

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OVERVIEW

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JOINT COUNSELOR TRAINING PRESENTATION

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Overview

- Who Are Refugees?
- The U.S. Resettlement Program
- Refugees in Minnesota

WHO ARE REFUGEES?



What do you think of when you hear the word “refugee?”

Definition of a Refugee:

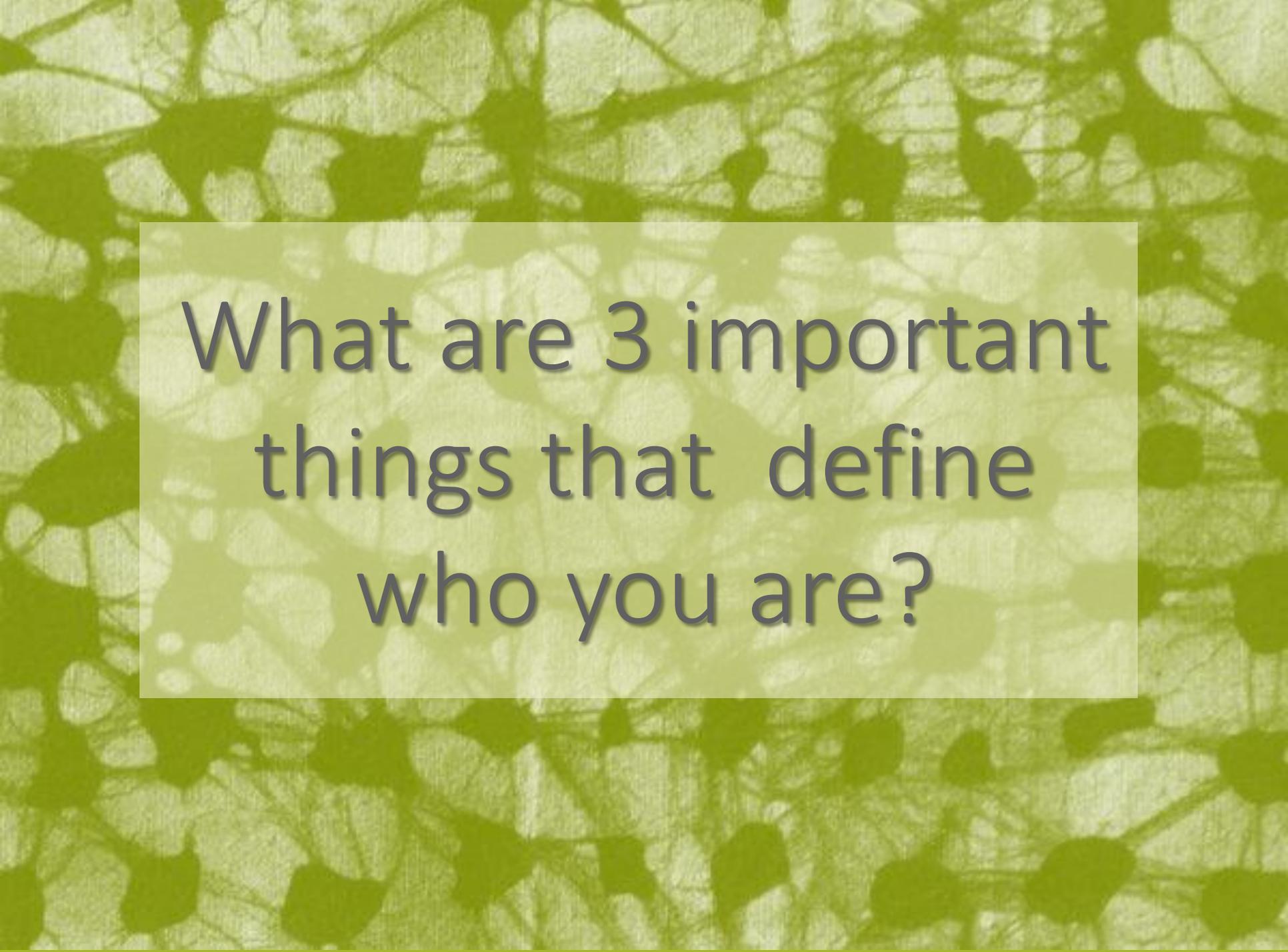


A person who has been forced to flee his/her homeland and is unable to return because he/she has experienced persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution.

