Syrians & the World Wide Refugee Crisis

Anna E. Crosslin, President & CEO
December 3, 2015
Becoming A Refugee

• **Flight**
  - Fleeing from war, persecution, usually w clothes on their backs
  - Usually think they will return soon

• **Gaining refugee status**
  - Outside country of origin
  - Flight due to well-founded fear of persecution of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion
  - Usually UNHCR grants refugee status in country of asylum
World Wide Refugee Crisis

By June 2015

- 60 million refugees & internally displaced worldwide:
  - 20 million refugees
  - 40 million IDP

- Largest populations are Syrian, Iraqi & Afghan:
  - Syrians largest group:
    - 4 million refugees in camps or residing in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt
    - 7.6 million IDP
UNHCR Durable Solutions

- **1\(^{st}\) priority:** Return to home country
- **2\(^{nd}\) priority:** Remain in country of asylum
- **3\(^{rd}\) priority:** Last resort - Third country resettlement
  - ~1% of world’s refugees are referred,
  - 10 countries accept refugees: *Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States.*
  - UNHCR attempts to match refugees to country requirements

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Current Refugee & Migrant Flight to Europe

- War in Syria dragging on for 5 years. People losing hope of resolution in near future. Running out of money; cannot work.

- Have been residing in surrounding regions, usually not in refugee camps.

- >800,000 Syrians & others entered Greece since recent flood started.

- In Aug., Germany granted 40,000 asylum; by early Nov. grappling with resettlement 2.0 strategies including various asylum “light” plans.
US Resettlement Program Operates Differently

- **Orderly referral process to US Program**
  - Must be made by United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees or US Embassy (latter VERY rare); Those taking the cross-continent journey for Germany do not qualify to the US resettlement program!
    - As of Sept. 2015, UNHCR had referred 18,000 people for interviews by US
  - Families usually referred as group
  - US Dept. of State’s Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) oversees program, which also includes Dept. of Homeland Security, FBI and counter terrorism programs

- **Adjudication**
  - Immigration officer determines if applicants meet **US definition of refugee**
    - Fled country of origin due to persecution
    - Cannot / will not go home, cannot stay in asylum country
    - Passes background check from Homeland Security
Security Clearances for US Approval/Arrival

- Contrary to recent European refugee and migrant flow, applicants for US Refugee Status must undergo thorough and repeated security checks, for example:

  - **STEP 3 Resettlement Support Center:** A Resettlement Support Center (RSC), contracted by the U.S. Department of State, compiles the refugee’s personal data and background information for the security clearance process and to present to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for an in-person interview.

  - **STEP 4 Security Clearance Process:** With information collected by the RSC, a number of security checks are conducted. The State Department runs the names of all refugees referred to the United States for resettlement through a standard CLASS (Consular Lookout and Support System) name check. In addition, enhanced interagency security checks were phased in beginning in 2008 and applied to all refugee applicants by 2010.

  - **STEP 5 Security Clearance Process:** Certain refugees undergo an additional security review called a Security Advisory Opinion (SAO). These cases require a positive SAO clearance from a number of U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies in order to continue the resettlement process.
Placement in US Communities

- Refugees allocated by US government to one of 10 national agencies (e.g. VOLAGS)
- Referred by VOLAG to local sponsor agency
- Preferences for community placement:
  - Other family in community
  - Language & service capacity
  - Available housing
  - Available jobs for LEPs
Clearance for Travel

- Application processing & clearance can take 18-24 months

- **Medical** conditions; contagious conditions treated before travel.

- **Security**: Level depends on country of origin; 13 steps previously mentioned must currently be cleared.

- **Cultural orientation**: 3 hours to several days, depending on location.
Travel to US

- International Office of Migration (IOM) arranges travel
- Refugee must sign promissory note agreeing to repay US for travel costs
- National sponsoring agency and local affiliate receive travel details, usu. 1-2 weeks before arrival
Arrival in St. Louis

- Meet at airport
- Transport to apartment
  - Rent needs to be low enough family can pay from cash assistance
  - Must meet occupancy requirements
  - Located close to or on bus line to IISTL
  - Include contract-mandated list of furnishings
Refugees Sponsored by IISTL

International Institute of St. Louis
Refugees Sponsored
21,720 between 1979-2014

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St. Louis Syrian Resettlement

US resettles 70,000 refugees annually, including 1,500 from Syria:

- Of total, IISTL sponsors 600-700
- Of Syrians, last year IISTL sponsored:
  - 29 since Jan. 1

Proposed increase next 2 fiscal years:

- Total:
  - FY 16 - 85,000 (w 10 k Syrians)
  - FY 17 - 100,000 (w 25 k Syrians)

