

**PROPOSED REFUGEE ADMISSIONS**  
*for*  
**FISCAL YEAR 2009**

**REPORT TO THE CONGRESS**

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
TO THE  
COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
AND  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
SECTION 207(e) (1)-(7)  
OF THE  
IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

**United States Department of State**  
**United States Department of Homeland Security**  
**United States Department of Health and Human Services**



## *INTRODUCTION*

This *Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2009: Report to the Congress* is submitted in compliance with Section 207(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). The Act requires that before the start of the fiscal year and, to the extent possible, at least two weeks prior to consultations on refugee admissions, members of the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and the House of Representatives be provided with the following information:

- (1) A description of the nature of the refugee situation;
- (2) A description of the number and allocation of the refugees to be admitted and an analysis of conditions within the countries from which they came;
- (3) A description of the plans for their movement and resettlement and the estimated cost of their movement and resettlement;
- (4) An analysis of the anticipated social, economic, and demographic impact of their admission to the United States;<sup>i</sup>
- (5) A description of the extent to which other countries will admit and assist in the resettlement of such refugees;
- (6) An analysis of the impact of the participation of the United States in the resettlement of such refugees on the foreign policy interests of the United States; and
- (7) Such additional information as may be appropriate or requested by such members.

In addition, this report contains information as required by Section 602(d) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292, October 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2787) (IRFA) about religious persecution of refugee populations eligible for consideration for admission to the United States. This report meets the reporting requirements of Section 305(b) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333, October 18, 2004, 118 Stat. 1287) by providing information about specific measures taken to facilitate access to the United States refugee program for individuals who have fled “countries of particular concern” for violations of religious freedoms, identified pursuant to Section 402(b) of the IRFA.

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<sup>i</sup> Detailed discussion of the anticipated social and economic impact, including secondary migration, of the admission of refugees to the United States is being provided in the *Report to the Congress of the Refugee Resettlement Program*, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Department of Health and Human Services.

## *FOREWORD*

The United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is a humanitarian effort that reflects American compassion for some of the world's most vulnerable persons. As Secretary Rice has said, "the commitment of the United States to protecting and assisting refugees is deep and abiding. This commitment is a part of our nation's history and it goes to our very core values." First Lady Laura Bush echoed this commitment on World Refugee Day on June 20, 2008. The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program advances U.S. foreign policy and national security interests by championing human dignity. We manage the program to extend our traditional humanitarian values while protecting our national security.

The number of refugees in the world has climbed in the past year to nearly 16 million. Afghans, Iraqis, and Sudanese are among the largest refugee populations. The United States Government has supported one million voluntary refugee returns and reintegration efforts in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mauritania, and southern Sudan over the last several years. Over 350,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan and Iran in 2007. Local integration continues to be an important solution for protracted refugee situations in Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe.

Third-country refugee resettlement programs are also critical for helping refugees. Resettlement programs help relieve pressure on countries of first asylum, save lives, and forge durable solutions. Because the USRAP identifies persons in often remote and/or dangerous places overseas, there will always be logistical and political challenges. The Administration continues to champion this program because it offers opportunities for saving lives, reuniting families, and ending protracted refugee situations.

The U.S. Government has improved the flexibility of the USRAP. Over the past year, President Bush has signed into law two significant provisions which facilitate the resettlement of legitimate refugees into the United States. First, Subsection 691(a) of Division J of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Pub L. 110-161, 121 Stat 1844 broadened the discretionary authority of the Executive Branch to exempt an alien from terrorism related bars to his or her admission to the United States. Section 691(b) further provides that certain groups, which the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security had previously determined should not be a bar to admission, shall no longer be considered terrorist organizations for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) based on their past

activities. These new provisions will permit us to resettle thousands of otherwise eligible and deserving refugees, who had previously been barred. They will also allow for some refugees that were already resettled in the United States to now adjust to legal permanent residency status. Acting jointly, the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security have already used their expanded authority to supplement the relief provided in subsection 691(b) by exempting individuals not otherwise covered by the subsection's provisions from bars to admission arising out of individual actions they undertook in connection with the groups named.

In addition, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continues to apply the exemptions that were previously issued to provide relief to aliens, including refugees who provided material support under duress to terrorist organizations, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), and the National Liberation Army of Columbia (ELN). As was the case under the Executive's previous more limited authority, exemptions under this new authority have been and will continue to be applied consistent with U.S. national interests in a manner that does not compromise national security. More than 5,600 refugees have received exemptions to date permitting them to be admitted to the United States. DHS has issued implementation guidance to its adjudicators on the expanded authority and the Administration is identifying further categories of aliens that should benefit from the exercise of this authority.

On January 28, 2008, President Bush signed the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act as part of the Defense Authorization Act, which created new access categories under the USRAP for certain Iraqis with ties to the United States and directed that in-country processing be made available to these Iraqis. Processing of such Iraqis is already underway in Baghdad. The bill contained other important provisions, including the creation of a substantial number of Special Immigrant Visas for persons affiliated with the United States Government, which will provide an important avenue separate from the USRAP for Iraqis seeking admission to the United States.

A third improvement in the U.S. Government's ability to adjudicate refugee applications has been the expansion of DHS's capacity to interview refugee applicants. The Refugee Corps has expanded to 45 officers, and substantial additional growth is anticipated in FY2009. Complemented with adjudicators from DHS's overseas district offices and staff detailed from other programs, this has allowed us to expand the reach of the program substantially. As a result, during

the past year, the United States has admitted refugees of over 56 nationalities who were processed in over 50 locations.

Refugee advocates and resettlement agencies in the United States have urged us to take steps to even the flow of refugee arrivals into the United States over the fiscal year in order to reduce the historical “spike” in refugee admissions during the final quarter. In order to both increase the numbers of refugees we consider for admission and to even out the arrivals throughout the year, the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) has coordinated with the Department of Homeland Security Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS) to conduct more interviews earlier in this fiscal year than in previous years. DHS/USCIS conducted 67% more interviews in the first half of FY08 than in the same period in FY07. We have also scheduled 40% more interviews in the second half of FY 08 than in the same period last year. The cooperation between PRM and DHS/USCIS on these issues is excellent.

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Another important dynamic was the very welcome increase in refugee referrals to resettlement countries by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This development is allowing many thousands of vulnerable refugees to be considered for resettlement. In 2007, UNHCR increased its referrals by more than 100% to 98,983 persons, some 74,431 of whom were referred for consideration by the United States. This has had tangible side benefits for other refugees as well. It creates opportunities for UNHCR to work more effectively with host countries to achieve durable solutions including voluntary return and local integration. For example, when the United States committed to resettle several thousand Burundians living in Tanzania, commonly called the “1972 Burundians,” the Government of Tanzania responded by offering some 100,000 Burundians local integration.

