

A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a dark sweater with red and white horizontal stripes on the sleeves, holding a baby. The baby is wearing a blue hooded jacket with an Adidas logo and the word 'ORIGINAL' on the sleeve. They are standing in front of a large, light-colored tent. The sky is overcast.

**Refugees
International**

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Global Voices for Rights and Refuge

Refugees International advocates for lifesaving assistance, human rights, and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises.

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MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIRS AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to present our 2024 annual report.

As we look back at all we accomplished in 2024, we are facing ahead to one of the most trying – but also most important – periods in our 45-year history. Our deep institutional independence – rooted in our policy of not taking any government or UN funding – makes us uniquely placed to meet this moment. **We are ready to speak up louder than ever before to defend displaced people and to build a more welcoming world for people seeking refuge.**

This report shares a snapshot of the impact we were able to deliver together in 2024. It was a period of creativity, reflection, and action for the Refugees International team. We took time to create a new organizational strategic plan to address the complex political challenges facing refugees and displaced people today, and to future-proof our model. With crises multiplying, political support for refugee eroding, and centers of power shifting, Refugees International is evolving as well. In the face of immense political headwinds in the United States, we will defend against attacks on refugee rights, and work to build up stronger constituencies of support for welcoming refugees here. Meanwhile in our advocacy on overseas crises, we are doubling down on the importance of refugee leadership. We will expand our work to lift up refugee-led activism, and are putting a principle of co-creation with displaced people at the center of our advocacy model.

We also mourned the passing of Refugees International's founder, Sue Morton, this year. Sue was a compassionate trailblazer whose vision and dedication transformed the lives of displaced people around the world. Her legacy is alive every day in the work of the Refugees International team. We remain guided by her vision and the example she set for compassionate humanitarianism.

Our longstanding policy of independence from government funding means that we are well positioned to meet this moment of unprecedented political challenges for displaced people. We are so grateful that we can count on supporters like you to power our work.

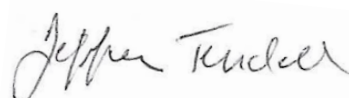
Sincerely,



Jeremy Konyndyk
President



Maureen White
Board Co-Chair



Jeffrey Tindell
Board Co-Chair

OUR MISSION

Refugees International is dedicated to creating a **more welcoming world for people seeking refuge.**

Today, more than 117 million people globally have been forced to flee conflict, crisis, and climate impacts at home. As these challenges increasingly collide, international systems designed to protect and aid people in need have not kept up, aid funding is falling short, and the rise of exclusionary politics have eroded access to refuge. We know that a better world is possible.

Refugees International is here to fight for rights and refuge for all.

Our Approach

Our experts work with partners around the world to investigate the challenges displaced people face, develop policy solutions, mobilize action, and hold the powerful to account.

Refugees International believes that people experiencing displacement must be at the center of the movement to advance solutions. We are dedicated to expanding the space for refugee and local leadership in our organization, in the public square, and in the halls of power.

To ensure the independence and credibility of our work, Refugees International does not accept government or UN funding. Our critical role helps us advance accountability and allows us to speak freely when others sometimes cannot.

Refugees International was started in 1979 as a citizens' movement to defend the rights of people fleeing Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Since then, we have expanded to become a globally focused organization, advocating wherever rights and refuge are at risk.



Portrait of a woman on Lesbos Island. Photo by Nicolas Economou/NurPhoto via Getty Images.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR WORK IN 2024

Refugees International worked tirelessly throughout 2024 to advocate for rights and refuge for all. Here are just some of the highlights from our work over the year.

The Refugee Fellows Program

We welcomed our [second cohort of Refugee Fellows](#) – dynamic refugee activists demonstrating outstanding leadership and a strong commitment to advocacy.

We are partnering with them to advance priorities that matter to their communities while supporting each of them with specialized advocacy training, access to policy venues and decision-makers, and support for fundraising efforts.



Row 1: Andhira Yousif Kara, Ayoo Irene Hellen, Jomana Abunahla.
Row 2: Lucky Karim, Masooda Qazi, William Adrián Clavijo Vitto.

Shifting Power

Ukraine

After helping its launch in 2023, we continued to work closely with the Alliance of Ukrainian CSOs, the main coalition representing Ukrainian humanitarians whose members collectively served an estimated 6 million people in need in Ukraine in 2024.

Two reports in 2024 – [“Passing the Buck: The Economics of Localizing Aid in Ukraine”](#) and [“The Annual Localization Survey”](#) – now serve as the cornerstone of joint advocacy efforts for shifting power to local and national responders across the country. The result has been a recent surge in aid from state donors directly to Ukrainian organizations.

