

US REFUGEE ADMISSIONS

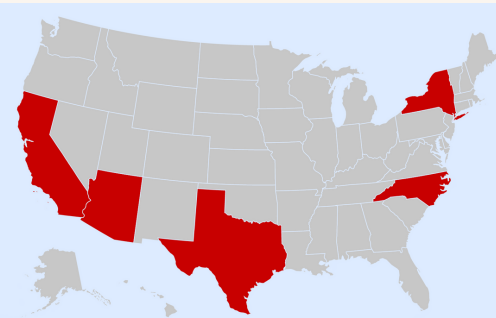
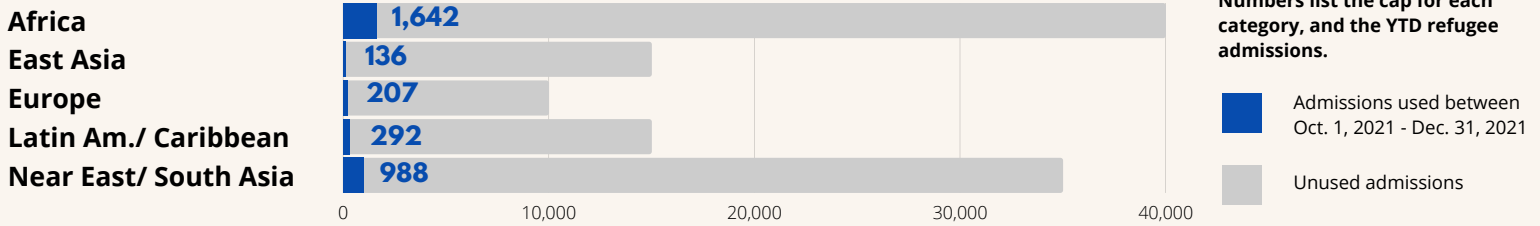
Q1 Fiscal Year 2022

Admission Goals

Beginning his first full fiscal year (FY) in office, President Biden set a refugee admissions goal of 125,000 – signaling that this administration would rebuild and strengthen the US refugee resettlement program. The 125,000 aims to be met by the following regional allocations: Africa (40,000), East Asia (15,000), Europe and Central Asia (10,000), Latin America/Caribbean (15,000), Near East/South Asia (35,000), and an unallocated reserve of 10,000.

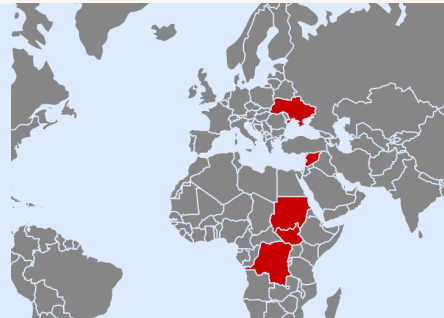
Actual Arrivals

Oct. 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021



Top 5 States Welcoming Refugees

1. Texas - 268
2. California - 258
3. New York - 207
4. Arizona - 198
5. N. Carolina - 170



Top 5 Countries of Origin

1. Syria - 816
2. Sudan - 621
3. Dem. Rep. of Congo - 598
4. Ukraine - 178
5. Rep. South Sudan - 172

THIS IS THE LOWEST RESETTLEMENT NUMBER IN THE HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM.

Q1 Total

The US resettled **3,268** refugees out of the 125,000 goal, or **2.6%**.

2.6%

Number Explainer

In the first quarter of FY22 (October 2021 - December 2021), the US welcomed a total of 3,268 refugees from 30 different countries. Regionally, this included: 1,642 from Africa, 139 from East Asia, 207 from Europe, 292 from Latin America/Caribbean, and 988 from Near East/South Asia. In order to be on track to meet the goal of 125,000 refugees resettled by the end of the fiscal year, the US should be resettling at least 10,416 refugees per month. Thus far, the US is only averaging 1,089 refugee arrivals per month, or roughly 10% of stated capacity. Data was obtained from WRAPSN.net.

Rebuilding & Afghan Arrivals

As the new FY was set to begin, the US moved forward with a rushed withdrawal from Afghanistan, coinciding with the Taliban takeover of Kabul in August 2021. Advocates pushed for the US government to protect at-risk Afghans whose lives would be threatened under this new government. Over **130,000 Afghans were evacuated**, and resettlement agencies are working to resettle more than 70,000 Afghan evacuees through the country's network of refugee resettlement offices. This amounted to a record-breaking number of arrivals to local resettlement sites, which had faced major cuts during the

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Rebuilding Cont.

previous administration and which the current administration had been slow to revitalize. *These Afghan arrivals are not entering the country as resettled refugees, and their numbers do not count toward the refugee admissions goal.*

In order to reach the US goal of resettling 125,000 refugees, **RCUSA recommends the Biden administration and Congress implement the following recommendations:**

- Expand referrals to the US resettlement program, including through the use of US Embassies and NGOs to identify highly vulnerable individuals or groups. The US should also designate more P-2 groups of humanitarian concern to the United States, including for refugees in protracted situations, and expand complementary pathways for protection in the US, such as to respond to climate-induced displacement.
- Continue to create more efficiencies in refugee processing, including in the multi-agency security checks and biometric processing, to significantly reduce wait times for refugees to be resettled to the United States and to address the refugee backlog, particularly for P-3 referrals and I-730 applications.
- Expand capacity and increase funding for overseas processing of all refugee nationalities, especially for family reunification cases, to help move refugees closer to resettlement;
- Expand capacity and increase funding for domestic resettlement services for refugees, arriving Afghans, and other vulnerable populations;
- Pass an Afghan Adjustment Act to provide Afghan evacuees an opportunity to apply to become lawful permanent residents one year after arrival in the US, the same as if they had entered the US through the resettlement program;
- Partner with resettlement agencies, states and localities, refugee and impacted leaders, and other stakeholders to strengthen the resettlement program, learning from and incorporating lessons learned from the creation of the Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program.

Afghan Placement & Assistance Program

The Afghan Placement and Assistance (APA) program was created in September 2021 to ensure that arriving Afghans would be eligible for reception and placement services through US refugee resettlement offices. Afghans who departed US military bases before having their case will have 90 days to begin services through one of the formal APA sites. Forty-three states have resettlement offices participating in the APA program. The full directory of APA sites can be found at [WRAPSNet.org](https://www.wrapsnet.org)

