In 2018, countries around the world accepted refugees for resettlement from almost different countries of origin.

**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACTS**

**February 2019**

**RESETTLEMENT:** The careful selection by governments for purposes of lawful admission of the most vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in neighboring host countries.

**The United States has a long history of welcoming refugees and remains one of the largest refugee resettlement countries in the world.**

**5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT:**

1. Refugees do not apply for resettlement themselves. UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be considered for resettlement.

2. Only the most vulnerable refugees are considered. All refugees who are referred must fit at least one vulnerability category, some of which include:
   - Medical needs
   - Women & girls at risk
   - Children at risk
   - Survivors of violence/torture

3. Countries decide which refugees to admit for resettlement.

4. Persons who have committed serious crimes or who might pose a security threat are not eligible for refugee status or resettlement.

5. Refugee resettlement saves lives.

**THE U.S. RESETTLEMENT PROCESS**

In addition to UNHCR's screening, the U.S. conducts its own vetting process to decide whether to accept a refugee for resettlement. This entire process can take up to two years.

- UNHCR refers a refugee to be considered for resettlement and provides background information:
  - Iris scans
  - Fingerprints
  - Facial scans
  - Bio data

- The U.S. Government screens the refugee and decides whether to admit them for resettlement. This process includes:
  - 8 U.S. Government agencies
  - 5 Separate security databases
  - 6 Background checks
  - 3 In-person interviews

- If the refugee is approved, the State Department assigns the case to one of nine U.S. NGOs:
  - Church World Service
  - World Relief
  - HIAS
  - International Rescue Committee
  - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
  - U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
  - Episcopal Migration Ministries
  - Ethiopian Community Development Council
  - Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service

- The NGO helps the refugee integrate and become economically self-sufficient in their new U.S. community.

**2018 GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT FIGURES AT A GLANCE**

- **UNHCR estimates that 5% of the world’s refugees need resettlement.**

- In 2018, 27 countries around the world accepted refugees for resettlement from almost 65 different countries of origin.

- **The number of global resettlement spaces has decreased sharply in recent years:**
  - 2014: 74K
  - 2015: 82K
  - 2016: 126K
  - 2017: 65K
  - 2018: 51K

- **Top countries of origin for refugees resettled globally:**
  2. Myanmar
  3. Syria

- **Countries decide which refugees to admit for resettlement.**

- **Persons who have committed serious crimes or who might pose a security threat are not eligible for refugee status or resettlement.**

- **Refugee resettlement saves lives.**

**RESETTLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES**

The United States has a long history of welcoming refugees and remains one of the largest refugee resettlement countries in the world.

**TOP U.S. STATES FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN FY 2018**

OCT. 2017 - SEPT. 2018

1. TEXAS
2. NEW YORK
3. WASHINGTON
4. CALIFORNIA
5. MICHIGAN
6. PENNSYLVANIA
7. KENTUCKY
8. GEORGIA
9. OHIO
10. NORTH CAROLINA

48 states (and the District of Columbia) received refugees for resettlement in FY 2018.

**REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S. IN FY 2018 BY REGION OF ORIGIN**

OCT. 2017 - SEPT. 2018

- **22,491 refugees were resettled to the United States in FY 2018.**

- **Asia:** 16%
  - Sudan
  - Afghanistan
- **Africa:** 47%
  - South Sudan
  - Eritrea
  - Ethiopia
- **Latin America & Caribbean:** 4%
  - Venezuela
  - Colombia
- **Near East & South Asia:** 17%
  - Iraq
  - Syria
  - Afghanistan
- **Europe:** 16%
  - Ukraine

**RECENT HISTORY OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT TO THE U.S. SINCE 1980**

FY 1980-2018

- **2018:** 51K
- **2017:** 65K
- **2016:** 126K
- **2015:** 82K
- **2014:** 74K

**TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR REFUGEES RESETTLED TO THE U.S. IN FY 2018**

2. Myanmar
3. Ukraine

**Sources:** U.S. Department of State, UNHCR | Produced by UNHCR Regional Office Washington | unhcr.org | Twitter: @UNHCRUSA