

Migration-Security Nexus: A Critical Analysis of the Migration Crisis of Syrian Refugees and Its Implications on the National Security of Türkiye

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ABSTRACT

This study's objective is to examine the scope and severity of the migration crisis of Syrian refugees and its intricate connection with the national security imperatives of Türkiye as it has profound effects on all facets of society and has put a burden on infrastructure and resources. The migration security nexus is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon and become a critical subject that has captivated universal attention because of its profound effects on national and human security. The Syrian civil war began in 2011 and according to the UNHRC, 3.70 million Syrian refugees were officially registered in the Türkiye. The migration issue involving Syrian refugees and its effects on Türkiye's national security will be critically examined in six parts. First, the rationale of the securitization concept is why the migration crisis needs to be securitized. Second, various causes have exacerbated the security concerns faced by Türkiye in the wake of the migration crisis. Third, push and pull factors for Syrian refugees. Fourth, Turkish Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) 2014 and Turkish Migration Policy either fulfil legal or security requirements with reference to Syrian refugees. Fifth, the Syrian refugee crisis can have the inherited potential to lead to a human tragedy with respect to non-traditional security in Türkiye. Sixth, implications of the securitization of Syrian refugees on the EU-Türkiye relationship with reference to Türkiye's membership in the EU Finally, there are potential security risks posed by a large Syrian refugee population and its strain on Türkiye's resources and infrastructure. The study employs a qualitative research method within the theoretical framework of the Copenhagen School of Securitization. This study presents several concrete policy recommendations to address the Syrian refugee crisis and its implications for national security.

Key words: *Securitization; Migration; Syrian Refugees; National Security; Türkiye; LFIP, Human Security; UNHCR*

INTRODUCTION

Since the Syrian civil war in 2011, Türkiye has taken an active role in the Syrian refugee crisis, and the world is now aware of its determination to open its borders to those fleeing that country. According to UNHCR 2021, 3.70 million Syrian refugees are officially registered in the Türkiye, and there are many concerns over the present situation. (TSAROUHAS, 2023). When Syrian refugees first began to arrive in Türkiye, it was assumed that they would only stay there temporarily and return to Syria once the violence was over. Türkiye's stance evolved as the Syrian war grew more intense. It

is now obvious that the Syrian crisis is not going to end soon, and it's possible that a sizable portion of the Syrian refugees in Türkiye will stay there for a very long time (Esen & Binatli, 2017). Additionally, there are now more refugees living outside of camps. As of June 2013, over 75 percent of Syrian refugees were living outside of camps, according to survey data from the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). (Ceritoglu et al., 2017).

Essentially, security has no intrinsic (pre-existing) value anymore; rather, it is a social and inter-subjective construct. (Taureck, 2006). Türkiye has two significant security threats as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis there and rising anti-Islamic sentiment in the West. Refugees from Syria are a problem for both security and humanitarian reasons. (Demir & Yilmaz, 2020). The General Directorate for Migration Management (GDMM), a newly constituted organization by legislation to address the issue of migrants and refugees, was established. International actors played a significant role in the process. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) was heavily involved in the project's formulation. (Çorabatır, 2016). The EU praised Ankara for passing the agreement and emphasized the importance of the Visa Liberalization Roadmap in achieving further advancement (European Commission, 2014).

The Turkish attitude towards Syrian refugees has been "open door" since the beginning of the country's civil conflict in 2011. It is the liberal agenda that the Turkish administration has been pushing with words that sound kind and suggest that Syrian refugees haven't been securitized in Türkiye. Control and confinement-based security frameworks are necessary for the handling of Syrian refugees in Türkiye, even though these non-secretarial discourses are common. According to constructivists, security threats are produced by society. How risks to national and human security will be based on conceptual charters, much as state interests are normative in the Türkiye scenario, and how the urgency around non-traditional concerns has to be developed. (Collins, Contemporary Security Studies, 2007).

This study will explain various causes that have exacerbated the security concerns and national security imperatives faced by Türkiye in the wake of the migration crisis. There are several causes and factors, including the scale and magnitude of the refugee, economic concerns, border security and terrorism, cultural and social tensions, terrorism and security concerns, political considerations and dynamics, regional dynamics and geo-politics considerations, etc. Although it's very difficult to determine the exact cause of terrorism (Bilal et al., 2022). Study further to explore the push and pull factors for Syrian refugees with reference to the implications of the migration-security nexus in Türkiye. The push and pull factors for Syrian refugees can be understood as the reasons that compel them to leave their home country (push factors) and the factors that attract them to seek refuge in Türkiye (pull factors).

Moreover, since the start of the Syrian war in 2011, Türkiye has been sheltering a sizable number of Syrian refugees. The Law on Foreigners and International Protection, 2013 (LFIP) provides the legal foundation for foreigners, including refugees and asylum seekers, to enter, remain, and be protected in Türkiye. We should admit that the new institutional and legislative framework outlined by the LFIP will only play a small role in determining the future path of migration policy in Türkiye. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol are included, as are Türkiye's duties under international law. The LFIP provides Syrian refugees who have escaped their country's war with Turkish temporary protection. The General Directorate of Security had previously been in charge of responsibilities pertaining to the administration of migration, but that agency's power had been replaced by the GDMM. Additionally, access to some social services was provided to refugees and asylum seekers under the new law (Ethem TAŞ et al., 2017).

Türkiye has clearly faced considerable difficulties as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis, including both traditional (hard security) and non-traditional (human security) problems. The magnitude of the crisis, which has caused millions of Syrians to seek asylum in Türkiye, has profound effects on all facets of society and has put a burden on infrastructure and resources. At this juncture, there are a few

ways the crisis has affected Türkiye's level of human security. These elements underscore the crucial role that Türkiye plays in the management of refugee flows and aid in explaining the justification for Türkiye's presence in the area (Tumen, 2023).

The effects of the securitization of Syrian refugees on the relationship between the EU and Türkiye and Türkiye's aspirations to join the EU must be complicated and multidimensional. Beyond the refugee crisis, a number of other issues, like geopolitics, the rule of law, democracy, and economic cooperation, have an impact on the relationship. It is crucial to keep in mind that the effects of securitization on the relationship between the EU and Türkiye are complicated and can change based on changing political, social, and economic variables. The result will depend on how well both parties are able to communicate effectively, deal with problems that both parties have, and preserve the values of collaboration and respect.

As far as the theoretical framework, one of the most well-known followers of the Copenhagen School, Barry Buzan, questions the notion that security and survival are connected. Barry Buzan, a Copenhagen School follower, challenges the connection between security and survival, focusing on social elements and "securitization" of hazards. His study will develop an analytical framework based on securitization.

It is pertinent to mention that not all refugees pose security risks, and many refugees themselves are fleeing conflict and seeking safety. Türkiye's approach to national security in the context of the refugee crisis involves addressing legitimate security concerns while upholding its humanitarian responsibilities and protecting the rights of refugees. To address these security implications, Türkiye has implemented measures such as enhanced border security, intelligence cooperation, counterterrorism efforts, and social integration initiatives. Balancing security concerns with humanitarian considerations and ensuring the protection of human rights for refugees are crucial aspects of managing the national security implications of the Syrian refugee crisis in Türkiye.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In the past, Turkish security was primarily focused on military might and territory Defence. The Türkiye's conception of security is influenced by its geopolitical and geo-strategic location, which gives it a unique perspective on global politics and vulnerabilities. (Aydin & Ay D I N, 2003). In *Coping with Global Migration Change, Disasters, and Security*, it has problems with both hard and soft security that cut over national boundaries and build a huge network of bridges that link the domestic and the international. Threats, difficulties, weaknesses, and risks. Hans Günter Brauch et al. (Berlin: Springer, 2009). Additionally, Türkiye witnessed the growing importance and impact of public opinion on the nation's shifting security concerns. (Leemans, Rik, Rice, Martin, Henderson-Selles, Ann, Noone, 2011). Although the conventional notion of security is preferred in Türkiye, new topics, including economic difficulties, social and demographic trends, and environmental issues, have started to surface more frequently in discussions about security. Turkish civil society, which has grown more aware of emerging global challenges such as migrant flows, is largely responsible for this growth. (Alpaslan Ozerdem, 2013).

Türkiye began pursuing the notion of establishing a no-fly zone or buffer zone in the autumn of 2011 in order to safeguard people and aid anti-Assad rebels. Türkiye was compelled to pursue both a strong humanitarian agenda and a foreign policy stance that was security- and strategy-focused by the extraordinary number of Syrian refugees it was hosting. In order to avoid the establishment of an autonomous Kurdish state along its southern borders, Türkiye has pursued two objectives in this endeavor: toppling Assad's government and maintaining a territorially cohesive Syrian state. (Phillips, 2012). Turkish policy towards refugees has been intimately tied to its foreign policy goals ever since the early stages of the Syrian civil war. The Assad regime's short tenure was something Türkiye anticipated. Amidst these circumstances, Türkiye announced in October 2011 that it would have an open-door policy for Syrian refugees. (Kirişçi, 2014).

Türkiye erroneously believed that the Assad government would fall soon and that refugees would return to Syria. In this view, Türkiye switched from a security-focused strategy to an early morality-focused strategy. (Carothers & Samet-marram, 2015). It was generally believed that Türkiye's early kindness to Syrians and its decision not to register Syrian refugees had something to do with Türkiye's support of the Syrian rebels. It was also asserted that human rights organizations served as a major conduit for the opposition's assistance. (Futák-Campbell & de SAUVAGE NOLTING, 2022). With the help of global institutions and local and regional NGOs, AFAD should lead in to organize an official response to the influx of Syrian refugees. (UNHCR, 2014).

