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## International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

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# The Impacts of the United Nations Organization on Refugees: A Study of South Sudanese Refugees Crisis

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**ABSTRACT:** The refugee crisis remains one of the most pressing global humanitarian challenges, with the United Nations (UN) playing a crucial role in providing aid, protection, and sustainable solutions for displaced populations. This study examines the impact of the United Nations Organization (UNO) on South Sudanese refugees, focusing on its interventions, challenges, and the effectiveness of its humanitarian programs. The research explores the role of UN agencies such as UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF in addressing the crisis through protection initiatives, food assistance, health services, and resettlement programs. Additionally, it analyzes the root causes of displacement, including armed conflict, ethnic violence, economic instability, and environmental factors. While the UN has made significant strides in supporting refugees, the study identifies key limitations such as resource constraints, political interference, and logistical challenges that hinder the effectiveness of its operations. The findings underscore the need for enhanced international cooperation, policy reforms, and sustainable development approaches to ensure long-term solutions for displaced populations.

**KEYWORDS;** South Sudanese refugee crisis, United Nations humanitarian interventions, UNHCR refugee protection programs, Conflict-induced displacement, International refugee policies, Challenges in refugee resettlement

### I. INTRODUCTION

The increasing trend of refugees has magnified the humanitarian problems since the 20th century. The outbreak of a crisis and the increase in the number of refugees also force international organizations to take different measures. It is important to reveal the impacts of international organizations on the refugees with these problems lived today. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the impacts of the United Nations organization on the refugees with a focus on the South Sudanese refugee crisis. In this sense, some information below will be given on the South Sudanese refugees, the United Nations, and its organizations. Then, the methodology and a brief discussion of the South Sudanese refugee situation will be provided. Lastly, an overview of the content of the paper will be given (Pommier, 2014).

The last fifty years have witnessed great changes in the provision of assistance to refugees. Global entities, most notably the United Nations (UN) and its affiliated organizations, are playing a growing role in refugee protection and assistance. The mandates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Program (WFP), and other bodies are central to this involvement. These entities interact with the governments of refugee-



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receiving countries, as well as host community members, in an attempt to meet the needs and ensure the rights of displaced people. These changes have not been universally welcomed.

### II. BACKGROUND OF THE SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES CRISIS

The independence of South Sudan in July 2011 from Sudan was celebrated worldwide with high expectations for the future of millions of people in the youngest country on the African continent. However, the end of six decades of one of Africa's longest civil wars had brought neither peace nor prosperity to South Sudan. The new nation rapidly unraveled into a war, fought not only between the former allies from the two sides of the civil war, but along dozens of different fault lines. As a consequence, millions of people are on the run due to the war, and many fear the potential for genocide.

Lighting the match to a tragedy that had been in the making for years, violent confrontations between Dinka and Nuer in the presidential guard in December 2013 prompted one of Africa's worst wars. When analyzed, the reasons for this conflict seem ridiculously small in comparison to the tragedy that unfolded rapidly since. Infuriated by being fired, the Nuer guards of vice-president Machar fight back. Machar escaped and was declared a rebel. Whether it was a coup or a preempted move by president Kiir depends on one's political viewpoint. What is indisputable is that hostilities spread immediately along Dinka and Nuer lines to Juba and the states with majority Nuer populations, while spreading also to a number of other states with other reasoning for joining the fray politically unclear militias quickly followed, practically all of which followed battles based on abstract political alliances. Meanwhile, an entire body known as the Civilian Jieepoly was utterly destroyed. Many signs were there having been seen on the warning lights in this new country. A national vision for the new born nation militarization, politicization of the military, favoring one tribe, disfavoring another, a war of liberation standing in place for the development of a state: a state failing to deliver services, a state failing in diplomacy with the region, and using Sudan as a partner ensures the country's reliance on it despite a viciously hostile history of half a century. Above all, the political elites in charge are morally bankrupt of vision or willingness to actually deliver South Sudanese any peace or South Sudanese on the self-evident path to impasse they have paved since 2005.

