

Evaluation of sustainable practices in education for Immigrant and Refugee Children

Our approach is built on the principle that refugee and immigrant children should be included in national education systems not placed in temporary structures
(UNICEF, 2023)



Key Points - What are the facts?

Trends

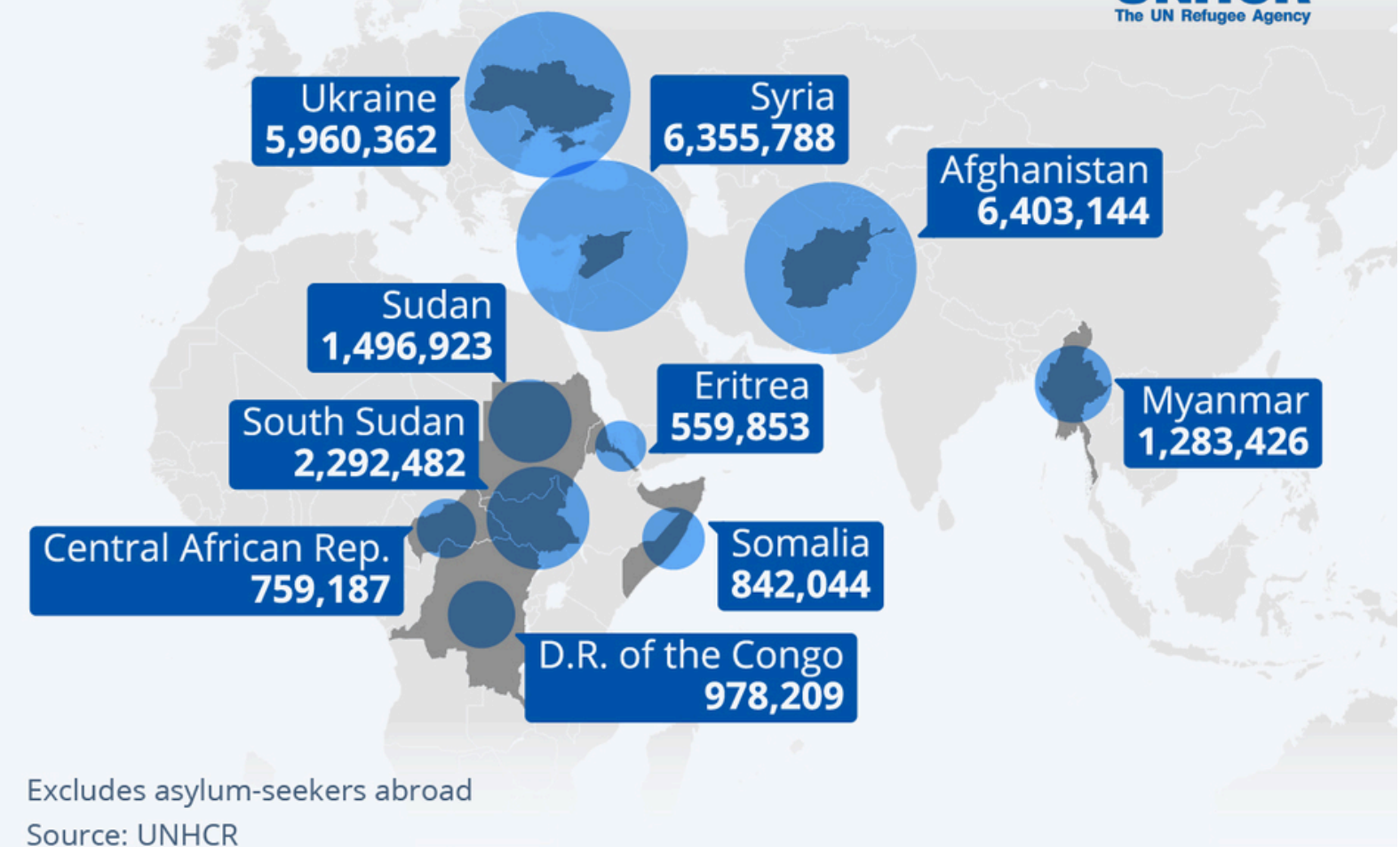
- Increase year on year - is the approach working?
- Unsettling times
- Resources
- Government funding

Key Fact

Children account for 30% of the world's population, but 40% of all forcibly displaced people.
(UNHCR, 2023)

Mapping The World's Refugee Population

Top 10 origin countries of refugees under UNHCR's mandate as of 2023



statista

(Statista, 2023)

What are the Challenges?

