

# **WELCOMING WASHINGTON: Rebuilding Refugee Resettlement**

**Statewide Refugee Advisory Council**  
*Virtual Public Forum*

Friday, May 21, 2021  
10:00 am to 12:30 pm

# Virtual Meeting Protocols

- All callers will enter the conference call in mute.
- Keep yourself muted during the panel conversations.
- Be conscious of background noises.
- Time will be provided for questions and answers. The chat box is available to share questions and comments. Raise your hand if you would like to make a comment.
- Today's public forum will be recorded. It will be available to participants upon request and will be posted to the DSHS website.

# Are You Having Technical Difficulties?



Contact Hamed Hakimkhel

Email: **[hamed.hakimkhel@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:hamed.hakimkhel@dshs.wa.gov)**



# Refugee Advisory Council of Washington State

The mission of the Refugee Advisory Council is to:

- 1) Advocate on behalf of and raise awareness regarding the needs and concerns of refugees.
- 2) Collaborate across state agencies, the legislature, and disciplines on issues relevant to refugees and immigrants.
- 3) Build and make recommendations on state refugee policies and programs by identifying gaps in services as well as best practices.

# Washington State Refugee Advisory Council Members

County with High Concentration of Refugee Arrivals	Refugee Advisory Council Members
Benton-Franklin Counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Amira AlSalami, World Relief – Tri-Cities</li> <li>❖ Nesreen Al Muzayen, Kennewick School District</li> </ul>
Clark County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Margarita Marochkina, Partners in Careers</li> <li>❖ Vitali Turlac, Educational Service District 112</li> </ul>
King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Demitu Argo, TRAC Associates</li> <li>❖ Lenny Orlov, City of Seattle Aging &amp; Disability</li> <li>❖ Emmanuel Ndayisenga, International Rescue Committee</li> </ul>
Pierce County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Mouammar Abouagila, LCSNW</li> <li>❖ Jason Scales, Tacoma Community House</li> </ul>
Snohomish County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Abdul Rahman, Refugee and Immigrant Services NW</li> <li>❖ Dinah Prigodich, LCSNW</li> </ul>
Spokane County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Marijke Fakasiieiki, Community Member</li> <li>❖ Patricia Castañeda, World Relief - Spokane</li> </ul>



Department of Homeland  
Security: U.S. Citizen &  
Immigration Services

## SECURITY



- **Pre-screening** by Resettlement Support Center (RSC) staff
- On-site **interview** by CIS Refugee Corps (Circuit Rides)
- **Security** clearance & fingerprinting

State Department:  
Bureau for Population,  
Refugees & Migration

## PLACEMENT



- **Placement** allocations through 9 national Voluntary Agencies
- Cultural **orientation** & departure processing
- Initial **Reception & Placement**: 30-90 days in U.S.

Department of Health &  
Human Services: Office  
of Refugee Resettlement

## TRANSITION



- Interim cash & medical **assistance**
- Employment **services**, ESL, medical screening, recertification
- Specialized **programs**: Micro-Enterprise Development, IDA, Survivors of Torture...

# National Context on Refugee Resettlement



**Lawrence Bartlett**  
**Director, Office of Refugee Admissions**  
**Bureau of Population, Refugees, and**  
**Migration**  
**U.S. Department of State**

Mr. Bartlett is a career member of the Senior Executive Service and has served since 2010 as Director of the Refugee Admissions Office of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

During his tenure the program has led the international community by resettling over 700,000 refugees for permanent resettlement to the United States.

Prior to joining the State Department Mr. Bartlett served as U.S. Peace Corps Country Director in Jordan and Bulgaria. He served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Yemen helping implement the first national immunization program.

He is the recipient of the Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs and the Presidential Rank Award in the Senior Executive Service.



**Kenneth Tota**  
**Deputy Director,**  
**Office of Refugee Resettlement**  
**U.S. Department of Health and**  
**Human Services**

Ken Tota has served as the Deputy Director of ORR since 2008 and has served as the Acting ORR Director during several administration transitions.

Prior to ORR, he served as Senior Program Specialist at the Immigration and Naturalization Service where he provided oversight to the Cuban Haitian Entrant Program and Unaccompanied Children's Program (UC), and played a critical role in the transfer of the UC program to ORR in 2003.

Before entering civil service, Ken was the Cuban Haitian Program Coordinator for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Washington, DC and Miami, FL.

