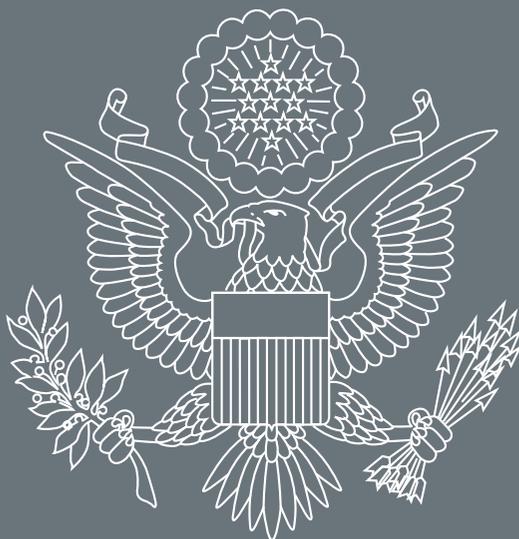


United States Department of State

**Migration and
Refugee Assistance**



**Emergency Refugee
and Migration Assistance**

FISCAL YEAR 2015

Congressional Presentation Document

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Congressional Presentation Document
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
FY 2015

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Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) Fund

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2013 Actual ^{1, 2}	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request
MRA Account Total	2,668,665	3,059,000	2,047,374

MRA – Enduring Total	1,590,146	1,774,645	1,582,374
PRM – Population, Refugees, and Migration	1,590,146	1,774,645	1,582,374
Africa	414,675	408,648	418,000
East Asia	65,650	69,332	54,600
Europe	44,700	48,651	31,000
Migration	21,550	27,500	20,000
Near East	351,407	480,909	362,400
Protection Priorities	220,252	215,450	140,200
South Asia	55,355	66,875	105,800
Western Hemisphere	53,237	61,100	45,374
Administrative Expenses	34,000	34,500	35,000
Humanitarian Migrants to Israel	19,320	10,680	10,000
Refugee Admissions	310,000	351,000	360,000

MRA¹ – Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Total	1,078,519	1,284,355	465,000
Other Funding	326,825	-	-
To Be Programmed	326,825	-	-
PRM – Population, Refugees, and Migration	751,694	1,284,355	465,000

ERMA Account Total	25,823	50,000	50,000
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1/ The FY 2013 Actual Enduring reflects the full-year Continuing Resolution, reduced by the 0.032 percent rescission and sequestration. The FY 2013 Actual OCO reflects the full year Continuing Resolution reduced by sequestration.

2/ The FY 2013 OCO Actual level reflects the transfer of \$35.5 million from the MRA OCO account to the Economic Support Fund OCO account.

**U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration**



FY 2015 Statement by
Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard

The international humanitarian programs of the United States Government (USG) seek to protect and provide critical assistance to some of the world’s most vulnerable people – refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, vulnerable migrants and victims of conflict. Coupled with U.S. diplomatic efforts, these programs save lives, uphold human dignity, help stabilize volatile situations, and prevent or mitigate conditions that breed extremism and violence. The mission of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is to provide protection,¹ ease suffering, and resolve the plight of persecuted and uprooted people around the world on behalf of the American people by providing life-sustaining assistance, working through multilateral systems to build global partnerships, promoting best practices in humanitarian response, and ensuring that humanitarian principles are thoroughly integrated into U.S. foreign and national security policy.

PRM’s mission is central to U.S. leadership in international humanitarian relief and the USG’s foreign policy pursuit of international peace and security. The Bureau is a key player in formulating and advocating humanitarian goals, objectives and policies – in the State Department, across the USG, at the United Nations, and in the international community. Its work is also central to advancing U.S. migration and population policies worldwide.

The scale of displacement around the world is enormous and growing. By the middle of 2013, over 50 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, the highest number on record. This number of displaced, including 16.1 million refugees as well as millions of conflict victims, internally displaced persons, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants, have fled war, strife, and persecution, in places such as Syria, Mali, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Sudan. We and our aid agency partners must respond to these crises while also continuing to address the needs of those who have been displaced for years and sometimes decades, such as Burmese refugees in Southeast Asia and Somalis in Kenya. We also need to support efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness, and build the capacity of governments to protect vulnerable migrants.

Beyond providing assistance in response to crises, we must help implement permanent solutions to displacement. We will support those who wish to return home when conditions permit, such as Afghans in Pakistan and Ivoirians in West Africa. We will urge countries that host refugees to allow them to integrate into their new communities. We also will continue the strong American tradition of welcoming

¹ PRM defines protection as: “Measures to safeguard the rights of PRM populations of concern by seeking to prevent or end patterns of violence or abuse; alleviate the trauma and related effects of violence or abuse; identify and promote durable solutions; foster respect for refugee, humanitarian, and human rights law; and ensure that humanitarian actions uphold human dignity, benefit the most vulnerable, and do not harm affected populations.”

refugees to the United States via the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program while also seeking to convince more countries to open their doors to refugees as well.

As President Obama said in a statement announcing U.S. humanitarian assistance to Syria, “The relief we send doesn’t say “Made in America,” but make no mistake — our aid reflects the commitment of the American people.”

Policy and Program Priorities

Four key policy and program priorities will guide PRM’s work in the years ahead. First, the unfolding crisis in Syria highlights PRM’s priority to ensure **rapid and coordinated humanitarian response to emergencies**. Effective emergency response has always been at the core of PRM’s mandate of protecting lives and providing life-sustaining assistance. The Bureau’s emergency response is premised on providing rapid funding for the organizations with which we partner, deploying small numbers of trained staff to provide humanitarian expertise at U.S. missions in crisis-affected areas, collecting information and coordinating with relief agencies and other donors so that policy and program decisions are based on the best information available and a solid understanding of the situation on the ground. The key to effective emergency response is having strong relationships with regional and functional experts within the State Department, with other USG agencies, and with the humanitarian organizations with which we partner before the crisis by regular interaction on policy issues and programs, as well as through joint training, exercises, and field visits. PRM maintains a roster of experienced staff who can deploy rapidly at the outset of a crisis to support affected posts, report on conditions and needs in the field, make funding recommendations, and monitor how USG resources contribute to the response. PRM’s emergency response staff trains jointly with some of PRM’s closest partners: the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Bureau also works with the Department of Defense through participation in joint exercises and collaboration on strategic-level policy, doctrine, and operational issues in the field and at Combatant Commands.

Second, in support of our goal to advocate for the protection of vulnerable populations and exert leadership in the international community, PRM will engage in vigorous diplomacy to address, mitigate and resolve humanitarian crises around the world; we call this “**humanitarian diplomacy**.” As the principal humanitarian advisor within the State Department, PRM strives to ensure that protection of the most vulnerable is at the center of policymaking, and that humanitarian principles are respected as part of U.S. foreign policy. PRM carries out this advocacy beyond the Department as well, engaging in humanitarian diplomacy with governments, international organizations and others, bringing the media’s attention to the needs of the displaced, and working effectively through the multilateral system to protect the most vulnerable. Such efforts have proven critical in recent years, persuading governments that host refugees to keep borders open to those seeking safety, to support populations in need, and to respect the rights of the displaced and stateless. The Bureau also leads the Department in international population policy formulation and diplomacy. We seek to support women and families in the developing world by increasing access to sexual and reproductive health care services and protecting and promoting reproductive rights. PRM will continue to play this important role in the years ahead.

Third, **refugee resettlement** is a key element of PRM's goal that populations of concern find durable solutions.² As the world's largest resettlement country, the United States annually provides resettlement opportunities to tens of thousands of the world's most vulnerable refugees, many who have been living as refugees for a decade or more. Our program sets an annual "ceiling" on the number of refugees the United States will accept for resettlement. In FY 2013, PRM resettled 69,926 refugees from 65 countries, representing 99.9% of the 70,000 ceiling and bringing PRM closer to the ceiling than in any year since the program was established in 1980. The United States will continue providing durable solutions to displacement by welcoming the most vulnerable refugees to communities across the country.

Fourth, in support of PRM's goal that humanitarian assistance saves lives and eases suffering, we will foster programs designed to meet the unique needs of **women and children** caught up in crisis and take steps to enhance their protection. The chaos and instability caused by conflict greatly increase the threat of sexual assault, human trafficking, forced marriage, and domestic violence. The protection of women and girls, who are often the most vulnerable population when emergencies occur, is of critical importance to the Bureau and builds on the strong commitment of the President, Vice President, Secretary of State, and Members of Congress to gender issues, including support for women and girls around the world. PRM humanitarian assistance programs aim to prevent and combat gender-based violence (GBV) among refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of conflict and other persons of concern. In FY 2013, the United States began a multimillion dollar initiative called *Safe from the Start* to better equip the humanitarian system to prevent and respond to GBV around the world in the earliest days of an emergency. Working with organizations we fund, we are pursuing three priorities for strengthened GBV efforts: 1) Increasing dedicated GBV interventions; 2) Mitigating risks of GBV across all humanitarian sectors and expanding participation of women and girls; and 3) Increasing accountability at the global level. *Safe from the Start* complements the *National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security* and the *U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally*, and demonstrates the strong commitment the United States has made to confronting gender-based violence and gender inequality. By focusing on participation, preparedness and risk mitigation, this initiative will help galvanize humanitarian organizations to routinely use best practices to prevent and respond to GBV from the earliest phases of a crisis and become institutionalized within the Bureau and its key partners, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in the years ahead.

These four priorities guide PRM's work, advancing our mission to provide protection and solutions to those fleeing persecution and violence. This work is also integral to advancing key Department and Administration priorities and demonstrating the values and commitment of the American people. As Secretary Kerry said on World Refugee Day in June 2013, "...Opening our docks and our doors to refugees has been part of the great tradition of our country. It defines us. It really is who we are. Most people came to this country at one point or another from another place....And today we see refugees in so many new parts of the world....It's fair to say that as we gather here..., the eyes of some 46 million displaced people around the world are upon us. And we need to be able to look back at them with the knowledge that we are doing everything that is possible to try to help."

² "Durable solutions" for refugees include: voluntary return and reintegration in countries of origin; local integration in host countries; and, resettlement in third countries. A refugee who has achieved a durable solution no longer requires international protection.

2013

PRM Worldwide Achievements

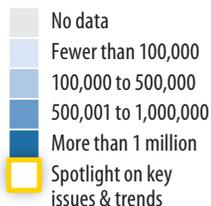
PRM Global Impacts: 2013 Highlights

Nearly 44 million people worldwide

had fled their homes by the start of 2013 due to conflict, persecution, and other abuses. These refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), conflict victims, stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants were the principal recipients of U.S. humanitarian assistance programmed through the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). In FY 2013, over \$2.36 billion from the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) and the President's Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) accounts provided life-sustaining assistance, international protection, and lasting solutions to the world's most vulnerable populations.



Total populations of concern by country of asylum as of June 2013*



* All population figures are estimates based on data released by UNHCR in June 2013 and by UNRWA in January 2013. These figures do not reflect population movements in late 2013, such as displacement as a result of conflicts in Syria, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and elsewhere.

