



Credit: HIAS

CROSSING BORDERS: SYRIA

POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What factors contribute to populations migrating to a new place?
- What impact does mass migration have on the natural environment?
- Why is the migration of Syrian refugees a global issue?
- How are migrants treated when they to a new community?

BACKGROUND

Humans have been on the move for 60-70,000 years. That movement, often human called migration, is when large numbers of people leave one place to live in another place. While some people voluntarily migrate from one place to another, many others are forced to migrate. There are many specific reasons why people migrate, including; moving to find work and economic security, for a better quality of life, to escape political persecution or war, to find a more receptive culture for their beliefs, and as a result of natural disasters, among others.

For those who choose to or are forced to migrate due to climate change, war, cultural, or religious persecution, the migration is often dangerous and difficult. Many become refugees, people living outside their country of citizenship with no home to go to. The refugees are not always welcome in the places they end up and some are forced to live in refugee camps for long periods of time. In 2014, there were 19.5 million refugees around the world. According to the U.N. this is the highest number since records started being kept.

This case study focuses on Syria and explores both the civil war and long-term drought occurring in the country. These factors have created a mass exodus from the country, with more than 5.6 million people becoming refugees who are either fleeing or being driven from their homes. This case study encourages individuals to look at the causes and costs of migration from both a human and natural/environmental perspective.

RESOURCES

Personal Stories

- [Syria's Refugee Crisis \(NewsHub\)](#)
- [Dreams on Hold because of War \(UNHCR\)](#)
- <https://voices.unhcr.org/syria/stories/dreams-hold-because-war/>
- [Voices of Syrian Refugees \(ALNAP\)](#)
- [Mustapha's Journey \(TeachUNICEF\)](#)
- [Malak's Journey \(TeachUNICEF\)](#)
- <http://www.alnap.org/resource/12816>

Articles

- [7 Years On, Syrians Despair Over a Country In Pieces \(AP\)](http://magazines.scholastic.com/news/2014/03/Another-Year-of-Civil-War-in-Syria)<http://magazines.scholastic.com/news/2014/03/Another-Year-of-Civil-War-in-Syria>
- [A Timeline of the US Involvement in Syria's Conflict \(AP\)](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34205186)
- [Syrian Migration to Europe, Why is it Happening Now? \(BBC\)](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34205186)<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34205186>
- [Why Are Migrants Surging Into Europe Now? \(BBC\)](http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/02/436905795/why-are-migrants-surging-into-europe-now)<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/02/436905795/why-are-migrants-surging-into-europe-now>
- [Syrian Refugee Crisis: Why Has it Become So Bad? \(The Guardian\)](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/04/syrian-refugee-crisis-why-has-it-become-so-bad)<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/04/syrian-refugee-crisis-why-has-it-become-so-bad>
- [Syrian Refugees in Turkey: The Long Road Ahead \(Migration Policy\)](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/syrian-refugees-turkey-long-road-ahead)<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/syrian-refugees-turkey-long-road-ahead>
- [For Syrian Immigrants, Many Reasons to Leave Turkey \(NPR\)](http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/17/441168633/for-syrian-migrants-many-reasons-to-leave-turkey-for-europe)<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2015/09/17/441168633/for-syrian-migrants-many-reasons-to-leave-turkey-for-europe>
- [Seeds of War \(Mashable\)](http://mashable.com/2015/03/02/global-warming-syria-civil-war/)<http://mashable.com/2015/03/02/global-warming-syria-civil-war/>
= [YJH8HIJbGkqK](http://magazines.scholastic.com/news/2014/09/The-U-S-Intervenes-in-Syria)<http://magazines.scholastic.com/news/2014/09/The-U-S-Intervenes-in-Syria>

Data & Maps

- [Immigration Explorer \(NY Times\)](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/10/us/20090310-immigration-explorer.html)<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/10/us/20090310-immigration-explorer.html>
- [The Scale of the Migrant Crisis \(NY](#)

[Times\)](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/09/10/world/europe/scale-of-migrant-crisis-in-europe.html)<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/09/10/world/europe/scale-of-migrant-crisis-in-europe.html>

- [Map of the Middle East \(Scholastic News\)](http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/magazines/assets/sn_ts_020211_map.html)http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/magazines/assets/sn_ts_020211_map.html
- [10 Infographics \(UNHCR\)](#)
- [Data Visualization Reveals Impact of Climate Change on Displacement \(UNHCR\)](#)

Photos

- [Migrant Life in Calais' Jungle Refugee Camp \(The Guardian\)](http://metro.co.uk/2015/09/18/these-seven-powerful-photos-show-human-migration-throughout-history-5397498/)<http://metro.co.uk/2015/09/18/these-seven-powerful-photos-show-human-migration-throughout-history-5397498/>
- [When I Grow Up I Want to Be... \(BBC\)](#)

Videos

- [The Genographic Project \(National Geographic\)](https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/human-journey/)<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/human-journey/>
- [Learning About U.S. Immigration \(NY Times\)](#)
- http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/04/27/learning-about-u-s-immigration-with-the-new-york-times/?_r=0A
[Decade of Crisis Through Syrian Refugees' Stories \(UNHCR\)](http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-35460945)<http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-35460945>