



UiT / NORGES ARKTISKE
UNIVERSITET

REFUGEE CAMP DESIGNS - A HINDRANCE TO SAFETY?

by

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A Master's Thesis
Submitted to the Univeristet I Tromsø
In Fulfilment of the Requirements
For a Master's Degree

Tromsø, 2024

ABSTRACT

The rising number of forcibly displaced people has led to an increased need for refugee camps, which provide temporary shelter and safety for those unable to return home. Despite being designed for short - term use, many camps evolve into long - term settlements, bringing challenges related to safety, infrastructure and community integration. This project explores whether current refugee camp designs hinder safety and examines how urban planning strategies can improve living conditions. By treating refugee camps as potential permanent urban units, this study aims to identify tools and approaches to enhance the well - being and security of camp residents.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROBLEM FORMULATION

With the growing population of forcibly displaced people, the need for refugee camps drastically increased for the last decades. The need for refugee camps arises to provide refugees a safe space for those who cannot safely return homes. Nations are obliged to provide asylum to those who are forced to leave their country of origin, as being mandated by international law and the principle of non - refoulement.

Refugee camps are established to provide temporary shelter, complemented by assistance of many actors responsible for their well - being. One of the biggest challenges in a refugee camp is maintaining a safe environment. Emergency planning is typically used to create temporary shelter without long - term urban safety measures. However, safety is crucial in refugee camps, being a vulnerable population with many psychological and physical issues, refugees require special needs and a secure environment, they are at high risk of harm to any source.

Because of prolonging time of stay in refugee camps, over time these settlements from being temporary solutions became permanent housing options for a vast group of displacement people. It causes new challenges considering urban planning camps, their design and safety aspects. The duration of stay in refugee camps varies widely, even for years or decades. On account of that, it is important to consider refugee camps as permanent urban units with the possibility to develop infrastructure, community structures and services like schools or hospitals. As a result, there might be long - term well - being of refugees and a safer environment for vulnerable people.

Reminding cities, refugee camps can be investigated in an urban context. Designing refugee camps being flexible for further development can simplify their transition into more permanent settlements. Stakeholders can develop more effective cities - like strategies to improve safety in refugee camps, using urban tools for maintaining a safe environment within that settlement. The project tries to describe the specifics of refugee camp design, and to attempt to understand how it affects safety in these settlements. The project tries to

investigate if refugee camp design is a hindrance of safety, what kind of tools stakeholders might use to improve the safety in camps, and how to understand refugee camp planning to improve well - being of residents.

To support the answer for this problem statement, the project is going to attempt to answer additional research questions in the context of refugee camp design and emergency planning.

Refugee camp design and emergency planning are crucial to address instant and long - term needs of the displaced population. The detailed research questions guide this investigation and explore many - sided aspects and considerations influencing the planning and design of refugee camps.

- What are key considerations when designing refugee camps in response to emergency planning?
- How can emergency planning and emergency architecture balance the need for temporary solutions with the importance of safety in the long term?
- Why is safety an important factor to consider in refugee camp design and is it possible to achieve it in temporary settings?
- What factors determine the transition of a refugee camp to a permanent settlement, and how long do people spend in the refugee camp?
- Is it possible to approach refugee camp design as a permanent urban unit from the outset, allowing for future development and avoiding the need for significant redesign later on?

1.2. METHODOLOGY

For conducting the project several methods to support answering the research questions were used.

Desk research

The one method used in the project was desk research. It included internet findings of the refugee camp design, specific projects conducted throughout years around the world. Moreover, research included investigating urban planning tools to provide safety in camps, and findings about conditions in refugee camps and problems residents face. Additionally, Research included urban tools that might be used to prevent crime in big and small cities and measures taken by the city governance to prevent crime. Applying those solutions and trying to fit in the refugee camp context. Gained data and information was a base for analysis of the impact of camp design on security within the settlement and a sense of safety.

Statistic analyzing

Statistic analyzing is a method collecting data, analyzing them, and comparing them to others. The method helped to understand and collect a large amount of data found during the research process. Including crime statistics, camp designs or challenges and problems within refugee camps. ¹

During the research various refugee camp designs were investigated. Along with analysis the results were compared to city plans in a context of safety and maintaining the areas secure. The urban planning tools responsible for safety were found, and explained in the context of refugee camps. Different aspects of planning were investigated during the research, like emergency planning and urban planning, trying to understand the shift from temporary shelter to long - term city units occurring in refugee camps. Thanks to research the attempt of understanding the complexity of the topic was made. However, the research was conducted from the perspective of privileged students from the Nordic country, which does not allow

¹ Flick, U. (2018). An Introduction to Qualitative Research, Sage: Melbourne

them to fully understand the perspective of vulnerable people living in the camps. With the eurocentrism tendency of trying to find solutions for different cultures and perspectives, it is important to give a chance to those who are affected the most to speak. That is why the biggest limitations for this research is lack of interviews with residents of camps.

1.3. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

As a theoretical background for the project, many papers and theories had been used to support the investigation. Since the project is based on analyzing refugee camps as city units, the literature is focused on urban safety. For the explanation of the refugee participation in enhancing the safety, social cohesion and sense of the place were used. To investigate future solutions, and problem - solving strategies the theory of Utopia and utopian thinking was applied.

Urban Safety

Urban security, defined as the absence of significant threats from crime and the perception of safety, currently depends on various structural and local factors. The growth of megacities, each with over 10 million residents, further complicates urban security. These large urban centers influence multiple surrounding cities, making crime more complex due to interactions among these cities. This influences specific crimes such as organized crime, kidnapping, and human trafficking. As urbanization and globalization increase, so does the complexity of crime, necessitating new approaches to co - producing security involving both state and local actors including civil society. ²

Particularly in developing countries, urban growth has led to uncontrolled sprawl, creating cities with low social cohesion, unequal access to services, and diverse youth socialization processes. Migration brings diverse cultures into cities, posing challenges in managing cultural differences and conflicts. Consequently, crime varies by urban area, sometimes leading to lawless neighborhoods. Housing market speculation has also grown significantly, as seen during the 2008 crisis, which heightened urban segregation and social exclusion. This has become a source of both national and global crises. Therefore, controlling the real estate

² <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/evolution-and-challenges-security-within-cities>

market is essential for urban management to prevent economic and social crises, reduce inequality, and curb money - laundering. The evolution of crime between the 1960s and 1990s saw a worldwide surge in criminal activity. Sociologist Sergio Adorno notes that in three decades, crime narratives shifted from being exceptional to commonplace, with innocence replaced by constant danger. By around 1995, crime rates in developed countries stabilized and even declined in recent years. However, in many developing countries, crime levels have continued to rise or remain stable but with higher violence.³

The significant rise in crime during the 1960s - 1990s coincided with economic expansion in industrialized nations, disproving the theory that poverty is the main cause of crime. Urban crime is multi - causal, depending on various factors unique to each urban context. The social fabric and the institutional and historical dimensions of a city explain its crime rates at any given time. Different forms of crime have distinct causes; for instance, the reason behind gender violence differs from those behind theft white - collar crimes, drug trafficking, or gang - related violence. The evolution of social institutions, such as the family, school, and neighborhood, also impacts urban security. Diverse and culturally legitimate family structures coexist, and the role of young people is prompting a reevaluation of intergenerational relationships. Education, essential but insufficient for social mobility, sometimes turns schools into exclusionary environments where violence is learned, and certain neighborhoods become hotspots for organized crime. Parents, teachers, and local leaders often feel unprepared for these changing dynamics. The degradation of social values, lack of common references, and institutional failures increase the vulnerability of disadvantaged populations. Technological advancements create new communication forms widening the generational gap and introducing new types of crime such as cybercrime and pornography.⁴

City authorities bear primary responsibility for security. Past lessons have shown that policies focused solely on repression or deterrence yield poor results. Cities and states are crucial actors in formulating and implementing security policies, especially in social, situational, and developmental prevention forms. Urban management involves more than just the size of cities or the presence of organized crime affecting insecurity levels. Despite the importance of municipal policies, only a few city governments have them. Local authorities have a unique role in prevention due to their proximity to the population, enabling them to

³ *ibidem*.

⁴ *ibidem*.

understand local needs and characteristics. Effective prevention requires decentralization, as central governments are too distant from the realities of cities and neighborhoods. Local authorities must lead, implement, and evaluate prevention policies. Successful local prevention policies require a rigorous methodology, including participative diagnosis to understand criminality's reality and causes. This approach can generate local consensus, set priorities, and implement prevention strategies through projects. Monitoring and evaluation are crucial, as are supporting policies like technical team training and communication strategies. Methodological rigor is essential, as ad hoc preventive measures without a comprehensive city plan often fail to have a lasting impact.⁵

Observation of "safer cities" initiatives reveals three phases in developing prevention policies. The first phase involves collective learning and alliance building over three to four years, emphasizing continuity, rigorous approaches, leadership, and technical teams. The second phase consolidates social cohesion, a culture of prevention, quality of life, and crime reduction. The third phase involves adapting successful processes to other cities, as seen in Cote d'Ivoire and Tanzania, eventually leading to national urban security policies based on city experiences.⁶

Coherence between prevention and social policies is fundamental, as criminality's roots lie in the social fabric of the city. Effective prevention policies focus on vulnerable groups while addressing structural factors that create vulnerabilities. Crime prevention should aim to create a just city with opportunities for the most vulnerable, using comprehensive prevention approaches integrated with social and urban policies. The main obstacles to adopting prevention policies include the lack of adequate institutional frameworks, financial resources, and rigorous assessments. Key areas in urban prevention policies include public spaces, critical and vulnerable neighborhoods, youth vulnerability, and gender violence. The current challenge is addressing these issues through an articulated co - production of security involving local actors, police, and central governments. This approach aligns with the Global Network on Safer Cities, launched in 2012 by UN - HABITAT.⁷

Urbanization is strongly associated with economic and social progress. However, despite this growth and advancement, cities worldwide are plagued by persistent insecurity, violence, and

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/evolution-and-challenges-security-within-cities>

⁶ *ibidem*.

⁷ <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/evolution-and-challenges-security-within-cities>

corruption, often stemming from criminal activities that cross urban and national borders. The security issues faced by individual cities are increasingly influenced by the combination of personal vulnerabilities, local risks and illegal activities originating from other countries.⁸

Global studies indicate that 60% of urban residents in developing countries have experienced crime at least once in the past five years. Urbanization in the developing world has been accompanied by rising crime, violence, and lawlessness. The increasing violence and sense of insecurity faced daily by city dwellers represent a major global challenge. In some countries, crime and violence are worsened by the spread of weapons, substance abuse, and youth unemployment. These issues significantly affect the everyday lives of urban residents.

Women and children are often the most affected, particularly when fear restricts their access to services. The impact of crime and insecurity hampers urban social and economic development, threatening opportunities and pro - poor policies. Without intentional effort to address these issues, future development and poverty reduction prospects remain limited.

According to the UN website “ Research points to inequalities (UN - HABITAT, 2015), lack of institutional and social control and social exclusion as underlying causes of crime and violence in urban areas.” Empirical studies indicate that criminal environments are not caused by the size of urban areas but by poor planning, design, and management of urbanization.⁹

Urban security is crucial for a good living environment and impacts economic developments. Challenges are diverse and can emerge and evolve rapidly due to external factors like city development, disease vectors, economic crises, changes in city planning, or shifts in organized crime or terrorism tactics. Urban authorities are key players in addressing actual and perceived security through targeted measures, given their strong local presence and knowledge of local challenges. Security is a multifaceted issue encompassing areas such as social integration - access to quality, non - segregated basic services including education, social and healthcare, law enforcement, societal resilience, and community empowerment against violence. It also involves enhancing the protection of buildings and infrastructure. As a result, numerous actors should be involved in security, including first responders like police or firefighters, health and social sectors, schools, non - governmental organizations, civil society partners, and urban designers, to ensure security is integrated into the design of buildings and open spaces. Local interventions should adopt a holistic and bottom - up

⁸ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/urban-safety/index.html>

⁹ <https://unhabitat.org/topic/urban-safety>

approach, focusing on community and resilience. Issues important to consider when it comes to urban security are improving spatial design, urban planning and development of security - by - design concept, and enhancing the resilience of buildings and infrastructure. Empowering and building the capacity of local communities, including increasing risk awareness and societal resilience. Supporting victims of crime and assessing individual needs and supporting the integration of marginalized people to prevent polarization that could lead to criminalization and radicalization. Collecting information on unreported crimes.¹⁰

Utopia

The Utopian theory is founded on the ideas of change and hope. Its primary focus is on envisioning the future and potential transformations. This approach involves examining the present conditions, assessing them, and identifying what is lacking and what can be improved. It centers on imagining ideal solutions and a perfect future, based on principles of equality, solidarity and justice. Two main characteristics of the Utopian approach are critique and constructive vision.¹¹ Additionally, utopia is often associated with terms like “unrealistic”, “impossible”, or “unreasonable”¹² However, without a critical perspective on reality and attempts to implement the utopian ideas, asking for a better future is challenging. Critical thinking is essential for any effort to improve, which is a core concept of utopian thinking. It helps to create public space with equal and symmetrical access to the facilities and infrastructure.

In the context of urban planning, utopian thinking has a long - standing tradition in city and regional planning. Effective planning involves considering the city in terms of social justice, ecological sustainability, and democratic public participation, as well as cultural diversity. Friedmann’s article notes that utopian thinking is “historically grounded in specific emancipatory struggles”¹³ This suggests that urban thinking and utopian planning progress differently in each country, influenced by unique cultures, traditions and histories. The concept of a good city varies with cultural diversity and different traditions. Furthermore,

¹⁰ <https://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/urban-security>

¹¹ Friedmann, J. (2000). The Good City: in defense of utopian thinking. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 24. 2, 460-72

¹² Pinder, D. (2011). Necessary dreaming: uses of utopia in urban planning. In Jean Hiller and Patsy Healey, editors, *The Ashgate Companion to Planning Theory*. Aldershot, Ashgate, pp. 343-363

¹³ Friedmann, J. (2000). The Good City: in defense of utopian thinking. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 24. 2, 460-72

distinct architectural traditions, democratic practices, and levels of social involvement also shape the future vision of the ideal city.

