

Human System

- Humanitarian crises In Middle East

“A humanitarian emergency is an event or series of events that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security or wellbeing of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area.”(Coalition 2013)

Humanitarian Coalition, Retrieved on 6 May 2013

The UNHCR was expected to disappear after the WWII refugees resettled, but it is still an official institution for the refugee's rights due to the continuation of the needs for the formal intergovernmental network around the globe due to the Humanitarian problem and its evidence of the vulnerability of the communities.(Loescher, Betts et al. 2008) The refugees have always existed due to the wars, political conflict, ethnicity, religions crimes and others human right abuses.(Loescher, Betts et al. 2008) In the past decade, the Humanitarian crises and the number of the affected people have doubled.(Nation)

In the 17th century, the Middle East was worship site of protection by offering a refuge for people who was fleeing from conflict. (Loescher, Betts et al. 2008) The current situation in the Syrian crisis in the Middle East which entered it is the fifth year where almost half of the population is forced to move out. The conflict affects the surrounding states that Lebanon and Jordan have the highest ratio for the existence of the refugees per capita worldwide.(Ghazal Sep 03,2015)

“There are no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian problems.” Sadako Ogata the UN High Commissioner

By the global refugee regime, it includes agreements and practices which define the obligations, rules, norms, principles and the procedures. The mandatory practice of the UN institutions and states that agreed by providing protection, durable solutions, protracted refugee situations besides the protection and solutions as political, politics of asylum to face the refugee's waves and conditions.(Loescher, Betts et al. 2008) Nowadays; Jordan has sectors to adapt and develop the responses strategies toward the Humanitarian crisis that it is currently happening. The policies come as three terms; Short-Term is the humanitarian funds, Medium-Term is the preventing deterioration, and Long-Term is the development funds. (Sigmond 2016)

The sectors divided the responses into two components:

- 1- (The Refugee Component): it is defined by the providing the protection and assistance to the refugees who are living in camps; settlements or in the local communities. It aims to immediate strengthen the impacted communities such as maintaining food, sanitation, healthcare, shelter, and relief items. It is adapted by UNHCR. (Sigmond 2016)
- 2- (The Resilience Component): it is defined by assisting the impacted communities to cope and recover from the crisis in all the sectors. The management and strategies

of household, communities and national system. This response to expanding the capacities of the local and national systems that face pressure. It is adapted by United Nations Development Programme. (Sigmond 2016)

- **Dynamic of Refugees` in Jordan**
- **Jordan Minorities**

19th, from the North-West of Caucasus, people arrived in large waves to the Ottoman Empire where they formed settlements and placed relationship with the locals. Circassians maintained their identity and culture with a level of integration in the Jordanian society. (Shami 2009)

Between 1878 and 1905, Immigrant formation of the settlements took place in Amman, Jerash, and Balqa region. The first settlements were in caves and the Roman ruins of Amman and Jerash. In very short time, their role in the development started to appear within these areas, for example, they added new agricultural techniques besides the establishment of the economy, and this helped Amman to grow and to be an urban center. The urban formation was different from the Arab villages in the agricultural lands. The houses were built in a small spot within the land that owned by individual and separated from the surrounding houses, in contrast of the clustered back to back houses in lands that belonging to the all the village which marked the spaces between Arabs and Circassians by the economy factor. (Shami 2009) The street pattern was wider due to the different type transportation mobility cart which made urban context distinguished between the Circassian and Arabs areas. The architectural feature and the building techniques were also strikingly distinctive. The first generation of Circassian dwellings appeared as stoned building of simple façade and flat roof and the second type was mud brick building and porches of wooden posts that hold the roof, rooms were open to the porches. The masonry work was by the family themselves, and local masons were not used. (Shami 2009) The spatial structure of the settlements reflected the social organization and the relationship of the origins of the Circassian waves. Amman was divided into three main quarters of groups, two-quarters toward North-West side, and South-East was Chechen side. The Wadi-seer location had clear division due to the topography which formed upper and lower quarters, and each one has the cemetery where they still separated until the moment. (Shami 2009)

