

Refugees in Central Iowa: Who are They, How Did They Get to Iowa and Where Do They Come From?



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Immigrant V. Refugee

- **Immigrants** are individuals who voluntarily leave their countries to settle in another
- **Refugees** are individuals who are forced to flee their countries due to persecution or danger to their lives

** Immigration is considered a natural phenomenon, whereas refugee movement occurs under some kind of coercion or pressure.



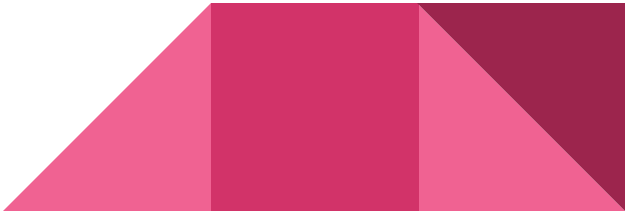
Who is a refugee?

The 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees states that a refugee is someone who:

– *“owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion**, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country...”*



History of Refugee Resettlement

- Over 3 million refugees have been admitted to the U.S. since 1975
 - Iowa, under Governor Ray's leadership, was the first state to welcome SE Asian refugees to the country in the aftermath of the Vietnam War
 - Early resettlement provided through church sponsorship around the state of Iowa
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U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

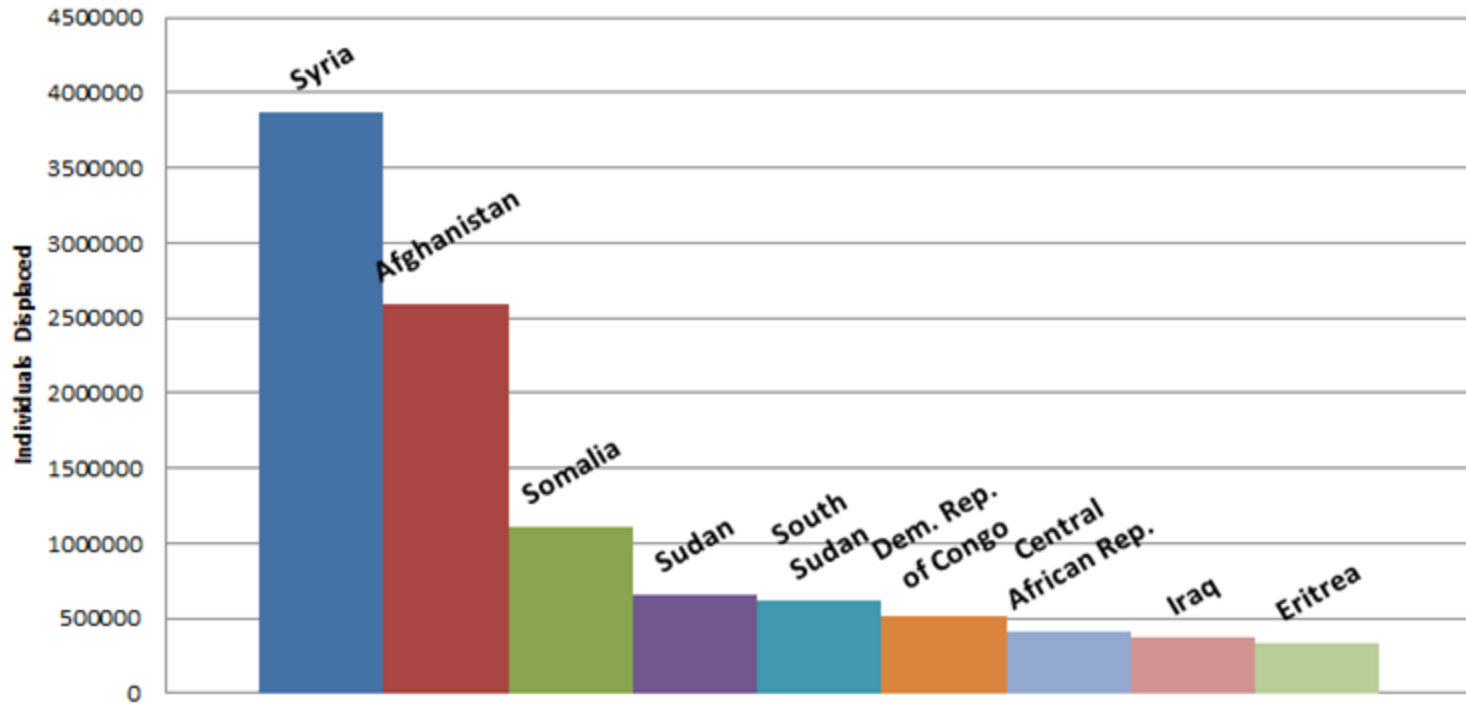
- Established in 1950 in the wake of WWII
- Coordinates basic provisions
- Finding durable solutions
 - **Voluntary repatriation**
 - **Local integration**
 - **Resettlement**
- Funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from governments, organizations, and individuals



