



INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
COMMITTEE

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE IN UTAH

Community Impact Report | 2024

October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Today, we work in the midst of unprecedented change and intense uncertainty, but we stand in defense of our work and the families we serve. Over the past year, our team achieved incredible outcomes in support of local refugee and new American families—work we continue today, in many ways. Now more than ever, I'm grateful to celebrate the efforts of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Utah shared in this report.

First and foremost, our work would not be possible without robust and ongoing community support. We are deeply grateful for the supporters who continue to step up to ensure our programs remain resilient and flexible to meet the evolving needs. Equally, our partnerships ensure collaborative, dynamic solutions in support of families striving to rebuild their lives.

554

Newly arrived
refugees



3,428

Total people
served

In fiscal year 2024, your support helped us welcome over 550 new neighbors while continuing vital services for thousands of asylees, humanitarian parolees and other immigrants in our local community. Our reach included 108 unaccompanied children served through our **Home Study & Post Release Services** program. In just our second year of the program, we have expanded these essential protection services to vulnerable children who deserve a safe, supportive childhood.

Jessika (cover photo) is one of thousands served through our efforts. Alongside her husband, Rafael, and two daughters, Jessika left Venezuela in 2018, moving from country to country seeking stability and a safe future for her daughters. At one point, Jessika and the girls were separated from Rafael for months, finally reuniting in the U.S. under the safety of asylum. Jessika and her family are grateful for the support received & to the U.S. for opening its doors.

“We are in a state where there are many kind and supportive people,” Jessika noted.

The IRC in Utah continues to combat the national housing affordability crisis by addressing barriers to job placement and ensuring a safety net for families facing emergencies. With a generous grant from the *Cultural Vision Fund*, we launched a Vocational ESL program targeted to support English-language learners to navigate workplace English to increase their chances toward job placement. In tandem, we launched our own **Soft Landing Fund** to raise housing assistance funds for families facing urgent housing stability concerns. With support from the community, we have raised over \$133,000 to date, an effort that continues today.

We have also supported those working toward ambitious milestones. Our Spice Kitchen Incubator team worked with numerous culinary entrepreneurs to start, scale and sustain their small businesses. Chef Jadim—owner of **Shwe Letyar Sushi**—opened her food stall in Woodbine Food Hall in February 2024. Our small business team also organized an art exhibition in partnership with the Chase Home Museum to celebrate immigrants in our community.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in defense of our work and the families we serve. We know you do too. Support for our work ensures local families strive to achieve their dreams and contribute in meaningful ways to our community. We are here for refugees and new Americans: today, tomorrow and always. **Thank you for being right here with us.**



Many thanks,

Danny Beus

Executive Director

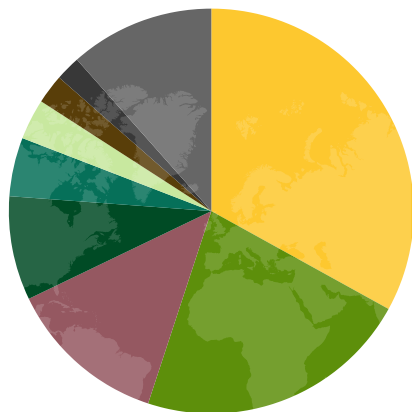
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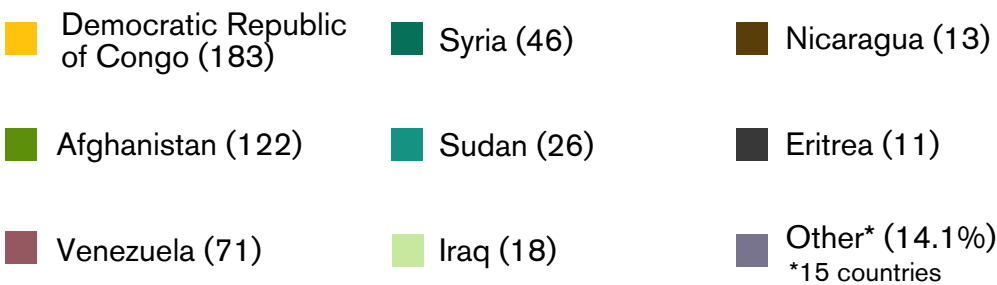
RESETTLEMENT

The IRC in Utah provides support to refugees, asylees, humanitarian parolees, unaccompanied children, and other immigrants as they settle into life in Utah. Through language-accessible, culturally-appropriate services, the IRC supports family self-sufficiency through a variety of foundational services, including housing stability, case management, early employment, health & wellness, education and youth support.

