**IRHRI REFUGEE RESPONSE RESETTLEMENT PLAN FOR U.S.A AND EAST AFRICA REGION**

A group of people sitting in chairs outside

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# **Abbreviations**

CBO Community Based Organization

CRRF Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

DPOs Displaced Persons Organizations

GBV Gender Based Violence

GCR Global Compact on Refugees

IRHRI International Relief and Human Rights Initiative

M $ E Monitoring and Evaluation

NGO Non-Government Organization

PSNs Persons with Special Needs

UN United Nations

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

USA United States of America

W.H.O World Health Organization

# **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The resolution on the Office of the United Nations High Commis­sioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which affirms the global compact on refugees (as contained in A/73/12 (Part II)) was adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018 (A/RES/73/151). The resolution underscores the importance of the global compact on refugees as a representation of political will and the ambition to operationalize the principle of burden- and responsibility-shar­ing, to mobilize the international community as a whole, and to galvanize action for an improved response to refugee situations. It calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the glob­al compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions, including at the first Global Refugee Forum. It fur­ther calls upon States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation.

The comprehensive refugee response framework set out in Annex I of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2016 (A/RES/71/1), forms an integral part of the global compact on refu­gees. The affirmation of the global compact on refugees by the General Assembly represents the culmination of a two-year period of en­gagement and consultation with States and all relevant stakehold­ers, following the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refu­gees and Migrants in 2016, informed by practical experience with application of the comprehensive refugee response framework in a range of specific situations with the objective to ease pressures on the host countries involved, to enhance refugee self-reliance, to expand access to third-country solutions and to support condi­tions in country of origin for return in safety and dignity[United Nations , Geneva, December 2018].

Perhaps the greatest recent demonstration of this global commitment can be seen in the 2018 adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees[[1]](#footnote-1), which followed the first-ever Global Summit on Refugees and Migrants convened by the UN in 2016[[2]](#footnote-2). Together with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees represents significant international commitment, not only to refugees and migrants, but also to safeguarding and improving the global refugee and migration regimes. The Compacts also recognize the limits of the existing international frameworks and aim to address the world’s sizable political changes and 21st century challenges[[3]](#footnote-3). The Global Compact on Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) affirm international commitment to resettlement in particular, noting “expanded third-country solutions” as one of four key objectives for the future[[4]](#footnote-4). Finally, the Global Refugee Forum provides a new platform for international cooperation, information sharing, and driving forward the objectives and commitments made in the Global Compact on Refugees. In December 2019, over 3,000 representatives of governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, private companies, and foundations attended the first Global Refugee Forum, as well as refugees themselves[[5]](#footnote-5).

The refugees global and Regional crisis and concerns :

* **84 MILLION are Forcibly displaced people worldwide.** While a full picture is yet to be established, UNHCR estimates that global forced displacement has surpassed 84 million at mid-2021.
* 48.0 Million are internally displaced people (Source: IDMC, as of end-2020).
* 4.4 MILLION are asylum-seekers (as of mid-2021).
* 26.6 MILLION are refugees (as of mid-2021)

According to UNHCR data base (10th November 2021), there were an estimated 84 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees, with 3.7 million people. Colombia is second with more than 1.7 million, including Venezuelans displaced abroad (as of mid-2021), third is Uganda has 1.5 million, Pakistan has 1.4 million and Germany with 1.2 million. An estimated 35 million (42%) of the 82.4 million forcibly displaced people are children below 18 years of age (mid-2021). Between 2018 and 2020, an average of between 290,000 and 340,000 children were born into a refugee life per year. Some 126,700 refugees returned to their countries of origin during the first half of 2021 while 16,300 were resettled (with or without UNHCR’s assistance). Data on some 4.3 million stateless people residing in 93 countries was reported at mid-2021. The true global figure is estimated to be significantly higher.

