



Iskashitaa Refugee Network  
working with refugees in  
gleaning



# ISKASHITAA MISSION

Iskashitaa Refugee Network creates opportunities to integrate UN refugees into the So. Arizona community while educating the public, strengthening the local food system, reducing local food waste, and increasing food security.



# WHAT WE DO

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Develop creative programs with refugees surrounding local foods, food sovereignty, and sustainability

Engage refugees and asylees in civic engagement activities in greater Tucson community

Connect refugees to community resources

Provide cross cultural experiences for the community and students, including academic internships

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# EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS ABOUT THE LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM



# IMMIGRANT

**REFUGEE** - one who has been forced to flee their home due to persecution and crossed an international border

**I.D.P.** - (internally displaced person) someone who is forced to flee their home but remains in their home country

**ASYLUM SEEKER** - someone whose claim as a refugee has not been definitively evaluated

**MIGRANT** - choose to move in order to improve the future prospects for themselves and their family

**S.I.V.** - (special immigrant visas) Iraqi's or Afghans who were employed by Americans and resettled legally in the United States

**UNACCOMPANIED MINOR** - an immigrant who is under 18 and not in the care of a parent or legal guardian at the time of entry

# Refugee Defined

A refugee is a **person registered with the United Nation's High Commission for Refugees, who is outside his or her own country and who is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution on account of:**



Race



Religion



Nationality



Social Group



Political Opinion

# UNHCR Seeks "Durable Solutions"

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Voluntary  
Repatriation



Local  
Integration



Third Country  
Resettlement-  
like US,  
Australia

# ARRIVAL IN TUCSON

## PRE-ARRIVAL:

- ✓ Locate and Furnish Apt.



## ARRIVAL:

- ✓ Airport
- ✓ Home Orientation



## WEEK 1:

- ✓ Food/Medical Benefits
- ✓ Social Security



## 6 MONTHS:

- ✓ IOM Travel Loan



## FIRST 30 DAYS: CORE SERVICES

- ✓ Cultural/home orientations
- ✓ Grocery Shopping
- ✓ Enroll Children in school
- ✓ Register Adults for ESL
- ✓ MG Orientations
- ✓ Health Screenings
- ✓ TB/Immunizations
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Childcare



## 1 YEAR:

- ✓ Green Card



## 5 YEARS:

- ✓ Citizenship



# CHALLENGES FACING MANY REFUGEES



- Limited or Interrupted Formal Schooling
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Gender Violence
  - 90% of Congolese women are survivors sexual violence
- Lack of physical possessions
- Health issues
- Separated families

# REFUGEE FUNDS OF KNOWLEDGE

Refugees bring to the  
US diverse skills sets  
and experiences

Doctors, farmers,  
teachers, lawyers,  
shopkeepers, and more


Recognizing the  
strengths of individuals  
and families--not just  
as victims





# Refugee volunteers

## Things to keep in mind

- ✧ Refugees come from South Asia Near East, Latin America, and Africa
  - X Wide range of educational background from engineers and dentists to people with no formal education
  - X English proficiency and literacy vary widely as well
  - X Many come with agricultural backgrounds and almost all have more knowledge and interest in growing food than Americans
  - X Large and/or multigenerational families
  - X Not use to ANY processed food- need veggie
  - X Many have a desire to give back to the community (but few options exist without English, education, literacy)
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# 9 Resettlement Agencies

- Church World Service (CWS)
- Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC)
- Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM)
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
- World Relief Corporation (WR)