Sources: UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Relief and Works Agency, USG

1 COLOMBIA: INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

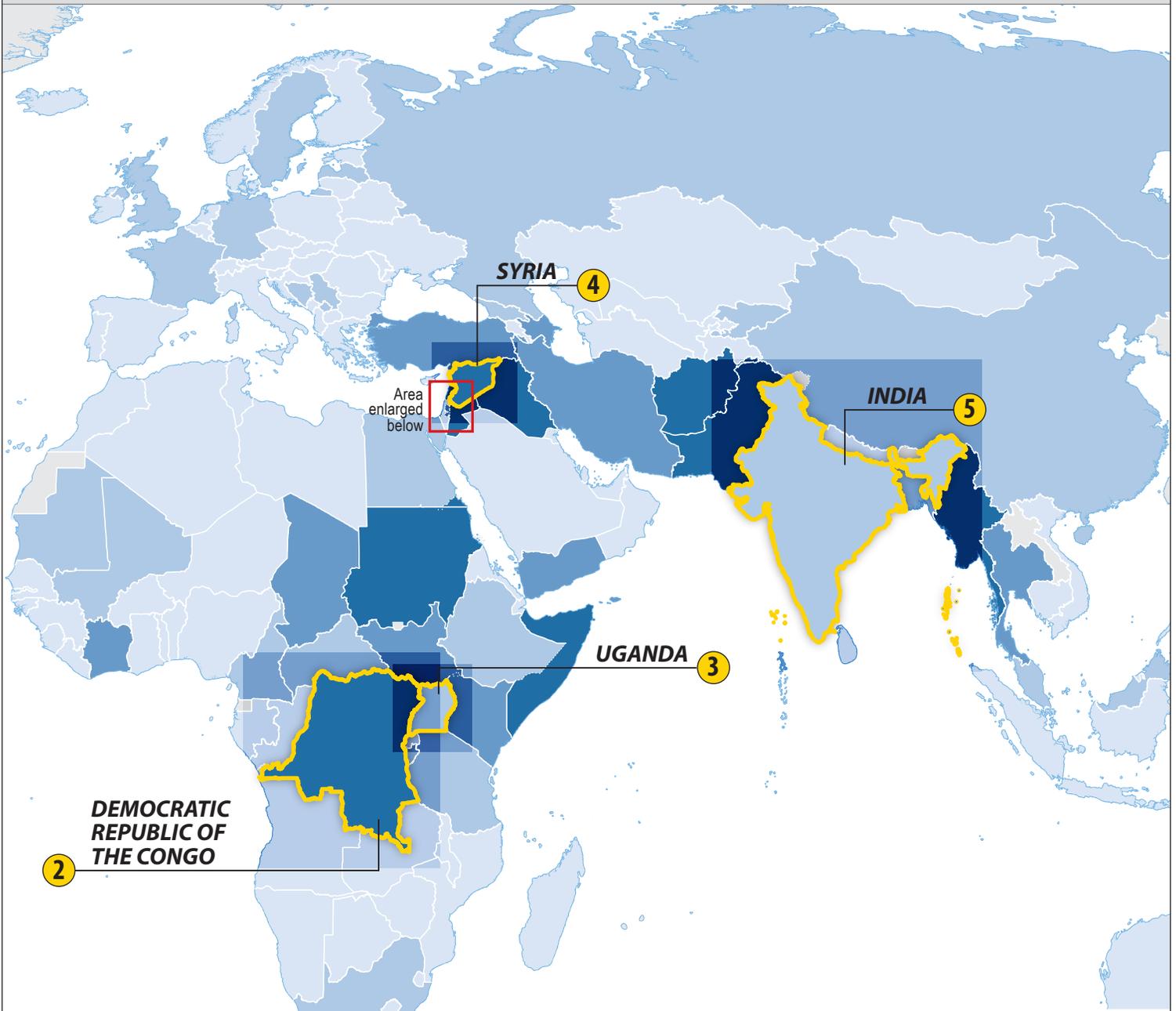
IDPs not registered with the Colombian government received critical support through food assistance and essential household items. Through water-supply and sanitation projects funded by PRM, IDPs have access to better living conditions and safe drinking water. U.S. contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided safe passage for mobile health units in Colombia and for negotiators in the country's peace process. The ICRC also served as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the release of 12 people held by armed groups.

2 DRC: REFUGEE ADMISSIONS

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in FY 2013 launched the large-scale resettlement of Congolese refugees impacted by continued violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is continuing in 2014. With the start of this program, over 2,500 Congolese refugees from 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa were resettled in the United States in FY 2013, of whom 19% were children. In addition, PRM supported the safe, voluntary return of 25,822 Congolese refugees from neighboring countries during 2013. #ResettlementUSA

3 UGANDA: URBAN REFUGEES

In FY 2013, PRM programs targeted the estimated 50,000 urban refugees in Kampala during FY 2013 by providing: psychosocial support to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender refugees and other refugees at risk of gender-based violence; referrals to legal and medical services; access to education and livelihoods programs; and training for local service providers to better meet refugee needs. In addition to these protection efforts, PRM partners in Uganda actively refer refugees in need of resettlement to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.



4 SYRIA: PROTECTING CHILDREN

By August 2013, the number of Syrian children fleeing the country as refugees surpassed one million. One out of every five Syrian children is unable to regularly attend school. PRM supports the multi-stakeholder “No Lost Generation” initiative to provide assistance to children affected by the conflict, including refugees in neighboring host countries. PRM programs for Syrian children provided counseling and trauma services, expanded school enrollment, created child-friendly spaces for play and learning, and supported health services including immunizations against measles and polio. #ChildrenofSyria #NoLostGeneration

5 INDIA: HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

In July 2013, the number of refugees and asylum seekers in India reached 200,000. This number includes 24,000 persons registered with UNHCR, mostly from Afghanistan and Burma. The Government of India is now implementing a policy that permits UNHCR-registered refugees to apply for long-term visas, allowing for improved access to employment and tertiary education. This policy strengthens protection for urban refugees in India. PRM continues to monitor the impacts of this policy change and encourages similar reforms in neighboring countries.



2013 Accomplishments in Emergency Response

PRM responded to crises around the world in 2013, providing millions of refugees, internally displaced persons, conflict-affected, and other vulnerable populations of concern with urgently needed protection and humanitarian assistance through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account, MRA/Overseas Contingency Operations Funds (OCO), and the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account. Among the accomplishments:

Syria

The Syria crisis has emerged as one of the most severe humanitarian crises in a generation. The crisis has spiraled over the past three years, with refugee outflows from Syria to neighboring countries rising from 575,000 refugees in January 2013 to more than 2.3 million at year's end. Over 9.3 million people within Syria are now in need of assistance, nearly half of the civilian population. The United States was at the forefront of the effort to respond and has provided more than \$1.7 billion dollars since the beginning of the crisis.



Assistant Secretary Richard visited Kawergosk Refugee Camp in Iraqi Kurdistan, December 2013. Over 200,000 Syrian Kurds fled to safety in Iraq in 2013.

PRM's humanitarian partners have reached nearly 2.5 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt with food, clean water, shelter, medical care and other basic essentials. U.S. contributions to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other international and non-governmental organizations helped refugees across the region prepare for winter with stoves and fuel, blankets, clothing, and rehabilitated shelters. U.S.-funded medical assistance has allowed more than one million Syrian refugees to access to primary health care facilities. Individuals displaced by the conflict have received more than 1.5 million vaccinations against measles, polio and other diseases.

Within Syria, humanitarian agencies funded by PRM and USAID's DCHA bureau have dramatically scaled up humanitarian operations to reach more than 4.2 million civilians affected by the conflict. Ongoing insecurity and the regime's use of siege tactics as a weapon of war blocked delivery of relief supplies and services to hundreds of thousands of civilians. Millions more remained in hard-to-reach areas. U.S. officials stood at the forefront of international diplomatic efforts to press for humanitarian agencies to gain access to populations in need of assistance. Almost the entire population of 540,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria has been affected by the conflict, and over half are displaced, including approximately 80,000 who have fled to other countries. U.S. contributions to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) helped Palestinian refugees who fled to Lebanon and Jordan access health care, educational services, clean water, cash assistance, and other necessities, and enabled UNRWA to continue vital services inside Syria even amidst fighting that has enveloped and consumed Palestinian neighborhoods.

Central African Republic (CAR)



UNHCR and Chadian authorities registering newly arrived refugees from the Central African Republic, before transferring them to a nearby refugee site in northern Chad.

Widespread insecurity that started in December 2012 and intense and ongoing sectarian violence threatened vulnerable communities throughout CAR in 2013. This became even more acute in December 2013 and has resulted in an extreme humanitarian crisis involving the displacement of more than one million civilians, including over 250,000 CAR refugees in Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo. In FY 2013, the United States provided more than \$30 million to meet humanitarian needs resulting from the crisis in CAR, including more than \$6 million specifically for CAR refugees. PRM funds were used to build tap stands and latrines to provide clean drinking water and sanitation to

internally displaced persons (IDPs); support essential air service to enable humanitarian staff to access populations in need of assistance; register CAR refugees and IDPs; distribute non-food items such as blankets, mosquito nets, buckets and soap; and provide medical supplies and emergency transport to community hospitals.

Sudan and South Sudan

In Sudan, the conflict in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile continued to create severe humanitarian assistance needs for more than 1.2 million people and forced some 230,000 Sudanese refugees to flee to South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Conflict in South Sudan starting at the end of 2013 has generated an additional 724,000 IDPs and over 160,000 South Sudanese refugees. The conflict and resulting displacement have further exacerbated already significant humanitarian needs. PRM provided nearly \$90 million in FY 2013 to assist and protect more than 760,000 refugees from Sudan and South Sudan, along with more than 3.5 million IDPs and conflict victims in the two countries.

PRM's emergency response supported seven refugee settlements and the establishment of two new settlements for Sudanese refugees in South Sudan, and provided clean water, emergency health care, vaccinations, improved sanitation, and shelter for refugees both inside South Sudan and in neighboring countries. U.S. contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported its work with the South Sudan Red Cross, to provide emergency health care and relief items to South Sudanese victims of conflict in Jonglei (South Sudan) and other areas, and deliver urgently needed medical support to hospitals treating the wounded.

“In Sudan and South Sudan, we provide healthcare, sanitation, and protection to millions uprooted from their homes by violence.”

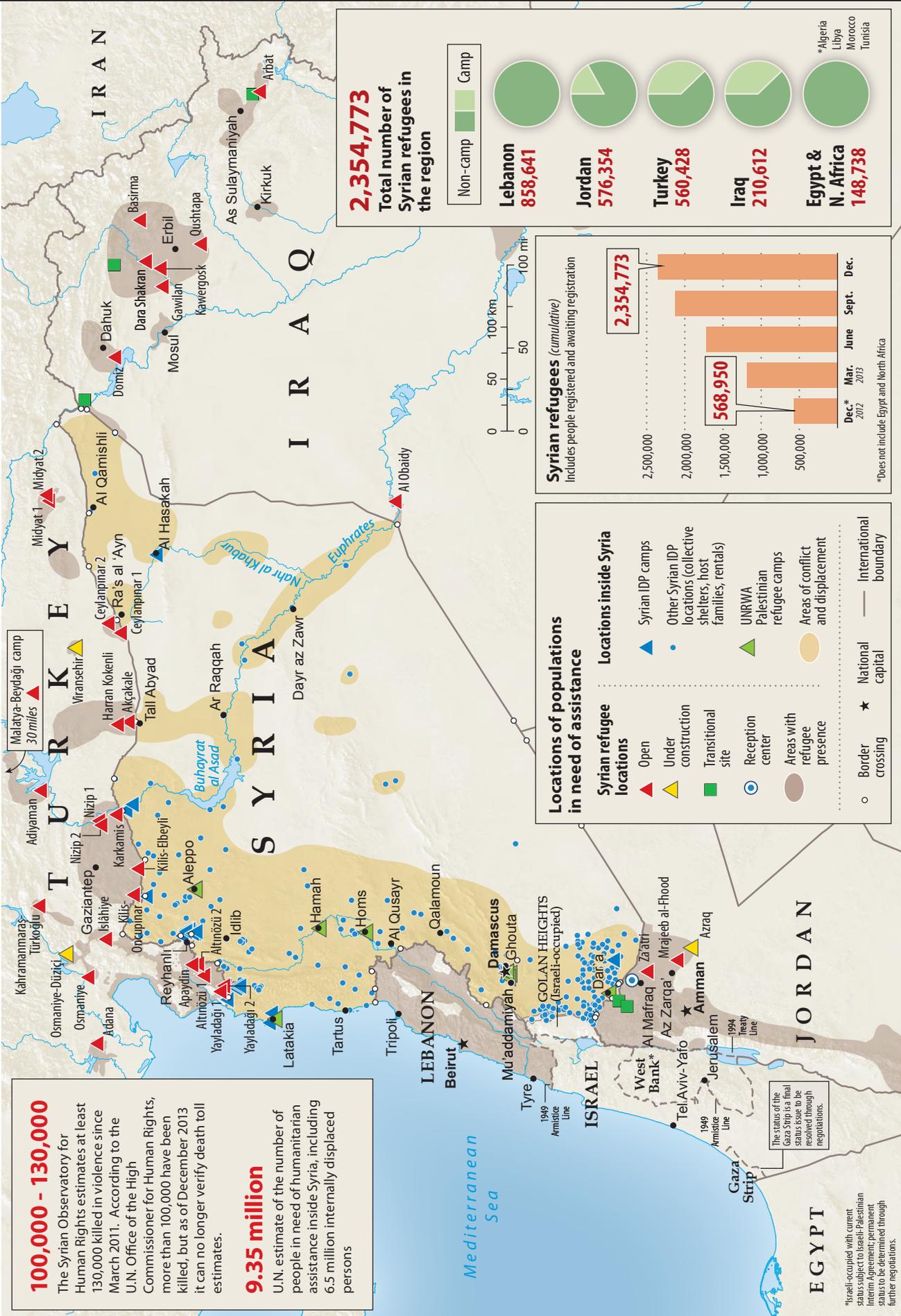
***Secretary Kerry, August 19, 2013
World Humanitarian Day***

100,000 - 130,000

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates at least 130,000 killed in violence since March 2011. According to the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, more than 100,000 have been killed, but as of December 2013 it can no longer verify death toll estimates.