According to Fenstein, there are three main variations of utopian thinking. “The first, design utopias, address directly ideals of a perfect society but are little concerned with its physical form. The second, symbolic utopias, use the forms of the built environment simply to illustrate broad social concepts of such a society. The third, physical utopias, see defining forms of the built environment as in fact decisively incorporating the desired ideal.”¹⁴

Social Cohesion

The first one who mentioned “social cohesion” term was Emile Durkheim in 1897, sketching the concept in *Suicide*. Durkheim differentiated two sides of social cohesion: “1) the absence of latent social conflict (any conflict based on for e.g. wealth, ethnicity, race, and gender) and 2) the presence of strong social bonds (e.g. civic society, responsive democracy, and impartial law enforcement).”¹⁵

Following the definition from Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well - Being Research, social cohesion refers to the degree of connectedness and solidarity among groups within a society. It recognizes two different aspects - the sense of belonging within a community and the relationships among its members. Social cohesion arises from the democratic effort to achieve social balance, economic dynamism, and a sense of national identity, aiming to create a system of equity, manage the forces of unhacked economic growth, and prevent social divisions. As a social process, social cohesion seeks to strengthen diverse citizenship by reducing inequalities and socioeconomic disparities within society. It addresses the need for both personal development and a sense of belonging, linking individual freedom with social justice, economic efficiency with the equitable distribution of resources, and pluralism with common rules for conflict resolution.¹⁶

Social cohesion is defined as a unity and group consciousness. “the ongoing process of developing well-being, sense of belonging, and voluntary social participation of the members

¹⁴ Fainstein, S; Defilippis, J. (2016). Readings in planning theories. Willey Blackwell

¹⁵ <https://scanloninstitute.org.au/research/mapping-social-cohesion/what-social-cohesion>

¹⁶ https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5_2739

of society while developing communities that tolerate and promote a multiplicity of values and cultures, and while granting at the same time equal rights and opportunities in society”¹⁷

Social cohesion concept is described also as a component of three attributes - cooperation for the common good, trust, inclusive identity. Cooperation for the common good occurs in a society where many people and groups collaborate. While past emphasis has been on the importance of cooperation among individuals and groups, this concept also includes vertical cooperation. People cooperate with the state through participation in public life and consultation. Trust on the other hand, refers to both social and institutional trust. Social trust is an ability to trust people outside the family circle. In contrast, institutional trust refers to the trust in formal and legal actors. Inclusive identity refers to individuals with different identities to coexist peacefully, without the attempts of domination. This aspect involves tolerance, recognition, but also protection of different groups and people. It means that people can identify with a broader entity like a nation.¹⁸

Sense of Place

Sense of place describes connection to location, expressed through various dimensions of human life such as emotions, imagination or personal experiences. The sense of place involves also place attachment and place meaning. Place attachment refers to the bond between people and places, a sense of place evolves thanks to personal experiences, interpretation and interaction with the world. In urban settings, it reflects the intersections of culture, environment or economics, it is influenced by migration and global mobility. To understand the sense of place in the urban context it is necessary to consider cities as socially constructed places, as an inherited place and also created by inhabitants. Sense of place is shaped by personal experiences and social interactions.¹⁹ Sense of place is a so-called umbrella concept including theories like attachment to place or regional awareness.²⁰

¹⁷ <https://www.mdpi.com/2673-8392/3/3/75>

¹⁸ <https://www.socialcohesion.info/concepts/concept/idos-social-cohesion-concept>

¹⁹ <https://www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/05/26/sense-of-place/>

²⁰ <https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100454793>

2. PRESENTATION

2.1 Migration and refugees and international law

Since 2020 the scale of migration, international migration and displacement events has increased rapidly. Millions of people were forced to flee because of conflicts in Syria, the Arab Republic, Yemen, South Sudan, the Democratic republic of the Congo or the Central African Republic. Moreover, also economic and political instability have an impact on the number of migration like in Venezuela or in Afghanistan. Additionally, the big impact on increasing migration has been climate and weather disasters around the world, including the Philippines, Bangladesh, Haiti or India.²¹

3.6 per cent of the global population are migrants. The United Nations estimates that there are around 281 million migrants around the world. A lot of migrants (Internally Displaced People) do not travel across borders, however in the course of time many people travel everywhere and try to cross borders. The reasons for that are different, it might be among others war conflict, fear of oppression, climate crisis or persecution.²²

Migration is shaped by economic, geographical, demographic, political and many other factors, which creates specific migration patterns called migration “corridors” developed over years. There is the tendency that corridors are created from the South to larger economies, such as the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Europe.²³

The 1951 Convention defines a refugee as a person who “owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of their nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail themselves of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of their former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”²⁴

²¹ IOM, UN Migration, 2022

²² *ibidem*.

²³ *ibidem*.

²⁴ The Refugee Convention, 1951

While according to the 1951 Convention the term “refugee” is well - explained, the term “migrant” does not have a single universal definition. The meaning and explanation may vary depending on the context or organization and the legal framework being used. According United Nations migrant is “a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for variety reasons”²⁵ International Organization for Migrants defines a migrant as “any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from their habitual place of residence, regardless of the person’s legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary, what the causes for the movement are, or what the length of the stay is”²⁶ International Labour Organization defines migrant worker as “a person who migrates from one country to another or who moves within their own country for the purpose of employment”²⁷

Because of migration and people forced to leave their countries the international law was created to protect refugees. All of the states are obliged to implement legal tools, national laws or treaties to protect immigrants.²⁸ To explain the “refugee” definition it is important to present shortly the history of how international law, regarding refugee status, developed.

Following the conclusion of World War I in 1914 - 1918, a substantial number of individuals sought refuge, leaving their home countries. In response to this crisis, governments initiate a series of global arrangements to issue travel documents for these individuals. marking them as the first officially recognized refugees of the 20th century. Their numbers swelled significantly during and after World War II in 1939-1945, as millions more were forcibly displaced. In reaction to this situation, the international community gradually developed a set of principles, regulations, and treaties with the aim of safeguarding the fundamental human rights and well - being of those compelled to flee due to conflict and persecution. This process, which commenced during the era of the League of Nations in 1921, reached its pinnacle with the 1951 Convention. This convention consolidated and expanded upon prior international instruments pertaining to refugees and remains the most extensive framework codifying the rights of refugees on the global stage. To conclude, the fundamental legal

²⁵ United Nations, <https://www.iom.int/about-migration>

²⁶ <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/wmr-2022-interactive/>

²⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK379428/>

²⁸ Goodwin - Gill, G. S. (2014). The International Law of Refugee Protection. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199652433.013.0021

documents underpinning UNHCR's mission are the 1951 Refugee Convention along with its 1967 Protocol. At this point it is important to explain the difference and specifics of both documents. In July of 1951, a diplomatic gathering in Geneva embraced the Convention Regarding the Status of Refugees. Since then, it has undergone just one adjustment in the form of the 1967 Protocol. Originally, the 1951 Convention primarily aimed at safeguarding refugees from Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. The text included the phrase "events occurring before 1 January 1951", which was widely interpreted to refer to "events taking place in Europe" prior to that date. The 1967 Protocol, ratified on October 4, 1967, eliminates these geographical and time - related constraints, broadening the Convention's scope to have universal applicability, thereby protecting all individuals escaping from conflict and persecution.²⁹

-The beginning of the international refugee discourse was 1921 when the League of Nations took legal and institutional initiatives during appointment with the High Commissioner of Refugees and afterwards certified that 'any person of Russian origin who does not enjoy or no longer enjoys the protection of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and who has not acquired another nationality'.³⁰ The refugee issue became highly politicized after the Second World War. The UN with the International Refugee Organization (IRO) was against the Soviet Union and its allies. Thanks to various governmental plans, employment placement and individual migration, many refugees were resettled under International Refugee Organization patronage.³¹

Refugees represent one of the world's most vulnerable populations. The 1951 Refugee Convention, bolstered by its 1967 Protocol, plays a pivotal role in safeguarding their well - being. These documents serve as the cornerstone of refugee protection and are the primary legal framework guiding UNHCR's activities. The 1951 Convention establishes the globally accepted definition of a refugee and delineates the legal safeguards, entitlements, and aid that refugees are entitled to receive. UNHCR assumes the role of a custodian for these documents, supporting governments in adapting them into national laws to ensure the protection of refugees and the exercise of their rights. The central tenet of the 1951 Convention is the principle of non - refoulement, asserting that refugees should not be forcibly returned to a

²⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org>

³⁰ Goodwin - Gill, G. S. (2014). The International Law of Refugee Protection. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199652433.013.0021

³¹ *ibidem*.

country where their life or freedom is under severe threat. This document outlines the minimum standards for the treatment of refugees, encompassing the right to shelter, employment, and education during their displacement, enabling them to lead a life marked by dignity and self reliance. It also specifies certain categories of individuals, such as war criminals, who do not qualify for refugee status. Furthermore, it delineates the legal responsibilities of the states that are parties to one or both of these accords.³²

Nations bear the responsibility of protecting the fundamental human rights of their citizens. In situations where they are incapable or unwilling to fulfill this duty, often driven by political motives, discrimination, conflict, violence, or other circumstances severely disrupting public order, individuals may endure such severe human rights violations that they are compelled to abandon their residences, families, and communities in search of safety in another nation. Given that refugees, by definition, lack protection from their own governments, the international community steps in to ensure their safety and well - being. Countries that have ratified the 1951 Convention are obligated to shield refugees within their borders and treat them in accordance with globally accepted standards.³³

The most important principle of the 1951 Convention is the “non - refoulement” principle. Otherwise it is worth mentioning other refugee rights contained in the 1951 Convention, distinguished by UNHCR:

- “Article 32: The right not to be expelled, except under certain, strictly defined conditions
- Article 31: The right not to be punished for irregular entry into the territory of a contracting state
- Articles 3 and 5: The right to non-discrimination
- Articles 17 to 19 and 24: The right to decent work
- Articles 13, 14 and 21: The right to housing, land and property, including intellectual property
- Article 22: The right to education
- Article 4: The right to freedom of religion
- Article 16: The right to access to justice
- Article 26 and 31: The right to freedom of movement within territory

³² <https://www.unhcr.org>

³³ *ibidem*.

- Articles 12, 27 and 28: The right to be issued civil, identity and travel documents
- Articles 23 and 24: the right to social protection”³⁴

It is worth to say that the international law of refugee protection is the source of many universal and regional conventions, rules, general principles, national law and the “ever developing standards” in the practice of states and international organizations - especially the Office of The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.³⁵

The UN Refugee Agency, also known as UNHCR is a global organization with the mission to preserve lives, safeguard rights, and foster a brighter future for individuals compelled to leave their residences due to persecution or conflicts. The organization claims that it takes the lead in international efforts to shield refugees, displaced communities and stateless individuals. Originally named the Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950, following the aftermath of World War II, to assist the millions who had been displaced from their homes. Today, UNHCR operates 135 nations. They supply essential aid, such as shelter, sustenance, clean water, and medical treatment to those who have been compelled to flee due to conflict and persecution, many of whom have no one else to rely on. UNHCR advocates for their right to find safety and help them locate a place to settle down and rebuild their lives. Over the long term, UNHCR collaborates with countries to enhance and oversee refugee and asylum laws and policies, ensuring the protection of human rights. In all of their endeavors, UNHCR regards refugees and those forced to flee as collaborators, prioritizing their involvement in planning and decision-making processes.³⁶ Besides the food, shelter and medical care provision, the major function of the international refugee regime is legal protection. Which means that states thanks to legal tools like treaties or national laws are able to ensure that refugees searching asylum are not penalized, expelled and can use the full complements of benefits and rights as a refugee. Overall, every refugee has a guarantee of human rights and protection guaranteed both by state and UNHCR.³⁷

Since 1951 the international protection was in UN General Assembly hands, IRO was not in charge of providing protection to refugees anymore. The year earlier The Statute of the

³⁴ *ibidem*.

³⁵ Goodwin - Gill, G. S. (2014). The International Law of Refugee Protection. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199652433.013.0021

³⁶ <https://www.unhcr.org>

³⁷ Goodwin - Gill, G. S. (2014). The International Law of Refugee Protection. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199652433.013.0021

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was adopted. In 2003 the General Assembly renewed the UNHCR mandate ‘until the refugee problem is solved’.³⁸ UNHCR complemented protection responsibilities by a new refugee treaty and 1951 Convention was finalized by states which entered into force in 1954. In 1967 the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees connected UNHCR’s mandate and the 1951 Convention to clarify the general definition of ‘refugee’ as ‘including any person who is outside their country or origin and unable or unwilling to return there or to avail themselves of its protection, owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group (an additional ground not found in the UNHCR Statute), or political opinion. Stateless persons may also be refugees in this sense, where country of origin (citizenship) is understood as ‘country of former habitual residence’.’³⁹ To sum up, refugees must be outside of the country of origin, but it is not necessary that the reason for fleeing was the fear of persecution. Goodwin - Gill explains that the fear of persecution looks to the future, and can also appear during absence of the country of origin.⁴⁰ Every state is obliged, in accordance with respect of human rights, to implement its international obligations, but also to respect international treaties into local law. The treatment of refugees and asylum seekers is regulated not only by international refugee treaties but also by the human rights treaties, which all together protect refugees; rights and set up general standards for states.⁴¹

2.2 Emergency planning

There is no specific theory or definition of emergency planning, the paper explains the emergency management in the refugee context and in the context of the need for refugee camps. However, the emergency architecture solutions might present the proposal for creating safer and more sustainable settlements created for semi - permanent or permanent reasons.

During the emergency planning there is a component of preparing and responding to unforeseen events, but also crisis, which can be a potential threat for the public safety, but also for the environment and for the normal functioning of the community. Emergency

³⁸ Goodwin - Gill, G. S. (2014). The International Law of Refugee Protection. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199652433.013.0021

³⁹ *ibidem*.

⁴⁰ *ibidem*.

