



International Rescue Committee

Bringing Refugees from "From Harm to Home"





International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Founded in 1933, the IRC is a global leader in emergency relief, rehabilitation, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement services and advocacy for those uprooted or affected by conflict or oppression.

We mobilize quickly, bringing sustained support to regions torn apart by violence and deprivation. We provide a fresh start in the U.S. for refugees. And we advocate tirelessly on behalf of the displaced, addressing the root causes of violence and standing up for the world's most vulnerable populations.



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Where We Work





What We Do

- Advocacy
- Anti-trafficking
- Children & Youth Protection
- Economic Recovery & Development
- Emergency Response
- Gender-based Violence
- Governance and Rights
- Health
- Immigration Assistance
- Post-conflict Development Initiative
- Protection
- **Refugee Resettlement**





Who is a Refugee?

Refugees have a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Social Group
- Political Opinion



Refugees flee from war and persecution from countries such as: Colombia, Somalia, Vietnam, Rwanda, Afghanistan, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar and Bhutan



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Who is a refugee? A refugee is an individual who is forced to flee his or her own country under a threat of violence or persecution. They are persecuted for reasons of race, nationality, religion, belonging to a certain social group or having a political opinion. People become refugees when they do not feel safe in their own country. They are forced to flee their homes to escape armed conflict, violence and human rights abuses. Once classified as *refugees*, they are protected by international law and given food, shelter and protection in the host country.

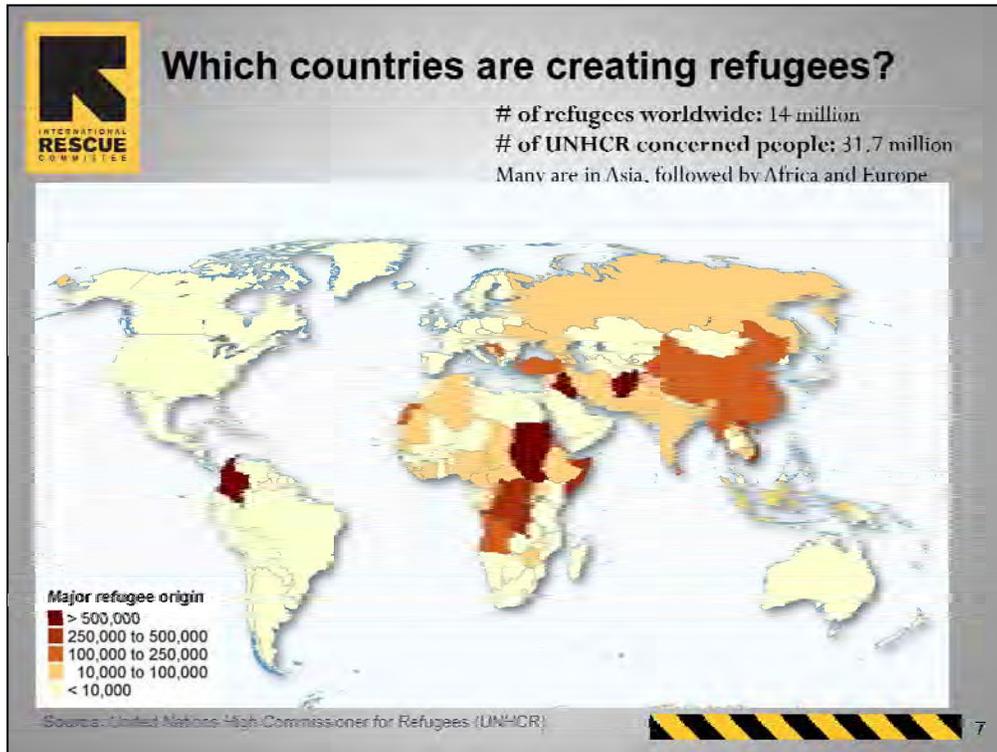


Where do refugees reside?



