

FAQ SHEET

What is the Blended VOR Initiative?

The Blended Visa Office Referred initiative is a program designed to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and submitted to Canadian visa offices abroad. It is referred to as a “blended” program because it is a cost-sharing arrangement whereby Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAH) both contribute to financially supporting the refugees. Refugees under this program have already met eligibility and admissibility criteria, making them travel-ready. However, they must be matched with a sponsor before they can travel to Canada.

How does the “blended” model work?

Refugees resettled under the Blended VOR Initiative will receive income support during the first 6 months after their arrival through the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP). They are also fully covered under the Interim Federal Health (IFH) Program in addition to provincial health coverage.

For the duration of the sponsorship period, sponsors are required to provide:

- Reception upon arrival.
- Initial housing setup.
- Basic necessities after the first 6 months of RAP income support.
- Settlement Assistance (including arranging for language classes, enrollment in school, finding health care providers, job search, etc.)
- Psychological and emotional support.

How soon will the refugees arrive?

VISA office-referred cases are normally ready to travel to Canada within 1 to 4 months of being matched with a sponsor.

What happens after the refugees arrive?

These refugees are considered permanent residents once they arrive in Canada. This means they are legally entitled to work, go to school, receive health care and access free services for newcomers to Canada such as language classes, employment counseling and other support services. Sponsored refugees are eligible for provincial health care immediately.