



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE IN SALT LAKE CITY

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

2021

OCT. 1, 2020 TO SEPT. 30, 2021



Note from the Executive Director

The past fiscal year, starting on October 1, 2020, was marked with a number of historic events: political transformations with the ushering in of a new administration, evolving variants of the COVID-19 virus causing uncertainty, and the collapse of the Afghan government leading to one of the largest evacuation efforts organized by the United States. At the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Salt Lake City, these events continued to impact our day-to-day operations and challenge our teams while requiring us to maintain flexibility and agility with our short and long-term strategies.

Through it all, our dedicated staff—with support from generous volunteers and community partners—weathered the challenges, working hard to expand innovative solutions to complex issues faced by the more than 2,000 refugees and new Americans served. Each member of our staff strived to help the people we serve: from navigating an ever-competitive housing market to help families purchase their first homes to deepening digital inclusion efforts ensuring all households have the technology they need, expanding early childhood development services, and remaining staunch advocates of refugee families.

In fiscal year 2021, we resettled a historic low number of refugees to Utah, only 138. However, our overall operational capacity and programs increased as our annual budget grew. Again, this exemplifies the robust expertise of local staff as well as organization-wide efforts to ensure the people we serve have a voice in the direction and scope of the work we do.

During the 2021 Utah Legislative Session, we worked closely with Representative Dan Johnson and a number of community stakeholders on HCR 22, the “Concurrent Resolution Celebrating the Contributions of Multilingual and Multicultural Families to Utah Schools.” HCR 22 passed unanimously through both Chambers of the Utah Legislature and was signed by the Governor on March 17th. Our advocacy efforts will continue in the 2022 session with a focus on foreign recredentialing and education.

The end of fiscal year 2021 brought the urgent emergency response effort to support Afghan families evacuated to safety. Through the Afghan Placement & Assistance Program, we have worked to rapidly expand our resettlement efforts to not only welcome newly arriving families but to ensure there will be long-term support for families. Hundreds have arrived in recent months with more to follow—IRC expects to resettle over 600 Afghan evacuees by the end of February 2022.

With robust and collaborative community support, dedicated staff and volunteers, and a continuing effort to maintain client-centered programming, I look to the challenges ahead with assured optimism. Thank you for your continued belief in our work and for your efforts to welcome refugee families to their new home.

Warmly,
Natalie El-Deiry

Natalie El-Deiry
Executive Director, IRC in Salt Lake City

RESETTLEMENT & PLACEMENT

2,022 REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS AND NEW AMERICANS SERVED.

627 RECEIVED CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

\$338,272 IN DIRECT ASSISTANCE, RENT & UTILITIES, CLASS FEES AND OTHER ESSENTIALS.

Provided initial case management and core services to...

138 newly arrived refugees and asylees from 11 countries as they began work to rebuild their lives.



- Dem. Rep. of Congo (53.7%)
Afghanistan (14.7%)
Syria (11%)
Iraq (8.8%)
Burundi (5.1%)
Myanmar (3%)
Other (3.7%)

## HEALTH IMPACT:

**9,784**

APPOINTMENTS  
SCHEDULED &  
ATTENDED

**178**

MENTAL HEALTH  
SCREENINGS &  
FOLLOW UP SERVICES

**314**

PEOPLE RECEIVED AT  
LEAST ONE DOSE OF THE  
COVID-19 VACCINE; 286  
WERE FULLY VACCINATED

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

The IRC's health team continued to support families affected by the pandemic, as well as providing education about vaccines. Alongside partners like the Salt Lake County Health Department, IRC held three COVID-19 vaccination clinics, where 110 refugees and new Americans received immunization against the virus. In addition to tackling COVID-19, the health team supported newly arrived families as they navigated the U.S. healthcare system, providing health promotion education, working to build personalized health plans, connecting individuals to appropriate services and scheduling appointments. Partners like the University of Utah South Main Clinic help ensure free access to needed care. [LEARN MORE »](#)

