

Refugees

Fast Facts

What is a refugee? Here are some helpful terms to understand different groups.

Refugee

A refugee is a person who has fled their country of origin and is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Asylum seeker

An asylum seeker is an individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualised procedures, an asylum seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which he or she has submitted it. Not every asylum seeker will ultimately be recognised as a refugee, but every refugee is initially an asylum seeker.

Economic migrant

An economic migrant is someone who leaves his or her country of origin purely for financial and/or economic reasons. Economic migrants choose to move in order to find a better life and they do not flee because of persecution. Therefore they do not fall within the criteria for refugee status and are not entitled to receive international protection.

Stateless person

A stateless person is a person who, under national laws, does not have the legal bond of nationality with any State. Article 1 of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons indicates that a person not considered a national (or citizen) automatically under the laws of any State, is stateless.

“What's the Difference between a Refugee and an Asylum Seeker?” *Amnesty International Australia*, 23 Jan. 2019, www.amnesty.org.au/refugee-and-an-asylum-seeker-difference/.

“To **immigrate** is to settle in a new country or region. To **emigrate** is to leave a native country or region to settle elsewhere.”

“Emigrate vs. immigrate.” *Grammarist*, grammarist.com/usage/emigrate-immigrate/.

You may not know:

- World Refugee Day is June 20 each year (www.holidayscalendar.com/event/world-refugee-day)
- As of June 2018, there were 68.5 million people forcibly displaced worldwide. 25.4 million of those were refugees, 10 million were stateless people and 3.1 million were asylum seekers. 44,400 people each day were forced to flee their homes because of persecution. 57% of those came from three countries: South Sudan, Syria, and Afghanistan. (<https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>)
- The Department of State has cooperative agreements with nine domestic resettlement agencies to resettle refugees. Those agencies place refugees in approximately 190 communities around the U.S. (<https://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/receptionplacement/index.htm>)

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACTS

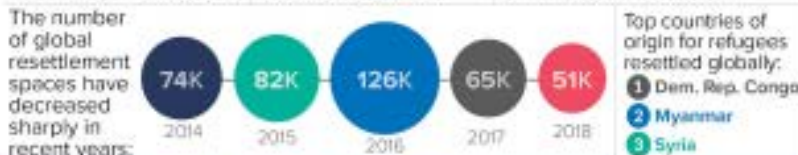
REFUGEE: A person forced to flee their home country to escape war, violence or persecution.

RESETTLEMENT: The careful selection by governments for purposes of lawful admission of the most vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in neighboring host countries.



2018 GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT FIGURES AT A GLANCE

1 in every 500 of the world's refugees were resettled in 2018. UNHCR estimates that **5%** of the world's refugees may need resettlement. In 2018, **27** countries around the world accepted refugees for resettlement from almost **65** different countries of origin.



5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT:

- 1 Refugees do not apply for resettlement themselves.** UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be considered for resettlement.
- 2 Only the most vulnerable refugees are considered.** All refugees who are referred must fit at least one vulnerability category, some of which include:
 - Medical needs
 - Women & girls at risk
 - Children at risk
 - Survivors of violence/torture
- 3 Countries decide which refugees to admit for resettlement**
- 4 Persons who have committed serious crimes or who might pose a security threat are not eligible for refugee status or resettlement.**
- 5 Refugee resettlement saves lives.**

RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

The United States has a long history of welcoming refugees and remains one of the largest refugee resettlement countries in the world.

TOP U.S. STATES FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN FY 2018

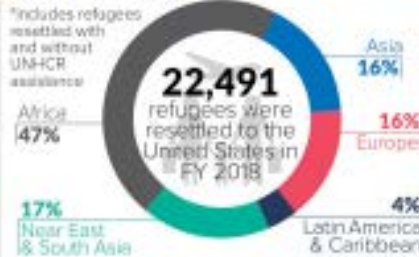
OCT. 2017 - SEPT. 2018

1 TEXAS
2 NEW YORK
3 WASHINGTON
4 CALIFORNIA
5 MICHIGAN
6 PENNSYLVANIA
7 KENTUCKY
8 GEORGIA
9 OHIO
10 NORTH CAROLINA

48 states (and the District of Columbia) received refugees for resettlement in FY 2018

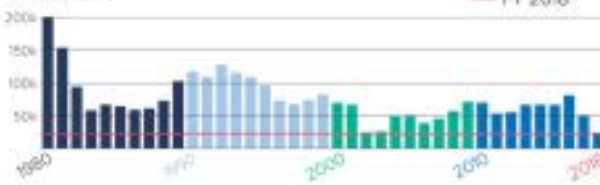
REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S. IN FY 2018 BY REGION OF ORIGIN*

OCT. 2017 - SEPT. 2018



REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TO THE U.S. SINCE 1980

FY 1980-2018



TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S. IN FY 2018

- 1 Dem. Rep. Congo
- 2 Myanmar
- 3 Ukraine

Sources: U.S. Department of State, UNHCR | Produced by UNHCR Regional Office Washington | unhcr.org | Twitter: @UNHCRUSA

THE U.S. RESETTLEMENT PROCESS

In addition to UNHCR's screening, the U.S. conducts its own vetting process to decide whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. The entire process can take up to two years.

- 1 UNHCR refers a refugee to be considered for resettlement and provides background information:**
 - His score
 - Fingerprints
 - Facial scans
 - Biometric data
- 2 The U.S. Government screens the refugee and decides whether to admit them for resettlement. This process includes:**
 - 8 U.S. Government agencies
 - 5 Separate security databases
 - 6 Background checks
 - 3 In-person interviews
- 3 If the refugee is approved, the State Department assigns the case to one of nine U.S. NGOs:**
 - Church World Service
 - World Relief
 - HMAS
 - International Rescue Committee
 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
 - Episcopal Migration Ministries
 - Ethiopian Community Development Council
 - Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
- 4 The NGO helps the refugee integrate and become economically self-sufficient in their new U.S. community**