



U.S. Citizenship
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Services



Welcome to the USCIS Refugee Processing Quarterly Engagement

We will begin at 2 p.m. Eastern.

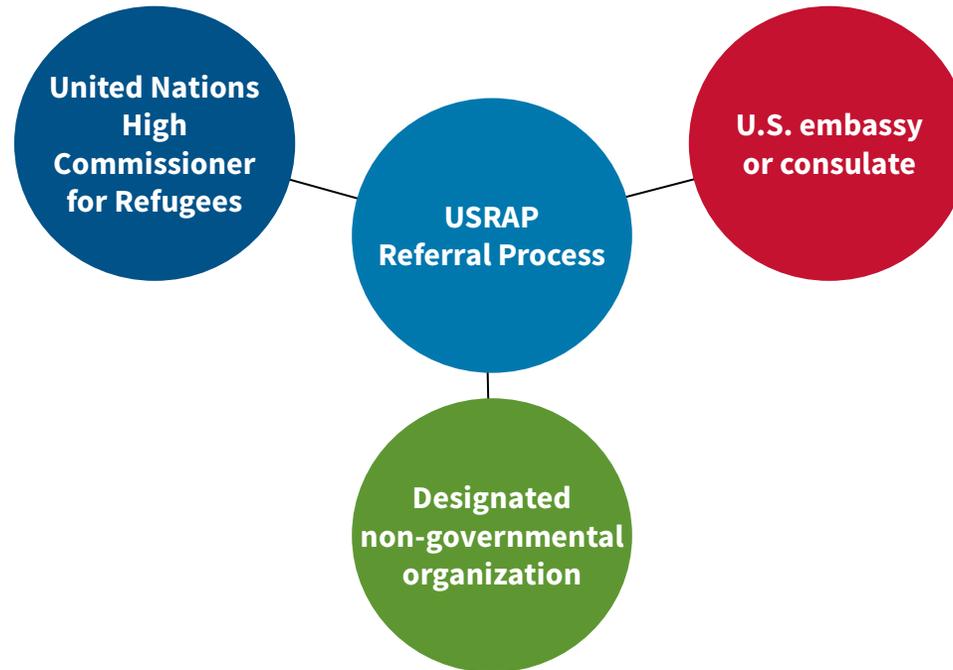
Please enjoy our pre-event slides.

Are your computer speakers on? If you don't have speakers, you will need headphones to hear the presentation. There is no dial-in number.

What is the USRAP?



Refugees access resettlement through a referral process that is part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).



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What are Priority Categories?



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All refugees admitted to the United States must be designated “of special humanitarian concern” to the U.S. government.

Those who enter the program do so through one of three priority categories: **P-1, P-2, and P-3.**

Note: These priorities allow a refugee applicant to gain access to theUSRAP and obtain an interview with a USCIS officer to determine their eligibility and admissibility.

Once a refugee applicant has access to theUSRAP, they go through the same process, regardless of their priority category.



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An Overview of the Priority Categories



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Priority 1

Cases identified and referred to the program by UNHCR, a U.S. embassy, or a designated nongovernmental organization (NGO).



Priority 2

Specific groups whose members need resettlement as identified by the Department of State in consultation with USCIS, NGOs, UNHCR, and other experts.



Priority 3

Family reunification cases for spouses, children or parents of individuals lawfully admitted to the United States as refugees or asylees as well as certain Afghans and Iraqis who entered on Special Immigrant Visas.

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The Refugee Interview



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Highly trained USCIS officers conduct extensive in-person, overseas interviews with all refugee applicants.

During the interview, the officer:

- Confirms the basic biographic data of the applicant;
- Verifies that the applicant was properly given access to theUSRAP;
- Determines whether the principal applicant has suffered past persecution or has a well-founded fear of future persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion in his or her home country;
- Determines whether the applicant is admissible to the United States and have not participated in persecution of others;
- Determines whether the principal applicant has been firmly resettled in another country – the finding of which would make him or her ineligible for resettlement through theUSRAP; and
- Determines whether discretion should be exercised favorably to approve the application.

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Did You Know?



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IN FY 2022

USCIS sent staff to

47 circuit ride
locations

and

conducted initial
interviews for over

44,000
refugee applicants
in *61 countries*

This includes
in person

and

video-conference
interviews



Approximately **9%**
of initial interviews and
re-interviews were conducted
by video-conference

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What are the FY 2023 Regional Allocations?



