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Congressional Presentation Document
Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
FY 2017

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**Migration and Refugee Assistance &
U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund**
(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate ¹	FY 2017 Request
TOTAL - MRA	3,059,000	3,066,000	2,798,600

Total Enduring - MRA	931,886	938,886	922,597
PRM - Population, Refugees, and Migration	931,886	*	922,597
Africa	15,000	*	-
East Asia	72,875	*	54,600
Europe	59,385	*	-
Near East	72,000	*	-
South Asia	16,460	*	-
Western Hemisphere	47,765	*	45,300
Protection Priorities	178,881	*	186,587
Migration	27,266	*	21,110
Administrative Expenses	38,000	*	40,000
Humanitarian Migrants to Israel	10,000	*	7,500
Refugee Admissions	394,254	*	567,500

Total OCO - MRA	2,127,114	2,127,114	1,876,003
PRM - Population, Refugees, and Migration	2,127,114	*	1,876,003
Africa	760,520		500,000
Europe	-		32,900
Near East	914,220		1,270,203
South Asia	156,372		72,900
Protection Priorities	296,002		-

TOTAL - ERMA	50,000	50,000	50,000
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Total Enduring - ERMA	50,000	50,000	10,000
PRM - Population, Refugees, and Migration	50,000	*	10,000
Emergency Funds	50,000	*	10,000

Total OCO - ERMA	-	-	40,000
PRM - Population, Refugees, and Migration	-	-	40,000
Emergency Funds	-	-	40,000

1/ The FY 2016 enduring level includes the transfer of \$7 million from the FY 2016 Economic Support Fund to the Migration and Refugee Assistance account.

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



FY 2017 Statement by
Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard

The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) acts on behalf of the American people to save lives, ease suffering, and uphold human dignity for millions of the most vulnerable people in the world. Appropriated funds are essential to U.S. global leadership in support of humanitarian goals, policies and operations. For FY 2017, our request for the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account totals \$2,848.6 million, of which \$1,876.0 million is in Overseas Contingency Operations (MRA/OCO), \$922.6 million is in base (MRA) funding, and \$50 million is for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Account (ERMA) of which \$40 million is Overseas Contingency Operations (ERMA/OCO) and \$10 million is base (ERMA). Within those totals, the Refugee Admissions request is \$567.5 million, the Overseas Assistance request is \$2,183.6 million, the Humanitarian Migrants to Israel request is \$7.5 million, and Administrative Expenses are budgeted at \$40 million.

American Leadership

Today, around the world more than 60 million people are forcibly displaced, the largest number since World War II. This figure includes 20 million refugees and 38 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). PRM's "populations of concern" include these uprooted populations and others at risk because they are conflict victims, stateless and denied recognition as citizens of any country, or migrants victimized by crime or vulnerable to exploitation.

U.S. humanitarian leadership, assistance and diplomacy are vital to those who flee persecution and violence. In crisis after crisis, we have helped to spearhead the international response, mobilize and channel aid to those in need. We have championed the rights and improved the treatment of those fleeing violence and persecution. These efforts have saved millions of lives.

Through PRM, the United States is a leading contributor to some of the top United Nations and other humanitarian organizations. They include the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These organizations lead operations to deliver essential life-saving assistance: food, shelter, medical care and clean water and sanitation. They protect the rights of the displaced, care for survivors of sexual violence, reunite families, educate children and youth and help people gain the skills they need to be self-sufficient.

Our core objectives are to: maintain asylum space even as some countries are feeling overwhelmed by continuing arrivals of refugees; ensure that all persons of concern are "safe from the start" or protected from gender-based violence at the onset of crises; maintain robust U.S. support for refugee protection and assistance programs with a goal of meeting minimum international standards of assistance; address the needs of particularly vulnerable refugees such as those with disabilities, LGBT refugees, unaccompanied and separated children; prevent militarization of refugee and IDP camps; push for self-sufficiency wherever possible; ensure peaceful coexistence between uprooted and host populations; and achieve genuinely long-lasting or "durable" solutions for the displaced. With each new emergency, we have been at the forefront of the international response and have used our influence to help protect those menaced

by violence and persecution, to mobilize and channel aid for populations in need, and to ensure everyone in need is treated with dignity and humanity.

Our bureau can do this year after year because of steadfast support from Congress.

Improving the Delivery of Aid

Record levels of displacement, protracted conflicts, and changing patterns of displacement are straining humanitarian donors and responders and placing new pressures on the whole international system set up to deal with these kinds of emergencies. In the past five years, persecution, violence and armed conflict have erupted, smoldered, or flared anew, terrorizing and scattering civilians on many continents. People chased from their homes are finding it harder to return. Nearly half of all refugees – 45 percent – remain in exile for five years or more. Midwives in some refugee camps are delivering *the grandchildren* of those who first fled. And today, the vast majority of refugees live not in camps, but in cities and towns.

The United States is helping bring the international community together to find solutions equal to these challenges. With USAID, PRM is preparing for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 in order to strengthen the international response to emergencies – to ensure that donors and aid agencies are nimble, innovative, efficient and accountable in meeting the challenges we face. President Obama will host a global summit on refugees at the UN General Assembly in September 2016. That summit aims to enlist more countries to help refugees. Governments will be asked to contribute more funds to international humanitarian operations, provide more opportunities for refugees to go to school or work legally, and create or expand their refugee resettlement programs.

We are also taking steps to aid nations struggling to host large numbers of refugees for long periods of time. Syria's war has brought this need into stark relief. Turkey hosts more than 2.5 million refugees from Syria, more than any other nation. One in five people in Lebanon and one in ten in Jordan is now a Syrian refugee. Many refugees are living in poor neighborhoods stretching already scarce resources and services. Host governments and communities need help building schools and hospitals, expanding and upgrading water and sewer systems, providing an adequate safety net and creating jobs. To meet these long-term needs, PRM is working closely with USAID to coordinate the assistance we deliver and to break down barriers between development and humanitarian programs. We are also seeking ways to collaborate with the World Bank and other international financial institutions to better assist countries in crises, including middle-income countries that host refugees but are generally ineligible for the most affordable loans.

We remain committed to improving protection and humanitarian assistance for women and children. Under an initiative called "Safe from the Start," we have committed more than \$22 million to help prevent gender-based violence and assist survivors. This initiative provides expert staff and training to front-line aid workers so they can recognize risks and take countermeasures before abuses occur. It funds lighting and other thoughtful site design based on women and girls' identification of risk, so women are safer in refugee camps. It also provides medical, legal, and psychological services.

Protecting Migrants

In addition to record numbers of refugees, we are seeing unprecedented numbers of migrants abandoning their homes and putting themselves in danger in search of a better life. Although they are not protected under the 1951 Refugee Convention, migrants can be exceptionally vulnerable. Thousands of tragic deaths at sea have made this clear. PRM is playing a pivotal role in assisting this population and highlighting the need for shared responsibility.

We and the Philippine government are co-leading the "Migrants in Countries in Crisis" (MICIC) Initiative which is developing voluntary guidelines and best practices for assisting migrants trapped abroad during a crisis or natural disaster.

We also support a range of efforts by IOM, UNHCR, governments and civil society to identify, screen, and protect vulnerable migrants and strengthen asylum systems. PRM has supported new policies and programs to assist Central

American children who were risking their lives trying to reach the U.S. border. And we worked through IOM to aid and protect Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic. In Southeast Asia, we collaborated with several governments to rescue trafficked fishermen from remote islands and help them return home. And we have encouraged countries throughout the region to collaborate to save migrants stranded at sea, identify and aid victims of trafficking, crack down on smuggling rings, and manage migration more humanely.

Refugee Admissions

Most of the humanitarian assistance and protection PRM provides aids refugees overseas. Only a tiny percentage of all refugees are offered a chance to resettle permanently in a third country. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program identifies some of the world's most vulnerable refugees, brings them to the United States, and offers them a fresh start. Since 1975, the United States has provided a new start to more than three million vulnerable refugees. We admitted 69,933 refugees from 69 countries in FY 2015 and aim to bring in 85,000 in FY 2016.

The refugees we welcome to the United States bring energy, dynamism, a desire to work hard, and a deep appreciation for the freedom and safety our country provides. They renew the qualities that helped forge our national identity and make the United States strong. When they are eligible, many take the test to become naturalized U.S. citizens. They find jobs, enroll their children in school, pay taxes, revitalize communities, and have a positive impact on our economy.

Research shows that refugees are more likely to be entrepreneurial and start successful businesses than native-born Americans. Refugees buy goods, renovate shops and homes, hire employees, and help revitalize communities, especially those where the population would otherwise be declining. Thanks to refugees and immigrants, Buffalo, New York's population is climbing for the first time since the 1960s. The mayor of Detroit is welcoming refugees to help that city's economy rebound. Local officials in Nashville credit refugees and immigrants with fueling a resurgence in economic and cultural activity there over the last decade. Researchers studied the economic impact of resettling refugees in Cleveland and found for every dollar spent on services for new families the city reaped ten dollars in additional economic activity from new businesses, jobs, and consumer spending and saw a big jump in tax revenue as well.

After the terrorist attacks in Paris, Brussels, and California, some have questioned whether terrorists could sneak into the United States by masquerading as refugees. The truth is that refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the United States. Unlike European governments with thousands or hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers that have arrived in their countries, the United States is able to screen refugees while they are still overseas. The process is rigorous, deliberate and lengthy. The Department of Homeland Security, other intelligence and law enforcement agencies, and the Departments of State and Defense all take part in screening refugees and no one found to pose a security concern is admitted or permitted to travel to the United States.

Today's chronic and brutal crises have uprooted millions of innocent civilians and captured the world's attention. The specter of so many people on the move has stirred fear and even xenophobia, but also compassion and a new sense of resolve. Together, we must mount the response that these emergencies demand.

It is important to see refugees and others in exile for what they are: people not very different from us, who want to work, take charge of their own destinies, and make a better life for their children. Their courage and resilience are a powerful rebuke to the bigotry and brutality that has chased so many people from their homes. Whether they are visible under the glare of TV cameras arriving in Europe or in more remote corners of the earth, each person fleeing has a story. Each individual seeks the dignity that all people deserve. Despite borders and barriers, despite our different circumstances, our fates are linked, and their fight should not only be theirs but our own. **In the year ahead, we will continue to rely on the support of Congress and the American people to meet these daunting challenges.**

Populations of Concern to PRM, 2004-2015



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

PRM Global Impacts: 2015 Highlights

More than 60 million people worldwide

had fled their homes in 2015 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 2015, over \$3.1 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.

