G20

STUDY GUIDE

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Letter From The Executive Board

Dear Delegates,
I am extremely pleased to welcome each and every one of you to the Group of 20 Committee in International Youth Conference 2017. I am honoured to be your Chair, and thus make a promise to all of you, the experience is going to be like none you've ever faced before, it will be an exciting and electrifying experience, and that I can promise. Each one in this committee was chosen because they earned their spot in the ring, now you have a battle field laid ahead of you, don't disappoint. Go ahead and light up the committee, perform and put out a show.

Delegates we now face 2 grave problems in our current lives, 1 affecting our country directly, and the other affecting our global community. Our first agenda is the Immigration crises in the Middle East. Immigrants from Middle East now seek asylum and refugee in western countries and their neighbouring countries because of the war going on in their homes, do we decide to show human compassion or is their threat too much for us to handle. The second agenda is Tax Evasion, Billions of Dollars each year are lost from our economies, going into shell companies and off shore banks. But now this black money has become the fragile base of the economies of Tax Havens. Delegates you need to show your expertise and find a way out of this picky situation.

You now act as the sole representative of your country in the face of the G20, Delegates we control the Money and Power of our countries, there is nothing else we need, without our committee there would be no future. Our role as a committee is thus quintessential to the running of our world as a whole. Take a stand, and make a future you'd want to live in.

Delegates, we urge you to extend your research further than the study guide. With a highly experienced executive board, you are sure to witness high quality debate in committee. So make sure your research is unbeatable and be effective when you convey your opinion to the committee.

Welcome to the Group of Twenty.
All the best.

Regards,
Pranay Manghnani,
Chair of G20.

Vice Chair	Rapporteur	Moderator
Aryaman Gala	Malvika Sriniwasan	Aashna Suvarna

Rules of Procedure:

General Speaker's List (GSL):

The committee will begin with a GSL where any delegate can speak about what they feel is important and share their stance.

Yields:

If the allotted time for a GSL is not used up completely, the speaker may yield time:
• To the Chair
• To Questions
• To Comments

Points:

- **Point of Personal Privilege-** This point may be raised at any given point in time during committee if the delegate is feeling uncomfortable.
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry-** A delegate may raise this to ask a question to the executive board regarding procedure.
- **Point of Order-** This may be raised to point out faults made by the ExecutiveBoard
- **Point of Factual Inaccuracy-** This may be raised when a delegate wishes to point out a fault in another delegate's statement.
- **Point of Information-** This may be raised for the sake of clarification on a delegate's speech.
- **Right to Reply-** This may be raised to demand an apology when a delegate's or his country's sovereignty has been breached.

Communiques and Directives:

Communiques: Also referred to as press releases, may be issued by a country to make an announcement. A chit stating the announcement should be sent to the Executive Board. If it is approved, it will be announced in committee proceedings.

Directives:
There are two kinds of directives:
- Overt Individual/Joint Directives- There can be a maximum of 2 authors only. These will not be voted upon by committee because they signify action orders taken by the governments of the authors. Overt directives will be announced in committee right after ratification.

• Covert Individual Directives- There can be only one author for these, and will not be voted on in committee either. Covert directives will be implemented as soon as they are ratified and they will influence upcoming crises. The directive will not be read out in committee at any point.

Presidential/Joint Statements

Presidential or joint statements may be made by delegates if they wish to address the committee regarding something serious. This would be in motion once the delegate sends a chit to the Executive Board and it is approved. Then a motion may be raised to make a presidential/joint statement.

Voting

With respect to: Moderated/Unmoderated caucuses, the committee would follow simple majority.
With respect to: Working Papers, the committee would follow simple majority.
With respect to: Resolution: Only the 20 voting countries will have the right to vote. This will require a 2/3rd majority (14 Countries).

Motions

Motion to Open Formal Debate: This is the first motion of the conference and is made to move into formal debate and open the General Speakers List. If there are multiple topics on the agenda, the body will first vote on the order they are to be discussed. All delegates wishing to be added to the speakers list should raise their placards at the request of the chair or send a note to the dais.

- **Motion to Enter into a Moderated Caucus:** This motion brings committee into a moderated debate to discuss a more specific aspect of the agenda. When raising this motion total time and per speaker time must be stated.

- **Motion to Enter into an Unmoderated Caucus:** This motion temporarily suspends formal debate for a specified amount of time. It is used create resolutions, talk to other delegates, or anything else that may need to be done. It needs a simple majority to pass.

- **Motion to Introduce a Resolution:** A delegation may move to introduce a resolution that they have drafted, and this will open committee up to discussion on this resolution. The authors will first introduce the committee to the resolution. This will be followed by a two-for-two for and against by a non-author.
  By the chair's discretion, a question and answer session may also be conducted.

- **Motion to Previous Question:** This motion ends all debate on a resolution and moves to directly begin voting. This motion requires a 2/3rd majority to pass.

- **Motion to Introduce an Amendment:** A delegate may also move to amend one or more specific clauses in a resolution.

An amendment may be **friendly** -one that the authors find favourable, or **unfriendly** - one that authors find unfavourable. A friendly amendment will definitely be incorporated into the final resolution, however, for an unfriendly amendment to be considered there must be voting. Unfriendly amendments pass by simple majority

Agenda 1- Tax Evasion

TAX EVASION

Tax justice has become a long established item on the G20 agenda, and rightly so. The leaders met as a group for first time in 2008 in Washington DC. At that first meeting efforts to improve co-operation between tax authorities were discussed. In 2009 leaders committed to ending banking secrecy and protecting public finances.

INTRODUCTION

On May 9, 2016, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) released over 11.5 million documents leaked from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonesca. These documents contained information implicating 140 politicians from more than 50 countries in significant tax evasion—the illegal practice of intentionally avoiding paying taxes owed on wealth. The leaked documents connected these individuals to offshore companies that exist in 21 tax havens around the world. Among those implicated are the Presidents of Argentina and Russia (Mauricio Macri and Vladimir Putin, respectively), the King of Saudi Arabia, and relatives and confidantes of leaders in Britain, China, Mexico, and South Africa. The leak demonstrated the breadth of this practice and offered insight into how the world's wealthiest individuals are able to protect private wealth from taxation, thus depriving their home nations of the tax revenue they would have received from the hidden assets.

While tax evasion is not a new practice, the scope of the practice (as revealed by the Panama Papers) raises serious questions around the efficacy of recent attempts by the United States, European Union, and G20 to crack down on it. Although estimates of money hidden by wealthy individuals in tax havens vary by method of estimation, it is thought to amount to eight percent of the financial wealth of households globally, or $7.6 trillion dollars. An estimated $200 billion dollars in tax revenue is lost because of this practice, and the lost revenue is damaging to both developed and developing nations. The economic mission and clout of the G20 makes this body the natural leader in addressing and mitigating global tax evasion by private individuals.

Tax evasion is an illegal practice where a person, organisation or corporation intentionally avoids paying his true tax liability. Those caught evading taxes are generally subject to criminal charges and substantial penalties.
It poses a serious threat to world economies, as governments face an increasing need to bolster tax revenues to remain solvent and to provide adequate welfare and public services. When revenues fall short, there is often an added tax burden placed on honest tax paying citizens.

Tax evasion and tax avoidance are two different things. Reducing personal or corporate taxes through offshore vehicles—avoidance—is perfectly legal within the ambit of the law. Tax evasion is not. It is a criminal offence that is subject to a prison term or a fine if one is found guilty of it. It involves escaping payment by illegal means and is usually combined with greater criminality, as law breakers seek to hide ill-gotten gains. But here's the rub: although governments have worked to contain tax evasion for decades, globally, enforcement remains difficult, spotty, or non-existent in some jurisdictions.

