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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN CANADA

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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION IN CANADA

A Thesis Presented to:

The Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences

By

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Abstract

This thesis addresses the plight of Sub-Saharan Africans who are now Canadians and are trying to settle in a new country in order to reunite with their family members. However, rather than assisting with process of resettlement, current Canadian policy has the opposite effect. It appears to create a route by which people can sponsor their loved ones, but in reality the nature of the process is arduous and filled with time delays, regulatory and processing issues and other kinds of difficulties. Consequently, what therefore appears as a hopeful situation ends up creating despair. This situation is particularly hard for those who have lived under so many challenges such as lack of proper food, no health care, racism and threats of violence from militias. Many of them have lived this way in vain believing that there might be peace and stability, yet today they still suffer from chronic uncertainty of whether they can see each other again.

This thesis utilizes primary data collected from refugees in Ottawa and secondary data to argue that the system that is supposed to help is now failing these people. It shows exactly what kinds of obstacles are the most problematic to family reunification. It outlines the way that Canada's immigration rules and regulations for family reunification via private sponsorship require a sponsor to have a certain amount of annual income or funds available. This leaves the low income people of Sub-Saharan origin with no another option but to wait in vain and live a hand to mouth existence. Looking in detail at these issues, this thesis concludes by proposing some changes to the system that is causing these problems.

Keywords: Refugees, Forced Displacement, Private Sponsorship, Durable Solutions, Third-Party Resettlement.

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“I lived in a refugee camp in Ethiopia for many years. I was dreaming that, one day I would come to a safe and stable industrialized country and live a happy life among my family and relatives. This would be the time for me to be reunited with my family members and relatives since we were separated during the war since the late 1980s. Then after I came to Canada, I thought that it was the moment to sponsor my relatives to join me in Canada. And to my surprise, I found out that it is impossible because the process does not appear to be as I imagined.”¹

¹ Luk. Interview Thursday October 9, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

Across the world, particularly in areas of conflict, people are forced to leave their countries of origin and migrate to live in other countries. Driving this process are a variety of push and pull factors that include war and fear of persecution. Fear of persecution may be due to religious faith, ethnicity, political opinion, sexual orientation, or because they are members of a particular group. Forced migration due to war happens as a result of conflict or conflict related violence, which generates insecurity and makes it impossible for those caught up in the violence to remain where they are. Those forced to flee may be subject to violence from persecutors who hold opposing interests or, in many cases, from the very state that is supposed to protect them.

If conflict is one reason why people flee, on other occasions people leave in order to reunite with their families or relatives from whom they are separated. Such people seek to reunite and reconstitute their family in another location where they can find better living conditions and job opportunities. This paper is about family reunification and the problems that result from forced and other types of migration. The focus is on resettled refugees and the ways in which they attempt to navigate the Canadian Refugee resettlement program from abroad. Specifically, this thesis analyzes the situation of Sub-Saharan Africans, who in many cases have already crossed borders inside Africa rendering them refugees, but were subsequently resettled through UNHCR's resettlement policy to third country, in what has been termed a "durable solution" for them. Today some of these people are Canadian citizens, some are permanent residents of Canada and some are still in indeterminate status.

In many respects, the plight of the refugee population that I am analyzing is somewhat different to other refugees. Before these Africans were able to come to Canada, the majority of them were forced to leave their countries of origin and live as refugees in neighboring countries. Some of them were living in defined camps under the control of agencies such as the UNHCR. Others were living in towns where, as a diffuse population, they are far harder to track and provide services for. Sadly, almost all of them have lost family members, relatives, community members and friends along the way in this long process. Those who made it to cities such as Cairo, for example, were able to be resettled to a third party country once they had followed the UNHCR system. They are, as a result, refugees who have to leave once more.

Canada is one of the main receiving countries for third party repatriation along with Australia, and the United States. However on reaching Canada, although they are permitted to reunite with family members it is not an easy process. In Canada, the majority of these immigrants face serious challenges when they want to reunite with their family members or relatives, leaving them feeling isolated and unable to fully participate in the country that is now their host. In this paper I attempt to analyze these challenges more fully and to understand the processes that exclude them.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The purpose of the paper is to understand the plight of Sub-Saharan Africans who came to Canada as resettled refugees and want to reunify with family members. At the heart of my concern is the denial of their rights as part of this process. Thus, such people face horrible violations of their human rights in their own countries, those who survive flee their countries and live as refugees in the neighboring countries. Generally, the majority of these refugees live in the refugee camps run by UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and its non-

governmental organizations (NGOs). Also, there are some of them who live as refugees in the urban cities of the host countries or countries of asylum as well. Since both groups are refugees, they are under the protection of UNHCR (the UN refugee agency).

In some situations, though these refugees are protected by UNHCR, they still face some difficulties whether they live in refugee camps or urban cities. Some face insecurity problems in the host country. Others face poor living conditions in the overcrowded refugee camps. Once in refugee camps, the situation hardly improves. In most refugee camps, there is lack of insecurity, proper nutrition, education, and health care. On top of these problems, some live without their parents, spouses, children, siblings, relatives, and community members. In most cases, this happens because they were separated when they were fleeing or leaving their countries of origin. Also, some refugee camps are located in the isolated areas in some host countries. This makes it difficult and even impossible for those refugees to communicate with other people outside the refugee camps. As a result, they have no other options, but to continue staying in the camps. In other host countries, these refugees may stay for several decades in one camp. For example, some of the Burundian and Rwandan refugees have been staying in the refugee camps in Tanzania for many decades. Therefore they continue living in limbo in the refugee camps until some lucky ones among them get one of the UNHCR's durable solutions (which is mostly a resettlement to the third country).

The UNHCR has three durable solutions for refugees. They are: local integration, voluntary repatriation, or a resettlement to a third country. Luckily, some of these refugees may be offered a resettlement opportunity to a third country. In most cases, many of them are resettled to industrialized countries such as Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, or Norway and so on.

The subject matter of this paper is third party resettlement of Sub-Saharan African refugee immigrants to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Although resettlement may change their lives from being refugees to becoming permanent residents and citizens of a new country eventually, this may not solve their problems. Many of these immigrants in Ottawa still suffer from some of the same problems they used to face before coming to Canada. Isolation in particular is a big problem because they are still separated from their family members or relatives. This is because some arrive in Canada without their family members, relatives, spouses, children, and siblings.

All of these problems are compounded by other issues such as lack of communication and lack of relevant job skills which would allow them to obtain employment and be able to sponsor their families. First, they may not know how to communicate in English or French language. Furthermore, lack of proper education, and work skills mean that the majority of them live on minimal wage paying jobs in Ottawa and some live on social assistance (welfare). Adding to these problems is the living cost in Ottawa which is very high compared to many other Canadian provinces and territories. Basic needs such as rent, transportation, food or groceries, and clothes are very expensive. The consequence of these accumulated issues is that refugees face financial problems, loneliness, hopelessness, health deterioration and confusion in some cases. As a result, for some of them, these problems cause marriage failure and disintegration of the family unity eventually. After everything that they have gone through, this may make some of them feel as if they are living in an unsafe place. In serious cases it can make some of these refugees suicidal.

Where the government is concerned, Canada has been admitting resettled refugees from abroad for many decades to fulfil its humanitarian obligations. Canada's immigration system also encourages qualified Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to reunite with their

family members through private sponsorship for refugees program. Yet in reality, sponsoring a family member or relative through Canada's Private Sponsorship for Refugees program may not be as easy as it sounds. That is to say, to qualify, a person must have a lot of money, a better paying job to have high annual income, and if not, one may be in need of getting extra help from one of the qualified community, faith based, charitable, or humanitarian organizations. Needless to say, for many of these immigrants, it is not easy to get a private sponsorship support from such organizations. For this reason, the majority of the resettled sub-Saharan Africans find that it is impossible to reunite with their separated loved ones to come to Canada. Yet, every year, Canada welcomes thousands of new immigrants through its immigration programs, further adding to the problem.

At the heart of my thesis is an analysis of the feasibility of current reunification options and the implications this has for their ability to actually settle in their new country. For the most part, today the responsibility for reunification falls on the shoulders of the refugees themselves rather than the Canadian Government. Yet this policy may have serious consequences to the social and psychological well-being of those who are stranded far away from their kin. In particular, because life is hard for new refugees who have been resettled to a third-party country, it may be some time before they can raise the finance to bring those they have left behind. This means that the refugees can be living in a liminal situation of neither belonging to one place nor another for some time.

As a result of this situation I analyze the factors which may prevent refugees from achieving reunification with their family members and relatives. I look at the issues that prevent some of these resettled immigrants in Canada from being able to privately sponsor their family member(s) or relatives to come to Canada. I also seek to understand what happens when they fail

to succeed in reuniting with their loved ones – what the effects are on them and their family members or relatives with whom they got separated and left behind in sub-Saharan Africa. Does it mean their rights are violated by the immigration system of their new country or it is up to them whether they succeed in sponsorship or not?

Moreover, to see how these new Canadians and permanent residents deal with the situation of the reunification, I have interviewed a sample of people living in such circumstances and asked a limited number to fill out survey questionnaires. The information I obtained is from both males and females of 18 years old and above, who are originally from Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, I interviewed a few representatives of the Private Sponsorship Agencies to find out how do they help these Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada and even the refugee claimants when they want to reunite with their family members left behind. The goal is to analyze responses and to suggest different policy priorities for such groups in the future.

1.3 Theoretical Frameworks

Canada's current Immigration Act provides many ways for the new immigrants to integrate into larger Canadian society. Integration is usually accomplished through a network that includes federal, provincial, local levels of government together with, refugee settlement service centers, charitable organizations, faith based organizations and humanitarian providers. Integration at the local level is also accomplished by communities and groups as well. Yet, despite this wide array of service providers, many immigrants, especially the ones coming from Sub-Saharan Africa, do not find it easy to integrate into larger Canadian Society. This is because many of them still feel that they are not able to live in Canada perfectly and be part of the society since part of their family members or relatives are not living with them. The reason behind this is that the majority of these new permanent residents and citizens came to Canada through

Canada's refugee resettlement program from abroad. Yet, before coming to Canada, many of them did not know the whereabouts of their family members or relatives because they were separated from each other during the plight or when part of the family was abruptly fleeing the country.

Although Canadian Immigration systems allows family reunification for the eligible permanent residents and the citizens, in practice it is rather difficult to achieve for some of the immigrants. In the book, *The Limits of Citizenship: Migrants, and Postnational Membership in Europe*, Yasemin Soysal argues that the ability of refugees to integrate into society is determined by the nature of state incorporation strategies. In this paper I argue that the method of incorporation of refugees in Canada does not help new refugees adapt to the society. While it appears *de jure* that the law protects the refugees in question and their human rights, the *de facto* application of this law leaves refugees without many options. In particular, I argue that the failures of the family reunification policy leaves them feeling isolated, stressed and unable to adjust to the new demands of their host society.

Soysal's work mainly concentrates on European communities, but many of her comments might just as well relate to Canada and United States. The only difference may be that, though the concept of citizenship is supposed to give full rights and liberties and open the ways for the citizens of the state to peruse things as they were dreaming about, it is not equally applicable to every individual citizen of the state. For example, unless you are financially well off in Canada, being granted citizenship does not grantee you everything. Having said this, there are many Canadians particularly the ones of Sub-Saharan African origin who thought becoming a Canadian citizen might have given them chances to reunite with their once separated family members and relatives, but they cannot reunite with them in Canada because they do not have

enough income to qualify. Therefore, sometimes the idea of liberties and rights granted under the citizenship remains a sort of theoretical concept which is true only by law, but impossible to actually put in practice as in case of family reunification issue in Canada. In addition, when a citizen or a permanent resident of a country sees that she or he cannot achieve the most vital things such as being reunited with the loved ones in her or his new country, he or she may feel as if his or her status in that country is more temporary, than permanent.

If one issue is refugees' financial ability, then a second issue is, as Soysal points out, the integration of the new immigrants and the strategies that states can adopt to assist them. Some of the rules that exist within a country can both intentionally and unintentionally help and hinder incorporation. In the case of Canada, the majority of the immigrants who originally come from Sub-Saharan Africa, may have difficulty incorporating into the main stream Canadian society. First, these new Canadians and permanent residents live in the country without their family members or close relatives. Second, the majority of them spent many years in refugee camps before they came to Canada. That is also why many of them missed better or at least formal education before coming to Canada. Third, Canada is a bilingual country (English and French languages). Fourth, it is difficult for them to get better paying jobs and this is due to the lack of better education, proficiency of both languages or either and for some old age. Fifth is the rules of the new country which can be so complicated that they disadvantage the very people that they are supposed to help.