Persecution Based On:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership in a particular social group
- Political opinion





What are 3 important things that define who you are?

If You Are a Refugee....

Parts of What Define you May be Ripped Away:

- ✓ Home
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Communication Ability
- ✓ Native Language
- ✓ Profession / Status
- ✓ Family
 - Separation & Death
 - Roles
- ✓ Culture
- ✓ Traditions
- ✓ Sense of Community
- ✓ Religious Practices



Life in a Refugee Camp



- ✓ From Flight to Waiting
- ✓ Stuck in limbo
- ✓ Competition for Basic Needs: Food, Water, Shelter
- ✓ Continuing Political/ Ethnic Hostilities
- ✓ Violence / Disease
- ✓ Limited access to Education, Health Care, Employment

REFUGEE REALITY

Refugees often stay in protracted refugee situations for years, decades, or even generations.

Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% are permanently resettled anywhere in the world in a given year.



One ration of lentils



One ration of ground nuts



One ration of corn soya blend



One ration of salt



Kakuma Camp (Kenya)



Dadaab Camp (Kenya)



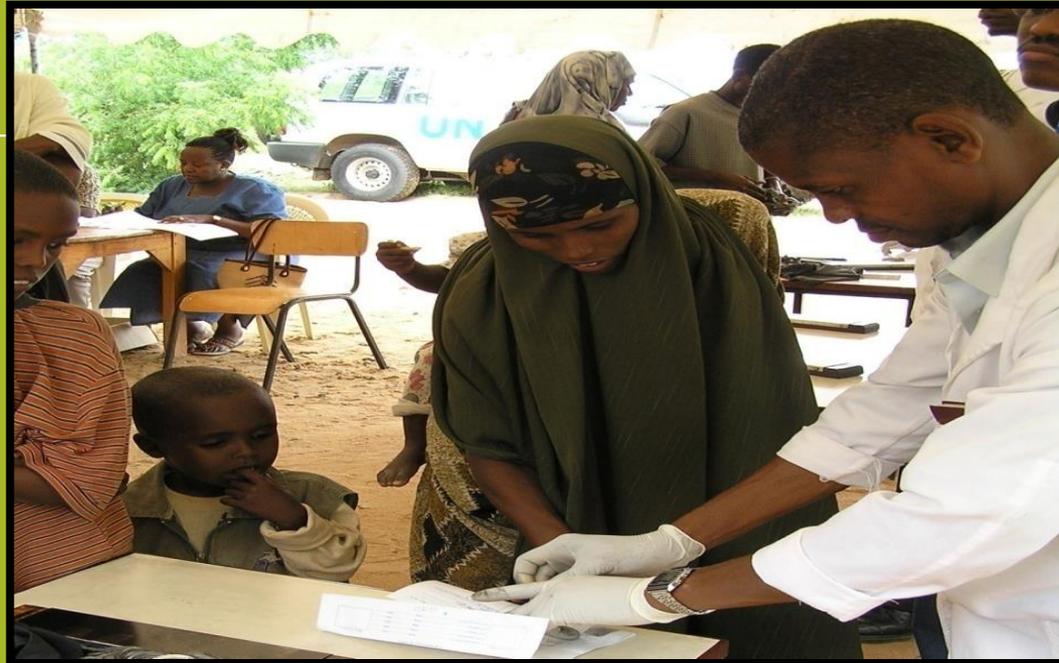
Mae La Camp (Thailand)



Karen Camp School



UNITED STATES REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM



U.S. Refugee Program

HUMANITARIAN and PROTECTION

Program of the US Department of State

Annual Presidential Determination signed into law each year which sets:

- ✓ Maximum number of refugees admitted to US
- ✓ Priority populations to resettle in the coming year
- ✓ Nationalities eligible for family reunification programs



FY 2016 Proposed Admissions

Africa	25,000
East Asia	13,000
Europe and Central Asia	4,000
Latin America/Caribbean.	3,000
Near East/South Asia.	34,000
Unallocated Reserve	6,000

TOTAL.....85,000

U.S. Resettlement Program

- ✓ Referral by UNHCR, NGO or US Embassy
- ✓ Several interviews by non-governmental organizations
- ✓ Interviews by U.S. Immigration Officers
- ✓ Medical Screenings
- ✓ Background/security checks and clearances (17 of them!)
- ✓ Cultural Orientation
- ✓ Signing of promissory note for cost of travel
- ✓ Travel to the U.S.

