



**NEIGHBOR
TO
NEIGHBOR**

A PROGRAM OF EPISCOPAL MIGRATION MINISTRIES

INFORMATION SESSION

The Rev. Christopher McNabb



episcopal
MIGRATION MINISTRIES

Forced Displacement 101

UNHCR Global Trends Report - 2021



Why would someone be forced to flee?

- Persecution, or well-founded fear of persecution, based on:
 - Religion
 - Nationality
 - Race
 - Membership in a particular social group
 - Political opinion

Understanding the Difference:

Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Asylum Seekers

		MOTIVATION	
		VOLUNTARY	FEAR OF SERIOUS HARM
DESTINATION	INTERNAL	Internal Migrant	Internally Displaced Person (IDP)
	INTERNATIONAL	Migrant	Refugee - has received refugee status Asylum Seeker - is seeking refugee or protected status

Refugees



Under international & U.S. law, a refugee is a person who has fled their home country, has crossed an international border, and has been found to have a well-founded fear of persecution based on religion, race, nationality, or membership in a particular social or political group in their home country.

Refugees in the U.S. have already received refugee status abroad, enter the country through what is known as the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, and have access to a number of federal, state, and local programs that support them in their first months or years here.

Asylum Seekers

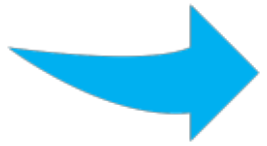
Like refugees, **asylum seekers** have fled their home countries because of persecution or well-founded fear of persecution. However, they have not yet received legal “refugee” or protected status.

Asylum seekers do not have access to any of the supports available to refugees until they ‘win’ their asylum case and become official asylees. This process almost always takes years.



Refugees and Asylum Seekers

In other words, the difference between refugees and asylum seekers lies not in their stories, but in their official, legal status:



Refugees have already received refugee status; **asylum seekers** are seeking protected status.



What is Neighbor to Neighbor?

Neighbor to Neighbor is a program of Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) that equips congregations and community groups to welcome and accompany asylum seekers and Afghan newcomers through a model known as community sponsorship.



Community Sponsorship

the pairing of refugees (or other refugee-like populations, like asylum seekers) with Groups of individuals (e.g., local clubs, businesses, university communities , faith groups, sports teams, book clubs) who commit to providing clearly defined financial and/or in-kind contributions and volunteer services to support their welcome and integration

Grounds for Asylum



Everyone applying for asylum must show that they have been persecuted, or have a well-founded fear of persecution, in their home country on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Sponsor Circle Program for Afghans

- Throughout this past year, NtN teamed up with the Sponsor Circle program for Afghans to welcome Afghan parolees through Operation Allies Welcome.
- The application portal for new Sponsor Circle program for Afghans is now closed. However, we have 4 teams awaiting matches with Afghans and 14 teams currently matched with Afghan individuals/families.
- With flights continuing to arrive to the NCC in Virginia, we're hopeful these remaining 4 teams will be matched

The Asylum Process

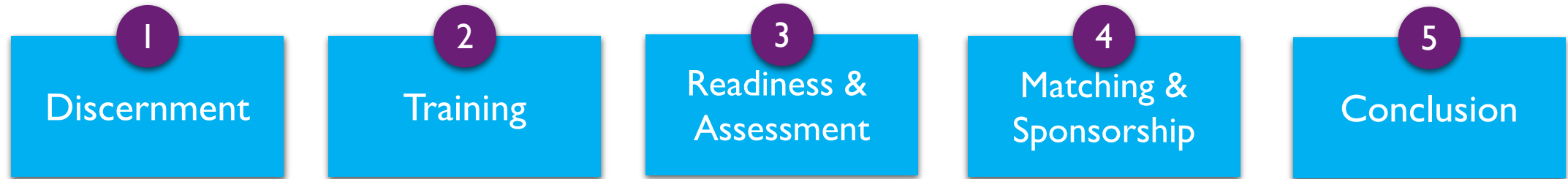
- The U.S. asylum process is lengthy and difficult: it takes between six months and several years to complete
- Courts currently have a significant backlog of cases
- Once asylum seekers apply for asylum, and after a waiting period, they can apply to work legally - but no benefits or medical coverage are granted.

Grant of Asylum

- Those few who are granted asylum (asylees) become eligible for public benefits, SSI and Medicaid and are able to work legally.
- Asylees can also apply to have some family members join them in the U.S.
- A year after being granted asylum, asylees are eligible to apply for a green card.