Refugee camps worldwide



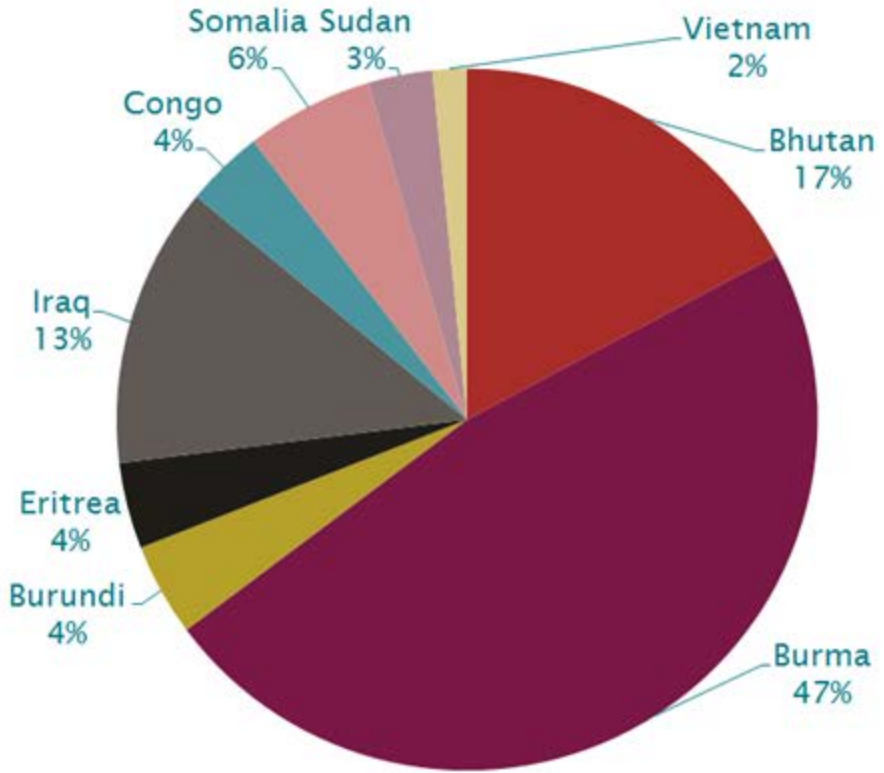
More individuals currently displaced than in any year since World War II.



Presidential Determination - 2016

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Africa | 25,000 |
| East Asia | 13,000 |
| Europe & Central Asia | 4,000 |
| Latin America & Caribbean | 3,000 |
| Near East & South Asia | 34,000 |
| Unallocated Reserve | 6,000 |
| TOTAL | 85,000 |

