

Humanitarian Aid and Migration

İnsani Yardım ve Göç

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Abstract

As a demand of globalized world, people frequently change their locations for various reasons. These situations can be categorized according to positive and negative factors. Positive factors include education, personal development, discovering new places, and so on, while negative factors include natural disasters, wars, hunger, and others. At any given time, during migration, people may need assistance. For this purpose, many international organizations, non-governmental organizations, unions, and others unite around a common goal is: Protecting human life and health. The protection of human life and health brings with it both material and spiritual needs. Material needs include food, clothing, housing, transportation, medical supplies, and so on. In addition, addressing spiritual needs involves dealing with issues such as stress, fear, post-crisis adaptation, and others. The main goal is to ensure that individuals who have emerged from a crisis are not only protected in terms of life and health but are also integrated back into normal society. The research relies on surveys and reports conducted by international organizations. These reports and surveys must be structured in a way that accurately reflects reality and utilize tools that produce precise and expected outcomes. The obtained results will ultimately ensure the decision-making process is carried out appropriately. Several guidelines exist for humanitarian aid, including those from the United Nations. Humanitarian aid is a right for everyone, and there is no distinction based on gender, language, religion, or nationality when it comes to assistance. The main objective is to expand awareness and cooperation in the field of humanitarian aid and solidarity.

Keywords: Awareness, Solidarity, Humanitarian Aid

Özet

Küreselleşen dünyanın bir gereği olarak, insanlar çeşitli nedenlerle sık sık yer değiştirmektedir. Bu durumlar, olumlu ve olumsuz faktörler çerçevesinde kategorize edilebilir. Olumlu faktörler arasında eğitim, kişisel gelişim, yeni yerler keşfetme gibi unsurlar yer alırken; olumsuz faktörler arasında doğal afetler, savaşlar, açlık ve benzeri durumlar bulunmaktadır. Göç sürecinde bireyler her an yardıma ihtiyaç duyabilir. Bu doğrultuda birçok uluslararası kuruluş, sivil toplum örgütü, sendika ve diğer yapılar, ortak bir amaç etrafında birleşmektedir: İnsan hayatını ve sağlığını korumak. İnsan hayatının ve sağlığının korunması hem maddi hem de manevi ihtiyaçları beraberinde getirmektedir. Maddi ihtiyaçlar arasında gıda, giyim, barınma, ulaşım, tıbbi malzemeler

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gibi unsurlar yer alırken; manevi ihtiyaçlar ise stres, korku, kriz sonrası adaptasyon gibi konularla ilgilenmeyi gerektirir. Temel amaç, krizden çıkmış bireylerin yalnızca hayatta kalmasını sağlamak değil, aynı zamanda onları topluma yeniden entegre etmektir. Bu araştırma, uluslararası kuruluşlar tarafından gerçekleştirilen anketlere ve raporlara dayanmaktadır. Söz konusu raporların ve anketlerin, gerçekliği doğru bir şekilde yansıtacak biçimde yapılandırılması ve beklenen hassas sonuçları üretecek araçlar kullanılarak hazırlanması gerekmektedir. Elde edilen veriler, karar alma süreçlerinin en uygun şekilde yürütülmesini sağlayacaktır. Birleşmiş Milletler de dâhil olmak üzere çeşitli kuruluşlar tarafından belirlenen insani yardım yönergeleri bulunmaktadır. İnsani yardım, herkes için bir hak olup; cinsiyet, dil, din veya milliyet gözetmeksizin sağlanmalıdır. Esas amaç, insani yardım ve dayanışma alanında farkındalığı artırmak ve iş birliğini genişletmektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Farkındalık, Dayanışma, İnsani Yardım

1. Introduction

1.1. Understanding Migration and Humanitarian Aid: Definitions and Challenges

According to international law, migration means the temporary or permanent movement of a person within the country of residence or across an international border for objective or subjective reasons. There are various types of migrants: migrants acting within the framework of relevant legislation or migrants changing their smuggling route; Also, students who go to different countries for education purposes, etc. is included in this category. As we mentioned before, migration can occur for various reasons. These reasons include conflicts, natural disasters, low living standards, etc. is located. Regarding the International Organization for Migration (IOM), there were approximately 281 million international migrations events in 2020. This corresponds to an average of 3.6 percent of the world's population (IOM, n.d.).

These circumstances force individuals to leave their countries and migrate to safer locations. At times, migration becomes essential for survival. When migration arises from negative factors, an urgent need for humanitarian aid emerges to address the essential needs of life and health.

