UNHCR identifies vulnerable cases to be referred to resettlement countries. Refugees cannot apply for resettlement themselves.

Only recognized refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or other fundamental rights are at risk in the host country are considered for resettlement. Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others would not be referred for resettlement in another country.

UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases – refugees whose lives are in danger in their current host country – to be considered for resettlement. Refugees do not pick their country of resettlement.

There are more than 25.4 million refugees in the world. 85% of the world’s refugees are hosted by developing countries.

Top host countries include:
1. Turkey (3.5 mil)
2. Pakistan (1.4 mil)
3. Uganda (1.4 mil)

HOW DOES REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WORK?

Only recognized refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health, or other fundamental rights are at risk in the host country are considered for resettlement. UNHCR refers only the most vulnerable cases – refugees whose lives are in danger in their current host country – to be considered for resettlement. Refugees do not pick their country of resettlement. Persons found to have committed serious crimes or who might pose a threat to others would not be referred for resettlement in another country.

Vulnerability categories include:
- Women & Girls at Risk
- Survivors of Violence and/or Torture
- Family Reunification
- Medical Needs
- Children at Risk

GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:

Less than 1% of the world’s refugees are ever resettled.

35 countries around the world accepted refugees for resettlement in 2017.

The number of refugees resettled worldwide dropped by over 54% in 2017 vs. 2016.

6% of the global refugee population is in need of resettlement.

RESETTLEMENT TO CANADA

Canada has an exceptional history of welcoming refugees and is the second largest resettlement country in the world. Since 1959, Canada has resettled over 700,000 refugees.

CANADA HAS THREE DIFFERENT RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS

Government Assisted
Refugee referred by: UNHCR
Financial assistance: From the Federal Government for one year

Private Sponsorship
Refugee referred by: A private sponsor
Financial assistance: From the sponsor for the first year

Blended Visa
Refugee referred by: UNHCR
Financial assistance: Six months from sponsors, six months from Government

Resettlement to Canada by Region of Origin (2017)

- Africa
- Europe
- Americas
- Asia
- Middle East

Resettlement to Canada by Region of Origin (2017)

- 26,980 Refugees resettled to Canada in 2017

Resettlement Referrals to Canada from UNHCR by Vulnerability Category (2017)

- Only the most vulnerable refugees are referred for resettlement

- Legal/Physical Protection
- Survivors of Torture/Violence
- Medical Needs
- Lack of Alternative Solutions
- Other

- 48% Female
- 52% Male

- 39% Minors
- 61% Adults

Sources: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); UNHCR | unhcr.ca | Twitter: @UNHCRCanada