

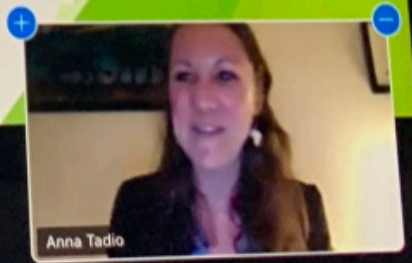
Pathways to Citizenship

Anna Tadio, Staff Attorney

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

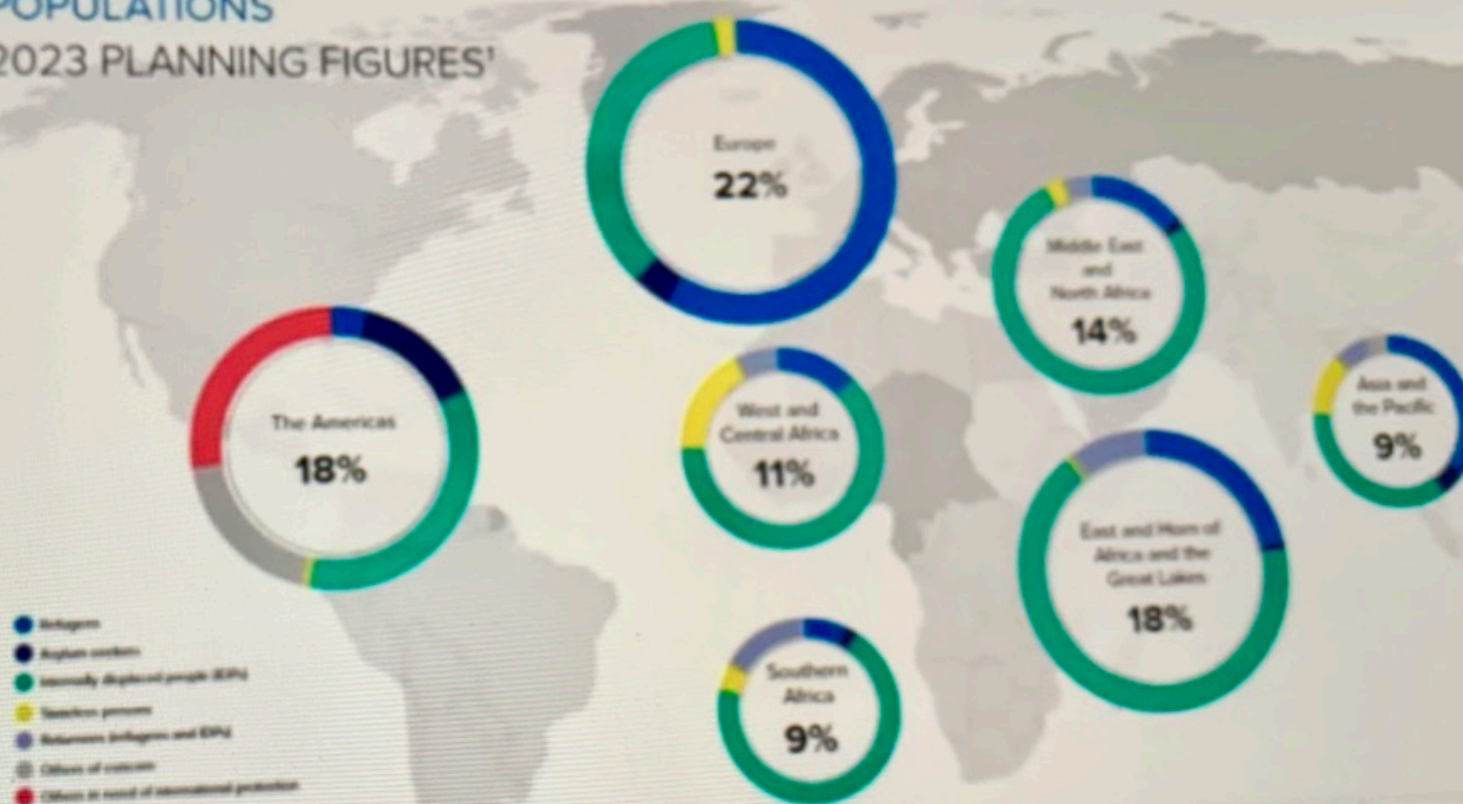


UNHCR
FORCED
DISPLACEMENT
IN 2021
FLAGSHIP
REPORTS



UNHCR Planning Figures for 2023

FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS POPULATIONS
2023 PLANNING FIGURES¹

