



Inside Look

The U.S. Refugee & Asylum Policy Newsletter

February 2019



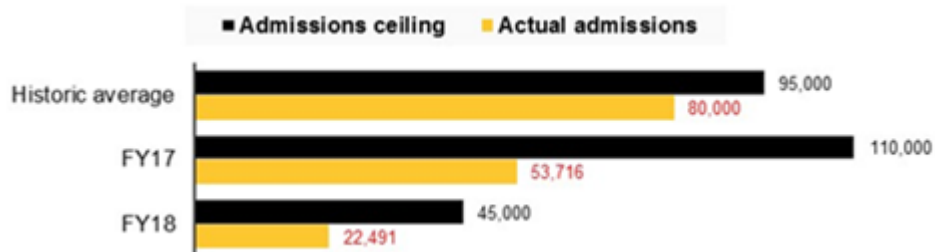
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REFUGEE ADMISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS

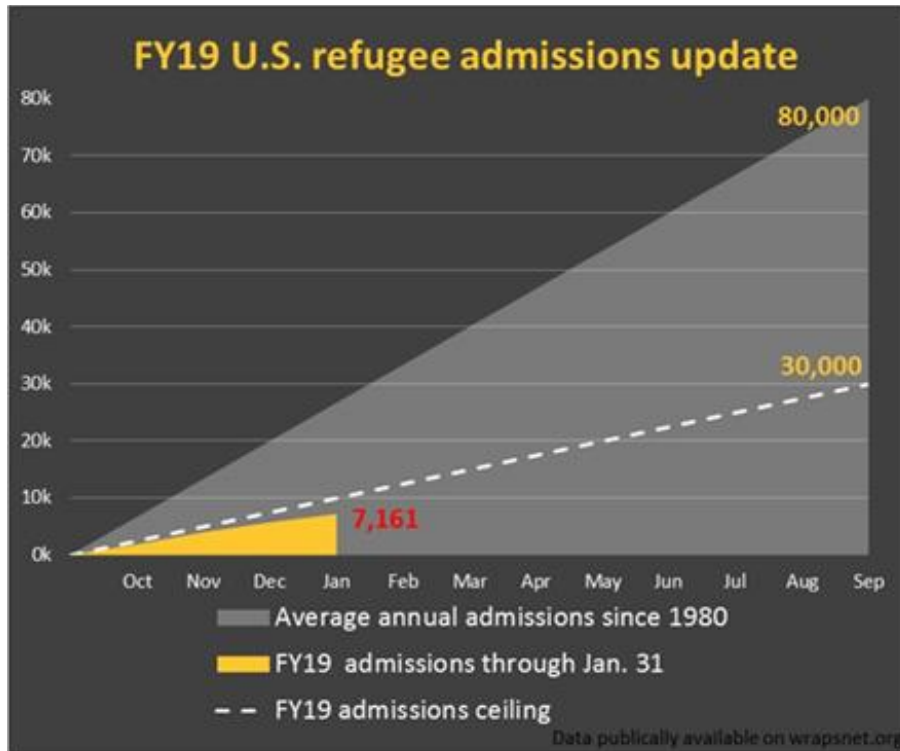


Four months into FY19, **just 7,161 refugees** have been welcomed into the United States, or fewer than 1,800 a month. Contrast this with the fact that historically the US has welcomed over **6,500 refugees on average monthly** since 1980.



At this rate, the U.S. is on track to meet **just over 70 percent of its goal** to resettle 30,000 refugees—a goal which already pales in comparison to the historic average commitment of 95,000 refugees annually.

With FY18 in the rearview mirror, we've also taken stock of the drastic reduction refugee admissions last year. Read our analysis [here](#).



IRC FIELD FOCUS



The IRC in Phoenix is training refugees in skills necessary for employment in the manufacturing industry. The Manufacturing Works program is comprehensive (covering topics like computer literacy, “soft” job skills, financial literacy, and technical skills) and its popularity couldn’t come at a better time: with over 160,000 job opportunities and \$25 billion in exports, Arizona’s manufacturing industry is booming. The IRC has partnered with sector leaders to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of the market. This session, the entire cohort is made up of women. “When I walk into this classroom, I am able to hang up the challenges that hold me down and start fresh,” said Julie Momodu, a current student. Check out our [story](#) for more.

Some more top picks:

- [Phoenix, AZ](#): *Women at Work: IRC Manufacturing Works Career Course*. The IRC.
- [Salt Lake City, UT](#): *This new Salt Lake City bakery satisfies that late-night craving for brownies — and our desire to do good*. The Salt Lake Tribune.
- [Boise, ID](#): *Boise refugee working toward a bright future: 'With his attitude the sky is the limit.'* IdahoNews.com.
- [Garden City, KS](#): *Now IRC Me, Now You Don't*. NPR’s This American Life.

REFUGEE SPOTLIGHT



Growing up in a Rwandan refugee camp, Faustin Dushimimana would sometimes take a walk into the city. There, when he saw people riding bicycles through the streets, he wondered from afar if he'd ever have the opportunity to ride one himself. Today, Dushimimana is a junior in high school in Nashua, New Hampshire, and a bike mechanic at Goodale's Bike Shop. After arriving to the U.S. four years ago with his family, a donated bike found its way into his hands. He taught himself to ride in one day and quickly after began refurbishing the bike with instruction from YouTube videos. Then he met John Burkitt, co-founder of the Gate City Bike Co-op, who invited him to the Co-op's open-shop nights. "If there is an American Dream you can point to, it's him," Burkitt said. "Here's a kid who had nothing to start with and he's made incredible things happen." Head to bicycling.com for the rest of this inspiring story.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



This month saw the abrupt resignation of the World Bank's president Jim Yong Kim. Under Kim's tenure, the bank transformed its approach to development in regions affected by protracted conflict and crisis. It advocated for reforms that improve the lives of refugees and invested in the countries that host them. These reforms have been innovative, evidence-based, and are changing the face of global development. **IRC President and CEO David Miliband** discusses the importance of good leadership at the bank in a [recent op-ed](#) in this month's Foreign Affairs.

WHAT WE'RE READING



This month, we're reading the CATO Institute's [summary](#) of a 2017 study produced by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The study reviews the fiscal and economic effects of all refugees and asylees in the U.S. since 1980. Press reports indicate the White House [rejected the study](#) and stopped its public release (perhaps because HHS found that, among other things, "the net fiscal impact of refugees was positive over the 10-year period, at \$63 billion"). Read the HHS study [here](#).

Also worth noting:

- [A National Geographic story](#) on the ingenious toys created by refugee children.
- [A TedX Talk](#) by Sudanese refugee Mary Maker on the importance of educating refugee girls
- [The IRC's 2019 Emergency Watchlist](#) which highlights the countries we believe are at greatest risk of experiencing the worst humanitarian crises over the coming year.
- [Research](#) by two IRC staff members into refugee employment disparities along lines of gender and country of origin.
- The IRC's [public comment](#) submitted in response to USCIS's proposed changes to the N-400, Application for Naturalization.