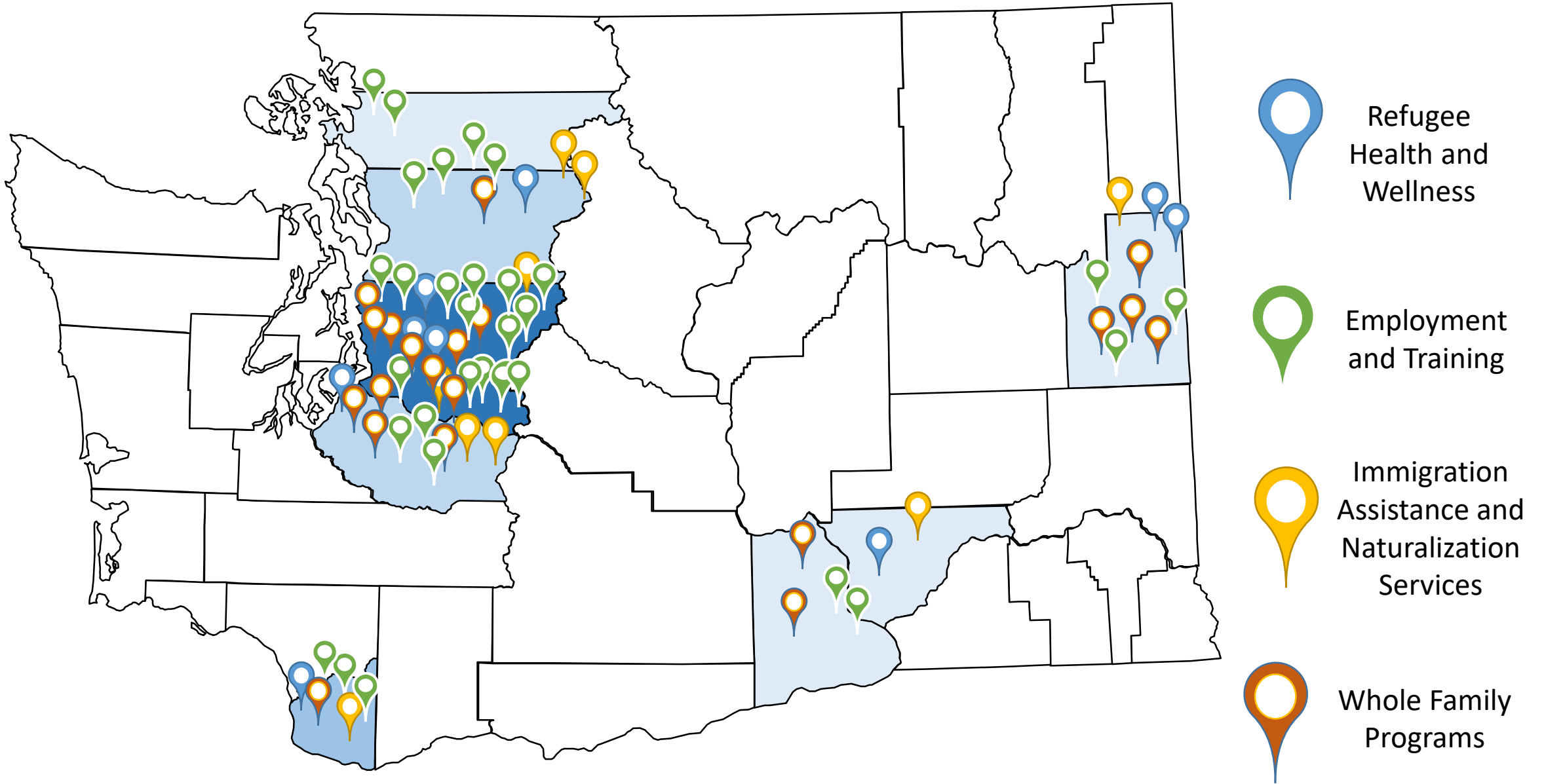
Ken has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the American University in Washington, DC.