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There has been significant attention in the last year to the U.S. Government’s commitment to admit 12,000 Iraqi refugees into the United States. Iraqis now represent the third largest refugee population in the world. This goal was established in 2007 with the knowledge that we were building an Iraqi resettlement program from the ground up in countries such as Syria and Jordan where there was limited or no history of, or infrastructure for, refugee resettlement operations. We have worked hard to overcome these obstacles. We are grateful for the cooperation of UNHCR in providing a large number of resettlement candidates to the United States -- more than 27,000. As of July 2008, DHS/USCIS has interviewed more than 24,000 Iraqi applicants and conditionally or fully approved 17,600. We are on track to meet our goal of admitting 12,000 Iraqi

refugees. We appreciate that hosting large numbers of refugees has imposed significant infra-structure costs on Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, and other countries, and the U.S. has provided substantial financial resources, primarily through international organizations, to meet refugee needs and to help host countries shoulder this burden.

PRM has continued to maintain vigorous efforts to resolve protracted refugee situations. We are currently undertaking large-scale efforts to resettle Burmese from Thailand and Malaysia as well as Bhutanese from Nepal. We continue to focus on resettlement from Africa, including admitting refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan. We will continue to work with UNHCR on group referrals and consult with host governments about such resettlement efforts.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is a source of pride for the American people. Refugees who come to the U.S. have experienced, or have a well-founded fear of, persecution. Some have experienced torture or witnessed the murder of family members. They and their families have felt great despair. This program enables refugees to start new lives in a country that welcomes them. This program enjoys deep bipartisan support because it saves lives and creates opportunities for people in tremendous need. The resettled refugees, the communities that welcome them, and the international and non-governmental organizations that support their resettlement and integration all gain from their participation in this program.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>i</i>
<i>Foreword</i>	<i>ii</i>
<b>I. OVERVIEW OF U.S. REFUGEE POLICY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM FOR FY 2009</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Proposed Ceilings</b>	<b>5</b>
Unallocated Reserve	6
<b>Admissions Procedures</b>	<b>6</b>
Eligibility Criteria	6
Priority 1: Individual Referrals	7
Priority 2: Group Referrals	8
FY 2009 Priority 2 Designations	9
Priority 3: Family Reunification Cases	12
FY 2009 Priority 3 Nationalities	13
Visas 93: Family Reunification Following to Join	13
<b>DHS/USCIS Refugee Adjudications</b>	<b>14</b>
The Eligibility Determination	15
Background Checks	15
<b>Processing Activities of the Department of State</b>	<b>16</b>
Overseas Processing Services	16
Cultural Orientation	16
Transportation	17
Reception and Placement (R&P)	17
<b>III. REGIONAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Africa</b>	<b>20</b>
Religious Freedom	20
Voluntary Repatriation	23
Local Integration	24
Third-Country Resettlement	25
FY 2008 U.S. Admissions	25

FY 2009 U.S. Resettlement Program	26
<b>East Asia</b>	27
Religious Freedom	29
Voluntary Repatriation	31
Local Integration	31
Third-Country Resettlement	31
FY 2008 U.S. Admissions	31
FY 2009 U.S. Resettlement Program	33
<b>Europe and Central Asia</b>	33
Religious Freedom	35
Voluntary Repatriation	36
Local Integration	37
Third-Country Resettlement	37
FY 2008 U.S. Admissions	37
FY 2009 U.S. Resettlement Program	37
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	38
Religious Freedom	40
Voluntary Repatriation	40
Local Integration	40
Third and In-Country Resettlement	41
FY 2008 U.S. Admissions	42
FY 2009 U.S. Resettlement Program	43
<b>Near East and South Asia</b>	43
Religious Freedom	44
Voluntary Repatriation	45
Local Integration	47
Third-Country Resettlement	49
FY 2008 U.S. Admissions	51
FY 2009 U.S. Resettlement Program	51
<b>IV. DOMESTIC IMPACT OF REFUGEE ADMISSIONS</b>	53



## LIST OF TABLES

	<i>Page</i>
I. Refugee Admissions in FY 2007 and FY 2008, Proposed Ceilings for FY 2009	5
II. Proposed FY 2009 Regional Ceilings by Priority	19
III. Religious Freedom: Resettlement Access for Refugees from Countries Designated by the Department of State as of Particular Concern	52
IV. Refugee Arrivals by Country of Origin, FY 2007	54
V. Median Age and Sex of Refugee Arrivals, FY 2007	56
VI. Select Age Categories of Refugee Arrivals, FY 2007	57
VII. Refugee Arrivals by State of Initial Resettlement, FY 2007	58
VIII. Estimated Costs of Refugee Processing, Movement, and Resettlement FY 2008 and FY 2009 Estimates	60
IX. UNHCR Resettlement Statistics by Resettlement Country, CY 2007	61

## *I. OVERVIEW OF U.S. REFUGEE POLICY*

At the end of 2007, the estimated refugee population worldwide stood at 15.9 million, with 11.4 million under the care of UNHCR. This reflects a continued recent upward trend in global refugee numbers, which at the end of 2006 was 14.3 million. The United States actively supports efforts to provide protection, assistance, and durable solutions to refugees, as these are important foreign policy goals of the United States. Combined with humanitarian diplomacy, U.S. financial contributions to international and non-governmental organizations are vital to achieving these goals. Under the authority in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, the United States contributes to the programs of UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and other international and non-governmental organizations that provide protection and assistance to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of conflict, and other vulnerable migrants. These contributions address the legal and physical protection needs of refugees as well as their basic assistance needs for water, sanitation, food, health care, shelter, education, and other services. The United States monitors these programs to ensure the most effective use of resources, maximizing humanitarian impact for the benefit of refugees and IDPs.

During FY 2008, the United States has continued to support the achievement of durable solutions for refugees through voluntary repatriation programs around the world. In seeking durable solutions for refugees, the United States and UNHCR recognize that - for most refugees - safe voluntary return to their homelands is their preferred solution. The United States and UNHCR also recognize resettlement in third countries as a vital tool for providing refugees protection and/or durable solutions. Local integration in countries of asylum can also provide a durable solution for many who cannot return to their homes. Refugee repatriation operations to countries including Mauritania, Afghanistan, Liberia, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Sudan have proceeded during FY 2008, representing significant progress in the protection of refugees, as well as in their home countries' stabilization, reconstruction and development.

Where peace and opportunities for return remain elusive, the United States and partners pursue self-sufficiency and temporary local integration.