Arrivals By Country: 2007-2015

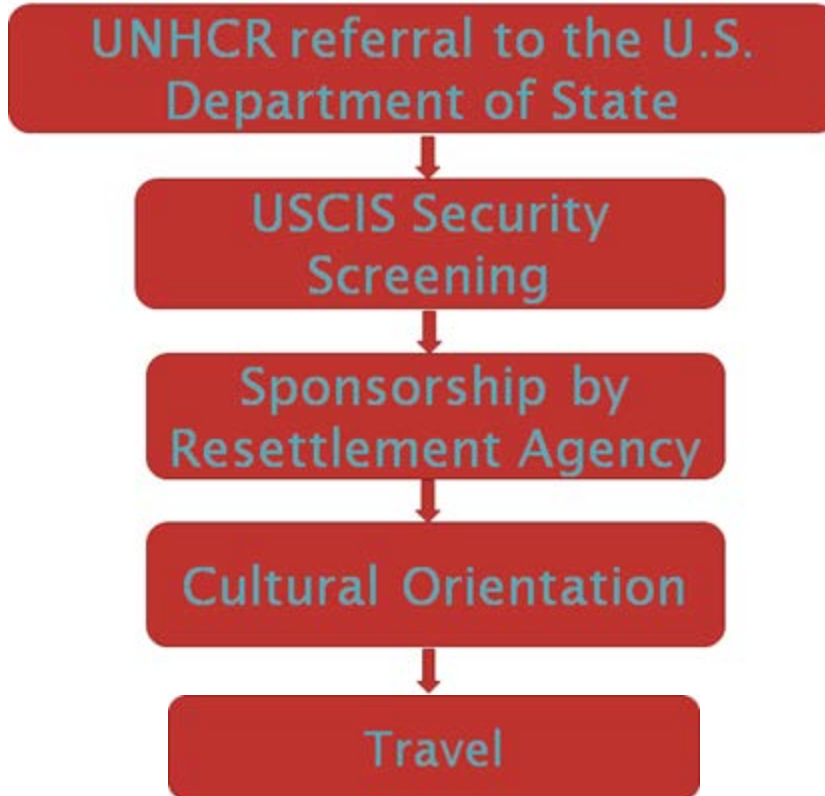


FY2014 Reception and Placement Program Affiliate Sites



Source: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, US Department of State

Resettlement to the United States

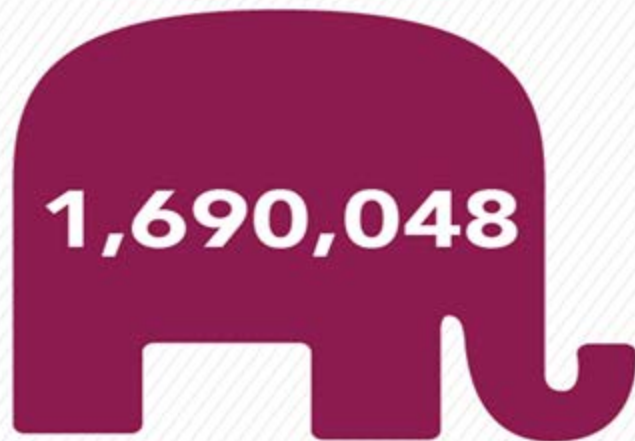


Refugee Screening

- In the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks there has been a great deal of attention and focus on refugee screening
- Much of the debate around refugee screening has lacked foundational knowledge of what is in place for refugee screening
- Stricter screening processes were put in place following 9/11 and stricter screening is in place in parts of the world where terrorist groups operate
- Refugees are already the most highly scrutinized and screened group of visitors to the U.S.



