

## News and Announcements

### *CPO-W prioritizing undertakings to sponsor Syrian refugees*

We have been in contact with CIC regarding the questions we received from SAHs related to processing of Syrian cases. We would like to share with you the information that we received in response:

**Q: Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Applications - are Syrian cases prioritized? If so, is there any difference between applications for those who are in Lebanon, Jordan or other places?**

A: CPO-W has processed all of the Iraqi's/refugees in Syria as the first priority. CPO-W recently started processing the Syrian nationals outside of Syria and are possible 2 weeks away from completing those from 2013. All of the other SAHs are complete up to mid-May and are processed as CPO-W works around the Syrian priorities. There's no difference between clients in Lebanon, Jordan, etc. They are all processed within the Syrian Nationals Priority queue.

CPO-W is processing applications in date order but if there's an error then that application will be delayed and may seem out of order.

**Q: Can SAHs sponsor Syrian refugees who are currently residing in Jordan and Lebanon while they are waiting for their allocation numbers?**

A: Yes. These Syrian Ministerial Priorities spaces are outside of (in addition to) the global cap. All SAHs who indicated interest in Syrian Ministerial Priority spaces received what they asked for (see attached).

**Q: What is the latest information about sponsorship of refugees residing in Turkey? Can we get an official information about the pilot project to sponsor refugees out of Turkey?**

A: We will be discussing with SAH Council on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>. We are currently waiting for cases to be identified by SAHs and vetted by Secretariat in accordance with criteria identified by CIC.

## From around the World

### **How important is resettlement?**

[Refugees International](#) posted an article in its Blog that analyzes the importance of resettlement, mostly referring to Syrian refugee crisis. It starts off by giving statistical data behind resettlement: "In the last decade alone, well over 750,000 refugees have been resettled, most of them going to the U.S., Canada, Australia, and a small number of European states." It then continues by discussing the merits of the program and analyzing some controversial aspects of this durable solution. Among the drawbacks discussed there is cost of the program, its limited availability, high chance of corruption, and lack of countries offering resettlement.

To read the article, please click [here](#).

### **Where are the Syrian refugees going?**

"Last year, the UN high commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) [published a document](#) emphasising that states need to provide more than 'financial, economic, and technical support'.

The programme aims to help 30,000 Syrians through such measures by the end of 2014 - 1.3% of the total number of Syrian refugees and 0.5% of the 6.5 million people who have been displaced from their homes but remain within Syria's borders (known as IDPs or internally displaced persons)."

The Guardian has published a list of countries that have committed to resettling Syrian refugees and the number of persons that each country is willing to accept. Please click [here](#).

## Upcoming events

### Webinar:

### The Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

**Date:** February 27, 2014

**Time:** 12 pm EST

This webinar will provide an introductory overview of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program in Canada including who is eligible for sponsorship, what are the criteria for sponsorship, what does the refugee sponsorship process look like, and what are sponsors' responsibilities.

Organized by: [CLEO](#)

Presenters: RSTP

To register, please click [here](#).

### CCR Overseas Protection and Sponsorship Working Group meeting

**Date:** February 28, 2014  
9:30 am – 5 pm

**Location:** Salvation Army, 160 Jarvis Street, Toronto, ON

### Addressing refugee trauma in resettlement: Is PTSD under-diagnosed or over-diagnosed?

The CAMH Refugee Mental Health Project invites to attend its second annual educational and networking titled: Addressing refugee trauma in resettlement: Is PTSD under-diagnosed or over-diagnosed?

**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2014  
12:30 PM – 03:30 PM

**Location:** CAMH, Room 2029, 33 Russell Street, Toronto  
Greater Toronto Area

If you have any PSR news on cases or arrivals that you would like to share with the SAH community, please send a message to [info@rstp.ca](mailto:info@rstp.ca) and we will gladly include it in our next bulletin.

## Inquiries & Responses

We would like to focus the I&R section of this bulletin on Blended VOR cases. There have been questions around RAP support, SPO assistance, and other aspects of assisting BVORs with settlement. We have checked with CIC regarding some of these questions and would like to share with you the responses that we received:

**We would like to remind all SAHs about refugee populations that will be part of BVOR project in 2014 and visa offices through which they will be processed:**

- **175 persons (primarily Iraqis and Iranians) from the Middle East:**
  - 50 Amman Visa Office;
  - 75 Ankara Visa Office;
  - 50 Beirut Visa Office
- **250 Eritreans**
  - 200 Nairobi Visa Office;
  - 50 Cairo Visa Office
- **25 persons (mixed populations) from Singapore**
- **50 Colombians from Bogota**

**Q: Can you confirm that BVOR cases can receive all settlement services including medical assessments (which in some cities SPOs have only been providing to GARs)?**

**A:** As permanent residents, VORs are eligible for all Settlement services. Medical assessments are not considered a settlement service. Some SPOs have arrangements to be able to provide medical assessments to GARs, but this is not funded through RAP, Settlement or even CIC for that matter. Sponsoring groups are encouraged to explore what services are available to refugees in their communities

**Q: It's clear that sponsored refugees can work part-time while on RAP as long as the income does not exceed 50% of the RAP monthly amount, however, if sponsors also provide a "top-up" during these first 6 months, is that amount included in the 50% rule? According to the IP-3 (section 22), the threshold applies to earned income, which is then later defined, and of course funds provided by a sponsor is not included in the list. However, in the *Change of status form* that refugees are required to complete, the first question is "Have you received any Income in any one month period other than from employment?" but it does not define what they consider to be "Income" and whether funds provided by a sponsor is excluded.**

**A:** Funds provided by the sponsor to "top up" what they are receiving for RAP are to be counted as their total income support allowance and that amount will form the base for the 50% rule. The reason for this is that the sponsor will provide funds which are not provided by RAP (housing supplement, etc.) that a RAP client would typically receive. Any income earned by employment (or, by one of the methods described in IP3 part 2 section 22.1) would affect their RAP entitlement if it exceeds the 50% threshold.