



Global Refuge

Formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. New name, same mission.

With the person or people next to you, please share about a time when you remember feeling welcomed or a place you found refuge.

Global Refuge

*“God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.”*

– Psalm 46





We are



Global Refugee

History

Welcoming new neighbors since 1939

- The National Lutheran Council (NLC) set up a Welfare Department with an office for the “rehabilitation and placement of Lutheran refugees” in the aftermath of World War I - serving 522 in the first year.
- In years since, LIRS welcomed more than 800,000 newcomers – responding to conflicts in Cuba, Uganda, Vietnam, The Balkans, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine, Venezuela and more.



Mission:

As a witness to God's love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.

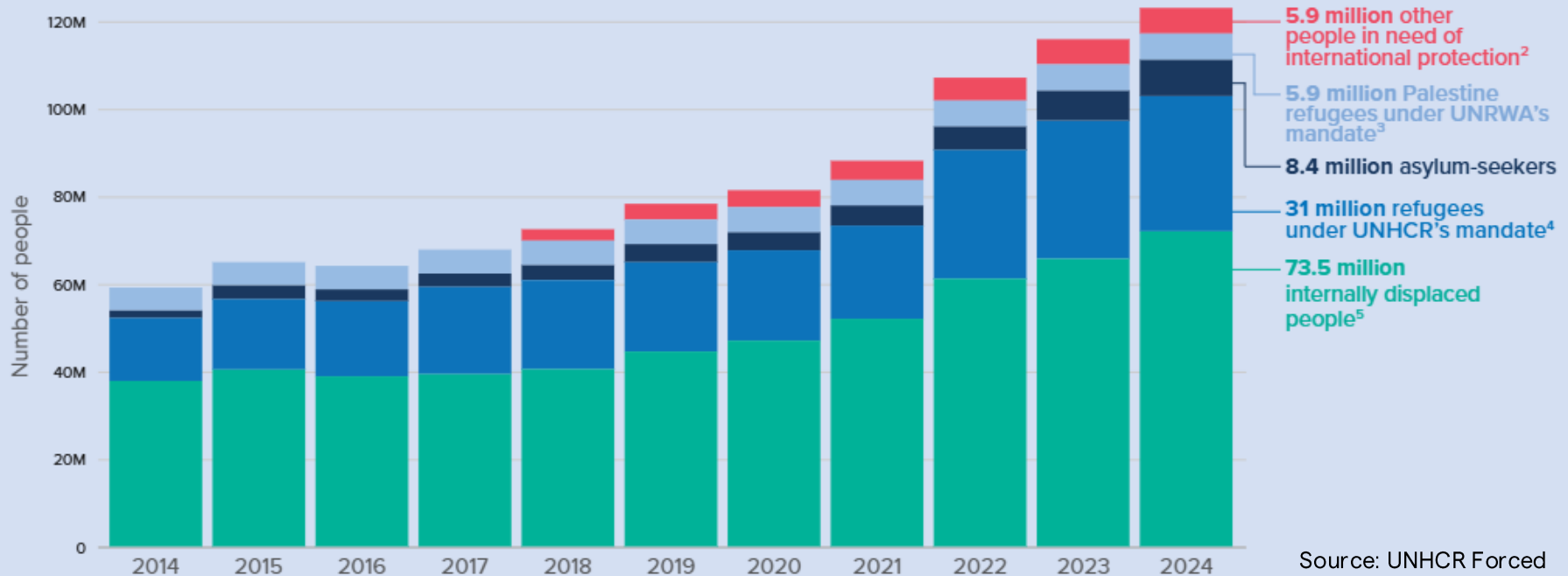
Vision:

All Immigrants and Refugees are protected, embraced, and empowered in a world of just and welcoming communities.

123.2 MILLION

FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE¹

at the end of 2024 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order.



Source: UNHCR Forced Displacement Report 2024

73% HOSTED IN LOW-AND MIDDLE- INCOME COUNTRIES

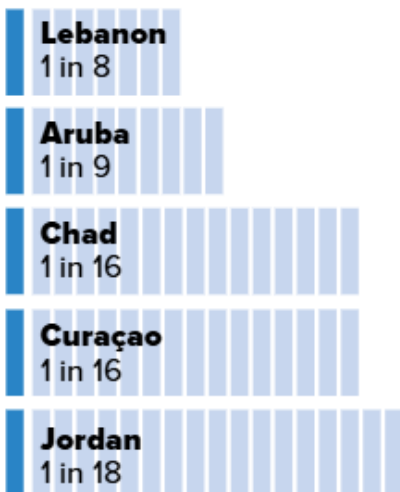
Low- and middle-income countries hosted 73 per cent of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection.⁶ The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 23 per cent of the total.

