



Forum: Economic and Social council

Topic: Addressing the Economic and Social Challenges of
Migration in the Mediterranean Region

Chair

Introduction

Each year, millions of people migrate across the world, but this movement often creates challenges for the host countries responsible for supporting them. This can lead to both the country struggling to meet demand such as having enough water, electricity, spaces in hospitals, and education, and migrants experiencing social hardships like not being able to find a home, or not being able to get an education. This may cause economic hardships, as many of the migrants have limited education and therefore cannot find high-paying jobs, which may harm the workforce as it lowers the number of people with a strong education who have the knowledge that will help develop the workforce of a country.

The migration of the refugees into the new country effected the migrants and the residents of the country. The refugees were struggling in the new country, as they were trying to adapt to their new lives and find jobs so that they could afford the basic necessities. The refugees would also use public resources by the government as they had no other options which caused a large strain on the countries. On the other hand, the residents were becoming unhappy as the resources which the government provided for them was worsening, and the quality of those resources were declining, causing dissatisfaction due to the low quality of public resources.

The arrival of large numbers of migrants can significantly impact the country's resources and citizens. Government services like healthcare and public transport may become harder to access due to increased demand from incoming migrants, and so the public services used by people every day will worsen. Migration can also reduce job opportunities for residents especially youth. This is because migrants may accept lower wages for similar roles. For instance, migration in the U.S. between 1980 and 2000 increased the male labor supply by 11%, leading to an 8.9% wage drop for native high school dropouts. This shows how immigration can create wage pressure for low skilled native workers.

The topic of "Addressing the Economic and Social Challenges of Migration in the Mediterranean Region" connects to the theme of "Deliberate to Liberate" because by tackling the problems faced by people migrating into the Mediterranean Region, and the issues which

countries face when taking in migrants, we can help resolve this major crisis and uphold everyone's rights. Addressing these challenges sets people free by giving them the freedom to live as they choose, without the constant worry of accessing necessities or dealing with serious hardships. By finding solutions, we aim to ensure that all people can live safe, happy, and fulfilling lives without fear or deprivation.

Definition of Key terms

Migration

Migration is the movement of people from one location to another, either within a country or across borders to settle temporarily or permanently

Host country

A host country is the nation that receives migrants or refugees. It may provide temporary or permanent residence and is responsible for supporting their integration

Pull factor

A pull factor is a positive condition or advantage that attracts people to move a specific location. These can include better job opportunities, safety, education, or a higher quality of life, making the destination more desirable for migrants.

Relocation

Relocation is the organized transfer of refugee from one country to another that has offered the refugees protection and a place to settle.

Mediterranean Region

The mediterranean Region is the region of land that is close to the Mediterranean Sea, it is made up of different countries from Africa, Asia, and Europe. Some of the countries in the Mediterranean Region are Italy, Greece, and Libya.

Refugee

Refugees are people that are forced to flee their home country due to conflicts in countries and fear for their safety. Usually, refugees will cross borders in an attempt to start a new life in a new place.

General Overview

Causes of the migration to the Mediterranean region

Migration has always had causes, but a major turning point in migration to the Mediterranean region was the Arab Spring in 2011. Countries involved in the uprisings- such as Syria and Libya - experienced intense conflict between the people and their government, which caused millions to flee to different countries. Many of these individuals attempted to enter Europe, particularly through the Mediterranean region, as the Mediterranean Sea provided a nearby and accessible route. This pathway allowed migrants to escape conflict zones and seek safety and stability in European countries. However, the sudden and large-scale arrival of migrants placed a heavy strain on host countries, overwhelming public services such as healthcare, housing, and sanitation. As services deteriorated, the sudden risk of disease increased. According to the UNHCR, in the years surrounding 2012, out of 500 refugee camps, 26 camps reported confirmed cholera outbreaks, resulting in 38 outbreaks and over 8,000 confirmed and suspected cases.

Many people that were trying to migrate to Europe had different reasons for their migration. Some may have received better job opportunities in Europe which had caused them to leave their home country and enter Europe. Migrants usually decide to migrate due to the new job opportunities from different countries that would have a better offer or salary, and so they are more inclined to accept the offer and leave the country so that they can start working and getting more money compared to their last jobs. But this may cause some difficulties. If many people receive offers to move to a country around the same time, this may lead to overcrowding due to an increase in the number of residents. The increase in residents and use of public services may create a greater strain on the country's infrastructure and resources.