- Increase in STL of Syrians possibly 100-500 people annually

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Services in First Month

• **Week of arrival**
  - Orientation: grocery, apartment, bus

• **Second week**
  - Community orientation
  - Detailed intake
  - Apply for SS card & Medicaid
  - Health screening (public health issues, urgent needs)

• **Subsequent weeks**
  - School shots; school enrollment
  - ESL classes for adults
  - Job readiness class
  - Intake with job specialist

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What We Offer
For Foreign-Born & Their Families

• Refugee Resettlement
  - Housing
  - Links to cash assistance & health care
  - General case management

• Mental Health
  - Counseling & casework

• Elderly
  - Socialization
  - Case management

• ESOL
  - For literate & non-literate
  - Citizenship & computer prep

• Employment
  1. Short-term job training
  2. Initial entry-level jobs
  3. Career Path services
     - II Global Farms

• Economic Development
  - IDAs
  - Microloans & TA
Expanding St. Louis’ Resettlement Model

To successfully sponsor more refugees annually, IISTL will form partnerships with organizations and individuals willing to help all refugees arriving in St. Louis, including Syrians:

• Engaging faith-based community and businesses as family co-sponsors.

• Reaching out to connect all service providers with newcomer communities.

• Offering linkage services to facilitate language and cultural barriers.

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What We Offer All St. Louisans

Cultural Preservation - Festival of Nations ● Interpretation & Translation ● Workforce Diversity Training & Consulting

Immersion ● Investment ● Inclusion
How You Can be Welcoming & Inclusive

Get Involved at IISTL

Volunteer

Annually almost 1,000 St. Louisans, individually and in groups, volunteer their time and energy to the Institute. Volunteer assignments range from weekly, to once a year opportunities. The dedication of our volunteers is unparalleled; large numbers of volunteers enable the Institute to provide top-notch services to thousands of refugees and immigrants annually.

Click here to apply today! For more information contact Carrie Bridkey.

Volunteer Opportunities

Click here to view a full list of all our current volunteer opportunities.

Prospective and new volunteers should read the Volunteer/Intern Policy & Procedures Handbook. View the volunteer handbook.

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How You Can be Welcoming & Inclusive
Sample Needs

• Adopt-a-Family
• Literacy Tutors
• Job Interviewers
• Resume Preparers
• Marketing & Web Consultants
• Accounting & Legal Services
• Computer Class Instructors
• Archivists & Oral Historians
• Subject Experts for CAIP
• LPFM mgmt. & on-line DJs
• Gardening @ Global Farms
How You Can be Welcoming & Inclusive
Financial Support

The William K. Y. Tao Fund of IISTL is comprised of funds to help Syrians & other refugees meet emergency needs. We invite you to partner or make a donation!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Single Person</th>
<th>2 People</th>
<th>3 People</th>
<th>4 People</th>
<th>5 People</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spending Money</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Deposit</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>$550</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent (3 months)</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,650</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Set-Up</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$700</td>
<td>$850</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities (3 months)</td>
<td>$945</td>
<td>$945</td>
<td>$945</td>
<td>$945</td>
<td>$945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food @ $5 day/each</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Pass (1 month)</td>
<td>$78</td>
<td>$156</td>
<td>$156</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal – Expense</td>
<td>$3,593</td>
<td>$4,031</td>
<td>$4,481</td>
<td>$5,230</td>
<td>$5,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resettlement Allowance</td>
<td>$1,125</td>
<td>$2,250</td>
<td>$3,375</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
<td>$5,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Gap</td>
<td>($2,468)</td>
<td>($1,781)</td>
<td>($1,106)</td>
<td>($730)</td>
<td>($183)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How You Can be Welcoming & Inclusive Around Our Region

• Blake Hamilton @ hamiltonb@iistl.org if you have jobs to offer Syrian and other refugees. On bus line is important.

• Carrie Brickey @ brickeyc@iistl.org for volunteer questions & opportunities, including internships.

• Hannah Rae Warrick @ warrickh@iistl.org for Adopt-a-Family holiday program.

• Lacey Watson @ Watsonl@iistl.org for furnishings & clothing donations. A list of most-needed items is online.

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Arm Yourself with Facts


See following chart...
The FBI has stated that there are active ISIS-related investigations in all 50 states. To date, 21 states have had at least one arrest within their borders.

71 Americans have been charged with ISIS-related activities. (As of November 12, 2015)

56 individuals have been arrested in 2015, the most terrorism arrests in a single year since September 2001.

86% are male.
The vast majority are U.S. citizens or permanent residents.
About 40% of those arrested are converts to Islam.

Over half of arrests involved an informant or law enforcement sting.
51% have attempted to or successfully traveled abroad.
73% were not involved in plotting domestic terrorist attacks.

Read the full report: FROM RETWEETS TO RAQQA

Find more at www.corrs.gwu.edu/program-extremism or follow @gwpeo on Twitter