⁴¹ Goodwin - Gill, G. S. (2014). The International Law of Refugee Protection. *The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies*. 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199652433.013.0021

planning contains various strategies, procedures, and resources to reduce the impact of crisis or impact of disasters. Moreover, emergency planning also outlines the strategy on how to effectively respond and recover after the disasters. The first step during emergency planning is risk assessment, understanding in a particular area, the potential hazards or vulnerabilities, like natural disasters, potential threats and conflicts, but also technological incidents. The next step for emergency planners after the risk is identified is to create objectives. Objectives explain what needs to be done and achieved during the emergency - like saving lives or protecting properties. After setting up objectives and goals, there is a time for development of plans. This process contains communication plans, evacuation plans, maintaining essential functions after and during emergency, but also specific plans addressing unique needs and protocols for the specific hazard and emergency.⁴² To implement plans emergency planners identify and allocate resources, like personnel, supplies, specific equipment, or facilities. To gain additional resources collaboration with external organizations or agencies is needed. To prepare the community and responders regular training and drills are essential. Executing emergency plans effectively it is important to identify gaps in planning allowing for improvements. The one very important part of emergency planning is public education. It is crucial to raise awareness about the risks they face, and how to respond and act during the emergency situations.⁴³ Emergency planners should educate the public about evacuation routes, emergency contacts or other safety measures. The important part of emergency planning is to coordinate and collaborate among various stakeholders, government agencies, non - governmental organizations, but also with the private sector. Even when there is no threat or prediction for an emergency or disaster, emergency plans should be updated and reviewed regularly, taking under consideration the population growth, technological advancements, but also new hazards.⁴⁴

The first major agreement regarding disaster risk reduction is The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Agenda provides Member States with specific steps to safeguard the progress made in development against the threat of disasters.⁴⁵ Being one of the 2030 Agenda agreements, The Sendai Framework works closely with other 2030 Agenda agreements, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Development, the NEW Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable

⁴² <https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/planning.html>

⁴³ *ibidem*.

⁴⁴ <https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/hsprograms/planning.html>

⁴⁵ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

Development Goals. This framework was endorsed by the UN General Assembly after the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.⁴⁶ It advocates for significantly decreasing the risk of disaster and the resulting losses in terms of lives, livelihoods, health, and the assets of individuals, businesses, communities, and nations, encompassing economics, physical, social, cultural, and environmental aspects. It acknowledges that while governments play a central role in reducing disaster risk, this responsibility should be shared with various stakeholders, including local authorities, the private sector, and other entities. The Sendai Framework follows the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015, which aimed to enhance the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. It resulted from discussions involving stakeholders that began in March 2012 and inter - governmental negotiations conducted from July 2014 to March 2015.⁴⁷ These negotiations were facilitated by the UNDRR at the request of the UN General Assembly. The UNDRR has the responsibility of aiding the implementation, monitoring, and assessment of the Sendai Framework.⁴⁸

The Sendai Framework defines seven global targets to be achieved by 2020:

1. Reduce global disaster mortality
2. Reduce the number of affected people globally
3. Reduce direct economic loss in relation to GDP
4. Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services
5. Increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies
6. Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries
7. Increase the availability of and access to multi - hazard early warning systems⁴⁹

The Sendai Framework has four main priorities. Understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.⁵⁰ The general process of disaster risk management should be based on understanding emergency risk in all its aspects and

⁴⁶ *ibidem*.

⁴⁷ *ibidem*.

⁴⁸ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

⁴⁹ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

⁵⁰ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

dimensions. The knowledge can be used for prevention, or response for disaster. Also for prevention the main role is disaster risk governance at the national, but also at the global levels. Thanks to collaboration and partnerships the response for disaster can be more effective. Both public and private investments in disaster risk prevention and reduction are crucial for strengthening the ability of individuals, communities and nations to withstand and recover from disasters. Moreover, it is very important to strengthen disaster preparedness for response and recovery. The phase of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction are highly important for the future development. ⁵¹The Sendai Framework emphasizes the implementation of strategies that target all aspects of disaster risk, including exposure to hazards, vulnerability and capacity, and the characteristics of hazards. The aim is to prevent the emergence of new risk, diminish existing risk, and enhance resilience. The framework also defines seven worldwide objectives to provide direction and serve as benchmarks for evaluating advancement. There is The Sendai Framework Monitor online tool designed to collect progress data, which member states report voluntarily. It assesses performance across 38 indicators aligned with the seven global objectives of the Sendai Framework. ⁵²These indicators gauge advancements and help identify global patterns in risk reduction and loss mitigation. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction describes the Monitoring scope on their website: “1. Global and Custom targets and indicators: The seven global targets and 38 global indicators will measure progress made by all countries on disaster risk reduction by the year 2030. These will contribute to the global analysis of the country level information submitted by countries and documented in the biennial Global Assessment Reports; In addition to the 38 global indicators, there are custom targets and indicators. The custom targets and indicators are nationally defined instruments by Member States to measure their progress against the four priorities of the Sendai Framework. They are based on the priorities of respective countries and are reflected in the national DRR reports of the countries. 2. Input, Output and Outcome Level Targets and indicators: Input level - Nationally defined, appropriate public policy indicators to measure the implementation of the four Priorities and the Sendai Framework in general; Output level - Nationally defined targets and indicators to measure reduction of risk and increase in resilience; Outcome level - Global targets and indication as described above, which are objective and comparable.” ⁵³

⁵¹ *ibidem*.

⁵² *ibidem*.

⁵³ <https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework>

Emergency planning is strictly interconnected with emergency architecture, both disciplines play important roles in ensuring safety and resilience of various communities in the face of different emergencies, disasters or conflicts. Like was mentioned above, emergency planning is focused on strategies, protocols for disaster preparedness, but also focuses on response and recovery after the disaster. Emergency architecture concentrates on physical and structural aspects of designing buildings and infrastructure, but also creating spaces that can resist and reduce the impact of disaster. Emergency planning and emergency architecture create together a partnership in creating the environment that prioritizes safety and human well-being. Emergency planning complemented with emergency architecture can create safer environments.⁵⁴

Emergency architecture can be described as a response to any situation which requires fast and functional solutions, using design and construction. It can be a response for environmental, humanitarian or health disasters. The one example of that kind of architecture is modular architecture, which is a construction method that involves the use of prefabricated modules, manufactured individually, which can be easily transported and assembled for the construction of buildings.⁵⁵ In history there are first signs of prefabricated structures. The initial modular constructions were originally designed to serve as military shelters. The earliest prefabricated buildings developed for emergency needs were the Nissen Huts. They were crafted for the British Army during World War I and owe their name to Major Peter Norman Nissen, an American - born engineer and inventor.⁵⁶ He was inspired by two considerations, the barracks should be built by using affordable materials and buildings should be portable to facilitate mobility, especially during a period when there was a shortage of transportation vehicles. Nissen's barracks could be simply packed into a standard military wagon, and lifted by six men. The Nissen Huts satisfied the need for housing during times of conflict. During World War II, the United States, inspired by the design of the Nissen Huts, developed Quonset Huts. The first Quonset structures were manufactured in 1941 in response to the United States Navy's requirement for a lightweight, versatile building that could be easily transported and assembled without the need for skilled labor, much like the Nissen Huts. Cabins were used as military settlements, and after the war the military sold them to the public. Huts were used as a temporary post-war housing used by veterans and their families. The first cabins might be used as examples and inspiration for modern solutions.

⁵⁴ Lobos, J. (2013). *Architecture Humanitarian Emergency*. The Royal Academy of Fine Arts

⁵⁵ <https://pertanto.com/en/emergency-architecture/>

⁵⁶ *ibidem*.

After the COVID - 19 pandemic, it became clear that structures helping to deal with these issues should be updated and produced, and can be deployed to reach the most vulnerable and deprived regions. Structures designed for such scenarios should adhere to the following standards: “adaptable, affordable, community, flexible, functional, quick to build, simple, safe and timeless. “⁵⁷

2.3 Refugee camp design

Discussing refugee camp designs it is important to have in mind that emergency shelters and emergency architecture are created with a temporary purpose. Effects achieved after that kind of planning are very often provisional and impermanent. That is why, many defects regarding safety might be noticed. Designing refugee camps is a very complex, complicated and challenging task. The process requires many different factors being taken under consideration, like ensuring the safety, well-being, and dignity of vulnerable people. Also important is to provide not only basic services but also the sense of community. Refugee camp at the end is supposed to be adaptable to changing circumstances. Principles laying behind the design should fulfill international humanitarian standards, but also guidelines created by organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.⁵⁸

The first important step is to find and choose the proper safe location for the settlement, respecting the rights of local communities or land owners. Settlement should be close to water sources, transportation routes and with easy access to healthcare facilities. It is crucial to create a design with distinction for public spaces, living areas or service areas. Designers should guarantee the space for future expansion, in case of an increasing number of displaced people. The infrastructure should facilitate access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene facilities, along with installing the proper system to avoid flooding and establishing a disposal system.⁵⁹ Shelters are supposed to be created using durable and weather - resistant materials, designed in a way to offer security and privacy. In the refugee camp residents should have access to health clinics and schools, ideally camp staff should promote hygiene and sanitation education. The sense of the community is very important to maintain the healthy mental environment for people, that is why on the level of design it is crucial to create communal

⁵⁷ *ibidem*.

⁵⁸ <https://emergency.unhcr.org/>

⁵⁹ Davis, J., & Lambert, R. (2002). *Engineering in Emergencies: A Practical Guide for Relief Workers*. ITDG Publishing

spaces intended for social interactions and cultural expression, including religious spaces to facilitate faith expression. Moreover, the action involving residents in the planning and decision - making processes should be implemented. ⁶⁰People get the opportunity to speak about their concerns and needs, establishing sort of community committees, but also governance structures help with communication and with a sense of empowerment. People, especially vulnerable groups, like children and women, are supposed to feel safe and secure in the settlement, that is why refugee camp design is trying to implement measures to ensure that. Proper lighting, fencing and community policing are part of keeping the camp a safe space. Additionally, the opportunities for skills training, facilities and activities generating income should be provided. The cooperation between local businesses can create the opportunities for employment outside the camp. ⁶¹Very important in creating a refugee camp is focus on environmental sustainability. Camp's elements should be eco - friendly, with renewable energy sources and sustainable materials, that can create self - sufficiency of the camp, but also minimize the environmental impact of the camp. Camp conditions should be constantly evaluated and open for improvement, the secure and well-being residents supposed to be monitoring non stop, to be sure that the environment and surroundings is safe also for vulnerable individuals. The plan for return or to transit the camp, or resettlement refugees should be prepared, to help people integrate with the host communities when it is needed, trying to avoid conflicts and chaos. ⁶²

2.4. Role of architecture and urban planning to remain safety environment

The architecture and urban planning plays a crucial role in creating and maintaining a safe environment. Well - planned and designed buildings and cities are a big part of creating a community emphasizing safety, health and well - being of its residents. Architects and urban planners evaluate the different kinds of risks and threats, to design communities, buildings and spaces, which can be resistant to that risk. ⁶³Being sure that it is safe and resistant, they design and plan infrastructure like roads, bridges or transportation systems. Architectural designs should be taken before others, under consideration of the safety of building residents.

⁶⁰ Kennedy, J., Ashmore, J., Babister, E., & Kelman, I. (2008). The Meaning of 'Build Back Better': Evidence From Post-Tsunami Aceh and Sri Lanka. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management*, 16(1), 24-36.

⁶¹ ICRC. (2011). *Urban Services During Protracted Armed Conflict: A Call for a Better Approach to Assisting Affected People*

⁶² *ibidem*.

⁶³ Gehl, J. (2011). *Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space*. Island Press

⁶⁴Using proper materials, and inspected construction techniques to provide a building resistant for different hazards. Spaces, neighborhoods and areas should prioritize people with special needs to maintain accessibility and inclusivity, but also incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles. ⁶⁵Taking the proper lighting, clear sightlines and well- defined public spaces under consideration. The other important part for the safety issues is social cohesion and community resilience. Thanks to public spaces like parks and community centers, people can build strong communities that know how to behave during an emergency. ⁶⁶

Effective urban planning focuses also on developing different plans in case of quick response for the emergency, areas in case of danger should be easy to access for responders. Urban planners and architects can have a real impact on health, by creating green spaces, and creating areas for active transportation like bike roads, and can minimize bad effects of emergencies like global pandemic, or various effects of climate change. ⁶⁷

2.5. Refugee camp as a city

To provide the fundamental human needs and deal with numeric issues, refugee camps should be considered as urban settlements, not only as a series of shelters. The urban planning of the refugee camps evokes the concept of forming communities and structuring the areas between buildings, fostering social connections. Some of these unofficial settlements are now perceived as permanent by the local residents, often becoming a source of conflict between them. The main problem for many camps is the unplanned growth, refugee camps designs are facing challenges like organic development of informal settlements, and transitions from temporary shelters to permanent settlements. ⁶⁸

⁶⁴ Appleyard, D. (1981). *Livable Streets*. University of California Press

⁶⁵ Atlas, R. (2013). *21st Century Security and CPTED: Designing for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Crime Prevention*. CRC Press.

⁶⁶ Steinfeld, E., & Maisel, J. (2012). *Universal Design: Creating Inclusive Environments*. Wiley.

⁶⁷ Imrie, R., & Hall, P. (2001). *Inclusive Design: Designing and Developing Accessible Environments*. Taylor & Francis

⁶⁸ Tiwari, P., Al Azzawi, N., & Amir, L. (2023). Sustainable refugee camp design in the Dalhamyie settlement (Bekaa, Lebanon) for climate change context. *City, Territory and Architecture*, 10:2.

2.5.1. Transition from temporary shelter to permanent settlement

Looking through literature and description of the refugee camps around the world, there is a recurring statement that nothing is more permanent than a temporary refugee camp.