67% HOSTED IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

67 per cent of refugees and other people in need of international protection lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

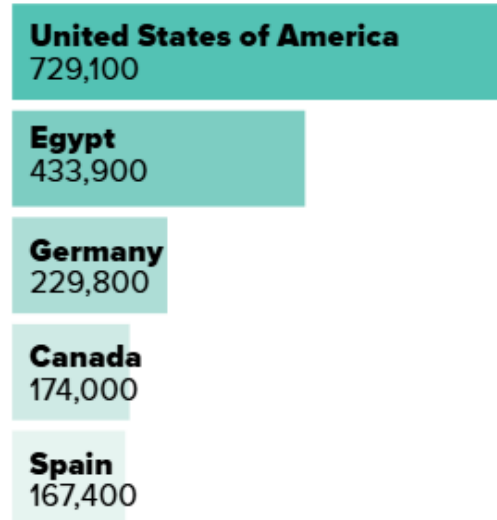
1 IN 8 ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations,⁷ Lebanon (1 in 8) hosted the largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection, followed by the island of Aruba (1 in 9), Chad (1 in 16), Curaçao (1 in 16) and Jordan (1 in 18).⁸



3.1 MILLION NEW CLAIMS

The United States of America⁹ was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications.



Source: UNHCR Forced Displacement Report 2024

Refugee, Asylum Seeker, Immigrant

What do these words mean?

- **Immigrant:** Any person who leaves their home country and moves to another country permanently
- **Refugee:** Someone who is unable to return to their country of origin owing to a well- founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Refugee claimants apply for and receive the status before they arrive in their country of resettlement.
- **Asylee/ Asylum Seeker:** Someone who is unable to return to their country of origin owing to a well- founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. Asylum seekers apply for their status at a US port of entry or after they are already admitted to the US.

