

**REPORT ON THE REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROCESS
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FOURTH QUARTER OF FY 2019**

Consistent with section 7019(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2019 (Div. F, P.L. 116-6) (SFOAA) and Senate Report 115-282, the Department of State, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, respectfully submits this report to Congress that describes the process used to examine the admissibility and arrival of refugees in the United States:

Reports.—Not later than 90 days after enactment of the act, and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2019, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the process used to examine the admissibility and arrival of refugees in the United States, including: (1) any changes made to the operating procedures of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program since January 1, 2017, including staffing, security, and other vetting requirements; (2) the number of refugees vetted each day by relevant agencies; (3) the locations, dates, and number of refugee officers in each U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [USCIS] circuit ride completed in fiscal year 2019; the locations, dates, and number of refugee officers for each circuit ride planned for the remainder of fiscal year 2019; and the number of refugees interviewed on circuit rides in fiscal year 2019 and approved for further action; (4) the current staffing levels for the Refugee Corps and the Asylum Corps at USCIS; the number of vacant positions in the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, USCIS; and the number of Refugee Corps officers reassigned from the Refugee Corps per month; and (5) the number of refugees resettled in the United States per month.

1. Changes Made to the Operating Procedures of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program Since January 1, 2017, Including Staffing, Security, and Other Vetting Requirements

The top priority of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is the safety and security of the American people. The December 2017 National Security Strategy states that the United States “will enhance vetting of prospective immigrants, refugees, and other foreign visitors to identify individuals who might pose a risk to national security or public safety” and “will set higher security standards to ensure that we keep dangerous people out of the United States.”

As part of continued efforts to improve the efficiency and integrity of the program, the USG has implemented the following changes to USRAP operating procedures between July 1 and September 30, 2019:

- The Department of State issued guidance to Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) on the standardized use of the e-Assessment, which serves as a working aid for the adjudicating USCIS officer, an internal record of the interview, and documentation of the adjudicating officer’s analysis and decision, supervisory review, and final adjudication.

- USCIS provided updated guidance on reviewing and documenting biometrics check results.
- USCIS provided clarifying guidance on eliciting testimony at refugee applicant interviews.
- USCIS provided clarification on current regulations and policies in place regarding internal relocation.
- USCIS provided guidance on testimony-based national security indicators.
- USCIS provided guidance for processing Reasonable Fear, Credible Fear, Asylum, and Refugee Claims in Accordance with *Matter of L-E-A*.

2. Number of Refugees Vetted Each Day by Relevant Agencies

See Attachment A.

3. Locations, Dates, and Number of Refugee Officers in Each USCIS Circuit Ride Completed in FY 2019

See Attachment B.

4. Current Staffing Levels for the Refugee Corps and the Asylum Corps at USCIS; Number of Vacant Positions in the Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate, USCIS; and the number of Refugee Corps Officers Reassigned from the Refugee Corps Per Month

As of September 28, 2019:

- The Refugee Corps had 154 refugee officers and supervisory refugee officers. This figure does not include Refugee Affairs Division headquarters staff.
- The Asylum Corps had 641 asylum officers and supervisory asylum officers. This figure likewise does not include Asylum Division headquarters staff.
- Within the Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate, there were 627 total vacancies, including headquarters and administrative staff.
- USCIS had assigned Refugee Corps Officers to the Asylum Division as follows:

Month	Number of Refugee Officers Assigned to the Asylum Division
July 2019	16
August 2019	86

September 2019	90
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The totals for July through September 2019 represent individuals assigned to details at asylum office and detention centers ranging from 2-12 weeks as well as credible fear processing from the Refugee Corps home office in Washington, DC. Thus, the number of staff assigned on any given day varies.