Uganda is one of the top refugee hosting countries in Africa and the world. It has been praised as a generous country with progressive refugee policies and laws that reflect the country’s national, regional and international obligations. However, a number of challenges ranging from increasing refugee numbers, protracted refugee situations, the burden of hosting of refugees, to limited resources and little international support threaten Uganda’s hospitality. Uganda’s favorable protection environment for refugees is grounded in the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. These legislations allow refugees freedom of movement, live in settlements, the right to work, establish a business, own property, and access national services, including primary and secondary education and health care.

The base refugee population includes 1,381,122 individuals as of end 2019. The refugee population was anticipated to grow to 1.56 million individuals by the end of 2021, considering likely scenarios for influxes, population growth, and possible opportunities for voluntary return in safety and dignity.

# **2.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The predicament of refugees is a common concern of hu­mankind. Refugee situations have increased in scope, scale and complexity and refugees require protection, assistance and solutions. Millions of refugees live in protracted situations, often in low- and middle-income countries facing their own econom­ic and development challenges, and the average length of stay has continued to grow. Despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitari­an funding has also widened. There is an urgent need for more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world’s refugees, while taking account of ex­isting contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States. Refugees and host communities should not be left behind[ Global compact on refugees, UN , 2018].

The global refugee protection regime has come under increasing pressure in recent years. The gap between the number of people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes and the solutions available to address their displacement continues to grow. By the end of 2020, there were 20.7 million refugees under the mandate of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. While the number of resettlement places that countries make available each year is consistently below the level needed, there have been some promising developments. As the need for humanitarian protection has grown, states have shown creativity in the design of resettlement programs and in facilitating access to complementary pathways to aid people in need of protection, including through education and employment visa programs.

The refugee resettlement landscape has shifted considerably in recent years. A number of countries in Europe and elsewhere have launched or expanded their resettlement programs, and some have experimented with new models such as community-based or private sponsorship. At the same time, the United States—long the world’s largest resettlement country—has significantly cut its refugee admissions, leaving other countries to take the lead in global efforts to address displacement.

For new and longstanding resettlement programs alike, it is vital that policymakers and program designers have the tools to gauge whether resettlement is meeting its objectives, to facilitate continuous learning, and to ensure that funding is being well spent. Robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) hold the key. Yet many resettlement programs do not have a strong M&E culture.

The world has millions of refugees who are unable to go home or unwilling to do so in the face of persecution. Resettlement to a third country is considered for only a fraction of refugees, those whose conditions are so perilous or whose needs cannot be met in the country where they first sought protection. Only a small number of states take part in UNHCR resettlement programs—among them the United States, Australia, Canada, the Nordic countries, and increasingly some countries in Europe and Latin America.

Although relatively small, the sub-Saharan African immigrant population in the United States has grown substantially over the last four decades and is likely to continue to increase. Overall, the number of sub-Saharan African immigrants in the United States has increased 16-fold since 1980. While most of the 4.6 million Black immigrants in the United States are from the Caribbean, people from sub-Saharan Africa represent a growing share. Approximately 2.1 million sub-Saharan African immigrants resided in the United States in 2019, representing 5 percent of the total foreign-born population of 44.9 million. This highly diverse group is comprised of individuals from 51 countries, with a range of ethnic, linguistic, and educational backgrounds. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the total foreign-born Black population will more than double by 2060, to 9.5 million.

Compared to the total U.S. immigrant population, sub-Saharan Africans are better educated, participate in the labor force at higher rates, and are more likely to speak English at home. Yet they also have lower average incomes and experience poverty at higher rates than the foreign-born population overall.