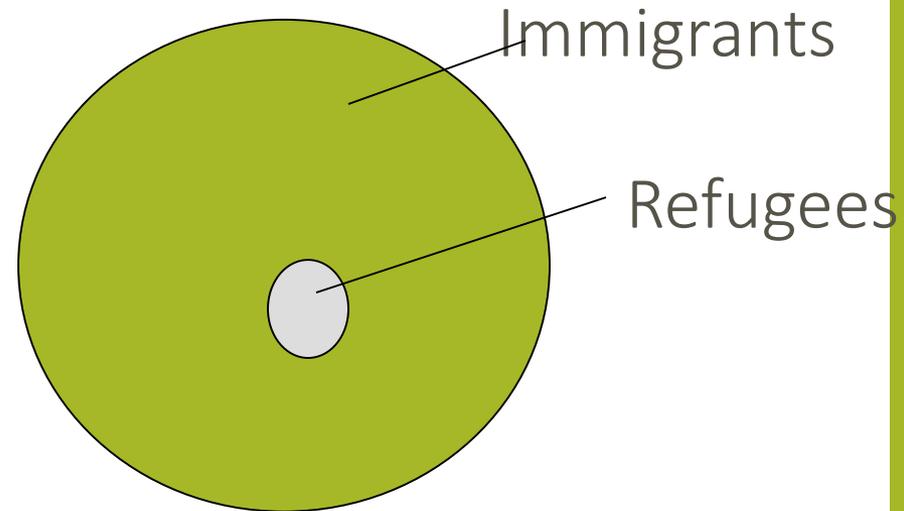


<https://youtu.be/aQUlxQ6TFZc>



Refugee Status in the US:

- ✓ Legal Immigration status granted prior to arrival
- ✓ Valid indefinitely
- ✓ Work authorized upon arrival
- ✓ Path to citizenship (5 yrs)
- ✓ May receive public benefits if meet eligibility criteria



Arriving Refugees Receive “Reception & Placement Services” through Local Resettlement Agencies

MN = 7 Local Resettlement Agencies:

- International Institute of MN – St. Paul
- Catholic Charities – St. Paul
- Lutheran Social Services - Minneapolis
- Arrive Ministries - Richfield
- MN Council of Churches - Minneapolis
- Lutheran Social Services - St. Cloud
- Catholic Charities- Rochester



Upon Arrival to the U.S.



- ❑ 30-90 Days Case Management
- ❑ Connection to Ongoing Services
- ❑ One-time Grant to help with Initial Expenses (\$1125/person)
- ❑ Travel Loan Repayment

Primary vs. Secondary Refugees

PRIMARY RESETTLEMENT:

- Refugees who were resettled directly from refugee camps to new cities



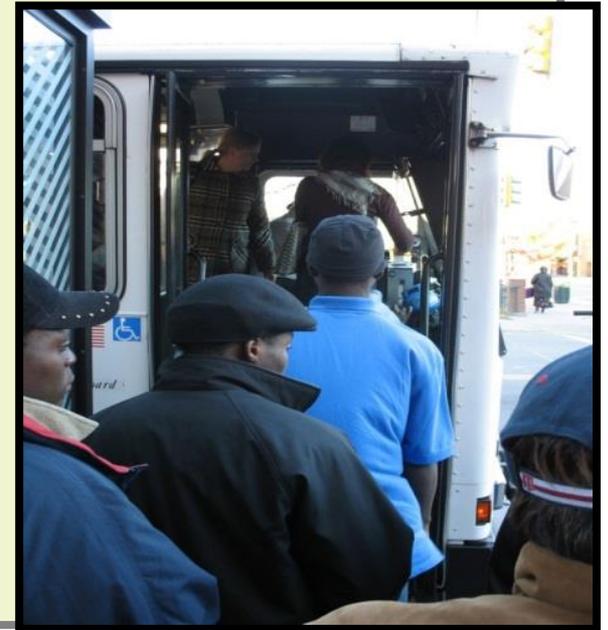
SECONDARY RESETTLEMENT:

Refugees who were resettled in other communities leave and migrate to settle in other communities

FACT: Minnesota leads the nation in secondary refugee migration.