5. Number of Refugees Resettled in the United States Per Month

As of September 30, 2019, the USRAP had resettled 30,000 refugees in the United States in FY 2019 as follows:

Month	Number of Refugees Resettled
July 2019	3,438
August 2019	3,358
September 2019	1,944

Attachment A
Security Check Results, July 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019

Including Interagency Checks (IAC), Security Advisory Opinions (SAO),
 and Consular Lookout and Support System Namechecks (CNC)

All IAC responses received between 7/1/2019 and 9/30/2019, by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of IAC Adjudicated	Q4			Grand Total
	Jul	Aug	Sep	
FY 2019	3,690	11,570	5,639	20,899

* this chart shows all completed IACs where a received result was posted to WRAPS. There may be more than one response received for an IAC request and all responses are shown above.

All SAO responses received between 7/1/2019 and 9/30/2019 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of SAO Adjudicated	Q4			Grand Total
	Jul	Aug	Sep	
FY 2019	575	1,173	703	2,451

All CLASS responses received between 7/1/2019 and 9/30/2019 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of CLASS Adjudicated	Q4			Grand Total
	Jul	Aug	Sep	
FY 2019	19,713	14,293	16,034	50,040

Attachment B
FY 2019 USCIS Circuit Rides

Quarter 4 Refugee Processing Circuit Rides

Region	Circuit Ride	Location	Dates	Number of People on Team
Africa	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	8/3-9/9	4
	Kenya	Kenya	8/12-9/15	4
	Morocco	Morocco	8/5-8/9	2
	Niger	Niger	8/26-9/13	1
	Uganda	Uganda	8/3-9/16	4
	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	9/03-9/19	1
Middle East	Jordan/Lebanon	Lebanon	8/16-9/7	4
		Jordan	9/7-9/28	5
	Egypt	Egypt	8/17-9/21	5
Asia	Indonesia	Indonesia	9/9-9/13	3
	Nauru/ Papua New	Nauru	8/17-8/31	3

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	Guinea	Papua New Guinea	9/1-9/14	3
	Nepal	Nepal	7/24-7/26	1
	Malaysia	Malaysia	9/16-9/27	3
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	8/5-8/23	5
	Thailand	Thailand	7/8-7/12	1
		Thailand	7/22-7/26	1
		Thailand	8/5-8/9	1
		Thailand	9/16-9/21	3
Mongolia	Mongolia	9/11-9/15	1	
Latin America and Caribbean	Costa Rica/El Salvador/Honduras	Costa Rica	8/4-8/8	4
		Honduras	8/8-8/28	
		El Salvador	8/28-9/14	
	Ecuador/Guatemala	Ecuador	8/5-8/29	4
		Guatemala	8/30-9/10	
Europe	Armenia	Armenia	8/12-8/30	4
	Belarus	Belarus	8/21-8/22	1
	Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	8/11-8/24	3
	Ukraine	Ukraine	8/4-9/15	4

In addition to the Quarter 4 circuit rides provided above, we are providing updates on circuit rides previously reported. Information in red is either new or updated, based on corrections made in the system that tracks refugee processing trips.

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FY 2019 Q1

Region	Circuit Ride	Location	Dates	Number of People on Team
Africa	Burundi	Burundi	11/4-12/15	7
	Cameroon	Cameroon	11/26-12/14	1
	Chad/Ethiopia	Chad	11/4-12/1	4
		Ethiopia	12/1-12/15	
	Ethiopia	Ethiopia	11/4-12/15	8
	Niger	Niger	10/15-11/4	1
	Rwanda	Rwanda	11/4-12/15	8
	Tanzania	Tanzania	11/3-12/15	13
	Zambia	Zambia	12/10-12/14	1
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	10/28-11/10	2	
Middle East	Jordan/Iraq (Erbil)	Jordan	11/1-11/17	5
		Iraq (Erbil)	11-17- 12/15	
	Jordan/UAE	Jordan	11/1-11/24	5
		UAE	11-24-12/15	
Turkey	Turkey	11/5-12/15	9	
Asia	Malaysia	Malaysia	11/4-12/07	4
	Pakistan	Pakistan	12/12-12/14	2
	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka	10/29-11/08	6
	Thailand	Thailand	11/3-12/16	5
Latin America & Caribbean	Grenada/St. Lucia/Trinidad & Tobago/El Salvador/Guatemala and Costa Rica	Grenada	11/1-11/3	2
		St. Lucia	11/3-11/6	
		Trinidad & Tobago	11/6-11/13	
		El Salvador	11/13-12/8	
		Guatemala	12/8-12/14	
		Costa Rica	12/14-12/20	
Europe	Armenia	Armenia	12/1-12/12	1
	Georgia	Georgia	12/2-12/22	1
	Moldova	Moldova	11/25-12/8	1
	Ukraine	Ukraine	10/10-12/14	6
		Ukraine	11/24-12/15	6

