



MAP Multi-Agency
Partnership BC
Working Together for Refugee Claimants

MAP Member Agency News

MAP Bulletin # 3

January 17, 2023

Dear MAP members,

How are you doing? We will keep you up to date with any changes to refugee claimant services as they happen - and if you have information that you would like to share with MAP please email info@mapbc.org.

MAP NEWS!

You are invited to attend the **MAP Meeting on Thursday January 25th** at 9:30 am hosted by **MOSAIC**
Address: 5575 Boundary Rd, Vancouver

We will be meeting in person without a hybrid option.

The chair will be Sireen El Nashar

There is no need to RSVP your attendance (although it would be a nice touch!) - your presence will be noted on arrival

The highlights are:

- Our regular IRB Report
- BC CHARMS update
- **A Presentation by Sophia Underhill - Ready Tours: Supporting Refugee Claimants with Hearing Preparedness**
- Report back from the MAP Advisory Council
- Chances for everyone to share updates/questions/issues and friendship in the service of refugee claimants.

Light refreshments will be provided - please come early to meet your colleagues and enjoy a warm coffee!

Thank you for all you are doing to support vulnerable refugee claimants
Sara Lopez, Sireen El Nashar and Katya Avalos, MAP Executive

Hi all!



The My Refugee Claim website features a [Community Resources](#) page that provides a list of organizations (by province) which support refugee claimants.

Refugee claimants and service providers can use this page to find services in their region.

Is your refugee claimant serving organization showing up (or not) the way you want it to on the <https://myrefugeeclaim.ca/en/community-resources/> page?

Please [complete this form](#) (<https://forms.gle/LX2Wfj1Es8jNqaLE8>) if you would like to

- **add** your organization to the Community Resources page, or
- **update** your organization's existing information, or
- **remove** your organization from the Community Resources page.

For questions, please contact Project Coordinator, Chantel Spade at chantel@kinbrace.ca

Thank you!

AMSSA E-LEARNING COURSE ON PATHWAYS TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENTS

We are pleased to announce the launch of the AMSSA E-Learning course on Pathways to Permanent Residence for Temporary Residents.

It is important for Settlement Workers to understand current immigration pathways and programs. The comprehensive course explains immigration pathways available to temporary residents, describes how immigration is managed in Canada, reviews application processes and application management systems, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of settlement workers in the context of immigration supports.

[**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE COURSE**](#)



Each workshop will bring you closer to enhancing wellness, increasing employability and strengthening confidence. For more information, email leads_vancouver@ywcavan.org or call 604-908-1227

WorkBC LEADS



A 10-week group-based **service for survivors of violence and/or abuse**, offered as part of WorkBC Employment Services in **Vancouver**.



We Are

HIRING

JOIN US !



**Afterschool Program
Team Leader - Burnaby**

APPLY TODAY 

www.burnabynh.ca



We're Hiring!

This is a great opportunity to join our Afterschool Program Team to make a positive impact on the lives of children (ages 6-12) and support families in our vibrant community. Does that sound like you or someone you know?

Then, apply now! We're hiring for engaging Afterschool Program Team Leads who will work with Burnaby elementary students.

Multiple Positions Available! See our website for more detailed job descriptions:

<https://burnabynh.ca/get-involved-employment/>



SOCCER DROP-IN



A FREE SOCCER GROUP FOR NEWCOMERS

EVERY FRIDAY EVENINGS 6:00-8:00 PM

location: 2950 Blue Jay St, Abbotsford

Eligibility: Adult Newcomer Males 19+

Contact us for additional information and to be invited to the soccer WhatsApp group

Sajith Satheesh: 778-345-4198

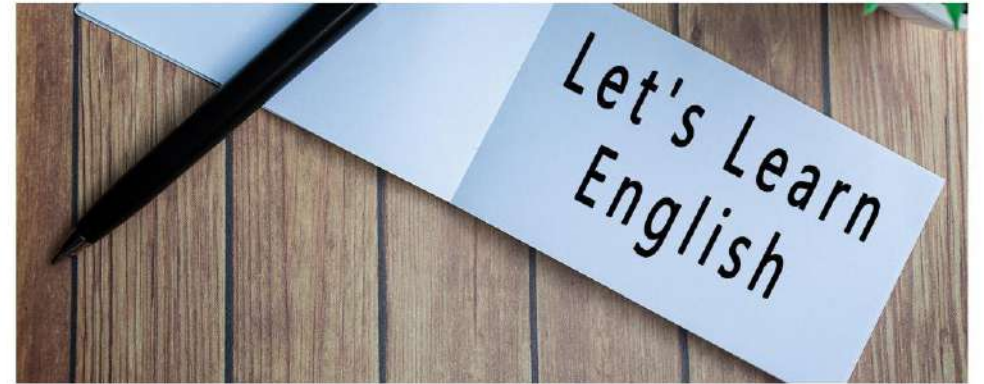
Sajith.Satheesh@archway.ca



**PDF
Attached**



ENGLISH CONVERSATION CIRCLE



If you are a newcomer in Canada, join us to practice your speaking and listening while making new friends and learning about your new community!

**Tuesdays
10:00-11:30 am**

IN-Person ONLY
Emmanuel Mennonite Church
3471 Clearbrook Rd,

**Wednesdays
7:00-8:30 pm**

ONLINE
only on Zoom

**For more information, please contact:
604-866-5233**

rupinder.padam@archway.ca



Relevant news from January

[Could this project help address our housing crisis — and put a roof over refugees' heads?](#)

Jan 17th - Refugee Housing Canada's home-sharing platform connects refugees in need of a safe and welcoming home with Canadian hosts who want to help and also earn some income.

[Canadian customs officers could soon be based in the U.S. for the first time](#)

Jan 12th - Canadian customs officers could soon be posted to U.S. border posts on American soil for the first time in history, and American officers could be assigned to work from border posts in Canada, CBC News has learned.

[Vancouver's emergency shelters feel the squeeze as refugee claims nearly double in B.C.](#)

Jan 11th - The number of asylum seekers in B.C. has nearly doubled in the past year, putting pressure on Vancouver's emergency shelters, several of which are reporting large increases in refugee claimants staying in overnight beds

[Canada's immigration minister says there isn't a hard cap on temporary visa program for Palestinians](#)

Jan 9th - Canada's Immigration Minister Marc Miller says the federal government's stated 1,000-person limit on temporary resident visas for Palestinians looking to flee Gaza is not a hard cap, despite previous suggestions.