Realities of Life in the US

- Still need to struggle to survive : resettled into poverty
- Assistance amounts do not cover basic costs of living.
- MUST **prioritize EARLY employment**
- Complicated bureaucracies/ rules & requirements to navigate
- Critical health/mental health issues can derail resettlement processes

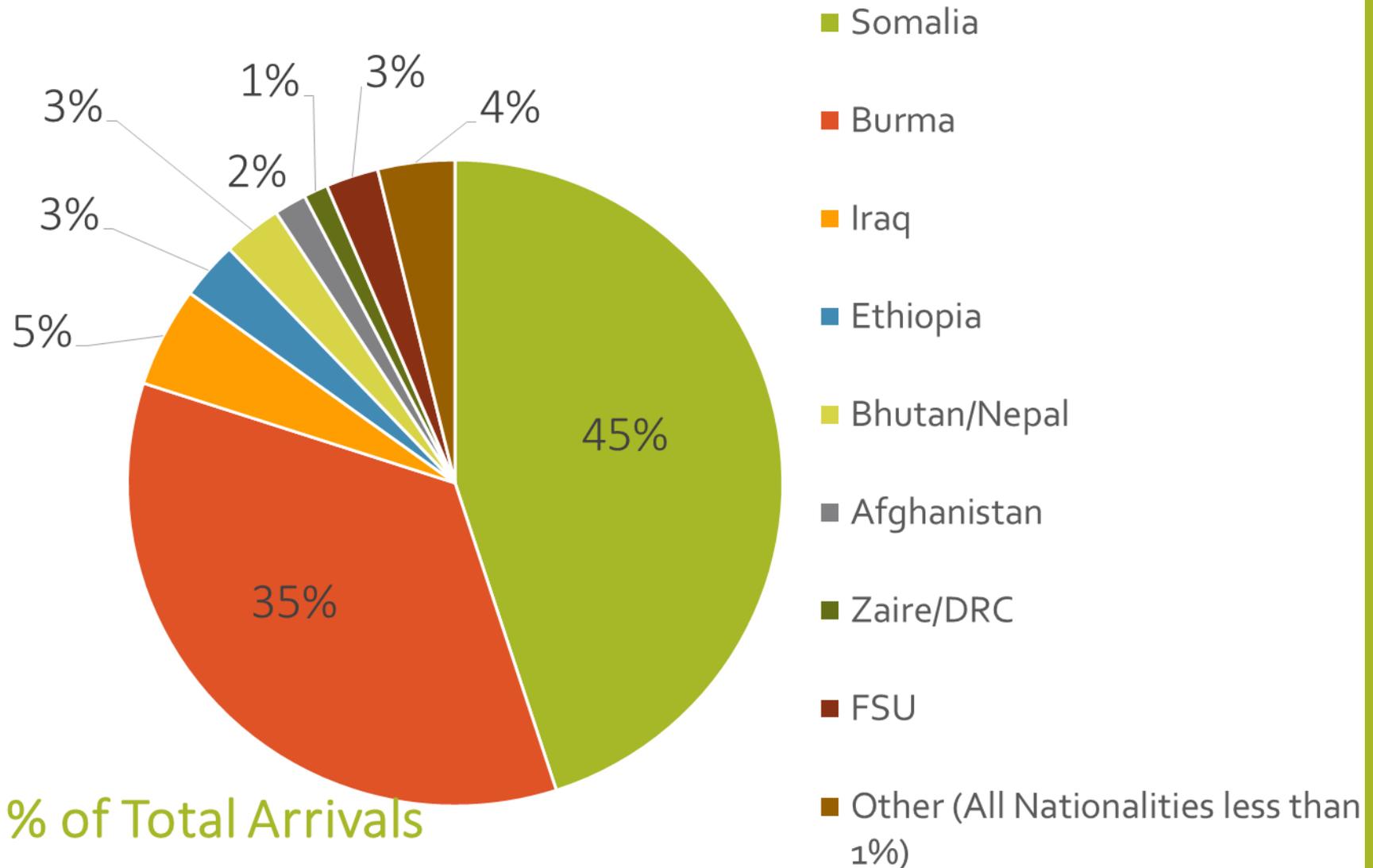


REFUGEES IN MINNESOTA

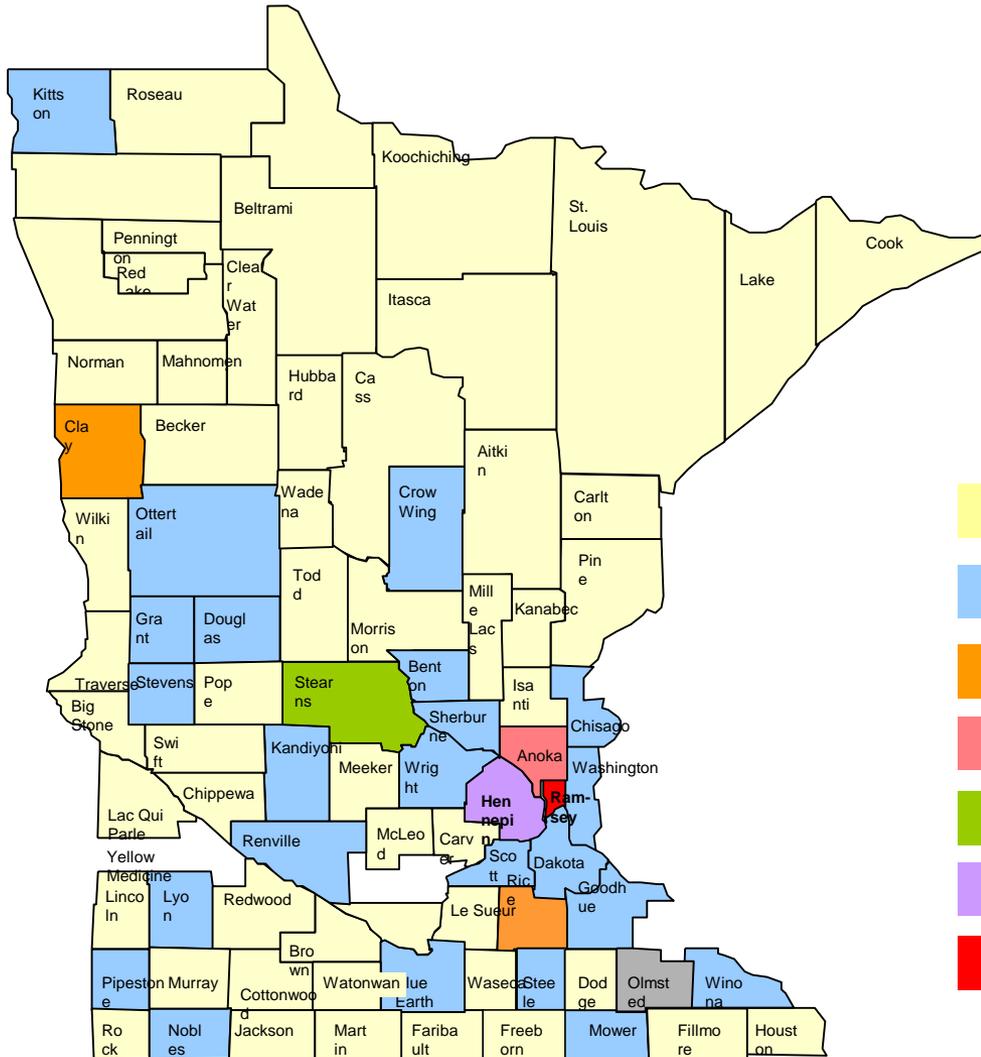


