INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEES
Helping people survive and recover from forced displacement
IAFR is an interdenominational Christian mission agency that is helping people survive and recover from forced displacement. We do this in partnership with the church as we believe that she has a unique and critical role to play in the global refugee crisis. We are also strengthening regional and global networks that seek the welfare of refugees. Several of our staff serve in unpaid leadership roles with World Evangelical Alliance, the Global Diaspora Network of the Lausanne Movement and the Refugee Highway Partnership.

Map Key: White dots = IAFR ministry locations | yellow = countries hosting most refugees | red = countries producing most refugees
Our Mission on the Refugee Highway

WE LIVE IN A TIME OF GREAT UPHEAVAL. THE WORLD HAS NOT SEEN SUCH NUMBERS OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE SINCE WW2. THEIR NUMBERS GROW AS SOLUTIONS TO WARS, FAILED STATES AND PERSECUTION PROVE ELUSIVE.

IN 2016, MORE THAN 28,000 NEW PEOPLE WERE FORCIBLY DISPLACED EVERY DAY. 65.6 MILLION PEOPLE WERE DISPLACED BY YEAR’S END.

SOME CONSIDER THESE VULNERABLE PEOPLE TO BE A THREAT. OTHERS VIEW THEM AS PEOPLE EASY TO EXPLOIT. MANY VIEW THEM AS PEOPLE TO BE PITIED.

WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD SPILLING OUT OF THE DEEPEST AND DARKEST WOUNDS IN THE WORLD TODAY.

THIS IS THE MISSION FIELD OF IAFR. WE CALL IT THE REFUGEE HIGHWAY - THE WELL-WORN ROUTES PEOPLE TRAVEL IN SEARCH OF SAFETY AND LIFE.

WE PARTNER WITH REFUGEES IN WAYS THAT AFFIRM DIGNITY AND DEMONSTRATE RESPECT WHILE HELPING THEM SURVIVE AND RECOVER FROM FORCED DISPLACEMENT.

WE PARTNER WITH THE CHURCH IN WAYS THAT BREAK THE ISOLATION OF REFUGEES AND EXTEND HOSPITALITY, HOPE AND HEALING.

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR EVERY PRAYER, DONATION, VOLUNTEER AND MISSIONARY THAT JOINS WITH US IN PURSUING THIS URGENT MISSION.

all for one.

Tom Albinson, President, IAFR
HELPING PEOPLE SURVIVE AND RECOVER FROM FORCED DISPLACEMENT

FORCED DISPLACEMENT LEAVES PEOPLE UNPROTECTED AND VULNERABLE, WITHOUT SHELTER, WATER, FOOD AND BASIC MEDICAL CARE. WHEN THE HUMANITARIAN WORLD STRUGGLES TO MEET THESE NEEDS, IAFR HELPS MOBILISE THE CHURCH TO STEP IN AND HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE.

YET WHILE MANY AGENCIES STEP INTO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS TO HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE, FEW ARE WORKING TO HELP PEOPLE RECOVER FROM FORCED DISPLACEMENT.

RECOVERY REQUIRES SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY, LIFE-GIVING FAITH AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOUNDED HEARTS AND MINDS TO FIND HEALING. NEW SKILLS AND ABILITIES WELL-SUITED TO THEIR PLACE OF REFUGE ARE ALSO NEEDED - AS ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFUGEES TO BECOME CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AGAIN.

THE IAFR CONTINUUM OF RESPONSE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE ILLUSTRATES HOW HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY WORK COMPLIMENT EACH OTHER IN HELPING PEOPLE SURVIVE AND RECOVER FROM FORCED DISPLACEMENT.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH IS CALLED BY GOD TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WORLD’S ESCALATING REFU- GEE CRISIS BY FULFILLING HER DIVINE MANDATE TO LOVE THE FOREIGNER (LEVITICUS 19:34) AND WELCOME THE STRANGER (MATTHEW 25:34-36).

CHURCHES ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED ALONG MUCH OF THE REFUGEE HIGHWAY. AND THESE COMMUNITIES OF FAITH, HOPE AND HEALING EMBODY EXACTLY WHAT IS NEEDED TO HELP REFUGEES RECOVER AND REBUILD THEIR LIVES!

THAT’S WHY IAFR IS COMMITTED TO PURSUEING OUR MISSION TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCH.

