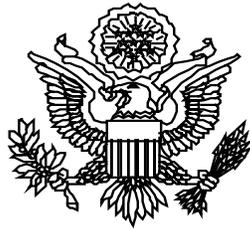


United States Department of State

Migration and Refugee Assistance

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET
PRESENTATION

Fiscal Year 1999

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FY 1999 OVERVIEW

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	
	Enacted	Estimate	Request	Inc./Dec. (-)
MRA	\$650,000	\$650,384	\$650,000	(\$384)
ERMA	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>(30,000)</u>
TOTAL	\$700,000	\$700,384	\$670,000	(\$30,384)

U.S. Foreign Policy Objectives

The **Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA)** appropriation and the **Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA)**, administered by the Department of State, support the humanitarian principles that the U.S. shares with others in the international community by providing assistance to victims of persecution and armed conflict.

The majority of MRA and ERMA funds are the main components of the national interest identified in the United States International Affairs Strategic Plan (IASP) as Humanitarian Response, with the specific strategic goal to “prevent or minimize the human costs of conflict and natural disasters.”

Two important activities also supported by MRA and ERMA resources, refugee admissions and international migration policy, are found in the IASP under American Citizens and U.S. Borders, within the goal to “control how immigrants and non-immigrants enter and remain in the U.S.”

Programs funded by these appropriations also contribute to foreign policy goals pertaining to national security, including preventing and resolving crises, promoting cooperation, and international peacekeeping (when done in the context of humanitarian emergencies), as well as to goals contained under global issues, including the protection of health and the environment.

Strategies

The Administration requests \$670,000,000 for refugee and migration assistance funding in FY 1999. Of this amount, a total of \$650,000,000 is for the MRA appropriation and \$20,000,000 is for the ERMA Fund.

MRA is an annual appropriation used to fund (1) overseas refugee and migration assistance activities, (2) the admission of refugees to the United States, (3) a grant to support resettlement in Israel, and (4) the majority of the administrative expenses of the Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). **ERMA** is a no-year appropriation, drawn upon by

the President to meet "unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs" when it is determined to be "important to the national interest" to do so.

Through the use of these resources, the U.S. supports programs that span the range of international humanitarian assistance requirements, including the protection of refugees and conflict victims, the provision of basic assistance to sustain life and health, and the resolution of refugee problems through repatriation, local integration, or permanent resettlement in a third country -- including the United States.

The U.S. refugee admissions program aims to provide resettlement opportunities to certain refugees for reasons of security, health, the lack of any other long term solution, and/or who have special ties to the United States. Funding for international migration activities will support programs that promote international cooperation on migration issues.

Performance Indicators

- In cooperation with other donors and relevant international and non-governmental organizations:
 - Provide care to populations of concern at a level sufficient to ensure that minimum international standards are met,
 - Reduce the total population of concern through local integration, repatriation, and resettlement.
 - Ensure that assistance programs address the specific requirements of the population they are assisting (e.g., women, children).
- Provide effective emergency assistance for unforeseen, urgent refugee and migration requirements.
- Enhance the response capacities of the relevant humanitarian assistance organizations.
- Identify and resettle refugees in the United States.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY STATEMENT

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted		FY 1998 Estimate		FY 1999 Request		Inc./Dec. (-)	
Positions	Funds	Positions	Funds	Positions	Funds	Positions	Funds
105	\$650,000	105	\$650,384	105	\$650,000	--	(\$384)

SUMMARY

Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) programs uphold humanitarian principles that the United States shares with others in the international community by providing assistance to victims of persecution and civil strife. These programs support the protection of refugees and of conflict victims, the provision of basic needs to sustain life and health, and the resolution of refugee problems through repatriation, local integration, or permanent resettlement in a third country -- including the United States. These objectives are achieved largely by providing assistance through international organizations and by providing resettlement opportunities for refugees in the United States. As international migration has become more complex in this decade, the United States must address the full range of migration policy issues, from protecting individual rights to combating alien trafficking.

In carrying out these objectives, the United States sustains its leadership role in the world community in responding to the needs of refugees and conflict victims. MRA programs directly support the U.S. national interest in humanitarian response.

◆ Overseas Assistance

There were approximately 22.7 million refugees and persons of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of January 1997. This figure comprises 13.2 million refugees, 3.3 million returnees, 4.8 million internally displaced persons, and 1.4 million others. An additional 3.4 million Palestinian refugees are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Many of the world's refugees and victims of conflict have little hope for more than mere survival without adequate international assistance, and their protection and care are shared international responsibilities.

The *Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended*, provides for U.S. support of UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and other relevant international organizations. Accordingly, the Department of State contributes the majority of its Overseas Assistance funds to programs administered by international organizations. When required to address specific assistance needs, the Department may also support the programs of non-governmental organizations that carry out relief services overseas - many in conjunction with the programs of international organizations - and provide

bilateral assistance directly to governments and governmental agencies under a statutory authority for Presidential determinations.

The humanitarian traditions of the United States and public interest in many international issues support generous responses to the needs of refugees and conflict victims. The levels of U.S. contributions depend on the nature and urgency of the needs, the prospects for successful program implementation, the responses of other donors, the availability of funds, and U.S. foreign policy interests. No standard formula or uniform U.S. percentage share is appropriate for all contributions.

◆ *Refugee Admissions*

For the vast majority of the world's refugees, the safe return to their home countries or the establishment of new lives in first asylum countries is the appropriate solution. For others, however, resettlement in a third country for reasons of security, health, and/or the lack of any other long-term solution is required.

The U.S. refugee admissions program aims to provide resettlement opportunities to such refugees for whom other solutions are not possible and/or who have special ties to the United States. The program is consistent with the long-standing U.S. commitment to humanitarian principles; it assists individuals who are victims of persecution and who have no recourse other than to seek new lives in foreign lands. The United States also encourages other countries to participate in resettlement through bilateral and multilateral efforts.

◆ *Refugees to Israel*

This program supports resettlement in Israel from certain other countries. Most of these funds provide transportation, en route care and maintenance, educational programs, and temporary accommodation upon arrival in Israel.

