International Rescue Committee in Salt Lake City

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2023

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023



Update from the Executive Director

This past year has been a remarkable journey of resilience, transformation, and impactful change, and I am thrilled to share our progress. I am honored to present this update to our community of supporters on the vital work of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Salt Lake City.

First, I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome to the Salt Lake community. Joining the IRC has been a profound experience: I eagerly immersed myself in our local work by connecting with key partners and engaging with the incredible people we serve. As my own journey as an immigrant and asylum seeker shaped my personal commitment to humanitarian service, I hope to provide leadership that will strengthen our programs and services.

565
Newly arrived refugees

4,362
Total people served

During fiscal year 2023, the IRC in Salt Lake City served families arrived from 21 different countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Syria and more. Through expert staff and dedicated community volunteers, we are committed to ensuring families access the tools and resources they need to rebuild their lives in our community.

Families served by the IRC have embodied qualities of resilience, determination, and strength during the resettlement process. The Hussaini family reunited with their Afghan daughters after two years of separation. Their story is a powerful example of resilience during the resettlement process. Another refugee from Kenya, Flavia, persevered with determination for 11 years before resettling to Utah with her children. Flavia worked hard to find a job and put food on the table. The Svieshnikova family's story is also one of strength during the resettlement process as they found "home" after their world turned upside down when war broke out in Ukraine. Learning the resettlement stories of our clients inspires and brings humanity to the forefront of our work.

As we continue our mission to aid those whose lives are shattered by conflict and disaster, we are acutely aware of the challenges faced by refugee families in Utah, particularly amid the housing crisis. This crisis affects all Utahns: we urge our community to join us in advocating for policies that ensure accessible and affordable housing for all. We are dedicated to addressing this challenge head on. As we continue this important work, refugee families continue to arrive, and the IRC will need support from our community to help raise needed resources to ensure housing stability for those who will soon become self-sufficient.

Our commitment to strategic planning remains unwavering, and we are actively pursuing the goals outlined in IRC's global Strategy100. Our vision is to empower those caught in crisis to make lasting change in their lives. Strategy100 serves as our guiding light, emphasizing client-centered, cost-effective programs delivered in collaboration with local partners.

As we move forward, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our community, partners, and donors for their unwavering support. Your crucial support ensures that we can continue providing robust services to newly arrived families, helping them to reach self-sufficiency and also become contributors to the economy of the State of Utah. Together, we can ensure that the IRC remains a beacon of hope for refugees that are making Utah their home.



Many thanks,

Mohamed Cherif Diallo
Executive Director



RESETTLEMENT

The IRC provides resettlement support to refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, unaccompanied children, and other immigrants. To build an impactful approach to self-sufficiency, these services include housing stability, case management, early employment, health & wellness, education and youth support.

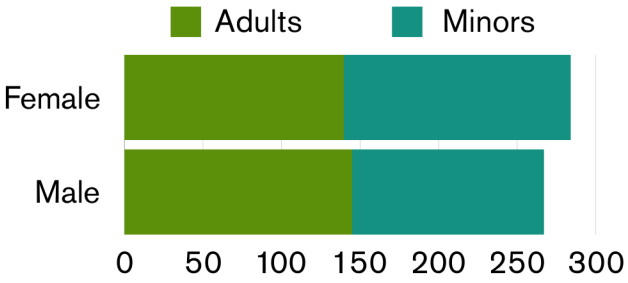
At a glance



Refugees arrived from 21 countries to rebuild in Utah

- Democratic Republic of Congo (36.6%)
- Sudan (8.7%)
- South Sudan (3.2%)
- Afghanistan (15.6%)
- Central African Republic (4.2%)
- Myanmar (3%)
- Syria (11.2%)
- Venezuela (3.4%)
- Other (14.1%) *12 countries with <3%

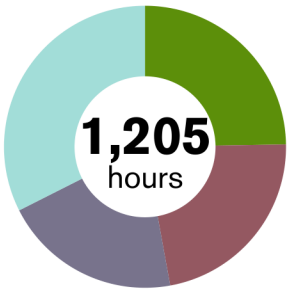
Demographics of newly arrived refugees & asylees



