

Take the refugee journey

 **WORLD**
Refugee Day



THE REFUGEE JOURNEY



Flee country of origin to a relatively safe neighboring country or refugee camp.



Apply as a refugee and the UNHCR determines the best durable solution for each refugee family, then submit referrals to the U.S. or other eligible countries for potential resettlement.



Wait for application to be processed and for referrals to be submitted. The average wait time is 10-26 years.



Approved families then travel to the United States and are greeted by the local RST office. In the United States they will find a job, learn English, and integrate into the local community.



Referrals are approved for resettlement. Refugees receive cultural orientation and language training based on their resettlement location.



Refugee families undergo RSC Africa Interviews/USCIS Interviews to demonstrate the applicant qualifies as a refugee. Extensive background checks are conducted.



Applications are approved or denied and refugee families must complete medical examinations.

THE REFUGEE JOURNEY

STEP 1



Flee country of origin to a relatively safe neighboring country or refugee camp.

There are currently over 79.5 million people forcibly displaced from their homes in the world.

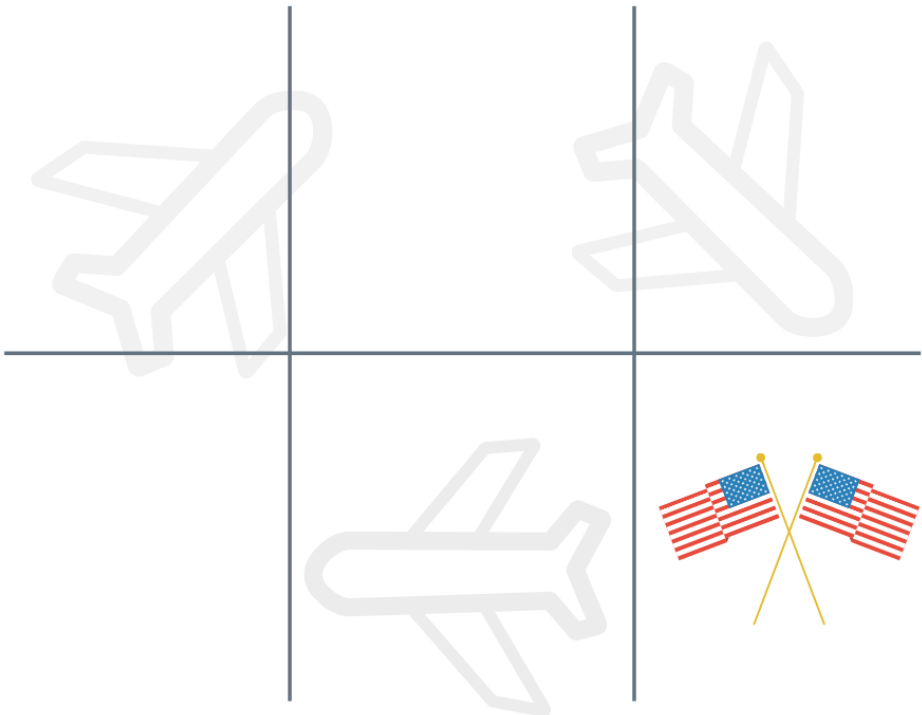
The United States refugee resettlement program was at one time accepting refugees from over 13 different countries. Since the implementation of the travel ban and newest Presidential Determination, refugees from Syria and many other war stricken countries have been banned from entering the United States. Currently, the resettlement program is only seeing refugees from about 5 countries and Special Immigrant Visa holders from only Afghanistan.

Start your refugee journey:

Print and fold your passport on the next page, add your picture and click on the link below to spin the wheel to see where your country of origin would be and start your journey!

Once you spin, scroll down to learn more about your country of origin!