*United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants - December 31, 2006





This map shows you where some of the refugees come from. As you can see, there are refugees all over the world. There are 14 million refugees all over the world. Most refugees live in Asia, Africa and Europe. There are approximately 32 million “concerned people”, which includes refugees, asylees and internally displaced persons. To clarify, refugees are people who are persecuted and fled their homes, crossing an international border. Refugees are legally admitted into the U.S. – they are welcomed into this country. Asylees are those who are persecuted (for the same reasons that refugees are), but they find their own method of entering the U.S. and once they arrive, they seek asylum and ask the U.S. if they can remain here legally.



Why do refugees flee their countries?

- **Iraqi Refugees:** Every day, civilians are killed by insurgents. Nearly 4 million Iraqis have fled their homes – approximately 40,000 flee every month
- **Burmese Refugees:** Minority residents have experienced forced labor, torture, arbitrary executions and rape under Myanmar's military regime
- **Bhutanese Refugees:** Minorities were expelled from Bhutan after government stripped them of citizenship due to their ancestry



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Some refugee groups that are living here in Central Maryland are Iraqi refugees, the Burmese refugees and Bhutanese refugees. Every day, Iraqi people are being killed – with the Iraq war happening, over 4 million Iraqis have had to leave their home. Over 40,000 people leave their homes every month. Then there are the Burmese refugees. The Burmese are from Myanmar (or Burma), which is a country that borders India and China. They have had a military government since 1962, for over 45 years. Many minority residents have experienced human rights abuses, including people who were tortured and/or forced to work. Over 500,000 people have had to leave their homes and many left because of violence. The Bhutanese refugees were expelled from Bhutan in the early 1990s, and persecuted for their cultural and ethnic identities.



What happens after refugees flee?



