The Flight Path of the Refugee: From Homeland to the United States

ISED
Institute for Social and Economic Development

creating opportunity, building capacity
What has the refugee experienced before arriving at the airport in your area? What has the refugee experienced before arriving at the airport in your area?

- Understanding the system
- Interaction along the way
Reasons for Flight

- War
- Conflict
- Ethnic cleansing
- Targeted persecution
- Historic persecution
Refugee Act of 1980

- Recognized and supported US commitment to international definitions and US historical commitment to refugees
- Created roles for three US Gov departments
- Based on public – private partnership
- Provided greater government funds
U.S. Refugee Program

- Dept. of State
  - BPRM
  - Eligibility
  - Processing and resettlement
- Dept. of Homeland Security
  - USCIS-Refugee Unit
  - Interviews
  - Adjudicates
- Dept. of Health and Human Services
  - ORR
  - Post arrival resettlement programs
  - State and VOLAG partnerships
U.S. Department of State BPRM

- Determines which groups of displaced persons will be considered for eligible to apply to the program
- Determines the priorities (P1 – P5) for processing within each program
- Funds overseas refugee processing, medical screening, transportation
- Funds overseas cultural orientation
- Funds initial refugee resettlement
- Coordinates the US Refugee Program
Interviews all refugee applicants
Decides, on the basis of documentation and interview, whether or not the person meets the standards for refugee status
Funds refugee resettlement cash/medical assistance through States (& Volags)
Develops and funds supporting programs for refugees – funding through states, Volags, MAAs
Coordinates refugee placement (Refugee Act)