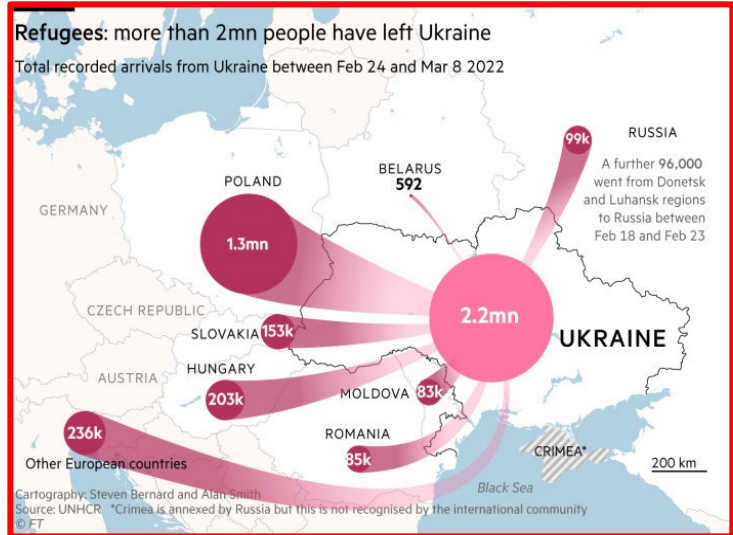


UN SDG #16 : Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions--#2: Sustainability and Displaced Populations

AJ#BC UNPRME NEWS FLASH



(Please bring this to the attention of your students, vis-à-vis social justice and sustainability, as promised in our JHBC-PRME commitment to responsible management education in 2012.)

In February 2022, the PRME platform asked the question: How does the U.N.’s Sustainability Development Goal: **“Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”** relate to Sustainability; and Why is it Important? Why must our future leaders in the JHBC recognize this crucial planetary consequence which is closely related to business strategy? Where is this population movement taking place?



The number of refugees world-wide has doubled since 2010 and is higher




now than it has ever been. That’s despite the impact of the pandemic, which reduced the anticipated

number of displaced people by around 1.5 million. [Source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi Global Trends Forced Displacement, 2020] [Picture Above: dlogin.bluu.com]



This document shows how **WAR DISPLACES SUSTAINABILITY**—which is the intent of the 2015 UN Paris Accords Signed by 193 nations, and also a focus of JHBC’s PRME Platform.



U.N. 2021

THE PROPORTION OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION WHO ARE REFUGEES HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED SINCE 2010

The UN’s High Commissioner for Refugees website makes a distinction between refugees, who cross international borders seeking protection, as Internally Displaced Persons, or IDPs, “*who have fled their homes and communities, but have not left their own countries*” Under U.S. law, a refugee is “*A person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of a well-founded fear of persecution’ due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin.*”



DISPLACEMENT IN UKRAINE:

Since Russia’s Feb. 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine, more than 10 million of the nation’s 41 million people have been driven from their homes. A third of the displaced have left the country, producing the fastest moving refugee crisis since World War II



Sources: www.timesfreepress.com; Russia.insider.com; Aljazeera.com; news.com.au; ceobs.org; www.dailymail.co.uk;

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL IMPACTS ON DISPLACED PEOPLE



HUMAN SUFFERING: There are multidimensional impacts of forced displacement—e.g., loss of identity, grief, stress, **physical and mental illnesses**, powerlessness, belongingness, and mortality. In addition, pollution brings with it an increased risk of respiratory infections., such as asthma and acute bronchitis, especially by elderly Ukrainians. It should be mentioned that only 1/3 of Ukraine’s population is fully immunized against COVID-19, and the packed conditions and crush of bodies during travel is an expected risk. Over the long term, scientists believe that exposure to air pollution results in a shorter life expectancy. There are a variety of long-term health impacts, such as cancers of different kinds. For example, symptoms of lung cancer include an increase in PM2.5 and neurologic problems. Almost every organ is impacted by exposure to even PM 2.5. [Picture above: ctnews.ca]