# TOP 10 STATES FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN 2020

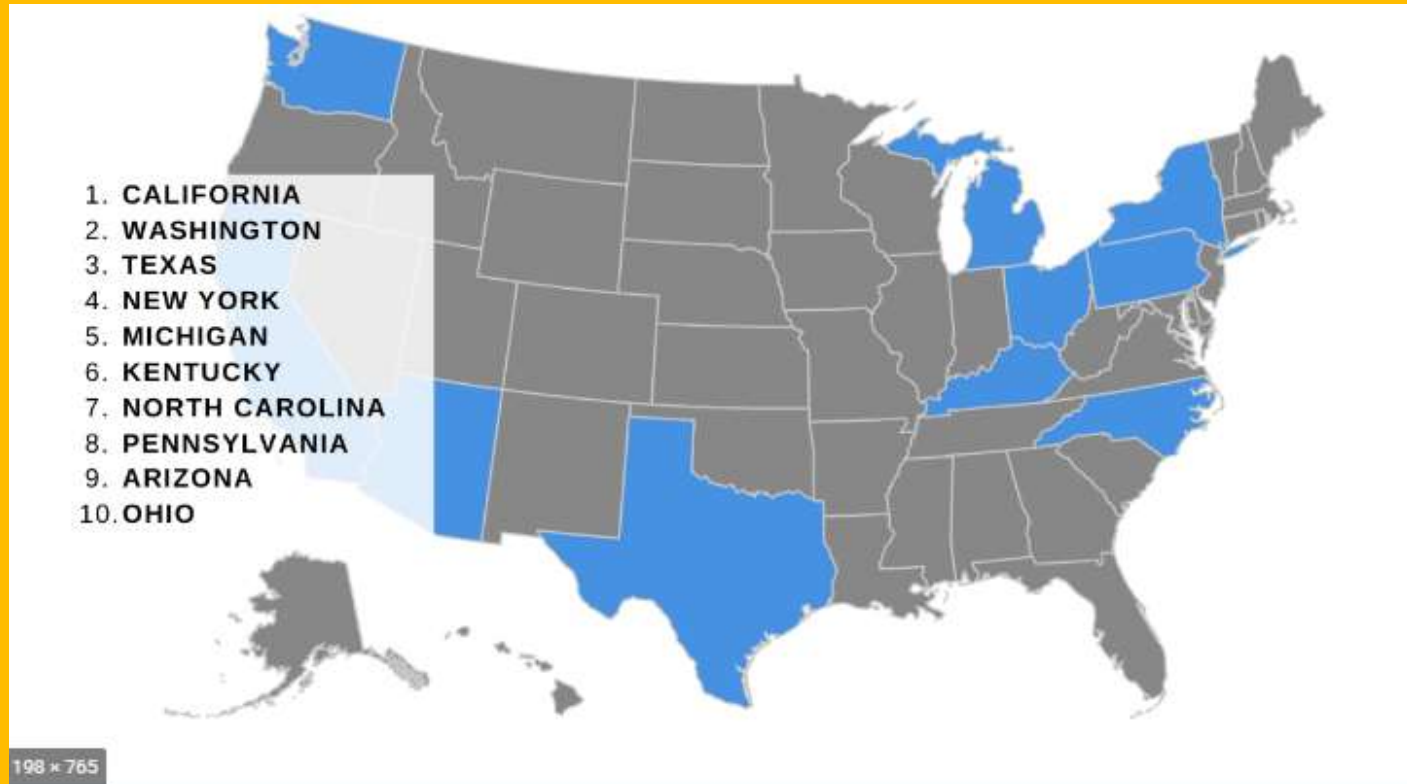
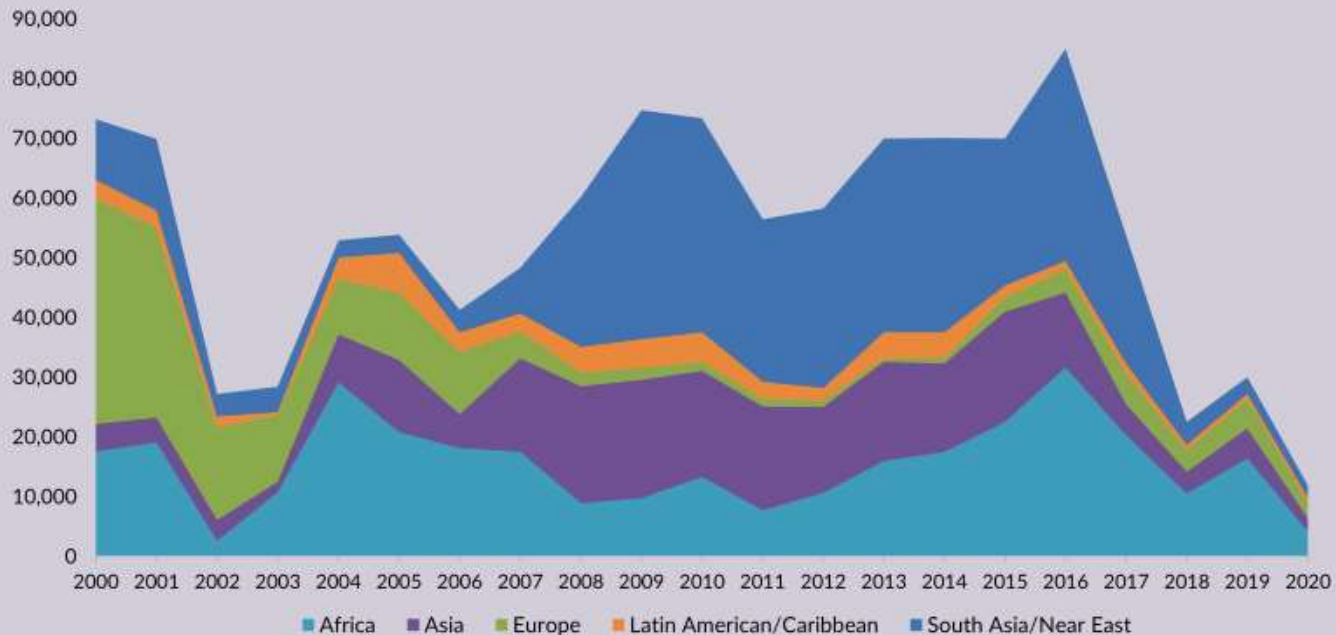




