



Welcoming Newcomers to our Schools and Community

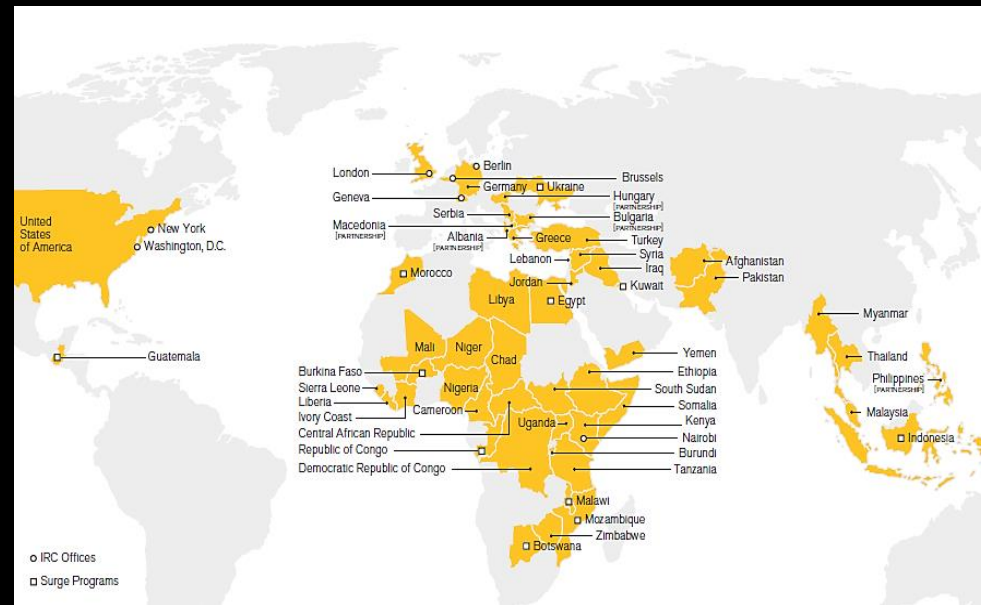
Recent Trends and Best Practices

Agenda

- New immigration pathways and definitions
- Overview of newcomers to WA in FY2022
- What to expect for FY2023
- Best practices for welcoming newcomers from Afghanistan and Ukraine
- Questions

Where We Work

- Global Work in **40+** countries
 - Providing emergency relief, protecting and assisting refugees
 - Post-conflict and disaster relief
- **25** field offices in the US (HQ in NYC, Advocacy in DC)
 - Resettlement and immigration services
 - Serving survivors of torture and trafficking
 - Providing and offering referrals to community-based programs for adults and youth



IRC WA Youth Programming



Vision:

Youth from refugee and immigrant backgrounds have the skills and resources necessary to achieve academic success and pursue a future of opportunity.

Where We Work





Refugees

A person who is forced to leave their country and cannot return because of a legitimate fear of persecution based on: **Race, Religion, Nationality, Political Opinion or Membership in a certain Social Group**. They have crossed an international border to find safety in another country.



Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders

Certain individuals who worked with, or on behalf of the U.S. government in Iraq or Afghanistan and are at risk because of their association and service.



Asylees

A person fleeing persecution, who present themselves at the US Border, a port of entry or is already in the US. Asylee status is determined in U.S and one may seek asylum regardless of the country one comes from, or one's current immigration status.

Afghan Humanitarian Parolee

Under Operation Allies Refuge, the Biden administration approved humanitarian parole to evacuate Afghans who may otherwise be eligible for either refugee or SIV status but have not yet completed their visa processing. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, parole is a tool that allows certain individuals to enter and stay in the U.S. without a visa. Parole is granted for “urgent humanitarian reasons”.¹

¹ National Immigration Forum; <https://immigrationforum.org/article/explainer-humanitarian-parole-and-the-afghan-evacuation/>