If we are to have any hope of meeting the world's 2030 targets for sustainable development, tax systems will play a crucial role. In order to develop, countries need to have control over their own income through effective and predictable tax systems.

Research by my colleague at the Tax Justice Network, Alex Cobham with Petr Jansky of Charles University in Prague, estimates that tax avoidance by multinational companies costs governments $500bn a year. Research by the IMF puts that figure higher, at $600bn.

A report released by the British Virgin Islands in June to promote that jurisdiction as a financial centre revealed that this small Caribbean island was home to twice as many financial assets ($1.5 trillion) than previously thought.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The sleek Swiss Banker is perhaps the most prevalent public image of who makes tax evasion possible. While it is certainly true that the practice emerged and then boomed in Switzerland, today, the 'tax haven' is much more complicated. It has evolved into a network of countries and intermediaries that, thanks to favourable domestic taxation policy or international treaties, facilitate the anonymous transfer and holding of assets that allow the owner of the assets to not report them to their home country. Today, these exist across the globe, from Singapore to the Caribbean, and offer low or no taxes, political stability, business-friendly regulations and laws, and, importantly, discretion.

Emergence of Tax Evasion Post-World War I:

Until the aftermath of World War I, wealthy individuals had little motivation to move their wealth out of their home country. Taxes on income as well as on inheritances were minimal or non- existent. However, following the war, European nations raised taxes to fund their wartime debt as well as to provide for veterans. At the time, many found this taxation outrageous and a violation of private property. The increased taxation made the prospect of moving paper securities and deposits out of France or Germany and into numbered accounts in Switzerland. Thanks to the lack of structures for communication between these banks and other nations, owners of the assets could comfortably trust their assets would grow under the care of the Swiss bankers without having to pay tax on that income in their home nation. In the 1920s, it is estimated that this wealth grew at a rate of 14% annually—a contrast with the stagnant growth of declared wealth in continental Europe.

The Golden Age of Swiss Banking

Following World War II, these banks found themselves in a newly precarious position. Not only was wealth on the continent stagnant—resulting in little new business—but also the Allied Powers had developed a mistrust of their banking practices. The French government demanded the identification of all accounts held by French citizens, and the American government supported this demand by freezing all American securities—nearly a third of all held securities—held in Switzerland. However, in response to this pressure, the banks set up shell corporations and claimed the French Assets belonged, in fact, to these shell corporations rather than French citizens.

Having proven their resilience against international pressure, from the 1950s to the 1970s assets in Swiss Banks underwent considerable growth—on the scale of 1920s growth. This wealth came not only from Europe and America but also from Gulf Oil Princes attracted not by the tax advantages but by the anonymity. Today, wealth held in Switzerland is 55% European; 10% each from Gulf Nations, Asia, and Latin America; and 15% split between North America, Africa, and Russia.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Income tax evasion has numerous effects on the economy of the region in which it occurs as well as upon the global economy. The effects of this crime may seem localised, but as nations trade and conduct business with each other, the economic standing of one country will in turn affect another.
It is estimated that $30 billion in income taxes is not collected annually due to income tax evasion. Improved tax fraud penalties would help to reduce this number, but the increasing tax gap makes it difficult to direct resources to the Internal Revenue Service and other tax authorities to collect this money.

Disinterest of many government to eradicate the phenomenon of tax evasion leads to imperfect implementation of taxation law. Tax evasion might be expected to be related to level of economic development, taxation structure, ideological values and behaviour of tax payers
The impact of this tax deficit can be felt national as the accumulation of taxes owed prevents government spending in critical areas. This includes aid to schools, welfare, benefits to senior citizens-
Currently, tax fraud penalties are imposed by state and federal tax evasion laws
Aside from income taxes, there are other taxes that are evaded regularly in the United States and other nations.

Furthermore, there is no established economic model to describe the effects of income tax evasion on the economy. Economic models would help to accurately describe the predicament as well as predict future trends, but without precise information, the models are not effective.
The theoretical literature about tax evasion and practical results in industrial countries show that with a proper mixture of imposing punishments and with a plausible taxation structure, tax evasion can be decreased to a very low level. In order to describe the stabilising role of taxes in economy of countries, and the relationship between ratio of tax to income and stabilising behaviour of tax, one should study the effect of taxes on income of governments and the relationship between tax income, government expenditure and GDP, and the effect of ratio of tax to production cost on economic stability. The issue of tax evasion has become a major problem for governments. Nowadays, governments are actively trying to reduce the possibility of misrepresentation of income by people. Underreporting income, profit or over reporting the amount of tax deductions are some well-known ways of misrepresenting tax liabilities.

One expectation is that increase in tax revenues result in more and higher quality public goods such as more security, more roads, better social services which in long run can lead to a more stable economy. Also, during the periods of recession, governments which are financed mainly through taxes, are able to provide tax exemption, tax credits and tax deductions in order to stimulate the market and offset the effects the recession. Ilaboya and Ofiafoh (2014) on their study of tax ratio and output volatility in Nigeria sand significant show that tax ratio has a positive and significant effect on output volatility and they suggest to increase Nigeria taxes to improve the tax to GDP ratio. Afuberoh and Okoye (2014) investigated the impact of taxation on revenue generation in Nigeria by using regression analysis. They results show that, taxation has a significant effect to revenue generation and taxation has a significant effect on Nigeria GDP. Dalu and et al (2012) examined the relationship between tax evasion, avoidance and economy for Zimbabwe. They results show that tax loopholes and taxpayers interference with revenue agents through corruption and bribery are the major problems and the best way of curbing this problem is to continually train and re-train revenue officers.

Finally results show that tax evasion lead to economic instability and tax revenues will be beneficial to a better economic and social condition. Posch (2009) studies the effect of taxation on output volatility and finds that for OECD countries fids a strong negative relationship between taxation and output volatility.

