Refugee Resettlement in Northern Virginia

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Discussion for Today

- Who is a refugee?

- Resettlement Model
  - Resettlement agencies, roles, and funding
  - Goals
  - Outcomes

- Take-aways
Who is Here?

- **Immigrants** – those who plan to reside in the US permanently
  - Family reunification, Labor certification, Refugee and Asylee
- **Non-immigrants** – temporary residents in the United States. Examples include, and are not limited to Business People, Clergy, Diplomats, Students, Tourists
- **Other** – Trafficking survivors; Undocumented – born outside the United States and reside in the United States without formal documentation
Immigrant or Refugee?

IMMIGRANT – Choice

• Time to prepare for move to receiving country
• Relatives, economy, future
• Can return to home country and visit

REFUGEE - No choice

• Fleeing persecution
• No time to prepare for flight
• Limited choice about country of resettlement
• Cannot return home unless conditions change in home country
65 Million People Worldwide

Uprooted from their homes due to conflict or persecution

- 21 million refugees

- One in every 113 people worldwide

- 51 percent of the world’s displaced are under 18 years old
Who is a refugee?

- Crossed an international border
- Has a well-founded fear of persecution based on one of the five protected grounds:
  - Race
  - Religion
  - Nationality
  - Political opinion
  - Membership in a particular social group
Durable Solutions for Refugees

Voluntary Repatriation to country of origin

Local Integration into country of first asylum

Resettlement in third country of asylum – less than one percent
Migration Process

- Pre-Flight

- Flight and Processing

- After Arrival in the US

Triple Trauma Paradigm
Source: Hunt, Dennis J. – Stresses Experienced by Refugees
Refugee Screening Process

- Shared responsibility among multiple agencies
- Includes biometric and biographic checks
- US security agencies conduct screenings
  - National Counterterrorism Center/Intelligence Community
  - FBI
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - State Department
- Enhanced review of Syrian cases
Refugee Screening Process

- Rigorous and effective
- Refugees are victims, not perpetrators of terrorism. It is possible to ensure our safety and remain vigilant while providing protection and support to those fleeing persecution.

- Sources for more information
  - http://www.uscis.gov/refugeescreening
Refugee Arrivals – FFY 2016

- Africa: 25,000
- Latin America/Caribbean: 3,000
- Europe/Central Asia: 4,000
- East Asia: 13,000
- Near/Near East: 34,000
- South Asia: 34,000

Unallocated Reserve: 6,000
Total Possible Arrivals for 2016: 85,000
Resettlement Agencies

Public-Private Partnership

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

- Goals
  - Self-sufficiency through early employment
  - Integration of refugees into their local communities
- Public-Private Partnership
- Provision of comprehensive resettlement services upon the arrival of newcomers
- No proselytizing
- Receive and serve all races, nationalities, and creeds
Public-Private Partnership

- Federal Gov’t (DOS and ORR)
  - Administers federal grants
  - Provides programmatic guidance

- USCCB
  - Administers federal grants
  - Provides programmatic guidance

- VA State Government
  - Provides funds for service enhancement
  - Administers federal funds

- CCDA

- Local Community
  - Community and faith-based support
  - Volunteers
  - Individual donors
  - Local businesses
  - Community foundations and United Way
26 Countries Represented in FY2015

Afghanistan  El Salvador  Jordan
Azerbaijan  Eritrea  Nepal
Bhutan  Ethiopia  Pakistan
Bolivia  Ghana  Palestine
Cameroon  Guatemala  Somalia
China  Honduras  Sudan
Columbia  India  Syria
Congo  Iran  Yemen
Egypt  Iraq  

[Image]
## 20 Languages on Staff

- Amharic
- American Sign
- Arabic
- Dari
- Farsi
- French
- German
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Kirundi
- Korean
- Kurdish (two dialects)
- Nepali
- Oromo
- Pashto
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Turkish
- Urdu
9+ Religions on Staff

- Baha’i
- Evangelical
- Hindu
- Melkite
- Methodist
- Muslim
- Orthodox
- Roman Catholic
- Unitarian
- And More ...
Diversity Within Populations

- Age
- (Dis) Ability
- Education
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Language
- Migration Experience
- National Origin
- Position
- Race
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Socioeconomic Status
- And More ...
Local Resettlement Agencies

- Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services (CCDA/MRS)
  - Largest refugee resettlement agency in VA
  - Resettled 23,000 refugees in Virginia since 1975

- One of 80+ affiliates of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
  - Largest refugee resettlement agency in the U.S.
  - Resettles one quarter of refugees in the U.S.
Reception and Placement (R&P)

Pre-Arrival – Securing housing, providing basic household needs and furnishings, ...

Post-Arrival - Airport reception, orientation, case management, assistance with applying for social security, assistance with obtaining health screening and immunizations, school enrollment, referrals to ESL and employment programs, and more...
Resettlement in the U.S. Reception and Placement

- Airport arrival
- Housing, furnishings, utilities
- Food and clothing
- Intake and Service Plan
- Home visits
- Case management
- Cultural orientation to life in the US, home, and community
- Interpretation and translation
- Health screening
Reception and Placement (2)

- Transportation
- Applications for Social Security Card and Public Assistance
- Employment services
- Assistance in accessing English Language classes
- Application for Selective Service registration
- Enrollment of children in school
- Pocket money
- Basic safety training
- Travel Loan reminder
Programs

- Reception and Placement (R&P)
- Employment
- Health Liaison
- School Liaison
- Family Reunification (including Central American Minors Program)
Refugee Community Dialogue

Virginia Community Capacity Initiative (VCCI) – Co-hosted by Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services

Working Groups

- Education
- Employment
- Faith-based Groups
- Health
- Housing
- Social Services and County or City Officials

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A New Home
Prominent Refugees

- Albert Einstein, Nobel Laureate
- Madeleine Albright, Former Secretary of State
- Gloria Estefan, Singer
- Current Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso
- Tom Lantos, U.S. Congressman (12th District, Calif.)
- Andrew S. Grove, Founder and Chairman, Intel Corp.
- Dith Pran, Photojournalist, subject of movie Killing Fields
- Mel Martinez, U.S. Senator, Florida
Fields of Contributions of Refugees

- Architecture
- Art
- Business
- Engineering
- Fashion and Design
- Manufacturing
- Medicine
- Music and Dance
- Psychology
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Science
- Sports
- TV and Film
- Writing and Publishing
- And More ....
Take-aways

- Build on Strengths – Asset Approach
- Survivors – They are resilient
- Build on supportive family and community networks
- Valuable contributions to the economy
- Entrepreneurial
- Send remittances home to those who need assistance and invest their resources in the US