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Last September, the President signed a new Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions setting the ceiling for FY 2023 at 125,000 refugee admissions. This chart shows the regional allocations.

Region	Allocation
Africa	40,000
East Asia	15,000
Europe and Central Asia	15,000
Latin America/Caribbean	15,000
Near East/South Asia	35,000
Unallocated Reserve	5,000
Total Admissions Ceiling	125,000

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Don't Miss Our Engagements!



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For a list of national and local engagements visit uscis.gov/outreach.

- March 21 - **TPS Extension and Redesignation for Haiti**
- March 29 - **Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Follow-to-Join Processing**

Find previous engagement materials in our **Electronic Reading Room** at uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room.

Reminder: Today's engagement is on refugee processing. We will only take questions on our refugee program.

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USCIS REFUGEE PROCESSING



Quarterly Stakeholder Engagement

March 15, 2023

Disclaimer



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Materials presented today are for informational purposes only and are not legal advice. The information disseminated today and statements made by USCIS personnel are intended solely for the purpose of providing public outreach to the agency's stakeholders about issues of mutual interest. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit.

Agenda



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USCIS Progress Updates

- Q1 Interview Data
- Q1 & Q2 Circuit Ride Locations
- Specific Populations
- Accomplishments

DOS Progress Updates

- Refugee Arrivals
- Backlog Reduction
- Resettlement Partner Growth
- Welcome Corps



Reminders



1. Questions from media – media@uscis.dhs.gov.
2. Questions from congressional offices - usciscongressionalinquiries@uscis.dhs.gov.
3. Today's engagement will not be recorded.
4. You can submit written questions through the Q&A box on the right side of your screen.
5. Send questions outside the scope of today's engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov



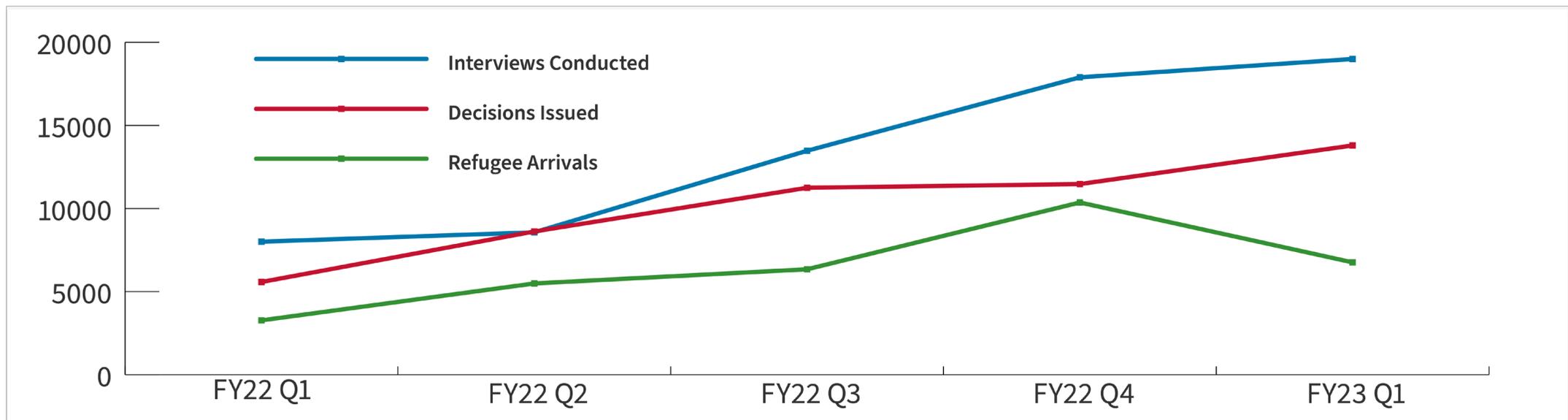
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USCIS Refugee Processing Updates

