

The Refugee Crisis of South Sudan

Imagine lying in a hot tent trying to get some sleep but you can't because your younger brother is having nightmares about your father. And your stomach is rumbling because you didn't eat dinner; This is life for a lot of refugees in South Sudan. South Sudan lies in Northeastern Africa and is a very hot country but has long rainy seasons. At the heart of South Sudan there is a big swampy region called Al-Sudd (The Sudd). South Sudan has several protected nature areas, including game reserves and national parks. Most of South Sudan's are people who follow traditional African religions, but 18% of people are Christian and some are Muslim. Most people are farmers and live in the countryside of South Sudan. Many people have controlled the region at various times. For example, Great Britain and Egypt ruled Sudan from 1874 to 1956! And in 1956 Sudan became independent. South Sudan actually used to be part of a larger region known as Sudan but in 2011 South Sudan became their own country. South Sudan also has a lot of wildlife including, lions, cheetahs, crocodiles, leopards, zebras, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, and chimpanzees.

Like I said in South Sudan there is a big refugee crisis and I'll tell you more about it. It all started on December 21, 2013, when the president accused the vice president of trying to overthrow him. This violent conflict spread quickly and in just the first month, 413,000 civilians were displaced. 2.2 million people have fled to neighboring countries and 60% are children! Now 72% of the children are not in school- that's the highest proportion in the world! 6 million South Sudanese are in need of food and other displaced families have been unable to farm or feed livestock. Peace agreements have been violated repeatedly and many more violent outbreaks continue. Another threat is a disease called Cholera which is where families lack access to clean water and sanitation. It killed 4,000 and sickened 21,000 in the last outbreak. I got all this information from worldvision.org and Mercy Crops.

This major refugee crisis has a big impact on the refugees and on the host countries people are fleeing to. For example, when refugees run away to different and new countries it's very hard to start over and adjust to the new culture. Also, many people are very poor so it's hard to raise a family and have food. Some people just go to refugee camps which are very limited in supplies and resources. Therefore, when tons of people are fleeing to neighboring countries, those countries may get overwhelmed and very crowded. When countries get too overcrowded, they don't have enough resources for them and might even stop accepting them! On the other hand, refugee camps already are limited in supplies but then when more people come, people get even less food and may starve. This is very important for people to know about this problem because people just need to acknowledge this and try to help these people.

There are so many problems for these refugees including physical health and education. Physical health is a problem for many reasons like, children don't have any physical activity. For example, Newsela says that there are sports camps for refugee children which helps them socialize and make new friends! And at the same time, gives them exercise, which kids at refugee camps don't normally get because the camps are usually very hot and humid. In addition, according to World Vision there are plenty of ways to help support education for refugee kids. For example, there are some small schools in refugee camps, but they have very limited supplies so you can help by donating supplies to refugee camps.

I have learned a lot about refugees, and I have also learned that they have many struggles. Because when a guest speaker came to visit that worked with refugees, she said that refugees at camps don't have much food she also said that few refugees get to go back home or get reunited with their families! Another struggle is for woman. Woman can be forced to get married to someone that they don't even want to marry! Some people don't go to refugee camps, and just run away to safer places. The people that flee don't normally have money so they can't buy a

house or food. So, people try to find jobs, but it is very hard to find a welcoming place for refugees. If refugees were to come to my own country, I would try to help them by giving them jobs so they could buy houses and food. I would also make campaigns for people to donate food and clothes to refugees. Another thing I would do to help is make shelters for them even though some people would have jobs, houses are very expensive. I think these things would help refugees that are fleeing to different countries.

Resources

Britannica School: school.eb.com

Worldvision.orgon

Class Interview with GK – immigration lawyer

NewsELA: “The Plight of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and IDPs Around the Globe”

NewsELA: “Soccer U.S soil Brings refugees together

