



***Advancing the
rights and lives
of refugees
and immigrants
for more than
110 years.***

USCRI North Carolina
Community Sponsor Program



INTRODUCTION

There are currently 25.4 million refugees in the world today* – many of whom are moving to our community here in the Triangle. Whether they're fleeing persecution, civil war, drug trafficking, or are simply seeking to provide a better life to their families, we want to be there for them from the moment they set foot in our community.

For 15 years now, we've been able to do just that, empowered by countless volunteers, sponsors, and champions who have dedicated their time and treasure to welcome these new friends.

*source: United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the UN Refugee Agency

WHO WE ARE

Our Vision:

Immigrants, refugees, and uprooted people will live dignified lives with their rights respected and protected in communities of opportunity.

Our Mission:

To protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide and support their transition to a dignified life.

About USCRI North Carolina

Our office is one of more than 10 USCRI offices in the U.S. and abroad that provides a wide range of services, from refugee resettlement to legal assistance. Since 2007, USCRI North Carolina has been supporting newcomers in our community, not just during their initial resettlement period, but for many years after their arrival as well.

Some of our services include:



housing placement



employment preparation



cultural orientation



school enrollment



ESL tutoring



case management

10,000+

clients served by
USCRI NC

3,200

people resettled
through USCRI
NC since 2007

90%

of clients are self-
sufficient after
three months

300

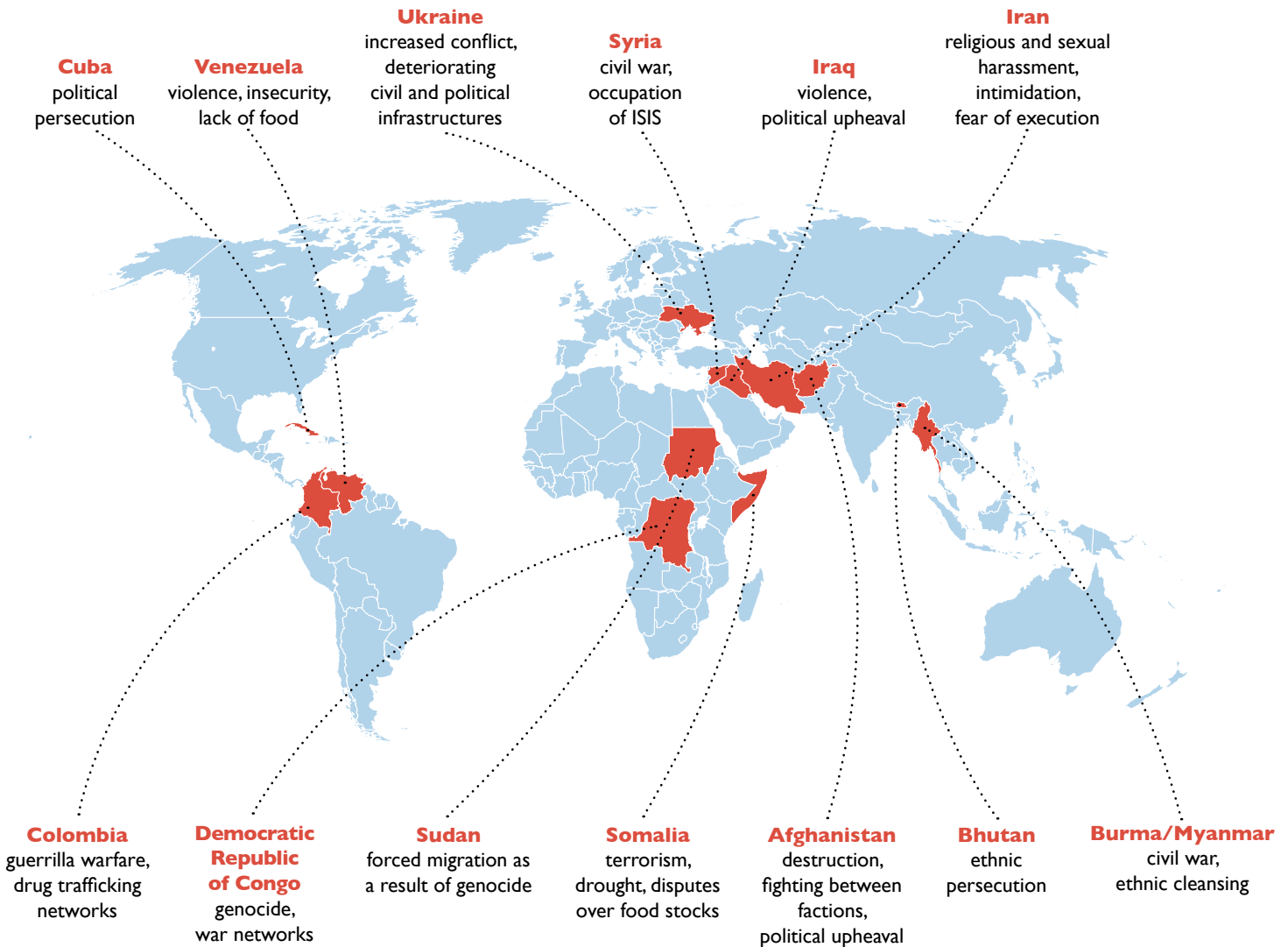
refugees received
by USCRI NC
in 2021

Now, as the number of refugees and immigrants coming
to our community continues to increase,
we need your support and commitment more than ever.