9.35 million

U.N. estimate of the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 6.5 million internally displaced persons



2013 Highlights: Protecting and Assisting the Most Vulnerable

The United States provided a new start to some 70,000 resettled refugees from 64 countries—more than the rest of the world combined. In conjunction with innovative programming, U.S. diplomacy advocated strongly for the protection of the most vulnerable populations in crises around the world, including migrants, urban refugees, and women and girls.

Refugee Admissions – Offering a New Start to the Most Vulnerable

In FY 2013, 69,926 refugees arrived in the United States to begin new lives in communities across the country, a reflection of America’s strong tradition of welcoming refugees. This number is closer to the authorized ceiling of 70,000 (for 2013) than in any year since 1980, a demonstration of the Administration’s efforts to create a refugee admissions program that meets the dual imperatives of upholding vital U.S. security screening standards and responding to growing humanitarian needs around the world.

The top five nationalities resettled to the United States in 2013 were Iraqi, Burmese, Bhutanese, Somali and Cuban. The United States demonstrated its commitment to Iraqi refugees and those who worked with U.S. troops and our government by admitting over 19,000 Iraqis, our highest annual level since the program began in 2007. Refugees, who were resettled in 186 communities in 49 states, seized this opportunity by becoming taxpayers, starting small businesses, engaging in civic society, and eventually becoming citizens. Their presence makes our country more diverse, our culture richer, and our national character stronger.



In FY 2013, PRM resettled 69,926 refugees from 64 countries -- 99.9% of the 70,000 ceiling.

Support to Communities Hosting Refugees – Building Sustainability at the Outset of Crises

In 2013 PRM began pursuing a more comprehensive response to displacement and vulnerability, promoting greater linkages with development actors at the start of an emergency to help ensure that there is due attention to the capacity of host communities to cope with the challenges of hosting refugees. As of the end of 2013, some 800,000 Syrian refugees resided in some 1,600 different communities in Lebanon, which opened its borders, medical facilities, and overcrowded schools to refugees. Secretary Kerry announced \$30 million in assistance to help address the added strains on host communities in Lebanon, particularly by filling gaps in the health and education sectors. Such efforts are targeting the most vulnerable individuals in local communities, regardless of nationality.

Humanitarian Diplomacy – Pushing for Change

PRM worked with others in the State Department on a wide range of diplomatic efforts to advocate on behalf of refugees, conflict victims, IDPs, stateless persons, and

“The Obama Administration has put advancing the status of women and girls right at the center of America’s foreign policy.”

Secretary Kerry, March 8, 2013

vulnerable migrants worldwide. U.S. officials stood at the forefront of diplomatic efforts to help international humanitarian agencies safely reach millions of people in need of assistance in Syria, Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burma, the Central African Republic, and other places where armed groups have blocked or hampered access. PRM's Assistant Secretary, in close coordination with USAID, led the U.S. delegation to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' high-level dialogue on IDP protection in Geneva, an event that drew senior level attention to the need to improve international efforts to protect those fleeing conflict within their own countries. She also spoke at events in Sarajevo commemorating the eighteenth anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, again highlighting the need for the international community to rise to the challenge of protecting those in need. Throughout 2013, U.S. officials spoke out against attacks on medical personnel and facilities in Syria, advocated against discrimination of women in nationality laws, and opposed the persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Safe from the Start -- Supporting Women and Girls

The U.S. government made landmark commitments to strengthen the response to gender-based violence (GBV) during emergencies in 2013. In September, Secretary Kerry announced an initial commitment of \$10 million to launch, *Safe from the Start*, an initiative that seeks to build core capacity of our key humanitarian partners to address gender-based violence from the earliest phases of an emergency. *Safe from the Start* aims to permanently transform the humanitarian architecture so that women and girls are never needlessly at risk in emergencies and that survivors receive appropriate care as standard practice. The initiative is in addition to PRM's ongoing support for GBV prevention and response programming as well as support for innovative programs that focus on building the evidence-base and capacity of partners to combat GBV and reaffirms PRM's commitment to support the protection needs of refugee women and children. The effort also builds on U.S. policy initiatives such as the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence Globally, and the U.S. Action Plan on Children in Adversity.

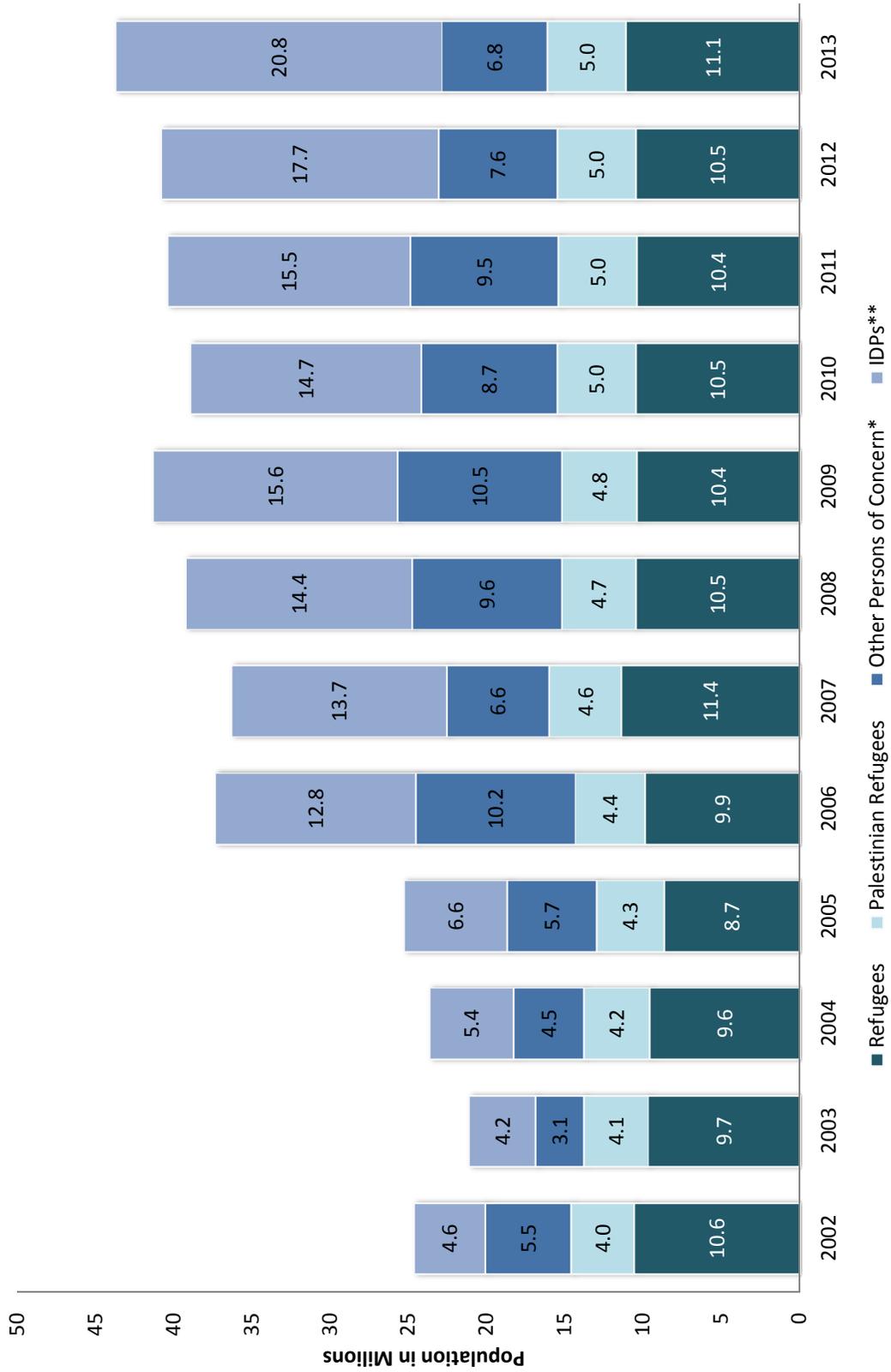


Girls and young women are extremely vulnerable from the onset of conflicts. In FY 2013, the United States began a multimillion dollar initiative called Safe from the Start to prevent and respond to GBV in the earliest days of an emergency.

International Migration – Helping Migrants in Countries in Crisis

An estimated 234 million people work as migrants outside their home countries, contributing to the economies of both sending and receiving countries. Unfortunately – as happened in Libya in 2011 – civil disorder or other crises can leave migrants trapped through no fault of their own with little access to assistance. At the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD) in New York, PRM led the U.S. delegation and agreed to help lead a “Migrants in Countries in Crisis” initiative that will develop guidelines for assisting migrants who become stranded when civil unrest or natural disasters occur. PRM leadership in the initiative underscores the U.S. commitment to ensure that countries, international organizations, civil society and the private sector provide protection and humanitarian assistance to all migrants in need regardless of their migration status.

Populations of Concern to PRM, 2002-2013



*Other persons of concern to PRM include asylum seekers, returnees, and stateless persons. These figures do not include conflict victims assisted by ICRC and vulnerable migrants.
 **Includes only IDPs protected and assisted by UNHCR.

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Migration and Refugee
Assistance

Migration and Refugee Assistance Overview

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual ^{1/}	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	2,668,665	3,059,000	2,047,374	-1,011,626
Enduring	1,590,146	1,774,645	1,582,374	-192,271
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)	1,078,519	1,284,355	465,000	-819,355

^{1/} The FY 2013 OCO Actual level reflects the transfer of \$35.5 million from the Migration and Refugee Assistance account to the Economic Support Fund account.

The U.S. government’s international humanitarian programs provide critical protection and assistance to some of the world’s most vulnerable people: refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, vulnerable migrants, and victims of conflict. Reflecting the American people’s dedication to assisting those in need, programs funded through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account save lives and ease suffering while upholding human dignity. They help stabilize volatile situations, prevent or mitigate conditions that breed extremism and violence, and are an essential component of U.S. foreign policy. The FY 2015 MRA request of approximately \$1.6 billion will fund contributions to key international humanitarian organizations such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as contributions to non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to address pressing humanitarian needs overseas and to resettle refugees in the United States. These funds support programs that meet basic needs to sustain life; provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and the elderly; assist refugees with voluntary repatriation, local integration, or permanent resettlement in a third country; and foster the humane and effective management of international migration policies.

The FY 2015 request for MRA also includes \$465.0 million under the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) heading for humanitarian needs related to the Syria crisis. Details of the MRA OCO request are discussed in the Near East Assistance Programs section as well as in the OCO chapter of this Congressional Presentation Document.

Key Interventions:

- **Overseas Assistance (\$1.2 billion):** In both emergencies and protracted situations overseas, humanitarian assistance helps refugees, IDPs, stateless persons, conflict victims, and other vulnerable migrants to meet their basic needs and enables them to begin rebuilding their lives. Such support will include the provision of life-sustaining services, including water and sanitation, shelter, and healthcare, as well as programs that provide physical and legal protection to vulnerable beneficiaries and assist refugees to voluntarily return to their homes in safety or, when that is not an option, integrate into their host communities as appropriate.
- **Refugee Admissions (\$360.0 million):** Resettlement is a key element of refugee protection and efforts to find solutions to refugee displacement when repatriation and local integration are not viable solutions. As the country with the largest resettlement program in the world, the United States welcomes the most vulnerable refugees from a diverse array of backgrounds. Through NGO partners, these funds will help refugees and certain other categories of special immigrants to resettle

in communities across the United States.

