

Global Refugee  
Sponsorship Initiative

# AT A GLANCE



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**We help governments  
and communities  
create opportunities  
for citizens to directly  
support refugees.**

# WHAT IS THE GLOBAL REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVE (GRSI)?

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GRSI) encourages and supports the creation of new community sponsorship programs around the world. In such programs, citizens form groups and commit to providing integration, emotional, and financial support for a designated sponsorship period (usually one year) to help refugees adjust to life in a new country. Through community sponsorship, GRSI aims to:

- **Increase and improve overall refugee resettlement** by engaging private citizens, community groups, and businesses in resettlement efforts;
- **Strengthen local host communities** that come together to welcome newcomers; and
- **Improve the narrative** about refugees and other newcomers.

# WHY DOES COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP MATTER?

Millions of refugees worldwide are seeking a permanent protection solution, but resettlement remains a rare option. Less than 1% of the world's refugees are likely to benefit from resettlement under existing programs. By mobilizing and empowering citizens, community sponsorship has the potential to increase the availability of resettlement as a protection option for more refugees around the world. Community sponsorship engages local communities in providing emotional, financial, and integration support to help refugees adjust to life and succeed in a new country.

# GRSI'S FOUR ACTIVITY AREAS

**1**

## **TRAINING AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Sharing Canada's experience in resettling more than 300,000 refugees through private sponsorship programs, developing a guidebook on community sponsorship, and supporting government and community actors in developing their own community sponsorship programs.

**2**

## **CHAMPIONING COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

Identifying and working with champions in other countries willing to promote community sponsorship.

**3**

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Providing technical and strategic services in interested jurisdictions.

**4**

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Assisting to build capacity for new community-based sponsorship programs, including by stewarding unique local-level partnerships and connecting new and experienced sponsoring groups.

## Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

Want to know more? Visit us at:  
[refugeesponsorship.org](https://refugeesponsorship.org)

“I know people say,  
‘what you’re doing  
is a drop in the ocean’—  
but then, the ocean  
is made up of drops”

**OLWEN THOMAS**

*UK Sponsor*

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