The 5 Phases of Neighbor to Neighbor



Phase I: Discernment

I
Discernment

During this phase, prospective NtN teams:

1. Complete an [Initial Interest Form](#)
2. Learn more about the program.
3. Communicate to the NtN Program Team a willingness to move forward

THE MINISTRY OF NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR TEAMS

What are the responsibilities of Neighbor to Neighbor Teams?

- Provide housing
- Provide basic necessities
- Provide time-bound income support
- Assist in completing required changes of address
- Connect to legal assistance
- Support in accessing medical services
- Support in accessing available benefits
- Enroll children in school
- Provide English language support
- Provide job search advice and support
- Provide community orientation
- Complete reports required by EMM
- Attend monthly Communities of Practice calls with EMM
- Check in regularly with the NtN program manager

THE MINISTRY OF NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR TEAMS

What is the financial commitment? What is the time commitment?

- **\$2,275 per individual your team intends to support.**
- Minimum time commitment we ask teams to make is **six months**

Here is a budget template you may use to estimate the financial support that may be needed:

- [Budget Template](#)

Phase 2: Training

REQUIRED TRAININGS

Every member of the team, except where otherwise noted, to complete:

Neighbor to Neighbor Core Training Modules	✓
Review of Model Welcome Plan	✓
Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange – Training for Community Sponsors	One member of each team
Safe Church, Safe Communities	✓
Code of Conduct	✓
Media Training	✓

Neighbor to Neighbor Core Training Modules

- **Training 1 - Introduction**
- **Training 2 – Neighborhood Mapping**
 - *Introduction to the concept of neighborhood mapping, with an example from the Washington National Cathedral—our first faith community to welcome an asylum seeker through the Neighbor to Neighbor program. This will help you create your Welcome Plan.*
- **Training 3 – Cultural Competence**
- **Training 4 – Practicing Anti-Racism**
 - *With The Very Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary*
- **Training 5 – Trauma-Informed Care, Part 1 & Part 2**
 - *With Psychologist Dr. Michelle Herrera*
- **Training 6 – Welcoming Asylum Seekers**
 - *With immigration attorney Emerson Argueta*

1

Introduction

2

Neighborhood
Mapping

3

Cultural
Competence

4

Practicing
Anti-Racism

5

Trauma-Informed
Care
(Part 1 & Part 2)