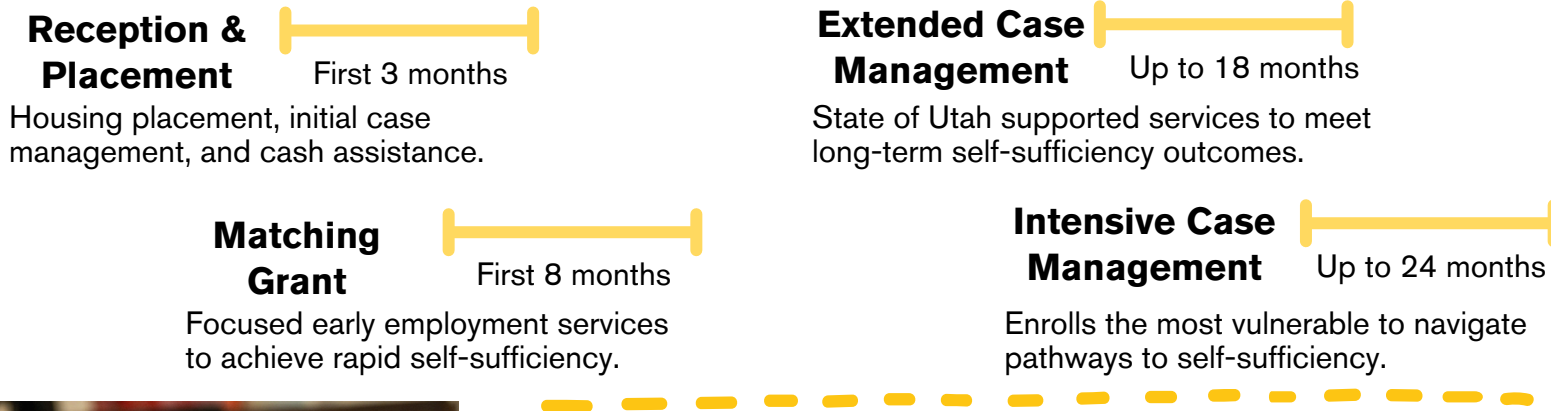
At a glance



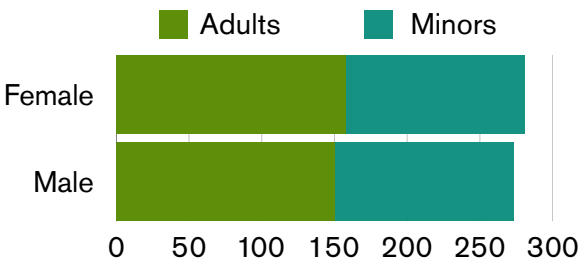
Refugees arrived from 23 countries to rebuild in Utah



The IRC operated four distinct case management programs —



Demographics of newly arrived refugees & asylees



554
Newly arrived
refugees &
asylees

245
Youth refugees
& asylees

Workforce Development & Education

The IRC offers a comprehensive suite of Workforce Development & Education services that include four distinct programs:

Employment Services helps refugee adults find employment within 240-days of arrival in the United States, while providing case management services as well as financial and material assistance.

The **Vocational English as a Second Language** program, launched in 2024, combines English language acquisition, job readiness and life skills training. The program works to prepare newly arrived refugees and new Americans to succeed in the U.S. workforce and become economically self-sufficient.

The **College & Career Readiness** program supports newly arrived youth and young adults with college and career readiness, mentorship, and leadership activities.

The **Digital Inclusion** program connects refugees with affordable home internet services, provides laptop devices for newly arrived families, and teaches foundational digital skills.