The Department of State works diplomatically to encourage host governments to uphold their responsibilities to protect refugees and IDPs through local integration and provides assistance to help meet these humanitarian needs. When peace and opportunities for return are possible but not all refugees wish to avail themselves of the voluntary repatriation solution, the United States and partners pursue permanent local integration. Afghans in India and Pakistan, Liberians and Sierra Leoneans in Nigeria, Mauritians in Senegal, and Colombians in Ecuador and Costa Rica are among those populations for whom opportunities for local integration have recently become possible.

UNHCR estimates that at least some three million people worldwide are not recognized as nationals by any state and are therefore legally or *de facto* stateless. Without citizenship in any country, many exist in refugee-like situations, unable to claim rights and denied even the most basic protections of law. The United States has supported UNHCR's efforts to achieve solutions for stateless persons, including addressing gaps in citizenship laws and promoting fair application of those laws. For example, in FY 2007 the Department of State provided funding to UNHCR's Burma program to provide temporary identification and access to school for stateless Rohingya in Northern Rakhine State. In addition, to focus greater attention on this "hidden" population in need of protection, the Department of State began devoting a distinct sub-section on the issue of statelessness in its annual country Human Rights Reports.

Resettlement to third countries, including the United States, is considered for refugees in urgent need of protection as well as for those for whom other durable solutions are not feasible. For some refugees, resettlement is the best, or perhaps only, alternative. The United States also encourages UNHCR to refer for resettlement stateless individuals and groups for whom other durable solutions are not possible, even if they are located in their country of habitual residence.

Recognizing the importance of ensuring UNHCR's capacity to identify and to refer refugees in need of resettlement, the U.S. Government has for more than a decade provided financial support to expand and improve the organization's resettlement infrastructure. As a result of this initiative, UNHCR has boosted referrals to the U.S. and other resettlement countries by many thousands each year. We will continue to work with UNHCR and consult with host governments on group referrals. We have at

times in the past used targeted response teams to study resettlement needs and organized refugee referral workshops to allow qualified non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to refer refugee applicants to the program. We may continue such efforts in the future.

The United States has also supported UNHCR's efforts to expand the number of countries active in resettlement and engaged bilaterally on the issue. In 2007, UNHCR referred refugees to 25 countries for resettlement consideration. Some 90 percent were referred to the United States, Canada, and Australia. Smaller numbers of referrals were accepted by New Zealand, Chile, Brazil, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal, Iceland, and Ireland. In addition, Argentina, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Spain, and Italy each accepted some refugees for resettlement.

While the overall number of refugees referred by UNHCR and the percentage resettled by various countries fluctuate from year to year, the United States aims to provide resettlement consideration to at least 50 percent of all refugees referred by UNHCR worldwide, depending on availability of funds. We have encouraged UNHCR to make further strategic use of resettlement and to expand the number of referrals it makes annually. In calendar year 2007, the United States resettled some 64 percent of the total number of UNHCR-referred refugees resettled in third countries (see Table IX).

The overall foreign policy interests of the United States are often advanced by our willingness to work with first-asylum and resettlement countries to address refugee issues. In some locations, the prompt resettlement of politically sensitive cases has helped defuse regional tensions. During the past few years, U.S. resettlement efforts in Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia have helped energize efforts by UNHCR and other countries to ensure that resettlement is accorded to those in need and that first asylum is maintained for the larger population.

During its 28-year history, the USRAP has responded to changing refugee circumstances. Even before the events of September 11, 2001, the end of the Cold War had dramatically altered the context in which the USRAP operates worldwide. Having shifted its focus away from large groups concentrated in a few locations, primarily refugees from Vietnam, the former Soviet Union, and the former Yugoslavia, the program began to offer resettlement to refugees of over 50 nationalities per year. Interviews

are often conducted in remote locations. The USRAP continues to work to balance humanitarian commitments and national security concerns.

Refugees resettled in the United States contribute positively to the diversity and enrichment of our country. The U.S. program emphasizes the goal that refugees become economically self-sufficient as quickly as possible. Department of Health and Human Services-funded programs administered by individual states and the District of Columbia provide cash and medical assistance, training programs, employment, and other support services to arriving refugees. A variety of institutional providers perform these services, including the voluntary agencies that provide initial reception and placement services under cooperative agreements with the Department of State.

The Department of State works domestically with agencies participating in the Reception and Placement (R&P) program to ensure that they are able to provide services according to established standards. A significant proportion of arriving refugees do not have close family members already living in the United States to help with their adjustment and integration. Refugees are increasingly diverse linguistically, with wide-ranging educational and employment histories. The shortage of available affordable housing, particularly in urban areas, continues. All of these factors challenge the resettlement agencies to adjust their practices to meet the needs of refugees in the program.

**II. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM FOR FY 2009**

**PROPOSED CEILINGS**

**TABLE I  
REFUGEE ADMISSIONS IN FY 2007 AND FY 2008,  
PROPOSED REFUGEE ADMISSIONS BY REGION FOR FY 2009**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>FY 2007 ACTUAL ARRIVALS</b>	<b>FY 2008 CEILING</b>	<b>FY 2008 REVISED CEILING</b>	<b>FY 2008 PROJECTED ARRIVALS</b>	<b>PROPOSED FY 2009 CEILING</b>
Africa	17,482,	16,000		8,000	<b>12,000</b>
East Asia	15,643	20,000		18,000	<b>19,000</b>
Europe and Central Asia	4561	3,000		3,000	<b>2,500</b>
Latin America/Caribbean	2,976	3,000	5,000*	4,500	<b>4,500</b>
Near East/South Asia	7,619	28,000		25,500	<b>37,000</b>
Regional Subtotal	48,281	70,000	72,000	59,000	<b>75,000</b>
Unallocated Reserve		10,000	8,000		<b>5,000</b>
Total	48,281	80,000	80,000	59,000	<b>80,000</b>

\* 2,000 admissions numbers from the Unallocated Reserve were allocated during the fourth quarter of FY 2008 to the Latin America/Caribbean ceiling because refugee arrivals were projected to exceed the original ceiling.

In addition to the proposed regional allocations, some refugees are considered for resettlement through in-country refugee programs. Generally, the refugee definition requires that a person be outside his or her country of nationality or, if stateless, outside his or her country of last habitual residence. Under INA § 101(a)(42)(B), however, the President may specify circumstances under which individuals who are within their countries of nationality or last habitual residence may meet the refugee definition. The FY 2009 proposal recommends continuing such in-country processing for specified groups in Iraq, Cuba, Vietnam, and the countries of the former Soviet Union, and stateless individuals referred by UNHCR. Persons for whom resettlement is requested by a U.S. ambassador in any location in the world may also be considered, with the understanding that they will only be referred to the USRAP following PRM consultation with DHS/USCIS.