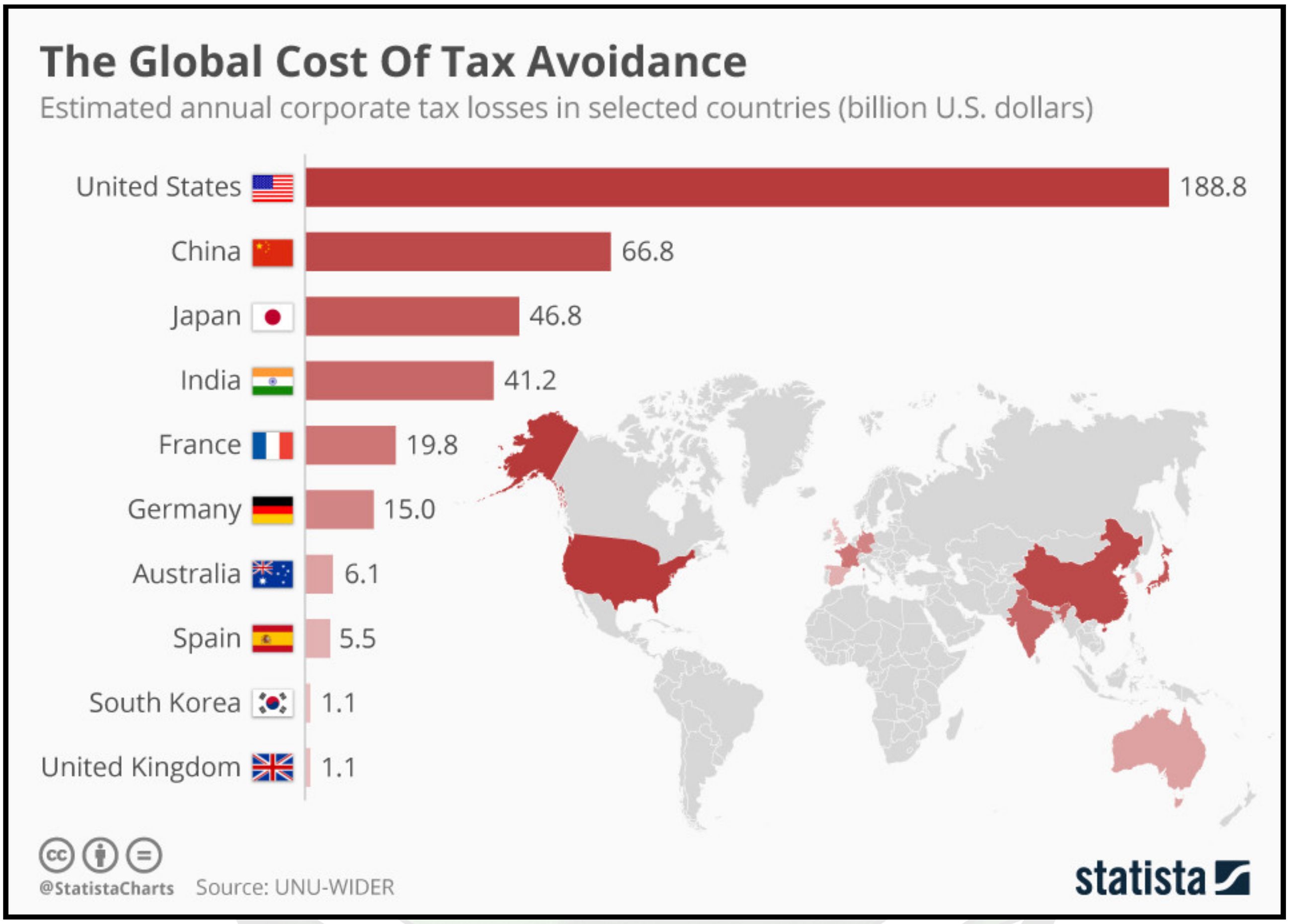
The increase in the size of the underground activities implies that there are less reported taxable income which means that the government may confront a budget deficiency. Also, higher unofficial activities will decrease the legal GDP which can be interpreted as a sign of recession and increase the uncertainty and the risk of investment. Therefore, tax evasion lead to instability of the economy. Hence, it is expected that the increase in the amount of tax evasion causes the economy to become more unstable.

GENERAL ARGUEMENTS FOR

Public Choice theory, developed in the last half of the 20th century, provides an alternative model, which can be sketched as follows.12 The individuals who run the state—mainly politicians and bureaucrats—are, like ordinary individuals, motivated by self-interest. Their interests are generally served by expanding the power and scope of government. Politicians do this by providing a large number of private goods and privileges for the benefit of supporting clienteles. Bureaucrats expand the size of their bureaus. We thus observe built-in incentives within the state to collect as much revenue as possible given political and other institutional constraints—to charge what the captive "market" will bear—and then to spend the proceeds on things that benefit those in power and the interest groups whose support they need.
Government maximises revenues; it does not levy revenues only to produce genuine public goods.

At which point tax dodging has benefits to all of us. Because by dodging taxes people limit the ability of governments to impose ever higher ones. If you like, you could say that such tax avoidance is a Laffer Effect. The Laffer Curve itself is really, originally at least, about the effects of taxation levels upon economic growth. It's possible for taxes to be so high that lowering them will increase growth enough to provide more revenue to the government. Here though we're perhaps not talking about growth so much as just resistance to high tax levels. If people will avoid or evade what they regard as high taxation then that reduces the revenue from having said high taxation. And, obviously, if enough people avoid then this will reduce total revenue. At which point one can say that tax dodging is one of the things that reduces the overall tax rate.
The act of tax evasion sets in motion a range of adjustments, as individuals and firms react to the changes in incentives created by evasion. These adjustments lead in turn to factor and commodity price changes, which generate subsequent factor and commodity movements in a full general equilibrium setting. All of these adjustments affect the final prices of factors and commodities that determine the true distributional effects of evasion, and a full analysis of the distributional effects must recognise and incorporate these general equilibrium adjustments.This general equilibrium process of adjustment should in turn affect the relative prices of factors and commodities as resources move into and out of the relevant activities, and these changes should
tend to eliminate, or at least to reduce, the initial tax advantage of tax evasion. These types of general equilibrium effects have not typically been considered in the standard approach to tax evasion.
We further argue that this omission considerably weakens the overall relevance of the standard approach to tax evasion, at least in its conclusions about the distributional effects of tax evasion. Consider as one example tax evasion by domestic help, such as house cleaners, baby sitters, and yard care workers. Tax evasion here may actually benefit the higher-income households hiring these services because these households can pay lower prices for the services.

AREAS OF DIRECT IMPACT



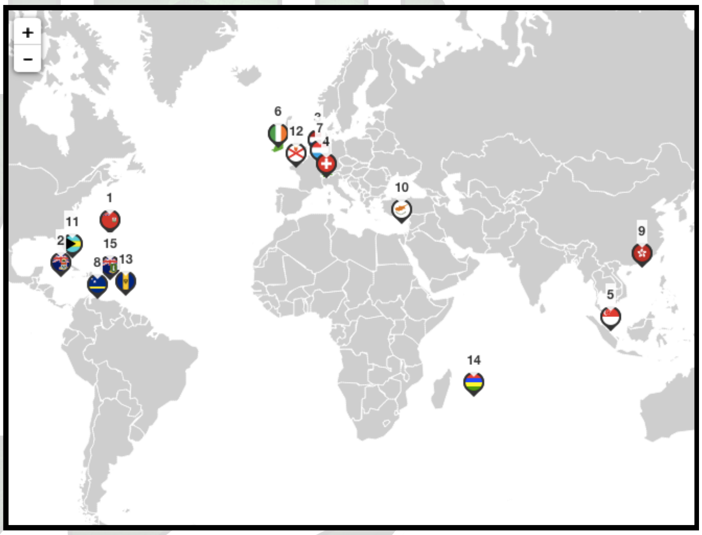
In a study conducted between November 2010 and February 2011 on ill-gotten money and the economy, the Financial Integrity team looked at the experiences of Malawi and Namibia. We approached the project with an open mind and without any assumptions, finding that for Malawi, corruption and tax evasion as a percentage of GDP represent a significant drag on economic development. Corruption is estimated at 5% of GDP and tax evasion, at a whopping 8-12% of GDP. Meanwhile, we estimated that tax revenue actually collected by the Malawi Revenue Authority is only 22% of GDP. Thus, if the national tax authority had successfully collected all the taxes it was due, government revenue would increase by 50 percent. This is approximately about how much Malawi receives in foreign aid (11.7 percent of GDP). As one Malawi Revenue official stated when being interviewed during the study: “if we collected all the taxes, we will then not have to depend on foreign aid”.

The Namibian tax evasion situation is no better, as uncollected taxes are equivalent to about 9% of the GDP. This is larger than education’s share of the economy and almost as large as the mining sector—which generates most of the country’s export income. What makes things worse is that Namibia suffers from the highest income inequality in the world: The Gini co-efficient, which measures the gap between rich and poor, is estimated at 70.7. Tax evasion siphons away money that could be invested in productive resources needed to diversify the economy and address urgent social problems.

