



**Report to Congress on
The Process to Examine Admissibility and Arrival of Refugees
Senate Report 116-126 accompanying the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020
(Div. G, P.L. 116-94)**

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, 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 3 of FY 2020 (April 1-June 30):

- Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) continued 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 Support Centers (RSCs) on reduced operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- PRM provided updated guidance to partners on filing instructions for the Iranian Lautenberg-Specter Amendment Program.

- PRM provided updated guidance to RSCs on records disposition for pre-DHS closed and withdrawn cases.
- PRM provided updated guidance on Security Advisory Opinion (SAO) countries and requirements for RSCs.
- PRM provided guidance on the implementation of remote denial procedures.
- USCIS issued guidance on temporary biometric policy changes to mitigate the suspension of USCIS public services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- USCIS issued guidance outlining recent changes on requirements for SAOs.
- USCIS issued draft guidance introducing formalized procedures for conducting remote denials of refugee resettlement applications.

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 2020

During Quarter 3, USCIS approved 1,185 individuals for classification as refugees.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, USCIS did not conduct any refugee processing trips in quarter 3. 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 June 30, 2020:

- The Refugee Corps had 157 refugee officers and supervisory refugee officers onboard. This figure does not include the International and Refugees Affairs Division headquarters staff.
- The Asylum Corps had 804 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 390 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
April 2020	29
May 2020	3
June 2020	1

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 June 30, 2020, the USRAP had resettled 7,754 refugees in the United States in FY 2020. Quarter 3 refugee arrivals were as follows:

Month	Number of Refugees Resettled
April 2020	27
May 2020	134
June 2020	210

Attachment A
Security Check Results, April 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020
 Including Interagency Checks (IAC), Security Advisory Opinions (SAO),
 and Consular Lookout and Support System Namechecks (CNC)

All IAC responses received between 4/1/2020 and 6/30/2020, by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of IAC Adjudicated	Q3			Grand Total
	Apr	May	Jun	
FY 2020	3,931	3,515	3,305	10,751

* 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 4/1/2020 and 6/30/2020 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of SAO Adjudicated	Q3		Grand Total
	May	Jun	
FY 2020	255	178	433

All CLASS responses received between 4/1/2020 and 6/30/2020 by FY, Quarter and Month of the response:

Year of CLASS Adjudicated	Q3			Grand Total
	Apr	May	Jun	
FY 2020	9,645	11,194	7,865	28,704