## *Unallocated Reserve*

This proposal includes 5,000 unallocated admissions numbers to be used if needed for additional refugee admissions from any region. The unallocated numbers would only be used following notification to Congress.

## **ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES**

### *Eligibility Criteria*

The Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is responsible for coordinating and managing the USRAP. A critical part of this responsibility is determining which individuals or groups from among the millions of “refugees” worldwide will have access to U.S. resettlement consideration. PRM coordinates within the Department of State, as well as with the Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (DHS/USCIS) and other agencies in carrying out this responsibility.

Section 207(a)(3) of the INA states that the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program shall allocate admissions among refugees “...of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with a determination made by the President after appropriate consultation.” Which individuals are “of special humanitarian concern” to the United States for the purpose of refugee resettlement consideration is determined through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program priority system. There are currently three priorities or categories of cases that have access to the USRAP:

- Priority 1 – Individual cases referred to the program by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement;
- Priority 2 – Groups of cases designated as having access to the program by virtue of their circumstances and apparent need for resettlement;
- Priority 3 – Individual cases from eligible nationalities granted access for purposes of reunification with anchor family members already in the United States.

(Note: Refugees resettled in the United States may also seek the admission of spouses and unmarried children under 21 still abroad by filing a “Following to Join” petition which obviates the need for a separate refugee

claim adjudication. This option is described in more detail in the discussion of Visas 93 below.)

Access to the program under one of the above-listed processing priorities does not mean an applicant meets the U.S. statutory “refugee” definition or is admissible to the United States. The ultimate determination as to whether an applicant can be admitted as a refugee is made by DHS/USCIS in accordance with criteria set forth in the INA. Applicants who are eligible for access within the established priorities are presented to DHS/USCIS officers for interview.

Although the access categories to the USRAP are referred to as “processing priorities,” it is important to note that assignment to a certain priority does not establish precedence in the order in which cases will be processed. Once cases are established as eligible for access under one of the three processing priorities, they all undergo the same processing steps.

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## **PRIORITY 1 – INDIVIDUAL REFERRALS**

Priority 1 allows consideration of refugee claims from persons of any nationality<sup>2</sup>, in any location, for whom resettlement appears to be the appropriate durable solution. Priority 1 cases are identified and referred to the program by UNHCR, a U.S. embassy, or a designated NGO. UNHCR, which has the international mandate worldwide to provide protection to refugees, has historically referred the vast majority of cases under this priority. NGOs providing humanitarian assistance in locations where there are large concentrations of refugees may also undergo training by PRM in order to be eligible to provide Priority 1 referrals.

### ***Process for Priority 1 Individual Referral Applications***

Priority 1 referrals from UNHCR and NGOs are generally submitted to the appropriate Regional Refugee Coordinator, who reviews the submissions for completeness and to determine whether they meet the standard of being of special humanitarian concern to the United States. If they meet this requirement, the Refugee Coordinator then forwards them to the appropriate Overseas Processing Entity (OPE) for case processing and scheduling of the DHS/USCIS interview. PRM’s Office of Admissions reviews embassy referrals for completeness and to ensure that the cases are

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<sup>2</sup> Referrals of North Koreans and Palestinians require State Department and DHS concurrence before they may be granted access.



of special humanitarian concern to the United States and may consult with DHS in considering these referrals.

A U.S. ambassador may make a Priority 1 referral for persons still in their country of origin if the ambassador determines that such cases meet the general referral criteria. Such an in-country Embassy referral can be made with the understanding that Significant Public Benefit Parole (SPBP – a program administered by the Department of Homeland Security) may be a more appropriate option in most cases.

## **PRIORITY 2 – GROUP REFERRALS**

Priority 2 includes specific groups (within certain nationalities, clans or ethnic groups, sometimes in specified locations) identified by the Department of State in consultation with DHS/USCIS, NGOs, UNHCR, and other experts as being in need of resettlement. Some Priority 2 groups are processed in their country of origin. The process of identifying the group and its characteristics includes consideration of whether the group is of special humanitarian concern to the United States and whether members of the group will likely be able to qualify for admission as refugees under U.S. law. Groups may be designated as Priority 2 during the course of the year as circumstances dictate and the need for resettlement arises.

Priority 2 group referrals are typically developed with the involvement of UNHCR, Refugee Coordinators, NGOs, PRM program officers, or other State Department officials. PRM plays the coordinating role for all group referrals to the USRAP. There is no minimum or maximum number of applicants required for a group referral.

There are two distinct models of Priority 2 access to the program: open access and predefined group access. Under both models, Priority 2 designations are made based on shared characteristics that define the group. In general, the possession of these characteristics is the reason the group has been persecuted in the past or faces persecution in the future.

The open-access model for Priority 2 group referrals allows individuals to seek access to the program on the basis of meeting designated criteria. To establish an open-access Priority 2 group, PRM, in consultation with DHS/USCIS, and (as appropriate) with UNHCR and others, defines the specific criteria for access. Once the designation is in place, applicants may approach the program at any of the processing locations specified as

available for the group to begin the application process. Applicants must demonstrate that they possess the required characteristic(s) to establish eligibility for inclusion.

The open-access model has functioned well in the in-country programs including the long-standing programs in the former Soviet Union, Cuba, and Vietnam. It was also used successfully for Bosnian refugees during the 1990s and is now in use for Iranian religious minorities and Iraqis with links to the U.S.

The OPE(s) responsible for handling open-access Priority 2 applications, working under the direction of PRM, make a preliminary determination as to whether the applicants qualify for access and should be presented to DHS/USCIS for interview. Applicants who clearly do not meet the access requirements are “screened out” prior to DHS/USCIS interview.

A predefined group is clearly identified both in number and location and linked to a specific list of eligible refugee applicants. Once PRM has established the access eligibility criteria for the group, in consultation with DHS/USCIS, the referring entity provides a list of eligible refugee applicants for processing. This type of group referral is advantageous in situations in which the intensive labor required to generate individual referrals would be impracticable, potentially harmful, or counterproductive. Often predefined groups are composed of persons with similar persecution claims. The predefined-group referral process is a step-saver and can conserve scarce resources, particularly for UNHCR. Predefined group referrals with clear, well-defined eligibility criteria and several methods for crosschecking group membership can serve as a fraud deterrent as well, preventing non-group members from gaining access to the USRAP by fraudulently claiming group membership. It can also speed the resettlement process in cases where immediate protection concerns are present.