Photo Courtesy of Star Tribune

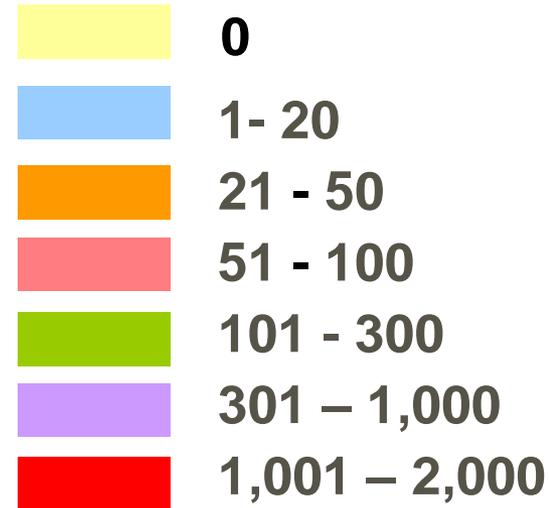
CY2015 Primary Refugee Arrivals to MN: 2166



Refugees in MN



Number of Refugee Arrivals by Initial County Of Resettlement



https://rpo.dhs.state.mn.us

 Minnesota Department of Human Services

Resettlement Programs Office
Rebuilding Refugee Families and
Integrating New Minnesotans

Rachelle King | Logout

search...

