



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FACTSHEET

March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

206,376

New asylum applications filed in the U.S. in 2016*

77,574

New asylum claims in the U.S. by nationals of the Northern Triangle of Central America in 2016*

96,874

Refugees were resettled to the U.S. in 2016

63,961

Unaccompanied children apprehended crossing the U.S. southern border in 2016

Population of concern

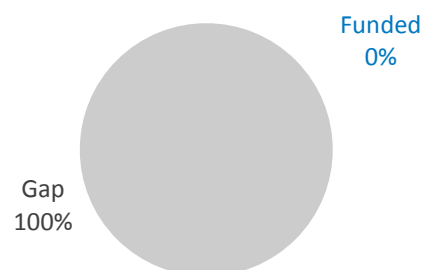
New asylum applications in 2016*:

Country	Asylum-seekers
1. El Salvador	31,995
2. Mexico	31,095
3. Guatemala	26,921
4. China	26,557
5. Venezuela	25,641

*Preliminary data

Funding requirements

USD 17.3 million requested



Context information

UNHCR's operations for the United States and its territories are based out of the Regional Office in Washington. The U.S. has a long-standing commitment to refugee protection, hosting the largest number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Americas region, and leading among UNHCR's global partnerships in resettlement. As a state party to the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees, the U.S. works closely with UNHCR to strengthen protection capacity both domestically and abroad.

In the U.S., UNHCR works closely with government and civil society to ensure meaningful access to asylum, durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, and protection for stateless individuals. UNHCR provides information to the U.S. resettlement program about refugees around the world in need of resettlement, and also works closely with U.S. government agencies and NGOs that assist in resettling refugees in the U.S. Because of the global reach of UNHCR's refugee and humanitarian response, UNHCR informs American media and civil society about its operations and protection trends the world over, and also provides up-to-date and accurate informational briefings to U.S. Administration and Congress.

The U.S. is UNHCR's largest single government donor. UNHCR also works with the U.S. private sector – foundations, corporations and individuals – to connect their support to the lifesaving assistance and sustainable solutions UNHCR provides for millions of families worldwide. UNHCR Washington also supports the Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy for the Northern Triangle of Central America in close collaboration with the offices in Mexico and Central America, and is also implementing advocacy actions relating to the increased needs in the region.

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

21 national staff
9 international staff

Offices:

1 office located in Washington

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- In the United States, UNHCR works with partner NGOs, human rights groups, and international organizations to advocate for protection of asylum-seekers throughout the adjudication process in the United States.
- UNHCR works with the U.S. government through the State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, and with other agencies such as the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Department of Homeland Security, and State Refugee Coordinators.
- UNHCR works with refugee-focused NGOs in the United States to share information and coordinate advocacy efforts.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Strengthening the integrity of the U.S. asylum system through engagement and high level dialogue with government and civil society stakeholders
- Providing technical assistance to U.S. policy makers, disseminating UNHCR resources, and training United States refugee and asylum officers
- Protecting against refoulement, ensuring access to territory, and advocating to safeguard quality asylum procedures
- Monitoring the situation of asylum seekers at borders and detention centers to ensure access to asylum procedures in the U.S.
- Operating a hotline to provide information and assistance to asylum-seekers in the United States

Finding Durable Solutions

- Working with U.S. private and public partners to promote the admission and integration of refugees to the U.S. from all regions
- Working with other UNHCR offices in the region to increase alternative legal pathways from the Northern Triangle of Central America, including through the establishment of the Costa Rica Protection Transfer Agreement (PTA)
- Facilitating resettlement of vulnerable refugees from the Caribbean to the United States
- Compiling data on UNHCR’s global resettlement statistics

External Relations

- Engaging with U.S. policymakers to provide accurate and timely information, and serving as the representation of UNHCR in the United States and Caribbean
- Working closely with NGOs, resettlement agencies, and think tanks in the U.S. to share information and strategies

Public Information

- Engaging with the media and the United States public to provide information about the global refugee crisis, resettlement, and UNHCR’s work around the world
- Producing original content to raise awareness in the United States about refugees and UNHCR’s work

Community Empowerment

- Supporting the Refugee Congress, an independent advisory and advocacy organization designed to give refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in the United States the opportunity to speak for themselves
- Providing information and counseling to persons of concern in the United States, including asylum seekers, resettled refugees, stateless persons, unaccompanied children, and torture survivors

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Sweden \(76 M\)](#) | [Netherlands \(52 M\)](#) | [Norway \(41 M\)](#) | [Denmark \(23M\)](#) | [Australia \(19 M\)](#) | [Switzerland \(15M\)](#) | [Germany \(12M\)](#)

Contacts:

Catia Lopes, External Relations Officer, lopes@unhcr.org, Tel: +41 22 739 7204