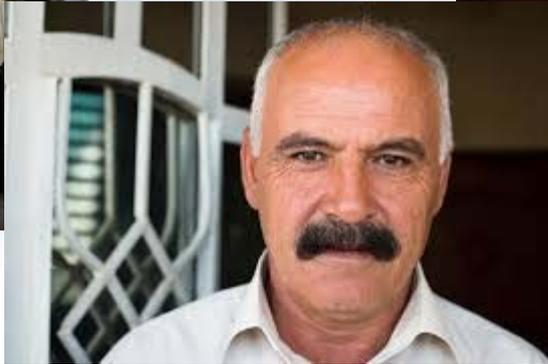


An Integrated Approach to Providing Employment Serving Refugees and Immigrants in the State of Washington

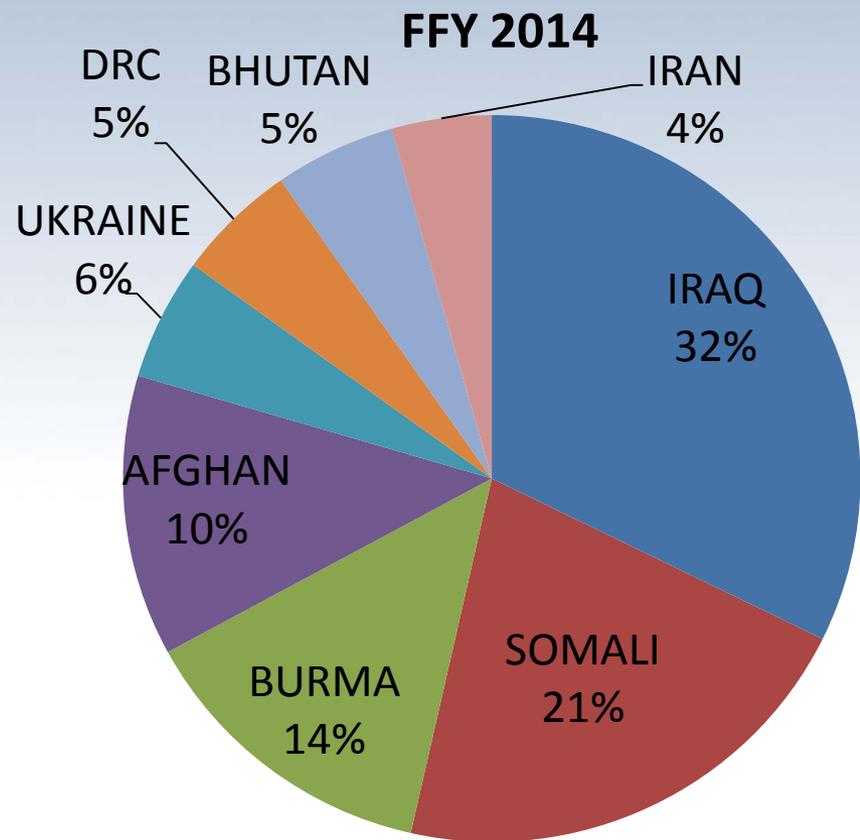
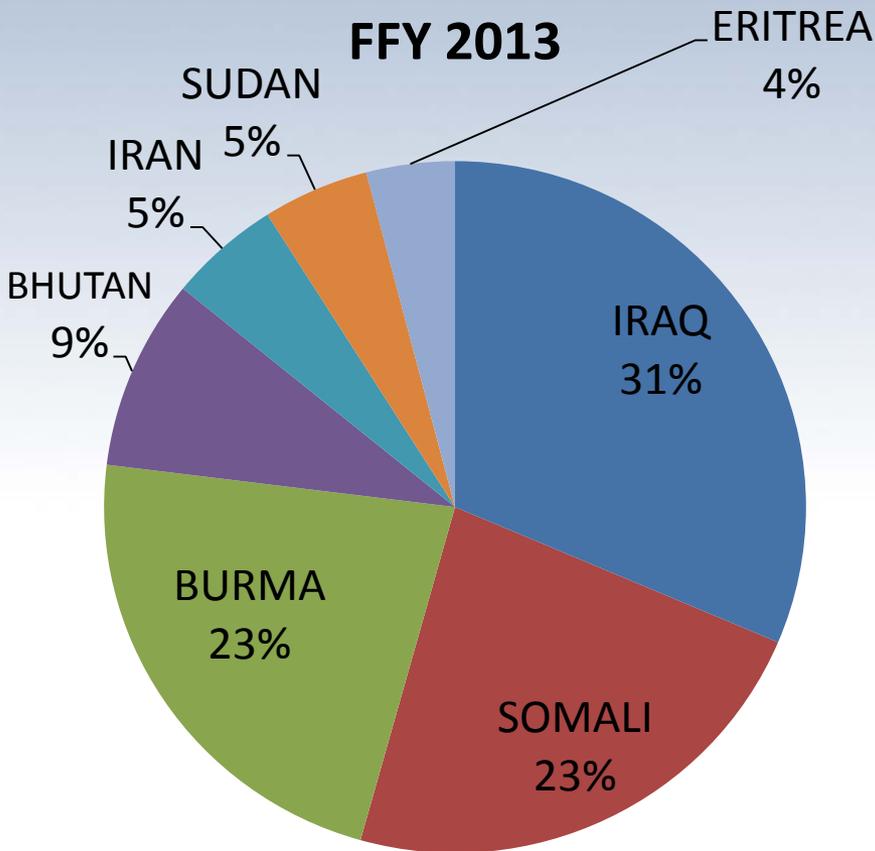
Sarah Peterson, MSW
Washington State Refugee Coordinator

