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**Volume
issue 4**

Information on BVOR Program

Available BVOR Refugee Profiles

An Additional 100 Syrian refugees will be resettled to Canada under the BVOR program.



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 refugees to Canada. Lifeline Syria funds have been donated by generous Canadians from all backgrounds.

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

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<https://www.unhcr.ca/news/new-initiative-to-sponsor-100-syrian-bvor-refugees/>



No one chooses to be a refugee

But you can choose to sponsor one through the BVOR program.

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

A Cost-Sharing Program!

Halifax sponsorship group Open Harbour Refugee Association will soon be welcoming a Syrian BVOR refugee family of four using the funding from the Lifeline Syria BVOR Fund.

<http://www.openharbour.ca/news-2/>

Funds are still available along with Syrian BVOR profiles available for sponsorship.

A Syrian family, size 6 looking for sponsors in Edmonton, AB. 34 year old father with a wife and four children. One child is a newborn. The father has experience working as a chef and has owned a supermarket. He has 8 years of education while his wife has 7. All four children are young, the oldest child has one year of education. This family has been persecuted in their home country because of their political opinion.

Another Syrian family of six has relatives in Victoria, BC: father, mother and four young children. The father has experience as a salesperson and has a mobility requirement as he normally uses a cane but needs a wheelchair when using the stairs.

A widowed Syrian woman with three children (two teenagers and one adult son). She fears for her safety and the safety of her children. They continue to suffer in Jordan, their country of refuge. She has a cousin in London, ON and it would be beneficial if she resettled in the same area.

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

Refugee populations in the BVOR program

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



Photo: UNHCR

The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

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

The refugee/refugee family sponsored through the BVOR program will arrive within 6 to 12 weeks of after 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 month 1 and 8-12) plus the startup costs.

What are the sponsor's settlement responsibilities?

Reception at the airport (refugees are not be 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