Regardless of these people's cultural background, traditions, their love and duty towards their separated family members and relatives is a major obstacle to them integrating into the society, when they are away from such? Can such a person feel that her rights are being granted like anybody else or might they feel that there is a different understanding of their rights from the

State? For such a person, what would be the meaning of the citizenship, integration, assimilation, and a productive membership of the state? The matter of fact is, though he or she has no other options, but to accept living in the new country, citizenship rights may seem an unattainable prospect. Instead, she or he may feel that they are living in limbo. That is, they are neither part of the new country nor of the old one which forced them to leave.

1.4 Significance

Sometimes we are unable to see unnoticed humanitarian issues taking place under our nose – even in some developed countries such as Canada, United States, and other industrialized countries. These issues have grave consequences for people we try to incorporate, but somehow are forced to live in a situation where they can't fully settle.

Refugees become refugees because their basic needs were deprived by their own states. That is, they were either prevented from getting equal rights such as education, health care, security, freedom of speech, legal rights, and protection so on, from their countries of origin. Yet, after they come to Canada, there are many other obstacles preventing them to live a full and stable life in Canada. Many of these people came to Canada leaving behind some of their family members and relatives. They think, coming to Canada, might give them chance to be reunited with their loved ones and live a normal life. All these factors taken together create a situation in which these new Canadians eventually find themselves alienated. This thesis draws attention to this silent crisis and attempts to propose some solutions.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Literature Review

This literature review addresses the problems facing Sub-Saharan African Refugees in their pathway to resettlement. In particular, it utilizes the framework of Yasemin Nuhoglu Soysal², who looks at the ways in which migrants are incorporated into host states. She points out that, there are differences in the ways that new migrants are brought into the polity and given their rights. My thesis further develops her points by showing the differences between what states say they do in terms of incorporation and what immigrants encounter in reality. This means, while immigrants are naturalized in the new country, they still face some problems such as family reunification or equal rights in terms of job opportunities. In fact, compared to European system of immigration, Soysal's work also reflects the issue of other immigrants', struggle in Canada and in particular sub-Saharan African origins in Ottawa, Canada.

There are many literatures that are relevant to the issues being examined here. I therefore split this literature review into three sections. The first is the forced migration literature -- and in particular in this case, the forced migration literature relating to Sub-Saharan Africa. This part is therefore entitled "why they leave". The second section relates to third party reception states and the "durable solutions" they propose in conjunction with the UNHCR to be finally resettled. I call this part "third-party resettlement or Refugee Resettlement to Canada". The final part of this literature review looks at reception in the final host country. Here I analyze the sorts of policies that refugees face and analyze the particular circumstances of reception in Canada and in particular, in Ottawa.

2.1 Refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa (why they leave)

²Yasemin Nuhoglu Soysal. *Limits of Citizenship: Migrants and Postnational Membership in Europe*, 1994.

Throughout the literature on the subject of why refugees leave, writers portray the major causes of the forced migration and displacement of people in Sub-Saharan African countries as occurring due to the fight against resources, religious tensions, border issues, ethnic domination and political contests. However as I argue here, while these may be the most immediate and obvious reasons why refugees leave, they are backgrounded by much more significant underlying reasons that are, for the most part, historical in nature.

The factors which contribute to the root causes of forced migration among Sub-Saharan Africans are mainly related to historical legacies such as slavery and colonialism. These dynamics created violence due to civil wars which often occur between diverse ethnic populations. For example, Sudan alone has more than one hundred indigenous spoken languages³. Mark Doyle⁴ adds that, Kenya has more than forty ethnic groups. In addition, the Democratic Republic of Congo has 250 ethnic groups,⁵ and so on. According to Mahmood Mamdani, ethnic groups and tribes were often the subject of colonial attempts to map, categorize and utilize the African population for colonizers needs.⁶ Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the continents which was, and is still affected by the problems caused by external influences, impacts, and policies of the non-African former rulers in Africa. The interference by external actors has in fact created many instability and insecurity problems on the continent. The issue of forced migration and its causes is deeply related to insecurity problems in Sub-Saharan African countries.

³JRank, *Countries and their cultures*, 2015. URL= <http://www.everyculture.com/Sa-Th/Sudan>

⁴ Mark Doyle, "Kenya stokes tribalism debate". (BBC News, January 4, 2008.) URL.= <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7168551.stm>

⁵Encyclopedia of the Nations - Africa, 2015. URL= <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Africa/index.html>

⁶ Mamdani Mahmood. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. United States: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Africans and Sub-Saharan Africans in particular still suffer from these consequences until today. Furthermore, although some of these Africans' problems may be related to some structural violence such as civil wars, extra and intra-state wars and conflicts, but most of the root causes are related to historical legacy. Clara Fischer and Ruth Vollmer in *Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa* argue that part of the causes of Sub-Saharan African migration can be attributed to poverty and development⁷ yet even the issue of poverty and development, the causes are politically rooted in the historical legacies.

2.2 Third-Party reception and resettlement

The net result of this situation is that Sub-Saharan refugees have been forced to flee situations of violence and persecution from across the entire continent. Contrary to other groups in history, they do not reach their final location right away. Instead they are funneled through third party states who have agreements with the UNHCR. Some of the refugees are housed in camps when they arrive in the third party location; others find themselves living among urban dwellers in towns. It is in these locations that they wait until they are offered a “durable solution” from the UNHCR and other entities involved in migration – a point that I will refer to later in this section.

This section addresses written literature is about problems and difficulties refugees face in the camps and urban areas in the cities as they wait for third party resettlement. In the UNHCR Handbook⁸, historically, the idea of protecting refugees, dates back to the period 1921-1946 and it was at that time, that the international community began to take refugee issues seriously. Therefore, refugees were protected and assisted based on humanitarian grounds. As a

⁷ Clara Fischer and Ruth Vollmer (eds.), *Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan*. The Security-Migration Nexus II, International Conference. Germany: Bonn.13-14 February 2009.

⁸ UNHCR's, *Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, December 2011.

result, the UNHCR Handbook⁹ about refugee protection says, “The pattern of international action on behalf of refugees was established by the League of Nations and led to the adoption of a number of international agreements for their benefit”. In this case, refugees are defined according “to their national origin, to the territory that they left and to the lack of diplomatic protection by their former home country”¹⁰. During that time, these refugees were called ‘statutory refugees’¹¹.

Yet, the refugee problem was not solved even after the World War II. Therefore, there was a need to expand the definition of the refugee. For this reason, The Handbook says, ¹² “The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees was adopted by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the United Nations on 28 July 1951, and entered into force on 21 April 1954”. Thus the refugee definition in this convention was “a person who: As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted... is outside his country of nationality...”¹³. This Convention definition gave less responsibility for the governments to take care of refugees during that time. Instead, many refugee producing problems occurred later on and the number of the refugees increased which urged the international community to make the refugee definition more inclusive. That is why the General Assembly of the United Nations prepared a Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees on thirty-first of January 1967. The Protocol became effective “on 4 October 1967”¹⁴. Once more, the aim of the paper is not to

⁹ UNHCR Handbook, Revised, Geneva, December 2011.

¹⁰ (Ibid)

¹¹ UNHCR's Handbook, *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*- April 2012. URL=<http://www.unhcr.org/4ac0873d6.pdf>.

¹² UNHCR, *Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, December 2011.

¹³ (Ibid)

¹⁴ (Ibid)

explain historical background of the refugees in details, but to give a brief background of UNHCR's role in protecting refugees.

The main idea of following a brief historical background of the (UNHCR, 2001-2014) is that, in fact, the UNHCR has been protecting, helping, assisting, and finding solutions for the people who are in dire humanitarian situations for a long time. That is to say, it has been doing this action for over sixty years. Historically, the UN refugee agency started during the outpouring of displaced people during the 'World War II'. The aim was to help the people who were forcibly displaced by the conflict in Europe¹⁵. For example at the time, the first biggest numbers of refugees helped by the UNHCR, from its start were the Hungarians. That is, thousands of Hungarians became refugees after the forces of the Soviet Union defeated the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 as in the Handbook. Apart from Europe, there was still a need to expand UNHCR's role outside Europe.

That is why the second largest number of the refugees helped by the UNHCR after Europe were African refugees. Thereafter, its help for refugees continued for more than twenty years. Also, it had to help refugees produced during the crisis of Asia and Latin America. In the African case, until today, the UNHCR still helps African refugees. In a UNHCR report about Africa¹⁶ it says "Massive new displacements caused by conflict, violence and human rights abuses are likely to continue to affect many countries on the continent in 2015." Further example

¹⁵ "established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly with a three year mandate to complete its work and then disband" (Ibid). nevertheless, on 28th of July, a year from its inception, "the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees – the legal foundation of helping refugees and the basic statute guiding UNHCR's work – was adopted"

¹⁶ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *2015 UNHCR regional operations profile – Africa*. UNHCR 2001 – 2015. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a02d7fd6.html>

of similar account is in UNHCR Global Appeal for Africa,¹⁷ which says, “Maintaining protection space UNHCR will build a more favourable protection environment by ensuring that people of concern can avail themselves of fair protection processes and receive documentation”¹⁸.

Movements for self-determination during the African uprising for decolonization in 1960s also produced hundreds of thousands of refugees on the continent.

For example, such were the wars for independence in different parts of Sub-Saharan Africa that they created massive outflows of people. Some of them are mentioned in the book *Decolonization of Africa* by David Birmingham¹⁹ who says that these African wars were mainly meant for the freedom from colonization in Africa. Also Anthony Clayton²⁰ in *The French Wars of Decolonization* adds that, apart from Indo-China and Algeria, there was also insurgency struggle on side of Madagascar fighting for decolonization. He furthermore adds that, part of the second half of the 20th century includes the wars of independence in the history of the armed conflict in Africa. This is another evident showing that conflict which produce refugees in African have the colonial legacy which are also called struggles for decolonization in Africa²¹. In this case, in *The End of Colonial Rule: Nationalism and Decolonization*, Falola Toyin²² says, to end the colonial ruling system caused many wars of independence in the African history. Therefore the effects of such wars forced many Africans to flee their countries of origin and became refugees in other neighboring countries. In addition, although some of the African

¹⁷ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *UNHCR Global Appeal 2014 – 2015 – Africa*. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/528a0a180.html>

¹⁸ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *UNHCR report shows world's poorest countries host most refugees*. UNHCR 2001 – 2015, Wednesday January 7, 2015. URL= <http://www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/en/news/2015/unhcr-report-shows-worlds-poorest-countries-host-most-refugees.html>

¹⁹ Birmingham David. *The Decolonization of Africa*. London: University College London, 1995.

²⁰ Clayton Anthony. *The French Wars of Decolonization*. London: Longman, 1994.

²¹ Clayton Anthony. *Frontiersmen: Warfare in Africa since 1950*. London Routledge, 1999.

²² Falola Toyin, ed. *Africa Vol. 4: The End of Colonial Rule: Nationalism and Decolonization*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2002.

independence wars were called insurgency wars, the reality is they were all wars for the struggle of decolonizing themselves from the European influence²³. Again, by the end of the 20th century, UNHCR continued helping some more victims of war crisis, mainly in Africa, and the Balkans in Europe. More conflicts once more produced hundreds of thousands of refugees in these two continents in as in the Handbook. Therefore, since that time, the UNHCR continued helping the needy in sequence up to the present.

Although in both the UNHCR's Handbook, 2011²⁴ and *Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status* and UNHCR's Handbook, 2007²⁵ *For Emergencies*, say, it is the responsibility of the UNHCR, State parties and other UNHCR's NGOs partners to protect and take care of refugees in all the aspects of their lives. Yet as it says in the UNHCR Global Trend 2013, “, *War's Human Cost*²⁶. Sometimes the ability or the implementation of the rules may not be sufficient when the numbers are more than expected. That is why many refugees in Sub-Saharan Africa are living in dire situations without the help that laws say should be provided.

When these Africans are forced to flee their countries because their lives are in danger, insecurity reasons and safety for their families and relatives, they have to find temporary settlement somewhere. In this case, the first type of settlement has to come through seeking

²³ Turner John W. *Continent Ablaze: The Insurgency Wars in Africa 1960 to the Present*. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball, 1998.

²⁴ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, December 2011. URL= <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4f33c8d92.html> [accessed 7 April 2015]

²⁵ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Handbook for Emergencies*, (Third Edition). Geneva, February, 2007. URL= <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid46a9e29a2.pdf>

²⁶ UNHCR Global Trend 2013: *War's Human Cost*. URL= http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global_Trends_report_2013_V07_web_embargo_2014-06-20.pdf

refugee status. That is, they seek protection from the international community via the UNHCR²⁷. In its rules and guidance, UNHCR and its state partners determine the status of these people by using criterion of United Nations Convention for Refugees status determination as said in the Handbook. In this way they would be protected by UNHCR²⁸ and its other NGOs²⁹. Therefore, according to 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of the Refugees, a refugee by definition is, “ a person who: As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951 and owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted ...is outside his country of nationality...” UNHCR³⁰. That is why UNHCR and its state partners follow this definition when determine the status of a refugee.

