

Course on Managing Disasters and Complex Humanitarian Emergencies

**Boston University
School of Public Health**

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United States of America**

Syllabus:

Wednesday, February 27, 1 – 4 pm

Session I: Introduction to UNHCR and the Global Refugee Situation

Objectives:

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Explain the roles of the various actors in refugee emergencies
- Understand the scope of the world refugee situation
- Understand the mandate of UNHCR
- Understand the evolution of the current international refugee regime
- Explain the differences between IDPs and Refugees
- Discuss current changes in the dynamics of displacement
- Understand UNHCR's response to the Afghanistan Crisis

Required Readings:

UNHCR. *Helping Refugees; An Introduction to UNHCR* 2000.

UNHCR. *Refugees by Numbers*. 2001.

UNHCR. *Afghanistan, Refugees Magazine*, Issue 125, 2001.

UNHCR. *Cover Story, Refugees Magazine*, Issue 177, 2000.

UNHCR. *The State of the World's Refugees 2000*. Oxford University Press, 2000. Introduction (pp. 1–11) & Chapter 11: "The Changing Dynamics of Displacement." (pp. 275–287).

UNHCR. *Internally Displaced Persons: The Role of UNHCR: Position Paper*. 6 March 2000.

UNHCR. *UNHCR Approach in response to the Afghanistan Crisis. Donor Update*. 21 December 2001.

Session Plan:

- 1:00–2:00 Basic Power Point Demonstration, Q&A
- 2:00–2:30 Simulation
- 2:30–2:45 Break
- 2:45–3:45 Video: UNHCR in Action, Case study: UNHCR’s response to Afghan emergency
- 3:45–4:00 Q&A

Thursday, February 28, 9 – 12 pm

Session 2: Refugee Emergencies/Needs of Special Groups

Objectives:

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Discuss the main needs in refugee emergencies and ways to meet these needs
- special needs of vulnerable refugee groups
- Identify potential sources of difficulties in delivery of humanitarian aid
- Understand the linkages between assistance and protection.

Required Readings:

UNHCR. *Handbook for Emergencies, Second Edition*. Chapter 5: Initial Assessment, Immediate Response “ (pp41–47) & Chapter 12: “Site Selection, Planning & Shelter” (pp 132–147.)

UNHCR. *Sexual Violence Against Refugees*. Geneva, 1995. Chapter 1: Sexual Violence in the Context of Refugees (pp 1–10) & Chapter 2: Prevent Measures” (pp.11–27.)

UNHCR. Un. Doc. EC/49/SC/INF.2 The Security, and Civilian and Humanitarian Character of Refugee Camps and Settlements. 14 January 1999.

UNHCR. Personal Security of Refugees. Executive Committee Resolution No. 72 (XLIV) 1993.

UNHCR. Military or Armed Attacks on Refugee Camps and Settlements, Executive Committee Resolution No. 48 (XXXXVIII) – 1987.

UNHCR. Refugee Children: Guidelines on Protection and Care. Chapters 7 & 8.

UNHCR. Guidelines on the Protection of Women. July 1991.

WHO. Health in Afghanistan Situation Analysis. January 2002

Sphere Project. Part II: The Minimum Standards, Health Services. Section 1: Analysis, Section 4: Health Care Services, Section 5: Human Resource Capacity and Training.

UNHCR. *Learning for a Future: Refugee Education in Developing Countries*, Chapter 1 Education in Emergencies. 2001, (pp. 1–30).

Session Plan:

- 9:00–9:45 Why do assistance? Basic assistance considerations (needs assessment, site selection, security, food, shelter, water, healthcare, education).
- 9:45–10:30 Identification of vulnerable groups, impact on children, *To Be A Refugee, Living in the Shadows* video.
- 10:30–10:45 Break
- 10:45–12:00 Case Studies, Refugee Women video “Don’t Look Back”

Thursday, February 28, 1 – 4 pm

Session 3: Refugee Protection & Solutions

Objectives:

By the end of the session, students will be able to:

- Identify sources of international law relevant to refugee protection
- Understand the difference between UNHCR and UNRWA
- Identify three solutions to refugee crises & explain determining factors for each solution
- Discuss current threats to the institution of asylum

Required Readings

UNHCR. *Refugees Magazine*. Issue 125. Cover Story, 2002.

UNHCR. *Refugees Magazine*, Issue 119. “Detect, Detain, Deter, Deport”.

UNHCR. Protecting Refugees: questions and answers.

UNHCR. An Introduction to the International Protection of Refugees. Chapter 2: “A brief introduction to international refugee law.” (pp. 17–24.).

UNHCR. *The State of the World’s Refugees 2000*. Oxford University Press, 2000. Chapter 7: “Asylum in the Industrialized World” (pp. 155–183.).

UNHCR. Human Rights and Refugee Protection, Part II “Specific Issues. Chapter 3: “Detention” (pp. 37–58).

UNHCR. Determination of Refugee Status. Chapter one: Definition of a Refugee”, (pp. 1–16).

UNRWA. About UNRWA. 2001, “Questions and Answers.”

UNRWA. UNRWA Emergency Appeal, Progress Report 11. October 2001.

Reuters. News Articles on Australia’s Refugee Detention Policy.

UNHCR. Global Consultations, Reaffirming the 1951 Convention. 13 December 2001.

Statement by the President of Latvia, Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, at the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or Protocol to Relating to the Status of Refugees, Geneva. 12 December 2001.

UNHCR. *The State of the World's Refugees 2000*. Oxford University Press, 2000. Chapter 6, Repatriation & Peace Building in the early 1990s.

UNHCR. *Criteria for Determining Resettlement as the Appropriate Solution*. UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, July 1997.

Session Plan:

- 1:00–2:00 Introduction to International Law
- 2:00–2:30 Global Consultations
- 2:30–2:45 Break
- 2:45–3:15 Threats to asylum, Detention Issues, Case study: Australia
Post Sept. 11th climate
- 3:15–4:00 Solutions: Repatriation, Resettlement, Local Integration

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