

Piloting a Mentorship Program with University Student Mentors

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Refugees and Mentoring

- Less than 1% of refugees worldwide pursue higher education (2)
- Mentoring can help refugee youth prepare for further education and employment (2)
- Mentoring has been recommended as a tool for other disadvantaged populations, but has never been researched as tool for refugee youth in the United States (3)

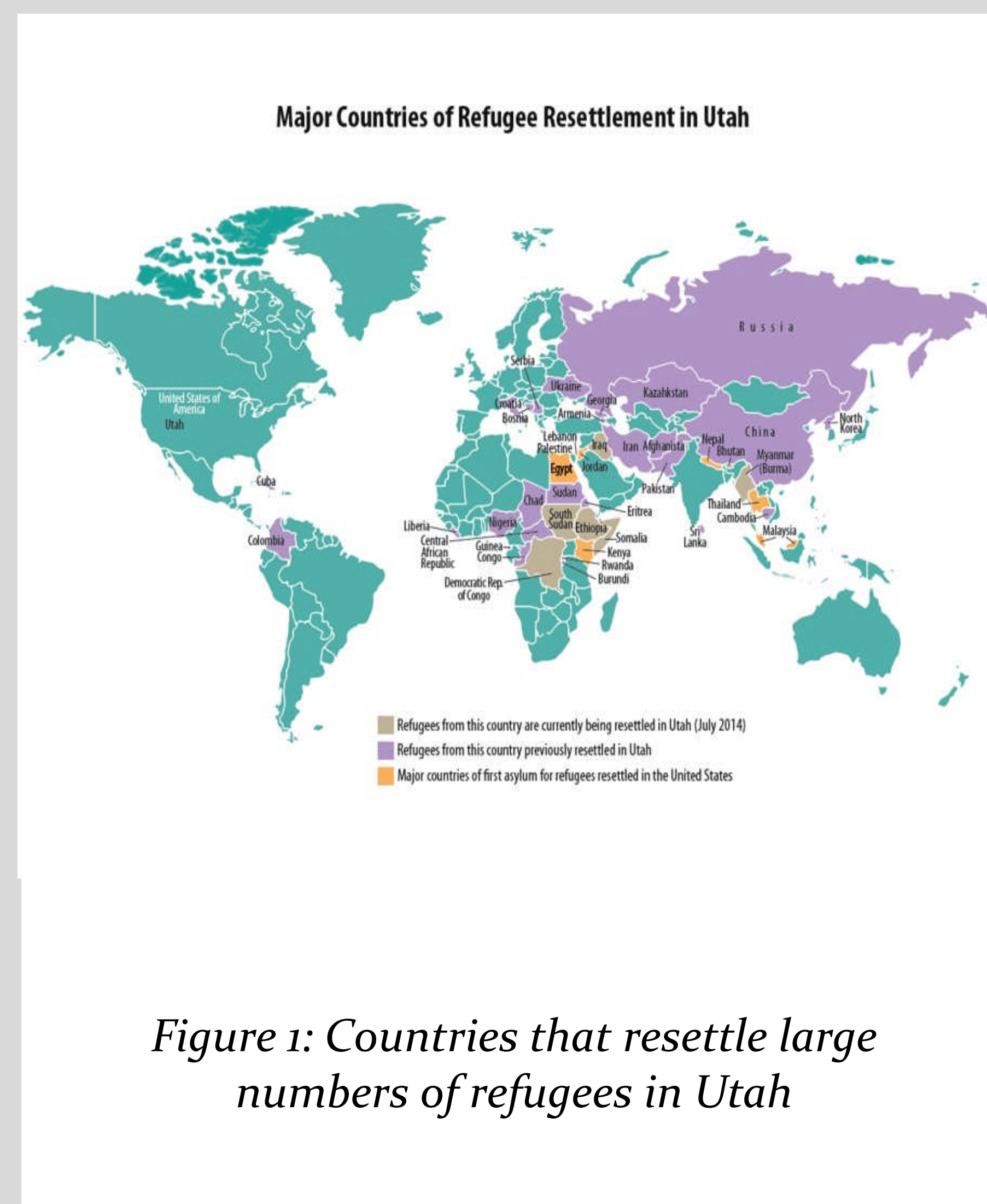


Figure 1: Countries that resettle large numbers of refugees in Utah

Limitations

- Study is limited to refugee populations in Salt Lake City, Utah
- Since this is a pilot, study is limited to a small number of university student mentors

Next Steps

- Collect regular feedback from university student mentors participating in the study
- Arrange a focus group to collect qualitative data on mentor experiences
- Evaluate whether mentorship positively benefitted undergraduate students as a gauge for developing future programs

Mentoring and University Students

- Mentoring can help university students mentors learn about the refugee population within their community
- University student mentors can provide refugee students with college-age role models
- Mentoring can also increase feelings of belonging on campus for university students (1)

Methods

- Developed a screening tool and a mentoring application based on recommendations in the literature
- Screened mentors based on their ability to serve as a reliable mentor for a six month time frame
- Identified six undergraduate university students to serve as mentors for the 2018 pilot program
- Prepared a university student focus group to discuss program expectations

Fostering Mentoring Relationships

- All study participants attended a training session for the “Know Your Neighbor” program presented by the Refugee Services Office
- All students were required to complete interviews and background checks with the Refugee Services Office
- University students were matched to refugee students based on interviews with the Refugee Services Office

References & Acknowledgements

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