

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 18, 2014

TO Members of the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee: Jerry R. Allen (Chair),  
Jennifer S. Gates (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Sheffie Kadane, Philip T. Kingston

SUBJECT International Rescue Committee Dallas

The Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> Budget, Finance and Audit Committee agenda will include a briefing on International Rescue Committee Dallas. The briefing will be presented by Debi Wheeler, Executive Director of International Rescue Committee Dallas.

Please let me know if you need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanne Chipperfield".

Jeanne Chipperfield  
Chief Financial Officer

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, Interim First Assistant City Manager

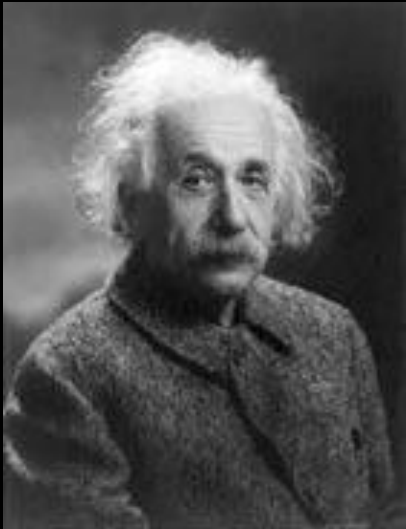
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Charles M. Cato, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Theresa O'Donnell, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Shawn Williams, Interim Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager



# International Rescue Committee Dallas

Budget, Finance & Audit  
Committee- April 21, 2014

# IRC Beginnings



**1933:** The American branch of the European-based International Relief Association (IRA) founded at the suggestion of Albert Einstein to assist Germans suffering under Hitler. Refugees from Mussolini's Italy and Franco's Spain are later assisted.

**1975:** The IRC opens in Dallas, Texas

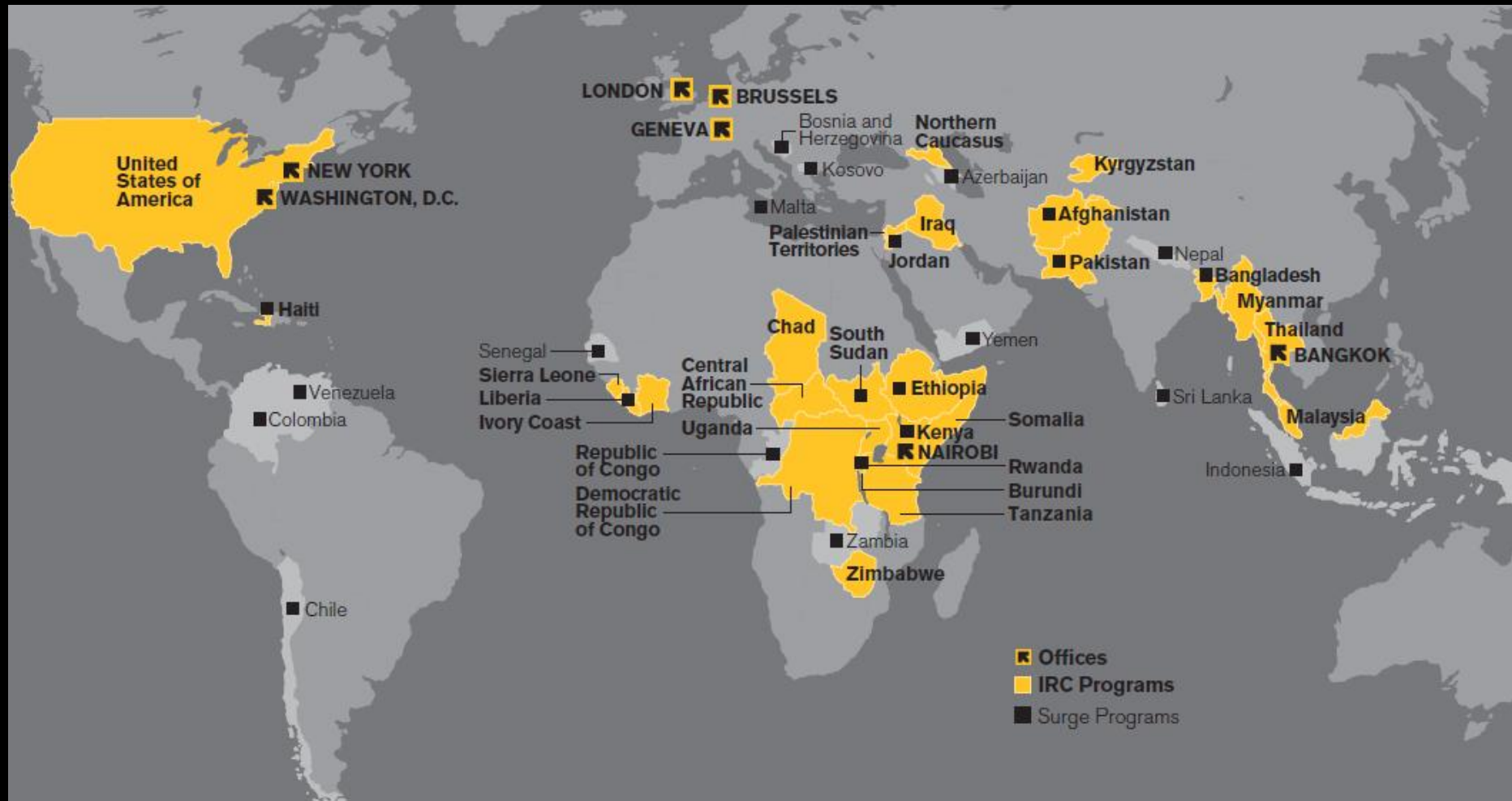
**2003:** The IRC opens in Abilene, Texas