In this study, we analyse the migration processes caused by climate change. Our primary objective is to assess the risks associated with natural disasters resulting from climate change and the subsequent large-scale need for humanitarian aid, as well as to identify preventive measures.

1.2. Defining Humanitarian Aid

While the term 'humanitarian' is seldom mentioned in the 1949 Geneva Conventions, its principles were clearly defined in the 1977 Additional Protocols. Humanitarian aid is mainly about moral values, recognizing individuals simply as human beings regardless of language, religion, gender, or race, ensuring their survival and dignity (International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], 2016).

Today, humanity faces numerous threats, including wars, natural disasters, diseases, and famine, which jeopardize lives globally. These threats pose risks not only to others but to all of us, emphasizing the need for collective preparation and response.

Humanitarian aid refers to assistance in the form of food, clothing, or medicine—unlike weapons, ammunition, or other supplies that can cause harm or death. According to international conventions, humanitarian aid encompasses:

- Provision of food, clothing, and shelter,
- Medical assistance,
- Protection against unlawful detention and unfair judicial procedures,
- Visits, unsupervised meetings, and moral support,
- Facilitation of family connections and locating missing persons,
- Repatriation and family reunification,
- Addressing cultural needs, such as access to education and learning materials (Melzer, 2016).

Migration may vary depending on the type, reason and scale of aid. Humanitarian aid, as a rule, refers to urgent and immediate short-term interventions; In this case, the main goal is to ensure the physical and psychological health of the affected people.

1.3. Relation and Challenges in Delivering Humanitarian Aid

Despite significant efforts by many nations and international organizations, the provision of humanitarian aid faces obstacles such as rapidly evolving geopolitical landscapes, natural disasters, and dwindling resources. For example, is the COVID-19 pandemic, brought social isolation globally. Despite preventive measures, economic activity slowed, negatively impacting development. Even four years later, the effects of the pandemic persist, harming both health and living standards. In 2023, migration to OECD countries reached record levels for the second consecutive year, with 6.5 million permanent migrants arriving, along with a significant rise in temporary migrants and asylum seekers (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2024). The primary challenge lies in ensuring the proper allocation of resources for humanitarian aid and addressing urgent needs effectively. Sustainability and awareness in this field are essential. Beyond meeting immediate needs, humanitarian aid should contribute to the overall development of humanity.

The paper has several parts. First, we briefly summarize the history and the meaning of “humanitarian aid” and “migration”, and next, we describe the needs and our collaboration approach. We then present the results of Surveys and analyses. Based on the obtained data, the results of scientific research conducted by international organizations and research centres highlight the challenges faced in the fields of humanitarian aid and migration, with proposed solutions to these issues.

2. Methodology

Research in the field of migration and humanitarian aid uses different methodologies to understand the nature, causes, consequences and solutions of this problem. These methodologies can be broadly divided into:

- Qualitative,

- Quantitative,
- Mixed methods approach,
- It has been used different tools for achievement of expected results.

Research has been conducted based on data from international organizations, with analyses carried out to guide decision-making processes. The data from international survey companies, such as Standard & Poor's, Gallup, and the World Bank, have been utilized. Surveys were conducted to assess people's financial literacy in collaboration with these institutions.

The surveys are based on the types of financial concepts for example risk diversification, inflation, numeracy, and compound interest. These studies involved interviews with 150,000 individuals across 148 countries. The interviews were proceeded face-to-face or via telephone, and respondents were selected randomly using the Kish grid method. A Kish Grid is specifically designed to prevent selection bias, which can occur when proper procedures are not followed during participant selection.

While preparing the research materials, a statistical study on migration and humanitarian aid was analysed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other relevant institutions. Additionally, local and international programs, such as the European Trust Fund and the World Food Program (WFP), were carried out

2.1. Challenges in Humanitarian Aid Delivery

Despite the collaboration of multiple funds and international organizations, the magnitude of crises—such as natural disasters, wars, conflicts, hunger, and diseases—often surpasses the resources available. Consequently, international governmental and non-governmental organizations must base their actions on concrete data and surveys to identify gaps and ensure the equitable allocation of aid. These efforts can include training and awareness programs to enhance the efficiency of humanitarian assistance and the adoption of best practices.

Given the finite nature of humanitarian resources, there is uncertainty about whether aid will suffice in future crises. Therefore, it is crucial to teach individuals ways to rebuild their economic activities and recover from social and psychological distress.

2.2. Insights from a Global Financial Literacy Survey

The S&P Global FinLit Survey is one of the most extensive international studies on financial literacy. Conducted in 2014 in collaboration with Standard & Poor's, Gallup, and the World Bank, it surveyed 150,000 individuals from 148 countries. The primary aim was to assess global financial literacy levels and highlight differences based on countries, gender, and economic development.

