

Summary of refugee **registration** and **refugee status determination** by Country of Asylum

PLEASE NOTE: ALL refugee applicants, sponsored by a Group of Five or Community Sponsor Group, **MUST** have refugee status that is officially recognized by the UNHCR or the Government of the country where they have fled to. This is a requirement under Canadian law, and any private sponsorship application without documentary proof of this status will be returned by the Centralized Processing Office in Winnipeg (CPO-W). The document must clearly indicate that the person has been accepted as a refugee by the state authorities or the UNHCR. This means that there has been a refugee status determination (RSD) process or assessment process. If you are unsure whether the refugee applicant has this status or whether a document they have is sufficient proof, please contact the RSTP.

This document has been compiled based on information gathered from UNHCR documents to assist Groups of Five and those assisting Groups of Fives with assessing applicants overseas for private refugee sponsorship purposes. The information contained herein is subject to change and should be used with discretion.

Country of Asylum	Refugee <u>Registration</u> conducted by	Refugee <u>Status Determination (RSD)</u> conducted by	Additional Notes
BURUNDI <i>Signatory with reservations</i>		Government's Office National pour la Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (ONPRA) Document issued after recognized as refugee: <i>Carte d'identité pour Réfugie</i> by the <i>Ministere de l'interieur</i>	
CAMEROON <i>Signatory</i>	UNHCR	UNHCR conducts first instance RSDs: Urban refugees on an individual basis, refugees in rural areas on a <i>prima facie</i> basis. – cannot find updates on this NB: UNHCR is in the process of handing over RSD and registration procedures to the Government of Cameroon.	Upon recognition, adult refugees receive a UNHCR refugee identity card and family composition attestation.
CONGO, DR <i>Signatory</i>	UNHCR	Government's Commission nationale pour les réfugiés (CNR) conducts first instance RSDs on individual and <i>prima facie</i> basis Document: Ministry of Interior issues refugee identity cards that are equivalent to a resident's permit. (<i>holders the same rights as Congolese citizens, as stipulated by the</i>	UNHCR does not consider current RSD procedures to be satisfactory vis-à-vis international standards and is working with the government to improve these procedures.

		<i>national refugee law of 25 October 2002, save for political rights)</i>	
ECUADOR <i>Signatory With reservations as of 2012</i>	Government Issues a blue paper called ' <i>Documento de Identificación de Refugiado</i> '	Government recognizes refugees on individual basis, and issues ' <i>visa de refugiado</i> ' (Refugee visa) to recognized refugees (must be renewed) Some may have a ' <i>Certificado provisional de Solicitante de Refugio</i> ' card (Provisional Asylum Seeker Certificate) while their RSD is in process UNHCR has intervened in several cases of recognized refugees and asylum seekers facing deportation, however cases of <i>refoulement</i> of persons still occurs.	Many are not able to access the asylum procedure or register with the Ecuadorian authorities. 'Refugee visa' is not accepted as a valid work permit and does not allow access to social security or poverty subsidies in Ecuador. UNHCR does not consider current RSD procedures to be satisfactory vis-à-vis international standards. The acceptance rate is at odds with the monitoring of refugee claims by UNHCR, which assesses that the majority of persons requesting asylum in Ecuador are <i>bona fide</i> asylum seekers with valid asylum claims.
EGYPT <i>Signatory with reservations</i>	UNHCR	UNHCR conducts individual RSD. Recognizes older refugee populations of Somali and Iraqi origin on a <i>prima facie</i> basis.	UNHCR has developed a broad solution strategy for Syrian refugees in Egypt. Refugees have no immediate prospects or way to locally integrate as obtaining Egyptian nationality is nearly impossible.
ETHIOPIA <i>Signatory with reservations</i>	Government ID cards are issued to urban refugees by ARRA. UNHCR ID cards of camp-based refugees are provided by the UNHCR (i.e.: Ration cards)	Government - Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) conducts RSDs. Somali (Southern/Central), Eritrean, South Sudanese and Sudanese (South Kordofan, Blue Nile) refugees are recognized on a <i>prima facie</i> basis, all other nationalities must undergo individual RSD.	Majority of asylum-seekers and refugees live in Ethiopia's 18 refugee camps due to enforced encampment policy. The government has an out-of-camp policy that allows Eritrean refugees who have are able to sustain themselves to live outside the camps. Refugees should get registered with the UNHCR so that they can get assistance especially with facilitating exit visas etc. Registration sites exist in refugee camps but there is a timeline once have arrived in Ethiopia by which they must register and many asylum seekers wait too long and miss it.
GHANA <i>Signatory</i>	Government's Ghana Refugee Board (GRB)	Government – First Instance RSD determined by <i>Ghana Refugee Board</i> .	UNHCR does not consider current RSD procedures (i.e.: the appeals process) to be satisfactory vis-à-vis international standards and is working with the government to improve these procedures. Refugees are able to get a work permit as long as they have a

