

Theme 7.2.1 What challenges face social development in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia? (refugees)

The challenges of international refugee movement

Most people become migrants because they believe that by moving, they will get a better job and an improved quality of life.

Migrants move due to:

Push factors (negative) – war, natural hazards, poverty, lack of opportunities.

Pull factors (positives) – higher paying jobs, access to higher education, improved public services such as healthcare and safety.

Millions of people have been displaced due to conflict since 2015. Many of these people seek safety and new lives in other countries as **asylum seekers** or **refugees**.

Refugee movement into Europe

Recent conflicts in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and sub-Saharan Africa have led to an increasing number of migrants heading for Europe.

The refugee crisis in Europe (2015 – present) has seen many countries help refugees and asylum seekers, whilst other countries turn their backs.

Countries such as Turkey and Germany have the highest refugee populations following the Syrian war in 2013.

Refugees and asylum seekers choose Europe due to its higher standard of living and safety from war and conflict.

Some challenges faced by migrants as they attempt to enter Europe include:

- drowning when crossing the sea in small boats
- people trafficking – modern slavery
- arrest and deportation.

Tackling the refugee crisis

Many refugees enter European countries with very little in terms of personal belongings.

International agreement is required by the EU (European Union) in order to decide how best to help people.

Strategies include:

- seizing and destroying boats used by people smugglers – this would mean refugees would have to apply to enter a country legally and safely
- more coastguard patrols and lifeboats to rescue migrants in dangerous boats
- quicker processing of refugees to allow them to enter countries faster.

Tackling the refugee crisis – Ukraine 2022

The war in Ukraine, which started in 2022 and has displaced millions of people, has seen other approaches to supporting refugees:

- house share scheme (sponsorship) – encouraging refugees to apply to live with a UK family
- NGO (Non-Governmental Organisations) – charities providing support to families in need
- community groups – providing food parcels, clothing and necessities.