## What We Do

For more than 80 years, the IRC has been a leader in humanitarian aid and emergency relief and helps provide a fresh start in the U.S. for refugees.

- Advocacy
- Anti-trafficking
- Emergency Relief
- Protection of Human Rights
- Post-conflict Development
- Rehabilitation
- Immigration Assistance
- Resettlement Services







A refugee is a person who is **outside of his or her country** and is unable or unwilling to return because of **persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution.**

# Five types of persecution





Race



Religion



Nationality



Social Group



Political Opinion

# DURABLE SOLUTIONS



Voluntary  
Repatriation



Local  
Integration

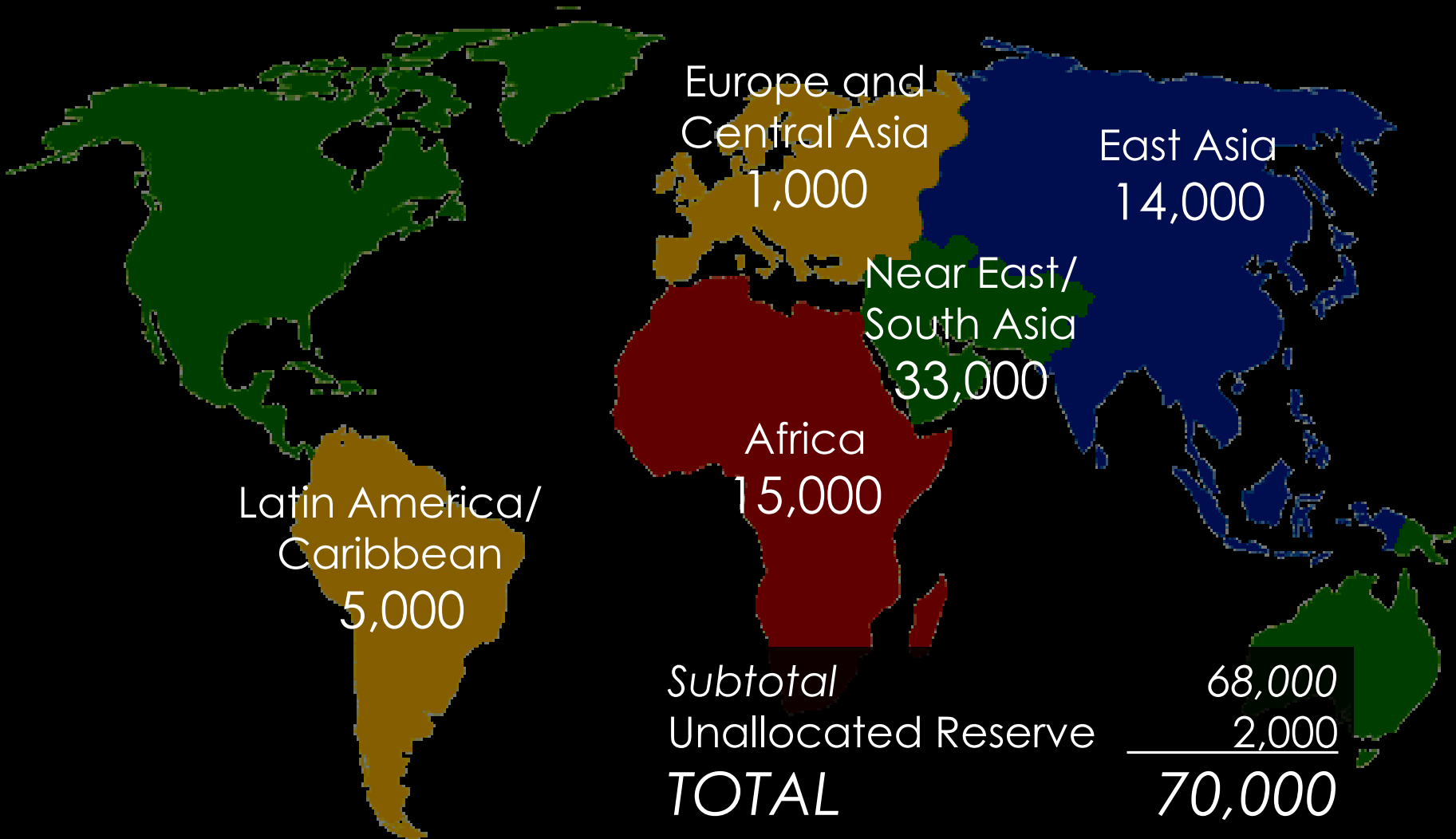


3<sup>rd</sup> Country  
Resettlement

# United States Refugee Program

- The United States accepts a limited number of refugees each year for resettlement.
- For FY 2014, the President authorized the admission of up to 70,000 refugees (maximum).
- Projected new refugees:
  - The IRC in Dallas - 645
  - The IRC in Abilene - 175

