



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS REFUGEE PROCESSING



Quarterly Stakeholder Engagement

Dec. 7, 2022

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Today's Speakers



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REFUGEE PROCESSING

- Updates from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
 - **Joanna Ruppel**, Chief, International and Refugee Affairs Division, Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate (RAIO)
- Updates from the Department of State
 - **Kelly Gauger**, Deputy Director, Refugee Admissions Office, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)

Reminders



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1. Questions from media – media@uscis.dhs.gov.
2. Questions from congressional offices - usciscongressionalinquiries@uscis.dhs.gov.
3. Today's engagement will not be recorded.
4. You can submit written questions through the Q&A box on the right side of your screen.
5. Send questions outside the scope of today's engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov

Upcoming Outreach



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- USCIS Upcoming National Engagements
uscis.gov/outreach
- Asylum Quarterly Engagement (Dec. 13)
- Form I-730 Follow-to-Join Processing
Engagement (Late Spring)





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USCIS Refugee Processing Updates

Joanna Ruppel, Chief, International and Refugee
Affairs Division, RAIO

Agenda



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- Overview of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

Priority categories: P1, P2, P3.

- FY 2022 Accomplishments and Highlights

Data, circuit rides, process improvements.

- FY 2023 Plans and Goals

Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions: Ceiling for FY 2023 is 125,000 refugee admissions.

FY 2023 Regional Allocations



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Region	Allocation
Africa	40,000
East Asia	15,000
Europe and Central Asia	15,000
Latin America/Caribbean	15,000
Near East/South Asia	35,000
Unallocated Reserve	5,000
<i>Total Admissions Ceiling</i>	<i>125,000</i>

Priority Categories



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Priority 1

Cases identified and referred to the program by UNHCR, a U.S. embassy, or a designated nongovernmental organization (NGO).

Priority 2

Specific groups whose members need resettlement as identified by the Department of State in consultation with USCIS, NGOs, UNHCR, and other experts.