Costa Rica

Our joint advocacy with [IRCA Casabierta](#), a refugee-led organization in Costa Rica, helped push the Costa Rican government to repeal a problematic decree that was limiting asylum seekers’ right to work.

We also supported a more favorable environment for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees to obtain formal jobs in Costa Rica through advocacy with the private sector and policymakers.



Top: Screenshot of Speak Out on Sudan webpage. Visit speakoutonsudan.org to learn more and take action.

Bottom: Daniel P. Sullivan (left), Director for Africa, Asia, and the Middle East at Refugees International, and Jeremy Konyndyk (middle), President of Refugees International, stand alongside Niemat Ahmadi, Founder and President of Darfur Women Action Group, and other leaders in the Sudanese diaspora in front of the White House on April 15, 2024, holding petitions demanding that the Biden Administration speak out on Sudan. Photo by Refugees International.

Speak Out on Sudan

In close partnership with Sudanese diaspora groups, we raised the alarm about how the war in Sudan is creating a famine and a massive humanitarian crisis.

We documented mass atrocities by the RSF paramilitaries – and focused global pressure on the United Arab Emirates to stop supplying arms to the RSF. We helped successfully push the U.S. government to make a formal determination that atrocities and genocide are occurring in Sudan, and to appoint a special envoy to lead diplomacy to end the war.



Pathways to Safety

Destination Reception Assistance Act

We worked closely with U.S. Senator Markey's office to draft the Destination Reception Assistance Act, which would provide federal aid to support communities in managing the arrival of asylum seekers – including workforce development, rental assistance, and legal services that promote self-sufficiency.

The legislation was [endorsed](#) by dozens of Members of Congress, mayors, and local elected officials.

#LetAsylumSeekersWork

We grew our #LetAsylumSeekersWork campaign, an effort to advocate for faster work permits for asylum seekers, in partnership with The Refugee Advocacy Lab, the Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project, and AILA. The campaign now represents a broad coalition of more than 60 national partners, and dozens more faith leaders, business leaders, and state and local elected officials.

Palestine

As Israeli military attacks in Gaza indiscriminately killed tens of thousands of civilians and pushed the entire besieged population into crisis, we forcefully called upon Israel to halt violations of international humanitarian law – and also repeatedly called upon Hamas to unconditionally release all hostages. Our intensive advocacy has documented Israeli obstruction of aid and examined the risk of famine in Gaza, and we directly pressed the senior-most levels of the Biden Administration to force Israel to stop strikes on civilians and improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza.

Right: Screenshot of New York Times headline referencing the Gaza Scorecard, a report by Refugees International and seven other humanitarian organizations detailing Israel's failure to facilitate adequate humanitarian relief for civilians in Gaza. Image of Senator Chris Van Hollen holding the Gaza Scorecard on the Senate Floor
Bottom: Headlines highlighting our advocacy on Gaza in 2024.

The New York Times

U.S. to Keep Sending Arms to Israel Despite Dire Conditions in Gaza

On Tuesday eight aid agencies, which included OXFAM, Save the Children and Refugees International, [issued a joint statement](#) saying Israel had failed to comply with both the U.S. demands and obligations under international law to facilitate adequate aid to Gaza.



“

The overall report card concludes Israel fails to comply with US humanitarian access demands in Gaza.

In fact, [8 organizations] determined that not only did the Netanyahu government fail to meet U.S. criteria that would indicate support to the humanitarian response, but concurrently took actions that dramatically worsened the conditions on the ground, particularly in northern Gaza.

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland on the Senate Floor, November 20, 2024



'I don't want to die': Fleeing Palestinians reveal gap in international refugee protection

Sarah Sheffer and Jesse Marks

Published 5:33 a.m. ET Feb. 15, 2024



MSNBC, All In with Chris Hayes: New Setbacks in Gaza Aid Distribution as 'Catastrophic' Hunger Levels Loom

June 26, 2024



Podcast Episode

Why Can't More Humanitarian Aid Get to Gaza?

Global Dispatches -- World News That Matters

May 20, 2024

RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST →

Israel's ban on UNRWA 'a major setback'

Mon 28 Oct 2024 at 5:00pm



Middle East

Israel fails to meet U.S. demands on aid to Gaza. How are aid agencies coping?