SPIN THE WHEEL



To learn more about the refugee journey and how you can make a difference in the life of a refugee, visit our website at:

www.rstx.org



Surname/Apellido/Nom/Jina/تخلص

Given Name/Nombres/Prénom
Jina Lililopewa/ورکړل شوی نوم

Date of Birth/Fecha de nacimiento
Date de naissance/Tarehe ya kuzaliwa
د زیږېدو نیټه

Signature/Firma/Signature/Sahihi/لاسلیک

Your Picture Here



PASSPORT



A look into the journey of a refugee



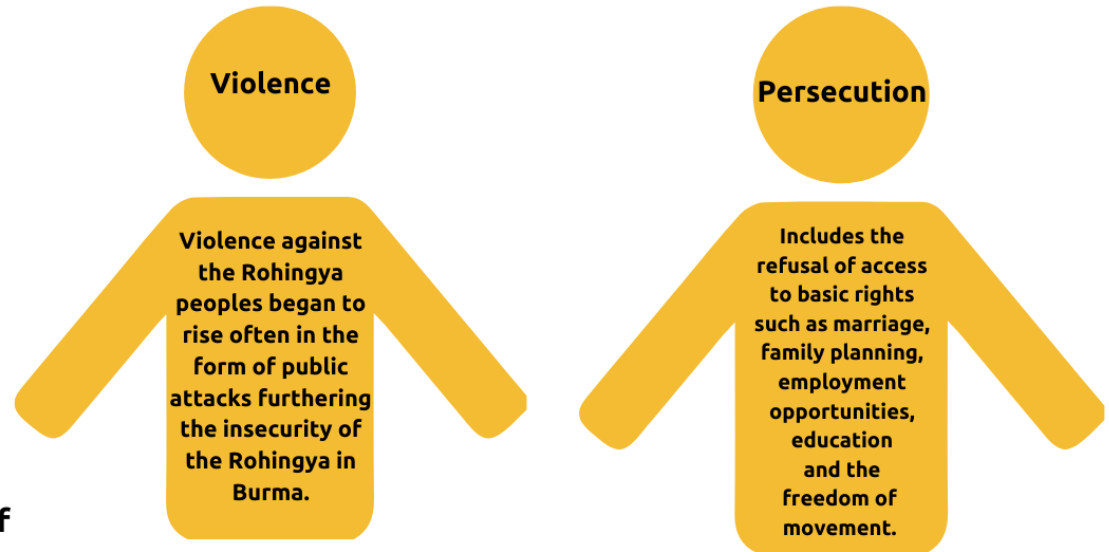
Burma

Formerly a thriving agriculturally based country, Burma is now considered one of the least developed countries in the world. Religious tensions are high between the majority of Buddhist Citizens and the minority of Rohingya Muslims. These tensions and their effects have created a massive refugee plight in the region and into the United States.

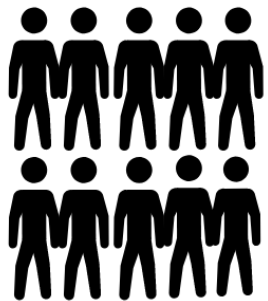
Rohingya Population

The Rohingya Population in Burma is made up of a group of Sunni Muslims who primarily live in the Rakhine State of Burma. Religious differences led to tension between the minority Muslim Rohingya population and the rest of the majority Buddhist population of Burma caused the persecution of the Rohingya peoples.

Why Are People Fleeing?



Where are they fleeing to?

