

Erika Brown-Binion
Executive Director

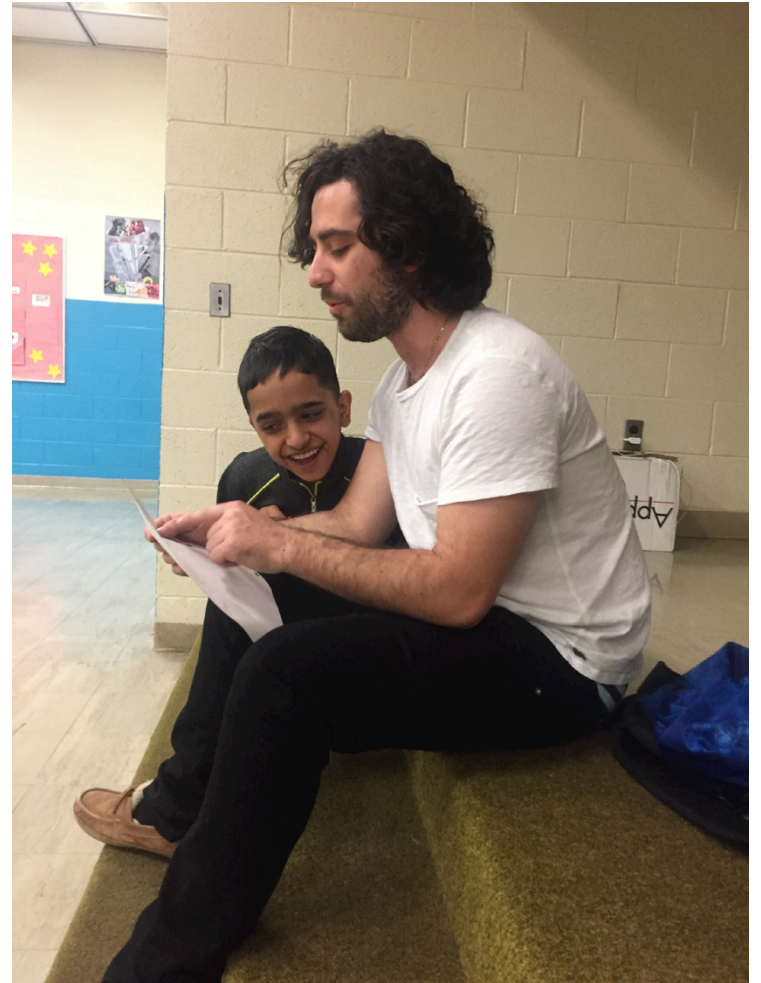


**refugee
development center**



Who is the RDC?

- Small Non - Profit
- Grassroots
- Support Agency
- Partner
- 10 - 14 Highly Dedicated Staff
- Educators and Students
- Community Partner



Who is a Refugee?

A refugee is someone outside of his or her home country who has a “well founded fear of persecution” because of his/her: race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion.

-1951 convention relating to status of refugees



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To Be Truly Effective, We Must Remain Aware.



Bangladesh. Young Rohingya refugees look out over Pelong Khali refugee camp, a sprawling site located on a hilly area near the Myanmar border in south-east Bangladesh. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



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Global Trends

- 68.5 million displaced
- 22.5 million refugees
- 52% children
- < 1% ever resettled
- 10+ years as refugee
- 70,000 avg. resettled in US
- 2017 - only 50,000 resettled
- 2018 - less than 45,000 will be resettled...22,000



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The journey of a refugee to the United States



A refugee is a person who must leave his or her homeland due to persecution of beliefs, race or ethnicity.
In 2017, 68.5 million people were forcibly displaced.



Refugees usually wait upwards of 10 years as a refugee.
And less than 1% are ever selected to be resettled.



REFUGEES ARE SUBJECT TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SECURITY CHECKS OF ANY TRAVELER TO THE UNITED STATES.