# **Growing and Supporting Refugee Resettlement in Washington**

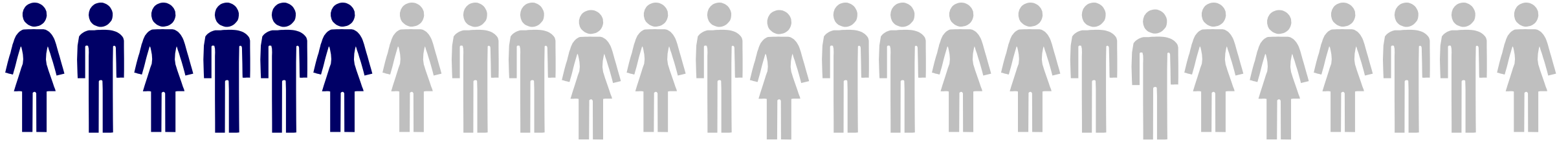
**State Context from the  
Washington Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance**



# Welcoming refugees is a collective effort.



# How many people do we reach in Washington?



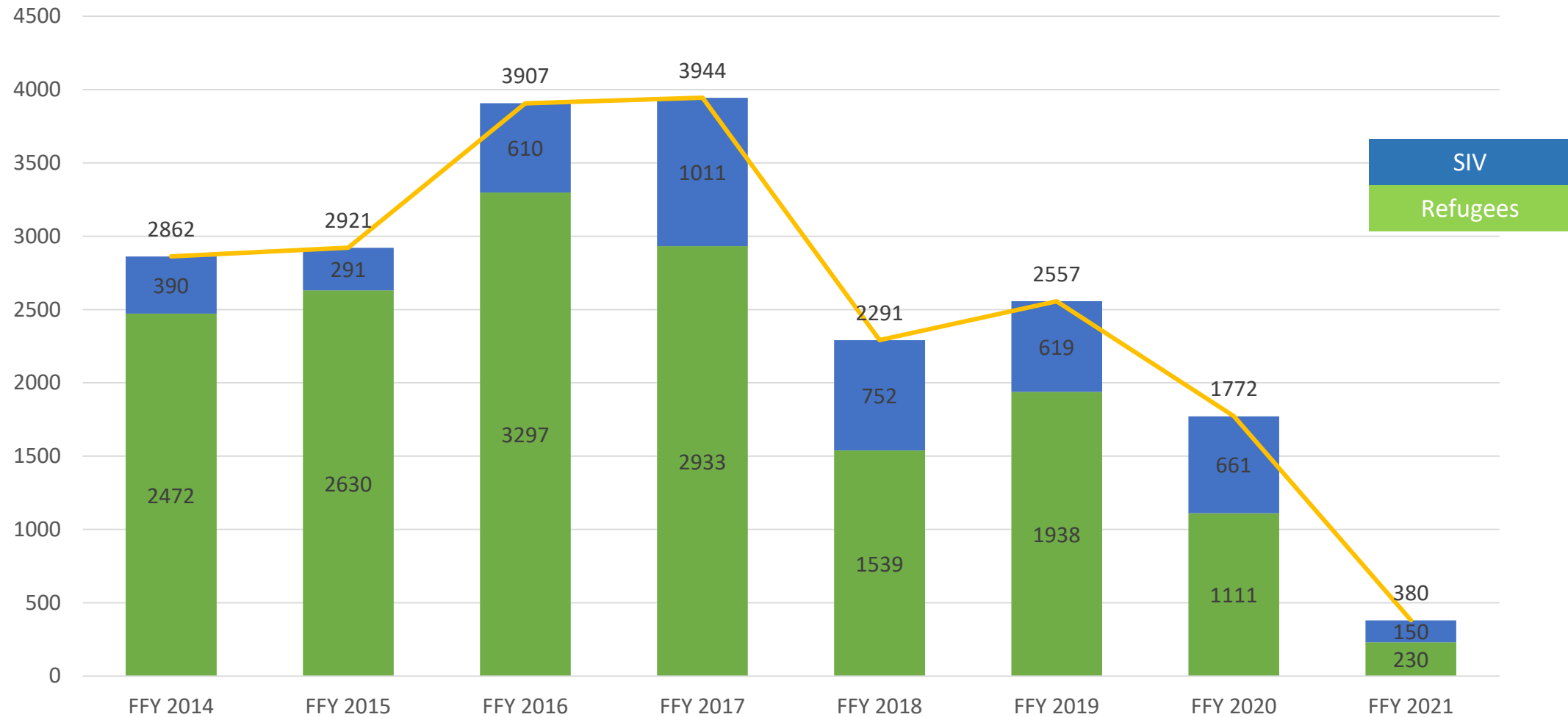
## 10,849 people received services through ORIA funded programs in 2020

- ✓ 538 – Refugee Students served
- ✓ 2,152 – ESL Programs Participants
- ✓ 3,838 - State-funded Naturalization Services
- ✓ 7,011 - Refugee Resettlement Services
- 1,768 new arrivals through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program
  - 1,114 newly arrived refugees
  - 654 newly arrived SIVS

### Eligible per Federal Guidelines

- REFUGEES
- ASYLEES
- SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA (SIV) HOLDERS
- CUBAN/HAITIAN ENTRANTS
- UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINORS
- CERTIFIED VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

# Washington State Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) Arrivals Federal Fiscal Year 2014 to 2021 (Oct. 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021)



Source: State Post-Arrival Demographics Report, Dept. of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migration, Refugee Processing Center, Washington.