In some countries such as Egypt, it is the UNHCR’s responsibility to determine refugee status and some partner states have obligations according to the 1951 Convention to determine the refugee status too. That is, “States therefore have the primary responsibility for determining the status of individuals who arrive on their territory, and in particular for determining whether an individual is a convention refugee entitled to international protection.”³¹ If so and after the individuals recognized as refugees, they are under the protection of UNHCR and its partners or host countries. In almost all of the Sub-Saharan countries, it is mostly UNHCR’s responsibility to find solutions for the refugees. For example, “UNHCR’s mandate has a vital protection

²⁷ UNHCR, *Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugees Status*. Switzerland: Geneva, Reissued December, 2011. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/3d58e13b4.html>

²⁸ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook: Division of International Protection*. Switzerland: Geneva, Revised Edition, July, (2011:73-103). URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/46f7c0ee2.pdf>

²⁹ Refugee status at the universal level is governed by the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (hereafter the 1951 Convention) and its 1967 Protocol. State parties to the 1951 Convention have assumed specific obligations towards refugees, including establishing procedures to identify who is a refugee and is therefore entitled to rights and protections afforded under the 1951 Convention.

³⁰ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR, *Handbook and Guidelines on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, December 2011. URL= <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4f33c8d92.html> [accessed 7 April 2015]

³¹ (Ibid)

function and is the precondition to implementing durable solutions, including resettlement”³².

Yet, sometimes durable solutions are not found easily and refugees are living in protracted situations in camps and urban cities in the host countries. This means some of them spend decades in camps and in cities in host countries. This is further explained in UNHCR’s³³, *protracted refugees situations*. There is also reluctance on the side of third party countries to accept refugees for resettlement. Furthermore, some resettlement countries have different reasons not to accept refugees to be resettled in their countries. These are different ideologies about immigration, existing financial burdens, insecurity issues, and some demand for redefinition of 1951 UNHCR convention for Refugee Status, in the UN report. It is for these and many other reasons leave Sub-Saharan African refugees in protracted situations.

Moreover, even if UNHCR and its partners are the legal body to protect them, their given protection is limited or may not be satisfactory in many situations. This shows that, when people lose their countries of origin or their natural abodes due to the above mentioned reasons, they fall victims to many problems. Some of the problems they face relate to the situation that refugees and displaced persons live in. For example, In the *Refugee and Labor Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa*, Baker and Zetter³⁴ explain the issues with refugees’ shelter in the region. They argue that it is difficult to provide proper housing to the refugees because the numbers involved and building materials expensive in most places. Refugees are also easily targeted by the foreign state or country of asylum or even their own country such as in the case of internally displaced

³² (Ibid)

³³ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): *Protracted refugee situations: The searching for practical solutions*, 2006. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/4444afcb0.html>

³⁴ Jonathan Baker and Roger Zetter. *Refugee and Labor Movements in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Sweden: Reprocentralen HSC, 1994.

persons of Darfur in Sudan,³⁵ and in other camps such as in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.³⁶ That is why sometimes refugees and displaced persons have to be protected by AU and UN peace keeping forces so as not to be harmed by the government of Sudan forces and their militia, the Janjaweed. Crinne Meyer³⁷ argues that issues like sexual assault against women and girls in refugee and displaced camps is a big problem that many refugees also face.

All of the above factors also create disintegration and separation among families, communities, societies, or nations of the same country. That is, in some cases, when such crises take place, it is so abrupt that, the affected people may have no chance to flee the country together as a whole family, community, society or nation. This means, when such crisis hit, people flee in different directions in order to save their lives³⁸. Thus, some leave their loved ones behind and eventually find themselves in a second country where communications between them are lost. This can be due to the lack of knowing the whereabouts of each other or maybe there is no means of communications at all. Then they continue living isolated and separated from each other like that, maybe for decades.

Although almost all the refugees' living situations are bad in the developing countries, the Sub-Saharan African refugees' living conditions in the refugee camps and urban cities is the worst of all. This issue is highlighted by Maja Janmyr³⁹ in *Protecting Civilians in Refugee*

³⁵ UNHCR country operation profile-Sudan, 2015.

³⁶ UNHCR Global Appeal, 2015.

³⁷ Carinne Meyer. "In Need of Protection" Addressing Sexual Assault against Women and Girls Associated with the Collection of Firewood in Refugee Camps in Sub-Saharan Africa. October 2005. URL= <http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/25.-SGBV-and-firewood-collection-2006.pdf>

³⁸ UNHCR, East and Horn of Africa, 2012.

³⁹ Maja Janmyr. *Protecting Civilians in Refugee Camps. Unable and Unwilling UNHCR*. Library of congress, 2013.

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Camps. That is in many countries, refugees find themselves cornered in very small and remote places in camps, such as Kakuma, Kenya. They live in the overcrowded tents in the refugee camps, or in the apartment units or houses if they happen to be living in the urban cities in the foreign country. In *Global Development* Mark Anderson adds that this year more Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees arrived in Ethiopia, but the resources in terms of housing and resources to sustain them are scarce. Sometimes people find themselves in cities because neighboring countries do not allow refugee camps in their countries.

One example of this phenomena is Egypt. In this case, there are also thousands of Sub-Saharan African refugees who live in the cities in Egypt. These are mainly refugees from Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and others. They too, are under the protection of UNHCR and its partners such as WFP (World Food Program).⁴⁰ More information about UNHCR's working partners and their roles in such cases can be found in the UNHCR Egypt Factsheet, 2014⁴¹. Although the UNHCR and its partners provide some basic needs for the refugees in cities, still they do not have that much. Refugees in the cities also face the same issues like other refugees in camps. These are mostly shortage or the lack of proper housing (overcrowding), no jobs or better jobs, no chance of education for the majority, no good health care when needed plus many other basic needs.

In addition, although the UNHCR does take care of the refugees, it also does not provide them with all the necessities of life. Therefore, refugees are obliged to look for other means to earn a living. Thus, some take whatever is available by low paying or menial jobs. And these may be the kind of jobs which they never experience in their lives before. It can be jobs such as,

⁴⁰ UNHCR Global Report, 2013. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/539809d916.html>

⁴¹ UNHCR Egypt Factsheet, 2014: December 2014. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/53cd1429.html>

cleaning the floors of the houses of other people, or working as servants in the houses of rich people. Some are even obliged to work as prostitutes. Some refugees living in camps risk their lives and work as firewood collectors or work as wood cutters and sell them as building materials to other people. As mentioned earlier, sometimes they get sexually assaulted or attacked by rebels or militia in those areas. In addition, some of the refugee mothers and girls also find themselves in a situation that, they are the only bread winners for their family members in the refugee camps. In such situations, they find themselves playing the role of the households which might have been totally against their cultural background.

Other problems refugees face in the cities of host countries are arbitrary arrests by the authorities, maltreatment on the side of host citizens, racism, lack of recognition of their rights on the side of some authorities, sometimes violation of non-refoulement obligations on the side of host countries which leads to forcibly return of refugees to their countries of origin such as happened to some Somali refugees in Kenya, some Sudanese asylum seekers from Egypt, and Eritrean refugees in Sudan says in the NGO Statement on International Protection, 2012⁴². There is also denial of registration of some asylum seekers, prevention of employment, revoking of their status such as happened to some Burundian refugees in Tanzania, and compulsory visa renewal even on the UNHCR refugee status cards as it happens to all the African refugees in Egypt as stated in UNHCR document. Further information about such issues can be found in *Advocating Together for Protection*, commissioned by the UNHCR in, 2013⁴³. More information about the problems facing these refugees both in camps and urban cities is also in *2014 UNHCR*

⁴² Executive Committee of The High Commissioner's Program. *NGO Statement on International Protection, Agenda 5*. 63rd Meeting 1—5, October 2012. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/5072d2489.html>

⁴³ UNHCR Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental-Organizations: *Advocating Together for Protection*. International Conference Center, Geneva (ICCG): Report, 11 to 13 June 2013. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations/ngo-consultations-2013/FINAL%20Full%20Report%20of%20the%20annual/%20consultations%20Sept%202013.pdf>

Annual Consultations with NGOs UNHCR, Rapporteur's Report, 2014⁴⁴. This report tells more about how to recognize such problems and how UNHCR and its partners would solve such problems and also empower women and girls to play an important role in solving some of these problems. These and other similar issues are the situations refugees face in host countries. If living standard and aid provided are problems, then violence directed against refugees is another problem. Refugees and Displaced people suffer from attacks in their refugee camps by either rebel groups, militias or even government soldier of the host country.

Durable Solutions, although UNHCR's durable solution for refugees can be Voluntary Repatriation to the country of origin when there is peace, security and instability, Local Integration in the country of refuge also when there is security, peace and instability or Resettlement to the third country. The later one is what I mean by durable solution here. Therefore, according to UNHCR's *Resettlement Handbook*, 1997⁴⁵, durable solution by definition is providing "solution for the refugees who are unable to return home or to remain in their country of refuge". Thus this is the type of durable discussed in this paper. The available literature in this section is all related to the UNHCR's role in finding durable solution for refugees.

Before the advent of the concept of durable solutions most human beings and their societies have been accepting others humans to take refuge in their places. This was for the victims who were threatened by other people or persecuted by the authorities of their countries of

⁴⁴ *2014 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs* (UNHCR, Rapporteur's Report, 2014). Report on UNHCR's Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations: 17 - 19 June 2014 – Switzerland: Geneva, URL=
<https://icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/2014%20Rapporteur%27s%20Report%20of%20UNHCR%20ONGO%20Annual%20Consultations.pdf>

⁴⁵ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Resettlement Handbook*, 1997. Division of International Protection. Geneva, Revised, April 1998.

origins or states. Example of such historical protection is the help that was given to people who leave their normal abodes because of some natural catastrophes such as flood, volcanoes and so on. Therefore in this case, before the establishment of UNHCR, the protection of victims of war and other crisis used to be a responsibility of some individuals such as kings, chiefs, or headmen of the villages or towns to protect and take care of the victims of the persecution and violence. In most cases, they used to protect the affected people based on the humanitarian understanding they inherited from their ancestors. For example in *Refugee Protection in International Law*, Frances Erikafeller⁴⁶ says, “The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol to the Convention are the modern legal embodiment to the ancient and universal tradition of providing sanctuary to those at risk and in danger” and apart from this local people also used to protect them.

Currently, in most places in the world, this responsibility is now mainly taken by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). The definition of UNHCR is in the *Handbook*⁴⁷. In relation to UNHCR’s services for the refugees and persons in refugees like situations it protects and gives some solutions to their problems. In this case, more information and figures showing that UNHCR plays a big role in refugee’s protection are also available in the UNHCR Document⁴⁸ it shows data about UNHCR’s protection measures. Apart from protecting the refugees and displaced persons, UNHCR also has three different durable solutions for some

⁴⁶ Erikafeller Volker Turk and Frances Nicholson. *Refugee Protection in International Law*. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

⁴⁷ “The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more commonly referred to as the UN refugee agency or (UNHCR), was created by the UN General Assembly in 1950 and began work on 1 January 1951. Its status was drafted virtually simultaneously with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which became the cornerstone of refugee protection in subsequent decades”, *Protecting Refugees and the Role of UNHCR*, UNHCR Protecting Refugees, (2012: 15).

⁴⁸ UNHCR Statistical Yearbook, 2015. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/4641836d0.html>

refugees, in this paper the discussion is mainly about the refugee resettlement to third country as UNHCR's durable solution.

Looking in detail at durable solutions, the first is *Local Integration*, which happens if the refugee host country is deemed safe and willing to accept some refugees to be locally integrated in that country⁴⁹. Before refugees' durable solution in a form of Local Integration takes place, there has to be legal procedures in place to guarantee refugees' state of living in that country. The second is *Voluntary Repatriation* to the refugees' country of origin and more information about this is in the same account of Rosa da Costa. Before this happens, there must be assurance that country is now safe for the refugees to return and re-establish their lives. Also repatriation has to be voluntary not by force, otherwise it can be defined as refoulement.