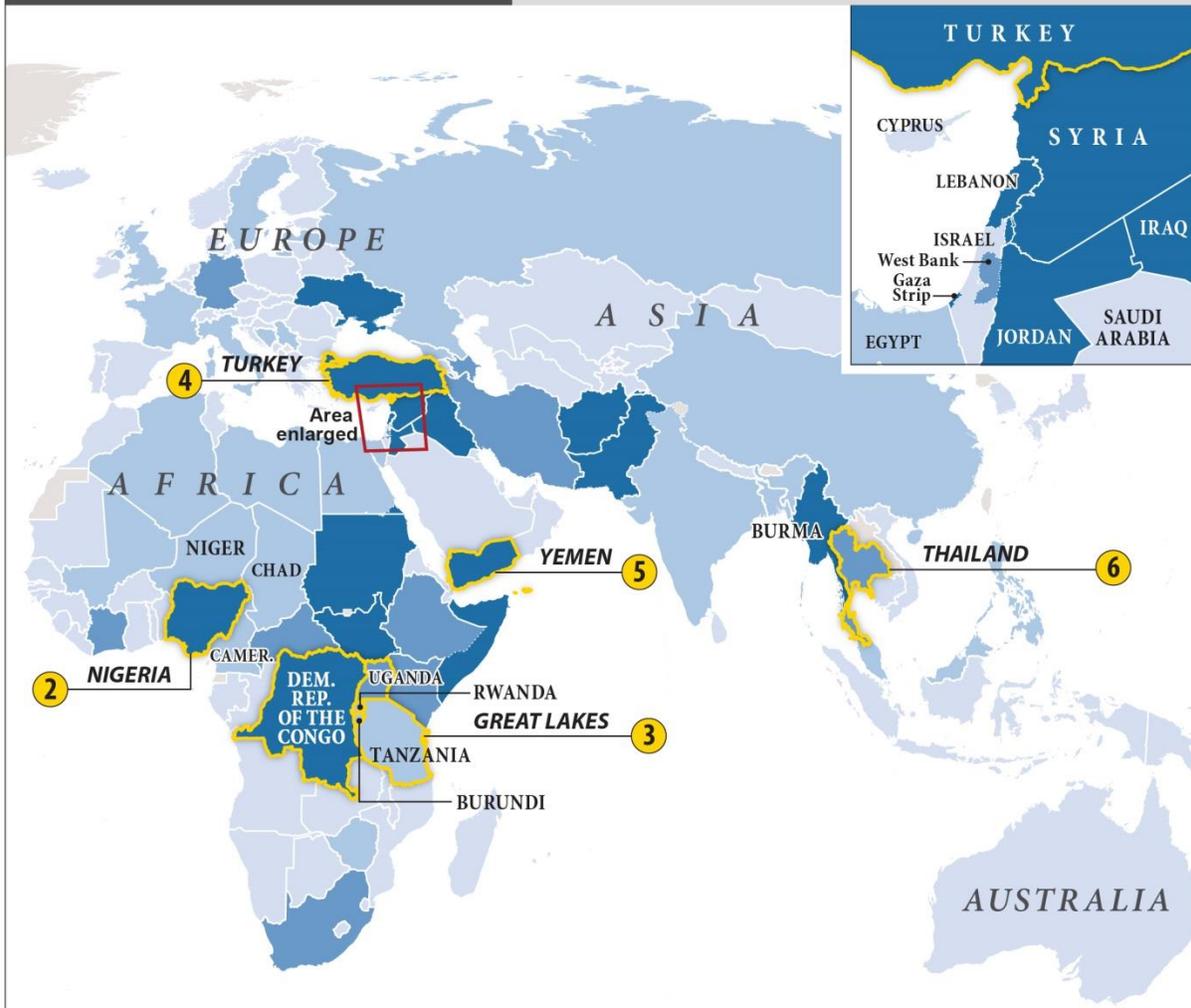


*All population figures are estimates based on data released by UNHCR in June 2015 and by UNRWA in January 2015. These figures do not reflect population movements in late 2015, such as displacement as a result of conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Burundi, and elsewhere.

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

1 MESOAMERICA: MIGRATION	2 NIGERIA: EMERGENCY RESPONSE	3 GREAT LAKES: REFUGEE ADMISSIONS
<p>PRM supported the International Organization for Migration and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to better enable government officials and civil society in Central America and on Mexico's southern border to identify, screen, protect, and assist vulnerable migrants. With U.S. support, UNHCR also worked with Mexico to strengthen its asylum and international protection systems by providing training and technical assistance to Mexican child protection and refugee officers to adopt best interest determination procedures for children.</p>	<p>In 2015, the Lake Chad Basin Region witnessed increasing waves of violence and massive displacement. The extremist terrorist group Boko Haram expanded its insurgency from north-eastern Nigeria, where to date more than 2.15 million people are internally displaced, to neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger. In FY 2015, PRM provided more than \$53 million to meet the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected populations, including some 180,000 Nigerian refugees. Refugees in Niger, for example, received emergency shelter and treatment for malnutrition, as well as assistance for survivors of gender-based violence.</p>	<p>The United States chaired the Great Lakes Core Group to spearhead a large-scale resettlement initiative for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo located in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. UNHCR committed to submit at least 70,000 refugees over eight years to resettlement countries. In FY 2015, over 7,800 Congolese refugees were resettled in the United States, and Congolese refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania were designated as eligible for Priority 2 group access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.</p>

Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative
Unclassified



4 TURKEY:
SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE EDUCATION

Turkey hosted over 2.5 million of the 4.2 million Syrian refugees in 2015, making Turkey the largest refugee-hosting country in the world. PRM provided nearly \$91 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Turkey in FY 2015. A portion of this assistance was designated to expand educational opportunities for Syrian refugees. In coordination with Turkey's Ministry of National Education, PRM support for UNICEF and NGO programs has expanded refugees' access to formal schooling by funding teacher stipends, school supplies, teacher training, and other educational necessities.

5 YEMEN:
IDP PROTECTION

Despite severe security constraints and restrictions on humanitarian access, with PRM support UNHCR reached over 280,000 IDPs with essential household items such as bedding, kitchen utensils and shelter material in 2015. UNHCR partnered with NGOs to link internally displaced Yemenis with aid programs. Trained operators at a call center in Sana'a note callers' needs, advise them on how to access humanitarian services, and gather feedback to be referred to the relevant agency for follow up, reinforcing accountability to affected populations. In FY 2015, PRM provided more than \$45.3 million to assist those affected by the conflict in Yemen, as well as to those fleeing the country.

6 THAILAND:
REFUGEE REGISTRATION

In 2015, UNHCR and the Royal Thai Government verified and updated the records of nearly 110,000 registered and unregistered refugees from Burma in Thailand with the help of UNHCR's new biometrics identity management system. U.S. funding for this registration process helps to strengthen protection and humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable refugees and to monitor programs more accurately.

Migration and Refugee Assistance Overview

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	3,059,000	3,066,000	2,798,600	-260,400
Enduring ¹	931,886	938,886	922,597	-9,289
Overseas Contingency Operations	2,127,114	2,127,114	1,876,003	-251,111

^{1/} The FY 2016 enduring level includes the transfer of \$7 million from the FY 2016 Economic Support Fund to the Migration and Refugee Assistance account.

The world is struggling with humanitarian crises that are unprecedented, both in severity and duration. Through the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)'s global programs, the U.S. government seeks to protect and assist the world's most vulnerable people including refugees, conflict victims, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, and vulnerable migrants. Programs funded through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account save lives and ease suffering, uphold human dignity and reflect the American people's steadfast belief in assisting those in need. By also helping to stabilize volatile situations, this assistance forms an essential component of U.S. foreign policy. The FY 2017 enduring MRA request of \$922.6 million will fund contributions to key multilateral organizations such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to non-governmental organizations that address pressing humanitarian needs overseas and resettle refugees in the United States. Programmatically, these resources will focus on areas where OCO has not generally been utilized to date, including for administrative costs, and the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. MRA-funded programs meet basic needs to sustain life; protect and assist to the most vulnerable, particularly women and children; 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 2017 request also includes \$1,876.0 million under the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) heading for humanitarian needs, with a particular emphasis on populations impacted by conflict. Details of the FY 2017 OCO Request for MRA are addressed in the OCO chapter.

Highlights:

- Overseas Assistance (\$307.6 million):** MRA programs aim to save lives and ease suffering, protect vulnerable populations, achieve durable solutions for those displaced by conflict, and exert leadership in the international community. PRM provides humanitarian assistance in response to complex emergencies and protracted displacement, as well as supports the voluntary return and local integration of refugees and IDPs. PRM-supported programs are designed to identify and protect the most vulnerable, such as single heads of households, children, the elderly, and the disabled to ensure that they have equal access to life-sustaining goods and services. Strategies to protect the beneficiaries from harm and to protect their rights are incorporated into multiple sectors including: water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, food, health and nutrition, education, livelihoods, and camp management. Coupled with diplomatic efforts, these programs seek to: prevent the forcible return of refugees to a place where their lives or freedom would be threatened; negotiate access for humanitarian agencies to operate safely and reach people affected by conflict; resolve protracted refugee situations; prevent and reduce statelessness; promote adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; and help vulnerable people maintain their dignity by advocating for opportunities that promote self-sufficiency. In addition, PRM's core support to multilateral partners allows them to respond quickly and effectively when a crisis hits.
- Refugee Admissions (\$567.5 million):** Resettlement is a key element of refugee protection and an important solution when repatriation and local integration are not possible. The United States has the world's largest resettlement program and welcomes the most vulnerable refugees from many backgrounds.

The \$567.5 million will fund international and non-governmental organizations to help refugees and certain other categories of special immigrants to resettle in communities across the United States.

- **Humanitarian Migrants to Israel (\$7.5 million):** This funding helps find durable solutions for populations of concern by maintaining 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 (\$40.0 million):** PRM oversees all programs funded through MRA enduring and OCO appropriations, as well as any funding drawn from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account. The \$40.0 million in funds requested for FY 2017 will ensure strong monitoring and oversight of 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.



Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Heather Higginbottom meets with United Nations Secretary-General Ban and UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Turk on the margins of the UNHCR Global Responsibility Sharing Conference for Syrian Refugees, March 30, 2016.

Overseas Assistance

FY 2017 Request

The number of people fleeing conflict is at its highest level since World War II, with more than 60 million forcibly displaced. Catastrophic conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Burundi, Nigeria, and South Sudan, and long-standing refugee crises elsewhere, are stretching the international community's capacity to respond.

Most of the FY 2017 MRA request will provide USG contributions to four international organizations to meet their requirements for calendar year 2017. These are the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (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 through both proactive engagement in governing bodies and robust funding. Our expectation is 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 emergencies throughout the world to meet humanitarian needs.

UNHCR is an indispensable partner for the USG and a critical player in effective multilateral humanitarian response. The 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness give UNHCR a mandate to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and stateless persons, respectively, and to work toward lasting solutions to their displacement. UNHCR's global network, its staff in 125 countries, and its partnerships with other humanitarian organizations, provide protection, solutions, life-saving assistance, and advocacy for more than 46 million persons of concern. This includes millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs), pursuant to UN humanitarian reforms adopted in 2005. UNHCR programs provide legal and physical protection, and meet urgent needs for water, sanitation, shelter, food, health care, and primary education. UNHCR also plays an essential role in seeking permanent solutions for refugees. It supports safe and voluntary return and reintegration operations, facilitates local integration of refugees into host countries, and assists with third country resettlement.

ICRC has a unique status as an independent humanitarian organization mandated by the Geneva Conventions to protect conflict victims. Its respected neutrality, independence, and impartiality enable it to operate in war zones and often gain access to areas – and thus to people in need – that no one else can reach. This makes ICRC 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.

“All of us need to work together in order to guarantee that people don't live in a refugee camp from the date of birth until the end of high school, but rather that they can go home. That's our obligation. Refugee camps are supposed to be temporary, not supposed to become permanent cities in another nation.”

*Secretary of State John Kerry,
May 4, 2015 visit to Kenya.*

UNRWA is mandated by the United Nations to provide education, health, relief, and social services to some 5.2 million registered Palestinian refugees residing in Jordan, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank. UNRWA also provides emergency food, health, and other assistance to vulnerable Palestinian refugees during humanitarian crises, such as the war in Syria and in the aftermath of the 2014 conflict in Gaza. UNRWA plays a stabilizing role in the Middle East through its assistance programs, serving as an important counterweight to extremist elements. Given UNRWA's humanitarian operations in areas where terrorist organizations are active, the U.S. Department of State continues to monitor UNRWA closely to ensure that the agency is taking all possible measures to keep terrorists from benefitting from U.S. government funding.

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. International migration issues reflect and affect global trends, such as economic downturns, climate change, peace and security, and global health threats. U.S. government diplomatic engagement with IOM and our support for its assistance programs are critical to helping ensure that governments can manage migration while ensuring that migrants are treated with dignity and can seek international protection when needed.

MRA funds may also support the activities of other international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to meet specific program needs and objectives. Other international organizations receiving MRA funds in the past include the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Program (WFP), 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).

Of the 79 NGOs receiving MRA funds for overseas assistance in FY 2015, the top 10 recipients were: the International Rescue Committee, International Medical Corps, Danish Refugee Council, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children Federation, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Center for Victims of Torture, and American Refugee Committee. Funding for NGO programs typically covers a 12-month period, but multi-year funding is possible and helps facilitate planning when crises and displacement are protracted.

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



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrives at the UNHCR for a meeting with refugees in Nairobi, Kenya.

Assistance Programs in Africa

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual ^{1,2}	FY 2016 Estimate ³	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	15,000	*	-	-15,000
Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	600,520	*	500,000	-100,520

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations was used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims in Africa.

² The FY 2015 MRA-OCO actual level does not include \$160 million in planned carryover into FY 2016.

³ In addition, a portion of the FY 2015 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 2017 Request

The FY 2017 MRA request for Africa will enable the Bureau to support programs and operations that save lives and ease the suffering of African refugees, IDPs, and victims of conflict and statelessness. Africa is home to nearly 4.8 million refugees and asylum seekers and 12 million IDPs. Eighty-five percent of Africa's refugees and IDPs have fled from crises in Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. Those countries' neighbors absorb most of these refugees, sometimes hosting refugees from more than one country. Chad, for example, is simultaneously coping with refugees from Nigeria, the CAR, and Sudan's Darfur region, while Ethiopia is hosting refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. Refugee numbers have risen by more than one million since the start of 2014, as conflicts raged in the CAR, South Sudan, Nigeria, and most recently Burundi. North African countries are also hosting growing numbers of Syrian refugees as well as Sub-Saharan refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe. Chaos in Libya has prompted and provided opportunities for many to attempt dangerous Mediterranean crossings.

MRA funds will support UNHCR's operations to provide protection and assistance and find durable solutions for populations of concern in nearly every country across the continent. The request also will support ICRC operations in over 40 countries in Africa to protect and assist conflict victims and to promote compliance with international humanitarian law. Humanitarian needs are expected to remain high in FY 2017 due to stubbornly protracted conflict and violence in such places as South Sudan and the DRC. At the same time, PRM and the organizations it supports see opportunities for refugees to voluntarily return home, even in parts of Somalia, and to be locally integrated in countries like Zambia.

Top priorities include maintaining first asylum, keeping refugee and IDP sites secure and neutral, preventing gender-based violence in all its forms, achieving humanitarian access in conflict zones, biometrically registering refugee populations for protection and accountability purposes, reaching minimum standards of assistance for those people who need aid, promoting self-reliance whenever possible, achieving maximum social cohesion between refugees and hosts, and sustaining voluntary returns by helping ensure that basic services are available when and where refugees return home.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- PRM financial support and humanitarian advocacy were critical in mitigating the loss of life and suffering caused by violence in Burundi, conflict in South Sudan, depredations of the Boko Haram terrorist group in the Nigeria region, and the ongoing impact of conflicts in the Central African Republic.
- The outbreak of electoral violence in Burundi beginning in late March 2015 caused more than 245,000 Burundians to flee the country. In FY 2015, PRM provided more than \$38 million in humanitarian assistance to partners operating in the region to support protection activities and services such as shelter, water and sanitation, health, education, and gender-based violence prevention and response related to the crisis in Burundi

- As a result of the war in South Sudan, more than 2.4 million South Sudanese have been displaced and 2.8 million people -- nearly 25 percent of the population -- are in need of immediate, life-saving food assistance. In FY 2015, PRM provided nearly \$199 million in assistance to IDPs and refugees in South Sudan, and South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. The funding allowed international and non-governmental organizations to address the vital needs of millions of displaced and food-insecure people, to prevent the spread of disease through safe drinking water and emergency health services, and to implement programs to protect children and reunite families. PRM funding also supported services for survivors of gender-based violence and malnourished children among affected populations in South Sudan and South Sudanese refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.
- Boko Haram violence has generated 2.15 million IDPs in Nigeria and hundreds of thousands more in Cameroon, Niger, and Chad; forced more than 180,000 refugees to flee to neighboring countries; and even uprooted many resident aliens who have had to flee Nigeria for their home countries. In FY 2015, PRM provided more than \$53 million in humanitarian assistance in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, supporting crucial efforts to protect and aid refugees, IDPs, and conflict-affected people in the Lake Chad Basin region. Assistance has been focused on protection and life-saving activities such as food, shelter, and health.
- In FY 2015, PRM continued to assist nearly one million internally displaced persons and refugees in the CAR and Central African refugees in Chad, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Republic of the Congo (RoC), contributing nearly \$42 million in aid. PRM support to ICRC and UNHCR strengthened protection for some 500,000 Central African IDPs who have fled their homes. With PRM funding, UNHCR, ICRC, and partners coordinated to meet a range of shelter, food, water, medical, livelihoods, and psycho-social needs of those affected by the conflict

FY 2016 Objectives

- Urge UNHCR and partners to take the necessary steps to adapt and implement contingency plans as needed, including increasing personnel and resources, for the continuing Burundi regional crisis.
- Advocate with the new government of the CAR for the establishment of an environment conducive for the return of CAR refugees and monitor returns to ensure they are conducted in line with humanitarian principles.
- Promote expanded integration of Congolese refugees living in camps in Rwanda into local Rwandan healthcare and education systems, and encourage broader off-camp employment opportunities, to improve their quality of life and self-sufficiency.
- Continue to track persecution of LGBTI and other particularly vulnerable refugees in Uganda, raising concerns with the government as necessary.
- Reduce statelessness in Southern Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Sudan.
- Improve conditions in protection of civilian sites in South Sudan and keep pace with the growing numbers seeking safety.
- Work with UNHCR in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo/Ethiopia to assess possibilities for the eventual voluntary return to areas in eastern DRC/western Ethiopia where conditions permit and when refugees express a desire to return to areas of origin.
- Through support for UNHCR-led regional efforts, develop programs in Somalia that result in durable solutions for 20,000 Somali refugee returnees.

- Support the return of Chadian refugees from Darfur through diplomatic engagement in N’Djamena and Khartoum and financial support to UNHCR return programs.
- Promote the sustainable return of Ivoirian refugees displaced by the 2010 post-election violence by working to improve social cohesion and ensuring that local infrastructure and reintegration programs are adequate to absorb returnees.
- Continue to press governments and UN agencies for improvements in the protection environment, aid response, and humanitarian coordination in the Lake Chad Basin region to meet the needs of those affected by Boko Haram violence.
- Continue to advocate with governments and UN agencies for improvements in the protection environment of Somali IDPs and Somali refugee returnees from the Horn of Africa region and Yemen, including supporting voluntary repatriation, integration efforts and third-country resettlement as durable solutions.



PRM Deputy Assistant Secretary Catherine Wiesner visiting with South Sudanese refugee children at a child friendly space in Kule Refugee Camp in Gambella, Ethiopia.

Assistance Programs in East Asia

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	72,875	*	54,600	-18,275

FY 2017 Request

The FY 2017 MRA request will enable humanitarian partners to save lives and alleviate suffering in the East Asia region by funding programs that protect and assist refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, and other victims of conflict. These include Burma’s Rohingya and Kachin populations, who continue to face persecution and violence, highly vulnerable North Koreans outside the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Uighurs throughout the region, and the growing number of urban refugees and asylum seekers in detention in Thailand and Malaysia.

