

# MUNER '19



**UNHCR**

The UN Refugee Agency

## **STUDY GUIDE**

<http://munerofficial.org/>

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

LETTER FROM SECRETARY-GENERAL

LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

*AGENDA ITEM: REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS*

1. What is a refugee?
2. Education
3. Environment
4. Healthcare
5. Shelters
6. Bibliography

## Letter From The Secretary General

Dear delegates, advisors and guests,

It is my major honour to welcome you all to the first annual session of Model United Nations Conference of Erbakır Science High School which will be held in Denizli from November 21st-23rd. I am Pelin oban, a senior year high school student and I will be serving as the Secretary General of the MUNER'19.

It was my dream to organize this conference since the beginning, when I attended my first MUN in İzmir. I met so many incredible and inspiring people until then and with this conference I finally got the ability to meet you.

There isn't any word or sentence in this language that can express neither my excitement nor my emotions at this point. I felt so lucky when I got the chance to manage a conference such as MUNER with my friends, our supporting advisors and with everyone who put their hearts and spend their time in every step we take.

We created 7 committees in total and each one of them is well prepared for different tastes to maximize your liking. We have 5 General Assembly committees and 2 Crisis committees which are all completely unique and designed to improve your communication and debating skills. I am sure that you will find what you desire in every committee of MUNER. Your satisfaction is our number one priority and all the teams has worked really hard to make this conference happen. Our only one purpose is to see you writing your resolutions, sending your directives and enjoying the event with the smiles on your face.

As the Secretary General of MUNER'19, I can't wait to see you all in my school in this November. I hope that you will find everything you are looking for in a qualified Model United Nations Conference.

Best regards,

Pelin oban

Secretary General

## LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL

Dear participants,

It is a great honour to welcome you all to the second annual session of Erbakır Model United Nations Conference 2019. I am Ervin Nur DOĞUŞ studying in İzmir Science High School as an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student. On 21-23<sup>th</sup> of October, I will be serving as the Under Secretary-General responsible for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Do not forget to learn as much as thing that you can. If you have any problems or questions regarding to the study guide or the committee, please do not hesitate to contact with me via [ernurdogus4@gmail.com](mailto:ernurdogus4@gmail.com).

Hope to see you all in MUNER'19.

Ervin Nur DOĞUŞ

Under Secretary-General responsible for UNHCR

## 1. WHAT IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.

Two-thirds of all refugees worldwide come from just five countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar and Somalia.



## 2. EDUCATION

Many refugees leave behind more than their home when conflict forces them to flee – they must also abandon their school. More than half of all refugees are aged under 18, and some older refugees were displaced while pursuing tertiary education.

Nobody needs to be persuaded that it's desirable for kids to stay in school. In my experience, this is particularly true among Syrians, whose culture is steeped in an appreciation of the value of learning. Yet, having become refugees, kids face tremendous challenges in completing their education. What are the barriers – and what can we do to help?



Suppose you're a primary-aged refugee. If you're lucky you'll find a school run by an organisation such as UNICEF, the UNHCR or CARE. These schools do their very best to provide decent education, but resources are stretched to breaking point – some schools have to run triple shifts to fit in all the kids. It's

not an ideal preparation for secondary.

Naturally, this sets back learning – as does the need to work, to help the family make ends meet. Refugees mostly cannot work legally, so everyone in the family – including children – has to take whatever irregular, low-paid work they can find. I have met children who are so exhausted from working, they tell me they go to school to take a nap. Many tell me they are not really learning anything at school, but want to keep going because it provides some sense of connection to their previous life and hope for a return to normality.

Because of the pressure on capacity, schools for refugees often have a maximum age for attending. That means that a refugee kid whose secondary education is temporarily disrupted may find it impossible to go back and complete it. Unless they can find a vocational training course, their options become limited to odd jobs.

Refugees who flee while pursuing tertiary education will find no opportunities in camps to continue their studies. Some programmes exist to try to help displaced students get into local universities. My own organization, Blue Rose Compass, identifies outstanding academic talents among refugees and arranges scholarships to world-leading universities, as well as International Baccalaureate schools in partnership with United World Colleges.

However, a big problem is transcripts: how can students prove what they've already learned? When you become a refugee, it tends to happen suddenly – fleeing for your life,

you have no time to visit college administrators and get your paperwork in order. Without transcripts, it's challenging to get accepted by another university. Even if you have genuine transcripts, the growing black market for forgeries is making admissions departments increasingly sceptical.

In the face of such difficulties, it is easy for once-ambitious kids to lose hope. On our application form for scholarships, we ask students to describe their dream. Tragically, many leave this question blank – they simply can't visualise a better future. Hopelessness leaves kids more vulnerable to early marriage, or being recruited by criminal or terrorist groups.

