

VOA REFUGEE PROGRAMMING

VOA's programming for refugee populations aims to improve information flows to and from some of the world's most information-starved people: the estimated 80 million individuals experiencing displacement. All 47 of VOA's broadcasting language teams are impacted by forced migration in some way, yet nuanced coverage of its complex dynamics is often in short supply in local media markets. VOA is pioneering techniques and partnerships to reach these underserved audiences.

Target area: Displaced communities worldwide

Dedicated Website: <https://www.voanews.com/refugees>

Programs and Projects

Lifeline: a 30-minute Rohingya-language audio newscast broadcast regionally via shortwave and mediumwave (AM) radio and available for in-person group listening sessions in Bangladesh.

Voice of America Learning English offers a yearlong training program for teachers that includes lessons and materials for teaching American English in refugee camps. UNHCR recognized the implementation of this curriculum in Bangladesh as a "good practice" according to the Global Compact for Refugees.

Infrastructure to reach camp populations: On International Migrants Day 2020, VOA installed new FM transmitters in refugee camps in Kenya: Dadaab (106.7 MHz) and Kakuma (99.9 MHz). These broadcasts in the English, Swahili, and Somali languages provide refugees and their host communities with VOA's latest reliable and authoritative news coverage.

In the camps: In partnership with Chatham House and the Moving Energy Initiative, Voice of America built a temporary television studio with audience seating in Kenya's Kakuma camp to provide a forum for refugees to address stakeholders about energy needs.

Documentaries

A Day in the Life of Refugees -- Shot by more than 75 news teams in 32 countries and narrated by VOA contributor Greta Van Susteren, this 90-minute documentary chronicles how forced displacement affects the rich and the poor, the newcomers and their hosts, those in flight, and those out to stop them.

Hell and Hope -- This award-winning 60-minute film focuses on the plight of Yazidi girls abducted by ISIS terrorists in 2014 from Sinjar Province in Iraq. Few girls risked their lives to escape, but some of those who succeeded were able to settle in Germany, where they live and work today.

Displaced -- One year after the Burmese military forcibly displaced more than 700,000 Rohingya, VOA contributor Greta Van Susteren and a camera crew travelled to Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh to document survivors' experiences and their current living conditions in a 60-minute film.