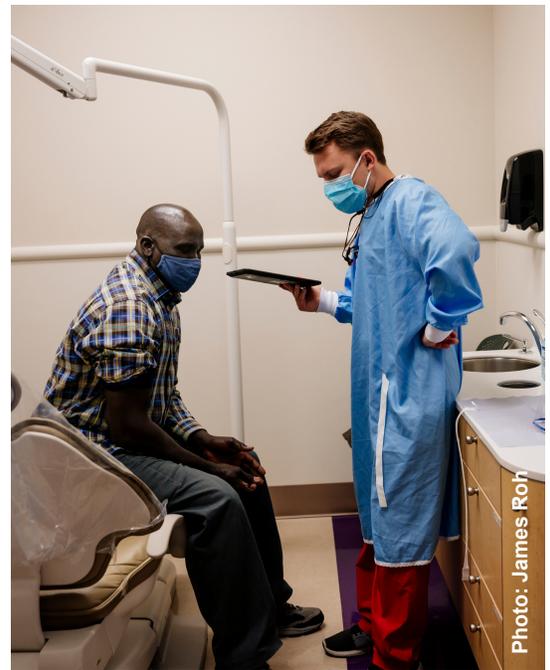


Photo: James Roh

## YOUTH & EDUCATION

The IRC's education team ensured all newly arrived refugee families received a breadth of resources, tools and information to access and navigate the U.S. education system, and all adults were provided with digital literacy education and devices to access the internet. School-aged youth received new, donated backpacks with essential school supplies, and volunteers gave their time to tutor and support students virtually. The education team worked to build virtual reality introductory materials for parents and students who are new to U.S. schools. Through virtual reality materials, refugees can better understand the experience of taking the bus, entering a classroom, and walking among other students in their school's hallways. [LEARN MORE »](#)

## EDUCATION IMPACT:

**995**

HOURS OF ONE-ON-ONE AND  
CLASSROOM EDUCATION FOR  
NEW ARRIVALS

**214**

REFUGEE STUDENTS  
ENROLLED ACROSS FOUR  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS,  
INCLUDING 55 NEW STUDENTS

**14**

STUDENTS STARTED COLLEGE  
OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL  
AFTER GRADUATION



## IMMIGRATION IMPACT:

**167**

U.S. CITIZENSHIP  
APPLICATIONS  
COMPLETED

**1,153**

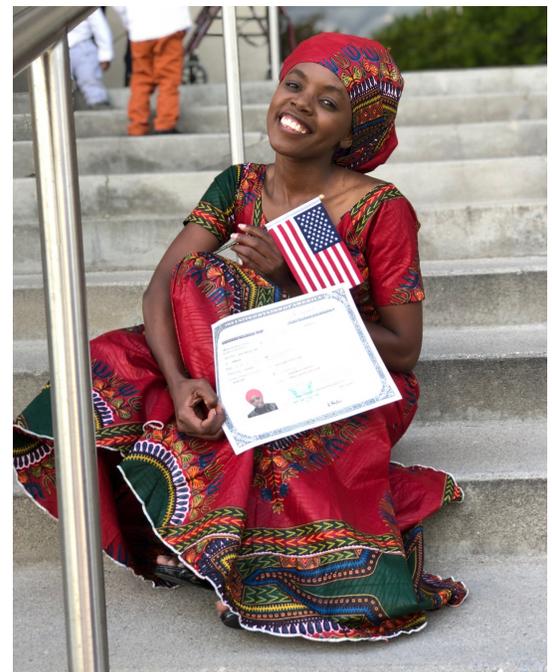
REFUGEES, ASYLEES &  
IMMIGRANTS RECEIVED  
ASSISTANCE

**52**

FAMILY PETITIONS FILED  
TO REUNITE SEPARATED  
FAMILY MEMBERS

## IMMIGRATION

The IRC's immigration services are led by a senior legal representative accredited by the Department of Justice who oversees the provision of affordable, accessible immigration legal services for refugees, asylees and other immigrants, including travel documents, work permits, family reunification petitions, and US citizenship applications. IRC continued close partnerships in service provision through the Utah Immigration Collaborative, with funding support from the Utah Bar Foundation. Volunteers remained integral to ensure new Americans could take control of their future and work toward their goal of naturalization. [LEARN MORE »](#)