Waiting



Repatriation



Refugee Status
in Host Country

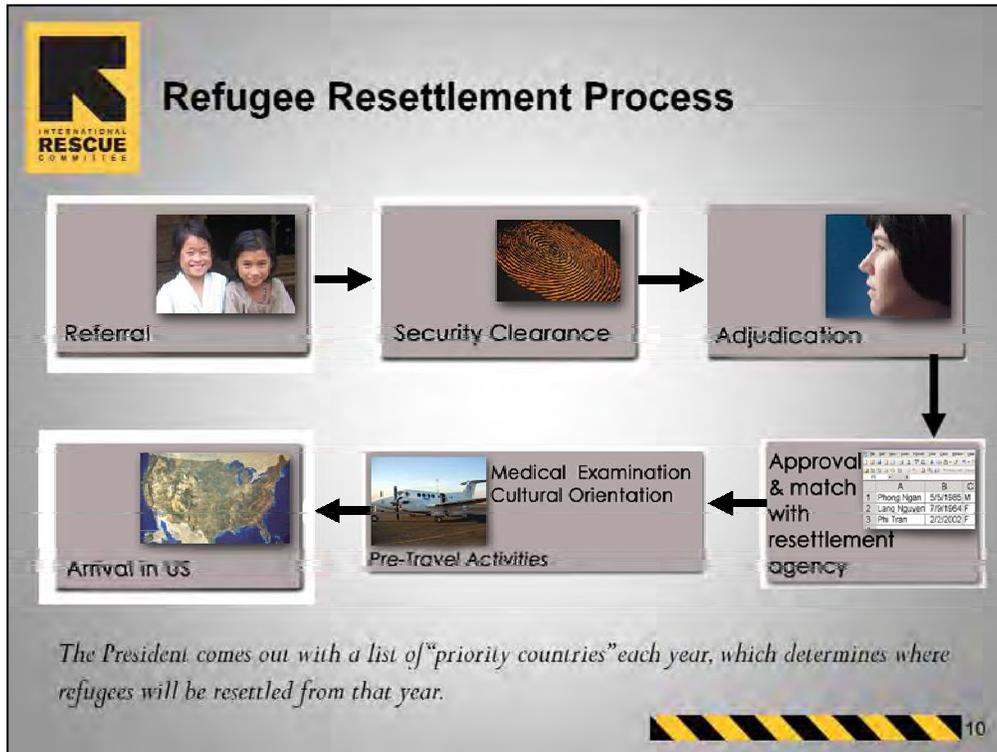


Resettlement in
third country
of asylum – less
than 1%



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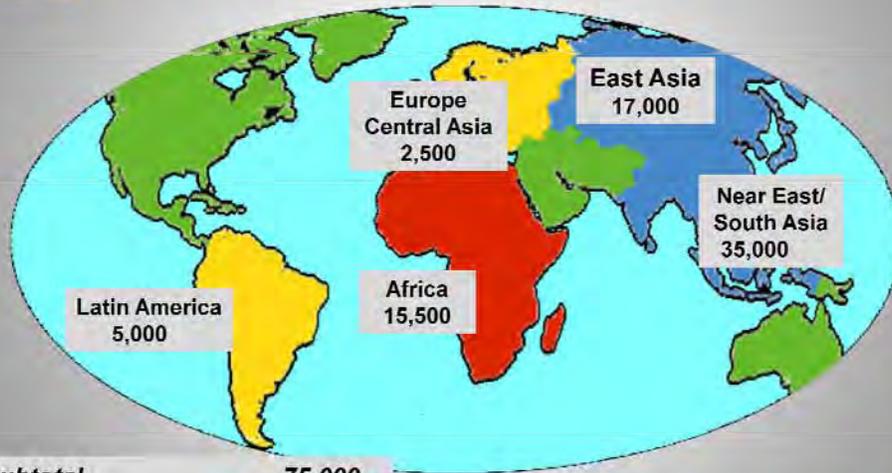
A refugee has several different choices. Many of them are living in refugee camps. Some of them can return home if it is safe enough for them to go home and if they want to go home. This is called repatriation. Sometimes, refugees don't want to go home because they don't have a home to go back to. Another choice that refugees sometimes have is that they are able to leave the refugee camps and get the chance to legally stay and live permanently in the country that they have fled to. The last option, and this is only available to 1% of all refugees – is resettlement.



Resettlement happens when some refugees are not able to safely return to their home and are not allowed to remain in their host country. In these cases, a third country must be found to accept the refugees. This solution is available to only 1% of the refugee population. Some countries that have resettlement programs are the United States, Canada, England and Australia. How does a refugee come to the U.S.? First, a refugee meets with someone in the refugee camp and tells this person their story, including why they left their home and why they are afraid. The person can be from the U.S. government, and then this person has to decide whether the refugee can come to the U.S. or not. If they think the person can come to the U.S., then they will check the refugee's story and information and then issue the refugee ID papers. They will also ask a non-profit organization like the IRC to help refugees when they arrive. Non-profit organizations are not affiliated with the government. Then before the refugees get on the plane to come to the U.S., they will go through an introduction to what is the U.S. and learn about our country. Then they will get on the plane and someone from our office will go to the airport and pick them up when they arrive. Refugees are eligible to come to the U.S. if they are considered a "refugee" within the U.S. legal definition, and if they are from a "priority" country – the executive branch comes out with a list of priority countries each year – that list is based on what are some of the most political conflicts happening now, and whether the refugees that have fled those countries have options – either to resettle in another country or be repatriated.