The first wave of large-scale voluntary migration from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States began in the second half of the 20th century, after significant U.S. policy changes. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 expanded pathways for non-Western European immigrants to come to the United States, mainly through family ties. The Refugee Act of 1980 increased admissions of refugees fleeing conflict, including from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. And the Immigration Act of 1990 created the Diversity Visa to bolster immigration from under-represented countries, including Benin and Cameroon. The 1990 law also made it easier for highly skilled immigrants to migrate for work, opening the door to educated workers and international students from countries including Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. More recently, many sub-Saharan immigrants have arrived as family members of those already residing in the United States. As part of travel bans it imposed, the Trump administration temporarily prohibited most arrivals of citizens from four sub-Saharan African countries (Chad, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Somalia) and prohibited citizens of Tanzania from applying for the Diversity Visa lottery. Although the restrictions were lifted by the Biden administration, it is unclear what long-term impact they had on U.S. immigration.

Fifty-three percent of sub-Saharan African immigrants came from one of five countries: Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, or Somalia. Western Africa is the largest subregional origin, while relatively few immigrants hail from Southern Africa.

As asylum seekers move through the region in large numbers, some policymakers have begun to revisit the role that refugee resettlement could play in addressing these protection needs and to embrace the idea of a regional approach to humanitarian protection for Central Americans. In 2020, only about 550 refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras were resettled through programs facilitated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

# **3.0 RESETTLEMENT AS A MITIGATION TO REFUGEE CRICISIS GLOBALLY**

“Resettlement and other humanitarian pathways have a clear role to play in addressing the protection needs of refugees. “Although resettlement is not likely to be a viable option for the majority of individuals who are seeking safety, it can be a valuable tool—alongside in-country protection mechanisms and asylum capacity-building—for providing access to protection for people who cannot find security in their home or neighboring countries.” Already, there is a growing focus on expanding resettlement. The Biden administration raised the FY 2022 resettlement quota for Latin America and the Caribbean to 15,000 places—triple the prior year allocation. Canada also has shown interest in expanding resettlement of Central Americans. Yet scaling resettlement up will be complicated, the brief notes, given limited data on refugee populations that results in reliance on local partners, a network of nongovernmental organizations, that are not always familiar with resettlement program requirements.

One of the primary objectives of the global compact (para 7) is to facilitate access to durable solutions, including by plan­ning for solutions from the outset of refugee situations. Eliminat­ing root causes is the most effective way to achieve solutions. In line with international law and the Charter of the United Na­tions, political and security cooperation, diplomacy, develop­ment and the promotion and protection of human rights are key to resolving protracted refugee situations and preventing new crises from emerging. At the same time, addressing the causes of refugee movements can take time.

The program of action therefore envisages a mix of solutions, adapted to the specific context and considering the absorption capacity, level of development and demographic situation of different countries. This includes the three traditional durable solutions of

(1)voluntary repatriation,

(2)resettlement and

(3)local integration, as well as other local solutions and complementary pathways for admission to third countries, which may provide additional opportunities.

One of three durable solutions traditionally available to refugees, third country resettlement[[6]](#footnote-6) is an important part of the international commitment to refugee protection and support. This commitment has been reaffirmed in recent years in the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees[[7]](#footnote-7), the first-ever 2019 Global Refugee Forum[[8]](#footnote-8), and UNHCR’s Three-Year Strategy (2019 – 2021) on **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways** (3YS)[[9]](#footnote-9). Yet many of the estimated 1.4 million refugees in need of resettlement as a durable solution in 2020 are unlikely to be resettled. In 2019, only 63,727 (4.5%) of the total 1,428,011 refugees in need of resettlement were resettled[[10]](#footnote-10).

Apart from being a tool for protection of and solutions for refugees, **resettlement** is also a tangible mechanism for burden-and responsibility-sharing and a demonstration of solidarity, al­lowing States to help share each other’s burdens and reduce the impact of large refugee situations on host countries. At the same time, resettlement has traditionally been offered only by a limited number of countries. The need to foster a positive atmo­sphere for resettlement, and to enhance capacity for doing so, as well as to expand its base, cannot be overstated.