Interview Data

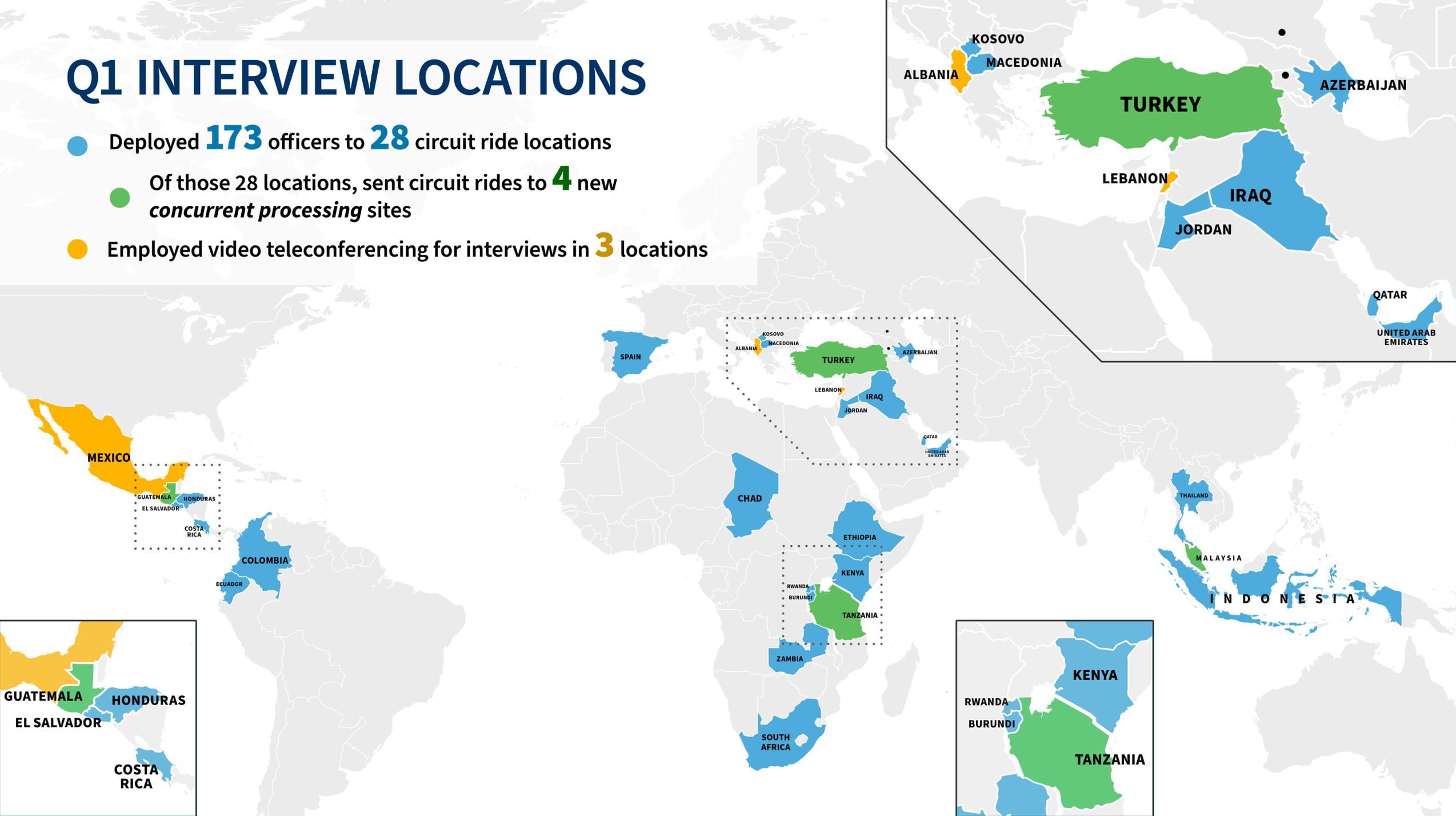


- In Q1 of FY 2023, USCIS completed over 19,000 initial interviews and more than 1,800 re-interviews for applicants of over 40 nationalities.
 - Compared to 44,000 total initial interviews in FY 2022.
- Approved over 13,000 individuals for refugee status; denied 372 individuals.
- Admitted 6,759 refugees to the United States.



Q1 INTERVIEW LOCATIONS

- Deployed **173** officers to **28** circuit ride locations
- Of those 28 locations, sent circuit rides to **4** new *concurrent processing sites*
- Employed video teleconferencing for interviews in **3** locations



Specific Populations: Afghan Nationals



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In Q1, we have
INTERVIEWED APPROXIMATELY
2,000 AFGHAN NATIONALS
in **12** countries.