The third solution is resettlement to third country, but this is the last resort and is given to the refugees who do not have any other chance of durable solutions than this. For example, according to De Costa, "Resettlement is an important tool of international protection for refugees at risk in the country where they sought asylum, or separated from family members by conflict and flight." In addition, it is also considered, "Where local integration is not an option, and voluntary repatriation is not viable or feasible in the near future, resettlement may be the only durable solution available, especially in protracted refugee situations"⁵⁰. Its definition is, "the selection and transfer of refugees from a State in which they have sought protection to a third State that has agreed to admit them – as refugees- with permanent residence status"⁵¹. Not only

⁴⁹ Rosa da Costa. *Rights of Refugees in the Context of Integration: Legal Standards and Recommendations*. External Consultant, Division of International Protection Services, June, 2006. URL= <http://www.refworld.org/pdfif/44bb9b684.pdf>

⁵⁰ (Ibid)

⁵¹ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*, November (2013: 1-2). URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/524c31666.pdf>

this, that state must also be one of the UNHCR's third party states as mentioned in the *States Parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol*,⁵² many states agree to work on the humanitarian issues according this Convention criteria. Further responsibilities of the resettling country is to accept that "The status provided by the resettlement State ensures protection against *refoulement* and provides a resettled refugee and his/her family or dependants with access to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights similar to those enjoyed by nationals"⁵³. Additional benefit of the resettlement is to change a person's status from being a refugee to being a citizen of another country. That is, "Resettlement also carries with it the opportunity to eventually become a naturalized citizen of the resettlement country"⁵⁴. The status provided by the resettlement State ensures, safety and the stability of the resettled refugee. Therefore, in agreement with the UNHCR, some countries accept such option.

In fact, in the UNHCR's document of *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*, there are many resettlement countries in agreement with UNHCR⁵⁵ to accept resettlement of refugees. Among these countries, some are more traditional ones such as "Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Netherlands, the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden and the United States of America."⁵⁶ Yet about ten years ago, other countries also began to accept some refugee resettlement namely, "Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Iceland, Ireland and the

⁵² UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, 2011 States Parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. Aril 1, 2011. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b73b0d63.pdf>

⁵³ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*, November (2013: 2).

⁵⁴ (Ibid)

⁵⁵ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*, 2012.

⁵⁶ The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*, (2012: 2-3).

United Kingdom⁵⁷. Moreover, additional 13 countries also established resettlement program to receive limited number of refugees since 2007 and these are, “Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain, Romania and Uruguay”⁵⁸.

According to the UNHCR, *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*⁵⁹, the numbers of the resettled refugees in 2009 – 2013, is 71.411 refugees were resettled in different refugee resettlement countries in 2013 alone⁶⁰, but this does not mean that they are all from Sub-Saharan Africa. Actually there are many refugees still remaining in Sub-Saharan countries, and in most cases resettlement to third country is the only durable solution that some Sub-Saharan African refugees can hope for. Yet, in Sub-Saharan Africa, sometimes it takes a very long time for the UNHCR to offer such a durable solution for these African refugees. Since there are many resettlement countries, in this paper the resettlement is about Sub-Saharan African refugees in Canada. The following is about the refugee resettlement to Canada.

2.3 Refugee Resettlement to Canada (the third country)

In the UNHCR’s Resettlement handbook⁶¹, refugee resettlement to Canada is arranged between the Government of Canada and the UNHCR. That is to say, the 2002 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act shows that, Canada’s resettlement policy is under the administration of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC)⁶². Since Canada is one of the advanced countries it has also commitments in helping the affected people through humanitarian

⁵⁷ (Ibid)

⁵⁸ (Ibid)

⁵⁹ UNHCR, *Frequent Asked Questions about Resettlement*- November 2013. URL=
<http://www.unhcr.org/524c31666.pdf>

⁶⁰ UNHCR Global Resettlement Statistical Report 2013. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/52693bd09.html>

⁶¹ UNHCR, *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapter - Canada*, 2014.

⁶² Government of Canada, *Department of Citizenship and Immigration Act* (S.C. 1994, c. 31), 2013. Last amended on April 29, 2013. URL= <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-29.4.pdf>

assistance at the international level. It has been providing assistance to people fleeing or displaced from their homelands or natural abodes because of persecution or conflicts. For example, among its four classes of immigration, which are Economic, Business, family, refugees, and other immigrants, and these combined together to make 12 categories of immigrants in total⁶³, it helps thousands of refugees through its refugee resettlement program every year.

In the *IMDB 2008 Immigration Category Profiles*, Canada accepts many refugees under Humanitarian and compassionate cases annually. This is further explained in details in the table. On the one hand it does offer such help to save lives and protect the victims of the persecution or forced displacement. For example in its refugee class category, Canada had accepted 2,918, permanent residents under Humanitarian and Compassionate cases in 2012 alone as is mentioned in *Canada- permanent residents by category in 2008 – 2012*⁶⁴. Canada does this in order to meet its international legal obligation with respect to the refugees and those in need of help during the crises such as conflicts. Then with the implementation of its *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act 2001, c. 27*,⁶⁵ Canada has strengthened its refugee regulations. Some of this Act's objectives are also explained in Bill C-11: *The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*⁶⁶. Also on 28 of June 2002 Canada made some changes in its immigration regulation according to its Immigration and Refugee Protection Act 2002 as stated in the Citizenship and Immigration

⁶³ Government of Canada. Citizenship and Immigration Canada: Research and Evaluation, 2012. March 15, 2013. URL= <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/research/imdb/2008-cat-profiles.asp>

⁶⁴ Preliminary tables – Permanent and temporary residents, 2012. *Canada – Permanent residents by category, 2008 – 2012*. February 27, 2013. URL= <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012-preliminary/01.asp>

⁶⁵ Government of Canada, 2007 I-205. *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act 2001, c. 27* [Assented to November 1, 2001]. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/idrl/637EN.pdf>

⁶⁶ Parliament of Canada. Bill C-11: The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Government Division. 26 March 2001; Revised 31 January 2002.

http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/Parliament/LegislativeSummaries/bills_ls.asp?ls=c11&Parl=37&Ses=l

Canada's Newsletter (CIC News)⁶⁷. Some changes are, Canada has emphasised in relation to refugee settlement on the following principles which is also clarified in Government of Canada,

*Country Chapters- UNHCR Resettlement Handbook*⁶⁸:

- A shift toward protection rather than ability to successfully establish

Long term, multi-year planning

- Group processing where possible to increase efficiencies where common group resettlement needs are present
- Rapid family reunification
- Accelerated processing of urgent and vulnerable protection cases
- Balancing inclusiveness with effective management through a closer relationship with partners

In reality, contrary to what has been said, the idea of rapid family reunification does not happen easily. Further, although in its immigration plan, Canada does resettle the three categories mentioned, it does not settle high numbers of these quotas and typically resettles people only according to those cases that are high profile – such as today, Syria. The people who are resettled are convention refugees, members of the Humanitarian-protected Persons Abroad Class (also known as HPC), and the persons who are admitted under public policy considerations due to the compelling nature of their particular situation. They are either a vulnerable group even within their country of origin, or in a second, or third host country, that is why they are in need of humanitarian protection through resettlement.

⁶⁷ Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Newsletter (CIC News). Q & A: Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, 2002. June, 2002. <http://www.cicnews.com/2002/06/immigration-refugee-protection-act-2002-06307.html>

⁶⁸ Government of Canada. *Country Chapters- UNHCR Resettlement Handbook* (2014: 3).

Also in its refugee resettlement program, Canada has an annual target number of convention refugees who come through the Government-Assisted program.⁶⁹ The *Evaluation of Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) and Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)* report gives general ideas about how the government helps these refugees after they arrive in Canada. In this group Canada selects specific group of refugees from the total UNHCR refugee population.⁷⁰ In addition, Canada allows resettlement of refugee and persons in refugee-like situations by organizations and private individuals as in, Government of Canada's *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*⁷¹. This is undertaken through private sponsorship of refugees program. This program enables some organizations and private citizens and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor refugees and persons in refugee-like situations as it is in the CIC document, *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*⁷².

When the resettled refugees or persons in refugee-like situations come to Canada under private sponsorship, the sponsors take their full financial responsibility for the period of one year and in some cases for three to ten years. This system exists as well as another program Canada brings in refugees through, is a blended visa office-referred refugee stream. In Canada this refugee program was introduced in 2013. Under this program, refugees are referred for the resettlement by the UNHCR to the Canadian Visa Office in the third country.⁷³ Then the office

⁶⁹ *Evaluation of Government Assisted Refugees (GAR) and Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP)*, October 7, 2011. URL= <http://www.cicgc.ca/english/resources/evaluation/gar-rap/summary.asp>

⁷⁰ Government of Canada. *Refugees – Statistics and Trends in Canada and BC*. AMSSA Info Sheet – May 17, 2013, Issue 8: URL= http://www.amssa.org/files/Info_Sheet/AMSSA%20Info%20Sheet%20Issue%208%20-%20Final.pdf

⁷¹ Government of Canada's *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, January 7, 2015. URL= <http://www.cic.gc.ca/ENGLISH/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/index.asp>

⁷² Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*. URL= <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/ref-sponsor.pdf>

⁷³ Government of Canada. UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters – Canada (2014: 3). Revised in June 11, 2014. URL= <http://www.unhcr.org/3c5e55594.html>

matches their resettlement through private sponsoring organizations in Canada. When they arrive, they receive some of their financial assistance from the government and some from private sponsors. Additionally, Canada’s refugee program gives some resettlement chances for persons who may be admitted under public policy considerations. Similarly, these resettled immigrants also receive their financial assistance from the government. In the UNHCR Handbook Country Chapter -Canada, the following tables are examples showing the summary of Canada’s refugee resettlement targets and programs since 1978. Some also show the latest targets of 2014 and 2015 as well:

Table 1:

Admission targets for UNHCR submissions:	7,575
Total Resettlement Admission target:	13,900

Source: UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada, (2014: 2).
Table 1 shows Canada’s Immigration Resettlement Admission Targets for 2014.

Table 2:

Admission targets for UNHCR submissions	To be confirmed
Total Resettlement Admission target	To be confirmed

Source: UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada, (2014: 2).
Table 2 shows Canada’s Immigration Resettlement Admission Targets for 2015.

Table 3:

2014		2015	
Africa	3,070	Africa	To be confirmed
Asia	990	Asia	
MENA (includes Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt)	1,450	MENA (includes Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt)	
Europe (includes Turkey)	1,715	Europe (includes Turkey)	
Americas	350	Americas	

Source: UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada, (2014: 2).
Table 3 shows Canada’s Immigration Regional Allocations (UNHCR submissions) 2014 -2015.

Apart from these submissions, there is another way in which Canada accepts resettlement of the refugees. In the 2014 description based on its emergency resettlement procedures, it says that, Canada accepts up to hundred cases annually through urgent protection program Government of Canada⁷⁴, *International Humanitarian Assistance*. There are also UNHCR equivalent emergency cases.

Emergency cases are such as people with some medical issues, women at risk, unaccompanied children, and family reunion which must be within the program, but Canada takes not more than five percent medical cases. For example, they must be selected from the largest group of refugees coming from countries such as, Iraq, Bhutan or from Horn of Africa as it is in the CIC⁷⁵ document s.21 (1) (a), *Options for Managing Resettled Refugees with High Needs*. There is no specification number of allocation of women at risk, but Canada accepts unaccompanied children only if they have an extended family member who already lives in Canada. The same with the family reunion, there is no specific number or allocation per year.

In the case of family reunion, Canada has a system called ‘one year window provision as it is in UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada⁷⁶. This provision allows the separated nuclear family members to reunite without a submission of new application for reunification and to qualify for one year window, the applicant must have been a principle applicant from the very beginning of his or her refugee status determination application. She or he must have identified or mentioned that refugee or family members as his or her family she

⁷⁴Government of Canada. *International Humanitarian Assistance*. Foreign affairs, Trade and Development Canada March 16, 2015. URL= http://www.international.gc.ca/development-development/humanitarian_response-situations_crises/iha-ahi.aspx?lang=eng

⁷⁵ Citizenship and Immigration Canada s.21 (1) (a) *Options for Managing Resettled Refugees with High Needs*,

December 11, 2011. URL= <http://ccrweb.ca/files/memo-minister-high-needs.pdf>

⁷⁶ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada, (2014: 17).

wants them, her, or him to reunite in Canada before their, her, or his departure to Canada. And they, she, or he must submit the reunification application within one year from the date of their, his, or her arrival in Canada.

In addition, refugees come to Canada through one of the three ways. One, they come as in Government-Assisted Refugees.⁷⁷ These are the refugees referred by the UNHCR to be resettled to Canada. They receive a one year (12 month) financial support from the Federal Government from the day they arrived in Canada. Two, they come as privately Sponsored Refugees as in UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada⁷⁸. This category is for the refugees and persons who are in refugee-like situation. They are supported by either an organization or private individuals for one year period (12 months) from the date of their arrival in Canada. The third is the Blended Visa Office-Referred Refugees. These refugees are referred by UNHCR to the Canadian visa office. Canadian Visa Office matched them with the private sponsoring organizations or groups. It is called blended, because upon their arrival, refugees are supported by both the Government and by private organization until the end of their sponsorship period. In most cases the support period of time is also one year (12 months), but it is extended two to three years sometimes.

In Canada, the resettlement policy of the refugees or persons in a refugee-like situations is under the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Quebec's Ministère de L'Immigration, de la Diversité et de L'Inclusion. The decision for the process and the annual resettlement quota, its composition, plus the timelines for the process is always arranged by the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. It must be through the consultation

⁷⁷ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 6).