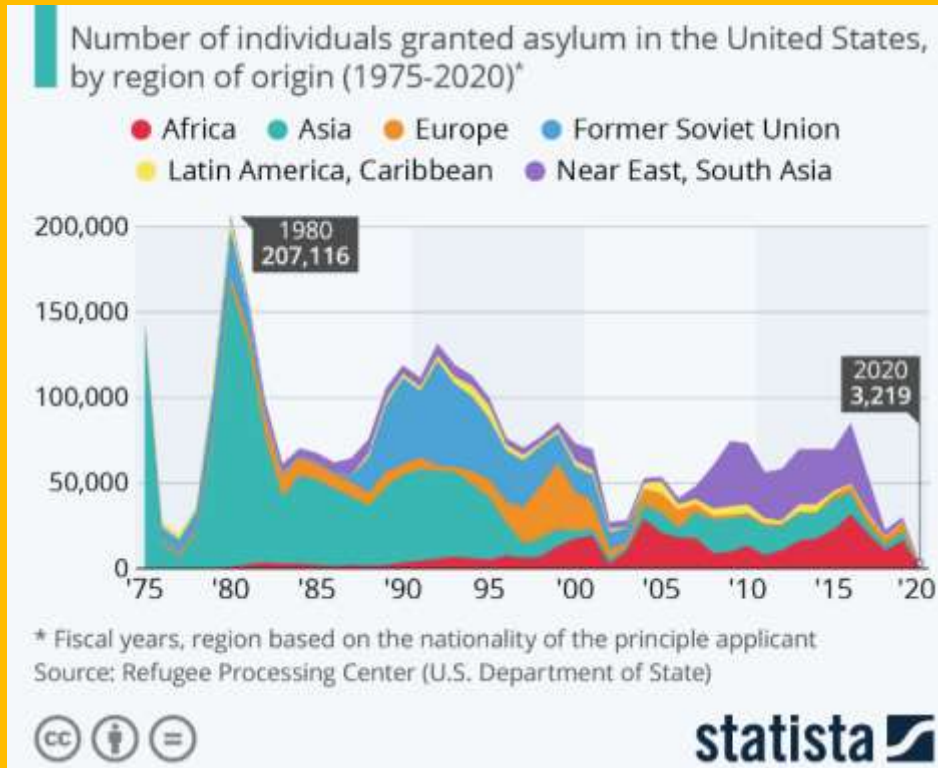
Figure 2. Regions of Origin of U.S. Refugee Arrivals, FY 2000-20



Notes: Family members granted follow-to-join refugee status are included in refugee admissions data; recipients of Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) who received refugee program reception and placement benefits are not included.

Source: MPI analysis of State Department WRAPS data.