For every $1 billion draining out of developing countries via commercial tax evasion:

- 11 million people at risk across Africa's drought-stricken Sahel region could have enough to eat2.
- The annual salaries of 400,000 midwives in sub-Saharan Africa – where maternal mortality rates are the highest in the world – could be paid3.
- 200 million mosquito nets to fight malaria could be purchased. In Africa, a child dies every minute of this preventable and curable disease4.

Major Tax Havens:



A Tax Haven is a country that offers foreign individuals and businesses a minimal tax liability in a politically and economically stable environment, with little or no financial information shared with foreign tax authorities. Tax havens do not require individuals to reside in or operate out of their countries to acquire the benefits of their tax policies. There are several countries that have adopted such policies and are known for their dubious economic activity-

1. **Bermuda-** The tiny Caribbean country of Bermuda, one of the UK’s overseas territories, earns top spot in the list of corporate tax havens. In 2012, US firms had reported $80bn (£64bn) of profit in Bermuda, more than their combined reported profits in Japan, China, Germany and France. Its corporate income tax rate of 0%, combined with a lack of enthusiasm for international cooperation against tax avoidance, makes it an attractive destination for multinational companies.
2. **Cayman Islands-** The Cayman Islands is one of the purest corporate tax havens in the world with 0% corporation income tax and 0% withholding tax on money earned outside of its territory. This includes interest or dividends earned on investments, making the caymans especially popular among hedge fund managers. Like all tax havens, privacy laws are paramount. The cayman islands makes it easy for individuals and business owners to shield their assets and identities from prying eyes. Due to these schemes it has become a popular economic sanctuary among the American elite and large multinational companies.

3. **The Netherlands**- Its 25% corporate income tax rate is often used to obscure its role as a corporate tax haven. But it has a top-score for corporate tax incentives and global companies shift huge amounts of profit to the Netherlands to avoid tax. The Commission report outlined 33 indicators of harmful tax practices, allowing multinational companies to avoid tax. The long list of practices allowing companies to reduce their tax bills in the Netherlands includes the availability of so-called patent boxes: when profits are channelled through this special tax regime, taxes drop from 25% to 5%.. In addition, it is host to more than 14,000 money-channelling (conduit) companies, most of them letterbox firms. The amounts which international companies channel through these firms – up to EUR 3.5 trillion a year – are highly disproportionate to their economic activities in the country.
4. **Switzerland-** Switzerland, one of the world's oldest tax havens, has long been a favoured destination for the rich and powerful to hide their wealth from the tax man. It's also a top spot for companies looking to minimise their tax bills. Contrary to popular opinion, Switzerland does not allow foreign individuals to live and bank in its borders tax free. However, wealthy individuals can pay a low, lump-sum option on the money they bank inside the country, and the government considers their taxes paid. The national government offers significant tax breaks to companies that hold 20% shares of other corporations. Specifically, the government reduces the amount of taxes a corporation owes on profit based on the number of shares it owns. In Switzerland, cantons are similar to states, and cantons levy no taxes on holding corporations. As such, shell corporations often set up operations in Switzerland to take advantage of low or no taxation.
5. **Singapore-** The corporate income tax rate in Singapore is 17% for companies with incomes over $2 million. However, the Productivity and Innovation Credit (PIC) Scheme allows companies a complete corporate tax exemption if they earn 28 million Singapore dollars per year. Start-up companies in Singapore can also take advantage of the zero tax exemption on their first $100,000 of income for the first three consecutive years of business. Singapore also offers industry-specific tax exemptions for certain businesses. Industries eligible for tax exemptions include foreign banks, qualifying offshore funds and global trading companies. Additionally, banks are eligible for a withholding tax exemption on payments to non-resident individuals. Under Singapore law, records are private and financial institutions are not required to provide access to personal data about individuals.
6. **Ireland-** It is world renowned for the Double Irish. This is a tax loophole which allows foreign corporations to shift profits to other tax havens via Ireland. Despite pressure to end this practice the Double-Irish will remain in place until 2020, while the Government has introduced new tax incentives that are potentially equally open to abuse. The European Commission's recent ruling which found that Ireland's lax tax system enabled Apple to avoid €13 billion worth of taxes gives an indication of the scale of tax dodging that the Irish system has facilitated.
7. **Luxembourg**- As a tax haven Luxembourg does not tax the interest gained by offshore bank accounts. Offshore bank accounts in Luxembourg are a guaranteed means of increasing capitals whilst at the same time receiving quality asset protection. In the tax haven of Luxembourg off-

shore bank accounts are very easy to establish and maintain.In Luxembourg, the privacy of offshore bank account holders is highly regarded. All information in offshore bank accounts in the tax haven of Luxembourg is regarded as confidential and cannot be given out without the written authorisation of the offshore bank account holder. Luxembourg charges foreign corporations an extremely low tax rate to send money into and out of the country. Corporations that funnel profits through Luxembourg are charged around 1%. This is a huge incentive for large corporations that have the opportunity to save billions in corporate tax bills by moving cash to Luxembourg at such low rates. Multinationals are well-known for creating subsidiaries and branches in offshore tax havens such as Luxembourg to cut taxes.

8. **Curacao**- Its active "e-zone" provides e-commerce investors a variety of tax saving opportunities and could be vulnerable to illegal activities. Curacao's offshore financial sector consists of trust service companies providing financial and administrative services to an international clientele, including offshore companies, mutual funds, investment funds, and international finance companies. Money laundering organisations can take advantage of banking secrecy, offshore banking and incorporation systems, two free trade zones (airport and harbour), an expansive shipping container terminal - the largest oil transshipment centre in the Caribbean, and resort/casino complexes to place, layer, and launder drug proceeds. Money laundering can occur through real estate purchases and international tax shelters. Another possible area of money laundering activity may be through wire transfers and cash transport among the island, the Netherlands, and other former Netherlands Antilles constituents. Curacao's generous tax incentives, tax treaty with the Netherlands, and reluctance to participate in international efforts to tackle corporate tax dodging earns it eighth position in the list of corporate tax havens.
9. **Hong Kong-** Wealthy foreigners have every reason to bank their money in Hong Kong. For one, the island does not tax income earned beyond its borders. Those who earn salaries in the region pay approximately 15% in taxes, which is significantly lower than taxes levied on salaries in the West. Additionally, corporations pay approximately 17% in taxes on profits generated in Hong Kong. However, the autonomous region does not charge tax on capital gains, interest and dividends. Foreigners who keep their money in Hong Kong pay no net-worth taxes and no public benefits taxes. As of 2015, foreigners had approximately $2.1 trillion in assets managed and $350 billion banked inside Hong Kong's borders.
10. **Cyprus-** The country's stable economy and strict laws that protect the financial sector enables investors to benefit from this tax haven. Other factors like having a simple company registration process also makes Cyprus the go-to place for thousands of businesses and individuals. Having established itself as an internationally recognised financial centre, the country offers a corporation tax rate that cuts across. Both foreign and local companies adhere to this tax rate. All businessmen and individuals want financial plans that will considerably reduce their expenditure and enable them to save in a secure economic environment.

