

Refugee BVOR* Sponsorship

Background

CBOQ, in partnership with Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches and Canadian Baptists of Western Canada are committed to sponsorship 100 families' affected by the crisis in the Middle East. CBOQ wants to encourage as many churches as possible to sponsor a family, either individually or in partnership with other churches and groups in their region.

Statistics

- Over 4 million Syrian refugees have fled their country.
- 1.5 million Syrian refugees have fled to Lebanon (about 1 in 5 people in Lebanon are refugees). Another 1.9 million have fled to Turkey¹
- 20,000 refugees are being cared for by Lebanese Baptist churches (32 churches with an average of 50 members each)
- Many countries where Syrians are fleeing are already under significant financial strain and resource challenges.
- Beyond the Syrian crisis, there are more than 50 million displaced people worldwide including 16.7 million refugees.²
- In 2014, about 73,000 refugees were settled worldwide.³

Canada's Response

- The Government of Canada has promised to receive 10,000 Syrian and 3000 Iraqi refugees over three years.
- As of November 2015, Canada has committed to receiving an additional 10000 refugees by the end of 2015 and another 25000 by the end of February 2016

Our Response...

- To sponsor and welcome families to Ontario under the BVOR program
Download [Guidelines for Refugee Sponsorship](#)

¹ <http://www.mercycorps.org/articles/turkey-iraq-jordan-lebanon-syria/quick-facts-what-you-need-know-about-syria-crisi>

² <http://www.unhcr.ca/what-we-do/who-we-help/>

³ <http://www.unhcr.org/524c31a09.html> If you are interested in sponsoring a non-Syrian family, please contact CBOQ



Sponsorship Summary

- A host community group/church identifies, applies for, welcomes and settles refugees in Canada.
- Under the Blended Visa Office Referred* (BVOR) program, the sponsoring group is responsible to cover 50% of all settlement costs and respond to all settlement needs for 12 months after arrival.
- Family can be travel ready and arrive within weeks or a few months of application instead of the usual wait of 2-6 years.

Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program

- Canada is the only country with a Private Sponsorship of Refugees program
- Canadian residents directly participate in identifying and settling refugees.
- Started in 1979.
- Since 1979 approximately 230,000 refugees settled in Canada under the PSR program.

Who can sponsor?

- Sponsorship Agreement Holders - CBOQ has been SAH since 1979 and is one of about 90 SAH's in Canada - Any CBOQ church can sponsor under the CBOQ umbrella
- Groups of Five⁴
- Community Groups

Sponsorship Estimated Costs* and monthly income

Family Size	12 Months	Start-up Costs	Total Costs	Monthly income
1	9,800	2,800	11,600	817
2	16,800	4,400	21,200	1400
3	17,700	5,300	23,000	1475
4	20,000	7,000	27,000	1667
5	22,500	7,200	29,700	1875
6	24,500	8,000	32,500	2042
Additional member	1,550	1,000	2,550	200

*all costs noted are approximate and will vary by city and region.

- The amount paid by the Canadian government is based on welfare rates for family size and settlement region. We would encourage sponsoring churches to be generous.

⁴ CBOQ does NOT handle Group of Five or Community Group sponsorship. See <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/index.asp>



- The goal of resettlement is that the sponsored family would be self-sufficient after one year. While the churches financial responsibility is finished after one year, CBOQ would encourage and ongoing relationship of friendship and encouragement.
- In addition to settlement costs, sponsored families must pay their own medical and travel expenses or are granted a loan for this from the Canadian government. Sponsored families must begin repaying their loan monthly within 30 days of arrival. CBOQ would encourage sponsoring church to take into consideration these expenses when planning. Covering these expenses would be a tremendous blessing to the family you are sponsoring.

Possible Partnerships

- Groups within a local church
- CBOQ churches in a region
- Churches of various denominations
- A church(es) and community groups and residents.

For more information, download [Congregations Partnering with Community Groups to Sponsor Refugees](#)

Sponsorship Steps

- Orientation – considering the need, process and motives & expectations
- Commitment – board or church motion
- Form sponsorship lead team (the team should have a captain)
- Contact CBOQ
- Selection and Application
- Awareness and Fundraising
- Welcome, settlement and integration

Some Settlement Tasks

- Start up: Housing, furniture, supplies, communication devices, clothing
- Documentation: PR, SIN & Medical cards, etc.
- Finances: budget, accounts, child tax benefit, GST, etc.
- Schooling: children and adults
- Orientation: transportation, shopping, cooking
- Medical and dental: doctors & appointments
- Friendship and encouragement

For a more detailed list download a [Settlement Plan](#)



Additional Information

- Review [Guidelines for Refugee Sponsorship](#)
- [Glossary](#) of terms
- [Did you know? Facts about Refugees in Canada](#)
- Visit rstp.ca
 - **There is a lot of information here. The most helpful sections are:**
 - REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: you may want to read "The Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program"
 - SPONSORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES: the entire section is worthwhile
 - SPECIAL INITIATIVES: "Blended VOR Program"
 - RESOURCES: in this section there are some interesting articles under "Information Sheets"
- Visit Canada Immigration
 - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/francais/refugies/crise/syrie.asp>
 - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/crisis/syria.asp>
- [Guide to Action](#)
- [Canadian Council for Refugees media release](#)
- [Canadian Council for Refugees Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Theology of Hospitality](#)



Syrian Chronology

2011

- demonstrations and government suppression
- organized (dis-unified) opposition fights back

2012

- full-blown civil war
- West recognizes “National Coalition” as people’s legitimate representative
- massive refugee exodus

2013

- Islamic hardliners take more control of opposition
- chemical weapon use

2014

- UN-brokered peace talks in Geneva fail, largely because Syrian authorities refuse to discuss a transitional government.
- Islamic State (IS), initially Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) announce a “Caliphate” in their controlled territory
- IS-backed mass killings

2015

- Propaganda videos of burnings and assassinations of POW’s and religious minorities.
- Syrian refugee population (mostly in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan) nears 7 million people.⁵

⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703995>