Early 2011 saw the outbreak of the Syrian civil war, which may be characterized as a sizable public uprising brought on by widespread dissatisfaction with the Syrian government. It first appeared as a result of the Arab Spring uprisings, which significantly changed the Middle East and North Africa's political climate. Stressing the detrimental effects of accepting migrants, such as their ties to violent groups, enhances support for involvement among the Turkish population. Turkish residents who live near the border oppose intervention. Türkiye does not place refugee camps near its borders; instead, they are dispersed across Türkiye. (Getmansky et al., 2019).

Due to the intricate interactions between the security, humanitarian, and socioeconomic aspects of the inflow of Syrian refugees, as well as the multiple relationships between the expanding number of state and non-state entities, this problem has come to the attention of many people. (Memisoglu & Ilgit, 2017). Türkiye's approach to managing asylum and refugees has long shown a conflict between state-centric security concerns and the forces of globalization, notwithstanding its welcoming policies and financial assistance for the Syrian refugees. Up until the 20th century's close, Europeanism and opposition to change were prevalent. (Memisoglu, 2014). Türkiye has become the foremost state for acquiescent refugees from Syria and the largest refugee host country in the world. Türkiye hosts refugees in refugee camps and in the cities, mostly those that border Syria.(UN, 2015). The world's largest refugee-hosting nation, Türkiye has emerged as the leader in receiving Syrian refugees. In refugee camps and in its towns, mostly those that border Syria, Türkiye accommodates refugees. (Çağaptay & Menekşe, 2014).

Due to Türkiye's migration and asylum laws, these individuals were first regarded as guests rather than legitimate refugees. The Settlement Law of 1934 established the legal basis. (Kirişçi, n.d.). Both the Additional Protocol (1967) and the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) are applicable. The 1951 Refugee Convention, which Türkiye accepted, has been applied with a geographical restriction that exclusively offers refugee status to Europeans. This is a major fact. Consequently, even after receiving UNHCR recognition of their refugee status, the majority of non-European asylum applicants still lack the right to remain in Türkiye. (Kaya, 2009). All Syrian refugees were accepted and housed, and they are continuing to do so (Koca, 2015). To define the legal status of refugees, as evidenced by their identification documents, rights, and accumulated social support, is the most crucial component of the LFIP. According to Article 91 of the LFIP, "temporary protection" refers to a protective rank given to non-nationals who have arrived in Türkiye in search of emergency and temporary protection after being compelled to flee their country and are unable to do so. (Suter, n.d. 2013).

The Turkish government has pursued a path of action in its relations with Syria that is not founded on a language of rights but rather on compassion. Such a benevolent strategy, as opposed to one based on respect for human rights, has the potential to inflame Turkish citizens' hostility towards migrants. (Donelli, 2018). According to UNHCR 2021, there are officially 3.64 million Syrian refugees living in the nation, and there are many unanswered concerns due to the current circumstances. Will Türkiye choose to integrate those refugees, or does its administration see them as only passing through? What impact does the existence of such a sizable and obvious minority have on Turkish politics? (TSAROUHAS, 2023). Syria's protection of and assistance to the rebellious Kurdish separatist

organization known as the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) posed a serious threat to Türkiye's territorial integrity and security. (Raymond Hinnebusch, 2016). Türkiye should completely implement the Geneva Convention and remove the terrestrial restriction while maintaining an equilibrium between its security commitments and its human rights commitments. (Keyman, 2013). Because migrants' and refugees' advocates may speak out about the difficulties they face and improve policies, NGOs play a crucial role in society. (Lahav, 2003).

The unique Syrian policy adopted by Türkiye stands out from both current global trends in the international refugee regime and Türkiye's earlier reactions to previous refugee flows, which openly incorporated burden sharing and securitization discourse. Türkiye's transition from a security-focused to a morality-focused approach appears to be connected to its strong foreign policy. (Aras & Mencutek, 2015). However, notwithstanding these restrictions, Türkiye continues to provide refugee status in accordance with the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Memisoglu & Ilgit, 2017). Border security and refugee protection are among the challenges related to migration. When it comes to making quick judgements that should strike a balance between humanitarian and security-focused approaches, major influxes in particular tend to pose a problem for receiving governments. (Aras & Mencutek, 2015).

In April 2013, Türkiye passed its first Law on Foreigners and International Protection, which gave the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), a civil agency, control over managing international protection from the security services. (Memisoglu & Ilgit, 2017). The handling of received and departing remittances is still crucial in an economy like Türkiye's which is relatively unstable and prone to crises. There is no conflict between policies that inspire social and fiscal payments. (Aydin-Duzgit et al., 2013).

The Migration Safety Nexus in Türkiye, particularly in the context of the Syrian refugee crisis, emerged as a fundamental area of research in academic discourse. This crisis, marked by the influx of more than 3.6 million Syrian refugees since the beginning of the Civil War in 2011, intensified discussions on national security, socio-political stability and foreign policy guidelines in Türkiye (Mencütek, Aras, & Coşun, 2020; Aksu Kargın & Sirkeci, 2020; Bilal (N.D.) critically analyzes how the migration crisis induced by the Syrian conflict was perceived through the national security lenses. He argues that the Turkish state sometimes framed the arrival of Syrian refugees not only as a humanitarian obligation, but also as a security challenge. This perspective aligns with the notion of securitization, in which migration flows are portrayed as threats to social cohesion and public safety (IMAMOGLU, 2025; GULMEZ, 2019). Other forms of patriotic terrorism include attacks on immigrants in a nation. Many nationalists regard immigration as a danger to the development of the country's local or indigenous inhabitants (Abbas et al., 2022). Political discourse around this question usually intertwines refugees with concerns related to terrorism and domestic security, leading to a complex political scenario (Ergen & Zaimoğlu, 2023). Rationalist radicalism has become a global phenomenon, with various right parties and extremists influencing state patterns and captivating the world (Rashid et al., 2022). Donelli (2018) emphasizes the need to see Syrian refugees through a security lens, suggesting that his presence pursues potential risks of radicalization and crime, which feed broader speech of national security in Türkiye.

Similarly, Secen (2021) argues that the significant influx of refugees led political parties to leverage security narratives to obtain public support, thus politicizing the issue of refugees and impacting domestic governance and international relations. This politicization is underlined by Ihlamur-Pöner (2019), who advocates an approach to discovery, proposing that narrative reformulation could alleviate tensions and promote a more constructive relationship between residents and refugees.

An analysis of Türkiye's foreign policy also sheds light on the implications of this migration safety link. Aras and Mencutek (2015) highlight how the Syrian refugee crisis forced the Turkish government to formulate policies that balance humanitarian concerns with national security

imperatives. Oztig (2022) reinforces this view, illustrating how Türkiye's foreign policy is deeply intertwined with its refugee management strategies, illustrating the intersection of humanitarianism and political strategy.

The sociopolitical branches of this nexus are even more complicated by perceptions that change refugees from being considered "invited" to "enemies" (KOCA, 2016). Memisoglu and ILGIT (2017) discuss the multifaceted challenges placed by the refugee crisis, pointing to the various actors involved, from international organizations to local municipalities, each with varying degrees of influence on policy formulation.

In addition, exploration of comparative contexts can illuminate different characteristics of Türkiye's experience. Estevens (2018) proposes a structure to examine national security responses to migration crises within the European Union, which offers information about the unique challenges faced by Türkiye in the broader regional context. Comparative analysis of the policies adopted by Türkiye and European states, such as Germany, provides valuable lessons to understand refugee perceptions and resulting policy results (Akşit Ergen & Memilü Zaiğlu, 2023).

In conclusion, the Türkiye migration safety link, particularly in relation to the Syrian refugee's crisis, encapsulates a variety of complex dynamics that influence national security and socio-political landscapes. The implications of this crisis extend beyond immediate humanitarian considerations, requiring a different understanding of political and security structures that shape domestic policies and international relations (Altioğ & Tosun, 2020; OKYAY, 2017; TOCI, 2021). The need for further research is evident, as scholars intend to unzip the intersectional nature of migration, safety and foreign policy in an increasingly interconnected world (Saaeda, 2022).

Theoretical Framework

As far as the theoretical framework, one of the most well-known followers of the Copenhagen School, Barry Buzan, questions the notion that security and survival are connected. Securitization theory, articulated by the Copenhagen School, implies a transforming process in which problems are framed as existential threats, causing urgent responses. The main actors, including political leaders and media, play fundamental roles in this framework. The implications for contemporary security policy are deep; they redefine security discourse, prioritizing issues considered critical, thus influencing government priorities and resource allocation. Consequently, this leads to the normalization of extraordinary measures, challenging the traditional notions of security and governance in international relations. Instead, he takes a comprehensive, from micro to macro, approach to security, addressing the social elements of security and how people or groups produce or "securitize" hazards. The study will develop an analytical framework based on a critical engagement with the concept of securitization, which was initially developed by the Copenhagen School, in order to support this argument.

Research Questions

- What are the causes that have exacerbated the security concerns and national security imperatives faced by Türkiye in the wake of the migration crisis?
- What are the Push and pull factors for Syrian refugees, with reference to the implications of the Migration- security nexus in Türkiye?
- Does Türkiye's Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) 2014 and Turkish Migration Policy fulfil legal and security requirements with reference to Syrian refugees?
- Does the Syrian refugee crisis have the inherited potential to lead to a human tragedy with respect to non-traditional security (human security) in Türkiye as well?
- What are going to be the implications of the securitization of Syrian refugees on the EU-Türkiye relationship with reference to Türkiye's membership in the EU?

