

Opportunity & Desired Impact

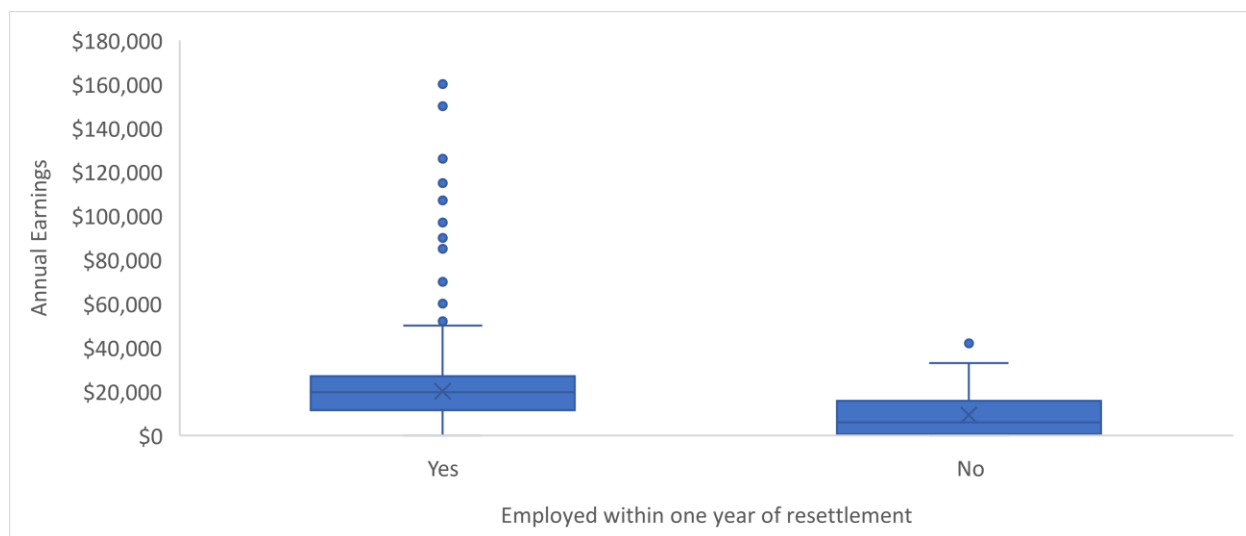
UNHCR helps tens of thousands of refugees each year to resettle in different countries around the world. Data usually shows a “refugee gap” when comparing resettled refugees to other immigrants in terms of labor market integration. Refugees tend to struggle to find jobs especially in the short term. Knowing which refugees are most likely to face difficulties joining the work force, UNHCR can prioritize resources and trainings to better equip those individuals with a better chance to succeed in the new environment.

This initiative’s goal would be to help resettled refugees find employment faster and increase their percentage of employment within a year of resettlement by at least 20%.

Solution Path

Published survey data from 2016 contains individual characteristics and tracks various aspects including gender, age, education, English proficiency, degree, state of resettlement, total earnings, date of first job and job status for refugees who entered the US between 2011 and 2015.

The below graph shows how the distribution of earnings continue to vary between individuals who were employed when they first got to the US. Individuals who found employment within the first year of resettlement have higher earnings on average.



Impact Hypothesis

By understanding what factors affect a refugee's chance in finding employment, UNHCR can provide additional resources and tailored solutions for those individuals identified to be at risk of unemployment.