

Activity 6: Causes, effects and solutions

Learning objectives

- To collaborate with others to summarise knowledge and analyse the causes, effects and solutions of the refugee crisis.

Resources

- Activity Sheet: People forced to flee: What are the issues? (one per young person)
- Highlighter pens or pens of three different colours (for each young person)
- Activity Sheet
- A3 or flip-chart paper
- Marker pens

Time required: 55 mins

- First discuss the meanings of “cause”, “effect” and “solution”.
- Young people then read the text on the first activity sheet (People forced to flee: What are the issues?) and identify the causes, effects and solutions of the refugee crisis. Ask them to use different colour pens or highlighters to underline or highlight causes, effects and solutions.

Visual stimuli, such as photographs, may be helpful for less confident readers. If time permits, you can use the activity sheet showing the photos of people forced to flee. The descriptions of the photos may also be used to identify additional causes, effects and solutions.

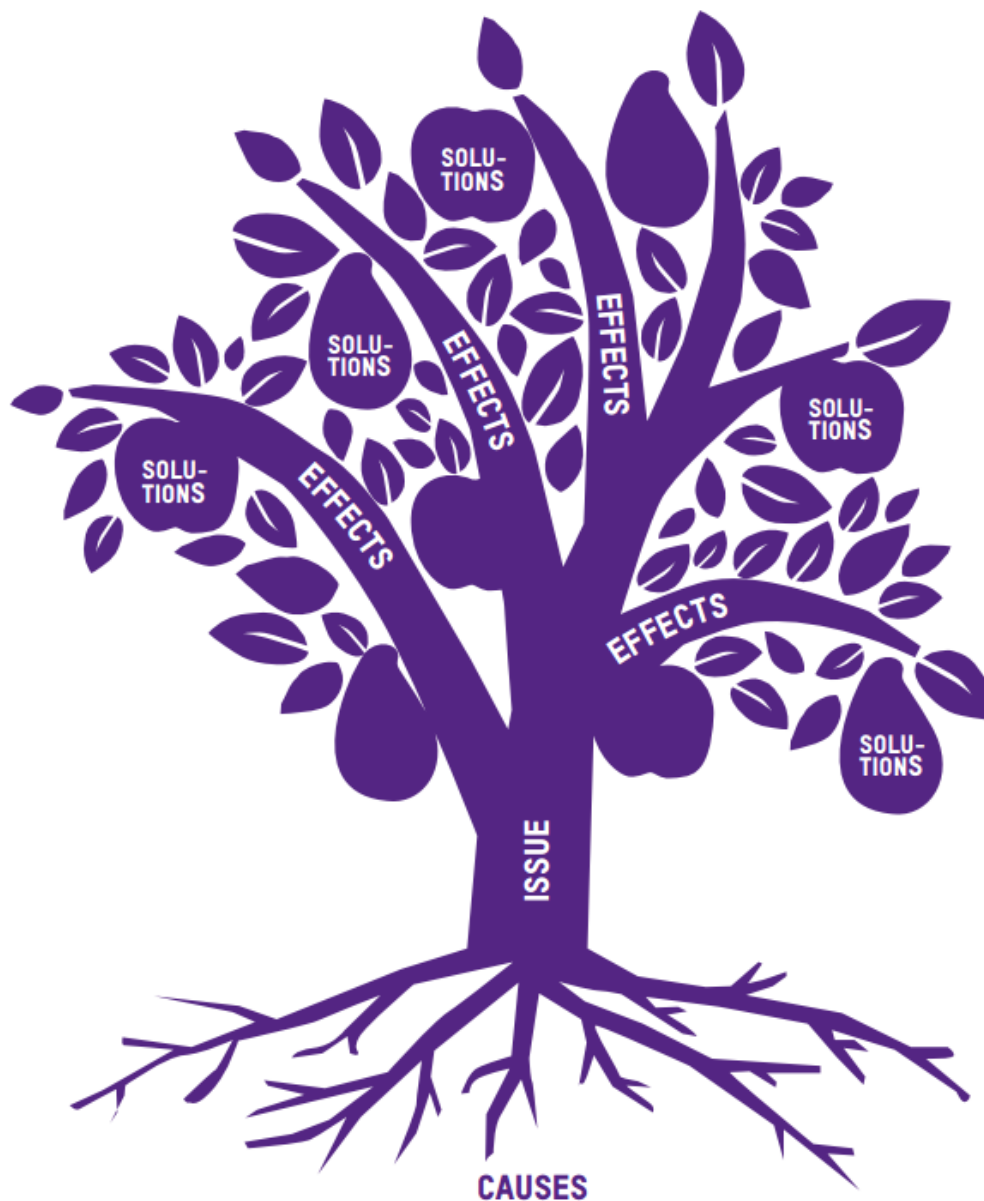
- Ask young people to share their answers. Does the class agree with on the causes, effects and solutions of the migration crisis?

Using an issue tree for analysis

An issue tree is a useful method for analysing an issue by identifying and summarising its causes, effects and solutions and the connections between them.

