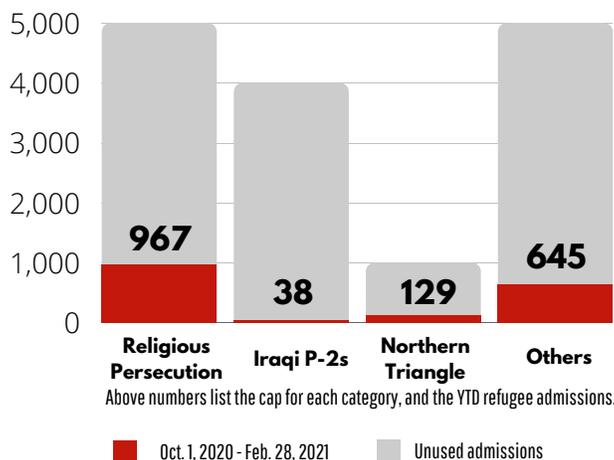


# US REFUGEE ADMISSIONS

## Mid-Year Report FY2021

Oct. 1, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021



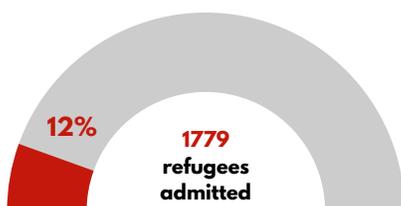
Before leaving office, the previous administration set a final record-breaking low refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) of just 15,000 – a programmatic decrease of over 80%. This historic low admissions goal was paired with overly restrictive categories of which refugees could be eligible for resettlement, including refugees who faced religious persecution; Iraqis who had assisted US missions abroad (“Iraqi P-2s”); refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras (the “Northern Triangle”); and all “others.”

- Refugees who faced religious persecution (5,000)
- Iraqis who had assisted US missions abroad (4,000)
- Refugees who were from, or were habitual residents of the "Northern Triangle" - El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras (1,000)
- All others (5,000)

### Top 5 States Welcoming Refugees

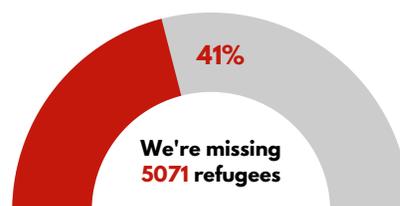
- 1) California - 281
- 2) Washington - 184
- 3) Texas - 147
- 4) New York - 112
- 5) Illinois - 87

### Where We Are



vs.

### Where We Should Be



During the first 5 months of fiscal year 2021 (FY21), USRAP resettled 1,779 refugees. Between October 2020 and February 2021 the US resettled 967 refugees who faced religious persecution, 38 Iraqi P-2s, 129 refugees from the Northern Triangle, and 645 refugees who did not fall into one of the three additional categories. To be on track to welcome the full 15,000, the US should have welcomed at least 6,250 refugees by this point in the year. Data from WRAPNet.

### Ongoing Delays to Restoring Welcome

Promptly following his inauguration, President Biden issued a number of executive orders and public declarations to respond to a myriad of US immigration crises created and expanded under Donald Trump. Among these was an executive order rescinding the discriminatory Muslim and Africa travel bans; an announcement coupled with an additional executive order declaring that President Biden would adjust the refugee admissions goal for the remainder of the 2021 fiscal year to 62,500, set a goal of 125,000 for 2022, and see the restoration of regional admissions categories. Despite having sent a revised report to Congress and engaging in

a thorough consultation process, President Biden has yet to sign the revised refugee admissions goal. This continued delay has resulted in over 700 cancelled flights for refugees in March 2021 alone.

One of the most critically awaited changes that President Biden promised is the restoration of regional admissions categories alongside the acceptance of new case referrals from the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). By creating his own categories, Trump sought to severely limit who could be considered for resettlement, compounding the harm initiated by shrinking US arrivals goals. Those 700 cancelled flights represent refugees in immediate need of resettlement who would have been

welcomed under the restored regional categories. Many of these refugees have seen their must-travel-by dates pass and will need their security checks re-run by the US government in order to finally depart for the United States.

The overly restrictive categories are causing great harm to many vulnerable people around the world. We should immediately restore resettlement based on vulnerability and geographic need, as well as formalize the revised FY21 refugee admissions goal to the proposed 62,500. Without a revised admissions goal, the Trump administration's historic-low admissions goal and overly restrictive categories remain intact.