As of 2018, there were 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide with 25.4 million of them identified as refugees. Without adequate and timely intervention, in the form of professional credential restoration and professional development, nurses and other healthcare professionals within these displaced populations represent huge potential economic and skill set losses.

The restoration of the professional credentials and identity of refugee nurses will allow them to be considered for licenses to practice and to gain work visas in the countries of asylum or in countries with significant shortages in the healthcare sector such as the Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the U.K. In reality, they can be the solution to many nations facing shortages and other related healthcare delivery crises. This will also offer refugees the profound psychological benefit of being able to maintain and further develop their personal and professional identities at a time of great emotional and physical upheaval in their lives.

**First Step**

Change the narrative surrounding refugees and displaced persons, in general, to highlight their professional competencies, skills and abilities, but also to bolster their economic and social aptitude.

**Challenge**

Existing refugee policy on local, national, regional, and international levels that negatively affect refugees and hinder any effort for successful integration (i.e. employment), among other issues in a social context.

**Solutions**

Push for more inclusive policies that include the voices of the refugees themselves, in pursuit of a sense of identity, dignity, and above all, independence.

Increase co-operation and responsibility-sharing among stakeholders and the international community in developing a sustainable solution for refugee situations.

**Next Steps**

Promote data sharing in order to understand how many refugee nurses there are and where they are located.

Utilize innovative technologies and credentials restoration programmes to re-instate refugees into the workforce.

*In 2017, the European Union (EU) launched the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR), based on the 1997 Lisbon Recognition Convention of the Council of Europe and UNESCO. While it is not a formal recognition act, it is intended to help refugees progress their studies or employment.*
A similar program resulted in a total of 201 Syrian doctors and 103 nurses regaining credentials in Turkey.

References:
4 Google Maps - Zaatari Refugee Camp.

UNHCR has identified over 600 re-qualifiable refugee nurses.

Key Data:
CGFNS International, Inc. in working with its partner UNHCR in Jordan, was able to connect with refugee populations and identify health professionals:

- In Jordan, an additional 2,886 hospital beds, 22 comprehensive medical centers, and 866 nurses are needed to cope with the impact of refugees on the health system.
- UNHCR has identified up to 3,000 potential candidates for recertification in Jordan among Syrian refugees. Once procedures for restoration of Syrian degrees are in place, this system can be used for Syrian refugees in other countries.
- A similar program resulted in a total of 201 Syrian doctors and 103 nurses regaining credentials in Turkey.

About the Zaatari Refugee Camp:

- The Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan is home to more than 80,000 Syrian refugees.
- The Zaatari Refugee Camp was established in 2012 and is located in northern Jordan in close proximity (less than 15 kilometers) to the Syrian border.
- UNHCR has identified over 600 re-qualifiable refugee nurses.

What Does the Future Behold?

Civil society and governmental agencies both have a vital role to play in the future of refugees and the re-recognition and re-qualification of their professional competencies. With the cultural, economic, and social losses already endured, it is pivotal for the international community to provide refugees with opportunities that lessen their burden.

Through greater co-operation among all stakeholders and providing a platform for refugees to voice the issues and challenges they face, as a community, we can forever change the narrative previously alloted to refugees, while contemporaneously highlighting their individual and collective contributions to society, in response to the ever-growing challenges that face the global health community.

References:
4 Google Maps - Zaatari Refugee Camp.

Contact Us:
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