◆ *Administrative Expenses*

These funds are used to finance the salaries and operating costs associated with a staff of 99 employees located in Washington and at 11 overseas posts. While the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration has responsibility for international population policy and coordination, funds for the salaries and operating costs associated with the six positions dedicated to this function are included in the Department of State's budget request for the Diplomatic and Consular Programs appropriation.

FY 1999 PLANS

In FY 1999, MRA assistance will continue to meet short-term, life-sustaining needs of refugees and other conflict victims, and to further efforts to reach durable solutions for refugee populations. Durable solutions relieve the long-term burden on the international assistance budgets that provide for the care and maintenance of refugees in asylum countries. Assistance funds, therefore, may be used to support communities in their initial reintegration of refugees who have repatriated. A small portion of the MRA program funds may be used to finance studies and Bureau oversight necessary to evaluate programs carried out by recipients of U.S. funds.

◆ *Overseas Assistance*

The major portion of funding within Overseas Assistance is expected to be used for the General and Special Program appeals of UNHCR, the emergency appeals of ICRC, and UNRWA's programs for Palestinian refugees. In addition, funds are contributed to the World Food Program (WFP) for the costs of its programs on behalf of populations of concern to UNHCR.

Funds are also used to support activities of relevant international or non-governmental organizations that address multiregional concerns or aspects of international migration, in particular, the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In FY 1999, MRA funds will be used to provide assistance to migrants in support of the international migration policy goals where PRM has the lead responsibility, and where no other funding authority is more appropriate.

In all regions, international attention will continue to be focused on the need to incorporate the abilities and needs of refugee women and the special needs of refugee children into protection and assistance program design, implementation, and evaluation.

The FY 1999 request includes funds for a contribution in support of ICRC headquarters operations at 10 percent of the estimated budget, as well as funds for the U.S. membership assessment for the IOM administrative budget at 29.95 percent.

◆ *Refugee Admissions*

The FY 1999 budget request includes funds to finance the resettlement of up to 75,000 refugees in the United States. Although this admissions number is used to calculate estimated costs, the final number and regional allocations will be determined by the President following the annual consultations process with Congress later in the current fiscal year. These funds cover the costs of processing refugee applicants, providing cultural orientation, health screenings, transportation, loans to refugees accepted for resettlement to the United States, and initial reception and placement services in the United States.

◆ *Refugees to Israel*

The FY 1999 request includes \$70,000,000 to support resettlement in Israel through a grant to the United Israel Appeal. This represents a \$10,000,000 decrease from the FY 1998 estimate, and reflects a decline in the number of individuals seeking resettlement in Israel.

◆ *Administrative Expenses*

The FY 1999 request of \$13,000,000 covers the salaries and administrative support costs of 99 positions, including 81 in the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration in Washington, D.C., and 18 at 11 overseas posts. Funds for the administrative support of six positions identified with the Bureau's responsibility for international population policy and coordination are requested in the Department of State's Diplomatic and Consular Programs appropriation.

MRA PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec. (-)
Overseas Assistance				
Africa	\$129,309	\$143,440	\$148,100	\$4,660
East Asia	20,165	11,300	11,300	--
Western Hemisphere	11,400	11,300	12,300	1,000
Near East/North Africa	95,237	94,400	98,200	3,800
South Asia	27,387	28,000	29,500	1,500
Europe	124,283	104,400	91,500	(12,900)
Multiregional Activities	66,219	62,800	73,740	10,940
Subtotal, Assistance	474,000	455,640	464,640	9,000
Refugee Admissions	84,000	102,360	102,360	--
Refugees to Israel	80,000	80,000	70,000	(10,000)
Administrative Expenses	12,000	12,384/a	13,000	616
Appropriation Total	650,000	650,384	650,000	(384)

/a This amount includes \$384,000 transferred from the Diplomatic and Consular Program (D&CP) appropriation pursuant to the statutory International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS) program.

OVERSEAS ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	
Enacted	Estimate	Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$474,000	\$455,640	\$464,640	\$9,000

The FY 1999 overseas assistance request is \$464,640,000, an increase of \$9,000,000 from the FY 1998 estimate. This increase incorporates additional initiatives for refugee children, and reflects the continuing assistance requirements for populations of concern. It includes funds to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and conflict victims, and to implement international migration policy.

The primary purposes of international protection and assistance funding are to meet short-term, life-sustaining needs of refugees and conflict victims, and to support durable solutions -- notably voluntary repatriation -- overseas. Many nations hosting large groups of refugees and victims of conflict are among the world's least developed. The refugees' presence often strains limited resources and may result in serious problems that affect U.S. foreign policy interests.

A continuing element of the assistance effort will be support for lasting solutions to refugee problems. The FY 1999 request will be used to respond to programs as they evolve from care and maintenance in first asylum countries to self-sufficiency or repatriation. Funds also may be used to assist in the initial reintegration of refugees

who have repatriated. U.S. support for repatriations will be provided from MRA funds to the extent possible, once basic care and maintenance requirements for existing refugee populations have been met.

U.S. international migration policy aims to promote sound migration management which balances governmental respect for the human rights of migrants with governmental responsibility to maintain the security of its territory. MRA funds will support activities to promote international understanding of migration with a special emphasis on protection for those in need of it.

U.S. refugee policy is based on the premise that the care of refugees and other conflict victims, and the pursuit of permanent solutions for refugee crises, are shared international responsibilities. Accordingly, most overseas assistance funds will be contributed to programs administered by international organizations. Although the United States is just one of many donors, in most cases the U.S. Government is the largest individual donor. The primary recipients of U.S. contributions are listed below and their major activities are discussed in the regional presentations that follow. U.S. support may be provided to

other organizations as required to meet specific program needs and objectives.