The Jordan became a state in 1921, and the Circassian formed the middle-class in the community with positions in the government and military, besides the substantial representation in the parliament.(Shami 2009) Until the moment, the Circassian`s royal guards with their traditional warrior uniform who served the kings are unique evidence of the Circassian`s culture in Jordan society.(Abu Assab 2011)

- **Palestinian**

The understanding of the human dimension of the Palestinian refugees is by knowing their experience of trauma and suffering when they had fled Palestine following the establishment of the state of Israel. (Marshood 2010) Palestinian refugees` definition is the refugees who were residents of Palestine between June 1946 and 1948 and lost their homes in the 1948 Arabs-Israeli conflict; all the

refugees have the Jordanian citizenship. Consequently, in 1967 the new refugees moved to Jordan and it was defined as internal displacement since the West Bank and Jordan were united.(Marshood 2010)

United Nation Relief and Work Agency, UNRWA came to the sense of humanitarian crises of the Palestinian refugees while other refugees are under UNHCR commissions. According to the UNRWA close to 1.9 million Palestinian and they are registered as refugees, and 335000 are living in camps. In Jordan, there are thirteen refugee camps; ten of them are official which mean that UNRWA provides the physical infrastructure and the social services. The Jordanian government manages the unofficial camps. (Alnsour and Meaton 2014) The Palestinians who live in camps are the fourth generation of the refugees came from different villages and cities, but they shared the same experience of pain and lost. Some camps established since the Nakbah 1948 namely: Irbid Camp; Hitten Camp, also known as Marka Camp; Jerash Camp, also known as Gaza Camp; and Zarqa Camp, Al-Hussein Camp, and Baqa'a Camp. The camps have the identity of the origin, and it is isolated homogenous fabric. The access to the camps is a challenge due to the "Control Factor" by which the institutions and mechanism that controls the camps.(Marshood 2010)

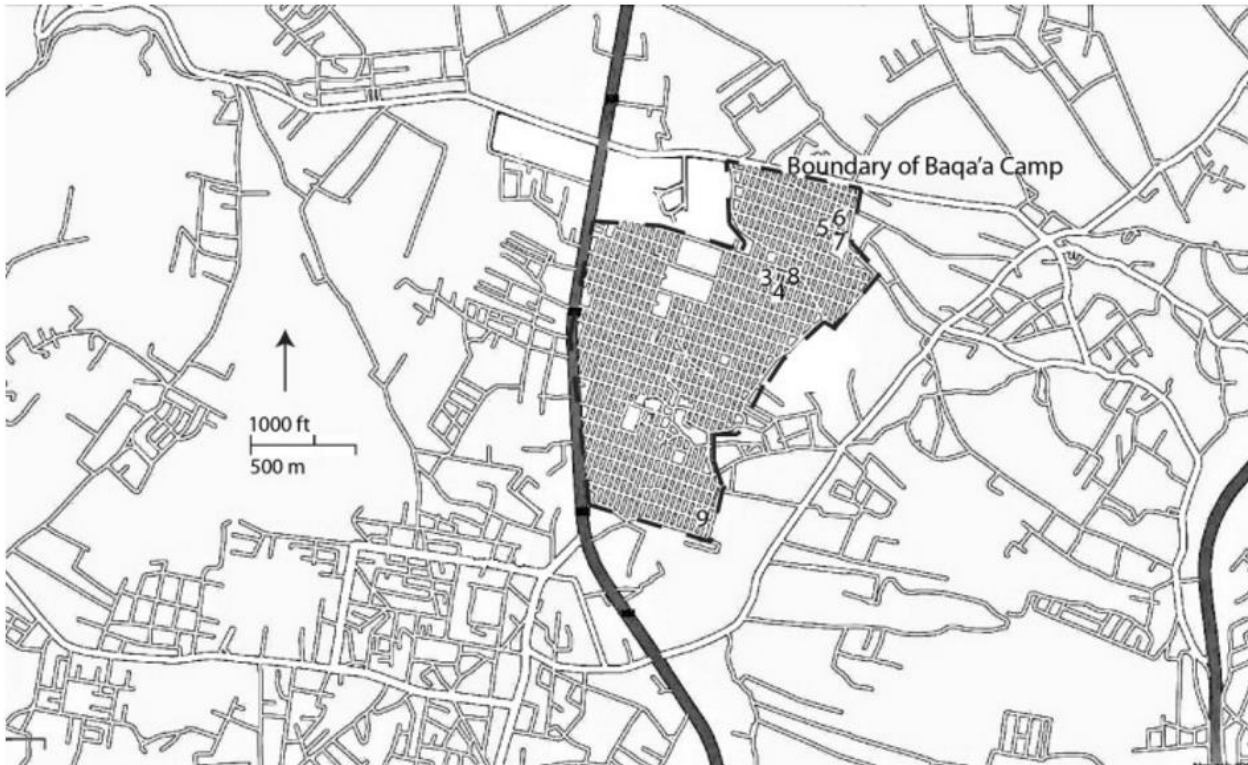
The built environment and the spaces of the camp were originally tents and marquees which provided the shelter. Over the decade the refugees are now living in the brick houses, the urban fabric can be described as haphazard pieces; it is now considered more permanent low-income housing.(Alnsour and Meaton 2014)