### **3. ENVIRONMENT**

Imagine yourself at a border - an invisible line separating the laws of one country from another, a line which, if crossed, will change your life, perhaps forever. But crossed it must be. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people, are forced to follow this path each year.

And these are just a fraction of the world's 31.7 million refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.

The spontaneous movement and displacement of large numbers of people may have significant impacts on the environment. Arriving in an alien situation, refugees face hunger, fatigue, humiliation and grief. Their first concern is to look after themselves, most often to find food and shelter. Trees are felled to provide support for rudimentary shelters. Dead wood is collected to build a fire for warmth and as fuel for cooking.

With only a few families involved, the environmental impacts are unlikely to be too serious or long-lasting. With thousands of desperate people, however, the results can be disastrous for the environment.

The impact of environmental deterioration on the refugees themselves is intense. Low-quality water affects the health of large numbers of people, in a situation where there is a high risk of infectious diseases multiplying rapidly. Deforestation gradually forces women and children to walk further for wood, putting women in particular in danger of physical assault. Children may have to miss school to help; cooking time is shortened, and drinking water not boiled. Refugees may have to sell part of their food rations in order to obtain the fuel needed to cook the remainder, contributing to increased levels of malnutrition.

Host populations also experience a similar deterioration in the quality of their environment, so that normally available materials and supplies for construction, consumption and fuel are short, and prices for fuel and food in local markets rise. Tensions inevitably result, since host populations are currently made to bear many of the costs of the arrival of refugees in their area without immediate compensation. There are a variety of short- and longer-term solutions to the need for fuelwood provision on this scale, which were proposed by the agencies involved in the camps, including UNHCR, and by consultants. These are set out in the table on page 9, in descending order of urgency and usefulness.



The most urgent need is to keep per capita consumption of fuel low, and to make fuel available from a wide area and variety of sources so that refugees do not irreversibly damage the area immediately surrounding camps.

On the demand side, the biggest single reducer of per capita consumption of fuel is the provision of food in a quick-cooking form. Maize in the form of maize-meal rather than whole dry popcorn maize, for example, takes six to eight times longer to cook. It is theoretically possible to save fuel through the use of fuel-efficient stoves as well, though stove programmes have a depressingly unsuccessful history. A far simpler technology, which greatly reduces fuel-use and cooking time, is the provision of large flat saucepan lids to refugees for covering boiling food and water (high altitude has been a factor in high fuel consumption rates in the Rwanda refugee situation. Cooking times are much slower in highland areas because the boiling point of water is lower).

On the supply side, the simplest way of reducing the impact of refugees (though it is often not politically possible), is to set up a larger number of smaller camps, rather than a tiny number of large ones, so that fuelwood collection is automatically spread over a larger area. If this is impossible, then it is essential for agencies to identify natural stands of forest or plantations, and to organise the delivery of fuelwood to the camps. As time goes by, other sources of fuel may be identified as well. In Tanzania, for instance, both peat and papyrus reeds constitute such sources. A range of other options are inappropriate in this context for the reasons set out in the chart (kerosene, charcoal, briquettes, solar cookers, stoves). At the same time, important trees around the camps (along water courses, large shade trees, etc) can be marked with white paint as not available for felling.

A further area which needs early consideration, from the environmental point of view, is the need for poles and timber. Current refugee shelters provide polythene sheeting, but no wood supports. These have to be cut from the surrounding area. Nor have the agencies themselves been blameless. UNHCR (1994) notes that the implementing agencies cut tens of thousands of poles within easy trucking distance for pit latrines, medical clinics etc. Tents for official purposes, and tent-pole provision, ought to be part of the agencies commitment to a refugee situation.

