



A Missouri that values and champions refugees.

MO-ORA
DSS Learning Lab

August 18, 2022



History of Missouri Refugee Resettlement Program

- ▶ US Refugee Act of 1980 - Adopted the UN refugee definition, created general policy for admission.
- ▶ MO Department of Social Services - Administrator of Refugee Resettlement Programs until April 30, 2018
- ▶ MO-ORA - ORR transferred administration of program May 1, 2018





What is MO-ORA?

- ▶ Replacement Designee (RD) for the State
- ▶ Administers certain Refugee programs for Missouri
- ▶ Separate, autonomous office within IISTL
- ▶ Provide resources, training, coordination, advocacy

Who is MO-ORA?



Paul Costigan
Refugee State Coordinator



Linda Haus, MSW
Asst State Refugee
Coordinator



Carol Gaal, CPA
Mgr of Grants Accountant



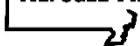
Mohammad Tamim
Afghanzada
IT Coordinator



Marisa Tesoro
Communications &
Training Coordinator



Fatema Medhat, MSW
MO-RTAC Program Manager



Who is MO-ORA?



Lauren Baker
MO-RTAC Program Evaluator



Lyndsey Brainerd
Missouri Resource Coordinator



Abdullah Almatroodi
Eligibility & Compliance
Specialist



Misha Smith
Resettlement Activities
Coordinator



Shawn Cockrum
Refugee School Programs Manager





MO-ORA Organizational Plan

► Vision:

A Missouri that values and champions refugees.

► Mission:

Promoting the well-being and inclusion of refugees by resourcing and coordinating resettlement programs across the state.

Structure – Subcontract Services FY22 & FY23

- ▶ Subcontractors
 - ▶ Local Resettlement Agencies
 - ▶ Della Lamb Charter Services, Kansas City
 - ▶ Jewish Vocational Services, Kansas City
 - ▶ Catholic Charities of Central & Northern MO, Columbia
 - ▶ International Institute Southwest MO, Springfield
 - ▶ International Institute, St. Louis
 - ▶ Refugee & Immigrant Services & Education (RAISE), Joplin (FY2023)
 - ▶ MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Ed
 - ▶ Local School Districts

Structure – Subcontract Services FY22 & FY23

- ▶ Programs - Employment focused
 - ▶ Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
 - ▶ MO Refugee Temporary Assistance Connection (MO-RTAC)
 - ▶ MOU with MO Dept of Social Services
 - ▶ Refugee Support Services (RSS)
- ▶ Other Programs
 - ▶ Services to Older Refugees (SOR)
 - ▶ Youth Mentoring (YM)
 - ▶ Refugee School Impact (RSI)
 - ▶ Early RSI
 - ▶ Support to Schools Initiative

Who are Eligible for these Services?

- Refugees - The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as:

“someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”