Share

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Biden's Greatest Failure in Gaza

How Weak Humanitarian Diplomacy Abetted a Cataclysm

By Jeremy Konyndyk

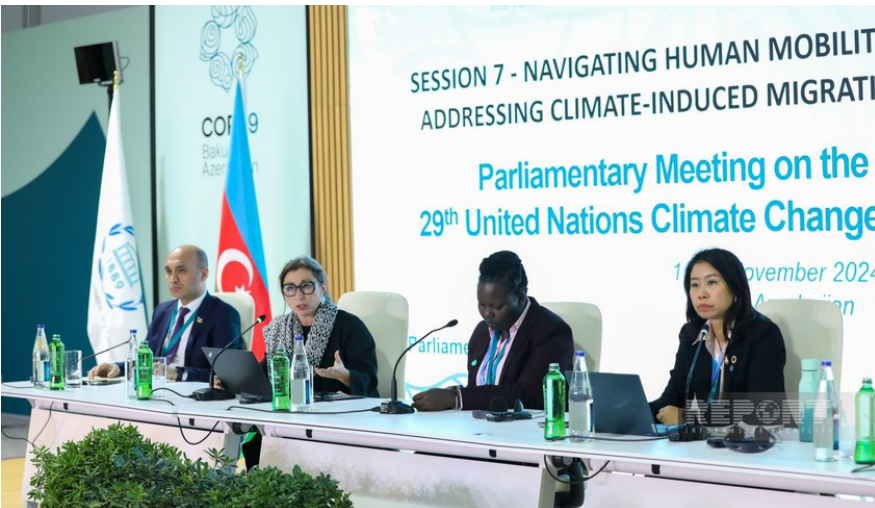
December 2, 2024



Climate

In December 2024, Refugees International fellows Qiyamud Din Ikram and Ayoo Irene Hellen attended COP29 in Baku as some of the few refugee representatives in attendance, to ensure that displaced leaders are represented in global climate discussions.

Ahead of COP29, we held consultations with sixty refugee leaders in Uganda’s Bidi Bidi and Kiryandongo refugee settlements to bring their perspectives forward to the negotiations. Meanwhile, we are building a consultative mechanism between the government of Uganda and refugee communities for the development and implementation of Uganda’s National Adaptation Plan.



Top: From right to left, Ayoo Irene Hellen, Refugees International Fellow, Jocelyn Perry, Senior Advocate and Program Manager of the Climate Displacement Program, and Qiyamud Din Ikram, Refugees International Fellow Alumnus. Photo by Refugees International.
Bottom: Ayoo Hellen, Refugees International Fellow, delivers remarks at the Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of COP29: Navigating Human Mobility and Climate Change: Addressing Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement. Photo by Refugees International.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS



+395 Media Moments



+375,000 Social Media Followers across all platforms (not including X)



+335,000 Website Visitors



+25 Research Trips

Update from the Refugee Advocacy Lab

Refugees International is proud to host the Refugee Advocacy Lab, a partnered initiative with the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and Refugee Congress that works to grow the movement for U.S. leadership on refugee protection and inclusion. Centered in the perspective and leadership of displaced people themselves, the Lab supports the field by developing strategic communications resources, championing inclusive policies, and building capacity on the ground.

Throughout 2024, the Lab worked to power partners in key states to build diverse coalitions and champion policies that make our communities more welcoming; readied and mobilized leaders who are powerful messengers for our work, and provided critical tools and resources to sustain the movement.



Above: Rwamucyo Karekezi, the Lab's Pennsylvania State Lead and CWS's Refugee and Immigrant Community Organizer, speaks at a press conference during a Pennsylvania Advocacy Day in October 2024 on the need to create an Office of New Pennsylvanians.



Bottom: In May 2024, the Refugee Storytellers Collective hosted its inaugural Storytellers Summit. Twenty-one Collective members from across the United States gathered in Washington, D.C. to learn how to advocate for change with their stories.

In September, the Lab and partners secured signatures from nearly 500 bipartisan state and local elected officials from all 50 states on a letter to President Biden urging continued investment in the U.S. resettlement program. This group of leaders will be essential allies as we defend against attacks on refugee in the year to come.

And in October, the Lab and Refugees International’s pre-election polling reaffirmed an important truth: a majority of U.S. voters support the U.S. refugee resettlement and asylum programs – and when someone personally knows a refugee, that support increases dramatically.

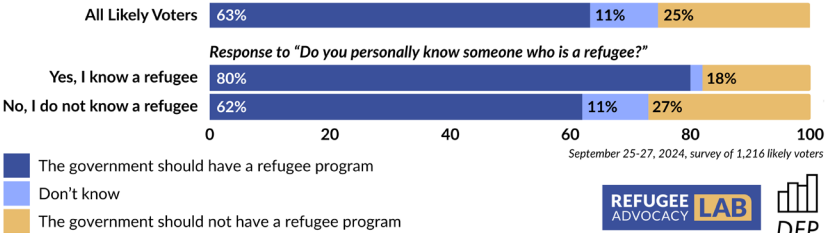
As we look toward 2025, the Lab and its partners will fight to protect and defend not only the immigrant and refugee community in our country, but the values we share.