- Divide the class into groups of four or five young people. Tell the groups to use what they've learnt from the text to complete an issue tree. They draw the outline of a tree (see page 2), then write the issue being analysed (refugees) in the trunk of the tree. The **causes** of the issue form the **roots** of the tree, the **effects** of the issue form the **branches** of the tree and the **solutions** to the issue in the **leaves** are the fruit of the tree. As they complete the tree, they may think of further causes, effects and solutions. Encourage this.
- Bring the class back together and ask young people to suggest how the causes of the refugee crisis could be tackled. Can they think of more solutions to the crisis? You could ask one or two groups to present their issue trees to the class.

Designing an issue tree



From *Global Citizenship in the Classroom: A Guide for Teachers* (Oxfam GB, 2015).

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Activity Sheet

People forced to flee: What are the issues?

Highlight the text in three colours to show *causes*, *effects* and *solutions*.

The world is seeing a mass global movement of people – people fleeing conflict, disaster, the effects of climate change, poverty and inequality. This type of migration is not new, but in 2015 unusually large numbers of people have risked their lives to reach safety in Europe. Over the past 15 years an estimated 30,000 people have lost their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea.

Europe alone in 2015 saw more than one million people arrive at its borders in order to escape the horrors of war, persecution and impossible living conditions in countries such as Syria, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iraq. There are also many aspirational reasons why people move, for instance to expand their education or improve their opportunities.

Everyone deserves to live in safety. But when people are on the move they are often at their most vulnerable. People hope for food, shelter and to be treated with dignity. But they often face discomfort, hostility, aggression and racism in the countries through which they pass, or eventually come to live.

Governments should work together to make migration safe. People should not have to resort to extremely dangerous measures to continue their journeys. Wherever they come from, people on the move are entitled to have their human rights respected and to be treated with dignity. This applies to everybody on the move, no matter what the reason for their migration is.

Charities have a role in providing people who have just arrived in Europe with assistance for their basic needs like water, hot meals and places to sleep. They can also help new arrivals to access health, social services and to integrate in their new communities.

Adapted from *Refugees and Migrants Crisis in Europe; Oxfam International Public Engagement Toolkit* (Oxfam, 2016)

Activity Sheet

Photos of people forced to flee

Photo 1



Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam

Every day, the shores of the small Greek island of Lesbos see the arrival of boats coming from Turkey carrying some 50 refugees or migrants, who are fleeing war or poverty. After paying traffickers sums of around €1,000 per person (€800 for the over-60s or in bad weather), they risk their lives on a dangerous journey with no guarantees. With life jackets of dubious quality, they set sail with no idea about steering, often at night and in adverse weather conditions. Some are fortunate enough to land on beaches where groups of volunteers from across Europe are waiting for them, while others arrive at empty, inhospitable cliffs. More than 4,000 people making the journey failed to reach the shore in 2015.

Photo 2*Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam*

A group of refugees wait for the Macedonian border to be opened so that they can continue their journey to Europe. This is Idomeni refugee transit camp, Greece.

Photo 3*Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam*

A group of refugees cross Macedonia's border with Serbia in the cold and rain. Every day, some 8,000 refugees and migrants enter Serbia on their way to Europe (data from Nov. 2015). They enter the country through Preševo, in the south, after crossing the border with Macedonia, and leave via Šid, in the north-west, heading towards Croatia. They make this journey by bus or on trains arranged by the Serbian government. They have 72 hours to travel across the country. Most of them are fleeing either Syria or other conflicts (Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.) or poverty. They have made a long journey and have been victims of abuse and criminal gangs.

Photo 4



Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam

Ahmed* and Fatima* are travelling with their three children, aged 10, 7 and 5, and with another family. There are a total of 10 people in their group, all from Basra in Iraq. They left their country eight days ago.

“I left because life was very difficult there. I was fired as a result of my beliefs. I lost a leg and it is very difficult there to find a proper prosthetic limb. My wife has had two unsuccessful operations and needs help,” explained Ahmed. At 1 in the morning they set off from the coast of Turkey and two hours later they were rescued by the Greek coastguard. They remained at sea for a few more hours until other boats had been spotted. They reached Moria at 7 in the morning with nothing, because before boarding the boat, the traffickers made them throw all their bags into the sea.

Ahmed and Fatima have been married for 16 years. When they think back on their wedding, their faces light up. For a few minutes they are able to forget everything that is happening. They had a very fancy wedding with 500 guests. “I married for love,” Ahmed says. Fatima was 17 when they married.

Ahmed is a mechanical engineer and he hopes to find work in Germany. Fatima wants to study English and she hopes her children will learn languages as well. “I am very hopeful about what is ahead of us. Everything will go well in Germany,” she says, smiling.

Just before leaving Iraq they explained to their oldest son they were setting off on a long journey. “The others do not even realise,” says Fatima, who recognises the difficulty of travelling with children. “I am always worried about them; making sure they do not get lost, where they are going, what they need. I held the youngest in my arms during the entire boat journey.”

**Names have been changed to help protect identities.*