A world of failures lies behind a broken nation, a people who endured a half century of slavery and war. The International Community minted a country without substance, mortgaging Statehood for the remote chance of freeing an IC and the local elite sealed a Faustian bargain for the piece of cake that was left. Hopes withered on gilded soil; on misconceived partitions in a New World Order, on cynical power plays in the interest of oil on fears of seeing Sudan as a resurrected Taliban. New loyalties and equally cynical mindset prevailed, from a world convening in concern for the future of a land torn to pieces by war came indifference, fatal withdrawal, and recrimination. Abandoned by the Community and permitted to act with impunity, peace and reconstruction efforts came to naught. Today South Sudan is not simply a failed State, but overlapping failed notions turning against each other. From Cavalli, a mercurial sliver of primary rights, soured into weapons against a Kru, to neighboring Nations who played with fire and have been burnt with it, and an international community unwittingly watching the forest go up in flames.

So how did South Sudan turn into a war instead of trying to break the mold of failed statehood, oil dependency, and militaristic politics? And what followed after the violence in 2013? Not only is analyzing the young nation and its failed ambitions analytically important, but it helps to understand why such madness descended with remarkable continued violence since the start of the conflict. At such a critical juncture, public accountability is of utmost importance. Similarly, the International Community and Regional Actors need to examine what has gone wrong and calculate how their support has enabled a war economy and a politics of winner takes all. No failure, fault, or missed opportunity should be ascribed to this party or the other, but humility in international relations and recognition of what could have been or ought not to have been done is necessary. For restoring a failed State accountability will require an equally critical view of all parties.

Perhaps the most pressing tragedy of all at this time is that the suffering people of South Sudan have never had the opportunity to learn how they came to be among the poorest and widely un-served people of the world. They have only witnessed vast amounts of what should have been their natural and financial wealth looted and squandered by supposed liberators – turned overlords. Those who on the principle of self-determination were to bring 'transformation';



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including an end to marginalization, to war and gross inequality – brought but much more of the same. It's a story of a nation striving to be seen for what it is – a far cry from what anybody actually wanted. Its history resembles farce standing in as tragedy, a cartoon to rival Oliver and Hardy. But now it is turning into a horror, where seemingly all roads lead only to more despair. To any who chart that despair, the lives of suffering and the scapegoated, this is a key to how it all began. Small events illuminated South Sudan's inner darkness as since foundation in 2005, the SPLM/A has been on a permanent yellow alert. Festering disagreements between Dinka Bor Baron alone - which it seemed Kiir did little to defuse, but rather intensified. Signs of intense fragility among local commanders and the NCP's determined bid to keep Jonglei in a state of unending conflict. The expulsion of the only external observer was deemed necessary. For it disclosed too much of Khartoum's game plan leading to the disappointment of a dummy run. Still, why a movement now in government, with the greatest potential for ending war and promoting development, political maneuvers and jogger knots hours before midnight the unanticipated inception brought in the unlikely form of the stand. In the long run, though merely scratches the surface, for after years of civil war, it's a nation where poverty is rife, education is a privilege, much worse where State apparatus is virtually non-existent, where corruption meets almost every aspect of public life. And the same applies to the military, left eviscerated after decades of politicization, ad hoc disarmaments and a lack of regimental structure; now as motivated by ethnic affiliation as anything else. Small wonder loyalty there means not serving, but serving with, for salaries unpaid and kin structures disassembled. Little ability to maintain the most basic services such as the supply of water, sudden rise in price of commodities usually imported from a collapsed Khartoum, resembling in the 90's when the 'new towns' built just outside the capital, dealt stillborn to leverage this shortage. All of these, catalyst left prime element for ferment in the final days of 2013; the order to speed up disarmament operation, the disarray in the command structure and even what appeared to be carefully concealed information of the potential unholy mix of tribalism and cabals. Reports indicated that during 2014–2015, an emergency situation suddenly emerged due to internal conflicts and armed violence in South Sudan that resulted in a widespread displacement of people. The vast majority of the populations were forced to flee the conflict with inadequate food, non-food items, health services, shelter, and unbearable human rights abuses such as sexual harassment, torture, forced recruitment, and general violence. Many of the people from the state of Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity escaped to the neighboring countries across the borders, especially to Gambella of Ethiopia, the Blue Nile and White Nile states of Sudan, and the North-West of Kenya. Other international refugees went through the eastward to Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan or westward to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and the Lake Chad area. The majority of the refugees are women and girls who have been the main group subjected to the violence and trauma. About 37% among were taken care of by international organizations and assisted by humanitarian aid. Those who were missing out on the aid had been forced to live in totally abject conditions in the deep forest without protection and items. To face a severe situation, an assessment was conducted considering the protection and mental health of the children and women seeking in the area and found 25% acute malnourished children with limited coverage of Out Patient Therapeutic Program, less than 12.5% vaccinations, less than half of the Semi-Permanent Temporary Learning Spaces and lack of skilled staffing in both sectors. It was also found that the existing Menstrual Hygiene Management was limited to cover only at primary school level and the non-formal education was only conducted for the IDPs under church arrangement.