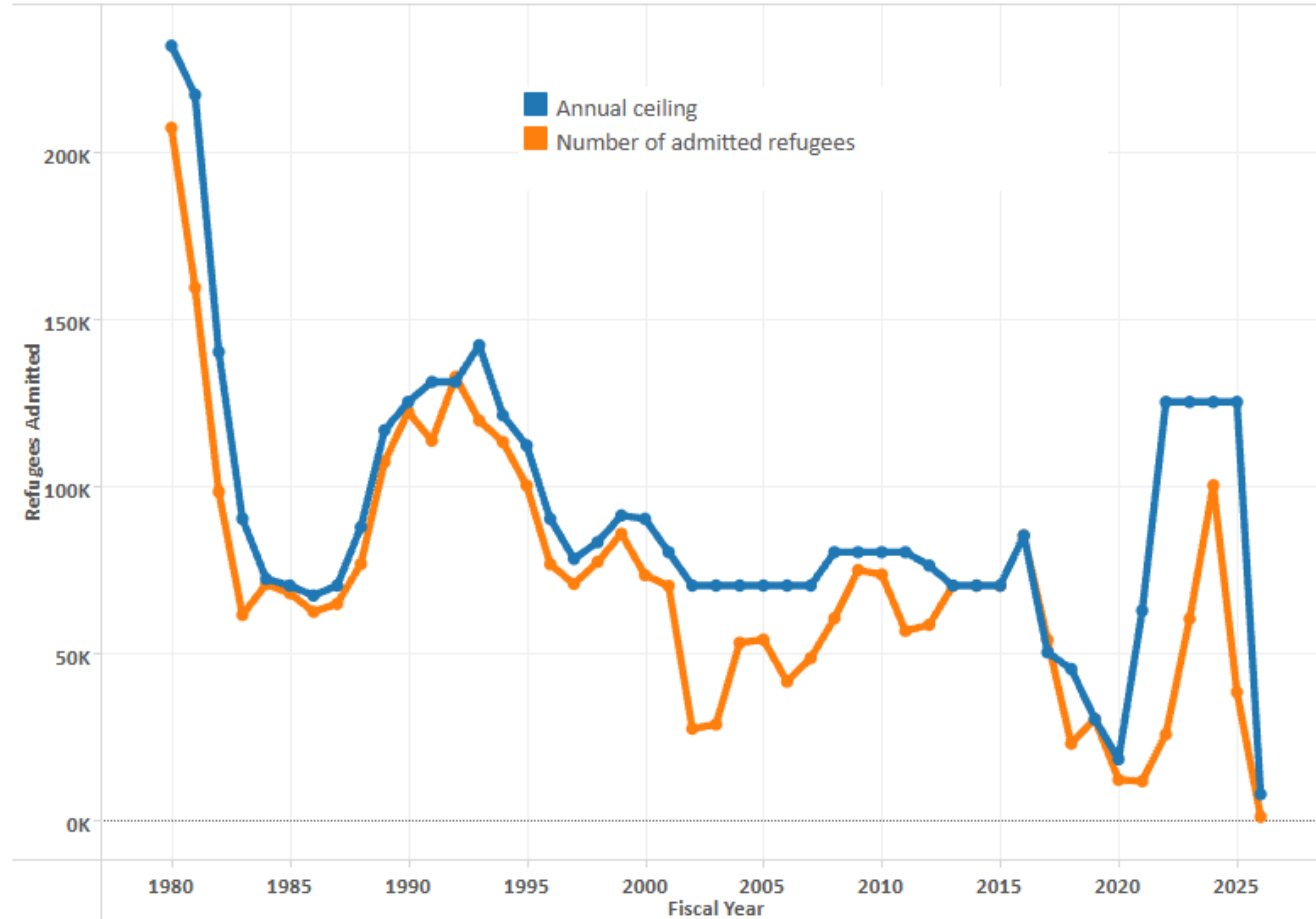
Refugee Resettlement

- Refugees are individuals who have fled their home country due to a ***well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.***
- Refugees apply for protection through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or directly at U.S. embassies while still outside of the U.S.
- Refugees undergo rigorous vetting by several different US agencies, including background checks and medical screenings prior to being approved to travel to the United States.
- Global Refuge serves refugee clients at Field Offices in Baltimore, Fargo, and San Antonio and with the help of affiliate partners across the country during refugees' first 90 days and throughout the long welcome.

The Refugee Ceiling

- Established by the Refugee Act of 1980, this limit determines how many refugees can be admitted into the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).
- The Refugee Ceiling is established by the President in consultation with Congress.
 - In 2025, the President set the refugee ceiling without consultation with Congress, meeting with Congress after the legal deadline had passed
- The **2026 Refugee Ceiling** is set at 7,500. This is the lowest level in the program's 45-year history.

U.S. Refugee Admissions & Refugee Resettlement Ceilings, FY 1980-2026(Q1)*



Source: Migration Policy Institute

The Arrival Process

- Refugees are approved before they travel to the United States
- Upon arrival, Global Refuge assists with finding housing, job opportunities, English classes, transportation, and anything else that individuals or families may need in their first 90 days in the United States
- Global Refuge focuses on the “Long Welcome” – churches invite families into their congregations, providing support and community to their new neighbors
- This year, there will be a record low of arrivals
- Our clients who were previously self-sufficient are having struggles due to cuts in SNAP and other executive orders
- Our work on the Mobilization Team has taken a hyper-localized approach to meet folks’ needs in their communities.

DISINFORMATION

Myth or Fact

Most immigrants come to the United States illegally.

- Each year, tens of thousands of people migrate to the U.S. via the **refugee resettlement program**, through **work visas**, to **reunite with family**, and more.
- Of those who come through the Southern border, approximately **92% turned themselves in to Border Control** to begin their asylum cases.