Past actions taken by the UN and other independent bodies:

European Union Savings Directive

In July 2005, the European Union (EU) issued a directive intended to crack down on tax evasion by requiring all member nations to automatically disclose interest earned by residents of another EU nation, with the hope that other non-EU nation1s would be willing to sign similar treaties of disclosure as well. This would allow the home country to ensure that all interest on savings had been disclosed. While many countries, EU and otherwise, complied and shared the names and account information of EU residents with the home country, several key havens objected on the basis of bank secrecy laws that prevent the disclosure of this information. Havens within and outside of the EU, including Luxembourg, Austria, the British Virgin Islands, and—until 2009—Switzerland (as will be discussed in G20 Action), were able to negotiate a compromise. Rather than disclose account information, foreign accounts would be levied with a 35% tax on interest which is then anonymously repatriated, informally known as the European Withholding Tax. This tax is only levied on accounts held by individuals, not those in legal entities such as a trust, and many Europeans shifted their assets to these structures in response to the directive. In 2016, this directive was updated to tax dividends as well as interest, and many withholding treaties were re-negotiated despite the continued emphasis on automatic exchange of information. Singapore and Hong Kong remain the two major havens who have yet to sign some sort of agreement with EU.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)

In March 2010, FATCA was signed into law in the United States. This bill aims to fight tax evasion on the part of US citizens by mandating the automatic exchange of information—the size and income of any account held by a US citizen—between foreign banks and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the government body in charge of collecting taxes. Thus, the US seeks to subject foreign banks to the same regulation as domestic banks with regards to taxation. It enforces the sharing of information through the imposition of economic sanctions, a 30% penalty of all dividends and interest paid by the US to that bank. While the legislation is still susceptible to identities masked in legal structures, many nations today are FATCA compliant. A few exceptions include Russia, Argentina and Saudi Arabia. The majority have a “type 1” reciprocal agreement wherein the foreign bank reports to its home tax authority information on US citizens and the tax authority shares this with the IRS and the US shares similar information with that nation about their own citizens holding accounts in the US. A few nations, including Austria, Switzerland, and Hong Kong, have “type 2” non-reciprocal agreements wherein the foreign banks share directly with the IRS. Critics of FATCA argue that it is an uneven imposition on the part of the US and also that it limits the ability of American citizens and corporations to open accounts abroad because of the complication of being FATCA compliant for a foreign bank.

G20 Action:

2009 London Conference -

Although the G20 has been concerned with tax evasion since the 1990s, it was able to exert major pressure following the global financial crisis, as the lost revenue from evasion became crucial to both developed and developing economies. As the crackdown on tax havens became a political priority, the G20 was able to pressure tax havens into signing treaties of exchange of information upon request through the threat of economic sanctions. At a conference held in London in April 2009, each haven was encouraged to sign at least 12 treaties, and all did so within five days—a shift from the years of resistance. Observers at the conference lauded these treaties as a signal that "the era of bank secrecy is over". A key success was the amending of the Franco-Swiss agreement to allow information sharing between the two nations. Deposits in havens that have signed relatively more treaties have decreased, such as Luxembourg, Jersey, and Switzerland.

However, since the conference, the global value of hidden deposits has not decreased. In fact, 1/3 of treaties signed by tax havens have been signed with other tax havens who are unlikely to request information. Hidden assets, it seems, have not been repatriated but shifted to havens without contracts with the relevant home nation—Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Cayman Islands have seen the largest growth in assets, thanks to their strategic treaties.

Post-Panama Papers-

In April 2016, following news of the Panama Papers leak, the G20 renewed emphasis on a crackdown, warning tax havens that if they fail to cooperate with new transparency standards, they will face sanctions from member countries, which represent 85 % of the global economy. These new standards emphasise automatic, rather than on-demand, exchange of information. At the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors repeated their commitment this standard and gave all tax jurisdictions until July to comply or face measures such as sanctions or withholding taxes on money transferred to these havens. So far, 96 jurisdictions have committed to automatically exchange tax information with other governments in the next two years, with some traditional offshore centres, such as the British Virgin Islands, due to start as early adopters next year. However, some signers in principle have already begun to push back- saying they cannot be technologically ready to meet the reporting standards required for automatic sharing.

Interest Group Perspectives:

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The OECD is an international economic organisation of 34 countries founded in 1961. Its goal is to stimulate economic progress and world trade by acting as a forum of nations committed to democracy and the market economy, as well as to compare policy experiences, identify good practices, and coordinate policies of its members. It has done much work to address the risks to tax compliance posed by tax havens, and the OECD has worked with the G20 in setting tax standards used in its treaties and issues compliance ratings. It heavily endorses the move to the automatic transfer of information and has worked with the G20 to create the common reporting standard, as agreed to by almost 100 nations following the Panama Papers Leak.

US Chamber of Commerce

The US Chamber of Commerce is a business-oriented American lobbying group that takes on many regional US issues. but also supports business in globalisation, free trade, and outsourcing. They have affiliates in over 108 countries and claim many important American and international multinational companies as members. The Chamber of Commerce believes that proposed changes would impose "costly and complex" regulatory burdens that would particularly harm small businesses. They also fear that disclosing on a country-by-country basis could compromised confidential business information and seek alternatives to country-by-country reporting.

Big Four Accounting Firms

The "Big Four" accounting firms are the four largest international accountancy firms. Deloitte, PwC, EY, and KPMG provide a range of services from audit and tax consulting for almost all of the world's largest corporations and—either directly or indirectly—for many of the ultra-wealthy. Together, they constitute almost $50 billion dollars in annual revenue and 800,000 employees across the globe. While they support efforts to improve the global tax system in principle, each has expressed concerns about how the reforms would work in practice. They fear that automatic information sharing, which reformers insist are necessary to prevent abuse of tax havens, would give national tax authorities power to overreach and compel information on a global corporation's overall activities—including those outside of that nation's borders. They are less concerned that information sharing on more than personal accounts is a slippery slope potentially dangerous to all business.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Unilateral or Multilateral Action?

Currently both the EU and the US have individual plans to counteract tax evasion on the part of their citizens. Other nations do not have income tax, and thus do not consider income tax evasion a crime. Currently, the G20 encourages tax treaties that occur between individual nations, although the G20 as a body supports this. Proponents of individual level treaties argue that these are simpler to negotiate, just as effective, and preserve sovereignty.

On the other hand, opponents will argue individual action has also permitted loopholes for tax havens to be exploited. For example, under the US FATCA system discussed earlier, a nation may simply do business through a FATCA compliant nation to circumvent the regulation. Furthermore, there are questions as to how effective sanctions levied on an individual, rather than a coalition, basis will be.

Withholding Tax or Economic Sanctions?

Another issue policymakers must consider is how they will enforce compliance on the part of resistant nations. There are two ways this can be addressed. Currently, many nations levy a withholding tax on non-compliant nations, the proceeds of which are anonymously repatriated to the home nation. Proponents of the withholding tax argue that it rightly punishes individuals who seek to evade taxes, rather than a nation for its domestic laws. They also argue that it is a much simpler approach to achieving some level of economic compensation for lost taxes. Opponents of the withholding tax argue that the amount withheld, typically near 30%, does not begin to make up for the amount of lost tax revenue. Furthermore, many are skeptical that banks in tax havens will accurately report assets held by their citizens. Similarly, they hold that there is a major flaw to the withholding tax in that it does not address holding structures for assets other than personal accounts.

Opponents of the withholding tax typically support the use of trade-sanctions against a nation unwilling to comply, for example, with the standard of automatic exchange of information announced this spring by the G20. Supporters of sanctions cite the fact that tax havens tend to be smaller and more export dependent, making this an effective means of enforcing regulation. Furthermore, they argue that it is not only appropriate to penaliSe a nation for enabling tax evasion, regardless of that home nation's motivations or situation, but that this is the only way to enforce information sharing stringent enough to be effective. These supporters tend to support multilateral coalitions out of fear that havens may simply choose to ride out sanctions from a single nation, rather than change their banking practice. Opponents of sanctions see these as excessive and fear that this disproportionally benefits large economies, such as the United States, as they will be key players in any coalitions.