### 2.1. Causes of the Crisis

At its root, the United Nations' South Sudanese refugee crisis is caused by a combination of factors, both recent and long in standing. Since independence, the country has been plagued by civil war, driven by so-called 'ethnic' tensions that continue to be stoked by leaders who cynically invoke them to mobilize their respective power bases. This has helped produce a system of ethnicized governance in which individuals are routinely targeted for perceived – or contrived – affiliation with opposing political or indeed ethnic groups, further driving mass displacement of civilians (Pommier, 2014). This alone would be too incomplete a story, however. The poor management of oil, on which the country is extremely reliant, combined with a failure to diversify the economy away from its dominantly oil-dependent base, has driven the cost of living to forbiddingly high levels for most. This helps to explain why much of the unrest is portrayed as originating from 'economic' factors, with people taking to the streets in late 2016 to protest rising food prices. It does not help that the country is in its fourth consecutive year of major drought. The situation has been compounded by so-called 'traditional' rivalries, in which different cattle herding communities – long encouraged to think of themselves as 'tribes' under the British colonial regime – come into conflict either over land or to settle old scores. Indeed, it is in three of the former 'tribal areas' that the nascent civil war first broke out in December 2013, shortly before conflict began to spread to much of the country. Taken together, one sees the expression of a complex



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and lethal cocktail of interlocking socio-economic, historical and 'tribal' factors that - with doting assistance from local and international policies - are likely to prove extremely difficult to untangle, let alone reverse, in any substantive or viable sense.

The implication for humanitarianism as a carrier of 'solutions' to the crisis is evidently severe. Refugees overwhelmingly return to their countries of origin within less than a decade, and more than half within just three years, meaning the costs and complications associated with the provision of assistance outside their borders are drastic. As a significant portion of these returns are rationalized as 'stable' or 'durable', the premium on ensuring that such returns are in fact sustainable becomes all the more acute. To this end it is imperative that return – as well as peacebuilding and development – efforts address the material realities of those forcibly displaced. Should they fail to do so, the risk is that recovered or newly re-established livelihoods will only serve to attract the envy, or worse, of existing populations who stand disenfranchised and marginalized by the extant settlement interventions.