[Canadian Muslim group calls on Ottawa to lift cap on number of Palestinians who can flee to Canada](#)

Jan 2nd - The National Council of Canadian Muslims is calling on the federal government to remove a cap on the number of Palestinians who can seek refuge with their Canadian extended family members from the violence in the Gaza Strip.

IRCC UPDATE - Temporary public policy to facilitate temporary resident visas for certain extended family affected by the crisis in Gaza

This is an update to the message below, sent on December 21, 2023.

On December 28, 2023, the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) announced a *Temporary public policy to facilitate temporary resident visas for certain extended family affected by the crisis in Gaza.*

This temporary resident pathway opened on January 9, 2024. Please consult this [link](#) for more information.

[A webpage has been set up to provide information on this temporary measure, including eligibility criteria, how clients may apply](#) and timelines. Please consult [Crisis in Gaza: Special measures for extended family members in Gaza](#).

Individuals who are accepted under the *Temporary public policy to facilitate temporary resident visas for certain extended family affected by the crisis in Gaza* will be eligible for federally-funded settlement services for up to three years (until March 31, 2027).

IRCC is taking the following actions to communicate with clients and Service Provider Organizations around eligibility and access to services:

- A message to all Service Provider Organizations will be sent in the coming days, outlining the changes to the Settlement Program Terms and Conditions and explaining how eligible clients under this measure can demonstrate their eligibility for settlement services once they have arrived in Canada.
- A letter will be sent to the Canadian citizen or permanent resident anchor, outlining their obligations towards their extended family members arriving in Canada, as well as the services their family members are eligible for and how to access those services.
- A letter will be sent to the extended family members arriving in Canada, outlining the services they are eligible for and how to access those services.

----- Original message -----

Date: 2023-12-21 7:23 p.m. (GMT-05:00)

Today the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introduced temporary immigration measures to support family members of Canadians and permanent residents from Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, as well as Israelis and Palestinians already in Canada.

Fee-exempt study or open work permits in Canada

- Beginning today, the following people can apply for a fee-exempt study or open work permit:
 - Foreign national family members of Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents (PRs) who have left Israel and the Palestinian Territories, either with their family members or of their own accord, since the onset of the current conflict.
 - Israelis and Palestinians already in Canada who feel unsafe returning to the region at this time.

For those with loved ones living in Gaza

- IRCC will also prioritize the processing of all existing and new permanent residence applications for Palestinians within family-based streams.
- IRCC will be introducing special measures to support temporary residence for extended family members in Gaza who are related to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.
- To ensure clients arriving under this cohort receive the supports they may need, settlement services will be made available to the limited cohort.
- More details about these special measures for extended family members of Canadians, including how to apply and further information about settlement supports, will be made available soon. We will keep you informed.

For more information, please see [Immigration measures to help people affected by the Israel– Hamas conflict](#)

The war in Gaza must end

*Statement by Martin Griffiths,
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator*

(New York, 5 January 2024) Three months since the horrific 7 October attacks, Gaza has become a place of death and despair.

Tens of thousands of people, mostly women and children, have been killed or injured. Families are sleeping in the open as temperatures plummet. Areas where civilians were told to relocate for their safety have come under bombardment. Medical facilities are under relentless attack. The few hospitals that are partially functional are overwhelmed with trauma cases, critically short of all supplies, and inundated by desperate people seeking safety.

A public health disaster is unfolding. Infectious diseases are spreading in overcrowded shelters as sewers spill over. Some 180 Palestinian women are giving birth daily amidst this chaos. People are facing the highest levels of food insecurity ever recorded. Famine is around the corner.

For children in particular, the past 12 weeks have been traumatic: No food. No water. No school. Nothing but the terrifying sounds of war, day in and day out.

Gaza has simply become uninhabitable. Its people are witnessing daily threats to their very existence – while the world watches on.

The humanitarian community has been left with the impossible mission of supporting more than 2 million people, even as its own staff are being killed and displaced, as communication blackouts continue, as roads are damaged and convoys are shot at, and as commercial supplies vital to survival are almost non-existent.

Meanwhile, rocket attacks on Israel continue, more than 120 people are still held hostage in Gaza, tensions in the West Bank are boiling, and the specter of further regional spillover of the war is looming dangerously close.

Hope has never been more elusive.

Gaza has shown us the worst of humanity, as well as moments of great heroism.

We have seen how violence cannot resolve differences, but only inflame passions and build new generations of danger and insecurity.

We continue to demand an immediate end to the war, not just for the people of Gaza and its threatened neighbors, but for the generations to come who will never forget these 90 days of hell and of assaults on the most basic precepts of humanity.

It is time for the parties to meet all their obligations under international law, including to protect civilians and meet their essential needs, and to release all hostages immediately.

It is time for the international community to use all its influence to make this happen.

This war should never have started. But it's long past time for it to end.



Centre for
Refugee Children

New resource announcement!



Immigration
Process



Refugee Claim
Process



Settlement
Resources

The Centre for Refugee Children is thrilled to announce the launch of our online Info Hub for refugee and migrant children

Visit crcrefugee.ca/info-hub

Share with your child and youth clients

Schedule a workshop for your organization



New resource announcement:

The Centre for Refugee Children is thrilled to announce the launch of our **online Info Hub** for refugee and migrant children!

- Visit crcrefugee.ca/info-hub
- Share** this resource with your child and youth clients
- Schedule** a workshop for your organization to learn more about how to support this population

We look forward to hearing how this resource helps you in the important work that you do.

Sincerely,

The team at the Centre for Refugee Children

*****Please note that the Settlement Resources section of the website is for Ontario only*****

Looking for Volunteers!

MAP member Barry Growe is working on a wonderful initiative to welcome refugee claimant and integrate refugee families into metro Vancouver through soccer! The initiative would make it easier to connect families with financial supports for sports fees and make it easier for settlement workers to register children to play soccer.



Duties: search online to identify key registration information on the websites of Metro Vancouver's soccer leagues.

Qualifications: a desire to welcome and support refugee claimant children and families!

Please contact Barry at barrygrowe@gmail.com.



