



Idaho Office for Refugees

- Local Resettlement Overview
- Core Services
- Idaho Refugee Populations

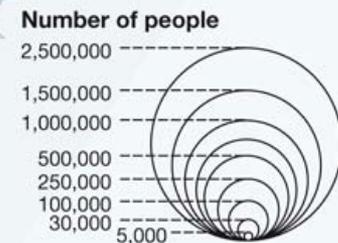
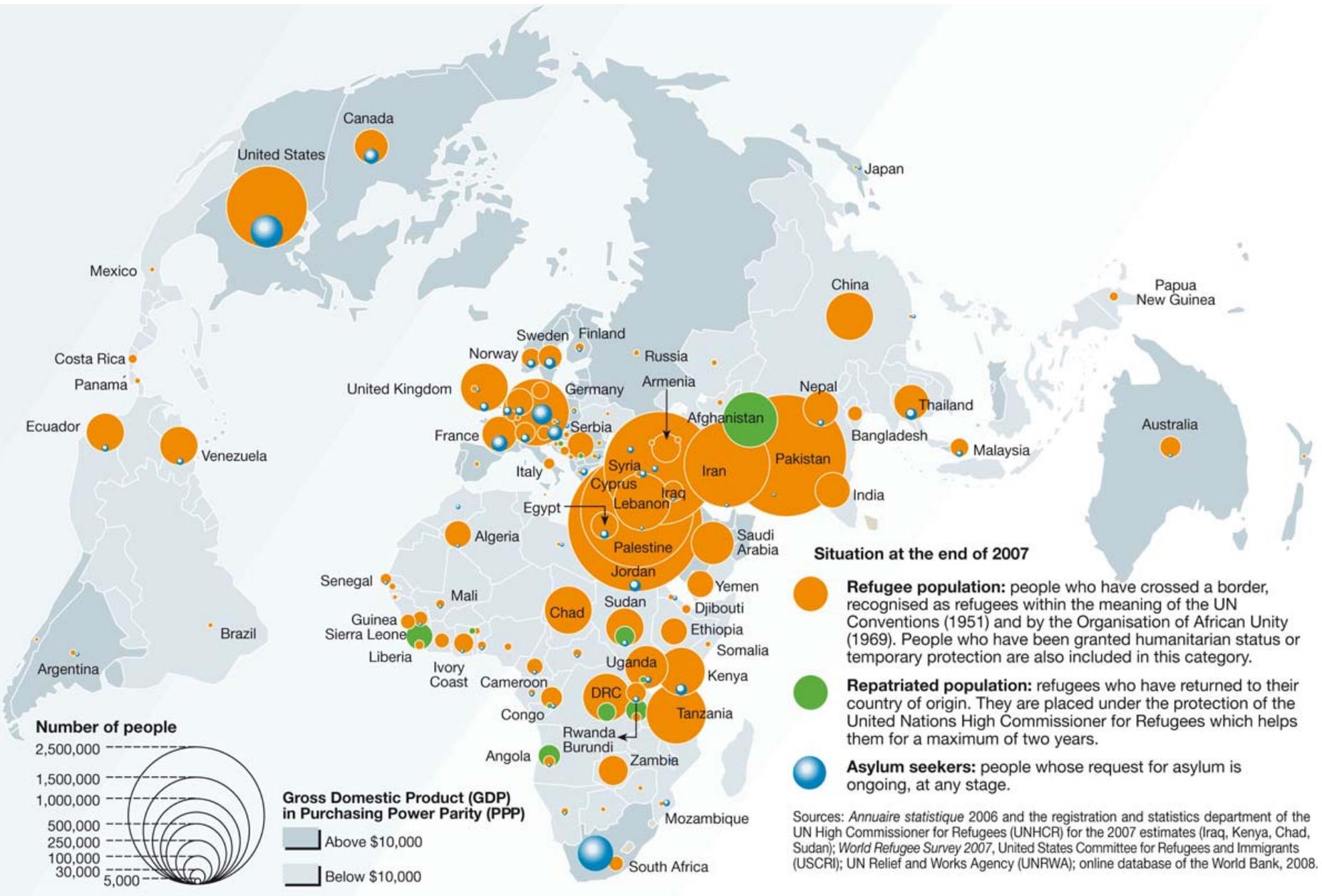
Foundations

- 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
- 1967 Protocol
- Refugee Act of 1980
 - permanent and systematic” framework
 - admission of refugees of humanitarian concern
 - Definition of refugee.

