

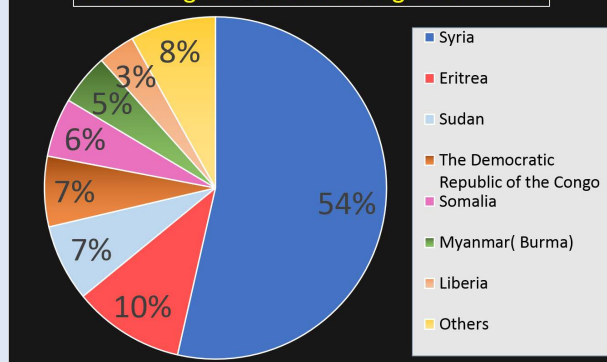


BVOR NEWS

Refugee
Sponsorship
Training
Program

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BVOR refugees matched through RSTP - 2018



Which provinces sponsored most BVOR refugees in 2018? From most to least:

1. Ontario
2. British Columbia
3. Nova Scotia
4. Saskatchewan
5. Manitoba
6. Alberta

Reasons for resettlement include:

- Women and girls at risk
- Survivors of violence and/or torture
- Lack of foreseeable alternative solutions
- Persecution based on Sexual Orientation



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.

BVOR refugees arrive in Vancouver



October 17, 2018 was a "historic day for MOSAIC" says MOSAIC's Saleem Spindari on Twitter. "We welcomed 13 BVOR refugees!" The Vancouver SAH welcomed several more BVOR refugees a few days later. All were sponsored in partnership with Lifeline Syria, RSTP and the Refugee Hub. Lifeline Syria and the Refugee Hub provided the funding to cover sponsors' costs for the BVOR refugees' first year in Canada.

Settlement support is offered by MOSAIC volunteers. "Our volunteers were able to step up quickly and have proven wonderful supports to the families," says MOSAIC's Iris Challoner.

Biggest BVOR news of the Year !

Thanks to \$3.5 million in donations, 685 additional BVOR refugees will resettle to Canada.

On August 7, 2018 the University of Ottawa Refugee Hub and Jewish Family Services, in partnership with founding donors the Shapiro Foundation and the Giustra Foundation, launched a special time-limited fund to support the sponsorship of BVOR refugees. The refugees were identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The donations inspired generous contributions from others to support BVOR sponsorship. In all, \$3,479,696.60 was donated by eight philanthropists to cover the sponsorship costs of the 685 BVOR refugees.

With the collaboration of UNHCR, Refugee 613, Amnesty International and Sponsorship Agreement Holders across Canada, 150 sponsoring groups stepped up to provide settlement support. Most of the sponsoring groups are located in Ottawa. For more information, check out this [news release](#).

**Every Canadian refugee
resettlement space is
important.**

Each one gives a refugee a chance at building a future for themselves and their families.

BLENDING VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit www.rstp.ca
or email bvor@rstp.ca

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Lifeline Syria BVOR Funds are still available!

Thanks to a donation of nearly \$500,000 from the Lifeline Syria Fund (hosted by the Toronto Foundation), sponsorship groups across Canada will be able to sponsor UNHCR-referred Syrian refugees to Canada. Lifeline Syria funds have been donated by generous Canadians from all backgrounds.

Through this initiative, the start-up costs and half of the first year of the newcomer's income support will be covered by the Lifeline Syria Fund. The Government of Canada will provide the other 6 months of income support for the sponsored Syrian newcomers under the BVOR program. Private sponsors will provide up to one year of social, emotional and logistical settlement support.



Did you know?

- 50% of today's refugees are children
- 25% refugees are survivors of violence and torture
- 10% refugees are vulnerable woman and girls

**The BVOR program helps refugees find a
home here in Canada.**