

# 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



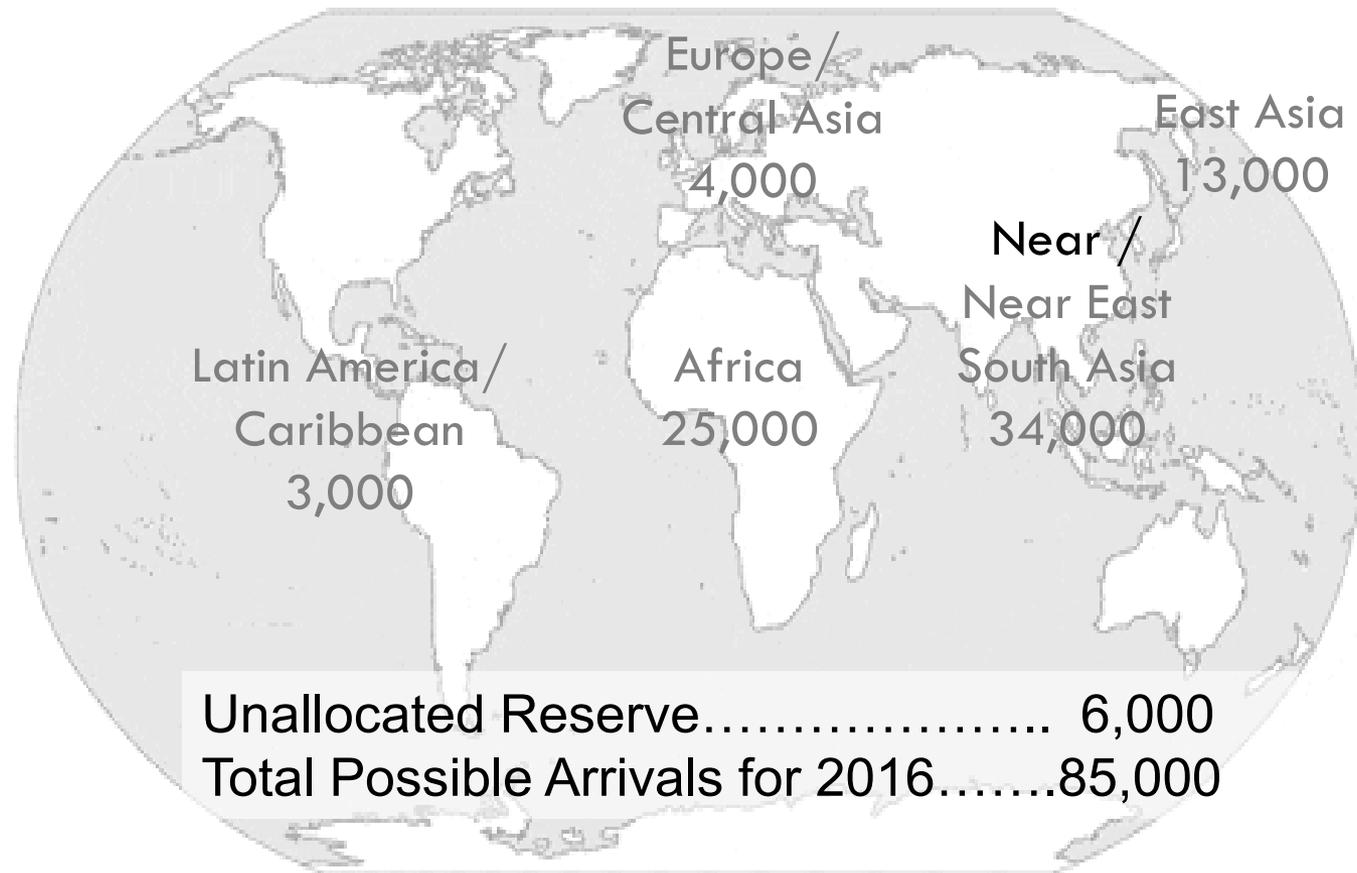
# Refugee Screening Process

- ❖ 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>
  - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/11/24/watch-heres-what-refugee-screening-process-looks>

# Refugee Arrivals – FFY 2016



# Resettlement Agencies

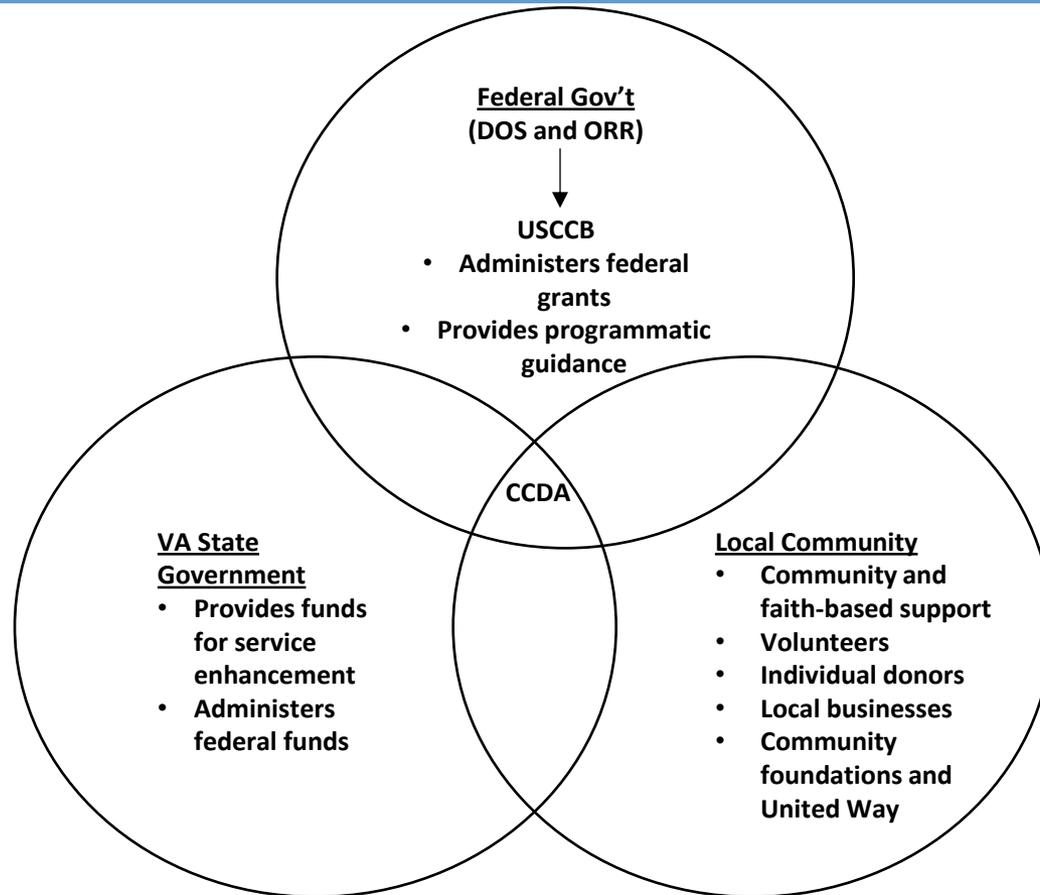
## Public-Private Partnership

- ❖ **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



# 26 Countries Represented in FY2015

Afghanistan

Azerbaijan

Bhutan

Bolivia

Cameroon

China

Columbia

Congo

Egypt

El Salvador

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Ghana

Guatemala

Honduras

India

Iran

Iraq

Jordan

Nepal

Pakistan

Palestine

Somalia

Sudan

Syria

Yemen

# 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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