Rationale of the Securitization's Concept

A problem's ability to be successfully framed as a security concern, according to the securitization framework, prevents immediate action to solve the problem. This participation in the politics of security is more context-specific. (McDonald, 2012). Securitization has tactical appeals due to its prioritization need, such as a strategy to get enough attention for climate concerns (Cusato, 2022). Due to the requirement for prioritization, securitization has tactical appeal. For example, it might be used as a tool to ensure that non-traditional issues receive enough attention. (Peters & Mayhew, 2016).

This means that security is now a social and inter-subjective construct and no longer has any inherent (pre-existing) value. (Taureck, 2006). On the other hand, liberalism emphasizes intergovernmental and transnational institutions, collaboration, and shared benefits in order to frame international security. The liberal approach to international relations emphasizes cooperation, peace, and stability as its fundamental principles (Rashid et al., 2022). Liberalism and liberal peace building, arguing that individual rationality is universal and pre-existing in society, allowing individuals to realize themselves at different intervals (Bilal et al., 2022). This provides potential solutions to the seemingly endless conflicts and security issues of the realist world. (Buzan, 2015). Since the 1990s, constructivists have presented their distinctive viewpoint on social courses through ontology and epistemology, accentuating concepts, ethos, customs, and characteristics as an alternative to the materialist interpretations of neorealism and neoliberalism. (Buzan, 2015).

In his opening argument, Barry Buzan, one of the most well-known adherents of the Copenhagen School, challenges the conventional wisdom that security is related to survival. Instead, he addresses the social dimensions of security and how individuals or communities create or "securitize" risks by taking a holistic, from micro to macro, approach to security. (Demir & Yilmaz, 2020). Since the start of the civil war in Türkiye in 2011, the country has implemented an "open door" policy for Syrian refugees. The Turkish government has been promoting this liberal agenda through the use of terminology that is perceived as compassionate and leads one to assume that Syrian refugees have not been securitized in Türkiye. The management of Syrian refugees in Türkiye has necessitated a security framework that places a focus on control and confinement, despite the prevalence of such non-secretarial discourses.

This assertion is first supported by an analytical framework that is built through a critical engagement with the concept of securitization, which was initially developed by the Copenhagen School. In contrast to the Copenhagen School's methodology, which places a strong emphasis on voice as the securitization's primary vector (Perspectives, 2016). Neorealist, globalist, and regionalist theories have been the main approaches used to describe the post-Cold War international security framework. (Wæver, 2016).

The current state-centric security paradigm is insufficient to thwart all external threats to states. The idea of "security" is too intertwined to be defined only in terms of warfare, and there are many dangers to global security. As illustrated by the need to manage migration, infectious illnesses, food security, water security, and climate change, among other non-traditional concerns, non-traditional answers are required (Shell, 2016). Constructivists argue that society creates security risks. As far as state interests are normalized in the Turkish landscape, threats to national and human security will be based on the conceptual charter, and non-traditional issues should be established immediately (Collins, Contemporary Security Studies, 2007). The Copenhagen School also left its own explanation, which is usually subliminal or just pejoratively described. To comprehend the dynamics underpinning the securitization of non-traditional domains, analyses of securitization, de-securitization, and politicization scenarios are required. (Guzzini, 2015).

The necessity to handle Migration as a security issue has become more urgent as a result of its visible and audible repercussions. All of these elements have helped turn Syrian refugees in Türkiye into a national security issue, moving the emphasis away from solely socio-economic or developmental

concerns. Since migration has been identified as a security issue, more effort has been put into reducing its effects and preparing for them through legislative changes, greater funding, and other means. For instance, according to the realism school, security is the absence of any actual military danger to the state's ability to survive in a lawless international order. Realists believe that war will always be a part of international politics, giving them a state-centric, power-political conception of security. (Buzan, 2015). What attention has been given to fostering resiliency, urgency, securitizing the issue, and improving the state of readiness to address both national security and human security by assessing how migration and Syrian refugees have been regarded as an existential security danger for Turkiye?

Meeting the basic needs of such a significant population has been challenging and has required substantial resources. There are two significant security threats as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis and rising anti-Islamic sentiment in the West. Refugees from Syria are a problem for both security and humanitarian reasons. (Suter, n.d 2013.). By establishing a connection between the non-traditional threat's repercussions and detrimental impacts on socio-economic and political security, the non-traditional danger is heightened and has multiplier effects on global security (Causevic, 2017). The benefits of protecting the non-traditional sector are underlined by proponents, notably the increased efficacy of laws achieved by exceptional measures, which securitization paves the way for. (Gordeeva, 2022).

The migration-security nexus refers to the complex relationship between migration and security, where migration dynamics are viewed through the lens of national or regional security concerns. In the context of the Syrian refugees in Turkiye, the migration-security nexus pertains to how the influx of millions of refugees from Syria has impacted Turkiye's security landscape and how Turkiye's response to the refugee crisis is influenced by security considerations. The migration-security nexus is a complex and multifaceted concept. It involves not only security considerations but also humanitarian, economic, and political dimensions. As the situation evolves, the dynamics of the migration-security nexus with respect to Syrian refugees in Turkiye may have changed or developed.

DISCUSSION

The Syrian refugee crisis has had substantial repercussions for the national security of Turkiye. As far as border security, the influx of Syrian refugees has placed pressure on Turkiye's border security. Managing the movement of people across the border, preventing irregular migration, and countering potential security threats have become crucial priorities. In the context of terrorism and radicalization with reference to migration and Syrian refugees, Turkiye has faced challenges related to the potential infiltration of terrorist elements and the radicalization of individuals within the refugee population. Ensuring proper border control, implementing effective intelligence and security measures, and countering extremist ideologies are essential for addressing these risks. On social cohesion, the presence of a large number of Syrian refugees has affected social cohesion in Turkiye, particularly in regions with high concentrations of refugees. Strains on resources, competition for jobs, and cultural differences can potentially lead to social tensions and affect stability.

As far as refugee involvement in criminal activities, while the majority of refugees are law-abiding individuals seeking safety, a small minority have been involved in criminal activities. These activities include human trafficking, illicit trade, and other illegal actions that can impact national security. Considering the spillover of conflict, the proximity of the Syrian conflict to Turkiye's border poses the risk of spillover effects. This includes cross-border attacks, clashes between armed groups, and potential involvement in regional dynamics that can have security implications for Turkiye. To the extent that the humanitarian crisis and resource strain have strained Turkiye's resources, including healthcare, education, housing, and social services, the diversion of attention and resources to address the humanitarian needs of refugees can indirectly impact national security priorities. Reference to violence between Syrian refugees and the local population has been on the rise, especially in western

urban areas where cultural misunderstandings and differences are as profound as those between citizens of EU member states and Syrians, according to the International Crisis Group 2018. As per opinion surveys, the majority of Turks do not believe that Syrian refugees can or will assimilate into Turkish society (ICG, 2018).

1. Causes that have exacerbated the security concerns and national security imperatives faced by Türkiye in the wake of the migration crisis

Türkiye's geographical proximity to conflict zones in the Middle East, such as Syria and Iraq, has made it a significant destination for refugees fleeing violence and persecution. The influx of refugees has strained Türkiye's resources and created security challenges. The securitization of Syrian refugees as a threat to Türkiye's security can be attributed to several factors. Türkiye has been facing security concerns and national security imperatives exacerbated by the migration crisis.

Scale and magnitude of the refugee: With one of the biggest populations of Syrian refugees in the world, Türkiye has been severely hit by the crisis in Syria. Türkiye's resources, such as its infrastructure, healthcare system, educational system, and work possibilities, are being taxed by the country's massive influx of refugees (approximately 3.6 million as of 2021). Since the start of the Syrian civil conflict in 2011, Türkiye has been providing shelter to a sizable number of Syrian refugees. The nation is now the largest host nation in the world, having welcomed almost 3.7 million Syrian refugees as of September 2021. In southern Turkish regions like Hatay and Mardin, where there is a steady and rapid influx of migrants, there are sentiments of insecurity among the indigenous populations. (Donelli, 2018). Although Türkiye did not formally recognize them as refugees, did view them as such since she saw the situation as posing a danger to national security. Türkiye announced that if the UN Security Council does not take appropriate action, military intervention may be considered to stop the refugee flow and close its borders. (LATİF, 2002).

Due to these strains, there are now security and socio-economic difficulties, and it is thought that there are security threats associated with the existence of such a large refugee community. The relationships between the hosting community and the refugees are determined by the demographic features, particularly the ethnic constituents, of the host city or province. (Donelli, 2018).

Border security and terrorism: In light of this, the Turkish government has determined that the situation in several border regions poses a threat to Turkish security. So Ankara has taken action to prevent the threat of religious conflict. Since September 2012, Türkiye has sent a lot of the Syrian refugees to the interior provinces instead of placing them in significant numbers in southern cities. (Ahmadoun, 2014). An Immigration and asylum policy may be influenced by border security and security concerns. (Aras & Mencutek, 2015). Türkiye shares a lengthy border with Syria, which has been a source of security concerns. The porous nature of the border has made it challenging to control the flow of people, goods, and potentially weapons. There have been instances where militants and foreign fighters have exploited the situation to cross the border, leading to fears of terrorism and instability. Incidents such as terrorist attacks carried out by individuals linked to extremist groups have fueled the narrative that Syrian refugees pose a security threat. Türkiye shares a long and porous border with Syria, making it challenging to regulate the movement of people and goods. This has raised concerns about the smuggling of weapons, illicit activities, and the potential for the entry of hostile actors. The need to secure the border and prevent unauthorized crossings has contributed to the securitization of Syrian refugees.