Chief among the international organizations receiving assistance funds is the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, which has a worldwide mandate to assist host governments to protect and care for refugees as well as to promote lasting solutions to refugee situations. It is expected that UNHCR will meet the minimum international standards in such areas as public health, nutrition, and sanitation; provide basic educational programs; and implement efforts to promote self-sufficiency so that refugees can integrate with local populations where possible. Self-sufficiency lowers the care and maintenance costs to the international community while creating conditions conducive to the continued provision of first asylum. Aggressive promotion of voluntary repatriation where conditions in the country of origin are suitable is also key to both finding refugee solutions and maintaining the willingness of governments to offer first asylum. In 1999, it is anticipated that UNHCR will continue its progress in orienting protection and assistance activities toward refugee women and children who comprise about 80 percent of most refugee populations.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent, internationally funded, humanitarian institution mandated under the terms of the Geneva Conventions. The United States is party to the Geneva Conventions, under which ICRC is called upon to provide assistance and protection to prisoners of war and political detainees, assist and protect civilian victims of armed conflict, provide needed medical assistance to conflict

victims, trace missing persons and separated family members, and disseminate information on the principles of humanitarian law.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has a continuing mandate from the United Nations to provide educational, medical, relief, and social assistance to the 3.4 million registered Palestinian refugees located in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) works with governments, other international organizations, and voluntary agencies to provide for the orderly migration of persons in need of international migration services. IOM provides operational services for humanitarian migration and technical assistance to governments and others interested in the development of migration policy, legislation and administration.

The World Food Program (WFP) is the principal vehicle for multilateral food aid within the UN system. WFP distributes commodities supplied by donor countries for protracted refugee and displaced person projects, and emergency food assistance, as well as development projects. Migration and Refugee Assistance funds will be contributed to WFP toward the expenses of refugee feeding programs undertaken in cooperation with UNHCR. The U.S. Government provides food commodities to WFP under other appropriations.

In general, funds for overseas assistance will be used to respond to the 1999 calendar year budget appeals issued by international organizations. As new or changing assistance needs arise, however, some organizations find it necessary to issue new or increased appeals for funds during the course of the year. Therefore, this request may be used during the first quarter of the fiscal year to respond to urgent appeals that may be issued late in the 1998 calendar year.

Programs of non-governmental organizations may commence at any point in the fiscal year, with funding provided for a twelve-month period.

The Department may reallocate funds between regions or organizations within the overseas assistance request level of \$464,640,000 in response to changing requirements.

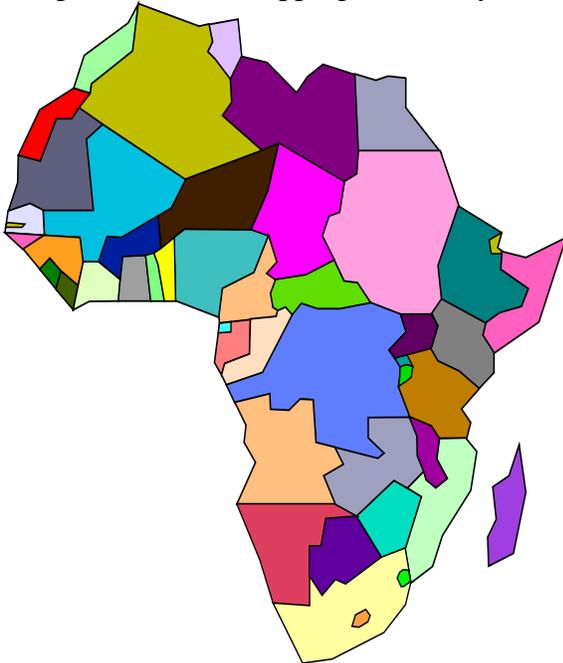
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$129,309	\$143,440	\$148,100	\$4,660

The Administration requests \$148,100,000 to respond with appropriate U.S. contributions to the basic needs of refugees and conflict victims in sub-Saharan Africa. Some 3.5 million of the world's refugees (about one quarter) are spread across the African continent. The number of African refugees has been dropping in recent years



with large repatriations to Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Togo, and northwestern Somalia. Voluntary repatriation to Liberia was beginning at the

end of 1997, although many refugees were waiting to see what will transpire after the planned ECOMOG (West African peacekeeping force) withdrawal in February 1998. However, new refugee outflows from Sierra Leone, Burundi, the two Congos, and Sudan underscored the need for conflict prevention and resolution. Returned refugees in the lesser developed countries of Africa continue to be of concern to UNHCR and the international community for at least a year until their sustainable reintegration into home communities can be launched if not fully assured.

Africa has a long history of migration and a remarkable tradition of hospitality, which is on the wane in many places owing to the burden (including environmental) on impoverished host communities, and a recent surge in armed cross border attacks - both on refugee camps and from exiled insurgents. Nonetheless, most African countries continue to be generous refugee hosts.

◆ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

As in years past, the U.S. contribution to UNHCR programs in Africa in 1999 will

fund protection and the most basic material assistance to save and maintain lives of refugees and other conflict victims of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR activities must address fundamental protection and assistance needs while pursuing opportunities for permanent solutions for some refugee populations.

In 1999, UNHCR is expected to continue implementing repatriation and reintegration programs for some of the largest and most enduring of Africa's refugee populations -- including Angolans, Somalis, Liberians, and Rwandans. Repatriation assistance for returning refugees includes transportation home, a small package of household and agricultural items to facilitate the returnees' re-establishment, and limited rehabilitation of social infrastructure, such as clinics and water projects. In Rwanda in particular, given the tragic genocide, it will be important for reconciliation to be a component of all reintegration efforts.

◆ *International Committee of the Red Cross*

ICRC, often in partnership with other elements of the international Red Cross movement, is called upon to provide relief and medical assistance in the most difficult and dangerous areas of countries caught up in armed conflict where success depends largely on the cooperation of the warring parties. Congo, Sudan and Sierra Leone are examples of such ICRC action. The ICRC program in Africa provides relief and medical assistance to conflict victims and displaced persons, and assistance to political prisoners and prisoners of war. ICRC also undertakes tracing services (for detainees as

well as family members separated by conflict), individual refugee repatriation, and in some cases refugee protection and assistance.