Global Financial Register

The final question policy makers may choose to confront is how to address legal entities—shell corporations, trusts, and foundations—that both have many legitimate uses and can be used to shelter assets. The key problem with these entities are their anonymity. One possible solution may be to include regulations cracking down on havens where these are notoriously easy and anonymous to set up—for example, Panama or Lichtenstein. However, this approach bears the risk that other havens will simply pop-up in their place, as the fees and business attracted by these services can be quite attractive. Another approach would be including transparency as to the account holder's identity in the automatically exchanged information. Although this is more universal, opponents argue that it is an infringement on privacy and also creates burdensome regulation. Furthermore, both of these methods will receive strong pushback from the business community that relies on many such structures for both legitimate business or individual needs, such as establishing a bank account in a foreign nation in order to be able to carry out business in that currency.

A final proposition to address the use of structures to shield assets is the creation of a global financial register. The register would be a compilation of the owners of all the financial securities – stocks, bonds, mutual funds – in circulation around the world. It would be achieved by compiling existing depositories, namely the DTC and Euroclear which record US, European, and international securities respectively. This information would be circulated to tax authorities internationally, allowing them to collect appropriate taxes. This would also entail a system of legal entity identification, so the ultimate owner of an entity, through its various intermediaries, would be known. Opponents of this system argue that it infringes on national sovereignty and individual privacy, may be subject to abuse (in particular, they question what legal body has the authority to oversee such a repository of information), and creates undue regulatory burden for existing systems.

Agenda 2- Immigration

2.1 Introduction to the agenda:

The highest refugee concentrations are in some of the poorest countries in the world. A large number of such movements are into Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The presence of refugees compounds the already prevailing economic, environmental, social and, at times, political difficulties in these countries. Moreover, in many refugee situations, problems are aggravated when refugees are a substantial proportion of the local, if not national population. The presence of refugees, and demands on the already severely strained economy, services and infrastructure add to the extreme hardship affecting the local populations. In many instances, refugees become an added impediment to, or risk jeopardising, the development efforts of the host country. Their negative aspects may be felt long after a refugee problem is solved; for example, the damage to environment is a process and does not end with the repatriation of refugees. While the international emergency aid in response to such an emergency does have some positive effects on the host society, this hardly compensates for the negative consequences of such large concentrations of refugees.

From the moment of arrival, refugees compete with the local citizens for scarce resources such as land, water, housing, food and medical services. Over time, their presence leads to more substantial demands on natural resources, education and health facilities, energy, transportation, social services and employment. They may cause inflationary pressures on prices and depress wages. In some instances, they can significantly alter the flow of goods and services within the society as a whole and their presence may have implications for the host country's balance of payment and undermine structural adjustment initiatives. Increased construction activity results, but this is usually accompanied by increases in rent, benefiting those who are property owners, but adversely affecting the poor and those on fixed incomes, such as government officers. Increased demand for food and other commodities can lead to price rises in the market which will stimulate local economic activity, although, again, not benefiting the poorest.

The presence of a large refugee population in rural areas inevitably also means a strain on the local administration. Host country national and regional authorities divert considerable resources and manpower from the pressing demands of their own development to the urgent task of keeping refugees alive, alleviating their sufferings and ensuring the security of the whole community. While most host governments generally have demonstrated a willingness to bear many of these costs, they are understandably reluctant to pay, as a price for giving asylum, the cost of additional infrastructure that may be needed to accommodate refugees.

Host governments expect, at the very least, that the international community will help compensate for the costs incurred in providing asylum for the refugees. No government of a low income country is prepared to contract loans or reallocate its previous development funds to programmes designed for, or required because of, large numbers of refugees on their land.

The economic impact of refugees on host areas, however, is not necessarily negative. An economic stimulus may be generated by the presence of refugees and can lead to the opening and development of the host regions. This stimulus takes place, inter alia, through the local purchase of food, non-food items, shelter materials by agencies supplying relief items, disbursements made by aid workers, the assets brought by refugees themselves, as well as employment and income accrued to local population, directly or indirectly, through assistance projects for refugee areas. The presence of refugees also contributes to the creation of employment benefiting the local population, directly or indirectly. Moreover, relevant line departments involved in refugee work as counterparts to UNHCR, both at central and local levels, also benefit from UNHCR assistance aimed at strengthening their coping and management capacities. Such assistance may include equipment supply, capacity building and related training components.

The presence of refugees, as a focus of attention, can also attract development agencies to the host areas. While infrastructure is developed in the initial stage primarily to facilitate the work of host governments, UNHCR and its implementing partners in the refugee affected regions, it can also serve as a catalyst to ‘open up’ the host region to development efforts that would otherwise never reach these ‘marginal’ areas.

While it is recognised that there may be some “positive” aspects to the impact of a refugee influx on the economic life of a host country, the large-scale presence of refugees invariably constitutes a heavy burden for receiving countries, particularly LDCs.

2.2Background and history of the agenda:

Since about the middle of the last century, the region has experienced more frequent and severe conflicts than any other part of the world, exacting a devastating human toll. Yet, as conflicts intensify and spread, the region now faces unprecedented challenges. Violent, non-state groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have emerged as significant political and military actors, holding large areas of territory. And a refugee crisis bigger than any since World War II is affecting the MENA region, Europe, and beyond, straining economies and social systems. Given the significant political polarisation, economic inequality, and rapid population growth in the region, these conflicts are unlikely to dissipate anytime soon.

How can economic policies mitigate the economic costs of conflicts and large refugee flows?

Recent MENA experience suggests that effective policy focuses on protecting economic institutions, prioritising budget space to serve basic public needs, and using monetary and exchange rate policies to shore up confidence. But such policies are often difficult to implement, requiring unconventional measures. In Libya and Yemen, for example, central banks have gone to extraordinary lengths to support their economies. Once conflicts subside, successful rebuilding requires well-functioning institutions and robust yet flexible macroeconomic frameworks to absorb capital inflows and maintain debt sustainability. Countries hosting refugees must make difficult decisions about access to labor markets and social programs, as well as measures for their own nationals who often struggle with poverty and unemployment. To help prevent future violence, countries across the region should accelerate inclusive growth reforms aimed at reducing inequality.

2.3: General Arguments For

With the influx of hundreds of thousands of immigrants into the EU and the United States, the question of viability and practicality of the immigration crisis arises. Proper documentation, necessary health and sanitation, basic amenities, minimum wage jobs, adequate education, and several such factors must be taken into account when determining the viability of the situation, and thus the EU and United States must map out the benefits of the exodus in relation to the refugees and general welfare of their State.

While arguments around global complicity and moral obligation in the Middle East should and do inspire aid to refugees, they do not always persuade policymakers as much as pragmatic ones that refugees benefit the countries that welcome them.

Several analysts and economists in the United States believe that the US directly benefits from Syrian refugees entering the State. They argue that the refugees are mainly escaping Bashar al-Assad, the Islamic State, or both. Having experienced the extreme disruption of Syria's brutal civil war caused by the Assad regime's brutal crackdown on domestic uprisings and the subsequent exploitation of this disruption by ISIS, they are unlikely to entertain illusions about the merits of violence. Displaced Syrians, according to them, will appreciate the societies of people who have supported them in desperate times of need, and will hence work for the welfare of the nation they take shelter in. Apart from being supporters of the nation, analysts believe that the refugees would be extremely helpful in aiding the US officials in curbing Middle Eastern violence. Before its 2011 breakdown, Syria - with its religious and ethnic pluralism - was an unusual Middle Eastern society. Many Syrian refugees know what it is like to live with people of other religions and other ethnicities. This experience, coupled with Syrians' familiarity with the region and their ability to communicate in Arabic, would allow refugees so inclined to work collaboratively with officials and civilians on projects fostering tolerance and defusing conflict in the region. In short, Syrian refugees hold key assets and life stories that can indirectly and directly contribute to the long, but necessary, struggle to defuse violent religious conflict and repression in the Middle East.

