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*No one chooses to be a refugee  
But you can choose to sponsor  
one through the BVOR program.*

# BVORNEWS

**BIG News**

## **New Fund Covers Costs of sponsoring up to 1,000 refugees identified by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)!**

The University of Ottawa Refugee Hub and the Shapiro Foundation, together with Jewish Family Services Ottawa, have announced the creation of a new fund to facilitate the sponsorship of up to 1,000 refugees identified by the UNHCR.

For a limited time, qualifying Canadian groups will have the cost of sponsoring a refugee through the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program fully covered by the fund. Funding for both start-up costs and settlement costs associated with BVOR sponsorship will be available to groups that submit applications to the fund before September 17, 2018, or until the fund is exhausted prior to the deadline. Refugees sponsored with the support of this fund will arrive in Canada before December 31, 2018.

If you would like to sponsor a BVOR case before September 17, 2018, please contact:

[bvorfund@refugeehub.ca](mailto:bvorfund@refugeehub.ca).

Individuals interested in supporting the mobilization of BVOR sponsors in 2018 are able to donate at:

<https://refugeehub.ca/donate/>.

## **The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program A Cost-Sharing Program!**

The BVOR Program is designed to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who have been approved by the Canadian government.

The refugee/refugee family sponsored through the BVOR program will arrive within 6 to 12 weeks of their application approval and the Canadian government will share half of the sponsorship costs with sponsors.

The refugees resettled under the BVOR Program receive income support from the Government of Canada through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) for 6 months after their arrival (during months 2-7). Private sponsors offer another 6 months of financial support (during months 1 and 8-12) plus the startup costs.

### **What are the sponsor's settlement responsibilities?**

- **Reception** at the airport (refugees are not taken to the Reception Centre);
- **Housing & basic necessities** (this is covered for 6 months through RAP income support, but sponsors cover start-up costs);
- **Settlement assistance** (including language classes, enrollment in school, finding health care provider, job search, etc.), and
- **Emotional & moral support.**

# Who can Sponsor under the BVOR Program?

To sponsor refugees under this program, you must be a:

- Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) or Constituent Group (a group that can sponsor refugees under a SAH agreement);
- Group of Five; or a
- Community Sponsor.



Photo: UNHCR

## Refugee populations in the BVOR program include:

- Syrian, Iraqi, Iranian
- Congolese, Ethiopian, Eritrean
- Somali, Colombian, Sudanese

Particular vulnerabilities or reasons for resettlement:

- Women and girls at risk
- LGBTQ2
- Survivors of violence and torture
- Lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions

To learn more about the countries that these refugees are coming from, visit RSTP's website:

<http://www.rstp.ca/en/refugees/country-condition-information/>.

## There are 78 available BVOR Refugee Profiles in the RSTP Matching Database

### Including

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1386-07-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Relatives in Edmonton, AB**

**XREF: 1385-07-18**

**Country of origin : Syria**

**Country of current residence : Lebanon**

A 40 year old single mother with 6 years of education, and experience working as a janitor and house cleaner. She is considered a woman at risk, and may benefit from additional support during settlement. This family cannot return to their home country, Syria, as they fear for their safety. The family has relatives living in Edmonton, AB and it is recommended that the family resettles in the same community. The family would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor in their resettlement to Canada. The PA wishes to travel with x-ref mother, BVOR 1385-07-18 and should resettle in the same community.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1394-07-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Prefers English-speaking area; friends in Saint John, NB**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria**

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: Jordan**

**FAMILY SIZE: 4**

A 37 year old Syrian father accompanied by his wife and two children. He has experience working in farming, sales and construction. His wife, who is 36 years old, has experience as a homemaker. The family cannot return to their home country due to ongoing insecurity and instability. They have contacts living in Saint John, NB and it is recommended that they resettle in the same area. He is motivated to provide a better life for his family and would benefit from the assistance of a sponsor to help his family settle in Canada.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1410-07-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Friends in Toronto, ON**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Sudan**

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE: Jordan**

**FAMILY SIZE: 5**

A 41 year old married father of Sudanese nationality, accompanied by his wife and three children between the ages of five and ten. He has 12 years of education, and experience working as a farmer, salesperson and trader. His wife has eight years of education, and is a homemaker who takes care of their family and three dependent children. The family are unable to return to Sudan, as they fear for their safety and fear persecution based on race and ethnicity. They have friends living in Toronto, ON, and it is recommended that the family resettles in the same community. The family would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor in their resettlement to Canada.

# Available BVOR Refugee Profiles Contined

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1304-06-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Family friend in Calgary, AB

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Lebanon

**FAMILY SIZE:** 10

A 41-year-old Syrian father with 8 children age between 16 months and 15 years old. He has a formal Grade 6 education and has experience as a farmer. This family has few resettlement needs. They cannot return to their home country for fear of their safety. The father is seeking a better life for his family and would appreciate the assistance of a sponsor during their resettlement in Canada. The family has a friend in Calgary, AB and would like to settle there for additional support.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1327-06-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** None

**XREF:** 1328-06-18

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Sudan

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Ethiopia

**FAMILY SIZE:** 9

The father is 30, his wife 27 and they have 7 young children (11-2) years old. They are accompanied by his brother x-ref profile (1328-06-18). The mother has limited education but the father has Grade 12 and some English language ability. He also has some farming experience. The mother is a survivor of violence and trauma. They cannot return to their country of origin due to safety and security concerns, nor can they establish in the country of residence. They will benefit from sponsor assistance in the community of settlement.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1331-06-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Family in Vancouver, but not in contact.

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Iran

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Turkey

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A single male who has 3 years of education. He has experience working as mechanic, as well as working as a repairman. He has family in Vancouver, BC and while he is not in contact with this family, he would prefer to settle in Vancouver. He has been persecuted in his home country based on his sexual orientation and could benefit from the aid of a sponsor.

**BVOR PROFILE #: 1298-06-18**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Toronto, ON

**XREF:** BVOR 1299-06-18 (partner)

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Syria

**COUNTRY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE:** Lebanon

**FAMILY SIZE:** 1

A 22 year old man with a partner on x-ref BVOR 1299-06-18. They cannot return to Syria for fear of their safety stemming from their sexual orientation. He has 9 years of education. He wishes to resettle in an English speaking community and to continue his education. He mentioned being interested in relocating to Toronto or surrounding area, but both are happy to resettle elsewhere.



Photo: UNHCR

## Ask the experts >>>

**Q:** Can I get the contact information of the person or the family that I would like to sponsor ?

**A:** The contact information of the person or the family will be provided to you after you are approved.

## Upcoming BVOR event

### Choose Welcome

LEARN.PRAY.ACT

Featuring :ANN VOSKAMP

Travel with best selling author and blogger Ann Voskamp through her refugee sponsorship journey, hear about her passionate response to the refugee crisis and the joys and challenges of refugee resettlement.

**September 20**

Bethany Community Church

1388 Third St., St Catharines

**September 21**

The Meeting House

2700 Bristol Circle, Oakville

7:00- 9:00 PM

**Free Admission**

If you are interested in sponsoring any of the available BVOR refugee profiles included here or want to learn more, **log in to the RSTP Matching Database** with your username and password: [cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp](http://cathcrosscultural.sharepoint.com/rstp)

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program



Immigration, Refugees  
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés  
et Citoyenneté Canada

For more information on the BVOR Program and how you can get involved, please click this [link](#) or contact our [Refugee Resettlement Project Worker](#).