# ECONOMIC WELLBEING

The IRC in Salt Lake City provides numerous economic wellbeing resources for refugees and new Americans via personal financial coaching and entrepreneurship support. In 2021, 80% of newly arrived refugees had sufficient income to support their families after one year of their arrival. Many people served by the IRC have an entrepreneurial spirit. Through small business programming, refugee artisans maintained or expanded unique clothing, jewelry and décor businesses. IRC's two food entrepreneurship programs, New Roots and Spice Kitchen Incubator, help new Americans establish and grow food businesses based on their unique skillsets.



## \$324,719

IN TAX RETURNS RECEIVED BY 120 PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPORTED BY IRC'S VITA SITE.

## 870

HOURS OF EDUCATION FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY & EMPLOYMENT READINESS.



## \$311,589

SAVED AND GRANT MATCHED TO PURCHASE ASSETS SUCH AS CARS AND A TOTAL OF SEVEN HOMES. [LEARN MORE »](#)



Photo: James Roh



Photo: James Roh

# new roots

## \$246,320

worth of local produce sold by farmers at farmers markets, via community-supported agriculture boxes, and wholesale customers.

### 151

families tended 279 garden plots at 12 community garden sites ensuring access to fresh produce in their home.

### 1,000

customers accessed SNAP / EBT at three farmers markets facilitated by New Roots to increase food security across Salt Lake County.

### 196

refugee families received ongoing emergency food assistance deliveries of fresh produce and non-perishable items.

[LEARN MORE AT NEWROOTSSLC.ORG »](http://NEWROOTSSLC.ORG)



Photo: Jeri Gravin/IRC

### 75

participating entrepreneurs bringing cuisine and food traditions from 15 countries across five continents.

### 77%

of participating entrepreneurs are from an immigrant background, including 30% who arrived to the U.S. as refugees or asylees.

### 23,898

meals delivered in support of the Nourish to Flourish Initiative, helping entrepreneurs earn income while providing hot meals to families in need.