Right: An October 2024 poll from the Refugee Advocacy Lab, Refugees International, and Data for Progress showed that a majority of likely voters support the U.S. refugee resettlement program, access to asylum at the border, and a legislative proposal that would reduce wait times for asylum seekers to access work permits. Support increases significantly when voters know someone personally who is a refugee.

A Majority of Voters Believe the Government Should Have a Refugee Program

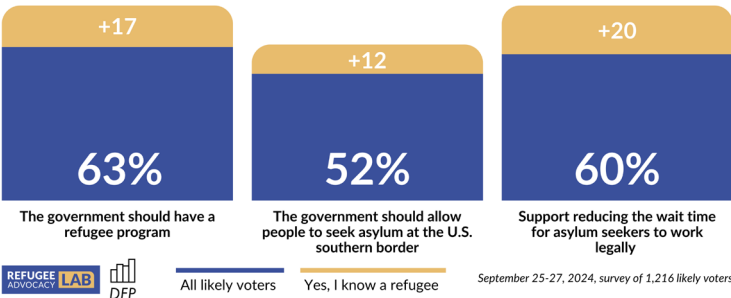
A refugee is a person who is forced to leave their country in order to escape war, violence, or persecution due to factors such as their race, religion, or political opinion.

Do you believe the government should have a refugee program that helps bring some people seeking refuge to safety in the United States?



How Do We Build Support for More Welcoming Refugee and Asylum Policies? Get to Know a Refugee.

As U.S. immigration policy is becoming an increasingly polarizing issue ahead of the November 2024 U.S. elections, one factor in particular produces elevated support for more welcoming refugee, asylum, and asylum seeker workforce policies: personally knowing someone who is a refugee.



2024 Funders of the Refugee Advocacy Lab



2024 SUPPORTERS

2024 INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

\$50,000+

Anonymous

The Chris & Melody Malachowsky Family Foundation

Elizabeth Galvin

Jeffrey Tindell and Cheryl Feigenson

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William Reeves Dependent Sub-Fund (WRDSF)

\$10,000–\$49,999

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A woman displaced by the conflict in eastern DRC holds her daughter in the Kanyaruchinya IDP camp. Her daughter was born in the camp. Photo by Moses Sawasawa for Refugees International, 2024.



FINANCES

	2023 Total	2024 Total
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	1,433,649	1,276,670
Foundation Grants	2,883,893	3,402,646
Contract Revenue	231,913	196,568
Contributed nonfinancial assets	149,862	47,494
Events	332,867	565,450
Income Sub-total	5,032,184	5,488,828
Investment Gain/(Loss)	397,936	316,899
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	5,430,120	5,805,727
Program Services		
Advocacy	3,255,056	3,593,224
Strategic Outreach	1,008,214	913,356
Total Program Services	4,263,270	4,506,580
Supporting Services		
General and Administrative	526,339	570,723
Fundraising	488,301	595,915
Total Supporting Services	1,014,640	1,166,638
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,277,910	5,673,218
Other Items	(99,471)	(127,178)
Change in Net Assets	52,739	5,331
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	4,793,421	4,846,160
Net Assets at End of Year	4,846,160	4,851,491

Migrants cross the Tuquesa river near Bajo Chiquito village, the first border control of the Darien Province in Panama. Photo by Luis Acosta/AFP via Getty Images.



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Bluesky: @refugeesintl.bsky.social

Instagram/Threads: @RefugeesIntl

Facebook: Refugees International

Linkedin: Refugees International

EVENTS

Visit our [Events Page](#) for upcoming webinars, town halls, and more.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Visit our [Take Action](#) page to learn how you can get involved.

DONATE

Refugees International does not accept funding from any government or the United Nations, enabling us to speak freely and impartially. Your independent support fuels our ability to speak truth to power—no matter who wields it.

Refugees International is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your tax-deductible gift to Refugees International supports our mission to advance the rights and safety of the more than 100 million people displaced worldwide.

Visit our [Ways to Give](#) page to learn more or scan the QR code below.



Next Page: A father and his daughters at Kakuma Refugee camps in Turkana, Kenya. July 21, 2024. Photo by Harriet Ojiambo for Refugees International.



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Design Credit: Eliza Leal,
Digital Communications Officer

Cover Image: 14-year-old Palestinian Mohammed El-Yazici, who lost his mother and has not heard from his father due to Israeli attacks on Gaza, kisses his 6-month-old baby brother in front of the makeshift tent they take shelter in in Rafah, Gaza on January 28, 2024. (Photo by Abed Zagout/Anadolu via Getty Images)

