



Report to Congress on The Refugee Admissions Process Second Quarter of FY 2020

The Department of State, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, submits this report to Congress that describes the process used to examine the admissibility and arrival of refugees in the United States, consistent with page 70 of Senate Report 116-126 accompanying the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2020 (Div. G, P.L. 116-94) (refers to pages 57-58 of Senate Report 115-282).

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.”

The U.S. government implemented the following changes to USRAP operating procedures in Quarter 2 of Fiscal Year 2020 (January 1-March 31, 2020):

- USCIS International and Refugee Affairs Division (IRAD) provided updated guidance to Resettlement Support Centers (RSCs) on the digitization of certain security check memos for transmittal to USCIS officers in the field.
- IRAD updated terrorism-related inadmissibility grounds (TRIG) procedural guidance and group-specific information relating to a newly designated foreign terrorist (“Tier I”) organization.
- The Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) announced the suspension of refugee arrivals to the United States as of March 19, 2020, with the exception of certain emergency cases, following a March 17 decision by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to suspend global resettlement departures due to health and travel conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- PRM provided guidance to Resettlement Agencies (RAs) on conducting and documenting Reception & Placement services and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- PRM provided updated guidance on the Lautenberg Program to enable digital filing of applications and supporting materials.

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 Fiscal Year 2020

During Quarter 2, USCIS circuit rides were as follows. Note that six circuit rides that were underway in March were curtailed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Circuit Ride Location(s)	Dates	Total Team Size
El Salvador/Costa Rica	02/03/20 to 03/06/20	4
Guatemala/Honduras	02/24/20 to 03/12/20 (curtailed)	4
Jordan	02/27/20 to 03/16/20 (curtailed)	10
Kenya	02/24/20 to 03/14/20 (curtailed)	12
Nauru/Australia	02/03/20 to 03/17/20 (curtailed)	6
Papua New Guinea/Australia	02/03/20 to 03/17/20 (curtailed)	6
Turkey	02/14/20 to 03/15/20 (curtailed)	10
	Totals:	52

During Quarter 2, USCIS approved 2,358 individuals for classification as refugees.

No circuit rides are planned currently due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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 March 28, 2020:

- The Refugee Corps had 167 refugee officers and supervisory refugee officers onboard. This figure does not include IRAD headquarters staff.
- The Asylum Corps had 995 asylum officers and supervisory asylum officers. This figure likewise does not include Asylum Division headquarters staff.

- Within the USCIS Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate, there were 121 total vacancies, including headquarters and administrative staff.

USCIS assigned Refugee Corps Officers to the Asylum Division as follows in Quarter 2:

Month	Number of Refugee Corps Officers Assigned to the Asylum Division
January 2020	84
February 2020	80
March 2020	80

These figures represent the number of refugee and supervisory officers assigned to asylum offices and detention centers, on details ranging from two to 12 weeks, as well as those assigned to perform credible fear processing from the Refugee Corps home office in Washington. Thus, the number of staff assigned on any given day varied.

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

As of March 31, 2020, the USRAP had resettled 7,383 refugees in the United States in Fiscal Year 2020. Quarter 2 refugee arrivals were as follows:

Month	Number of Refugees Resettled
January 2020	1,469
February 2020	1,584
March 2020	1,110

Attachment A
Security Check Results, January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020
 Including Interagency Checks (IAC), Security Advisory Opinions (SAO),
 and Consular Lookout and Support System Namechecks (CNC)

All IAC responses received between 1/1/2020 and 3/31/2020, by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of IAC Adjudicated	Q2			Grand Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	
FY 2020	11,772	3,407	6,157	21,336

* 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 1/1/2020 and 3/31/2020 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of SAO Adjudicated	Q2			Grand Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	
FY 2020	1,277	1,200	519	2,996

All CLASS responses received between 1/1/2020 and 3/31/2020 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of CLASS Adjudicated	Q2			Grand Total
	Jan	Feb	Mar	
FY 2020	18,273	14,283	9,619	42,175

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