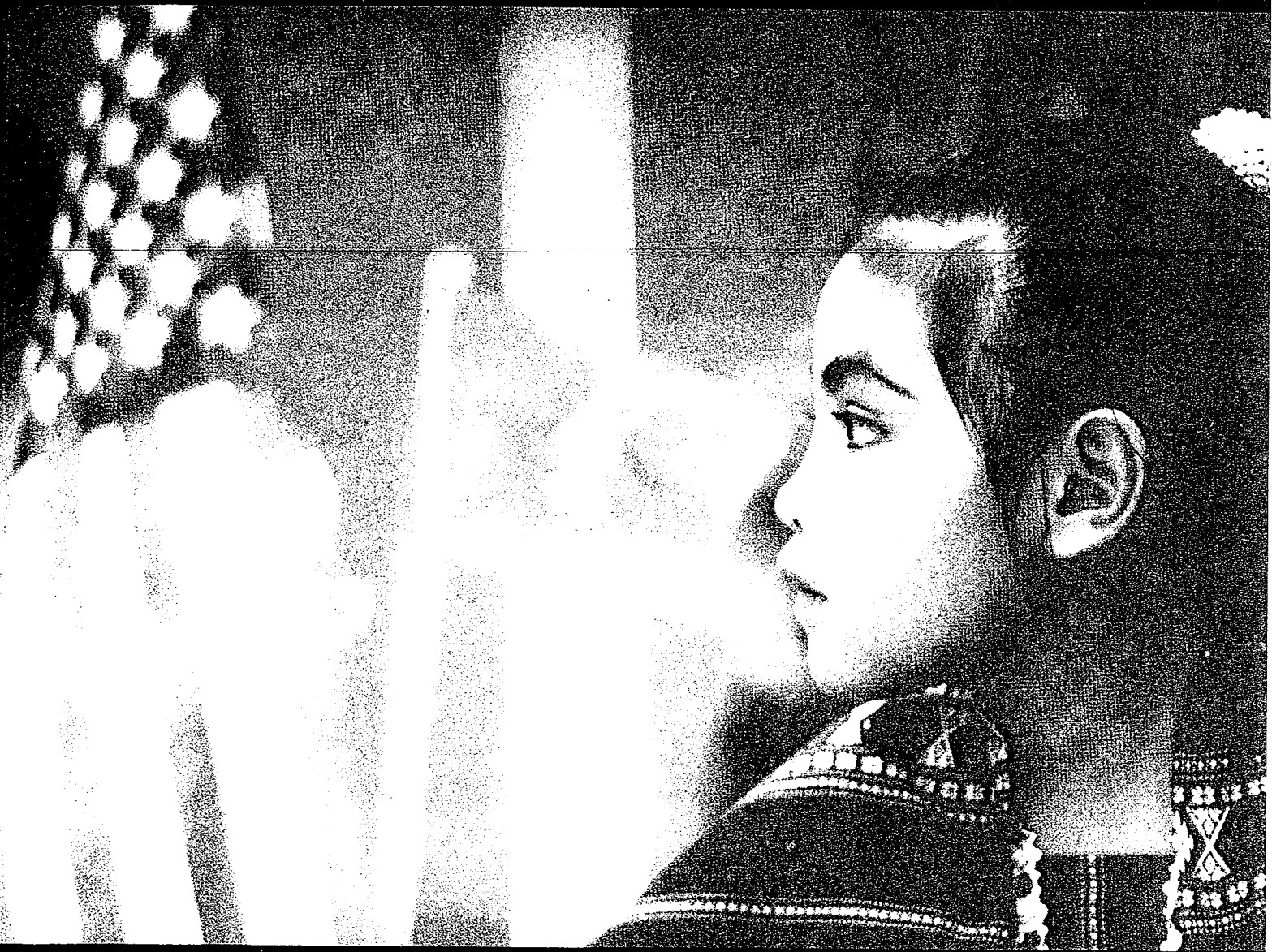


**Report to
the Congress**

FY 1993



Refugee Resettlement Program

**Office of
Refugee
Resettlement**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Refugee Resettlement





Above: English language training readies these refugees for the American labor force. *Photo by Mark Halevi.*

Cover: America continues to be a refuge for many of the world's dispossessed and uprooted. *Photo by Fresno Bee.*

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The Refugee Act of 1980 created the Refugee Resettlement Program to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees and to assist them to achieve economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. Since 1980, the domestic resettlement program has been the responsibility of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20447. ORR is an office of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the Department of Health and Human Services. For further information, call (202) 401-9246.

Executive Summary

The Refugee Act of 1980 (section 413(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the U.S. Coordinator for Refugee Affairs, to submit an annual report to Congress on the Refugee Resettlement Program. This report covers refugee program developments in Fiscal Year 1993—from October 1, 1992 through September 30, 1993. It is the twenty-seventh in a series of reports to Congress on refugee resettlement in the U.S. since 1975—and the thirteenth to cover an entire year of activities carried out under the comprehensive authority of the Refugee Act of 1980.