Help Improve Policing in BC by Sharing Your Experience

I have had past contact with the police or I know someone who has...

I work directly with individuals who are impacted by policing...

If you have had personal experience with the police or work directly with clients impacted by policing, **we want to hear your voice.**

As part of the provincial government's Policing and Public Safety Modernization initiative, we invite you to our sessions to give your feedback.

All feedback and participation is anonymous. Police and government authorities will not be present at the sessions.

Session Dates:

- **Abbotsford:** January 29, 2024 | 6:45-9:45pm
- **Delta:** January 30, 2024 | 6-9pm
- **Vanderhoof:** February 1, 2024 | 1-4pm
- **Quesnel:** February 2, 2024 | 1-4pm

**Session Capacity: 30 participants*

A \$25 HONORARIUM WILL BE PROVIDED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AT THE SESSIONS.

Session Details & Registration Form: [REGISTER HERE](#)

For questions & assistance, please call 604-374-2952



"Good Morning,

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My name is Saniya and I am the Manager of Programs with the John Howard Society of BC.

As part of the provincial government's Policing and Public Safety Modernization initiative, we are hosting community engagement sessions in Abbotsford, Delta, Vanderhoof and Quesnel.

We are looking to hear from individuals who have had personal experience with the police or service providers who directly work with clients impacted by policing.

We would like to invite your staff and clients to share their feedback and experience to help improve policing in BC.

Please find attached the invitation containing more details and the registration link.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (604) 374-2952.

Kind regards,
Saniya"

JohnHoward
SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A message from the CCR: New Refugee Family Reunification Initiative

Everyone agrees that family reunification is important but the Canadian process is extremely slow, especially for refugees, and there is little support for people as they go through the process. A group of people with experience in different areas of refugee support and public legal education work have formed an initiative called Refugee Family Reunification Project. We are: Janet Dench, Laurel Borisenko and Julie Mathews.

We are writing you today to ask for your input as we explore how we might begin to address the gaps related to family reunification, particularly in two areas:

- Providing tools and training to support applicants and those assisting them
- Advocating for faster reunification and better processes

In order to better understand the needs and to focus the direction of this initiative, we invite you to complete a [short survey](#). We are also interested in hearing from people who might like to contribute to this initiative in some way.

The problem: Canada's immigration program is meant to allow people to reunite with immediate family members within a reasonable length of time. However, there are usually long and cruel delays, many obstacles, few resources to support applicants, and dire implications for family members involved. The government claims that family reunification is a priority, but its choices mean that families remain separated for years. Children are often affected.

The survey: <https://survey.sogolytics.com/r/Ssa3Fj>

Please complete the survey yourself **and/or** pass it along to someone you know who might be interested, or may be directly affected.

If you prefer, you are also welcome to send us an email at reunification@mailbox.org

WEBINAR INVITATION



Integrating Trauma Informed Practice into Front Line Services for Newcomers

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm PST

Location: Zoom

Join us for an informative webinar on the topic of **"Integrating Trauma Informed Practice into Front Line Services for Newcomers"**.

This webinar is hosted by ISSofBC's BC Refugee Hub in collaboration with AMSSA's BC Refugee Resource Network. During this session, we will explore the essential elements of Trauma Informed Practice, offering a brief introduction to this approach.

Our expert speaker will provide practical insights on how to incorporate trauma-informed practices into the daily work of front-line workers and other community stakeholders, especially when supporting newcomers and refugees. We'll emphasize the hands-on "practice" of trauma-informed care, providing tangible recommendations for organizations, front-line workers, and stakeholders, and share case studies of successful implementation. The goal is to equip professionals from various fields, including settlement services, healthcare, education, and more, with practical information to better support and integrate trauma-informed practices into their work while serving newcomer populations.

Following the presentation, we will have plenty of time for a Q&A session. Register today and be a part of this insightful webinar.

[Click here to register](#)

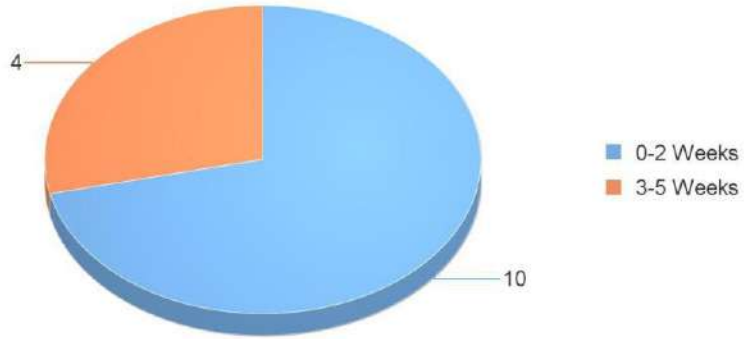


BC CHARMS REPORT – We would like to share the statistics for the month of December:

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Searching as of 31/12/2023

Families Searching by number of Weeks Searching



Families Applied: Not Contacted by a SW yet	Individuals Searching	Families Searching
0	37	14

City	Total Individuals	Total Families
Abbotsford	6	1
Richmond	7	4
Surrey	8	2
Vancouver	16	7
Total:	37	14

Families & Individuals Searching and Placed by Month 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

Searching in blue (Families) Placed in orange (Families)



DEC 2023

Total Families Placed by Month

Weeks to Placement	DEC 2023	Total
0-2 Weeks	4	4
Total	4	4
Avg Weeks	1.05	

Total Individuals Placed by Month

Weeks to Placement	DEC 2023	Total
0-2 Weeks	8	8
Total	8	8
Avg Weeks	1.05	

Closed Without Placement by Month

Month	Families	Individuals
Total:		

Families & Individuals Searching and Placed by Month 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

Families Placed by Type of Housing

Type of Placement	DEC 2023	Total
Emergency shelters	1	1
Short term - transitional housing (less than 6 months)	3	3
Total	4	4

Individuals Placed by Type of Housing

Type of Placement	DEC 2023	Total
Emergency shelters	1	1
Short term - transitional housing (less than 6 months)	7	7
Total	8	8