RES RSS MAINTENANCE REPORTS FED-PROGRAM RESOURCES RPO ADMIN

You are here: Home

Forced to flee

"We knew that it was dangerous because of things that happened before. But we had no choice... [My wife] asked, 'What is it that you can do now?' And I said, 'Run away.'"
— Malibu, refugee from Zimbabwe*



A United Nations Convention defines a refugee as anyone forced to flee their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality (citizenship)
- Social group membership
- Political opinion.

About 3,000 refugees arrive in Minnesota every year.

Connected with others

"I thought the war was over when I left Cambodia, but I realize now that for survivors and all those involved, the war is never over just because the guns have fallen silent."
— Leang Uay, refugee from Cambodia**



Refugees arriving in Minnesota are connected with a network of organizations from the day of arrival to receive:

- Basic needs support
- Home visits
- Case management
- Community orientation
- Referrals to health services
- Employment services
- Education and training.

This network continues to support refugees as they integrate.

Integrated successfully

"These women and men become our next door neighbors, coworkers, and trusted friends in the reshaping of Minnesota and our country."
— Gu Ananda, Minnesota Department of Human Services*



Six hallmarks of successful integration:

- Stable housing
- Current/up-to-date immigration status
- A safe living environment
- Involvement in community services and programs
- Ability to function independently
- Employment for adults.

* From *This Much I Can Tell You: Stories of Courage and Hope from Refugees in Minnesota*
** From DoOneThing.org

How-to's

- **Forgot your password?**
If you would like to have your password reset, please click the following [Secure Password Recovery](#) link and supply your username and an e-mail will be sent to you with instructions on resetting your password.

[Secure Password Recovery](#)

Never share your passwords with anyone. You could be held responsible for any and all actions that someone else may take with your system privileges.

- **Forgot your username?**
If you've forgotten your user name, you don't need to re-register all over again. Please click the following [Forgotten Username](#) link and supply your e-mail address to retrieve user name.

[Forgotten Username](#)

[Edit Content](#)

Links to other websites

- [Online ID Verification of refugees for MNsure](#)
Volag agency staff with secure username and password may submit identity documents of newly arrived refugees without Social Security Number through this website. Click [here](#) to login.
- [Links to local agency affiliates of National Voluntary Agencies](#)
 - [Catholic Charities - St. Paul and Minneapolis](#)
 - [Catholic Charities - Winona](#)
 - [International Institute of Minnesota](#)
 - [Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota](#)
 - [Minnesota Council of Churches](#)
 - [Arrive Ministries](#)
- [Cultural Orientation](#)
The Center for Applied Linguistics has developed a curriculum used by voluntary resettlement agencies across the U.S. in their cultural orientation of newly arrived refugees. The name of the curriculum is Making Your Way: A Reception and Placement Orientation.

RPO Announcements

[Arrival Reports:](#)

Refugee arrival report for Dec 2015 has been posted on the RPO website, and you can find it by going to: [RESOURCES -> Refugee Arrival Reports](#).

- The [Minnesota Driver's Manual](#) translated into Burmese is now available for viewing or download under the Resources menu item.
- [Pandemic Flu Preparedness](#)
Pandemic Flu Preparedness documents translated in 13 different languages are available for viewing or download.
- [Refugee Arrival List](#)
- [Vendors Report Card](#)
- [Pandemic Flu](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Discussions](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [RPO Agency Liaison](#)
- [Minnesota Driver's Manual](#)
- [FAQs](#)

STATE ROLE IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Transition to economic self-sufficiency is the primary goal of the US Resettlement program and federally funded programs administered by states.