### III. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN REFUGEE CRISES

The United Nations has long been in the forefront of global efforts to attend to the staggering number of refugees uprooted by war, persecution, and violence. The world body's efforts to deal with this crisis have evolved over time. By the end of the eighteenth century, 39 refugee crises were addressed by the U.N. globally. The work encompasses providing basic assistance such as shelter, food, water, non-food relief items, and health services but also devising sustainable solutions for the conflict such as voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement. UN efforts to help refugees include numerous agencies, funds, and programmes that specialize in various aspects of the problem. The most important of these for addressing the current refugee crisis are UNHCR, WFP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, and the GEMS. In dealing with refugee situations, the U.N. follows a variety of conventions, resolutions, policies, guidelines, and protocols. The key U.N. documents concerning refugees include the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the Basic Principles for Treatment of Refugees, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has been at the forefront of international efforts to deal with refugee crises. A core element of the agency's work involving refugees is the protection of the rights and the guarantee of the safety and well-being of persons of concern to UNHCR. Improving living conditions, security and assistance in situations of mass displacement remain some of the zero objectives of the organization. Furthermore, the United Nations has become increasingly engaged with a number of other relevant international organizations and member states to deal with issues concerning refugees. The World Bank typically focuses on recovery and reconstruction in countries emerging from conflict, whereas the International Monetary Fund offers financial assistance for countries applying for membership. Meanwhile, the European Union has entered into a partnership with the U.N. to deal with refugee crises as well as bolstering efforts to enhance stability, improve security and facilitate reconciliation in conflict-affected countries. The concept of a regional response to refugee crises has increasingly been seen as an efficient way to lessen the financial and logistical burden associated by protracted refugee situations. Despite the existence of these legal and institutional instruments, the U.N. has been constrained in its efforts to respond effectively to the massive refugee crises that have proliferated in recent years.

#### 3.1. UNHCR Mandate and Operations

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is unique among UN humanitarian agencies in that it is mandated to handle refugee situations specifically. There are legal frameworks and international conventions which regulate the UNHCR's operations on refugees. The most important ones are the UN General Assembly Resolution 3193 of 1973, commonly known as the Statute of the UNHCR, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 Protocol. Apart from these legally binding instruments, the practice of states and the culture of multilateralism in the international community, also provide for a collective response to refugee situations (Feins, 2017). Some of the major responsibilities and functions of the UNHCR in relation to refugees are the protection of refugees, assistance in the form of shelter, food, health services and education, as well as advocating for their cause, and addressing the root causes of their displacement. Given the complexity and challenging environments of refugee crisis situations, there are challenges commonly faced by the UNHCR, which has in turn shaped operations and actions. Over the years, the UNHCR has adopted and introduced several new strategies in order to cater to the ever-increasing



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needs of refugees, and also to meet the challenges of working in such complex environments. They include, but are not limited to, the use of mass ex-filtration and massive repatriation, as well as facilitating local integration and settlement in third countries. UNHCR operations require close coordination and voluntary participation of the different parties involved, traditionally the donor/host countries, the UNHCR itself or other UN agencies, the humanitarian INGOs, and the recipients of assistance and protection, the refugees themselves. The overall effectiveness of the UNHCR's interventions remains a topic of ongoing debate since its creation, back in 1951, and is subject to a variety of assessments offering contrasting conclusions. However, each of these authors underscores the central role of the UNHCR in the broader UN system, as well as within the broader efforts for response to refugees, and for fostering durable solutions after the crisis has peaked. This study does not represent an exception.

### IV. SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE UN ON SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

Since the start of the civil war in December 2013, more than 1.8 million people have fled to neighboring countries. It is against this backdrop that I wish to evaluate the impact of the interventions of the United Nations on refugees from South Sudan who are taking refuge in the Gambella regional state of Ethiopia through protection since the outbreak of the conflict in South Sudan in December 2013.

As soon as the conflict broke out, the UN intervened to mitigate the likely impacts of the conflict on the refugees by taking lessons from the previous onslaught. As a result, the fleet of trucks were eventually deployed to transport the refugees from the main entrance south of the country to the permanent camp set up in the Itang eight kebeles of the Gambella regional state of Ethiopia. The world food program purchases and brings food items necessary to keep the lives of the refugees in good condition. Other UN agencies and NGOs also played their part, such as through their surveillance systems to prevent the spread of diseases and to screen the host community against the outbreak of the disease.

