



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Refugee 101

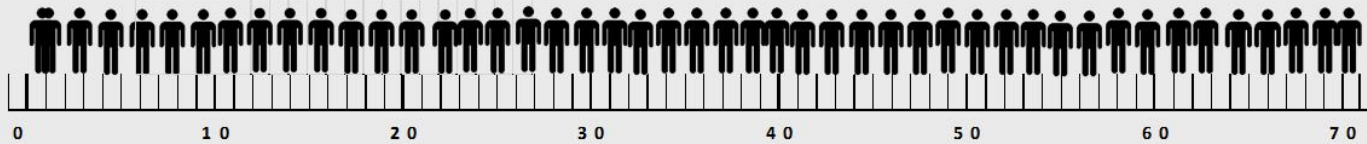
Who is a Refugee?

A **refugee** is a person forced to flee his or her home because of war or political upheaval and seek safety in another country.

They have well-founded reasons to fear **persecution** because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in social group or their political opinion. Refugee status is determined by the United Nations.

Facts at a Glance

68 million forcibly displaced people worldwide



Internally Displaced People (IDPs)
40 million

Refugees
25.4 million

Asylum Seekers
3.1 million



85% of the world's displaced people
are in developing countries

44,400 people forced to flee their
home *each day*



Durable Solutions

As identified by the United Nations:

1. Voluntary repatriation to their Home Country;
2. Integration into their Country of First Asylum;
3. Resettlement to a Third Country.

Less than 1% ever have the opportunity to find safety and security by resettling in a third country.

IRC welcomes refugees from all over the world in 24 U.S. cities.

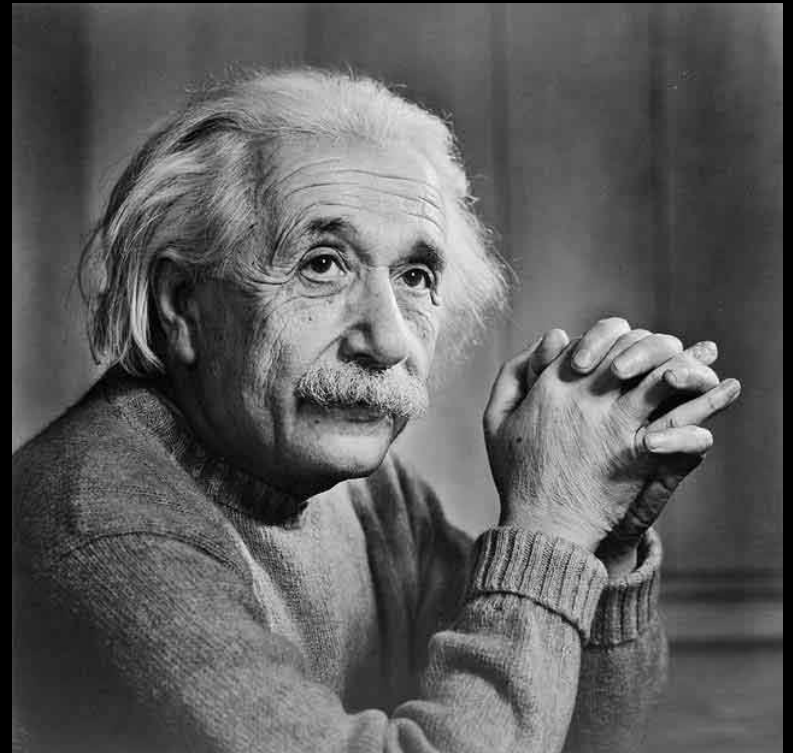
Resettlement Countries

Argentina	Czech Republic	Japan	Spain
Australia	Denmark	Republic of Korea	Sweden
Austria	Estonia	Latvia	Switzerland
Belarus	Finland	Liechtenstein	United Kingdom
Belgium	France	Lithuania	United States
Brazil	Germany	Luxembourg	Uruguay
Bulgaria	Hungary	Netherlands	
Canada	Iceland	New Zealand,	
Chile	Ireland	Norway	
Croatia	Italy	Portugal Romania	

International Rescue Committee

**Leading the way from
harm to home for over
80 years**

The mission of the IRC is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster to survive, recover and gain control of their future.



Where we work around the world





Where we work in the United States



International Rescue Committee - Wichita

- Office opened in 2011
- Resettled 1249 Refugees in Wichita
- Serve refugees, Asylees, Victims of Human Trafficking and other at-risk local populations
- Multiple Programs

Populations in South Kansas



Congolese
Ethiopian
Afghanis
Iraqis
Somali
Eritrean
Sudanese
South Sudanese
Cuban
Burmese

Overseas Processing

Refugees are vetted and processed prior to arrival in the U.S.

- Homeland Security / USCIS—**Statutory Authority**
- U.S. Department of State
- UNHCR
- International Organization for Migration
- Health & Human Services
- Office for Refugee Resettlement



Reception & Placement (R&P)

- Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) within State Department
- *Resettled 5579 refugees in Kansas since 2007*
- *Provides some support for the first 30-90 days after a refugee's arrival*

Case Management - “Core Services”

Core services address the basic needs of food, shelter and legal rights in the early stages of resettlement to help refugees transition toward self-sufficiency.

Apartment rental	Basic furnishings	Initial Food	Basic Clothing
English Language Classes	Health Screening	Application for benefits	Application for Social security card
Child Immunization	School Enrollment	Cultural Orientation	Employment Orientation
Follow up medical & dental care	Transportation to job interviews	Job Placement	On-going Adjustment Services (5 yrs.)

Employment Services

- Assess clients skills and desires
- Develop a work plan
- Job search
- Job readiness training
- Job placement/orientation
- Skills recertification
- Transportation
- Assistance in obtaining EADs

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)

- Available to refugees who are not eligible for Medicaid/Medicare
- Access to medical services during first **8 months** in the United States

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

- Available to refugees who are not eligible for TANF or other cash assistance
- Direct financial assistance during first **eight months** in the United States

IRC Wichita Programs

- Employment services
- Job readiness training
- Adult Education
 - ❖ Cultural Orientation
 - ❖ ESL classes
 - ❖ Conversation groups
 - ❖ Financial literacy
- Youth afterschool program
- Health & nutrition classes
- Immigration services
- Advocacy
- In-kind distributions
 - ❖ Household goods
 - ❖ Coats, gloves, hats, boots
 - ❖ Hygiene supplies
 - ❖ School supplies
- Coming soon – financial coaching & counseling
- Coming soon – loan program

Refugee Experience

Things to consider when working with refugees

- What is the country of origin and cultural norms and considerations?
- Did the family live in a refugee camp, and if so, how long?
- Did children have access to education?
- Did adults have opportunities to work?
- Are family members literate in their native language?
- Did the family have access to health services?



Refugee Experience

In addition to persecution in country of origin, there can be other challenges that can add stress for newly arrived refugees:

- Culture shock of adapting to a new country and culture
- Survivor guilt: “Why did I make it and they didn’t”?
- Memories of home country and family/friends left behind (homesick)
- Family dynamics shifting: Children learn English faster, women going to work, etc.
- Financial insecurity

Path to Citizenship

- ❖ Eligible for Social Security Cards upon arrival in the U.S.
- ❖ Employment authorized upon U.S. entry
- ❖ Eligible to adjust to Permanent Resident Status (“Green Card”) after one year
- ❖ Eligible to apply for U.S. Citizenship after five years



