

VOA REFUGEE PROGRAMMING

VOA aims to improve information flows to and from the estimated 100 million forcibly displaced individuals around the world. Forced migration affects all 48 of VOA's language teams in some way, yet nuanced coverage of its complex dynamics is often in short supply in local media markets. As a result, displaced communities are often information deprived and misunderstood. VOA is pioneering techniques and partnerships to reach these underserved audiences and the communities hosting them.

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.

Infrastructure to reach camp populations: VOA's solar-powered FM transmitters provide Kenya's Dadaab (106.7 MHz) and Kakuma (99.9 MHz) refugee camps with local, regional, and international news in the English, Swahili, and Somali languages. Noteworthy content includes the locally produced "**Crossroads Dadaab**" and the Somali-language children's program, "**Sesame Sheeko Sheeko**."

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.

Venezuela 360: A weekly 30-minute current affairs television program connects Venezuelans displaced throughout the Americas.

Documentaries

Wings of Hope -- When Lana fled her home in southeastern Ukraine, she knew that she wouldn't be in Poland for long. But she didn't know that Argentine actor Enrique Piñeyro would be piloting the flight that would take her on the next leg of her journey.

Afghan Refugees: Neither Here nor There -- Noda Sofa fled her war-ravaged home in Afghanistan hoping that she could wait it out in Islamabad for a peaceful return to her country. But Noda has faced great difficulties: red tape, an inability to get a proper education, and an identity crisis that has left her and many other refugees very much on their own. "Afghan Refugees" made its streaming debut on VOA+ on December 16, 2021.

Terror in Tigray: The Ethiopian Refugee Crisis -- This VOA documentary innovatively blends original animation with on-scene news video to tell the stories of ordinary people who were forced to flee Ethiopia's troubled Tigray region in 2020 and 2021. "Terror in Tigray: The Ethiopian Refugee Crisis" has been named a finalist for the Refugee Reporting Award in the UK's One World Media Awards and has screened at Chatham House in London and the USAGM Press Freedom Film Festival in Washington.

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.