Overall 35 semi-permanent buildings were constructed and shelter NFIs were provided. This facilities not only helped the residence of the camp from the sun and rain but also made them feel safe form the danger of snakes. Currently, the beneficiaries of the camp remain sustainable and aim to create new business opportunities in the camp. Medical care was also provided to residents of the refugee camp. Health and support services are provided at weekly and monthly biannual, long-term, home and neighborhood based preventative and curative health care services. In particular, they are intended to remove the obstetric services from the camp, as well as the assistance of the skilled. The camp was also provided with family planning services. Regarding Hygiene and Environmental Sanitation, both pre-maternal care is provided to the residence from schools and religious institutions. In addition, water treatment in each of the fore court locations. Then, the exploration of the effectiveness of boreholes in the area after the activity became insecure. The construction had brought the partial drilling of a pump and give up the project. The camp is facing the problem of somewhat truthiness, as the grass is growing densely in the dry season. As a result, the needed effort was made to fully negate the problem by providing a set of tools and one water sized engine, the last of which was absorbed by the villagers' accusation of the workers of theft. Work has instructed it. Working is slowly progressing as selected refugees are faced with the equivocal hostility opposing the reasons given for employment in areas such as the villages. (Salim et al.2021)(Van et al.2021)

On the sage, the agent takes place in the camp. Various services are provided in the camp. Preventive measures were pooled by the local authorities. Under the project, there are various activities taking place. Strives are also being planned by the government. Field subsistence, camp plans, and operations are ongoing. From the storage, the follow-up of the interventions is ongoing. Various challenges are being addressed. The recognition of the scholars is essential to determine the ongoing issues.

#### 4.1. Protection and Assistance Programs

Protection and Assistance Programs are generally understood as essential in guaranteeing the safety and dignity of refugees (Pommier, 2014). The United Nations and its partners have implemented measures to protect the millions of refugees and others covered by these rules, with the CRRF as one of the tools. In 2016, there were around 22.5 million refugees across the world and 65.5 million forcibly displaced individuals. That same year, the number of refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries accounted for only 1% of the refugee population. How many ways are there



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to get out of this state of neediness? Before people are abandoned to the impossibility of living a prosperous life, a robust migration policy and a generous refugee policy could provide a durable solution. However, in the absence of these, those who have been the victims of forced displacement and are covered by the 1951 Geneva Convention and the 1967 protocol have certain rights. In implementing a search to satisfy the needs of refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in southern Africa, together with 37 partner organizations, assists those who are included within this set covered by refugee rights by providing diverse services.

Since the eruption of civil conflict in December 2013 in the Republic of South Sudan, many South Sudanese people have been forced to flee to neighboring countries. Uganda has become the largest receiver of South Sudanese refugees, with more than 85% being women and children. They are granted prima facie refugee status by the government of Uganda, entitling them to protection and assistance by law. However, due to resource constraints and increasing refugee numbers, the availability of these programs tends to be limited. The United Nations has programs to protect this group from harm and ensure their rights are respected, and are funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Union, its member states, and executive agencies; however implementation is done in collaboration with the Ugandan government and by local and international non-governmental organizations. There are different types of programs to protect refugees. The need for and availability of legal assistance can make a significant difference in protecting the rights of refugees. South Sudanese are in a great deal of need of protection; many have arrived with nothing and have faced many abuses that require legal support. Such support has so far been inadequate and limitations exist in a number of areas, such as capacity building and external threats. There are also limitations to providing durable solutions in times of mass forced displacement. In 2016, three durable solutions were found for only 0.9% of the global refugee population. There are many who will be in a protracted situation of seeking safety and dignity, which will be their primary need. Although some efforts are made through the Resettlement Program, further efforts are required to increase these pathways. Here, the need and availability will be analyzed to determine the difference of this type of protection to South Sudanese, also considering refugees in Palabek settlement. The availability of resettlement opportunities has significant limitations. Of those registered with the United Nations, and considered as having different types of vulnerabilities and lacking other alternative ways of coping, it was found that less than 1% were resettled. There are a number of bottlenecks, including increased demands among refugees as conflicts continue; limited quotas from donor countries; and declining resettlement acceptance rates by the United States and other significant resettlement countries in the global community. Efforts should be made to ensure that refugees have the ability to make informed choices about all available durable solutions and safe pathways. Refugees have the right to be informed of feasible approaches and efforts should be made, so that these possible solutions will be made more widely available. People may also sometimes have difficulty articulating their motivations to advocate for them; it is also the duty of resettlement countries and non-resettling ones to ensure that these conditions are maintained. The literature notes the responsibility of third countries to share the burden of global refugee flows and actively participate in resettlement and other durable solutions. Filippo Grandi, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, further advised the international community to seriously consider a surge in resettlement. (Stites et al., 2021)