Unit Information 03/01/2024

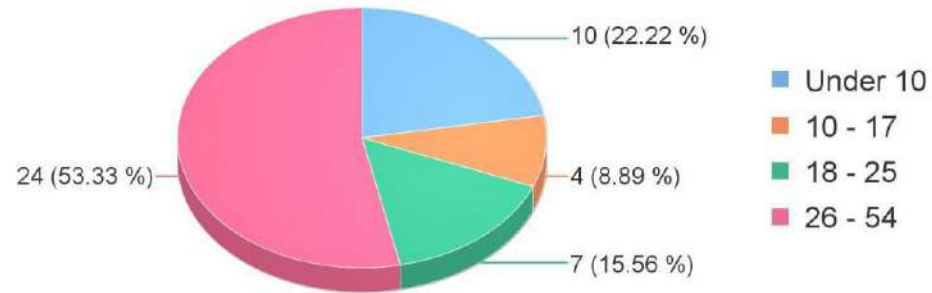
Housing Provider: An entity who provides housing, e.g., an agency or a landlord

Unit: A building or a house that the housing providers have in possession

Unit Type	City	Total Units	Current Availability	Future Availability by 3/3/24	Total Availability
Subsidized housing	Not Specified	2			
Transitional housing	Burnaby	9			
Transitional housing	Coquitlam	9			
Transitional housing	New Westminster	2			
Transitional housing	Not Specified	14	3		3
Transitional housing	Vancouver	1			

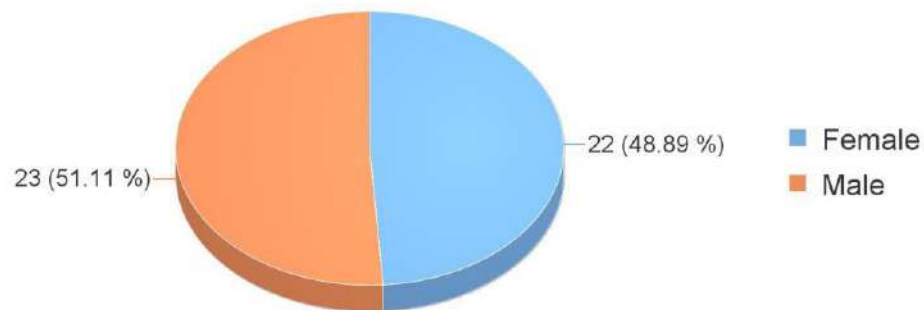
Demographic Information (Searching & Placed) 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

Individuals by Age (Searching & Placed)



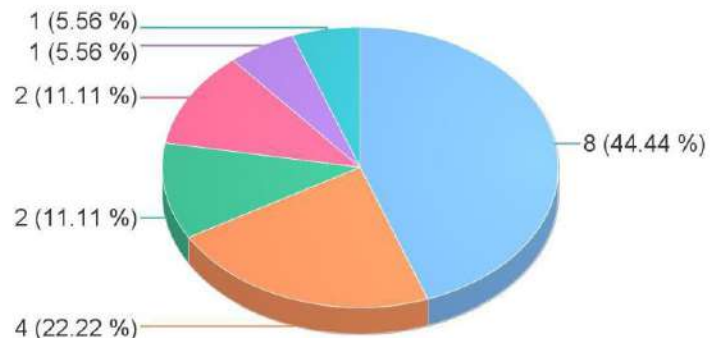
Age Range	Totals
Under 10	10
10 - 17	4
18 - 25	7
26 - 54	24
TOTAL:	45

Individuals by Gender (Searching & Placed)



Gender	Totals
Female	22
Male	23
TOTAL:	45

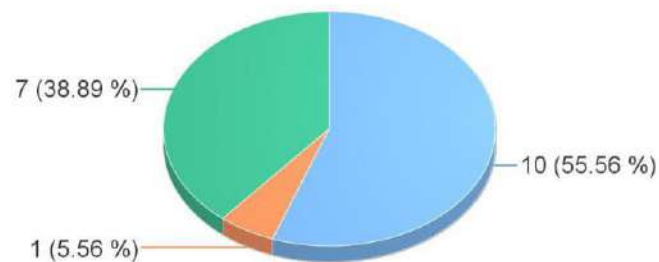
Families by Type (Searching & Placed)



- Couple with children
- Couple with no children
- Single man
- Single woman
- Single woman with children
- Unknown

Family Type	Totals
Couple with children	8
Couple with no children	4
Single man	2
Single woman	2
Single woman with children	1
Unknown	1
Totals	18

Families by Arrival Mode (Searching & Placed)