## **3.1 Benefits of host countries from refugee resettlement and diversity**

For refugees, resettlement provides an opportunity to reestablish their lives in safety and dignity. Resettlement countries benefit from refugees’ economic and cultural contributions and can use refugee resettlement as a diplomatic tool to demonstrate burden-sharing and promote political and humanitarian objectives. Resettlement has also been thought to serve as a “strategic” tool by unlocking other durable solutions and serving as a statement of solidarity by the international community to countries of asylum hosting increasing numbers of refugees[[11]](#footnote-11).

Diversity of people expands the potential for problem-solving that leads to economic growth. ... When people immigrate to America, they are more likely to exercise an entrepreneurial spirit that enriches the economic environment.

The benefits of living in a diverse society are:

* it promotes tolerance and understanding between diverse cultures;
* it enriches our community through shared experiences with different people;
* it attracts more money to our economy through the growth of different businesses;

In the USA, according to a study report[[12]](#footnote-12), immigrants are 30% more likely to start a business than the non-migrants. In urban areas, African American and Latinos comprise over 54% of transit users-62% of bus riders, 35% of sub way riders, and 29% of commuter rail riders.

Learning about other cultures helps us understand different perspectives within the world in which we live. It helps dispel negative stereotypes and personal biases about diverse groups. In addition, cultural diversity helps us recognize and respect “ways of being” that are not necessarily our own. Increased diversity provides the possibility for expansion of economic growth. The interwoven tapestry that defines the United States as a land of opportunity is represented in the diversity of thoughts and ideas of many people.

A diverse workforce provides entrée to connection building across borders. This enriches product development and consumer sales. When people immigrate to America, they are more likely to exercise an entrepreneurial spirit that enriches the economic environment.

Diversity in America creates a multicultural learning environment for school districts and society as a whole. A classroom approach to teaching diversity builds an inclusive environment that teaches trust and respect. Students gain a wide perspective and worldview by learning in a multicultural classroom.

Diversity encourages innovation. Different people look at things from varying perspectives, stimulating innovative thought. A homogeneous view tends to confine possibilities. As the population becomes more diverse, groupthink no longer becomes an option. Innovation becomes a norm rather than anomaly. In this case, diversity is represented by ethnicity, cognitive thought process and approach to human problems.

It’s easy to make assumptions about one another and to live by societal stereotypes when the environment is populated by the dominant ethnic group. A diverse community requires different people to interact with one another. This relationship building often leads to understanding. Knowing one another leads to a greater sense of compassion. Compassionate disagreements are more likely to result in peaceful resolution, contributing to a society that is more connected and evolved.

## **3.2 Pathways of resettlement**

As a complement to resettlement, other pathways for the admission of persons with international protection needs can facilitate access to protection and/or solutions. There is a need to ensure that such pathways are made available on a more sys­tematic, organized, sustainable and gender-responsive basis, that they contain appropriate protection safeguards, and that the number of countries offering these opportunities is expand­ed overall.

The volume of refugees requiring protection and support surpasses the practical capacity of existing interventions to address, including resettlement; there are more refugees in more places around the world than at any time since 1951. Resettlement countries’ refugee processing policies and procedures are bureaucratic and vary widely, often requiring significant amounts of time, information, and resources from both resettlement countries and UNHCR. At the same time, UNHCR’s work is frequently constrained by limited funding, challenging political dynamics in countries of asylum and resettlement, and the immense logistical undertaking required to operate in humanitarian contexts.

Despite its strength and continued importance, the 1951[[13]](#footnote-13) Convention’s definition of a refugee is narrow and does not account for all of the drivers of forced migration today, such as climate change or generalized violence[[14]](#footnote-14). Regional agreements and domestic laws have broadened the definition in some areas, but the lack of global consensus around even the legal definition of a refugee challenges the cooperation required for effective refugee resettlement initiatives at the global level.

Politically, refugee and migration issues once “marginal to the great issues of war and peace” have been “catapulted into the center ring of the global diplomatic stage,”[[15]](#footnote-15) and even resettlement programs with historic broad-based political support have faced resistance, as well as the spread of xenophobic and nationalistic policies.