Economic concerns: The financial burden of maintaining the refugee camps has had a significant, detrimental effect on how the public views them, resulting in social unrest or friction against the refugees in a number of nearby areas. (Eastern, 2015). The main economic and political obstacles to Syrian integration fall into three categories: security, social cohesiveness, and resource allocation (i.e., who benefits and who loses from Syrian migration). Evidently, they are all connected. (Hoffmann &

Samuk, 2016). Syrian migrants have increased competition for jobs, especially in low-skilled fields. Some sections of Turkish society are now concerned about rising unemployment and income stagnation, particularly in border regions. In addition to the nearly \$8 billion Türkiye has spent on housing these migrants, the economic impact has been significant. (Donelli, 2018).

Because it is thought to worsen social and economic inequities and may even spark civil upheaval, the economic pressure brought on by housing a sizable refugee population has been cast as a security concern. It costs Türkiye a lot of money to host this many refugees. There are worries that if the money is not spent judiciously, it will be used to "wall off" the migrants through new camps and security measures rather than for successful integration. (Saferworld and Conciliation Resources, 2016). The country has had to allocate resources to provide housing, healthcare, education, and other essential services for the refugee population. This strain on resources can create socio-economic challenges and lead to public resentment or discontent among the host population, potentially exacerbating existing social tensions.

Terrorism and Security Concerns: Türkiye has faced security challenges related to terrorism, particularly from extremist groups operating in the region. The influx of Syrian refugees has created concerns about potential infiltration by individuals associated with such groups. Türkiye has experienced instances of violence, attacks, and incidents involving both refugees and terrorists. This has led to the securitization of Syrian refugees as a potential security threat. This raises concerns about potential security threats, such as terrorism, radicalization, and the presence of foreign fighters. The geopolitical implications of Türkiye's involvement in the conflict and six other factors can all be used to evaluate Türkiye's reasons for getting involved in Syria. (Tumen, 2023).

Political considerations and dynamics: Türkiye has played a long-standing, diverse role in managing the Syrian refugee problem. Additionally, it has significant political ramifications for Türkiye's domestic political climate as well as for its international ties with Syria and other nations in the region and beyond (TSAROUHAS, 2023). The securitization of Syrian refugees can also be influenced by political factors. Political parties and leaders may employ securitization rhetoric to mobilize support, divert attention from other issues, or legitimize certain policy choices. Framing the refugee issue as a security threat can serve as a means to consolidate political power or gain popular backing by appealing to nationalist sentiments. Domestic political considerations, such as public opinion, election campaigns, and nationalist sentiments, may shape the perception of refugees as a security threat. Politicians and policymakers might employ securitization rhetoric to address these concerns and garner public support.

Cultural and social tensions: Threats and vulnerabilities to society's security include those that have an impact on community identity and cultural practices. The main causes are migrations and the conflict of civilizations with different identities. (Buzan, 1991). Focusing on internal issues like Turkish public opinion, where some sections of the population increasingly perceive the flood of Syrian migrants as a danger to social order and security, we examine the colloquial and political change of the Turkish state. (Memisoglu & Ilgit, 2017). Concerns about the social and cultural dynamics of Turkish society have been raised by the huge number of Syrian refugees living there. Social conflicts have developed in certain communities as a result of varying cultural standards, linguistic limitations, and perceived disparities in values and religious views. As concerns about possible social conflicts, difficulties with cultural integration, and the preservation of Türkiye's national identity get entwined with the refugee crisis, these issues are occasionally interpreted from the perspective of security. When locals believe that refugees are displacing local workers or taxing the public sector, tensions can rise, and locals may develop social and economic grievances. These planned unions, which have been linked to increasing divorce rates, polygamy, and child abuse, have created a market. Furthermore, women who have entered the country illegally run a significant risk of being abducted and used as sex slaves. (Rossman, 2020). The evaluation of international and national

law will prioritize protecting women's rights, preventing discrimination, and ensuring bodily integrity, autonomy, and freedom from sexual violence (Abbas. et al., 2022). A growing number of Syrian youngsters start working young to support themselves and their families, in part because there isn't a male breadwinner in their family. (Johannisson, 2016).

Regional dynamics and geopolitical considerations: The Syrian conflict has had a significant impact on the regional dynamics in the Middle East. Turkiye has been involved in the conflict, supporting certain factions within Syria and engaging in military operations in northern Syria. As such, the presence of a large refugee population from Syria adds complexity to Turkiye's strategic considerations and can be viewed through a geopolitical lens. To emphasize that the securitization of Syrian refugees in Turkiye is a complex and multifaceted issue, and there are alternative viewpoints that challenge this securitization narrative.

Many humanitarian organizations and individuals advocate for a more inclusive and empathetic approach that prioritizes the protection and well-being of refugees, promotes integration efforts, and addresses the underlying socio-economic challenges in a holistic manner. It is essential to approach the topic with nuance and recognize that securitization does not reflect the perspectives of all Turkish citizens or policymakers. Many individuals and organizations in Turkiye have been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and promoting their integration.

Causes Exacerbating Türkiye's Security Concerns after the Syrian Migration Crisis:

Category	Key Causes	Impact on National Security Imperatives
Demographic & Social	Influx of 3.6+ million Syrian refugees; pressure on housing, jobs, education, healthcare.	Need for stronger social integration policies, border regulation, and public security management.
Political & Domestic Stability	Rising public discontent; politicization of refugee issue in elections; polarization within society.	Imperative to maintain internal cohesion, manage xenophobia, and prevent political instability.
Economic	Strain on labor markets, public spending, and social services; increased competition for low-wage jobs.	Push for resource allocation reforms, economic resilience, and aid mobilization.
Security & Terrorism	Cross-border infiltration by extremist groups (ISIS, PKK/YPG links); arms and militant flows.	Necessity of tightened border control, intelligence cooperation, and counterterrorism measures.
Regional & Geopolitical	Spillover from Syrian civil war; tensions with EU over migration management; fragile deals with Russia and U.S. on Syria.	Greater reliance on foreign policy tools, military deployments, and migration diplomacy.
Humanitarian & Legal	Obligation under international law to host refugees; pressure to comply with UN/EU frameworks.	Development of asylum frameworks, safe zone initiatives, and humanitarian aid strategies.

Table. 01

It is important to recognize that not all Syrian refugees are considered a threat to Turkiye's security. The securitization of Syrian refugees is a complex issue influenced by a range of factors, including domestic politics, economic concerns, and the ongoing conflict in Syria. It is crucial to distinguish between legitimate security concerns and the broader humanitarian needs of the refugee population to

ensure a balanced and comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges posed by the Syrian refugee crisis.

2. Push and pull factors for Syrian refugees, with reference to the implications of the Migration- security nexus in Turkiye

People assess the push forces in the host nation against the pull elements in their own nation, taking into account the potential hazards and expenses of returning home. When faced with the possibility of returning, families must take into account not only the risks posed by generalized violence but also more intimate ones like the possibility of targeted violence against returnees, the danger of political persecution, the locations of family and friends, and the local economic prospects in the post-war economy. (Alrababah et al., 2023). Both push and pull variables may be used to explain why Syrian refugees are moving to Turkiye. While pull factors are the attractions or chances that entice people to go to a certain location, push factors are the conditions or situations in the place of origin that force people or groups to depart. The relationship between migration and security in the context of Syrian refugees in Turkiye has numerous ramifications. The push and pull factors for Syrian refugees may be interpreted as the causes that drive them to flee their native country and the attractions that draw them to Turkiye as a haven (Alrababah et al., 2023).

The migration-security nexus in Turkiye is impacted by these variables. Strong evidence suggests that pull factors, as opposed to push ones, are more important in determining refugees' decisions to return since conditions in Syria are far more likely to predict repatriation intentions. Economic circumstances and the accessibility of public services, as well as perceptions of safety in Syria, are all significant predictors of return intentions. In Syria, interpersonal networks are crucial. (Alrababah et al., 2023).

A. Push factors for Syrian refugees:

One of the main factors influencing people's decisions regarding return migration is the situation in the host nation. Even nations that are initially open to the refugee movement have a history of gradually escalating anti-refugee rhetoric and undermining refugee rights to legal status and employment. (Dustmann & Weiss, 2007). Refugees struggle to integrate into society because they lack legal protection, are denied fundamental rights, and are subject to prejudice on the part of the government. All humans, including those with freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, are born unfastened and have the same rights (Abbas et al., 2022). The choice to return will likely be influenced by a number of push factors in the host nation, such as a household's financial circumstances, access to humanitarian help, the availability of public services, the degree of social assimilation and recognition, and legal standing. (e.g., Yahya 2018, Mhaissen and Hodges (Kassir, n.d. 2018).

Conflict and violence: The primary push factor for Syrian refugees is the ongoing conflict and violence in their home country. The ongoing Syrian civil war, which began in 2011, has been a significant push factor. The violence, destruction, and insecurity in Syria have forced many Syrians to flee their homes in search of safety and protection. The push factor of the war and its associated dangers force Syrians to flee their homes and seek safety elsewhere.

Human rights abuses: The contradiction between humanitarian considerations and concerns about national security and the interests of the country was evident from the beginning of the refugee management, which was already largely focused on "comfort, tribal and racial harmony, and a technocratic approach to the "disposal" of refugees." (Memisoglu & Ilgit, 2017). The Syrian conflict has witnessed severe human rights abuses, including targeted attacks on civilians, forced displacement, and widespread destruction of infrastructure. The violation of basic human rights and the lack of security contribute to the push for Syrians to leave their country. Widespread human rights abuses, including violations committed by various parties involved in the conflict, have contributed to

the displacement of Syrians. These abuses include targeted attacks, indiscriminate bombings, and the use of chemical weapons, leading to a loss of livelihoods, homes, and personal security. The fear of persecution and the desire to escape such abuses drive many Syrians to seek refuge in neighboring countries like Türkiye.