Five types of persecution



Race



Religion



Nationality

Social
Group



Political
Opinion

Historic levels of forced displacement

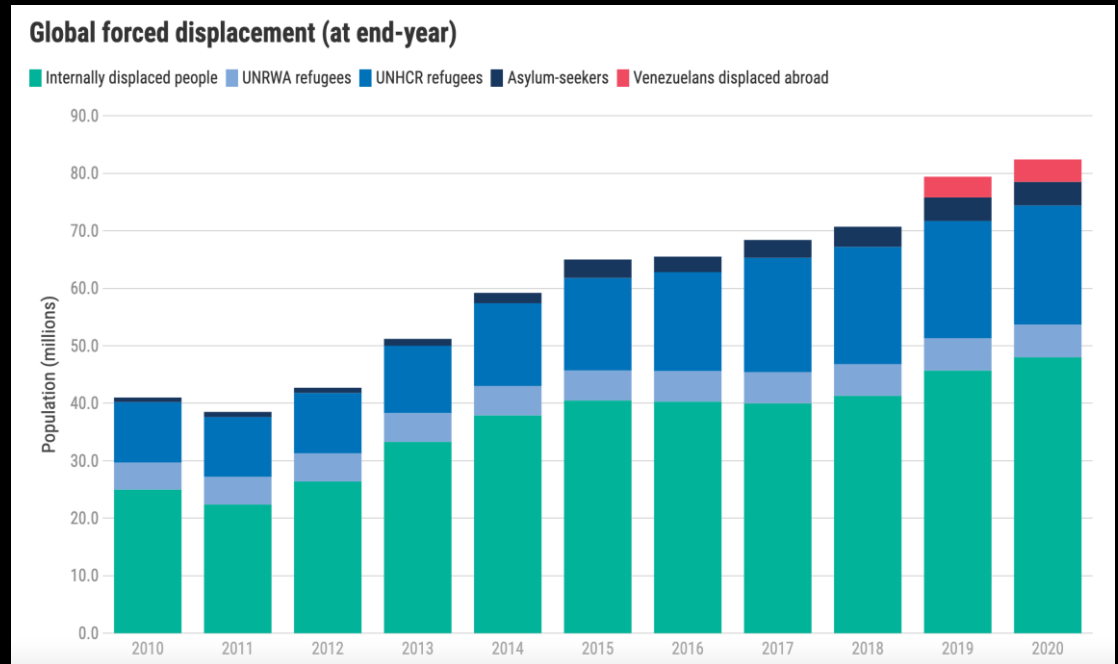
82.4

MILLION
FORCIBLY
DISPLACED
WORLDWIDE

26.4 million refugees
& people displaced
abroad

48 million people
internally displaced

4.1 million asylum-seekers



Third Country Resettlement



UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases to host countries for possible resettlement. **Refugees cannot pick their country of resettlement.**



Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others **would not be referred** for resettlement in another country.



Only recognized refugees whose **life, liberty, safety, health, or other fundamental rights are at risk** in the host country are considered for resettlement.