⁷⁸ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada, (2014: 10-17)

of the provincial governments. After that, the annual resettlement proposal is submitted to the Parliament by the Minister. The submission is usually in November every year. Later in December each year, the Visa Offices receive the initial target allocations. Eventually, those targets are divided among the “resettlement partners including UNHCR” as in the UNHCR Resettlement Handbook⁷⁹. The recognition and the eligibility criteria for refugee status and asylum seekers selection is in accordance with the 2002 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Therefore, distinction and the selection is carried as the following.

While in Canada, asylum seekers (refugee claimants) can submit their cases or claims based on the provisions of the Refugee Convention, fear of torture, risk to life or cruel and an extraordinary punishment or treatment. And for refugees applying from outside Canada, must also meet the criteria of the “Convention Refugee or the Humanitarian-Protected Persons Abroad Class”⁸⁰. In addition, refugees applying from abroad must show that they are able to become self-sufficient within a certain period of time in Canada. That time frame is between three to five years. When the asylum seekers apply for protection and refugees status while they are in Canada, they do not have to meet such requirements as refugees do from abroad.

In the policy, there are some reasons the Canadian immigration policy considers unacceptable or ineligible. This is for the asylum seekers who are applying within Canada, applicants’ claimed can be denied or rejected, if she or he comes to Canada directly from the “safe third country”⁸¹. A Safe country is other than claimant’s nationality country or former abodes. Safe countries must have been considered safe by “the Immigration and Refugee

⁷⁹ UNHCR), UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapters - Canada, (2014: 4).

⁸⁰ (Ibid)

⁸¹ (Ibid)

Protection Regulations” Canada⁸² or if the applicant had already applied for refugee status in Canada, but the claim was denied previously. Therefore, the determination for the rejection was either due to previous rejection, withdrawal of the application, or the application was “declared abandoned by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada”⁸³. Refugee claimants applying from outside Canada are not included in such restrictions. That is, for refugees applying from outside Canada must prove that, they have no reasonable durable solution available for them in any other country within a certain reasonable period of time. That is to say, the only present possible durable solution is assumed to be Canada says the Handbook, but asylum seekers applying within Canada are excluded in this criterion.

The CIC visa officers, who are serving the country from overseas, are in charge of determining the eligibility of the refugee claims. The process to determine the eligibility of the asylum seekers’ claims, in Canada, are adjudicated by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (quasi-judicial process)⁸⁴. Unless a person is referred by “UNHCR, a designated referral organization, (DRO) or A Private Sponsor (i.e. already has an approved private sponsorship)”⁸⁵, Canada’s Immigration system does not consider her or him for resettlement as a Convention Refugee.

In addition to these conditions, there are other factors visa officers take into account and they are, “such as education, presence of a support network (family or sponsor) in Canada, work experience and qualifications, ability to learn to speak English or French and other personal suitability factors such as resourcefulness”⁸⁶. The only persons excluded in this criteria for their

⁸² (Ibid)

⁸³ (Ibid)

⁸⁴ (Ibid)

⁸⁵ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 5).

⁸⁶ (Ibid)

resettlement to Canada, are the ones whose claims fall under the category of the urgent need for protection. These are some of the refugees whose cases are determined by the Canadian visa officers to be in urgent need of protection adds the book. Yet there are cases which are rejected by the Canadian Immigration.

Furthermore, under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, Canada considers some immigration application inadmissible. That is, before coming to Canada, in all the immigration categories, the successful applicants must meet three conditions which fall under the ‘Admissibility criteria’ as it is in the Handbook. These are a medical examination, Criminal screening, and Security screening. The First condition is to protect the safety and the health of the Canadian public. In this case, before coming to Canada, the immigration system must make sure all those successful applicants undergo a medical examination says the Handbook. The reason is to see if they are suffering from some medical conditions which may affect the public in Canada. Yet, Canada has some exceptions, that is, some refugee applicants may not be denied entry to Canada because of their medical conditions adds the Handbook. Second, with the exception of refugees who would be coming to Canada from the second country, Immigration Canada must make sure all other immigration categories undergo criminal screening. This is also for the protection of its people and to prevent criminals not to enter Canada in the name of immigration. For this reason, Canada wants the applicants (the potential immigrants to Canada) to “submit police certificate from their country of origin”⁸⁷. Third, Canada’s Immigration regulation does not accept applicants who proved to have been participated in certain activities.

These include persons who participated in criminal activity, organized crimes, or those who violated the human and international rights. In some cases these are the people who

⁸⁷ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 5).

committed war crimes and crimes against humanity and they must have been holding high positions such as “senior officials, including former or serving senior military officials from certain regimes or individuals who belong to such organizations”⁸⁸ which engage in some criminal acts. These are acts such as, “espionage, subversion against a democratic government or institution, subversion by force or any government or acts of terrorism”⁸⁹. Therefore, with the exception of some refugees, any applicant who genuinely fails one of the three admissibility criteria will be denied entry to Canada.

In other humanitarian immigration programs of Canada, there may be some cases which fail to meet the requirements of the Canada’s Immigration Act and regulations. In such situations, if the case is within Canada, it “gives the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration the authority to apply judgement and flexibility in cases that not meet the requirements of the Act”⁹⁰. Yet even if flexibility is available, it must also be justifiable. And judgement must be based on “humanitarian and compassionate consideration or public policy”⁹¹. If such cases happened to be from abroad, the Minister has no authority and obligation to consider any of such applications on Humanitarian and compassionate grounds says in the Handbook, they may be excluded.

Another step is the allocation of resettlement including sub-quotas as it says in the Handbook⁹². This is done on the annual base. The Minister of Citizenship and Immigration with the consultation of stakeholders establishes resettlement targets yearly. For example, the year 2014 refugee resettlement admissions range is “11,800 to 14,200, with a range of 6,900 to 7,200 for government-assisted refugees and 400 to 500 for blended visa-office referred refugees” says

⁸⁸ (Ibid)

⁸⁹ (Ibid)

⁹⁰ (Ibid)

⁹¹ (Ibid)

⁹² UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 3).

the Handbook⁹³. Among these numbers, Canada's immigration policy counts only the individual numbers when setting the annual resettlement targets, not the cases. Each and every refugee target number is actualized after he or she arrives in Canada and granted his or her permanent residence says the Handbook. For example, if a refugee was supposed to come to Canada in 2014, but he is not included in this year's target, he will be forwarded to the following year, example (2015) resettlement target says in the Handbook. This step is followed by the urgent and vulnerable cases and non-UNHCR allocations.

Additionally, before the establishment of the refugees who would be coming under the government-assisted refugee program annually, another numbers are taken into consideration. This is the number of the expected persons who would be coming to Canada under non-government-assisted (the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program) says in the Handbook. For instance, in 2014, "the range established for privately sponsored refugees is 4,500 to 6,500 individuals"⁹⁴. Private Sponsorship is one of the Canada's immigration plans. It allows the groups and individual Canadians to sponsor refugees from abroad. They are encouraged by the government of Canada to help in resettlement of some Convention refugees and family members or other refugees under the class of the Humanitarian Protected Persons says the Handbook. Not only the individuals and groups, also the "NGOs, churches, communities, organizations and groups of individuals agree sometimes to sponsor refugees by entering into an agreement with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration"⁹⁵. In fact, the focus of the paper is on such issues and it will be discuss in other sections in details.

⁹³ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 6).

⁹⁴ (Ibid)

⁹⁵ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 6).

The agreement between the sponsoring groups and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration is that, they have to support the members or refugees who come to Canada under their responsibility says in the Government of Canada Handbook⁹⁶, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*. They have to assist the sponsored refugee and his or her immediate family members by providing the basic needs. The needs are such as, “accommodation, clothing, food and other settlement assistance and in many cases is normally for one year from the refugee’s date of arrival in Canada”⁹⁷. Further assistance is given to the sponsored family by the groups, is helping them to find jobs. It means when the sponsored manages to get a job, she or he can become self-sufficient before his or her sponsorship agreement ends. The government-assisted refugees are mainly referred for resettlement to Canada by the UNHCR or other designated organization. On the other hand, individuals, groups, communities, and organizations, identify the persons they want to sponsor says in this Handbook. Some of the groups and organizations sometimes ask a Canadian visa office to refer some suitable resettlement cases for them to sponsor privately as it is in the Handbook. In some cases of the visa referred, the government provides six months financial support as well and then the sponsoring group will support for the other half or six months. This happens after the agreement of the sponsor to assist a person or family who are referred to them by the visa office says the Handbook. Apart for these, there are also other preconditions such as interviews.

Moreover, Canada accepts refugees on the interview bases. Canada’s submission process for selecting the refugees for resettlement is carried through the interviews and with the excepting of some rare cases, Canada does not accept refugees without interviewing them first. The aim of the interview is to determine the eligibility of the refugee applicant and verify his or

⁹⁶ Government of Canada Handbook, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, 2015.

⁹⁷ (Ibid)

her identity. In addition, “interviews are used to elicit detailed family composition and background information, as well as answer statutory questions and give authorizations that are not included in the UNHCR Resettlement Registration Form (RRF)”⁹⁸. Requirements for interview are waived only, in emergency cases. When a case is classified to be in need of urgent protection, an interview is not required. Another is when a case is fully documented, but it is in a location where the Canadian visa office may not have access to interview the applicant, in this situation, the interview is waived too⁹⁹. Generally, all interviews conducted from abroad are under the responsibility of the Canadian Immigration Visa officers overseas.

Normally, through the interview, visa officers’ intention is to determine “whether the applicant meets Canadian eligibility and admissibility criteria”¹⁰⁰. They want to see and verify all the necessary documents or testimonies are available. This is for all the applicants whether they are referred by UNHCR, other designated organization, or group sponsors. As I mentioned earlier, the initial refugee application acceptance by the visa officer, does not guarantee them the visa to travel to Canada. After the acceptance, visa officers want to assure the Canada’s immigration all requirements are meet and in place. That is why the refugees are requested to go to specific designated clinic in that host country to have their medical examination. Security and criminality screening is also part of the requirements to be fulfilled “prior to issuance of an immigration visa”¹⁰¹. Unless, there is a genuine reason to exempt some refugee cases, the Canadian Immigration visa officer can finally deem the refugee application ineligible mentions the Handbook. This means, the rejection letter which indicates reasons of denial of application will be sent to the applicant. If that refugee case has been referred to Canadian foreign visa office

⁹⁸ Government of Canada Handbook, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, 2015.

⁹⁹ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 7).

¹⁰⁰ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 6-17).

¹⁰¹ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 6-17).

by UNHCR, it is the responsibility of the visa office to advise UNHCR about the negative decisions as well says the Handbook and particularly. Thus to avoid negative results, pre-arranged case documentation is also necessary.

Since most of the resettled refugees come to Canada are being referred by the UNHCR to the Canadian visa office of the third country, proper case documentation is requested from UNHCR¹⁰². That is, before the case is forwarded to the visa office, UNHCR must make sure the following documents or testimonies are included in the form:

- UNHCR Resettlement Registration Form (RRF), ensuring all sections are completed (to be sent electronically where possible);
- Other relevant document (e.g. birth, marriage, divorce, death certificates, ID cards, school certificates and employment documents, medical certificates, etc. are included if available);
- Covering letter explaining why the refugee requires resettlement and whether he or she is at risk or falls into an urgent category (“urgent” in UNHCR Terminology is the equivalent of “vulnerable” in CIC terminology);¹⁰³
- For emergency cases (“emergency” in UNHCR terminology is the equivalent of “urgent” in CIC terminology), reasons for requesting urgent processing should be clearly stated)¹⁰⁴

Also outside Canada applications are to be submitted directly to the Canadian visa office responsible in that location. The visa office will forward them to the centralized system in which all the submitted cases are processed. More information about the areas of responsibility of the Canadian visa offices, is in Government of Canada, *Immigration and Citizenship*¹⁰⁵. We have seen how systematic the Canadian immigration system works. Briefly, these are such as,

¹⁰² UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 7).

¹⁰³ (Ibid)

¹⁰⁴ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 6-17).

¹⁰⁵ Government of Canada, *Immigration and Citizenship*. URL= www.cic.gc.ca

allocating the annual refugee resettlement quotas, selection of the classes for immigration to Canada, application procedures, and eligibility requirements.

The next step is the process period of time UNHCR¹⁰⁶. Depending on the visa office, time variation of the processes, differ from one visa office to another. Apart from this, there are other factors which may delay or expedite the application process. Some of the factors which may delay the application process are, “communications and travel infrastructure, caseload at the visa office in refugee and other business lines, location of refugee populations, incidence of medical problems and processing resources available”¹⁰⁷. Yet the referring agencies such as UNHCR, designated organizations, or foreign national do advise Canadian visa offices to expedite the processing of the cases known to be emergency or urgent says the Handbook. Once the sponsorship application has been approved, other phases of the procedures are to be considered before the applicant is granted travel visa to Canada as in the *Processing times for privately sponsored refugee applications, Last quarterly update: July 22, 2014*. In addition, the table below is one of the examples showing the length of processing time in some Canadian overseas visa offices.

