REFUGEE ADMISSIONS
Annual Report FY2020

In fiscal year 2020, President Trump set the then-lowest refugee admissions number in the 40 year history of the program with 18,000. Despite this small goal, the US welcomed only 11,814 refugees of the 18,000 goal. In addition to setting the lowest admissions goal, the Trump administration changed the categories under which refugees would be considered for resettlement. While traditionally refugees are welcomed under regional categories that are determined by the most acute need, Trump’s restructuring further limited the number of refugees who could hope for resettlement.

**Top 5 Countries of Origin in FY2020**
1) Dem. Rep. of Congo - 2,868
2) Burma - 2,115
3) Ukraine - 1,927
4) Afghanistan - 604
5) Iraq - 537

**Top 5 States Welcoming Refugees in FY2020**
1) California - 1,194
2) Washington - 1,114
3) Texas - 992
4) New York - 617
5) Michigan - 493

*Source: WRAPSNet*

**A Year in Review**
Throughout fiscal year 2020 (FY2020), the US failed to meet key benchmarks to indicate they were on track to meet the 18,000 admissions goal. The US can — and should — resettle refugees even during the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration did not meet any of the caps for the four designated categories, most notably, utilizing only 4% of the spaces allotted for Iraqis who assisted US missions abroad. After a month delay, President Trump set another record breaking low admissions goal for fiscal year 2021 of 15,000 with plans to further restrict four narrow, limiting categories. Based on the administration’s history and further curtailing which refugees might be considered for resettlement, it is unlikely a Trump administration would meet even 15,000 in admissions. However, in January 2021, the United States is set to inaugurate President-elect Joe Biden which presents an opportunity to correct not just this year’s admissions goal, but to rebuild the program.

Most notably, a new administration should:
- Promptly set a refugee admissions goal of 100,000 for FY2021
- Restore resettlement based on vulnerability, accept UNHCR referrals, and return admissions categories based on regional and global need
- Commit to rebuilding the overseas and domestic infrastructure that helps refugees find safety, integrate, and thrive in their new homes.

More information about the top priorities for the new administration to undertake to protect refugees on day 1 can be found here. Go to rcusa.org to learn more and take action in support of refugees.