PRESIDENTS UNITED ON PURPOSE



Refugee arrivals during
Republican leadership



Refugee arrivals during
Democratic leadership

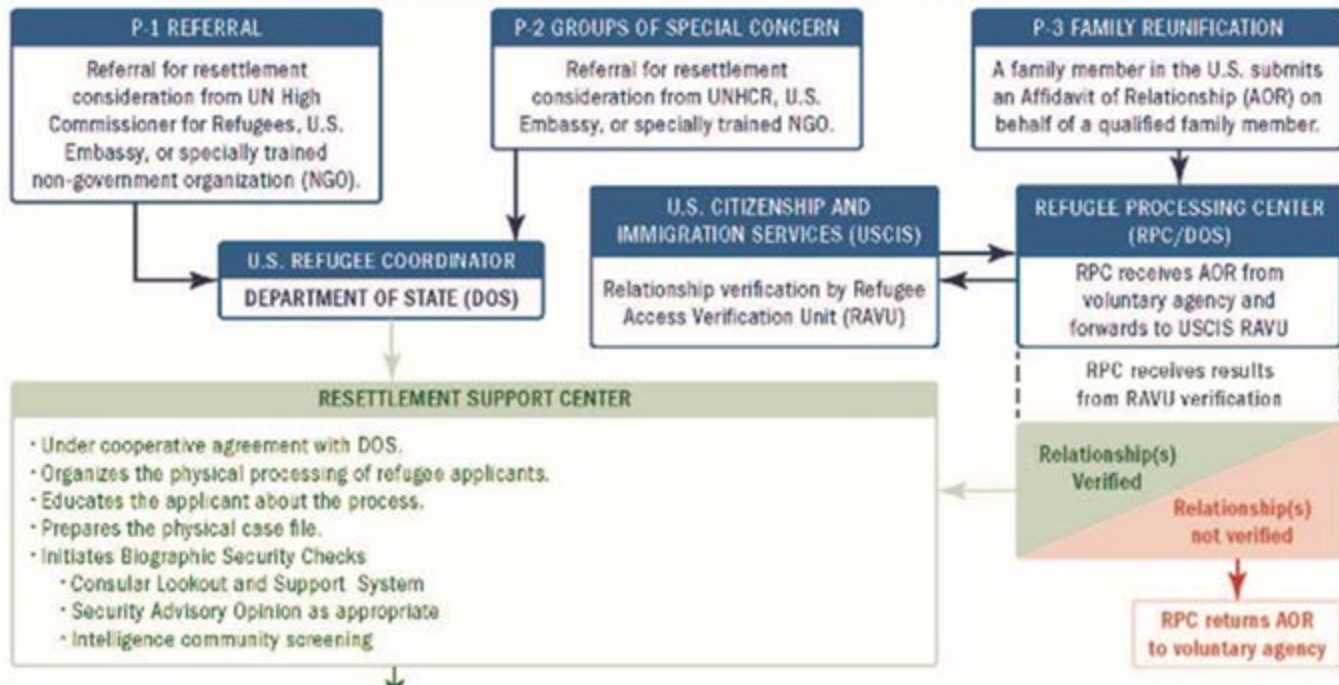
How do refugees get to the
U.S. for resettlement?



UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM (USRAP)



REFUGEE IS OVERSEAS AND IN ONE OF 3 PRIORITY GROUPS:



U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS)

- Fingerprints captured and screened against Department of Defense, FBI and Homeland Security biometric databases.
- Confirms applicant is qualified to access the USRAP.
- Determines whether applicant is a refugee.
- Determines whether applicant is firmly resettled in a third country.
- Determines whether applicant is admissible to the U.S.

APPROVAL

PANEL PHYSICIAN

Medical Screening

RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT CENTER

Cultural Orientation

International Organization for Migration

- Arrange travel to the U.S.
- Provide loans for travel.

IDENTIFICATION
OF U.S. SITE

Resettlement agency provides
transitional social and economic
assistance

U.S. CUSTOMS
AND BORDER PROTECTION

Additional background checks at
port of entry before admission.

REFUGEE
ARRIVES
IN THE U.S.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS)

- Retains and stores case file for period of time before shipping stateside.
- Adjudicates requests for review.

DENIAL

HOLD

Follow up needed



U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services



How do refugees travel?

- International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Promissory note
- Importance of repayment to build credit



 MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES
3211 4th STREET NE WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1114 (800) 255-0213

SAMPLE

NAME _____ DATE 10/26/14
STREET ADDRESS _____ ACCOUNT NO. V - XXXXXX - X
CITY, ST ZIP _____

| PREVIOUS BALANCE | PAYMENT RECEIVED AS OF 10/21/14 | CURRENT BALANCE | PAYMENT DUE |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 790.00 | 55.00 | 745.00 | 70.00 |

**** THANK FOR YOUR PAYMENT ****

***** NOTICE ***: YOUR LAST PAYMENT WAS LESS THAN REQUESTED. THE REMAINDER IS INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT AMOUNT DUE. PLEASE PAY THE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED.**

PAYMENT DUE BY 11/15/14

PAYMENT COUPON DETACH COUPON AT DASHED LINE AND RETURN WITH REMITTANCE

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES, UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
3211 4th STREET NE WASHINGTON, DC 20017 PHONE (800) 255-0213

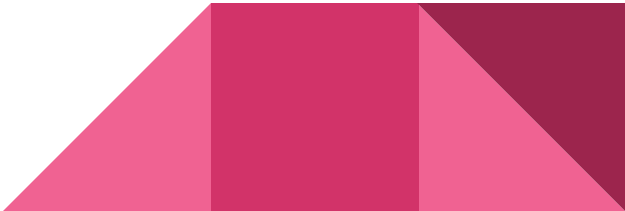
PLEASE PROVIDE NEW ADDRESS IF APPLICABLE (PLEASE USE FULL ADDRESS)

