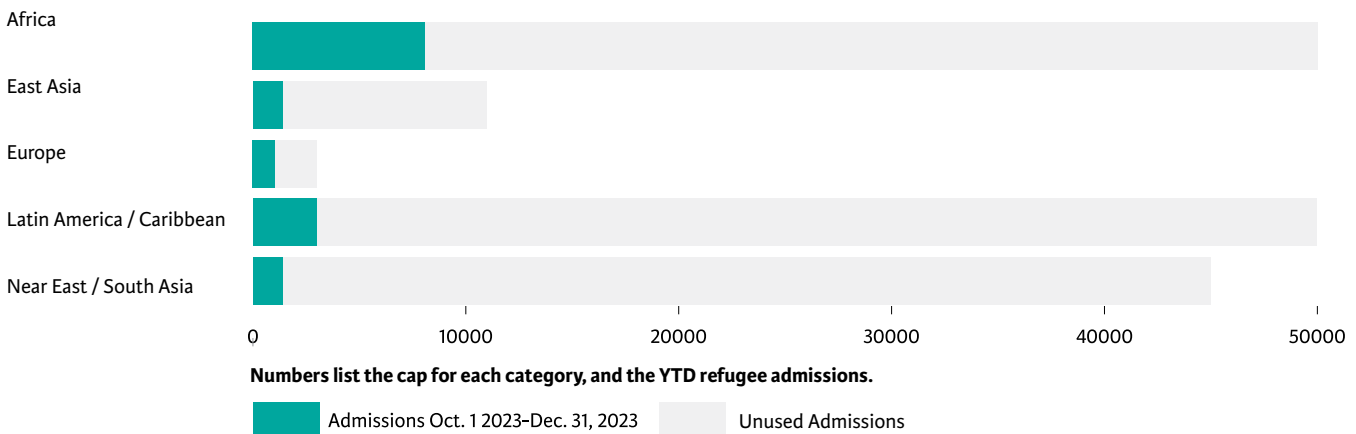**RCUSA**
Refugee Council USA

US Refugee Admissions

Admission Goals

In Consultation with Congress, President Biden set a refugee admissions goal of 125,000 for fiscal year 2024 (FY24). This year's regional allocations include flexible ranges to accommodate need and capacity: Africa (30,000-50,000), East Asia (10,000-20,000), Europe/Central Asia (2,000-3,000), Latin America/Caribbean (35,000-50,000), Near East/South Asia (30,000-50,000).

Actual Arrivals

Oct. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31 2023

Numbers list the cap for each category, and the YTD refugee admissions.

Admissions Oct. 1 2023–Dec. 31, 2023   Unused Admissions

Top 5 States Welcoming Refugees

1	California	**1,571**
2	Texas	**1,447**
3	New York	**1,406**
4	Washington	**1,056**
5	Ohio	**982**

Top 5 Countries of Origin

1	DRC	**5,713**
2	Syria	**4,481**
3	Afghanistan	**2,903**
4	Burma	**1,308**
5	Venezuela	**799**

Q1 Total

The US resettled 21,793 refugees out of the 125,000 goal, or 17%.

17%

Strengthening Capacity & Programming

Since assuming office, the Biden Administration has taken meaningful steps to restore refugee arrivals numbers to historic norms and to strive toward increasing resettlement to respond to growing global displacement. In FY21, Refugee arrivals in the United States were at their lowest in the program's 40-year programmatic history at 11,411. The administration then welcomed 60,014 in FY23. Based on current processing levels, the US should be able to resettle at least 90,000 refugees in FY24, and the administration is accelerating processing with the aim of admitting 125,000 refugees by the end of the current fiscal year. This restoration has been made possible

through a combination of programmatic innovations and critical investments, such as the expansion of sponsorship programs allowing private citizens to be more directly involved in welcome, advancements in overseas processing to help address case backlogs, and the creation of new offices and partnerships to scale up domestic resettlement capacity. In response to both policy changes and the expansion of humanitarian parole, the refugee resettlement network mobilized quickly to re-staff and re-open offices to best accommodate these restored arrival numbers. For the first time during the course of the Biden Administration, we have a chance to meet the admissions goal this year.

But we can't achieve that goal without congressional investments and the White House's commitment to strengthening our public-private partnership. While arrivals numbers have grown considerably, significant support is still needed from Congress to protect the program from any future anti-refugee administration, and to provide additional funding to ensure that resettlement agencies are able to keep pace with rising housing prices and costs of living, which affect all US residents. Despite significant investments in rebuilding the US resettlement program since 2021, ongoing and sustained congressional investments are critical to strengthening our program's ability to be nimble, sustainable, and efficient.

To help effectively address the housing pressures experienced by service providers, we recommend that Congress and the Administration:

1. Create a Newcomer Housing Voucher program, administered by HUD.

2. Fund refugee resettlement at a level commensurate with current market rates for safe and dignified rental housing in FY2024 and FY2025.

3. Through Congressional action, authorize all ORR-eligible populations (such as refugees resettled through USRAP, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Special Immigrant Visa holders) for housing assistance eligibility.

More robust funding and legislative suggestions to address domestic capacity and humanitarian assistance concerns can be found at bit.ly/RCUSAFY24FundingNeeds.

Number Explainer

In the first quarter of FY24, the US resettled 21,793 refugees from 64 different countries. Regionally, this included: 8,080 from Africa, 1,376 from East Asia, 1,035 from Europe and Central Asia, 2,980 from Latin America/Caribbean, and 1,376 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 averaging 7,264 refugee arrivals per month. This is an improvement upon past Q1 arrivals numbers.

This is the first year that an administration has provided a range for each regional allocation. As the year progresses, advocates will be tracking how these ranges impact overseas processing.

Data was obtained from WRAPSNet.

Region	Q1 Arrivals	FYTD Arrivals	FYTD Goal	FYTD %
Africa	8,080	8,080	7,500-12,500	107%-65%
East Asia	1,376	1,376	2,500-5,000	55%-26%
Europe	1,035	1,035	500 - 750	207%-138%
Latin Am/ Carib	2,980	2,980	8,750 - 12,500	34% - 24%
Near East/ South Asia	1,376	1,376	7,500 - 11,250	18% - 12%

*For FY24 the Biden administration set potential resettlement ranges for each region. The above chart for FYTD and FYTD% reflects those ranges.

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