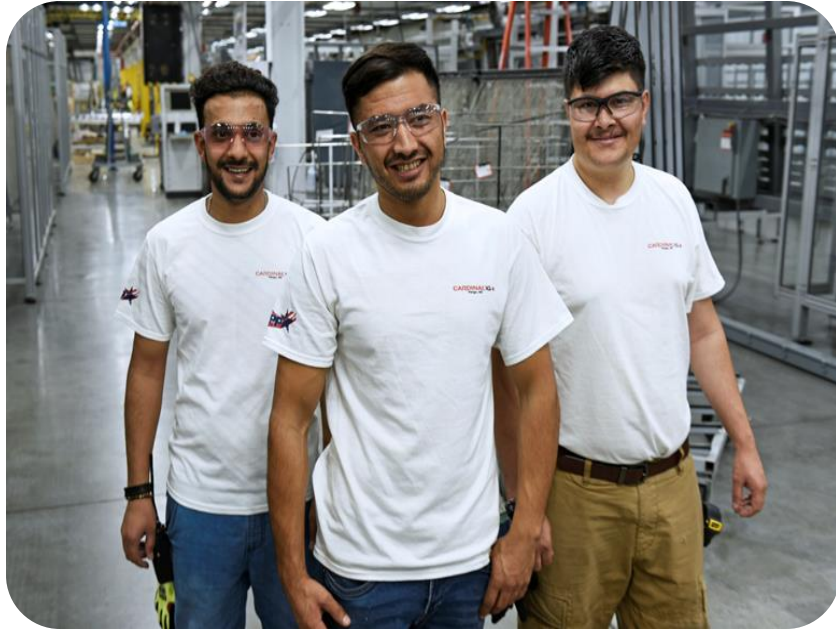


DISINFORMATION

Myth or Fact

Refugees and Immigrants take American Jobs.

- More than **55% of the country's billion-dollar startups** founded by immigrants
 - Immigrants create more jobs than they take
- **2.8 million** immigrants work in healthcare in the U.S.
- **75%** of immigrants work in IT, management, or finance



DISINFORMATION

Myth or Fact

Refugees and immigrants do not pay taxes and are a drain on our nation's resources.

- Refugees and asylees contribute significantly to U.S. communities at the federal, state, and local level through tax payments
 - **19.2%** of all taxes paid in the country
- Refugees and asylees contributed an estimated **\$581 billion in tax revenue** to the U.S. economy from 2005 to 2019.

DISINFORMATION

Myth or Fact

A majority of Americans support Immigration Reform.

- **81% of voters** in battleground states support a pathway to citizenship for immigrants
- **68% of Americans** believe immigration is a good thing for our country.