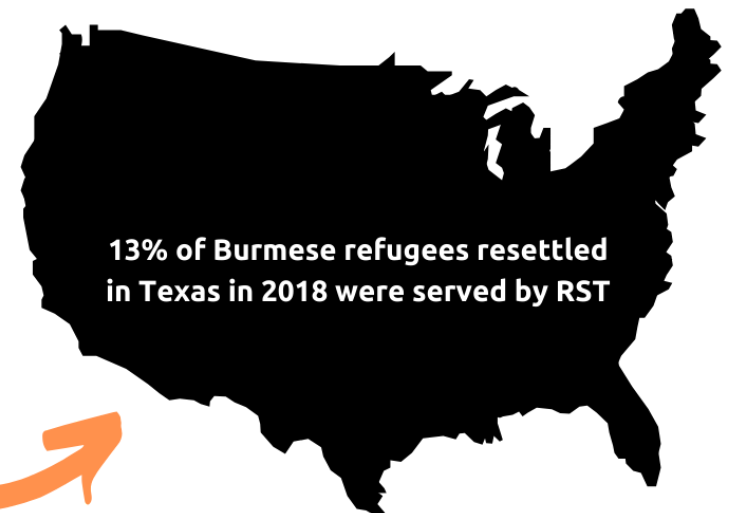


South-East Asia



 = Refugee Camp

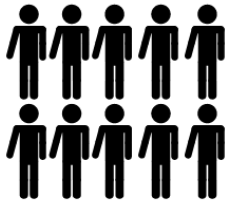
United States Refugee Resettlement Program



Eritrea

Eritrea has faced contention since the early 1960s when the country went to war with Ethiopia for its independence. After Eritrea's victory in 1993, the government became totalitarian. Therefore, despite being rich in natural resources; poor infrastructure and violence have resulted in the abuse and corruption of those resources.

Where are they fleeing to?



Europe



 = Refugee Camp



United States Refugee Resettlement Program



17% of Eritrean refugees resettled in Texas in 2018 were served by RST

Why Are People Fleeing?

Food Insecurity

Due to drought, soil erosion, overgrazing and the migration of struggling farmers, the number of families who are food insecure has risen.

Violence

The war with between Eritrea and Ethiopia has ended however, violent territorial disputes have not. This violence along the border of Ethiopia and Eritrea has displaced many individuals.

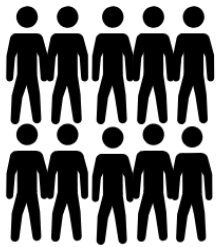
Restrictive Government Practices

Due to the countries current administration, there have been major restrictions on basic human rights and political freedom.

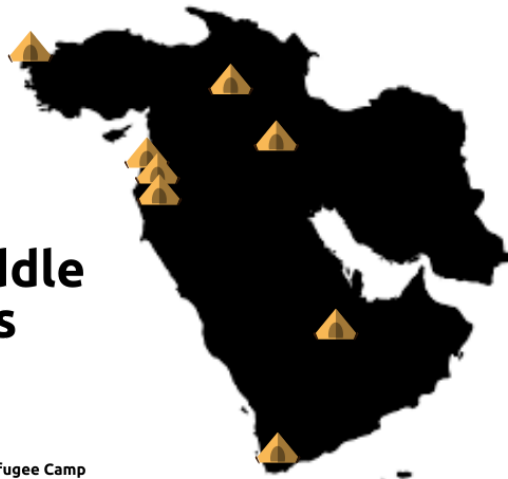
Iraq

Iraq is a country made up of many diverse peoples. However, the challenges posed by having a nation filled with people who have differing beliefs, along with the instability created by weak governances have caused many violent wars within the country. These wars have caused millions of Iraqi citizens to flee to other countries.

Where are they fleeing to?



Neighboring Middle East Countries



Why Are People Fleeing?

War

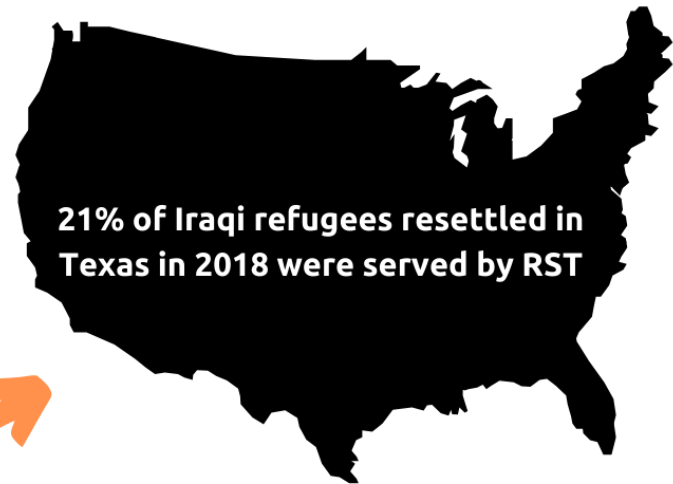
Over the past 30 years the country of Iraq has been involved in several violent conflicts and wars. These wars have made Iraq especially dangerous.