Political instability: The political instability in Syria, characterized by a complex web of factions, insurgency groups, and foreign interventions, has disrupted governance structures, leading to a breakdown in public services, law enforcement, and social cohesion. This instability has pushed Syrians to seek stability and a better quality of life elsewhere.

Economic devastation: The protracted conflict has devastated Syria's economy, leading to high unemployment rates, inflation, and economic instability. The lack of economic opportunities and dire living conditions act as push factors for Syrians to seek a better life elsewhere.

Collapse of infrastructure and services: The destruction of critical infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, and utilities, combined with the breakdown of essential services, including healthcare and education, creates inhospitable living conditions for Syrians and prompts them to flee.

Lack of basic services and infrastructure: The protracted nature of the conflict has severely impacted infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, schools, and basic services such as water and electricity. The deteriorating living conditions and lack of essential services make it difficult for Syrians to sustain their livelihoods and lead a secure life, further motivating them to flee.

B. Pull factors for Syrian refugees in Türkiye:

Refugees must take into account the circumstances in their home country as well as their aspirations for how things will develop. For instance, would their specific region be affected if violence picked up again? Aside from that, may they face targeted persecution or imprisonment upon returning? People face dangers from both armed war and possible retaliation, in addition to other sources. In addition to general levels of violence, these political factors may have a significant influence on decisions considering return migration. (Alrababah et al., 2023). Infrastructure and methods for providing public services are frequently destroyed as a result of war. In a post-war setting, patterns of reconstruction and resuming service delivery may reflect political and geographic differences, impacting local lives and decision-making on a return. (Croese, 2017). By causing conflicts about who is the rightful owner of homes and other properties, the war itself may have an effect on people's economic future. (Return & Schwartz, 2019). especially in situations when governments seize and distribute property in order to manipulate demographics or reward allies (McNamee, 2018).

Proximity and accessibility: Türkiye shares a long border with Syria, making it a relatively accessible destination for Syrians fleeing the conflict. The geographic proximity makes Türkiye an initial and convenient transit point for many refugees seeking safety and opportunities beyond the Syrian borders.

Temporary protection regime: Türkiye has implemented a temporary protection regime for Syrian refugees, offering them a legal framework for residing in the country. This system provides Syrians with access to basic services, including education and healthcare, which can be appealing compared to the uncertain conditions in other neighboring countries.

Economic opportunities: Türkiye's relatively stronger economy compared to neighboring countries has attracted Syrian refugees in search of employment and economic stability. Türkiye has offered work permits to some Syrian refugees, allowing them to access the labor market and contribute to the economy. The availability of job opportunities acts as a pull factor for Syrians seeking economic stability. The integration program has advanced and made great strides with the introduction of citizenship and work permits for Syrian refugees. However, because of the geographical restrictions,

the majority of Syrians are not accepted as legitimate refugees.(International Labour Organization, 2017).

Established refugee infrastructure: Türkiye has developed an extensive infrastructure to support refugees, including camps, humanitarian organizations, and government initiatives. The presence of these resources makes Türkiye an attractive destination for Syrians in search of assistance and protection.

Cultural and linguistic familiarity: Türkiye shares cultural and historical ties with Syria, including linguistic similarities and cultural affinities. This cultural proximity can make Türkiye a more comfortable destination for Syrian refugees, where they may feel a sense of familiarity and belonging.

Push and Pull Factors for Syrian Refugees & Security Implications in Türkiye:

Factor Type	Specific Drivers	Implications for Türkiye (Migration–Security Nexus)
Push Factors (from Syria)	- Armed conflict & civil war (post-2011) - Violence from ISIS, regime, and militia groups - Collapse of governance & rule of law - Economic devastation & unemployment - Human rights abuses, lack of basic services	Massive refugee influx across Türkiye’s southern borders; humanitarian burden; security risk from infiltration of militants or radicalized groups.
Pull Factors (to Türkiye)	- Geographic proximity & porous borders - Cultural, historical, and religious ties - Perceived safety and humanitarian protection - Economic opportunities in informal labor market - Access to international aid via Türkiye	Strain on housing, jobs, and services; social tensions; politicization of migration; rise of nationalism and xenophobia; challenges in balancing humanitarian duty with domestic security.
Security Nexus Dimension	Refugee flows overlap with threats of terrorism, smuggling, arms trafficking, and radicalization.	Türkiye must balance border control, counterterrorism, social integration, and diplomacy with humanitarian obligations.

Table. 02

C. Implications of the migration-security nexus for Türkiye:

Border management: The influx of Syrian refugees has put pressure on Türkiye's border management and security apparatus. The porous border between Türkiye and Syria has made it challenging to control the movement of people and potential security threats. The movement of a large number of refugees across the Türkiye-Syria border poses challenges for border management and security. Türkiye has had to address issues related to border control, smuggling, and the potential infiltration of extremist elements.

Counterterrorism efforts: The presence of Syrian refugees has raised concerns about the potential for radicalization and the involvement of foreign fighters. Türkiye has had to enhance its counterterrorism measures to mitigate any security risks associated with extremist ideologies or the activities of terrorist organizations.

Social tensions: The massive inflow of refugees has put a burden on local resources and services, leading to social and economic strains. This can contribute to social tensions between host communities and refugee populations, particularly when resources are perceived as scarce or unfairly distributed.

Geopolitical considerations: The presence of Syrian refugees in Türkiye has implications for Türkiye's regional and international relations. It can influence the country's foreign policy decisions, its relations with neighboring countries, and its role in ongoing efforts to address the Syrian conflict.

Terrorism and radicalization: The presence of a large refugee population raises concerns about the potential infiltration of extremist elements and the risk of terrorist activities. There have been instances where individuals associated with terrorist organizations have exploited the refugee flows to enter or operate within Türkiye, posing security challenges.

Socio-economic impact: Cash transfers are often used as social policy measures to decrease poverty, give disadvantaged people a guaranteed income, and, in certain situations, to increase welfare depending on the beneficiaries' behavior. Emergency Social Safety Net and Conditional Cash Transfer for Education are two significant conditional cash transfer programs that Türkiye has launched to assist refugees. The social assistance program for Syrian refugees in Türkiye is centered on these two programs. Türkiye is financially burdened by hosting a sizable refugee population. (Tumen, 2023). The provision of Services, infrastructure, and social support to the refugees requires significant resources. This strain on the economy can lead to socio-economic challenges, including competition for jobs and resources, social tensions, and resentment among the host population.

Political implications: The migration-security nexus can have political ramifications, influencing domestic politics and public opinion. Public debates surrounding migration, security concerns, and the government's response to the refugee crisis can shape political discourse, policies, and electoral dynamics.

The implications of the migration-security nexus in Türkiye arise from the challenges associated with managing a large refugee population, addressing potential security risks, and ensuring social cohesion. The securitization of Syrian refugees, as discussed earlier, can lead to concerns regarding terrorism, radicalization, and border security. Balancing the humanitarian aspects of refugee protection with security considerations is a complex task for the Turkish government. It involves implementing effective border controls, conducting thorough security screenings, and developing integration policies to promote social cohesion and mitigate potential security risks.

The migration-security nexus has a comprehensive perspective that recognizes both the legitimate security concerns and the humanitarian needs of the refugees. Striking a balance between security and humanitarianism is crucial to ensuring the well-being and protection of both the host population and the Syrian refugee community in Türkiye.

To approach the migration-security nexus in a balanced manner, taking into account both security considerations and the humanitarian needs of the refugees. Finding comprehensive and sustainable solutions to address the underlying causes of displacement, such as conflict resolution and development assistance, is crucial to managing the implications of the migration-security nexus for Türkiye. Managing the migration-security nexus is a complex task that requires balancing security concerns with humanitarian considerations. Türkiye has been working to address the challenges associated with the Syrian refugee influx through various policies, partnerships with international organizations, and cooperation with other countries in the region.

3. Türkiye's Law on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) 2014 and Turkish Migration Policy fulfil legal and security requirements with reference to Syrian refugees.

The Türkiye's Parliament passed the Law on Foreigners and International Protection on April 4, 2013. IGO, civil society organizations, and academicians who were substantially involved in its formulation have praised it as a first step in significantly altering Türkiye's perspective on migration management. The law aims to do away with the previously rigorously securitized approach to managing migration, favoring instead a stable stress on international human rights norms for all categories of migrants combined with national interests. (Açıkgöz & Ariner, 2014). Türkiye has been hosting a large number

of Syrian refugees since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011. The LFIP, serves as the legal framework for the entry, stay, and protection of foreigners in Türkiye, including refugees and asylum seekers. It incorporates Türkiye's obligations under international law, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Under the LFIP, Türkiye grants temporary protection to Syrians who have fled the conflict in their country. This means that Syrians are provided with basic rights and access to services such as healthcare, academics, and social support. Türkiye's temporary protection regime differs from the full refugee status defined by the 1951 Geneva Convention, and it is a unique legal framework established by Türkiye specifically for Syrians.

In terms of security requirements, Türkiye has implemented various measures to manage the influx of Syrian refugees. This includes border controls, registration processes, and the establishment of camps and Centre to accommodate and provide essential services to the refugees. Additionally, Türkiye has collaborated with international organizations and received support from the international community to address the security challenges associated with hosting a large refugee population.

With the passage of the new law, Syrians' legal status was altered from that of temporary visitors to that of those temporarily protected. During their legal stay in Türkiye, Syrians who are receiving temporary protection have access to services including work, social assistance, education, and health care. (International Labour Organization, 2017). Regarding the legal requirements, the LFIP establishes the legal basis for Türkiye's asylum system and provides guidelines for the reception, protection, and integration of refugees. It incorporates international standards and principles includes and deportation, which forbids returning people to nations where they might suffer persecutory action or grave damage. The LFIP also outlines the procedures for applying for international protection and defines the rights and responsibilities of refugees and asylum seekers in Türkiye.

