

RSTP Bulletin

June 30,
2017

EXCITING NEWS!

Starting July 13, 2017, RSTP is planning to have series of webinars every month on various topics related to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program.

Make sure to visit our website for more details!

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/training/webinars/>



Photo: UNHCR

Correction Regarding Travel Loan Waiver:

Previously we have stated that, "The cost for transportation and the medical examination overseas will be covered by IRCC for any Syrian PSR (or GAR/BVOR) arriving after November 4 as part of the Government's commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees by February 2016." However, we got clarification from IRCC stating that the loan waiver cut-off date was December 31, 2016; therefore all Syrian refugees who landed after January 1st, 2017 did not have their loans waived even if they were interviewed between November 4th and December 29th, 2016.

UPDATE:

The 2017 National SAH Conference presentations, materials and handouts are now available on the SAH only section of our website. You can login to access them!

HIGHLIGHTS

From the UNHCR Global Trends 2016 Report

65.6

MILLION
FORCIBLY
DISPLACED
WORLDWIDE

as a result of persecution,
conflict, violence, or
human rights violations

- 22.5 million people who were refugees at end-2016
 - 17.2 million under UNHCR's mandate
 - 5.3 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA
- 40.3 million internally displaced people
- 2.8 million asylum-seekers

189,300

REFUGEES FOR
RESETTLEMENT

In 2016, UNHCR referred 162,600 refugees to States for resettlement. According to government statistics, 37 countries admitted 189,300 refugees for resettlement during the year, including those resettled with UNHCR's assistance. The United States of America admitted the highest number (96,900).

75,000

UNACCOMPANIED
OR SEPARATED
CHILDREN

Unaccompanied or separated children – mainly Afghans, and Syrians – lodged some 75,000 asylum applications in 70 countries during the year, although this figure is assumed to be an underestimate. Germany received the highest number of these applications (35,900).

2.0

MILLION NEW CLAIMS

The number of new asylum claims remained high at 2.0 million. With 722,400 such claims, Germany was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by the United States of America (262,000), Italy (123,000), and Turkey (78,600).

2.9

MILLION PEOPLE

For the third consecutive year, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 2.9 million people. The main countries of asylum for refugees were:

Turkey	2.9 million
Pakistan	1.4 million
Lebanon	1.0 million
Islamic Republic of Iran	979,400
Uganda	940,800
Ethiopia	791,600

1 IN 6

Lebanon continued to host the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in 6 people was a refugee. Jordan (1 in 11) and Turkey (1 in 28) ranked second and third, respectively.

55%

More than half (55 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries:

Syrian Arab Republic	(5.5 million)
Afghanistan	(2.5 million)
South Sudan	(1.4 million)

SYRIA

More than half of the Syrian population lived in displacement in 2016, either displaced across borders or within their own country.

SOUTH SUDAN

The fastest-growing refugee population was spurred by the crisis in South Sudan. This group grew by 64 per cent during the second half of 2016 from 854,100 to over 1.4 million, the majority of whom were children.

For more information follow this link to the UNHCR GLOBAL TRENDS document:
<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/unhcrstats/5943e8a34/global-trends-forced-displacement-2016.html>

INQUIRIES & RESPONSES...

YOU ASKED...

Regarding Acknowledgement of Receipt

"I submitted an application for a group of five sponsorship in the mail on April 19th and have not received a confirmation that the application has been received. Do you have any advice for this? The website said there should be a confirmation within 30 days, which has passed already. "

OUR RESPONSE...

Please note that ROC-O is currently not issuing acknowledgements of receipt for applications submitted via mail, which is why we recommend sponsors use tracked mail when submitting applications. If there is

a mistake or error with the application, ROC-O will return the application within three to four weeks. If there are no mistakes or errors, then the file will enter into a queue and the first communication you will receive will be the "G" file number via email, which can take some time to be assigned.

Anyone who did not receive an auto reply to their application submitted via email, should send a follow-up e-mail to ROC-O letting them know that an application has been sent but no automatic reply received and ROC-O will let them know if their application has been received or not. If not, then sponsors would need to re-submit the application.

If a sponsor has submitted multiple applications at the same time and has not received an automated message for all the e-mails submitted (e.g. sponsor submitted 3 applications in 3 separate e-mails and only received two AOR messages), then it would be recommended for the sponsor to send a follow-up e-mail to ROC-O advising them that 3 applications had been submitted (and providing details of the PAs) but only 2 AORs were received. And then ROC-O will advise if they have received all three applications or if one of them did not go through.



Photo: UNHCR

New Materials on the RSTP Website:

ODSP Eligibility for Refugees in First 12 Months:

<http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ODSP-Eligibility-for-Refugees-in-first-12-Months.pdf>

Blended Visa Office-Referral (BVOR) Program:

<http://www.rstp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/BVOR-Brochure-Jun-2017.pdf>

Why Sponsor through the BVOR Program?



Photos courtesy of UNHCR

- Enable the **Canadian government** to **resettle more refugees.**
- **BVOR refugees** are assessed and **travel ready**
- **Faster processing times**
- **Lower costs** to the sponsor
- **Less paperwork**

Available BVOR Cases:

We currently have 75 available BVOR profiles waiting to be matched!

The profiles are as follows:

- ♦ Majority are Syrian, with the second and third largest nationalities being Eritrean and Congolese.
- ♦ There are some higher needs cases and some larger families as well.
- ♦ Woman at risk.

One of the available BVOR profiles is an Iraqi Family of 6:

Young couple with 4 small children ranging from 2 to 9 years old. The PA was co-owner of an Internet Café and supermarket with his brother before fleeing his home country. The PA has a cousin residing in Ottawa and a Brother in Quebec. He would prefer to live in the Ottawa area to be close to family.

Please let RSTP BVOR worker know if you are aware of a potential sponsor in Ottawa, ON, so she can forward the extended profile.

You can also login to BVOR matching database:

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

& search for profile 0500-05-17



Photos courtesy of UNHCR

Sponsor a Refugee Family through the **Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program,**

**Share the Costs
&
Save a life!**

If you have questions, contact our BVOR Worker:
Parastoo Aznavehzadeh

Upcoming RSTP Workshops

Family Reunification – How to Sponsor Refugees Info Session (in Arabic & English)

Date: **Wednesday July 5, 2017**

Time: **7:00 pm — 9:00 pm EDT**

Venue: **Whitby Central Library 405 Dundas Street West, Whitby, ON L1N 6A1**

Description: This session will cover: Family reunification through refugee sponsorship; Who can be sponsored? What is proof of refugee status? Who can sponsor? Steps in the sponsorship process and One Year Window applications.

You can register for the workshop by calling Ana Fabroa at 905-420-3607 or by emailing her at afabroa@unemployedhelp.on.ca



Photo: UNHCR

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

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