			<p>secured job which UNHCR finds unfair due to the fact that finding work without a work permit has risks.</p> <p>2015 Ghana was selected for a pilot country for a multi-year solution (MYSPS) and protection strategy with the goal of successfully resettling all refugees in a protracted situation. MYSPS has since identified 85% of Togolese refugees who would like to locally integrate in Ghanaian society.</p>
<p>INDIA</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i></p>	<p>UNHCR</p>	<p>UNHCR conducts RSDs on an individual basis for all asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Somalia (mainly urban refugees).</p> <p>Government conducts RSDs for Tamil asylum seekers from Sri Lanka and Tibetan asylum seekers from China.</p>	<p>No national refugee legislation, but all refugees and asylum-seekers have access to public education, health, and national legal system. 3,867 Hindu and Sikh Afghans are currently undergoing the naturalization process and will be able to be locally integrated. The Australian High Commissioner has issued visas in India to refugees with particular ties to Australia called Special Humanitarian Protection (SHP). So far mainly Chin refugees from Myanmar received this type of visa. The SHP program will likely continue to 2017.</p> <p>UNHCR-recognized refugees live mainly in urban areas and are issued temporary residence permit by the Government of India.</p> <p>Government-recognized Sri Lankan refugees live in refugee camps.</p> <p>Refugees can to apply for Long Term Visas (LTV), introduced in 2012, which allows recognized refugees to regularize their stay and join the formal labour market, in addition to giving them access to tertiary education. Permits are granted on an individual basis. While many refugees from Myanmar and some refugees of other nationalities have been issued LTVs, Afghan refugees continue to face challenges to do so.</p>
<p>ISALMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN</p> <p><i>Signatory with</i></p>	<p>Government's Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) conducts refugee registration.</p>	<p>Government – Very few Afghans are recognized as refugees, instead they apply for Afghan passport and remain on a valid Iran visa. Those without passports (formally <i>Amayesh</i> cardholders) have no rights.</p>	<p>Afghan and Iraqi refugees are often referred to as <i>Amayesh</i> card holders. <i>Amayesh</i> effectively grants protection largely in accordance with entitlements under the 1951 Convention. <i>Amayesh</i> cards are renewed annually. Newer asylum seekers are not permitted into the <i>Amayesh</i> system but are granted passports and visas. Refugees are</p>

<i>reservations</i>			able to access primary health care and education.
IRAQ <i>Not Signatory</i>	Government's <i>Permanent Committee of the Ministry of Interior (PCMI)</i> registers asylum seekers and refugees, with some assistance from UNHCR.	UNHCR conducts first instance RSDs under its mandate.	Asylum-seekers who are unable to report immediately upon arrival to the UNHCR or Government may be sentenced to extended prison time for illegal entry. Palestinian refugees who live in Baghdad and the surrounding area face continued targeted attacks based on ethnicity.
ISRAEL <i>Signatory with reservations</i>	Government	Government - the RSD Unit of the <i>Israeli Ministry of Interior's Immigration Department</i> conducts RSDs for some asylum seekers. Recognized refugees receive a temporary residence visa which must be renewed every one to three years depending on the case. Majority of Eritrean, Sudanese and DR Congolese asylum seekers are no longer given access to RSDs UNHCR conducts mandate RSD interviews for asylum-seekers and persons in refugee-like situations who are identified as having serious protection concerns and are in need of resettlement.	In June 2016, Mutasim Ali, a Sudanese national, was granted refugee status. He is currently the only asylum seeker from Sudan and Eritrea to receive this status. There is no national legal refugee framework. UNHCR does not consider current RSD procedures to be satisfactory vis-à-vis international standards. Previously, Eritreans, Sudanese and DRC nationals held conditional release (from detention) visas, a form of temporary protection. However, an amendment to the <i>Law on the Prevention of Infiltration</i> in December 2013, stipulates, <i>inter alia</i> , one year detention for anyone entering Israel irregularly and prolonged detention periods for persons failing to renew their visas on time. The Holot Residence Centre holds persons of concern to UNHCR who cannot be returned to their countries of origin; stay in the centre is mandatory and indefinite. Although resettlement options from Israel are currently very difficult UNHCR continues to encourage family reunification.
ITALY <i>Signatory</i>		Government's <i>Territorial Commission for the Recognition of Refugee Status</i> conducts individual RSDs. Request for asylum (refugee status recognition) must be made at the port of entry to the border	Irregular arrivals and asylum seekers who bypassed border controls are subject to detention. Asylum seekers who do not have documentation or whose documentation requires verification are also subject to detention in 'hosting' or 'identification' centres. A