Persecution

In Iraq there has also been an ongoing and systematic persecution of the Kurdish peoples. The most extreme of these acts have included forced deportation and violence.

United States Refugee Resettlement Program

21% of Iraqi refugees resettled in Texas in 2018 were served by RST



Democratic Republic of the Congo

DR Congo is a country abundant with resources however there are low levels of economic growth due to poor infrastructure. During the country's civil war, leaders from both sides (Hutu and Tutsi) used war and violence to distract attention away from the looting of the countries resources. Instability and violence have and continue to cause a massive amount of displacement, especially among the rural population.

Why Are People Fleeing?

Internal Displacement

There has been a huge migration of peoples from the volatile Eastern region moving into urban centers. This movement has caused overcrowding in urban cities, forcing people to leave the country.

Disease

Due to overcrowding in the cities, disease epidemics have broken out, often causing many deaths. The most notable of these epidemics has been Ebola.

Violence & War

Since the end of the civil war in the country, there has been ongoing violence, particularly in the rural areas of the Eastern region. This violence is due to poor infrastructure and an unstable government. There are over 100 factions hoping to gain control of the Eastern territory.

Where are they fleeing to?



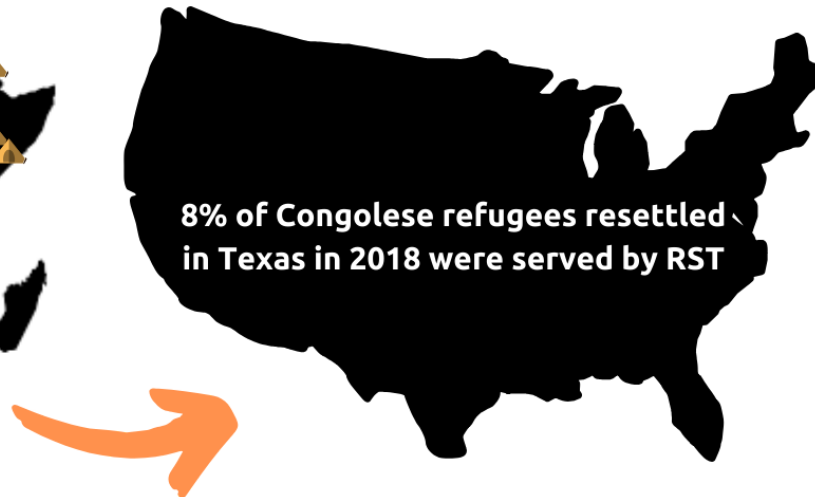
Neighboring African Countries



 = Refugee Camp

United States Refugee Resettlement Program

8% of Congolese refugees resettled in Texas in 2018 were served by RST



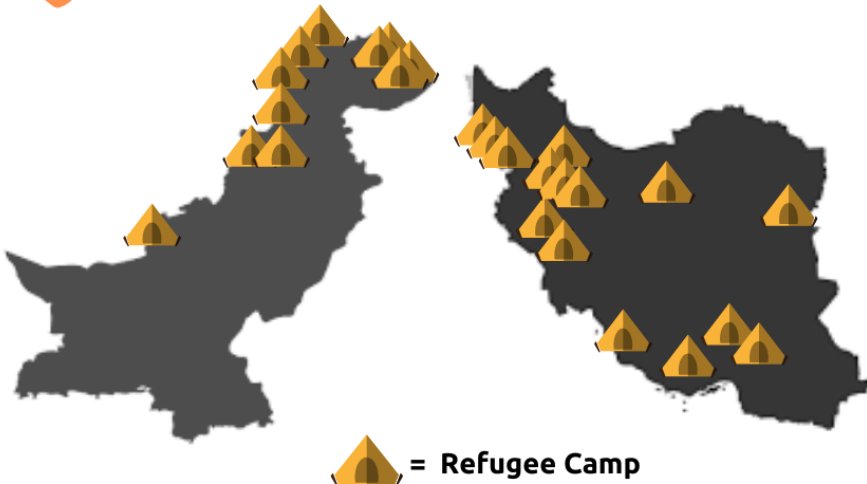
Afghanistan

There has been a long history of instability in Afghanistan, most recently stemming back to 1999. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban worked together in an attempt to overcome the Afghan government. The removal of a stable government combined with the ongoing war efforts and international intervention has led to ongoing violence and instability in the country. Afghan people are now considered the second largest refugee population in the world.