Türkiye's LFIP (2014) & Migration Policy: Legal and Security Dimensions:

Dimension	LFIP 2014 Provisions	Migration Policy Practices (re: Syrian Refugees)	Legal & Security Relevance
Legal Status & Protection	Establishes “temporary protection” regime (esp. for mass influx like Syrians); grants access to basic rights (healthcare, education, residence).	Implementation of Temporary Protection Regulation (2014) for Syrians; over 3.6 million registered.	Meets international humanitarian obligations (non-refoulement) while maintaining state control over legal status.
Institutional Framework	Created Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) under Ministry of Interior to regulate asylum and migration.	DGMM manages registration, ID issuance, and coordination with municipalities and NGOs.	Centralized authority strengthens both legal oversight and security coordination.
Border Management & Security	Provides legal tools for border control, deportation of illegal entrants, and screening for security risks.	Reinforced border security, biometric registration, and screening to prevent infiltration of extremists.	Balances humanitarian admission with counterterrorism and national security imperatives.
Integration & Rights	Guarantees limited rights (work permits, education, and healthcare) under temporary protection.	Syrians access public services; limited formal labor integration but reliance on informal sector.	Reduces social tension by providing rights, though partial integration creates economic-security dilemmas.

Dimension	LFIP 2014 Provisions	Migration Policy Practices (re: Syrian Refugees)	Legal & Security Relevance
International Cooperation	Aligns with EU acquis; emphasizes burden-sharing, international aid, and cooperation with UNHCR.	EU–Türkiye Statement (2016), coordination with UN and donors for refugee management.	Strengthens legal compliance while using migration diplomacy to manage security and financial pressures.
Security Safeguards	Allows exclusion of individuals linked to terrorism, crime, or posing security threats.	Security vetting of Syrians, deportations in certain cases, coordination with security agencies.	Direct link between migration management and safeguarding internal security.

Table. 03

In terms of security requirements, Türkiye has implemented various measures to manage and control the influx of Syrian refugees. This includes establishing a temporary protection centers near the Syrian border, conducting registration processes, and providing essential services such as healthcare and education to refugees. However, it's important to note that the situation and policies related to Syrian refugees in Türkiye may have evolved since my last knowledge update. Political, legal, and security dynamics can change over time, and Türkiye's approach to migration management may have been updated or modified.

Under this law, individuals who meet the criteria for refugee status are entitled to apply for international protection in Türkiye. Regarding Syrian refugees, Türkiye has maintained an open-door policy since the onset of the Syrian conflict in 2011, allowing Syrians fleeing the conflict to seek refuge in the country. As a result, Türkiye has become the largest host country for Syrian refugees, with millions of Syrians residing within its borders. In terms of legal and security requirements, the LFIP aims to address the needs of refugees and ensure their protection while also taking into consideration national security concerns. However, it is important to note that managing such a large number of refugees presents significant challenges. Türkiye has established temporary protection measures for Syrians, granting them certain rights and access to services such as healthcare, education, and legal aid. However, it is worth noting that there have been reports of challenges and limitations in the implementation of these measures. The scale of the Syrian refugee population in Türkiye has put strains on resources, infrastructure, and public services in some regions, which may affect the overall security situation.

In this context, under LFIP 2014, Turkish Migration policy fulfils legal and security requirements with reference to Syrian refugees.

In terms of security requirements, Türkiye has implemented various measures to manage the influx of Syrian refugees and address security concerns. This includes registration procedures, refugee camps, and border controls. Additionally, Türkiye has worked with international organizations and neighboring countries to increase border safety and fight human trafficking and smuggling.

The effectiveness of Türkiye's migration policy and its fulfillment of legal and security requirements, the effectiveness of Türkiye's migration policy and its fulfillment of legal and security requirements is subject to debate and may depend on various factors. Here are a few points to consider:

Legal Protection: While the LFIP provides a legal framework for refugees and asylum seekers, concerns have been raised regarding its implementation, including issues related to access to asylum procedures, detention practices, and a lack of effective remedies.

Access to Asylum: Türkiye has adopted a geographical limitation to the 1951 Refugee Convention, which means that it only identifies refugees from European countries. As a result, Syrians are granted a temporary protection status rather than full refugee status, which limits their access to certain rights and services. Therefore, in reality, Syrians have a hard time getting these benefits, are vulnerable to all kinds of abuse, and because of their legal limbo, integrating into society has become even more difficult (International Labour Organization, 2017).

Security Challenges: The large influx of Syrian refugees has posed security challenges for Türkiye, including border management, humanitarian assistance, and potential security risks associated with the presence of armed groups among the refugee population.

Integration and Social Cohesion: As the number of refugees increased, there have been concerns about the integration of Syrians into Turkish society and the strain on public services and infrastructure in host communities. Efforts have been made to enhance integration programs, but the scale of the challenge remains significant.

To recognize that the assessment of fulfilling legal and security requirements is a complex matter influenced by multiple factors and perspectives. It is also important to mention that Türkiye has faced criticism from human rights organizations regarding certain aspects of its migration policies, including concerns about the treatment of refugees, access to asylum procedures, and limitations on freedom of movement. The situation and policies related to Syrian refugees in Türkiye have been a subject of ongoing international debate and scrutiny.

4. The Syrian refugee crisis has the inherited potential to lead to a human tragedy with respect to non-traditional security (Human security) in Türkiye.

Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive and coordinated efforts from governments, international organizations, and civil society. It involves providing humanitarian aid, improving access to education and healthcare, supporting economic opportunities, and promoting social integration initiatives. It is essential to prioritize the protection and well-being of refugees while also addressing the potential human security risks associated with the crisis. It is important to note that the situation is dynamic and evolving. The long-term implications and potential human security risks of the Syrian refugee crisis in Türkiye may vary depending on various factors, including the duration of displacement, political developments, and the effectiveness of response measures.

Human Security Dimensions & Risks in Türkiye (Syrian Refugee Crisis):

Human Security Dimension	Potential Risks from Refugee Crisis	Implications for Türkiye
Economic Security	Strain on job market, competition for low-wage employment, increased public expenditure.	Rising unemployment, pressure on social welfare, economic grievances among locals.
Food & Health Security	Overcrowding in camps and urban areas; stress on healthcare system; risk of disease outbreaks.	Reduced healthcare access for citizens and refugees; public health vulnerabilities.
Personal Security	Risks of crime, trafficking, and radicalization within refugee populations.	Heightened need for policing, counterterrorism, and social cohesion measures.
Community Security	Cultural tensions, xenophobia, and local-refugee clashes.	Threat to social harmony; potential rise of nationalism and polarization.
Political Security	Politicization of refugee presence in domestic politics; use as leverage in EU	Refugees become a national security and foreign policy issue; risk of

Human Security Dimension	Potential Risks from Refugee Crisis	Implications for Türkiye
	negotiations.	instability.
Environmental Security	Overuse of resources (water, housing, sanitation); urban overcrowding.	Local environmental degradation, unsustainable urban growth.

Table. 04

The Syrian refugee crisis has undoubtedly presented significant challenges for Türkiye, both in terms of traditional security concerns and non-traditional security or human security issues. The scale of the crisis, with millions of Syrians seeking refuge in Türkiye, has had far-reaching implications for various aspects of society and has strained resources and infrastructure. Here are some ways in which the crisis has impacted human security in Türkiye:

Humanitarian Impact: The scale of the Syrian refugee crisis has placed a strain on the resources, infrastructure, and public services of host countries. Türkiye, in particular, has been hosting a large number of Syrian refugees, which has had implications for housing, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

Socio-Economic Challenges: The presence of a large number of refugees can create socio-economic challenges for host countries. This includes competition for jobs and resources, potential strain on local economies, and increased demand for public services. In Türkiye, the concentration of Syrian refugees in certain regions has led to demographic changes and socio-economic disparities, which can have implications for social cohesion and stability.

Security Concerns: Managing a large refugee population also raises security concerns, both for the refugees themselves and the host countries. There have been reports of criminal activities, exploitation, and vulnerability to human trafficking among refugee populations. Additionally, strains on resources and socio-economic disparities can contribute to social tensions and potential conflicts. A report by Amnesty International, which documents Türkiye's security forces' growing practice of imprisoning Syrian asylum seekers illegally since September 2015, was published in November 2015. This development is even more upsetting because it effectively gives them the choice between remaining in prison and going back to Syria. (Hoffmann & Samuk, 2016).

Integration and Social Cohesion: The successful integration of refugees into the host society is crucial for long-term stability and human security. Linguistic obstacles, cultural variances, and inadequate economic opportunities can pose hurdles to integration efforts. Promoting social solidarity and confirming identical access to rights and chances for both refugees and host communities is essential to mitigating potential tensions and fostering stability.

Access to Services and Protection: Providing adequate access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and legal protection for both refugees and host communities is a critical aspect of human security. Ensuring that all individuals have equal access to these services can be challenging in contexts where resources are stretched thin.

Vulnerability and Exploitation: Displaced populations, including refugees, can be vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, such as human trafficking, labor exploitation, and gender-based violence. Protecting the rights and well-being of refugees, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, children, and unaccompanied minors, is essential for ensuring human security. As a result, in reality, Syrians find it impossible to receive these benefits and are vulnerable to all types of exploitation, and their integration has grown more challenging as a result of their legal limbo. (International Labour Organization, 2017).

Psychological Impact: The protracted nature of the Syrian refugee crisis and the challenges faced by refugees can have profound psychological impacts on individuals and communities. Addressing mental health needs and providing psychosocial support is crucial for promoting human security.

