

RSTP Bulletin

APRIL 7, 2017

Update from IRCC

Changes to In-Canada Processing of PSR Applications:

As of **April 1, 2017**, the functions of the Centralized Processing Offices in Winnipeg and Vancouver (**CPO-W** and **CPO-V**) as well as the Matching Centre (**MC**) in Ottawa are being merged into the new **Resettlement Operations Centre – Ottawa (ROC-O)**.

All new PSR sponsorship application will be managed at ROC-O at the following coordinates:

Resettlement Operations Centre – Ottawa

365 Laurier Avenue West

Ottawa, Ontario

K1A 1L1

Email: IRCC.INROCO-CORORI.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

Please note that the following CPO-W, MC and pre-NAT mailboxes cease to exist as of April 1, 2017:

- ♦ CPOW-BTCW@cic.gc.ca
- ♦ Matching-Centre@cic.gc.ca
- ♦ IRCC.IR-Pre-NAT-Pre-TPA-RI.IRCC@cic.gc.ca

All PSR sponsorship applications received by mail or email at CPO-W will be forwarded to ROCO by March 31, 2017 for processing.

- ♦ **After April 18, 2017, applications received at CPO-W will be returned to clients by IRCC Winnipeg as undeliverable.**

For these applications, the “lock-in/received” date will be the date the application is received at ROC-O (not at CPO-W).

A friendly reminder! The deadline to register for the SAH conference is **April 10, 2017.**

Kindly register ASAP!



<http://www.rstp.ca/en/national-sah-conference-registration-form/>

Available BVOR Cases:

These profiles are only for the SAHs and not for community sponsors and groups of fives.

If you are interested in these profiles:

- ♦login in to: cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp
- ♦use your username and password to login



PICTURE UNHCR

PROFILE #: 0109-03-17

Single Congolese woman with one son. She has farming experience prior to being a housewife. The PA and her son cannot return to their home country as she fears for their safety and persecution based on ongoing ethnic conflicts. The PA is considered a woman at risk and would benefit from additional support with resettlement in Canada. She has a friend in Calgary and would benefit from resettling near the

Available JAS Cases:

JAS # 0073-03-17 Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Large Syrian family with 6 young children (total of 8) who are refugees in Turkey (Referred by Ankara Visa Office). The PA and his family cannot return to their home country due to ongoing insecurity and they fear for their safety. The PA has prior work experience in Architectural Décor. They may benefit from counselling upon arrival in Canada. They have no contact in Canada and would benefit from the support of a sponsor during resettlement in Canada.



PICTURE UNHCR

JAS # 0071-03-17 and JAS 0072-03-17 Eritrean Refugees in Sudan

Eritrean family of 8 who are refugees in Sudan (Referred by Rome Visa Office). PA is a single female head of household, caring for 7 children on her own, including the adult son on the x-ref file JAS 0072/03/17 who has special needs. The family would benefit from counselling and support during resettlement in Canada. Kindly note that there are two non-accompanying family members listed on the profile of JAS 0071/03/17.

If you are interested in these cases or have questions, contact:

Parastoo Aznavehzadeh
(BVOR Worker)



Picture: UNHCR

Thailand

Existing refugee populations

01.01.15

Refugee population	persons
Myanmar (camp)	73,762
Pakistan (urban)	362
State of Palestine (urban)	269
Sri Lanka (urban)	159
Vietnam (urban)	99
Syrian Arab Republic (urban)	82
China (urban)	76
Various (urban)	328
Total refugee population	75,137
Total number of women	22,061
Total number of men	20,910
Total number of children	32,166
Total number of women and girls at risk	2,481
Unaccompanied or separated children	1,240
Asylum-seeker population	
Pakistan (urban)	4,817
Myanmar (camp)	746*
Viet Nam (urban)	536
State of Palestine (urban)	340
Somalia (urban)	270
Sri Lanka (urban)	203
Syrian Arab Republic (urban)	168
Iraq (urban)	154

* This number includes 492 Myanmar camp residents identified for consideration under the Fast Track Provincial Admission Boards (PABs) in 2014, and 254 individuals from Myanmar who reportedly arrived in Thailand following the Saffron Revolution in 2007.