Official refugee camps in Jordan.

Name of camp and year established	Initial population	Population (mid 2000s)	Area M2	Density-pop per kilometre
Wehdat, 1955	5000	51,443	477,000	107,846
El-Hussein, 1952	8000	29,464	338,000	87,171
Baqa'a, 1968	26,000	93,916	1,307,000	72,243
Talbieh, 1968	5000	6970	133,000	52,406
Souf, 1967	Unknown	20,142	596,000	33,795
Husn, 1968	12,500	22,194	754,000	29,435
Irbid, 1950	4000	25,250	219,000	115,296
Gaza, 1968	11,500	27,600	507,000	54,437
Heteen, 1968	15,000	45,593	894,000	50,998
Zarqa, 1949		18,509	189,000	98,931

Source: <http://www.un.org.gate.lib.buffalo.edu/unrwa/refugees/Jordan.html>.

According to the Table of the official camps in Jordan, it shows that the largest Palestine camp in term of population and the area is the Baqa`a camp which was established in 1968. The density of 29,000 to 115,000 persons per sq.km which compared with Mumbai with less density of 30,000 (Citymayors, 2013).



Aerial view of Baqa'a Camp.

Source: maps.google.co.uk, adapted from <http://goo.gl/maps/zlkwH>

In the context of the refugee camps, there are two issues of the construction of their built environment. The quality of the urban housing which can't provide a communication within the community. The housing conditions and people sensation toward their houses.(Alnsour and Meaton 2014)

In Baqa'a camp there are three qualities of the housing:

- 1- High quality with appropriate features and material.
- 2- Medium quality with appropriate material but insufficient ventilation spaces.
- 3- Low quality with no planning or standards in term of structure, spaces, and material.

The style of the houses was informal without planning or regulations. It was related to the temporary urban design of the tent structure as the formation of the camps and the symbolic right of return. The tents were replaced and became permanent with the different design style, materials.(Alnsour and Meaton 2014)



- **Iraqis**

Iraqis expressed multiple displacements since the mid of 90's after the Gulf war, by 2003 nearly 350000 Iraqis in Jordan. The Iraqis are considering Jordan and the neighbor countries as translocating destinations to transit to become asylum seekers to the developed countries.(Saltsman 2011) Refers to UNHCR report 2009, the Jordan urban setting has a constraint for the Iraqis migrant population; it is the lack of the access to the resources of education, health, and employment.