◆ *World Food Program*

In past years, contributions to WFP have supported feeding programs for refugees and displaced persons from Liberia and Sierra Leone; for Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in Sudan; for Somali refugees in Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Kenya; for Sudanese refugees in Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya; and for refugees and displaced persons from Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo/Zaire. In FY 1999, funds may be contributed to WFP for expenses of such programs undertaken in conjunction with UNHCR.

◆ *Other International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations*

Non-governmental organizations are key partners with the international organizations in Africa, often in specialized areas such as health care. Funds will be provided directly to non-governmental organizations to complement the programs of UNHCR and to address assistance requirements not met through UNHCR's programs. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and other international organizations or non-governmental or governmental organizations may also receive funding for complementary assistance.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN EAST ASIA

PROGRAM SUMMARY*(dollars in thousands)*

FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	
Enacted	Estimate	Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$20,165	\$11,300	\$11,300	--

The Administration requests \$11,300,000 in FY 1999 for assistance programs in East Asia.

Burmese presently constitute the largest group of refugees in the region. Of the Rohingya refugees who fled to Bangladesh from late 1991 to mid-1992, some 230,000 had voluntarily repatriated to Burma by August 1997, when the government of Burma declared the repatriation program over. The remaining 21,000 in Bangladesh will need a durable solution - ideally repatriation if the Burmese authorities allow additional returns and if the refugees agree to voluntary repatriation.

Burmese Army military activities in 1997 against ethnic minorities near the Thai border pushed another 10,000 or more refugees into Thailand. Several push-backs of Karen refugees by the Thai military were reversed by the Royal Thai Government (RTG) which reaffirmed its policy of granting temporary asylum to Burmese refugees. Some 103,000 Burmese refugees were in ethnic minority camps in Thailand at the beginning of 1998.

In July 1997, internal violence in Cambodia deposed one of the two prime ministers and triggered refugee flows into Thailand that reached nearly 70,000 (in addition to the remnants of the Khmer Rouge), as well as a new armed resistance. By the beginning of 1998, UNHCR had assisted some 3,000

Cambodian refugees to voluntarily repatriate and some 65,000 remained in refugee camps in Surin and Trat provinces in Thailand.

◆ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

By the end of 1998, all of the follow-up stages of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indochinese Refugees (CPA) are expected to have been completed in Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos, leaving Burmese and possibly Cambodian refugees as the largest caseloads of concern to UNHCR.

U.S. contributions to UNHCR will include funds for assistance to any remaining Burmese refugees in Bangladesh as well as for any remaining reintegration needs of those who returned to Burma, though UNHCR is expected to have handed off most of this effort to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by FY 1999. U.S. contributions will also cover basic aid to any remaining Cambodian refugees in Thailand. Assistance to Burmese refugees in Thailand is provided through NGOs (see below), though the RTG may permit a larger UNHCR role in the course of 1998.

◆ *International Committee of the Red Cross*

U.S. contributions to ICRC support ongoing programs such as regional delegations throughout East Asia as well as visits to detainees and emergency relief and medical care for conflict victims. Armed conflict in Southeast Asia is very localized (e.g., in pockets of Cambodia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea). ICRC is therefore largely concentrating on its core activities of protection, tracing, dissemination, and medical assistance such as prosthetics.

◆ *World Food Program*

Funds may be contributed to WFP toward expenses of programs undertaken in cooperation with UNHCR - for example, the feeding programs for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and for Cambodia refugees in Thailand, as well as programs for voluntary repatriates to Burma.

◆ *Other International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations*

Burmese refugees in Thailand are assisted by NGOs that implement public health programs, including water and sanitation, and provide food aid as well as some basic household assistance such as blankets and mosquito nets. The FY 1999 request will fund NGOs working in Thailand along the Burmese border and will support such NGO activities as may be required along the Cambodian border. This funding also provides direct U.S. support for international, governmental, and non-governmental organization programs that deliver services to refugees, asylum seekers, and repatriates to address needs not covered by programs outlined above.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$11,400	\$11,300	\$12,300	\$1,000

The Administration requests \$12,300,000 for the Western Hemisphere assistance program. The peaceful settlement of most of the conflicts in the region has dramatically reduced the number of refugees. It is expected that during the course of 1998, most of the remaining Guatemalan refugees in Mexico will have progressively repatriated to Guatemala or settled permanently in Mexico pursuant to a Government of Mexico agreement. Armed conflicts in Peru, Colombia, and Mexico continue to displace civilians. Hence, there is a continuing need for UNHCR and ICRC activities. The Department will continue to pay close attention to the situation in Haiti. As necessary, support for other refugee and migration requirements in the region will be provided.

◆ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

U.S. contributions will help support the regional UNHCR offices that oversee aid to small numbers of refugees throughout the hemisphere and work to assure first asylum for those forced to flee - from Colombia, for example. UNHCR will also assist in the final stages of Guatemalan reintegration.

◆ *International Committee of the Red Cross*

Funds will be contributed to ICRC assistance programs in Central and South America, primarily for Colombia and Peru, and for its network of four regional offices and delegations. With fewer active conflicts in the region, ICRC's emergency relief to conflict victims, aid to prisoners of war, and tracing activities have decreased somewhat (with the notable exception of Colombia), enabling ICRC to focus on prison visits and promotion of international humanitarian law. The periodic outbreaks of hostilities in Chiapas, Mexico demonstrate the underlying tensions that can lead to an urgent need for an ICRC response.

◆ *Other International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations*

The Department may fund activities of IOM, other international organizations, and NGOs as required to meet special requirements for assistance to refugees and migrants in the region and/or complement the assistance efforts of the international organizations outlined above.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$95,237	\$94,400	\$98,200	\$3,800

The Administration requests \$98,200,000 for Near East and North Africa assistance programs. The major focus in the region continues to be on the long-standing Palestinian refugee population, which UNRWA is mandated to assist.

◆ *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*

UNRWA is mandated by the United Nations to assist Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank. Over 3.4 million refugees are registered with UNRWA, which provides education, vocational training, relief and social services, medical assistance, and small-scale income-generation projects. UNRWA schools and training centers are leading factors in helping Palestinian refugees become economically self-reliant. Since UNRWA began operations in 1950, the United States has been a major contributor toward its programs. U.S. Government funding helps provide some stability in the lives of the Palestinian refugee population in the region, and

tracing and protection of detainees. It also addresses unresolved humanitarian problems -- particularly POWs and MIAs -- related to conflicts where hostilities have ceased.

contributes to a climate conducive to a peaceful resolution of regional problems.

