

U.S. REFUGEE SCREENING PROCESS



WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone who has fled one's home country and cannot return because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

1 REFUGEE STATUS



The UN High Commissioner for Refugees determines if the individual qualifies as a refugee.

18 months to 3 years average duration of processing time before a refugee enters the U.S.

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REFERRAL TO THE U.S.

A refugee is referred to the United States for resettlement by the UN, U.S. Embassy or NGO.



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SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS



A number of security checks are run by law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

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IN-PERSON INTERVIEW

A U.S. Homeland Security officer conducts a detailed interview face to face with all refugees.



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DHS APPROVAL



If the U.S. Homeland Security officer finds the individual meets U.S. admissions criteria, the application is conditionally approved for resettlement.

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MEDICAL SCREENING

The refugee that has been conditionally approved goes through a medical screening.



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MATCHING WITH A SPONSOR AGENCY



Every refugee is assigned a U.S. partner agency like World Relief that will assist them upon arrival to the U.S.

8

CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Refugees approved for resettlement are offered cultural orientation while waiting for final processing.



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2ND SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS



Prior to departure to the U.S. a second inter-agency security check is conducted to check for any new information.

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AIRPORT CHECK

Refugees are checked again at airport to ensure the arriving refugee is the same person who was screened and approved for admission.



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ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES



Upon arrival in the United States, refugees are met by a World Relief representative.

Sources: Migration Policy Institute, Refugee Council USA, U.S. Department of State