The significant reduction of the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) in 2017, in particular, caused a major shock to the international resettlement system andglobal resettlement numbers, as the US had previously resettled more refugees per year than all other countries combined[[16]](#footnote-16). As well, despite increases in the number of refugees resettled to European Union (EU) member states since 2015, the EU has struggled to realize established resettlement targets[[17]](#footnote-17).

# **4.0 IRHRI PLANS IN RESETTLEMENT PROCESSES IN THE USA.**

## **4.1 Roles of IRHRI in the USA Refugee resettlement Process**

The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS), State and Health and Human Services (HHS) work together to uphold America’s humanitarian response to refugees through the U.S. Resettlement Program (USRP). When a U.S. embassy or a specially trained nongovernmental organization refers a refugee applicant to the United States for resettlement, the case is first received and processed by a Resettlement Support Center (RSC). The Department of State currently funds and manages seven RSCs around the world operated by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations, or U.S. embassy contractors.

IRHRI plans to be one of the NGOs to operate a Resettlement Support Centre in City of Morgantown West Virginia. The following are areas in which IRHRI will get involved.

* ***Conduct adjudication of applicants***: IRHRI will collect biographic and other information from the applicants to prepare cases for security screening, interview, and adjudication by [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)](https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum/refugees).
* ***Conduct Post-Adjudication Processing****:* If an applicant is conditionally approved for resettlement by USCIS, IRHRI staff will guide the refugee applicant through post-adjudication steps, including a health screening to identify medical needs and to ensure that those with a contagious disease do not enter the United States.
* ***Conduct Cultural Orientation:*** prepare refugees for the changes they will experience by providing cultural orientation programs prior to departure.
* **Improve processing times and address resettlement backlogs.** Lengthy resettlement processing times are a central barrier to resettlement.
* ***Continue to grow other humanitarian pathways such as private sponsorship of refugees and family reunification*.** The private sponsorship program the United States plans to launch could play a valuable role in supporting refugee identification efforts by allowing diaspora and civil-society groups connected to the region to participate in nominating individuals who may be eligible for resettlement.
* ***Supporting refugees in the areas of Health*** , ***Employment and economic development, integration*** and supporting the unaccompanied refugee minors

When large numbers of refugees arrive, countries and communities go to great lengths to scale up arrangements to receive them. In support of government strategies to manage arrivals, IHRI, and other relevant private stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise to strengthen national capacities for reception, including for the establishment of reception and tran­sit areas sensitive to age, gender, disability, and other specific needs (through “safe spaces” where appropriate), as well as to provide basic humanitarian assistance and essential services in reception areas.

For the City of Morgantown West Virginia, relief Aid in form of cloths, beddings, food, medicine, and trainings especially focusing on the preparations for the emergencies, including first Aid trainings, educating people especially migrants on how to prevent the spread of diseases, and promoting good neighborhood spirit among the communities is paramount with IHRI.

### **4.1.1 Why West Virginia?**

West Virginia has reasonable and affordable housing which refugees can better manage compared to other states. It also has the least number of refugees in the USA, leaving room and jobs for migrants and refugees. Morgantown is also home to an excellent University, West Virginia University, which has reasonable tuition, providing further opportunity for refugees. IRHRI has communicated regularly with religious groups like The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. IRHRI has also worked with the West Virginia Governor’s office and the City Manager of Morgantown, Kim Haws. IRHRI has many volunteers because of its relationship with West Virginia University. The people of West Virginia are welcoming and have opened their arms and hearts to receive migrant refugees from over the world.

The Refugee resettlement program in West Virginia will diversify Morgantown and West Virginia University. WVU’s medical center will also provide access to excellent medical care and services. In addition, when people immigrate to America, they are more likely to exercise an entrepreneurial spirit that enriches the economic environment.