Burmese are the single largest IDP, refugee, and asylum seeker group in East Asia. Conflict and systematic persecution continue in Rakhine, Kachin, and northern Shan States in Burma. More than 816,000 Burmese refugees, asylum seekers, and other persons of concern are scattered throughout Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, and China; more than 800,000 stateless Rohingya remain in Burma’s northern Rakhine State and some 560,000 are IDPs or living in IDP-like situations in Burma. The FY 2017 MRA request will help UNHCR and ICRC improve humanitarian conditions for Burmese, Rohingya, and other vulnerable ethnic minorities within Burma, for those displaced by conflict, and the growing number who are urban refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants in Thailand, Malaysia, and elsewhere in the region. Continued MRA support will enable international and non-governmental organization partners working in Bangladesh, Malaysia, and along the Thailand-Burma border to meet the basic humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum seekers until conditions within Burma allow for their safe, voluntary, and sustainable return. The Bureau will lead by engaging in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy with the Burmese government to address root causes of displacement and with host governments in the region to protect the rights of refugees, IDPs, and vulnerable migrants.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- At the urging of the U.S. government and other partners, the Burmese government launched a citizenship verification exercise in Rakhine State and returned approximately 2,000 Rohingya IDP households to their villages of origin. PRM worked with the national authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure that returns to mixed Rakhine and Rohingya communities were safe and orderly.
- PRM funding to IOM and NGO partners supported the implementation of the Bangladeshi Government’s National Rohingya Strategy, including by improving: access to water and sanitation, programming for people with disabilities, and nutrition for refugees in formal camps, makeshift sites, and the host community in Cox’s Bazar District. In addition, UNHCR implemented a pilot vocational training program to improve refugee self-reliance.
- With PRM support, NGO partners in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur continued to make available services to urban refugees including primary health care, case management, legal assistance, and psychosocial support. U.S. contributions to UNHCR supported the launch in 2015 of a new local health insurance policy for refugees and asylum-seekers in Malaysia, which paid the insurance premiums for highly vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers.
- With MRA funds, ICRC facilitated the rehabilitation of disabled persons throughout East Asia, including through the production of prostheses, orthoses and crutches while building the capacity of National Societies and partner governments to manage these programs independently.

FY 2016 Objectives

- In conjunction with UNHCR and partner governments, persuade the Burmese government to allow humanitarian organizations unimpeded access to those in need, and to address the root causes of statelessness – prerequisites for stabilizing and developing Rakhine State.
- Encourage the Burmese Government to demonstrate its commitment to developing comprehensive solutions for displaced Rohingya by engaging and coordinating with neighboring countries. Through humanitarian diplomacy, ensure any returns to Burma from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh are conducted safely and voluntarily.
- Persuade the governments of Thailand and Malaysia to better protect and assist their increasingly large and diverse urban refugee populations, including by expanding opportunities for refugee children to attend school and recognition of UNHCR cards for adults to work without fear of detention or exploitation.
- Engage host governments throughout the region on the importance of respecting the rights of particularly vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees such as Uighurs, Rohingya, Chinese dissidents, and North Koreans including the prevention of forced return to countries of origin.
- Support ICRC in its efforts to maintain a wide network of comprehensive rehabilitation services throughout the region, improve the conditions of prisons and detention centers, and rapidly respond to unanticipated conflicts.



PRM Assistant Secretary Anne Richard and USAID Mission Director Chris Milligan meet with Kachin internally displaced persons in Myitkyina, Kachin State, as part of the delegation attending the Second U.S.-Burma Human Rights Dialogue, January 2015 in Burma.

Assistance Programs in Europe

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	59,385	*	-	-59,385
Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	-	*	32,900	32,900

FY 2017 Request

The FY 2017 MRA-OCO request will address ongoing humanitarian needs of displaced and vulnerable people in Ukraine, the Balkans, and the Caucasus. It will also help non-Syrian refugees in Turkey. In addition to providing humanitarian aid, overseas assistance programs in Europe will support efforts to strengthen asylum regimes and reduce statelessness. Over 3.2 million people in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia are displaced or stateless, and nearly one million refugees and migrants fleeing violence and strife in the Middle East, Afghanistan and Africa transited through the Western Balkans in CY 2015, and migration through the region is likely to continue. The requested FY 2017 funding will provide protection and assistance to save lives and alleviate suffering in a region coping with ever larger numbers of people who will need support and opportunities for integration.

Ongoing violence in Eastern Ukraine has driven nearly 1.9 million people from their homes and left 3.1 million in need of assistance inside the country and across the region. MRA-OCO funded programs will help internally displaced persons, conflict victims, and refugees in neighboring countries get access to emergency assistance, social services, shelter, livelihoods, and psychosocial programs to foster self-sufficiency. This request will also support IDP returns to Eastern Ukraine, where possible, and aid vulnerable IDPs in Georgia who are unable to return to the occupied regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

In the Balkans, MRA-OCO funded programs will provide assistance to the over 360,000 people uprooted by the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s who have not returned home. This includes thousands of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian minorities who remain in need of durable solutions.

Funding within the Europe line includes support for UNHCR's refugee status determination operation in Turkey, its largest in the world.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- PRM contributed \$26.6 million to UNHCR's regional programs in Europe, which included providing food, water, and legal assistance to refugees transiting Greece, Macedonia, and Serbia, among other countries.
- In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, PRM contributed nearly \$36 million in FY 2015 in response to the humanitarian needs of over 800,000 IDPs from eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Humanitarian assistance included the distribution of life-saving non-food items and shelter support for the extremely vulnerable. Items provided include clothing, household items, medical supplies, hygiene kits, maternity medical kits and dignity kits, and construction materials to both residents and displaced persons.
- In the Caucasus region, U.S. support to UNHCR and NGO partners assisted IDPs with integration, and promoted self-reliance and confidence building initiatives through a variety of grassroots livelihoods and income-generating projects.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, PRM funded livelihood programs and supported efforts to integrate refugees into their communities. MRA funds also helped build the capacity of municipalities and other stakeholders involved with Balkans Regional Housing Program, which is providing permanent housing for more than 15,000 displaced persons.

FY 2016 Objectives

- Boost efforts to protect the human rights of migrants and asylum seekers, improve protection systems, asylum access, reception conditions and reduce tragedies at sea for vulnerable migrants.
- Fill gaps in the provision of life-saving assistance to refugees and migrants transiting through Europe. Bolster engagement with EU member states on returns of economic migrants and refugee resettlement and integration.
- Support efforts to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and conflict victims in Ukraine and refugees from Ukraine in neighboring countries. Advocate for the free movement of people in Eastern Ukraine, and humanitarian access to those in need. Where possible, PRM will support IDP returns to areas restored to government control.
- In Turkey, work to expand opportunities to assist Syrians, Iraqis, Afghans, and other vulnerable asylum seekers.
- Seek durable solutions for and provide assistance to the vulnerable displaced persons in the Balkans and the Caucasus.
- Throughout the region, 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.



Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration Nancy I. Jackson (second left) and Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland, (second right) visit the Greek border camp near Eidomeni, on March 10, 2016. [AP photo]

Assistance Programs in the Near East

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual ^{1,2}	FY 2016 Estimate ³	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	72,000	*	-	-72,000
Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	864,220	*	1,270,203	405,983

¹ In addition, a portion of FY 2014 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 The FY 2015 MRA-OCO actual level does not include \$50 million in planned carryover into FY 2016.

³ In addition, a portion of the FY 2015 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 2017 Request

The FY 2017 request will maintain core support for UNHCR, ICRC, and UNRWA activities throughout the Near East region, supporting the Bureau's primary goal of providing humanitarian assistance that saves lives and eases suffering. It will fund protection and assistance programs for Iraqi refugees, conflict victims, and displaced persons inside Iraq. It will also sustain essential humanitarian programs run by international organization and NGO partners in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey to meet Iraqi refugees' basic needs. The crisis in Iraq continues to worsen. The UN estimates that as of December 2015, 8.6 million Iraqis inside the country need assistance and 3.2 million are internally displaced. The request anticipates growing needs of vulnerable Iraqis, particularly IDPs, due to ongoing conflict and displacement.

The conflict in Syria has left more than 250,000 dead and approximately 13.5 million in need of humanitarian assistance. Roughly 6.6 million Syrians are displaced inside the country, and more than four million are refugees. The fighting rages on, and military activity has surged, despite recent steps toward a political solution. PRM's FY 2017 request anticipates ongoing and significant humanitarian needs as millions of Syrian refugees remain in neighboring states or try to reach North Africa and Europe. Millions of IDPs and conflict victims will continue to lack regular access to food, health care, clean water, sanitation, and adequate shelter and their situation is likely to continue to deteriorate. PRM funding will help address the effects of this protracted crisis, including the pressing need to educate refugee children, provide psychological counseling, and aid communities that host refugees as their resources dwindle and local infrastructure becomes overwhelmed. The FY 2017 request will maintain robust support to the Syrian humanitarian response efforts, primarily through the OCO request. PRM funding, in keeping with the Bureau's goal to exert humanitarian leadership in the international community, will prioritize support to UNHCR, UNRWA, and ICRC to reinforce their critical response roles inside Syria and the region. Funding will also support the work of additional international organizations, UN agencies and NGOs, assisting refugees and conflict-affected individuals in neighboring countries.

The FY 2017 request includes support to UNRWA. UNRWA provides education, health care, relief and social services, and emergency assistance to approximately 5.2 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank. The United States is UNRWA's largest bilateral donor and MRA funding to UNRWA is essential to the organization, which remains an indispensable counterweight to extremism and a force for stability in the region. FY 2017 funding will support UNRWA's General Fund, the Emergency Appeal for Gaza and the West Bank, and UNRWA's response to the Syria crisis.

