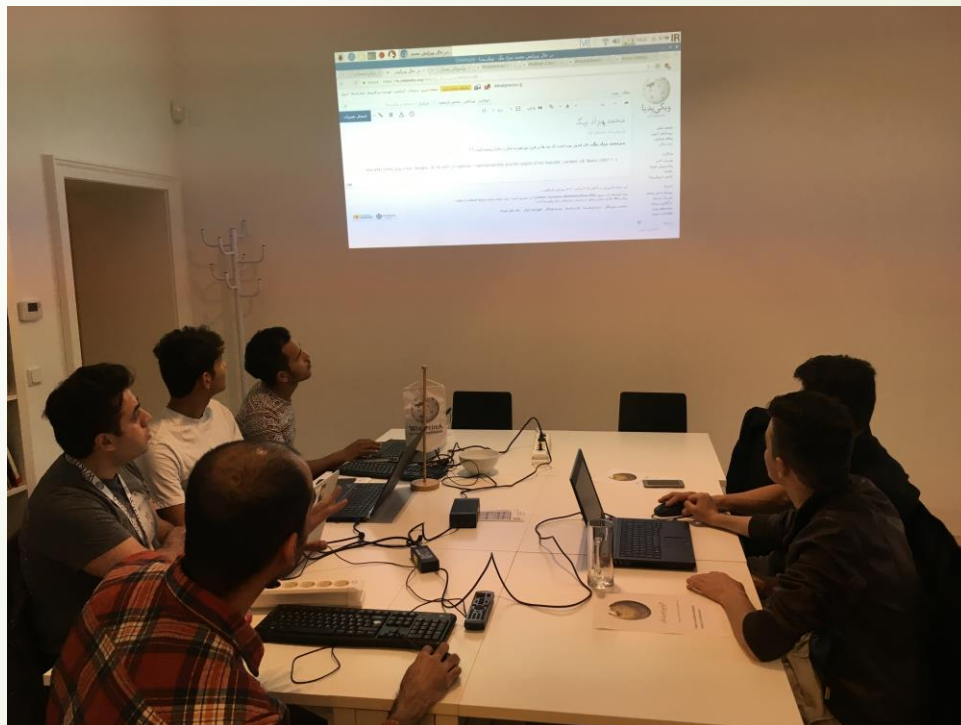


# Refugee Projects



By Iranian Wikimedians User Group (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Anass Sedrati

Wikimedia Morocco User Group

WikiIndaba 2018 – Tunisia – 16-18 march 2018

# Agenda

- Refugees in The world
- "Traditional" Help of Refugees
- Introduce Wikimedia to refugees
- Existing Refugee programs
- Problems and challenges
- How can you help?
- Conclusions

# Refugees in the World (1/2)

- **Refugee:** A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution or natural disaster [*Oxford Dictionaries*].
- Reasons to become a refugee:
  - War / Civil War
  - Human Rights Violations
  - Environment and Climate
  - Economic hardship



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# Refugees in the World (2/2)

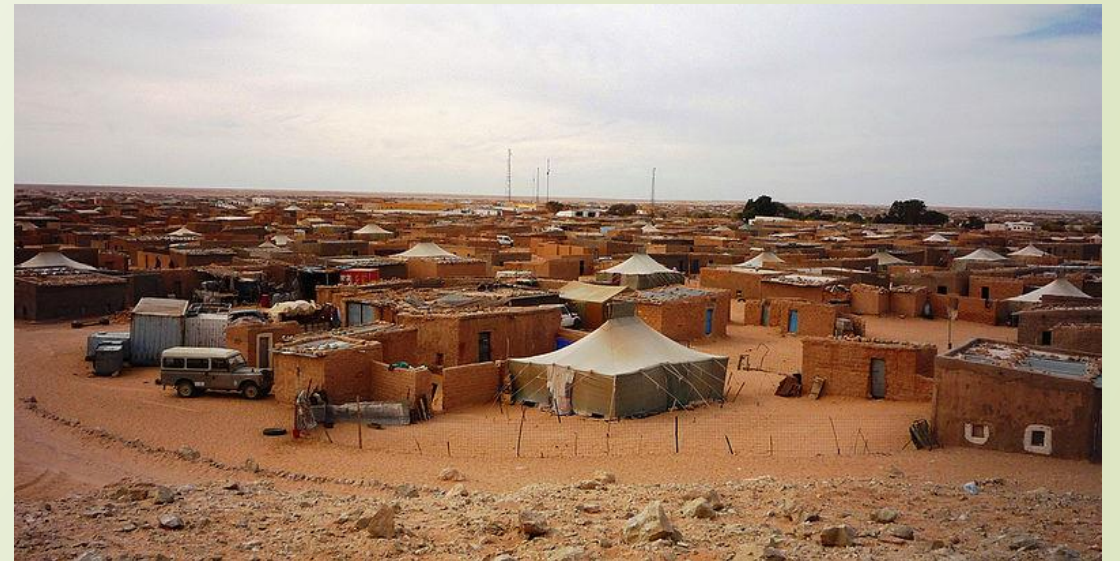
- **UNHCR Statistical Yearbooks:**
  - 65,6 million: forcibly displaced people worldwide.
  - 22,5 million: Refugees
- **In Africa:**
- 30% of the world's displaced people are being hosted in Africa
  - 19,68 million people
- Main concerned countries:
  - Uganda – Ethiopia – Nigeria – Sudan – South-Sudan – Somalia – Democratic Republic of Congo

# "Traditional" help of Refugees

- Help can be provided to refugees through different means including:
- Providing accomodation (tents – Shelters)
- Providing water, food, clothes
- Helping in finding a work and integrate into society
- Teaching the language of the host country
- Educating children and prepare them to a brighter future.



