



IN FOCUS

Who are Refugees?

WHO ARE REFUGEES?

A refugee is someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion



HOW DO REFUGEES COME TO THE US?

The process of refugee resettlement to the U.S. is a lengthy and thorough process that takes approximately two years and involves numerous U.S. governmental agencies.

Refugees do not choose the country in which they would like to live. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency identifies the most vulnerable refugees for resettlement and then makes recommendations to select countries.

Once a refugee is recommended to the U.S. for resettlement, the U.S. government conducts a thorough vetting of each applicant. This process takes between 12 and 24 months and includes:

- Screening by eight federal agencies including the State Department, Department of Homeland Security and the FBI
- Six security database checks and biometric security checks screened against U.S. federal databases
- Medical screening
- Three in-person interviews with Department of Homeland Security officers



What happens during resettlement in the Florida?



In Florida, the Refugee Resettlement Program takes 90 days. Refugees are resettled through contracted community partners. Local nonprofit Refugee Resettlement Agencies welcome refugees when they arrive in the country, provide them with essential services during their first 30 to 90 days, and link them to federally-funded programs like Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance, Employment Services, English Language Training, Case Management, and Match Grants. Some of these services can extend beyond the typical 90-day resettlement based on the needs of each family. These services respect the cultures and languages of refugees while helping them reach self-sufficiency as quickly as possible

SOURCE:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.). What is a refugee? UNHCR. from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/what-is-a-refugee.html>