

## Refugees as assets to their new countries

### Why in news?

The World Refugee Day is celebrated on June 20 every year to honour the courage and resilience of the individuals displaced due to conflicts and unrest worldwide.

### What is the significance of the World Refugee Day?

- Around 103 million individuals who have endured forced displacement due to conflicts and unrest worldwide.
- These staggering figures mask countless human stories marked by loss and shattered dreams.
- The world refugee day is a reminder of our collective responsibility as global citizens and a call for engagement and empathy.
- It is a day to promote solidarity between communities, and, most importantly, to reflect on the importance of welcoming refugees and displaced persons into our communities.
- **Global conflicts** - It includes the ongoing wars in [Ukraine](#), [Myanmar](#) and Sudan among others, and the protracted situations in Afghanistan, and Somalia present an unprecedented challenge.
- These crises extend to our region where many individuals have been uprooted from their homes.

### What is the position of South and Southeast Asia with respect to refugees?

- Sadly, South and Southeast Asia are not immune to the challenges of displacement.
- **India** - It is home to some 250,000 forcibly displaced persons, with women and children constituting half of that population.
- India continues to graciously host and assist [refugees](#) and asylum-seekers within its territory, a testament to our shared humanity.

### What is the need of the refugees?

- The refugees need opportunities and not handouts.
- For refugee youths, it is not just a matter of talent; it is a matter of prospects.
- They wish to be self-reliant and are eager to use their talents and passions to contribute to the communities hosting them.

### How can the barriers be dismantled?

- **Obstacles** - Refugees and asylum seekers encounter a myriad of obstacles, such as legal recognition and challenges in obtaining government-issued documents.
- These obstacles hinder their access to essential services, including financial support

and health care.

- **SDG** - To ensure that truly no one is left behind, it is necessary to engage with and include youth, especially refugee youth, in the realisation of the Sustainable Development Agenda.
- **Global Compact on Refugees** - It acknowledges the magnitude of the displacement crisis and calls for solidarity through a whole of society approach.
- It strives to enhance the international response, support host countries, promote self-reliance, and explore long-term solutions such as resettlement and safe returns.
- **Individual contribution** - It is built on the understanding that the responsibility towards the forcibly displaced is not limited to governments but extends to each, individuals.
- The individuals include the private sector, non-government organisations and community-based organisations.
- **Global South** - It also recognises that the [Global South](#) is disproportionately affected and that host communities need assistance.

### What is the way forward?

- Addressing the rising number of the forcibly displaced is an urgent moral imperative that demands our collective action.
- It is incumbent upon us to dismantle these barriers and ensure that they are afforded equal opportunities in employment, education, housing, and health care.
- Our efforts in creating an inclusive society must cater to the unique needs of refugee youth.
- The principle of equitable burden-sharing should be accepted and the responsibilities should be fulfilled.
- Together, we can truly ensure the Government of India's vision of 'Viksit Yuva Viksit Bharat' is realised.

### References

1. [The Hindu | Refugees as assets to their new countries](#)
2. [IMF | Refugees as Assets to their new countries](#)