- Humanitarian Migrants to Israel (\$10.0 million): This funding will maintain U.S. government support for relocation and integration of Jewish migrants, including those from the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and Africa, to Israel.
- Administrative Expenses (\$35.0 million): PRM is responsible for the oversight of all programs funded through MRA enduring and OCO appropriations as well as funding drawn from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account for implementation by PRM. Funds requested for FY 2015 will be used to ensure sound stewardship of resources and maximum impact for beneficiary populations and American taxpayers by stressing accountability and transparency in the Bureau's management and monitoring of these critical humanitarian programs. The largest portion of administrative expenses will cover the salary, benefits, and travel costs of U.S. direct hire staff, including regional refugee coordinators posted in U.S. Embassies around the world.



PRM funding supports the provision of life-sustaining services, including water and sanitation, shelter, and healthcare.

Overseas Assistance

FY 2015 Request

The majority of the FY 2015 MRA and ERMA funding requests will provide USG contributions to the calendar year 2015 requirements of four international organizations: UNHCR, ICRC, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The U.S. demonstrates strong leadership and commitment to these institutions, with the expectation that other donors – in the spirit of responsibility sharing - will provide commensurate support. Being an early and reliable contributor to these organizations also ensures that they can respond quickly to emerging humanitarian needs throughout the world.

UNHCR is an indispensable partner for the USG and a critical player in effective multilateral humanitarian response. It is mandated by the UN, and through the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and stateless persons and provide durable solutions on their behalf. Through its global network (it is present in 120 countries), and partnerships with other humanitarian assistance providers, UNHCR provides protection, solutions,



Secretary Kerry met with the heads of international humanitarian organizations to discuss the Syria Crisis, July 2013.

life-saving assistance, and advocacy for approximately 38 million persons of concern, including millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) pursuant to responsibilities it assumed under UN humanitarian reforms adopted in 2005. UNHCR programs provide legal and physical protection as well as multi-sectoral assistance such as water, sanitation, shelter, food, health care, and primary education. It plays an essential role in seeking permanent solutions for refugees, such as supporting voluntary return and reintegration operations, facilitating local integration of refugees into host countries, and assisting with third country resettlement.

ICRC has a unique status as an independent humanitarian institution mandated by the Geneva Conventions to protect conflict victims. Its respected neutrality, independence, and impartiality often afford ICRC access to areas – and thus to people in need – that the United States and other international and NGO partners are unable to reach, which makes it an invaluable partner in responding to humanitarian needs. The organization’s primary goals are to protect and assist civilian victims of armed conflict (including millions of IDPs), trace missing persons, reunite separated family members, monitor treatment of prisoners of war, and disseminate information on the principles of international humanitarian law.

UNRWA has the sole mandate from the United Nations to provide education, health, relief, and social services to approximately five million registered Palestinian refugees residing in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza. UNRWA also provides emergency food, health, and other assistance to vulnerable Palestinian refugees during humanitarian crises, such as in Syria. U.S. support for UNRWA directly contributes to the U.S. strategic interest of meeting the humanitarian needs of Palestinians, while promoting their self-sufficiency. UNRWA plays a stabilizing role in the Middle East through its assistance programs, serving as an important counterweight to extremist elements. Given UNRWA's unique humanitarian role in areas where terrorist organizations are active, the Department of State continues to monitor UNRWA closely to ensure that it takes all possible measures to keep terrorists from benefitting from U.S. government funding.

“Devastating overseas emergencies are pushing more and more refugees from their homes, and the United States plays a leading role in responding to these emergencies.”

*Assistant Secretary Richard, May 20, 2013
Washington D.C.*

IOM is the leading international organization on migration and an important partner in advancing the U.S. policy objective of promoting orderly and humane migration. IOM works primarily in six service areas: assisted voluntary returns and reintegration; counter-trafficking; migration and health; transportation; labor migration; and technical cooperation on migration. As international migration issues continue to impact or are impacted by other global trends, such as economic downturns, climate change, peace and security, and global health threats, continued active U.S. government support for IOM assistance programs and diplomatic engagement with the organization is critical.



PRM multi-year funding is facilitating planning in situations of protracted displacement such as that of Burmese refugees in Thailand.

MRA and ERMA funds may also be provided to other international organizations and NGOs to meet specific program needs and objectives. Other IOs receiving MRA funds in the past include the World Food Program (WFP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the UN Development Program (UNDP), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The 10 largest of the 65 NGO recipients receiving MRA/ERMA funds for overseas assistance in FY 2013 were: the International Rescue Committee, International Medical Corps, Catholic Relief Services, International Relief and

Development, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Save the Children Federation, Danish Refugee Council, Refugee Education Trust, American Refugee Committee, and Premiere Urgence-Aide Medicale Internationale. Funding for NGO programs is typically provided for a 12-month period, but multi-year funding is also now welcomed to facilitate planning in situations of protracted displacement.

The Department of State may reallocate funds among regions or organizations within the Overseas Assistance request in response to changing requirements.

Assistance Programs in Africa

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual ^{1/}	FY 2014 Estimate ^{2/}	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	414,675	408,648	418,000	9,352

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2013 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds was used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims in Africa.

² In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds will be used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims in Africa.

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 MRA request for Africa assistance aims to provide a predictable level of support for African refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and conflict victims, achieving, at least, minimum international standards. Humanitarian needs are expected to remain high across the continent in FY 2015 as emergency needs resulting from conflicts in South Sudan, Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Somalia are expected to continue; as return and reintegration operations in Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere continue. Estimated numbers of refugees in Africa now total some 3.4 million. UNHCR is also addressing needs among many of the 8.8 million IDPs across the continent. ICRC provides assistance to conflict victims in over 30 countries in Africa. MRA funds will help maintain ongoing protection and assistance programs for refugees and conflict-affected populations in insecure environments such the DRC, Chad, Mali and the Sahel, while responding to growing protection and assistance needs in the CAR, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Maintaining first asylum and providing life-saving assistance are top priorities. At the same time, keeping refugee camps secure and neutral and combating gender-based violence (GBV) will continue to be key components of this critical humanitarian programming. FY 2015 MRA funds will continue to support stabilization objectives by providing funding for refugee and displaced return/reintegration operations, including in the DRC and Côte d'Ivoire, as well as permanent local integration where possible in host countries such as Tanzania and Zambia. Successful repatriation to home communities where basic services are available will promote post-conflict recovery and help lay the groundwork for longer-term development.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- PRM contributions to UNHCR supported efforts to meet the most critical protection and assistance needs of new CAR refugees in the DRC, Chad, Cameroon, and the Republic of the Congo, including establishing new camps in remote border areas, registering refugees, and providing water/sanitation, food, health care, education, and GBV prevention and response services. Funding provided to UNICEF supported efforts to protect refugee children and provide access to primary education and essential services, such as water and sanitation, reproductive health and HIV services. ICRC distributed food to over 16,000 people in Ouham and Nana-Gribizi provinces in the Central African Republic following clashes that destroyed their homes. It also improved access to clean drinking water for more than 50,000 people and enabled 500 people to contact family members separated by the conflict and reunited 24 children with their families.
- In DRC, PRM supported emergency relief operations to meet the needs of over 60,000 new DR Congolese refugees who fled into Uganda. PRM contributions to UNHCR supported voluntary returns of over 100,000 DR Congolese refugees from the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville), while PRM humanitarian diplomacy prevented premature or forced returns of refugees from Rwanda. PRM funding also supported NGO partners to implement projects promoting peaceful reintegration, creating new water and sanitation infrastructure, and jumpstarting economic livelihoods for DR Congolese returnees.
- In South Sudan, PRM contributions enabled ICRC to promote respect for international humanitarian law among the South Sudanese authorities, provide relief assistance to people displaced by armed violence in

Jonglei, undertake trauma and emergency surgical care in Upper Nile State, restore contact between family members separated by violence, and help to build the capacity of the South Sudanese Red Cross. With PRM contributions, UNHCR successfully relocated more than 16,500 refugees from flood-prone Jammam camp in Upper Nile State to the newly established Kaya Camp, while support for well-drilling operations brought the available amount of water for Sudanese refugees up to international standards across Upper Nile.

- PRM also responded to the ongoing needs of nearly 170,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger as well as IDPs and conflict-affected Malians through contributions to UNHCR, ICRC, and other international organizations and NGOs. In addition to key protection programming, PRM supported emergency shelter; water, sanitation, and hygiene; health and nutrition; education; and livelihoods programming to not only sustain refugees but also to prevent tensions with host communities. Refugees were able to vote in the Mali presidential elections as a result of PRM-supported advocacy and funding.
- UNHCR supported a collective of local NGOs who successfully petitioned to have the Kenyan government's urban refugee relocation directive suspended. The Kenyan Court quashed the directive, finding it in violation of international refugee and human rights laws, the Kenyan Constitution, and Kenya's 2006 Refugee Act. Also in Kenya, UNHCR completed a population verification exercise in Dadaab camps that revealed a more accurate number of refugees, while with strong U.S. government support, biometrics were introduced for food distributions to ensure assistance reached intended beneficiaries.
- UNHCR advocacy helped encourage the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness conventions. The Government is now working to clarify thousands of cases of individuals of undetermined nationality. It recently approved a reform of the nationality law which would allow stateless people and others born in the country to apply for citizenship.

FY 2014 Objectives

- Support successful IDP pilot projects and refugee returns to Somalia while maintaining a regional dialogue on the protracted Somali refugee situation and the need to maintain first asylum until conditions inside Somalia are ripe for significant returns.
- Support voluntary returns of Ivoirian refugees in an atmosphere of community reconciliation.
- Maintain or improve primary health care and promote a greater level of self-sufficiency for CAR refugees in Cameroon.
- Achieve humanitarian access and enhance protection for refugees, IDPs, and conflict victims in Sudan, particularly in Darfur, eastern Sudan, the Two Areas, Abyei, and for urban refugees in Khartoum.
- Increase opportunities for voluntary return and resettlement of DR Congolese refugees and promote the integration of former Angolan and Rwandan refugees.
- Provide assistance for Malian refugees emphasizing programs promoting self-reliance and facilitating refugees' eventual transition home when conditions allow.
- Respond to new displacement from northeastern Nigeria where attacks by the extremist group Boko Haram have forced tens of thousands to flee to neighboring countries.
- Encourage the Government of Tanzania to complete the naturalization and local integration of the 1972- era Burundi caseload.
- Support UNHCR's Confidence-Building Measures program of family visits between refugee camps in Tindouf, Algeria and Morocco's Western Sahara territory that provide Sahrawi refugees the opportunity to reestablish family links and gain a better understanding of conditions in Western Sahara in the event they may eventually move there.
- Enhance protection and livelihood support for urban refugees in Egypt.
- Reduce numbers of and provide protection and assistance for Eritreans smuggled and trafficked through Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, and Libya to Israel, the Gulf States, and Europe.
- Diminish xenophobia and attacks on refugees/migrants.

Assistance Programs in East Asia

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	65,650	69,332	54,600	-14,732

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 request will maintain strong support to UNHCR, ICRC, and other IO and NGO programs throughout East Asia, including those that address the protection and humanitarian assistance needs of highly vulnerable populations such as North Koreans outside the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) – in accordance with the North Korean Human Rights Act – and displaced Burmese in Burma and in the region, including the Rohingya and Kachin populations.

Burmese refugees and asylum seekers, the majority of whom have been displaced for almost three decades, continue to comprise the single largest refugee group in East Asia. Currently, there are some 615,000 Burmese refugees, asylum seekers, and other persons of concern in Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, India, and China as well as over 800,000 stateless Rohingya in Burma and some 490,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burma. Although the reformist Burmese government has taken encouraging steps - including allowing some UN access to conflict-affected areas in Kachin State since December 2011 to provide assistance to IDPs - access by international humanitarian organizations remains tenuous and conflict continues in Burma. The FY 2015 MRA request will help UNHCR and ICRC continue to improve humanitarian conditions both for Burmese refugees and asylum seekers in the region and for vulnerable Rohingya and other ethnic minorities displaced by ongoing conflict in Burma. Continued MRA support for aid organizations working along the Thailand-Burma border will help provide food security, maintain the health and nutritional status of Burmese refugees, and prepare these refugees for voluntary return when conditions are safe in Burma.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- At the urging of the United States and others, the Government of Burma (GOB) permitted ICRC to resume important prison activities and granted access to conflict-affected populations in Kachin and Rakhine States. The Burmese Government also disbanded the NaSaKa border guard force notorious for committing human rights abuses, particularly against the stateless Rohingya.
- With PRM support, IOM improved the capacity of governments to protect and assist vulnerable migrants by drafting a national trafficking action plan with the Burmese Government, established bilateral standard operating procedures for repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking between Burma and neighboring countries, trained Thai government officials on trafficking victim identification and counseling, established a community-based reintegration model in Vietnam, and provided expert advice to Laos and China on combating trafficking in persons.
- In Malaysia, MRA funds supported UNHCR and NGO programs to assist urban refugees. These programs complemented the Malaysian government’s unprecedented steps to grant some refugees legal status and thereby protect them from arbitrary detention and exploitation. UNHCR also launched a health insurance program for urban refugees in Kuala Lumpur that is expected to benefit 60,000 families.

