

From Syria to America: the Vetting Process

1. Refugees Flee Syria...



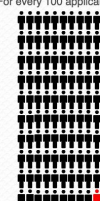
Since the beginning of the civil war, more than 4.2 million Syrians left their country for safer nations like Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

2. And identify themselves to the United Nations.



After collecting biographic information and biometric scans (iris), the U.N. Refugee Agency interviews refugees to determine the strongest candidates for resettlement.

For every 100 applicants...



... only 1 will likely qualify.

4. U.S. security agencies -- the FBI, Intelligence Community, National Counterterrorism Center, Departments of State and Homeland Security -- screen candidates



Refugees are given the most thorough security check of any type of travelers to the U.S. Agencies check for any criminal background, terror connections and other indicators of a security risk. For Syrians, the Department of Homeland Security then conducts an additional enhanced review. This process can be repeated as often as needed.

3. U.N.-recommended candidates are sent to Resettlement Support Centers operated by the United States...



...where additional biographic information is collected.

5. Specially trained DHS and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officers conduct interviews and biometric checks (fingerprint).



Additional interviews and security checks are done if fingerprints reveal new information

7. Refugees undergo a medical screening if deemed necessary.



Those with tuberculosis or other communicable diseases receive treatment, but **Do Not Pass This Point**

Refugees who raise security concerns through steps 4-6 Do Not Pass This Point

6. Fingerprints are screened against FBI, DHS and Department of Defense biometric databases, which contain watch-list information and records captured in Iraq and other countries



8. Refugees complete cultural orientation classes and a non-government agency determines the best resettlement location.



Locations may be chosen based on the person's health needs and any possible family ties

9. Refugees leave for the U.S.



Before entering the country, refugees are screened by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the TSA.

During steps 7 and 8, applicants continue to be checked against terrorist databases. If suspicious information comes to light, they Do Not Pass This Point

Some refugees get flagged during these screenings and Do Not Pass This Point

10. Refugees enter the United States.

All in all, the refugee resettlement process takes 18-24 months on average.

After they're settled, refugees must pay back the cost of their flight to the U.S., apply for jobs and find permanent housing.

Within 1 year of their arrival, they're required to apply for a green card, which triggers another intensive security screening process by the federal government.