The FY 2017 request also includes support for approximately 2.5 million Yemeni IDPs and millions of conflict victims affected by the conflict. This aid will focus primarily on providing shelter, food and water, medical care, and protection, primarily through UNHCR and ICRC, as well as other international organizations.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- In FY 2015, the United States was the largest contributor to the Syria humanitarian effort, providing over \$1.6 billion to multilateral and NGO partners, of which PRM provided more than \$752 million. In addition, PRM continued humanitarian diplomacy to advocate strongly for neighboring countries to keep borders open for vulnerable asylum seekers and to provide work opportunities for refugees.
- Within Syria, MRA-funded contributions to UNHCR provided core relief items including mattresses, blankets, kitchen supplies, and hygiene kits to over 3.2 million individuals. UNHCR improved more than 61,000 private and collective shelters and enabled nearly 800,000 Syrians to access health care. Across the region, UNHCR registered or pre-registered over one million refugees during 2015, and provided refugees with shelter, health care, and other vital assistance. UNHCR also advocated for Syrian asylum seekers to be afforded protection in neighboring countries and for their access to livelihoods as well as public services including education and civil registration.
- PRM's contributions to IOM assisted over 500,000 individuals affected by the Syria crisis. IOM delivered core relief items to over 300,000 displaced and affected individuals, including the provision of hygiene items, as well as blankets and other supplies to prepare for winter. Additionally, 44,000 individuals have benefited from improved shelter conditions, including the repair and rehabilitation of public shelters, unfinished buildings where some IDPs reside, and the construction of new transitional shelters. More than 200,000 affected Syrians have received emergency support to water and sanitation services, including through the improvement of physical infrastructure and water purification systems.
- In Syria, PRM funding to ICRC provided food for 8.3 million Syrians and emergency relief items, such as blankets, jerry cans, and plastic sheeting, for 1.6 million people. More than 16 million people affected by the conflict were provided with clean drinking water, and 410,000 people received warm clothes to survive the winter. ICRC treated 170,000 patients through clinics and mobile health units and upgraded and rehabilitated housing and water and sanitation facilities benefitting 300,000 displaced people.
- With PRM support, UNFPA established reproductive health clinics and mobile teams in Syria and refugee-hosting countries; ensured safe delivery for thousands of babies in Iraq and Syria; provided gender-based violence services for over one million Syrians; and provided dignity kits to 50,000 Syrian refugee women and hygiene kits to 300,000 Syrians.
- PRM-funded NGOs in Turkey helped urban refugees increase their access to healthcare, education, legal services, and provided psycho-social support and assistance to the most vulnerable, often through the creation of Syrian community centers. PRM support also allowed UNHCR to provide over 67,000 refugee households with core relief items and approximately 311,000 refugees with assistance to survive the winter.
- In Iraq, more than 3.3 million people have been displaced by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) advances since January 2014. In FY 2015, PRM provided nearly \$228 million in humanitarian assistance for displaced Iraqis in Iraq and more than 225,000 Iraqi refugees in neighboring states. This funding provided hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected Iraqis with critically-needed relief commodities, shelter, clean water, sanitation, health care, livelihood support, protection, education, and legal assistance to help obtain identification documents.
- In 2015, PRM funding to UNRWA ensured access to education for nearly half a million children through 700 schools, eight vocational colleges, and two educational science faculties. A recent World Bank study found that UNRWA schools continually and consistently outperform public schools by a margin equivalent to more than one additional year of learning. UNRWA has also become a leader in emergency education programming, using a multi-faceted approach to ensure education continues to reach Palestinian refugee students affected by the conflict in Syria.

- With PRM funding, UNRWA operated 137 primary health facilities, providing services to some 3.5 million refugees annually. UNRWA’s health program includes immunizations, check-ups, pre-natal and post-natal care, clean water, mental health assistance, and, with targeted U.S. funding, a gender-based violence (GBV) education and referral program.
- Over sixty percent of the 450,000 Palestinian refugees remaining in Syria are internally displaced, and approximately ten percent live in besieged or hard to reach areas. PRM funding ensured that 95 percent of the remaining population received cash assistance as well as food parcels covering one-third of their nutritional needs. Over the course of 2015, PRM support provided aid for some 12,000 individuals in collective shelters.
- In Yemen, more than 2.5 million Yemenis have been displaced since the start of the conflict between the Houthis and Republic of Yemen Government and associated airstrikes by the Saudi-led Coalition. The UN estimates that approximately 81 percent of Yemenis – more than 21 million people – require some form of assistance as a result of the deteriorating humanitarian conditions. There are also more than 267,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Yemen, with more than 92,000 new arrivals of refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa in 2015. In FY 2015, PRM provided more than \$45 million in humanitarian assistance to the Yemen response inside Yemen and across the region. Over the course of the year, PRM funding to UNHCR and other international organizations helped to provide food rations to an estimated 180,000 people, cash-for-work activities for more than 4,500 people, access to clean water and adequate sanitation systems for more than 2.2 million people, and cash assistance to more than 3,000 people. PRM also supported the provision of health care, shelter, non-food items, and protection activities, in addition to evacuation operations for third-country nationals and vulnerable migrants fleeing Yemen.

FY 2016 Objectives

- Through robust humanitarian diplomacy, improve humanitarian access and maintain protection space in neighboring countries for conflict-affected Syrians, Iraqis, and Palestinians. Provide protection and assistance to refugees in host countries as well as internally displaced persons and conflict victims in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.
- Maintain strong funding for UNHCR, ICRC, and UNRWA to provide protection and assistance to refugees, IDPs, and conflict-affected populations, and, through close coordination with development actors, align the U.S. response to medium- and longer-term needs by increasing focus on education, livelihood activities and workers’ rights, while building on current efforts to coordinate humanitarian and development assistance to refugees and host communities.
- Support UNRWA diplomatically and financially to ensure that it is able to protect and assist Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and the West Bank.
- Through support to UNHCR, ICRC, UNFPA, UNRWA, and NGO partners, ensure that women, children, and other vulnerable populations are protected from all forms of gender-based violence and that vulnerable populations are able to access humanitarian assistance.
- Expand the donor base and advocate for funding for UN appeals, including by encouraging increased financial support from the private sector and non-traditional government donors.



UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl and PRM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Simon Henshaw speak with members of the U.S.-funded girls’ school parliament in Jalazone refugee camp, West Bank. December 2015.

Assistance Programs in South Asia

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual ^{1,2}	FY 2016 Estimate ³	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	16,460	*	-	-16,460
Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	101,372	*	72,900	-28,472

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds was used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, internally displaced, and conflict victims in South Asia.

² The FY 2015 MRA-OCO actual level does not include \$55 million in planned carryover into FY 2016.

³ In addition, a portion of the FY 2015 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 2017 Request

Afghanistan and Pakistan remain top foreign policy priorities given increased violence and insecurity. The FY 2017 request will continue support for Afghan refugees and returnees displaced throughout the region, for Pakistanis displaced internally and for Pakistanis who have sought refuge in Afghanistan to escape violence in Pakistan. Afghanistan has an estimated population of more than 1 million IDPs, and some 2.5 million Afghan refugees live in Pakistan and Iran, making them one of the largest refugee populations in the world. The FY 2017 request includes funding to meet basic needs of Afghan refugees, returnees, and IDPs. At the same time, MRA funded partners will continue to work with the Afghan government to transition international humanitarian programs to local and national authorities. The security situation in Pakistan is also expected to remain uncertain in FY 2017. As of late 2015, more than 1.2 million people remained internally displaced and nearly 240,000 Pakistanis had fled to Afghanistan to escape military operations in the northwest. While access remains challenging, humanitarian assistance helps instill confidence in civilian-led government institutions and mitigates the influence of extremists.

Humanitarian protection and assistance programs in South Asia also address the needs of Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless populations in Nepal, Tibetan and Sri Lankan refugees in India, returning refugees and internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka, and urban refugees and asylum seekers in all three countries. The FY 2017 request will continue to meet the basic needs of the Tibetan community in Nepal including protection and reception services for safe transit of Tibetan refugees to India and support for infrastructure, livelihoods, education, and water and sanitation for the longer-staying refugee community. Three-quarters of the estimated 10,000-13,000 long-staying Tibetans who have lived in Nepal for decades have no identity documents, and the estimated 3,500 with registration cards have no legal right to work, access education, or other legal rights. In India, assistance for Tibetans will continue to meet the health and education needs of the population with an increasing focus on livelihoods and long-term sustainability. In Sri Lanka, FY 2017 humanitarian programs will focus on urban refugees and asylum seekers given their precarious status and vulnerability to deportation and *refoulement*.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- In Afghanistan, MRA funds helped UNHCR expand its protection activities throughout 2015, including registration of Afghans who had been internally displaced by conflict and insecurity. Since 2002, UNHCR profiling exercises have documented 1.1 million Afghan IDPs. UNHCR and its partners continued to provide protection and assistance to over 236,000 Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces.
- U.S. support to ICRC's operations in Afghanistan provided over 1 million conflict-affected individuals with medical care, 190,000 people with clean water, and 68,000 people with basic assistance and food support.
- In Pakistan, UNHCR increased legal support for Afghan refugees with MRA funds. UNHCR and its partners provided legal consultations to over 17,000 refugees in 2015 and trained law enforcement agencies on refugee rights. UNHCR's efforts resulted in the release of 3,549 refugees who had been detained by national authorities.

- U.S. contributions to UNHCR also supported primary education for over 73,000 Afghan refugee children in schools, satellite schools, and home-based centers in Pakistan in 2015.
- In Pakistan, MRA funds supported the work of ICRC, which included supporting 15 physical rehabilitation centers. As a result, 7,900 patients regained their mobility and/or received specialized care that would not otherwise have been available.
- MRA funds ensured Tibetan refugees in India and Nepal had access to health care, education, water/sanitation, and livelihood support. Through the Tibet Fund, Tibetan refugees in Nepal who were affected by the earthquake received shelter repair and reconstruction assistance. .

FY 2016 Objectives

- Through support to UNHCR and IOM, further strengthen the Afghan government’s capacity to: (1) address the humanitarian needs of IDPs, including by implementing its national IDP Policy; and (2) protect and assist refugee returnees from Pakistan, Iran, and elsewhere.
- Provide Afghan returnees and IDPs with the training and skills needed to successfully reintegrate into communities and become self-reliant over time.
- Through support to ICRC and UNHCR programs, support the protection and assistance needs of current and new Pakistani IDPs who have fled their homes due to anti-insurgent operations.
- Work with the government of Nepal to maintain protection space and safe transit for Tibetan refugees continuing on to India and support health, education, and water and sanitation programming for the longer-staying refugee community.
- In India, continue to support protection, health, water and sanitation, and educational programming for Tibetan refugees with an increasing emphasis on promoting access to sustainable livelihoods over time.



