



# BVOR NEWS

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program

ISSUE 6. DECEMBER 2018

## Biggest News of the Year!

685 additional BVOR refugees will settle in Canada by year's end thanks to \$3.5 million in donations!

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 forward to provide settlement support. Most of the sponsoring groups are located in Ottawa. For more information, check out this [news release](#).

### 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.

## 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.

For more, check out this [news release](#).



## 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 MOSIAC's Iris Challoner.

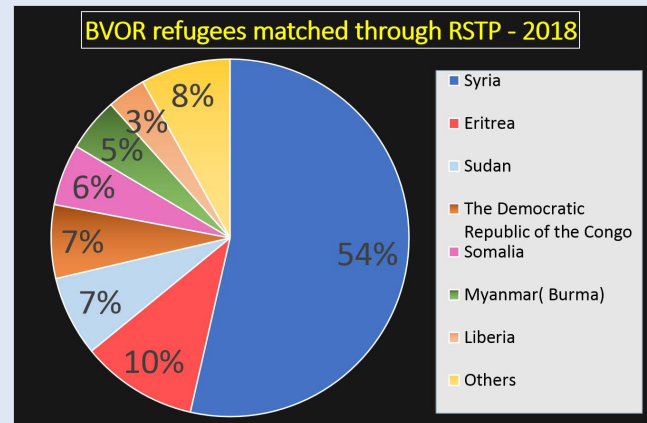
**Every Canadian refugee resettlement space is important.**

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](http://www.rstp.ca) or email [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca)

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### 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

### 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

To learn more about the countries BVOR refugees come from, visit the [Country Condition Information](#) pages on our website, available in both English and French.

Profiles of BVOR refugees needing sponsors can be found in the [RSTP-BVOR Matching Database](#).

### 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.**