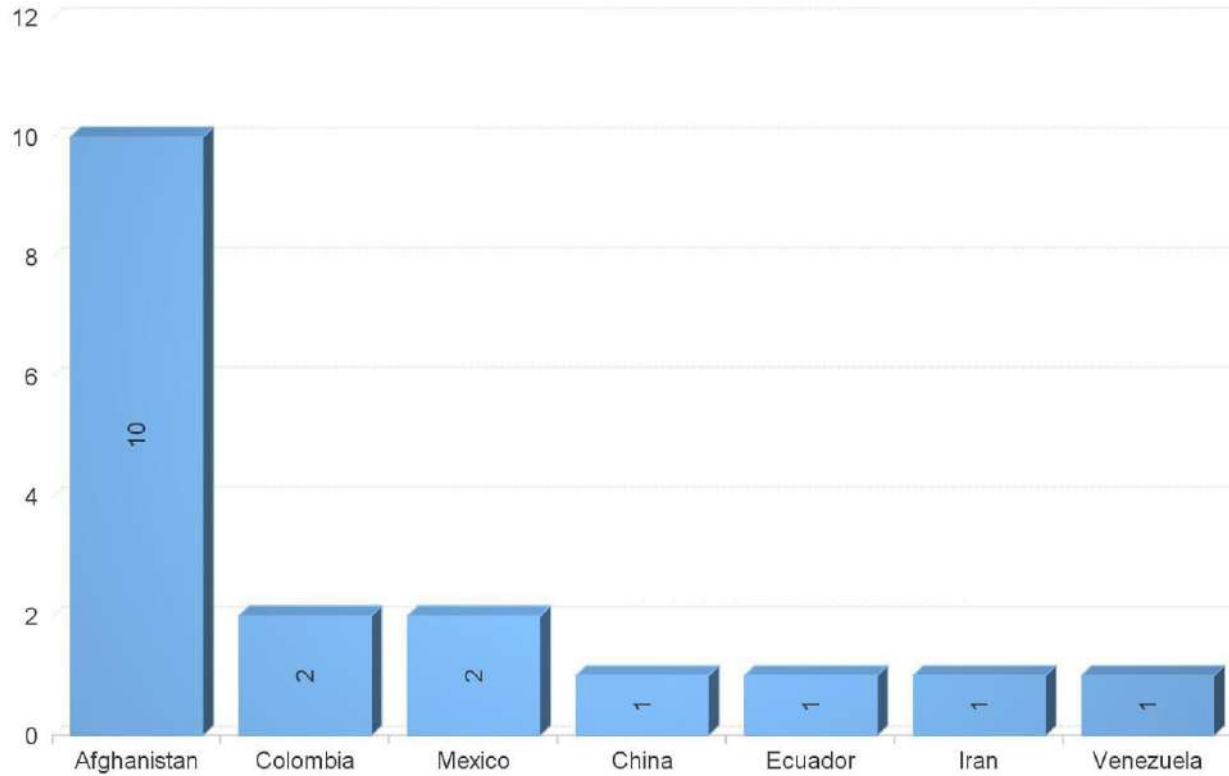


- Inland claim
- Not applicable
- Port of entry claim

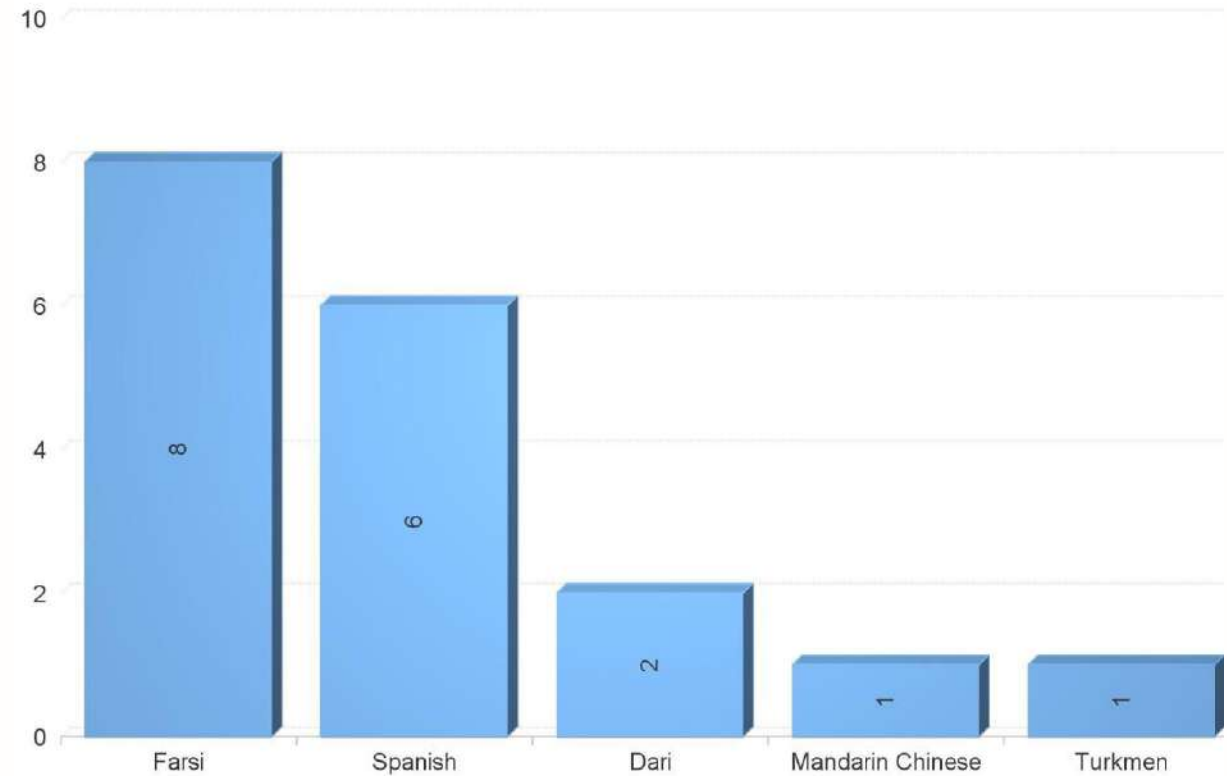
Family Type	Totals
Inland claim	10
Not applicable	1
Port of entry claim	7
Totals	18

Demographic Information (Searching & Placed) 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

Top 10 Countries of Origin (Searching & Placed)



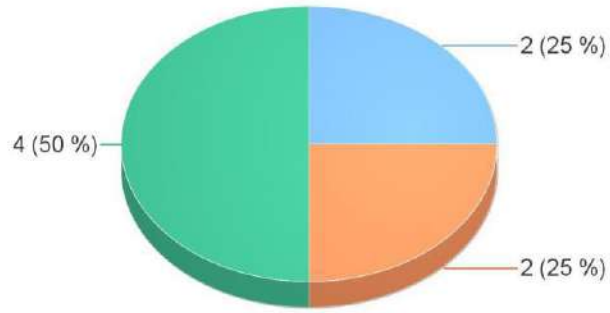
Top 10 Languages (Searching & Placed)



Demographic Information (Placed) 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

Demographic Information (Placed) 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

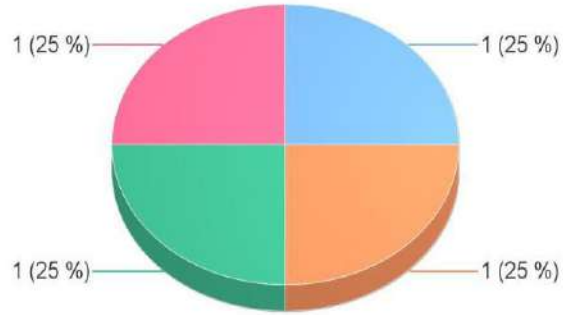
Individuals by Age (Placed)



