

# Definitions

**The following definitions are provided for the educator's reference. Young people have the opportunity to explore definitions through individual activities. Some definitions have been deliberately simplified for a young audience.**

An **asylum seeker** is someone who has left their home country and applied for recognition as a refugee in another country and is waiting for a decision on their application. (Source: Adapted from a definition cited in the UNESCO glossary on migration [www.unesco.org/shs/migration/glossary](http://www.unesco.org/shs/migration/glossary)).

**Development** is a process through which countries change over time. It can be defined in different ways. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies defines development as the process by which communities, families and individuals grow stronger, can enjoy fuller and more productive lives and become less vulnerable. (Source: [www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/who/policies/developmentpolicyen.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/pubs/who/policies/developmentpolicyen.pdf)) The United Nations have developed a way of measuring development by looking at three basic factors which include life expectancy, or the average age people live to, education and income. (Source: Human Development Index <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/hdi/>)

A **developed country** can be defined as a country that has a relatively high level of development, based on various factors.

A **developing country** can be defined as a country that has a relatively low level of development, based on various factors.

**Emigration** is the act of leaving one's own country to settle permanently in another.

**Forced migration** refers to the movements of refugees and internally displaced people (those displaced by conflicts) as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects. (Source: Definition promoted by the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) and cited on Forced Migration Online [www.forcedmigration.org/whatisfm.htm](http://www.forcedmigration.org/whatisfm.htm)).

**Immigration** is the action of coming to live in the long term in a foreign country.

**Irregular migrant** is someone who does not hold the required legal status or travel documents to enter or remain in a country.

**Labour migrant** is someone who migrates for the purposes of employment. The term economic migration is sometimes used interchangeably with labour migration. However economic migration is broader and can encompass migration for the purposes of improving quality of life in social and economic terms.

**Migrants** are people who leave or flee their home to go to new places to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. The term migrant therefore is broad and can include asylum seekers, refugees, internally displaced people, migrant workers and irregular migrants. (Source: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2009) Policy on Migration [www.ifrc.org/Docs/pubs/who/policies/migration-policy-en.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/Docs/pubs/who/policies/migration-policy-en.pdf)).

**Migration** is the movement of people from one place to another. Migration can happen within the same country or between countries. The term migration is different to tourism, as migration is generally used when people go to a new place to settle or live in the longer term and when they create significant ties to the new place. (Source: Adapted from a definition of migration cited in UNESCO Glossary [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)).

**Migrant worker.** A person who is in paid employment in a country where they are not a national. (Source: Adapted from a definition cited in Art. 2 (1), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 1990, [www.un.org/documents/ga/res/45/a45r158.htm](http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/45/a45r158.htm))

**Millennium development goals.** In September 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration was made. This brought together the largest gathering of world leaders in history (189 countries) and they agreed eight goals to tackle poverty. These were called the Millennium Development Goals and are known the MDGs. These are a set of targets to reduce extreme poverty by all the nations that were present committing to a global partnership. The target for the achievement of the goals is 2015. (Source: [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)).

**Persecution** is when someone is treated badly because of who they are. It may be because of their race, religion, nationality, because they belong to a particular social group or their political opinion.

**Poverty** can be defined in many different ways. Income poverty can be defined living on less than \$1.25 a day. (Source: World Bank: [www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/))

**Human poverty** can be defined as a short life, a lack of basic education and a lack of access to resources such as transport, housing, electricity, water and so on. (Source: United Nations Development Programme <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/indices/hpi/>)

**Push and pull factors:** Push factors are things that make people want to leave their homes and pull factors are things that attract them to new places.

A **refugee** is a person who has left their home country because they are afraid of being persecuted. As a result they cannot seek protection from their home country. (Source: Adapted from the definition in the 1951 Refugee Convention [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)).