◆ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

These funds will support UNHCR operations throughout the Near East and North Africa, including large programs in Algeria, Egypt, and Iran. Refugees in Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and other countries continue to require protection and monitoring. Somali refugees in Yemen continue to receive UNHCR support, as do the Western Saharan refugees in Algeria who are awaiting a political settlement before returning to the Western Sahara.

◆ *International Committee of the Red Cross*

Throughout the Middle East, ICRC is often the only international humanitarian organization able to access areas of civil strife to provide needed medical and other assistance to conflict victims and displaced persons. ICRC assists conflict victims in the region, with particular emphasis on ICRC's emergency programs will continue to provide emergency shelter, food and water, medical care, and protection to civilians displaced by conflict in the region.

◆ ***Other International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations***

Funds may be contributed for special projects of governmental or non-governmental organizations designed to

complement the assistance efforts of international organizations or to meet special needs of refugees and migrants in the region. In recent years, the Department has funded specific projects for Palestinian refugees, primarily through UNRWA's Peace Implementation Program, in support of the Middle East Peace Process. These projects included upgrading education, health, and social service activities.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN SOUTH ASIA

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$27,387	\$28,000	\$29,500	\$1,500

The Administration requests \$29,500,000 in FY 1999 for assistance programs in South Asia. This request for assistance requirements is based on several assumptions regarding current refugee populations in the region. If conditions in Afghanistan allow, repatriation of some of the approximately 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran will continue in FY 1999. Since UNHCR reduced its involvement in care and maintenance programs in October 1995, it has become more involved in protection and initial reintegration activities inside Afghanistan, one of the world's least developed countries. The Department will continue to give special attention to the needs of women in the programs of international organizations and NGOs.

There were over 92,000 registered Bhutanese refugees in six camps in eastern Nepal at the beginning of 1997, and this number continues to slowly increase, both through new refugee arrivals and births in the camps. Of the original 120,000 Tamil refugees who fled to India from Sri Lanka in June 1990 as a result of ethnic violence, approximately 65,000 refugees remain, living in 133 camps in India's southern Tamil Nadu state. In addition, India is host to 45,000 Chakma refugees who fled from western Bangladesh, as well as some 100,000 Tibetan refugees. Approximately

2,500 new Tibetan refugees arrive in India each year.

◆ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

The primary focus of the U.S. with regard to UNHCR programs in South Asia will be the continued repatriation and initial reintegration of Afghan refugees. UNHCR expects repatriation to increase in 1998 as a result of its targeted group repatriation program initiated in 1997. While it is anticipated that in the long run most refugees will return to Afghanistan, some will opt to remain in Pakistan indefinitely. In FY 1998, UNHCR is expected to continue to provide care and maintenance assistance as required to the most vulnerable refugee groups remaining in Pakistan. At the same time, UNHCR will increase activities inside Afghanistan aimed at establishing stability and a return to normal conditions of life for refugee groups identified for return.

UNHCR also is concerned with the status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal and India, the internally displaced and repatriates in Sri Lanka, and with refugees from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in India. In Nepal, UNHCR's presence supports Tibetan refugees in transit to India as well as the

growing Bhutanese refugee population and other smaller groups.

◆ ***International Committee of the Red Cross***

ICRC will maintain programs for victims of the Afghan conflict with a focus on emergency medical assistance. ICRC runs a number of surgical and field hospitals for war-wounded Afghans, and operates orthopedic centers that provide complete rehabilitative services to the disabled. ICRC also provides emergency non-food assistance to the internally displaced and vulnerable, as well as water and sanitation projects in urban areas. Protection and tracing activities are important aspects of ICRC's Afghan Conflict Victims program.

ICRC is also involved in protection, tracing, medical assistance, and human rights training in Sri Lanka. ICRC will continue its frequent visits and increase efforts to re-establish civilian population access to food supplies, health facilities, homes, and workplaces for the more than 400,000 Sri Lankans displaced by fighting. With no resolution to the conflict in sight, support for ICRC's critical humanitarian efforts through contributions to its regional appeal will continue.

◆ ***World Food Program***

Funds are contributed to WFP for expenses of programs for Afghan and Bhutanese refugees undertaken in cooperation with UNHCR. In 1997, contributions have supported food deliveries for vulnerable Afghan refugees in Pakistan and for repatriates to Afghanistan. WFP also provides complete daily rations to Bhutanese refugees in Nepal.

◆ ***Other International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations***

Funds may be contributed for projects of governmental or non-governmental organizations designed to complement the assistance efforts of international organizations to meet special needs of refugees and migrants in the region.

The Department will also consider supporting projects which assist the reintegration of returnees or the repatriation of refugees to Afghanistan. Additionally, funds may support the demining program of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA). Other refugee groups on the subcontinent also may receive support. The Department will continue to support NGO programs that assist Tibetan refugees.

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN EUROPE

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$124,283	\$104,400	\$91,500	(\$12,900)

The Administration requests \$91,500,000 to respond to assistance programs in Europe, including the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. There are still over 1.5 million Bosnian and 400,000 Croatian refugees and internally displaced persons.



The international community is now focusing significant energy and resources on facilitating their return. It is also working to find other durable solutions for those unable to return due to a well-founded fear of persecution or particular humanitarian needs. Continued funding is required through FY 1999 to support the UNHCR-led repatriation effort and to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable. Anticipated progress in voluntary repatriation to Bosnia in 1998 is expected to reduce the refugee assistance requirements

for the former Yugoslavia in FY 1999, but continuing funding to support the UNHCR-led repatriation effort and to provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable will still make programs in the former Yugoslavia the largest recipient of FY 1999 MRA assistance funds in Europe. Cash contributions provided through the MRA appropriation are a particularly important portion of the overall U.S. effort.