## **4.2 Roles of IHRI in Uganda country Office**

IRHRI has opened up a country office in Uganda in East Africa to serve the East Africa Region with support to refugees in the region which has the highest refugees crisis . IRHRI will play two major roles in the region.

### **4.2.1 IRHRI support to refugees for resettlement in the USA**

Refugees selected for resettlement through U.S. Refugee Admissions Program are eligible for Reception and Placement (R&P) assistance, unlike asylees, who arrive in the United States on their own.  Each refugee approved for admission to the United States is sponsored by a [non-profit resettlement agency](http://www.wrapsnet.org/rp-agency-contacts) participating in the R&P Program under a cooperative agreement with the Department of State. Many refugees have family or close friends already in the United States, and resettlement agencies make every effort to reunite them.  Others are placed where they have the best opportunity for success through employment with the assistance of strong community services.  IHRI will place refugees through a network of approximately other 200 local affiliates operating in communities throughout the United States.  Through its local affiliates, each IRHRI will monitor the resources that each community offers (e.g., availability of affordable and safe housing, school capacity, medical care, and employment opportunities).

Upon arrival in the United States, all refugees are met by someone from the local resettlement affiliate or a family member or friend.  They will be taken to their initial housing, which has essential furnishings, appropriate food, and other basic necessities.  IRHRI during the refugees initial resettlement  in the United States, will support them in different areas including enrolling in employment services, registering youth for school, applying for Social Security cards, and connecting them with necessary social or language services.  In coordination with publicly supported refugee service and assistance programs, IHRI will focus on assisting refugees to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment as soon as possible after their arrival in the United States. Refugees receive employment authorization upon arrival and are encouraged to become employed as soon as possible.

IRHRI with technical support staff for the USA department of migration will carry out **Case Management;** to ensure that services are (1) provided in a planned, effective ,and timely manner to eligible clients; (2) appropriate to the needs of the clients; and (3)contribute to the client’s community orientation, early employment, and self-sufficiency within 180day MG service period;

**Employment services;** Place employable clients as quickly as possible into appropriate jobs so that the household unit becomes self-sufficient within the MG Program service period. Employment services are to be provided to employable adult clients beginning upon enrollment in the MG Program and continuing as needed through the 180-day MG service period. The level of employment services received by each client will reflect the skills, needs, and barriers determined in their individual Matching Grant Program Self-Sufficiency Plan. All adult case members will be entitled to the full complement of MG services and will benefit from work readiness training, even if immediate employment is not envisioned. IHRI will provide, or assist refugee clients to enroll in, short-term job training, customized skills training, or job re-certification courses, if indicated in the Self-Sufficiency plan. Such training is allowed as a MG Program activity only if it is expected to lead to self-sufficiency within the 180 days of program eligibility. Such costs as tuition, books and related support services are allowable and allocable to the MG Program when not otherwise provided through other programs. In cases where recertification is not possible within the period of eligibility, IHRI will make reasonable efforts to assist the client in finding information regarding re-certification in his/her professional field.

**Core Maintenance Assistance Services;** IRHRI will provide support adequate to meet the subsistence needs of the refugees clients and to preclude the need to access public cash assistance prior to becoming self-sufficient. Core Maintenance Assistance services include the provision of food or food subsidies, suitable housing and essential utilities, cash allowance, and transportation assistance to active cases. In cases where clients benefit from employment income, but are not fully self-sufficient, grantees may choose to partially offset the cost of core maintenance assistance services with said income. Sufficient financial literacy training will be provided to the client to ensure that clients effectively manage the required maintenance assistance and achieve self-sufficiency.

**Administration;** IHRI will ensure achievement of agreed program outcomes through the SMART(Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Realistic, and Time-bound) delivery of MG Program services and the adherence to federal regulations, policies, and guidelines.

