How does refugee resettlement work?

**Refugee:** A person forced to flee their home country to escape persecution, war, or violence.

**Resettlement:** The careful selection by governments such as Canada – for purposes of lawful admission – of vulnerable refugees who can neither return to their home country nor live in safety in neighbouring countries.

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**GLOBAL RESETTLEMENT BY THE NUMBERS:**

- **Less than 0.3%** of the world’s refugees are ever resettled.
- **29 countries** around the world accepted refugees for resettlement in 2018.
- **The number of refugees resettled worldwide dropped by over 14% in 2018 vs. 2017.**
- **5%** of the global refugee population is in need of resettlement.

**Vulnerability categories include:**

- **Women & Girls at Risk**
- **Family Reunification**
- **Survivors of Violence and/or Torture**
- **Medical Needs**
- **Children at Risk**

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**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 resettlement in another country.**

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

* Please note this information is subject to change.
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

After refugees are referred for resettlement by UNHCR, Canadian Visa Officers screen them for potential medical, criminal and security concerns, and assess whether they are in need of resettlement. Upon arrival, resettled refugees become Canadian permanent residents.

Resettlement referrals to Canada from UNHCR by vulnerability category (2018):
- Only the most vulnerable refugees are referred for resettlement

Resettlement to Canada by region of origin (2018):
- 48% Female, 52% Male
- 39% Minors, 61% Adults
- 28,076 Refugees resettled to Canada in 2018

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

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