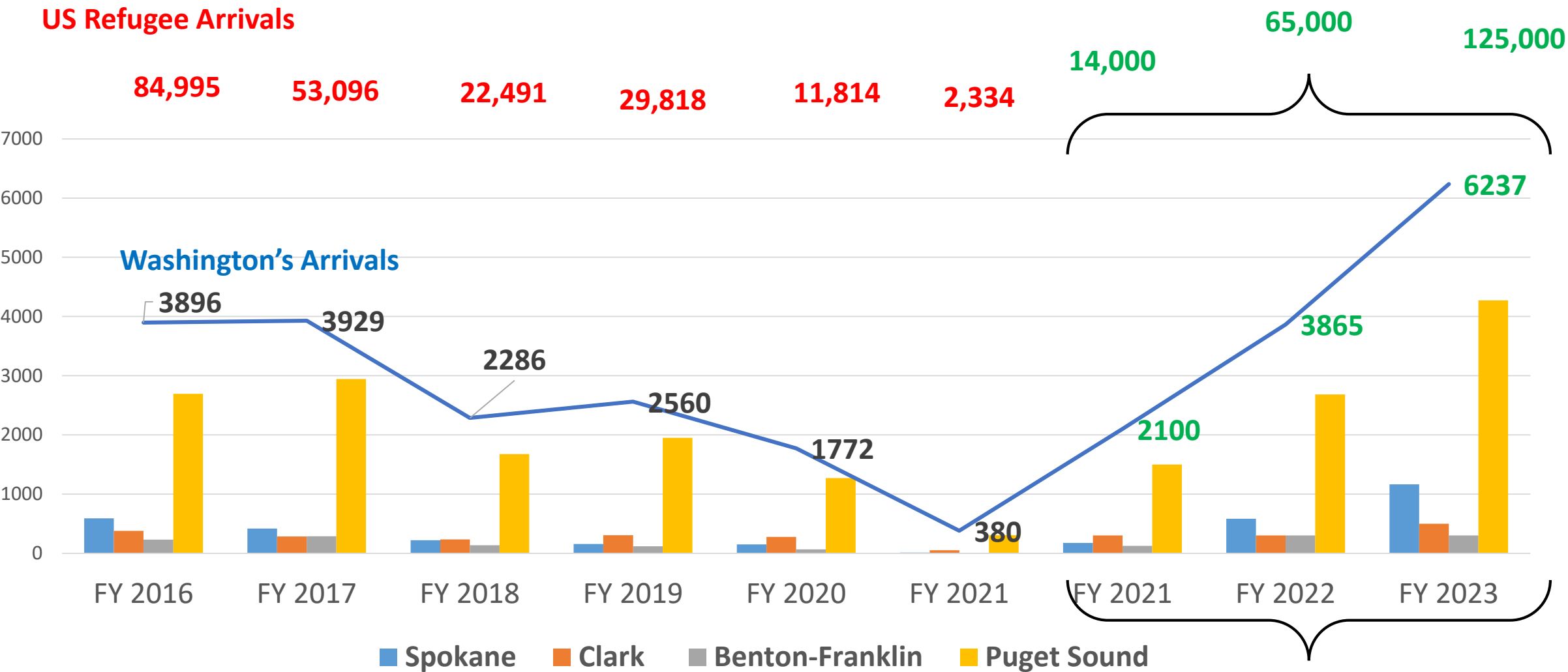
# Refugee Resettlement Agencies in Washington

County of Resettlement	Refugee Resettlement Agency
Benton-Franklin	World Relief - Richland
Clark County	LCSNW (LIRS)
Puget Sound Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- King</li> <li>- Pierce</li> <li>- Snohomish</li> </ul>	Diocese of Olympia (EMM) IRC JFS (HIAS) LCSNW (LIRS) World Relief – Seattle
Spokane County	World Relief – Spokane <i>IRC – FY 2022</i>
Whatcom County	USCCB – Remote Placement <i>World Relief – FY 2022</i>



