



# WHSMUN 2022



**United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees B [UNHCR]  
Topic: Food and Water Security in  
Refugee Camps**

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## **CHAIR INTRODUCTIONS**

### Head Chair

Hey delegates! My name's **Christy Ahn**, and I'm excited to be your head chair for this committee! I'm currently a junior, having done MUN for 5 years, and it's provided me with so many different experiences, allowing me to be well versed in current events going on around the world. Outside of being a part of the MUN program, I play for our school's varsity tennis and track team, and spend my free time drawing, painting, or just watching kdramas. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to me or the other members of the dias. I hope to see all delegates in the committee collaborating and working together to reach a variety of creative solutions. Best of luck, and see you all at WHSMUN 2022!

### Vice Chair

Hi delegates! I'm **Aparna Petluri**, and I'm so excited to be your vice chair for this committee! I am currently a junior, and I have been doing MUN for 4 years, and it has been such a great experience! MUN has allowed me to dive into interesting world affairs, and the motive of advocating for great causes. Apart from MUN, I am involved in our school's tennis team, newspaper club, volunteering opportunities, and love listening to music or watching movies in my free time. I am so excited to see you all at WHSMUN2022!

### Legal

Hello delegates! My name is **Saamarth Sethi**, and I am excited to be the Legal for this committee! I am currently a sophomore, and I have had the lucky opportunity to be a part of MUN for 4 years. My experience in MUN has proved invaluable in influencing my perspective of global relations and affairs. Aside from MUN, I am also a part of our school's Boys Tennis Team, and am involved in Key Club as well as Boy Scouts. In my free time, I like to build things, play (mostly story) games, play guitar, and work with computers. I look forward to seeing how WHSMUN 2022 unfolds!

## **BACKGROUND**

War, terrorism, famine, and other conflict have led to 82.4 million people worldwide dealing with displacement, 35 million of whom are under 18. Disastrously, these people were forced to leave their native country and seek refuge in another for their wellbeing and protection. Oftentimes, however, these refugees are not adequately protected. Within refugee camps, there are devastating issues with nutritional security, causing detrimental effects on the refugee populations.

In these camps, refugees provided with staple foods such as carbohydrates; either being rice, mealie meal, bread, oats, or couscous. Unfortunately, fresh fruits and vegetables can be extremely difficult to obtain, and as a result of this lack of essential nutrients, many refugees suffer from malnutrition. Additionally, the majority of refugee camps are unable to provide the average of three liters of recommended daily water intake per person.

As a means to survive, one of the main ways that refugees obtain more food is through a process called recycling in which they leave the camp and reenter under a new identity, thereby gaining an extra ration card. However, this is an illegal process that has contributed to the presence of a dangerous black market in many refugee camps.

Additionally, malnutrition's impact on women specifically is extreme as they are both mentally and physically affected. Some women may become malnourished, while others can lose the confidence or strength to breastfeed their infants. With support networks shattered, there may be even more demands on a mother's time to get food for her family, find shelter and plan for an increasingly insecure future.

Diseases brought on by malnutrition are responsible for millions of preventable deaths each year in camps. Additionally, poor quality diets and mineral deficiencies result in delayed

childhood development, causing irreparable damage. For individuals with illnesses like HIV/AIDS, adequate nutrition is essential to maintain the immune system. Along with the health detriments malnutrition, the shortage of food also makes people more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation, as many struggling individuals turn to sex traffickers for a way to earn food and money.

## **UN INVOLVEMENT**

From its creation in 1950, the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) has been determinedly working towards better living conditions for refugees in camps. They work to improve the crisis through funding used to develop new projects, products, and collaborations to feed people in the developing world with help from WFP (World Food Programme), Thought for Food Challenge, Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future, Zoa Refugee Care, and other such organizations. The UNHCR has identified vital aid packages to boost services for those in need, along with training, standard guidelines, strategic plans and staffing practices.

UNHCR and WFP have implemented multi-story gardens (MSG), starting with Kenya in 2006, and Ethiopia in 2008. The gardens support dietary diversity as well as refugee contributions to their own food consumption. The MSG are primarily implemented in non-fertile areas where refugee camps are located. Issues of the actual construction and maintenance of the multi-storey garden are addressed in training modules, along with water harvesting, pest control, nutrition, and meal planning problems.

Micronutrient deficiencies cause an excessive number of cases in aspects such as malnutrition, defected maternal outcomes and child development both in the womb and after

birth. Consequently, the High Commissioner for Refugees has put the emerging problem as one of the highest prioritized issues to be addressed, and has focused on reducing the burden of anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies. But, despite all their efforts, due to the immense number of refugees in the world, there is still a long way from providing nutritional support to all refugees.

### **BLOC POSITIONS**

*African Bloc:* Presently, African nations are dealing with a major crisis with refugees. Uganda alone has nearly 1.4 million refugees, as of 2020, with Ethiopia being a close second; consisting of many displaced people fleeing Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, and South Sudan. Such large amounts of displacement has been causing immense problems for all African nations. As per Africa's open-door policy, refugees have all access to the limited humanitarian assistance. The African bloc continues to focus on keeping borders open in order to give refugees a fresh start.

*Asia- Pacific Bloc:* More than 3.5 million refugees live in the Asia-Pacific bloc. Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Iran and Pakistan, struggle to accommodate large groups of migrants, such as the many Afghan refugees who have taken asylum there. These host countries are frequently overburdened, unable to provide adequate aid or support. Many nations in the Asia-Pacific region have embraced the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization's Bangkok Principles on Status and Treatment of Refugees, which is a set of legislation on refugees' basic rights and treatment. These steps have aided refugees in maintaining their rights and remaining safe during times of violence.

***Eastern European Bloc:*** There have been significant problems with refugee protection in the past due to the EU's lack of coordination and control. For dealing with the refugee surge, the European Commission has presented concepts for an asylum system, however, these systems often fall victim to corruption.

***Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC):*** Many Latin American countries struggle to adequately provide refugees with food and water. Massive displacement has occurred as a result of Venezuela's economic troubles, which have worsened other major issues in nearby areas such as the Caribbean. Brazil recently enacted a proclamation titled "A Framework for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced, and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean," which aims to defend and safeguard the rights of refugees across the world.

***Western European and Others Group (WEOG):*** For many nations in the Western European bloc, integration of refugees can be extremely difficult, many Western European countries confusing asylum seekers with illegal immigrants. Many of the WEOG nations have created asylum systems monitored by the UNHCR through applications and state checkups, and rather than set up camps, the countries resettle individual refugees and families into homes with sponsorships. This has resulted in the WEOG bloc having the lowest number of refugees.

**QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. How can access to both food and water be improved for refugees in refugee camps despite issues such as a lack of resources and funding?
2. Where can countries find the resources and materials in order to provide for the refugees more adequately?
3. What can be done in terms of changes to the nation's government in order to resolve this issue?
4. What is your country's stance on the issue of food and water security in refugee camps, and how would these resources be effectively, efficiently, and peacefully brought to these camps?
- 5.
6. What is your country's contribution to the issue, and how have they aided in the cause?

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