According to the UNHCR Agency refugee camps are not constructed to provide permanent or long - term solutions. Camps are supposed to provide basic needs helping people to survive. The UN Refugee Agency within 72 hours after an emergency occurs, mobilizes the response teams and cooperates with the government to create a humanitarian space guaranteeing the safety for people forced to flee. In rural areas that space is usually a camp.⁶⁹ The “ideal” and well - designed camp is sustainable, protecting the environment and it is managed to prevent various hazards like fire or disease outbreaks. The UN Refugee Agency adds on its website that “food, water access points and latrines should be properly lit and near shelters so as to protect women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and facilities should offer refugees the possibility to access the local economy, infrastructure and services of the host community.”⁷⁰ As stated by UNHCR, in case of a prolonged crisis, people are forced to stay in the camp longer than the average time length. The services responsible for the habitat are obliged to provide not only educational and livelihood opportunities, but also materials to build more permanent houses.⁷¹ There is no rule defining the exact time when people are forced to stay in the camp. It depends on the crisis length and conflict duration. It can be five years or decades like in the Kebribeyah camp in Ethiopia. It is common that generations live in camps. UNHCR claims that in situations like that they provide durable and semi-permanent shelters and additionally they try to work with communities to improve their conditions. Moreover UNHCR describes that most of the refugees live in the cities - because 78% of them, not in the rural setup camps. According to them it creates economical and employment opportunities, but also very often forces refugees to share accommodation and live in suburbs or slums with poor living conditions.⁷²

The average length when displaced people stay in a refugee camp is 16 years in so-called “temporary” shelter. The architect Ana Asensio in 2013 during the World Refugee Day claimed that the refugee camp is a city. She admits that the word “temporary” in case of camp

⁶⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org>

⁷⁰ *ibidem*.

⁷¹ <https://www.unhcr.org>

⁷² *ibidem*.

description is only in theory, many camps became permanent shelters for many people and generations. Ana Asensio compares camp to the city emphasizing lack of natural origin and evolution, but also claims that the camp is not recognizable worldwide as a city because “its citizens are invisible, forgotten”.⁷³

Highlighting that camps should be treated as cities suggests permanent character of settlements. Traditional approach that camp is a temporary shelter should be reconsidered. Because of emergencies, conflicts and crises many people are displaced and forced to flee. As was mentioned above, authorities have 72 hours to create a safe space for refugees, which of course is rapid and sort of unprepared - it should be temporary, created only for protection purposes. Looking at statistics and descriptions of generations living in camps it shows that the settlement created only for temporary purposes became a permanent “city” where people are forced to live decades. Provisional accommodation because of prolonging conflict, shifts to be semi - permanent, hence not livable for people or for communities.⁷⁴ It is important to highlight the challenges semi - permanent camps faced. Lack of water, challenging climate or ubiquitous poverty are only “a drop in the ocean” of problems. One of the biggest challenges is that settlements can very easily isolate themselves from local surroundings and become an alienated slum. That creates “neighborhoods” with a high level of violent crimes, not protected dangerous territory.⁷⁵ According to Harrouk, because of the political character of camps, they face many strict rules - like forbidding refugees to leave settlements and to go outside the camp. Which creates even more issues, like violating basic human rights and right to freedom, but also creates isolated zones from local communities, which are unlivable and impossible to create within them a new life.⁷⁶ As Elisabeth Cullen says “camps keep refugees alive, but they prevent them from living”.⁷⁷

There is no universal agreement on how to describe refugee camp space. Definitions like temporary, city - camps, transient, semi - permanent have been used, but also “spaces between war and city”.⁷⁸ Aburamadan presents two concepts of thinking about refugee

⁷³ <https://www.archdaily.com/391712/a-refugee-camp-is-a-city-world-refugee-day-2013>

⁷⁴

<https://www.archdaily.com/940384/refugee-camps-from-temporary-settlements-to-permanent-dwelling>

⁷⁵ *ibidem*.

⁷⁶ *ibidem*.

⁷⁷ Dunn - Cullen, E. (2018). *No Path Home. Humanitarian Camps and the Grief of Displacement*. Cornell University Press

⁷⁸ Aburamadan, R. (2020). *Designing refugee's camps: temporary emergency solutions, or contemporary paradigms of incomplete urban citizenship? Insights from Al Za'Atari*. *City, Territory and Architecture* 7:12

camps as temporary or permanent solutions. The explanation why the camps are supposed to be temporary is among others, that the settlement is created as a space for transition, that is why it is built with provisoric materials. It shows that a camp goes through many socio-economic changes which requires a strategic approach when it comes to planning. Architecture and urban planning are the most suitable disciplines to achieve that.⁷⁹ It is fair to mention that some of the camps created as a temporary solution were indeed only for a short period of time, and they no longer exist. However, usually in that case refugees are victims of natural hazards and catastrophes - usually Internally Displaced People, not like conflict or war victims living in camps becoming permanent.⁸⁰ According to Rania Aburamadan an approach focused more on long - term solutions with socio - economic considerations, can solve many ongoing problems refugee camps have been facing. However, she also notices that accepting permanence regarding refugee camps might create political problems and that approach might be politically uncomfortable for many states.⁸¹

The shift from temporary to permanent reflects in transformation camps into urban areas. It creates the need to implement the urban policies of designing and planning a camp. It could be easier if authorities started to consider refugee camps as a city from the beginning and in the planning phase. The long strategies involving architects and urban planners could be implemented.⁸² Refugee camps are designed without preparation, with light structures and temporary materials. Considering that average duration living in the refugee camp has been increasing, major changes should be implemented. The traditional approach provides refugees basic needs, like tents creating the minimum level of safety and giving them protection from harsh weather.⁸³ It is important to notice that refugee camps are transforming naturally into urban units. The urbanization happens through the growing population of camps, but also through the physical transformation like more permanent materials and hard building structures.⁸⁴ To sum up those factors and signs of urbanization it is clear that the refugee camps are constantly shifting to more permanent structures. Moreover, the temporary settlements created as a response for emergency, without concrete

⁷⁹ *ibidem*.

⁸⁰ Aburamadan, R. (2020). *Designing refugee's camps: temporary emergency solutions, or contemporary paradigms of incomplete urban citizenship? Insights from Al Za'Atari*. *City, Territory and Architecture* 7:12

⁸¹ *ibidem*.

⁸² Alshoubaki, H. (2017). The Temporary City: The Transformation of Refugee Camps from fields of Tents to Permanent Cities. *Housing Policies and Urban Economics*, 7, 5-15.

⁸³ *ibidem*.

⁸⁴ *ibidem*.

and visual shifting into semi - permanent became overcrowded, unprepared for living with bad sanitation and lack of water and infrastructure, which creates an unhygienic, unsafe place with disease hazard.⁸⁵ Considering this fact, shifting to some extent is necessary to create a livable environment and short - living temporary conditions might be unbearable. Alshoubaki opens a very important discussion, that creating temporary safe zones such as refugee camps, does not mean that it is supposed to be built using poor and provisional material.⁸⁶

2.5.2 Refugee camp being like a city

Refugee camps resemble cities in many different aspects, like their size, population density, but also the presence of various infrastructure and services. One of the “city” features in refugee camps is population density. Like in the city, refugee camps host a big number of people, which at some point creates an environment very similar to that of a city, characterized by bustling streets, crowded spaces, and many different community activities. The population in refugee camps is diverse just like in the cities. Camps host people from various cultures, ethnicities and from diverse backgrounds. Like in the cities it may create the space when people speak in different languages, eat different food and cultivate different traditions.

Despite the very difficult situation people in refugee camps are in, economic activity is still very important. Refugee camps resemble cities with their engagement in informal trade, small businesses, but also employment opportunities provided by aid organizations. To meet the basic needs of residents, refugee camps require a specific infrastructure, like shelters, living spaces, water, sanitation, and healthcare. After some time refugee camps are obligated to create more permanent infrastructure, considering the period of time residents spend in camps. It included schools, community centers, markets, which is similar to city units.⁸⁷ Additionally, aid organizations very often provide social services for refugee camps, like education, psychological support or healthcare. With these services refugee camps are similar to cities ruling by local governments. Moreover, in refugee camps the governance structures are also created, to manage resources or maintain order, but also to address the needs of the

⁸⁵ Alshoubaki, H. (2017). The Temporary City: The Transformation of Refugee Camps from fields of Tents to Permanent Cities. *Housing Policies and Urban Economics*, 7, 5-15.

⁸⁶ *ibidem*.

⁸⁷ Sanyal, R. (2014). Urbanizing Refuge: Interrogating Spaces of Displacement. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(2), 558-572

residents. These structures are led by aid agencies or community leaders, this is one of the features to resemble the municipal governments in the city. However, sharing a lot of similarities with cities, refugee camps face many challenges and limitations, like limited resources, insecurity and lack of long - term planning, which is the big obstacle to creating a safe community, and being focused on the development.⁸⁸ Refugee camps differ from cities in terms of scale, permanence and resources, but some urban planning principles may be applied to create a better organized, functional and more livable environment for refugees. Camps and cities require spatial organization. It is important to involve layout planning for shelters, sanitation facilities, community infrastructure, but also roads and commercial areas. In both contexts urban planning requires the provision of infrastructure to support the needs of residents. Including planning for sanitation facilities, water supply, roads, electricity and public transportation. The role of urban planning both in the city and in the refugee camp is to provide social services to improve the quality of life - like parks, recreational areas in the cities and schools, community or religious spaces to improve refugees' lives.⁸⁹ The similarity of planning for a city and planning refugee camp are considerations about environmental sustainability and resilience, how to mitigate the impact of natural hazards and resource management. One of the main features of urban planning is creating an accessible environment to facilitate mobility and social interactions. In refugee camps it is very important to create paths, roads, communal spaces to improve accessibility and promote the sense of community. In cities and in camps, the sense of safety and security is very important. It involves urban design strategies such as street lighting, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED).⁹⁰

However, what is a major difference is a sense of freedom in both cities and refugee camps. When in the city the movement is free, depending on human will, in the refugee camp the movement is limited by different laws, rules and physical borders of the camp. The process of entering and leaving a refugee camp involves a few steps, which can be different depending on the host country, location or specific situations.⁹¹ However, there is a general overview of what the process looks like. After a very often difficult journey refugees arrive at a refugee camp and usually they are required to register with authorities or humanitarian organizations.

⁸⁸ *ibidem*.

⁸⁹ Corsellis, T., & Vitale, A. (2005). *Transitional Settlement: Displaced Populations*. Oxfam Publishing.

⁹⁰ Atlas, R. (2013). *21st Century Security and CPTED: Designing for Critical Infrastructure Protection and Crime Prevention*. CRC Press.

⁹¹ Corsellis, T., & Vitale, A. (2005). *Transitional Settlement: Displaced Populations*. Oxfam Publishing.

Thanks to that, the establishment of the identity is easier, like family composition or specific needs, but also it helps to provide assistance and specific services. Sometimes, refugees may go under security screening and background check to be sure that there is no threat to their safety and security. It involves interviews, biometric screening and document verification. After registration and potential security screening, refugees are relocated to temporary shelter in the camp. Depending on the camp, it may be a tent, prefabricated shelters or other kind of accommodation. ⁹²Living in the camps gives refugees the possibility to meet their basic needs like food, water, shelter and healthcare. Additionally, residents get access to basic services like education, sanitation or hygiene facilities. Living in the camp under very difficult circumstances, encourages people to create communities within the camp. Religious gatherings, events or social activities occur. When it comes to day - to - day operations, refugee camps have management structures, it helps with collaboration between agencies, host governments and community leaders. Residents are forced to follow certain rules and regulations within a camp. It includes restriction of movement, curfews, guidelines for services or prohibitions on violence. Living in the camp, refugees are under certain legal rights under international law, including right to asylum, protection from refoulement, non - discrimination and access to humanitarian assistance. ⁹³The rules inside camps are different depending on the specific camp or host country. The very important aspect is that in many camps freedom of movement is restricted. People are not allowed to leave the camp without authorization from the camp management. Relevant authorities claim that this process is necessary to maintain security and prevent refugees from becoming undocumented migrants. In contrast to cities, the camp has borders, and again the reason is to control access and unauthorized entries. Despite having camp management authorities like cities have local governments, the rules are very restricted like alcohol consumption or weapon possession or violent behavior. The involvement of the community in the decision - making process about the camp's governance is very important for the camp structure. People living there may have a real impact on electing representatives, voicing concerns or giving suggestions about camp management and services. Community participation is very important also in city units, and particular neighborhoods, to help people shape the environment they live in. It is important to mention that rules and regulations regarding camps are guided by international humanitarian

⁹² Betts, A., & Collier, P. (2017). *Refuge: Transforming a Broken Refugee System*. Penguin Books.

⁹³ Frumkin, H., Frank, L., & Jackson, R. (2004). *Urban Sprawl and Public Health: Designing, Planning, and Building for Healthy Communities*. Island Press

law, human rights and refugee law. Despite the role of refugee camps to provide safety for vulnerable people, it is important to highlight the problems and challenges camps face.⁹⁴

Comparing refugee camps to the city, it is very important to talk about limitations of movement “in and out”. To leave the camp only temporarily provides many extra steps for people living in the camp. First, the person who wants to leave has to get permission from camp authorities, they need to explain the reason, the time of being absent or the destination they face. Residents are obliged to have identification documents issued by the camp when they leave the camp for some time. The check - out procedures are needed. Thanks to the documentation of their refugee status, identity can be proved, as well as re-entry into the camp. Additionally, refugees may be asked to return within a specific time. In some of the camps, not following that rule could result in consequences like a loss of shelter or assistance benefits. Of course refugees may wish to leave the camp permanently. They may want to return to their country of origin or participate in voluntary repatriation programs. In that case, the camp provides assistance with transportation and ensures safety of the return. Also resettlement to a third country is possible, in that case refugees also leave the camp permanently. These programs are usually conducted by UNHCR and international organizations. Leaving camp permanently might involve legal procedures and requirements are necessary to fulfill. In some cases to provide travel documents, visas or various permits. Despite the resemblance to the cities, people in refugee camps must follow specific rules and procedures to leave the camp.⁹⁵ They are obliged to seek guidance and permits from camp authorities or humanitarian organizations. It opens the discussion about a sense of freedom, especially in the situation that living in the camp is not considered “temporarily” anymore, and in the discourse about the shift from temporary to permanent living in refugee camps.

⁹⁴ Schultz, J. (2019). The Internal Protection Alternative in Refugee Law. *International Refugee Law Series*

⁹⁵ *ibidem*.

2.6. Examples of camps

In this part three camps will be presented. Moria camp as an example of camp designed using tents, Balata camp as a part of the city urban unit, and Al Zaatari refugee camp as an example of camp transformed fully into the city.