Analysts in the EU also provide some compelling arguments for immigration, with regard to the social security and well being of its citizens. The idea that shutting out refugees will bolster Europe's security is a dangerous illusion. Closing the door to those fleeing violence will increase antagonism, alienation and anti-Western sentiment. Abandoning refugees to kick their heels in Middle Eastern camps will allow resentment to fester and increase the risk they fall prey to extremist recruiters. Ensuring their integration into European society, providing training and opportunities will reduce the danger of them turning to the dark side.

Several positive economic impacts are also observed. In 1960, nations now making up the European Union had an average birth-rate of 2.6. In 2014, the rate had dropped to 1.4 children per woman, well below the 2.1 needed to keep the population from decline. Europe's native population is shrinking fast. That means a declining workforce has to support more older people. The EU's old-age dependency ratio is projected to rise from 27.8% to 50.1% by 2060. Refugees arriving in Europe are mostly young, willing to do work natives shun and equipped with skills the job market needs.

2.4: General Arguments Against

While the massive exodus from the Middle Eastern countries into the EU and United States provides us with numerous economic and social benefits, we cannot ignore the costs and undesirable impacts it creates. In the EU and US, the voice of the people and populists are one of the great determining factors of political decisions. Populists across much of Europe and beyond have touted the spectre of refugees as terrorists, sex pests, disease carriers, threats to gay rights, Christian values, the welfare state and just about anything else that might win them votes. At a time when Europe's democracy is facing grave dangers, the refugee influx must be curbed to reduce the risk of a lurch to the far-right.

Apart from potential social havoc, demographics of Europe needs to be taken into consideration. The European Union registered 1.2 million first-time asylum seekers in 2015, and a further 954,000 over the first nine months of 2016. The social services, housing departments, health systems and schools can't cope with any more. The influx is concentrated in certain places, creating local tensions, and strains within communities. The absence of a workable re-distribution scheme within the EU, and the unwillingness of refugees to relocate, means some countries and regions are unfairly burdened – Germany and Sweden in particular.

Some critics of immigration argue that the presence of immigrants may distort the national identity of the native population. That means that the native population opposes immigration because they fear they may lose their sense of belonging to their own nation, as represented by distinctive traditions, culture, language and politics.

Social uprising from the citizens of EU and the US based on employment opportunities and equitable distribution of income can have a severe impact on the political and economic scenario of the nation. Immigrants (and cross-border movements in general) can bring infectious diseases uncommon to the native population from their home countries which some perceive as a threat of significance in opposition to immigration. Opponents of immigration often state that immigrants have a net negative effect on public coffers mainly due to the provisioning of medical care and welfare. Another compelling argument provided is that the root causes of the immigration, such as civil warfare in Syria and instability in Libya, are not solved by the mass exodus.

Another country sitting on the sidelines of the immigration crisis is China. Being one of the most populated economies in the world, they are against bringing in refugees. Chinese authorities argue that Western countries caused the meltdown in Syria that resulted in the mass exodus, making its resolution their responsibility. China does not stand alone in its reluctance to host refugees. Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and United Arab Emirates, as well as developed nations such as Japan, Singapore, and South Korea all give Syrian refuges the cold shoulder, while the United States resettles more refugees and asylum seekers than any other country in the world, it has resettled just under 3,000 Syrians since 2011.

2.5: Economic Impact

In the 21st century's ever changing economy, the economic impact of immigration must be considered as one of the pivotal changes brought about in our society. Issues of employment, income distribution, demographic viability, household stability, healthcare and education costs must be tackled in the refugee crisis. The following provides a detailed but simple analysis of the raw understanding of the potential economic scenario: When refugees first arrive, a host country pays to process applicants, as well as food, housing, health and education. In the short term, the extra spending increases the country's aggregate demand or fiscal expansion. That means more goods and services are produced, resulting in more disposable income for native workers. That makes up for downward pressures on wages and inflation when the asylum seekers finally enter the job market. The process can take up to two years depending on different rules of countries. When they can start looking for a job, newcomers tend to fall behind native workers. To narrow the gap – it is important to quickly increase employability. That means providing housing closer to work, and flexible labour markets, as well as providing language skills and education. Successful economic integration can help fiscal sustainability for the host country while potentially addressing demographic challenges.

The IMF has also provided a concise analysis of the economic impact that would be faced by Europe: In the short-run, additional public expenditure will provide a small positive impact on GDP, concentrated in the main destination countries of Germany, Sweden and Austria. Over the longer-term, depending on the speed and success of the integration of refugees in the labor market, the increase in the labor force can have a more lasting impact on growth and the public finances. Here good policies will make an important difference. These include lowering barriers to labor markets for refugees, for example through wage subsidies to employers, and, in particular, reducing legal barriers to labor market participation during asylum process, removing obstacles to entrepreneurship/self-employment, providing job training and job search assistance, as well as language skills. While native workers often have legitimate concerns about the impact of immigrants on wages and employment, past experience indicates that any adverse effects are limited and temporary. In the very short run, the IMF estimates that refugees will add around 0.19% of GDP to public expenditure in the European Union (0.35% in Germany) in 2016. This will add to public debt, and given higher joblessness among refugees, unemployment will rise.

The estimated short term economic boost from increased government spending is one of the positive impacts of the refugee crisis. The increase in the number of workers resulting from the influx of refugees seeking work could help to alleviate a long-term threat to economic growth in Europe.

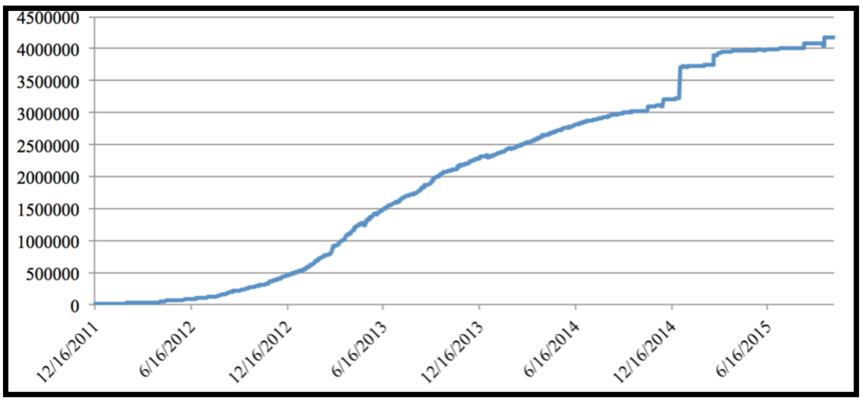


Figure: No. of registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries, 2011-2015

2.6: Areas of Direct Impact

SYRIA

(4.9 million refugees)

Almost 300,000 Syrians fled the country in 2016, according to UNHCR. That puts the total number of refugees from the nearly 6-year-long conflict to almost 4.9 million. Most settled in neighbouring countries, including Turkey (2.8 million), Lebanon (1.07 million), Jordan (655,000), and Iraq (231,000). The vast majority of Syrian refugees remain in the Middle East.

