How do Refugees Get to the United States?

Source: Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services (BRYCS)

A person becomes a refugee by fleeing from his/her country of origin. The refugee registers with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This agency makes sure that the individual qualifies as a refugee under international law. UNHCR, U.S. Embassy, or an authorized non-governmental organization (NGO) can refer the refugee to the U.S.Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) The regional Resettlement Support Center (RSC) prepares a case file. An officer from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS) conducts an interview with the individual to determine if s/he gualifies as a refugee under U.S. law. If the case is approved, the applicant and his/her family undergo medical examination, security clearances, and a cultural orientation program. In the U.S., the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) works with Refugee Resettlement Agencies to plan the final resettlement location. After the refugee and his/her family pass all security clearances, they depart for the U.S. Local resettlement agency staff meets them at their destination airport and takes them to their new home. Resettlement agencies and other refugee service providers provide the refugee with initial Reception and Placement support and services such as case management. assistance learning English, and help finding a job.