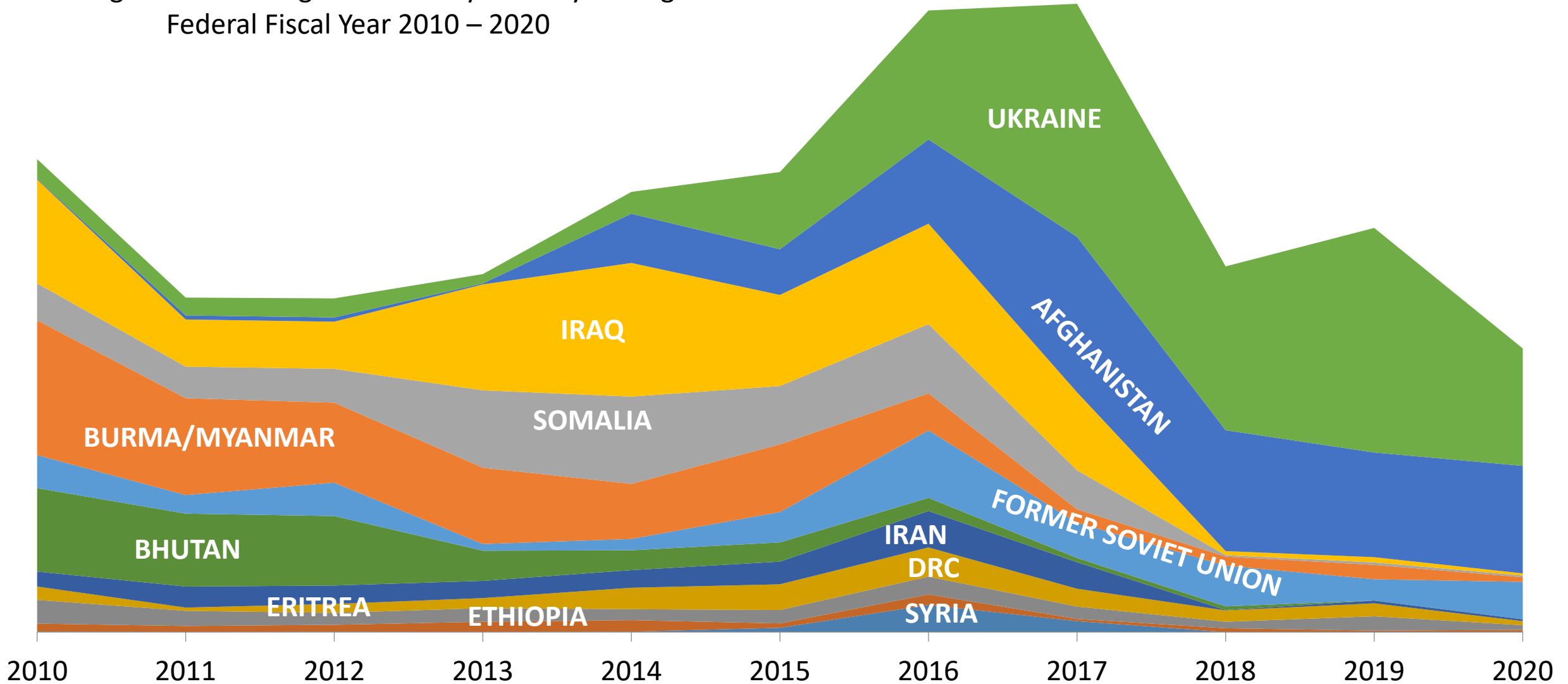
# Refugee and SIV Arrivals by Geographic Region

Projected Number of Arrivals  
FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023



**Washington welcomes more than 30 different nationalities annually.**

## Washington State Refugee Arrivals by Country of Origin Federal Fiscal Year 2010 – 2020





# Rebuilding Refugee Resettlement

Washington's Refugee Resettlement Agencies

# Refugee Resettlement Agencies in Washington

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# Rebuilding Refugee Resettlement

Break Out Session: Community Listening Session

# Questions

- As we discuss growing the number of refugee arrivals, what are the resources available? What are the resources needed?
- How do we ensure that people have their basic needs met?
  - Food security
  - Child care
  - Safe, healthy and affordable housing,
  - Jobs
- How do you address education, employment and training issues – reaching out to public school districts and college systems?
- What is the path to helping newly arrived refugees in finding self-sufficiency?
- Are there areas that we missed? Are we asking the right questions?

Thank you!

**Office of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance**

Economic Services Administration

*Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*

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Transforming  
Lives