565
Newly arrived refugees & asylees

275
Youth refugees & asylees

1:1 Support hours provided



- Student support volunteers (298)
- Digital inclusion (246)
- Health workshops (270)
- Youth education (391)



4,362
Total people served

1,400
People receiving case management

835
Clients graduated from extended case management

174
Housing set-ups for 551 clients

Education

The IRC supports families through early education, college & career readiness, and adult education. In FY23, the IRC supported the H.B. 102 "Higher Education Amendment" and H.B.154 "English Language Learner Amendments," unanimously-passed bills that provide greater access and funding to refugees within the Utah education system. Mahsa, a former IRC client, shared with the legislature her story of limited education access. The IRC supports the navigation of the education system and provides resources through youth empowerment education, family supports, digital inclusion, college & career readiness, cultural orientation, and adult education.

888 Youth served total

645 Students enrolled in school

290 Laptops distributed

22 Cultural orientations

Health & Wellbeing

Access to holistic health leads to improved long-term outcomes for refugees. The IRC helps refugees navigate the healthcare system and improve access to health education. In the last year, the health team supported refugee teens through classes and physical training to run a 5k race by Girls on the Run Utah. The University of Utah School of Dentistry partnered with the IRC to provide free dental health education classes and screenings. The IRC also provided access to sexual violence prevention and education classes with the Rape Recovery Center to implement a gender equity lens.

5,437 Health care appointments set up

4,667 Health transports by staff and volunteers

1,250 Mental health screenings

100 Mental health referrals

Early Employment

For newly arrived refugees, a job is the first step to long-term success. The IRC supports adults to prepare for and secure their first job in the U.S. within the first three to six months post-arrival. In the last year, the top hiring industries have been operations, packaging, and hospitality. Recently, the employment team worked on securing a job for Brou, a woman who resettled to Utah in April from the Ivory Coast, at a local Hyatt hotel. The IRC focuses efforts to support refugees in reaching self-sufficiency by their 240th day after arrival. From 2022 to 2023, self-sufficiency has increased nearly 50%. The employment team is always looking for more community connections as they build employer partnerships.

164 Clients obtained jobs

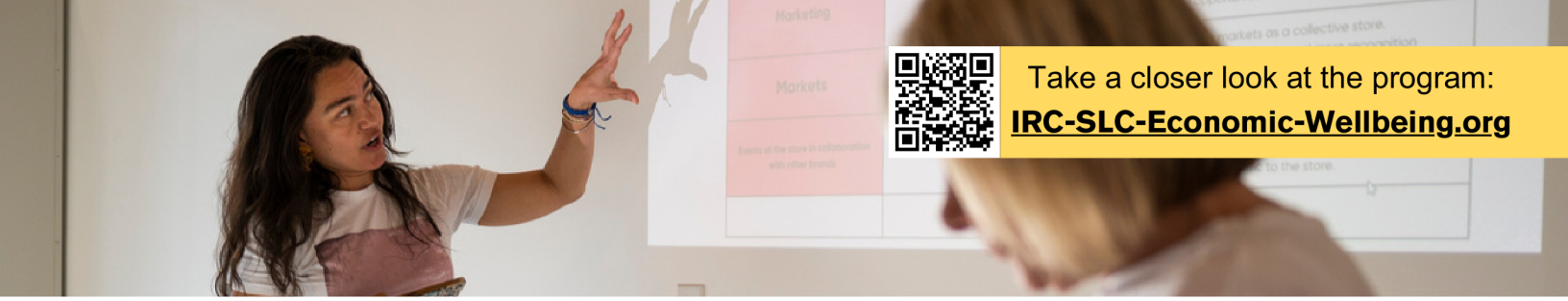
136 Job interviews supported

72% Self-sufficient by 240th day in U.S.

Top hiring employers:

- Radisson Hotel
- Marriott Hotel
- PCA
- UNIFI
- SLC Airport
- Café Rio





Take a closer look at the program:
IRC-SLC-Economic-Wellbeing.org

ECONOMIC WELLBEING

During and after crises, people may be forced to make short-term decisions to survive that can have long-term negative consequences. The goal of this program is to help these individuals navigate the challenges they face by helping them create a stable financial foundation and supporting a variety of small businesses.