Actions taken to help countries withstand migrants

Many European countries experienced difficulties in managing the large number of refugees they were obligated to receive. This prompted the EU to launch an emergency relocation program to help reduce the burden on Mediterranean European countries such as

Italy and Greece. This program aimed to address the refugee crisis in Italy and Greece by relocating 34,700 people to other European countries such as Norway and Switzerland, with support from EU agencies and funding. In 2017, the situation had eased, so the program ended as it was no longer needed. However, in 2018, these countries were still facing minor issues, which forced other European countries to voluntarily relocate migrants rescued in the Central Mediterranean Sea. This program helped lower the strain that the host countries were suffering with and so many of the migrants were settle in another area to help the countries with great pressure and also help the countries with limited resources to receive aid and funding. This can be seen as close to 70,000 refugees were registered in reception facilities funded by the EU across Greece and the Western Balkans where the migrants had food, shelter and medical screenings available.

Economic impact of Migrants on a countries

Migrants may contribute to the fluctuations of the pricing of different services, creating problems in the economy. This is because societies and communities must account for the needs of migrants, and often the existing resources will not be sufficient for such a large group, leading to overcrowding. For example, in urban areas, refugees will require electricity and water, and with higher demand, this can result in more frequent service cuts, increased prices, and urban sprawl, which makes proper management of cities increasingly difficult. This means the entire community and its residents will be forced to pay higher fees for essential services.

Additionally, the large number of people now available to join the workforce may result in a higher percentage of unemployment, affecting the youth who will have a harder time finding jobs. This is because migrants are often willing to work for much lower wages, making companies more likely to hire them instead of citizens who expect higher pay for the same work. This can cause the economy to struggle, as high unemployment rates mean that many people won't be able to afford necessities due to lower income which may increase poverty rates and may even cause political instability for the nation. This leads to a decline in overall economic activity, as people are unable to purchase many items, causing the economy to worsen.

Social Impact of Migrants on a country

Migrants can have adverse effects on societies, particularly evident in the strain placed on public services such as healthcare and education. A large influx of refugees can lead to overcrowding in public services like transportation networks and hospitals, reducing the overall quality of these services due to high demand. There may also be times when healthcare facilities are too crowded to attend to everyone, which could lead to casualties. This decreases the quality of life for citizens, as they may not have access to all the services they need, and if these services are available, they may become much more expensive due to higher demand. This can lead to public dissatisfaction, as people either struggle to address their issues or are forced to pay extra to use services when needed. If people live in these conditions for too long, other conflicts may arise such as a civil war or the spread of disease (due to insufficient healthcare). This might lead to many people leaving and try to settle in different areas, while also increasing the tensions among the population, since everyone, including the government, will feel the strain on resources, causing stress and conflict between people

Furthermore, increased competition in the labor market often leads employers to reduce wages, as there is a larger workforce willing to accept lower pay. Migrants in urgent need of income may be willing to perform demanding labor for minimal wages, which can increase unemployment rates among local workers, especially youth.

Major Parties involved

UN (The United Nations)

The United Nations has held multiple meetings to address and solve the issue of migration in the Mediterranean Sea, through these meetings, the UN has developed many solutions and resolutions to tackle the problem. This effort is part of the UN's 2030 goals,

especially sustainable development goal 10, which aims to reduce inequalities and ensure that all people have their rights. The UN also has a large group of agencies, such as UNHCR and UNICEF, which all work toward solving the challenges of migration. UNHCR specifically focuses on refugees, ensuring their rights are protected, setting up camps for them, and helping relocate refugees with the support of other countries. The UN does this to give refugees their rights and offer them a new chance at life where they do not have to fear for their safety and can access their necessities.

European Union

The European Union met multiple times to discuss the refugee issue, as European countries near the Mediterranean region were under significant strain due to the large number of migrants entering Europe. The European Union offered multiple solutions to help these countries manage the pressure. For example, many EU member states agreed to take in some of the migrants to help reduce the strain on frontline countries. This was especially evident when the European Union launched an emergency relocating program because the strain on countries like Italy and Greece had become too great, harming their ability to manage the large number of arrivals. As a result, the European Union needed to meet and was able to develop solutions by coordinating the relocating of migrants among different member states. The European Union acted quickly to give migrants the opportunity to have better lives and to start again in a new country.