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
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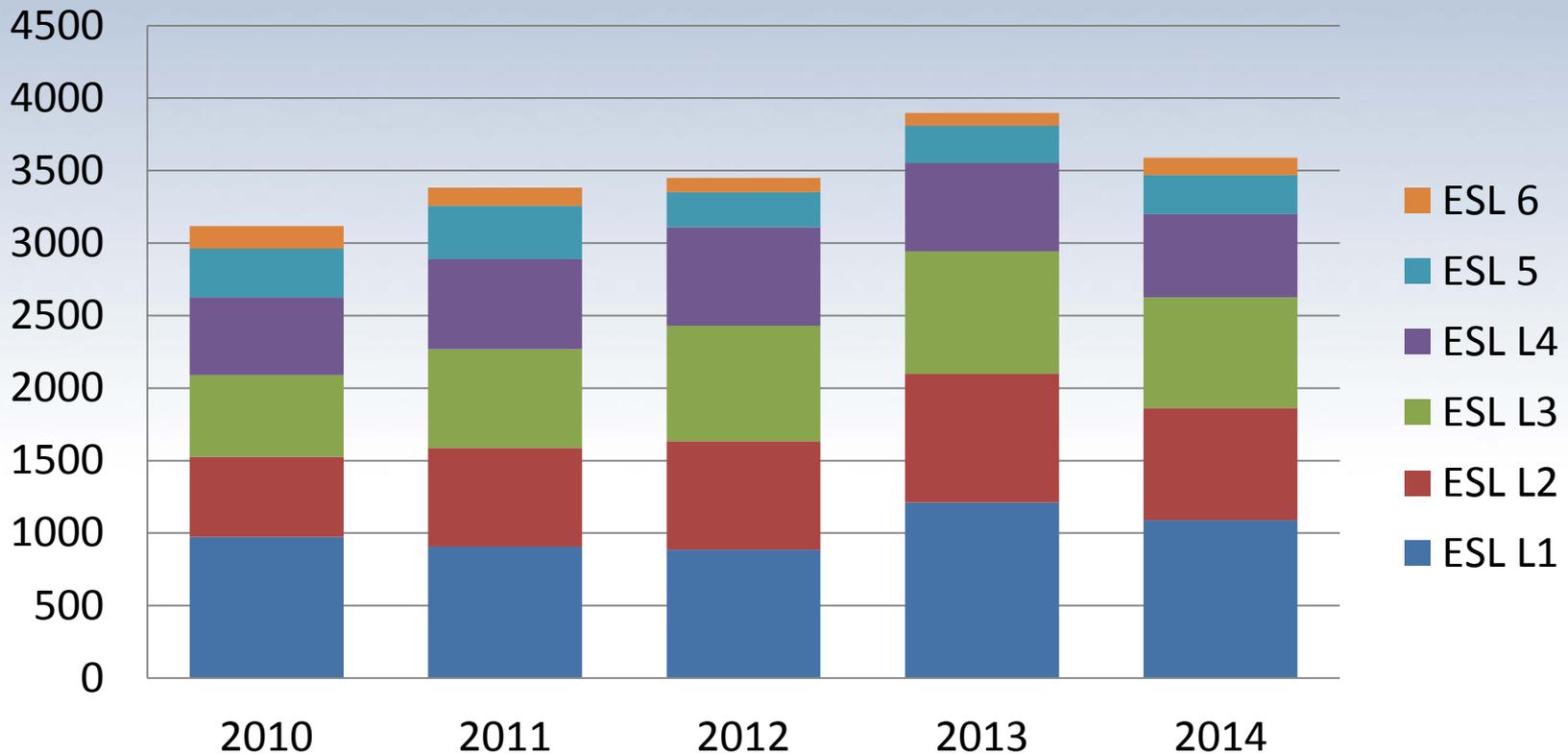
What are the challenges facing refugees today?



