



# BVOR NEWS

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program

**ISSUE 18. December 2019.**

## Have you checked out the BVOR section of our website?

We've been busy this year creating new BVOR promotion materials and making them more accessible. Please take this opportunity to check out both written and video resources on the [BVOR section of RSTP's website](#). We hope you'll find them helpful to promote BVOR sponsorship in your networks!

The [BVOR program submenu](#) gives an overview of the program and features a short video that explains the process for sponsoring BVOR refugees.

The most recent BVOR profiles are found here: [BVOR Refugee Profiles](#). Interested sponsors will need to log in to [RSTP's matching database](#) to hold or confirm cases. Contact us at [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca) to register for login information.

You'll find backgrounders and webinars on BVOR refugee countries of origin and asylum here: [BVOR Refugee Backgrounds](#).

The BVOR News features regular profiles of BVOR sponsors across Canada. Past issues are posted here: [BVOR News](#).

We have also created a number of videos on BVOR sponsors and sponsorship, which you'll find on our [YouTube channel](#).

Print resources and videos about workplace sponsorship are available here: [Workplace Sponsorship and BVOR](#).

Keep checking our BVOR site for new features in the new year!

## The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

**This year more than 900 BVOR refugees were sponsored. The following initiatives helped.**

### IRCC SAH incentive

IRCC offered a special time-limited incentive to SAHs that sponsored BVOR cases between November 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019. For each BVOR case sponsored during this time, the SAH received an additional PSR SAH cap space in 2019.

### Lifeline Syria Fund

The Lifeline Syria Fund announced in September 2018 wrapped up this Fall after funding sponsorships for 115 Syrian BVOR refugees. That's 115 more Syrian refugees than would have otherwise been able to come to Canada!

### BVOR Fund 2019

On May 2, 2019 The University of Ottawa Refugee Hub [announced the renewal](#) of its successful 2018 BVOR Fund. Seeded by two of 2018's lead donors - The Shapiro Foundation and G. Barrie Landry - the 2019 BVOR Fund resulted in sponsorship of 500 BVOR refugees.

The needs are still great. There are many refugees are waiting to be sponsored through the BVOR program. Here is a sample profile of an Eritrean BVOR refugee, and some of the reasons people like her need to be sponsored.

This single mother with two young daughters, aged 5 and 7, currently lives in Sudan. She has limited education, and has worked as a cleaner. She is considered a woman at risk and cannot return to her country of origin for reasons of safety. She has no contacts in Canada.

### Difficulty finding work

Refugees must register at the nearest office of the Sudan Commissioner for Refugees or another authority. They must stay in camps designated by the government. Living conditions are poor, but refugees living outside the camps have a higher risk of abuse, extortion and forcible return. Sudan's limited resources and poor economic conditions make it difficult for refugees to find employment.

### Limited Health Care

Due to a lack of health care resources in their home country, there are more than 4,000 Eritrean refugees in Sudan with disabilities and/or serious medical conditions. Sudan also has limited health care resources. Refugees with medical conditions have difficulty earning a livelihood, and may require full-time support from family members.

### Women and girls vulnerable

Eritrean women and girls are particularly vulnerable in East Sudan, where discriminatory and culturally harmful practices such as child marriage and polygamy are common. Over 3,000 Eritrean women and girls have been identified as extremely vulnerable. They include those whose husbands have gone missing in their country of origin or due to smuggling or trafficking incidents in Sudan.

### How can you help?

Contact the Refugee Sponsorship Training program and ask us about the Blended Visa Office-Referral Program (BVOR).

RSTP will match you with a suitable refugee or refugee family and help you through the application process!

For more information, please visit:

[RSTP's video on Eritrean BVOR refugees](#)

[RSTP's 4-steps to BVOR sponsorship video](#)

[RSTP's webpage on BVOR sponsorship](#)

**BLENDED VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM**

For more information, visit [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca) or email [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca)

Refugee Sponsorship Training Program

 **CCS**  
Catholic Crosscultural Services

 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