At a glance

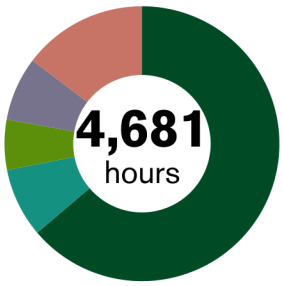
1
Home purchased for $450,000

$1.4M
Total value of assets purchased

53
Business counseling sessions given

$1.2M
Total business grants and loans

1:1 Support hours provided



- New Roots (2,974)
- Small Business (683)
- Spice Kitchen Incubator (380)
- Financial Capabilities (275)
- Additional technical assistance (351)

Financial Capabilities

The IRC provides coaching to help refugees secure their financial future. Liudmyla, a Ukrainian mother of three, took budgeting classes to cut down her expenses and start to save for a car. The program provided tax help, financial literacy classes, loan assistance and more to 167 clients as they navigated the U.S. financial system.

$764,000 Total savings & match to purchase all assets

$246,000 Total federal and state tax refunds

517 Financial literacy and asset building workshops

Small Business

Entrepreneurs, primarily from refugee and immigrant backgrounds, work with the IRC to start, scale or sustain their small businesses. Togo refugee Fatima started her childcare business through the support of this program. Another program enrollee, Andrea, was a finalist in the New American Dream Lab competition by pitching her business to a panel of judges. Through one-on-one coaching and access to small business financial tools, the small business team helps diverse entrepreneurs achieve their goals.



221 Entrepreneurs served

$196,000 Funding awarded from 10 grants, 10 business loans

237 Microenterprise enrollments

Spice Kitchen Incubator

Bringing together refugees and disadvantaged community members, Spice Kitchen Incubator helps them start a full or part-time food business. The program pairs tailored technical assistance and access to a commercial kitchen space to offer a unique environment for culinary entrepreneurs to learn and grow. Spice Kitchen Incubator offers culinary business incubation support to small businesses. It ensures participants receive technical assistance and training, have affordable access to commercial kitchen space and learn the steps to establishing a successful food business.



SpiceKitchenIncubator.org

38	Active businesses representing 19 countries
133	Small business events
$81,107	Total revenue from supported events
101	New refugee arrival meals provided

New Roots

The New Roots program encourages refugees to celebrate their heritage by planting strong roots and connecting with their neighbors. The program works with farmers from refugee backgrounds to provide access and resources to grow food through small-scale urban farms and community gardens, working to make local and affordable produce for farmers markets. In April 2023, the Youth Agriculture Livestock and Leadership (YALL) program enrolled a second cohort of 12 youth. YALL is tailored to refugee youth with a focus on skill building and engaging in discussion on various topics in a variety of outdoor locations.



NewRootsSLC.org

42	Farmers	**492**	Unique SNAP customers
152	Community garden families	**16**	New Roots youth enrollments

Amount	Revenue Source
$12,800	Community Supported Agriculture (farmers market)
$22,500	Community Supported Agriculture (pre-packed)
$18,700	Wholesale
$66,200	Farmers market
$154,600	Emergency Food Assistance
$284,800	**Season total**



COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

The IRC is committed to supporting the efforts of refugees and other new American communities to influence decisions that impact lives. From supporting families' next steps on their immigration journey to ensuring language access, IRC works to ensure people we serve positively integrate into a new community.

Interpretation

A day in the life for an interpreter may include attending medical appointments, bus orientations, cultural orientations, home visits, pre-driving classes, financial literacy classes, immunization clinics, job interviews and more. The interpretation team shares the responsibility of educating newest arrivals about life in the U.S. and provides support for every vital service offered by the IRC. The team has seen rapid growth in the past year and provides an integral service to ensure refugees are able to effectively communicate in their preferred language.