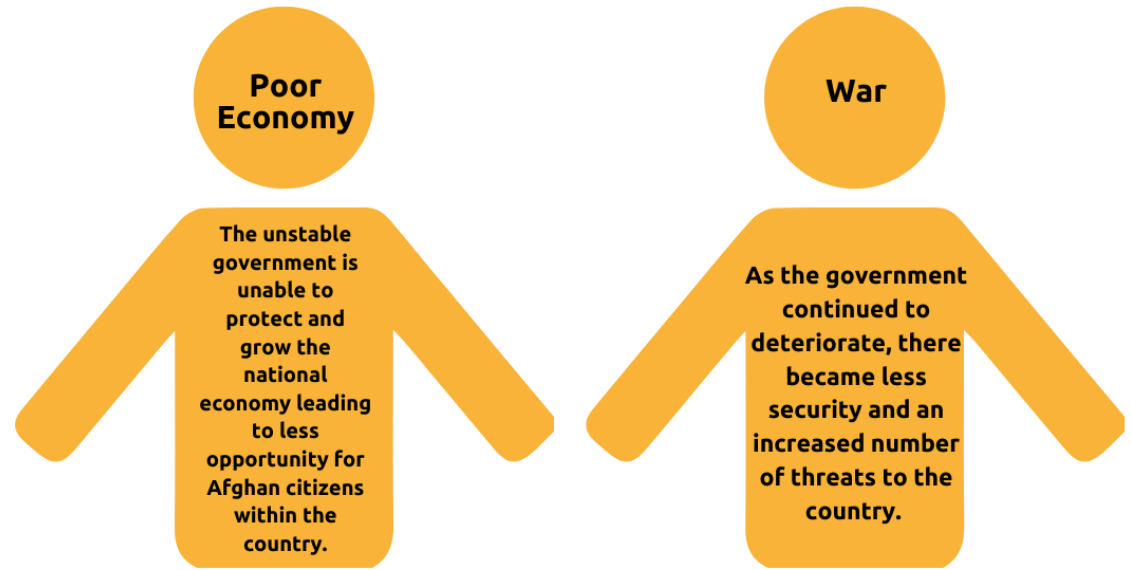
Where are they fleeing to?



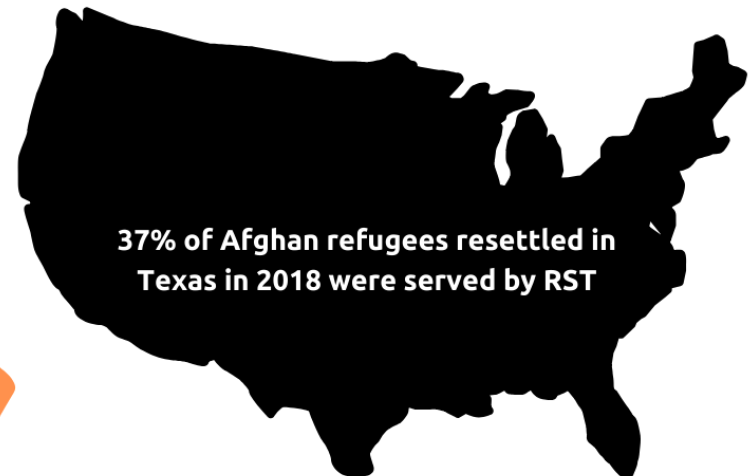
Pakistan and Iran



Why Are People Fleeing?



United States Refugee Resettlement Program



THE REFUGEE JOURNEY STEP 2



Apply as a refugee, the UNHCR determines the best durable solution for each refugee family, then submit referrals to the U.S. or other eligible countries for potential resettlement.

