



HIGHLIGHTS

23,833

New asylum applications recorded in Canada during 2016, i.e. a **21%** increase in comparison with 2015 (19,642).

46,321

Refugees admitted to Canada in 2016 under its resettlement program; this figure includes Private Sponsorship arrivals.

155.8

million Canadian dollars donated in 2016 by the Government of Canada to UNHCR, i.e. an **80%** increase in comparison with 2015.

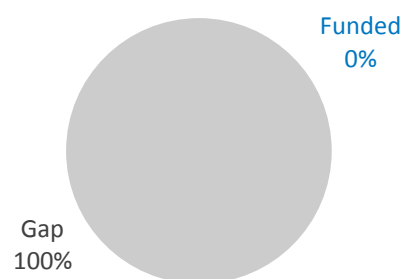
Context information

UNHCR established the Canada operation in 1976. Since then, the office has strived to fulfill four main objectives:

- Protecting the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons in Canada.
- Finding durable solutions for some of the 21 million refugees in the world through settlement, private sponsorships and other pathways (scholarships, migrant/economic schemes) in Canada.
- Communicating to the wider public the plight of refugees and their capacities to contribute to their host community and country.
- Mobilizing financial resources from public institutions and the Canadian public.

Funding requirements

USD 1.8 million requested



UNHCR Presence

Offices:



4 offices located in:

UNHCR Representation in Ottawa
UNHCR Legal Office and Private Sector Partnerships Office, Toronto
UNHCR Legal Office, Montreal
UNHCR Legal Office, Vancouver

Staff:

17 national staff
1 international staff



 UNHCR Country Office  UNHCR Field Unit



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 03 Mar 2017

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works with Canadian Government counterparts, primarily the Ministry of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC), the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), as well as civil society organizations.
- The Office participates in regular government and civil society consultations as well as public events on issues pertaining to the improvement of the asylum system, alternatives to detention (particularly for minors), reduction of statelessness, global displacement and refugee issues.
- UNHCR participates in an initiative with the Government of Canada, the University of Ottawa, the Open Society Foundations and the Radcliffe Foundation to enhance responsibility-sharing by expanding private sponsorships in other countries.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Support the Canadian government in aligning changes to its asylum and detention systems to international standards.
- Observe asylum procedures to improve access to Canada for persons in need of international protection.
- Support the Canadian government to standardize its data collection of persons of concern in a regular/timely manner.
- Support the Canadian government to provide technical assistance to build asylum capacities in other countries, in particular in the Americas.

Durable Solutions

- Advocate for increased resettlement and private sponsorships quotas.
- Promote the expansion of durable solutions opportunities in other countries through technical support.
- Promote the resettlement of refugees with urgent protection or special needs.
- Explore other pathways to Canada such as scholarships and engagement of the private business.

Communication

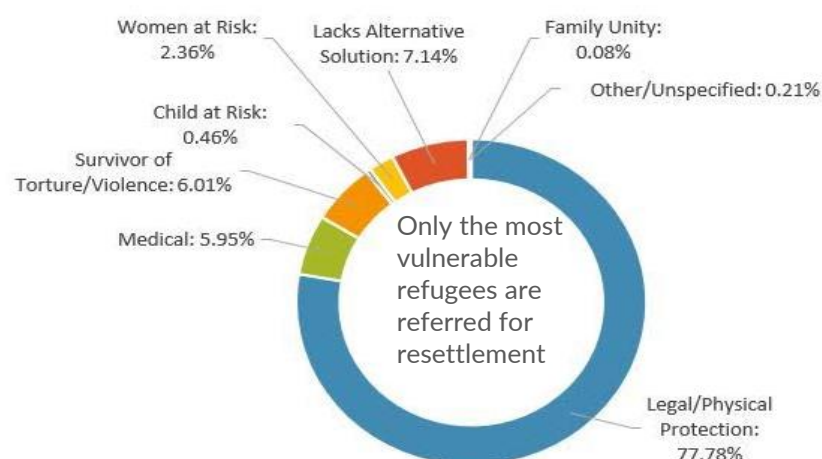
- Raise awareness and generate support to achieve a better understanding of the plight and needs of refugees as well as their contributions to their host community, including in Canada.
- Keep Canadians informed and build support for refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons, by producing and distributing a range of public information and educational materials through various media and public events.

Resource Mobilization

- Maintain a strong relationship with the Government of Canada, primarily Global Affairs Canada, to generate financial and other support for UNHCR Operations globally.
- Actively raise funds with the general public and high level supporters in Canada on the plight of refugees, displaced and stateless people in the world.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year, in addition to the following Canadian private sector donors who directly contributed to the operation: [Morneau Shepell](#), [Premium Uniforms](#), [IKEA Foundation](#), [Koskie Minsky](#), [Clearwater Fine Foods](#), [Unifor Social Justice Fund](#), [Fondation familiale Trottier Family Foundation](#), [N.A.S.I.M.C.O.](#), [The William Birchall Foundation](#) and [Vancity Community Foundation](#).

Resettlement Submissions to Canada by UNHCR Vulnerability Category (2015)



Contact:

Gisèle Nyembwe, Public Information Associate, nyembwe@unhcr.org, Tel: +1 613 232 0909 Ext: 225

Catia Lopes, External Relations Officer, LOPES@unhcr.org, Tel.: +41 (0)2 27397204 Website: www.unhcr.org