

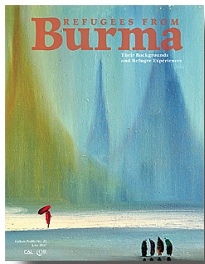
New Resources from the Cultural Orientation Resource Center

The COR Center's newly developed resources provide information and insight for a range of social service providers and educators. They address the challenges facing refugees new to the United States, highlight cultures and cultural differences, and offer guidance to service providers. Please take a moment to review our new offerings and to visit our Web site: www.culturalorientation.net for the latest on COR Center activities.

Resources on this page funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

Culture Profiles

Culture Profiles provide short introductions to the cultural background of refugee populations. Each one contains a basic introduction to the people, history, and culture of the group concerned and includes topics such as history, geography, economy, social structure, gender roles, language and literacy, education, religion, art and song, food and dress, festivities, names, and features of the language. The newest culture profile is outlined below.



Refugees From Burma: Their Backgrounds and Refugee Experiences

This profile provides information about the diverse histories, cultures, and refugee experiences of the Burmans, the Karen and their various subgroups, and the Chin. Designed as a resource for refugee service providers but likely to be of use to teachers, local government agency staff, and others who interact with the Burmese, the profile also addresses the early experiences of the Burmese already resettled in the U.S.

Download a PDF version of this culture profile at www.culturalorientation.net.

Refugee Backgrounders

In the tradition of the culture profiles, refugee backgrounders provide key information about new refugee groups for U.S. resettlement workers but in a smaller digest format. Backgrounders include sections on the need for resettlement of the group to the United States, cultural attributes of the group, and resettlement considerations, as well as a one-page statistical summary.



Refugee Backgrounder No. 2: 1972 Burundians

The United States has agreed to resettle a group of Burundian refugees who have lived in Tanzanian refugee camps since 1972. Who are the 1972 Burundians? Why are they being resettled in the United States? What are their cultural customs and background characteristics? What will their resettlement needs be?

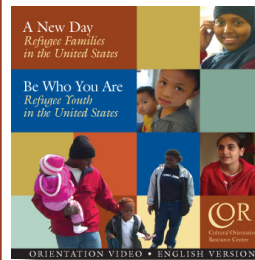
Download this backgrounder at www.culturalorientation.net.

Refugee Families & Refugee Youth Orientation Videos

A New Day and Be Who You Are (English Versions)

These two videos were created to assist refugees and refugee service providers in learning about the adjustment of refugee families and refugee youth to their

new lives in the United States. Combined on one VHS or DVD, topics include:



- Family adjustment
- Discipline
- School life
- Home life
- Learning English

Run times:

A New Day: Refugee Families in the United States: 24 min.

Be Who You Are: Refugee Youth in the United States: 9 min.

Refugee Backgrounder available

Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal

The United States will soon resettle tens of thousands of Bhutanese refugees who have been living in camps in eastern Nepal since they were expelled from their homes in Bhutan more than 16 years ago. This Backgrounder provides an overview of the Bhutanese refugees to help resettlement staff and resettling communities prepare for the refugees' arrival.

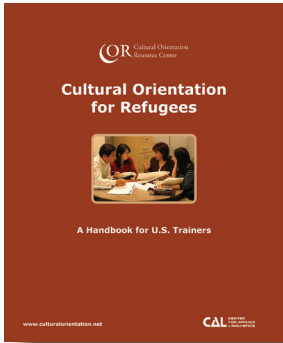
Publication in development

Refugees from Iraq

This publication will provide in-depth information about refugee groups from Iraq. Topics covered include history, culture, religion, language, and education along with resettlement needs.

Visit the COR Center Web site for details.

Cultural Orientation for Refugees: A Handbook for U.S. Trainers



The COR Center specializes in the development of materials that inform service providers about refugee cultures and help newcomers understand fundamental aspects of life in the U.S.

To that end, the COR Center has developed this useful trainer's manual that provides valuable information, lesson plans,

and training resources in U.S. cultural orientation. This manual was designed as part of a capacity-building effort designed to equip refugee service providers with an efficient and effective approach to cultural orientation (CO).

The handbook presents basic information about the history and practice of cultural orientation, contains techniques and materials that can be used by all who provide CO, and provides a culturally and educationally appropriate model for cultural orientation. Agencies conducting group CO workshops for the first time will find this handbook to be a highly practical and useful tool, while supervisors can use it as an instant resource for training new staff.

This handbook, representing the COR Center's considerable experience with CO, provides hands-on tools and techniques that can be used to enhance orientation and help providers work closer with refugees.

The handbook is designed for use by

- resettlement agency staff
- refugee mutual assistance associations (MAAs)
- community-based organizations
- volunteers
- schools and ESL teachers
- anyone interested in CO

Inside the Handbook

Cultural Orientation Programs

Provides a brief history of CO

Discusses how CO is implemented today

Describes common CO methods and models

Training

Addresses cultural aspects of CO

Looks at CO in practice

Discusses importance of needs assessment and evaluation

Discusses CO methodologies

Lesson Plans

Provides a series of short, targeted CO lessons. Each lesson plan includes a topic, objective, suggested length, materials, discussion questions, instructional practice, cultural notes, evaluation tool, and potential variations for different refugee audiences.

Lesson plan topics:

- role of the resettlement agency
- housing
- employment
- community services
- transportation
- health
- money matters
- rights and responsibilities
- cultural adjustment

Resources

Provides sources and recommended reading



For more information on any of these resources, please visit the COR Center Web site www.culturalorientation.net or contact:

Cultural Orientation Resource Center
4646 40th Street NW
Washington, DC 20016-1859
202.362.0700
cor@cal.org