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ACCOUNT NO. V - XXXXXX - X | DATE 10/26/14 |
| NAME _____ | SOC SEC NO. XXX - XX-XXXX |
| STREET ADDRESS _____ | ALLEN NO. A XXXXXXXX |
| CITY, ST ZIP _____ | AMOUNT DUE \$70.00 |
| | AMOUNT PAID _____ |
| | CHECK NO. _____ |

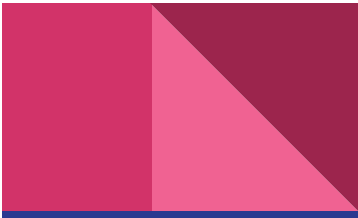
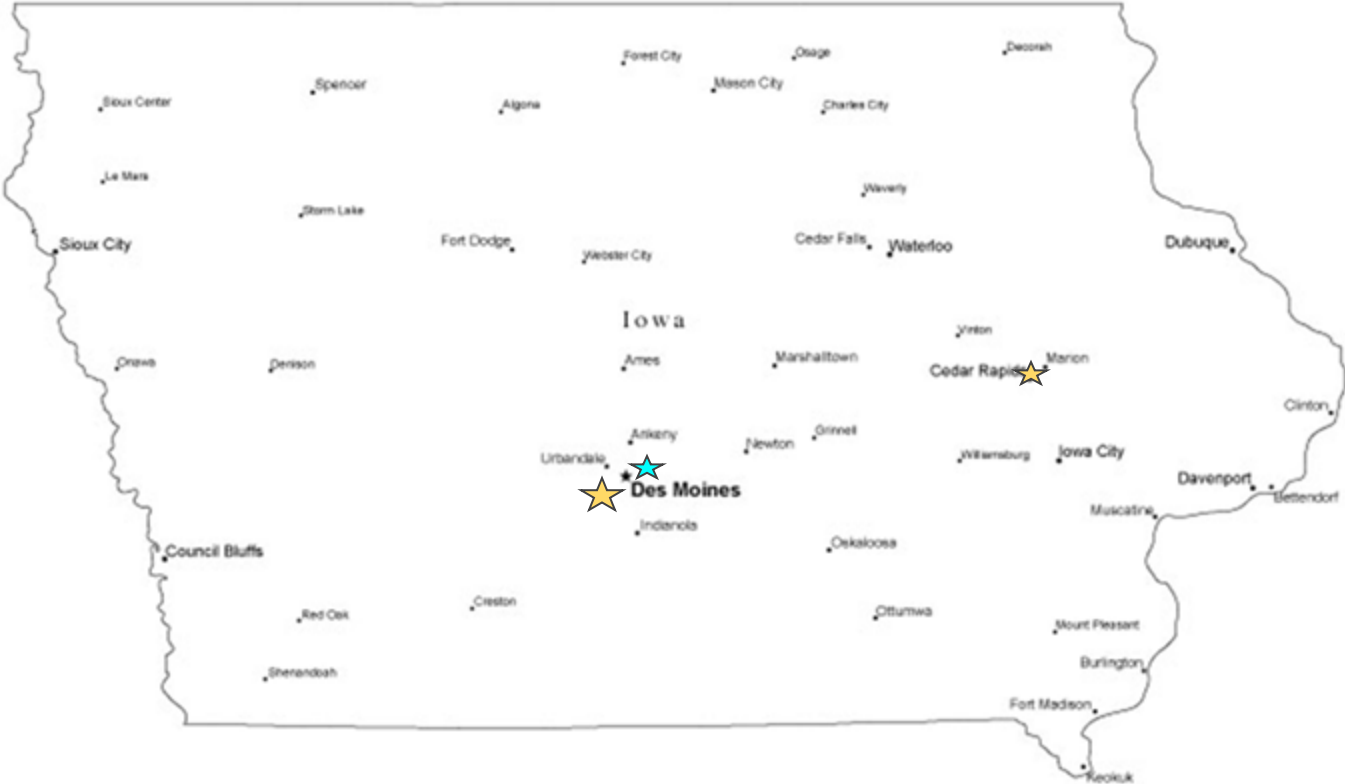
MS-028 

Who resettles?