Moria

The one example of the camp which shows signs of shifting into semi - permanent is Moria 2 camp in Greece on Lesbos Island which was created in 2020. It was built after the massive fire which destroyed Moria 1 camp on September 8 in 2020. The newly created camp has more than 10 000 habitants. Moria 1 was the biggest refugee camp in Europe and was completely burnt to the ground.

Moria reached “a boiling point” way before the fire. The UN intend to move refugee seekers out of Lesbos Island. Camp with a capacity of 2.000 people hosted 8.000 refugees where violence and sexual assaults became common. The conditions in the camp were very bad with lack of sanitary facilities, frustrated communities and lack of medical and psychological help. Conditions were so poor that the settlement did not meet requirements to even be a refugee camp. Despite that fact, there were still people living there for even two years. People and children were trying to take their own lives.⁹⁶ Worlds Aid claims that that was the health, mental health and protection crisis.

After the tragedy people were moved to the mainland and to other facilities in different European countries. However, many of the refugees - elderly or ill people could not travel, so they were moved to temporary tent facilities - Moria 2.⁹⁷

Greek authorities restricted access to the camp for visitors, the large police presence is in the area of settlement. It is caused by previous acts of violence in Moria 1. Moreover, refugees are checked for drugs or weapons possession when they re-enter the camp. When Moria 2.0 was created, the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum made promises to provide decent living conditions, medical treatment, but also electricity, running water and wifi.⁹⁸ Existing

⁹⁶ <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-aids-day/2020>

⁹⁷ <https://www.infomigrants.net/fr/post/27851/moria-20-the-new-lesbos-refugee-camp>

⁹⁸ *ibidem*.

conditions in the camp are different from the promised ones. There are no showers, so people are forced to wash using a hose - pipe or in the sea, which is a major problem for women who need privacy. Camp and people were not properly protected against COVID 19 spreading, like physical distance between people. Tents did not have proper insulation, so overheated easily during the summer, but not warm enough during the winter. Because the sewage system was not prepared properly, during the first rain tents were flooded.⁹⁹ The new camp location is located on the terrain exposed to a strong wind, which is a major threat for unstable tents construction. At some point because of bad weather conditions the tent was blown into the sea. Additionally, conditions inside tents are very often unbearable - a high level of humidity and cold along with lack of blankets, warm

clothes and mattresses to sleep on create an intolerable environment for people. Refugees were forced to improve the construction by themselves to protect tents from the harsh weather, by putting sandbags or tarpaulins at the entrance as a protection or using wooden pallets to build the floor inside the tent.¹⁰⁰ The problem with electricity and power cuts are also very common. Moreover, there is a concern about the safety relative to unprotected wires outside tents. There is one socket shared between eight tents, which increases the risk of short circuits.

Moreover, there was limited access to healthcare services and to legal aid, but also the proper workspace to have a conversation with clients. Which is why the private meetings between lawyers and clients took place in the tents among others.¹⁰¹ Bucket showers (plastic boxes) were installed, but only with cold water and women provided kettles to warm the water up, because of the lack of the warm water supplies. The statement UNHCR made was that this is a temporary solution. There is also not enough light to increase the security. Also the number of toilets is too low, many of them were out of service or the flashes did not work. Because of the long distance from tents, many refugees create their own toilets close to them. These make an overview of the general hygiene in the camp.¹⁰² Furthermore, because of lack of toilets and showers, the risks of sexual and gender - based violence increased.¹⁰³ (Wallis,

⁹⁹ *ibidem*.

¹⁰⁰ https://rsaegan.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RSA_2020_AnnualReport.pdf

¹⁰¹ Wallis, N. (2020). Maternity care for refugees living in Greek refugee camps: What are the challenges to provision?

¹⁰² https://rsaegan.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RSA_2020_AnnualReport.pdf

¹⁰³ Wallis, N. (2020). Maternity care for refugees living in Greek refugee camps: What are the challenges to provision?

2020) Moreover, many women were already victims of gender - based torture in their country of origin. Because of lack of proper lighting in the camp, and areas which are not separating men from women, they still feel insecure and endangered. ¹⁰⁴The social problem refugees faced in Moria 2.0 are lack of spaces for integration related activities. There are no places to “kill the time” or learn new things or exercise. UNHCR claims that there are educational activities but mostly outdoors and for small groups of children. However, small schools are organized mostly by refugees themselves.¹⁰⁵



Fig.1. Moria Camp



Fig.2 Moria Camp

¹⁰⁴ https://rsaegean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RSA_2020_AnnualReport.pdf

¹⁰⁵ *ibidem*.

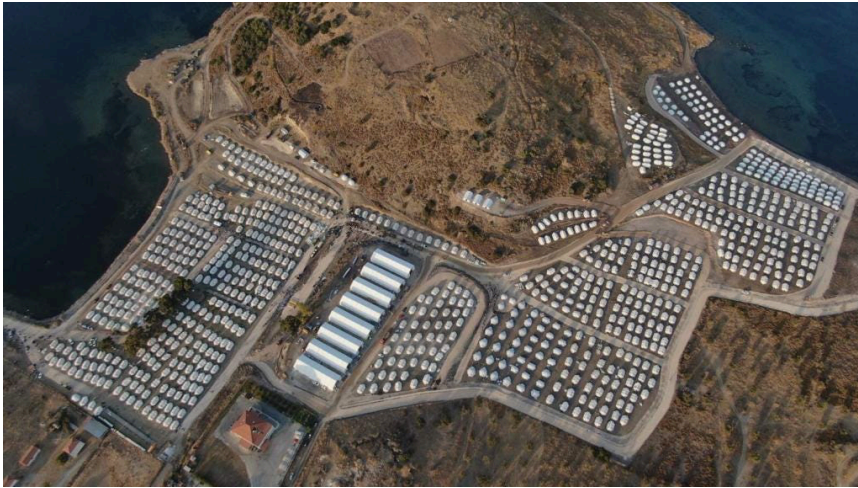


Fig.3. Moria Camp



Fig.4. Moria 2.0. Camp

Balata

Balata camp, situated in the northern West Bank within Nablus city, was initially designed for around 5000 Palestine refugees in 1950, but has now grown to become the largest camp in the region. The village of Balata is both the largest refugee camp in the West Bank and an ancient archeological park. The village itself has pretty streets and classical Arab architecture. Tell Balata is recognized as a significant cultural heritage site in Palestine, often hailed as the ancient Shechem, a pivotal cultural and political center mentioned in the Bible. Today, it stands as a meticulously preserved archeological park, complemented by a compact museum. In the refugee camp there are around 33 000 Palestine Refugees registered in the camp as of 2022. ¹⁰⁶The camp suffers from overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, leading to encroachment of new housing developments on public spaces. Consequently streets have transformed into narrow passages, limiting residents' movement and privacy. Residents endure heightened tension due to frequent Israeli military search and arrest operations, often conducted at night, causing both damage to homes and fear, especially among young children. Additionally, the camp is used for military training, and Israeli settlers visiting nearby Joseph's Tomb regularly enter, exacerbating residents' anxiety. ¹⁰⁷High unemployment rates pose a significant challenge, with poverty and food insecurity levels among the highest in West Bank camps particularly impacting the camp's youth, who make up nearly 60% of the population. This pervasive issue fuels frustration about present circumstances and future prospects. Despite these hardships, Balata camp boasts a resilient civil society, characterized by numerous active community organizations. ¹⁰⁸

The Balata health center caters to nearly 50 000 refugees from both within and beyond the camp, offering a wide range of services. Reconstructed in 2017 through funding from the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), the center delivers primary health care encompassing reproductive health, dental care, pediatric services, vaccinations, screenings, treatment for various diseases, physiotherapy, and psychological counseling.¹⁰⁹ Embracing the family Health Team model, the center aims to provide comprehensive, continuous care with a focus on the family unit. This approach has enhanced patient flow and decreased the number of consultations per physician. Moreover, the implementation of an electronic health

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/west-bank/balata-camp>

¹⁰⁷ *ibidem*.

¹⁰⁸ *ibidem*.

¹⁰⁹ https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/balata_camp_profile_-2022_0.pdf

information system for patient records has bolstered data accuracy, streamlined health information management, and improved overall service efficiency at the center.¹¹⁰

The development of the infrastructure within the camp mirrors the typical progression of Palestinian refugee camps overall. Initially, UNRWA established tents in 1950, followed by the construction of houses between 1954 and 1956. These houses were nearly identical units with two rooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen, intended for individual nuclear families. Streets and paths within the camp were unpaved and prone to becoming muddy during winter, with one main street hosting shops and a mosque. As the population naturally increased, new houses were constructed under UNRWA permits, with the agency providing some building materials.¹¹¹ Residents were permitted to vertically extend their houses to a maximum of two stories. During this period, street maintenance was upheld, and there were no significant encroachments. However, due to ongoing population growth within the limited physical space, a phase of vertical expansion ensued. With the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, unregulated vertical construction began alongside the continuing population rise. Many of these hastily built houses failed to meet building standards, lacking adequate light, ventilation, and overall health considerations for residents. While all houses are connected to mains water and electricity via the Nablus Municipality, issues persist with the water and sewage systems.¹¹²

Balata was built with the intention of being a “temporary” shelter. After more than 60 years, there is no sign of being “temporary” anymore. Balata camp is crowded into the urban fabric of Nablus. It is very difficult to distinguish the boundaries of Nablus’ suburbs and Balata camp at street level. Without realizing pedestrians may very easily pass the camp. Because of narrow streets moving anything other than people is basically impossible and very problematic. That is why in case of need to move handicapped people or any goods and also large scale construction operations, require using rooftops. According to interviewed people living in Balata, walking through the camp the “architecture without architects” is omnipresent.¹¹³ Narrow, dark streets and ground floor rooms with small windows. There are no regulations regarding building process, the atmosphere of “permanent - temporariness” reflects the hope of refugees to move from the camp to return to permanent homes. The

¹¹⁰ *ibidem*.

¹¹¹ <https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/30660/balata-refugee-camp>

¹¹² *ibidem*.

¹¹³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2014/1/22/balata-a-camp-of-transitory-permanance>

question of long - lasting infrastructure raises. How can the United Nation provide more permanent infrastructure in a place where there is no physical space for that permanent infrastructure? However, trying to remove “temporariness” from Balata appears as a symbolic threat that the camp will solidify its existence. However, the frustration in the camp is visible, people arm themselves and sell drugs, additionally facing problems with unemployment, bad water and sewage network, the very high density and overcrowded schools.¹¹⁴

The residents of Balata camp originate mainly from Yafa and nearby villages, which were attacked by Israelis in 1948, resulting in the death of many men and the destruction of their villages. These areas now lie in ruins, replaced by Israeli settlements. This displacement is a tragic consequence of the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, leading to the establishment of Balata camp and others like it, where Palestinian refugees have lived for generations, awaiting a resolution to their situation. The events of 1948 and their ongoing impact remain central to the conflict, influencing discussions on refugee rights, land ownership, and the quest for peace in the region. During the 1950s, the refugees, left with nothing but the clothes they wore, were scattered.¹¹⁵ UNRWA was established during this period to gather the refugees and set up what was initially envisioned as temporary camps. Balata camp initially comprised rows of tents, each row sharing a single public bathroom, accommodating around 5 - 6000 people within its one square kilometer area. As time passed, this number naturally increased as families grew. By the 1960s, it became evident that the situation was not temporary, and the tent camp began to evolve. The population had swelled to nearly 9000 people by then. Tents were replaced with cement block rooms, each measuring 3 by 3 meters, assigned to individual families. Sanitary facilities were improved, with separate bathrooms for men and women. The UN provided essential items like food and blankets, given the refugees’ lack of possessions. Families gradually expanded their living spaces by building onto the original rooms. In the 1970s, infrastructure developments improved living conditions. A sewage system was installed, granting each family their own bathroom. Access to water and electricity was introduced, eliminating the need for people to trek to a nearby spring to fetch water.¹¹⁶ Despite the population continuing to rise, the camp could not expand horizontally, leading to homes being built extremely close together. Eventually, with ground space

¹¹⁴ *ibidem*.

