



What We've Accomplished Together in 2020

The pandemic has had a profound impact upon us all. For refugees, it has meant more suffering and a further delay in their resettlement to Canada. In March 2020, Immigration Canada suspended refugee travel to Canada altogether. In July 2020, Immigration Canada began to arrange travel for refugees who had been approved for resettlement prior to the March lockdown. While the number of arrivals is significantly down from 2019, we are grateful that we, along with the many parish volunteers, and cosponsors, have been able to welcome over 160 refugees to Canada.

Together, we have initiated the resettlement application to assist 665 refugees, paving the way for their eventual arrival to Canada. Here, they will live in freedom. This is a testimony to what we are able to accomplish together as we respond to the Lord's invitation "I was a stranger and you welcomed Me". The infographic, included on this page, and which is available on our website, summarizes the many accomplishments of 2020 that we can celebrate together. With the help of the Lord and through the generosity of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese, we have been able to raise over \$4.4MM to assist in the resettlement of refugees from many corners of the world. Since the inception of the Project Hope initiative, we have already been able to welcome over 165 families (444 individuals) to Canada. We await the arrival of an additional 66 families (161 individuals) who are currently in process. We are grateful for the generosity of so many who have given of their time, talent and treasure to respond to this urgent need of our time. It is indeed a testimony of the love of God's people for suffering humanity.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Educator at ORAT at: Halgebraeel@archtoronto.org

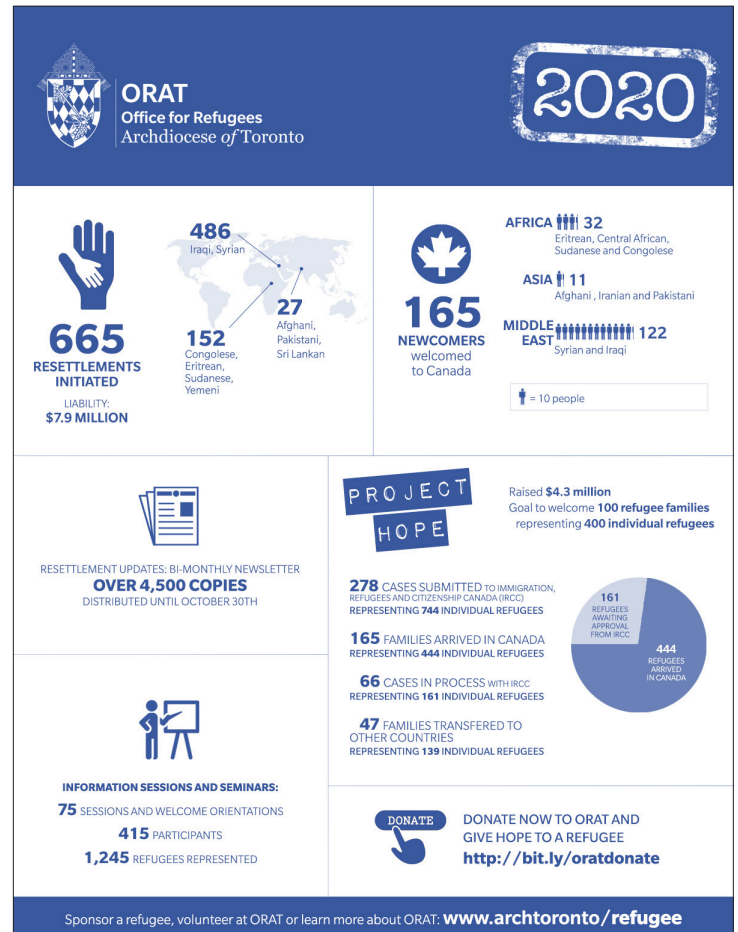


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Fraud Warning

From time to time, ORAT is made aware of suspected frauds, that make use of our name and logo. They often make false claims that they are associated with ORAT, and that they are able to assist refugees resettle to Canada. The frauds are always accompanied with a request for payment from the refugee.

Under no circumstance does ORAT request monies from the refugee! Period!

We have provided an example above of one such fraud where the individual or organization makes use of ORAT's name and logo to extract monies from the refugee, offering the refugee an opportunity to be resettled to Canada at a cost.

How ORAT Works: For the majority of our sponsorships, we work directly with cosponsors who live in Canada and who wish to sponsor their relatives overseas.

The financial care and support of the refugee is the cosponsor's sole responsibility. No monies are to come from the refugees themselves! In fact, it is illegal in Canada to do so. The only cost that we ask cosponsors to cover is a \$250 administration fee, which we ask of the cosponsor (not the refugee) when the sponsorship application is completed and approved by us for submission to Immigration Canada.

From time to time, ORAT staff travel overseas to meet with refugees with the hope of selecting some that we are able to sponsor. We do not charge the refugee for this. The Catholic Church in Toronto generously funds this work and these sponsorships. No monies come from the refugee! None!

Please note that we have not authorized any individual or



organization to represent us, or to work on our behalf. If you are a refugee, please do not trust those who say that they are working for or with ORAT. Be wary of those who approach you, offering you a chance to be resettled to Canada and ask you for money for this privilege. Do not give any money to these individuals. If you become aware of a scam that makes use of ORAT's name or logo, please notify our office at: oratrefugeeoffice@archtoronto.org and provide us with as much detail as possible.