In the former Soviet Union, the transformation from Soviet rule to democracy continues to be a volatile process. Some nine million persons in the NIS have been uprooted as refugees, displaced persons, repatriates, and other migrants. While varying degrees of progress were noted with respect to the older conflicts in the region -- Tajikistan, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan -- continued funding for these areas will be required in FY 1999. The Administration is also committed to supporting follow-up activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Migration Conference. Programs throughout the NIS implemented by IOM, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and UNHCR will require funding in FY 1999.

◆ *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

In FY 1999, UNHCR's continued assistance efforts will be required to facilitate the return of people displaced by the war in the former Yugoslavia or help them take advantage of other durable solutions. UNHCR will have to continue some level of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups and individuals.

UNHCR is one of three organizers of the May 1996 CIS Conference which examined a broad range of issues relating to the involuntary movement of people in the NIS. All UNHCR programs in the NIS for the next two years will be covered under annual joint UNHCR/IOM CIS Conference appeals. UNHCR has expanded its programs beyond the traditional provision of protection, emergency assistance for refugees and internally displaced persons, and dissemination of refugee law. Programs which support the CIS Conference Program of Action include technical assistance and training to develop appropriate legislation, implementation mechanisms, and government structures to handle migration concerns, prevention programs, public awareness projects, and capacity building of both governmental and non-governmental agencies.

◆ *International Committee of the Red Cross*

In the former Yugoslavia, ICRC plays a unique role among international agencies by facilitating exchange of information on missing persons. ICRC will continue relief activities to the most vulnerable in FY 1999, while continuing to transfer operations and In addition, NGOs work independently to target the special needs of specific populations. For example, the Department has used NGOs to implement programs facilitating the return of displaced persons to

responsibilities to local Red Cross delegations.

In FY 1999, funds will continue to support ICRC's programs in the NIS to provide emergency assistance and promote the basic principles of international humanitarian law and the law of war.



◆ *World Food Program*

Funds will be contributed to WFP for expenses of programs undertaken in cooperation with UNHCR. WFP reduced its beneficiary numbers substantially in the countries of the former Yugoslavia in 1997. It will continue to provide food for the most vulnerable individuals in FY 1998. In past years, contributions have been made for WFP programs in the former Yugoslavia and toward WFP components of consolidated appeals for Tajikistan, and the Caucasus.

◆ *Other International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations*

Funds will be required to support other international, governmental, and non-governmental organizations facilitating return and providing assistance in the republics of the former Yugoslavia. Non-governmental organizations serve as implementing partners to the UNHCR assistance and repatriation efforts. areas where their ethnic group is in the minority.

In the NIS, these funds are primarily used to support emergency needs of refugees and

internally displaced persons not provided by UNHCR and ICRC.

In addition, funds will be needed over the next two years to support IOM's portion of the joint UNHCR/IOM CIS Conference appeals. IOM and OSCE, as co-organizers of the Conference, play a significant role in its implementation. IOM's main activities support NIS governments' efforts to develop humane migration management systems. IOM also focuses its efforts on NGO

capacity building and in providing reintegration assistance to migrants. Funds will also be provided to OSCE and NGOs working in support of CIS Conference Program of Action goals. Funds also may be contributed for special projects of governmental or non-governmental organizations designed to complement the assistance efforts of international organizations or to meet special needs of refugees and migrants in the region.

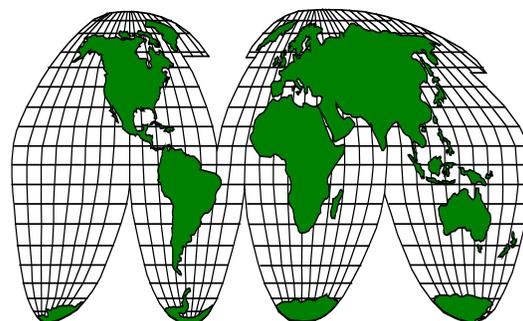
MULTIREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$66,219	\$62,800	\$73,740	\$10,940

For FY 1999, the Administration requests \$73,740,000 for Multiregional Activities. These funds support the assessed U.S. contribution to IOM, the headquarters budget of the ICRC, the General Program of UNHCR, the multiregional refugee activities of international or non-governmental organizations, and international migration activities. (The IOM assessment and the ICRC contribution are paid in Swiss francs, and the dollar amounts will vary according to the exchange rate at the time of payment.) These funds will support enhanced multiregional refugee and migration activities of international and non-governmental organizations, particularly UNHCR, including programs for refugee women and children.



◆ *International Committee of the Red Cross*

The request of funds for the ICRC headquarters budget covers the permanent activities carried out by ICRC staff at the Geneva headquarters only; field-related costs are normally attributed to the regional appeals. The contribution will be calculated at 10 percent of the 1999 ICRC headquarters budget in accordance with the *Foreign Relations Authorization Act, 1988 and 1989*. The ICRC headquarters budget is funded

through voluntary contributions by governments and national societies of the Red Cross; approximately 50 percent is contributed by the Swiss Government. U.S. contributions to ICRC's regional appeals are described under the previous regional sections of this document.

◆ *International Organization for Migration*

As a member government in IOM, as provided in the *Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962*, the United States pays a 29.95 percent assessment to its administrative budget. IOM's services and expertise contribute significantly to the development and success of international migration and refugee resettlement programs worldwide.

◆ *Assistance and Protection Programs*

These funds will support activities of international and non-governmental organizations that do not appear in any specific regional program (e.g. centrally-funded multiregional activities) or that support other aspects of international migration including strengthening the ability of organizations to respond to new requirements, including emergency response capacity.

Multiregional program activities include interagency coordination efforts, emergency response teams of international organizations, and special studies. These funds also will be used to support efforts to integrate the special needs of refugee women and children in the program and budget planning process of the international organizations and non-governmental agencies engaged in providing refugee

assistance overseas. The multiregional program also supports two-year positions held by Americans with UNHCR and WFP, through Junior Professional Officer programs. The United States provides unearmarked funding to the UNHCR General Program (from which many of the above activities are funded) under this activity, in addition to the funds provided to UNHCR through region-specific allocations discussed previously in this request.