To date, we've interviewed over
2,800 AFGHAN NATIONALS
in Qatar at Camp As Sayliyah (CAS),
with the goal of completing
processing within **30 days**.

For cases currently at
CAS, we have...

71% GRANTED
OF ALL CASES

27% Cases
pending
at CAS

APPROXIMATELY
1,000 Afghan
refugees are pending
their *USCIS INTERVIEW*

SINCE FY 2021,
USCIS HAS
INTERVIEWED
Over **10,500**
Afghan refugees

- For cases outside of CAS, we continue processing Afghan nationals in countries worldwide, primarily in other parts of the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as in smaller numbers in other locations.

Specific Populations: Central American Minors (CAM) Protection Transfer Arrangement (PTA)



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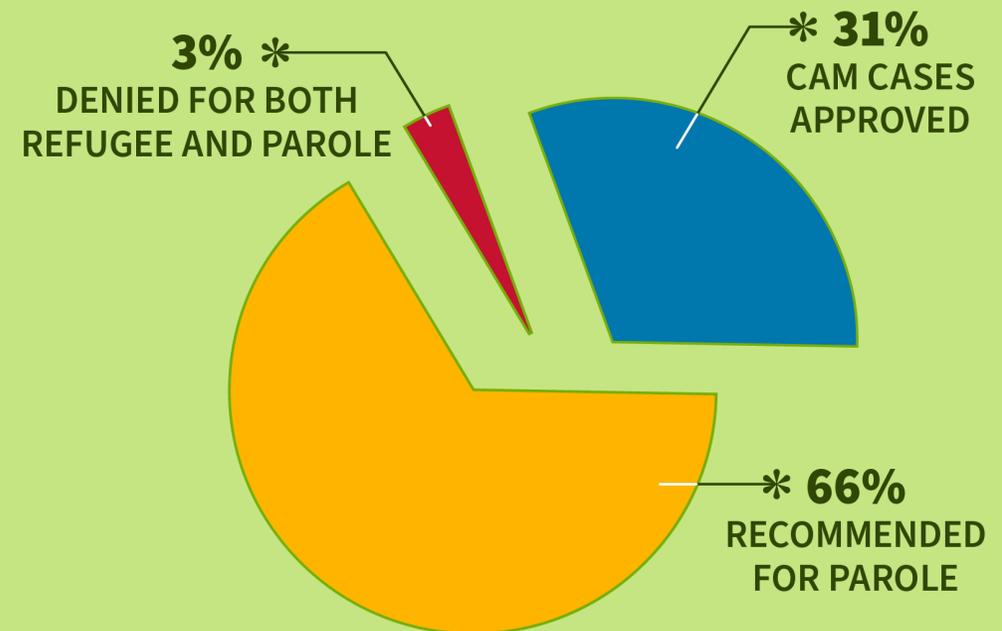
To date this fiscal year,
INTERVIEWED OVER

370 NEW
CAM CASES
and more than
1,800 new PTA cases.



FY 2023 CAM Decisions

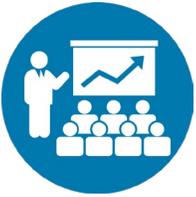
OCT. 2022 - FEB. 2023



New Refugee Officers in Quarter 1



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Hiring & Training

- Filled 84% of the 285 authorized positions.
- 42 officers completed training on overseas circuit rides.
- 73 officers to complete their in-field training in Q2.
- 33 officers scheduled to complete training modules and in-field training in Q3.
- 86% of all new refugee officers will be fully trained by the end of Q2.

Technology Improvements in Quarter 1



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Increasing Our Efficiency

- Increased functionality in Global case management system.
 - Officers can review and correct information electronically on Form I-590 refugee applications vs. manually on a paper form.
 - Digitization of Form I-590 is the first step towards 100% electronic processing and will help save time and increase integrity.
- Expanded video-teleconference interview locations.

Fiscal Year 2023 Plans



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**INCREASE
CIRCUIT
RIDES**

Q2 Deploy **221** OFFICERS TO **37** COUNTRIES TO interview *approximately* **23,000** individuals

Q3 TENTATIVE Deploy **over 260** OFFICERS TO MORE THAN **40** COUNTRIES TO interview *OVER* **26,000** individuals

Q4 TENTATIVE Deploy **over 270** OFFICERS TO MORE THAN **45** COUNTRIES TO interview *OVER* **28,000** individuals

Please note that the circuit rides planned in Q3 and Q4 are tentative at this time.

