



Background Information on New Americans

Created by International Rescue Committee – Charlottesville, VA

Summary

“Background Information on New Americans’ is a compilation of resources about refugees and special immigrants actively participating in refugee agriculture programs at the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville, VA. The information originates from a variety of sources including the IRC itself and the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides abbreviated information about the cultural practices and context from which resettled people hail, with an emphasis on diet, food traditions and agricultural background.

Who made this guide?

This teaching resource was developed by the New Roots Program at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Charlottesville and enhanced in collaboration with the Institute for Social and Economic Development (ISED). From 2015-2017, ISED partnered with refugee farmer training programs throughout the country to support the design of new and shareable teaching resources for culturally and linguistically diverse farmers. To access the whole list of newly developed teaching resources for refugee farmer training program, follow [this link](#). For more in-depth explanations of the teaching approaches and activities used in these materials, you can refer to [this handbook](#).



This resource was prepared by ISED Solutions - a fiscally sponsored program of TSNE MissionWorks – and supported by grant no. 2015-70017-22886 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Audience (TA Or Tot)	ToT (this is a tool for staff, trainers, partners, or volunteers)
Language and Literacy Level	High
Farmer Experience	N/A
Pre-Requisites	N/A
Region or Climate	N/A
Program Structure	Those working with New Americans
Season	Any
Time	Any—while the whole package is 117 pages, articles are rarely more than a few pages.
Staff and Interpreters	For English speakers/readers
Additional Supplies Needed	None
Background Material	Before sharing this resources with partners, staff, or volunteers, the resource’s purpose should be explained.

TEACHING MATERIALS INCLUDED

1. “Bibliography and linked sources: Background information on New Americans”

BIBLIOGRAPHY and LINKED SOURCES
Background Information on New Americans
 Compiled 2017 by the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville

1. **Introduction—**
 This compilation includes resources about refugees and special immigrants actively participating in refugee agriculture programs at the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville, VA. The information originates from a variety of sources including the IRC itself and the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides abbreviated information about the cultural practices and context from which resettled people hail, with an emphasis on diet, food traditions and agricultural background.

Afghanistan

2.1 **The Afghans: Their History and Culture [excerpts]**
[The Afghans: Their History and Culture](#)
 Source: Robson, Barbara, et al. "The Afghans: Their History and Culture." [www.culturalorientation.net](#). Cultural Orientation Resource Center, n.d. Web. Nov. 2017.
 *see Introduction: Afghans in the U.S. (pg. 3-7); Recent Afghan Refugees (pg. 3-7); The People (pg. 8-12); Religion (pg. 19-20); Accommodating Islamic Customs (pg. 22-23); Key Cultural and Social Values (pg. 25)

Burma/Myanmar

6.1 **Refugees from Burma**
[Refugees from Burma](#)
 Source: Barron, Sandy, et al. "Refugees from Burma." [www.culturalorientation.net](#). Cultural Orientation Resource Center, n.d. Web. Nov. 2017.
 *see Burma: An Overview (pg. 2-8); Resettlement in the United States (pg. 64-69)

6.2 **Refugee Families from Burma**
<http://www.brycs.org/documents/upload/burmese-cultural-backgrounder.pdf>
 Source: "Refugee Families from Burma." [www.brycs.org](#). Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services, n.d. Web. Oct. 2017.

Bhutan

7.1 **Bhutanese Cultural Backgrounder**
[Bhutanese Cultural Backgrounder.pdf](#)
 Source: "Bhutanese Refugee Families." [www.brycs.org](#). Bridging Refugee Youth &

CORE SKILLS IN THIS LESSON

- Cultural sensitivity
- Current events
- Resettlement

SUGGESTED TEACHING METHODS

Reflection questions

- This resource will provide context and helpful information to new staff members. The material should be edited and adapted to reflect your program. The best use of this resource includes a discussion or reflection with staff. Reflection questions could be included (written) at various points in the resource. An in-person discussion could also be an idea. Reflection questions could be:
 - “What did you read that was new to you?”
 - “What did you read that confirmed something you knew?”
 - “What did you read that seems important for someone in your position to know when working with these farmers?”

TEACHING TIPS

- Use the index to find parts of the resource that will be most applicable to you.
- We recommend adapting this to the populations in your program and adding some local program information to the front and omitting our local info.