

# Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project



IRAQI  
REFUGEE  
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

[www.iraqirefugee.us](http://www.iraqirefugee.us)

# IRAP's Background



- Clients of any nationality throughout the Middle East, staff in Jordan and Lebanon
- About 100 cases/300 individuals referred in 2015
- Referrals primarily from extremely vulnerable communities: LGBT individuals, women at risk, ethnic minorities
- Can advise on non-RST immigration options

# Best Practices



- Vetting – in-depth intake interviews, reviewed by staff attorneys
- Authoring submissions: brief, but include identifying and contact information, supporting documents, refugee claim, and explanation of how the client fits an RST category
- Reporting fraud
- Counseling refugees and NGOs on access to and procedures in RST process

# Challenges



- Differing policies and procedures across UNHCR offices – POCs, forms, etc.
- Managing client expectations
  - When should they expect the next contact?
  - Are they still under consideration?

# Recommendations to UNHCR



- **Communication with NGO partners**
  - Which categories of refugees are being considered (or deprioritized) for RST?
  - How will a referral be handled—RST or protection?
  - Key POCs
- **Communication with refugees**
  - Are they being considered for RST? What is their status?
  - Consider establishing an online database refugees can access



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