READ ON TO SEE WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE ON THE GROUND.

ESTABLISHED IN 2009, IAFR IS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION AGENCY OF ITS KIND, DESIGNED TO AC- CESS REFUGEE CONTEXTS AND HELP PEOPLE SURVIVE AND RECOVER FROM THE TRAUMA OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCH.
Biblical Perspective

FROM THE DIVINE BANISHMENT OF ADAM AND EVE OUT OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN (GENESIS 3:23,24) TO THE FINAL BOOK OF THE BIBLE PENNED BY JOHN WHILE IN EXILE ON THE ISLAND OF PATMOS, STORIES OF FORCED DISPLACEMENT RUN THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.

THE FOREIGNER IS OFTEN MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE TOGETHER WITH THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOW - VULNERABLE PEOPLE FOR WHOM GOD DEEPLY CARES. WHAT FOREIGNER IS MOST LIKE THE WIDOW AND THE FATHERLESS, IF NOT THE REFUGEE?

GOD’S WORD REPEATEDLY CALLS US TO LOVE AND CARE FOR REFUGEES IN TANGIBLE WAYS. WE ARE TO BE SURE THAT THEIR NEEDS FOR SHELTER, FOOD, AND CLOTHING ARE MET. WE ARE TO EXTEND HOSPITALITY AND SEEK JUSTICE AS WELL.

POLITICAL PERSECUTION FORCED JESUS AND HIS FAMILY TO FLEE IN THE NIGHT TO EGYPT WHEN HE WAS A YOUNG CHILD. UPON THEIR RETURN, THEY DID NOT FEEL IT WAS SAFE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMETOWN IN JUDEA AND SETTLED ELSEWHERE (IN NAZARETH).

JESUS PERSONALLY IDENTIFIES WITH REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND RETURNEES. THEY CAN ALSO IDENTIFY WITH HIM.

WE ARE LIVING IN A CENTURY MARKED BY A GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS. FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST WOULD DO WELL TO REDISCOVER OUR GOD-GIVEN PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

FOR BY SERVING THEM, WE SERVE JESUS.

Learn more at www.IAFR.org.
Photo: Refugee youth study the Bible in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya
• 65.6 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide
• 1 of every 113 people alive today is forcibly displaced
• Over 28,000 new people are displaced every day
• 51% of the world’s refugees are children
• 49% of the world’s refugees are women
• 84% of the world’s refugees are hosted by developing nations
When fighting erupted in her homeland, a relative scooped up Mama Fartun’s young children and fled to Kenya for safety. She thought Mama Fartun had been killed. She and the children were later resettled to the USA. Nearly 20 years later, her children learned that their mother had survived and is now a refugee in Kenya. We hope to see them reunited again one day and are working with Mama Fartun (in Kenya) and her children (in the USA) to that end. If everything goes smoothly, it could happen in 2020.

Photo: Mama Fartun in Kakuma refugee camp
ONE JOURNEY

LIKE MANY REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS TODAY, HE WAS FORCED TO FLEE HIS HOMELAND WHILE JUST A BOY.

HIS TROUBLES BEGAN WHEN HE BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH SOMEONE WHO WAS GIVING OUT BIBLES IN HIS HOME TOWN.

HE FIRST FLED TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY AND SURVIVED BY WORKING AT A PISTACHIO FACTORY. BUT THAT COUNTRY DID NOT OFFER HIM A LEGAL PATHWAY TO BECOME A RESIDENT. HE COULD NOT STAY. STILL A CHILD, HE MADE HIS WAY TO EUROPE.

HIS WAS MORE THAN A PHYSICAL JOURNEY. WHILE SEEKING REFUGE, HE FOUND JESUS, AND WITH HIM, HOPE AND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

ON A RECENT VISIT, I FOUND THAT HE HAD SLEPT OUTSIDE OF A TRAIN STATION THE NIGHT BEFORE - EVEN THOUGH HE HAS A BED IN A TEMPORARY SHELTER.

HE SAID THAT HE DID THIS IN ORDER TO KEEP A GUY WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED COMPANY AS HE DID NOT YET HAVE A BED IN ONE OF THE SHELTERS.

HIS SACRIFICIAL CARE FOR OTHERS IS REMARKABLE. IT’S ANOTHER SIGN THAT REFUGEES ARE MORE THAN PEOPLE IN NEED - THEY ARE PEOPLE WITH MUCH TO OFFER AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOLUTIONS TO THE MANY CHALLENGES THEY FACE.