¹¹⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-behind-walls-balata-camp>

¹¹⁶ *ibidem*.

exhausted, construction extended upwards, resulting in the emergence of 3-4 story houses. In Balata there are residential buildings, activity centers, mosques, three schools, a cemetery and markets. The camp suffers from severe overcrowding, with houses constructed tightly together, leaving no room for privacy. In some cases, up to eight families reside in a single house, with one particularly crowded four - story building accommodating 85 people, each floor divided into two large family “apartments”. The extreme density contributes to various health issues, like vitamin D deficiency and depression due to limited sunlight exposure. Additionally, the constant noise, lack of space, and absence of privacy exacerbate psychological problems among residents. A significant source of distress stems from nightly Israeli military raids, which involve house searches, property destruction, beatings, and arrests, particularly targeting suspected militants. These raids, occurring almost during the night, instill fear and trauma, particularly among the camp’s children, who make up 70% of the population. Children in Balata lack suitable spaces for recreation, as there are no parks or playgrounds. The overcrowded schools further compound the challenges, with class sizes often exceeding 50 students. Many children feel hopeless about their future prospects, given the prevailing economic and political circumstances, leading to a lack of motivation for education. Economically, Balata faces dire conditions, with unemployment rates as high as 70% within the camp and 50% in the surrounding area of Nablus. Restriction on permits to work in Israel, coupled with closures and checkpoints, have devastated the local economy. Balata’s significance as a center of resistance has made it a target for intense military presence, resulting in frequent curfews, assassinations, and arrests. Residents endure daily violence and death, with traumatic experiences of witnessing killings and explosions being tragically common. Life in Balata is described as a constant struggle, with little respite from the ongoing turmoil. ¹¹⁷

¹¹⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/opt-behind-walls-balata-camp>



Fig.5. Balata Camp



Fig.6. Balata Camp



Fig. 7. Balata Camp

Al Zaatari

Zaatari refugee camp is considered one of the world's largest refugee camps. It hosts over 80 000 Syrian refugees. One might describe it as resembling an "urban" refugee settlement due to its similarity to a small city, encompassing infrastructure such as electricity, water, and sanitation systems, governance structures, and support services provided by UN agencies and NGOs, along with public safety and health services. Moreover, inhabitants of the camp dwell in caravans or semipermanent metal structures that can be relocated. As the Syrian crisis has unfolded, with fluctuations in refugee numbers and recent migration tendency to Europe, the

infrastructure of Za'atari has undergone significant alterations. Analysis through remote sensing can offer valuable insights into these transformations. ¹¹⁸

Jordan's Al Zaatari opened on 28 of July in 2012. According to UNHCR, it has become a symbol of the long - running Syrian refugee crisis. At the beginning the group of 450 people escaped Syria and became the first inhabitants of the newly opened refugee camp - Zaatari. Within a year, the camp's populace had surged to 150 000 people. The makeshift tents initially used for shelter gave way to numerous metal structures. Infrastructure including roads, schools, and hospitals was established to accommodate the residents, while entrepreneurial refugees set up shops and small enterprises within the camp. The population has stabilized at 80 000 people and Al Zaatari became the largest refugee camp in the Middle East and one of the biggest in the world. According to the UNHCR website there are few important facts it is important to know about Zaatari. Initially, the first people arriving at Zaatari camp received tents from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, for protection against the intense summer conditions. In 2013, these tents were substituted with static caravans, which typically have a lifespan of six to eight years. ¹¹⁹Consequently, a significant portion of these structures now require immediate repairs, with a recent evaluation indicating that over 70 percent of shelters exhibit substandard conditions in terms of their walls, floors, and ceilings. More than 20 000 births have been documented in Zaatari, averaging approximately 40 newborns each week. Children make up half of the camp's population, with many having never been beyond the camp borders. All essential services for children, including healthcare, community centers, and schools operated by the Jordanian Ministry of Education, are available within the camp. In the camp there is a marketplace comprising 1 800 shops, with the main thoroughfare dubbed "Sham Elysees", a clever fusion of the Syrian term for Damascus and the renowned Parisian boulevard, Champs - Élysées, extending nearly 3 kilometers through the camp's center. These shops offer a variety of goods and services, from fresh produce to bicycle repairs, all managed by refugees. The entrepreneurial spirit of za'atari's residents has garnered global attention through media coverage. Strong trade connections with local Jordanian enterprises and suppliers in nearby Mafraq ensure a steady flow of delivery trucks to and from the camp. ¹²⁰

¹¹⁸ Tomaszewski, B., Tibbets, S., Hamad, Y., & Al-Najdawi, N. (2016). Infrastructure Evolution Analysis via Remote Sensing in an Urban Refugee Camp - Evidence from Za'atari. *Procedia Engineering*, 159, 118-123.

¹¹⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org/news/stories/jordans-zaatari-refugee-camp-10-facts-10-years>

¹²⁰ *ibidem*.



Fig.8. Al Zaatari Camp



Fig.9. Al Zaatari Camp



Fig.10 Al Zaatari Camp

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Refugee camp design as a result of emergency planning

Building refugee camps and refugee camp design is a crucial aspect of humanitarian help in a case of emergency such as military conflicts, natural disasters or any other reasons causing migration of large populations. Proper and effective refugee camp design guarantees safety and well - being of refugees with respect for their dignity, human rights and basic needs. The design of refugee camps requires very careful and thoughtful planning, with paying attention to international standards and well - being future residents.

Planning a refugee camp in response to an emergency is important to guarantee physical safety and security. Considering many reasons for displacing people is crucial to ensure their sense of safety and meet their need for being secure. It is very important that the level of planning is considered to protect people from violence, natural hazards. Moreover, considering events that happened in Greece, preventing camps from overcrowding is very important to reduce the risk of fires or disease outbreaks. When it comes to planning a refugee camp, the location is one of the most important aspects. Finding a place which is resilient for natural hazards like flooding, with access to clean water sources, and being reachable for any medical help which is necessary is crucial. Moreover, the camp should be easily accessible for workers, any supply and medical teams, but also should be easy to navigate for residents, also those suffering with any limited mobility or disabilities. It is very important to also consider sociological aspects of planning the camp, it is necessary to think about community and many different cultural backgrounds. The camp design must respect social or religious practices of the specific group of displaced people. Additionally, camps should be sustainable, or at least designed with that in mind, like waste management, energy - efficient solutions or water conservation.¹²¹

Before planning, it is important to understand the scale of the emergency, and what is its nature, affected population and what are the needs which are crucial. Many stakeholders and actors should be involved, such as local authorities, international agencies, and various NGOs. The coordination of those actors is crucial during the planning process. At the same time it is necessary to find a proper potential location for the camp, considering the main

¹²¹ <https://www.unhcr.org>

criterion as safety and accessibility. During the process of designing, the camp must be divided into different zones, like residential areas, healthcare, education, communal facilities, and administrative facilities. Additionally, shelters should be designed to provide protection, but also privacy.¹²² Materials are dependent on the duration of the camp's use, could be tents or more stable structures. Design plan should include water supply systems, roads, sanitation and drainage systems. Management plan requires gathering teams responsible for implementation of plans, like engineers, construction workers, but also volunteers willing to help build the proper infrastructure. Additionally, the management of resources is required, the proper distribution of materials with respecting safety standards in the setup process is crucial for the whole planning process. It is essential to establish camp administration, which is capable to manage security issues, coordinate and distribute aid and food, but also manage the healthcare issues, education and psychological support for refugees. Additionally, it is important to include refugees in the management and planning process, let them make decisions to facilitate them feel a part of the community. After setting up the camp the constant evaluation and observation is necessary, the camp should have the ability to expand in case of population growth, but also thinking about long - term solutions, like more stable infrastructure materials, sense of community and cohesion, or the possibility of returning to home countries.¹²³

However, despite the proper planning and management process, improvisation is needed, many unpredictable situations might occur, in that case swift action is required, it is important to be flexible in case of changing plans or resources. The biggest challenge is the necessity for more durable and resilient solutions, better materials for long - term use, considering that temporary stay switches for permanent habitat for refugees. The big challenge is to meet humanitarian standards with many different cultural and religious practices refugees have. It is important to present sensitivity and empathy, trying to adjust for their cultural backgrounds. The next consideration when it comes to planning and setting up the camp is the attempt to manage limited resources, especially since the population might grow drastically.¹²⁴ The big challenge is also the coordination between actors and stakeholders. Because of the involvement of so many agencies, governments and communities, managing the camp is a very difficult task. The design implementation is very complex and difficult,

¹²² <https://www.unhcr.org>

¹²³ *ibidem*.

¹²⁴ *ibidem*.

especially considering the dynamic nature of emergencies, requires many different approaches to camp design.

3.1.1 Emergency planning vs. urban planning

Emergency planning and urban planning are fields that both focus on the planning and development of human settlements. Emergency planning is a response for different hazards, its main task is to identify the hazard that could impact the area like terrorist attacks, conflicts or natural disasters. During emergency planning the important component is to assess the risk, what kind of potential hazard is within a community, additionally it is important to manage accessible resources like medical supplies, water, shelter and food. What simplifies effective communication in a camp and during the planning is a proper and effective communication channels for coordinating and alerting, not only response teams but also residents and public. Additionally, the evacuation plans must be developed, to evacuate people fast and efficiently, considering that managing the response teams and public is important to implement training sessions and drills. Emergency planning requires both proactive and reactive measures, it is important to maintain that plans are usually designed to be short - term, focussing on fast response and being adaptable for various potential scenarios.¹²⁵

Urban planning's main goal is to develop and manage urban zones, the main difference is that urban planning focuses on long - term solutions, infrastructure development, and life improvements. Urban planning has to meet land - use regulations, use land and manage the development. One of the main aspects is building the important infrastructure to facilitate areas, such as roads, public spaces, transportation or other utilities. Housing must be adequate for residents and promote economic opportunities for inhabitants. Additionally, urban planning should consider the environment and promote sustainability by implementing policies, but also trying to engage the community in planning and decision - making processes. Urban planning is a strategic process, proactive which goal is the city development using long - term solutions - approximately cover 20-30 years of process. Urban planning is required to follow building codes, building law or environmental regulation.¹²⁶

¹²⁵ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030."

¹²⁶ United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Urban Planning for City Leaders." UN-Habitat 2012

To sum up, emergency planning is based on short - term solutions, when urban planning is focused on long -term aspects. Emergency planning deals with immediate threats when urban planning is managing sustainable development. Emergency planning acts on emergency situations, and reacts on specific occurring hazards, urban planning is focused on the broad perspective, focusing not only about the design but also housing or transportation. Emergency planning is required to be flexible , with the possibility to adapt to changing scenarios, urban planning is based on regulations and is bounded with long- term plans and many different strategies. Both planning focuses require community involvement, to reflect public needs, and create a safe environment with respect for human rights and human dignity. The holistic approach is key. To understand the complex of refugee camp planning is important to try to implement solutions and strategies from both emergency planning and urban planning.

3.1.2 Geographic correlation to the existing city unit

Planning a refugee camp and setting it up is important to take under consideration its geographic correlation to existing city units. This demands safety concerns, analyzing spatial relationships, land use compatibility and infrastructure incorporation. It is important to be sure that the refugee camp is safe, well - integrated with closest urban areas and it is accessible for those who need shelter.

When it comes to the location of a refugee camp it is supposed to be close to urban units/ areas to give residents access to important services like healthcare, education or markets. Thanks that refugees might integrate easier with the local community and meet their needs regarding the “normal” life. Planning refugee camps in nearby cities it is possible to use existing infrastructure - like roads or water supply systems and electricity to reduce the necessity for new constructions. Using maps and taking the geographical location under consideration it is possible to avoid consequences of natural hazards like floods or earthquakes.¹²⁷ To maintain the safety of refugees the location close to areas of conflict or political tension should be avoided, this is supposed to be complemented with cooperation with local authorities to provide safety to the camps. Setting up the camp is important to take care of the local environment and ecosystem, trying to minimize environmental degradation

¹²⁷ <https://www.unhcr.org/in/sites/en-in/files/legacy-pdf/4ab356ab6.pdf>

and impact on agricultural land or water resources. Additionally, waste management is crucial for the ecosystem, thanks to the fact that it is possible to manage health hazards and prevent pollution, maintaining the healthy environment for locals and refugees. Planning a refugee camp and its location while considering the geographical aspects it is crucial to be sure that the camp is connected with urban units nearby. Thanks to transportation networks it is possible to design roads, public transportation or pedestrian routes. Which all helps to integrate camp with water sources, electricity or sanitation. Very important for the well-being, and considering the transfer from temporary stay to the permanent camp staying, the integration with host communities is crucial. Being close to the urban units, gives for residents the possibility to be a part of the local economy, it can simplify economic integration and include refugees into labor markets and local commerce. Moreover, building social cohesion is easier with access to urban areas. Cultural exchange is possible, which can encourage people to integrate into a new environment, and build positive relations with locals. Being integrated with local communities can build a sense of safety and a sense of security, moreover it helps to reduce tension between different cultural groups.¹²⁸

Geographic correlation is very important for improving the living conditions of refugees, as well as their well being and long-term integration. Taking under consideration while planning the camp, proximity to urban areas or safety, it is possible to create a safe and accessible place to live.

3.1.3 Intersection of temporary and permanent planning

Temporary planning and permanent planning intersect with each other. While temporary planning is associated with emergency planning and is based on short-term solutions, permanent planning is focused on long-term aspects of urban development. To create resilient and safe refugee camps is important to understand that holistic approach. When temporary planning requires temporary infrastructure like shelters, mobile clinics which have to be quickly incorporated into existing urban structures, permanent planning needs long-term solutions, roads, bridges, schools or hospitals. Effective temporary planning gives the opportunity for future developments and lets permanent solutions incorporate into the camps, by identifying specific areas which need improvement.

¹²⁸ <https://www.unhcr.org/in/sites/en-in/files/legacy-pdf/4ab356ab6.pdf>

Using the land during the temporary planning can be temporary, adjust it for evacuation roads or emergency response centers, long - term planning predict planning for potential multi - use areas, with possibility to accommodate to the many different situations, also to emergencies. For short - term planning it is very difficult to focus on resource management, temporary planning needs rapid mobilization and fast supplies in response to refugee needs, compared to long - planning when planning is focused on sustainable resource management , development of supply chains and proper infrastructure. Applying long - term resource planning in the refugee camp, it is possible to create resilient supply chains, to create efficiency and sustainability. Community involvement is very important for both temporary planning and permanent planning. During emergencies the community participation is crucial for effective response, involving the community in decision - making can simplify the answer for urgent needs. For long - term planning, thanks to community engagement various development projects might meet resident's needs and can build trust and simplify the cooperation in the area. Temporary infrastructure should be designed to minimize environmental impact, considering waste management or land degradation. Permanent planning nowadays is mainly trying to focus on development that protects the environment. Taking lessons from temporary planning might help develop better future solutions for long - term planning, regarding sustainability.¹²⁹

Trying to integrate those strategies to create a better environment for refugees in refugee camps it is important to have flexible planning strategies. Thanks to that planning can rapidly change and adapt for temporary changes, like for example designing spaces which hold different purposes and have various functions. Focusing on better materials and designing more resilient infrastructure, helps with dealing with the recovery after the disaster, modular buildings might be repaired fast or expand in case of population growth. It is important to adapt and learn based on using data from temporary planning to inform permanent planning processes. Updates and reviews are necessary during the management process, but also renewing strategies and adapting them for rapid changes. Engaging communities in temporary and permanent planning builds strong communities, its resilience, and helps with social cohesion and adaptation.¹³⁰

¹²⁹ Ahmed, I. (2011). "An overview of post-disaster permanent housing reconstruction in developing countries." *International Journal of Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment*, Vol. 2 No. 2, pp. 148-164. Emerald Group Publishing Limited

¹³⁰ Gunawardena, T., Ngo, T., Mendis, P., Aye, L., & Crawford, R. (2014). "Time-Efficient Post-Disaster Housing Reconstruction with Prefabricated Modular Structures." *Open House International*, Vol. 39 No. 3, pp. 59-69. Emerald Group Publishing Limited

The connection strategies from temporary planning and permanent planning are crucial for maintaining the safety in the refugee camps and create a sense of community and social cohesion among residents. Thanks to temporary planning, it is easier to understand how it can enhance long - term strategies and create urban units, such as refugee camps that are prepared for various emergencies and be better prepared for future development, to create a safe environment, which can improve well being of refugees.