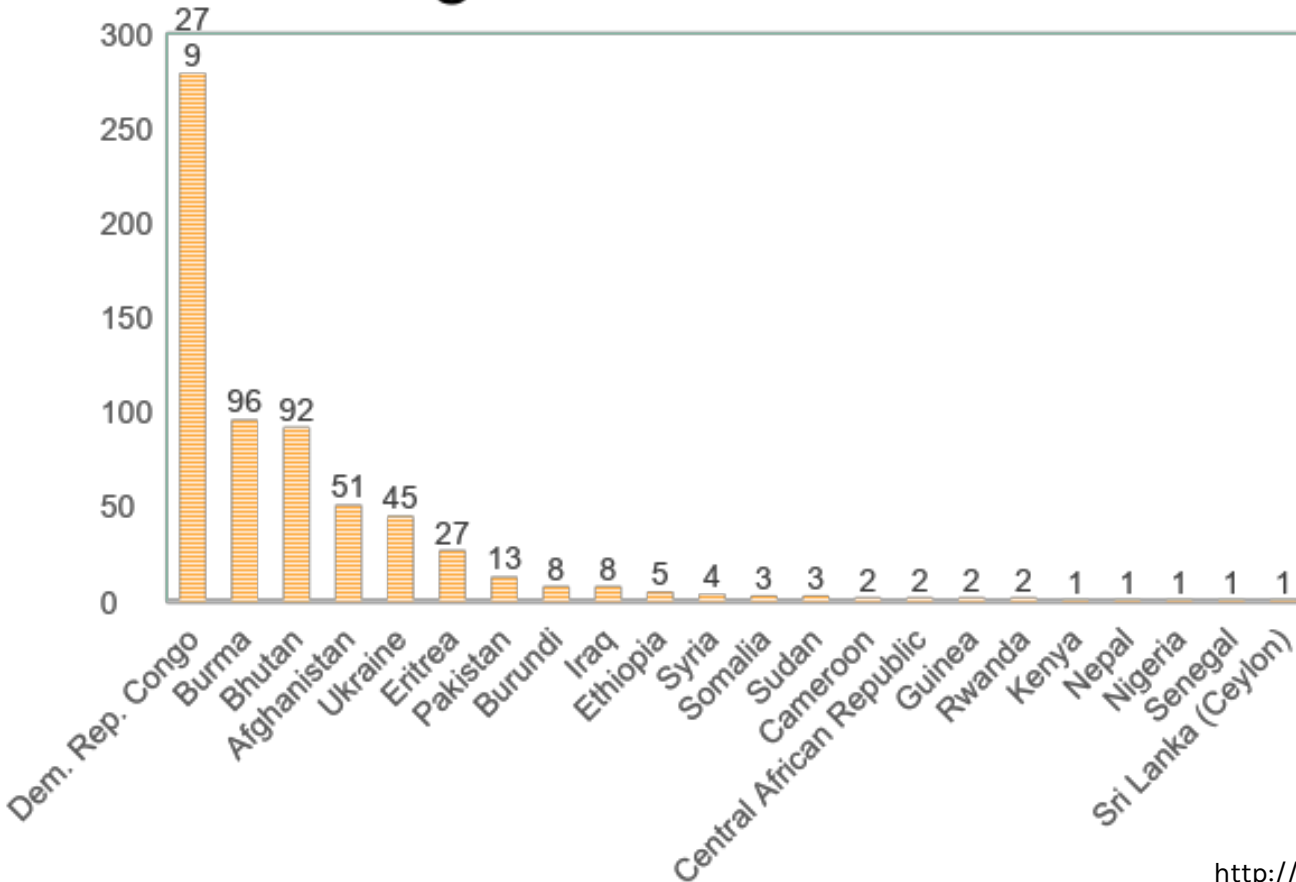


This is where the RDC comes in to cultivate a welcoming, thriving community that collaborates with refugees and newcomers through education, engagement and support



Each arriving refugee is assigned an agency to provide basic services for the first 90 days in the US.