6

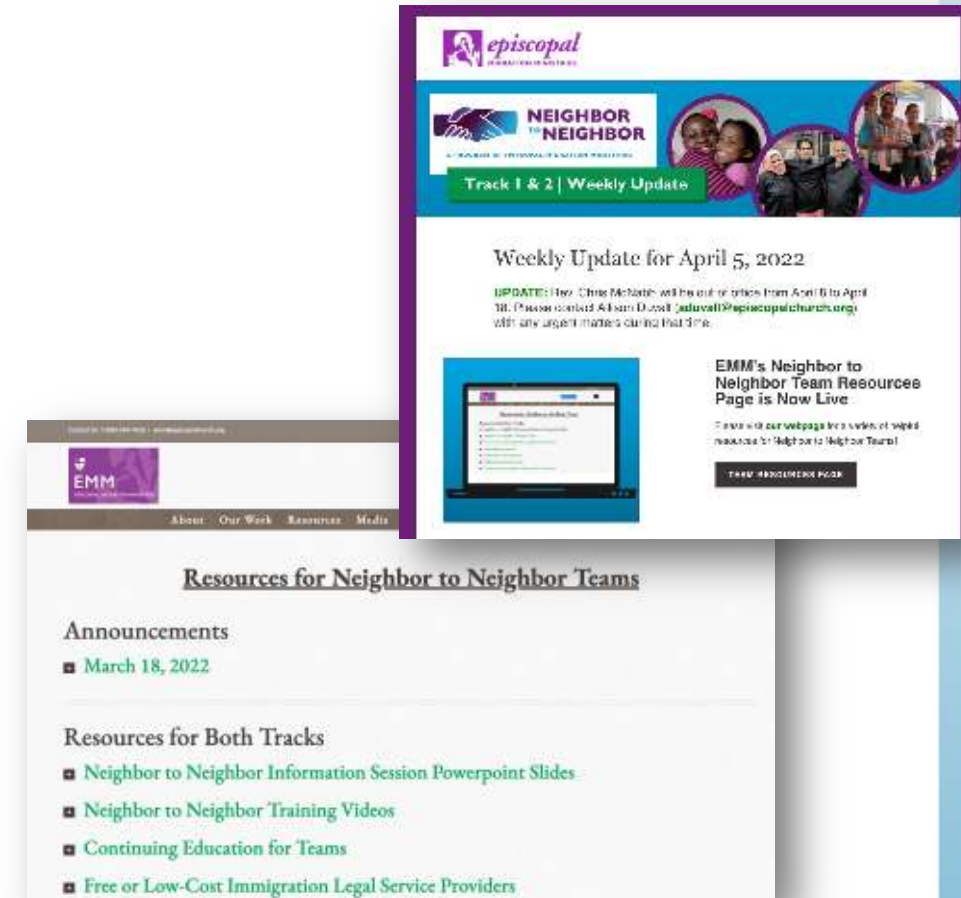
Welcoming
Asylum Seekers

Resources to Help Neighbor to Neighbor Teams

In addition to the video modules, your team may wish to review other documents as you prepare your application and Welcome Plan.

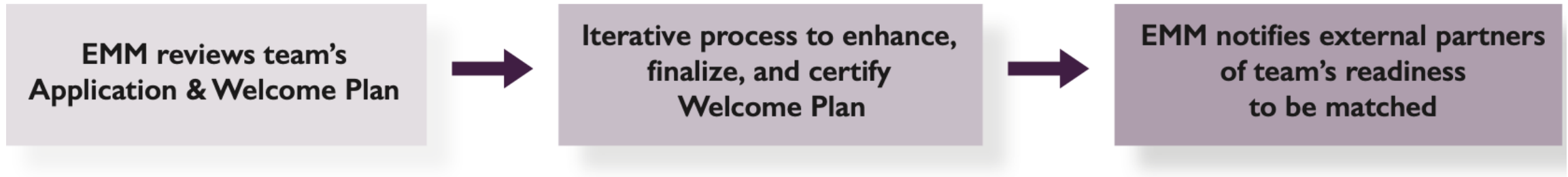
The [Resources for Neighbor to Neighbor Teams](#) webpage is available to you at any time to support you and your NtN work. It is organized by track and by phase, assisting you in locating information you need now and will need in the future.

We also send weekly Neighbor to Neighbor digest emails to teams once they begin training, through the conclusion phase. These emails include program updates, announcements, and resources to assist you in the ministry of sponsorship.



Phase 3: Readiness Assessment

ALL TEAMS FOLLOW THIS PROCESS FOR READINESS



Phase 4: Matching & Sponsorship

Match confirmed, travel arranged, new neighbors arrive!	
Team attends monthly Communities of Practice sessions	
30 Day Report	
2nd Month Conversation with program manager	
90 Day Report	
4th Month Conversation with program manager	
180 Day Report	
7th Month Conversation with program manager	

The ministry of community sponsorship

“God has called us as Christians to love and serve one another. Sometimes we have to step out of our comfort zone to do that, but with God’s help we can do it.

The St. Matthew’s/St. Andrew’s Partnership, to me, is like a reflection of God’s plans for us. We care about love, and support each other. And that opens us up to join in the voice, heart, and spirit of all who demand to live with respect, justice, and peace, in order to contribute to making this world a better place for all.”

- Marta Humphreys, St. Andrew’s Pentecost Episcopal Church

The ministry of community sponsorship

“Try to imagine how it would feel to fear for your life, to have no shelter, no food, no transportation, no family, friends or even acquaintances, and you have extreme difficulty communicating.

If you do that it will not be hard to decipher where to begin. For me, it is always on my mind and in my heart. It has become a very personal thing. You must also prepare to fall in love with them.

- Joyce Acton, Neighbor to Neighbor Team Lead, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Columbus, OH

Phase 5: Conclusion

The ministry of community sponsorship is vital and time-limited; **the purpose of community sponsorship is to empower your new neighbors towards independence and self-sufficiency.**

During this phase, EMM provides each NtN team with resources and coaching on how to bring the community sponsorship relationship with your new neighbors to a close. We reflect with you on the experience and celebrate your work as you, in turn, mark the conclusion of this chapter in your relationship with your new neighbor.