## **FY 2009 Priority 2 Designations**

### ***In-country processing programs***

The following ongoing programs that process individuals still in their country of origin under Priority 2 group designations will continue in FY 2009:

### Former Soviet Union

This Priority 2 designation applies to Jews, Evangelical Christians, and Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox religious activists identified in the Lautenberg Amendment, Public Law No. 101-167, § 599D, 103 Stat. 1261 (1989), as amended (“Lautenberg Amendment”), with close family in the United States.

### Cuba

Included in this Priority 2 program are human rights activists, members of persecuted religious minorities, former political prisoners, forced-labor conscripts (1965-68), persons deprived of their professional credentials or subjected to other disproportionately harsh or discriminatory treatment resulting from their perceived or actual political or religious beliefs or activities, and persons who have experienced or fear harm because of their relationship – family or social – to someone who falls under one of the preceding categories.

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### Vietnam

This Priority 2 designation includes the few remaining active cases eligible under the former Orderly Departure Program (ODP) and Resettlement Opportunity for Vietnamese Returnees (ROVR) programs. In addition, it includes the Humanitarian Resettlement initiative opened during FY 2006 to permit consideration of individuals who, due to no fault of their own, were unable to access the ODP program prior to its cut-off date. It also includes Amerasian immigrants, whose numbers are counted as refugee admissions.

### Iraqis Associated with the United States Government

Under various Priority 2 designations, including those set forth in the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act, employees of the USG, a USG-funded contractor or grantee, and U.S. media and NGOs working in Iraq, and certain family members of such employees, as well as beneficiaries of approved I-130 (immigrant visa) petitions, are eligible for refugee processing in Iraq.

### ***Groups of Humanitarian Concern outside the Country of Origin***

The following Priority 2 groups are already designated and, in most cases, undergoing processing with significant arrivals anticipated during FY 2009. (Additional Priority 2 groups may be designated over the course of the year.)

Ethnic Minorities and others from Burma in camps in Thailand

Under this existing Priority 2 designation, individuals who have fled Burma and who are registered in nine refugee camps along the Thai/Burma border and who are identified by UNHCR as in need of resettlement are eligible for processing.

Ethnic Minorities and others from Burma in Malaysia

Under this existing Priority 2 designation, individuals who have fled Burma and who are recognized by UNHCR as refugees in Malaysia and identified as being in need of resettlement are eligible for processing.

Burundians in Tanzania

Under this existing Priority 2 designation, UNHCR-identified Burundian refugees who originally fled Burundi in 1972 to other countries and subsequently moved to Tanzania owing to conflict in those original asylum countries and who have no possibility either to settle permanently in Tanzania or return to Burundi are eligible for processing. Most of these individuals will arrive by the end of FY 2008 and we expect very few arrivals under this designation in FY 2009.

Bhutanese in Nepal

Under this existing Priority 2 designation, Bhutanese refugees registered by UNHCR in camps in Nepal and identified as in need of resettlement are eligible for processing.

Iranian Religious Minorities

Under this existing Priority 2 designation, Iranian members of certain religious minorities are eligible for processing.

Sudanese Darfurians in Iraq

Under this Priority 2 designation, Sudanese Darfurians living in a refugee camp in Anbar Governorate in Iraq would be eligible for processing if a suitable location can be identified.

Iraqis Associated with the United States Government

Under various Priority 2 designations, including those set forth in the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act, employees of the USG, a USG-funded contractor or grantee, and U.S. media and NGOs working in Iraq, and certain family members of such employees, as well as beneficiaries of approved I-130 (immigrant visa) petitions, are eligible for refugee processing.

### Eritreans in Shimelba

Under this new Priority 2 designation, all Eritrean refugees in Shimelba Camp, Ethiopia (except those Kunama who previously went through refugee processing), and who were registered with UNHCR prior to August 6, 2008 are eligible for processing.

### **PRIORITY 3 – FAMILY REUNIFICATION**

The Priority 3 category affords USRAP access to members of designated nationalities who have immediate family members in the United States who entered as refugees or were granted asylum. At the beginning of each fiscal year, PRM, in consultation with DHS/USCIS, establishes the list of nationalities eligible for processing under this priority. The list may be modified by the PRM Assistant Secretary during the year, but additions or deletions are generally made to coincide with the fiscal year.

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Fundamentally, inclusion on the Priority 3 list represents a finding by PRM that the nationality is of special humanitarian concern to the United States for the purpose of family-reunification refugee processing. Eligible nationalities are selected following careful review of several factors.

UNHCR's annual assessment of refugees in need of resettlement provides insight into ongoing refugee situations which could create the need for family-reunification processing. In addition, prospective or ongoing repatriation efforts and U.S. foreign policy interests must be weighed in determining which nationalities should be eligible.

To qualify for access under Priority 3, an applicant must be outside of his or her country of origin, have an Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) filed on his or her behalf by an eligible "anchor" relative in the United States during a period in which the nationality was included on the eligibility list, and be cleared for onward processing by the DHS/USCIS Refugee Access Verification Unit (RAVU).

In March, in consultation with DHS/USCIS, PRM suspended P-3 processing and issued a moratorium on P-3 arrivals of certain nationalities due to indications of extremely high rates of fraud obtained through a pilot program for DNA testing. PRM and DHS/USCIS are currently examining how additional procedures including biometric measures may be incorporated into P-3 processing on a more regular basis so that we can resume family reunification among these nationalities while safeguarding the integrity of the program.

The following relatives of the U.S.-based anchor are eligible for inclusion on the case: spouses, unmarried children under 21, or parents. Qualifying anchors are persons who were admitted to the United States as refugees or were granted asylum, including persons who are lawful permanent residents or U.S. citizens who were initially admitted to the United States as refugees or were granted asylum.

### **FY 2009 Priority 3 Nationalities**

Nationalities identified for P-3 access in FY 2009 are listed below.

Afghanistan  
Bhutan  
Burma  
Burundi  
Central African Republic  
Colombia  
Cuba  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)  
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Haiti  
Iran  
Iraq  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Uzbekistan  
Zimbabwe

### **VISAS 93 – FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOLLOWING-TO-JOIN PETITIONS**

Under 8 CFR Section 207, a refugee admitted to the United States may request following-to-join benefits for his or her spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 if the family has become separated. Once in the United States, and within two years of admission, the refugee may file a Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition<sup>3</sup> for each eligible family

<sup>3</sup> This petition is used to file for the relatives of refugees and asylees – known as Visas 93 and Visas 92 cases respectively. The Refugee Admissions Program handles only Visas 93 cases, which are counted within the annual refugee admissions ceiling. Visas 92 cases are not considered to be refugee admissions cases and are not counted in the number of refugees admitted annually.

member with DHS/USCIS. If the Form I-730 is approved by DHS/USCIS (signifying adequate proof of a qualifying family relationship), the National Visa Center then forwards the petition for processing to the embassy or consulate nearest to the location of the beneficiaries of the petition. (Note: In locations where the USRAP has a significant processing operation, these cases are often forwarded to the OPE for initial processing and presentation to DHS/USCIS rather than the consular section within the embassy.)

