



Refugee Focus, a division of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest

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## THE SCREENING PROCESS

# FOR REFUGEE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

### 1 MANY REFUGEE APPLICANTS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO THE U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY, UNHCR. UNHCR, THEN:

- Collects identifying documents
  - Performs initial assessment
    - Collects biodata: name, address, birthday, place of birth, etc.
    - Collects biometrics: iris scans (for Syrians, and other refugee populations in the Middle East)
  - Interviews applicants to confirm refugee status and the need for resettlement
    - Initial information checked again
- Only applicants who are strong candidates for resettlement move forward (less than 1% of global refugee population).**

### 2 APPLICANTS ARE RECEIVED BY A FEDERALLY-FUNDED RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT CENTER (RSC):

- Collects identifying documents
- Creates an applicant file
- Compiles information to conduct biographic security checks

### 3 BIOGRAPHIC SECURITY CHECKS START WITH ENHANCED INTERAGENCY SECURITY CHECKS:

- U.S. security agencies screen the candidate, including:
  - National Counterterrorism Center/ Intelligence Community
  - FBI
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - State Department

**REFUGEES ARE SUBJECT TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SECURITY CHECKS** of any category of traveler to the United States.