# US REFUGEE ADMISSION FROM 1975-2020



Moving Forward

Office of Refugee Resettlement(ORR)  
Under U.S. Department of Health &  
Human Services

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/grant-funding/key-state-contacts>

**Arizona-**

State Refugee Coordinator: Charles Shipman 602.542.6614

State Refugee Health Coordinator: Juliana Davis 602.542.6045

State Website: Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program





1,323.21<sup>\*</sup>

Total Harvest Hours for the Year 2021 from January to June

\*this number is underreported



52

New volunteers who joined

158 hours

Total hours from new volunteers

569.21 hours

Total hours from reoccurring community volunteers



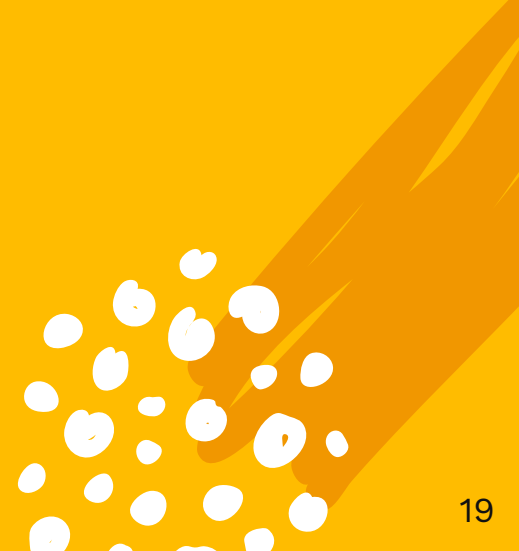


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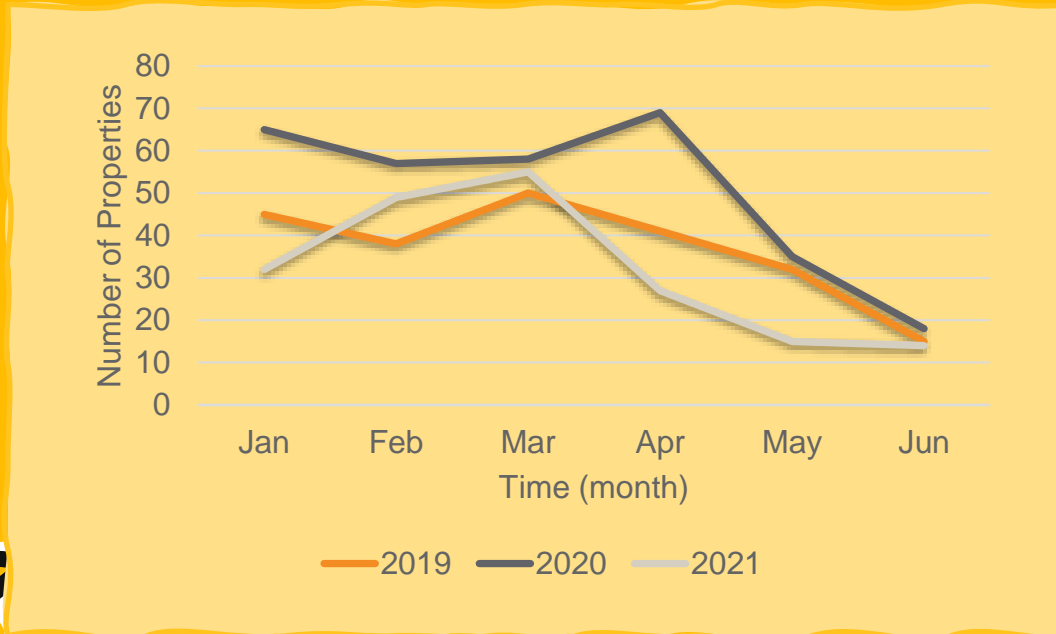
Refugee Volunteers

