1 A refugee is defined as someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence.\(^\text{[1]}\)

2 As of 2016, of the estimated 65.3 million people who are displaced worldwide, 21.3 million are refugees.\(^\text{[2]}\)

3 The United States has resettled more than 3.3 million refugees in the past 41 years.\(^\text{[3]}\)

4 For 18 to 24 months, refugees face screening by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and nine US government agencies, including the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.\(^\text{[4]}\)

5 Since 1975, the state of California has resettled 700,000 refugees.\(^\text{[5]}\)
6 In the 1970s, people from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam comprised San Diego’s first wave of refugee resettlement.\(^6\)

7 Since the 1970s, approximately 100,000 refugees have resettled in San Diego County.\(^7\)

8 During fiscal year 2015 / 2016, San Diego County resettled approximately 4,100 refugees.\(^8\)

9 An estimated 150,000 refugees reside in San Diego County.\(^9\)

10 San Diego’s refugee population originates from a wide variety of countries. In fiscal year 2015 / 2016, the majority of refugees resettled in San Diego were from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.\(^8\)
Founded in 2001, Nile Sisters Development Initiative (NSDI) is a community-based organization that provides vital services to refugees and immigrants and seeks to establish a well-integrated, productive, and vital refugee / immigrant community in San Diego County. The NSDI mission is to educate, support, and offer training to refugee and immigrant women and their families to help them overcome barriers to social and economic self-reliance. NSDI assists refugees and immigrants to assimilate a new language, customs, and systems that are inherent to the American way of life.