



Note from the Executive Director

On September 29, 2021, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Salt Lake City helped one of the first Afghan evacuees resettle to Utah. Since that day, hundreds of Afghan refugees have arrived to Utah through the federal Afghan Placement & Assistance (APA) Program, an effort that mobilized thousands of people across the country to volunteer, gather supplies, and provide emergency funds to help newly arriving families rebuild their lives. In total, the IRC in Salt Lake City expects to resettle over 600 Afghan evacuees in addition to other refugee families and individuals from around the globe.

During this time, hundreds of community members, new supporters, and partners joined together to ensure Afghan families received a warm welcome. From Governor Spencer Cox helping to found a statewide Utah Afghan Fund to dozens of housing partners stepping up to provide temporary and permanent homes, I have witnessed the incredible strengths within our communities.

The IRC in Salt Lake City also benefitted from new partnerships. Price Real Estate gifted the use of a 4,400-square foot warehouse space in Draper for a full year to increase operational capacity. Overstock.com donated dining room furniture for all newly arriving Afghan families, and Procter & Gamble provided over 50 pallets of hygiene supplies. We also formed a budding and collaborative partnership with Lifting Hands International who continues to support with permanent housing setups and gathering needed supplies.

I am deeply grateful to the hundreds of community members who have reached out to ask how they can help and offer their time. Efforts to welcome so many new neighbors to our community were made possible by the dedicated IRC staff—a team that grew by 26 individuals in three months to meet new demands on our work.

From everyone at the IRC in Salt Lake City: thank you for your continued support as we work to welcome and help families rebuild their lives in Utah.

Warmly,

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

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

AT A GLANCE

487 newly arrived refugees resettled from Afghanistan and eight other countries, which is more refugees welcomed by the IRC in Salt Lake City than entire fiscal years 2020 and 2021 combined.



930 new program participants enrolled across all programs at the IRC in Salt Lake City.

805 total resettled refugees received extended case management services.

216 parents and children received support through Maternal & Child Health Services, including 16 pregnant women.

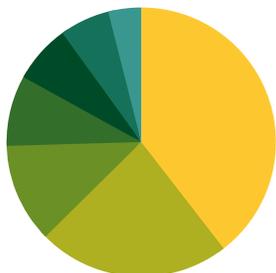
925 health appointments scheduled to connect people with appropriate care.

17,190 pounds of food staples and ingredients given to families in need, equating to over 14,000 meals.

\$734,642 given as direct assistance to newly arrived refugees and Afghan arrivals to cover essential expenses like rent and utility in moments of great need.

\$79,799 in net revenue earned by Spice Kitchen Incubator entrepreneurs.

784 Total hours of one-on-one education and training by IRC programs:



- New Roots: 310**
- Health workshops: 181**
- Economic wellbeing: 94**
- Youth education: 66**
- College & career readiness: 55**
- Digital literacy: 48**
- Spice Kitchen Incubator: 31**

A CLOSER LOOK: APA

AFGHAN PLACEMENT & ASSISTANCE

From October 1 to December 31, 2021, the IRC in Salt Lake City welcomed **407** Afghan evacuees to Utah! Families arrived through the federal Afghan Placement & Assistance (APA) Program with Humanitarian Parole immigration status that provides a two-year stopgap during which time families must apply for asylum or special immigrant visas.

View our recent Virtual Town Hall: Afghanistan Response [here](#) »

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

36 Permanent housing units secured.

26 temporary housing partners, like Airbnb hosts providing housing.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

50 Food assistance boxes, equaling 2,500 meals provided for APA families!

HEALTH

115 Afghan individuals received their second COVID-19 vaccine post-arrival.

EDUCATION

611 hours of cultural orientation: 590 hours for adults 18+ and 21 hours for youth ages 14-17.

SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY

Our annual gift drive, Light One Candle, served **49** APA families (**198** people)!

The Warm Welcome Clothing Drive served **75** families, totaling **158** individuals, who received winter clothes.

We raised over **\$536,000** in support of APA families through our Utah Welcome Home Fund and other sources.



The Yousafzai Family was the first to secure permanent housing with support from the IRC in Salt Lake City!

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

To ensure programs could function at their capacity, the IRC onboarded **26** staff members to support new APA programs.

Staff welcomed each family at the airport, provided cultural appropriate meals, offered safety orientations, and conducted 24-hour check-ins to ease early transitions.

The education team developed a youth cultural orientation run parallel to existing cultural orientations to ensure age-appropriate information was shared for all family members.

Meet Sediqullah, an Afghan evacuee

When Sediqullah moved to Kabul, he arrived with his wife and three kids, propelling him to pursue his education. Only a year after he graduated, the violence erupted in his home city—a moment that will remain vivid in Sediqullah's memory: "People knew that the Taliban was not good, but nobody expected them to come back into power. It shook every town. Our kids were so scared, nobody dared to leave their homes out of fear."

Sediqullah and his brother have recently resettled to Salt Lake City! Read their powerful story of resettlement [here](#) »

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