Table 4:

Africa and Middle East	
Visa Office	Processing Times In months (based on a complete application package)
Abu Dhabi - United Arab Emirates	42
Accra - Ghana	39
Amman - Jordan	26
Ankara - Turkey	23

¹⁰⁶ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapters- Canada (2014: 7).

¹⁰⁷ (Ibid)

Beirut - Lebanon	24
Cairo - Egypt	43
Dakar-Senegal	N/A
Nairobi - Kenya	52
Pretoria- South Africa	57

Source: Government of Canada, *Citizenship and immigration*, July 22, 2014.

Table 4 shows the length of time took for some Canadian visa offices to process some application cases in Africa and Middle East¹⁰⁸. Although, processing times are subject to change, this example on this table shows that, “based on how long it took to process 80 percent of all cases in April, 2013 to March 31, 2014”¹⁰⁹. Therefore, such delay also creates denial of the individual private sponsors’ applications when their income drops in between the time periods.

More information about the processing time period is in the Government of Canada, *Refugees and asylum report*.¹¹⁰ This report gives the idea about the pathways of the refugees from their countries of the origin to the asylum or host country, and then to their resettlement. Now I have talked about the literature about resettlement and sponsorship. Therefore in other chapters, I will now look at how it works in practice when a Canadian or permanent resident of Canada wants to be reunited with her or his family members or relatives through private sponsorship of Canada’s immigration family class in Canada and particular the immigrants who are originally from Sub-Saharan origin.

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Choice of Field site

I have chosen Ottawa city in the province of Ontario, in Canada, as a place to conduct fieldwork research using structured interviews and survey questionnaires. I made this choice for a number of reasons. The first reason is that Ottawa is the national capital city of the entire country and the

¹⁰⁸ Government of Canada: *Citizenship and immigration*, July 22, 2014.

¹⁰⁹ (Ibid)

¹¹⁰ Government of Canada: *Refugees and asylum*, 2014.

locus of policy making. Second, it has large and diverse immigrant communities that emanate from different parts of the world. Third, its location is very close to the French speaking areas such as Montreal and Gatineau, which are both in the province of Quebec, Canada. This renders Ottawa a good location for both English and French speaking immigrants who originally come from Sub-Saharan Africa. Forth, it has many refugee settlement service organizations. Some of these organizations are faith-based, charitable, ethno-cultural, community, groups, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). I conducted the interviews mainly in a one to one basis, (some by telephone), and completed a number of survey questionnaires. Interviews were mostly conducted at respondents' homes. However I did conduct some in the Rochester Adult High School.

3.2 Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to address the problems facing some visible minorities in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. In this case, it is specifically the problem of resettled refugee immigrants who originally came to Canada from Sub-Saharan Africa. In order to obtain the data that I needed for my research, I relied on primary and secondary material.

I obtained this information from both men and women who are originally of Sub-Saharan African origin, who were 18 years and above. Also I interviewed some agencies to find out how they help these Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada and refugee claimants when they want to reunite with their family members left behind. The goal of such interviews is to find out what are the obstacles preventing them not to reunite with their loved ones, their comments, suggestions, plans for the future, call for the rights of such immigrants in Canada. This is particularly for the immigrants came to Canada from Sub-Saharan Africa.

To establish the kinds of problems that refugees are facing, I interviewed in total, 23 Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada (from Sub-Saharan African origin) and a refugee claimant who is originally from Sub-Saharan Africa. The surveys were distributed to about 10 number of people and I received 4 back, a response rate of 40% which is quite high for survey responses. The age variation of these respondents is from 18 to 65 years old, and the respondents were from all types of backgrounds. That is, before they came to Canada, some of these immigrants were farmers, teachers, doctors, cattle people, housewives, and even engineers in their countries.

The evaluation was designed to triangulate between multiple data sources which are both qualitative and quantitative. Some discussions and descriptions of the sources are presented in this write up. Additional secondary information has been provided by government and other documents. Some of the documents that I consulted are:

- Books about Canadian Immigration history and its immigration policies before and now
- Other information is also taken from books, journals, and news articles about Canadian immigration system in general
- General documents and Bills concerning Canadian immigration within Canada and from abroad were used.
- The UNHCR's handbooks and reports such as UNHCR global appeal reports 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. And other academic studies documents and news articles as well

- Books, journals, news articles, and other documents about African global issues both academic and non-academic
- Some operational documents including handbooks about the Sponsorship agreement holders in the private sponsorship for refugees program in Canada

3.3 Focus Groups

To get opinions of the group in a wider setting, I also used focus groups. In particular I used two focus groups in this research. They are both women and men aged 18 to 65 years. One is the group of the resettled immigrants who are now permanent residents, some are citizens of Canada, and one is a refugee claimant (an asylum seeker). All of them originally came to Canada from Sub-Saharan Africa. The second is the group of representatives of SAHs (Sponsorship Agreement Holders) and a community member. Among them are two men and two women aged 30 to 70 years and above. Among group two, 3 are Canadian citizens who were either born in Canada or originally came to Canada from other parts of the world and one is also a Canadian citizen and a chairperson of a non-profit community organization, but of Sub-Saharan African origin. Therefore, the total number of the interviewees is 30. 26 of them belong to group one and 4 to group two.

3.4 Interviews

In total, 26 interviews were conducted among Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada and a refugee claimant. All these immigrants originally came to Canada from Sub-Saharan Africa. Among them are mothers, fathers, married couples, and singles, divorced,

widows, and separated parents. The data collected illustrates the nature of the problem among these Canadians and permanent residents of Canada. It is also to verify some information discussed in the text. For example, among many other questions, respondents were asked to give their date of entry in Canada, whether they came to Canada with their family members and relatives or left them behind. Also to confirm if the family members and relatives left behind are still living in their countries of origin, refugee camps, countries of asylum, or in urban cities of other foreign countries. In addition, to see if the respondents were able to sponsor privately any of their family members or relatives since they came to Canada. If not, what seems to be the impediments and the reasons for them not being able to sponsor privately. Moreover to see if the respondents have family members living with them in Canada currently. Further information is on the index table.

As stated earlier, of the ten questionnaires given out, four were successfully completed. Among these number, 10 were women and 16 men. 4 were the representatives of SAHs (Private Sponsorship Agreement Holders). Three of them were interviewed one on-one and one was telephone interviewed. They were 2 women and 2 men as mentioned above. 25 one on-one and telephone interviews were successfully conducted among these resettled immigrants in the Ottawa city. More details are in the section of discussion and results.

3.5 Limitations of this study

One of the main limitations of this study is the number of people interviews which cannot statistically constitute a generalizable sample. Therefore the data I have produced is rich and has some depth about the individual and group experience, it is not a large enough panel survey.

The second issue that I faced was the lack of an available sampling frame. Apart from the general information and data, there is no specific data or materials showing only the exact number of the Sub-Saharan African resettled refugees came to Canada either through the government assisted sponsorship or privately sponsored in Ottawa, Canada or indeed any lists.

1. Secondary data is also limited. Apart from the government of Canada's and UNHCR's documents and Handbooks which give general information and data, there are very limited books and journals about private sponsorship for refugees program in Canada, especially in the case of Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. Although all the respondents I interviewed were very cooperative in answering interview questions, it was not easy to interview resettled refugees originally came to Canada from more than twelve different Sub-Saharan African countries. The reasons for this are that some of the Sub-Saharan African Canadian and permanent residents told me it is mostly the white people who do such kind of research among different demographics in Ottawa city. Therefore they were not willing to grant me access. Also related to the issue of trust, some respondents felt that whoever does such kind of research may has some connections with the Citizenship and Immigration Canada that is why they did not want to be interviewed.

Chapter 4: Data

4.1 Processing and Financial Requirement Data

In addition to the information I got from the refugees I interviewed, I also discovered some important factors which prevent almost all low income Canadians and permanent residents of Canada from being able to reunite with their family members or relatives through either family

or private sponsorship. These factors are important to mention especially in the case of the immigrants of Sub-Saharan African origin in Canada. They are: processing time duration, eligibility requirements and High Cost, Private Sponsorship and Impediments and finally, the problem of Family Reunification Policies and procedure make sponsorship goals unattainable.

1. Application processing time duration

Sometimes it takes some years for the Canadian visa office from abroad to process a family or private sponsorship application and this affects the sponsors or applicants in Canada in many ways. Often between the processing times, an applicant's income may drop below eligibility requirements due to job loss or the fact that they are laid off from jobs or sickness. The consequence can lead to application denial.

Additionally there is a data showing that there is a variation in the processing time of the family sponsorship in the Canadian Immigration family class category. In the latest information about the *Family Sponsorship Processing Times*, Campbell Cohen¹¹¹ comments on the time taken by Canadian visa offices in five cities of the African countries to process sponsorship applications. The offices concerned are Accra in Ghana, Cairo in Egypt, Dakar in Senegal, Nairobi in Kenya, and Pretoria in South Africa. In these places, it takes 15 to 25 months to process an application for a spouse or a partner and dependent children, 64 to 76 months for parents and grandparents, and 29 to 34 months for other family members. In the same report, it takes 18 to 32 months for government sponsorship applications to be processed in these countries. Thus delay in processing the applications for sponsoring a family is an impediment in itself. In addition, for the private sponsorship, the application processing time is even longer

¹¹¹ Campbell Cohen, *Canadian Immigration Application Processing Times*, 2015. Canadavisa.com. URL= <http://www.canadavisa.com/family-sponsorship-sponsorship-processing-time-html>

than this. For example, the document¹¹², *Processing Times for Privately Sponsored Refugee Applications*, says, as in the case of the African countries, after the approval of the private sponsorship application, it takes at least 32 to 56 months for the Canadian visas offices to process those applications in those five different African countries mentioned.

Due to this long processing time, some unexpected problems occur which lead to the ineligibility and the rejection of some applicants' cases. That is some of them lose their jobs in the intervening time period. Six respondents told me that their private sponsorship applications were eventually denied because they lost their jobs or part of their jobs during the processing times. Sometimes some of them do more than one job in order to support their families and to have a qualifying annual income. However, if during that time your annual income will drop, the result will be the denial of your application. Hoda A.¹¹³, one of the respondents said, "Our private sponsorship application for my sister and her family in the refugee camp was rejected eventually, because my husband lost one of his jobs. He suddenly became diabetic and asthmatic, then he could no longer do two jobs at once as he used to before". It may also be the same with some of these applicants' family members or relatives who were supposed to be sponsored may suddenly fall sick and die. Salma X.¹¹⁴, one of the respondents told me that "her application to privately sponsor her late brother's widow and her children was denied because of an issue related to medical inadmissibility. When I asked the immigration office for further details, they told me it was confidential, but eventually, I found out that she had HIV, and not only this, also my income got less because I was not getting enough hours in my personal support working job. Occasionally when the application processing time takes longer and there is

¹¹² *Processing times for privately sponsored refugee applications, 2014. URL= <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/times/perm/ref-private.asp>*

¹¹³ Interview with Mrs. Abdi H., Thursday July 31, 2014.

¹¹⁴ Interview with Mrs. Salma X., Friday September 5, 2014.

a sudden changes of rules on the side of Canadian government can also result to the rejection of applications.

2. Eligibility Requirements and High cost

Apart from the processing time, the eligibility requirements are the biggest impediments too. For example the data shows that eligibility and requirements for sponsors who want to sponsor a child or a relative, are a big obstacle as well. In this case the information taken from the government of Canada's document ¹¹⁵, *Sponsorship of Adopted Children and other Relatives* is summarised in 5 different tables shows the amount of money needed from the sponsor to privately sponsor a family member or relative.

Table 1:

Processing fees	Number of persons	Amount per person	Amount due
Sponsor	1	\$75	\$75
Principal applicant	1	\$475	
Principal applicant under 19 years of age and a dependent child of the sponsor, a child to be adopted or an orphaned family member that is neither married nor in a common-law relationship	1	\$75	
Family member 19 years or older, or who is married, engaged or in a common-law relationship, regardless of age		\$550	
Family member who is under 19 years and who is not married, engaged or in common-law relationship		\$150	

Source: Government of Canada's document, ² *Processing Times for Privately Sponsored Refugee Applications*. Table 1 shows the amount of money needed per application procession before the approval of that application.

Table 2:

Right of Permanent Residence Fee	Number of persons	Amount per person	Amount Due
Principal applicant	1	X \$ 490	\$ 490
Spouse/common-law partner		X \$ 490	

Source: Government of Canada's document, ² *Processing Times for Privately Sponsored Refugee Applications*.

