

# Refugee Resettlement Basics

## 1) Common Vocabulary

- a. **Refugee:** A person who has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons or race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.
- b. **Refugee Resettlement:** Third country resettlement or refugee resettlement is, according to the [UNHCR](#), one of three durable solutions for refugees who fled their home country. Resettled refugees may also be referred to as quota or contingent refugees, as countries only take a certain number of refugees each year.
- c. **Asylee:** a person who is seeking or has been granted political asylum
- d. **Asylum:** the protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their country as a political refugee.
- e. **Internally Displaced Person:** (IDP) is someone who is forced to flee his or her home but who remains within his or her country's borders. They are often referred to as refugees, although they do not fall within the legal definitions of a refugee.
- f. **Self-Sufficiency:** Getting to the point where the expenses of the household can be met by the income of the household.
- g. **Warehoused:** A term used to describe refugees who are never approved for the resettlement process and will remain in a refugee camp for the rest of their lives.
- h. **Extreme Vetting:** The process of approval for resettlement in the United States. A two year long process of interviews and background checks
- i. **Proselytizing:** Attempting to convert (someone) from one religion, opinion, or belief to another.
- j. **Forcible Displacement:** When someone who is forced to leave their home due to persecution and a lack of resources despite not wanting to do so.
- k. **Genocide:** The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.
- l. **Ethnic cleansing:** the mass expulsion or killing or members of a particular ethnic or religious group in a society.
- m. **Conflict/Persecution:** hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.

## 2) Agencies in the Field

- a. **National Voluntary Resettlement Agencies (VOLAGs)**
  - [Church World Service \(CWS\)](#)
  - [Episcopal Migration Ministries \(EMM\)](#)
  - [Ethiopian Community Development Council \(ECDC\)](#)
  - [Hebrew Immigration Aid Society \(HIAS\)](#)
  - [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\)](#)
  - [Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Inc. \(KHRW\)](#)
  - [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service \(LIRS\)](#)
  - [State of Iowa, Bureau of Refugee Services](#)
  - [U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services \(USCCB/MRS\)](#)
  - [U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants \(USCRI\)](#)
  - [World Relief \(WR\)](#)

Denver Refugee and Asylee is an affiliate of two of these, LIRS and EMM.

**b. UNHCR**

[United Nations High Commission for Refugees](#) is a United Nations program that is committed to protecting and supporting refugees. They assist in all steps of the process from the processing through resettlement to a third country.

**c. IOM**

[International Organization for Migration](#) is an inter-governmental organization that provides services to refugees who have been approved for the resettlement program. They provide medical services, interview spaces, cultural orientations, and all the paperwork needed upon arrival in third country reception.

**d. DRM**

[Denver Rescue Mission](#) is a religious organization providing food, shelter, clothing, and education in Colorado, and we share a partnership with them through our cultural mentoring and exchange program.

**e. ORR**

[Office of Refugee Resettlement](#) “provides new populations with the opportunity to achieve their full potential in the United States” through programs that “provide people in need with critical resources to assist them in becoming integrated members of American society.”

**f. PRM**

[Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration](#) is a branch of the US State Department that oversees many aspects of refugee resettlement.

**3) Commonly Referenced Resources in the Resettlement Community**

- a. COR Cultural Orientation Resource Center: [culturalorientation.net](#)
- b. Amnesty: [amnesty.org](#)
- c. Colorado 211: <https://211colorado.communityos.org/cms/home>
- d. Office of Refugee Resettlement: [www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource-library](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource-library)
- e. LFS Volunteer Department [RefugeeVolunteerDenver.org/resources](#)

**4) Must-Reads/Must-Views**

*\*\*\*When viewing material on YouTube, be prepared for disturbing content in the comments section (which may, in itself, be useful in understanding some of the challenging mis-informationally and emotionally charged context in which public discussions of refugees take place).*

- a. [www.refugeevolunteerdenver.org](#)
- b. [Journal of Refugee Studies](#)
- c. [What Does It Mean To Be A Refugee?](#) (Available on YouTube)
- d. [Salam Neighbor](#) (Available on Netflix)
- e. [God Grew Tired of Us](#) (Available on YouTube)
- f. The Good Lie (Factually imperfect but realistically depicts the long resettlement process)
- g. After Spring (Documentary about the Syrian Refugee Crisis/Camp Life)