Private Sponsorship of Refugees

Present Reality and Future Direction

Brian Dyck
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The PSR Program – What is it?

• A family reunification program?
• A way to support high needs refugees?
• A way to respond to protracted vs. large group and emergency resettlements?
• A way to engage the public in resettlement?
• A way to provide a low skilled labour pool?
The PSR Program – What is it?

- A program that allows civil society to provide additional protection opportunities for refugees living abroad
- A defined part of Canada’s annual Immigration Levels Plan
- Offers protection to an additional number of refugees over and above those sponsored by the government
- A durable solution – resettled refugees are permanent residents upon arrival
Trends
PSR & GAR Landings

![Graph showing PSR & GAR landings from 1980 to 2013. The graph displays two lines: one for GARs and another for PSRs, with both lines showing fluctuations over the years.]
PSR & GAR Landings

Graph showing the number of government-assisted refugees and privately sponsored refugees from 2004 to 2013.
Cases submitted

* 2015 preliminary data based on SAH Council data
## PSR Global Cap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-cap</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>4,450</td>
<td>1,390</td>
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<td>Nairobi sub-cap</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pretoria sub-cap</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairo sub-cap</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamabad sub-cap</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserved for new SAHs</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial Priorities</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL SPACES</strong></td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>2,050</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial Priorities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iraqis in Syria</td>
<td>Syrians</td>
<td>Syrians</td>
<td>*3,000 added target for Syrians and &amp; Iraqis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total used</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>4,598</td>
<td>1,925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outside of cap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,952</td>
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</table>
Types of Sponsorship
Refugee resettlement in Canada
Types of Sponsorship

“Named” sponsorships - Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs)
- Referred and largely supported by private sponsors
- Either Convention Refugees or Country of Asylum class (seriously and personally affected by civil war, armed conflict, human rights violations)
- Sponsorship period up to 1 year
- Offers protection to an additional number of refugees

Blended Visa office-referred refugees (BVORs) – (Created in 2013)
- Referred by UNHCR/ originally not to be high needs cases
- Sharing of settlement costs between private sponsors and government (Financial support by government provided for 6 months)
- Sponsorship period up to 1 year
- Engages private sponsors in supporting UNHCR-referred refugees
- Supports the objectives of both the GAR and PSR programs

Joint Assistance Sponsorship (JAS)
- Referred by UNHCR or referred by local CIC post-arrival/Must be high needs
- Sharing of settlement support between private sponsors and government (Financial support by govt and settlement support by private sponsors)
- Sponsorship period (incl. financial support) for up to 2 years
- Supports the objectives of both the GAR and PSR programs
Types of Sponsorship Groups

• **Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs) and their Constituent Groups**
  • Incorporated organizations
  • Signed a formal agreement with CIC

• **Groups of Five (G5s)**
  • Five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents
  • 18 years of age or older
  • Reside in the community of settlement

• **Community Sponsors (CSs)**
  • Organizations, associations or corporations
  • Located in the community of settlement
How refugees are identified

Sponsor referred
- Contact from a refugee overseas ("cold calls")
- A family or friend in Canada presents a case
- A constituent group of the SAH presents a case

UNHCR or other organization highlight a case to sponsoring group

Overseas referral to Canada (usually UNHCR)
- GAR case that is streamed into BVOR or JAS
Blended VOR Program

- UNHCR referred cases
- Receive RAP 2nd month after their arrival to the 7th month.
- 12 months of IFH
- No resettlement service
Blended VOR Program

In 2015

• 1,879 (543 cases) were sponsored
• 1,210 (296 cases) were Syrians (64%)
• 669 (247 cases) were non-Syrians
• Interest continues...
Responsibilities and Challenges
Sponsor’s Responsibilities

• Reception upon arrival
• Initial housing set up
• Providing financial support for housing, food and clothing
• Settlement Assistance (arrangement for language classes, enrollment in school, finding healthcare provider, job search, etc.)
• Psychological and emotional support
## Sponsorship Cost Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>12 mos of Income Support</th>
<th>Start-Up Cost</th>
<th>Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>$9,800</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>$12,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Couple</td>
<td>$16,800</td>
<td>$4,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family of 3</td>
<td>$17,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family of 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family of 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family of 6</td>
<td>$24,500</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>$32,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Member
- $1,550 + $1,000 = $2,500
Settlement Issues

• Financial:
  • Major source of conflict between sponsors and newcomers
  • Housing
  • Food
  • Added health issues (e.g. dental)
  • Financial education is central
    • Banking
    • Economical spending/Budgeting
    • Savings
    • Transportation loan
• Social Assistance transition
Settlement Issues

- Family/Ethnic community dynamics
  - Balance between ethnic community support & independence
  - Drain on extended family resources
  - Internal family dynamics (spouse or parent/child conflict)
  - Trust vs. misinformation
  - General Culture Shock
Settlement Issues

- Mobility and Looking back
  - Secondary migration
  - Echo effect
  - Remittances
Settlement Issues

- Health
  - “Unusual” medical problems (e.g. tropical diseases)
  - Coming out of a situation of poor nutrition
  - Not use to food available in Canada
  - Mental health and stress issues (PTSD)
  - Dental problems
Settlement Issues

- Education and employment
  - Limited English (at what point does one stop language school?)
  - Can have limited education
  - Skills that do not transfer to Canadian context
Looking Ahead
Questions about the future

• Will the response to Syria continue to be robust?
  • Will other ways to engage the public develop?
• What will happen when the backlogs goes down?
  • Will energy shift from Middle East resettlement?
• What is the relationship between the PSR & GAR streams?
  • How can SAH and SPOs work together for better settlement outcomes?
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