- **Syrian**

From 2011, the Syrian civil war has consequences of refugees who fled to the neighboring Jordan. UNHCR, Jordan government and the NGO's received the refugees to provide the basic needs include food, education, and health care. The Syrian is now 20% of the population of Jordan who is having the situation of temporary permanence. They are dependent on the aid provided, and the Jordanian government sees the refugees as an uncertainly source. The government faces the complexity of hosting the refugees meanwhile maintaining the security and the stability of the resources. (Davidson 2015)

- **Refugees' life**

Mostly vulnerable people tend to protect themselves and conscious about their surrounding and their areas. Refugees are affected by the powerlessness in term of personality, intellectual power, ability and the relationship. (Lammers 2007)

The feeling of the negativity about the Organizations or governments which it is refers to the conflict they have the term "sleeping with the enemies" which gives lack of trust toward the new system that they are living in which has the direct contact with refugees. (Lammers 2007)

The state of refugees:

- Very little information about themselves
- Insecure
- Feel of Fear
- Memories of wars
- Lack of peaceful environment

There are differences between the research of the refugees in camps and in cities that in the cities is less orderly and transparent. The diversity refugees backgrounds, concerns, and status of the Urban fabric.(Lammers 2007)

Built-Environment System

- Urbanism “New cities, Cities developments, Cases..”

The Urban built environment is defined as a building, structure and infrastructure representative in the physical and social aspects where the people can live, work, and communicate. (Bagaeen, 2006) Cities are formed of weaved systems which affect individual and social communities. The results of the cities` creation are urban structures, community network and monitor the performance. The concern in the society of the city is the population growth where are the stress, and the shock will be faced. The problem is that includes foreseen and unforeseen threats exclusive in a large urban system. (OECD June 2016)

The factors of the emotional attachment are accessible of public spaces and institutions it is including the Mobility, Obstacles, Sense of isolation. What are the scales to measure the resilience of the cities? Big Data analytics, technology, innovative land-use policy and planning, infrastructure design, new financing and insurance products, and frequent crises management platforms and smart and predictive policing(Wood, McGrath et al. 2012)

Reform the cities to be more resilient:

- Absorb, adapt, transform and prepare for the past and future shocks and stresses to ensure sustainable development, well-being, and inclusive growth.
- Adaptation: solving problems, manage to provide a solution and take a benefit from the past experiences.
- Absorb: find the gap and provide well design system to absorb the impacts.
- Redundant: Spare systems to capable of serving in front of the unexpected changes
- Flexible: the rapid response.
- Resourceful: find essential and new resources to make the systems, and the services functioned.
- Inclusive: The system that is inclusively designed to ensure the diversity in the communities are consulted and empowered in the process of developing the policies as possible.
- Integration: a co-operation and collaboration.

- Dynamic Refugees Urbanism

In cities, development and agencies need to account some factors: diverse urban populations. The population is the both displaced and host communities), the presence of a variety of existing state and non-state actors (armed and not armed, licit and illicit). In the disaster response the diversity of formal and informal institutions that all play roles (whether positive or negative).(Kunz 1973)

Types of long-term stressors:(Sigmond 2016)

- Demographic shock, the continued refugees` influx. The pressure will continue on the services, housing, and labor market.

- An Economic shock, disruption, and loss of the activities of trades, agriculture, and industry by the refugees' crises as well as the conflict is happening in the surrounding.
- Social and political conflict.

The process of (re)settlement in order to settle in place and have relations with it. That influences the setting of refugees. What are the logistical challenges that refugees face? The geographies of emotions are geography, social and emotional components which affect the outcomes and its developments. (Wood, McGrath et al. 2012)

The organizations of a settlement are the accessible housing, transportation, education, community service health care and political process beside the social network of refugees. Urban spaces construct the citizenship and identity. The neoliberal strategy is the concept where it relies on encouraging their own and their households' resources to reproductions. The infrastructure in the communities is the work of connectivity of resources, information, and people. (Wood, McGrath et al. 2012)

The study of the social resilience by:

- The form of Local supportive communities.
- The providence of the connectivity to the resources of the hard and soft infrastructures.
- The emotional support that leads to the attachment to the place.
- Social infrastructure.

