

Topic: Housing
(International Organization for Migration, Overseas Processing Entity, Bangkok)

Activity: Resettlement Reality Introduction: Housing Expectations

Introduction	Many participants may have lived most of their lives in houses that they have built themselves, without running water or electricity. It is unlikely participants will know much of the workings of leases, their rights and responsibilities regarding housing, or safety in modern housing.
Objectives	By the end of this unit, participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Express expectations regarding housing that are realistic• Repeat factual information regarding housing• Solve a number of potential housing problems• Explain the uses of various kitchen and bathroom utilities• Explain various safety features and upkeep procedures
Time	10-20 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pictures of houses and apartments, including a picture of a house in the refugee camp
Practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Show a number of pictures of houses and ask participants to choose the picture that best shows the type of accommodation they will live in. (You may want to include a picture of the White House).
Variations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask participants to work in pairs. Have them describe to their partner the type of place they expect to be living in upon their arrival in the US, a year after arrival, and 5 years after arrival. Ask a few people to share their views in the large group. Ask if participants think that their partner's expectations are realistic. Show a variety of pictures of houses, apartments, some better, some worse. Ask participants to point out those that they think may most reasonably be what they will be living in. Give approximate prices of each. Tell participants that, to start, they can probably expect to live in very modest housing. Most likely they will be living in a rental apartment before they would be able to buy a house. Pull out a picture of one of the camp houses and show that to everyone – a humble apartment in the US has to offer is a big step above what they're living in now.

This document was developed with funding from the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, United States Department of State, but does not necessarily represent the policy of that agency and the reader should not assume endorsement by the federal government.