



“Every day we live with fear and uncertainty.”

## Canadian processing of resettled refugees in Africa

Refugees in Africa wait longer than those in other regions to be resettled to Canada. This longstanding problem reflects continued systemic racism.

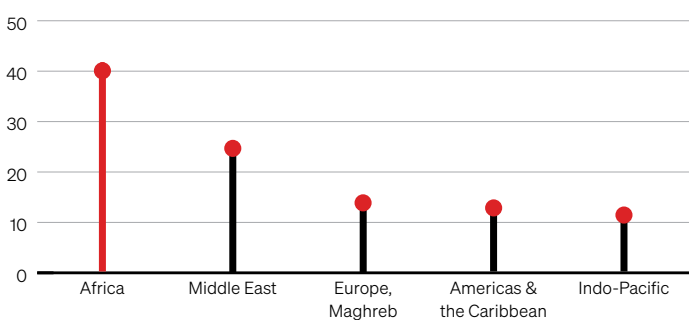
In 2023 the Auditor General of Canada found that there were larger backlogs and longer processing times for refugee applicants in Africa because these offices were often under-resourced.

Two years later, despite efforts from IRCC to address the delays, visa offices in Africa still have the slowest processing times for resettled refugees.

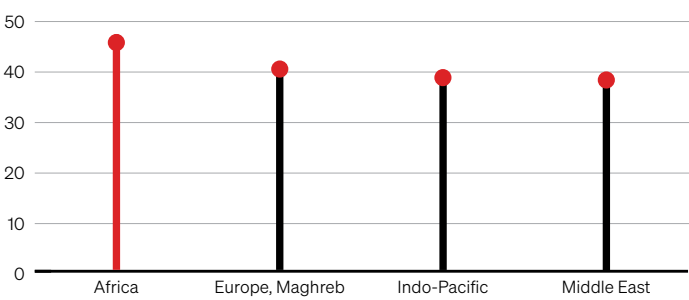
- Nairobi visa office had about half the staff but almost double the workload as Ankara.
- Dar es Salaam had a similar number of staff but 5 times the workload of Rome.

Auditor General report 9, 2023

Government-Assisted Refugees, processing time (in months) by region



Privately Sponsored Refugees, processing time (in months) by region



### Delays in the Sudan Family-Based Humanitarian Pathway

Despite the devastation of the civil war in Sudan, the government is planning for some applicants in the Sudan Family-Based Humanitarian Pathway to arrive only in 2027 or 2028 (3 or 4 years after applying).

#### A family member asks:

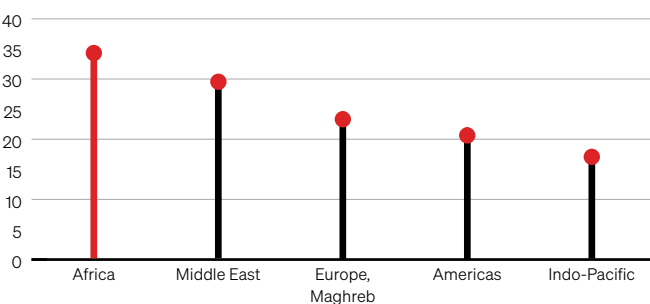
“This a special program pathway to help people who lived under war. How is it possible it takes all this time?”

Her father has died while waiting for processing

### Delays in family reunification

Resettled refugees needing to reunite with children and spouse wait much longer when their family is in Africa compared to other regions.

One Year Window (family reunification) processing time (in months) by region



## What is at stake with long processing times?

- Threats to life, liberty and security:** such as arrest, detention and deportation
- Appalling living conditions:** lack of food, adequate housing, health care.
- Family separation**
- Stress of long wait without clear information on their case**
- Emotional and financial stress on sponsors and family members in Canada**
- Principle of equity:** Africans are not being treated equitably.

“Every day we live with fear and uncertainty about our lives and the future of our children.”

A Sudanese family waiting to come to Canada

“I want to urge IRCC, considering all thwe difficulties we are passing through, to speed up our process, to end our suffering.”

An Eritrean family

## Principal causes of inequities in processing

### Resource allocation at visa offices is inequitable

- Visa offices with the most applications of refugees pending: Dar-Es-Salaam and Nairobi
- Visa offices with more than 50% of their caseload already waiting more than 2 years: Dar-Es-Salaam and Nairobi

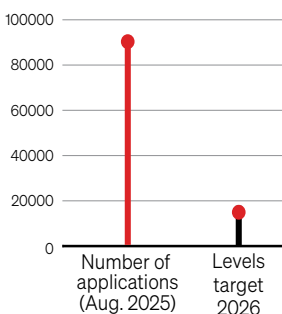
### Immigration levels are too low

The immigration levels are far too low for the number of refugees waiting, making it difficult for IRCC to address the large backlog of African refugee cases.

### Continued need for measures to address systemic racism and inequity

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has made commitments to address racism, but it is not clear how inequity in processing of cases in Africa will be tackled.

Private sponsorship: applications compared to 2026 Levels Target



The CCR calls on the government to ensure equitable processing times for resettled refugees across regions, and in particular to end the consistently slow processing times in Africa, through clear policy commitments, service standards and adequate resourcing.