Washington Refugee Arrivals by Country of Origin



Limited English Proficiency



The LEP Pathway Program

Provides an array of specialized employment and ESL services for refugees and immigrants.

LEP Pathway Services are provided through contracts with:

- Voluntary Refugee Resettlement Agencies
- Local Community Colleges
- Community Based Organizations
- Other Government Agencies

Serves refugees and immigrants receiving public assistance (TANF, SFA, or RCA). Refugees who are not receiving cash assistance are eligible for services as long as they have resided in the U.S. for five years or less.



LEP Pathway Skills Training Program

Transforming
Lives

Trainings Offered:

- Warehouse Career
- Electronically Assembly
- Commercial Truck Driver
- Home Care Aid
- Customer Service

Nearly 200 refugees and immigrants develop the skills and experience needed to find good jobs with living wages.

- 50 participants out of 95 graduated (53% completion rate).
- 56% were placed in jobs after the training
- 24% of graduates were placed in jobs related to the training
- 86% retention rate at 90 days



TANF -Subsidized Employment Programs

Community Jobs (CJ)

- Focus on employment barriers for hardest to serve participants
- Up to 6 months of subsidized wages
- Full-time countable activities
- Combines basic skills, vocational, or employment specific training
- Incorporates barrier management activities
- Provides supportive workplace experience & training in community worksites

Community Job Connections (JC) & Career Jump

- Work experience supports career goals
- JC provides up to 3 months of paid work experience & skill development
- Career Jump provides paid work experience with an employer who agrees to hire
- Stacked activities support employability & include mentoring (peer & professional), Job Club, Work Ethics, Job Readiness & Hunting

ORIA Basic Food Employment & Training Program

- Builds upon Washington State's nationally recognized Basic Food Employment and Training Program, which is funded through the USDA SNAP E&T program.
- This is a hybrid program that utilizes general state funding as the 50/50 match to draw down federal funding to provide additional job search training, educational and workforce skills training to refugees and immigrants who are receiving SNAP benefits.
- This program allows providers to reach those clients who may be on the pathway to self-sufficiency, but benefit from additional ESL classes or skills training to allow them to move up the career ladder to get better jobs.
- Outcomes:
 - SFY 2014 – served 1114 unduplicated clients, 40% entered employment rate
 - Oct. 2014 – May 2015 – served 845 unduplicated clients (13% increase) with a 62% entered employment rate.
- BFET – Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) Program PILOT

Thank you! Questions

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