



**Partnership for the  
Advancement of  
New Americans**



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# OUR MISSION

We fight to advance the full economic, social, & civic inclusion of refugees in the San Diego region, throughout California, and across the country.



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# OUR VISION

We envision a world where refugees are connected  
global leaders building a trans-continental movement  
to advance meaningful freedom for all.



# Refugees in San Diego County



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82,000+ resettled since 1975





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**Newcomers from Syria**





# Refugees in San Diego County

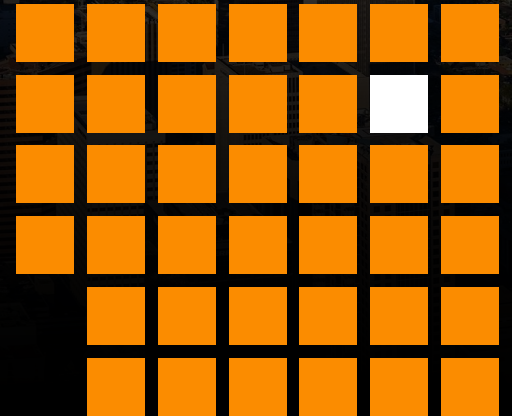


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82,000+ resettled since 1975

Most Syrian Refugees

1 in 40 San Diegans (2.5%)



# Who We Serve



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## AMEMSA Community:

- Arab
- Middle Eastern
- Muslim
- South Asian
- African immigrant & diasporic

**At PANA the most common languages we serve include Somali, Swahili, Oromo, Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, and Farsi.**

# Who are we?

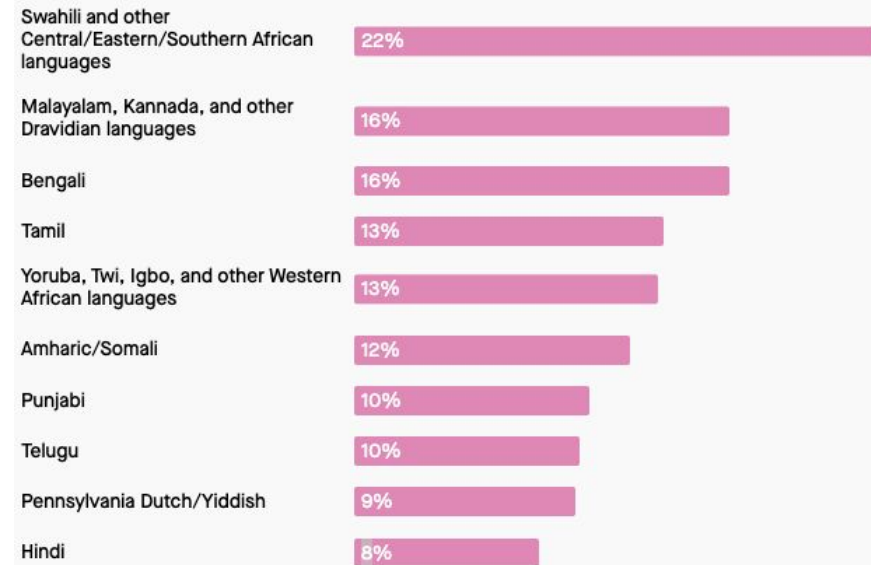


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- **Nationally:**
  - 43 million or 13% of the United States population is foreign born and 8% are Black immigrants<sup>1</sup>
  - Black immigrants come from over 100 countries<sup>2</sup>
  - In 2019 out of 30,000 refugees<sup>3</sup>:
    - 12,958 or 43% were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo<sup>3</sup>
    - 1,757 were from Eritrea<sup>3</sup>
    - 382 were from Sudan<sup>13</sup>

## Fastest growing languages in the US from 2016 to 2018

Languages spoken at home



Source: US Census

<sup>1</sup> Manuel Pastor, Rhonda Ortiz, and Magaly N. López, "Immigrant Lives, American Futures: Linking Asset Building and Immigrant Integration," *USC Dornsife Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration*, May 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, et al. "The State of Black Immigrants in California," *Black Alliance for Just Immigration*, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Abby Budiman, "Key findings about U.S. immigrants," *Pew Research Center*, August 20, 2020.

