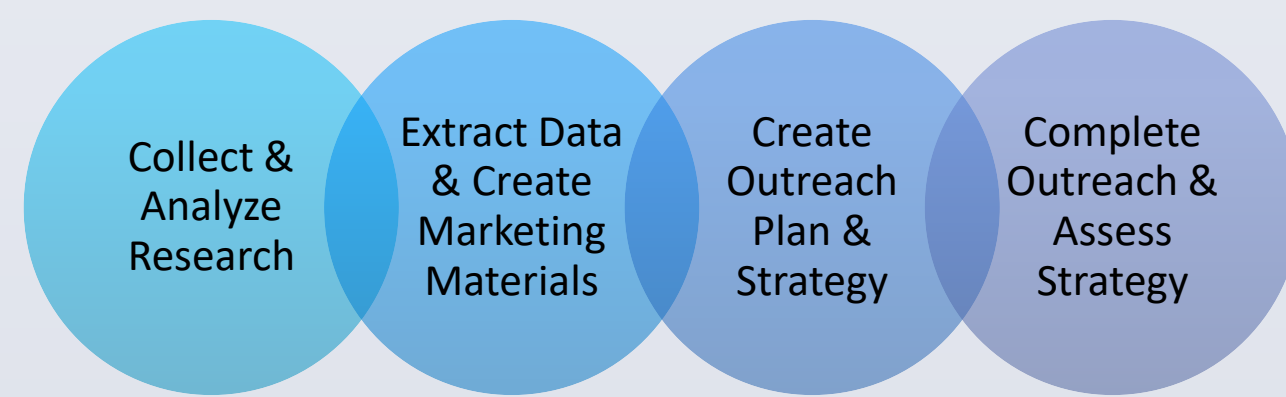




## BACKGROUND

Working with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Tucson, I undertook two months of in-depth research in the form of a housing evaluation and outreach development plan. The evaluation formed the basis for implementing the outreach development plan. The goal of this process was to both strengthen and grow the IRC's apartment partnership program.

## OUTREACH PROCESS



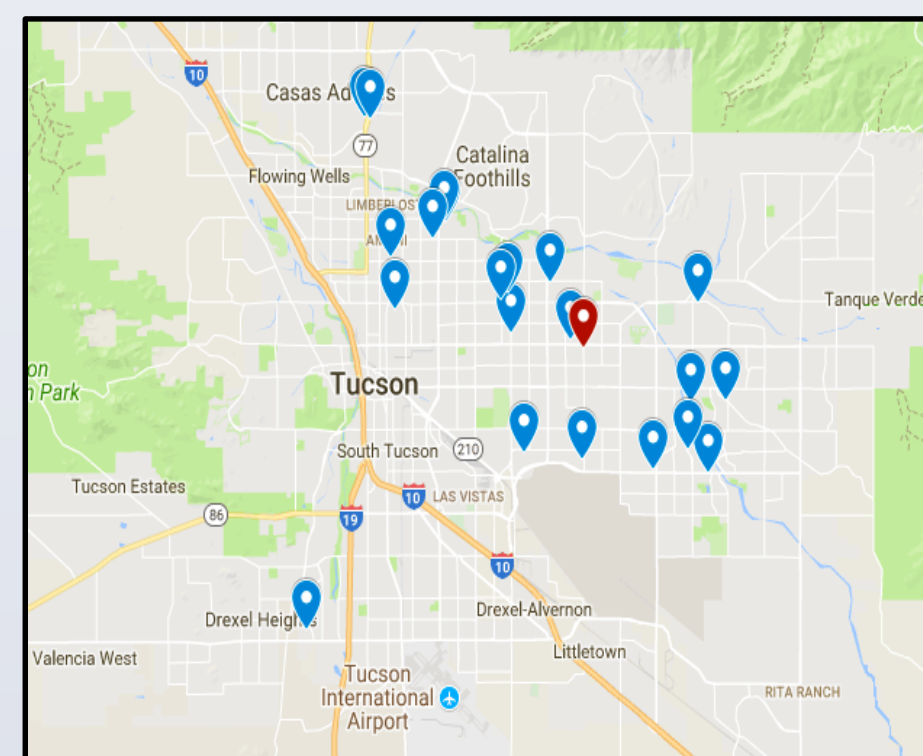
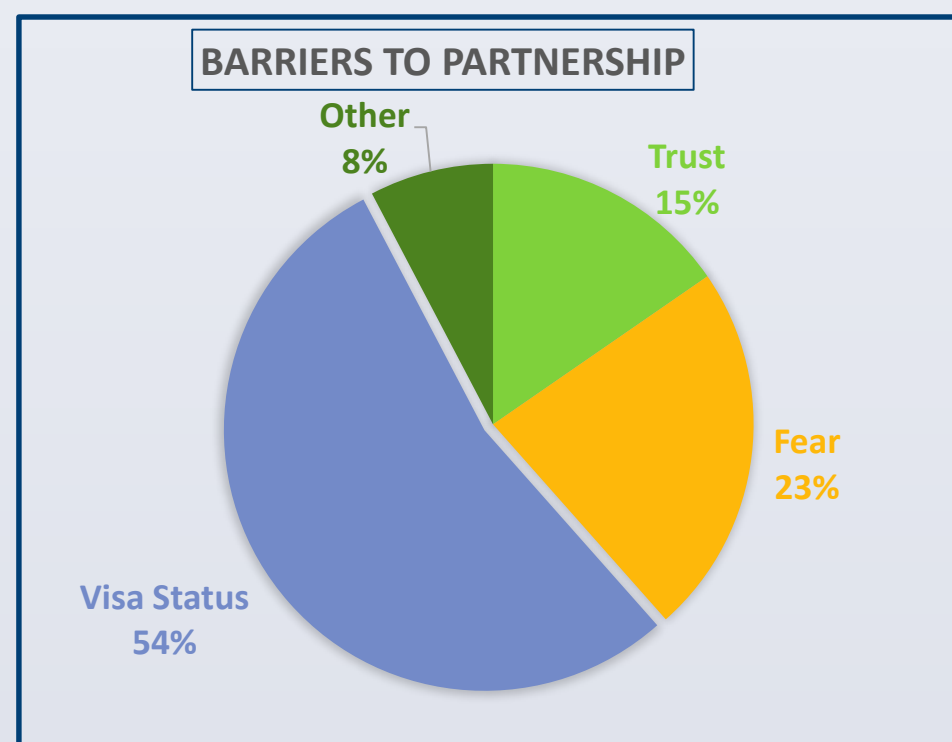
## OUTREACH METHODS

1. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Transition (SWOT) analysis of the current apartment partnership program.
2. Targeting approach that fit the IRC's needs of affordability, quality and distance to employment.
3. Assess outreach strategy continuously throughout outreach to ensure best practices.



## RESULTS

Overall, there were 27 apartments targeted for potential partnerships (map at right below) in which they would agreed to house refugees. After a month of targeted outreach, 13 of the 27 apartments agreed to initial meetings and 5 new partnerships were obtained. The pie chart (at left below) shows the barriers that were identified in the 7 meetings that did not end with a partnership.

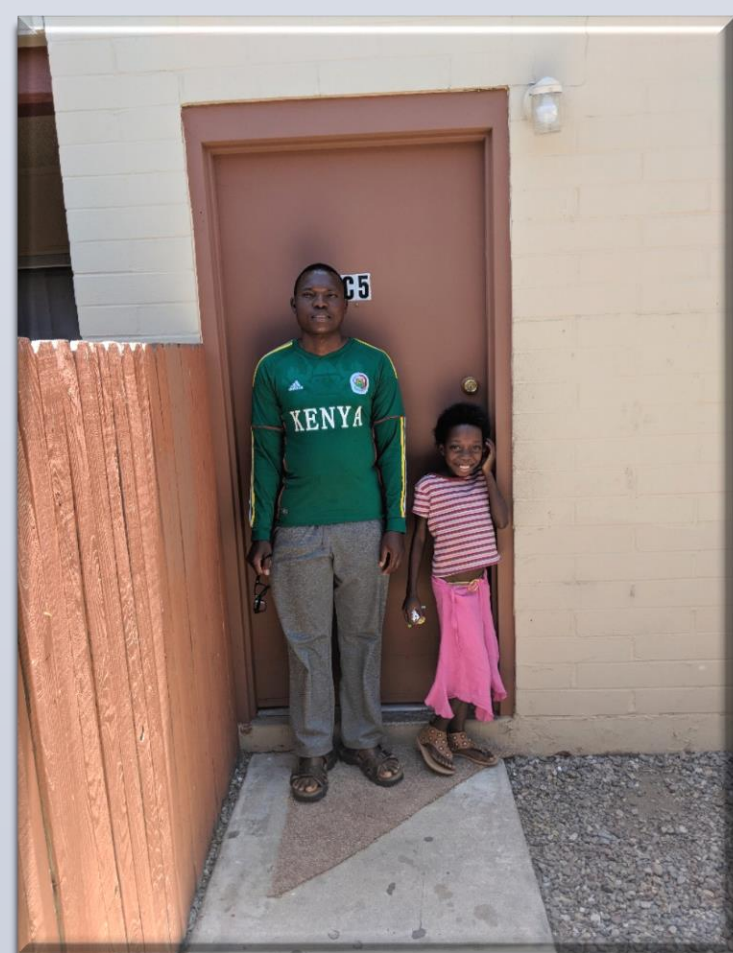


Although not all 13 meetings ended in partnership, all meetings were viewed as a success for their role in:

- Bridging community
- Breaking stereotypes & decreasing tension
- Increasing social capital by building trust

## IMPLICATIONS

Safe, affordable housing that meets families' needs is crucial for refugees undergoing resettlement to the United States. On average, refugees spend 15 years in a camp before resettlement to a third country (UNHCR). Housing is the first impression they get of their new lives, and plays an important role in how they perceive their safety.



"In Kenya, I could not provide for my family. They [the UNHCR camp] would not let me, now they tell me my daughter is stunted. I am happy to have a home, a place where my twins can grow strong. My family can now be happy"



## RECOMMENDATIONS

The IRC's dependency on partnerships shows the importance of fostering the relationships of new and old partnerships, as well as the highlighting the role social capital and trust on these relationships.

I recommend further research to be completed on the partnership process, highlighting the importance housing has on newly resettled families.

Because trust, fear and visa status were the main barriers to new partnerships, I recommend that IRC and other refugee organizations collaborate on a plan to advance awareness within the community and to dismantle refugee stereotypes.

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