### V. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The refugee crisis in Al Najaf province is relatively new to the UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies in Iraq, while the movement of internally displaced people is more than twenty years old, dating back to Saddam Hussein's policies of ethnic and political cleansing. For the first seventeen years of this exodus, it was the Kurds who fled the advancing troops of the Ba'ath regime, and until fairly recently they were still doing so. The difference now is that it is no longer the Kurds who are fleeing south, but the Shi'i Arabs. (Regasa & Lietaert, 2022)

The humanitarian crisis in Al Najaf bears the stamp of relative newcomer, with none of the bland familiarity or anaesthetizing ubiquity, which characterizes the emergency relief community's encounter with the aftermath of other 'disorders of failed development'. Thus, the makeshift tent, which serves as the office of the NGO FTO in the UNHCR-administered refugee camp of al-Awada, and the outhouse constructed from two fresh UNHCR plastic sheeting are still—in some sense—examples of type. For there are no glosses here; no verbal or representational tropes by which to render the screams and mutilations of actuality into meaningful form (Pommier, 2014). And this absence of representationality speaks at once of the compressed disorder of emergency and the open-endedness of a crisis point that has yet to be culturally and politically domesticated. The UN, it seems, may not have succeeded as well as it



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wanted in making the tent and tarpaulin of the post-emergency refugee settlements the recognized and legible icons of its disciplinary labor. But all indicators—with the notable exception of the rapidly dwindling attention accorded by the Western media and its aid ‘partners’—suggest that Al Najaf represents another opportunity for the international humanitarian community to bring its signature solutions to the disorder of otherness (Puglia, 2019). No more appropriate time, then, to interrogate the making of some culturally contingent—and universally transferable—representations of emergency in this province of stands in need of order.

### 5.1. Limitations of UN Interventions

This subsection is dedicated to critically analyzing the instituted interventions and their limitations. It aims to shed light on the gaps and shortcomings of the instituted interventions in order to find solutions to improve the United Nations’ Organization (UNO) response to the influx of South Sudanese refugees. Although the principle of non-interference is enshrined in the United Nations’ Charter, this research looks at some of the UNO’s limitations in addressing refugee situations under its Organ of the United Nations to understand better the UNO’s failure to act on the Refugee Convention principles. The aim is, however, not to dismiss appreciation for what the UNO has undertaken, but to establish an objective understanding of its challenges. To this end, the UNO’s role and limitations in Uganda and in verifying South Sudanese refugee situations are scrutinized. A call is also made for increased attention to integrated responses, combining both humanitarian and development approaches. In all observations, recommendations are made to better the UNO’s response and to further human rights. It is understood that the main focus of the work of the OAU was a commitment to respect the sanctity of African borders as inherited from the colonial legacies (Pommier, 2014). The UNO, however, has managed to go beyond its principles of non-interference with refugee situations. The challenges and limitations of its actions are, hence, worth exploring to avoid a misunderstanding of the UNO’s failure to act. This will not only contribute to a better comprehension of the complexities accompanying border issues and the refugee situation – with respect to the OAU and the UNO but also a better understanding of the existing gaps in the institutional responses to South Sudanese refugees. The ongoing discussions could then shed light on a more dynamic and comprehensive approach to address this complex crisis (Puglia, 2019).

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