Political will - if governments will not cooperate and invest then children will not have the opportunities for education

Resources - if investment is not made then the system will not be able to keep up with the rising demands

Language and curriculum gaps that are not consistent and do not provide stability

Long-term displacement where the system leaves children without a home for months and sometimes years.

Implementation that is inconsistent and not strategic meaning that continuity is not met.

Our findings highlight that efforts to integrate refugee education into national systems are deeply political processes.
Carvalho & Haybano (2023)

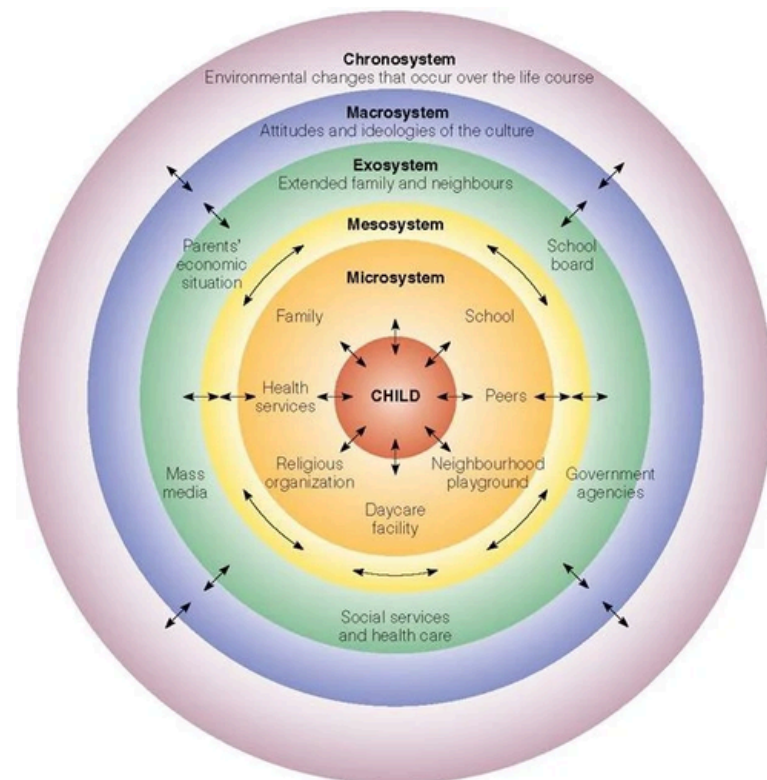
UNHCR and UNICEF both highlight that lack of durable solutions and discontinuity across education pathways are major barriers to sustainable progress

UNHCR, 2025



What are the strategies needed for sustainable practices?

- Integration - moving children into national schools and not camps.
- Improving national systems - teacher training, language support & curriculum
- Supporting host communities - investment needed
- Building/fostering resilience - conflict, climate shocks
- Continuity - needed to ensure progress and stability



Simply Psychology,
2025

**To understand
development, one
must consider the
entire ecological
system in which
growth occurs**

Bronfenbrenner, 1979

UNCRC states that all children have the right to an education. Article 28 and 29 of the Convention detail these rights.

Article 28 states that all parties recognise the right of children to education" and must ensure school discipline respects "the child's human dignity."

Article 29 focuses on the aims of education, including development of personality, talents, respect for human rights, and preparation for responsible life in society.

United Nations, 1989



What next?



Hassan, 2024

Every child has the right to education, regardless of nationality, immigration status, or documentation.

States must provide free primary education and work toward accessible secondary education.

Refugee and asylum-seeking children must be treated equally to national children in access, quality, and protection.

School discipline, curriculum, and learning environments must respect human dignity and children's development.

Denying education to a child because of immigration status is a violation of international law.

UNICEF, 2025

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