◆ *Migration Activities*

International migration activities include cooperation with other governments and with international and non-governmental organizations to understand the root causes of migration, particularly at the regional level, and to encourage humane and effective migration management. International migration activities are expected to increase, especially as population movements increase worldwide. IOM will continue to develop its technical assistance and migration information activities. The Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee, and Migration Policies in Europe, North America, and Australia (IGC) is a process through which the United States, Canada, Australia, and twelve European countries cooperate on migration policy matters. Since 1996, policy discussions among governments of North and Central America have focused on common migration challenges and cooperative efforts to address concerns related to human rights of migrants, as well as law enforcement efforts.

Migration and asylum figure prominently as part of the Third Pillar issues in the New Trans-Atlantic Agenda (NTA) between the United States and the European Union (EU). In FY 1998, PRM and the European

Commission are cooperating on a pilot information campaign to address the problem of trafficking in women. In FY 1999, PRM will continue its efforts to advance cooperation with the EU member states and the European Commission on migration issues.

Finally, assistance will be provided to migrants when such assistance supports the international migration policy goals for which PRM has primary responsibility, especially with regard to protection and safeguarding the human rights of migrants. MRA funds will not be used for migration related activities for which other appropriations exist (e.g. law enforcement).

REFUGEE ADMISSIONS

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999	
Enacted	Estimate	Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$84,000	\$102,360	\$102,360	--

The Administration requests \$102,360,000 to support the Refugee Admissions program in FY 1999, the same level as is estimated for FY 1998. This request is based on a planning level of 75,000 refugee admissions. The final number and regional allocations will be determined by the President following the annual consultations process with Congress later in FY 1998. The specific regional ceilings established in the

consultations process will be based on an assessment of worldwide refugee needs at that time. The request funds all related refugee admissions activities and the processing and transportation of a small number of Amerasian immigrants. In FY 1998, PRM will give priority to enhancing accessibility to the refugee admissions program.

Actual U.S. refugee admissions for FY 1997 and the established FY 1998 ceilings are shown below:

U.S. Refugee Admissions Levels

Geographic Region	FY 1997 Actual	FY 1998 Ceiling
Africa	6,069	7,000
East Asia	8,590	14,000
Europe	48,450	46,000
Latin America/Caribbean	2,986	4,000
Near East/South Asia	3,990	4,000

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

TOTAL - FUNDED	70,085	75,000
Unfunded:		
Europe	--	5,000
Unallocated	--	3,000
TOTAL	70,085	83,000

◆ *Africa*

African refugees of any nationality who are referred for resettlement for protection or durable solution reasons by UNHCR or a U.S. Embassy will be processed. In addition, refugees from countries undergoing active armed conflict will be eligible for family reunification processing. In FY 1999, some of the largest numbers are expected to be Sudanese, Sierra Leoneans and Nigerians.

◆ *East Asia*

ODP, ROVR, and Amerasians - Under the Orderly Departure Program (ODP) from Vietnam, the United States processes refugee cases with close ties to the United States, with particular emphasis on former re-education center detainees and Amerasians. Resettlement interviews of former re-education center detainees will be completed during FY 1998. In addition, in FY 1998, we expect to have largely completed admissions of applicants for the Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR), begun in FY 1997. Large-scale admissions of Amerasian cases have been completed, although small numbers of admissions are likely to continue.

First Asylum - All eligible Vietnamese in first asylum camps in the region were resettled by the beginning of FY 1998. In FY 1999, it is expected that only a small number of Burmese in Thailand will continue to be considered for admission to the U.S. as refugees. Small numbers of refugees from other Asian countries, such as China and Cambodia, may also be processed.

◆ *Europe*

The FY 1999 program will primarily include persons from the former Soviet Union, persons from the former Yugoslavia, and a small residual population of qualifying family member (Visas 93) beneficiaries from East European countries.

Admissions from the former Soviet Union will be primarily persons in the categories specified in the Lautenberg-Morrison Amendment to the *Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act for 1997, P.L. 104-208*, as of special interest to the United States. These include Jews, Evangelical Christians, and Ukrainian religious activists. The Department will continue to closely monitor the situation of religious minorities affected by recent legislation in Russia. Admissions from the former Yugoslavia will emphasize mixed marriages, vulnerable cases, and other refugees for whom repatriation is not a viable option.

◆ *Near East and South Asia*

In FY 1999, there will be a steady level of admissions of Iranians (primarily religious minorities) and Iraqis from processing sites in Europe, and the Near East/South Asia region.

◆ *Western Hemisphere*

Program efforts in this region primarily support the admission of Cubans. The in-country Cuban refugee processing program is designed to allow those individuals most likely to qualify as refugees the opportunity to have their claims heard without resorting to dangerous boat departures.

SUMMARY OF COSTS

The total cost of all admissions activities to be covered from appropriated funds in FY 1999 is estimated at \$102,360,000. The requested funds are directly related to costs incurred on behalf of refugees whose actual admission will occur in FY 1999 or in early 2000. After a refugee is approved by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for the U.S. refugee admissions program, the refugee receives a medical examination, sponsorship in the United States is assured, travel arrangements are prepared, and all other steps necessary for admission to the United States are completed. Most transportation and reception and placement grant costs are incurred when the refugee departs the asylum country for resettlement in the United States. Funds also are used to support all ongoing activities related to admissions, such as pre-screening of refugee applicants, processing of applicant case files, medical examinations, and overseas orientation.

The budget request for refugee admissions funds the programs described below. Funds may also be used for the evaluation of these programs.

◆ *Amerasian Admissions Costs*

Within the total admissions request, sufficient funds have been included to cover the admissions costs of Amerasian immigrants and their qualifying family members. These funds are included within the category requests that follow, but are not separately identified by activity.

The small number of Amerasian immigrants who enter under the provisions of Section 584 of the *FY 1988 Further Continuing*

Resolution to the Appropriations Act, P.L. 100-202, receive the same services provided to refugees.

