

## PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON REFUGEE ADMISSIONS:

Sets the annual admissions ceiling in consultation with DOS PRM, USCIS, the Secretary of State, and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

A **refugee** is a person who is unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin.

After the Presidential Determination, PRM, in coordination with UNHCR, carefully select refugees for resettlement who cannot return to their home country nor live in a neighboring host country. **Only the most vulnerable refugees are considered for resettlement** including women and children at risk, survivors of violence or torture, and those with specific medical needs.<sup>1</sup>

## Refugee Resettlement by the Numbers

# 125,000

Anticipated Refugee Ceiling for FY22<sup>2</sup>

# 62,500

Refugee Ceiling for FY21<sup>2</sup>

# 11,814

FY20 Admissions<sup>2</sup>

*FY20 was the lowest number of refugee admission since the refugee program began in 1980*

- KEY:**
- UNHCR:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
  - NGO:** Non-governmental Organization
  - RSC:** Resettlement Support Centers
  - DOS:** Department of State
  - DHS:** Department of Homeland Security
  - USCIS:** US Citizenship and Immigration Services
  - ORR:** Office of Refugee Resettlement
  - PRM:** DOS Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
  - RA:** Resettlement Agencies, formerly known as Voluntary Resettlement Agencies (VOLAGs)
  - LIRS:** Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
  - CBP:** Customs and Border Protection
  - TSA:** Transportation Security Administration
  - HHS:** Health and Human Services

<sup>1</sup>UNHCR US Refugee Resettlement Fact Sheet  
<sup>2</sup>Migration Policy Institute, U.S. Annual Refugee Resettlement Ceilings

**Additional Sources:** Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Office of Admissions - Refugee Processing Center



### Registration

Refugees often flee their home country to escape war or persecution due to race, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, religion, or national origin and register with **UNHCR**.



### Referral

Refugees are referred to PRM's U.S. Refugee Admissions Program by **UNHCR**, and less frequently an **embassy**, based on the Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions.

### Pre-Screening

An overseas **Resettlement Support Center (RSC)**, contracted by the **DOS**, conducts prescreening interviews and initiates biographical checks.



### Determination

**DHS** and **USCIS** review biographical check results, collect biometrics and initiate biometric check, and conduct refugee status determination interviews. USCIS adjudicates Form I-590 to approve classification as a refugee.

### Sponsorship Request

If approved, the **RSC** sends a request for sponsorship assurance to the **DOS Refugee Processing Center (RPC)**, which coordinates with refugee **Resettlement Agencies (RAs)**. Once sponsorship by a RA has been secured, the RSC coordinates travel arrangements and medical screenings.



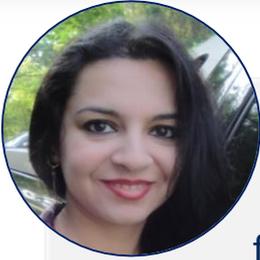
### Arrival

**CBP & TSA** conduct additional security checks via the National Targeting Center-Passenger Program and the TSA's Secure Flight Program. Upon arrival, transition services are provided by **HHS ORR**.

### Resettlement

**ORR, in coordination with RAs, like LIRS, and state and local governments,** provides short-term cash and medical assistance to new arrivals, as well as case management services, English-as-a-foreign language classes, and job-readiness and employment services.





**Rana Jaafer Almishlib** “After 2 days of travel, [I] finally felt welcome

when the case worker arrived the next day with a smile. In addition to this, when I started [my] English class, I felt more welcome in the community. The teachers were super nice, and the other refugees were all friendly and just trying to learn.”

**Country of Origin:** Iraq  
**Year of Resettlement:** 2010



**Huda Muhammed**

“Resilience, as a word, means being able to adapt mentally and physically. As a former refugee, over the years, I [have] adapted to a new country, new community, and [new] culture. When I got my first job working with other citizens, I started feeling like part of this community with the same rights, respect, and responsibilities.”

**Country of Origin:** Iraq  
**Year of Resettlement:** 2009



**Saša Eric** “We first felt welcome to the United States when we were in our first apartment in Virginia and the Arlington

Food Assistance Network dropped off groceries to our house. They came inside and explained in detail where the grocery store was located [and] how to use the food stamps we received...It put my mother at ease for the first time in a long time, and we felt like we were going to be okay....”

**Country of Origin:** Bosnia and Herzegovina  
**Year of Resettlement:** 1995



**Luan Nguyen** “[My aunt’s] story provided me with great inspiration about being resilient in life, and being kind to others,

in good and bad times. She wanted me to grow with exposure to opportunities and helped me to come to the US in 2004....” **What does refugee resilience mean to you?** “It is the mental state and ability to keep pushing through when faced with an enormous amount of adversity.”

**Country of Origin:** Vietnam  
**Aunt’s Year of Resettlement:** 1984  
**Luan’s Year of Arrival:** 2004

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)** is the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the U.S.



Connect with us @LIRSorg

**Deloitte Consulting LLP, Government & Public Services** is committed to improving public outcomes for refugees and their families by helping solve complex issues and developing impactful, timely, and sustainable solutions.



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