Cases gaining access to the USRAP through an approved I-730 petition are interviewed by DHS/USCIS or consular officers to verify the relationships claimed in the petition, as well as to examine any applicable bars to status and admissibility to the United States. These interviews are not refugee adjudications. The applicants are not required to demonstrate a persecution claim, as they derive their status from the refugee (or asylee) relative in the United States who filed the petition. Beneficiaries of I-730 petitions may be processed within their country of origin or in other locations.

Anchor relatives in the United States may file an I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition and seek Priority 3 access (if eligible) simultaneously. In some cases, the I-730 will be the only option as the family members are still in their country of origin. It is also important to note that the I-730 or "follow-to-join" process is more limited than Priority 3 in that it does not allow the relative in the United States to petition for parents.

## **DHS/USCIS REFUGEE ADJUDICATIONS**

Section 207(c) of the INA grants the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security authority to admit, at his/her discretion, any refugee who is not firmly resettled in a third country, who is determined to be of special humanitarian concern, and who is admissible to the United States. The authority to determine eligibility for refugee status has been delegated to DHS/USCIS. Beginning in FY 2006, DHS/USCIS restructured the Refugee Affairs Division and established the Refugee Corps. The Refugee Corps is staffed by DHS/USCIS officers dedicated to adjudicating applications for refugee status. The Refugee Corps provides DHS/USCIS with the necessary resources and flexibility to respond to an increasingly diversified refugee admissions program. DHS/USCIS has also substantially enhanced its anti-fraud, training, and policy-setting capacity related to refugee processing.

## ***The Eligibility Determination***

In order to be approved as a refugee, an applicant must meet the refugee definition contained in § 101(a)(42) of the INA. That section provides that a refugee is a person who is outside his or her country of nationality or last habitual residence and is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. As mentioned above, the President may specify special circumstances under which a person can meet the refugee definition when he or she is still within the country of origin. The definition excludes a person who has ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Further, an applicant who has been “firmly resettled” in a third country may not be admitted under INA § 207. Applicants are also subject to various statutory grounds of inadmissibility, including criminal, security, and public health grounds, some of which may be waived.

A DHS/USCIS officer conducts a non-adversarial, face-to-face interview of each applicant designed to elicit information about the applicant’s claim for refugee status and any grounds of ineligibility. The officer asks questions about the applicant’s experiences in the country of origin, including problems and fears about returning (or remaining), as well as questions concerning the applicant’s activities, background and criminal history. The officer also considers evidence about conditions in the country of origin and assesses the applicant’s credibility and claim.

## ***Background Checks***

DHS/USCIS and PRM, through its OPEs, share responsibility for initiating background checks on refugee applicants, including name checks and biometrics (fingerprints) for applicants age 14 and older.



## PROCESSING ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### *Overseas Processing Services*

In most processing locations, PRM engages a NGO, an international organization (IO), or U.S. embassy contractors to manage an OPE that assists in the processing of refugees for admission to the United States. OPE staff pre-screen applicants to determine preliminarily if they qualify for one of the applicable processing priorities and to prepare cases for DHS/USCIS adjudication. The OPEs assist applicants in completing documentary requirements and schedule DHS/USCIS refugee interviews. If an applicant is approved for resettlement, OPE staff guide the refugee through post-adjudication steps, including obtaining medical screening exams and attending cultural orientation programs. The OPE obtains sponsorship assurances and, once all required steps are completed, refers the case to IOM for transportation to the United States.

In FY 2008, NGOs (Church World Service, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, International Rescue Committee) worked under cooperative agreements with PRM as OPEs at locations in Austria, Ghana (covering West and Central Africa), Kenya (covering East and Southern Africa), and Thailand (covering East Asia). International organizations and NGOs (IOM and the International Catholic Migration Commission [ICMC]) support refugee processing activities based in Egypt, Russia, Nepal and Turkey covering the Middle East, South and Central Asia and Europe. The admissions program operates under “in-house” arrangements at U.S. Government (USG) installations in Cuba and Vietnam. If necessary, PRM will establish additional OPEs in FY 2009.

### *Cultural Orientation*

The Department of State strives to ensure that refugees who are accepted for admission to the United States are prepared for the significant life changes they will experience by providing cultural orientation programs prior to departure for the United States. It is critical that refugees arrive with a realistic view of what their new lives will be like, what services are available to them, and what their responsibilities will be.

Every refugee family receives *Welcome to the United States*, a resettlement guidebook developed with input from refugee resettlement workers, resettled refugees, and state government officials. *Welcome to the*

*United States* is produced in 15 languages: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, English, Farsi, French, Karen, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Through this book, refugees have access to accurate information about the initial resettlement period before they arrive. The *Welcome to the United States* refugee orientation video is available in 15 languages: Af-Maay, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, English, Farsi, French, Hmong, Karen, Kirundi, Kiswahili, Nepali, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. In addition, the Department of State enters into cooperative agreements for one-to-three day pre-departure orientation classes for eligible refugees at sites throughout the world. In an effort to further bridge the information gap, for certain groups, brief video presentations featuring the experience of recently resettled refugees of the same ethnic group are made available to refugee applicants overseas.

### ***Transportation***

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The Department of State funds the transportation of refugees resettled in the United States through a program administered by IOM. The cost of transportation is provided to refugees in the form of a loan. Refugees are responsible for repaying these loans over time, beginning six months after their arrival.

### ***Reception and Placement (R&P)***

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PRM currently funds cooperative agreements with ten entities – nine private voluntary agencies and one state government agency – to provide initial resettlement services to arriving refugees. The R&P agencies agree to provide initial reception and core services (including housing, furnishings, clothing, food, and medical, employment and social service referrals) to arriving refugees. These services are provided according to standards of care developed jointly by the NGO community and U.S. Government agencies. The ten organizations maintain a nationwide network of some 350 affiliated offices to provide services. Two of the organizations also maintain a network of 20 affiliated offices through which PRM places unaccompanied refugee minors into foster care funded by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Using R&P funds from PRM supplemented by cash and in-kind contributions from private and other sources, the R&P agreement obligates the participating agencies to provide the following services:

- Sponsorship;
- Pre-arrival resettlement planning, including placement;
- Reception on arrival;
- Basic needs support (including housing, furnishings, food, and clothing) for at least 30 days;
- Community orientation;
- Referrals to health, employment, education and other services as needed; and
- Case management and tracking for 90-180 days.