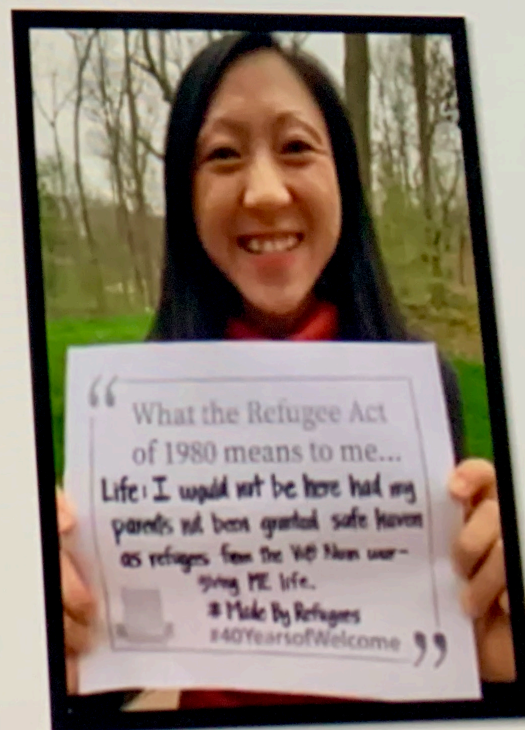




Refugee Resettlement in the United States

The Refugee Act of 1980 was signed by President Carter.

It raised the annual ceiling for refugees from 17,400 to 50,000, created a process for reviewing and adjusting the refugee ceiling to meet emergencies, and required annual consultation between Congress and the President.



WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A **refugee** is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.





Families walk towards their flight during ongoing evacuations at Hamid Karzai International Airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August 2021. (Sgt. Samuel Ruiz/U.S. Marine Corps via AP, File)

The fundamental distinction between immigrants and refugees is that immigrants leave their countries voluntarily, whereas refugees are forced out of their countries because of human rights violations against them.

“An immigrant leaves his homeland because the grass is greener; a refugee leaves because the grass is burning under his feet.”

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REFUGEE VETTING AND SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS

THE REFUGEE VETTING PROCESS

Screenings involve these government agencies and take up to 36 months



Department of Homeland Security



Federal Bureau of Investigation



Department of Defense



Department of State



United States Intelligence Community



Department of Health & Human Services

Rescue.org 

- Security screenings are intense and led by U.S. government authorities, and are followed by further security checks after refugees arrive in the States. Refugees undergo biographic and biometric checks, medical screenings, forensic document testing, and in-person interviews.

From: <https://www.rescue.org/article/how-us-refugee-vetting-and-resettlement-process-really-works>



HUMANITARIAN PAROLE DESIGNATION

- **Humanitarian parole** is a grant of parole justified by a determination that there exist “**urgent humanitarian reasons**” for **an individual to enter the US**.
- The normal maximum period is for 365 days, but the U.S. government announced that **Afghans and Ukrainians will be eligible for parole for up to two years**.
- Eligible for work authorization in the United States, refugee resettlement programs and other federal benefits.
- Majority of Afghans coming to Vermont , and all Ukrainians, are coming under HPD.
- No specific pathway to citizenship for Humanitarian Paroles, so most of them will be applying for **asylum**.



Afghan Allies

- **Special Immigrant Visa (SIV):**
 - Available to **translators, interpreters, or other professionals employed by/belief of the United States government in Afghanistan.**
 - SIV holders receive the same benefits and services as do refugees under the US Refugee Assistance Program (USRAP).

- **The Priority 2 (P2) program**
 - Afghans who may be at risk due to their U.S. affiliation but are not eligible for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)
 - May have been employed by US NGOs, media organizations, human rights groups, or subcontractors of the US government.

