



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

An Overview of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program

The Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program was created by several Protestant denominations that came together at the end of World War II to respond to the needs of refugees in Europe. **Since 1946, CWS has helped nearly 500,000 refugees** begin new lives in the United States, and **continues to resettle about 8,000 more refugees and Cuban and Haitian entrants each year.**

CWS, seven participating denominations and their congregations, and CWS local affiliates in 21 states work together to meet the needs of refugees upon their arrival to the United States, assisting them as they strive to attain self-sufficiency. A growing number of local affiliates provide **immigration legal services** along with refugee resettlement services.

The Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program (IRP) also:

- **Prepares the case files for all refugees in sub-Saharan Africa** who are being considered for resettlement in the United States through a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of State/Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration. The CWS Overseas Processing Entity based in Nairobi, Kenya, also assists with departure arrangements for refugees whom the U.S. government has approved, helping get them on their way to one of the 10 voluntary agencies, including Church World Service, that are responsible for the reception and placement of these refugees.
- **Administers the Religious Services Program**, which was established in 2004 and operates in U.S. government-administered immigration detention centers across the United States. On-site staff coordinators and volunteers provide immigration detainees with structured and consistent religious opportunity and enhance overall religious program quality, accommodating all religious beliefs. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security funds the program, which is carried out in collaboration with Jesuit Refugee Service.
- **Carries leadership within CWS for incorporating concern for protection into all of its humanitarian programs.** Under that protection umbrella, IRP's **Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons** program works closely with local partners and displaced people themselves to provide post-primary education and vocational training, health care and education, access to information and information dissemination, food security and shelter, advocacy for displaced persons' rights, and legal assistance.
- **Monitors public policy and practice** toward immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants; represents public policy positions adopted by CWS to the federal government, and works in collaboration with a number of advocacy partners in refugee resettlement and protection organizations to build a hospitable community in the United States for immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.