



UNHCR Refugee Resettlement, Trends 2015

The recently published UNHCR document reports the following facts and projections :

- The global refugee population has increased by 23 % from last year.
- Around 8 % of refugees are in need of resettlement.
- About 1, 150,300 refugees are currently identified as needing resettlement to third countries. This represent a 50 % increase compared to those identified in 2012.

Africa

- Over 391,900 refugees will need resettlement by 2016. These include protracted refugees populations from Congo DRC, Eritrea, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan, as well as refugees from recent emergencies: Central African Republic, Mali, Nigeria and South Sudan.

Asia

- Next year 169,600 refugees will require resettlement. This will represent a decrease by 3 % from last year, resulting from the gradual completion of the large scale refugee resettlement out of Thailand and Nepal .

Americas

- 7500 refugees, including Colombia refugees and Syrian in Cuba, are in need of resettlement.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) plus Turkey

- 369,300 refugees will be needing resettlement by 2016. The identified resettlement need for those in MENA is ten times higher than the 2014 numbers. Syrian, Eritrean, Iraqi, Palestine, Somali and Sudanese refugees will constitute most of those expected to be resettled.

For more information, go to <http://www.unhcr.org/558d1e126.html>

Goodbye Syria, My Love

I'm scared, hiding inside a wardrobe
Screams echoed, I cover my ears
Pleas shouted, I hold my tears
It stopped, still silence reigns

I'm drowning, a river surrounds me
Knee high, I stare blankly
Red liquid pooling, I scream hoarsely
My family, floating lifelessly

Why? What have any of us done to you
That you exterminate us in cold blood?

I'm lost, horrified, angry
My blood boils, thrumming through my veins
My body burns, igniting fire dangerously

I loath you tremendously
For you have scarred me unbearably
An unforgotten wound carved by blood-stained hands

But my wound will become a scar
My hatred will morph into remission
I'll loath you no more
You're not worth my energy or time

It might take years, even decades
But I'll eventually forgive you, though never forget you
When a long time ago, I was also a part of you

Goodbye Syria, my love

** World Refugee Day Poem,
by Diatra Farasha
(15 years old, student)*

Courtesy Mario Calla, COSTI Immigrant Services



INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED... How long do sponsored BVOR refugees receive RAP income support?

OUR REPLY... Refugees sponsored through the BVOR Program receive RAP for 6 months of the 12 month sponsorship period. Effective July 1, 2015, there will be a change to the support period. CIC will provide RAP income support at least one month after arrival, depending on the date of arrival, for BVOR cases as per the following:

- ⇒ BVORs who arrive during the **1st to the 15th of the month** will have their first month of RAP income support established for the 1st day of the following month. For example, a BVOR arriving on July 12th will have their first month income support be paid on August 1st.
- ⇒ BVORs who arrive **on or after the 16th of the month** will have their first month of RAP income support established for the 1st day of the subsequent month. For example, a BVOR arriving on July 22nd will have their first month income support be paid on September 1st.

These changes are a result of feedback received from sponsors and local CIC offices, and in recognition of the fact that sponsoring groups cover start-up costs and other immediate post-arrival expenses. In addition, due to the time required to obtain the necessary information on behalf of the refugee (e.g. Social Insurance Number, bank account/direct deposit, etc.), this will also allow sufficient time for the necessary documentation (as outlined above) to be obtained in advance of the RAP orientation meeting. These changes will help ensure that groups are better able to prepare and manage their sponsorship budgets and settlement plans. The total amount of RAP income support provided to a BVOR remains unchanged.

YOU ASKED... In relation to a refugee whom we have sponsored out of Uganda, I have the following questions. Why is an immigration officer contacting the applicant from Accra Ghana? This case should be processed by the Nairobi visa post. Have you seen this before? Is there an explanation?

OUR REPLY... We do not know the reason. Uganda is still under the jurisdiction of the Nairobi Visa Post. It may be worth checking with the visa office and also verifying with the family members or the refugee applicant directly if the applicant still lives in Uganda.

YOU ASKED... Why is the visa office is also asking for the Refugee status document (RSD) from the government of Uganda? I thought that as SAHs we did not have to have a refugee mandate letter from UNHCR or from the government? Perhaps I am wrong on that. Can you explain?

OUR REPLY.. It is true that SAHs can sponsor refugees without RSD. Having said that, a visa officer can request a refugee to submit any supporting document, including proof of refugee status . This helps the visa office to determine if the submitted refugee claim is credible or not. It could also assist the visa office to determine whether or not the applicant is locally integrated in the country of refugee. This is often requested in case of refugees residing in countries that have signed the Refugee Convention and are deemed to offer effective refugee protections.



Happy Canada day ! Joyeuse Fête du Canada!

AVAILABLE BVOR CASES

| Profile # | Family Size | Composition | Case Summary | Recommended Destination |
|-----------|-------------|---|---|--|
| VOR 200 | 3 | <p>49 year old female, 23 year old daughter, 18 year old son (currently in Ethiopia)</p> <p>Languages: Arabic, Tigrinya, English</p> | <p>The PA is a widowed Eritrean woman with three children. She has experience working as a house-keeper and cleaner. The PA's daughter speaks English. The PA is unwilling to return to her home country because she fears that her children would be forced to serve in the military. It will be beneficial for the PA and her son on BVOR 201/15 to be resettled together.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">URGENCY: HIGH</p> <p><i>NOTE: Travel-ready. Will be posted for 60 days only.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>X-ref with VOR 201 (son)</i></p> |
| VOR 201 | 1 | <p>26 year old male (currently in Ethiopia)</p> <p>Languages: Arabic, Tigrinya, English</p> | <p>The PA is a single Eritrean man. He is unwilling to return to his home country because he fears that he would be forced to serve in the military. It will be beneficial for the PA and his mother on BVOR 200/15 to be resettled together.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">URGENCY: HIGH</p> <p><i>NOTE: Travel-ready. Will be posted for 60 days only.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>X-ref with VOR 200 (mother)</i></p> |
| VOR 154 | 1 | <p>24 year old female (currently in Egypt)</p> <p>Languages: Arabic, Saho, Tigrinya</p> | <p>The PA is a woman at risk of Sahow, Saho descent. She speaks some English and has 12 years of formal education. The PA has experience working as a teacher. She cannot return to her home country for fear of illegally leaving Eritrea and repercussions of allegedly evading compulsory national service. The PA is seeking a better life and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during her resettlement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NOTE: Travel-ready.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p> |
| VOR 0159 | 1 | <p>32 year old male (currently in Ethiopia)</p> <p>Languages: Tigrinya, some English</p> | <p>The PA is a single male of Tigrinya ethnicity. He has 7 years of formal education and speaks some English. He cannot return to his home country for fear of illegally leaving Eritrea and repercussions of allegedly evading compulsory military service.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>NOTE: Travel-ready.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">NONE</p> |