Get to Know the Staff



Hello! My name is Eleanor D'Souza and I am the newest member to the ORAT team. I feel very grateful to be working for a Catholic-based organization that gives back to society. To be a part of a process that extends an olive branch to refugees and asylum seekers is a privilege and an honour. My eyes were opened when I joined the Refugee Committee group at my home parish, St. Catherine of Siena. It is here where Sr. Noemia provided an opportunity for me to work closely with other volunteers and prepare the way for this Pakistani Christian family arriving

from Thailand. I learned quickly that this family had to flee their country because they were facing religious and political persecution from their government. I am grateful that Office for Refugees acts as the mediator to bridge the divide between refugees in need and first world countries that have resources to provide. I am especially grateful that I have an opportunity to be part of this amazing mission working with a supportive and talented team. I look forward to the work that continues to unfold and the bright future here at ORAT.

New Travel Restrictions

To help prevent the further introduction and transmission of COVID-19 and its new variants, the Government of Canada has introduced additional measures to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

Since January 7, 2021, privately sponsored refugees - as is the case with all international travellers - must have a valid negative COVID-19 molecular test result within 72 hours of pre-departure. Pre-departure testing is arranged by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and is paid for by IRCC.

As refugees become ready to travel, IRCC will continue to contact sponsors before any travel arrangements are made, to ensure sponsors are prepared and ready to welcome the refugee newcomers. This includes providing a place where these newcomers can complete their quarantine period. Sponsors must provide IRCC with a copy of the quarantine plan for the refugees they have sponsored before travel will be booked.

Refugees must also provide contact and quarantine information upon and after entry into Canada via ArriveCAN. ArriveCAN information, if not completed before departure, can be provided on arrival in Canada. Assistance from a port of entry service provider organization will be available.

When privately sponsored refugees land in Canada, they will stay in government-authorized accommodation for their first 3 nights while they await the results of the COVID-19 test they are given on arrival. A government-funded resettlement service provider will coordinate

the hotel bookings and transportation to the hotel. The hotel will be paid for by IRCC.

Once a negative COVID-19 test result is received, refugees will continue to their final destination, where they will be required to quarantine for the remainder of the 14-day quarantine period, or longer, as required by health authorities in your region.

If a positive COVID-19 test result is received, the individuals will be transferred to a PHAC-administered designated quarantine facility in the city where they landed. This will be paid for by the Government of Canada.

To protect everyone's safety and to ensure that the refugees have taken the appropriate tests and have all the necessary travel documents and quarantine plans, we strongly encourage private sponsors to let the IOM make travel arrangements for resettled refugees.

Toward the end of the quarantine period at their final destination, refugee newcomers are required to take a second COVID-19 test provided by PHAC. The second test is self-administered and instructions will be provided by PHAC on how to take the test and send it back.

Resettled refugees will be required to stay in their place of quarantine until the quarantine period has ended and a negative test result is received.

You can get more information on the new travel requirements from the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).

[ORAT's New Website](#)

The Archdiocese of Toronto launched its newly designed website on February 19, 2021. While the redesign included a fresh look for ORAT, visitors will still have access to the same features, documents and resources that they have grown to depend on.



Women's Empowerment Project

The Women's Empowerment Project is a Catholic Cross-cultural Services run initiative, funded by the Government of Canada Emergency Response Fund to support vulnerable women during Covid -19, in providing education, access to services, networking opportunities, building connections, and preventing of negative stressors on the family.

We invite women and girls of all immigration status' to an inclusive and safe online community of women empowering other women, This new initiative aims to empower women by providing client focused insight and information about issues that matter.

We are facilitating group information sessions, and a larger Social Café's on topics that matter to all women including: Health and wellness, employment,

self-employment, financial planning, digital literacy, housing, well as one-on-one support sessions to meet your needs! To serve our diverse community, our services can be delivered in, but not limited to: English, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi. Online support is provided to combat isolation faced during Covid-19, with access to digital platform, which allows the program to reach communities beyond the Greater Toronto Area.

Join us to get connected with community resources and people that can support your ideas. Receive advice and tools to handle life challenges in a safe and welcoming environment. Build your pathway to success!

Registration is on-going, so please



The poster features the CCS logo (Catholic Cross-cultural Services) at the top left. A central graphic shows three women in red and white dresses holding hands. Text on the poster includes: "No Sweat, No Threat" FREE ONLINE SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS OF ALL IMMIGRATION STATUSES; "WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT"; a list of benefits: Safe & interactive environment, Connection to resources, One on one support, Supportive group sessions, Learn life skills, Make new friends, Weekly social cafe; and contact information: INFO AND REGISTRATION: womenempowerment@ccscan.ca, Asma Khan | 416-805-0810. The Canada wordmark is in the bottom right corner.

register today!

For more information and Registration register using Registration link: <https://www.jotform.com/202894150520247>

Or contact:

Asma Khan, Women's Support Worker
Womenempowerment@ccscan.ca
(416) 805-0810

Education Updates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ORAT has moved all of its information sessions to an on-line webinar platform. Until further notice, the office will not be holding any in person information sessions.

A webinar is an on-line virtual event. It is an educational or instructive session that includes audio and visual communication between a speaker and attendees.

The initial registration will continue to be done through ORAT's Eventbrite. Registered attendees will receive a confirmation link 48 hours before the webinar begins.

ORAT Website

Please visit ORAT's website to find details about our mandate, goals, and policies, as well as to obtain immigration forms and info session materials.

<https://www.archtoronto.org/refugee/>

The Office for Refugees is Supported by

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