

## **Government-Assisted Refugee (GAR) Bulletin – October 2013**

### ***Statistical highlights: July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013:***

- 120 individuals – 58% female / 42% male - 61 family units;
- 46 individuals or 28% were children and youth under 18 years old; 19% or 23 youth were between 13 and 18 years old; 11% or 13 children were between 6 and 12 years old; 8% or 10 children were under 6 years;
- Top 5 destinations by municipality – Surrey 25 (21%), Coquitlam 20 (17%), Burnaby 18 (15%), Vancouver 19 (16%), and Welcome House – awaiting housing 14 (12%);
- Out of a total of 12 different source countries, the top 5 source countries were: Somalia 31 (26%), Iran 28 (23%), DRC 15 (13%), Iraq 8 (7%), and Ethiopia 6 (5%);

***(Breakdown of statistics by municipality are available upon request)***

### **Looking ahead in 2013 and beyond**

We will not meet our GAR target of 800 individuals for the 2013 calendar year due to various reasons. At this time it is unclear what the final number will be this year.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is moving forward with new multiyear resettlement commitments for Canada in the Middle-East, Africa, and the Americas to run in parallel with existing commitments for Bhutanese refugees in Nepal and Iraqi refugees in Turkey. These government assisted refugee commitments are as follows:

- 4,000 Iraqis out of the Middle East by 2015, toward an overall commitment of 20,000 Iraqis ;
- 1,000 Bhutanese out of Nepal by 2015, toward an overall commitment of 6,500 Bhutanese;
- 5,000 refugees out of Turkey between 2013 and 2018 (mostly Iraqis and Iranians in the short term although we expect to see Syrians later);
- 200 Syrian GARs out of Lebanon and Jordan, in 2013 and 2014;
- 900 Colombians out of Ecuador between 2014 and 2017;
- 4,000 Eritreans out of Eastern Sudan and Ethiopia between 2014 and 2019; and
- 2,500 Congolese out of Tanzania and Burundi between 2015 and 2018.

Ongoing privately sponsored refugee (PSR) populations will include refugees from:

- East Africa (Somalis, Eritreans, Ethiopians and Congolese in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda);
- South Africa (Congolese, Somali, Eritreans, Ethiopians);
- Pakistan (Afghans);
- Egypt (Eritreans, Sudanese); and
- Middle East (Iraqis in Syria, Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan)

There is an expectation of upwards of 1,000 Syrians arriving under the PSR program in the future.

The information above provides the most insight into future refugee populations likely to settle in Metro Vancouver. Actual refugee source country targets for BC are not currently available, but nevertheless, this information does provide a strong indication of future interpreter needs, etc. We are hoping that background information (cultural and health population profiles) of each population will be made available in the future for advance arrival planning purposes.

**Chris Friesen,  
Director, Settlement Services  
October 8, 2013**