PRM’s Assistant Refugee Coordinator monitors a livelihood training program for Afghan refugees in Pakistan (motorcycle repair).

Assistance Programs in the Western Hemisphere

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual ¹	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	47,765	*	45,300	-2,465

¹ In addition, \$7.0 million of re-programmed ESF funds was used to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to Colombian refugees and internally displaced persons.

FY 2017 Request

Decades of ongoing violence in Colombia has displaced more than 6.5 million people, approximately 12 percent of Colombia's population. The MRA request supports protection and assistance for an estimated 30,000 newly displaced Colombians inside Colombia and for more than 350,000 Colombian asylum seekers and refugees in Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica. The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have made significant progress toward peace, however most observers predict a spike in violence following the signing of a peace agreement as other armed actors fight for territory and resources previously controlled by the FARC. The FY 2017 request recognizes significant resources the Government of Colombia is devoting to the reintegration of IDPs as the country continues to implement its Victims and Land Restitution law. The legislation provides immediate, emergency and transition humanitarian assistance to victims of the conflict, eighty-five percent of who are IDPs. Given this commitment by the Colombian government, MRA funding will focus on supporting Colombian refugees in neighboring countries and providing replicable model programs for IDPs in Colombia. The FY 2017 request also supports efforts to strengthen refugee protection in Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama and Costa Rica, countries with the highest populations of Colombian refugees in Latin America.

The FY 2017 request will also fund the regional programs of UNHCR, IOM, and ICRC to protect and assist other refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable migrants throughout the region. This includes unaccompanied children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. PRM funding to IOM and UNHCR in Mexico and Central America will support capacity building for Central American and Mexican officials and civil society to identify, screen, protect, and assist vulnerable migrants, and will strengthen the Mexican government's asylum system. In the Dominican Republic, PRM funding to IOM and UNHCR will assist civil society, international partners, and the Dominican government in aiding vulnerable migrant communities and those at risk of statelessness. The FY 2017 request enables the U.S. 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 and assistance with their initial resettlement in third countries.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- In FY 2015, PRM provided nearly \$40 million for Colombians displaced in Colombia and across the region. U.S. contributions to UNHCR advanced the organization's "protection by presence" strategy and helped Colombia's government develop its legal framework for IDPs and address the needs of vulnerable groups, including indigenous people, Afro-Colombians, women, and children. UNHCR support of internally displaced Colombians and Colombian refugees in Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica focused on providing access to proper documentation, national social security systems, and livelihood opportunities in addition to providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the newly displaced. PRM funding to NGOs provided short-term emergency assistance, worked to improve local response capacity and self-reliance among IDPs, created protective environments, and facilitated IDP integration through access to education, health care, and income generation opportunities.
- In the Dominican Republic, U.S. engagement with the Dominican government helped advanced the rights of tens of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent at risk of statelessness. In close collaboration with U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo and other stakeholders, PRM worked with Dominican authorities to design an orderly and individualized deportation process that respects the human rights of both migrants and individuals at risk of

statelessness. PRM was also part of a broader dialogue that discouraged mass deportations and worked to maintain UNHCR as a strong partner with the Dominican government.

- PRM funded IOM programs that helped protect and assist highly vulnerable Haitian migrants while building the capacities of both governments of the Dominican Republic and Haiti to manage migration in a safe, orderly and humane manner. In addition, IOM programs trained Dominican government officials and NGO staff on the identification and protection of child trafficking victims.
- PRM-funded programming and initiatives supported efforts throughout Central America and Mexico to identify, screen, and protect vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers along the migratory route, address the humanitarian consequences of displacement, and strengthen asylum systems. U.S. support to UNHCR helped to address forced displacement from Central America and Mexico with a particular focus on children’s protection needs. PRM funds have enabled UNHCR to increase its presence and capacity in the region.

FY 2016 Objectives

- Urge the governments of Ecuador, Venezuela, Panama, and Costa Rica to provide documentation promptly at every stage in the Refugee Status Determination process and ease naturalization requirements for refugees.
- Provide aid to Colombian refugees and vulnerable asylum seekers in neighboring countries. Support durable solutions in Colombia and the region, including refugee returns, security permitting.
- Fill gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance for Colombian IDPs and support implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law by helping to improve the Colombian government’s response capability. Strengthen IDP/victims’ registration, regional asylum, and refugee status determination processes to ensure that systems are accessible, credible, efficient, and fully incorporate protection and security concerns.
- Continue efforts to ensure successful implementation of the Government of the Dominican Republic’s legislation for a path to citizenship for Dominicans of Haitian descent.
- Support UN agencies to help Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico build their capacity to protect children from family separation, violence, exploitation, and other abuses.
- Fulfill Department of State responsibilities under E.O. 13276 regarding migrants interdicted in the Caribbean who are found to be in need of protection.



PRM staff meet with UNHCR and IDPs in the community of Manuela Beltran outside of Cucuta, Colombia, February 2015.

Protection Priorities

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual ^{1,2}	FY 2016 Estimate ³	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	178,881	*	186,587	7,706
Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	146,002	*	-	-146,002

¹ In addition, a portion of the FY 2014 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds were used to respond to emergency needs.

² The FY 2015 MRA-OCO actual level does not include \$150 million in planned carryover into FY 2016.

³ In addition, a portion of FY 2015 MRA Overseas Contingency Operations funds will be used to respond to emergency needs.

FY 2017 Request

The FY 2017 MRA request supports the core capabilities of key humanitarian partners to protect and assist refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless populations, and vulnerable migrants. It also advances the U.S. government’s broader UN reform agenda by promoting changes that will help these partners prevent and respond to conflict. MRA funds support the headquarters operations of UNHCR and the ICRC, providing these critical responders with the flexibility to act quickly and effectively when crises erupt, maintain staffing and monitoring in increasingly insecure environments, and enhance accountability through results-based management reforms. This request supports global humanitarian and U.S. government priorities, such as increasing the capacity of multilateral and NGO partners to address gender-based violence, protect vulnerable women, children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) refugees; improve the humanitarian response in cities and towns; apply best practices in collecting, analyzing, and using beneficiary feedback; and use of innovative research and independent evaluations to build the evidence base for effective humanitarian programming and diplomacy.

The FY 2017 MRA request also makes it possible to respond to emergencies in a fluid humanitarian environment where needs reached record levels in 2015. PRM programmed more than \$260 million in FY 2015 from the Protection Priorities Emergency Needs line to respond to turmoil, conflict and displacement in Iraq, Nigeria, Burundi, Yemen, Sudan, South Sudan, and Libya, and elsewhere.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- In October 2015, Secretary Kerry announced an additional \$17 million in new funding for *Safe from the Start*, a joint initiative with USAID designed to strengthen prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian emergencies and launched the global roadmap for the *Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies*. The announcement brings the total funding for *Safe from the Start* to nearly \$40 million since Secretary Kerry launched *Safe from the Start* in September 2013. These efforts lay the groundwork for system-wide change to better prevent and respond to GBV in future emergencies and responding to immediate needs in current crises. PRM provided *Safe from the Start* funding to UNHCR, ICRC, UNRWA, UNFPA, IOM, and NGOs to hire and train new staff, including support for surge deployments of GBV experts; to provide livelihood training to vulnerable women from the Central African Republic in Chad; to train midwives to assist GBV survivors; and to finalize an e-learning program for humanitarian staff, among many other initiatives. Not only have these programs had positive results, but recent humanitarian appeals have featured GBV prevention and response much more prominently as a result of heightened USG and other donor engagement on the issue.

“People all around the world look to the United States as a beacon of hope. American leadership is us caring about people who have been forgotten or who have been discriminated against or who’ve been tortured or who’ve been subject to unspeakable violence...”

President Barack Obama, speaking at the Dignity for Children Foundation and meeting with refugee children Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – November 21, 2015

- PRM strengthened U.S. advocacy to remove discrimination against women from nationality laws in order to reduce the risk of statelessness for Syrian children and others around the world. Assistant Secretary Richard chaired a well-attended event on equal nationality rights at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015, where several states discussed recent reforms or pledged new reforms. PRM also supported the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights to mobilize a coalition of international, regional, and national organizations. Following increased advocacy, leaders in several West African countries and Madagascar committed in 2015 to take action on this issue.
- In FY 2015, 35 percent of PRM-funded NGO or other IO projects included activities to prevent and respond to GBV. PRM's overall GBV funding increased in 2015 to more than \$28 million, up from nearly \$25 million in 2014. This increase reflects PRM's continuing commitment to expanding targeted GBV programs.
- The U.S. government funded 20 American Junior Professional Officers in key UNHCR locations around the world. These officers gain working experience in the fields of protection, humanitarian assistance in emergencies and other areas such as technical support services and are an invaluable asset for UNHCR. For example, in 2014-2015, American JPOs in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan helped UNHCR respond to outflows of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Eritrea. American JPOs in Ecuador helped strengthen refugee resettlement and refugee protection along the Colombian border.

FY 2016 Objectives

- The past year has shown with painful clarity that despite the world's best efforts, the global response to the plight of refugees is simply not enough. For this reason, the President will host a high-level summit at the UN General Assembly in September 2016 to galvanize significant new global commitments to fund humanitarian organizations, admit more refugees through resettlement or other programs, and increase refugees' self-reliance through opportunities for education and legal work.
- The United States also plans to co-host with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon a Leader's Summit at the UN General Assembly in September 2016 establishing a coalition of nations committed to strengthening the humanitarian response to forced migration worldwide.
- Ensure rapid initial response to emerging humanitarian crises.
- Sustain UN reform efforts to strengthen the international humanitarian system and promote effective emergency response and protection of vulnerable populations by participating in the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. The United States contributions to this event will focus on (1) protection of civilians; (2) bridging relief and development; and (3) modernization of the humanitarian system.
- Maintain strong support for programs that protect conflict-affected women and children, including preventing and responding to GBV, by strengthening the humanitarian community's response to GBV at the onset of an emergency through the *Safe from the Start* initiative. Continue to address the specific protection needs of LGBT refugees and conflict victims.
- Support child protection programming in humanitarian responses around the globe, including through the *No Lost Generation Initiative* for Syrian children, through work being undertaken by our partners, such as UNHCR's *Framework for the Protection of Children* and ongoing support for the goals of the U.S. Action Plan on Children in Adversity. Improve protection of refugee and stateless children by expanding access to education and birth registration.
- Improve protection of internally displaced persons, particularly by strengthening 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.