Graph: Chidinma Irene Nwoye, "African languages are the fastest growing in the United States," *Quartz Africa*, October 7, 2019, <https://qz.com/africa/1723269/african-languages-are-fastest-growing-in-the-united-states/>



# Who are we?

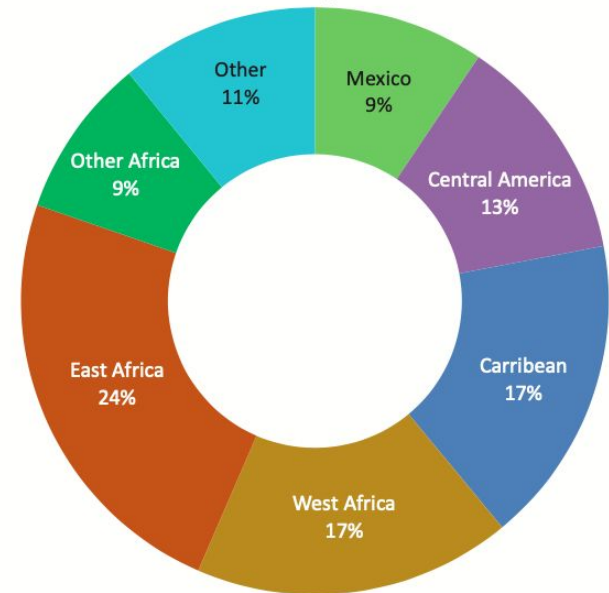


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- **In California:**

- Since 2002, California has resettled the most refugees, about 108,600<sup>1</sup>, and is home to almost 11 million immigrants<sup>2</sup>
- As of 2019, 178,000 Black immigrants reside in California<sup>3</sup>
- There are over 60 languages spoken at home by Black immigrants in California<sup>3</sup>
- Amhraic is the most spoken language by African immigrants in California followed by Kru, French, Swahili, Somali, French Creolo, and Arabic<sup>3</sup>

Region of Origin for Black Immigrants  
In California, 2010-2014



<sup>1</sup>Hans Johnson and Sergio Sanceh, "Just the Facts: Immigrants in California," *Public Policy Institute of California*, May 2019, <https://www.ppic.org/publication/immigrants-in-california/>.

<sup>2</sup>Jens Manuel Krogstad, "Key facts about refugees to the U.S.," *Pew Research Center*, October 7, 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/10/07/key-facts-about-refugees-to-the-u-s/>.

<sup>3</sup>Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, et al. "The State of Black Immigrants in California," *Black Alliance for Just Immigration*, 2018.

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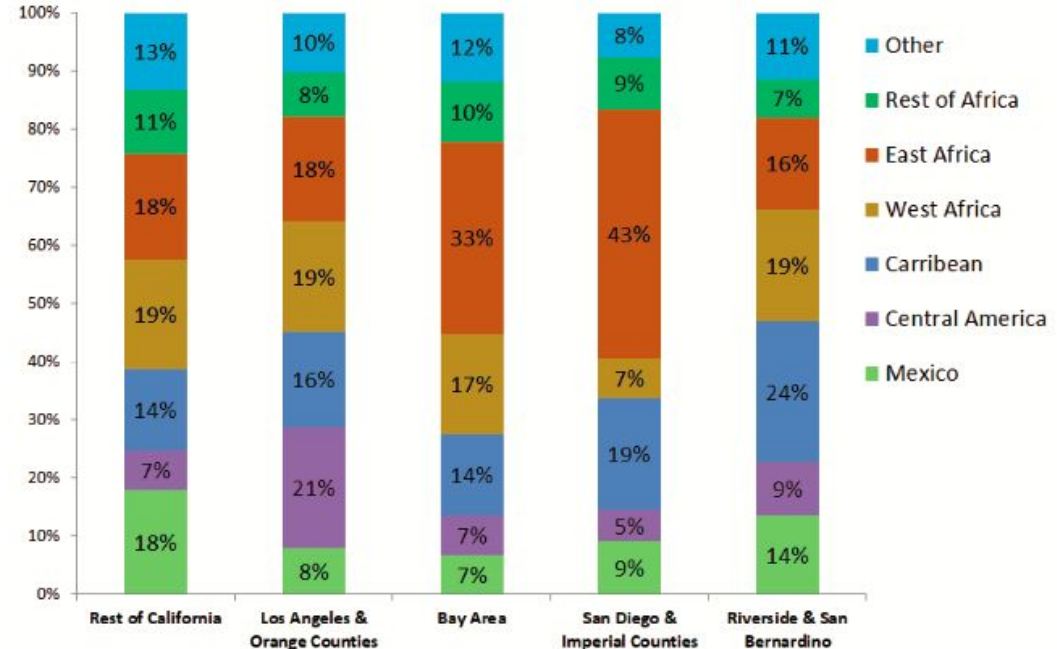
# Where we are in California?