◆ *Processing*

The Department of State funds a number of private voluntary agencies and the International Organization for Migration to assist with the processing of refugees worldwide to be resettled in the United States. Processing responsibilities include screening applicants to assess their eligibility for interview by INS adjudicators under the U.S. refugee program. In addition, some applicants interviewed by INS are not approved for U.S. resettlement. Therefore, more cases are processed during the course of the year than will actually be admitted to the United States as refugees. For approved refugees, processing funds also are used to pay for medical examinations, cultural orientation materials and briefings, and required travel documentation. In FY 1999, some costs may be incurred to fund immunizations required by new immigration laws.

In addition to overseas processing operations, the Department funds certain services performed in the United States that are essential to the smooth and efficient operation of the admissions process. This includes maintaining a U.S.-based Refugee Data Center which operates a case allocation and reception and placement grant verification system. The Department also maintains the Washington Processing Center (WPC) as part of the former Soviet Union admissions processing operation.

◆ *Transportation and Related Services*

In FY 1999, the Administration requests funds for transportation and related services provided by IOM in support of the U.S. admissions program. This activity includes funding for international and domestic airfares, IOM operational support, communications, and transit accommodations where required. The cost of the airfares is provided to refugees on a loan basis; beneficiaries are responsible for repaying their loans over time after resettlement. Therefore, the requirement for appropriated funds for refugee transportation, in any given year, is partially offset by loan repayments to IOM from refugees previously resettled. In addition, some refugees, primarily from the former Soviet Union, elect to travel on privately purchased tickets.

◆ *Reception and Placement Grants*

Through the Department's Reception and Placement (R&P) program, private

voluntary agencies receive funds on a per capita basis to provide basic services to refugees for initial resettlement in the United States. These agencies augment the federal grant by drawing on private cash and in-kind contributions that are essential to the success of this program. Services include pre-arrival planning, reception at the airport, initial housing, orientation to their communities, counseling, and referral to local social service programs.

Within the overall program funding, the Department may support different resettlement services for groups of refugees with special resettlement needs, for example, unaccompanied minors destined for foster care programs.

The Department coordinates its reception and placement services with the refugee assistance programs administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS/ORR).

REFUGEES TO ISRAEL

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.(-)
\$80,000	\$80,000	\$70,000	(\$10,000)

The FY 1999 request includes \$70,000,000 to support resettlement in Israel through a grant to the United Israel Appeal (UIA). This grant helps finance programs of the Jewish Agency for Israel that assist in the

absorption into Israeli society of Jewish refugees coming to Israel from certain countries of distress. There were approximately 58,000 arrivals in 1997. The \$10,000,000 reduction in the FY 1999

request reflects a reduction in the number of individuals seeking resettlement in Israel. In 1991, approximately 145,000 individuals

from the former Soviet Union arrived in Israel; by 1996, this number had declined to about 60,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

PROGRAM SUMMARY

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997		FY 1998		FY 1999		Inc./Dec. (-)	
Enacted		Estimate		Request		Inc./Dec. (-)	
<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>
105	\$12,000	105	\$12,384/a	105	\$13,000	(--)	\$616

The Administration requests \$13,000,000 to finance the salaries and administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). These funds will be used to finance the salaries and operating costs associated with a staff of 99 employees located in Washington and 11 at overseas posts. The requested increase for FY 1999 supports anticipated wage and price increases, and compliance with the year 2000 requirements.

While the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration is responsible for international population policy and coordination, funds for the salaries and support costs of the six domestic positions dedicated to carrying out this responsibility are requested under the Department of State's Diplomatic and Consular Programs appropriation in FY 1999.

/a This amount includes \$384,000 transferred from the Diplomatic and Consular Program (D&CP) appropriation pursuant to the statutory International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS) program.

REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASS

(dollars in thousands)

Object Class	FY 1997 Enacted	FY 1998 Estimate	FY 1999 Request	Inc./Dec.
Personnel compensation	\$6,296	\$6,524	\$6,818	\$294

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Personnel benefits	1,924	2,042	2,070	28
Benefits for former personnel	23	--	--	--
Travel and transportation of persons	890	909	938	--
Travel and transportation of things	22	8	15	7
Rents, communications, and utilities	567	598	648	30
Printing and reproduction	73	97	75	(22)
Other services	1,275	1,797	1,749	(47)
Supplies and materials	219	232	232	--
Personnel property	707	173	351	(73)
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	<u>638,004</u>	<u>638,004</u>	<u>637,004</u>	<u>616</u>
Appropriation Total	650,000	650,384	650,000	--

EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

SUMMARY STATEMENT

(dollars in thousands)

FY 1997 Enacted		FY 1998 Estimate		FY 1999 Request		Inc./Dec. (-)	
<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Funds</i>
--	\$50,000	--	\$50,000	--	\$20,000	--	(\$30,000)

The Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA) is a no-year appropriation, drawn upon by the President to meet "unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs" whenever the President determines that it is "important to the national interest" to do so.

The Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, provides permanent authorization for the account of up to \$100,000,000. The Administration's request for \$20,000,000 is intended to replenish the ERMA Fund.

Program Activities

In FY 1997, a total of \$53,000,000 was drawn down from the ERMA Fund for the following requirements:

◆ *Near East*

Presidential Determination 97-8 -- \$15,000,000

On November 27, 1996, \$15,000,000 was authorized to meet the urgent and unexpected needs of refugees, victims of conflict, and other persons at risk in and from Northern Iraq.

◆ *Africa*

Presidential Determination 97-13 -- \$38,000,000

On December 27, 1996, \$38,000,000 was authorized to meet the urgent and unexpected needs of refugees, victims of conflict, and other persons at risk in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

In FY 1998, as of February, there have been no draw downs from the Fund to date.

REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASS

(dollars in thousands)

	FY 1998	FY 1999
Object Class	Opening Balance	Request
Grants, subsidies, and contributions	\$120,309 ¹	\$20,000

¹ Of which, \$70,309,081 was carried forward from FY 1997 and \$50,000,000 was appropriated in FY 1998. P.L. 105-118 made these funds available notwithstanding section 2(c)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 that would limit the amount of funds that could be appropriated for this purpose.