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# Introduce Wikimedia to Refugees

6

- 2015 : European migrant "Crisis"

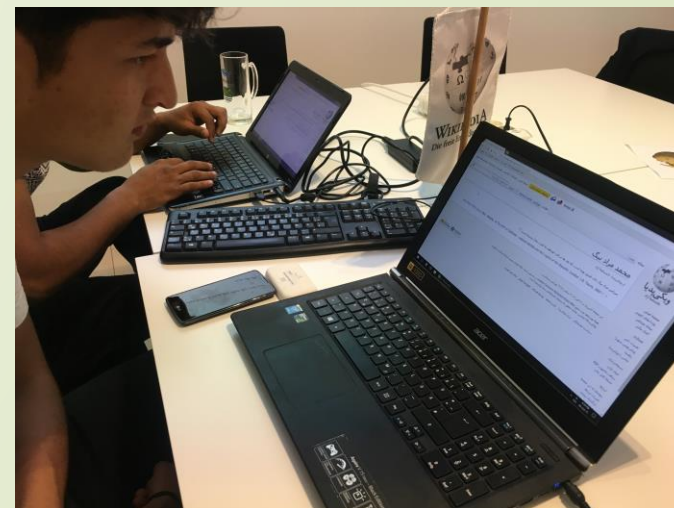


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- EU member states received over 1.2 million asylum applications
- Processing of the cases takes a very long time (up to 4-5 years)
- During the processing time, applicants are usually not allowed to study or work (missing the legal residence status).
- Asylum applicants have plenty of free time and feel bored and neglected.
- Gives a feeling of helping in the society and being effective
- Enriches the content of their mother tongues
- Win-Win situation

# Existing Refugee programmms

- Collaboration with Associations (Example of Austria)
- Wikipedia4Refugees (Italy)
- Wikipedia Refugee program (Norway)



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# Existing programs – Collaboration with Associations

- Vienna – Austria – October 2017
- Initiated by Mohsen Salek and Abbas Salamat in favor of young Afghan refugees speaking Dari (a variant close to Persian)
- In collaboration with "The Afghan Cultural Association AKIS"
- Format: An interactive workshop/ Edit-a-thon
- Adding, improving and translating content in Dari language
- Sharing the knowledge they have learned about Austria to all Dari speaking readers.



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# Existing programs – Wikipedia 4 Refugees



- Trento region – Italy – Autumn 2017
- Involving a group of asylum seekers and refugees in translating articles from the Italian Wikipedia to their native languages.
- Format: Course composed of 10 lessons, 2 hours each, once a week.
- The course is led by a teacher and an assistant (Refugee with advanced Italian skills).
- Introducing participants to Wikipedia.
- Learn how to create, edit and translate articles.
- Languages: Wolof, Fula, Bambara, Pashtu.

# Existing programs – Refugee program in Norway

- Oslo – Norway – February 2018
- A collaboration between Wikimedia Norway and Oslo City
- Format: Workshop / Edit-a-thon with support of an interpret.
- Create, edit and translate articles in native languages.
- Languages : Tigrinya, Somali, Arabic

# Problems and Challenges

- Most of Refugees don't have digital equipment to edit Wikipedia at home.
- Some are not motivated enough.
- Absence of keyboards in native language.
- Refugees are usually located in remote places (by the state) or small villages, so it is more difficult to reach them.
- Most wikis are hostile with newcomers and do not encourage them.
- Coming from small countries (or speaking minority languages) means refugees are not going to find enough reliable sources about different topics.
- The quality of the articles needs always to be checked by an experienced Wikipedian.

# How Can I help?



- Locate Refugee centers in your country / city.
- Get inspired by the projects done in Europe.
- Present the different opportunities and possible collaborations.
- Create your own events and help integrate the refugees in your region.
- Mentor some participants
  - First, this will make a new editor enrich the encyclopedia
  - Second, it will help you sharpen your leadership skills and help you grow in your role and take more responsibilities in your region.

# Conclusions

- Refugees are part of our society, and integrating them is partly our duty.
- Refugees joining Wikimedia movement is a way forward both to strengthen the community and to give more visibility to Global South (by recruiting new editors and enriching the content in minority languages).
- It helps the refugees to integrate and learn more about the country they live in.
- Encourages interaction and intercultural exchange between asylum seekers/refugees and the Wikipedia community;
- Adding, improving and translating content in underrepresented linguistic editions.
- Training digital literacy skills, including: participating on the open Web by using its collaborative tools; contributing content by translating and summarizing texts; evaluating critically information found online (media literacy).

# References

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<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/refugee>
- UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2017  
<http://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>
- Wikipedia 4 Refugees Meta Page  
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