In Lebanon, PRM Assistant Secretary Richard met with one Syrian refugee student and asked what she wanted to be when she grew up. The answer? "A civil engineer so I can rebuild the houses in Syria."

Migration

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	27,266	*	21,110	-6,156

FY 2017 Request

The FY 2017 request supports the U.S. government objectives of protecting and assisting asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants, advancing orderly and humane migration policies, and enhancing security and stability and promoting fundamental human rights. MRA funds support national and regional efforts to build the capacity of governments to develop and implement effective migration policies, to protect and assist asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants and to discourage irregular migration. Record numbers of people are on the move everywhere. The increase in mixed populations of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, unaccompanied children, and victims of human trafficking, make this funding all the more vital. The 2015 European migration and refugee crisis shined a spotlight on migration issues and created opportunities for needed reforms. These include steps to modernize international institutions and advance national efforts to make international migration more safe, orderly and humane. The FY 2017 request provides modest but essential funding for assistance to some of the most vulnerable migrants, primarily through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). These include programs to protect and assist victims of xenophobic attacks, human trafficking, and other human rights abuses. The FY 2017 request also includes funds for the U.S. government's assessed contribution to IOM.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- Assistant Secretary Richard announced the Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) initiative at the October 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development. MICIC aims to strengthen the international community's capacity to manage situations of vulnerable migrants who find themselves in a country in acute crisis. Throughout 2015 PRM actively guided the initiative working with a variety of partners – governments, civil society, international organizations, and private sector alike. PRM co-led the four regional consultations in Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, West and Central Africa, and Latin America. These consultations have already yielded a number of promising guidelines and effective practices that will ultimately inform a compendium of voluntary guidelines to protect migrants in countries experiencing a natural disaster or conflict. Remaining consultations with international organizations, Middle East and North Africa, and East and Southern African countries will conclude in April and the MICIC Initiative will roll out the guidelines at the UN General Assembly in September 2016.
- The United States continued its strong leadership and cooperation in the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum, and Refugees, the Regional Conference on Migration, the U.S.-EU Platform for Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum and Migration, and the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) International Dialogue on Migration, to address a wide variety of issues, including challenges related to unaccompanied child migrants.
- PRM funding for IOM's regional programs demonstrated notable successes, including:
 - *In the Americas:* In response to an unprecedented number of children who arrived at the United States' southwest border in 2014, the program continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of government officials and civil society in the southern border region of Mexico and in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Panama to identify, screen, and protect vulnerable migrants in coordination with the USG's Central America Regional Security Initiative.

- *Dominican Republic/Haiti*: With PRM funding, IOM builds the capacity of the Government of the Dominican Republic (DR) to help manage migration in a humane and orderly manner. IOM also supports civil society organizations facilitating migrants' access to regularization and assists highly vulnerable Haitian migrants in the DR through assisted voluntary return and reintegration for those who wish to return to Haiti.
- *Horn of Africa*: IOM provided humanitarian assistance and registered over 23,000 migrants and voluntarily returned nearly 900 stranded migrants with support from PRM. Assistance was provided through six Migration Response Centers located along major transit routes from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Peninsula. PRM assistance also supported regional training on vulnerable migrant identification, assistance, and voluntary return and public information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration. IOM also helped 3,478 vulnerable Ethiopian migrants return to Ethiopia since the escalation of conflict in Yemen.
- *North Africa*: With MRA funding, IOM and partners supported the North Africa Regional Mixed Migration Task Force's research on trends including unaccompanied child migrants and the rise in Mediterranean migration. IOM provided technical support to governments engaged in the Khartoum Process, a dialogue between North and East African countries and their European counterparts to stem irregular migration between the regions. The program's direct assistance component has provided life-saving aid and transportation to hundreds of migrants in Libya, Egypt, and Sudan.
- *East Asia/China*: IOM works to improve coordination among ministries responsible for migration management in China and to expand cooperation across borders and with Embassies representing countries in the region to improve identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants. Activities, include training government officials on protection of victims of trafficking, including using the identification and referral guidelines. PRM also funded assistance for nearly 1,000 trafficked fishermen on several remote Indonesian Islands.
- *East Asia/Greater Mekong States*: IOM works with government, non-government organizations and community-based organizations to build the capacity of national and local governments in the Greater Mekong States (Burma, Cambodia Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam) and Malaysia to address the needs of victims of trafficking and other vulnerable migrants. Activities include providing legal counseling and assistance to victims of trafficking, assisted voluntary return and improvements to government-operated trafficking shelters by training staff on shelter and case management.
- *Central Asia*: IOM works to enhance the capacity of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to manage migration and ensure the human rights of migrants; identify and provide protection to refugees and asylum-seekers; provide assistance to vulnerable migrants; and strengthen regional cooperation on migration. The project had considerable success in engaging Uzbekistan in regional dialogues on migration, which was a challenge in past regional cooperation. The Government of Kazakhstan also contributed funds towards activities under the project—another sign of increased commitment in the region to sustain capacity for regional cooperation on migration.
- Support to the IOM program "Support to Trafficking Victims Found in the USA: Global Return and Reintegration, and Family Reunification" allowed for the reunification of 234 family members with their relatives who had been trafficked to the United States and helped four trafficking victims voluntarily return to their home countries.

FY 2016 Objectives

- Advance migration management policies that protect the rights and respect the dignity of migrants while also preserving states' abilities to enforce their immigration laws and ensure the safe, orderly, and humane movement of people into and out of their countries.

- Support IOM-based Secretariat to advance Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative and related activities including regional consultations to draft voluntary guidelines articulating stakeholder responsibilities towards migrants caught in countries in crisis.
- Continue to develop, articulate, and advance U.S. positions on migration and development, labor, human rights, and climate in international forums, including through follow-up to 2013 UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, Global Forum on Migration and Development, Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum, and Refugees, and Regional Conference on Migration.



Assistant Secretary Anne Richard and Ambassador Blake thank Indonesian fisherman who rescued Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants during a visit to the Kuala Cangko camp, Aceh Province (June 2, 2015)

Humanitarian Migrants to Israel

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease from FY 2016
Migration and Refugee Assistance	10,000	*	7,500	-2,500

FY 2017 Request

Since 1973, the U.S. government has helped vulnerable Jewish migrants from the former Soviet Union (FSU), Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Near East, resettle in Israel. The FY 2017 MRA request for Humanitarian Migrants to Israel supports this relocation and integration of humanitarian migrants through the United Israel Appeal (UIA). In FY 2017, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UIA's implementing partner, expects to bring approximately 11,000 migrants to Israel from Russia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, and other countries. U.S. Department of State funding supports services for these migrants, including pre-departure assistance, travel to Israel and short-term or transitional housing for vulnerable migrants, particularly for Ethiopians. The funding also provides language, preparatory, and vocational education, including for unaccompanied youth, as well as independent monitoring of the program.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- The Humanitarian Migrants to Israel program supported the United Israel Appeal (UIA) to promote the emigration of Jewish migrants Israel and their successful integration into Israeli society. In FY 2015, 14,800 people arrived in Israel and were assisted by program. Services included transportation, transitional housing, education and vocational training, and Hebrew language instruction.



*Ethiopian Jews making their way to the airport en route to Israel.
Photo credit: Jewish Agency for Israel*

- In FY 2015, the program exceeded its goal of reaching 94 percent satisfaction among beneficiaries for services received through the program; actual satisfaction reached 95.5 percent of households interviewed.
- Ninety percent of humanitarian migrants from the former Soviet Union received effective Hebrew language training, advancing one grade level.
- Ninety four 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 88 percent.

FY 2016 Objectives

- UIA/JAFI programming and engagement with national authorities increases opportunities for humanitarian migrants to secure housing and become self-sufficient.
- Continue to provide high quality services to humanitarian migrants as evidenced by high levels of satisfaction.
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation to determine the cumulative impact of the HMI program, PRM investments, and lessons learned.

Refugee Admissions

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	394,254	*	567,500	173,246

FY 2017 Request

Achieving durable solutions for refugees, including third-country resettlement, is a critical component of the U.S. Department of State’s work. The FY 2017 request will support the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. This is an important humanitarian undertaking. It demonstrates America’s compassion for the world’s most vulnerable refugees, those who cannot be locally integrated or safely return home. MRA resources will be used to fund the costs of processing refugee applications overseas, and provide transportation, and initial reception and placement (R&P) services to all refugees admitted through the program. These include housing, furnishings, clothing, food, medicine, employment, and social service referrals. The FY 2017 request will support the admission of larger numbers from many nations, including Syrians, Iraqis, Congolese, and Somalis, and provide additional funding to bolster UNHCR’s capacity to complete more refugee referrals. The request includes a modest increase in the R&P grant to keep pace with inflation and maintain adequate support for refugee families during their initial weeks in the United States.

The U.S. Department of State implements the program by providing funding to non-governmental organizations for both overseas processing and domestic reception and placement services. The International Organization for Migration also receives MRA funds to conduct overseas processing and medical screening 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 2017 will be set after consultations between the Administration and the Congress before the start of the fiscal year, although Secretary Kerry announced in September 2015 that the Administration would seek to admit at least 100,000 refugees in FY 2017. 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.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- In FY 2015, the United States admitted 69,933 refugees for permanent resettlement. For the third year in a row, this represents nearly 100 percent of the regional ceilings established by Presidential Determination.
- Nearly 129,000 Iraqis have been resettled via the U.S. refugee program since 2007, including over 40,000 who were affiliated with the United States by family ties or employment. Over 12,000 Iraqis arrived in the United States in FY 2015.
- Nearly 3,000 Syrians have been resettled via the U.S. refugee program since 2011, including nearly 1,700 in FY 2015.
- More than 22,000 refugees from Africa arrived in the United States in FY 2015, the highest number in a decade.
- In 2015, PRM, DHS, and U.S. intelligence agencies took additional measures to protect the refugee admissions program against fraud. The U.S. government continues to work with UNHCR and other resettlement countries to

“Our nations can welcome refugees who are desperately seeking safety *and* ensure our own security. We can and must do both.”