“In Asia, ethnic and sectarian violence in Burma has led Burmese to seek refuge in neighboring countries. Cognizant of Burma’s efforts at reform and opening, we have urged Burma to address this situation in accordance with rule of law and in a manner that builds greater tolerance and understanding across ethnic and religious communities.”

Assistant Secretary Richard, Atlanta, GA, February 9, 2013

FY 2014 Objectives

- In the lead up to the 2015 Burma presidential elections, intensify diplomatic efforts to gain access to conflict-affected populations, protect the Rohingya, and develop durable solutions to the situation in Rakhine State.
- Encourage the Government of Burma to repeal the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law that rendered the Rohingya stateless, to provide Rohingya with legal residency status and freedom of movement, and to issue citizenship documentation to those Rohingya with claims to citizenship.
- In Bangladesh, persuade governmental authorities to allow international and non-governmental organization partners to implement programs that would benefit Rohingya refugees and their host communities in Cox's Bazar. As part of this effort, support the Government of Bangladesh in surveying the unregistered Rohingya living outside of the formal refugee camps, who may be in need of protection and assistance.
- Work with UNHCR, NGOs, and the Royal Thai Government to build the capacity and self-reliance of Burmese refugees, which will allow them to contribute meaningfully to Burma's development when they decide to return.
- Encourage host governments to improve treatment of North Korean asylum seekers and refugees, and prevent the forced repatriation of North Koreans to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Through humanitarian diplomacy and programming, address critical gaps in humanitarian assistance for urban refugees and asylum seekers throughout East Asia.



With over 70,000 Burmese resettled to the U.S., senior PRM officials called for last expressions of interest in resettlement throughout the Burmese refugee camps in Thailand during 2013.

Assistance Programs in Europe

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	44,700	48,651	31,000	-17,651

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 request will address ongoing humanitarian needs of displaced and vulnerable populations in protracted situations in the Balkans and the Caucasus. It also addresses the needs of non-Syrian refugee populations in Turkey. Overseas assistance programs in Europe will support efforts to strengthen asylum regimes and reduce statelessness in these areas and in Central Asia where funding will bolster efforts to prevent and/or mitigate humanitarian crises stemming from inter-ethnic violence and promote emergency preparedness. Approximately 1.4 million individuals are displaced or stateless throughout the Caucasus and Central Asia, and requested FY 2015 funding will be important in providing protection and assistance to save lives and alleviate suffering in the region. In Georgia, vulnerable populations unable to return to the Russian-controlled breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia continue to need assistance integrating into other areas of Georgia.

The request will support a minority of Georgians who have been able to return to the southernmost part of Abkhazia but face difficulties reintegrating into a war-ravaged region, as well as support confidence building measures to create a context for their return. Programs will also seek to prevent statelessness, shift to development-oriented solutions, and address the humanitarian needs of significant populations of Iraqi, Afghan, and Caucasian refugees and others elsewhere in the region.

Approximately 440,000 refugees and internally displaced persons remain displaced throughout the Balkans. In 2012, the U.S. government worked with UNHCR and the European Union to bring the international community together with Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH), Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia to form the Regional Housing Program (RHP) aimed at resolving outstanding issues of the protracted refugee situation in the Balkans. In FY 2015, PRM will continue to support that effort while also providing needed support to returnee populations in Kosovo and BiH and 210,000 displaced persons from Kosovo in Serbia who remain displaced but are not part of the RHP.

Funding within the Europe line includes support for UNHCR's refugee status determination operation in Turkey, its largest in the world. Turkey hosts nearly 50,000 persons of concern in urban areas, including Afghans, Iranians, Iraqis, and Somalis.



Ambassador Robert Ford, Assistant Secretary Anne Richard and USAID Assistant Administrator Nancy Lindborg meet with Syrian refugees in Turkey to hear firsthand what their priorities are as a community.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- In the Balkans, the Regional Housing Program approved three rounds of sub-projects which will provide durable solutions to approximately 3,200 families in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Croatia. The U.S. role as co-chair with the European Union was critical to surmounting challenges along the way.
- In Serbia, PRM supported the local integration of displaced persons from Kosovo, helping them secure legal rights by providing 1,400 individuals with legal services on property, status, or employment issues; 300 persons with procurement of personal documents; and 1,700 displaced persons and refugees with access to timely and accurate information on the situation in their areas of origin so they could make informed decisions about whether to return. In addition, the project supported income-generation through small grants and training sessions to develop business plans for 150 beneficiaries.
- In the Caucasus region, PRM's NGO partners have assisted over 4,000 internally displaced persons and refugees through the provision of legal assistance, vocational training, and income generation activities. PRM's partners conducted health consultations and trainings; counseled over 4,300 survivors of gender-based violence; and trained healthcare providers, psychologists, and police officers in GBV prevention and response.
- With PRM funding, UNHCR continues to provide technical support essential to the development of refugee protection legislation in general and the implementation of Turkey's first Foreigners and International Protection Law, which will regulate the entry, exit, and the stay of migrants in the country and increase protection for those who seek asylum in Turkey. UNHCR is also providing critical support to Turkey's new General Directorate for Migration Management in order to improve the country's asylum system.
- With PRM support through Embassy Sofia, the Bulgarian Red Cross accommodated an increased number of asylum seekers and refugees, including medical services and translation services covering at least 150 hours for psycho-social support, hygiene promotion, and orientation sessions.

“The Regional Housing Program is an effort to provide permanent housing to as many as 74,000 refugees and displaced persons in Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, and here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, this process must mean much more than physically moving people into houses. It also must mean better ensuring their security, combating discrimination, and rebuilding infrastructure. It means providing returnees opportunities for employment, education, and access to health care.”

Assistant Secretary Richard, Sarajevo, July 20, 2013

FY 2014 Objectives

- Continue to support the full implementation of the Balkans Regional Housing Program to address the protracted refugee situation stemming from the 1991-95 dissolution of Yugoslavia, search for solutions, and advocate to resolve issues related to the displaced populations in the Balkans not covered by the RHP.
- Seek durable solutions for the vulnerable displaced persons from Kosovo in Serbia and for returnees to Kosovo.
- Strengthen Turkey's temporary protection for persons of concern, including Iraqis, Iranians, Afghans, and others, and assist Turkey in maintaining an accessible, credible and efficient asylum system focused on protection while balancing security concerns.
- Work with UNHCR to advocate for the protection of vulnerable migrants, refugees, and stateless persons in the Russian Federation.
- Work with UNHCR and NGO partners to prevent statelessness, shift to development-oriented solutions, prevent gender based violence, and prepare for a variety of contingencies in the event of future conflicts.

Assistance Programs in the Near East

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual ^{1/}	FY 2014 Estimate ^{2/}	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	351,407	480,909	362,400	-118,509
Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	-	-	465,000	465,000

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2013 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds was used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced, and conflict victims in the Near East.

² In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds will be used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced, and conflict victims in the Near East.

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 request will maintain core support for UNHCR, ICRC, and UNRWA activities throughout the region. This request incorporates funding for protection and assistance programs for Iraqi refugees, conflict victims, and displaced persons inside Iraq. While MRA-funded programs for Iraqis in the region will continue to support conditions for return to and local integration within Iraq, the security environment within Iraq also will require that it address the humanitarian needs of large numbers of newly displaced Iraqis. At the same time, this FY 2015 request will continue support for critical humanitarian programs of international organization and NGO partners to meet basic needs for Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

The FY 2015 request also includes support to UNRWA, the sole UN agency providing education, health care, and other assistance to five million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. This funding to UNRWA allows it to remain an indispensable counterweight to extremism in the region, fulfilling critical needs for humanitarian services and assistance that likely would otherwise be met by extremist groups. The FY 2015 request includes support for UNRWA’s General Fund, emergency activities in Syria, the West Bank and Gaza, and modest support for relief needs in Lebanon.

The FY 2015 request also includes support for Yemeni internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict victims affected by the violence in northern Yemen, including military operations against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. This assistance will focus primarily on providing shelter, food and water, medical care, protection, and other emergency assistance, as well as support for returnees and early recovery efforts.

The conflict in Syria continues, with more than 136,000 dead, more than 9.3 million affected inside Syria, and nearly 2.5 million refugees in the region. The FY 2015 request anticipates that violence will continue in Syria. Significant humanitarian needs, including large populations of refugees in neighboring states and in North Africa and Central Europe, millions of IDPs and conflict victims lacking regular access to food, health care, clean water, sanitation, and adequate shelter will persist. The FY 2015 budget will maintain robust support to the humanitarian response related to the conflict in Syria primarily through the OCO request. Funding will also be prioritized to provide support to UNHCR, UNRWA, and ICRC to reinforce their critical response roles inside Syria and the region, as well as support for other UN agencies and NGOs assisting refugees and conflict-affected individuals in neighboring countries.

“The U.S. has provided more than \$1.3 billion in humanitarian assistance since the [Syria] crisis began, more than any other donor. Our aid – channeled through UN organizations and reputable, international non-governmental organizations – is saving lives both inside and outside Syria.”

*Assistant Secretary Richard, November 3, 2013
Bethlehem, PA*

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- In Syria, ICRC provided three million conflict-affected people with food and other basic necessities. ICRC supported the treatment of tens of thousands of sick and/or wounded and provided access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for approximately 20 million Syrians. UNHCR provided protection, distribution of non-food items, and emergency shelter for 3.3 million Syrian IDPs. For example, UNHCR and its partners provided basic assistance to a total of 727,800 beneficiaries in Homs and 61,000 beneficiaries in Hama Governorate.
- UNHCR registered more than 1.7 million Syrian refugees in 2013, an increase of over 340 percent compared to the previous year. UNHCR provided critical protection services to refugees, such as referrals for victims of gender-based violence (GBV), psychosocial support, assistance for the disabled and the elderly, and protection for unaccompanied minors. UNHCR drastically reduced the wait for registration, eliminating the gap between registered and waiting to register in Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey. In Lebanon, the wait time was reduced from three months to just over 30 days.
- With PRM support, UNRWA assisted approximately five million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, and Gaza. UNRWA continued to manage the largest primary education system in the Near East with 703 schools serving 491,000 children, and its 139 health centers received over 9.6 million patients. UNRWA also provided special assistance, including basic food commodities and cash subsidies, to 292,000 of the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees through its Social Safety Net program.
- Despite considerable challenges, UNRWA assisted Palestinian refugees within Syria as well as those displaced to other countries. In 2013, in addition to other humanitarian aid, UNRWA distributed 130,000 family food parcels, provided 100,000 families with non-food items in Syria, and aided over 51,000 Palestinians who fled from Syria to Lebanon and 11,000 who fled to Jordan.
- In Iraq, PRM partners significantly improved conditions for IDP returnees and local integration in the Diyala and Baghdad Governorates while providing shelter and other assistance to IDPs in squatter settlements.
- In Yemen, UNHCR supported the government in drafting a national strategy for addressing internal displacement - a significant undertaking given that over 300,000 Yemenis remain displaced by conflict.



Giving children a chance to be children --PRM provides support for child-friendly spaces.

FY 2014 Objectives

- Continue strong USG leadership in protecting and assisting Syrian refugees, IDPs, and conflict victims through robust diplomatic engagement and funding for humanitarian agencies.
- Engage and support the Government of Iraq in addressing the protection and assistance needs of both longer term and newly displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees. In neighboring countries, promote closer coordination with development actors in integrating Syrian and Iraqi refugees into national plans, programs and policies.
- Work with partners to support the Government of Yemen to assist IDPs, refugees and migrants with emergency shelter, protection, water, sanitation, hygiene, and health care while continuing to implement necessary services to address the extreme poverty in country.
- Increase diplomatic engagement with governments in the region to protect asylum seekers and address irregular migration and to promote the humane treatment of migrants.
- Work closely with UNHCR and governments to prevent and resolve statelessness, particularly concerning the 100,000 stateless Bidoon residing in Kuwait.
- With UNHCR, work with the Government of Israel to strengthen its asylum system and encourage the Government of the United Arab Emirates to fully implement its new refugee framework.