Libya

Libya was one of the countries that experienced a large movement of people leaving, especially during and after the Arab Spring. Due to many issues within the country such as corruption and civil wars, the quality of life was very low, and many people hoped to escape and begin a new life. Since Libya has a coastline connected to the Mediterranean Sea, many people used this route to leave the conflict behind and looked forward to starting a new life in Europe. Additionally, Libya acted as a place where people could easily board a boat or ship to cross from Africa to Europe, including many from other conflict-affected countries who were fleeing in hopes of a better life. As a result, many of those fleeing had to pass through Libya to reach the Mediterranean and eventually enter Europe—especially Libya's own residents who were also trying to escape the country.

Italy

Italy was one of the main destinations where many migrants planned to arrive by crossing the Mediterranean Sea. This is because of Italy's location, as it is connected to the Mediterranean and serves as a gateway to Europe for many people. However, this created major challenges for Italy, which was forced to accept hundreds of thousands of migrants and had to account for their needs. The large number of migrants placed significant strain on Italy's services, leading to a decline in their quality and causing frustration among many citizens. In 2015, however, Italy's problems began to ease thanks to actions taken by the European Union. The EU recognized that the migrant issue had grown into a major problem and launched an emergency program that helped reduce the strain Italy was facing.

Greece

Greece was also another destination which migrants would aim to arrive at due to its geographical location that is close to the Mediterranean Sea. Many people who were fleeing Africa due to the ongoing conflicts would arrive at Greece. But due to the large number of migrants, Greece faced a very large strain on its public resources similarly to Italy. As hundreds of thousands of people would've arrived at Italy looking for a new life. Which caused the public services to worsen and causing the quality of those services to decline. However in 2015, the EU decided that the problem had become too large and had decided to launch an emergency program which help reduce the strain that Greece was facing.

Timeline of events

Year / Period	Event / Description
Pre-2010s	Steady migration flows into Europe; Southern European states already face some strain integrating migrants and asylum seekers.
2011 – Arab Spring	Political uprisings in Syria, Libya, Tunisia, and others. Violence forces millions to flee. Libya's collapse opens Central Mediterranean smuggling route.
2013 – Lampedusa Disaster	Over 360 migrants drown off Italy. Triggers EU and UN calls for better search-and-rescue operations.
2014–2015 – European Migration Crisis Begins	Sharp spike in arrivals via Mediterranean Sea. Italy's Operation Mare Nostrum replaced by EU's Operation Triton. Reception centres overwhelmed in Italy and Greece.
2015 – Peak Crisis Year	Over 1 million migrants arrive in Europe. EU launches Emergency Relocation Scheme to ease pressure on Italy and Greece. European Agenda on Migration adopted.
2016 – EU-Turkey Deal	Agreement to reduce Eastern Mediterranean crossings. More migrants use Central Mediterranean route (Libya-Italy).

2017–2018 – Continuing Challenges	Expanded rescue operations (Operation Sophia). Voluntary relocation deals among EU states. Greek island camps remain overcrowded.
2018 – Deadly Crossings Continue	UN reports average of six deaths per day in the Mediterranean Sea. NGOs highlight worsening camp conditions and disease spread.
2020–2023 – Policy Shifts and COVID-19 Impact	Pandemic disrupts routes but worsens overcrowding. EU debates new Migration and Asylum Pact. UN and EU call for solidarity and burden-sharing.
Ongoing – Present	Thousands still cross yearly. Italy, Greece, Malta, Spain demand fair EU burden-sharing. UN and EU focus on safe pathways and addressing root causes.

Attempts to solve the Migration in the Mediterranean region

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, 19 December 2018, (A/RES/73/195)

This Resolution by The United Nations implemented a framework to help manage migration and allow migrants to settle in a more orderly, safe, and regular manner. The United Nations planned to achieve this by reducing the pressure on host countries and promoting the equal sharing of responsibility among all member states, thereby easing the strain on those countries. It also includes programs to help return refugees to their countries of origin, which further reduces the burden on host nations. All these measures were implemented with the goal of decreasing the loss of life in the Mediterranean Sea and lowering the strain on many Mediterranean countries facing high number of migrants.