¹¹⁵ Government of Canada, 2015, *Sponsorship of adopted children and other relatives – The sponsor's guide* (IMM 5196). Date Modified: January 30, 2015. URL=
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/519ETOC.asp#51196E9>

Table 2 shows the amount of money needed for right of permanent residence fee which is paid after the approval of the application.

Table 3:

Total number of family members	Basic annual income required
1	C\$22,590
2	C\$30,495
3	C\$37,650
4	C\$43,301
5	C\$48,192

Source: Government of Canada's document,² *Processing Times for Privately Sponsored Refugee Applications*. Table 3 shows the basic income required for one or more than one sponsors to meet basic needs of their own or family income before she or he is qualified to apply for sponsorship. Apart from this, the gross annual income is increased by annual income c\$4,891 for each additional dependant.

Table 4:

Persons 18 and over	Person under 18	Gross annual income required by sponsor	Increase to required gross annual income
0	1	C\$7,819	C\$4,133 for each additional person under 18
0	2	C\$12,393	
1	0	C\$16,524	C\$2,865 for each additional person under 18
1	1	C\$22,201	
1	2	C\$25,068	
2	0	C\$24,231	C\$2,151 for each additional person under 18 by and by c\$7,704 for each additional person 18 over
2	1	C\$27,145	
2	2	C\$29,303	

Source: Government of Canada's document,² *Processing Times for Privately Sponsored Refugee Applications*. Table 4 shows the additional income required by sponsor to meet basic needs of sponsored persons and his or her family members before they are able to sponsor a person or more.

Table 5:

Size of family unit	Minimum necessary income
1 person (the sponsor)	\$23,861
2 persons	\$29,706
3 persons	\$36,520
4 persons	\$44,340

5 persons	\$50,290
6 persons	\$56,718
7 persons	\$63,147
More than 7 persons, for each additional person, add	\$6,429

Source: Government of Canada’s document,² *Processing Times for Privately Sponsored Refugee Applications*. Table 5 shows the low income cut-off (LICO).

The meaning of low income cut-off, is in the Government of Canada’s document¹¹⁶, *Statistics Canada*, it says “An income threshold below which a family will likely devote a larger share of its income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than an average family would. According to the most recent base for LICOs, the 1992 Family Expenditures Survey, the average family spent 43% of its after-tax income on food, shelter and clothing.” In this way too, it would be rather impossible for a person who lives on a minimal paying job to afford to privately sponsor a family member or a relatives.

4.2 Private Sponsorship and Impediments

The two sections showed that the financial requirement is one of the biggest obstacles for the Sub-Saharan Canadians and permanent residents not able to privately sponsor their family members and relatives to join them in Canada. In this section I provide more detail about private sponsorship.

To fulfill its humanitarian obligations, Canada resettles hundreds of refugees annually and they are considered government-assisted resettled refugees. When these refugees come to Canada, they are permanent landed immigrants and are generally assisted financially by the

¹¹⁶ Government of Canada, Statistics Canada: *Low income cut-offs*: Date Modified: May 2, 2013. URL= <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75f0002m/2012002.lico-sfr-eng.htm>

federal government for 12 months. Apart from this, in the Government of Canada's document¹¹⁷, *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, says, Canada also allows its citizens and permanent residents to sponsor refugees and family members under private sponsorship for refugee program. Therefore, since the focus of this paper is about the Private Sponsorship for refugee program in Canada, this section gives the details about who is to sponsor who.

The Government of Canada's¹¹⁸, *Immigration Glossary*, says any private sponsorship involves a sponsor and a sponsored person as mentioned. That is, on the one hand, by definition, "A Canadian citizen or permanent resident who is 18 years of age or older, and who legally supports a member of the Family Class to become a permanent resident of Canada is a sponsor" says in the document¹¹⁹. On other hand, a sponsored person is "A foreign national who has applied for permanent resident under the Family Class, has approved Canadian sponsor and meets the requirements of the Family Class"¹²⁰.

In addition, there are "Permanent residents in the refugee category who are selected for resettlement in the Convention of refugee abroad class, the source country class or the country of asylum class and who are privately sponsored by organizations, individuals or groups of individuals"¹²¹. Actually, in any type of private sponsorship, the sponsor is obliged to meet the requirements to help any family member or a refugee she or he wants to sponsor to come to Canada as a permanent resident. In this case, though in most cases, private sponsorship is mainly undertaken by groups in Canada, eligible individuals are still allowed to sponsor privately as

¹¹⁷ Citizenship and Immigration Canada: *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, 2012.

¹¹⁸ Government of Canada, *Glossary*, August 1, 2014). URL=
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/EnGLish/helpcentre/glossary.asp>

¹¹⁹ (Ibid)

¹²⁰ (Ibid)

¹²¹ Government of Canada, *Facts and figures 2012-Immigration overview: Permanent and temporary residents*, 2012).

well¹²². The main documents that pertain to private sponsorship and its processes are in the Government of Canada's¹²³, "*Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*" and Citizenship and Immigration Canada's¹²⁴ "*Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*". These are the two main information materials of the section too.

Additionally, in the UNHCR Handbook's¹²⁵ *Resettlement for Refugees country chapter-Canada*, says, Canada encourages its public to be involved in the resettlement of Convention refugees and other persons considered as "members of the Humanitarian Protected Persons Abroad Class"¹²⁶ in addition to their family members and relatives. The conditions of private sponsorship are, to qualify as a sponsor the person must either be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. Actually the help of these Canadians allows some refugees and other humanitarian persons who may not have any chance of resettlement to Canada without the help of private sponsorship to come and live in Canada. In the handbook is also stated that it is the NGOs, churches, community organizations and some individuals who agree to privately sponsor refugees. Yet, another obstacle is that, for the an individual, a family or a group, unless they have better full time jobs which brings better annual income, or get support from one of the SAHs (Sponsorship Agreement Holders), they would not be able to sponsor anyone privately. Furthermore, this is why the majority of Sub-Saharan Africans who live on low income cannot afford to sponsor their family members and relatives. In this aspect, by its laws and rules Canadian system of immigration seems to be helping its new immigrants to reunite with their

¹²² Government of Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, (2015): Modified January 7, 2015. For any further information visit, <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/index.asp>

¹²³ Government of Canada, *Guide to the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, (2012: 5-12). URL=<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/ref-sponsor/index.asp>

¹²⁴ Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, (2014: 1-32). URL=<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pdf/pub/ref-sponsor.pdf>

¹²⁵ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapter - Canada, (2014: 10).

¹²⁶ (Ibid)

loved ones, but practically the help is only for those who can afford it. That is why the majority of Sub-Saharan African origins cannot be reunited with their families in this way.

Apart from the family members, there are other kinds of “dependant” relatives that can be sponsored as well. In this case, a dependent can be an unmarried adult daughter in cultures where it is normal for an unmarried adult daughter to remain dependent until she marries says in the handbook. In the same handbook a widowed sister or sister-in-law in a culture where it is normal for the applicant to take on responsibility for her care and sustenance when she has no other means of support. Nieces and nephews whose parents have been killed or are missing. In the handbook is also mentioned that, in the case of nieces and nephews, sponsors must take into consideration the best interests of the child and to the extent possible, sponsors should work with appropriate authorities in that field to try to avoid any disputes with respect to custody or guardianship. Parents of any age living with the principal applicant and without other children whom they could reside, or without means of support other than the principal applicant. Elderly relatives who have lived with the principal applicant or who are solely, or for the most part, dependent on the applicant for care, shelter etc.¹²⁷

In the same handbook, there are some relatives or family members who are not qualified as dependents. One a married sister is not qualified as a dependent, unless proves that, she does not know the whereabouts of her husband and she is currently depending on her brother or sister (principal applicant) for any financial, emotional, and economical support as said in the same handbook. Two, married daughters are not qualified as dependents. In this case, the only exception is a married couple who financially depend on the principal applicant (father or mother-in-law). Three, even though an elderly parent lives with her son or daughter (principal

¹²⁷ Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, (2012: 14).

applicant) sometimes, she is not qualified as a de facto dependent when she also lives with her other children too. Four is, “A person who has been taking care of the principal applicant’s children and living in the household for an extended period (more than six months) but who is not without family of his or her own”¹²⁸, is not qualified as a de facto dependent says in the handbook.

When the group agrees to sponsor a refugee or a refugee family, they have to be financially responsible for the sponsored persons for the period of one year generally. In some situations, the sponsorship period may be extended for up to thirty-six months or three years. It means, when refugees come to Canada under the government-assisted resettlement program, they are financially supported by the federal government of Canada. Mostly, they are assisted for the period of 12 months from the day of their arrival¹²⁹, but for the privately sponsored persons, the individual or group sponsoring persons are responsible for all their needs. That is, although the general criteria of the process of immigration to Canada is the same, in most cases, private sponsors support the sponsored persons on their own. And whether a resettled refugee or refugee family is resettled to Canada under government or private assistance, they are expected to be supported by either the government or the private sponsor for at least one year.

In addition, the private sponsors must agree to the commitment to assist the sponsored refugees or family members with basic needs before the approval of their applications. The needs are such as, “accommodation, clothing, and food, transportation, and settlement assistance, normally for one year from the arrival date of the sponsored in Canada”¹³⁰ as in the handbook. In addition, for the sponsored refugee or family member to become quickly self-sufficient within

¹²⁸ (Ibid)

¹²⁹ (Ibid)

¹³⁰ (Ibid)

the period of the sponsorship agreement, the sponsor has to assist him or her to find employment as well.

In terms of selecting refugees for resettlement to Canada, the private sponsors have freedom to choose who they want to sponsor -- that is, they are not obliged by the Canadian Immigration to sponsor specific refugees. They have the choice to identify any refugee or family of the refugees they wish to sponsor. Sometimes they ask the Canadian visa office to refer a suitable refugee or a family of the refugee for them to sponsor. Actually, the same eligibility and admissibility criterion is applicable to both privately sponsored and government-assisted refugees also mentioned in the same handbook. Thus, private sponsorship eligibility requires a lot of financial commitment on the side of the sponsoring individual or a group.

Sometimes there is private sponsorship in a form of Joined Assisted sponsorship or called (JAS). It is named as such because the government and the private sponsoring group or individuals share responsibility of the sponsored refugee or family members. The intention is to help sponsor some of the Convention refugees who are selected for government GARs (Government-Assisted Refugees). Usually, these are the refugees who need of more extra help than other resettled refugees says in the same handbook. They are generally sponsored by the SAHs (Sponsorship Agreement Holders) because the sponsored persons may be the refugees who have large number of family members, those who suffer from trauma due to the effect of the violence or torture or have medical disabilities and those who still suffer from the effects of systematic discrimination as stated in the handbook. In most cases, private sponsoring groups, assist these refugees on the process of integration into Canadian society. Meanwhile, the government of Canada takes their financial responsibility. Obviously, the sponsorship period of time for these refugees is more than one year, it is mostly between two to three years. Again, like

other refugees, they are not exempted from eligibility and admissibility criteria says in the handbook. In some situations, CIC covers the cost of the medical and transportation for such refugees and their family members. Occasionally, some resettled refugees are identified under greater settlement assistance after their arrival in Canada and this gives them entitlement of extra help from the government. The following tables show how much money is required for an individual, a group of five Canadians citizens or permanent residents and community sponsors to provide to sponsored family refugees or refugee families or relatives before they become eligible to sponsor a refugee or refugee family members.

Table 6:

Family Size	12 Months of Income Support	Start-up Costs	Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost
1	\$9,000	\$2,800	\$11,800
2	\$15,500	\$4,300	\$19,800
3	\$17,700	\$5,300	\$23,000
4	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$26,000
5	\$22,500	\$7,200	\$29,700
6	\$24,500	\$8,000	\$32,500
Additional member	\$1,550	\$1,000	\$2,500

Source: Government of Canada, Part 3: *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, (2011: 42).

This table 6, shows sponsorship Cost Table: Estimated Total Annual Settlement Cost. This money has to be provided in a form of trust fund or the co-signers who enough income to qualify or a sponsor who has some and steady qualifying income from her or his job.

Table 7:

Family size	Shelter	Clothing	Furniture	Start-up Costs (Household Needs)	School Start-up Costs	Food Staples
1	\$6,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$325		\$117
2	\$6,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$350		\$250
3	\$7,800	\$1,375	\$2,500	\$375		\$325
4	\$7,800	\$1,750	\$3,000	\$400		\$400
5	\$9,600	\$2,125	\$3,500	\$425		\$475
6	\$9,600	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$450		\$550

For Additional member, add	\$900	\$375	\$500	\$25	\$150/per child between ages 4-12	\$75
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Source: Government of Canada, Part 3: *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, 2011.

In this table 7, as stated in the *Refugee Sponsorship Application Guide*, “In-kind Deduction table is based on annual costs. Start-up Costs include: bedding, linens and household items”¹³¹ which has to be ready before the sponsor arrives otherwise the application will be rejected.