Overall, Workforce Development & Education services address barriers to self-sufficiency and assist refugees, new Americans, and other low-to-moderate income individuals in pursuing English language acquisition, gainful employment, digital literacy skills and higher education. All efforts focus on supporting individuals to achieve economic mobility and financial self-sufficiency.

132

Clients obtained jobs

305

Job interviews supported

72%

Clients economically self-sufficient by 240th day in the U.S.

590

Youth served total

283

Students enrolled in school

95%

CCR participants who achieved $\frac{2}{3}$ of their college readiness goals

187

Laptops distributed

363

Households connected to the Internet

Health & Wellbeing

The IRC provides a wide range of Health Program services, encompassing four distinct areas: Health Access, Health Promotion, Community Health Work, and Mental Health. These initiatives are designed to assist refugees and new Americans in achieving self-sufficiency as they navigate the complexities of the U.S. healthcare system, equipping them with the necessary tools and resources for leading healthy lives for themselves and their families. In 2024, the program received a generous donation to open the **Maura Coursey Memorial Fund**, a lifeline to survivors of domestic violence by providing direct housing and other assistance when needed most.

6,632

Healthcare appointments set up

3,783

Health transports by staff and volunteers

599

Mental health screenings

117

Health education workshops





ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The IRC in Utah works to address local business needs by assisting refugees, new Americans, and other low-to-moderate individuals to pursue economic mobility and financial self-sufficiency. These programs engage a broad demographic and provide diverse residents with accessible financial products and services to help them transition out of poverty, build thriving livelihoods, and contribute their skills in Utah's economy.

At a glance

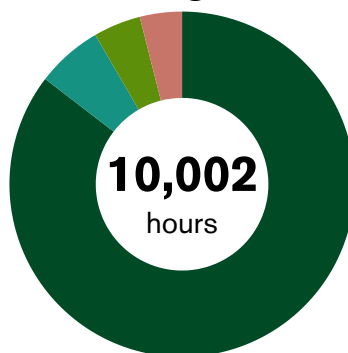
930

Total participants in IRC's Economic Empowerment programs,
49% are women

91%

Of total participants are from refugee and immigrant backgrounds

Training & Technical Assistance Hours



- New Roots (8,662)
- Small Business (627)
- Spice Kitchen Incubator (450)
- Financial Capabilities (263)

Financial Capabilities

The IRC offers financial coaching, individualized technical assistance, and support for people to set personal financial goals. Staff engage participants to build a plan to achieve their goals, receive support in making financial decisions related to personal budgets, work to establish or strengthen credit, acquire assets and file income taxes.

\$306,330

Total asset value accumulated

\$311,000

Attained via 128 individual federal & state tax refunds

214

Financial literacy and asset building workshops

Small Business

Refugee and new American entrepreneurs access wraparound services and support as they look to start, sustain, and scale their small business in Utah. The IRC offers specialized tracks focused on specific types of businesses such as artisan & resale, transportation, imported goods and local services like commercial cleaning & childcare. Omari and Zaina opened a new childcare business in West Valley with the support of IRC. Another entrepreneur, Princess of Juah Apparel, participated in IRC's **New American Dream Lab competition**, winning 3rd place, and later went on to win \$15,000 in another local pitch competition.



\$406,800

Funding accessed via small business loans & grants

118

Jobs created by small businesses

Connect with local businesses through our [Small Business Directory](#) »

Spice Kitchen Incubator

Founded in 2013, the IRC's **Spice Kitchen Incubator** supports 39 culinary entrepreneurs from 29 different countries through a five-year incubation process to start food businesses including food trucks, catering businesses, and brick-and-mortar restaurants. Chef Jadim, launched her business, **Shwe Letyar Sushi**, and opened the only Burmese restaurant in Utah at the Woodbine Food Hall. Chef Olivia (pictured below) joined the program, engaging a group of community members in a recent focus group for her business, **Kente Cafe**. Spice Kitchen Incubator strives to help local entrepreneurs develop successful food businesses, preserve their culinary traditions, and share their talents with our community.

