

WORDS MATTER



Learning objectives

Understanding the terms refugees, migration and asylum begins with understanding a few basics.

The word **refugee** is often used as a blanket term for people displaced by war, violence or persecution.

But there are different categories of displaced people, each with specific needs. Knowing exactly what these categories mean is important and will contribute to better understanding of this complex topic.

Read the definitions below, in descending order from top to bottom, and use them every time you discuss them when teaching about the topic of refugees, asylum and migration.



Refugees

Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed at least one international border to find safety in another country. Refugees would face risks again if they return home to their country.

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Migrants

Like refugees, migrants are persons that have moved to another country. The reason they moved is different, though. Migrants move to another country for other reasons than war, violence, conflict or persecution. A migrant could return to his or her country without facing immediate danger.



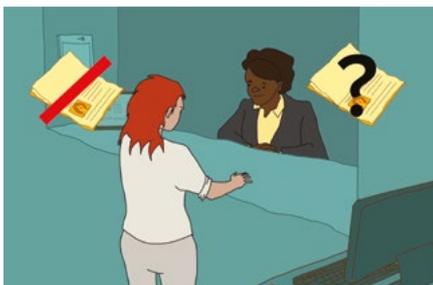
Asylum-seekers

Asylum-seekers are people seeking international protection from conflict and persecution. Like refugees, they are in another country but still have to prove that they have valid reasons for fleeing their country. During this procedure, officials from the host country will assess if the asylum-seeker's claim is credible and whether or not they will be recognized as a refugee by the host country, or given another protection status.



Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

Like refugees, Internally Displaced Persons are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution. However, Internally Displaced Persons have not crossed any international border to find safety. They are still inside their own country, but have moved to another area. Like refugees, they may be at risk should they return to their homes.



Stateless people

Stateless people do not have the nationality of any country.



Returnees

Returnees are people who have returned home after being displaced.

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Unaccompanied children (UAC)

Children who are separated from both parents or not being cared for by an adult who, by law or by custom, is responsible for doing so.

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European Union

The EU is a partnership between 27 European countries, known as Member States, that have decided to join forces to build a better future together. EU countries work closely together to make life better for all of their people while respecting each country's unique culture and traditions. The EU is home to over 446 million people, which corresponds to around 6 % of the world's population. Citizens of the EU Member States are also citizens of the European Union.



UNHCR

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, protects people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. We work in over 130 countries, protecting millions of people by responding with life-saving support, safeguarding fundamental human rights and helping them build a better future.



UNICEF

Is the abbreviation for United Nations Children's Fund. The first name of the organization was the 'United Nations, International Emergency Fund', it is from this name the abbreviation stems from. UNICEF promotes the right and wellbeing of every child. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate the commitment to children's right into practical action, with an extra effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children.

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