



Ensuring the Arrival of 45,000 Refugees in FY18 & Increasing Resettlement for FY19 to the United States

Given the importance of family values in our country and the crucial role that a united family plays in refugee protection and integration, LIRS urges the administration to uphold its commitment to providing safe, humane conditions in refugee host countries and ensuring at least 45,000 refugees arrive in Fiscal Year 2018.

Worldwide forcible displacement is at an all-time high at over 65 million, including over 22.5 million refugees. Yet, resettlement continues to be a small, strategic, humanitarian program. As the global number of refugees needing resettlement grows, U.S. resettlement of refugees has decreased. The U.S. settled 70,000 refugees in FY15; 85,000 in FY16; and 53,000 in FY17. The commitment made of settling 45,000 in FY18 is not on track with 7,355 refugees arriving as of February 9, 2018.

U.S. resettlement networks and local communities are ready and eager to welcome refugees. Resettlement allows the U.S. to give a lifesaving durable solution for refugees who are most vulnerable and at risk in those host countries. It enables us to support the host countries, which are often important U.S. allies, and it helps maintain stability in those countries and regions.

In particular, populations, such as the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM), regardless of country of origin, are one of the most vulnerable refugees. Often left to live in refugee camps or child-headed households in poverty-stricken neighborhoods, URM's can be very susceptible to human trafficking --sex trafficking, labor exploitation, and precarious living situations.

- *We urge the President that family unity continue to be a cornerstone for U.S. refugee policy.*
- *We urge the President to issue a Presidential Determination (PD) authorizing admission of at least 75,000 refugees for FY19.*
- *We urge increased resettlement numbers of vulnerable children in FY19.*

The following information on PD regional statistics and resettlement needs have been shared by our colleagues at RCUSA and are available at [UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2018](#).

Africa. U.S. Africa PD FY16--25,000. Unmet Need: UNHCR--Africa Resettlement Need 2018--510, 676.

East Asia. U.S. East Asia PD FY15—13,000 and FY16—13,000. Unmet need: Durable solution/protection assessments, including regarding resettlement, are needed to address the

growing Rohingya crisis, and to determine the optimum role of resettlement for when return to Burma of non-Rohingya refugees is possible. Also, more attention is needed on the over 3,000 URM in Thai camps and on Pakistani religious minorities.

Europe and Central Asia. U.S. Europe and Central Asia PD FY15--1,000 and FY16-4,000.
Unmet need: There is at least comparable need to FY16 as illustrated by U.S. admissions of Ukrainians in FY17.

Latin America/Caribbean. U.S. Latin America/Caribbean PD FY15—4,000 and FY16—3,000.
Unmet need: RCUSA has deep concern for thousands of unaccompanied youth and families fleeing Central America; also views continued resettlement need for some Columbians, Cubans, and possibly soon Venezuelans.

Near East and South Asia: U.S. Near East/South Asia PD FY15—33,000 and FY16—34,000.
Unmet need: UNHCR Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq Resettlement Need FY18—519,993.

Unallocated. Given the many emerging, yet unpredictable regional crises described above, the unallocated category gives the U.S. the flexibility it needs to effectively respond. U.S. PD FY15—2,000 and FY16—6,000.