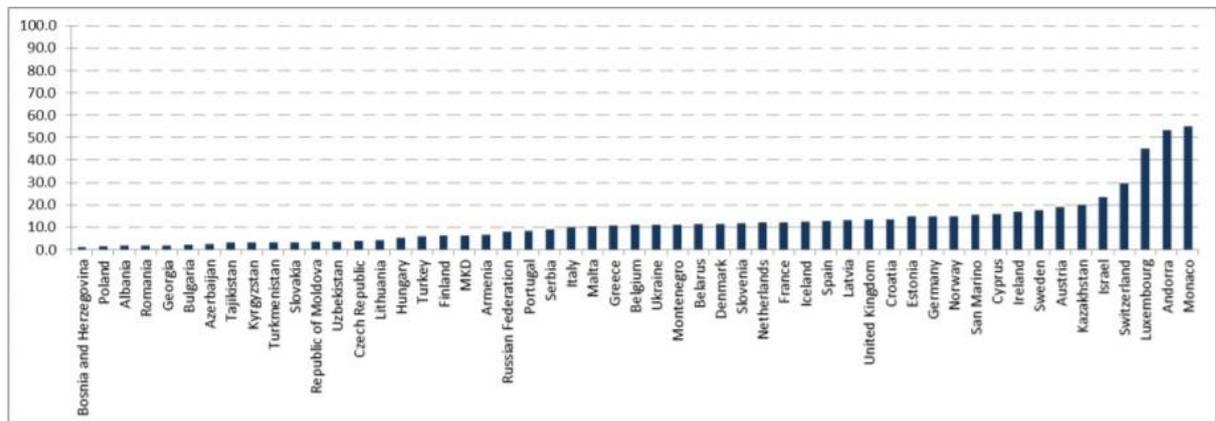
In the longer run, there are three further actions to be taken. Firstly, in the refugee-affected areas, tree-planting programmes with local villagers and with remaining refugees should be a priority.

Secondly, and this is more for future refugee situations than for restoring the environment in current ones, databases for countries in Africa and elsewhere likely to be involved in a refugee crisis in due course, need to be set up to document areas of ample fuelwood resources (if any) available for future need, border areas of each country most unsuitable for the establishment of a refugee camps, and those which ought to be avoided at all costs.

#### **4. HEALTHCARE**

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' estimates indicate that more than 90 million migrants live in the WHO European Region, amounting to almost 10% of the total population in the Region, and almost one third of international migrants worldwide. Based on the latest UNHCR estimates, approximately 5.2 million refugees (including people in refugee-like situations) and 1.4 million asylum seekers live in the Region. During recent years, the WHO European Region has experienced an influx of refugees and asylum seekers trying to reach European shores. According to IOM estimates, the Mediterranean Sea is one of the commonly used routes by refugees and migrants to reach Europe. The route is also considered to be one of the deadliest, claiming lives of 3139 refugees and migrants in 2017. In 2016, 363 401 individuals arrived in Europe via this route and 5143 lost their lives during the journey. Based on recent ILO estimates, 56.6 million labour migrants reside in the Region. <sup>2</sup> The average labour force participation rate for the migrant population was estimated to be 73%, and around 12% of all workers in the Region were migrants. While most refugees and migrants are usually young adults, migrant populations currently arriving in Europe include many elderly and disabled people, as well as an increasing number of minors, many of whom are unaccompanied children. Globally, the number of applications for asylum from unaccompanied or separated children reached record highs in 2015 (98 400) and 2016 (75 000) (11,12). Sweden and Germany received the highest number of unaccompanied minors in 2015 (35 800) and 2016 (35 900), respectively. Women, including pregnant women, made up more than half of all refugees and migrants (45 million) living in the Region and were often disproportionately represented in vulnerable groups, such as victims of gender-based violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Refugees are

formally owed protection, including access to health services, by their first country of registration for asylum. In practice, however, according to the European Union (EU) Agency for Fundamental Rights, fundamental rights remain under threat in many Member States. Such rights may routinely be denied, particularly at the stage at which asylum is determined.



## 5. SHELTERS

Refugees and others of concern to UNHCR have the right to adequate shelter - to protection from the elements, to a space in which they can live and store belongings, and to privacy, comfort and emotional security. A shelter is a habitable covered living space that provides a secure and healthy living environment with privacy and dignity in order to benefit from protection from the elements, space to live and store belongings as well as privacy, comfort and emotional support. Shelter programmes generally involve a mix of sheltering solutions such as kits, plastic sheeting, tents, and cash assistance. Shelter is likely to be one of the most important determinates of general living conditions and is often one of the significant items of non-recurring expenditure. While the basic need for shelter is similar in most emergencies, such considerations as the kind of shelter needed, what materials and design to use, who constructs them and how long must they last will differ significantly in each situation. Where persons of concern are located will also impact the response; dense urban areas have specific characteristics and therefore the shelter solutions may differ from rural areas. Emergency shelter needs are best met by using the same materials or shelter as

would be normally used by the refugees or the local population. Shelter responses should be adapted to take account of the local context and climate, cultural practices and habits, local skills, and available construction materials.



Seldom does one shelter solution fit all the needs of displaced populations. It is best practice to provide, to the extent possible a palette of options which may include cash assistance, rental support, construction materials, transitional shelter, shelter kits, plastic sheeting, tents, etc.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org)

odihpn.org

[www.unrefugees.org](http://www.unrefugees.org)

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

emergency.unhcr.org