Refugees are eligible for lawful employment upon arrival in the United States. After one year, a refugee is required to apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident. Five years after admission, a refugee who has been granted lawful permanent resident status is eligible to apply for citizenship.

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III. REGIONAL PROGRAMS

TABLE II  
PROPOSED FY 2009 REGIONAL CEILINGS BY PRIORITY

<b><u>AFRICA</u></b>	
Approved pipeline from FY 2008	3,000
Priority 1 Individual Referrals	4,000
Priority 2 Groups	4,000
Priority 3 Family Reunification Refugees	1,000
	<b><u>Total Proposed: 12,000</u></b>
<b><u>EAST ASIA</u></b>	
Approved pipeline from FY 2008	5,900
Priority 1 Individual Referrals	600
Priority 2 Groups	12,400
Priority 3 Family Reunification Refugees	100
	<b><u>Total Proposed: 19,000</u></b>
<b><u>EUROPE / CENTRAL ASIA</u></b>	
Approved pipeline from FY 2008	580
Priority 1 Individual Referrals	400
Priority 2 Groups	1,500
Priority 3 Family Reunification Refugees	20
	<b><u>Total Proposed: 2,500</u></b>
<b><u>LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN</u></b>	
Approved pipeline from FY 2008	1,850
Priority 1 Individual Referrals	100
Priority 2 Groups	2,500
Priority 3 Family Reunification Refugees	50
	<b><u>Total Proposed: 4,500</u></b>
<b><u>NEAR EAST / SOUTH ASIA</u></b>	
Approved pipeline from FY 2008	10,900
Priority 1 Individual Referrals	14,000
Priority 2 Groups	12,000
Priority 3 Family Reunification Refugees	100
	<b><u>Total Proposed: 37,000</u></b>
<b><u>UNALLOCATED RESERVE</u></b>	5,000
	<b><u>TOTAL PROPOSED CEILING: 80,000</u></b>

In the following regional program overviews, a description of refugee conditions and religious freedom in each region is provided. In addition, prospects for voluntary repatriation, resettlement within the region, and third-country resettlement are discussed.

**TABLE IV**  
**Refugee Arrivals By Country of Origin**  
**Fiscal Year 2007**

Country of Origin	Arrivals	
	Number	% of Total
Afghanistan	441	0.91%
Angola	4	0.01%
Austria	1	0.00%
Benin	1	0.00%
Burkina Faso (U Volta)	6	0.01%
Burma	13,896	28.78%
Burundi	4,545	9.41%
Cambodia	15	0.03%
Cameroon	5	0.01%
Central Africa Republic	15	0.03%
Chad	10	0.02%
China	27	0.06%
Colombia	54	0.11%
Congo	206	0.43%
Cuba	2,922	6.05%
Democratic Republic of Congo	848	1.76%
Egypt	3	0.01%
Equatorial Guinea	14	0.03%
Eritrea	963	1.99%
Ethiopia	1,028	2.13%
Former Soviet Union*	4,557	9.44%
Former Yugoslavia**	2	0.00%
France	1	0.00%
Ghana	4	0.01%
Guinea	1	0.00%
Iran	5,481	11.35%
Iraq	1,608	3.33%

Country of Origin	Arrivals	
	Number	% of Total
Israel	1	0.00%
Ivory Coast	11	0.02%
Jordan	3	0.01%
Korea, North	22	0.05%
Kuwait	24	0.05%
Laos	117	0.24%
Liberia	1,606	3.33%
Mauritania	62	0.13%
Nepal	3	0.01%
Nigeria	20	0.04%
Pakistan	30	0.06%
Rwanda	202	0.42%
Sierra Leone	166	0.34%
Somalia	6,969	14.43%
Sri Lanka (Ceylon)	2	0.00%
Sudan	704	1.46%
Syria	17	0.04%
Thailand	2	0.00%
The Gambia	13	0.03%
Togo	40	0.08%
Uganda	38	0.08%
Vietnam	1,564	3.24%
Yemen	6	0.01%
Zimbabwe	1	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,281</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\* Former Soviet Union includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

\*\* Former Yugoslavia includes Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, and Yugoslavia.

*Source: Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Refugee Processing Center*

**TABLE V**  
**Median Age and Gender of Refugee Arrivals, Fiscal Year 2007**

<b>Rank (# of Arrivals)</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Refugees Admitted</b>	<b>Median Age</b>	<b>% Females</b>	<b>% Males</b>
1	Burma	13,896	22	44.0%	56.0%
2	Somalia	6,969	23	48.3%	51.7%
3	Iran	5,481	33	49.8%	50.2%
4	Former Soviet Union*	4,557	29	50.8%	49.2%
5	Burundi	4,545	30	49.3%	50.7%
6	Cuba	2,922	30	49.1%	50.9%
7	Iraq	1,608	27	51.4%	48.6%
8	Liberia	1,606	22	52.5%	47.5%
9	Vietnam	1,564	31	50.8%	49.2%
10	Ethiopia	1,028	23	48.4%	51.6%
11	Eritrea	963	21	39.7%	60.3%
12	Dem. Rep. Congo	848	19	48.3%	51.7%
13	Sudan	704	22	45.3%	54.7%
14	Afghanistan	441	24	49.0%	51.0%
15	Congo	206	22	48.1%	51.9%
16	Rwanda	202	23	49.5%	50.5%
17	Sierra Leone	166	25	47.6%	52.4%
18	Laos	117	22	45.3%	54.7%
19	Mauritania	62	24	46.8%	53.2%
20	Colombia	6654	27	46.3%	53.7%
	All Other Countries	342	25	50.6%	50.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>48,281</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>47.7%</b>	<b>52.3%</b>

\* Former Soviet Union includes countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

*Source: Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Refugee Processing Center*