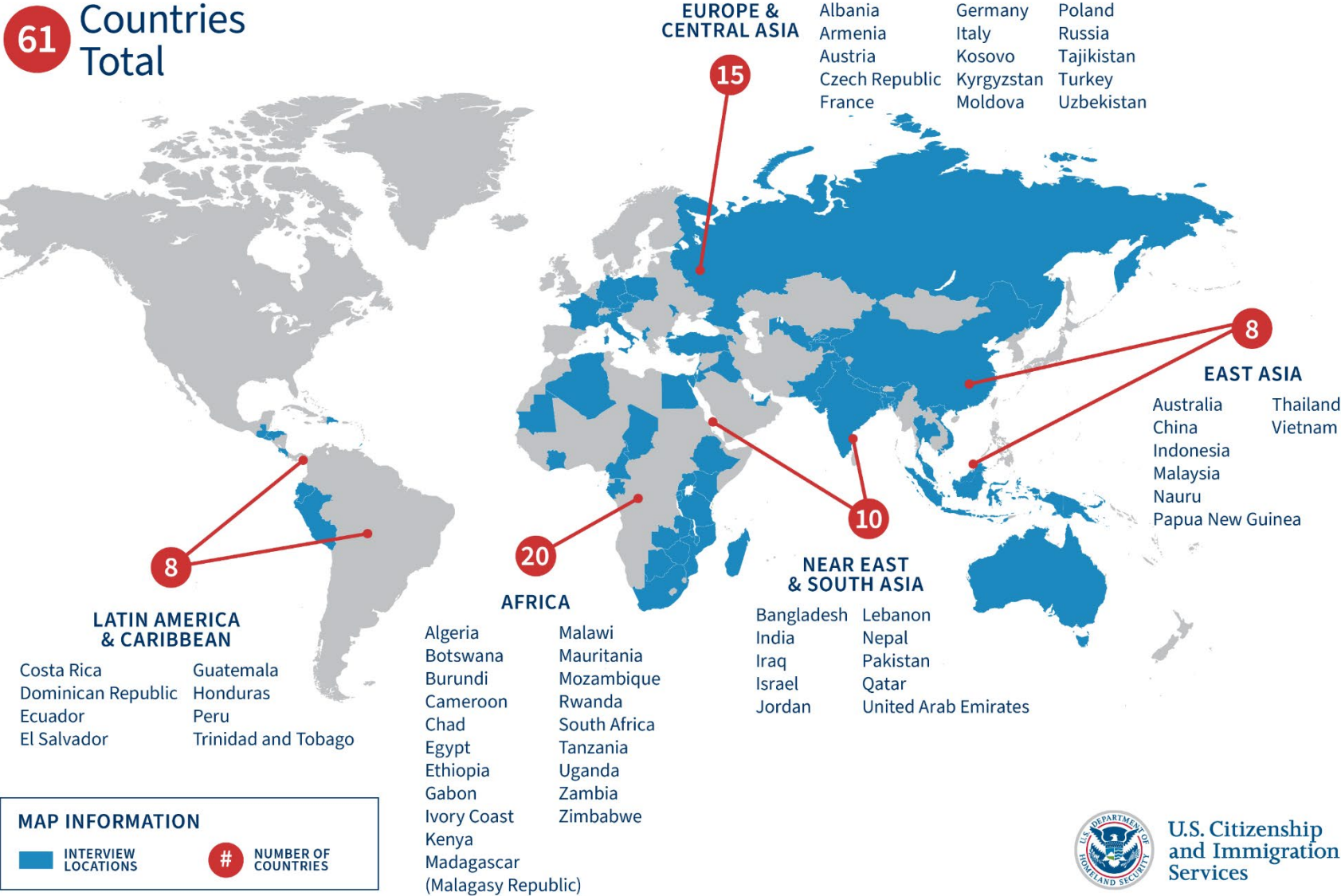
Priority 3

Family reunification cases for spouses, children or parents of individuals lawfully admitted to the United States as refugees or asylees as well as certain Afghans and Iraqis who entered on Special Immigrant Visas.

USCIS Refugee Interview Locations Map and Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2022

61 Countries
Total



113

Circuit rides

46,511

Initial interviews

3,578

Re-interviews

4,230

Video teleconferencing interviews

40,636

Decisions

(Form I-590 approvals & denials)

25,465

FY22 Admissions



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Stakeholder Population Inquiries | Africa and Central America

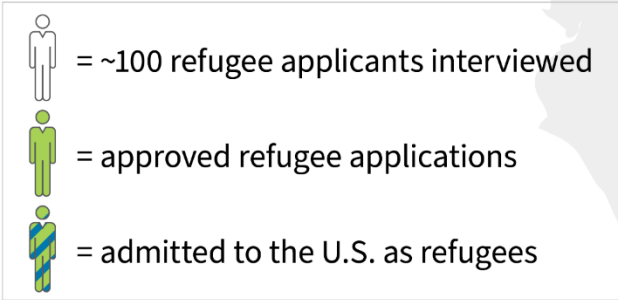
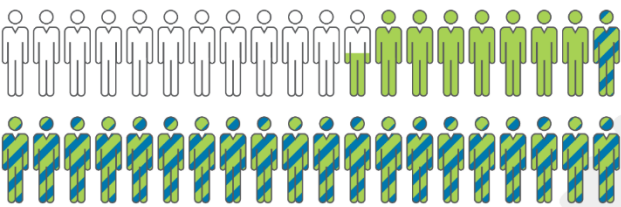
Fiscal Year 2022

African Countries

USCIS interviewed **19,595** refugee applicants in Africa, reaching applicants in **20** African countries.



Central American Countries



- USCIS interviewed approximately **4,100** Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran refugee applicants.
- Approved the refugee applications of approximately **2,850** through the Central American Minors program or from UNHCR referrals.
- Over **2,100** refugees from these nationalities were admitted to the U.S. as refugees.

FY 2022 Afghan Refugee Processing



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- Interviewed 6,250 Afghan nationals in 32 countries.
 - Approximately 2,184 interviewed in Qatar at Camp As Sayliyah (CAS).
 - Aiming to complete processing of Afghan nationals at CAS within 30 days of arrival.
- Admitted 1,618 Afghan refugees to the United States through USRAP.