7,363 Hours of Interpretation

19 Interpreters

20 Languages interpreted

2,845 Appointments interpreters have attended

Immigration

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recognizes the IRC to provide high-quality legal assistance at a low cost to immigrants. Multiple DOJ-accredited immigration specialists work alongside attorneys and volunteers to provide services for former refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa recipients, and other immigrants in the community. The Hilals, an Afghan family with an asylum case, has been working with the immigration team to be naturalized as U.S. citizens. The IRC in Salt Lake City is a member of the Utah Immigration Collaborative, a cohesive network of nonprofit immigration legal service providers in Utah dedicated to providing comprehensive, competent, and affordable legal representation to anyone who needs it.



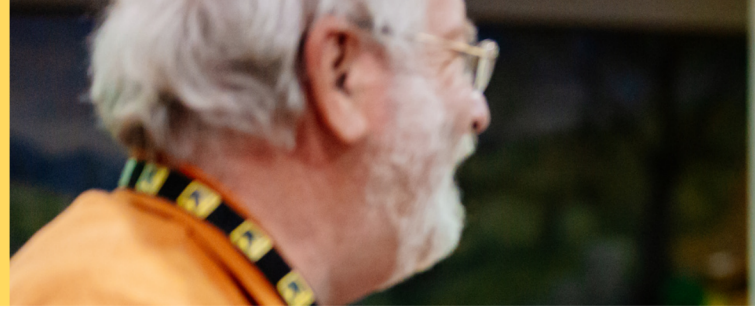
800 People served out of 1,200 applications

77 New U.S. citizens

47 Family petitions filed

43 Citizenship education program students

4 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) renewals filed



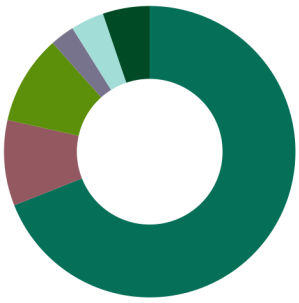


VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

An integral part of IRC's work is supported by an engaged Utah community. With the help of the community, programs receive further assistance to face the challenging task of resettlement, refugees integrate more efficiently to their new homes, and volunteers and donors make effective impact and lasting friendships.

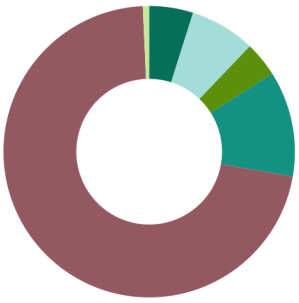
At a glance

Expenditures by program area



- Resettlement (69%)
- Health (10%)
- Economic Wellbeing (9%)
- Administration & Development (5%)
- Immigration (4%)
- Education (3%)

Revenue by source



- Federal (72%)
- State, City & County (12%)
- Foundation (7%)
- Corporate (5%)
- Individual (4%)
- Program fees / other (1%)

$13.8M Total FY23 budget

$4.27M Total direct assistance delivered

$1.77M Total private giving

Donations

Donations support programs to help refugees become self-sufficient, members of their communities. The IRC appreciates those that have donated monetarily and in-kind items, such as the Winter Clothing Drive and Light One Candle Drive, providing much-needed supplies and other gifts, as refugees rebuild their lives.

Volunteers & Internships

Volunteers and interns use their skills to help refugees rebuild their lives. They participated in group and individual opportunities, such as supporting families through the casework team or providing job services through the employment team. We are deeply grateful for those that donate their time to welcome refugees.

18,091 Volunteer hours

123 New volunteers

257 Currently active volunteers

427 Volunteer group individuals

Community Sponsorship

Community Sponsorship is a hands-on opportunity to support refugee resettlement alongside the IRC. In the past year, three volunteer groups of 8-10 individuals work together to provide core services, raise needed resources and commit time to support, acting as friends and support system for their newest neighbors.



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Donate

Help support the work at the IRC by considering a donation. Give today » **Rescue.org/GiveSLC**

In-kind Donations

Gather high-need items for newly arrived families. Donate items » **Rescue.org/DonateSLC**

Volunteer

Help refugees adjust to their new lives by volunteering. Volunteer now » **Rescue.org/VolunteerSLC**

Learn more about supporting the work at the IRC in Salt Lake City by visiting Rescue.org/SupportSLC.



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