Currently there are nine voluntary agencies (VOLAGS) that partner with the State Department to resettle refugees. The nine VOLAGAS are:

- Church World Service (CWS)
 - Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)
 - Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
 - Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
 - International Rescue Committee (IRC)
 - Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
 - US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)**
 - US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)**
 - World Relief (WR)
- 

Resettlement in Iowa



Who pays for resettlement services?

- Refugees receive a resettlement grant, from the federal Reception & Placement grant that each VOLAG administers
- This allocation can be used for housing, utilities, food, clothing or other direct assistance needs
- Agencies rely heavily on donations and volunteers to supplement the needs of clients



What other services are available for refugees?

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers various programs to assist refugees upon their arrival.
 - Matching Grant program is an employment-based program geared toward helping refugees attain economic self-sufficiency.
 - Refugees are also eligible to enroll for public assistance benefits such as;
 - Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps, Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance during their first eight months of resettlement in the U.S.
 - These public assistance benefits are provided at the federal level by HHS but are administered locally by the states.

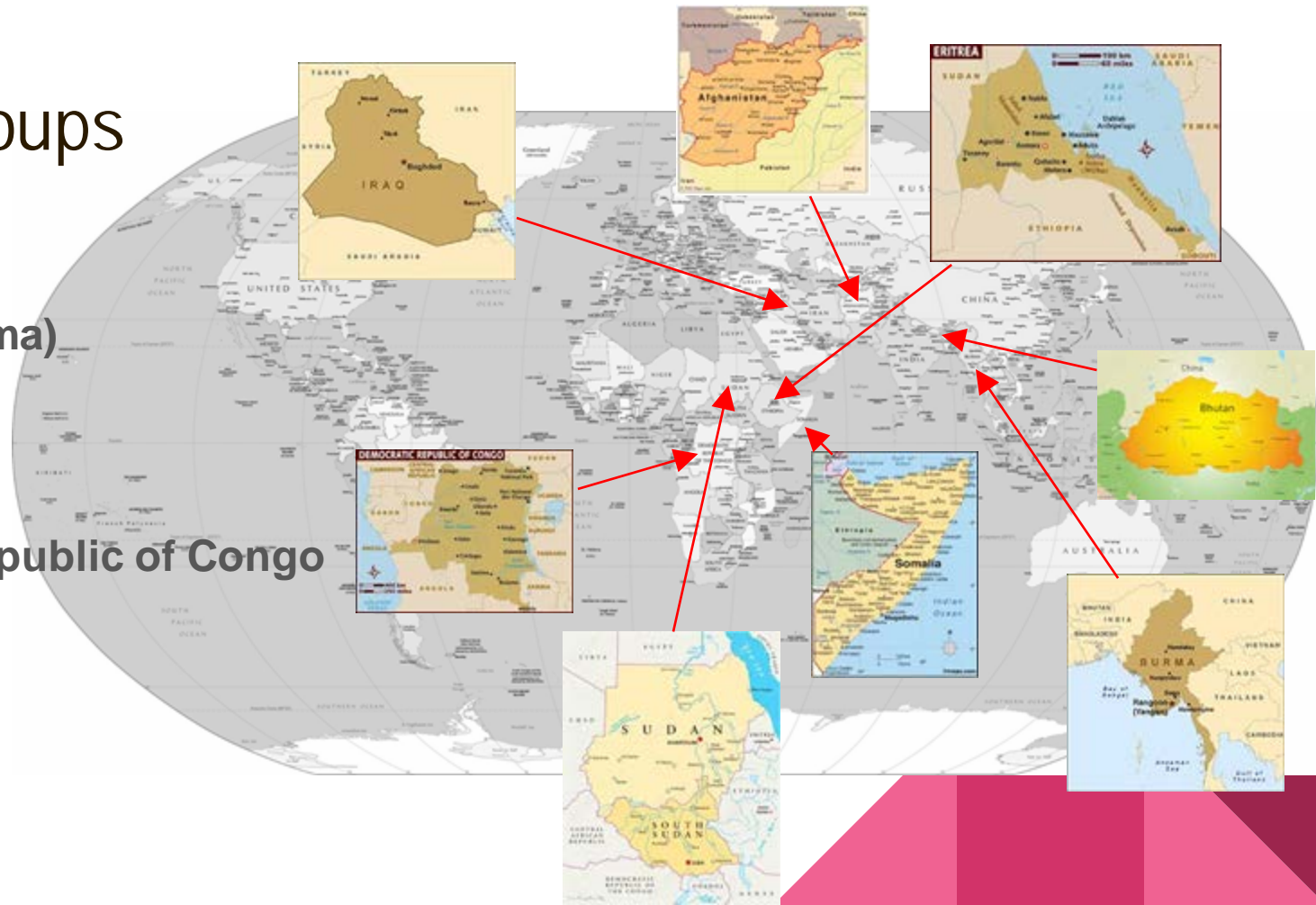


Who is coming to Iowa?



Current Groups

- Iraq
- Myanmar (Burma)
- Bhutan
- Somalia
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Sudan
- Afghanistan
- Eritrea



What is involved in refugee resettlement?

- Refugee Resettlement is provided for by the State Department's Reception and Placement (R&P) Program.
- The R&P Program provides core services to refugees during the first 90 days of resettlement in the U.S.
- Core services are designed to promote economic self-sufficiency and include all pre-arrival planning,
 - Airport arrival
 - Housing
 - Household furnishings
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Housing orientation