The findings revealed that only 33% of the global population is financially literate, with literacy rates at 35% for men and 30% for women (Global Financial Literacy Excellence Centre [GFLEC], n.d.).

2.3. COP29 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Baku

COP29 highlighted the intricate link between climate change and migration. Climate change exacerbates migration through extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and long-term environmental degradation, forcing people to leave their homes. Vulnerable populations in affected regions face displacement and seek safety and better livelihoods elsewhere. To address this, COP29 emphasized financial mechanisms like the Loss and Damage Fund, adaptation programs, and resilience-building in climate-vulnerable areas. Strengthened collaboration between humanitarian and climate-focused initiatives is crucial to managing migration driven by environmental crises.

The 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) held in Baku took a historic decision to fully operationalize the Loss and Damage Fund. This fund, first agreed upon at COP27 in Egypt, aims to provide financial support to countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Key Decisions of COP29 are following:

2.4. New Climate Finance Target

A new financial target of \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 was set, replacing the previous \$100 billion annual target expiring in 2025. This financial support will support vulnerable countries in adapting to climate change and mitigating some of its impacts. However, many developing nations consider this amount insufficient and demand greater financial commitments.

2.5. Carbon Markets and Transparency

Carbon Markets and Transparency - The existing rules for global carbon markets have been finalized in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, allowing countries to trade carbon credits. The Enhanced Transparency Framework was strengthened to ensure environmental integrity, with technical support provided to improve climate reporting by countries.

Adaptation and Resilience - Support was extended for National Adaptation Plans in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), with increased financial allocations for initiatives like REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).

Youth and Local Actions - The summit emphasized the role of youth and local actors in combating climate change. Financial support for grassroots and national actors was enhanced to encourage sustainable solutions.

Urgent and Ambitious Actions - COP29 underscored the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening early warning systems. With 2024 projected to be the warmest year on record, the use of scientific data for strategic decision-making was highlighted. COP30 is scheduled to take place in Brazil, with significant decisions anticipated (United Nations Climate Change, 2024).

Challenge 1: The Finite Nature of Humanitarian Aid and Inefficient Allocation Proposed Solutions:

Utilization of Data - International organizations such as UNHCR and WFP often rely on real-time data for decision-making during humanitarian crises. However, incomplete or inaccurate data hinders the effective utilization of resources. To address this, existing mechanisms for data collection and monitoring should be reviewed and improved to ensure the availability of reliable information.

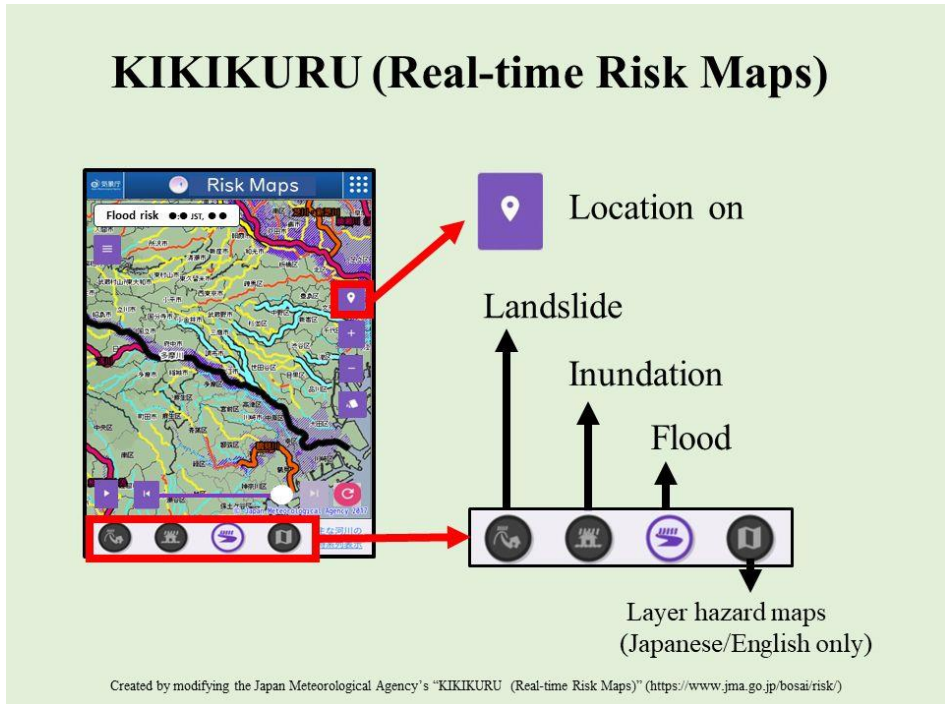
For example: A practical example could be the response to the 2010 Haiti earthquake, where the lack of real-time data hindered effective resource allocation (Piotrowski, 2010). However, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the World Food Programme utilized platforms like HungerMap LIVE, which allowed for accurate data collection and real-time analysis. This tool enabled prioritization of needs and efficient aid distribution. These examples illustrate the importance of leveraging accurate data and systematic prioritization to address the challenges in humanitarian crises effectively (World Food Programme [WFP], n.d.).

