

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: AN OVERVIEW



WORKING TOGETHER TO
HELP REFUGEES

416-588-1612 x0
info@auraforrefugees.org
www.auraforrefugees.org

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone outside their country of nationality, unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group. For resettlement to Canada, a refugee must also demonstrate that their current country of asylum is not a "durable solution", meaning they cannot stay there permanently.

WHAT IS REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP?

Refugee sponsorship is an immigration program that allows Canadians to personally welcome refugee newcomers into their communities, thus enabling their resettlement. A volunteer sponsor group commits to providing financial, emotional and settlement support to a refugee individual or family for their first year in Canada. The program began with the 'Boat People' in the 1970s and has earned Canada recognition worldwide.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- **Reception:** Meeting the newcomers at the airport.
- **Lodging:** Providing suitable housing, basic furniture, and household items.
- **Care:** Providing food, clothing, public transportation and other necessities.
- **Settlement Support:** Helping newcomers access language training, employment, education, medical care etc., complete necessary registrations and obtain IDs, and adjust to life in Canada.
- **Financial Support** for one year.

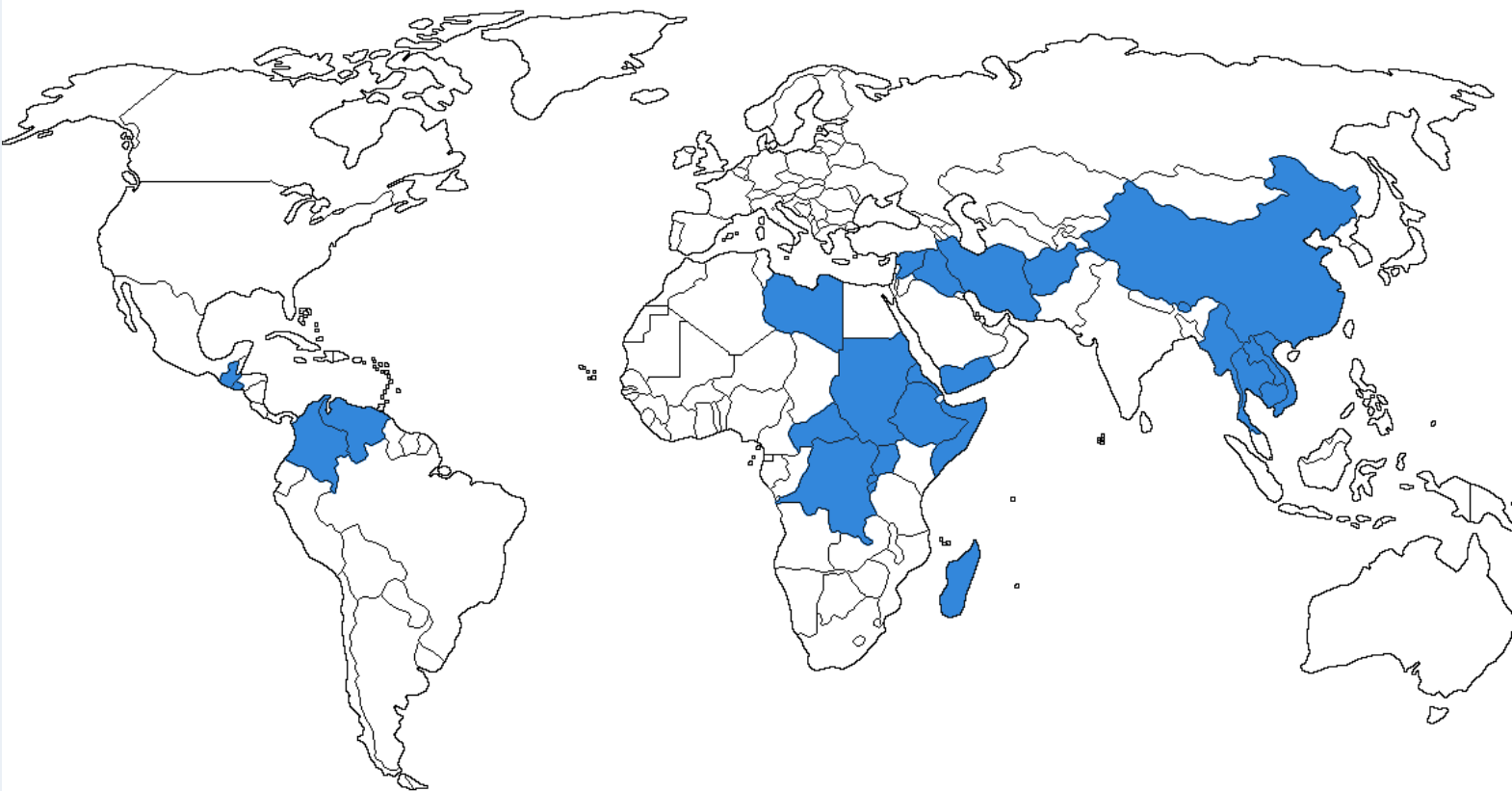
ESTIMATED COST:

The total cost of a sponsorship depends on many factors, including type of application, family composition, number, and ages of refugees being sponsors, and available in-kind supports. Approximately 70% of the total required funds must be raised before an application can be submitted to the Government of Canada.

Family Size	Approximate Cost
1	\$25,000
2	\$35,000
3	\$40,000
4	\$45,000
5	\$50,000
6	\$60,000

AURA is a Canadian charitable organization providing support and expertise to groups involved in refugee sponsorship and resettlement. We manage a refugee sponsorship agreement held in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

Since 1991, AURA has facilitated the sponsorship of refugees from over 25 countries or origin.



AURA works closely with Anglican parishes to prepare, submit and support refugee sponsorship applications.

We provide information and guidance throughout the entire process. Our Sponsorship Handbook contains detailed information to guide you, and lessons learned from 30+ years of sponsorships.

We receive thousands of requests for sponsorship every year, as the number of displaced people worldwide continues to grow. We need more Anglican parishes to join in welcoming refugees.

**AURA WILL BE THERE TO
HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE
REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROCESS**

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP: AN OVERVIEW



WORKING TOGETHER TO
HELP REFUGEES

416-588-1612 x0
info@auraforrefugees.org
www.auraforrefugees.org

We deeply value the integrity of the refugee sponsorship program and have policies and guidelines in place based on decades of experience. AURA staff are available to meet with you and explain the process and answer any questions.

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS: AURA works with 2 types of refugee sponsorship applications:

Type of Sponsorship Application:	Who identifies the refugees to the government of Canada?	Do they have family in Canada?	Have they been accepted by the Canadian Government?	Is there funding available?	Average application processing time	Number of cases AURA can submit
Named	Family members and/or organizations in Canada	Usually	No - an application is required	No. Sometimes family members contribute	1.5 - 3 years (Submission to arrival)	Limited by a yearly allocation system
BVOR Blended Visa Office Referred	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Sometimes	Already accepted and "travel ready"	Government provides financial assistance for 6 months	2-4 months (Submission to arrival)	Unlimited

OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS

- AURA meets with sponsors to assess commitment and capacity. Named Cases: AURA assesses refugee eligibility.
- AURA explains the process and officially opens a case file. Where possible, AURA seeks to match family/community groups with Anglican Churches for a partnership.
- Sponsors must raise or provide the funds required to support the refugee newcomer(s) for 1 year. Funds are held by the Parish or AURA, and must be in place prior to AURA submitting the application to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).
- AURA works with the sponsors and refugees to complete the necessary application documents. Named Cases require extensive refugee application forms.
- Sponsors provide AURA with contact information and police checks, and a Settlement Plan and Budget Plan.
- AURA finalizes the application and submits it to IRCC.
- IRCC begins processing. For Named Cases, this takes 1.5 - 3 years and includes security and medicals checks and an interview with a Canadian Visa Officer. For BVORs, sponsors prepare for an arrival in 2-4 months from submission.
- All sponsors must attend a settlement training session or preparation meeting with AURA prior to the refugee's arrival.
- When the refugees arrive, they become Canadian Permanent Residents and the sponsorship period begins.
- For the next year, sponsors support the refugee newcomers' integration into their new community, including arranging or providing housing, care and settlement assistance. The funds are disbursed by the Church or AURA directly to the newcomers throughout the year, and sponsors usually complement financial support with donated items.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE MANY STEPS INVOLVED.

Steps vary based on the unique factors of each sponsorship. AURA will seek the necessary approvals from the Anglican Diocese.

**Are YOU ready to
get involved?**

Invite AURA: To meet with your outreach committee or interested parishioners to learn more about our program.

Form a Sponsor Group: Your parish can form a committee or partner with a group/family to sponsor refugees.

Donate to AURA: Donations from refugee supporters enable us to continue our work supporting refugees and sponsors! Consider supporting AURA or one of our many ongoing sponsorships.