		<p>police. If there is no border police at the point of entry or if the applicant is already in Italy, the request must be made to the Provincial Police Authority (<i>Questura</i>).</p> <p>Recognized refugees will be issued a letter certificate attesting the recognition of refugee status.</p>	<p>renewable 3-month permit to stay may be issued to asylum seekers whose RSDs are in process beyond 20 days.</p> <p>Recognized refugees receive a 2 year permit to stay valid for 2 years. After 6 years of permanent settlement and recognition in Italy, they can apply for a 'residence card' which has open-ended validity.</p>
<p>JORDAN</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i></p>	<p>UNHCR</p>	<p>UNHCR - MoU with the Government stipulates that the UNHCR must find a durable solution for recognized refugees with 6 months of arrival.</p>	<p>No national asylum system or refugee legislation in place. Under the Law on the Residence of Foreigners, refugees are allowed to stay for 3 months. Anyone who has overstayed their residency is liable for hefty overstay fines and is at risk of deportation. UNHCR registration and recognition do not confer any type of legal residency nor legal status.</p> <p>There are progressively stringent restrictions on Syrian refugees' freedom of movement through a strict implementation of the encampment policy. Other nationalities face no barriers in terms of freedom of movement in the country.</p>
<p>LIBYA</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i> <i>Officially ratified the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees in Africa.</i></p>	<p>UNHCR - Registers only asylum seekers in need of special assistance.</p>	<p>UNHCR conducts individual RSDs under its mandate.</p>	<p>No national legislation or effective administrative structures to deal with refugees and asylum-seekers. Asylum-seekers and other migrants have minimal protection space; UNHCR advocates for alternatives to detention and a temporary migrant registration system.</p> <p>In 2014, Government issued a policy that Syrian, Sudanese and Palestinian nationals who do not have residence permit will be asked to leave and even <i>refouled</i>. UNHCR update in May 2015: Not able to register refugees as UNHCR staff had to be evacuated due to violence and Libya not assuring security for UNHCR staff.</p>
<p>KENYA</p> <p><i>Signatory</i></p>	<p>Status and treatment of refugees is governed under the Refugee Affairs (DRA) in the ministry of Interior.</p>	<p>As of July 2014, RSD is conducted jointly by the Government and the UNHCR and in April 2016 DRA took the lead on RSD individual applications.</p> <p>UNHCR conducts first instance RSDs and appeals.</p>	<p>Refugees and asylum-seekers are expected to apply for a permit to travel within the country and are not encouraged to live in urban areas.</p> <p>Due to lack of work-permit for refugees, many people end up in the</p>

			<p>informal labour market and are prone to abuse.</p> <p>In the absence of a national asylum policy, refugees are susceptible to <i>ad hoc</i> decisions which are not in their benefit.</p>
<p>LEBANON</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i></p>	<p>UNHCR issues <i>Registration Certificates</i></p>	<p>UNHCR conducts RSDs based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UNHCR and the government, which, <i>inter alia</i>, requires the UNHCR to find a durable solution for non-Syrian recognized refugees.</p>	<p>Asylum-seekers and refugees are subject to the <i>1962 Law Regulating the Entry and Stay of Foreigners in Lebanon</i>, which does not distinguish between refugees and migrants. As a result, refugees who enter the country without prior authorization or overstay their visa are considered to be there irregularly and are at risk of being fined, detained, and deported.</p> <p>Majority of registered Syrian refugees crossed the border regularly and were provided with residency permits upon arrival in Lebanon, which can be renewed after one year for US \$200.</p> <p>In 2015, the GoL progressively imposed a series of measures that has made it more difficult for Syrian refugees to cross the border. Regulations create risks of rejections, push-backs and <i>refoulement</i> at the border.</p> <p>Resettlement to third countries remain the most durable solution in Lebanon. 2015 34,000 refugees have been submitted to countries since 2011, and over 19,700 have departed.</p>
<p>MALAYSIA</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i></p>	<p>Status and treatment of refugees is governed under the Immigration Act of 1959.</p> <p>UNHCR issues UNHCR letter that indicates asylum seeker is under consideration” for refugee status</p>	<p>UNHCR conducts individual RSDs, and issues UNHCR refugee cards</p>	<p>No legal national framework; government is not involved in any aspect of reception, registration, documentation or RSDs of asylum seekers; all done by UNHCR Malaysia.</p> <p>Persons of concern to UNHCR are considered a threat to national security and categorized as irregular migrants with UNHCR documentation. Asylum seekers and refugees without valid documentation are considered “illegal migrants” and are at risk of arrest, prosecution, detention, deportation.</p>

