

## AT A GLANCE

# Who is a refugee?



There are **65.3 million** forcibly displaced people in the world.

**21.3 million** are categorized as refugees.

**107,100 refugees** (less than 1%) were resettled across the globe in 2015.

### What does **DISPLACED** mean?

People who are categorized as displaced may be internally displaced in their own country; seeking asylum in neighboring countries; stateless persons; refugees; other.

### Who qualifies as a **REFUGEE**?

A person who has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. People must register with the United Nations (UN) to become a refugee.

### THERE ARE 3 PATHS FOR REFUGEES:

- 1 RETURN** to their home country if conflicts are resolved
- 2 REMAIN** where they have fled, possibly as second-class citizens
- 3 RESETTLE** with an opportunity to make a new home

The UN always prioritizes solutions 1 and 2. Only the **most vulnerable 1%** are recommended for resettlement and they cannot pick their country of resettlement. The hardest way to enter the US is as a refugee.

### SOME VULNERABILITY CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- women and children at risk
- survivors of violence and/or torture
- family reunification
- medical needs
- LGBTQ



In 2015, the UN reported that 51% of global refugees were children and this percentage is climbing.

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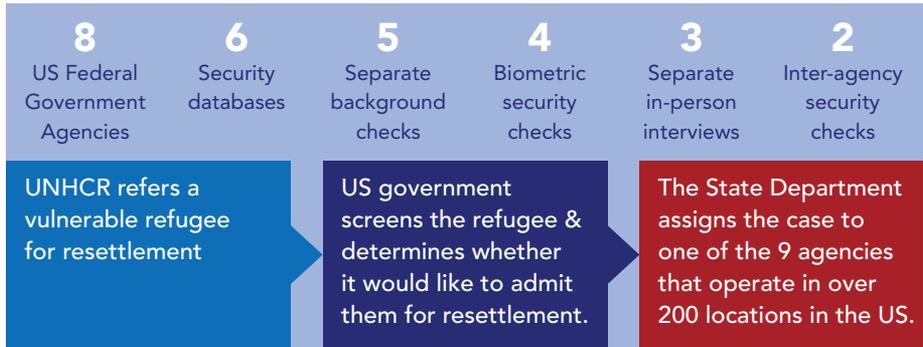
# Resettlement in the US

Once the UN has referred a refugee to the US for resettlement, the US screening process begins. The US decides whether or not to accept the refugee for resettlement. The entire process is conducted abroad and can take up to two years.

The United States has an exceptional history of welcoming refugees and is the top resettlement country in the world.



## How does the **VETTING PROCESS** work? REFUGEES GO THROUGH



WHEN A FAMILY IS CLEARED FOR US RESETTLEMENT, 9 non-profit, government-contracted agencies provide incoming families access to core services such as food, shelter, medical care, employment, and education. These organizations operate in over 200 locations nationwide. In Missoula, this role is filled by the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**.

**SOFT LANDING MISSOULA**, a local non-profit, supports the work of the IRC and other community partners serving refugees in Missoula. We are focused on building a sustainable effort to engage the community in helping refugees integrate and thrive well into the future.

### What is Soft Landing Missoula's role?

 Community outreach and education

 Direct services for refugee families, such as English tutoring

 Bike, bus, and car education so refugee families can achieve self sufficiency

 Volunteer recruitment and engagement

 Promote community partnerships with fellow Missoula organizations

 Run our Community Resource Center for both refugee families and Missoulians



**SOFTLANDING**  
missoula

READ MORE ABOUT REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER AT **SOFTLANDINGMISSOULA.ORG**

SOURCES: UNHCR.ORG, EMBRACEREFUGEES.ORG, REFUGEE COUNCIL USA, WELCOMINGREFUGEES.ORG