USCIS is Hiring



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Apply for federal jobs!

USAJOBS.gov

Explore Refugee Officer Careers at USCIS!

uscis.gov/about-us/careers/career-opportunities/exploring-refugee-officer-careers





U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Department of State Updates

Progress Updates



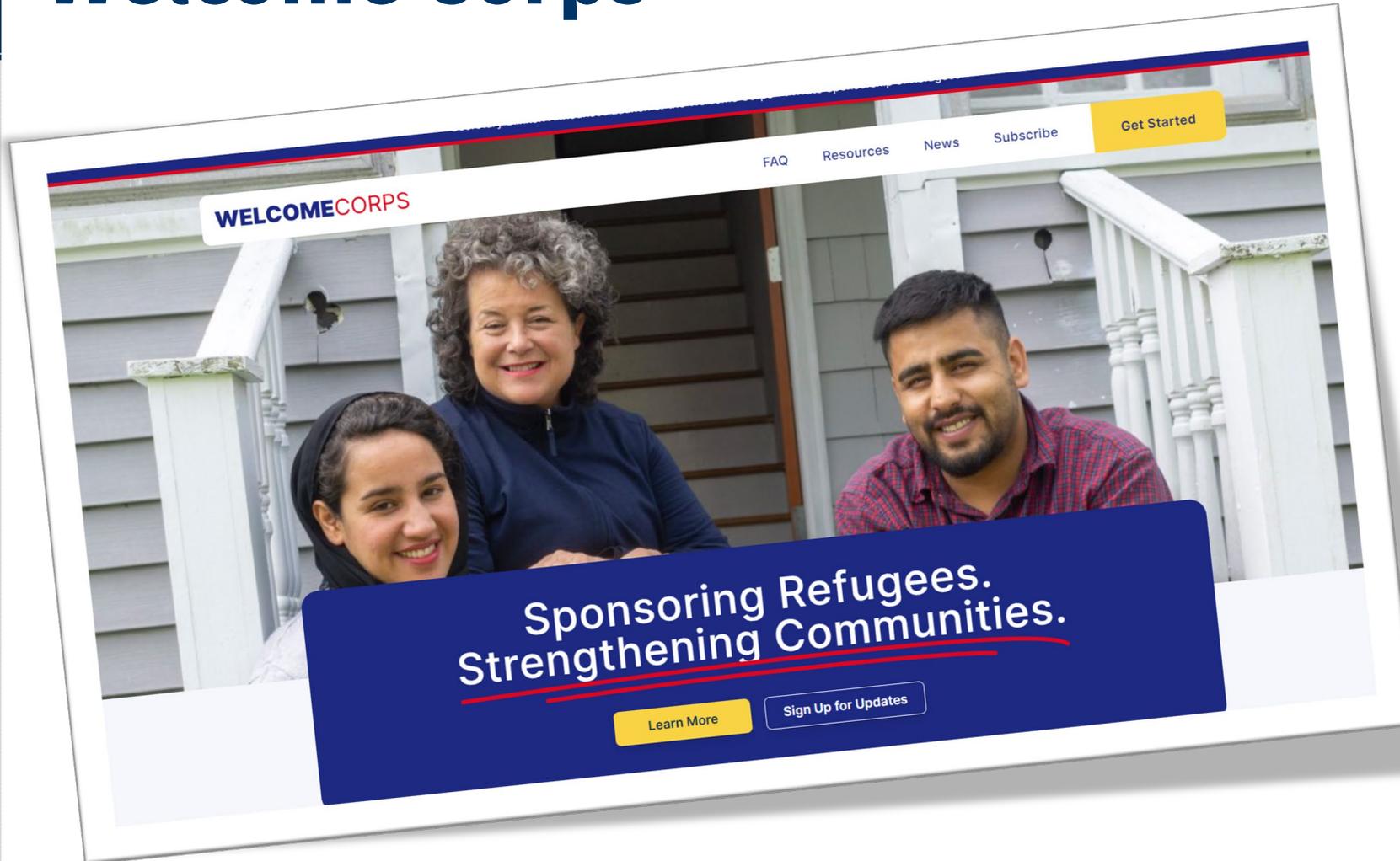
U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