<p>NEPAL</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i></p>	<p>Government</p> <p>UNHCR assisted Government in registration exercises in 2006-2007 and 2008</p>	<p>UNHCR conducts individual RSDs under its mandate for urban asylum seekers/refugees in Kathmandu; issues positive notification letters to recognized urban refugees.</p> <p>Government conducted recognition on a <i>prima facie</i> basis for refugees from Tibet who arrived after 1959 and refugees from Bhutan from 2006-2012 although Bhutanese refugees are restricted to camps.</p>	<p>No national refugee legislation. Refugees from Bhutan and some Tibetan refugees from China who arrived prior to 1990 have been recognized as refugees by the Government of Nepal, however not all of them have been registered and not all have documentation.</p> <p>Urban refugees and asylum-seekers are considered irregular migrants by the Government of Nepal, and are at risk of detention and/or fines for migration-related offences, including irregular entry and overstay of visas. Hefty overstay visa fines are often the main obstacle for departure from Nepal. UNHCR Nepal continues to advocate with the Government of Nepal to waive these visa fines. 2016 Government adopted new resettlement policies concerning individuals with special needs.</p>
<p>PAKISTAN</p> <p><i>Not Signatory</i></p>	<p>Government's National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) recognizes all registered Afghan refugees on a <i>prima facie</i> basis. PoR (proof of registration cards) are being re-issued following the extension of their validity until the June 2016 and a recommendation of extension until the end of 2017 is still in negotiations.</p>	<p>UNHCR conducts individual RSDs under its mandate on behalf of the Government of Pakistan. All refugees referred for resettlement will be recognized with a PoP card.</p>	<p>No national legal framework for asylum or refugees. Unregistered asylum seekers are considered illegal residents.</p> <p>Other than providing Afghan refugees with legal residence and thereby effective protection against deportation, PoR cards do not confer any legal rights or status. Says "Afghan Citizen" on the front. Refugees with status can get a government ID that allows access to banks and education system.</p> <p>Reports of bribes in Islamabad due to sub-contracting of refugee registration responsibility to a private organization (May 2015).</p>
<p>RUSSIA</p> <p><i>Signatory</i></p>	<p>Government - Federal Migration Service (FMS)</p> <p>UNHCR</p>	<p>Government's Federal Migration Service (FMS) conducts first instance RSDs. Recognized refugees are provided 'full refugee' status; while temporary asylum is granted to groups originating from zones of generalized violence such as Syria.</p>	<p>National asylum system in place; government's approval rate for full refugee status remains low and UNHCR has concerns on the fairness of the asylum system, access to the RSD procedure and its adherence to international standards.</p> <p>UNHCR had recognized persons of concern under its mandate from 1992 - 2008 but they have no lawful status from the government (aka the 'legacy population'). Some have had negative decisions from Government RSDs.</p> <p>UNHCR stopped processing new arrivals in 2010, opting to refer</p>

			them to partners for guidance in accessing the national asylum procedure with support by the Federal Migration Service (FMS). The most vulnerable cases are referred back to UNHCR for consideration of special protection measures, including resettlement.
BAHRAIN,OMAN, QATAR AND SAUDI ARABIA <i>Not Signatory</i>	UNHCR for registration and RSD	UNHCR	In theory refugees with Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) permits are free to travel between the GCC countries. Recently there are new restrictions on movement for certain nationalities including Syrian, Yemenis, Iraqis and Libyans. Refugees without valid permits are denied all state rights including medical and access to education.
SOUTH SUDAN <i>Not Signatory</i>	Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA)	UNHCR for RSD claimants	UNHCR is working with the CRA to recruit and train dedicated registration and RSD caseworkers in order for full government takeover. Conditions in the Nile state are still very precarious and most refugees rely on UNHCR support.
SUDAN <i>Signatory with reservations</i>	UNHCR registers those in camps Government's Commissioner for Refugees (COR) registers those in urban areas The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers are registered jointly by UNHCR and the Government of Sudan.	Government's Commissioner for Refugees conducts first instance RSDs in eastern Sudan, Darfur and Khartoum. UNHCR conducts RSD for resettlement-specific purposes and in exceptional cases. Chadian refugees are recognized on a prima facie basis; other populations are recognized on an individual basis.	Strictly enforced encampment policy in place. UNHCR and COR resumed urban registration in Khartoum in 2013.
THAILAND <i>Not Signatory</i>	UNHCR registers urban refugees Government's Provincial Admissions Boards determine whether a Myanmar asylum-seeker is eligible for registration and admission to a camp ('temporary shelter') as a displaced person.	UNHCR conducts individual RSDs under its mandate for all urban asylum seekers, except for asylum seekers from Myanmar in Bangkok. Government conducts individual and group RSDs for asylum seekers from Myanmar for whom a camp-	No national legislation governing the admission of asylum-seekers or granting rights to persons determined to be refugees. Refugees and asylum-seekers are treated as illegal migrants in accordance with the Immigration Act and are constantly at risk of arrest, detention, or <i>refoulement</i> . UNHCR refugee status recognition affords limited protection to urban refugees but no rights. All asylum seekers and refugees from

