

A **refugee** is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

- *The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*

UNHCR is the U.N. agency charged with protecting and assisting the world's refugees and finding long-term solutions. Currently, UNHCR is responsible for nearly 21 million people, including 8.4 million refugees; 6.6 million internally displaced persons, 773,500 asylum seekers, 2.4 million stateless people, and 1.1 million returnees.

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UNHCR offers direct employment opportunities through the **International Professional Roster (IPR)** for entry-level UNHCR positions and through external vacancy notices. Information about the IPR and external vacancies is available on the UNHCR website, www.unhcr.org, under Careers and Recruitment:

[http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/admin/opedoc.htm?tbl=ADMIN&id=43cbb252%20\(IPR\)](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/admin/opedoc.htm?tbl=ADMIN&id=43cbb252%20(IPR))

We would also like to call your attention to other opportunities to work with UNHCR:

- **[The Junior Professional Officer \(JPO\) Program](#)**

A two year program administered by the United States Department of State that allows US nationals to work within UNHCR in entry-level positions. Individuals who are not US nationals should also refer to UNHCR's website for information about similar programs that their countries may offer. Information about this program is available at www.unhcr.org under Careers and Recruitment:

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/print?tbl=ADMIN&id=3e365dd77>

- **[The International Catholic Migration Commission \(ICMC\)](#)**

A short-term deployment scheme (usually three months to a year) to a UNHCR office overseas to assist with refugee resettlement caseloads. Information about this program is available at the ICMC website, www.icmc.net

http://www.icmc.net/e/programmes_operations/icmc_unhcr_app_form.htm

- **[UNHCR's Refugee Status Determination \(RSD\) Project Roster](#)**

A short-term deployment scheme to assist with refugee status determination projects in UNHCR offices overseas. Information about this program is available at www.unhcr.org

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/protect?id=3d3d26004>

- **[The United Nations Volunteer \(UNV\) Program](#)**

A program that provides opportunities to volunteer with UN agencies in one's own country or overseas, including opportunities for placement in UNHCR offices. Information about this program is available at <http://www.unv.org/>

- **[The Surge Protection Capacity Project \(SURGE\)](#)**

A deployment scheme developed to increase response capacity across a broad range of UNHCR's protection interventions. Information about this program is available at:

http://www.theirc.org/what/surge_protection_project.html

Thank you for your interest in working with UNHCR.