Walk through the world's largest refugee camp and take RST's ration challenge!

Here's a sneak peek at what you can expect:

→ ***Ingredients* for your challenge:*** ←

Dried chickpeas – 3 oz.	Lentils – 6 oz.
Canned sardines – 3.75 oz	Rice - 4lbs. 2oz.
Canned kidney beans – 15 oz.	White Flour - 14oz.
Vegetable oil – 12 oz.	

*these are basic rations refugees receive weekly, some additions of ingredients below can be made depending on region:

Salt (unlimited)	Hot drink (12oz.)
Protein (4oz.)	Vegetable (6oz.)
Milk (7oz.)	Piece of fruit (4oz.)

Turn over for Ration Challenge recipes!



THE REFUGEE JOURNEY

STEP 3



Wait for application to be processed and for referrals to be submitted. The average wait time is 10-26 years.



Applications are approved or denied and refugee families must complete medical examinations.



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THE REFUGEE JOURNEY

STEP 4



**Referrals are approved for
resettlement to the United States.
Refugees receive cultural orientation
and language training based on their
resettlement location.**

After 10-26 years of waiting for resettlement in the refugee camp, your family is finally going to a safe new home in Texas! Participants are now asked to reflect on what they would bring with them to the U.S.
All family members are allowed 1 suitcase each.

Show and tell us what you would pack in your suitcase on the next page - take a pic and tag RST on social media and use the hashtag #whatiwouldbring



**If you had to
leave home
and only had a
few minutes to
pack before
moving to a
new country,
what 5 items
would you take
in your
suitcase?**

**Draw your
belongings in
this suitcase
and leave
inside for all
to see!**

THE REFUGEE JOURNEY STEP 5



Approved families then travel to the United States and are greeted by the local RST office. In the United States they will find a job, learn English, and integrate into the local community.

Resettlement: The 1st 90 Days

Days 1 & 2

- Meet client at the airport
- Provided warm, culturally appropriate welcome meal
- Brought home to clean, safe, furnished and provisioned apartment or house
- Home visit by Case Manager within 24 hours of arrival with home orientation

Week 1

- Intake @ Resettlement Agency
- Applying for Social Security Cards
- Applying for Public Benefits
- Applying for Cash Assistance
- Follow up on immigration documents; Green Cards & EADs

Weeks 1 & 2

- Enrollment in Employment Program
- Referral for Initial Health Screening & vaccinations
- Enrollment in ESL

First 30 Days

- Enrollment of school aged children
- Completing health assessment & vaccinations
- Selective Service Registration
- 30 day Second Home Visit with Case Manager

First 90 Days

- Attend 2 days of Cultural Orientation



THE REFUGEE JOURNEY STEP 6

A smiling man with short dark hair and a light beard, wearing a white t-shirt and a light blue button-down shirt, stands with his arms raised holding a large American flag. The flag is spread wide behind him, showing the stars and stripes. The background is a plain, light gray.

CITIZENSHIP

In order for a refugee to become a citizen, he or she must be in the United States for **at least 5 years.**

Normally, the refugee can count his or her date of entry into the United States as the first date of their permanent residence as long as he or she is successful in receiving permanent resident status.

The time that the refugee spends in the United States as a permanent resident will go toward the five years' requirement for naturalization. This means that if a refugee spent five years in the United States as a refugee before applying for permanent residence status, he or she will have met the five-year requirement. This allows him or her to then apply for naturalization once permanent residence is approved.

The background of the image features stylized, curved stripes in red, white, and blue, with white stars on a blue field, reminiscent of the American flag.

Click here to see all **10 steps
to applying for and becoming
a U.S. Citizen!**

**Interested to see if YOU could
pass the U.S. Citizenship test?!**

Take the test **HERE and see if
you can pass on the first try!**



You passed!

**Congratulations on
becoming a U.S. Citizen
and thank you for
joining us in taking the
refugee journey!**

**To learn more about
World Refugee Day and
how you can get involved
in serving refugees in
your community, visit
www.rstx.org**