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- San Diego and Imperial Counties have the highest immigrant share of its Black population, with nearly 9% of all Black San Diegans being immigrants<sup>1</sup>
- 33% of Black immigrants are East African in the Bay Area<sup>1</sup>
- 43% of Black immigrants are East African in San Diego<sup>1</sup>

Place of Origin for Black Immigrants by Region,  
California, 2010-2014



<sup>1</sup>Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, et al. "The State of Black Immigrants in California," *Black Alliance for Just Immigration*, 2018.



# African Culture & Diversity



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- 54 countries in the continent of Africa, with Black immigrants coming from over 100 countries across the world<sup>1</sup>
- More than 2,000 languages across the continent of Africa<sup>2</sup>
- Our communities are rooted in oral traditions
- Trust is established by community leaders who are cognizant of the diversity and politics of the region



<sup>1</sup> Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, et al. "The State of Black Immigrants in California," Black Alliance for Just Immigration, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Claire Felner, "Why does Africa have so many languages?," *The Christian Scientist Monitor*, April 15, 2015

# Who is the East African community?



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East Africa is made up of 20 countries:  
Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda,  
Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi,  
Zambia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, South  
Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Eritrea,  
Mauritius, Djibouti





# Who is the African Community in San Diego?



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- In San Diego County, we have a large population of immigrants and refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Haiti.
- The languages these communities speak are Somali, Swahili, Oromo, Amharic, Tigrinya, Nuer, Haitian Creole.



Images from PANA's Human Rights Day of Action

# San Diego African immigrant & refugee population at a glance



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According to the 2018 US Census Bureau American Community Survey in San Diego County:

- Amharic, Somali or other Afro Asiatic languages: 17,898<sup>1</sup>
- Haitian: 828<sup>1</sup>
- Arabic: 26,129<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"San Diego County, CA," Data USA, 2019, <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/san-diego-county-ca>.



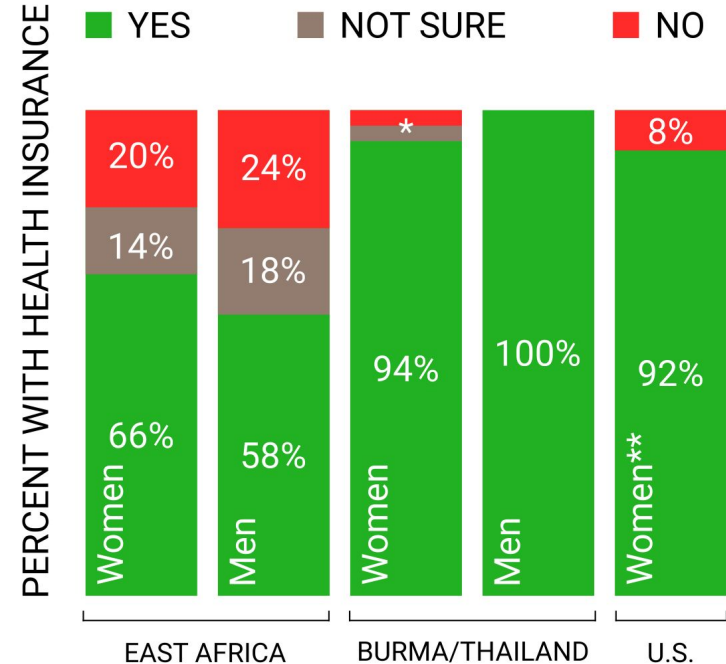
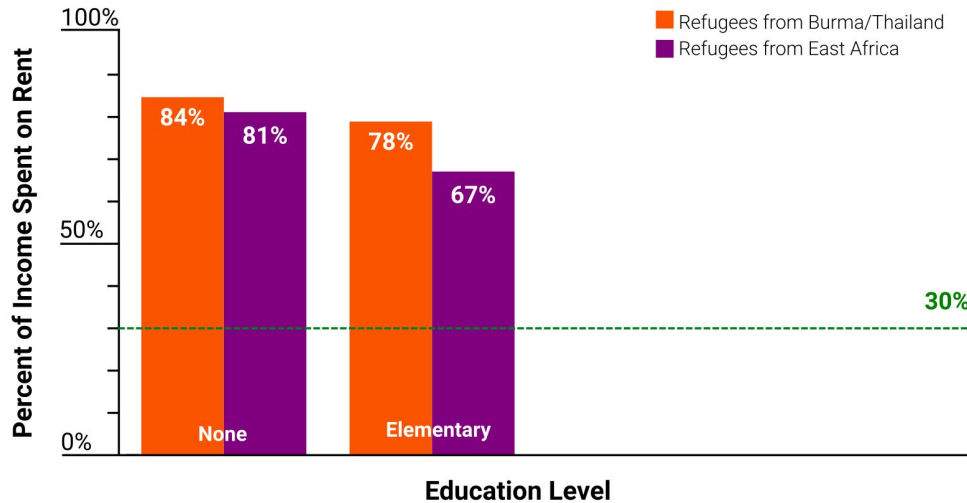
Images from PANA's Census outreach events