# FY2014 Arrival Ceilings



# Refugee Populations



**Burma: Chin, Karen, Karenni**

# Refugee Populations



**Iraq**



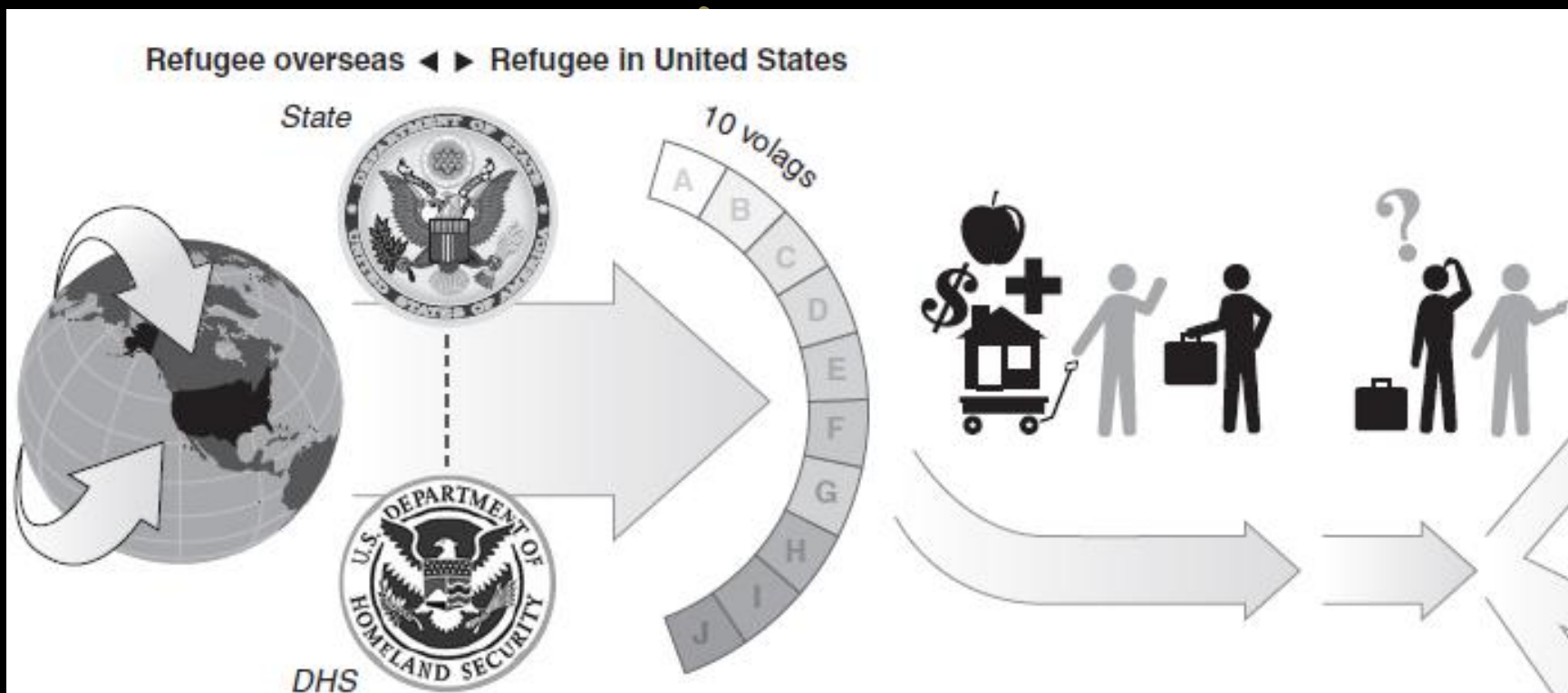
**Iran**



**Bhutan**



# General Path of Refugee Resettlement in US



Overseas Processing



Volag Assignment



Reception & Placement



Ongoing Program Placement

# General Path of Refugee Resettlement in US


## Overseas Processing

Refugees are approved and processed by Department of State (State Dept.) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS)



## Voluntary Agency (volag) Assignment

Refugees are matched to one of nine national-level volags that have multiple local affiliates.







## Why Dallas?

- Welcoming community
- Clean, safe and enriching environment
- Access to mainstream and social services
- Public transportation
- Economy





## The IRC in Dallas

- Access & Legal Rights
- Community Integration & Development
- Economic Empowerment
- Education and Learning
- Health & Wellness
- Resettlement



- Job readiness workshops
- Cultural Orientation
- Community Orientation
- Vocational training
- Vocational coaching
- Women's support groups
- American Sign Language
- Medical case management





## Financial Assistance

- R&P – first 30 days
  - Rent and utilities
  - Household supplies and furniture
  - Grocery assistance
  - Transportation
  - Pocket money
- SNAP – first four months
- Medicaid – first eight months