*President Barack Obama
G20 Leaders Summit in Antalya, Turkey -
November 16, 2015*

safeguard refugee referral data by improving registration procedures and enhancing electronic screening of registration data to detect identity fraud.

FY 2016 Objectives

- Admit up to 85,000 refugees for resettlement in the United States, including at least 10,000 Syrian refugees.
- Continue to demonstrate extraordinary U.S. leadership on refugee resettlement, and persuade other countries to increase their refugee resettlement quotas.
- Work with UNHCR to significantly increase the referral of Syrian refugees for resettlement, laying the groundwork for increased numbers of Syrians resettled in FY 2016 and beyond.
- Continue in-country processing for minors in Central America with a lawfully present parent in the United States.
- Strategically increase admissions from Africa, particularly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to leverage local integration opportunities for the majority of refugees who will not be resettled.



Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken meets with refugees in Arlington, VA in December 2015.

Administrative Expenses

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance	38,000	*	40,000	2,000

FY 2017 Request

The FY 2017 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. These funds allow the Bureau to effectively and responsibly manage humanitarian assistance programs funded through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account and enable the Bureau to conduct the diplomacy that is essential in advancing U.S. government humanitarian objectives.

In FY 2017, the Bureau expects to continue overseeing programs in protracted humanitarian situations across the globe. These programs aid Burmese refugees in Thailand, Colombian refugees in South and Central America, Afghan refugees in Pakistan, among others. The Bureau also expects to continue supporting significant emergency humanitarian operations in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, South Sudan, and elsewhere. PRM's emergency response depends on adequate administrative support to carry out needs assessments and oversee operations. When crises emerge, Bureau staff is often deployed to U.S. embassies in the region, working with host governments and implementing partners to advance U.S. foreign policy objectives and provide sound oversight and management of foreign assistance programs. The FY 2017 request level reflects the increased requirements necessary to ensure effective management, monitoring, and evaluation of the response to mounting global humanitarian needs. Performance management remains at the heart of the Bureau's mission, and enables it to provide funding according to need and to meet the simultaneous imperatives of providing assistance that is effective, efficient, and sustainable. The FY 2017 request provides continued investment in staff necessary to effectively manage assistance programs to meet the needs of the largest number of people displaced by conflict since World War II. It includes an active monitoring and evaluation training program to enable staff to better assess the impact of U.S. government programs. With this request, the Bureau's administrative costs remain low, at less than 2 percent of the overall MRA request of \$2,798.6 million.

FY 2015 Accomplishments

- In 2015, PRM's direct hire staff, including regional refugee coordinators stationed at 23 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, Chad, Jordan, and Turkey.
- In FY 2015, Bureau staff actively engaged and oversaw emergency operations in Africa and the Middle East. PRM staff deployed to Lebanon, Ethiopia, Jordan and Turkey in response to refugee crises stemming from conflicts in Syria and Iraq.
- Management and oversight of growing humanitarian assistance and admissions programs remained a top priority for the Bureau in FY 2015. Throughout the year, Washington staff and overseas refugee coordinators regularly monitored humanitarian operations worldwide.
- PRM continued to ensure close coordination and oversight of the key international organizations it supports, including 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 2016 Priorities

- Maintain robust humanitarian diplomatic engagement to help protect the world's most vulnerable people.
- Strengthen and increase overseas and domestic staffing to ensure strong management and oversight of admissions and assistance programs worldwide are being met. This will require on-going support for administrative expenses to meet highly demanding program management and diplomatic responsibilities.
- 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.
- The administrative expenses budget supports a critical planning and implementation component in the management of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).



PRM officer Wendy Henning (right) traveled to Kigeme camp, Rwanda in December 2015 to monitor assistance programs, including a water catchment system and shelter for a disabled Congolese refugee woman.

Summary of External Evaluations

Consistent with the U.S. Department of State's evaluation policy and guidance, PRM has commissioned external evaluations of its programs. These evaluations are funded through the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account. They do not include evaluations commissioned by PRM partners (such as UNHCR, ICRC, IOM, UNRWA) that are supported by U.S. contributions to those organizations. Detailed information on PRM's external evaluations is available on the Bureau's public website at <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/policyissues/prmfund/index.htm>.

The findings from the evaluations are used to identify best practices for PRM staff and to help inform funding recommendations; developing policy; designing and monitoring programs; and engaging host governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations on relevant issues.

Completed Evaluations

Evaluating PRM-funded Refugee Livelihoods Programming in Burundi and Ethiopia

Summary: PRM completed an evaluation looking at the effectiveness of PRM-supported livelihoods programming for refugee returnees in Burundi and refugees in Ethiopia. Findings noted that livelihoods programming often lacked sufficient baseline assessments necessary to increase the likelihood of improved economic well-being of beneficiaries. The evaluation's findings prompted substantial changes to PRM guidelines for NGOs applying to Notice of Funding Opportunities, including new requirements for programs implementing livelihoods programming. Proposals must now include evidence and findings of a recent, gender-sensitive market analysis. NGOs are also required to conduct a livelihoods capacity/competency assessment to evaluate existing skills and knowledge of beneficiaries and include the findings in the proposal.

Evaluating Vulnerabilities and Developing Mitigation Strategies to Prevent Potential Staff Malfeasance at Resettlement Support Centers in Ecuador, Jordan, Kenya, and Turkey

Summary: PRM funded an external evaluation for PRM's Admissions office to examine best practices in promoting accountability and preventing malfeasance at Refugee Support Centers (RSCs) in Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Ecuador, and Kenya. The assessment found most significant vulnerabilities to fraud and malfeasance to be the following: the long wait times for most refugees in the resettlement process; the lack of proactive communication between RSCs and refugees during their time in the program; and the Human Resource (HR) systems within the RSCs. The evaluation report offered recommendations to RSCs and PRM to consider, including how to develop an effective strategy for proactively communicating with refugees; conduct trainings to staff about fraud and malfeasance and encourage fraud reporting by staff and refugees; strengthen the RSC Human Resources systems; and improve regular coordination with stakeholders.

Ongoing Evaluations

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Programs to Build the Capacity of Colombian Municipal Authorities to Assist Internally Displaced Persons

Summary: The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness of capacity-building programming supported by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) for municipal authorities providing services for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia. The evaluation will seek to identify: (1) the qualities of successful governmental capacity-building programs; (2) whether PRM-supported programs were designed and implemented using best practices; (3) whether PRM-supported capacity-building programs, including efforts to build knowledge and provide tools, demonstrably improved assistance to IDPs, and (4) any unintended consequences that occurred as a result of the capacity-building programs.

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Shelter, Health, and Education Programs for Iraqi and Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan

Summary: This evaluation will explore PRM-funded shelter, health, and education programs for non-camp based Iraqi and Syrian refugees implemented by selected PRM multilateral and NGO partners in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The evaluation will consist of an analysis of best practices/recurring mistakes regarding the implementation of shelter, health, and education programming for refugees in the Near East. The assessment will result in guidance as to how PRM can optimize its programming and humanitarian diplomacy for the benefit of refugees and their host communities.



An Eritrean refugee in Mai Ani Camp (Shire region, Ethiopia), a recipient of an NGO's entrepreneurship training in hair dressing.



*Sherkole Camp
(Assosa region, Ethiopia)*

*A Congolese refugee woman
recipient of Norwegian Refugee
Council's micro-enterprise start up
training program (bread-making).*

Migration and Refugee Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Migration and Refugee Assistance - OCO	2,127,114	2,127,114	1,876,003	-251,111

The FY 2017 Migration and Refugee Assistance OCO request of \$1,876.0 million will fund humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, including emergency shelter, medical care, protection and assistance to the most vulnerable, such as survivors of gender-based violence, with a particular emphasis on populations impacted by conflict. These funds will support multilateral organizations, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, and non-governmental organizations as they respond to the immense needs of conflict victims.

MRA – OCO programs aim to save lives and ease suffering, protect vulnerable populations, achieve durable solutions for those displaced by conflict, and exert leadership in the international community. PRM provides humanitarian assistance in response to complex emergencies and protracted displacement, as well as supports the voluntary return and local integration of refugees and IDPs. PRM-supported programs are designed to identify and protect the most vulnerable, such as single heads of households, children, the elderly, and the disabled to ensure that they have equal access to life-sustaining goods and services. Strategies to protect the beneficiaries from harm and to protect their rights are incorporated into multiple sectors including: water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, food, health and nutrition, education, livelihoods, and camp management. Coupled with diplomatic efforts, these programs seek to: prevent the forcible return of refugees to a place where their lives or freedom would be threatened; negotiate access for humanitarian agencies to operate safely and reach people affected by conflict; resolve protracted refugee situations; prevent and reduce statelessness; promote adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law; and help vulnerable people maintain their dignity by advocating for opportunities that promote self-sufficiency.



Assistant Secretary Richard, along with Lebanese Minister of Education Elias Bou Saab and UNICEF's Luciano Calestini, visit Syrian refugees attending a local Lebanese public school in April 2015.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA)

(\$ in thousands)	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Increase / Decrease
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	50,000	50,000	10,000	-40,000
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance - Overseas Contingency Operations	-	-	40,000	40,000

The ERMA Fund enables the President to provide humanitarian assistance for unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs worldwide. The FY 2017 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.

Over the past five fiscal years, an average of \$30.7 million was drawn from ERMA annually to address unexpected refugee and migration needs.

In **FY 2015**, there was no funding drawn from the Fund.

In **FY 2014**, \$50.0 million was drawn from the Fund:

- \$50.0 million provided shelter, health care, education, and protection to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Sudan and South Sudanese refugees in neighboring countries.

In **FY 2013**, \$15.0 million was drawn from the Fund:

- \$15.0 million provided shelter, health care, education, and protection to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Syria and Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

In **FY 2012**, \$36.0 million was drawn from the Fund:

- \$10.0 million provided shelter, protection, and health and nutrition assistance to IDPs in Mali and Malian refugees throughout the region.
- \$26.0 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.
- \$15.0 million supported humanitarian needs resulting from unrest in Libya, including emergency evacuation of third country nationals.
- \$15.0 million provided assistance and protection to those affected by conflict in Côte d'Ivoire and Libya.
- \$10.0 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.