# What is the East African community facing?



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\*Among women from Burma/Thailand 3% reported "No" and 3% "Not sure"

\*\*An insufficient number of U.S. born men responded to this question



**Our  
CIVIC &  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



# Census



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- This past year, PANA launched the Refugee & Immigrant Census Hub with 15 partners we were able to translate Census materials including but not limited to Somali, Swahili, Nuer, Haitian Creole, Amharic, Tigrinya, Arabic, Kurdish, Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Karen, Kareni, and Burmese.
- Collectively we had 23,055 conversations with HTC communities in San Diego and provided direct support to 13,350 community members in filling out the census through our phone banks in the education, motivation and NRFU periods.



# Local Win



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Language needs of the African immigrant & refugee community have always been overlooked. PANA & ACLU has been successful in advocating for Somali tele-interpretation at all Super-Poll locations in San Diego. With over 178,000 Black immigrants in California we hope to see this at the statewide level.<sup>1</sup>

**“Democracy  
works when  
we all  
participate.”**

<sup>1</sup> “Black Californians Count!,” Census Policy Advocacy Network,  
[https://www.advancementprojectca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CPAN\\_LobbyKit\\_Black\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.advancementprojectca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CPAN_LobbyKit_Black_FINAL.pdf) .

A blurred photograph of a diverse group of people sitting around a table, eating and talking. The image is intentionally out of focus to serve as a background for the text.

# **Our Recommendations**



# Our recommendations



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- Based on the updated Voting Rights Act threshold, state and local redistricting commissions should offer interpretation at redistricting meetings, depending on the languages spoken in that district. State and local commissions should also offer targeted in-language workshops depending on the needs of that particular district.
- It is also important to recognize literacy levels, so creating videos and other more accessible content is helpful for our communities.



# Our recommendations



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- Trusted messengers
  - Partner with Community Ethnic-Based Organizations to conduct outreach efforts to educate HTC communities regarding the redistricting process.



# Our recommendations



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- Expand the window for public comment to allow for translation.
  - Meaning the meeting items are translated from English into preferred language, then written public comment is translated from the preferred language back into English by translators to be presented to the CRC.





# Our recommendations



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- Advance public notice and outreach materials should be accessible and in multiple languages.

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All super poll locations  
will have Somali  
interpretation available  
via phone!

Look for your polling locations here:  
[https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/pdf/Official\\_Polls\\_List.pdf](https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/pdf/Official_Polls_List.pdf)

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Xurumaha cod bixinta waxay  
leeyihiin turjumaanno  
Soomaali ah oo telefoonka  
aad ku wici kartid!

Halkan ka raadi goobaha  
codbixintaada:  
[https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/pdf/Official\\_Polls\\_List.pdf](https://www.sdvote.com/content/dam/rov/en/pdf/Official_Polls_List.pdf)

Doorashada 2020



THANK YOU

# Our recommendations



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- Live captioning in multiple languages
- Video transcripts in-language
- Trusted messengers
- Expand the window for public comment to allow for translation
- Advance public notice and outreach materials should be in multiple languages
  - Ex. san diego city redistricting, website is difficult to navigate/ not enough time/