596 hours

Total hours from refugee volunteers

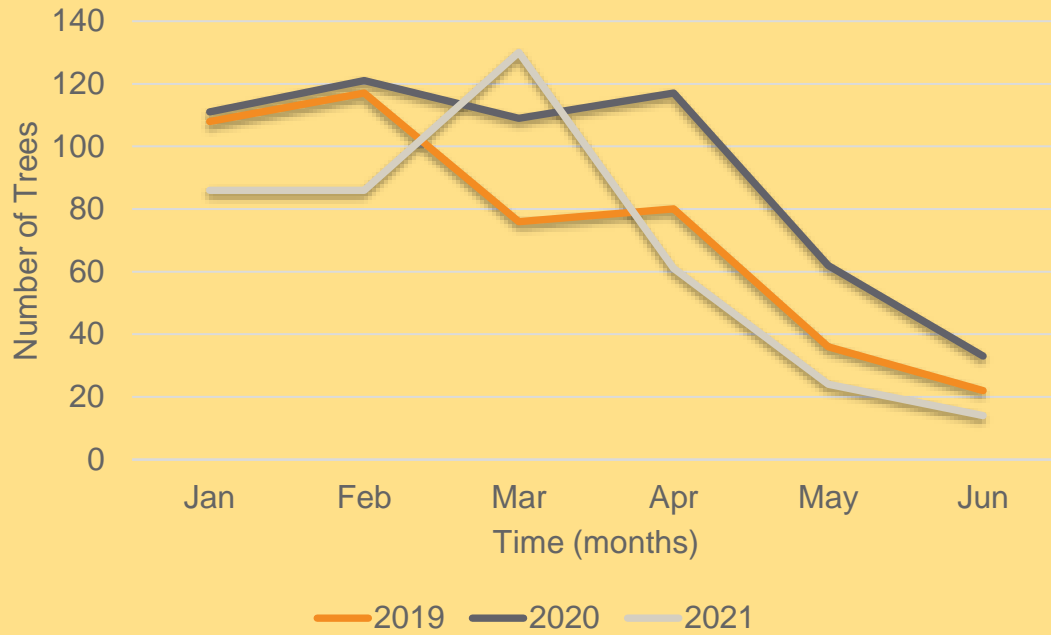


# Total Number of Properties Harvested



X Overall, number of properties harvested from was not severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

# Total Number of Trees Harvested



# SWOT Analysis

## **STRENGTHS**

Blue is the colour of the clear sky and the deep sea

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## **WEAKNESSES**

Yellow is the color of gold, butter and ripe lemons

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Black is the color of ebony and of outer space

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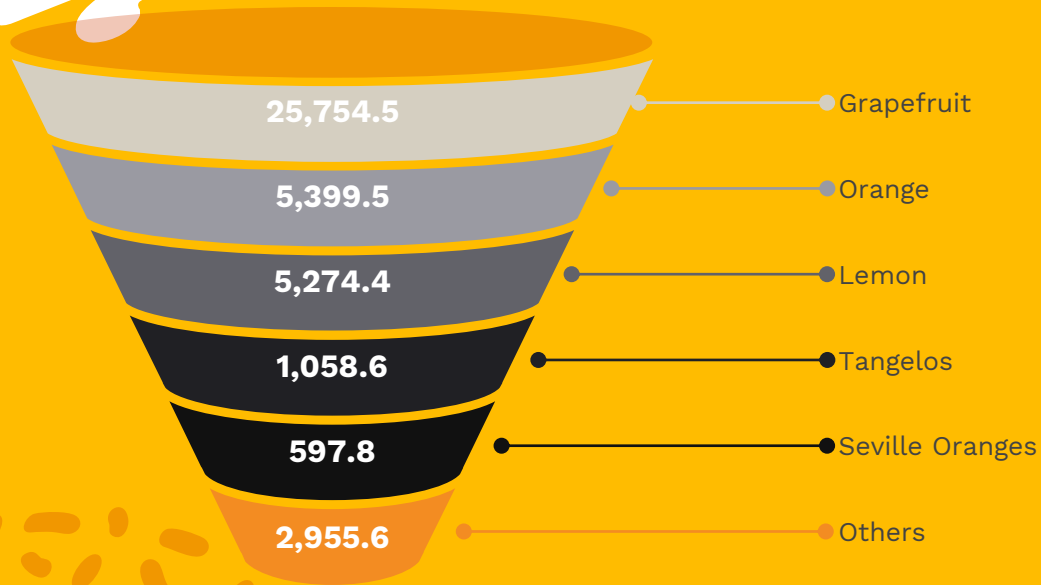
## **OPPORTUNITIES**



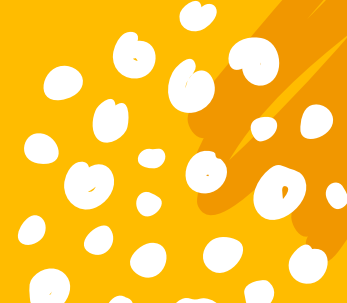
White is the color of milk and fresh snow

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## **THREATS**

Harvested a total of 41,040.4 lbs of produce in 2021



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- x Contact State Refugee Coordinator's Office
  - x Contact your city RR Office (CCS, HIAS, ECDC, etc.)
  - x Job training program/farm/garden program?
  - x Consider asylum seekers for volunteers in exchange for food