Assistance Programs in South Asia

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual ^{1/}	FY 2014 Estimate ^{2/}	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	55,355	66,875	105,800	38,925

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2013 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds was used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced, and conflict victims in South Asia.

² In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds will be used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced, and conflict victims in South Asia.

FY 2015 Request

Afghanistan and Pakistan remain top foreign policy priorities, and the FY 2015 request will continue support for Afghan refugees, and returnees displaced throughout the region and Pakistanis internally displaced by continued conflict. Over 38,000 Afghans voluntarily repatriated in 2013 for a total of more than 5.8 million returnees since 2002. Pakistan and Iran continue to host one of the world’s largest refugee communities, with a combined total of some 2.5 million refugees, while Afghanistan has an estimated population of more than 600,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The FY 2015 request includes funding to meet the basic needs of Afghan refugees, returnees, and IDPs, including water and health services. At the same time, MRA-funded partners will continue to work with the Afghan government so that more of those programs can be transitioned to the Government of Afghanistan. The U.S. and Afghan governments, along with international partners, are taking steps to ensure successful transition, while understanding the potential for large-scale population movements and the need for contingency planning. As such, humanitarian programs that focus on protection activities for populations of concern, in addition to more standard programming for livelihoods and education, will remain essential in FY 2015.



Deputy Assistant Secretary Clements meets with refugee community leaders in Bangladesh. PRM principals engage with host countries regularly to maintain protection space for refugee populations and advocate for legal status.

The security situation in Pakistan is also expected to remain uncertain in FY 2015. As of late 2013, more than one million people remained displaced due to military operations in the northwest and natural disasters, including floods. There is no indication that the conflict in northwest Pakistan will ease in the immediate future, or that the needs of Pakistani IDPs, returnees, and other conflict victims will diminish. While access remains challenging, failure to provide humanitarian assistance could make these populations lose faith in civilian-led government institutions and become vulnerable to extremist influence.

In addition to Afghans and Pakistanis, assistance programs in South Asia will also support the humanitarian needs of Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees in Nepal, Sri Lankan and Tibetan refugees in India, the remaining IDPs and returning refugees in Sri Lanka, and urban refugees and asylum seekers in all three countries. Services provided to the Tibetan community in Nepal fall into two categories: protection and reception services for safe transit of refugees to India; and support for infrastructure, livelihoods, education, and water and sanitation for the longer-staying refugee community. In India, assistance for Tibetans is focused primarily on health and education services, with an increasing focus on long-term sustainability through livelihoods. In Sri Lanka, a significant number of IDPs have returned to their areas of origin. FY 2015 UNHCR operations in Sri Lanka will continue to focus on urban refugees and asylum seekers.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- The Government of Pakistan extended Proof of Registration cards for the remaining 1.6 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan through December 2015. This decision enhanced safety and security for refugees and minimized the likelihood of massive forced returns (*refoulement*).
- UNHCR and ICRC protected and assisted IDPs in Pakistan, where continued waves of conflict affected over a million people across the country. PRM partners distributed tents, blankets, and essential household items to newly displaced Pakistanis. Through UNHCR, PRM supported both camp management for families displaced by conflict in the northwest and transportation and assistance for IDPs who returned home safely and voluntarily in 2013. By the end of 2013, some 102,000 IDPs in Pakistan returned to their places of origin in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA).
- Since 2007, over 86,000 Bhutanese refugees have been resettled to a third country in safety and dignity, including over 73,000 to the United States. In 2013, third country resettlement continued for all interested and eligible Bhutanese refugees.
- With PRM support, UNHCR took important steps to improve protection and assistance for urban refugees in India and Sri Lanka. In India, UNHCR provided letters of support for 4,100 refugees to attain their long-term visas that provide work authorization and access to public higher education. UNHCR advocacy with the Government of Sri Lanka significantly improved protection for urban refugees in Colombo.

“Embassy staff conducted extensive field missions in Nepal to meet with stateless persons in several districts. In our visits to Nepal...we continue to raise this issue with Nepali leaders to persuade them to revise nationality provisions as part of the drafting of the country’s new constitution.”

*Deputy Assistant Secretary Clements,
Washington D.C., August 7, 2013*

FY 2014 Objectives

- Encourage the implementation of the Government of Afghanistan’s new IDP policy. Work closely with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and Afghan authorities on contingency planning and early detection of population movements to provide immediate protection and humanitarian assistance to the displaced.
- Engage governmental authorities, international actors, and communities to respect international humanitarian law in the event that conflict intensifies during the transition.
- Encourage the Government of Pakistan to implement its National Refugee Policy, in line with the Geneva Conventions. In both Afghanistan and Pakistan, coordinate with development agencies to transition humanitarian programming to communities and governmental authorities.
- Encourage the Government of Nepal to fully respect the Gentlemen’s Agreement that allows new Tibetan arrivals to transit Nepal en route to India with the assistance of UNHCR. Support UNHCR efforts to persuade the Government of Nepal to register Tibetan refugees and grant greater rights, such as the ability to work and travel internationally.
- Advocate with the Government of Sri Lanka to provide humanitarian space for asylum seekers, refugees, and remaining IDPs in Sri Lanka. Closely monitor UNHCR-facilitated refugee returns from Tamil Nadu, India and press UNHCR and the Government of India to promote local integration for Sri Lankan refugees who choose not to return to Sri Lanka.
- Engage the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan at every opportunity to find durable solutions for Bhutanese refugees who remain after large-scale resettlement ends. Coordinate with UNHCR to address gaps in protection and assistance for urban refugees in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Assistance Programs in the Western Hemisphere

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	53,237	61,100	45,374	-15,726

FY 2015 Request

Decades of ongoing violence in Colombia have displaced an estimated 5.4 million people, approximately 10 percent of its population. The request supports protection and assistance for the 150,000 Colombians estimated to be newly displaced in Colombia in FY 2015 as well as for over 400,000 Colombian asylum seekers and refugees in neighboring countries (Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica). At the same time, the FY 2015 request recognizes significant resources the Government of Colombia is devoting to the reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as the country implements its Victims and Land Restitution law which seeks to restore land and provide reparations to victims of the conflict, 90 percent of whom are IDPs. Given this commitment by the Colombian government, funding will focus on supporting Colombian refugees in neighboring countries and providing replicable model programs for IDPs in Colombia.



Assistant Secretary Richard met with a community of IDPs in Villavicencio, Colombia.

The FY 2015 request will also support the regional programs of UNHCR to protect and assist refugees, stateless persons, and asylum seekers and programs of ICRC and IOM throughout the Caribbean. Haiti will remain a fragile state in FY 2015, and ICRC will continue to provide health care; improve water systems in conflict-affected neighborhoods of Port au Prince; and monitor prison conditions nationwide. IOM will continue to respond to emerging protection gaps, particularly in the field of assistance to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). With the implementation of the September 2013 Constitutional Tribunal ruling in the Dominican Republic, UNHCR and IOM are expected to play a greater role in documentation and migration issues in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The FY 2015 request allows the Department of State to meet its commitment to support the Migrant Operations Center at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base under Executive Order 13276. The Department is responsible for migrants determined to be in need of protection as well as assistance with their initial resettlement in third countries.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- In Colombia, PRM provided emergency assistance to IDPs during the initial phase of displacement while USAID provided mid- and long-term assistance to IDPs through building the capacity of the Government of Colombia.
- PRM contributions to UNHCR facilitated the organization's "protection by presence" strategy, and its work to develop the government of Colombia's legal framework for IDPs and its translation into practical policies at the local level, as well as specific activities with vulnerable groups, including indigenous people, Afro-Colombians, women and children.
- UNHCR provided technical assistance to Colombia's Victims Unit, which has national responsibility for coordination of conflict victim response in Colombia. The Unit works with local municipalities, community groups and other national departments to coordinate services and reparations to Colombia's conflict victims. The unit's activities for 2013 included assistance to 425,000 families including emergency and transitional assistance; financial compensation to over 300,000 victims and more than 2.2 million victims received health care and one million victims gained access to education.
- PRM funding supported ICRC's distribution of food assistance and essential non-food items for over 22,000 of newly displaced persons in Colombia, including in conflict areas currently lacking government presence.
- In Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, and Venezuela, NGO partners prioritized vulnerable refugees, including women and children, GBV victims, and ethnic minority groups through MRA-funded programs that improved livelihoods and integration opportunities, reduced xenophobia and discrimination, and strengthened the capacity of civil society to protect and promote the rights of refugees.
- In Haiti, PRM assistance supported the protection and relocation of 220 GBV survivors in Haitian IDP camps to prevent further abuse. The program also engaged in a sensitization campaign to educate Haitians on the effects of GBV and prevent additional attacks.
- Through sustained diplomatic engagement, PRM expedited the resettlement of protected Cuban migrants as part of the Migrant Operations Program located at the Guantanamo Naval Station to third countries. PRM negotiated standing agreements with traditional and non-traditional resettlement countries to accept 18 protected migrants. The Bureau worked closely with the Naval Station and other stakeholders to improve the migrants' living conditions, while they waited for resettlement offers.

"We ... went with UN Refugee Agency officials to meet with a community of IDPs who, while living in impoverished circumstances on the outskirts of Villavicencio, were very well organized and had successfully advocated for improvements, such as a pump for clean water, a new school, and a community center."

*Assistant Secretary Richard, Washington D.C.
July 3, 2013*

FY 2014 Objectives

- Address protection needs and durable solutions for refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable migrants in the Caribbean.
- Fill gaps in the provision of emergency humanitarian assistance for Colombian IDPs and support implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law by improving the Colombian government's response capability.
- Strengthen processes for IDP/victims registration, asylum adjudication, and refugee status determination in the region so that the systems are accessible, credible, and efficient and fully incorporate protection and security concerns.
- Respond to Haiti's critical protection needs and exercise leadership on gender issues.
- Through diplomatic engagement, seek to prevent and reduce statelessness, specifically among persons of Haitian descent at risk of statelessness in the Caribbean.

Protection Priorities

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual ^{1/}	FY 2014 Estimate ^{2/}	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	220,252	215,450	140,200	-75,250

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2013 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds was used to respond to emergency needs.

² In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds will be used to respond to emergency needs.

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 request supports the core capacities of key humanitarian partners to respond to humanitarian needs, including support for UN management reform efforts that are critical to the U.S. government’s broader UN reform agenda. By providing strategic support to headquarters operations of the UNHCR and the ICRC, MRA funding ensures that these organizations have the tools to respond quickly and effectively to emerging crises, improve the safety of humanitarian workers in increasingly insecure environments, and enhance accountability through results-based management reforms. Funds are also included to support the U.S. government’s response to humanitarian emergencies worldwide. This request supports global humanitarian and U.S. government priorities, such as:

protecting the most vulnerable populations, including refugee and displaced women and children, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) refugees; addressing the pernicious problem of gender-based violence; identifying and addressing needs of increasing numbers of refugees in urban and non-camp environments; and seeking to strengthen accountability and the effectiveness of international humanitarian response through improved performance data collection and analysis, innovative research, and evaluation.

“For its part, the United States will continue to champion equal nationality rights for women, and we will continue to use our diplomacy and humanitarian assistance to support solutions to statelessness in all its forms.”