- As of the end of February 2023:
 - 12,307 refugees arrived in the U.S.
 - Top nationalities: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burma, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine
- Expect arrivals to steadily increase throughout FY 2023, but not likely to reach 10,500/month by September.
- Made progress in moving USCIS-approved refugees within 90 days for populations that do not require a Security Advisory Opinion (SAO) check.
- Resolving the backlog of pre-2018 cases has proven more challenging than expected.
- Number of approved domestic reception and placement affiliates:
 - 300, up from 199 in January 2021
- Resettlement Support Centers authorized 2,600 headcount in FY 2023 which is 900 more than the 1,700 authorized in FY 2022.

Welcome Corps



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE



Launched Jan. 19, 2023

Private sponsorship program of refugees through USRAP

Two phases:

- Matching
- Identification

Visit welcomecorps.org to learn more!

USCIS and DOS Resources



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Refugees

uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/refugees

I-131, Application for Travel Document

uscis.gov/i-131

I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

uscis.gov/i-730

Refugee Processing Data

uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies/refugee-processing-data/refugee-processing-data

Exploring Refugee Officer Careers

uscis.gov/about-us/careers/career-opportunities/exploring-refugee-officer-careers

Upcoming USCIS National Engagements

uscis.gov/outreach

Electronic Reading Room

uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room

Department of State Refugee Processing Center

wrapsnet.org

Admission & Arrivals Report

wrapsnet.org/admissions-and-arrivals

Welcome Corps

welcomecorps.org

Next Quarterly Engagement



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What's on your mind?

- Please send any topics of interest for our next engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
- Include in the subject line: Next USCIS Refugee Processing Engagement Topics

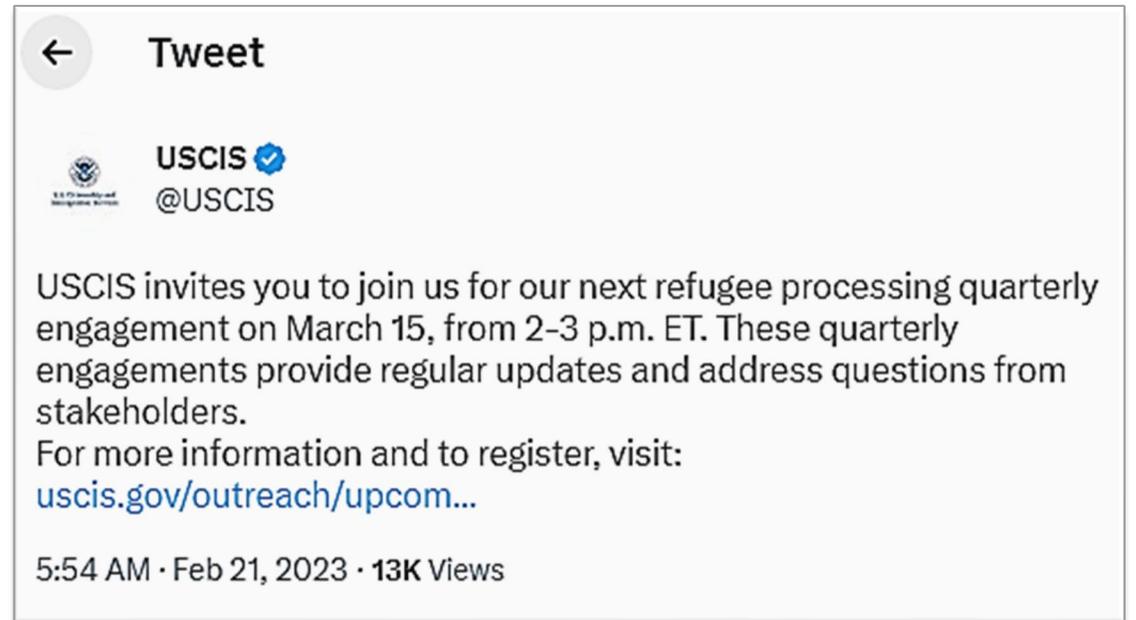


Concluding Remarks



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- For additional questions, please email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
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