3.1.4 Refugee camp as a city

Because of the migration crisis around the world as a result of many military conflicts or caused by climate change, refugee camps became a complex urban environment. Temporary settlements shift into more permanent or long - term units, resembling more and more a permanent city. Because of that, many refugee camps are facing problems related to urbanization, but on a smaller scale. And the chances are that they need urban solutions to deal with problems related to, for example, safety. Refugee camps resemble urban areas, sharing with them many characteristics. Camps have developed city infrastructure like roads, schools, health facilities, social institutions or markets. They developed their own economies, with trade, informal employment , running small businesses or entrepreneurial activities. Moreover, refugees can participate in the local economy, by labor or trade. Additionally, refugee camps create social structures with governance to provide basic services and keep the order in the camps. They develop the community leaders position to represent inhabitants and communicate with humanitarian organizations.¹³¹ Residents can participate in the decision - making process, and like in the cities they can be elected by other residents, which mirrors municipal governance structures. Despite the similarities, refugee camps are facing challenges cities don't need to deal with, like lack of resources, overcrowding, and the infrastructure that is not durable and stable. Moreover, there are many problems with providing essential services. However, there are many existing initiatives trying to empower residents to have influence on the camp, or trying to use participatory planning or using training programmes to improve their skills. Looking at the refugee camp as a city requires a holistic approach considering planning and management. There are necessities for investments in infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, education or trying to improve well -

¹³¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/kakuma-refugee-camp>

being and daily life of refugees. The cooperation with humanitarian agencies, governments and local societies is crucial to integrate camp, especially with the perspective for long - term stay.¹³²

It is important to understand that refugee camps are not only temporary shelters, they are urban spaces, very dynamic with a lot of potential when it comes to development. Thinking about refugee camps as a city on the planning level, opens them for opportunities for sustainable, resilient development, and may have the opportunity to create safer and more liable places to stay for vulnerable people. Place where people can actually rebuild their lives with dignity.

3.2 Safety issues in refugee camps due to emergency planning

Refugee camps facing safety issues arising from emergency planning. Because of being rapidly established to provide immediate shelter they face many problems. Being forced to plan fast, in response to an emergency, the final effect might show lack of all safety and secure solutions. The results are problematic and inadequate infrastructure or lack of resources. Understanding these issues is crucial to improve future safety in the camp as well as living conditions, but also improving the whole process of emergency planning.

During the rapid emergency planning problems with infrastructure arise. The fast planning mirrors the poor quality of shelters and housing. Infrastructure is very often overcrowded that causes problems with safety, growing tension between residents, but also causes disease outbreaks. Poor planning and not resilient infrastructure causes vulnerabilities for natural hazards, like floods, fires or cyclones. Moreover, sanitation and proper water supplies are crucial for safety. Lack of good waste management, or sanitation facilities and clean water access cause health problems, the risk of disease but also may be fatal for residents.¹³³

Security in a camp is very important. Like in every other urban unit the protection from violence is crucial for the sense of safety. Security measures in refugee camps are not enough to protect residents from various violence. Emergency planning does not target the need for protective environments, especially for vulnerable groups like women and children. There is lack of proper lightning overcrowding, housing is not secure enough, but also lack of proper

¹³² <https://www.unhcr.org/zaatari-refugee-camp>

¹³³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-risk-during-monsoon>

services like police presence. Additionally, refugee camps are a high stress environment with many different cultures and diverse populations that may lead to internal conflicts and causing crime. Emergency planning is missing effective conflict resolution mechanisms and law enforcement presence. It may cause escalating violence, riots or other criminal activities. Considering the rapid characteristics of emergency planning, there is insufficiency in healthcare facilities, which leads to not enough medical care for refugees. Clinics are very often overcrowded, there is a lack of medical staff and medical supplies. It may cause health crises or lack of proper treatment for those who need medical support. Moreover, it is important to highlight that camps are very often located in areas prone to natural hazards and disasters, like floods or extreme weather conditions, due to the need to establish camps quickly. Because of the short - term focus of emergency planning, it neglects long - term environmental risks, which leads to unsafe living conditions.¹³⁴

Safety issues in refugee camps caused by rapid planning are challenging. Camps need more holistic and integrated planning, focused not only for quick response but also on long - lasting solutions.

3.2.1 Evolution of safety considerations in refugee camp planning

Growing migration problem caused the evolution of safety considerations in refugee camps. Initially emergency planning was focused only on temporary shelters and relief, the focus on safety changed as camps became more and more long - term settlements over the time. The transition from temporary shelters to permanent urban units forced them to re-think refugee camp planning and re-think aspects of safety and security. This subchapter is an attempt to understand that evolution and how safety planning for refugee camps changes over time.

The first response for the emergency is to provide rapid shelter and essential services for refugees. The response should be immediate and setting up the camp should be quick. When it comes to safety at this level of planning, it focuses only on basic needs - like basic protection, shelter and food with basic sanitation and healthcare. Because of fast response, camps are very often set up in locations that are available without comprehensive assessment. on unstable terrain. With no thinking about long - term solutions, what causes lack of safety.

¹³⁴ <https://www.msf.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/international-activity-report-2020.pdf>

In the initial phase security measures are focused mainly on protection against external threat and internal disorder, including basic lightning, fencing and security personnel. But because of rapid growth of the number of people and limited resources lead to lack of safety coverage.

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Over time, when emergency shelters transition to more stable environments, planners might improve infrastructure to aim safety goals. This includes improving shelter and other infrastructure, upgrading sanitation and water facilities, but also establishing more healthcare services. During the stabilization, security measures can become more structured. Policing and security guards might be established, safe space can be created, but also community - based protection programmes and strategies might be implemented. Over time, refugee camps enter a long - term development phase. Camps became urban units, with planning frameworks and being focused on resilience, but also on sustainability. With supporting long - term solutions can be emphasized building more durable infrastructure and focusing on the well - being of residents in a long - term perspective. This covers improving housing by planning disaster - resistant units, improving waste management and investing in sustainable energy sources. Long - term safety depends also on community engagement and social cohesion. Thanks to establishing governance structures and letting inhabitants participate in the decision - making process, it is easier to improve a sense of safety and ownership.¹³⁶

The evolution of safety understanding during the refugee camp planning, presents a transition from immediate emergency response to long - term sustainable development. Being focused at the beginning only on rapid shelter and basic aspects of security, over time planning gradually incorporates solid infrastructure, enhanced security protocols, and thanks community involvement creates a safer environment and more resilient living conditions. Understanding the transition is a key to developing proper strategies to improve safety in refugee camps and to address safety needs of refugee camp's residents.

¹³⁵<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/11/world/middleeast/syria-camp-isis-families-islamic-state-extremism.html>

¹³⁶ Doctors Without Borders. (2020). Lesbos: Lack of Healthcare in Moria Camp is Devastating for Refugees

3.2.2 How in time geographic space would change - urban and social dynamic

This part explores how the physical and social landscapes of refugee camps change over time, with special focus on urbanization, community development, and the interaction between refugees and host communities.

The geographic space transformation within refugee camps reflects shifts in urban and social dynamics. As mentioned in previous chapters, the initial phase of setting refugee camps is focused on immediate shelter and essential services. Tents are erected fast to accommodate a growing population of displaced people. It is always set up densely with lack of consideration about urban planning. The results are overcrowding and poor infrastructure. Over time with the stabilization, there is a transformation into more permanent and organized structures. Infrastructure is stronger and more durable, the roads and sanitation facilities with water supply systems are built. The transformation looks like a shift into urbanization and the camp starts to look like a city unit. Moreover, facilities like shops, schools, health clinics are built to create a more structured and planned urban environment.¹³⁷

After some time refugee camps and refugees start to integrate closer to local communities. This can lead to expanded geographic boundaries and to share infrastructure and services with local urban units. Markets and businesses inside the camp can attract local communities and lead to more symbiotic relationships. The integration helps with social cohesion and well-being of refugees.¹³⁸

It is important that during the initial stages social dynamics in camps are often focused on survival and meet basic needs. Communities are formed depending on family ties, nationality or ethnicity, because of that people can provide social support to each other. Unfortunately, in the camps with diverse populations the initial social structures might lead to escalating conflict and frustration. After some time formal community structures are established, similar to governance systems. This can help manage the life in the camp, and provide a better environment for residents. Participation in communities can build social cohesion and a sense of responsibility. Moreover, the economic activity of refugees starts to expand beyond survival to trades, services or set up small businesses. These economic relations help with

¹³⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/afr320152010en.pdf>

¹³⁸ *ibidem*.

social cohesion and the sense of being. It gives informal opportunities for employment, which also reflects the transition from short - term stay to long -term more stable chances. It can help with the creation of a dynamic social space.¹³⁹

Both geographic and social dynamics of camps progress with time. It reflects the transition from temporary shelters to permanent, urbanized environments. It includes the development of infrastructure, formation of social systems, but also integration with host communities and involvement into the local economy. Understanding the process and realizing that from the beginning is crucial for effective planning, but also future managing refugee camps to create safe urban units for residents.

3.3. Importance of urban safety in refugee camps

Urban safety in refugee camps is a crucial matter that affects well - being and security of inhabitants. Being designed as temporary solutions for emergencies, refugee camps can transit into long - term settlement reminiscent of cities and urban units. It is very challenging and crucial to ensure urban safety within camps, for protection, promotion social stability and for improving the living conditions. It is important to highlight that refugee camps host very vulnerable groups of people, including children, women and elderly. It is important to ensure their safety from violence and criminal attacks. That includes, common in refugee camps, incidents of gender - based violence, but also theft, committed because of lack of proper security and the environment prone to being high leveled stress. It opens necessity for community watch programs, policing, but also safe spaces for women and children, which are part of correct camp planning. Urban safety also includes health and hygiene. Because of limited access to clean water, overcrowded camps, and poor sanitation, people are prone to get sick during disease outbreaks. Proper infrastructure, waste management and access to medical services is essential to prevent a health crisis.¹⁴⁰ To remain a safe environment is crucial to social stability within camps. Because of high - density conditions and diverse population people are prone to frustration which leads to conflicts and growing tension. Effective urban planning with addition to conflict resolution programmes can help reduce that tension and promote an aggressive environment. Trying to involve the community in the process of planning can build the trust between residents and authorities. Refugees can

¹³⁹ Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan *Detailed planning 2024-2025*

¹⁴⁰ <https://reliefweb.int/report/jordan/unhcr-jordan-zaatari-refugee-camp-factsheet-january-2024>

participate and support community initiatives and activities, to strengthen the social cohesion. Urban safety is related also with architecture and infrastructure. Poor constructions, and poorly constructed drainage systems, which are easy exposure to environmental hazards can pose a very high risk for inhabitants. Investing in resilient and durable material and architecture is a part of remaining safety in the camp, and is crucial for long - term solutions.

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Moreover, economic activities rely on urban safety. When refugees feel safe and secure, they are more likely to engage in economic activities, trade or entrepreneurship, which significantly may improve their quality of life. Stable urban environments support the economic stability of refugees.

Prioritizing urban safety is crucial for preventing violence and exploitation, while at the same time reducing health risks and supporting the economy in the camp.

3.4 Refugees' participation

To discuss refugees' participation in the process of creating safe space in refugee camps it is important to investigate their status. Their legal but also social status is a complex matter and it is different across various countries and contexts. It is very important to understand refugees' status to address their rights and challenges they face everyday.

According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is a person forced to flee their country of origin due to persecution, war or violence, and they are not able to return home safely. The status of refugee grants protection under international law, including the right to seek asylum and protection from refoulement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) oversees the implementation of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, which define the rights of refugees and the legal obligations of states to protect them.¹⁴²

It is important to say that in some countries, asylum seekers are kept in facilities which are similar to prisons, especially during the screening or processing stage. The conditions are similar to prisoners, and detention can be unspecified and without adequate legal recourse.

¹⁴¹ *ibidem*.

¹⁴² UNHCR. The 1951 Refugee Convention

Refugees very often face restrictions on their freedom of movement, poor living conditions, but also limited access to legal assistance.¹⁴³

There are some cases when refugees may be granted citizenship in their host countries, they can be full members of society with the same rights and responsibilities as citizens. It includes meeting legal requirements like residency duration or language proficiency. However, that process is very long and challenging with legal obstacles, complex administrative procedures, strict integration requirements and long waiting periods. Some countries even have stricter criteria to make the whole process more difficult for refugees, to prevent from obtaining citizenship. What is more common than citizenship is temporary or permanent residency which is granted by host countries. Thanks to that status, refugees are allowed to work and live legally with some degree of stability. There is also an option to get in some countries a temporary protection status, which lets them stay in the host country for a limited period, however while providing a short - term solution , does not give the long - term security. The given status of refugees varies, not only in different countries, but also depends on the stage they are into. They depend on host countries' legal frameworks, when the international law towards refugees provides a baseline for their rights, the implementation mostly depends on the “will” of the host country, which also causes various forms of abuse or human rights violation.

Refugee participation in governance of the camp is a crucial aspect of long - term integration and effective humanitarian response. Residents can engage in decision - making process, community activities, and take advantage of economic opportunities. However, it is very important to point out their capability for participation. Because of significant trauma before and after displacement, they can suffer various mental and physical health issues. Refugees face many results of persecution, like post traumatic stress disorder or anxiety and depression. The crucial services for them are counseling or psychological help, essential for recovery, and give them opportunity for any participation in any aspect of their lives. NGOs provide mental health support, which is vital for the well - being of refugees, during the time of lack of resources. Ensuring medical support and access for psychological help is a fundamental step to give them opportunity for further participation.¹⁴⁴

¹⁴³ *ibidem*.