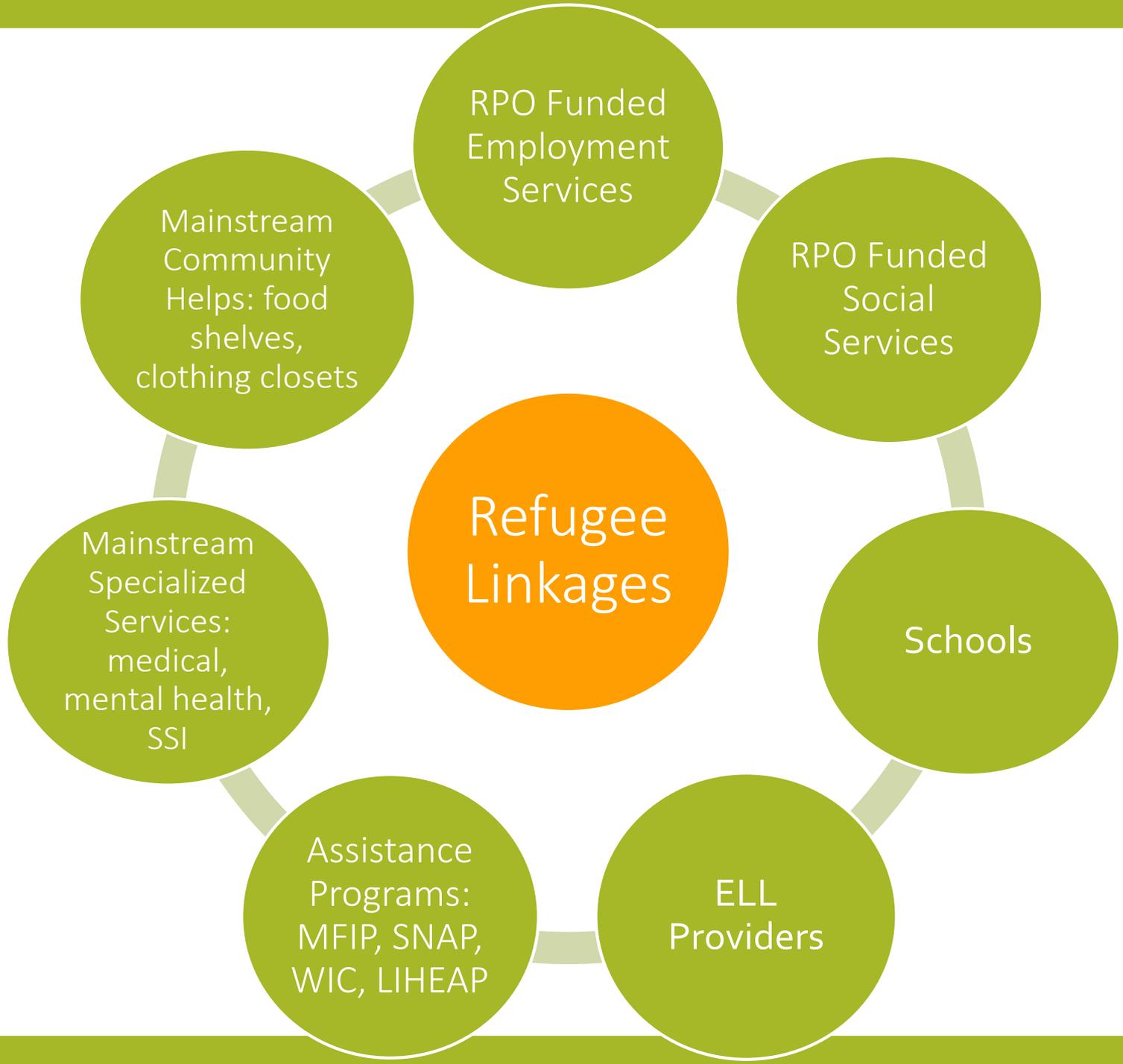
THE ROLE OF STATES

□ “State Refugee Coordinator”

□ Promotes accessibility and inclusion of refugees in mainstream programs.