Michigan 2017 Resettlement

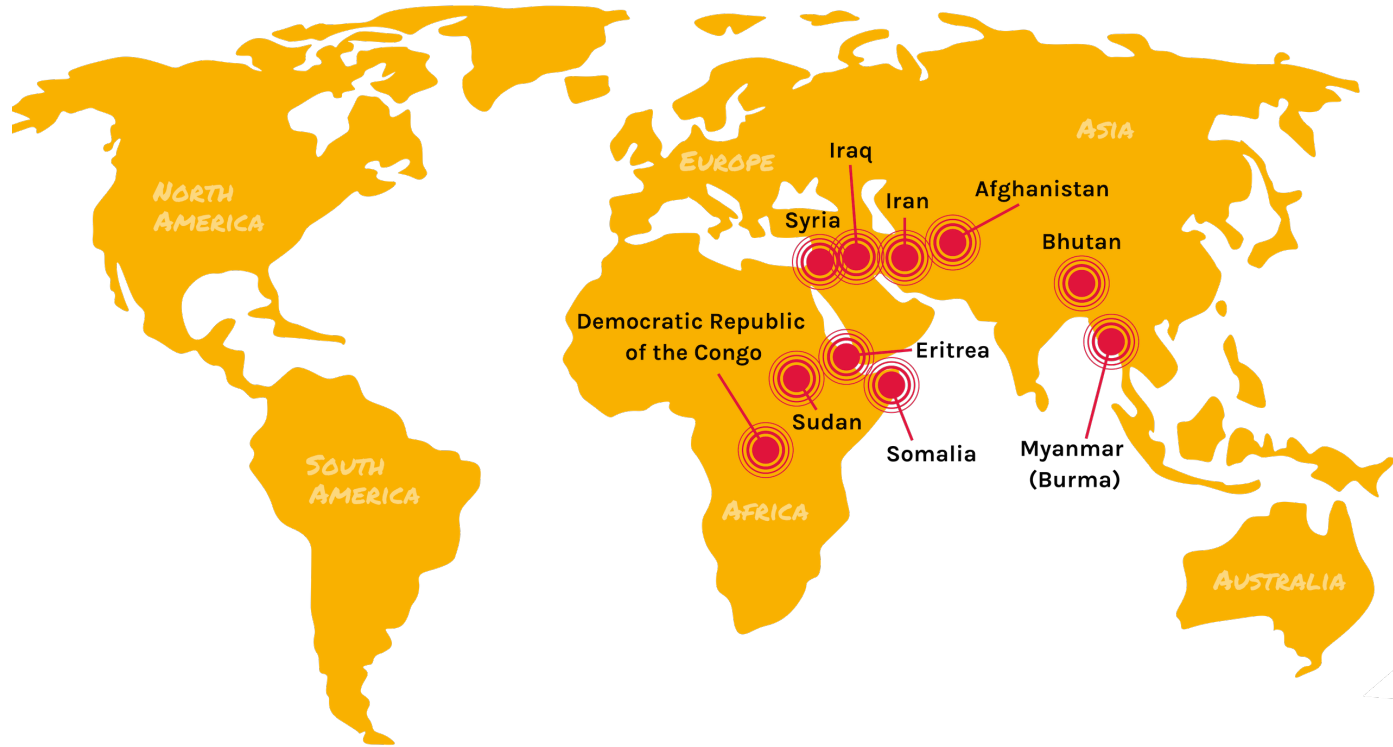


Year	Cap	Admitted
2016	85,000	84,994
2017	110,000	53,716
2018	45,000	22,491
2019	30,000	?

Iran
Somalia
Syria



Countries of Origin for the Majority of Refugees Resettled in Mid-Michigan



There is a lot of work to do.
Please remain hopeful.



"I was born in Bhutan but due to political instability during late 1980's, we moved to Nepal as refugees. After 18 years in a refugee camp (1990-2008), with the help of IOM (International Organization for Migration) my family and I were resettled in Lansing, MI. Immediately, I learned about RDC and ever since I have been part of RDC family. I learned how to drive on the driving simulator, and after I mastered that, I started helping other newcomers learn how to drive using the simulator. I started volunteering and then I worked as a translator and interpreter. I always wanted to serve in defense, and I got opportunity to serve this beautiful country in 2012. I signed a contract with US ARMY and served as a behavioral health specialist until 2018. I am very excited to be back at the RDC as a staff member helping the newest refugees in Lansing."

- G. Acharya



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This Is Home Now





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Mission Statement:

to cultivate a welcoming, thriving
community that collaborates with
refugees and newcomers through
education, engagement and support



Education

LITERACY

- After-School Programs
- English Language Acquisition
- GLOBE Summer Camp
- School Orientations
- Financial and Digital Literacy

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

- College Readiness
- Career Preparedness
- Life Skills
- Entrepreneurial Support
- Citizenship

Support

CRISIS INTERVENTION

- Mental Wellness
- Home Visits
- School Liaison Support
- Resource Referrals (partner/community agencies)

BASIC NEEDS

- Food
- Clothing
- Drop-in Support
- Interpretation / Translation

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Community Dinners
- Mentoring
- Volunteer Integration
- ThanksLansing Event
- Thrive Event
- Community Presentations & Partners



Engagement

CROSS-SECTIONAL COLLABORATION

- Sewing Circle
- Young Adult Leaders
- Special Groups
- Newcomers Soccer
- Cross-Cultural Programs
- Special Projects

In 2018, we worked with

2,069
newcomers



48
countries



244
volunteers



22,000
Hours
Direct
service

Who are our Partners?



The Community

Refugees, Immigrants, Asylees, Schools, Agencies,
Students, Teachers, Moms, Parents, Apartment Complex
Managers, Police Officers, Employers, Colleges, Universities
and Future generations!



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“Thank You, Lansing!”



Partnership Projects

- Refuge Lansing traveling exhibit
- Newcomers Soccer with LSC
- GLOBE Camp - Lunches
- Michigan Office for New Americans
- Peace Game with RCAH
- Refugee Name Plates with Impression 5
- Blanket Making with MSU
- PD for language teachers - Teacher Training



What Can You Do?

- Volunteer
- Stay Aware
- Learn the Facts & Share the Info
- Follow us on FB, Instagram, and Twitter
- Attend our Spring Fundraiser in April
- Have a private dinner party with friends and present ways to get involved!
- Be Kind & Know Your Importance
- Donate!!! 😊





Thank You!



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