**English Language Training (ELT);** All adult refugees case members are entitled to the full complement of MG services and will benefit from ELT, even if immediate employment is not envisioned. When ELT is indicated as an essential part of the Self-Sufficiency Plan, IHRI will assist resettled refugees in enrolling in an ELT program at an appropriate competency level.

**Health and Medical Services;** IHRI will ensure that refugees clients have access to necessary health and medical services including medical screenings. Associated costs are normally covered through Refugee FY 2020 ORR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES -PAGE 14 OF 23- Medical Assistance (RMA), Medicaid, or R&P Cooperative Agreements. For clients who do not receive such services under another program, associated costs are allocable to the MG Program.

### **4.2.2 Program support to refugees in Uganda**

Corruption and bribery have been mentioned to be a big challenge affecting screening and recommending genuine refugees for resettlement by some organizations in East Africa. It has been alleged that some refugees who are screened for resettlement get substituted and the ineligible ones end up being resettled. IRHRI pledges to vehemently fight corruption in the systems while identifying, screening and venting refugees for resettlement. Through the systems of employing USA citizens to monitor the screening process in the country office, corruption and bribery will not find way into the screening process of refugees for resettlement. The root cause of corruption has been associated to poverty, tribalism and nepotism in Africa. IRHRI is in process of applying for referring refugee cases to USRAP. IHRI will collaborate with the Bureau for Population Refugees and Migration, US Citizenship and Immigration services (USCIS) at DHS and the office of refugee resettlement ORR at HHS during the process of resettlement of refugees in the USA.

IHRI has carried out research among refugees in Uganda to identify the key livelihood challenges facing refugees in the country. A film documenting the issues was also conducted and posted on the IRHRI Website [www.irhi.org](http://www.irhi.org). A number health, disability, education, nutrition, medical care , shelter issues were identified and were seen to be affecting refugees to the extent that some have developed psycho social related illnesses due to these challenges. IHRI plans to mobilize resources from various development partners including individuals and church institutions to get funds for supporting programs that will address these challenges which were identified during the survey.

Key major areas IRHRI will get involved in include Reception and admission of asylum seekers, safety and security, registration and documentation, addressing specific needs and identifying international specific needs, meeting the identified needs and supporting communities, fostering good relations and peaceful coexistence with host communities.

# **5.0 OVERVIEW OF IRHRI**

International Relief and Human Rights Initiative (IRHRI) was established in 2014 and incorporated in West Virginia. IRHRI is an international human rights organization that was formed to address increases in political, civil and economic rights violations among the world’s most vulnerable, especially within Africa. The organization focuses of the following: Human Rights Protection, Sustainable Peace and Security ,Research and Evidence Based Advocacy, Legal Aid, Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment.

Mr. Greg Smith Havens, the founder of IRHRI, is a former Congolese refugee from Uganda that was resettled in the U.S. Greg, like many refugees, experienced severe suffering and a result of this is currently living with multiple disabilities. Currently, he is blind and has suffered from a deformity of the right hip caused by a car accident.

## **5.1 Overview of Current Work Done to Date**

In the U.S., IRHRI worked with over 250 immigrants and supported them with legal guidance, psychosocial support, and other re-integration matters. During the Covid-19 pandemic, IRHRI collaborated closely with refugees by providing information and education on how to avoid contracting Covid-19. IRHRI also distributed masks and other protection equipment to prevent them from contracting the virus. In 2016, in partnership Gonzaga University, IRHRI trained new refugees on U.S. constitutional rights and how to live in American society. IRHRI also helped mobilize American people to welcome refugees including the local authorities.

