



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

There are more than  
**21.3 million**  
refugees in the world

**86%** Of the world's  
refugees  
are hosted by  
developing countries

Top host countries include:  
1. Turkey (2.8 mil)  
2. Pakistan (1.6 mil)  
3. Lebanon (1.1 mil)

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACTS

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

**Resettlement:** The careful selection by governments such as the U.S. – for purposes of lawful admission – of vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in neighboring countries.

## HOW DO REFUGEES GET RESETTLED?



During standard registration interviews UNHCR flags vulnerable cases for possible resettlement. **Refugees cannot apply for resettlement.**



UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases to host countries for possible resettlement. **Refugees cannot pick their country of resettlement.**



Only recognized refugees whose **life, liberty, safety, health, or other fundamental rights are at risk** in the host country are considered for resettlement.



Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others **would not be referred** for resettlement in another country.

Vulnerability categories include:



**WOMEN & GIRLS AT RISK**  
-SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE  
AND/OR TORTURE



**FAMILY REUNIFICATION**  
-MEDICAL NEEDS  
-CHILDREN AT RISK



## GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

Less than  
**1%**  
of the world's refugees  
are ever resettled.

More than  
**30**  
countries around  
the world currently  
accept refugees for  
resettlement.

**140,000**  
Refugee resettlement  
spaces were made  
available by those  
governments in 2016

**8%**  
of the global refugee  
population is in need  
of resettlement

## RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

The United States has an exceptional history of welcoming refugees and is the top resettlement country in the world. Since 1975, the U.S. government has welcomed **over 3 million refugees** for resettlement from all over the world, and these refugees have built new lives and homes in all 50 states.

UNHCR screens and interviews each resettlement candidate. The United States then conducts its own vetting process and the U.S. alone decides whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. The entire process is conducted abroad, can take up to 2 years, and involves:

**8**

U.S. Federal  
Government  
Agencies

**6**

Different  
security  
databases

**5**

Separate  
background  
checks

**4**

Biometric  
security  
checks

**3**

Separate  
in-person  
interviews

**2**

Inter-agency  
security  
checks

After the U.S. government approves refugees for resettlement, each case is assigned to one of nine NGOs (six of which are faith-based) by the U.S. Department of State. That NGO helps them find work, integrate into their new communities, and adjust to life in the United States.

UNHCR refers a vulnerable refugee for resettlement

U.S. government screens the refugee and determines whether it would like to admit them for resettlement

The State Department assigns the case to one of 9 agencies

Church World  
Service

Episcopal  
Migration  
Ministries

US Committee  
for Refugees &  
Immigrants

Lutheran  
Immigration  
and Refugee  
Services

United States  
Conference  
of Catholic  
Bishops

World Relief  
Corporation

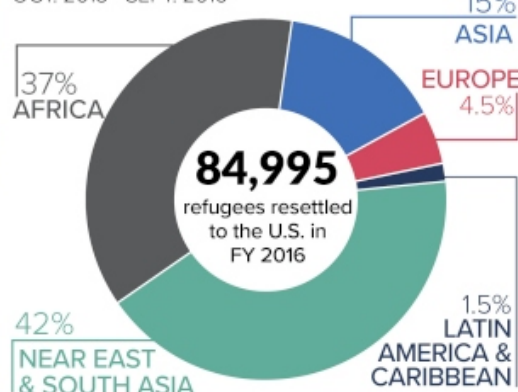
HIAS

International  
Rescue  
Committee

Ethiopian  
Community  
Development  
Council

## REGION OF ORIGIN FOR REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE UNITED STATES IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

OCT. 2015 - SEPT. 2016



## TOP STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN FISCAL YEAR 2016

1	CALIFORNIA
2	TEXAS
3	MICHIGAN
4	WASHINGTON
5	NEW YORK
6	ARIZONA
7	ILLINOIS
8	VIRGINIA
9	NEBRASKA
10	TENNESSEE