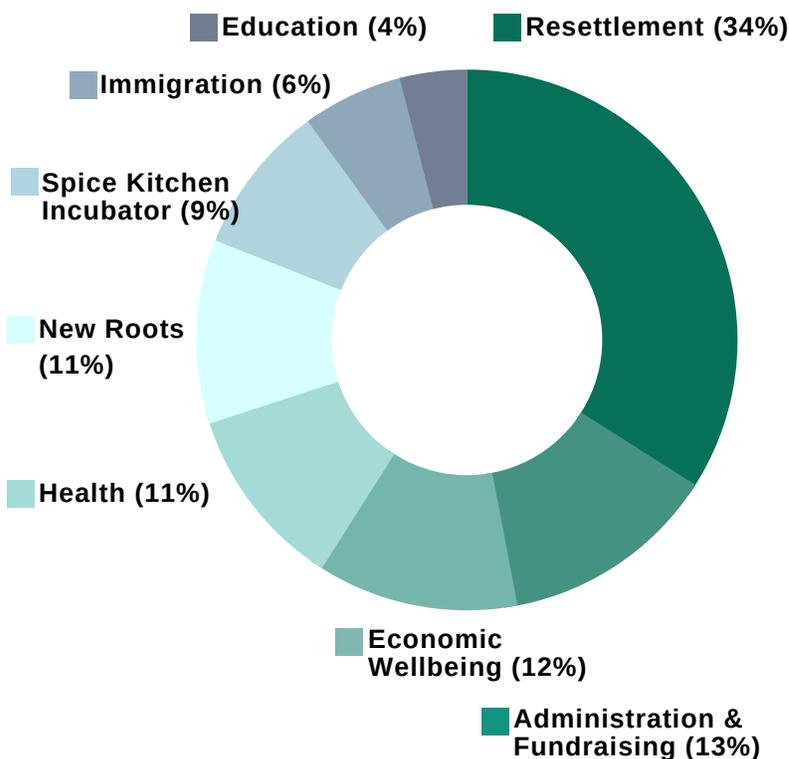
## \$756,011

in cumulative income earned by participating entrepreneurs.

[LEARN MORE AT SPICEKITCHENINCUBATOR.ORG »](http://SPICEKITCHENINCUBATOR.ORG)

# SUPPORT FOR OUR WORK

## EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM AREA



The IRC in Salt Lake City has seen an incredible outpouring of support from the community over the past year. As resettlement infrastructure is being repaired and the U.S. is able to welcome refugees from countries that had restrictions during the past administration, the IRC in Salt Lake City continues to grow: 107 staff members alongside dozens of interns and hundreds of community volunteers work to expand program capacity, ensuring the needs of newly arrived refugees and other new Americans in Utah are met. Community supporters sprung to action last summer as the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan unfolded: holding donation drives, filling up volunteer opportunities, and rallying their networks in support of our newest Afghan neighbors. Throughout the year, our dedicated corporate and community partners have remained essential in helping us address needs and provide resources for those we serve. Our programs and services remain responsive, robust and agile due to integral community support.



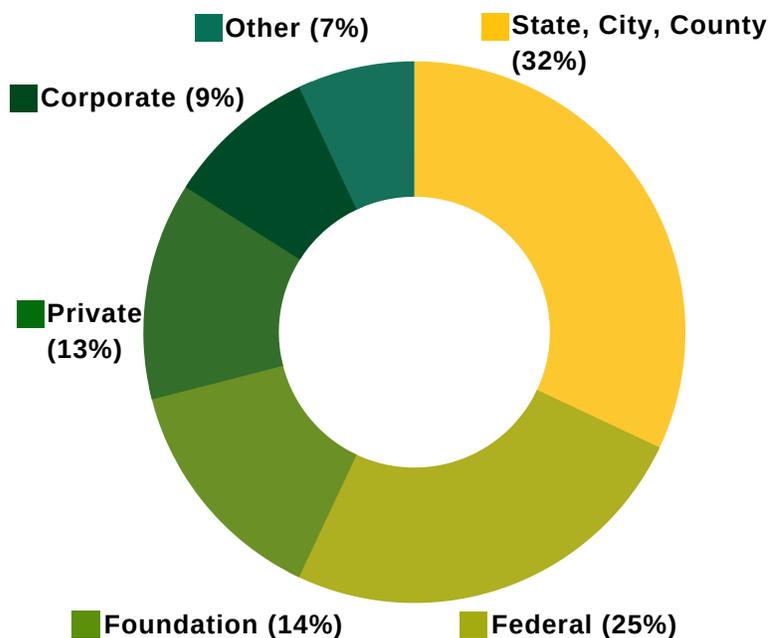
**19,453**

hours logged by over 650 community volunteers, interns and numerous volunteer groups.

**\$5.5 million**

in total funding received from federal, state, county, city, corporations, foundations, and individual donors.

## REVENUE BY SOURCE



## OUR COMMUNITY IN ACTION



Photo: James Roh

This spring, the Al-Mustafa Foundation's Girl Scout Troop led an effort to provide Eid gifts for refugee families served by the IRC in Salt Lake City. The group has partnered with the IRC for 13 years to help new refugees feel joy during the holiday. Shazia Faizi, director of the Foundation, says she wants to make kids who have had to flee their homes feel welcome and happy.

[LEARN MORE »](#)

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