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## **Comparative Analysis of Refugee Experiences**

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## CASE STUDY

- What are the commonalities and differences between refugee camps and how do they affect outcomes for refugees/asylum?
- For this study we will be conducting an interview with staff members of the Idaho Office for Refugees, who can speak on the lived experiences of refugees to help eliminate our own biases
- We will also be comparing three different refugee camps to highlight the variability in experiences that refugees are subject to
- We will be comparing three main variables Covid 19 response, prevalence of sexual violence, and access to resources



1. (Artwork from displaced children <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/articles/2015/october/verdeli-syrian-refugee/>)

## Living Below the Standards of Human Rights

### Matamoros, Tamaulipas

- On the US-Mexican border, on the outskirts of Matamoros lays a large tent camp composed of asylum seekers awaiting entrance into the United States.
- With little to no access to state resources, they are reliant upon NGOs for food, water, and sanitation.
- The camp began in the onset of Donald Trump's "Migrant Protection Protocols" but has since began to empty with the Biden administrations new policies.

### INTERVIEW

- Triple Trauma Paradigm
- Prevalence of sexual violence
- Access to resources
- Longer a conflict persists, the higher the long term health risks become
- Camps are not places that give young people a lot of hope
- Migration is inherently political
- More humane system of migration



(Scenes from the Matamoros camp of asylum-seekers shows rough conditions for those inside tents covered with tarps on Monday, Feb 15, 2021. Photos taken by asylum-seeker Rolando, who wanted his surname kept private) - .Dallas Morning News

### Gaziantep, Turkey

- One of the biggest camps in Turkey for Syrian refugees
- There are 3.6 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, with the majority living in the South, and many in Gaziantep
- Syrian Refugees get a lot of help from Turkish locals- food, blankets, water, clothes, etc.
- Early on, Turkish gov. pursued a policy of integrating newcomers into urban areas, rather than letting them live in camps.

### COMPARISON

- Formal versus Informal Refugee Camps
- Integration versus ostracization
- Commonality sexual violence is extremely prevalent
- Politics play an important role in day to day life
- Inadequate Covid-19 response all around
- Relationship with local community
- Educational standards differed across camps, depending on state resources.
- Changing political policies affect outcomes for refugees/asylum seekers, with some moving forward to resettlement, some remaining in place, and others repatriated to their country of origin.

### Kakuma, Kenya

- One of the largest refugee camps in the world
- The infrastructure and resources of the camp are inadequate to host this large of a population
- Factors like overcrowding facilitates the spread of infectious diseases
- Kenya has issued an ultimatum recently to the UN that it will close the Kakuma camp along with the only larger camp in Kenya the Dadaab camp

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