The emotional geographies are the relationship of the people with place. It is the connectivity of the site and the sense of well-being. There are policies, process, and practice. The emotion forms the economics and politics. Meaningful senses of space which has multi-scales from the human being to the nation scale.(Wood, McGrath et al. 2012)

Refugees are facing employment challenges in the one year and again in 5 years where the most affected people who have professional and managerial occupations. Refugees who earn assistance in their income face a low level of living after seven years. The results are the mental issues of frustration and insecurity which affects the mental health of individuals and families. The public transits have advantages for the refugees more that the citizens themselves. Ethnic neighborhoods are an infrastructure of social and emotional networks to support the settlement process. (Wood, McGrath et al. 2012)

The valuable connections are an essential part of the refugees' settlements process. How can we enhance the settlements infrastructure to increase the belonging to the nation?

The two cases of the emotional connectivity of the geographies of refugees settlements:

- Personal connectivity with settlements worker
- Physical and communities infrastructure

Spring 2016, Studio project that we had in School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, the project is to Rethinking Resettlement in Buffalo. Resettlement is defined as acclimation and early stages of adaptation, while integration is a long-term process through which individuals become full and empowered participants in all dimensions of the society. Our proposal seeks to embed a carefully composed mix of supportive programs to prepare the refugees better for this long-term integration. The ideal resettlement time is three years until they are ready to move into their owned homes.

We viewed the refugees' resettlement issue in Buffalo from different angles to try to develop strategies in various scales, the urban, the architecture and the unit scale. The urban scale helps resolve not only resettlement issues but also revitalizes unoccupied monuments around buffalo's beltline. On a smaller scale, we picked a building among on the beltline and we are to highlight the refugees' needs to integrate into their new environment without undermining their unfortunate psychological backgrounds. The new build's extension will include an active courtyard, community kitchen, community garden, community daycare, and a retreat center. On the smallest scale, as per unit we designed flexible apartment units and partition walls can that acquire different family sizes.



Project: Rethinking resettlements/Occupied Monuments
Authors: Ajouz, Alawneh, Mirghaderi
Year: 2016

- **Architecture “Culture of buildings..”**

Building culture defines by human relationship and social habit; institution doesn't play a significant role in this term. It is working with complex and integrated Human Systems. (Davis 2006)

In the agricultural communities the impacted the changes rapidly, the economic improvement or the social changes which form the communities of farming in the world. Differences in the religious, social structure, economics, and the relationships of cities and towns, this causes differences in the built environment of the buildings. The timing of the construction activity tied to cycle or the human ritual of the birth, marriage, and death. (Davis 2006)

- **Dynamic Refugees Architecture**

The primary concern for the building for refugees is to have the safe and secure place; the refugees seek to have a secure structure where they can have their needs and develop it to fulfill the short and long-term needs. In the camp such as village, No formal institutions and comprehensive knowledge of the building, the social structure of family related to the involvement of the houses construction year after year, it is built by the well-known mason workers who live in the same area. (Davis 2006)