AFGHANISTAN

(2.7 million refugees)

About 2.7 million people from Afghanistan are living as refugees. Pakistan hosts about 1.6 million, including some second- or third-generation Afghan refugees who have never lived in their home country. Increased violence in 2015 and 2016 also led to a new surge of asylum seekers. Approximately 12 percent of the migrants and refugees arriving in Europe by sea this year are from Afghanistan.

NIGERIA, NIGER & CHAD

(2.2 million refugees)

Hunger and conflict took a heavy toll on children and families in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, and Chad near the Lake Chad water basin. The crisis has affected more than 9.2 million people, including 475,000 children with signs of malnutrition. About 2.6 million people have fled increasing violence, originating from northeast Nigeria, to live in camps or crowded host communities. The crisis is silently swelling as 2017 begins.

SOUTH SUDAN

(1.1 million refugees)

South Sudan sank back into violent turmoil in July 2016 after renewed fighting shattered a peace deal years in the making. This forced about 427,000 people from their homes between July 9 — South Sudan's fifth birthday — and the end of November. Now, more than 1.1 million people are refugees in neighbouring countries, half of whom fled to Uganda.

SOMALIA

(1 million refugees)

The total number of registered Somali refugees sits at about 1 million. As many as 87,000 returned home in 2016, but the humanitarian situation in the drought-hit country continues to worsen. Most refugees have settled in Kenya, Ethiopia, or Yemen. Some have lived in massive refugee camps for years. Within Somalia, about 1.1 million people are displaced because of insecurity.

IRAQ

(3.1 million refugees)

Affected by violence, turmoil, conflict and social problems, Iraqi immigrants are not new to migrating, since they have been doing so for the past 30 years. 3.1 million refugees were recorded trying to escape the land of turmoil.

ERITREA

(40,000 refugees)

Although this nation is not suffering from war, the absence of freedom of press, absence of internet connection, extreme jailing policies, and curbed freedom of expression makes citizens key victims of immigration.

2.7: Areas of Refuge

JORDAN

(2.7 million +)

Jordan was named as one of the top countries taking in refugees from its war torn neighbours, according to Amnesty International. The cost to Jordan has been more than $2.5 billion annually, according to an estimate by the World Bank.

TURKEY

(2.5 million +)

PAKISTAN

(1.6 million)

LEBANON

(1.5 million +)

\Lebanon, Syria's small coastal neighbour to the west, hosts the greatest number of Syrian refugees as a proportion to its native population, according to the UNHCR. For every 1000 residents of Lebanon, roughly 182 Syrian refugees were in the country by the end of 2015. Lebanon's economy has been stretched to a near breaking point by accommodating more than 1 million Syrian refugees.

IRAN

(979,400)

ETHIOPIA

(736,100)

KENYA

(553,900)

UGANDA

(477,200)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

(383,100)

GERMANY

(450,000)

Germany is one of the countries in Europe which hosts the most number of immigrants and refugees, especially immigrants from Syria.

2.8 Country's General Stance

EU

Europe is experiencing one of the most significant influxes of migrants and refugees in its history. Pushed by civil war and terror and pulled by the promise of a better life, huge numbers of people have fled the Middle East and Africa, risking their lives along the way. More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, compared with just 280,000 the year before. The scale of the crisis continues, with more than 135,000 people arriving in the first two months of 2016. The EU has been introducing export restrictions on inflatable boats and outboard motors being sold in Libya to try and stem the flow.

Italy

Italian leaders say they bear the brunt of the refugee burden and not enough is being done to help them. The Italian government is warning of unprecedented measures if other European countries fail to share its overwhelming burden.

UK

Britain has ploughed hundreds of millions of pounds into giving food, shelter and support to far more refugees in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

Germany

In January 2016, its leader Frauke Petry called for firearms to be used against migrants trying to enter Germany from Austria. In May it was declared that Islam is not compatible with the German constitution, and called for a ban on minarets and burkas. An estimated 300,000 refugees are in Germany, following's Angela Merkel's open-door policy. Protests both in support of refugees and against them have taken place in the country.

USA

The U.S. has resettled only 1,554 Syrian refugees since the start of the civil war in 2011, out of the more than 4 million who have fled. International organisations have been trying to persuade the federal government to take in more, but the White House has yet to make a formal commitment to doing so. On March 6, 2017, Trump signed an executive order banning visas for citizens from six countries. They are Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. They are "countries of concern" according to a 2016 law concerning immigration visas.

Saudi Arabia

500,000 Syrians are living in Saudi Arabia and benefitting from free healthcare and education via the country's work residency program. Elsewhere, the government has claimed that it has taken in 2.5 million Syrians since the beginning of the conflict. It should be noted, however, that that official population figures did not reflect the actual number of refugees entering the country. Many of the hundreds of thousands of migrants Saudi Arabia has deported in the last year and a half have been sent back to places where their safety is threatened.

Greece

Europe's main transit destination for refugees, Greece has seen hundreds of thousands of migrants pass through its border – though very few actually apply for asylum in the country, instead continuing onto other countries like Germany.

Turkey

A long land border with northern Syria, relative stability, and a gateway to Europe has made Turkey the biggest host of refugees from the Syrian conflict. Between two and three million displaced Syrians live within its borders, the majority living in camps.

Lebanon

Slightly smaller than Yorkshire, tiny Lebanon has hosted a million Syrian refugees, thanks to its proximity to Damascus and other built-up areas in the west of Syria.

Jordan

Syria's neighbour to its south west has around a million refugees, many living in the local community rather than organised refugee camps.

Iraq

Despite the conflict in Iraq, about a quarter of a million Syrians have fled there. Many, especially ethnic Kurds, have gone on to Iraqi Kurdistan, where local security forces have kept the conflict at bay.

Israel

Despite its proximity and high level of economic development, Israel has refused to take any Syrian refugees. Claiming that Israel will not shall not be submerged by a wave of illegal migrants and terrorist activists.

2.9 UN's Past Actions

Over the years the UNHCR under the UN has developed 10-Point Plan of Actions on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration to assist governments and others with incorporating protection considerations into migration policies.

The 10-point plan of Action informs the development of immigration and asylum systems and to improve their operational responses. It includes an extensive collection of recent operational practices, protection-sensitive tools and strategies to assist States and others in developing and implementing protection-sensitive responses that take into account the needs of refugees and migrants travelling within mixed flows as well as sovereignty considerations and the concerns of states.

2.10 Points Resolution should include:

The heavy price that host countries have to pay in providing asylum to refugees is now widely recognised. The rhetoric of international solidarity, however, is not always matched by support in addressing the negative impacts that large scale refugee movements have on these countries.
Tangible solutions regarding the crisis:

1. **Eliminate migrant exploitation, including human trafficking**

2. **Address the plight of stranded migrants**

The plight of migrants unable to return to their country of origin as a result of humanitarian crises in their country of des nation or transit has o en been overlooked.

3. **Improve public perceptions of migrants**

There is a need to combat discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants and their families by creating greater public awareness about the situations migrants experience and the contributions they make to countries of origin and destination.

4. **Integration of the refugees into a society.**

Allow them to participate in the social and economic life of the community on an equal footing with the surrounding population.

5. **Resettlement in third countries through repatriation to their country of origin or through settlement in the country of asylum.**

Cooperation and dialogue on migration involving the United Nations, IOM and regional economic communities should be strengthened. The Global Forum on Migration and Development and regional consultative processes can be a useful complement to those formal intergovernmental mechanisms.

Further Websites you can Visit-

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