FY 2019 Q2

Region	Circuit Ride	Location	Dates	Number of People on Team
Africa	Algeria	Algeria	3/2-3/7	2
	Angola	Angola	3/25-4/3	1
	Burundi	Burundi	2/8-3/27	6
	Malawi	Malawi	3/10-3/24	3
	Morocco	Morocco	3/10-3/22	2
	Rwanda	Rwanda	2/7-3/25	18
	Tanzania	Tanzania	2/8-3/26	23
	Uganda	Uganda	2/8-3/25	10
	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	2/10-2/24	2
Middle East	Egypt/Jordan	Egypt	2/2-3/2	10
		Jordan	3/2-3/16	
	Israel	Israel	2/17-3/7	2
	Lebanon	Lebanon	2/23-3/16	5
	Oman	Oman	2/3-2/14	2
	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	2/2-2/15	2
	Turkey	Turkey	2/4-3/23	14
Asia	Indonesia	Indonesia	3/4-3/21	5
	Malaysia	Malaysia	1/27-3/2	6
		Malaysia	3/3-4/13	7
	Nauru/Papua New Guinea	Nauru	2/3-2/22	8
		Papua New Guinea	2/23-3/14	
	Thailand	Thailand	1/11-1/19	4
		Thailand	2/3-3/9	5
	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2/21-2/22	1
Hong Kong		3/7-3/8	3	
Latin America & Caribbean	Ecuador/Central America	Ecuador	2/3-2/25	4
		El Salvador	2/25-3/14	
		Honduras	3/14-3/26	
		Costa Rica	3/26-3/30	
Europe	Austria	Austria	1/14-1/18	1
	Malta	Malta	3/4-3/14	2
	Ukraine	Ukraine	3/1 4/14	13

FY 2019 Q3

Region	Circuit Ride	Location	Dates	Number of People on Team
Africa	Burundi/Ethiopia	Burundi	5/10-5/17	7
		Ethiopia	5/17-6/17	10
	Burundi	Burundi	6/16-6/29	2
	Guinea	Guinea	5/13-5/21	1
	Malawi	Malawi	6/2-6/15	2
	Niger	Niger	5/28-6/14	1
	Togo	Togo	5/22-6/4	1
	Rwanda	Rwanda	5/4-6/16	14
	Tanzania	Tanzania	5/4-6/12	12
	Uganda	Uganda	5/6-5/30	8
	Zambia	Zambia	5/4-6/11	7
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	6/1-6/15	1	
Middle East	Jordan	Jordan	5/16-6/21	13
	Israel	Israel	6/10-6/20	2
	Turkey	Turkey	5/4-6/16	16
Asia	Indonesia	Indonesia	6/10-6/22	4
	Malaysia	Malaysia	6/24-6/28	3
		Malaysia	5/5-6/21	5
	Thailand	Thailand	5/11-6/20	5
	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	27-Jun	1
Latin America & Caribbean	Curacao/Bahamas/ Barbados	Curacao	5/13-5/20	3
		Bahamas	5/20-5/22	
		Barbados	5/19-5/21	
	El Salvador/Guatemala/ Costa Rica	El Salvador	5/7-5/20	5
		Guatemala	5/20-6/5	
		Costa Rica	6/5-6/8	
	Brazil	Brazil	6/10-6/15	1
Europe	Moldova	Moldova	5/19-6/26	4
	Ukraine	Ukraine	5/4-6/21	13

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