## Financial Assistance

- Enrollment in Employment Services includes:
  - Rent and utilities up to 120<sup>th</sup> day
  - Pocket money - \$200 per adult
  - Public transportation assistance



**ORR definition:**  
earning a total family  
income at a level that  
enables a family unit  
to support itself  
without receipt of a  
cash assistance  
grant

## Economic Self Sufficiency

• *“to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the United States”*

—Refugee Act

How do we  
get to  
economic  
self-  
sufficiency?

***Employment Services may include:***

- *Vocational Skills Training*
- *Vocational ESL*
- *Job Search*
- *Resume Creation*
- *Interview Training*
- *Computer Literacy*
- *Education Counseling*
- *Career Development*
- *Job Upgrades*
- *Microenterprise*
- *Individual Development Accounts*



## Employment in Dallas

- 2 programs serving more than 300 refugees per year
- 6 Employment Specialist
- Employment team fluent in Arabic, Burmese, Chin, French, Kirundi, and Swahili,
- 90% self-sufficient by 180<sup>th</sup> day





# Volunteer Opportunities

- Family Mentor
- Donations Assistant
- Donation Drives
- Special Events
- Internships
- Interpretation
- Clerical/Administrative
- Donate





To get involved please contact :

Debi Wheeler

[Debi.Wheeler@Rescue.org](mailto:Debi.Wheeler@Rescue.org)

214.461.9781 ext. #222

[Rescue.org/Dallas](https://www.rescue.org/Dallas)

**75** YEARS FROM  
HARM TO HOME