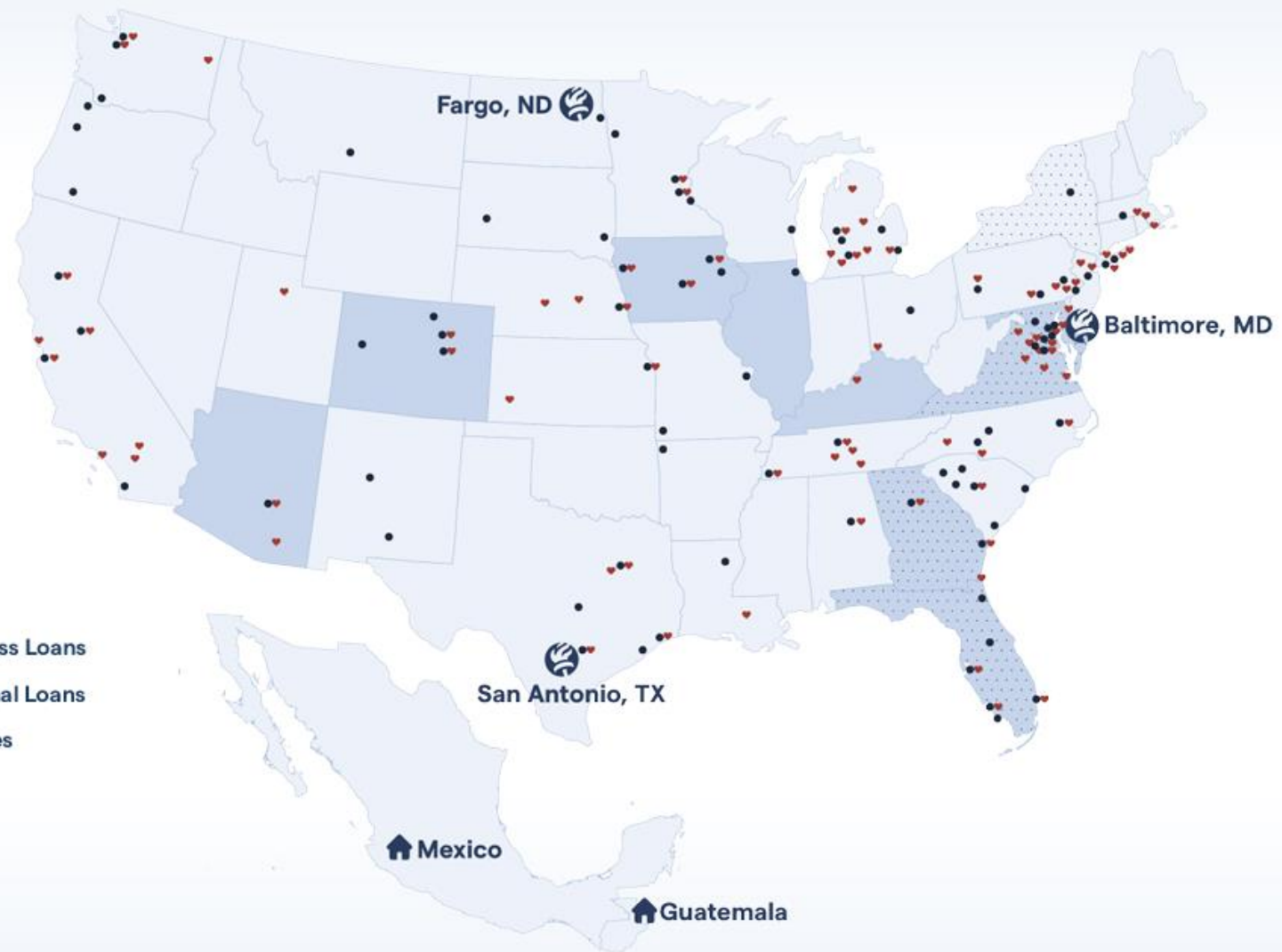


Global Refuge Today

- Camino a Casa
- Mental Health Services
- Preferred Refugee Employers
- New American Careers
- New American Lending
- Legal Services
- Children & Family Services



our impact



-  Global Refuge Field Offices
-  New American Lending - Business Loans
-  New American Lending - Personal Loans
-  Refugee and Integration Services
-  Children and Family Services
-  Camino a Casa*

*map not to scale

The Long Welcome and Care for Unaccompanied Children

Serving Refugees through the 'Long Welcome'

- Economic Empowerment
- Emergency Needs

Caring for unaccompanied children

- Foster Care
- Family Reunification
- Mental Health



Legal Services & New American Lending

New American Legal Services helps clients navigate a complicated system

- Aiding in accessing work permits
- Helping navigate removal proceedings and immigration court requirements
- Registering/renewing temporary protections

New American Lending (CDFI)

- Business Loans: up to \$15,000
- Personal Loans: up to \$5,000
- Low interest & RIBA-free loans





2025 Year-End Impact Report:

Camino a Casa

As the U.S. escalates immigration enforcement and deportations, many young people are being returned to their home countries, facing a difficult transition with few resources to help them rebuild their lives.

In response to this growing crisis, our Camino a Casa teams in Guatemala and Mexico are ramping up support by expanding services, strengthening partnerships with local organizations and municipalities, and increasing resources to help young people build a stronger future for themselves and their families.

Our 2025 Impact:

3,099
participants
served

We served, trained, and connected individuals through case management, mental health services, and educational opportunities.

514
home
visits

Our social workers, psychologists, and other team members traveled upwards of six hours to check in on youths and their families in their homes.

537
clinical
sessions

We provided personalized sessions to help young people and their families address trauma, strengthen positive coping skills, and build a support system.

9
countries

Our Mexico team served individuals from Angola, the U.S., Brazil, Cuba, Venezuela, and others who have received refugee status in Mexico.

[Luz's Story](#)



How to help

- Join the [Global Refuge Faith Alliance](#) to strengthen your commitment to supporting refugees and immigrants
- Volunteer by becoming a [Global Refuge Ambassador](#)
- [Advocate](#) for newcomers in your community and across the country
- Assemble a [Neighbor Kit](#) for newcomers in need
- [Make a gift](#) to the ministry of welcome

Get Involved

Global Refuge Action Hub



outreach@globalrefuge.org

globalrefuge.org



Global Refuge

Welcoming Newcomers Since 1939