□ Coordinates federal resources for refugees





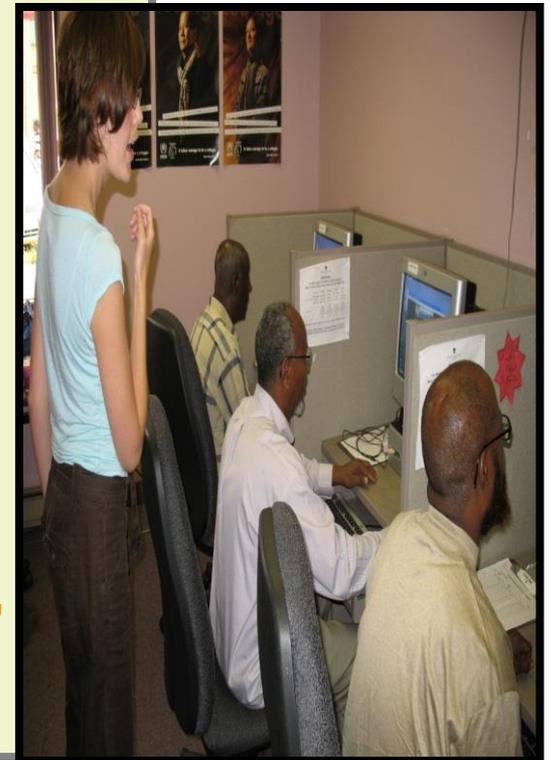
Supplemental Refugee Services in MN funded through RPO:

- ✓ Refugee Employment Services
- ✓ Refugee Social Services
- ✓ Refugee Student Impact
- ✓ Elderly Refugee Program
- ✓ Refugee Cash Assistance
- ✓ Refugee Medical Assistance
- ✓ Refugee Health Screenings

- 41 funded agencies
- \$4.8 mill contracts
- \$1.4 mill in direct assistance
- 100% federal funds through Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

- ✓ Refugees can be enrolled in Refugee Employment Services while on MFIP
- ✓ Currently there are RES providers in:
Minneapolis, St. Paul, Austin, Mankato,
Rochester, St. Cloud
- ✓ Additional Refugee Social Services in:
Minneapolis, St. Paul, Austin, Albert Lea,
Rochester, Mankato, St. Cloud, Faribault,
Worthington, Marshall



Limits of RPO Funding

- Time-limited (under 5 years)
- Priority on new arrivals (under 1 year)
- Focused on specific short-term outcomes
- Limited resources / locations
- Dependent on existing resources

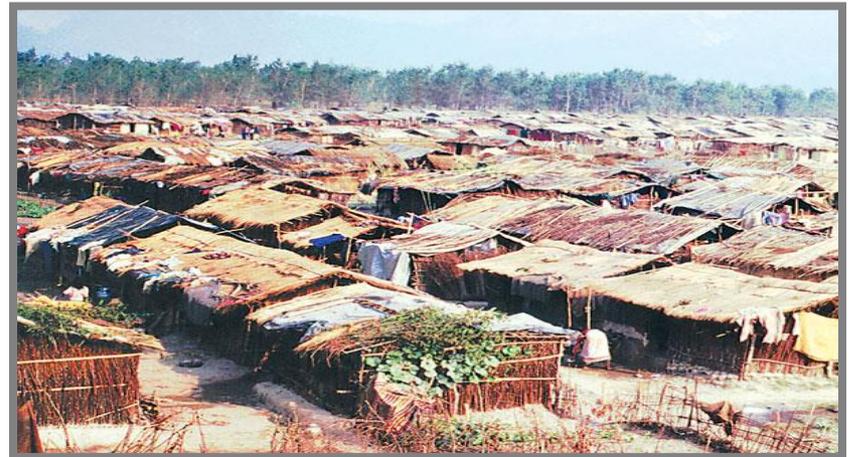
Benefits of Working with Refugee Employment Services (RES)



- ✓ Immediate Assistance / Ongoing Supports
- ✓ Smaller Caseloads
- ✓ Job Development & Training
- ✓ Job Application Assistance
- ✓ On-the-Job Visits
- ✓ Address Employment Barriers
- ✓ Refugee-friendly Employer Relationships
- ✓ Boost Participation Hours
- ✓ Jobsite Training / Interpretation
- ✓ Client/ Employer Follow-up
- ✓ Access Refugee Social Services

Final Thoughts

- ✓ Despite many challenges, **refugees are resilient**
- ✓ The most important function of RPO programs = **sustain hope for all refugees** as they transition to self-sufficiency.



QUESTIONS?

DHS

Resettlement Programs Office

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