FY 2022 Improvements and Growth



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Efficiencies

- **Vetting** – Centralized certain refugee applicant vetting at the National Vetting Center.
- **Technology** – Continued to develop applications in case management system to streamline processing and laid groundwork to move to fully electronic processing.



Staffing

- Since FY 2022, increased the number of refugee officers on board by 175% from 105 to 290.
- As of Nov. 21, 2022, 290 are on board.



Training

- USCIS provided training to 141 new frontline refugee officers.

Fiscal Year 2023 Plans



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Refugee Ceiling of 125,000

USCIS will work to increase admissions and address backlog of pending cases.

Circuit Ride Updates

Deploying staff on 26 circuit rides; aiming to interview approximately 23,000 applicants.

Reducing Processing Times

Identifying processing efficiencies with the Refugee Coordination Center.



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Executive Order 14013

Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees



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FY 2023 Areas of Focus

- Developing a plan and providing guidance to permit attorneys to attend refugee interviews.
- Considering climate change factors as part of the refugee adjudication.
- Updating the USCIS website on a regular schedule with new policies and procedures.
- Enabling refugee applicants to more timely access their applications and related information.

Refugee Processing Data Requests



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- Some requests require developing new reports and additional analysis.
- We welcome your feedback on the data you need.
- We must validate data and ensure its integrity.
- DOS and USCIS are using new case systems.
- When we can provide more data, we will publish it on our website.

Home > Tools > Reports and Studies > Refugee Processing Data

Refugee Processing Data

The reports at the links below present data, organized by fiscal year, including the numbers of:

- USCIS staff assigned to the Refugee Corps;
- Refugee processing trips USCIS conducted;
- Officers USCIS assigned to each refugee processing trip, along with the destination region and country for each trip;
- Refugee interviews USCIS conducted; and
- Approvals and denials USCIS issued.

Data from Fiscal Year 2016 – 2021

[FY2021 Appropriations Reporting Requirements – Refugee Data](#)

[FY2020 Appropriations Reporting Requirements – Refugee Data](#)

[FY16 - FY20 Refugee Processing Circuit Rides](#)

For more information on our reports, visit the [Understanding Our Data](#) page.

USCIS Is Hiring



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Apply for federal jobs!

USAJOBS.gov

**Explore Refugee Officer Careers
at USCIS!**

uscis.gov/about-us/careers/career-opportunities/exploring-refugee-officer-careers





U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Department of State Updates

Kelly Gauger, Deputy Director, Refugee
Admissions Office, PRM

Fiscal Year 2022 Admissions



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Top Nationalities	Admissions
Democratic Republic of the Congo	7,810
Syria	4,556
Burma	2,156
Sudan	1,669
Afghanistan	1,618
Ukraine	1,610
Guatemala	1,085
El Salvador	519
Moldova	507
Iraq	498

Central American Minors Program



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

- Provides certain children and family members of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to apply for refugee status in the United States.
- Awarded funding to the Kids In Need of Defense (KIND) to submit CAM affidavits of relationship.

DOS Program Updates



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- Afghan P-1/P-2 refugee processing
- Iraqi P-2s
- Syrians
- NGO referrals
- Private sponsorship of refugees



Courtesy of the Department of Defense: Evacuees from Afghanistan Arrive at Naval Station Rota, Photo ID 6820801.

USCIS and DOS Resources



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Refugees

uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/refugees

I-131, Application for Travel Document

uscis.gov/i-131

I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

uscis.gov/i-730

Refugee Processing Data

uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies/refugee-processing-data/refugee-processing-data

Exploring Refugee Officer Careers

uscis.gov/about-us/careers/career-opportunities/exploring-refugee-officer-careers

Upcoming USCIS National Engagements

uscis.gov/outreach

Electronic Reading Room

uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room

Department of State Refugee Processing Center

wrapsnet.org

Admission & Arrivals Report

wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals

Q&A Session



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Concluding Remarks



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- For additional questions, please email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
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