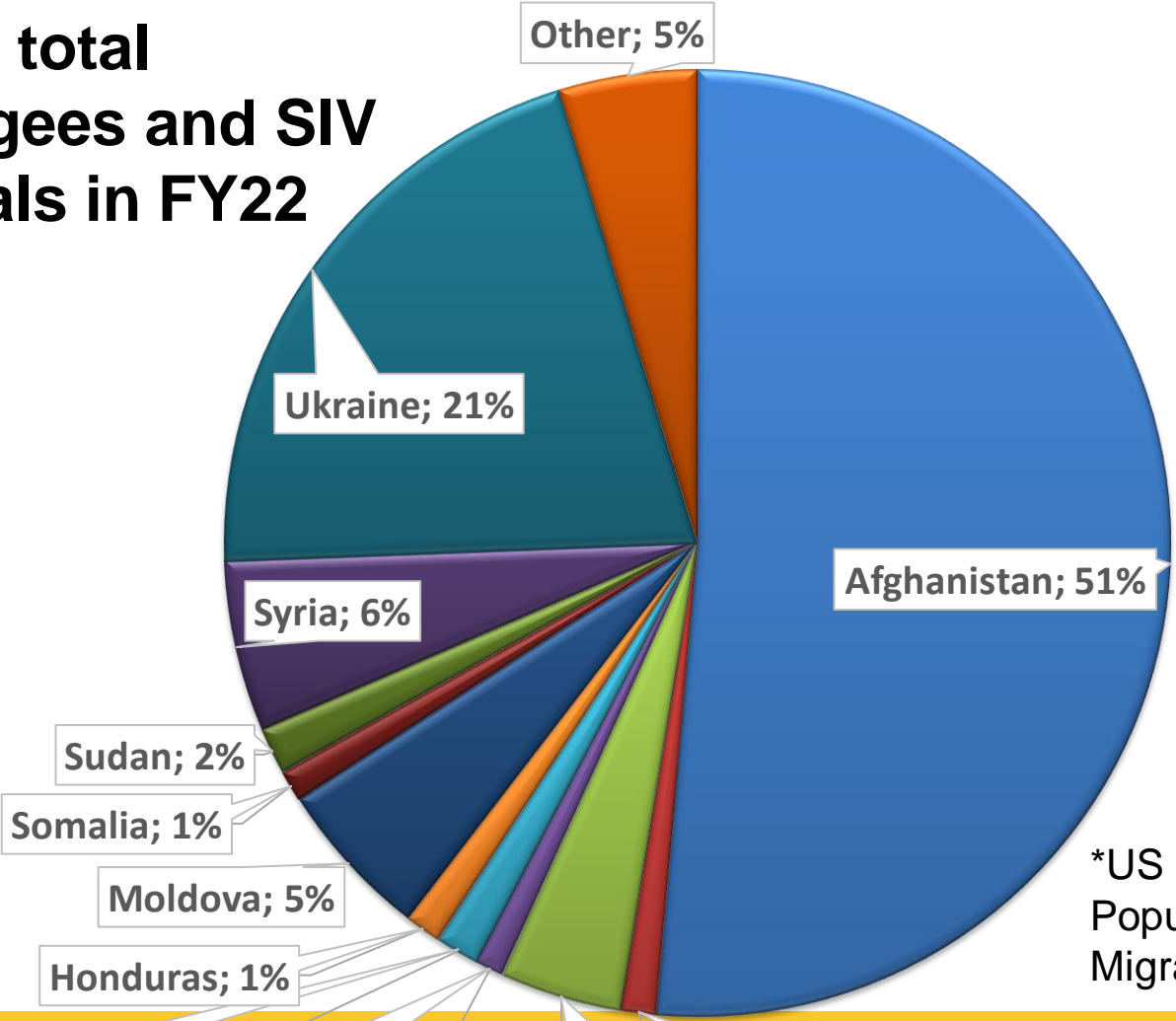
Third Country Resettlement



- **WOMEN & GIRLS AT RISK**
- SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AND/OR TORTURE
- **FAMILY REUNIFICATION**
- **MEDICAL NEEDS**
- CHILDREN AT RISK

New Washingtonians FY22

2,332 total
Refugees and SIV
arrivals in FY22



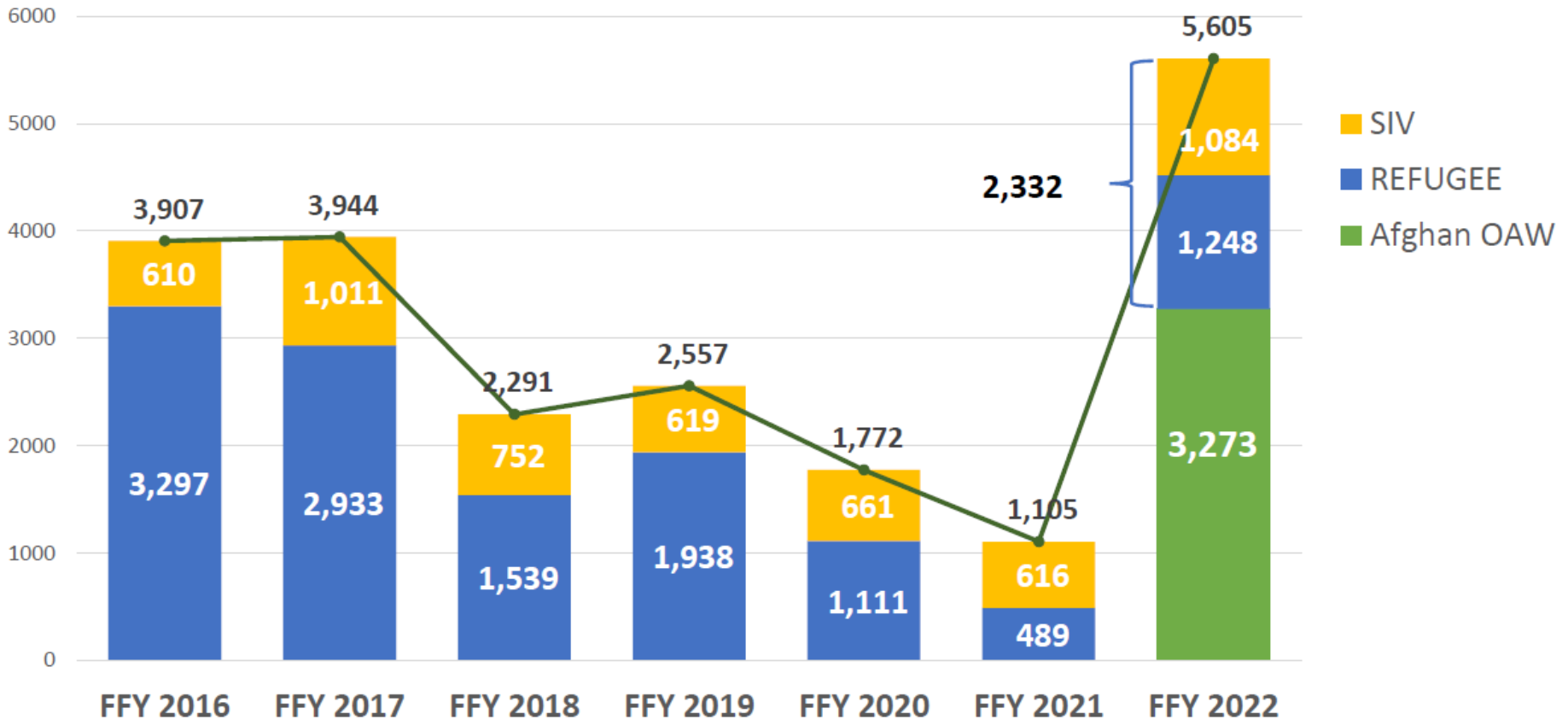
*US Dept. of State Bureau of
Population, Refugees and
Migration 10/3/2022

