

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

**ISED**

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*creating opportunity, building capacity*

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# Questions

**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**



# **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

## **USCIS**

- **Interviews all refugee applicants**
- **Decides, on the basis of documentation and interview, whether or not the person meets the standards for refugee status**



# U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ORR

- **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)**