- Under 10
- 18 - 25
- 26 - 54

Age Range	Totals
Under 10	2
18 - 25	2
26 - 54	4
TOTAL:	8

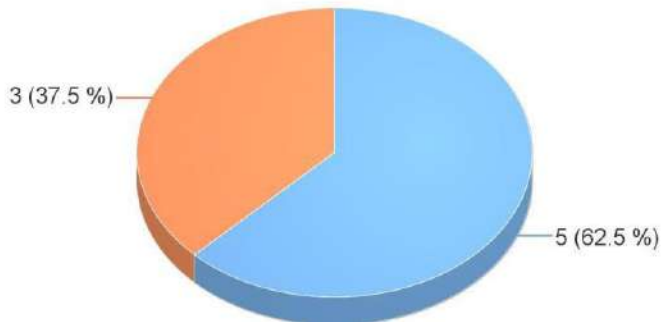
Families by Type (Placed)



- Couple with children
- Couple with no children
- Single woman
- Single woman with children

Family Type	Totals
Couple with children	1
Couple with no children	1
Single woman	1
Single woman with children	1
Totals	4

Individuals by Gender (Placed)



- Female
- Male

Gender	Totals
Female	5
Male	3
TOTAL:	8

Families by Arrival Mode (Placed)

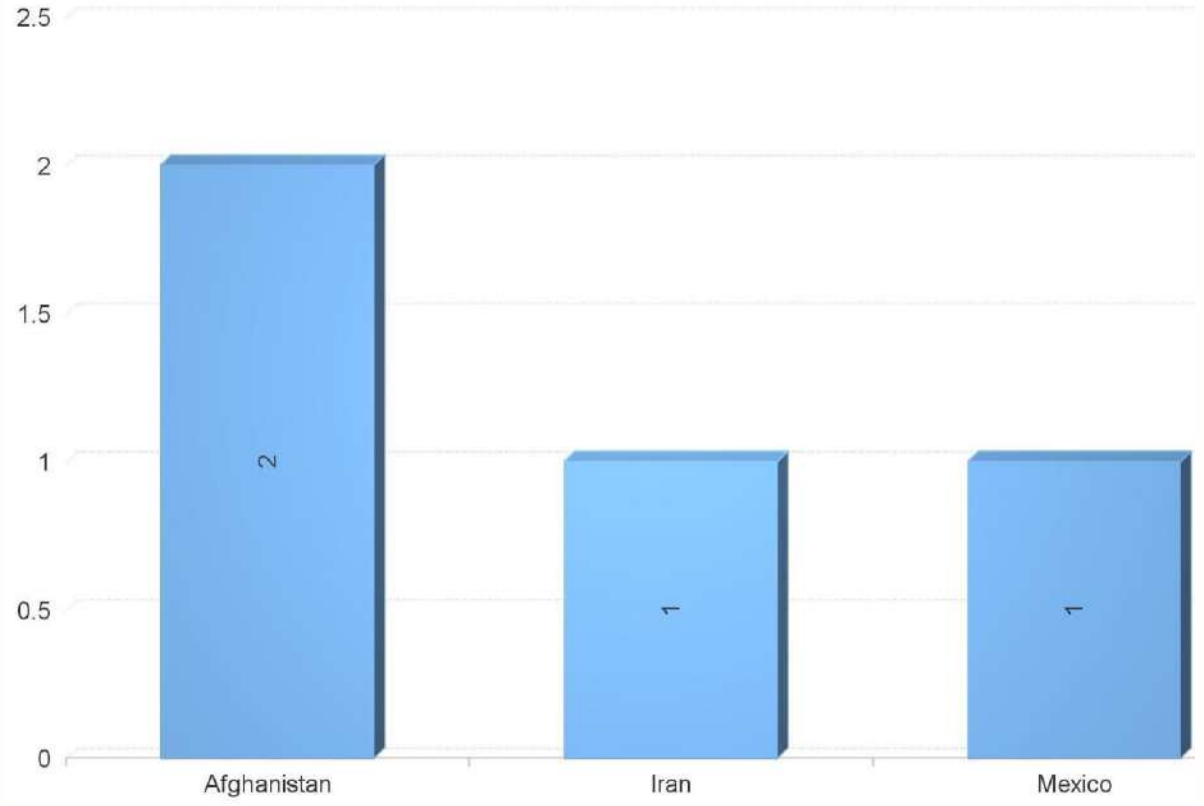


- Inland claim
- Port of entry claim

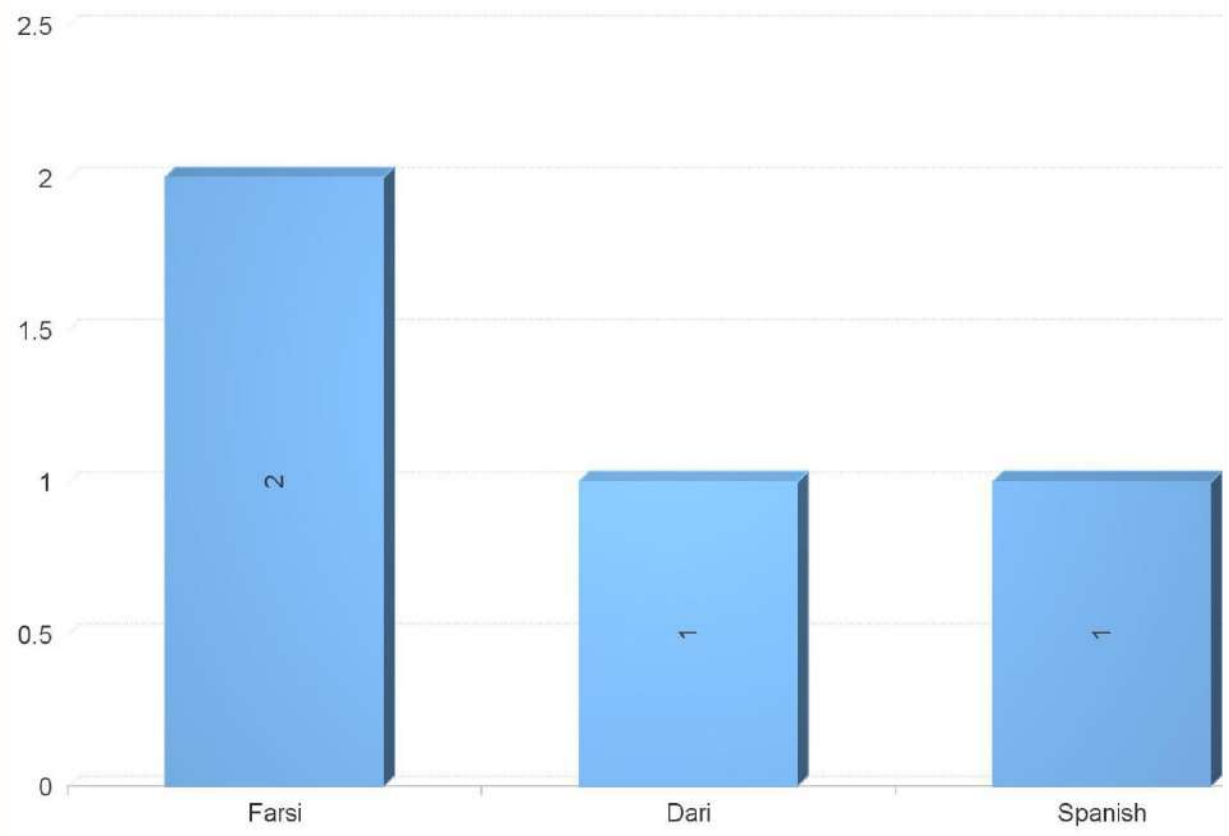
Family Type	Totals
Inland claim	2
Port of entry claim	2
Totals	4