 - Health screenings and referral to health care programs
 - Assistance in applying for a Social Security card and public assistance benefits (medical, food stamps and cash assistance)
 - Community Orientation
 - English-language training,
 - employment assistance, and
 - school enrollment for children
 - Selective Service Registration
 - Transportation to job interviews and training
 - Home visits



U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Number of arrivals: **653** in FY 2016 and **650** projected for FY 2017

Client populations: **Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan.**

Opened in Des Moines in **2010** - also serve Marshalltown and Ottumwa

Programs: Reception and Placement, Matching Grant, Refugee Family Strengthening, Refugee Wellness, Legal Services, Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG), AmeriCorps VISTA



Health Issues for Refugees

“Most vulnerable” refugees need extra support

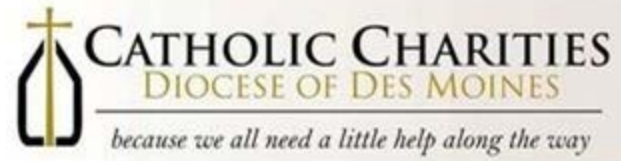
Higher rates of PTSD, anxiety and depression in some populations

Triple Trauma Paradigm: 1) Pre-flight 2) Flight 3) Arrival



group context”





Catholic Charities

Number of Arrivals: **241** in FY2016, **213** projected for FY2017

Client populations: **Bhutan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, DRC, Burma, Somalia, Iraq, El Salvador, Ethiopia**

Catholic Charities began serving Polish refugees in the 1940's. Catholic Charities provided independent resettlement from 1975-1995 and partnered with Lutheran Services in Iowa until 2010, from 2010 to date they have provided independent resettlement

Programs: Reception and Placement, Matching Grant, Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG), AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps, Parish Organized to Welcome Refugees (POWR)

Secondary Migration

- What is secondary migration?
- Why do secondary migrants want to come to Iowa?
 - Family
 - Cost of living
 - Employment
 - Wages
 - Education
 - Unemployment rate 3.9% in DSM, 4.2% in Iowa (Aug. 2016)
- What impact does this have on the community?
 - Difficult to track actual numbers
 - Difficult to predict changes
 - Challenges for schools, agencies





- Statewide human service organization
- Began resettling after World War II
- Development of Post Resettlement Services - 2010