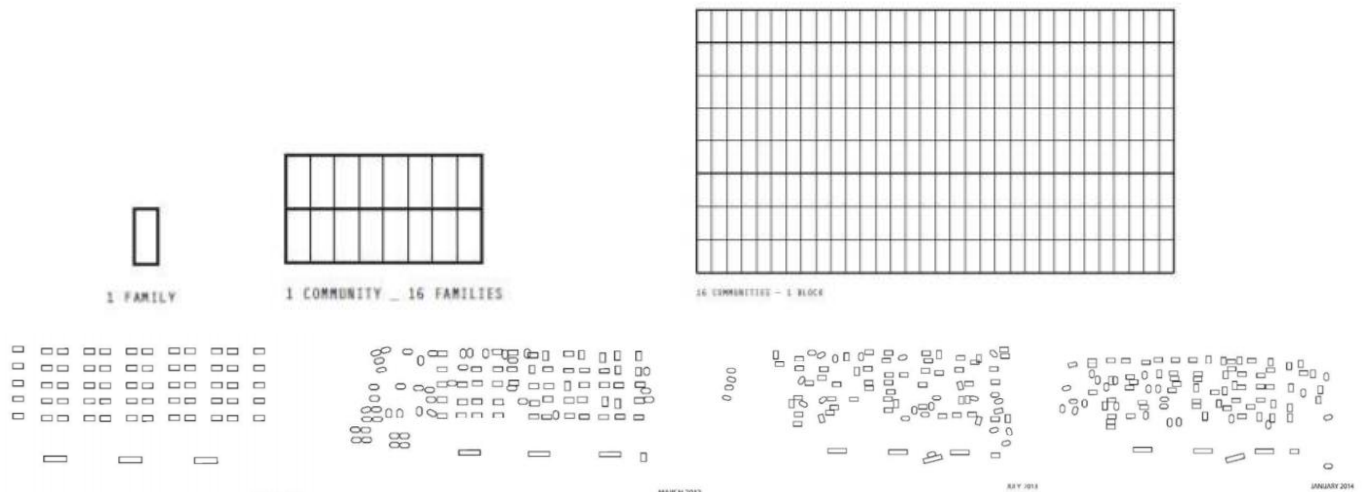
The camps are easy and quick solutions in the architecture cycle. It makes of the tents and caravans, the organizations put the first line of the cycle. The camps are planned as self-contained systems of economy, managements and multilayers process.(Dalal 2015)

The camps begin to create new social, cultural and political systems, this reflects on the spaces of the refugees' built-environments. In the time, the people are starting to change and replace the structure of their shelter to feel the permanence and being safe and secure.(Chaudhry 2015)

According to UNHCR the size of the camp calculated as following:

$$20,000 \times 45m^2 = 900,000 m^2$$

The master plan for the camps include the surrounding characteristics of nature, existence features, topography, services, shelter areas and the potentials expansion.



Changes in the Clustered of the refugees' shelters(Chaudhry 2015)

References:

Abu Assab, N. (2011). Narratives of ethnicity and nationalism: a case study of Circassians in Jordan, University of Warwick.

Alnsour, J. and J. Meaton (2014). "Housing conditions in Palestinian refugee camps, Jordan." Cities **36**: 65-73.

Chaudhry, L. H. (2015). The Refugee Experience: Individual Survival to Community Engagement.

Coalition, H. (2013). "What Is a Humanitarian Crisis".

Dalal, A. (2015). "A Socio-economic perspective on the urbanisation of Zaatari Camp in Jordan." Migration Letters **12**(3): 263.

Davidson, C. (2015). The Temporary Permanence of Syrian Refugees in Jordan, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS.

Davis, H. (2006). The culture of building, Oxford University Press.

Ghazal, M. (Sep 03,2015). "Jordan hosts second largest number of refugees per capita " The Jordan Time.

Kunz, E. F. (1973). "The Refugee in Flight: Kinetic Models and Forms of Displacement." The International Migration Review **7**(2): 125-146.

Lammers, E. (2007). "Refugees in cities: the politics of knowledge." Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees **24**(1).

Loescher, G., et al. (2008). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): The politics and practice of refugee protection into the 21st century, Routledge.

Marshood, N. (2010). Voices from the Camps: A People's History of Palestinian Refugees in Jordan, 2006, University Press of America.

Nation, U. "Humanitarian Assistance."

OECD (June 2016). Resilient cities.

Saltsman, A. (2011). "Displaced Iraqis in Jordan: Formal and informal information flows, and migratory decisions in a context of uncertainty." Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees **28**(1).

Shami, S. (2009). "Historical processes of identity formation: Displacement, settlement, and self-representations of the Circassians in Jordan." Iran and the Caucasus **13**(1): 141-159.

Sigmond, H. K. (2016). Resilience: bridging the gap between humanitarian and development assistance. An analysis of the response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan.

Wood, P. B., et al. (2012). "The emotional city: Refugee settlement and neoliberal urbanism in Calgary." Journal of International Migration and Integration **13**(1): 21-37.