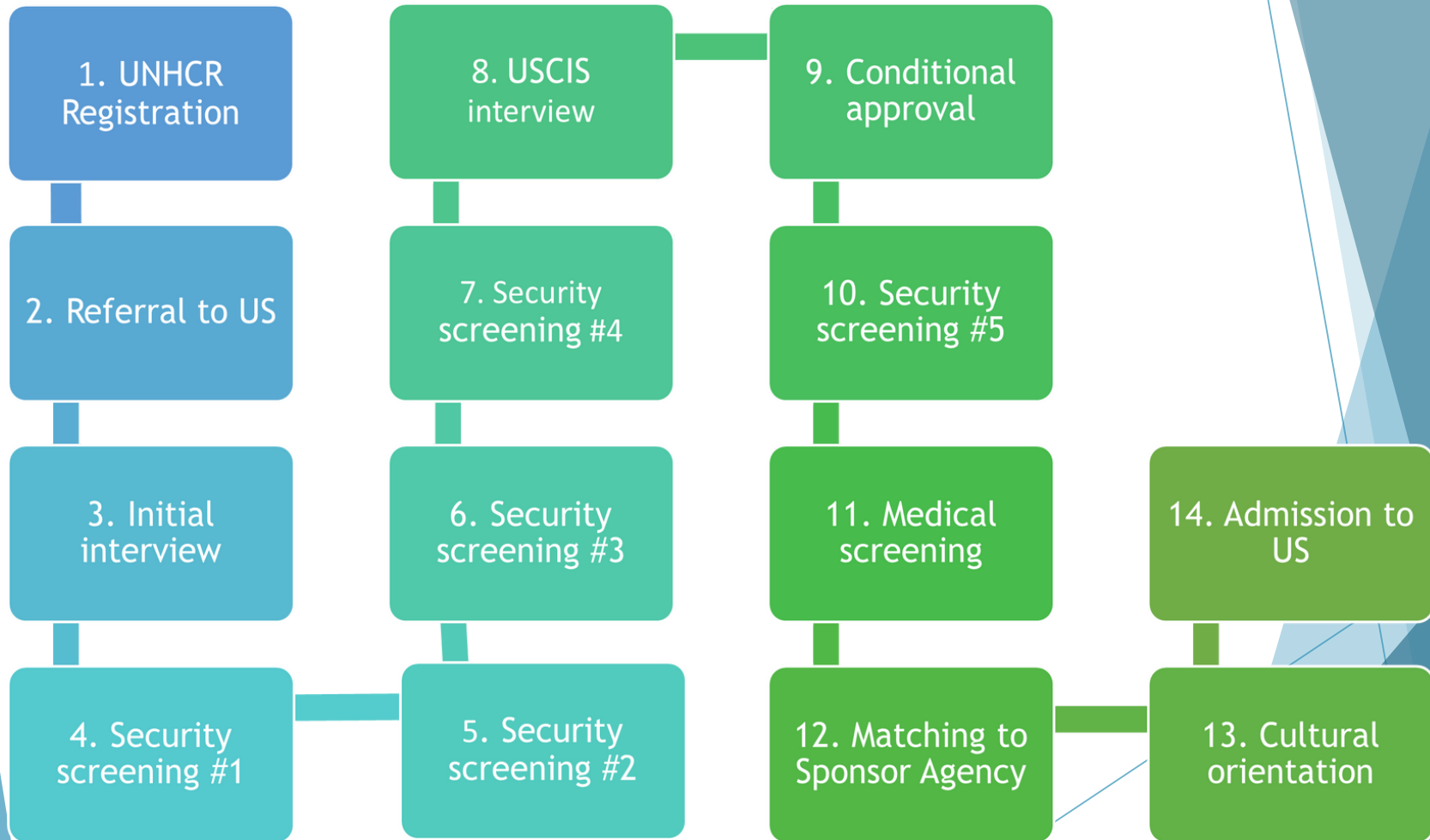
Currently 100,000,000 displaced
worldwide



UNHCR – Durable Solutions

- 1st priority: Return to home country
- 2nd priority: Remain in country of asylum
- 3rd priority: Last resort - Third country resettlement
 - ~1% of world's refugees are referred, to UNHCR
 - Top 5 countries that resettle refugees: U.S, Canada, Australia, UK, and Sweden
 - UNHCR attempts to match refugees to country requirements

From Registration to Arrival



Other 'Refugee' Categories

- ▶ Asylees
- ▶ Paroled - as refugee or political
- ▶ Certified Victims of Trafficking
- ▶ Cuban/Haitian Entrants
- ▶ Certain Amerasians from Vietnam
- ▶ Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants (SIVs)
- ▶ Afghan Humanitarian Parolees
- ▶ Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
- ▶ Permanent Resident Aliens who previously held one of the refugee statuses

State-wide Refugee/SIV Arrivals – Previous Years

MO arrivals by Comparison (full year):	
FY 2021	368
FY 2020	306
FY 2019	732
FY 2018	601
FY 2017	1227
FY 2016	2072

State-wide Refugee Arrivals – Current (since 10/1/2021)

Immigration Status	As of...	Individuals
Refugees	8/15/2022	449
SIVs	8/15/2022	58
Asylees	6/30/2022	17
C/H Entrants	8/17/2022	371
Trafficking Victims	6/30/2022	18
Afghan HPs	8/17/2022	1809
Ukrainian HPs*	8/17/2022	230
Total for MO		<u>2952</u>

* Total seen by agencies at this time, estimating

856 in total



911 Washington Ave. Suite 215
St. Louis, MO 63101
(314) 773-9090

www.moora.org

hausl@iistl.org



MISSOURI OFFICE OF REFUGEE ADMINISTRATION

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