¹⁴⁴ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). (2020). Mental Health in Crisis Situations

Because refugees often have limited rights, their legal status prevents them from participating in host countries. They have restricted access to employment or education. In some countries, the host country provides documentation that allows working and access to some services, however other countries have restrictive legal frameworks that limit these kinds of opportunities.¹⁴⁵

Involvement in decision - making process, participation in community governance, with no doubt giving inhabitants the voice and sense of ownership. This includes the sense of responsibility for the camp community, but also their lives, can help maintain the hope for the future. Representatives can address issues regarding safety or education, the participatory approach improves the management of the camp and help create a social cohesion. Thanks to work and business activities refugees can support themselves and feel independent. However, because of many barriers like legal frameworks or lack of specific skills or resources may have a big impact on economic participation. Thanks International Labour Organization programmes are held in different refugee - hosting countries to improve employability, provide training and support small businesses. Thinking about refugee camps as a city, and considering the place as a long- term solution, education is essential. It can empower refugees, improve skills necessary for economic participation or personal development.¹⁴⁶ However, like always in that case refugees face obstacles like language barriers, lack of resources for proper education or disrupted schooling. ¹⁴⁷

Refugee participation in the decision - making process is vital for their well - being, but also for the camp management. While refugees are facing different challenges, including mental or physical issues, there are still many of them who demonstrate capability and resilience.

¹⁴⁵ *ibidem*.

¹⁴⁶ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). (2019). Integration of Refugees in the EU: Legal and Policy Framework

¹⁴⁷ International Labour Organization (ILO). (2020). Promoting Decent Work for Refugees

4. CONCLUSION

Crime and violence is omnipresent in big cities and towns. Thanks to urban planning and using urban tools there is a possibility to prevent and decrease the rate of crime. Considering refugee camps as a city unit, those urban tools and crime prevention solutions might be implemented there and improve camp safety. Urban solutions can be used to improve security in the camp and improve daily life of its residents. There are many existing strategies and urban planning instruments used to prevent crimes in the city. There are physical design elements, technological solutions, but also social and community - based initiatives. Urban tools are designed to maintain a safe environment, promote social cohesion and make an attempt to reduce the crime rate.

To ensure the safety in cities the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is used. There are few characteristics of this kind of design. Lighting is very important to ensure a safe space. Well - lit public spaces, streets and parks increasing visibility, which can reduce the level of crime activities.¹⁴⁸ Through urban planning design it is possible to create a space with natural surveillance. Well - designed buildings give the opportunities for natural observation by residents and passersby, like reducing blind spots and designing bif windows facing parks and streets. Defining spaces both private and public by territorial reinforcement using landscaping or designing fences, help to create a sense of responsibility and ownership within residents.¹⁴⁹ Additionally, using gates, strategic placement of entrances and exits helps to have control over entering certain areas and reducing opportunities for unauthorized access. By keeping neighborhoods and areas well - maintained can promote community pride and reduce acts of vandalism.

Using technology is also very important to create safe areas in the city. Surveillance systems are the most popular tools used in urban planning. Thanks to installing cameras and thanks to monitor activities can reduce the level of crime activities, and support enforcement in investigations. Additionally , using lightning with sensors and cameras can easily detect suspicious activities and intimidate potential suspects.¹⁵⁰ Using data like predictive analytics

¹⁴⁸ Cozens, P., Saville, G., & Hillier, D. (2005). Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED): A review and modern bibliography. *Property Management*, 23(5), 328-356.

¹⁴⁹ Farrington, D. P., & Welsh, B. C. (2002). Effects of improved street lighting on crime: A systematic review. *Home Office Research Study*, 251

¹⁵⁰ Jacobs, J. (1961). *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Random House.

or crime mapping is important to keep the area secure. Data might be used to predict potential zones and marked crime hotspots where crimes are likely to be committed and show the enforcement where to locate resources. Very useful technological tools are mobile apps and emergency call boxes. Easily accessible emergency boxes simplify the connection with emergency services in case of danger, additionally by developing apps residents can report crime activities and being alert about local crime trends.¹⁵¹

Implementing community - based initiatives can improve safety in areas. Using neighborhood watch programmes or community policing, can encourage residents to work together and report suspicious activities, additionally working closely with police officers can build trust among community members and understand concerns of local communities. What overall might develop successful strategies to prevent crime. Promoting public awareness is also important, thanks to public education about crime, learning prevention tips and encouraging community may lead to reduced crime rate in urban areas.¹⁵²

Thanks to designing neighborhoods that simplify residential integration, promote recreational spaces and encourage people for community activities reduce crime opportunities by implementing natural surveillance. Additionally, creating affordable housing can reduce social - economic differences, which can lead to crime activities. The other option to use in the cities to reduce a crime rate and improve safety in areas is setting up social services like addiction treatments, employment offices or mental health support. It can help people to deal with their traumas, frustration and give them support they need on a daily basis.¹⁵³

By connecting those strategies and tools, and integrating them to the cities, it is a possibility to create a safer environment for inhabitants. Combining different tools can prevent crime and enhance urban safety .

However, despite the idea of implementing those urban tools within the camp to improve the safety and despite of re - thinking the refugee camp design, camp management and

¹⁵¹ Gurman, T. A., & Ellenberger, N. (2015). Reaching the global community: Review of mHealth public health messaging apps. *Journal of Mobile Technology in Medicine*, 4(1), 14-23.

¹⁵² Bennett, T., Holloway, K., & Farrington, D. P. (2006). Does neighborhood watch reduce crime? A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 2(4), 437-458.

¹⁵³ Freeman, L. (2006). *There Goes the 'Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up*. Temple University Press

stakeholders are facing financial problems and lack of resources issues in the camps. Having challenges to provide basic needs, like safe shelters or food and medical help, there is no space and financial possibility to implement urban planning solutions to prevent crime or improve sense of safety in refugee camps. There are few different sources of financial help for refugee camps. The International Aid with UNHCR is a main actor being involved in managing financial aspects, UN member states send support as well as private donors and international financial institutions like for example the World Bank. They are involved in the beginning phase of setting up the camp, and are primarily responsible for coordinating international support. Also Non - Governmental Organizations contribute in financial resources, but also there is support from the host country, however it is also dependent on their own resources and economic capability, especially when the host country is in disadvantaged regions. Additionally, the private sector and philanthropic foundations are involved in providing support.¹⁵⁴ However, once established, refugee camps face constant financial difficulties. Because of very high operational costs, fluctuating donor funding but also because of continuous resource allocation, refugee camps have ongoing financial challenges. Many resources go for food, shelter, education, healthcare or security, the problems increase when a refugee camp from temporary shelter becomes a semi - permanent settlement, creating more costs over time. Being heavily dependent on donations, refugee camps face fluctuations in funding, which depend on economic situation, political priorities or geopolitical changes. Moreover, managing and allocating already limited resources is a huge challenge. The need of balancing basic immediate needs with a long - term perspective is one of the biggest issues in financial management.¹⁵⁵ It is difficult to discuss long - term urban safety issues and implementing urban tools when financial aspects of refugee camps and lack of resources is such a complex and multifaceted problem. Sustainable solutions, long term strategies are heavily dependent on stable and predictable flow of resources, which is difficult to achieve in refugee camps.¹⁵⁶

Future refugee camp planning and refugee camp design face many challenges. Considering future refugee planning is similar to utopian thinking. Unfortunately global displacement trends continue, because of rising conflict, like war in Ukraine or in Gaza, because of climate change and economic instability. The number of forced displacement people increased

¹⁵⁴ Jacobsen, K. (2005). *The Economic Life of Refugees*. Kumarian Press

¹⁵⁵ *ibidem*.

¹⁵⁶ *ibidem*.

drastically, causing many challenges for the planning and design of refugee camps. Challenges like rapid response, sustainability, good environmental impact, logistics when it comes to resource allocation, providing adequate infrastructure and security aspects and residents; protection, creating a sense of community are only few issues stakeholders need to deal with creating a refugee camp.¹⁵⁷ Thinking about future refugee camp designs that support safety in refugee camps, using new technologies and activating the community, seems like wishful and utopian thinking by visualizing the perfect solution for future refugee camps and scenarios providing a guiding vision for improvement. In an ideal situation with enough resources, with the help of services, refugees are involved in the planning and design, which creates culturally appropriate and more effective solutions. using constructions techniques like modular constructions, can allow for quick assembly and flexibility. Adapting technology can improve camp management, services and sense of safety. Durable, resilient architecture can be implemented, that is climate resilient, with proper drainage systems and climate appropriate building materials. Additionally, the access for holistic health services, like mental health support, trauma - informed care and health services can with no doubt improve well - being of refugees. Thinking about future planning it is important to address a complex array of challenges. Which are changing over time, considering the transition from temporary to permanent settlement. Approaches that are flexible, participatory and technologically integrated should be also implemented.¹⁵⁸

Trying to answer the research question if refugee camps design is a hindrance for safety, the conclusion is that it faces so many challenges and problems and there are many issues starting with planning phase of refuge camp,that definitely the design and planning are in the center of concern when it comes to long - term stay and maintain safe environment. The refugee camp design is central to ensuring safety and stability. The paper made an attempt to also answer sub research questions.

- What are key considerations when designing refugee camps in response to emergency planning?
- How can emergency planning and emergency architecture balance the need for temporary solutions with the importance of safety in the long term?

¹⁵⁷ Betts, A., & Collier, P. (2017). *Refuge: Transforming a Broken Refugee System*. Allen Lane.

¹⁵⁸ Spiegel, P. B., & Checchi, F. (2008). *Health-care needs of people affected by conflict: future trends and changing frameworks*. *The Lancet*, 375(9711), 341-345

- Why is safety an important factor to consider in refugee camp design and is it possible to achieve it in temporary settings?
- What factors determine the transition of a refugee camp to a permanent settlement, and how long do people spend in the refugee camp?
- Is it possible to approach refugee camp design as a permanent urban unit from the outset, allowing for future development and avoiding the need for significant redesign later on?

The first research question investigates the primary factors that must be considered when refugee camps are designed during emergencies. The urgency and complexity of the situation dictate how to understand many different aspects. Very important is consideration of humanitarian needs, the priority is ensuring access to basic needs like food, water, sanitation or healthcare. Because of the many backgrounds of displaced people the key is cultural sensitivity, it is important to respect the culture, religion and any other social norms of the refugees. Very challenging is planning for the emergency situation, setting up proper shelters or medical facilities and appropriate infrastructure, these actions require proper logistics and competent urban planning. It is necessary to design camps, which are easy to expand in case of growing population and at the same time through urban planning and urban design providing safe environments for vulnerable groups, and prevent crime in the camps. Thanks to applying some of these solutions, there is a chance to create safe space for refugees and create longer - term solutions, which lead to stability and future integration.

The next research question to investigate is understanding how emergency planning and emergency architecture can adapt the need for temporary solutions with the need of providing a safe environment for refugees. It is important in the context of this paper to mention that developing the specific infrastructure to evolve from temporary to permanent solutions, is the key. Using proper, durable materials and construction techniques that provide safe shelters being stable under many different conditions. Additionally, systems which are designed to prevent disease outbreaks and provide infrastructure to maintain health and sanitation, are crucial when it comes to longer - term solutions. In the specific environment as a refugee camp it is important to help create a social cohesion and sense of place, it can improve sense of safety and well - being. To manage risks and emergency situations during the stay in the

camp it is important to establish safety protocols being managed by workers and also refugees.

The prime concern in refugee camps is safety. People after traumatizing events being vulnerable and forced to leave their homes should feel safe in a place which provides asylum. This research question focuses on the importance of safety and how it can be achieved in camps. Necessary is to protect people from violence, any sort of exploitation, ensuring access to basic needs like food, water, healthcare and help support mental health. Thanks to community structures people can sense the support of other groups of refugees, and try to avoid a sense of isolation. Thanks to proper urban design, careful planning and monitoring it can be possible to provide a safe environment for vulnerable people.

Many different factors force people to stay in the refugee camp longer than it was expected. Multiple aspects influenced the transition from temporary shelters to permanent settlements. Policies of host countries have a big impact on settlements for refugee camps, very often political will is crucial when it comes to prolong stay in the camp. Lack of money and resources have a big impact on long - term development, as well as chances given to refugees to integrate with the local communities and local economies. The legal status and legal recognition might be problematic for many individuals, keeping them in refugee camps.

The final question directs the possibility to design a refugee camp in a way of being a permanent unit to avoid extensive redesign later and create a more comfortable environment for refugees. The key is focus on initial planning to incorporate permanent solutions from the beginning to open refugee camps for future development. Additionally, using adaptable structures and resilience materials can help improve the quality of infrastructure. Helping the community to be involved in design and camp structure, but also helping with improving social cohesion might help with future development and adapting long - term solutions. Investments in shelters, infrastructure can prevent temporary usage and create durable infrastructure to help long - term use. Focusing on long - term perspective in camp design can create a stable and safe environment for refugees, at the same time with the possibility to create strong communities, and reduce extra costs involving redesign and rebuild the necessary infrastructure.

Following the analysis and the attempt of answering the research question, the limitations of the research occurred. To complement the research interviews with residents of refugee camps could be used. Personal experience, and observation from insight, but also addressing main issues and problems, might help with analysis and potential solutions. Moreover, the trips to refugee camps might be used in the project, using observational methods can help with understanding the topic and problems the project faces. However, these limitations open the opportunity for further research. Investigating refugee camps, talks with people, with stakeholders and residents might be an invaluable contribution in the research. The biggest problem appears in the research was constant challenges when it comes to refugee camp design and planning the settlements. Being a temporary solution and using emergency planning as a base, the refugee camp unit is not prepared for being a permanent settlement. However, because of political issues, economic challenges, people are forced to stay in camps for years or even decades. It is obvious that problems are enormous. The unit prepared to be a provisional, short - term solution does not have resources to become a permanent settlement and a fully functioning city. On the other hand, it is hard to imagine creating the master plan in urban planning in refugee camps as an answer for emergency and rapidly changing situations, when people need instant help and shelter. It is very difficult to think about a bright future and a refugee camp with utopian solutions, the very complex situation with enormous numbers of challenges, requires an empathetic and understanding approach. Considering the increase of displaced people, and world crises like wars, conflict, climate change, the number of refugees and camps will grow, and there is no doubt that there is a need to re -think emergency planning and refugee camp design, together with humanitarian solutions.

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