In Uganda, IRHRI conducted a campaign against human trafficking in East Africa. IRHRI is currently conducting social counselling and research on livelihood, education, and health issues. These focus on refugees in urban areas and in two refugee settlements – Nakivale and Kyaka 2. IRHRI has also been conducting further research to examine sustainable solutions for refugees, especially those who need resettlement based on political insecurity, vulnerability, and medical conditions. The government of Uganda and UNHCR are overwhelmed by the huge population of refugees in the country, forcing them to reduce on the food/income ratio per refugee to only UGX 13,000 ($3.5) per month per family member independent of the vulnerability of the members . This is a human rights issue for many vulnerable households given that most refugees do not have any viable source of income. Resettlement on medical grounds is often delayed and, in some cases, refugees die before being taken for better medical services. The Banyamulenge Congolese refugees are also facing “stateless nationality” which is a brewing tribal conflict between them and other Congolese nationalities.

1. . United Nations General Assembly (2018), Global Compact on Refugees [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . UNHCR (n.d.), “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,” https://www.unhcr.org/new-york-declaration-for-refugees-and-migrants.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See Elizabeth Ferris and Katharine Donato (2020), Refugees, Migration and Global Governance (Routledge) for a thorough analysis of the context in which the Global Compacts were developed. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The three additional objectives are: (1) Ease the pressures on host countries and communities; (2) Enhance refugee self-reliance; and (3) Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. See UNHCR (n.d.), “The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework” https://www.unhcr.org/new-york-declarationfor-refugees-and-migrants.html#CRRF [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. UNHCR (2019), “Summary of the first Global Refugee Forum by the co-conveners.” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) defines refugee resettlement as “the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another State that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent settlement.” UNHCR (n.d.), “Resettlement”, https://www.unhcr.org/resettlement.html [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. United Nations General Assembly (2018), Global Compact on Refugees, https://www.unhcr.org/5c658aed4.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. UNHCR (2019), “Summary of the first Global Refugee Forum by the co-conveners,” https://www.unhcr.org/5dfa70e24. Co-authored by UNHCR and the 2019 Global Refugee Forum co-conveners: the governments of Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan and Turkey [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. UNHCR (2019), “The Three-Year Strategy (2019 – 2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways,” https://www.unhcr.org/5d15db254.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. UNHCR (2019), “Resettlement at a Glance (January – December 2019),” https://www.unhcr.org/protection/resettlement/5e31448a4/resettlement-fact-sheet-2019.html [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. See for example UNHCR (2010), “Position Paper on the Strategic Use of Resettlement,” https://www.unhcr.org/4fbcfd739.pdf. However, there is mixed evidence that resettlement has achieved these strategic functions as effectively as it could. See for example Joanne van Selm (2014), “Refugee Resettlement” in Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Elena, et. al., The Oxford Handbook of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies (Oxford University Press), pages 512-524. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2011/11/14/10583/assimilation-tomorrow/ [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. UNHCR estimates that there are 25.9 million refugees worldwide, of which 20.4 million falls under UNHCR’s mandate and 5.5 million Palestinian refugees fall under

    the mandate of the United Nations Relief and World Agency (UNRWA). This is in addition to an estimated 3.5 million asylum-seekers (persons seeking recognition as

    refugees) globally. UNHCR (n.d.), “Figures at a Glance,” https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Exploring the limitations of the contemporary refugee system, Alexander Betts and Paul Collier (2017) further reflect on the original purpose of UNHCR, noting the political positions from which negotiating countries approached the question of refugee response and the short-term design of the organization at its founding. Refuge: Rethinking Refugee Policy in a Changing World (Oxford University Press [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Ferris and Donato (2020), Refugees, Migration and Global Governance, page 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. For a history of annual resettlement objectives and actual arrivals to the United States, see Migration Policy Institute (n.d.), “US Annual Refugee Resettlement Ceilings and Number of Refugees Admitted, 1980 – Present,” https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/us-annual-refugee-resettlement-ceilings-and-number-refugeesadmitted-united. For further context on the US’ historical importance, see van Selm (2014), “Refugee Resettlement” in Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, et. al., pages 512-524

    This includes resettlement from all locations to the EU as well as specific targets established for the resettlement of refugees from Turkey to the EU. See European Commission (2019), “Communication from the commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council – Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration.” [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)