**TABLE VI**  
**Select Age Categories of Refugee Arrivals, Fiscal Year 2007**

<b>Rank (# of Arrivals)</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Under 5 Yrs</b>	<b>School Age (5-17)</b>	<b>Working Age (18-64)</b>	<b>Retirement Age (=or &gt; 65)</b>
1	Burma	11.5%	28.6%	62.7%	1.2%
2	Somalia	7.9%	31.5%	65.6%	3.0%
3	Iran	3.6%	17.7%	74.9%	7.0%
4	Former Soviet Union*	8.6%	28.9%	59.8%	7.4%
5	Burundi	16.4%	37.8%	49.1%	1.7%
6	Cuba	5.3%	20.9%	73.9%	3.0%
7	Iraq	7.5%	24.8%	68.7%	3.0%
8	Liberia	5.3%	37.1%	64.5%	2.2%
9	Vietnam	6.8%	25.8%	62.7%	8.7%
10	Ethiopia	4.6%	34.4%	69.9%	1.9%
11	Eritrea	13.6%	23.7%	64.5%	1.3%
12	Dem. Rep. Congo	12.4%	38.9%	54.8%	0.4%
13	Sudan	13.8%	26.3%	63.9%	1.1%
14	Afghanistan	6.3%	37.6%	61.2%	1.8%
15	Congo	13.6%	26.7%	64.1%	0.0%
16	Rwanda	6.9%	30.2%	69.8%	0.5%
17	Sierra Leone	5.4%	27.1%	68.1%	3.6%
18	Laos	17.9%	31.6%	49.6%	5.1%
19	Mauritania	6.5%	30.6%	66.1%	1.6%
20	Colombia	3.7%	29.6%	64.8%	1.9%
	Other Countries	8.8%	24.9%	69.3%	1.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>		9.3%	28.5%	64.0%	3.2%

\* Former Soviet Union includes countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

NOTE: Totals may exceed 100% due to overlapping age categories.

Source: Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Refugee Processing Center



**TABLE VII**  
**Refugee Arrivals By State of Initial Resettlement, Fiscal Year 2007**

<b>STATE</b>	<b>Refugee Arrivals</b>	<b>Amerasian Arrivals</b>	<b>Total Arrivals</b>	<b>% of Total Arrivals to U.S.</b>
Alabama	135	0	135	0.28%
Alaska	30	0	30	0.06%
Arizona	1,992	0	1,992	4.13%
Arkansas	6	0	6	0.01%
California	6,699	8	6,707	13.89%
Colorado	950	4	954	1.98%
Connecticut	505	0	505	1.05%
Delaware	22	0	22	0.05%
District of Columbia	32	0	32	0.07%
Florida	2,691	0	2,691	5.57%
Georgia	1,610	7	1,617	3.35%
Hawaii	11	0	11	0.02%
Idaho	782	0	782	1.62%
Illinois	1,872	0	1,872	3.88%
Indiana	1,421	0	1,421	2.94%
Iowa	440	8	448	0.93%
Kansas	156	0	156	0.32%
Kentucky	899	0	899	1.86%
Louisiana	160	0	160	0.33%
Maine	118	0	118	0.24%
Maryland	648	0	648	1.34%
Massachusetts	810	5	815	1.69%
Michigan	1,283	0	1,283	2.66%
Minnesota	3,198	0	3,198	6.62%
Mississippi	1	0	1	0.00%
Missouri	831	0	831	1.72%
Montana	3	0	3	0.01%
Nebraska	487	3	490	1.01%
Nevada	334	0	334	0.69%
New Hampshire	254	0	254	0.53%
New Jersey	591	0	591	1.22%
New Mexico	109	0	109	0.23%

<b>STATE</b>	<b>Refugee Arrivals</b>	<b>Amerasian Arrivals</b>	<b>Total Arrivals</b>	<b>% of Total Arrivals to U.S.</b>
New York	2,978	0	2,978	6.17%
North Carolina	1,805	13	1,818	3.77%
North Dakota	196	0	196	0.41%
Ohio	1,573	0	1,573	3.26%
Oklahoma	156	0	156	0.32%
Oregon	693	0	693	1.44%
Pennsylvania	1,193	8	1,201	2.49%
Puerto Rico	8	0	8	0.02%
Rhode Island	139	0	139	0.29%
South Carolina	106	0	106	0.22%
South Dakota	219	0	219	0.45%
Tennessee	961	0	961	1.99%
Texas	4,394	7	4,401	9.12%
Utah	924	0	924	1.91%
Vermont	147	0	147	0.30%
Virginia	1,059	0	1,059	2.19%
Washington	2,215	1	2,216	4.59%
Wisconsin	371	0	371	0.77%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,217</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>48,281</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Note: Arrival figures do not reflect secondary migration.

*Source: Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Refugee Processing Center*

**TABLE VIII – With DHS**  
**ESTIMATED COSTS OF REFUGEE PROCESSING, MOVEMENT, AND RESETTLEMENT**  
**FY 2008 FUNDING AND FY 2009 BUDGET REQUEST**  
**(\$ MILLIONS)**

AGENCY	FUNDING FY 2008 (BY ACTIVITY)	ESTIMATED FUNDING FY 2009 (BY ACTIVITY)
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</b>		
<i>United States Citizenship and Immigration Services</i>		
<b>Refugee Processing</b>	<b>\$ 18.9</b>	<b>\$ 20.8</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF STATE</b>		
<i>Bureau of Population, Refugee, and Migration</i>		
<b>Refugee Admissions</b>	<b>\$ 263*</b>	<b>\$ 213.4**</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
<i>Administration for Children and Families, Office of Refugee Resettlement</i>		
<b>Refugee Resettlement</b>	<b>\$ 523.0***</b>	<b>\$ 514.0***</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 700.4</b>	<b>\$ 722.8</b>

\* Includes recoveries and carry-over from prior fiscal years and funding from FY 2008 supplemental appropriation.

\*\* Does not include FY 2009 bridge funding, recoveries, or carry-over funding from FY 2008, which may become available to support the admissions program.

\*\*\* Does not include costs associated with the Unaccompanied Alien Children's Program, Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, or Supplemental Security Income programs. HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) refugee benefits and services are also provided to asylees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, certain Amerasians from Vietnam, victims of a severe form of trafficking who have received certification or eligibility letters from ORR, and certain family members who are accompanying or following to join victims of severe forms of trafficking, and some victims of torture, as well as Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants and their spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21. None of these additional groups is included in the refugee admissions ceiling.

**TABLE IX**  
**UNHCR Resettlement Statistics by Resettlement Country**  
**CY 2007**  
**DEPARTURES**

RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY	TOTAL	PERCENT OF TOTAL RESETTLED
United States*	26,532	59.88%
Australia	6,056	12.14%
Canada	5,998	12.03%
Sweden	1,772	3.55%
Norway	978	1.96%
Finland	714	0.96%
New Zealand	629	1.26%
Denmark	480	1.43%
Netherlands	425	0.70%
Great Britain	348	0.85%
Brazil	163	0.21%
Ireland	107	0.33%
Chile	32	0.06%
Argentina	32	0.06%
Belgium	17	0.03%
Switzerland	7	0.01%
Other**	18	0.21%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,308</b>	

\*Includes departures to the U.S. of individuals referred to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program by UNHCR

\*\*Departures to Austria, France, Germany, and Italy