Healthcare and Public Health: The strain on healthcare systems and public health infrastructure due to the increased demand from the refugee population can have implications for public health and human security. Access to adequate healthcare services, including mental health support, is crucial for the well-being and security of refugees.

Human Rights and Protection: Protecting the human rights of refugees and ensuring their safety and well-being are fundamental aspects of human security. It is important to provide adequate legal protection, access to justice, and safeguards against exploitation and abuse.

Turkiye has taken significant steps to address these challenges and promote the well-being of Syrian refugees. The government, along with international organizations and NGOs, has implemented various programs to provide assistance, access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities for refugees. However, the prolonged nature of the crisis and the magnitude of the refugee population pose ongoing challenges. Efforts to enhance human security require continued attention and comprehensive strategies that address the multifaceted needs of both refugees and host societies.

It is important to note that Türkiye has made efforts to address these challenges and provide support to Syrian refugees. However, the sheer magnitude of the crisis and the complex nature of the issues involved make it an ongoing and evolving situation. Balancing the security concerns of the host country with the protection and well-being of refugees is a complex task.

Understanding and addressing the non-traditional security aspects, such as human security concerns, is essential for managing the crisis in a way that upholds the rights and dignity of all individuals involved. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive policies and measures that focus on humanitarian assistance, social integration, economic opportunities, and ensuring the protection of human rights. International cooperation, support, and burden-sharing are crucial in effectively managing the refugee crisis and mitigating its potential impact on human security.

5. Implications of the securitization of Syrian refugees on the EU-Turkiye relationship with reference to Türkiye's membership in the EU.

The securitization of Syrian refugees and its implications on the EU-Turkiye relationship, particularly in relation to Türkiye's membership in the EU, can have multifaceted consequences. Here are some potential implications:

Stalled EU Accession Process: Given the agreements made between the EU and Türkiye in 2015-2016 (EU Facility for Refugees in Türkiye, FRIT) and their subsequent execution, the Syrian refugee crisis has had a direct impact on the relationship between the EU and Türkiye. (TSAROUHAS, 2023). The securitization of Syrian refugees and concerns over migration management can negatively impact Türkiye's EU accession process. The EU may have reservations about accepting a new member state with significant challenges related to migration and refugee flows. This could lead to a slowdown or even a halt in Türkiye's accession negotiations.

Strained EU-Turkiye Cooperation: The EU-Turkiye cooperation on managing the refugee crisis has been crucial for both parties. However, if the securitization of Syrian refugees leads to increased tensions and a deterioration in trust, it could strain the cooperation between the EU and Türkiye. This could impact the effectiveness of joint efforts to address the refugee crisis and other shared challenges.

EU-Turkiye Agreement Reassessment: The EU-Turkiye Deal, which was established to address the Syrian refugee crisis, may come under scrutiny if the securitization of refugees leads to increased concerns about human rights and protection. The EU could reassess the terms of the agreement,

which could impact the level of financial assistance and other forms of cooperation provided by the EU to Türkiye.

Shift in Priorities: The securitization of Syrian refugees could lead to a shift in the priorities of both Türkiye and the EU regarding their relationship and cooperation. The focus may shift more towards security and border management rather than broader issues related to democratic reforms, rule of law, and human rights, which are important aspects of EU membership.

Migration Management and Readmission Agreements: The securitization of Syrian refugees has influenced the EU-Türkiye relationship through migration management agreements, including the EU-Türkiye Deal. These agreements have focused on addressing irregular migration flows from Türkiye to the EU and have put emphasis on border control, returns, and readmission of migrants. These measures have influenced the dynamics of the EU-Türkiye relationship, including discussions on visa liberalization and the implementation of the deal.

Burden-Sharing and Financial Assistance: The securitization of Syrian refugees has also affected discussions on burden-sharing and financial assistance between the EU and Türkiye. While the EU has provided financial support to Türkiye through mechanisms like the EU Facility for Refugees in Türkiye (FRIT), there have been debates on the adequacy and fairness of the financial assistance provided. The perceived burden of hosting a large number of refugees has been a factor influencing the relationship. The securitization discourse may also affect the willingness of EU member states to support Türkiye in managing the refugee crisis and share the burden of hosting refugees. Concerns over security and integration can lead to reduced solidarity and support, creating additional challenges for Türkiye and potentially straining the EU-Türkiye relationship.

Political Tensions and Diplomatic Relations: The securitization of Syrian refugees and related policy decisions have occasionally strained the political atmosphere between Türkiye and some EU member states. Disagreements over migration policies, human rights issues, and political developments have led to diplomatic tensions at times, affecting the broader EU-Türkiye relationship.

Perception and Public Opinion: The securitization of Syrian refugees in some EU member states has contributed to debates and public opinion on migration, multiculturalism, and identity politics within the EU. These discussions and diverging views among member states can indirectly influence the EU-Türkiye relationship and have implications for Türkiye's potential membership.

Membership Negotiations: The securitization of Syrian refugees may affect Türkiye's ongoing membership negotiations with the EU. The EU has emphasized the importance of upholding human rights, including the rights of refugees, as a fundamental value for member states. If the securitization narrative leads to concerns about Türkiye's adherence to human rights standards, it could impact the progress of its membership negotiations.

Refugee Management: The securitization of Syrian refugees can influence the EU's perception of Türkiye's ability to effectively manage the refugee crisis. The EU may assess Türkiye's commitment to providing protection to refugees, ensuring access to asylum procedures, and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. The manner in which Türkiye handles refugee-related security concerns could impact the EU's perception of Türkiye's capacity to manage migration and asylum issues.

EU-Türkiye Cooperation: The securitization of Syrian refugees might affect the overall cooperation between the EU and Türkiye. The EU and Türkiye have collaborated on various initiatives, such as the EU-Türkiye Deal and FRIT, to address the refugee crisis. If the securitization narrative leads to tensions or mistrust, it could impact the willingness of both parties to cooperate on migration-related issues and hinder progress in other areas of mutual interest.

Trust and Perception: The securitization of Syrian refugees may influence the trust and perception between the EU and Türkiye. If the EU perceives that Türkiye is using security concerns as a pretext

to suppress political dissent or limit human rights, it could strain the relationship and affect the trust-building process necessary for membership negotiations.

Political Dynamics: The securitization of Syrian refugees can influence public opinion and political dynamics both in Türkiye and within EU member states. Public concerns over security, integration, and the strain on resources can shape political discourse and policies. These dynamics can impact the overall sentiment towards Türkiye's EU membership and potentially create obstacles to further cooperation. The securitization of Syrian refugees could also be influenced by broader political dynamics and changing priorities within the EU and Türkiye. Political developments, public opinion, and shifts in leadership can shape the narrative surrounding the refugee crisis and impact the trajectory of EU-Türkiye relations.

Human Rights and Democratic Values: The securitization of Syrian refugees may raise concerns regarding the protection of human rights and democratic values. If policies and practices associated with securitization lead to human rights abuses or restrictions on civil liberties, it can further complicate the EU-Türkiye relationship and pose challenges for Türkiye's alignment with EU norms and standards.

Implications of Refugee Securitization on EU–Türkiye Relations:

Dimension	Impact on Türkiye	Impact on EU–Türkiye Relationship	Link to EU Membership
Security Perception	Refugees framed as security risks (terrorism, radicalization, border control).	EU views Türkiye as a “buffer state” controlling refugee flows.	Membership seen less as integration, more as a strategic partnership for security.
Migration Diplomacy	Türkiye uses refugees as leverage (e.g., 2016 EU–Türkiye Statement).	Creates transactional relations based on migration management rather than values.	Shifts focus from accession reforms to bargaining over migration control.
Humanitarian vs. Security Balance	Struggles between humanitarian obligations and securitized policies.	EU criticizes Türkiye’s human rights record but relies on its border control.	Weakens Türkiye’s image as rights-aligned candidate for EU.
Domestic Politics	Refugee issue politicized; securitization fuels nationalism and Euroscepticism.	EU skeptical of Türkiye’s democratic backsliding, yet dependent on its cooperation.	Membership momentum stalls due to democratic and human rights concerns.
Economic & Social Pressure	Strain on public services and economy; securitization justifies stricter controls.	EU provides financial aid packages to Türkiye (€6+ billion under Refugee Facility).	Cooperation framed as aid-based rather than accession-based.
Strategic Relations	Türkiye positions itself as indispensable for EU’s border security.	EU treats Türkiye as a gatekeeper, not an equal partner.	Reinforces perception that Türkiye is drifting away from full EU membership.

Table. 05

The implications mentioned above are contingent upon various factors, including the political climate, policy choices, and developments related to the refugee crisis and the EU-Türkiye relationship. The situation is complex and subject to change, so ongoing dialogue and cooperation between Türkiye and the EU are essential to navigate these challenges and find common ground.

It's important to note that the EU-Turkiye relationship is multifaceted and influenced by various factors beyond the securitization of Syrian refugees. Other political, economic, and strategic considerations also play a significant role in shaping the relationship and discussions about Turkiye's EU membership. The future of Turkiye's EU membership should not be linked to the refugee issue, since such a trade-off between partners deepens the never-ending trust crisis (Seçil Paçacı Elitok, 2015).

It is imperative that the implications of the securitization of Syrian refugees on the EU-Turkiye relationship and Turkiye's EU membership aspirations are complex and multifaceted. The relationship is influenced by a range of factors beyond the refugee crisis, including geopolitics, rule of law, democracy, and economic cooperation. It is important to note that the implications of securitization on the EU-Turkiye relationship are complex and can vary depending on evolving political, social, and economic dynamics. The outcome will depend on the ability of both sides to engage in constructive dialogue, address shared concerns, and uphold principles of cooperation and mutual respect.