*Deputy Assistant Secretary Clements,
Washington D.C., August 7, 2013*

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- Thanks to MRA funding appropriated to address emergency needs, the Bureau responded quickly to humanitarian crises in Syria, the Central African Republic, and South Sudan and provided emergency humanitarian assistance to Rohingya, other Burmese refugees, and vulnerable migrants in Africa. This funding proved critical to ensuring a rapid response during the immediate onset of these crises.
- In addition to contributions provided to UNHCR, ICRC, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), PRM increased the number of projects that include gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response. In 2013, fifty-six percent of PRM projects implemented by non-governmental organizations and other international organizations included activities to prevent and respond to GBV. These programs provided assistance to GBV survivors and raised awareness of the problem. For example, as part of U.S. humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees, PRM provided funding for an NGO to provide case management, individual and group therapy, and health services for women and children in Ramtha, Mafraq, Irbid and the Za’atri refugee camp in Jordan.
- U.S. contributions to UNHCR and ICRC supported operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that have a strong focus on civilian protection and prevention of and response to GBV. Programs in eastern DRC included skills training, rights awareness, sensitization about laws and services, training of military personnel, provision of emergency shelter, and medical and psychosocial support.
- U.S. humanitarian assistance and advocacy contributed to efforts to promote the identification and registration of stateless persons, amend citizenship laws, and improve the implementation of existing laws. According to UNHCR, approximately 94,600 people acquired a nationality or had it confirmed during calendar year 2012. With PRM support, UNHCR provided technical advice on the drafting of nationality legislation for South

Sudan and contributed to constitutional and law reform processes in a number of countries such as Kenya, Latvia, Nepal, and Tajikistan.

- In FY 2013, PRM contributed to UNHCR's protection of refugee and IDP children by supporting: a regional deployment to increase capacity to conduct best interest determinations for children in East Africa, where a large number of unaccompanied and separated children have been identified; a Child Protection expert placed within UNHCR's Child Protection Unit who is providing technical assistance to the field, as well support for a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) expert who is establishing an M&E framework for UNHCR's strategies on child protection, GBV and education; support for a new initiative which aims to establish a global partnership network of adolescents/youth actors who engage with displaced communities; and child protection activities in five countries: Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda and the Mali situation with a focus on Burkina Faso and Niger.
- MRA-funded research on protection gaps facing sexual minority refugees and asylum seekers in urban areas produced training documents on LGBT refugee issues used in a training of UNHCR Americas staff in Costa Rica, as well as in trainings for PRM staff. PRM also supported innovative research on best practices in mental health outreach and case management for Syrian refugees in Jordan, as well as partnerships with local NGOs in Turkey and Northern Iraq.
- The USG funded 20 American Junior Professional Officers in key UNHCR locations around the world and supported the deployment of over 300 protection officers to 70 countries from the Surge Protection Capacity Project managed jointly by UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee.
- Support for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance focused on enhancing UN country-level coordination and the implementation of important UN humanitarian reform efforts.



Syrian refugees in Iraq, where thousands of children have been born in exile. Protecting women and children is a PRM priority.

FY 2014 Objectives

- Ensure rapid initial response to emerging humanitarian crises.
- Sustain UN reform efforts such as the Transformative Agenda and its focus on enhancing leadership, coordination, and accountability, to strengthen the international humanitarian architecture and promote effective emergency response and protection of vulnerable populations.
- Through the *Safe from the Start* initiative, as well as leadership in the global Call to Action on Protecting Women and Girls in Emergencies, work with humanitarian partners and USAID to develop and strengthen the humanitarian community's capacity to prevent and respond to GBV from the immediate onset of an emergency.
- Maintain strong support for programs that ensure protection of conflict-affected women and children, including prevention and response to GBV. Support child protection programming in humanitarian response around the globe, including through the No Lost Generation Initiative for children of Syria and through ongoing support for the goals of the U.S. Action Plan on Children in Adversity.
- Exert global leadership in addressing the specific protection needs of LGBT populations of concern.
- Strengthen the performance of the protection cluster for internally displaced persons, including UNHCR's leadership of the protection cluster in conflict-related displacement situations.
- Continue to improve the capacity for evidence-based decision making within the State Department and its international partners, thereby strengthening accountability to American taxpayers and maximizing the positive impact of humanitarian programs for beneficiaries.
- Improve protection of refugee and stateless children by expanding access to education and birth registration.

Migration

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	21,550	27,500	20,000	-7,500

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 request supports U.S. government migration objectives to protect and assist asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants, and to advance orderly and humane migration policies throughout the world, in order to enhance security and stability and promote fundamental principles of human rights. MRA funds support ongoing national and regional efforts to build the capacity of governments to develop and implement migration policies and systems that effectively protect and assist asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants and discourage irregular migration in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe. These funds are especially important given the increase in mixed population flows that include refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, smuggled migrants, and/or victims of human trafficking in all regions of the world. The FY 2015 request also provides modest but essential funding for assistance to some of the most vulnerable migrants, primarily through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). These efforts include programs to protect, assist, and reintegrate victims of xenophobic attacks, human trafficking, and other human rights abuses. The FY 2015 request also includes funds for the U.S. government’s assessed contribution to IOM.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- With PRM funds, IOM assisted some 151,000 migrants to register and receive counseling on voluntary returns, as well as to obtain medical assistance, non-food items and other reception assistance by the end of 2013. This number includes over 88,500 migrants in Thailand who received information on their rights in their native language. PRM contributions to IOM also supported post-arrival assistance for nearly 150,000 Ethiopian migrants returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The protection of vulnerable migrants improved throughout the Horn of Africa as a result of PRM support for IOM’s efforts to develop the response capacity of governments in the region and enhance regional coordination via Mixed Migration Task Forces in Puntland, Somaliland, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen and out-migration prevention strategies.
- Through the PRM-funded East Asia regional program, IOM continued to support key ministries and NGOs working in the area of human trafficking in China, and developed model standard operating procedures to promote better coordination on victim identification and referrals. It also produced and distributed Chinese-language training manuals on combating human trafficking and trained shelter managers and other officials on victim standards of care.
- In Southeast Asia, PRM support enabled IOM to improve government capacity to provide protection by drafting a national action plan for Burma and bilateral standard operating procedures for repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking between Burma and Thailand; drafting and piloting standard procedures for the repatriation and return of Cambodian male trafficking victims; training staff in

“Countries of origin, transit and destination need to take effective measures to address the particular vulnerabilities of migrants to crime and human rights abuses, especially unaccompanied children, those traveling without proper documentation and those whose gender, gender identity or physical appearance may place them at greater risk for gender-based violence, including exploitation, abuse, and certain forms of human trafficking.”

U.S. Positions for High-Level Dialogue, press release, September 27, 2013, Washington, D.C.

trafficking shelters in Malaysia to better enable them to address victims' needs; supporting the establishment of a national trafficking referral network in Laos; training officials at the operational level in Thailand on safe migration, trafficking victim identification, and counseling; and establishing a community-based reintegration model in Vietnam.

- With funding from PRM, IOM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) jointly supported the first Caribbean Regional Conference on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons in Mixed Migration Flows in May 2013. Six plenary sessions focused on identifying best practices and expanding a legal framework for protecting vulnerable populations by promoting regional cooperation and country-specific recommendations.
- With support provided through the PRM-funded regional migration program in Mexico and Central America, Salvadoran migration officials identified a total of 120 vulnerable migrants at two border crossing locations in FY 2013, most of whom were being smuggled by criminal networks and four of whom were victims of human trafficking. Unaccompanied minors in the group were handed over to the relevant child protection institution and five criminals were detained.
- With support from PRM, the Swedish government, and European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), IOM began work to strengthen its institutional capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies, including the work IOM undertakes to assist vulnerable migrants affected by conflict.



PRM support for international organizations like IOM works to prevent migrant deaths at sea.

FY 2014 Objectives

- Support and help lead the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative that will explore and define the issues, look at best practices, collect the evidence base, and propose a way forward to strengthen the international community's capacity to better manage situations where migrants suddenly have ended up in a vulnerable situation in a country in crisis.
- Promote the protection of the world's most vulnerable migrants and orderly and humane migration management in the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, Mexico and Central America, Southeast Asia, North Asia and the Near East by supporting and participating in inter-governmental regional migration discussions on border control, asylum procedures, mixed migratory flows, protection of the human rights of migrants, trafficking in persons, and environment-induced migration.
- Continue to build the capacity of governments to address mixed migratory flows and to process individuals effectively, taking into account the protection concerns of refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, stateless persons, victims of human trafficking, and other vulnerable migrants.
- Promote safe maritime migration, particularly for Rohingya asylum seekers in Southeast Asia and for Africans who navigate the perilous land and maritime routes through Libya to get to Europe, as well as through the Gulf of Aden.
- Support IOM efforts to respond to the health, psychosocial, repatriation, and other basic needs of vulnerable migrants stranded in countries experiencing humanitarian crises.
- Support and participate in multilateral migration forums, to advance protection and humanitarian objectives. In particular, support and participate in selected Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) on migration and the Global Forum on Migration and Development, which serve as important venues where states can meet to develop common understandings, principles, practices, and policies related to humane migration management and protection of vulnerable migrants including but not limited to stranded migrants, women, children and stateless migrants.

Humanitarian Migrants to Israel

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	19,320	10,680	10,000	-680

FY 2015 Request

Since 1973, the U.S. Government has helped resettle in Israel humanitarian migrants from the former Soviet Union, countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, the Near East, and certain other designated countries. In consultation with Members of Congress, the FY 2015 request maintains support for the relocation and integration of those migrants to Israel through the United Israel Appeal (UIA). This provides funding to support a package of services that includes pre-departure assistance, transportation to Israel, transitional shelter, and vocational training.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- PRM's Humanitarian Migrants to Israel program supported the UIA to promote the emigration of over 9,400 humanitarian migrants to Israel and their successful integration into Israeli society.
- PRM-funded activities supported humanitarian migrants in their countries of origin and in Israel by providing pre-departure educational and language programs, transportation to Israel, short-term or transitional housing for vulnerable migrants, particularly for Ethiopians, including provision of basic furnishings language, preparatory, and vocational education, including for unaccompanied youth.



A boy waves the flag of his new homeland on the last flight of organized, large-scale emigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

- In FY 2013, the program exceeded its goal of reaching 92 percent satisfaction among beneficiaries for services received through the program; actual satisfaction reached 97 percent of 350 households interviewed.
- Of the humanitarian migrants from the former Soviet Union receiving effective Hebrew language training, 90 percent advanced one grade level.
- Eighty-nine percent of post-high school students completed a one-year program to prepare them for university level education or technological programs in Israel, exceeding the target of 82 percent.

FY 2014 Objectives

- Support UIA and its implementing partner the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) to improve programming to support emigration to Israel and enable humanitarian migrants to become self-sufficient members of Israeli society within the three years of grant support.
- Promote efficient use of PRM resources in light of decreased JAFI funding.
- Seek continued efficiencies in programming, such as reducing the time migrants from the former Soviet Union stay in absorption centers, and increasing the number of families from Ethiopia able to leave absorption centers for permanent housing within 24 months.

Refugee Admissions

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	310,000	351,000	360,000	9,000

FY 2015 Request

Achieving durable solutions for refugees, including third country resettlement is a critical component of the Department of State’s work. The FY 2015 request will support the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, an important humanitarian undertaking that demonstrates the compassion of Americans for the world’s most vulnerable people by offering a solution to displacement when voluntary return and local integration are not possible. MRA resources will be used to fund the costs associated with the overseas processing of refugee applications, transportation-related services for refugees admitted under the program, and initial reception and placement (R&P) services to all arriving refugees, including housing, furnishings, clothing, food, medicine, employment, and social service referrals. The FY 2015 request includes a modest increase in the R&P grant on par with inflation to maintain a basic support level for refugee families during their initial weeks in the United States.

The Department of State implements the program by providing funding to NGOs involved in both overseas processing functions and domestic reception and placement services. In addition, IOM receives MRA funds for overseas processing and medical screening functions in some locations and for transportation-related services for all refugees resettled in the United States.

The number of refugees to be admitted in FY 2015 will be set after consultations between the Administration and the Congress before the start of the fiscal year. The request also includes funding to provide refugee benefits to Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applicants and their families as mandated by the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act of 2007 and to Afghan SIV applicants and their families as mandated by the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009.



Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Simon Henshaw visited with refugee children resettled in Buffalo, NY. In follow-up monitoring of resettled refugees and the services they receive, performance of resettlement affiliates continues to increase. In 2013, 92.3% ranked compliant or mostly compliant.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- The United States resettled more refugees than all other countries combined. In FY 2013, PRM supported the resettlement of 69,926 refugees to the United States from 64 countries around the world. That number is closer to the ceiling established by Presidential Determination – 70,000 in 2013 – than in any year since 1980.
- PRM’s commitment to Iraqi refugees and those who worked with our troops and our government continues, as evidenced by admitting over 19,000 Iraqis, our highest annual level since the program began in 2007. This included 7,111 U.S.-affiliated Iraqis admitted directly from Iraq via our processing site at Embassy Baghdad. The United States has now admitted more than 93,000 Iraqi refugees since 2007.
- Through use of transit centers hosted by the governments of Romania and Slovakia, the United States has been able to resettle Iraqi refugees trapped by the war in Syria as well as at-risk Afghan women who were formerly in Iran.
- In 2013, PRM and its interagency partners streamlined the clearance of Security Advisory Opinion (SAOs) from 226 days to 63 days, improving the resettlement process significantly.
- FY 2013 monitoring results determined that the performance of PRM Reception and Placement partners continued to improve, with 60 of 65 (92.3 percent) affiliates ranked mostly or fully compliant. These results demonstrate that refugees resettled in the United States are receiving the services they need at a high quality.

“The United States has a strong tradition of welcoming refugees, many of whom have fled unspeakable horrors and persecution. The Obama Administration is committed to maintaining a strong refugee admissions program as an integral component of our effort to offer protection to some of the world’s most vulnerable people. Their presence makes our country more diverse, our culture richer, and our national character stronger.”

Office of the Spokesperson, Washington D.C. – October 21, 2013

FY 2014 Objectives

- Admit the maximum number of refugees that require third country resettlement and that can be well-supported in the United States while preserving the principle of first asylum in other countries, supporting voluntary refugee returns, and advocating for expanded resettlement capacity in other countries.
- Strive to achieve the full Africa regional ceiling of 15,000 and make investments in UNHCR capacity in Africa in order to position the USRAP to admit higher numbers of African refugees, particularly DR Congolese, in coming years.
- Develop policies and processing systems to allow the resettlement to the United States of thousands of Syrians during FY 2015 and beyond.
- Continue to maintain strong monitoring of domestic R&P services, addressing any shortcomings quickly and effectively.
- Working closely with CDC, ensure the effective implementation of pre-departure vaccination programs in Thailand, Malaysia, Nepal, Kenya and Ethiopia, and expand the vaccination program in one to three additional countries with resettling refugee populations.
- In conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services, continue outreach to U.S. communities, and ensure adherence to PRM’s 2013 guidance to resettlement agencies on consultations required with resettlement stakeholders at the state and local levels.

Administrative Expenses

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance	34,000	34,500	35,000	500

FY 2015 Request

The FY 2015 request includes resources to cover the administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). Administrative funds support salaries, travel expenses, and other necessary administrative costs to allow the Bureau to manage effectively and responsibly humanitarian assistance programs funded through the MRA and ERMA appropriations provided to the Department of State, as well as conduct the diplomacy that is essential in advancing U.S. government humanitarian objectives. This request reflects a modest increase, as additional administrative support is needed in FY 2015 to manage and oversee global refugee admissions and assistance programming.

In addition to overseeing programs in protracted humanitarian situations such as those assisting Darfur refugees in eastern Chad or Burmese refugees along the Thai-Burma border, PRM expects to support significant emergency humanitarian operations in FY 2015, including in Syria, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and elsewhere. Effective Bureau emergency response is contingent upon adequate administrative support to carry out needs assessments and oversee operations. When emergencies develop, PRM staff is often deployed to affected U.S. Embassies to engage with host governments and implementing partners to advance U.S. foreign policy objectives and provide sound management of foreign assistance programs, by monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness and demonstrating excellent stewardship of taxpayer resources. Performance management is at the heart of PRM's mission, and enables the bureau to provide funding according to need and to meet the simultaneous imperatives to provide assistance effectively, efficiently, and in a sustainable manner. The FY 2015 request provides continued investment in an active monitoring and evaluation training program for staff so they may better assess the impact of U.S. government programs. With this request, the Bureau's administrative costs remain low, at less than two percent of the overall MRA request of \$2.0 billion.

FY 2013 Accomplishments

- In 2013, PRM's direct hire staff, including regional refugee coordinators stationed at 20 U.S. Embassies around the world, helped maintain global USG humanitarian leadership through active diplomatic engagement with refugee-hosting countries, including in Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, and Chad.
- In FY 2013, Bureau staff actively engaged and oversaw emergency operations in Africa and the Middle East. PRM staff deployed to Senegal, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in response to refugee crises stemming from conflicts in Mali and Syria, respectively.
- Management and oversight of growing humanitarian assistance and admissions programs remained a top priority for the Bureau in FY 2013. Throughout the year, regular monitoring trips were carried out by Washington staff and overseas refugee coordinators to humanitarian operations worldwide.
- PRM continued to ensure close coordination and oversight of the key international organizations it supports, including monitoring humanitarian operations through regular site visits and shaping the work of these organizations through active participation in governing boards and donor meetings held throughout the year.

FY 2014 Priorities

- Maintain robust humanitarian diplomatic engagement to help protect the world's most vulnerable.
- Strengthen overseas and domestic staffing to ensure strong management and oversight of admissions and assistance programs worldwide.
- Continue to enhance the monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian partners to ensure accountability, program effectiveness, and maximum benefit for populations of concern on behalf of American taxpayers.
- Conduct active monitoring and oversight of emergency humanitarian operations.
- Continue to exercise due diligence to ensure that USG funds are provided only to recipients with no links to terrorist organizations.



PRM staff is a common sight in refugee situations around the world. Here Senior Program Officer Chris Upchurch is accompanied by refugee children on a monitoring visit. In FY 2013, Bureau staff actively engaged and oversaw emergency operations in Africa and the Middle East. PRM staff deployed to Senegal, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in response to refugee crises stemming from conflicts in Mali and Syria, respectively.

Migration and Refugee Assistance – Overseas Contingency Operations

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual ^{1/}	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
Migration and Refugee Assistance/Overseas Contingency Operations	1,078,519	1,284,355	465,000	-819,355

^{1/} The FY 2013 OCO Actual level reflects the transfer of \$35.5 million from the Migration and Refugee Assistance account to the Economic Support Fund account.

With over 9.3 million conflict-affected people affected inside Syria and more than 2.4 million Syrian refugees throughout the region, humanitarian needs related to the Syria crisis are expected to remain high in FY 2015. The FY 2015 Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) request of \$465.0 million will fund humanitarian assistance programs that meet basic needs to sustain life; support emergency medical care and provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable, including assisting those affected by gender-based violence; and help ease the burden of host communities supporting refugees from Syria. These funds will support the humanitarian response efforts of several international organizations including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as non-governmental organization partners to address the immense humanitarian needs of individuals inside Syria and refugees throughout the region. The U.S. government is already providing more than \$1.7 billion as part of the humanitarian response to the crisis.

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U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2014
U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	25,823	50,000	50,000	-

The Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund enables the President to provide humanitarian assistance for unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs worldwide. The FY 2015 request of \$50.0 million will allow the United States to respond quickly to urgent and unexpected needs of refugees and other populations of concern.

In FY 2013, the President provided \$15.0 million from ERMA to address emergency humanitarian needs related to the crisis in Syria.

Historical ERMA Annual Drawdowns

Over the past five fiscal years, an average of \$44.3 million was drawn from ERMA annually to address unexpected refugee and migration needs.

In FY 2013, **\$15 million** was drawn from the Fund:

- \$15 million to provide shelter, health care, education, and protection to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Syria and Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

In FY 2012, **\$36 million** was drawn from the Fund:

- \$10 million provided shelter, protection, and health and nutrition assistance to IDPs in Mali and Malian refugees throughout the region.
- \$26 million addressed the humanitarian needs of Sudanese refugees in South Sudan and Ethiopia who fled conflict in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States of Sudan.

In FY 2011, **\$52.6 million** was drawn from the Fund:

- \$12.6 million addressed the needs of those displaced as a result of violence and insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire, including shelter, protection, and water/sanitation support.
- \$15 million supported humanitarian needs resulting from unrest in Libya, including emergency evacuation of third country nationals.
- \$15 million provided assistance and protection to those affected by conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya.
- \$10 million provided critical humanitarian assistance to Somali refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti, including emergency nutritional support, access to water, health care, and essential non-food items.

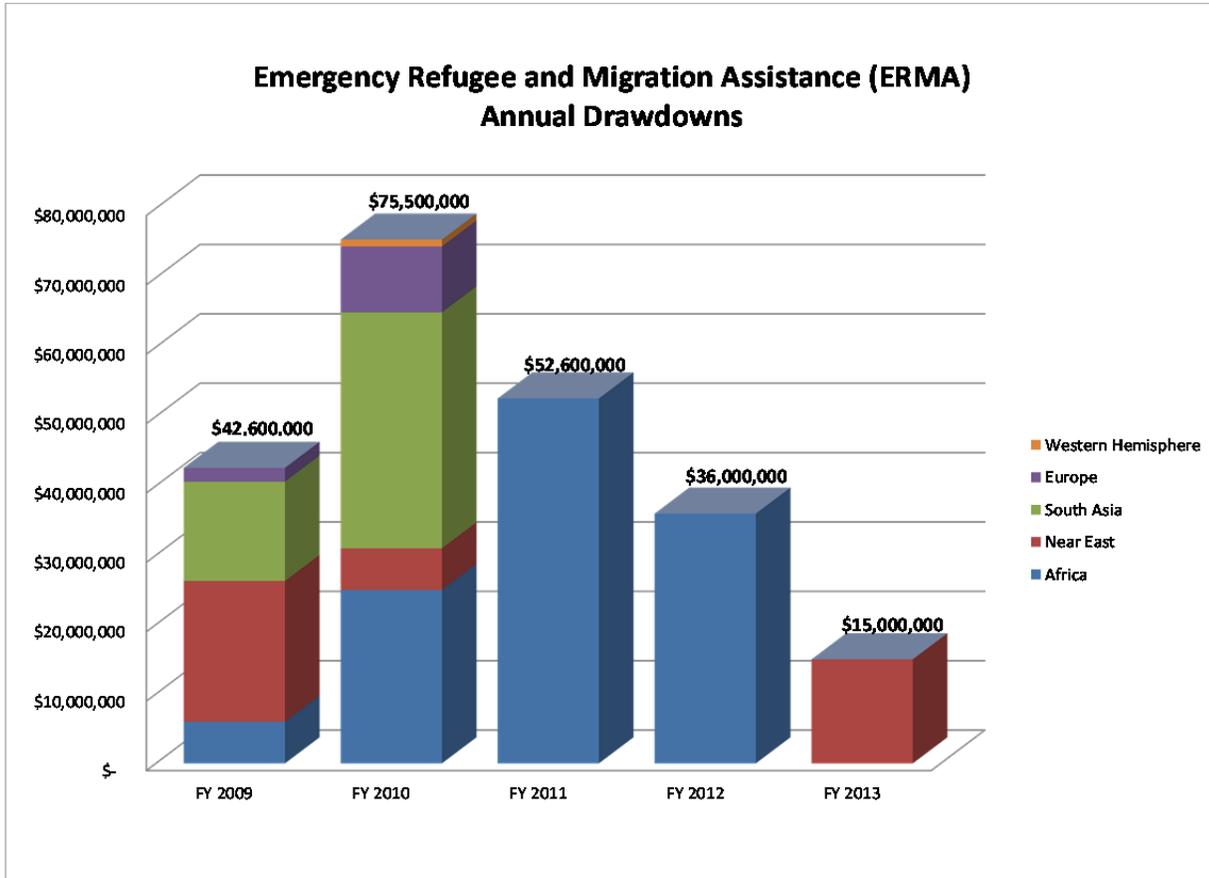
In FY 2010, **\$75.5 million** was drawn from the Fund:

- \$33 million extended the Dadaab/Ifo refugee camp in Kenya, established a food distribution center for Somali refugees in Kenya, and averted serious food pipeline breaks in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and South America.
- \$9.5 million provided shelter, warm clothing, health care, and services assisting victims of sexual violence to returned refugees and IDPs in Kyrgyzstan.
- \$33 million provided emergency shelter, food, clean water, and health care to Afghan refugees and Pakistanis displaced as a result of the floods in Pakistan.

In FY 2009, **\$42.6 million** was drawn from the Fund:

- \$8.3 million assisted Pakistani, Afghan, and Georgian conflict victims.

- \$6 million provided assistance and protection to Congolese IDPs and refugees in Uganda and southern Sudan as a result of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- \$20.3 million addressed humanitarian needs related to conflict in Gaza.
- \$8 million provided shelter to IDPs and health care to the wounded due to the crisis in Pakistan.



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