Helpful Resource:

Resources for Neighbor to Neighbor Teams:

<https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/ntnteamresources/>

Helpful Resource:

Frequently Asked Questions

Q & A

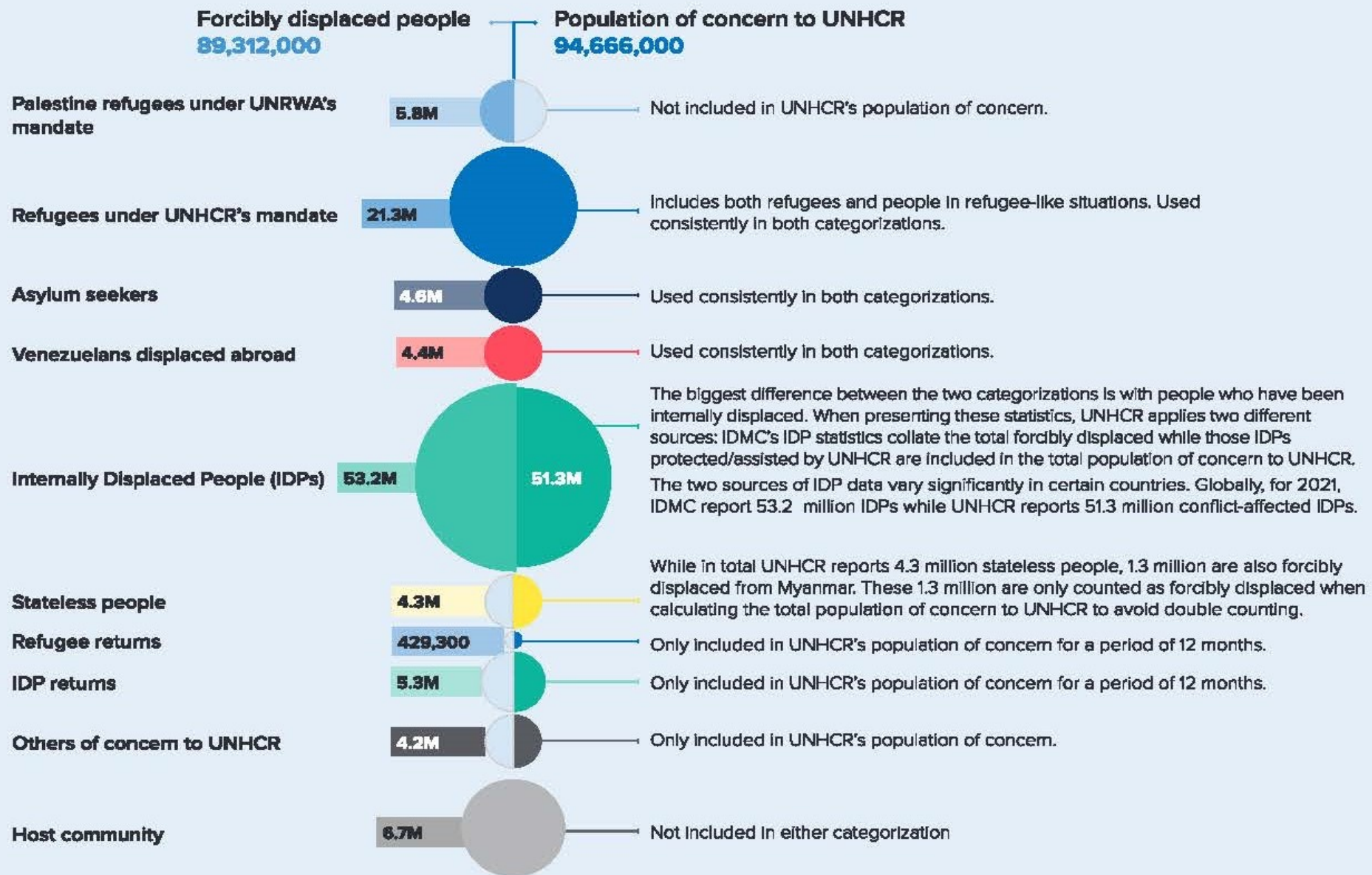
Any questions?

Support EMM's life-saving work

- Scan the QR code
- To give via phone or for information about making a gift of stock, giving through a donor advised fund, or including Episcopal Migration Ministries in your estate plans, contact giftplanning@episcopalchurch.org or (212) 716-6271.



THANK YOU



The ministry of community sponsorship

“I think...Neighbor to Neighbor is really about creating community that God would recognize.

And that's the goal---to recognize that there is no separation between me and the asylum seeker, between me and the newly arriving Afghan, that somehow, spiritually, we are able to acknowledge our shared humanity. And those things that separate us fall away, and those things that connect us are able to really be the synapses that connect us to other humans.

- Rev. Chris McNabb, Neighbor to Neighbor Program Manager