New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1)

This resolution by the United Nations supports countries receiving refugees by providing financial assistance and committing to saving the lives of refugees through improved search-and-rescue operations at sea, helping to prevent many deaths. by addressing the root causes of forced migrations, it also aims to reduce the number of refugees who need to

flee and promote greater stability in their countries of origin, helping prevent the conditions that force people to leave. It promotes sharing the responsibility for hosting migrants among all countries and encourages the creation of safer pathways for migrants to travel from their country of origin to another without facing conflict. The resolution aims to address the large-scale movement of refugees and migrants while also strengthening international cooperation.

Possible solutions

A solution to increase the quality of healthcare is by the government subsidizing medical facilities by making more hospitals and renovating current hospitals with the help of the government, this can be done by redirecting money that the government has and putting it into different healthcare infrastructures like hospitals or clinics or by getting it funded by NGO or other organization willing to help such as the EU or UN. This will allow more spaces for people to enter the hospitals or clinics when needed and will prevent the overcrowding of hospitals. This means that both the quality of the hospitals and doctors will increase, as the staff will have less patients to deal with and so won't have to work for long hours, While the extra funding of the hospitals will allow the hospitals to have better equipment and so the quality of healthcare will increase.

A solution to decrease the strain on Mediterranean countries is to relocate refugees to different European countries that voluntarily agree to take them in. To determine which countries should receive migrants, a system could be implemented to guide their distribution. This system could use various information about each country, such as GDP, population density, or other measures of development and capacity. This solution would allow the countries under the greatest strain to reduce their pressure by relocating migrants to other countries that are better able to accept them. Overall, this method would benefit all the countries involved: the overwhelmed frontline countries would lower theirs by relocating migrants, while the receiving countries would be able to house and support the migrants, adding new members who can contribute to society.

To help the economy of a country that has a large [number](#) of migrants is adding different centres [s](#) around the country, focusing on places where there are many migrants,

that aim to provide job training, language support, and employment assistance. These centres will be funded by the government and will focus on providing migrants with the proper skills and education that enable them to integrate into the workforce and contribute productively to the economy. This will in return help the country develop its standard of education and living the workforce will have a stronger education and will be more knowledgeable allowing them to have a larger effect on the community.

Guiding Questions

1. What is your delegation's stance on taking in Migrants?
2. How many migrants does your delegation have?
3. Is your delegation struggling with the number of Migrants?
4. What are the conflicts that can happen due to the large number of migrants?
5. Is your country a high-income country or low-income country?
6. Is your country able to handle migrants?
7. Why is it important to ensure that the countries don't have a high strain of migrants?
8. Is your country open to take in migrants from different countries?
9. What type of assistance can be given to low-income countries to stop large movement of migrants?
10. What are the minimum resources that should be provided to all people?
11. What are the possible reasons that causes a person to migrate?
12. What can countries do to ensure that all migrants are taken care of?

Appendix

- Impacts of migrants on job opportunities and economy:
<https://www.iemed.org/publication/the-knowledge-economy-and-mediterranean-countries-challenges-and-opportunities/#:~:text=Perhaps%20the%20greatest%20single%20issue,nor%20should%20it%20be%20postponed>

- The causes of migration and push and pull factors of countries:
https://thesouthernhub.org/systems/file_download.ashx?pg=207&ver=19&utm_source
- The causations of the Mediterranean Sea and the countries in the Mediterranean region: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/19/mediterranean-migration-crisis/why-people-flee-what-eu-should-do>
- The causes of migration and its effects:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/world-history/medieval-times/migration/a/migration-focus-block#:~:text=A%20push%20factor%20could%20be,already%20moved%20to%20this%20location.>
- Statistics comparing migrants and citizens in the workforce:
<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/23550/chapter/9#232>
- Conditions and Routes migrants need to take over the Mediterranean:
https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/asylum-seeker-and-migrant-flows-mediterranean-adapt-rapidly-changing-conditions?utm_source
- Illnesses and Virus outbreaks in refugee camps:
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6586254/>
- Immediate and long-term actions taken by European countries for migrants:
https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/relocation-eu-solidarity-practice_en
- The economic and social impacts of migrants on a society:
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/dev4peace/theory-and-evidence-impact-refugees-host-communities#:~:text=In%20urban%20areas%2C%20the%20influx,largely%20aligns%20with%20theoretical%20expectations.>

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