

“Challenges in the U.S. Healthcare System & Medicaid”



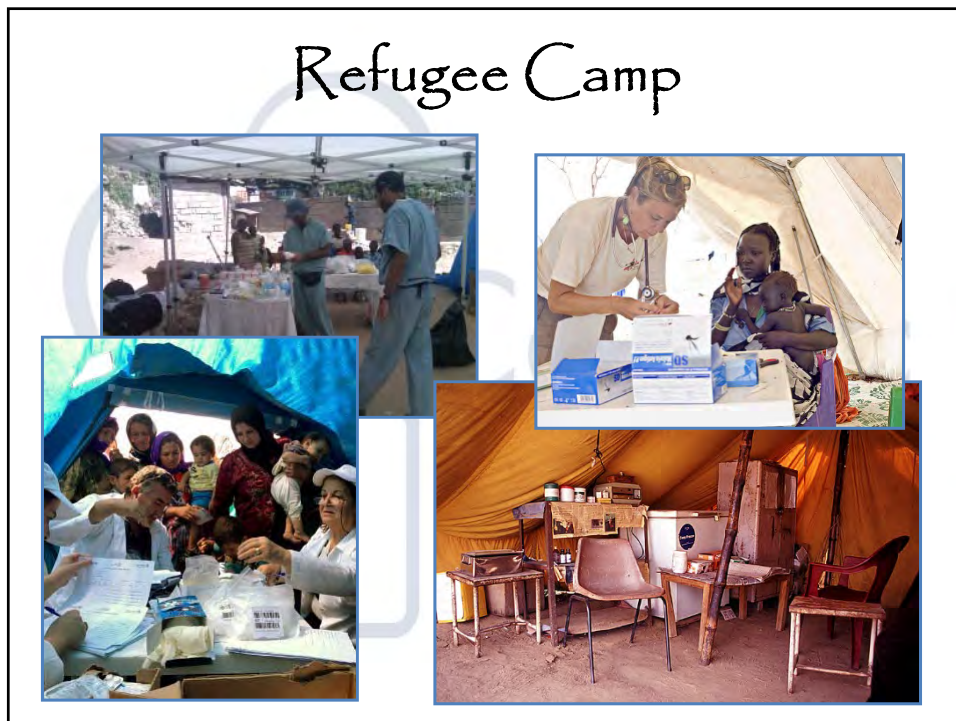
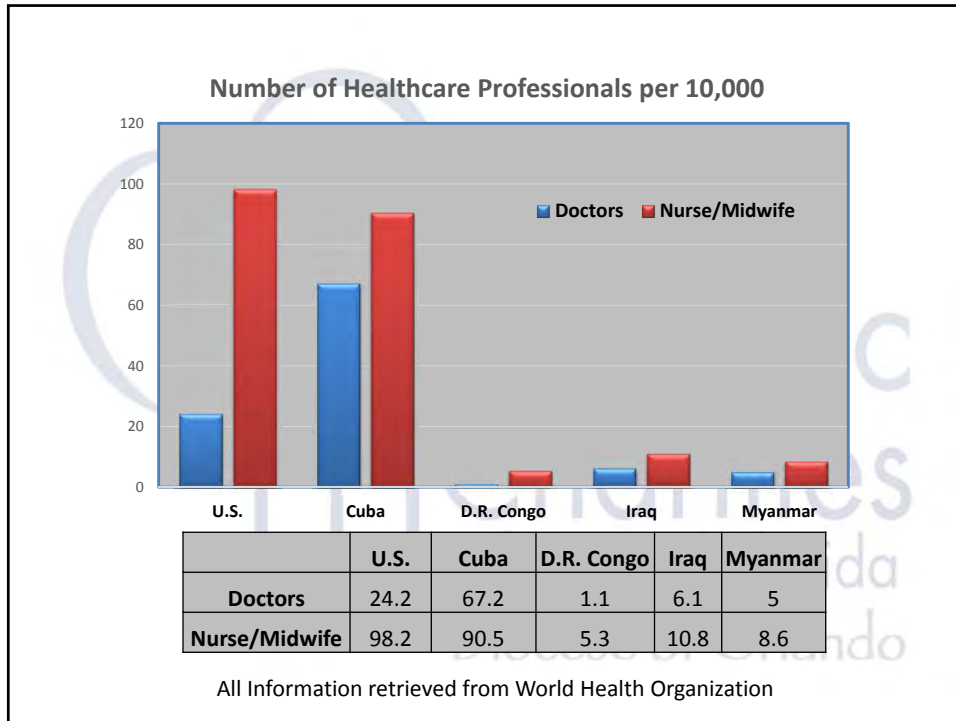
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Burma (Myanmar)









Global Refugee Situation



Approximately 17.4 million refugees worldwide.

www.unhcr.org

Resettlement



Communication Barriers



- Most refugees do not speak English
- “Yes” does not equal comprehension
- Basic terminology is completely foreign
- Explaining with gestures can be useful

Cultural Barriers



- Religious awareness
- Cultural awareness
- Time = \$\$\$ vs. Time = Respect
- Witch doctors / spiritual healers are prevalent

Differences in Medical Culture



- Appointments are uncommon
- Only visiting doctor when it's serious
- Family History
- Prevention is not always a common practice
- No knowledge of treatment for minor health concerns

Medicaid Challenges



Continuing Healthcare



- Often left to navigate system on their own
- “Here and now” mentality
- Annual checkups/preventive visits
- Effects of ACA on refugee populations are yet to be seen

What YOU can do to help!



- Be culturally sensitive
- Call an Interpreter
- Slow and clear speech
- Use appropriate gestures
- Smile & make eye contact
- Ask them questions as follow-up

“If you think you are too small
to be effective, you have never
been in bed with a mosquito.”

- Betty Reese



Diocese of Orlando