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Nairobi: Are we being fair?

Canada's visa office in Nairobi has some of the slowest processing times of all Canadian visa offices. The delays at Nairobi leave vulnerable refugees, as well as children of refugees, in dangerous situations for years.

Very long processing times at Nairobi for refugees being resettled to Canada

Processing times for refugees are extremely slow at Nairobi. Government assisted refugees referred by the UNHCR regularly wait more than two years to be resettled. Most privately sponsored refugees must wait over three years.

Thousands of refugees in many different countries are affected by the long delays at Canada's Nairobi office

Canada's visa office in Nairobi covers 18 countries in East and Central Africa. These countries host hundreds of thousands of refugees, including Somalis, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Congolese, Sudanese, Rwandans and Burundians. Many have already been waiting years for a durable solution, barely surviving in wretched camps or in precarious situations in the cities.

Canada has the capacity to resettle more refugees from this African region

There are many Canadians ready and waiting to welcome refugees from this part of the world. However, rather than increasing the numbers of African refugees to be admitted, the Canadian government has asked private sponsors to submit fewer applications at the Nairobi office. The government has also asked the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to stop referring refugees in this region, because of the large backlog.

Long delays for refugee family reunification at Nairobi visa office

The Nairobi office is also one of the slowest in the world for family members of refugees. African children regularly wait more than two years to be reunited with their parents, after their parents have already been accepted as refugees in Canada. These children must often stay in unsafe situations while they wait to join their parents in Canada.

Refugee dependants	Half the cases take more than:
Nairobi	23 months
All posts	12 months

Privately sponsored refugees	Half the cases take more than:
Nairobi	38 months
All posts	19 months

Data to end 2010

Nairobi is very slow for Family Class too

The Nairobi office is the slowest in the world for Family Class. According to the government website, a dependent child can expect to wait 32 months for processing at Nairobi.

Solutions:

- > **Speed up processing in Nairobi**
- > **Resettle more refugees through the Nairobi visa office**

For more information: ccrweb.ca/en/nairobi



Canadian Council for Refugees
Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés