externally, refugees may face violence and exploitation from host communities or criminal organizations due to their vulnerable status and lack of legal protection. Internally, within refugee camps or settlements, security threats can include harassment, assault, and exploitation by other refugees or camp staff.
2. **Gender-based violence (GBV)** is a pervasive issue among refugees, manifesting in various forms such as sexual violence, domestic abuse, and exploitation. Refugee women and girls are particularly vulnerable due to their displaced status and often find themselves in precarious living conditions that exacerbate their risk. The lack of adequate protection services, stigma surrounding GBV, and limited access to justice contribute to the perpetuation of violence. The cultural norms and the breakdown of social structures in refugee settings can intensify the prevalence of GBV, leaving survivors with few resources for recovery and support.

3. **Child protection** is a critical concern in refugee contexts, where children are at high risk of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Displacement often separates children from their families, making them more susceptible to trafficking, child labour, and recruitment into armed groups. The chaotic conditions in refugee camps and the lack of access to education and healthcare further jeopardize the well-being of refugee children. The trauma of displacement and loss can have long-term psychological effects, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of young refugees.
4. **Food security** remains a significant challenge for refugees, who often face inadequate access to nutritious and sufficient food. Many refugees depend on humanitarian aid, which can be inconsistent and insufficient to meet their dietary needs. The instability of food distribution systems, logistical issues, and sometimes restrictive policies by host countries can exacerbate hunger and malnutrition. This situation is compounded by the economic limitations and lack of employment opportunities available to refugees, leaving them dependent on external assistance for their survival.
5. **Access to healthcare** is a pressing issue for refugees, who frequently encounter barriers in receiving necessary medical services. These barriers include limited healthcare infrastructure in refugee camps, a shortage of medical professionals, and financial constraints. Refugees may also face difficulties in accessing health services due to legal restrictions, language barriers, and a lack of health insurance or documentation. These challenges can lead to inadequate treatment of physical and mental health conditions and further compromises their overall well-being.
6. **Shelter and housing** are major concerns for refugees, who often live in overcrowded and substandard conditions. Refugee camps and temporary shelters may lack adequate sanitation, privacy, and protection from the elements, which can lead to poor health outcomes and increased vulnerability. The scarcity of durable housing solutions and the slow pace of resettlement or integration processes exacerbate these issues, leaving refugees in a state of prolonged uncertainty and instability regarding their living conditions.

7. **Integration programs** for refugees are essential for their successful transition into host communities but are often inadequately developed or implemented. Many refugees struggle with language barriers, cultural differences, and legal obstacles that hinder their ability to integrate effectively. Limited access to education and employment opportunities further impedes their integration, leading to social exclusion and economic marginalization.
8. **Employment Opportunities:** Sudanese refugees face significant barriers to entering the Ethiopian job market. These barriers include a lack of formal education, language differences, and legal restrictions on employment. As a result, many refugees rely on informal labour, which is often exploitative and poorly paid. Without sustainable livelihood opportunities, refugees remain dependent on aid, which is not a long-term solution.
9. **Economic Strain on Host Communities:** The influx of refugees has placed additional strain on the already limited resources of host communities in Ethiopia. The competition for jobs, land, and other resources can lead to increased tensions and resentment towards refugees. The economic burden on local infrastructure, such as healthcare and education, is also significant, exacerbating the challenges faced by both refugees and host communities.

WHAT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-REFOUEMENT?

Non-refoulement is a fundamental principle in international law that prohibits states from returning individuals to countries where they face a real risk of persecution, torture, or other serious human rights abuses. This principle is enshrined in various international treaties, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. It is designed to protect individuals from being sent back to dangerous situations where their lives or freedoms may be threatened.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The international community has established a robust framework of laws and agreements to protect the rights of refugees and ensure their access to essential services. These frameworks are designed to provide a safe and secure environment for refugees and to promote their integration into host societies.

- *International Frameworks*

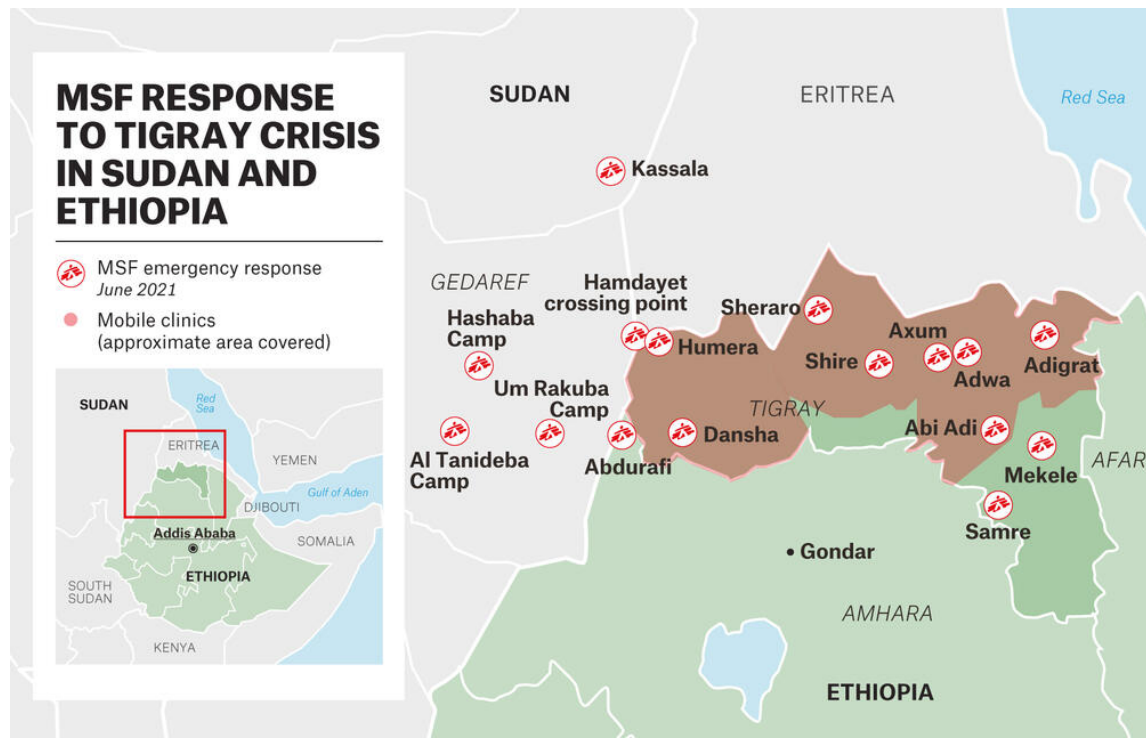
1. **1951 Refugee Convention:** This is the cornerstone of international refugee law, It defines a refugee as a person who, owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social or political group, or persecution for opinions political or other, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or, not having a nationality and being outside the country in which he had his habitual residence, is unable or unwilling to return to it because of such fear.
2. **1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees:** This protocol extends the protection of the 1951 Convention to refugees who have fled their country after 1951. It aims to ensure that refugees, regardless of when they fled their countries, receive the same rights and protections.
3. **Geneva Conventions:** These four conventions, adopted in 1949, provide protection for civilians, prisoners of war, wounded soldiers, and other persons during armed conflict. They also apply to refugees who are victims of armed conflict. The Geneva Conventions prohibit acts of violence against civilians, including torture, rape, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. They also establish rules for the treatment of prisoners of war and wounded soldiers.
4. **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment:** This treaty prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, regardless of the circumstances. It applies to all persons, including refugees. The

Convention defines torture as "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for a purpose, inter alia, of obtaining from him or her or a third person information or a confession."

- **Regional Frameworks**

1. **Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugee Convention:** Adopted in 1969, the OAU Refugee Convention provides a framework for the protection of refugees in Africa. It is a regional instrument that complements the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.
2. **Cartagena Declaration on Refugees:** The Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, adopted in 1984, is a regional instrument that expands the definition of refugees to include persons fleeing persecution or violence, regardless of whether they meet the strict criteria of the 1951 Convention. This declaration is particularly significant for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, where many refugees are fleeing generalized violence and armed conflict.

REFUGEE MAP OF SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA



TIMELINE OF EVENTS IN SUDANESE REFUGEE CRISIS

Year	Event	Description
2011	South Sudan's Independence	South Sudan declares its independence from Sudan, leading to a period of tension and conflict between the two countries.
2013	Outbreak of Civil War in South Sudan	A civil war erupts in South Sudan, displacing millions of people within the country and forcing many to flee to neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia.
2015	Renewed Conflict in Darfur	The conflict in Darfur, western Sudan, intensifies, leading to further displacement and humanitarian crises.
2019	Transition to Civilian Rule in Sudan	A civilian-led transitional government takes power in Sudan following the overthrow of President Omar al-Bashir. However, the country remains plagued by political instability and violence.
2020	Increased Displacement in Sudan	Ongoing conflicts in various regions of Sudan, including Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, continue to displace large numbers of people.
2021	Military Coup in Sudan	The military seizes power in Sudan, disrupting the transition to civilian rule and leading to further instability.
2022	Escalation of Conflict in Sudan	Fighting between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) intensifies, resulting in widespread displacement and humanitarian needs.
2023	Ongoing Conflict and Mass Exoduses	The conflict in Sudan continues, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee the country. Ethiopia, as a neighbouring country, has been a major destination for Sudanese refugees.
2024	Humanitarian Crisis Deepens	The humanitarian situation in Sudan and the surrounding region deteriorates, with millions of people facing food insecurity, displacement, and lack of access to essential services.

Escalation of Refugee Situation in Ethiopia: The influx of Sudanese refugees has put a significant strain on Ethiopia's resources and capacity to provide humanitarian assistance. The conflict in Tigray has further exacerbated the refugee crisis, as many Ethiopians have been displaced internally and forced to flee to neighbouring countries.

POINTS TO PONDER

- 1. What are the most effective strategies for providing humanitarian assistance to Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, ensuring that aid reaches those in need?*
- 2. How can the Ethiopian government and international organizations work together to improve the living conditions of Sudanese refugees, including access to shelter, food, healthcare, and education?*
- 3. How can gender-based violence (GBV) be effectively prevented and addressed among Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, ensuring the safety and well-being of women and girls?*
- 4. What are the challenges and opportunities for the integration of Sudanese refugees into Ethiopian society, and how can these be best addressed?*
- 5. Are Ethiopia and Sudan fulfilling their non-refoulement obligations, preventing the return of refugees to countries where they face a real risk of persecution, torture, or other serious human rights abuses?*
- 6. What is the Role of UN Peacekeeping Forces in the protecting Refugees, How do we curb down violence against Refugees by the Peacekeeping Forces ?*
- 7. Are there mechanisms in place to hold perpetrators of human rights violations against refugees accountable, both within Sudan and Ethiopia?*

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH LINKS

1. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/10/refugees-eastern-sudan-risk#:~:text=Since%20conflict%20erupted%20in%20Sudan,camps%2C%20but%20many%20thousands%20remain.>
2. <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/south-sudan-refugee-crisis-explained/>
3. <https://www.vox.com/22104666/ethiopia-conflict-refugees-sudan-nrc-ian-egeland>
4. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/10/refugees-eastern-sudan-risk>
5. <https://www.unhcr.org/africa/news/press-releases/government-ethiopia-unhcr-relocate-sudanese-refugees-new-site-amhara-region#:~:text=Press%20releases-.Government%20of%20Ethiopia%2C%20UNHCR%20to%20relocate%20Sudanese%20refugees%20to,new%20site%20in%20Amhara%20region&text=The%20Government%20of%20Ethiopia's%20Refugees,site%20in%20the%20Amhara%20region.>
6. <https://www.unhcr.org/in/news/press-releases/ethiopia-unhcr-s-grandi-urges-more-support-people-fleeing-sudan>
7. <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sudanese-refugees-flee-un-camp-ethiopia-following-attacks-2024-05-03/>
8. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>
9. <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-starts-relocation-sudanese-refugees-new-camp-ethiopia>
10. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667278221000547>
11. <https://www.unhcr.org/africa/news/press-releases/government-ethiopia-unhcr-relocate-sudanese-refugees-new-site-amhara-region>
12. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/>
13. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/operations/ethiopia#:~:text=Ethiopia%20hosts%20over%20823%2C000%20refugees,Addis%20Ababa%20as%20urban%20refugees>
14. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2047909>
15. http://www.ibgeographypods.org/uploads/7/6/2/2/7622863/cr_ethiopia.pdf
16. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/1752-1505-7-13>
17. <https://brill.com/display/book/edcoll/9789004435841/BP000030.xml>
18. <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/ethiopia/>

19. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-unhcr-operational-update-august-2023>
20. <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2015/refugees-turn-ethiopia-safety-and-asylum>