Setting Priorities - To ensure proper allocation of aid, periodic surveys and needs assessments can be conducted, alongside situational analyses and risk evaluations. For instance, tools like the Early Warnings for All Dashboard can contribute to the equitable distribution of resources on a global scale.

As an example, The Early Warnings for All Initiative is a global program launched by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Its mission is to ensure that every person on the planet is protected by life-saving early warning systems for weather, water, and climate hazards by 2027 (World Meteorological Organization [WMO], 2022). (Early warnings for all: The UN Global Early Warning Initiative for the implementation of climate adaptation executive action plan 2023–2027. Geneva, Switzerland)).

As a best practice KIKIKURU: Japan's Early Warning System for Climate Disasters

Developed by the Japan Meteorological Agency, KIKIKURU is an innovative real-time mapping system that displays the risk levels of rainfall-related disasters using a "hazard level distribution" approach. This system color-codes the risks of natural disasters such as floods, inundations, and landslides into five stages, enabling people to make timely and voluntary evacuation decisions. This innovative approach marks a significant step in addressing climate resilience on a global scale (Japan Meteorological Agency [JMA], n.d.).



Challenge 2: Long-Term Dependency on Humanitarian Aid - Humanitarian aid is typically designed for emergencies and not for addressing long-term challenges, potentially fostering dependency among recipients.

Long-term programs in the field of humanitarian aid are critical in addressing both immediate needs and the root causes of crises, helping affected communities to rebuild and become more resilient to future challenges. Several programs around the world have been especially effective in providing sustainable solutions:

Proposed Solutions:

Long-Term Development Programs - Alongside immediate relief, humanitarian assistance should also focus on programs that promote economic and social stability.

Here are some global programs that focus on addressing long-term challenges in humanitarian aid, moving beyond emergency relief to build resilience and foster sustainable development:

a. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - The SDGs, launched by the United Nations in 2015, aim to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. The SDGs include goals like "No Poverty," "Zero Hunger," and "Decent Work and Economic Growth" that focus on building long-term resilience within communities, addressing root causes of poverty, and ensuring social and economic stability (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA], n.d.).

Coordination Between Local Communities and Government Structures During Crises: Ensuring continuity of operations in crisis situations, strategic plans should be

developed that encourage individuals to collaborate effectively with state structures. These plans should include risk-based assessments and address real threats through coordinated response measures. As an example, we can present

b. The Philippines' Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act

The Philippines has implemented one of the most comprehensive disaster management frameworks globally, focusing on local government units (LGUs) and community involvement. The DRRM Act mandates local government involvement in disaster planning, risk assessments, and coordination with national agencies (Republic of the Philippines Congress, 2010).

Challenge 3: Limited Literature on Efficient Management of Aid Expenditures and Weak Networking Among Regional Organizations

Proposed Solutions:

Scientific and Technical Research - Conduct studies on the management of humanitarian aid to establish best practices.

Strengthening Networking - Organize periodic joint events to expand regional and global networks, fostering collaboration among organizations.

Sharing Best Practices - Encourage the exchange of successful approaches, expert recommendations, and feedback to enhance communication and coordination in addressing crises effectively.

As an example, we can present the Global Forum on Humanitarian Action or different joint Events and Networks in the Humanitarian Sector.

We need to reduce risk as much as possible and act BEFORE some disaster strikes. Early action is more likely to ensure that humanitarian aid is delivered to the right place to prevent disasters. This can be done by using weather forecasts, satellite imagery, climate models and social vulnerability data. Achieving this, local, regional, and international organizations must coordinate their efforts, conduct scientific and technical research in this field, and evaluate potential risks. Most importantly, early warning initiatives can help mitigate the impact of crises and enable more effective responses with minimal damage.

Considering the finite nature of resources, it is critical to emphasize the importance of their equitable allocation and efficient management. Proper stewardship of these limited resources will play a pivotal role in ensuring the survival and well-being of humanity.

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