

MCC and Refugee Sponsorship



Frequently Asked Questions

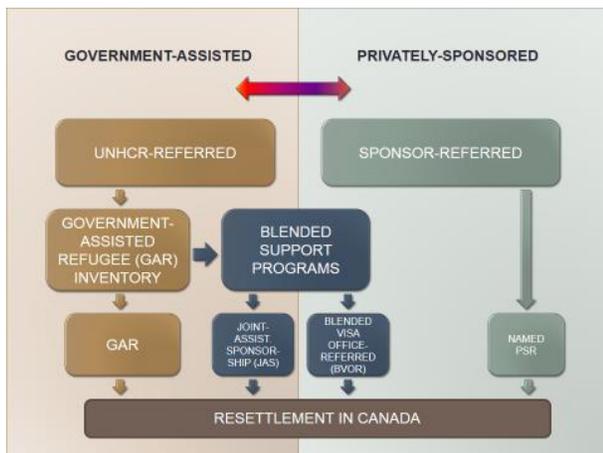
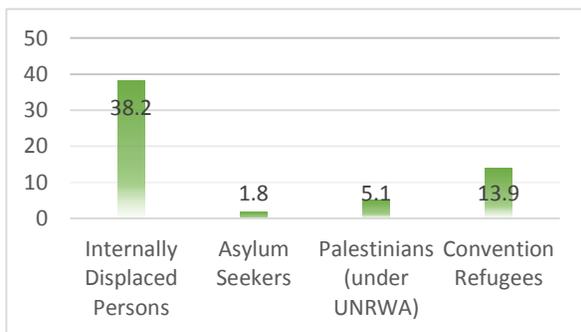
How many refugees are there in the world?

There more than 60 million people displaced by conflict in the world today. That is more than at any other time since the end of World War II. They are broken down into four categories (see chart below).

What are the solutions for these people?

Unfortunately the solutions are complex and many will not be able to access a durable solution. For convention refugees, there are three **durable solution**, voluntary repatriation (going home) local integration (staying where they are) or resettlement to a third country (like Canada).

People in millions at end of 2014



How is Canada involved in resettlement?

Canada resettles more refugees than most countries in the world. This is done by a combination of government assisted, private sponsorship and a blend of the two models (see chart to left).

What is the Private Sponsorship of Refugees (PSR) Program?

The PSR Program was set up in 1979 to help the general public in Canada to be involved in refugee resettlement. This was in response to the refugee crisis in Southeast Asia when Vietnamese and others

from the region fled their countries. MCC has been involved since then bring more than 70,000 refugees to Canada.

What is the Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program?

The BVOR program allows a group to sponsor a refugee or family selected by the government. The advantages are that it comes with some financial support and arrives are within weeks instead of months or years. Every BVOR refugee sponsored frees up a spot for someone else to be settled by the government.

Why does MCC do this?

For more than 90 years, MCC has been involved in helping people displaced by conflict in various ways. We see this as part of our biblical calling to welcome the stranger (Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:35). Many Mennonite also have displacement as part of their personal story or their story as a people. We know the need and we feel called by God to help.

What are a sponsor's responsibilities?

When a refugee is sponsored privately, the sponsor is responsible for:

- ✓ Reception at airport
- ✓ Finding housing
- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Community orientation
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Language courses
- ✓ Finding Schooling
- ✓ Finding Childcare
- ✓ Any other additional living expenses
- ✓ Emotional, moral and other logistical and settlement assistance

Financial Guide

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support ¹	Start-up Costs	Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost
1	\$9,800	\$2,800	\$12,600
2	\$16,800	\$4,400	\$21,200
3	\$17,700	\$5,300	\$23,000
4	\$20,000	\$7,000	\$27,000
5	\$22,500	\$7,200	\$29,700
6	\$24,500	\$8,000	\$32,500
Additional Member	\$1,550	\$1,000	\$2,500

Notes on financial support: These estimates are based on what Government Assisted Refugees receive from the federal government for their start up and monthly income support. These estimates do not include "in-kind" donation of things like furniture, clothing or other goods. It is likely that the start-up costs for a sponsor would be much less than this given the possibility of donated goods. However, the social assistance level support is challenging to live on and many sponsors find they sometimes need to provide additional funds, especially to find adequate housing. Resettled refugees are able to work legally from the day they arrive, and there may be other sources of income like the Canadian Child Tax Benefit and the quarterly GST rebate for low income residence.

How can I get involved?

Contact your local MCC office. You can find the contact information for your province at:

<http://mcccanada.ca/learn/what/refugees>

¹ With a Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) the Income support would be about half of the amount on this table because the government provides income support to the newcomer directly for months 2-7.