-Rachel Uthmann, IAFR Rome

Photo (right): An exhausted asylum seeker in Rome
We are helping asylum seekers and refugees survive and recover from forced displacement in Italy. We are doing this by providing leadership and consulting for the Il Soggiorno refugee welcome center in Rome. We offer our ministry expertise to help churches engage in ways that help refugees recover from the trauma of displacement and integrate into society.

Photo: Italian lessons with asylum seekers in Rome
We are seeking the welfare of asylum seekers together with the church in northern France. With few options for shelter, food, water and medical care, thousands of desperate people sleep in open fields and vacant buildings as they cross this part of Europe in search of refuge. They hunger for both food and a welcoming community. We are helping churches show up in life-giving ways on their journey.

Photo: Walking through a makeshift camp in France with a refugee boy.
IAFR IN MALTA

We are assisting refugees as they rebuild their lives in ways that restore a sense of peace and safety and that facilitate integration. The crossings of the Sahara and Mediterranean are behind them, but the trauma lingers and daily life remains filled with challenges and loneliness. Recovery happens one life at a time - so we walk alongside of our friends looking for ways to help them find their feet and succeed in their new world. A shared meal, a listening ear, a word of encouragement, a time of prayer, networking with local services and English lessons are some of the ways we are present in their lives.

Photo: Standing together remembering the journey
REFUGEE CHURCHES

Although rarely acknowledged, refugee churches play an important role in helping people survive and recover from forced displacement. As communities of faith, they help people find meaning in loss and suffering. They transcend their circumstances in worship together. Hope is strengthened as they remember that God hears our cries and that he has promised to always be with us. They work tirelessly to further the kingdom of God among their fellow refugees and in their surrounding host community. It is a joy and privilege for us to partner with our uprooted brothers and sisters.

Photo: A Sudanese church service in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya
IAFR IN KENYA
We are partnering with churches in Kakuma refugee camp as they help people survive and recover from forced displacement. We are helping them build their Interdenominational School for Mission and providing theological and trauma care training. We assist them with their annual refugee youth camp. We are providing them with Bibles in diverse languages. We are also providing shelter and assisting with an income generating project in a nearby IDP camp.

Photo: A refugee pastor’s wife and baby in Kakuma refugee camp
IAFR IN MALAWI
We are partnering with churches in Dzaleka refugee camp as they help their fellow refugees survive and recover from forced displacement. We break their isolation by visiting them twice per year to offer encouragement and support. Refugee church leaders often consult with us as they navigate many hardships, including hunger, hopelessness and conflict within the camp. These shepherds carry a heavy and difficult burden as they pastor traumatized people who have little hope of ever leaving the camp.

Photo: Children in Dzaleka refugee camp
LIFE TOGETHER

BECAUSE LANGUAGE IS THE PATH TO ENTERING INTO ANOTHER’S WORLD, WE OFFER IN-HOME ESL LESSONS TO REFUGEES - AND I MEET REGULARLY WITH A TUTOR TO LEARN HER LANGUAGE.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS A BIT AWKWARD AT FIRST, OUR TIME TOGETHER HAS BECOME ABOUT MORE THAN LANGUAGE LEARNING. WE’RE SHARING LIFE TOGETHER.

THERE ARE DAYS WHEN WE DON’T DO OUR LESSON. CONVERSATION TURNS TO PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL THINGS. WE TALK ABOUT OUR LIVES, WHERE WE ARE, WHAT HAS BROUGHT US HERE AND WHERE WE WANT TO GO IN THE FUTURE.

WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER.

SHE EXPERIENCED MANY LOSSES HERE IN THE US. WHEN SHE RECEIVED TRAGIC NEWS FROM HOME, IT WAS MY PRIVILEGE TO LISTEN.

WE HAVE BUILT A FRIENDSHIP AND A PARTNERSHIP. AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE WORK TOGETHER TO BRING WOMEN FROM FROM THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY TOGETHER WITH WOMEN FROM A LOCAL PRAYER GROUP FOR A “CULTURAL COOKING EXCHANGE” DURING WHICH WE LEARN HOW TO COOK TRADITIONAL FOODS FROM EACH OTHER’S CULTURES.