Demographic Information (Placed) 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023

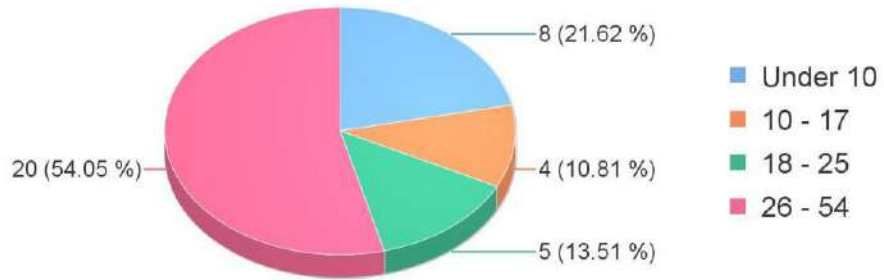
Top 10 Countries of Origin (placed)



Top 10 Languages (Placed)

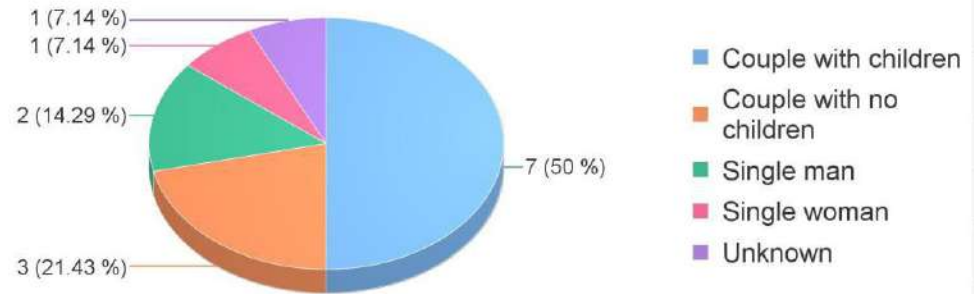


Individuals by Age (searching)



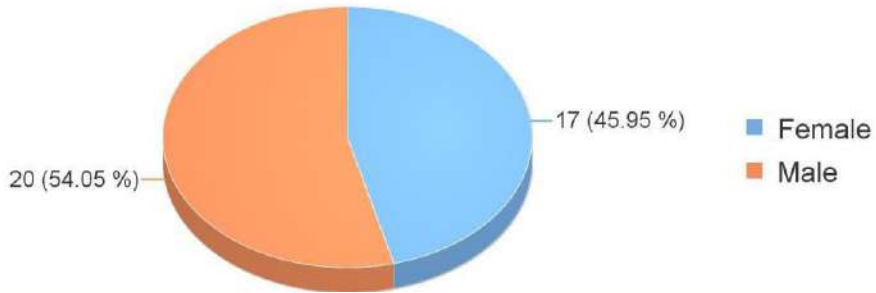
Age Range	Totals
Under 10	8
10 - 17	4
18 - 25	5
26 - 54	20
TOTAL:	37

Families by Type (Searching)



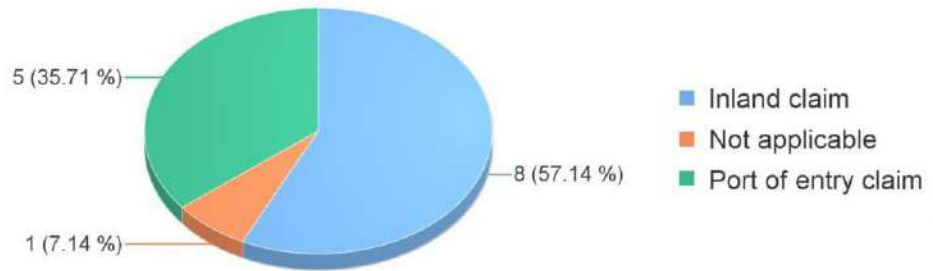
Family Type	Totals
Couple with children	7
Couple with no children	3
Single man	2
Single woman	1
Unknown	1
Totals	14

Individuals by Gender (searching)