Who is a Refugee?

A refugee is a person who is outside of his or her country of origin and is unable to return on account of persecution or a well founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.





Situation at the end of 2007

- Refugee population:** people who have crossed a border, recognised as refugees within the meaning of the UN Conventions (1951) and by the Organisation of African Unity (1969). People who have been granted humanitarian status or temporary protection are also included in this category.
- Repatriated population:** refugees who have returned to their country of origin. They are placed under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which helps them for a maximum of two years.
- Asylum seekers:** people whose request for asylum is ongoing, at any stage.

Sources: *Annuaire statistique 2006* and the registration and statistics department of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the 2007 estimates (Iraq, Kenya, Chad, Sudan); *World Refugee Survey 2007*, United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI); UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); online database of the World Bank, 2008.

U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

- U.S. President (how many)
- DOS, Office of Admissions (where)
 - Contract with 10 National Agencies
 - Networks extend nationwide
- DHS, Refugee Corps (who)
- DHHS, Office of Refugee Resettlement

Where are Refugees Resettled?

- 10 National Resettlement Agencies
- 200+ cities, large and small
- 49 states plus District of Columbia
- Family reunion (“anchor relatives”)
- Non-anchored family units
- Intentional effort to place refugees in communities conducive to effective resettlement

Idaho Office for Refugees

- “State-level” office for Idaho
- Private sector initiative—one of eight nationwide
- Provision of assistance and services to refugees

Where are Refugees Resettled in Idaho?

In Idaho, there are four refugee resettlement agencies:

- Agency for New Americans, Boise
- International Rescue Committee, Boise
- World Relief, Boise
- CSI Refugee Programs, Twin Falls

Nearly all Idaho refugees are resettled in these two communities



How Many Refugees Come to Idaho?

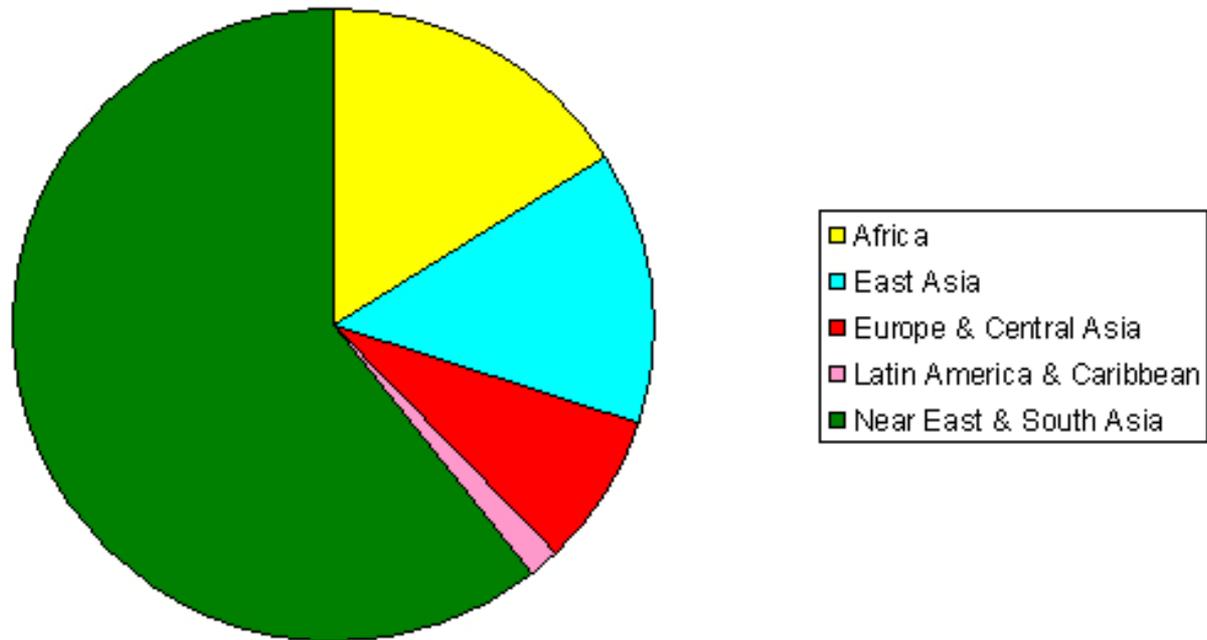
Refugees resettled in
Idaho during the last
three years:

- 2008 750
 - 2009 917
 - 2010 716
- (Oct. 1, 2009-May 5, 2010)



Where are Idaho's Refugees From?

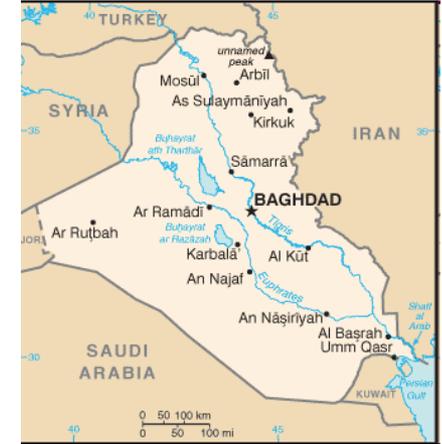
Arrivals by Region-2009-2010



Specific Countries:

Arrivals May 2009- May 2010

- Bhutan ~ 370
 - Iraq ~ 274
 - Burma ~ 160
 - Congo ~ 128
 - Afghanistan ~ 61
- Total # of Countries:*
18



Specific Languages:

Arrivals May 2009- May 2010

- Nepali (31.87%)
- Arabic (22.8%)
- Kayah (5.27%)
- Farsi/Dari/Persian (4.75%)

Total number of languages spoken: 37



Refugees from Bhutan



Refugees from Iraq

Goals of Refugee Resettlement

- Early economic self-sufficiency
 - Long-term social integration
 - Cultural and linguistic appropriateness
- (Title VI)
- Performance must be measured!



Duration of Services

- Declining Support Model
- Cash Assistance—8 months
- Employment Services—until stable
- Case Management—closure criteria
- English Language Training—practical limits and personal choice usually determine duration

Outcomes for Refugees



Social Integration

- Language acquisition
- Community navigation
- Productive labor
- Home ownership
- Citizenship
- Marriage outside of ethnic group

Assimilation or Integration?

Assimilation

- Culture of newcomer is perceived as inferior to that of host country
- If assimilation is slow, newcomer is identified as the problem
- Likely to create social class structure based on the “assimilation gap”

Integration

- Retention of cultural identity promotes more positive adjustment
- People accepted for who they are have greater motivation to contribute
- Societies that accept and adapt to the ways of the newcomers better benefit from the skills and attributes they bring

Two-Way Street



“From a refugee perspective, integration requires a preparedness to adapt to the life style of the host society without having to lose one’s own cultural identity.”

Two-Way Street

“From the point of view of the host society, integration requires a willingness for communities to be welcoming and responsive to refugees and for public institutions to meet the needs of a diverse population.”



—ECRE, 1999

Local Initiatives

- Refugee Resource Community Planning
(Brought together by the Mayor's Office)
- Artisans 4 Hope
- The Momentum Group
- Global Gardens
- Annual Conference on Refugees
- Saint Alphonsus CARE Clinic
- Community Passport
- Collaboration regarding affordable housing
- World Refugee Day
- Creative job searches
- "I Speak" Cards
- Community Meetings *(5/18)*

WORLD RELIEF 

Hello.

My name is _____

I Speak _____

I need language assistance. Please provide me with a qualified interpreter or call 208-323-4964.

My Case Worker is: _____

6702 Fairview Avenue, Boise, Idaho 83704

Resources

- **EthnoMed**

<http://ethnomed.org/>

Multicultural Information on Diabetes and many other health topics

- **DiversityRX**

<http://diversityrx.org/>

Offers models and practices for providing culturally appropriate health care.

- **Physicians for Human Rights**

<http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/>

- **Cultural Orientation Resource Center**

<http://www.cal.org/co/>