THERE IS GREAT BEAUTY IN RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFERENCES.

-Shanna Doughty, IAFR Colorado

Photo (right): Language learning at home together
IAFR IN COLORADO
We are helping refugees recover from displacement and rebuild their lives in Northern Colorado. Together with local churches, we offer our new neighbors a welcoming community along with practical help. We raise awareness among churches and in the greater community concerning the challenges that refugees face and the blessings that they bring. We support churches with a burden to welcome refugees into our community in ways that demonstrate the love of God. We come alongside and support efforts in the refugee community, making connections between people and resources, and creating collaborative solutions in the ongoing process of recovery from forced displacement.

Photo: Sharing family, home and kitchen with new neighbors
IAFR IN ATLANTA

We are immersed in the communities of resettled refugees that call Clarkston, Georgia, their home. The crux of our ministry is hospitality through which isolation is broken and the love of Jesus is expressed. Our presence here is shepherd-like. Together with brothers and sisters from surrounding churches, we care for the sick, tutor kids, mentor teens, navigate confusing governmental systems, celebrate milestones - and sometimes just sit and talk over a cup of tea.

We’re thankful to our church partners who have welcomed refugee youth into their programs, camps and special events.
IAFR MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL - ASYLUM SEEKERS

WE ARE SEEKING THE WELFARE OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL.

ALTHOUGH FEW PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEY ARE HERE, THE TWIN CITIES IS HOST TO OVER 1,000 ASYLUM SEEKERS.

THEY DON’T RECEIVE THE SAME ASSISTANCE OFFERED TO RESETTLED REFUGEES. AS A RESULT, THEY CAN EASILY FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS OF SOCIETY. AFTER IDENTIFYING HOUSING AS THE NUMBER ONE NEED FACING ASYLUM SEEKERS, WE LAUNCHED THE JONATHAN HOUSE PROJECT THAT OFFERS A SAFE PLACE, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY AND PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE AND SET THEM UP FOR SUCCESS ONCE THEIR CASE IS DETERMINED.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED AS THE HOLY SPIRIT IS STIRRING IN THE HEARTS OF A GROWING NUMBER OF CHURCHES, GIVING THEM A VISION TO OFFER SHELTER AND COMMUNITY TO ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE TWIN CITIES.

TOGETHER WITH LOCAL CHURCHES, WE HAVE RECENTLY HELPED AN ETHIOPIAN ASYLUM SEEKER WITH GROCERIES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND A YOUNG CONGOLESE ASYLUM SEEKER FIND SHELTER IN THE HOME OF A CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

THIS IS THE STUFF OF MATTHEW 25 - THE THINGS THAT JESUS SAID WOULD MARK HIS FOLLOWERS: “I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN…”

-Sarah Miller, IAFR Minneapolis/St. Paul

Photo (right): A resettled refugee family arrives at the Minneapolis airport
IAFR PROJECTS

- REFUGEE WELCOME CENTER (FRANCE)
- BIBLES FOR REFUGEES (KENYA)
- KISOM BUILDING PROJECT (KENYA)
- POULTRY PROJECT (KENYA)
- REFUGEE YOUTH CAMP (KENYA)

- SHELTER FOR REFUGEES (KENYA)
- TRAUMA CARE TRAINING (KENYA)
- WATER PROJECT (KENYA)
- JONATHAN HOUSE (MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL)

Photo: Shelters built by IAFR in an IDP Camp in Kakuma, Kenya
We have developed a ministry training designed to help churches and like-minded agencies develop well-informed strategies to help people survive and recover from forced displacement. We’ve recently provided training and consulting in Africa, Canada, Europe, Turkey and the US. Our experienced team is increasingly sought out to speak at forums and gatherings bringing academics and practitioners together to explore how the mission of the church intersects with the global refugee crisis.

Photo: IAFR training pastors and representatives from diverse churches in the Twin Cities (MN)
# Statement of Financial Position

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2016 Financial Overview

IAFR INCOME 2016

INCOME TYPE
Investment Income $  79
Missionary Support $498,878
General Contributions $  22,405
Project Contributions $ 90,847
Total Contributions $612,236

IAFR EXPENSES 2016

MINISTRY AREA
Refugee Services $303,319
Research and Advocacy $ 48,691
Training and Consulting $ 95,951
Administration and Management $117,470
Total Expenses $565,431