Education Programs

WorkWise
ESL Classes
Citizenship



Family Services



Services to Older Refugees

Child Care Provider
Training

Early Childhood Home
Visiting

Behavior and Mental
Health

Disability Services

Global Greens



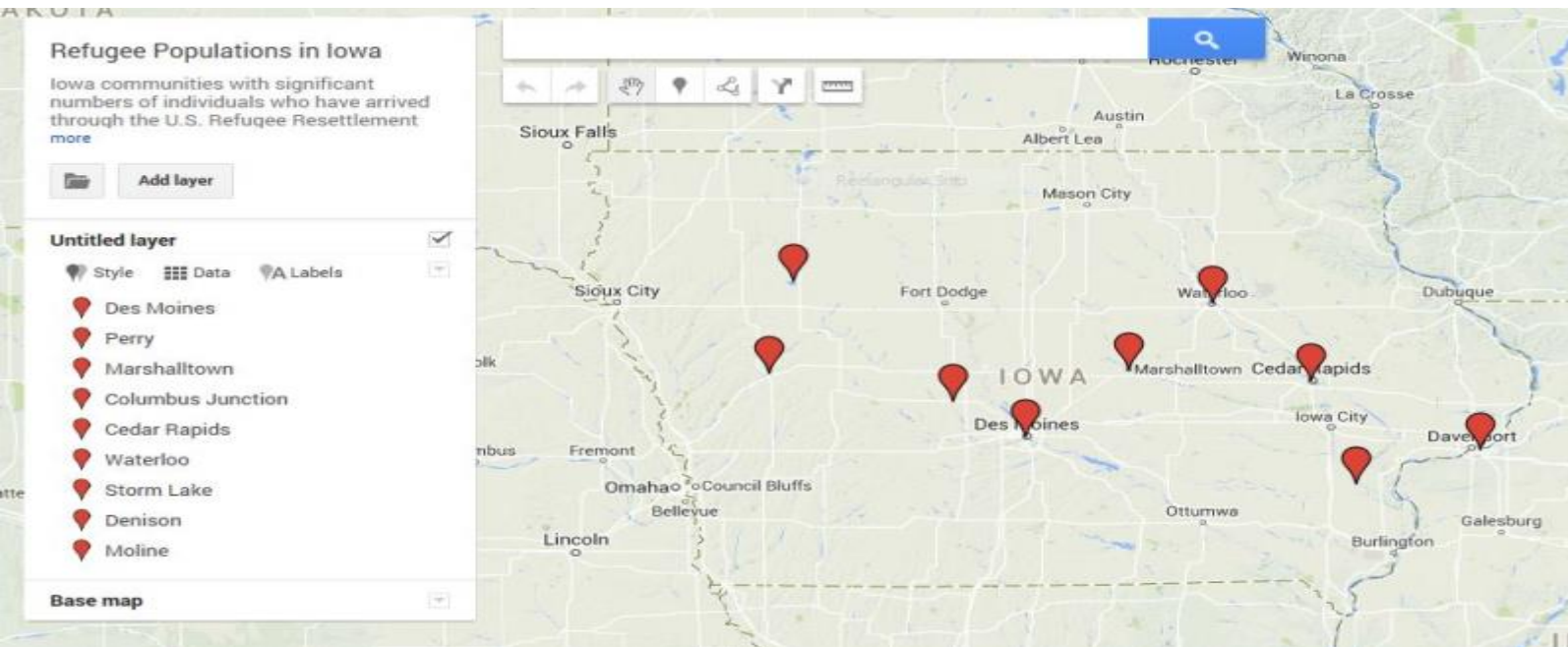
Community Gardens

Beginning Farmer Training

Farmers' Market

Community Supported
Agriculture (CSA)

Populations in Iowa



Testimonials

“Meat processors, including Tyson Fresh Meats, have historically employed refugees...We believe they bring new ideas and perspectives to the workplace”

- Tyson Fresh Meats, Waterloo

“It is challenging to retain workers, but refugee employees have stayed with us for many years. Our retention rates have never been better.”

– Manager, Renaissance Savery Hotel, Des Moines



Testimonials

“It really started when we hired Prem (a Bhutanese refugee). He was such a hard worker, a great spokes man for other refugees ,eager to help and has been a big part of helping new refugee workers understand their duties and the quality of service we want for our customers.”

- Sarah Murdoch, HR, G&K Services , Pleasant Hill

“I am happy to report that the members of the refugee community have been exceptional! These team members have raised the bar when it come to productivity levels ,are dependable and do outstanding work!

- Brenda Fugere, HR Manager, 3M, Ames



Testimonials

“Hundreds of refugees have settled into Columbus Junction and the community has greatly benefitted. They established churches and businesses, collaborate with community projects and even run their own summer school and community gardens. English as a Second Language classes are full, new citizens are being naturalized almost monthly, families are starting to buy houses and all three of our pre-schools have waiting lists. We are glad that these refugees have decided to call Columbus Junction home.”

– Mallory Smith, Columbus Junction Community Development Center





Questions?