Arizona’s Response to the World Refugee Crisis

The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona
What does it mean to be a refugee?

What would you do right now if bombs were falling around you?

What would you do if people of your faith or ethnic group were being singled out, tortured, and slaughtered?
What does it mean to be a refugee?

If you had 15 minutes to evacuate your home... what would you take?
If you became a refugee...

Where would you go?

Who would help you?

If you couldn’t return home - would you hope that someone would help you?
When you are a refugee...

how long should it take to get that help?
22.5 million refugees worldwide
80% are women and children
70% live at least 10 years in camps
Millions of refugees will never be able to return to their countries of origin and languish in make-shift camps for decades.
Traditional Resettlement Countries

- Australia
- New Zealand
- Canada
- Norway
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Finland
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- United States
The United Nations identifies three durable solutions for refugees:

- Voluntary Repatriation to their Home Country
- Integration into their Country of First Asylum
- Resettlement to a Third Country

What percentage of the world’s refugees are resettled to a third country?
Less than one percent of the world’s refugees ever have the opportunity to find safety and security by being resettled in another country.
“The 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees” broadened how a refugee is defined by removing geographic boundaries and including qualifying events to those occurring since January 1, 1951.
By 1979, the amassing humanitarian atrocities and growing refugee problem in Southeast Asia resulted in drafting the Refugee Act of 1980.
The Refugee Act of 1980 codified the United States’ historic policy of aiding individuals fleeing persecution from their homelands.
A refugee is primarily defined as a person who has fled his or her home country and is unable or unwilling to return, owing to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership in a social group
- Political opinion
Besides refugees, other eligible beneficiaries under the Refugee Act are:

- Asylees
- Cuban and Haitian Entrants
- Victims of a Severe Form of Trafficking
- Certain Amerasians
- SIVs from Afghanistan and Iraq
- Others as authorized
The following are **not** required conditions for admission to the United States as a refugee:

- Demonstrate ability to achieve economic self-sufficiency
- Integration potential
Refugees are afforded the same rights as legal residents in the U.S. and are eligible to:

- Apply for Lawful Permanent Resident Status after twelve months
- Seek naturalization after five years
Three federal agencies play key roles in the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has statutory authority to determine which applicants meet the requirements for refugee status and are admissible to the United States under U.S. law.
The U.S. Department of State coordinates resettlement policy, overseas processing, cultural orientation, transportation to the U.S., and the Reception & Placement program for newly arrived refugees.
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement is responsible for the domestic program of refugee resettlement services - including cash and medical assistance and a broad range of social services.
U.S. Worldwide Processing Priorities

P-1 Cases identified and referred by UNHCR, a U.S. Embassy, or a designated NGO

P-2 Groups of special concern identified by the U.S. Department of State

P-3 Family reunification cases of close relatives
The President annually determines refugee admission levels to the U.S. by world region.

**FFY 2018 (Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>19,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America/Caribbean</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Near East/South Asia</td>
<td>17,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,000</strong></td>
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Until the mid-1990’s, at least three-quarters of refugees coming to the U.S. were from the former Soviet Union and Southeast Asia.
Since the end of the Cold War the political landscape has changed dramatically.
Sporadic internal conflicts, ethnic tensions, and political rivalries have increased globally and arriving refugees reflect those changes.
Some Primary Countries of Refugees’ Origins

DR Congo

Afghanistan

Somalia

Cuba

Iraq

Syria
Refugees undergo a thorough interview, extensive background and security checks, and a medical examination prior to U.S. admission.
The process includes the involvement of:

- The National Counterterrorism Center
- The FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- The U.S. Department of Defense
- Other agencies

Most of the details of the security checks are classified.
Nine national Resettlement Agencies (RAs) provide *Reception & Placement* (R&P) services to refugees under cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State.
Six of these national RAs have local refugee resettlement affiliates in Arizona.
Refugee Resettlement Agencies in Arizona

- Catholic Charities Community Services
- The International Rescue Committee
- Refugee Focus (LSS-SW)
- Arizona Immigrant & Refugee Services
Refugees in Arizona

Tucson Refugee Resettlement Agencies

- Catholic Community Services
- The International Rescue Committee
- Refugee Focus (LSS-SW)
The local Resettlement Agencies welcome refugees upon arrival and provide them essential services during their first 30 days in the U.S. These services link to longer-term services.

U.S. a Place of Miracles for Somali Refugees
By RACHEL L. SWARNS

TUCSON - The white wooden door swung open and the dazed African villagers stepped into their new home. It was a modest apartment.
Initial Services

The U.S. Department of State/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) R&P funds support refugees with such transitional needs as:

- Housing and essential furnishings
- Food, clothing and pocket money
- Community orientation
- Social/employment service referrals
Initial Services

Refugees receive a domestic medical screening within 30-60 days of arrival in the U.S.
Initial Services

A comprehensive plan is developed to help guide refugee individuals and families towards self-sufficiency - including linkage to longer-term services and support.
In order for states to receive U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) funds, states must:

- Develop a State Plan
- Identify a State Refugee Coordinator.
Refugees in Arizona

The State Plan reflects the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program purpose, which is to effectively resettle refugees and assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible after arrival in the U.S.
The State Refugee Coordinator has the responsibility and authority to coordinate public and private resources in refugee resettlement.
The Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program is the state’s refugee program, and administers 100 percent federally funded benefits and services to support refugees’ self-sufficiency and successful resettlement.
State administered refugee resettlement assistance funds must focus on employment-related services, English language training (in non-work hours where possible), and case management services.
Most federal refugee benefits may be provided for up to five years after arrival in the U.S.

Many services must be provided on a priority basis, with first priority given to newly arrived refugees receiving cash assistance.
Refugee Resettlement Services

- Unaccompanied Refugee Minors
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Refugee Medical Assistance
- Refugee Domestic Medical Examinations
- Refugee Health Promotion
Refugee Resettlement Services

- Employment Services
- Case Management
- English Language Training
- Services to Older Refugees
- Refugee School Support (K-12)
Arizona Refugee Resettlement VISTA Project
Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) are children without a parent or guardian who are identified overseas by the U.S. Department of State as eligible for U.S. resettlement. These children are placed in the ORR-administered URM program (URMP).
The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act extends URMP eligibility to certain special immigrant juveniles (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) and to unaccompanied minors with U visas.
Tailored resettlement and adjustment services help URMs to blend their cultural identity with their new American environment, while pursuing educational goals and preparing for independence.
Legal responsibility is established under state law so that URMs have the full range of assistance, care and services as all foster children in the state.
Refugees in Arizona

...since 2005 represent more than 60 languages.

...and more than 50 countries of origin.
Refugees in Arizona

...and

Has become home to over 80,000 refugees since 1978.
## FFY 2017 Arrivals Top Five Countries

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maricopa</td>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>555</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cuba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maricopa</td>
<td>2,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pima</td>
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<td><strong>2,973</strong></td>
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