¹ Guatemala; 2% Ethiopia; 1% DRC; 4% Burma; 1%



New Washingtonians FY22

Washington State Arrivals: Refugee, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and Afghan Humanitarian Parolees – Operation Allies Welcome Arrivals FFY 2016 to FFY 2022



Sources: State Post-Arrival Demographics Report, Dept. of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration
Afghan Placement and Assistance Program - Weekly Departure Status Report

Uniting for Ukraine Program

National Applications for U4U (10/28/2022)

- 157,526 sponsor applications filed
- 110,830 applications approved for travel
- 75,029 arrivals in the United States

Locations of U.S.-based Supporters by Top State

New York	22,157
Illinois	20,102
California	16,992
Washington	13,050
Florida	10,469

On April 21, 2022, President Biden announced Uniting for Ukraine, a new streamlined process to provide Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who have fled Russia's unprovoked war of aggression opportunities to come to the United States and stay temporarily, with a period of parole up to two years.

Ukrainians participating in Uniting for Ukraine must have a supporter in the United States who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay in the United States. For more information, visit

www.DHS.gov/Ukraine.

Number of Form I-134 Applications Submitted by Uniting for Ukraine Supporters by County in Washington State, April 25 - September 9, 2022



Source: U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/E-MAPS Assignment #5587 - September 2022

* When necessary, values less than 10 (but greater than zero) are not displayed in order to help protect client confidentiality. These counties are denoted with an asterisk (*).