		based government-led procedure is in place.	<p>Myanmar are required to live in camps.</p> <p>No regularly functioning registration and admission process since 2006, hence large number of asylum seekers in camps are not registered and not eligible for resettlement. In 2012, the Government initiated a fast-track procedure that provides access to the Board for unregistered camp residents from Myanmar - if they are immediate family members of registered individuals already resettled or in the process of being resettled - to facilitate their eventual resettlement and reunion with family members.</p> <p>Due to more sustainable peace in Myanmar many refugees have returned from Thailand although the UNHCR has no official policy to booster repatriation.</p>
TUNISIA <i>Signatory</i>	UNHCR	UNHCR conducts RSDs and issues Refugee Certificates	Refugee Status granted by UNHCR is not automatically recognized leading to difficulties obtaining residency permits
TURKEY <i>Signatory with limitations</i>	<p>Government - Government registration required for all privately sponsored refugees</p> <p>UNHCR registers non-European asylum seekers</p> <p>UNHCR is working closely with the government to ensure that registration and identification for assistance and resettlement purposes is prioritized in urban areas, where Syrians mostly reside.</p>	<p>Government conducts RSDs for asylum seekers originating from Europe. Syrian nationals are covered by a temporary protection regime set up in 2011.</p> <p>UNHCR conducts RSDs for all other asylum seekers, and advises Government on who should be given temporary asylum and identifies refugees for resettlement.</p>	<p>The new <i>Directorate General for Migration Management</i> will be fully operational by April 2014.</p> <p>Given the nature of the temporary protection regime and continued large-scale refugee movement from Syria, no individual RSD of Syrians is undertaken. UNHCR undertake registration of only those Syrian refugees who have been identified for resettlement.</p> <p>In January 2016, Turkey granted all Temporary Protection beneficiaries (namely Syrians) access to formal employment.</p>
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES <i>Not Signatory</i>	UNHCR	UNHCR conducts first instance RSDs.	There is no legal framework to govern the relationship between UNHCR and the Government of the UAE. The UNHCR office in the UAE, which was opened in 1986, works under the umbrella of the UNDP. Refugees in the UAE are subject to national immigration laws

			<p>(the Expatriate Law).</p> <p>All refugees who abide by national immigration laws and are able to acquire legal residency have the same rights as residents in the UAE, refugees must have an employer sponsor residency. It is nearly impossible to obtain UAE citizenship and once your sponsor ceases to employ you, you have no legal rights or access to government service including education or healthcare.</p> <p>Refugees without legal residency are treated as irregular migrants and have no rights. Their stay is temporarily tolerated because of a UNHCR request and with a guarantee that they will be departing the country within a short period of time under the resettlement programme.</p>
<p>UGANDA</p> <p><i>Signatory with reservations</i></p>	<p>Government</p>	<p>Government conducts first instance RSDs (by the <i>Refugee Eligibility Committee</i>). UNHCR attends as an observer.</p>	<p>The <i>Department of Refugee Affairs</i>, located within the Office of the Prime Minister, is the national institution for asylum.</p> <p>UNHCR considers current RSD procedures to be satisfactory vis-à-vis international standards.</p>
<p>YEMEN</p> <p><i>Signatory but has not implemented RSD procedures</i></p>	<p>UNHCR</p>	<p>Government recognizes Somali refugees who arrived after 1991 on a <i>prima facie</i> basis. Syrian nationals are recognized under a temporary protection scheme.</p> <p>UNHCR conducts RSDs for all other asylum seekers</p>	<p>No national refugee legislation and asylum system.</p>