Gender	Totals
Female	17
Male	20
TOTAL:	37

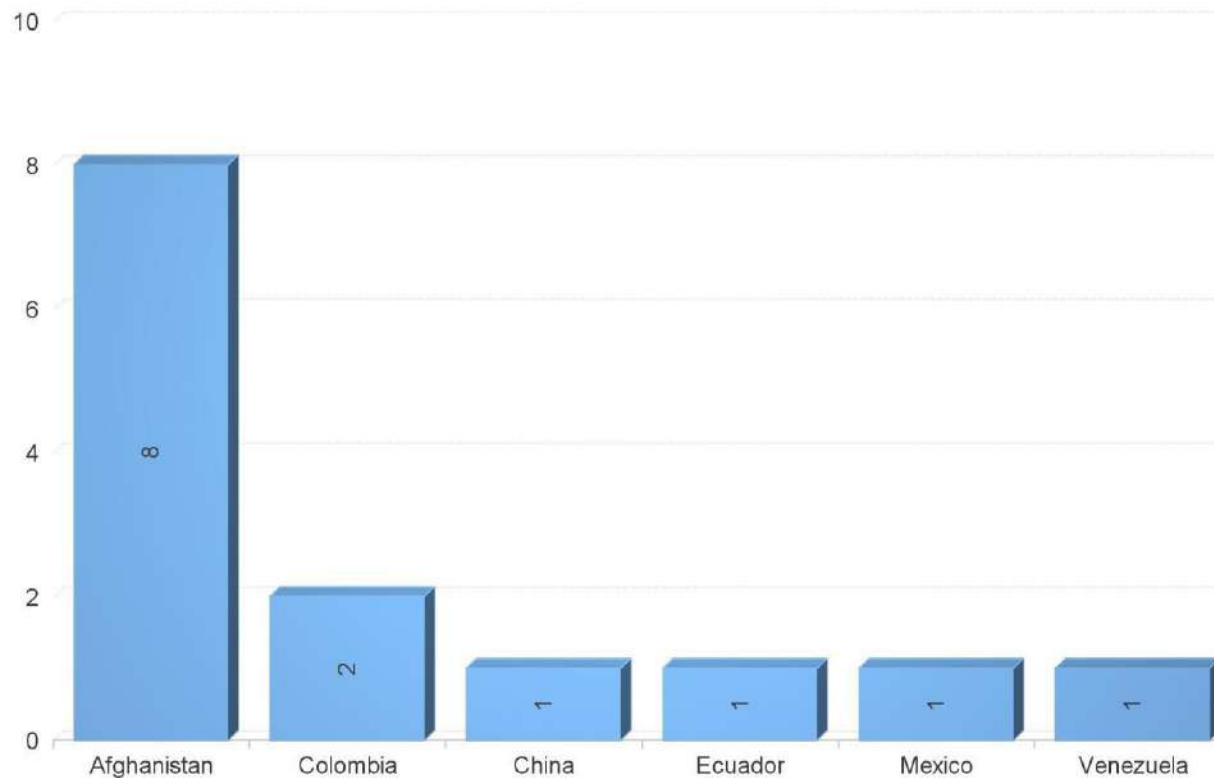
Families by Arrival Mode (Searching)



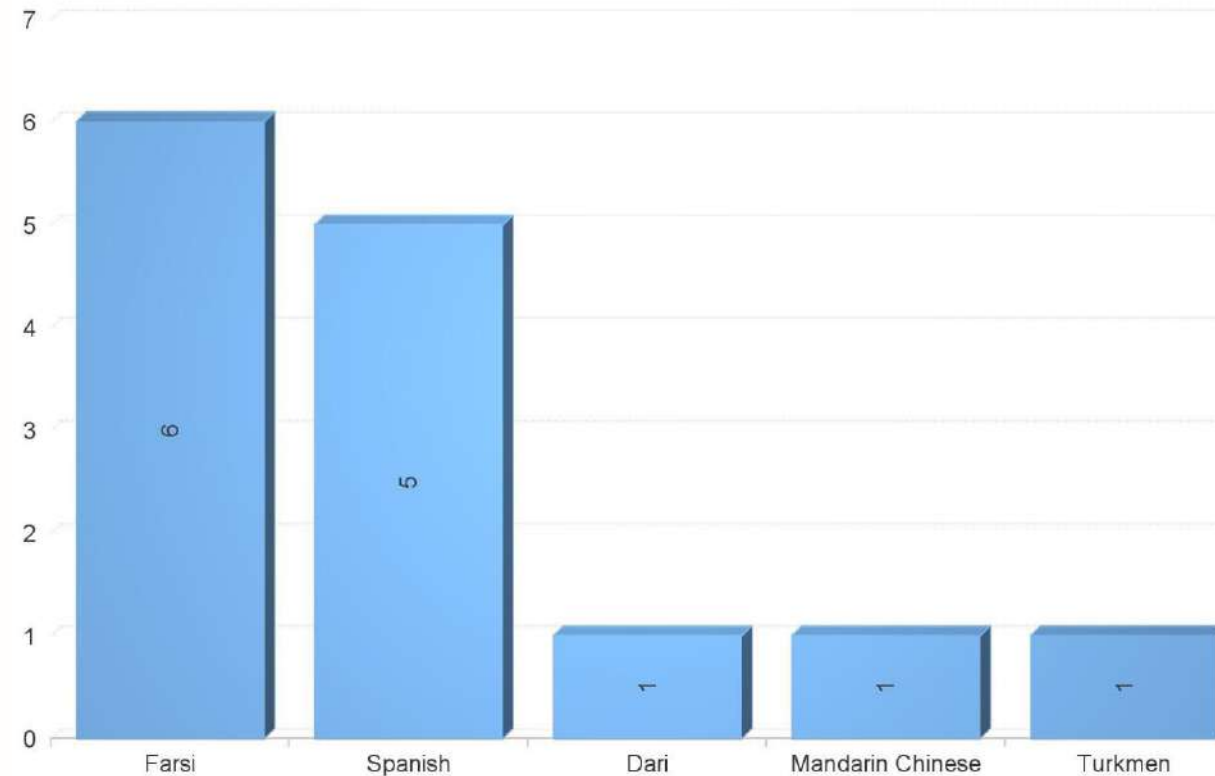
Family Type	Totals
Inland claim	8
Port of entry claim	5
Not applicable	1
Totals	14

Demographic Information (Searching) 03/01/2024

Top 10 Countries of Origin (Searching)



Top 10 Languages (Searching)



Vulnerabilities by Family

PDF Attached

	Searching as of 03/01/2024	Placed 01/12/2023 - 31/12/2023
Large Families (5 or more family members)	2	
Friends or Family in BC	1	1
Immediate family members outside Canada	6	
Physical Disabilities	2	
Family Members Pregnant		
<u>Financial:</u>		
Canadian Bank Account	2	
Credit Card		
<u>Employment Status:</u>		
Employed Full-Time	0	0
Employed Part-Time	0	0
Unemployed	12	3
Other	2	1
Health Issues	3	2
<u>Work Permit Status:</u>		
Received	1	0
Awaiting	3	3
Yet To Apply	6	1
Other	4	0
<u>Income Assistance:</u>		
Received	5	2
Awaiting or Yet to Apply	8	1
Other	1	1

End of report