Admissions

- Almost 119,100 refugees and Amerasian immigrants were admitted to the United States in FY 1993, including 384 under private sector funding.
- About 43 percent came from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, 42 percent from Southeast Asia, 6 percent from the Near East and South Asia, 6 percent from Africa, and 4 percent from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Initial Reception and Placement Activities

- In FY 1993, twelve non-profit organizations were responsible for the reception and initial placement of refugees through cooperative agreements with the Department of State.

Domestic Resettlement Program

- **Refugee Appropriations:** The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) obligated \$381.5 million in FY 1993 for the costs of assisting refugees and Cuban and Haitian entrants. Of this, States received about \$214 million for the costs of providing cash and medical assistance to eligible refugees.

- **Social Services:** In FY 1993, ORR provided States with \$65 million in formula grants for a broad range of services for refugees, such as English language and employment-related training.
- **Targeted Assistance:** ORR provided \$44 million in targeted assistance funds to supplement available services in areas with large concentrations of refugees and entrants.
- **Unaccompanied Minors:** Since 1979, a total of 10,729 minors have been cared for until they were reunited with relatives or reached the age of emancipation. The number remaining in the program as of September 30, 1993 was 1,651—a decrease of 498 from a year earlier.
- **Voluntary Agency Matching Grant Program:** Grants totaling over \$30 million were awarded in FY 1993. Under this program, Federal funds are awarded on a matching basis to national voluntary resettlement agencies to provide assistance and services to refugees.
- **Refugee Health:** The Public Health Service continued to monitor the overseas health screening of U.S.-destined refugees, to inspect refugees at U.S. ports of entry, to notify State and local health agencies of new arrivals, and to provide funds to State and local health departments for refugee health assessments. Obligations for these activities amounted to about \$5.7 million.
- **Wilson/Fish Demonstration Projects:** ORR provided \$5.9 million to fund demonstration projects in Oregon, Alaska, Kentucky, and California to help refugees find employment and reduce assistance costs.
- **National Discretionary Projects:** ORR approved projects totaling approximately \$11.9 million to improve refugee resettlement operations at the national, regional, State, and community levels. Six States participated in the Key States Initiative, a program intended to address problems of persistent welfare dependency, and a California

county participated in the Key Counties Initiative. Projects in another 27 States were approved as part of the Job Links program, which seeks to strengthen linkages between employable refugees and potential employers in communities with good job opportunities. Other discretionary projects provided funds for planned secondary resettlement, business loans to refugee entrepreneurs, and special assistance to Vietnamese political prisoners and Amerasian immigrants.

- **Key States/Counties Initiative (KSI/KCI):** In Wisconsin, 242 welfare-dependent refugee families became self-sufficient, and 97 families achieved welfare reductions. In Minnesota, 247 welfare-dependent refugee families became self-sufficient. A Washington KSI program to reimburse job-related expenses enabled 480 families to become self-sufficient. The Massachusetts KSI placed 72 percent of employable refugees in employment within eight months. KSI saved New York almost \$486,000 due to job placement or reassessment of eligibility. The Orange County, California KCI found full-time employment for 253 participants and increased the hours of employment for 93 others.
- **Planned Secondary Resettlement (PSR):** To date, PSR has relocated 790 families (3,300 individuals) from communities with high welfare utilization to self-sufficient communities, and all families found employment soon after arrival. With the exception of a few elderly refugees on SSI, welfare utilization decreased from 100 percent before relocation to zero afterwards. Welfare savings were calculated at \$990 a month per family. On average, the government has been able to recoup its initial resettlement cost in just seven months.

Key Federal Activities

- **Congressional Consultations for FY 1993 Admissions:** Following consultations with Congress, President Bush set a world-wide refugee admissions ceiling at 132,000 for FY 1993, including 10,000 refugee admission numbers contingent on private sector funding.

- **Congressional Consultations for FY 1994 Admissions:** Following consultations with Congress, President Clinton set a world-wide refugee admissions ceiling at 121,000 for FY 1994, including 1,000 refugee admission numbers contingent on private sector funding.

Refugee Population Profile

- Southeast Asians remain the largest group admitted since 1975, with about 1,072,500 refugees and 67,200 Amerasian immigrant arrivals. Nearly 369,200 refugees from the former Soviet Union arrived in the U.S. during this period.
- Other refugees who have arrived since the enactment of the Refugee Act of 1980 include approximately 40,200 Romanians, 38,100 Iranians, 38,000 Poles, 31,200 Afghans, 33,700 Ethiopians, and 14,200 Iraqis.
- Ten States have Southeast Asian refugee populations of 20,000 or more and account for about 71 percent of the total Southeast Asian refugee population in the U.S. The States of California, Texas, and Washington continue to hold the top three positions.

Economic Adjustment

- The Fall 1993 annual survey of refugees who have been in the U.S. less than five years indicated that about 33 percent of refugees age 16 or over were employed in September 1993, as compared with about 62 percent for the U.S. population. About 26 percent of Southeast Asian refugees were employed, compared with 39 percent of non-Southeast Asian refugees.
- About 21 percent of refugees in the five-year population received medical coverage through an employer, while about 48 percent received benefits from Medicaid or Refugee Medical Assistance. About 22 percent of all refugees had no medical coverage in any of the previous 12 months.
- Refugees who arrived in 1993 averaged 10.7 years of education. About 10 percent reported that he or she spoke English well or fluently.