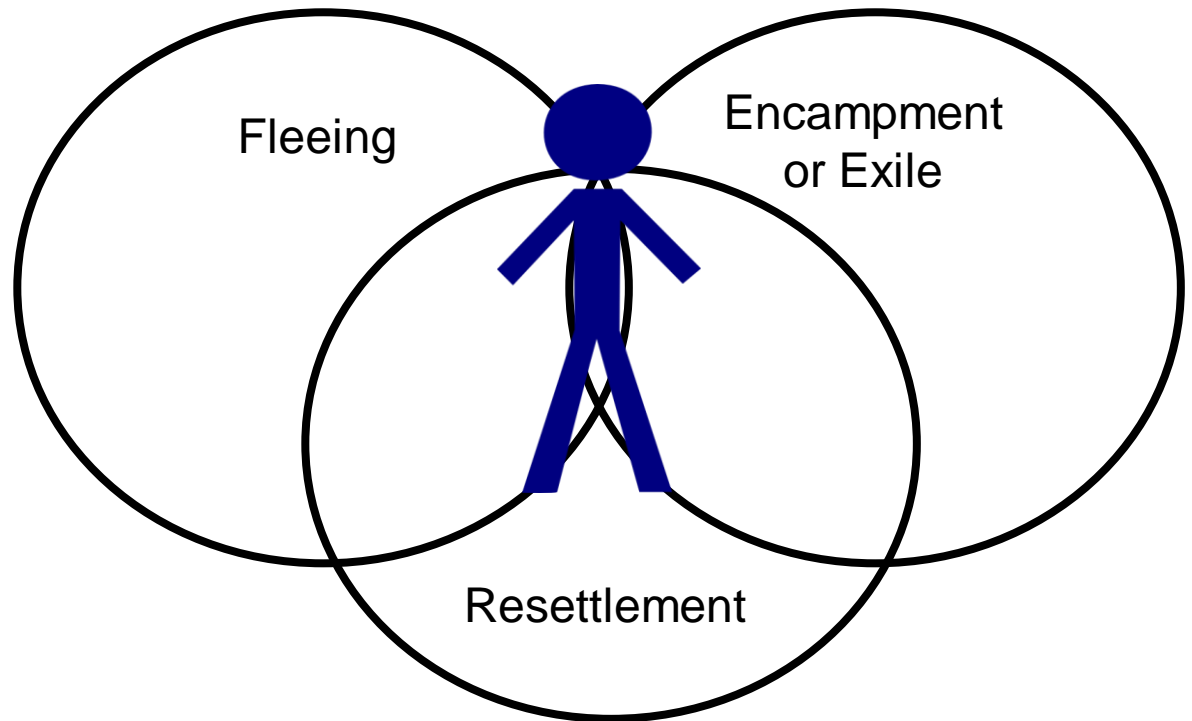
Types of Trauma

- **Acute** – Single incident
- **Chronic** – Repeated and prolonged; generally focused in a single area like child abuse or domestic violence
- **Complex** – Trauma that is not only repeated and prolonged, but is varied, compound, and involving multiple systems

Refugees and Asylum Seekers often have experiences that result in **COMPLEX Trauma**

Trauma and the Context of Forced Migration

Triple Trauma Paradigm



Educational Context in Afghanistan

- Estimated 3.7 million out of school children
 - 60% are girls
- Adjusted net attendance rates:
 - Primary School: 64%
 - Lower Secondary School: 38% Grade 7-9
 - Upper Secondary School: 28% Grade 10-12
- Youth Literacy Rate: 65%

*[UNICEF: Education: Providing Quality Education for All](#)

* [UNICEF: Afghanistan Country Profile](#)

Educational Context in Afghanistan

- Single-sex classes
- Standard dress code (hijab for girls)
- Large class size (40-50)
- Duration (3.5 - 4 h)
- Same Gender Teachers
- Less interactive, teacher dominant, rote learning

Educational Context in Afghanistan

- Shortage in subject-specific teachers (e.g., STEM)
- Little/No extra-curricular school activities for students
- Schools less engaged with caregivers (no proper system of follow up with parents from schools)
- Very little use of technology in the classrooms
- No proper access to Library

Newness for the Newcomer:

- Student's Freedom of Expression in class
- Mixed gender classes and educators
- Use of Technology in the class
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Use of Library
- Counselor/ Career Counselor
- The availability of Financial Aids/ Scholarships
- Different expectations for family engagement

Newness for the Newcomer:

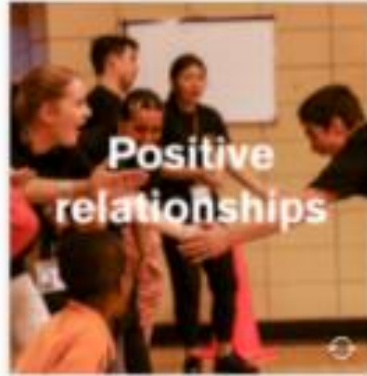
- Wearing or not wearing a uniform
- Co-ed classes
- Using a locker
- Discipline in the school context
- Following a schedule and rotating classrooms or teachers
- Using a planner
- How students/teachers relate to and address one another
- The role of school personnel and who to go to with specific concerns
- What to do in emergency drills

Best Practices

Practice more:

1. **Patience**
2. **Compassion**
3. **Proactiveness**
4. **A Welcoming tone of communication**

Five Elements of Healing Learning Spaces



Newcomer Family Voices Feedback Project

Survey results

School orientation: 35% of families did not receive a school orientation

Family engagement: 50% of families are not offered an interpreter when calling the school

Connection with the school: 62% of families have spoken on average 2 or 3 times with their child's teacher in the past academic year

Resources

Resources

- [Afghan Backgrounder – updated March 2022](#)
- [Ukraine Backgrounder](#)
- IRC's self-paced e-course: [Toxic Stress & Student Well-Being among Students Affected by Forced Migration](#)
- [Psychological First Aid \(PFA\) for Children](#): This course introduces the concepts and steps involved in providing support to children following a distressing event.

Resources

- [Switchboard Technical Assistance Hub](#): A variety of trainings on refugee children, youth, and family services and education.
- [Refugee Educator Academy](#) courses, community of practice, and other learning opportunities through the Carey Institute for Global Good Center for Learning and Practice

Thank you!

For more information:

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