

Facts About Refugees

- A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave his/her homeland and is unable to return because she or he has experienced persecution or has a well- founded fear of persecution. Persecution can be related to race, nationality, religion, political opinions, or membership in a particular social group.
- There are 59.5 million forcibly displaced people around the world. This number includes those displaced within their own country, refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless people.
- There are 20.2 million refugees around the world.
- 51 percent of refugees are under 18-years-old.
- Every day, conflict and persecution force more than 42,500 persons to leave their homes and seek protection elsewhere, either within the borders of their country or in other countries.
- Most refugees wait an average of 17 years in a refugee camp before returning to their country or resettling in a new country.
- Less than 1 percent of all refugees are eventually resettled in a third country.
- This year, the U.S. government will invite up to 85,000 refugees to resettle permanently in America.
- Approximately 2,500 refugees resettle in the Chicago area each year.