Family Reunification

- ▶ For Afghans: DS 4317
- ▶ Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative (For LPR)
- ▶ Form I-730 Refugee/ Asylee Relative Petition

Various Pathways to Citizenship

- ▶ Asylum
- ▶ T- Visa (Victim of Human Trafficking)
- ▶ U- Visa (Victim of Criminal Activity)
- ▶ Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)
- ▶ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/all-visa-categories.html>
- ▶ Work Permits
- ▶ Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) = Green Card
- ▶ Temporary Protected Status

REFUGEE ARRIVALS

Arrivals	US Projected	US Arrivals	VT Projected	VT Arrivals
FY16	85,000	84,995	350	386
FY17	100,000	32,230	450 C=350 R=100	236 C=222 R=14
FY18	45,000	22,491	300	133
FY19	30,000	30,000	175	115
FY20	18,000	9,772	104	23
FY21	62,500*	11,411	100	47
FY22	125,000	25,465 (90,000 Afghans 62,000 Ukrainians)	300 refugees 130 Afghans	14 refugees 150 Afghans

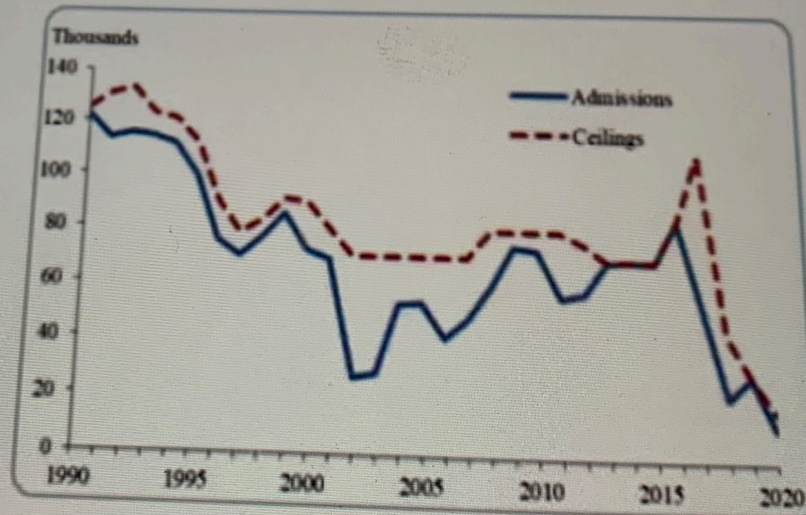
The above numbers do not include SIV arrivals. In FY20, 9,235 SIVs and Amerasians arrived in the US from Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam. In FY21, 2,045* SIVs and Amerasians arrived in the U.S. from Afghanistan, Iraq and Vietnam.

* Ceiling revised upward from 15,000 as of 05/03/21

Refugee Resettlement Changed Post- 2001

- Since the inception of the program in 1980, the United States has accepted more than 3.7 million refugees and asylees.
- Refugee admissions reached a post-2001 peak of 84,989 in 2016 under the Obama administration, the highest number in 17 years.

Refugee Admissions and Proposed Ceilings to the United States:
Fiscal Years 1990 to 2020



Source: OIS analysis of DOS data.



WHO IS RESETTLING IN VT

Democratic Republic of Congo
Myanmar (Burma)
Burundi
Bhutan
Rwanda
Afghanistan
Russia
Panama
Somalia
Bosnia
Bulgaria
Iraq
Guatemala
Iran
Honduras
Kurdistan
Central African Republic
Cuba
Moldova
Cameroon
Republic of Congo
Sudan
China
Djibouti
Nepal
Colombia
Sri Lanka
Ukraine
Eritrea
Turkey
Albania
Cambodia
Vietnam
Egypt
Laos

REFUGEE GROUPS RESETTLED IN VERMONT

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
AFGHANISTAN				1**			140
BHUTAN	218	88	54	1		3	
BURMA	4	5	3	15	4	4	
BURUNDI	5			8			3
D.R. CONGO	75	48	76	89	14	35	
ETHIOPIA		2					
IRAN	3						
IRAQ	1	18*				5	
SOMALIA	80	59		1	5		
SUDAN		1					11
SYRIA		14***					
TOTAL	386	235	133	115*	23	47	

*includes 1 Iraqi SIV (technically not a refugee)