FY2010 Arrivals Ceilings



<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>75,000</i>
Unallocated Reserve	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	80,000



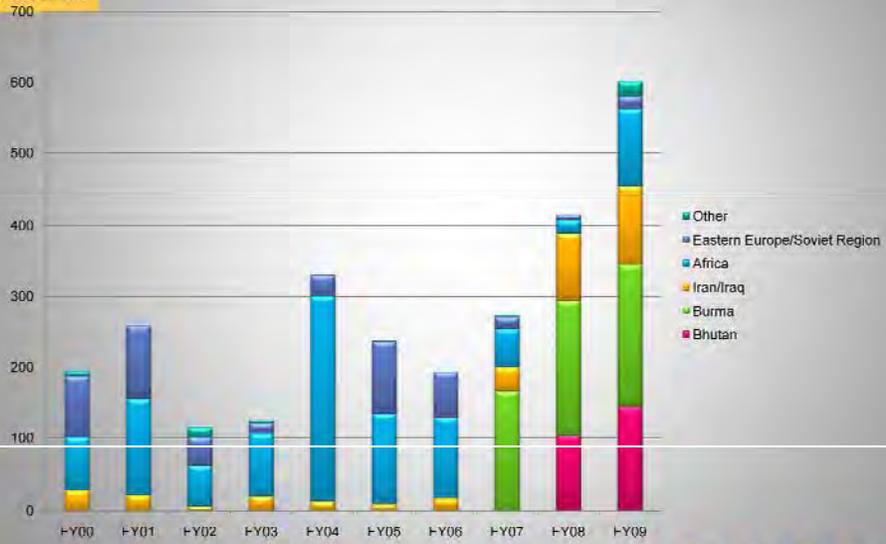


Refugees Resettled by IRC Nationally





Refugees Resettled by IRC in Central MD





U.S. Programs

Refugees are provided with 8-months of core services designed to assist their self-sufficiency.

Upon Arrival	Federal/State Programs	Other Services
•Airport Reception	•Refugee Medical Assistance	•School Registration
•Safe & Affordable Housing	•Food Stamps	•Resettlement Plan
•Transportation Orientation	•Social Security	•Health Screenings
•Community/Cultural orientation	•Resettlement Cash Assistance	•Referrals: Mental Health Services



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Program Initiatives to Address Refugee Challenges



Life Skills Workshops



Micro Enterprise and Financial Literacy



Youth Programs



English Language Training



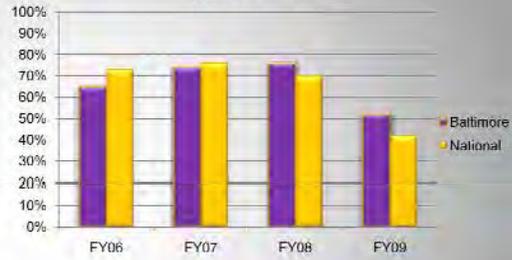
US Programs Services





FY2009 180 Day Employment Rates

R&P Clients



Matching Grant Clients





Baltimore Resettlement Center (BRC)

The BRC is an initiative of the MD Office for Refugees and Asylees (MORA).
Partner agencies include:

- Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
- Baltimore Medical Systems
- Baltimore City Community College
- Baltimore City Department of Social Services



The IRC's Baltimore Regional Office is based out of the Baltimore office, and we work in partnerships with other agencies in the building to reach our goal of helping refugees become self-sufficient within the first 8 months of arrival. Almost all of them are based out of the Baltimore Resettlement Center. We work in partnership with Lutheran Social Services, who provides employment services to refugees. We work with Baltimore Medical Systems, located across the street – this is where refugees get their initial health screening. We work with Baltimore City Community College, which has job training programs and ESL classes. We also work in partnership with Department of Social Services, which helps refugees apply for the federal and state programs that they are eligible for – including refugee medical assistance, cash assistance and health insurance.



Take Action



When you help the IRC, you help the persecuted and displaced, survivors of war and disaster, refugees struggling to start anew. You extend our reach...and send a message of hope to millions.

Help us rescue through:

- **Voice:** Tell your friends and family about refugees and IRC's work.
- **Funding:** Donate and directly assist refugees in rebuilding their lives.
- **Work:** Hire a refugee
- **Time:** Volunteer
- **Advocacy:** Advocate for refugees – take action on IRC's campaigns
- **Knowledge:** Stay informed – sign up for our mailing list





Questions?