Chart from: UNHCR Projected Global Resettlement Needs 2016 (page 184)

Processing of Pakistani Refugee Claims in Thailand

According to UNHCR, asylum claims made by Pakistani nationals who are members of religious minorities require particularly careful examination of possible risks. UNHCR considers that members of religious minorities may, depending on the

Potential Risk Profiles:

- ◆ Ahmadi
- ◆ Christians
- ◆ Shi'ites
- ◆ Sufis/Barelvis
- ◆ Baha'is
- ◆ Hindus
- ◆ Sikhs
- ◆ Zikris

The above list is not exhaustive. Any other claim on religious grounds should not be automatically disregarded simply because the person concerned does not fall within the above identified potential risk profile.

For more information, take a look at the UNHCR's Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Members of Religious Minorities from Pakistan (Jan 2017):

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/5857ed0e4.html>

(Page 22-64)

UNHCR states,

"All asylum claims based on the refugee criteria contained in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) and/or its 1967 Protocol⁴ need to be considered on their own merits according to fair and efficient status determination procedures and up-to-date and relevant country of origin information."

Sponsors are expected to follow similar guidelines when assessing refugee sponsorship requests, including requests from Pakistan refugees in Thailand.

Processing Time:

Processing time for Privately sponsored refugees from Thailand is: **54 Month(s)**

"Processing times tell you how long it took IRCC to process applications in the past after receiving a complete application package. Processing times can vary, depending on how many applications IRCC receives. Your application may be delayed if it's not complete."

Note on Exit Permits:

To be eligible for resettlement from Thailand, a person must be registered with the Royal Thai Government through the national procedure, called the Provincial Admission Board (PAB). Unregistered PSR applicants lacking legal status in Thailand will not be able to leave as they are unlikely to be able to obtain exit permits. Inability to get an exit permit delays and lengthens application processing time.

Cases with no ability of obtaining exit permits will be triaged and withdrawn. Feedback will be provided to the sponsoring group accordingly, as early as possible. Cases will be re-opened only if the situation evolves favourably.

Source: 2016 Canadian Visa Office/Mission Specific Updates

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES

YOU ASKED...

Regarding One Year Window of Opportunity:

In the IMM 5578 information guide for OYW applications, it says that for a BVOR OYW, the sponsor must submit 'All of the forms and documents required in Guide 6000 (i.e. the Generic Application, Schedule A and Schedule 2), completed and signed by the following family members'

However, in this case, the 'following family members' are minor children. Do minor children need to complete the forms?

OUR RESPONSE...

Minors do not need to complete all the forms, especially the Schedule A and Schedule 2 forms. However, they do have to complete the Generic Application Form.

In an earlier discussion with CPO-W and some SAHs about a similar case, where wanted to know "how many generic application forms "are required in such situations, we were informed that CPO-W has accepted one Generic Application Form filled out by a sister in which the other sister was included as a dependent. It is also possible to submit two Separate Generic Application Forms which are completed for each of them.

For minor children, their parent or guardian can sign the application on their behalf.



PICTURE UNHCR

Upcoming Events:

Workshop: **Supporting Settlement and Integration**

Date: Saturday, April 22 , 2017

Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm (refreshments provided).

Location: Captain William Spry Community Centre,
16 Sussex St, Halifax, NS. (in the Community Multi-Purpose room)

Description:

The topics that will be covered in this workshop include:

- ◆ Settlement challenges and best practices: What are some approaches and tools to plan for the successful settlement support of sponsored newcomers?
- ◆ Ethical practices for sponsoring groups: How do power imbalances affect the relationship between sponsors and newcomers, and how can this be minimized?
- ◆ Managing expectations: What expectations do sponsors and newcomers have of each other, and how can expectations be managed to avoid potential conflict, and facilitate successful sponsorship?

Please register for the workshop by clicking the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/private-refugee-sponsorship-supporting-settlement-and-integration-tickets-33339260626>

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

This document has been prepared for Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) by The Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP)
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