THE NEED

Why do refugees come to the United States?

Here's a snapshot of some of the countries we've resettled refugees from – and the hardships they were fleeing.



The process of becoming an immigrant or refugee is a complicated one, and their troubles don't end when they arrive on U.S. soil. Imagine showing up to a new country with little understanding of the culture, the community, even the language, at times. Having someone help make that transition a little smoother can make all the difference. **That's where you come in.**

25.4M
refugees
worldwide



THE RESPONSE

Welcome Home Project.

Welcome Home Project (WHP) is a community partnership between our Reception and Placement Program and our **community sponsors**. From churches to organizations, companies to friends wanting to make a difference, community sponsors are passionate groups across the Triangle who are committed to improving the experience of newly-arrived refugees. **They're our first-impression makers.**

"We care about refugees, and USCRI provides the introduction to our newest refugee neighbors. Through partnership with USCRI, we are able to serve the refugee and immigrant community more fully together than we would be able to do separately."

- Kim Wyatt, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Field Personnel and Welcome House Raleigh, Co-Founder

Whether it's setting up a fully furnished new home, meeting newcomers at the airport, or preparing a home-cooked and ethnically appropriate meal, community sponsors play an integral role in helping immigrants and refugees feel welcomed, loved, and accepted in their new home and in our community.



“We are very grateful for what [USCRI] has done for me and my family. I’m very happy for my kids to be here, getting their education, and I wish for them to become doctors one day.”

– Abdul Zabeeh

MEET THE ZABEEH FAMILY

Abdul Zabeeh* is a husband, father, and Afghan refugee. He and his family arrived in Raleigh, North Carolina, in October 2021 as a result of the political crisis in Afghanistan. Sadly, they did not have high expectations for how they would be received by their new community. When they arrived, however, they were welcomed with open arms, thanks to the compassion of our USCRI volunteers – like Jerome Harrison from Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Jerome has had a front row seat to the Zabeeh family’s new American life and is inspired by the courage and sacrifice immigrants make to provide a new life for their families in the United States. A group of volunteers from his church have worked with USCRI NC for 15 years, and counting, sponsoring at least one family each year through the Welcome Home Project.

“All the refugees are just looking for safety, freedom, and better opportunities, and it’s gratifying that we, in some way, can assist them in starting new lives. **It reinforces to us as a team the many things we take for granted living in this country,**” says Jerome, when sharing why he wanted to play a part in the critical work of USCRI.

This year, Jerome's team worked with two Afghan families – the Zabeeh family being one of them – following the crisis in Afghanistan and influx of new refugees.

When the Zabeeh family first arrived, USCRI coordinated temporary housing for them while their permanent apartment was being set up. Jerome and his team also helped enroll Abdul's children in the local school, access tutoring and school supplies through the local community center, find transportation, and obtain healthcare in the Triangle. Abdul shared that his family now feels comfortable and at home here, and he has hopes of learning English and one day working with the U.S. military.

Like many of our volunteers, Jerome sees welcoming immigrants into our Raleigh community as a way to live out his faith and step out of his comfort zone.

When asked about how he related to the people that he is helping, Jerome said: "It's humbling in the sense that in a different world, **we could easily be in their shoes**. If any of us look back far enough in our family history, someone made a similar decision to immigrate to the USA."

So, how does the Welcome Home Project work?

- ✓ Review the Welcome Home Toolkit and other resources provided by USCRI
- ✓ Put together your team (6-8 people minimum)
- ✓ Set up a time for a team training provided by USCRI (either virtually or in-person)
- ✓ Wait until your team is notified about a new family arriving (typically two weeks in advance)
- ✓ Set up the apartment before the family's arrival
- ✓ Prepare an ethnically appropriate first meal for the family and arrange transportation from the airport as needed

What else should I expect as a community sponsor?



Most community sponsors are able to source all required items through their network. You'll also have access to trucks and vans to move items into the homes. Out-of-pocket costs are typically limited to paying for gas and groceries for the family.



We expect our sponsors to follow all health, safety, and security protocols and other rules as outlined in the documents provided upon project launch.



The Welcome Home Project normally lasts 2-3 weeks from the time USCRI assigns it to your team.

Some community sponsors have gone on to provide additional services to clients, including transportation to health appointments, school enrollment assistance, and teaching ESL. There is always room to grow in your partnership with USCRI!



*Thank you for helping us
welcome them home!*

GET INVOLVED

Like Jerome, you, too, can mobilize your church, organization, community, or friends to become sponsors and make a tangible difference in the lives of our new neighbors.

To take the next step in bringing hope and hospitality to more newcomers in our community, head to refugees.org/uscri-north-carolina or reach out to info@uscrinc.org.



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