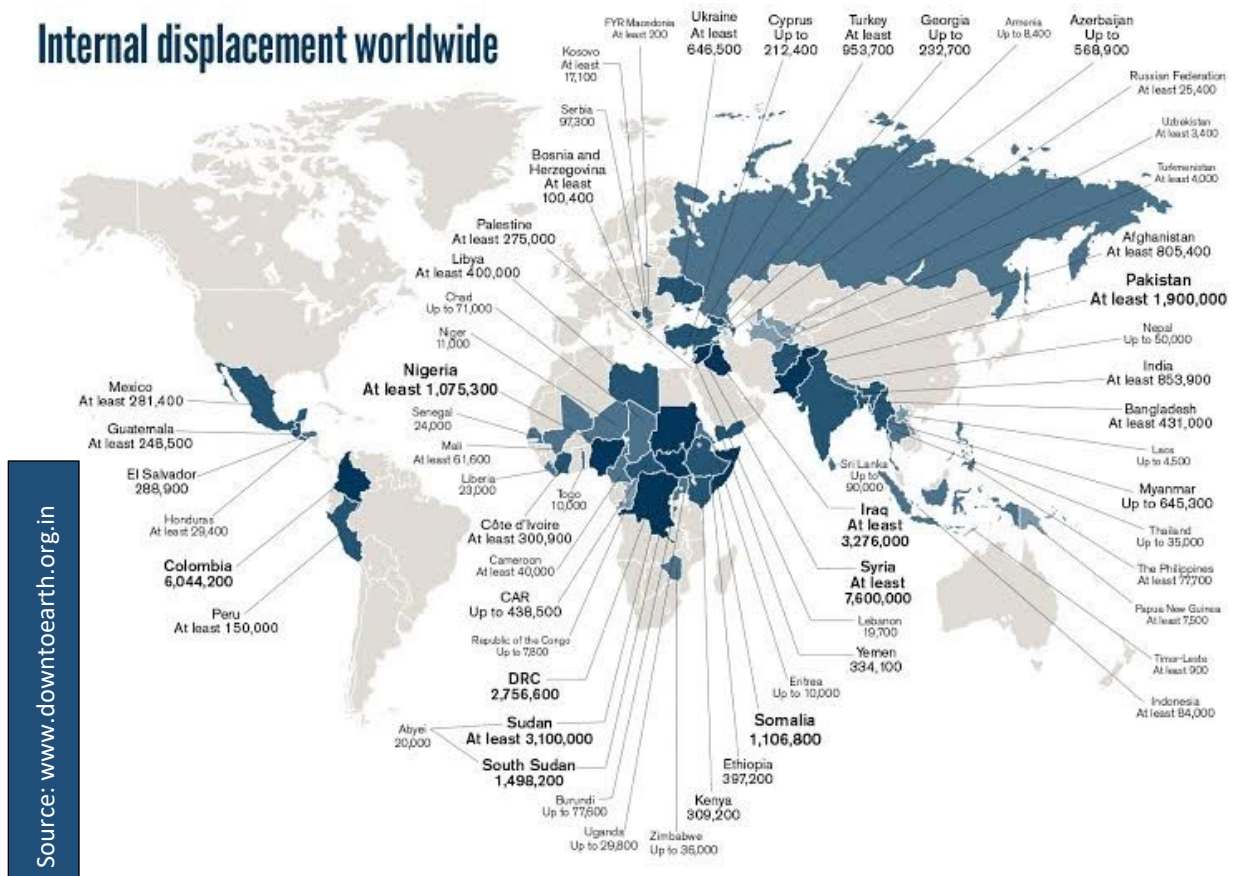
ECONOMIC TRAVAILS: Displaced people have **lost assets**, such land, homes, businesses, and jobs when they are forced to flee their homeland. Inability to make-up for disrupted education will also have an economic toll on the refugees. Some companies like staffing firms Randstad and Adecco, are among nearly 50 employers who have set up facilities in the refugee areas. Nevertheless, many displaced persons might find it difficult to find suitable employment. The mental toll on displaced persons due to the **uncertainty of making a living**, adds to the distress.



ECOLOGICAL HARMS: Day-by-day, the war in Ukraine piles up **environmental disasters**, which in turn hurts the displaced-population-at-move. The health and environmental consequences are far-reaching—such as destruction of land. The existing ecological deterioration in Eastern Ukraine, in the industrialized Donbas area, toxic waste from chemical manufacturing and coal mining was exacerbated. The war has damaged Ukraine’s water infrastructure. Untreated sewage is flowing into the Donetsk River. Abandoned mines have contaminated the groundwater with lead, arsenic, mercury and other heavy metals. Years ago, it was noted that *“Donbas is on the precipice of an ecological catastrophe fueled by air, soil and water pollution from the combustion of large amounts of ammunition in the fighting and flooding at industrial plants,”*[L.Urekenova, U.N. Environment Programme, 2018]. As the war spirals upwards, so does the toll on the land, water and air in Ukraine and throughout the region.[Picture: indepednetco.com]



Internal displacement worldwide



THE UNITED NATIONS SDG #16



In the call for **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** (SDG #16) the UN has cautioned that: “We cannot hope for sustainable development without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law. Yet our world is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is not inevitable and must be addressed.

Armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country’s development, affecting economic growth, and often resulting in grievances that last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict, or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk



The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity. Promoting the rule of law and human rights are key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.”

GOVERNMENTS, CORPORATIONS, ACADEMIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY:

As with the rest of the 2030 Agenda, while **governments** have a leading role to play, the achievement of SDG 16 depends on a **whole-of-society** approach. Civil society organizations are involved in multiple ways, as implementers and as advocates for underrepresented parts of the population such as women, youth and marginalized groups. For its part, the **private sector** can also make an important contribution to efforts towards peacebuilding , inclusion, advancing the rule of law and eliminating corruption as fundamental to creating an environment conducive to development where business can thrive. Local governments, parliamentarians and the **academia** are other critical stakeholders in the implementation of SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda as a whole.



[Picture Below: www.almay.com]