CONCLUSION

The crisis of Syrian refugees has presented substantial repercussions for the national security of Turkiye. The influx of refugees has placed pressure on border security, leading to challenges in managing irregular migration and countering potential security threats. There have been concerns regarding the infiltration of terrorist elements and the radicalization of individuals within the refugee population, necessitating robust intelligence, security measures, and counterterrorism efforts. The presence of a large number of refugees has also affected social cohesion, particularly in regions with high concentrations of refugees. Strains on resources, competition for jobs, and cultural differences have the potential to create social tensions, which can impact overall stability. There have been reports of a small minority of refugees involved in criminal activities, such as human trafficking and illicit trade, adding to the security concerns.

The migration-security nexus in the context of Syrian refugees in Turkiye has several implications. The push and pull factors for Syrian refugees can be understood as the reasons that compel them to leave their home country (push factors) and the factors that attract them to seek refuge in Turkiye (pull factors). These factors have implications for the migration-security nexus in Turkiye. To recognize that the assessment of fulfilling legal and security requirements is a complex matter influenced by multiple factors and perspectives.

Hosting a large number of Syrian refugees since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011. The LFIP serves as the legal framework for the entry, stay, and protection of foreigners in Turkiye, including refugees and asylum seekers. It incorporates Turkiye's commitments under international law, containing the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Under the LFIP, Turkiye grants temporary protection to Syrians who have fled the conflict in their country. This means that Syrians are provided with basic rights and access to services such as healthcare, education, and social assistance. The Turkiye's temporary protection regime is a special legal framework created especially for Syrians, and it is important to note here that it is different from the complete refugee status outlined by the 1951 Geneva Convention.

The prolonged nature of the crisis and the magnitude of the refugee population pose ongoing challenges. Efforts to enhance human security require continued attention and comprehensive strategies that address the multifaceted needs of both refugees and host societies. The long-term implications and potential human security risks of the Syrian refugee crisis in Turkiye may vary depending on various factors, including the duration of displacement, political developments, and the effectiveness of response measures. The Syrian refugee crisis has undoubtedly presented significant challenges for Turkiye, both in terms of traditional security concerns and non-traditional security or human security issues. The scale of the crisis, with millions of Syrians seeking refuge in Turkiye, has

had far-reaching implications for various aspects of society and has strained resources and infrastructure.

Additionally, the proximity of the Syrian conflict to Türkiye's border presents the risk of spillover effects, including cross-border attacks and involvement in regional dynamics. This necessitates vigilance and appropriate measures to address potential security threats. The strain on resources due to the humanitarian crisis caused by the refugee influx indirectly impacts national security priorities, as attention and resources are diverted to meet the basic needs of refugees. Türkiye has implemented measures to address these security implications, including bolstering border security, intelligence cooperation, counterterrorism efforts, and promoting social integration initiatives. However, striking a balance between security concerns and humanitarian considerations is crucial. Upholding human rights, protecting the rights of refugees, and ensuring a comprehensive approach that addresses both security challenges and humanitarian needs are essential for effectively managing the implications of the Syrian refugee crisis on Türkiye's national security.

Implications are contingent upon various factors, including the political climate, policy choices, and developments related to the refugee crisis and the EU-Türkiye relationship. The situation is complex and subject to change, so ongoing dialogue and cooperation between Türkiye and the EU are essential to navigate these challenges and find common ground. It's significant to note that the EU-Türkiye relationship is multifaceted and influenced by various factors beyond the securitization of Syrian refugees. Other political, economic, and strategic considerations also play a significant role in shaping the relationship and discussions about Türkiye's EU membership. Implications of securitization on the EU-Türkiye relationship are complex and can vary depending on evolving political, social, and economic dynamics. The outcome will depend on the ability of both sides to engage in constructive dialogue, address shared concerns, and uphold principles of cooperation and mutual respect.

However, not all refugees pose security risks, and many are fleeing conflict and seeking safety. Therefore, a nuanced approach is required to differentiate between refugees and potential security threats, while upholding humanitarian principles and international obligations. Therefore, a comprehensive approach that upholds both security and humanitarian principles is necessary to effectively manage the national security implications of the Syrian refugee crisis in Türkiye.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

In order to address the security implications of the Syrian refugee crisis and maintain the rights and well-being of both refugees and host communities, these policy ideas seek to strike a balance between security considerations and humanitarian values. In order to protect national security interests, these policy ideas seek to strike a balance between security considerations and humanitarian ideals, therefore enhancing the well-being of both host communities and refugees. In order to handle the complicated and dynamic nature of the Syrian refugee crisis, putting these ideas into practice will need multi-stakeholder engagement, international support, and a long-term vision. Depicted below are some policy recommendations to address the Syrian refugee crisis and its implications for the national security of Türkiye:

Enhanced Border Security: Strengthen border control measures to effectively manage the movement of people across the border. This includes direct foreign investment, investing in technology, increasing border personnel, and enhancing intelligence sharing with relevant countries. Results of this study show that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), & investment on technology in the long run will bring economic growth as well (Abbas et al., 2022). **Robust Counter-terrorism Measures:** Implement comprehensive counterterrorism strategies to prevent the infiltration of terrorist elements and address the radicalization risks within the refugee population. This involves intelligence coordination, monitoring extremist activities, and implementing programs for radicalization and community engagement.

Refugee screening and registration: Implement robust and efficient refugee screening and registration processes to identify and address any potential security risks among the refugee population. This includes conducting thorough background checks and sharing relevant information with relevant security agencies.

Promoting Stability in Syria: Engage in diplomatic efforts to support stability and peace in Syria, aiming to create conditions conducive to voluntary and safe returns for refugees. Public diplomacy can play a major role to address the issue (Bilal, 2022). Working towards a sustainable political solution to the Syrian conflict can contribute to reducing the security implications for Türkiye.

Public Awareness and Communication: Promote accurate and balanced information about the refugee crisis to the public to combat misconceptions and reduce stigmatization. Communication campaigns can help foster empathy and understanding among the host population.

Strengthened Coordination and Monitoring: Establish mechanisms for effective coordination among relevant government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations. Regular monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs will enable the identification of challenges and the refinement of strategies.

Intelligence Cooperation: Strengthen intelligence sharing and cooperation with international partners to identify and counter potential security threats related to the refugee crisis. Collaboration with intelligence agencies and information exchange mechanisms can help address security challenges more effectively.

Long-Term Solutions and Conflict Resolution: Advocate for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian conflict to address the root causes of displacement. Support diplomatic efforts, engage in peace building initiatives, and contribute to humanitarian aid and development assistance in Syria to promote long-term stability and minimize security threats.

Integration and Social Cohesion: Foster social integration by promoting initiatives that bring together refugees and host communities. This includes language training, cultural exchange programs, and support for socio-economic integration to reduce tensions and enhance social cohesion.

Targeted Support for Host Communities: Provide targeted support and resources to the local communities hosting refugees. This includes investment in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and job creation to alleviate the strain on resources and enhance social stability.

Human Rights and Legal Protection: Uphold international human rights standards and ensure the protection of refugees' rights throughout the asylum process. This includes access to legal aid, fair and efficient asylum procedures, and measures to prevent exploitation and abuse.

Long-term Solutions and Diplomatic Efforts: Actively engage in diplomatic efforts to find a political resolution to the Syrian conflict, which is the root cause of the refugee crisis. Support peace negotiations, humanitarian ceasefires, and efforts for post-conflict reconstruction to create conditions for the voluntary and safe return of refugees.

International Development Assistance: Seek increased international development support to counter the long-term requirements of refugees and host societies. This includes support for sustainable development projects, job creation, and investments in education and healthcare infrastructure.

Humanitarian Assistance and Resource Allocation: Ensure adequate humanitarian assistance and resource allocation to address the basic needs of refugees, including healthcare, education, and housing. This helps mitigate the strain on resources and prevents potential security implications resulting from unmet needs.

Strengthen Law Enforcement: Enhance efforts to combat criminal activities involving refugees, such as human trafficking and illicit trade. Allocate resources to law enforcement agencies, improve coordination, and implement targeted measures to address criminal networks.

International Cooperation and Burden-Sharing: Work closely and Strengthen cooperation with international partners, including the UN and relevant organizations, the European Union and neighboring countries, etc. to share the burden of hosting refugees and address security challenges collectively. Explore opportunities for burden-sharing, financial assistance, and knowledge exchange to enhance the effectiveness of response efforts and providing humanitarian assistance.

Provide refugees with legal migratory routes: European member states should set up legal pathways for asylum seekers to apply from outside the Union in order to combat migrant traffickers and lessen demand at the external frontiers. Humanitarian permits might be issued by European embassies overseas (using the European External Action Service as well) to allow asylum seekers to enter Europe legally and safely after undergoing basic screening for individuals requesting international protection. (Dimitriadi, 2016).

Early warning systems: Using already-established regional procedures and the European External Action Service, the EU may establish early warning systems that send out signals on conflicts and population movements from the states of origin and the transfer of refugees (European Commission, 2021).

Offer legal migration channels for economic migrants: The mechanisms through which migrants can apply for legal status should be enhanced in European nations. In areas where there has been significant internal migration, this might help ease some of the burden. It would enable the expansion of Diasporas, which are essential for supporting the nation of origin (Martin, 2005).

Differentiate readmission agreements: For instance, Türkiye serves as a significant transit country for migrants travelling to Europe, making the third-country national clause necessary in particular situations for nations with strategic geographic locations. The Commission's evaluation revealed that, in most instances, member states seldom ever implement the provision in actual practice (Yılmaz, 2014).

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