**includes 1 Afghan SIV (technically not a refugee)

***Resettled in Rutland County (all others in Chittenden County)

USCRI Services Overview

Services Overview

- Reception & Placement (R&P)
- Housing Case Management
- Health and Wellness
- Refugee Support Services (RSS)
 - Employment Counseling
 - English Language Training
 - Digital Literacy
- Matching Grant (MG)
- Transitional Cash Assistance (RCA)
- Reach Up Case Management
- Community Partnership
- Ready4Life Youth Empowerment
- Crossroads Youth Mentoring
- EXCEL-Families with Children <18
- Interpretation and Translation



REFUGEE ARRIVAL PROCESS



SOME OF WHAT WE DO

Case Management

- ~Everyone has a case manager to oversee their transition to life in America~
- ~The team leader for wrap around services, signing up for programs, problem-solving~
- ~Goal self-Sufficiency in 90 days~

Housing

- ~Apartment Set-Up~
- ~Basic Furnishings & Housewares~
- ~Home Orientation~

Education

- ~Enrollment in English classes~
- ~English at worksite~
- ~Technology Instruction~

Employment

- ~Every employable adult has a job~
- ~Job upgrades~
- ~Ongoing support to clients & employers~

Interpretation Services

- ~Clients have access to interpreters & translators~

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS/TIMELINE

- **Reception & Placement Program**
(for first 30-90 days in U.S.)
 - Case is assured (agreed to be resettled) by local resettlement agency
 - Travel information received by local resettlement agency
 - Case assigned to a case manager
 - Find and reserve rental housing
 - Apartment set-up (furnishings, household supplies, groceries)
 - Arrange for culturally appropriate hot meal upon arrival
 - Meet family at airport
 - Provide warm winter outerwear if needed
 - Bring them to their apartment
 - Conduct home safety orientation



Welcome Corps

Private Sponsor Groups

- **Eligibility:** Local groups of at least **five adults**, who raise **\$2,275** per newcomer being supported and commit to:
 - **90 days of support providing core sponsorship services,**
 - **Completing 30- and 90-day reports and 6-and 12-month surveys**
- **Application includes:**
 - **Complete PSG application form**
 - **Third-party background checks for all members**
 - **Mandatory training** and knowledge check
 - **Development of a Welcome Plan**
 - **Commit to code of conduct** and to provide **core services**
- **Information Sessions & Application Support Sessions** support PSGs in beginning sponsorship process



Core Private Sponsorship Services

PSGs required to provide services similar to **Reception & Placement** program services, including:

- Airport reception
- Financial support
- Housing
- Basic necessities
- Essential documentation
- Public benefits and services
- Health and mental health services
- Education and childcare
- Language acquisition
- Interpretation and translation
- Cultural connections
- Community and cultural orientation
- Employment
- Transportation
- Transition from sponsorship
- Reporting and feedback

Application Vetting

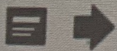
Process reflects PRM eligibility requirements and includes:

- Applications submitted through **centralized application portal**
- **Screened by trained staff** using certified screening tool
- **Confirmation** of cleared background check, completion of training, demonstrated capacity through submission of approved Welcome Plan and evidence of required funds raised, commitment to provide core private sponsorship services
- Those in challenging reception communities to submit **supplemental form**
- **Monthly report of certified PSGs** by location to be shared with SRCs/SRHCs

Matching and Placement Process

Overview:

- **PSGs are matched with refugees approved for resettlement to the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)**
- **Holistic review and a matching algorithm** that considers refugee biographic data, PSG data, and location specific data
- Proposed matches **reviewed and confirmed by IRC**
- **IRC assures cases**



Private Sponsor Organizations

- 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status
- Agree to **support and oversee** minimum of 50 affiliated and/or unaffiliated PSGs per year
- Complete required PSG **baseline training**
- Demonstrate **financial health** via provision of audited financial statements
- Demonstrate **organizational capacity** to be an effective PSO with staff to support and oversee PSGs
- Sign a **Memorandum of Understanding**
- Complete Welcome Corps PSO **onboarding**



Systems, Tools, and Response Mechanisms

Compliance:

- Concerns phone line and email address
- Sponsor breakdown protocols
- Critical incident tracking
- PSG 30- and 90-day reporting
- PSG visits
- PSO Accountability and Monitoring Reports

Evaluation & Learning:

- Application & Processing Data
- Newcomer and Sponsor 6- and 12-month surveys (+ PSG 30- and 90-day reports)