- 31 Active businesses representing 29 countries
- 2 Brick-and-mortar restaurants launched
- 11 Workshops provided to participants
- 309 New refugee arrival meals provided



New Roots

Covering more than 18 acres of urban farmland, 13 community garden sites, and two farmers markets, **New Roots** supports refugees and new Americans in Salt Lake County to plant strong roots in their new communities through community garden programming, farm business training, and market access opportunities. Farmers like Omar, a refugee from Sudan resettled by the IRC, grow crops for their families as well as to sell through IRC's farmers' markets. Omar has dedicated more than seven years building up his farm business, growing a variety of crops offered to the local community.



- 48 Farmers
- 162 Community garden participants
- 3,111 Farmers market customers
- 503 Unique SNAP customers

Revenue Source	Amount
Community Supported Agriculture	\$67,470
Wholesale	\$104,488
Farmers Market	\$106,731
Total Income Earned by Farmers	\$278,689

640,000 Total pounds of produce grown

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES

Through three Department of Justice-accredited Immigration Legal Specialists and two immigration attorneys, the IRC in Utah offered a breadth of accessible and affordable services to assist refugees, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa holders, humanitarian parolees and others through the increasingly complex legal immigration process. The team provided expert support to navigate application processes before the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, from applying for work authorization and permanent residency to achieving incredible milestones, including naturalization and family reunification—like Faiz's family below.

1,322

Applications prepared & submitted for 865 individuals

445

Permanent Resident Cards obtained

232

Employment Authorization Documents obtained

35

New U.S. citizens

48

Family petitions filed

91

Citizenship education program students



COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN ACTION

Thank you!



Through volunteers & community supporters, IRC maintains programming to ensure refugees and new Americans are settled to integrate into their new homes. The IRC local work is not possible without engaged community supporters, volunteers and donors who make a lasting difference.

17,204

Volunteer hours logged

370

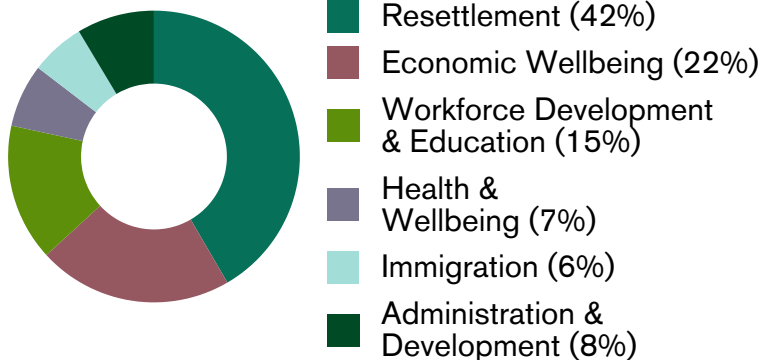
Dedicated volunteers

529

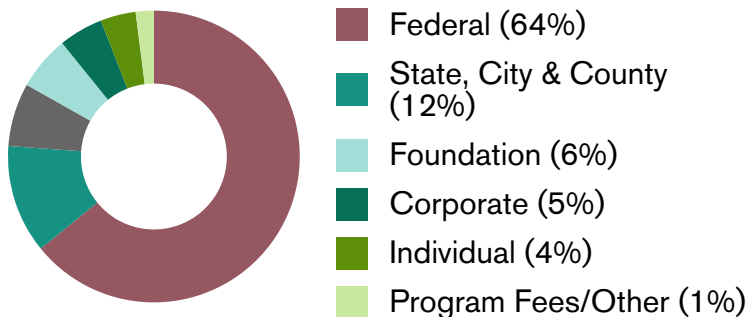
Generous individual donors

Financial Summary at a glance

Expenditures by program area



Revenue by source



\$12.1M

Total FY24 budget

\$2.83M

Total direct assistance delivered

\$1.6M

Total private giving

SUPPORT OUR WORK

Make a gift

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

Gather supplies

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

Become a volunteer

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

Find other ways to get involved in our work by visiting Rescue.org/SupportSLC »



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