Further financial support is provided, that is, sponsors can calculate the start-up money using CIC calculation for the GARs (Government Assisted Refugees). The CIC calculations are generally based on the social assistance (Welfare) program in Canada, but the rate may be a bit different from one province or territory to another. For further details of social assistance amount of money given see the Ontario Works¹³², *Help with food, rent and other costs*. For example, in this document, the amount of \$325 is given for one adult as a onetime basic clothing allowance and \$250 is for any dependent child. Since Canada is very a cold country during winter, sponsors are required to provide winter clothing if the sponsored arrived during the winter time. In the same document says the amount of \$175 is to be given for an adult as a onetime basic clothing allowance and \$125 is to be given for any dependent child. The calculation of the basic household needs is based on the type of items. Generally the required items include “beds, table and chairs, bed linens, basic window coverings and common household products such as kitchen utensils, pots, pans, brooms, mops, detergents and cleansers”¹³³. A further detail about financial responsibility is in the table below.

Table 8:

The following maximum allowance rates apply:	Amount given
per single without accompanying dependents	\$1,330

¹³¹ In the *Refugee Sponsorship Application Guide*. August 27, 2014. URL=<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/guides/5413ETOC.asp>

¹³² Ontario Works, *Help with food, rent and other costs*.

URL=<http://www1.toronto.ca/wps.portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=2179707b1a280410VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnnextchannel=36b2d0809938041VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

¹³³ (Ibid)

per single plus one dependent	\$2,336
per single plus two dependent	\$2,662
per couple without accompanying dependents	\$1,958
per couple plus one accompanying dependents	\$2,452
per couple plus two accompanying dependents	\$2,945
per couple plus three accompanying dependents	\$3,512
For each additional dependent	\$350

Source: Government of Canada, Part 3: *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, 2011.

Table 8 shows the allowance of the basic household needs. Also this amount has to be there in any form before the sponsored comes. These are the items such as “beds, table and chairs, bed linens, basic window coverings and common household products such as kitchen utensils pots, pans, brooms, mops, detergents and cleaners”¹³⁴, says in the same sponsorship guide.

There is also food staples allowance such as, “flour, sugar, rice, spices and condiments, etc.”¹³⁵. The amount of \$175 is to be given for the first person in each household and \$75 is for each additional dependent. Additional amounts of money are needed for the school start-up allowance. This is, “an allowance of \$150 for school-age children and young adults attending K – 13, between the ages of 4-21 to defray costs for school costs for supplies, activity fees, gym clothing, etc.”¹³⁶ Again all these required extra money is added on top of all the costs plus the fees, that is why the majority of the sub-Saharan Africans immigrants who mostly live on low income wages cannot afford to privately sponsor their family members as well.

Moreover, it is also too hard for one to find a group of five or more people to team up and sponsor a family member or relative because of the eligibility reason. That is to be eligible, each one of them will be assessed according to her or his annual income individually. Furthermore, since the Sub-Saharan African resettled refugees in general have low income, it is also very rare to find other members of their community to form a group to sponsor privately family members or relatives. Therefore, although Canada’s immigration system allows private sponsorship by the

¹³⁴ (Ibid)

¹³⁵ (Ibid)

¹³⁶ (Ibid)

eligible individuals to the eligible persons in need from abroad, it is impossible for many to be eligible or to afford it. This means in reality, the majority of Canadians and permanent residents of Canada do not afford to privately sponsor a refugee, family members, or relatives from up abroad. Therefore, for the majority of Sub-Saharan Africans it may not be possible to reunite with their loved ones through private sponsorship in Canada as well, it is not easy for the majority of them to find a SAHs group to support them to sponsor their family members or relatives. This is mainly because to be supported by a SAHs an individual or a group has to contribute with some amount of money. Also the majority of SAHs are faith based organizations and this too makes difficult for many Canadians and permanent residents to get their support.

Sponsorship Agreement Holders (SAHs). These are the “incorporated organizations that have signed a formal sponsorship agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada as said in (CIC)”¹³⁷. Currently, there are 87 SAHs across Canada. Most of them are faith based or religious organizations. Among them, are some ethno-cultural groups and other organizations which are considered humanitarian organizations. Some of the SAHs organizations operate at local, regional and national level. These ones “assume overall responsibility for the management of sponsorships under their agreement”¹³⁸. Every year, SAHs submit some applications for the refugee sponsorship. Some SAHs also have sub-groups called “Constituent Groups (CGs)”¹³⁹. Through the help of the bigger SAH, these groups can privately sponsor some refugees. SAHs do not have one specific criterion for CGs recognition. Each one has its own way or criteria in accepting the CGs. CGs are generally community members who sponsor one of their member says in the Handbook. When they want to sponsor a refugee or refugee family from abroad, they

¹³⁷ Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program*, (2012: p.4).

¹³⁸ (Ibid)

¹³⁹ (Ibid)

have to do it through one of the SAHs says CIC document. For example, they have to prepare their applications with all plans and commitments for sponsorship and settlement of the refugee to be sponsored. If it is all complete and commitments are clear, SAH approves it or co-sign it. After that, the application will be sent to the head quarter CPO-W (Central Processing Office in Winnipeg), Manitoba, Canada says in the document.

Becoming SAHs is, when an organization is interested in becoming a SAH, it must first be incorporated organization. It has to have some sponsorship experiences, financial ability to ensure the settlement of the refugees it wants to sponsor, and is able to submit at least more than two refugee cases annually as in the document. When all the preconditions are complete, it “must submit a complete application form and all required documentation (articles of incorporation, audited financial statements, etc.) to the director, Strategic Management and Coordination Division, Integration Program Management Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada”¹⁴⁰. This office is based in the national capital of Canada (Ottawa) as it is in the document. This is how qualified organizations are granted the permission to become SAHs in Canada.

Although for some confidentiality reasons the names of these SAHs persons that I interviewed are not mentioned, one of them is the representative of the refugee assistance program of the entire Anglican Church Dioceses in Ottawa and the region. He told me that, “For us to support a Canadian or a permanent resident of Canada to privately sponsor his or her family members or relatives whether one or more, they have to be well known members of our Church and have satisfactory income from their jobs”¹⁴¹. A Similar statement was conveyed to me by

¹⁴⁰ (Ibid)

¹⁴¹ Interview with Mr. G. X. Wednesday July 16, 2014.

another SAHs representative. She is Ottawa University Professor who assists new immigrants and refugees through the university and the church as well. Table 4 shows the example of categories of Canada's immigration system.

Table 9:

Immigration Category	2006 Anticipated Numbers of Newcomers According to Immigration Plans	2006 Actual number of Newcomers'
Economic Class		
Skilled Workers	105,000-116,000	105,944
Business	9,000-11,000	12,076
Provincial/territorial nominees	9,000-11,000	13,336
Live-in caregivers	3,000-5,000	6,895
Total Economic	126,000-143,000	138,251
Immigration Category	2006 Anticipated Numbers of Newcomers According to Immigration Plans	2006 Actual number of Newcomers'
Family Class		
Others (Spouses, partners and children)	44,000-46,000	48,486
Parents and grandparents	17,000-19,000	20,005
Others		2,016
Total Family Class	61,000-65,000	70,507
Immigration Category	2006 Anticipated Numbers of Newcomers According to Immigration Plans	2006 Actual number of Newcomers'
Protected Persons/Refugee		
Government Assisted	7,300-7,500	7,326
Privately sponsored	3,000-4,000	3,337
Refugees landed in Canada	19,500-22,000	15,892
Dependents abroad of protected persons landed in Canada	3,000-6,800	5,948
Total Protected Persons/Refugees	32,800-40,300	32,503
Immigration Category	2006 Anticipated Numbers of Newcomers According to Immigration Plans	2006 Actual number of Newcomers'

Humanitarian Classes	5,100-6,500	10,221
Permit Holders	100-200	136
Others		25
Total Immigrants and Refugees	225,000-255,000	251,643

Source: UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., (2010:100).¹⁴²

Table 9 is an example showing categorically the number of the immigrants entered Canada in 2006 alone.

The purpose is to give a clear idea under what classes of immigration immigrants enter Canada. Yet there is not specify number showing how many Sub-Saharan Africans enter Canada through private sponsorship in this year. Since they can hard be eligible I believe their number is less than immigrants coming from other nations.

4.3 Family Reunification Policies and procedure

This section gives us the clear idea of how family reunification processes are carried out in the Canadian Immigration system and highlights some of the obstacles which prevent reunification.

According to the Canadian refugee resettlement program¹⁴³, the refugee principal applicant's family members are included in one application. In this case, the definition of the family members is: "Family members are spouses, common-law partners, dependent children, dependent children of the spouse or common-law partner, and dependent children of the principal applicant's or the spouse's or common-law partner's dependent children"¹⁴⁴.

Additionally, some individual family members who are not legally considered family by the definition are also included in certain situations. These are the persons who are economically and

¹⁴² Without backlog cases.

Sources: at Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2007). Facts and Figures 2006. Retrieved August 5, 2009 from HYPERLNK "/exchweb/bin/redcs.asp? URL=http://www.cic.gc.ca/English/pdf/pub/facts 2007.pdf" http://www.cic.gc.ca/English/pdf/pub/facts 2007.pdf

¹⁴³ (UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapter, (2014: 17).

¹⁴⁴ (Ibid)

emotionally dependent on the principal applicant's family. These family members are called "de facto dependents"¹⁴⁵, but even if there is relationship between the principal applicant and the dependent, such as, elderly relative who used to live with the applicant's family for a very long time yet, Canadian refugee settlement program wants to make sure, any de facto dependent "must meet the definition of refugee in their own right"¹⁴⁶. In this regard, Canadian visa officers always encourage to keep the families together during the selection says the document. This means if they were living together during the application time, the principle applicant has to mention their names.

However there is a disconnect between rhetoric and reality. When a refugee applicant has a family, Canada's immigration system states that main "objective of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act is to keep families together, and if not possible, reunite them in Canada as quickly as possible"¹⁴⁷. In reality, we have seen that there are many obstacles preventing such reunification to happen as quickly as possible. Furthermore, there are other obstacles and issues such as intensification of the wars in the place of the family members, lack of communication means between the applicant and her or his family members not knowing the whereabouts of each other when needed. This also made some Canadians to protest against the system saying "We need express family reunification", as it is mentioned in Canadian Council for Refugees¹⁴⁸, *Family Reunification*. Once more the rules sound interesting, but the reality is totally different in the case of Sub-Saharan Africans.

¹⁴⁵ (Ibid)

¹⁴⁶ (Ibid)

¹⁴⁷ (Ibid)

¹⁴⁸ Canadian Council for Refugees, *Family Reunification*. URL= <http://ccrweb.ca/en/family-reunification>

As the UNHCR's resettlement Handbook points out¹⁴⁹, not knowing the whereabouts of the family members makes it near impossible to be reunited with them. Even if the system says that, "In order to facilitate the expeditious reunification of families, the Refugee and Humanitarian Resettlement Program allows for the concurrent processing of the families if member of the same family are located in separate countries"¹⁵⁰. Other factors such as lack of proper documents or identification papers to prove the relationship between the families also blocks the chance of reunification. Another obstacle is when the country of origin does not want the family members to be part of the applicant and refusal of the issuance of documents. Sometimes cultural barriers are also preventing factors. This can be as in cases of some mothers or grant parents who do not want to be separated from their daughters or sons mentions the handbook.

Time frames are also short. Canada's immigration for refugee settlement also provides a 12 months period as a chance for reunification. This chance is given for resettled refugees who got separated with their family members due to one of the reasons mentioned above. However, at times a family members' whereabouts are not known or conditions in the country may prohibit the application of family members from being processed concurrently with that of the principle applicant. In these cases, the "one year window" (OYW)¹⁵¹ regulations allow separated family members to derive the principal applicant's (PA) refugee Status and apply without the need of a family class sponsorship. Unfortunately in most cases it takes years for many of the Sub-Saharan African refugees to locate the whereabouts of their once separated family members or relatives. For example one of the respondents mentioned that, "It took me more than five years to find out

¹⁴⁹ UNHCR Handbook, (2014: 17).

¹⁵⁰ (Ibid)

¹⁵¹ (Ibid)

the whereabouts of my niece and her family. Eventually, through the help of some acquaintances in Canada, I got in contact with her and they are still living in a refugee camp in Tanzania.¹⁵² In this situation, the majority miss the One Year Window opportunity and eventually they have no other chances than to privately sponsor them on their own whenever the family members or relatives are found, they cannot afford either.

Furthermore, when a case of any refugee claimant (asylum seeker), is accepted by Canadian immigration for refugees, she or he is recognized or considered as a protected person in Canada¹⁵³ Also in this case, the Canadian immigration law (S.14.7), allows (OYW) for the protected persons in Canada. That is, “Individuals, who make a successful claim in Canada and are recognized as a ‘Protected Person’ in Canada also benefit from concurrent processing of family members’ applications overseas”¹⁵⁴. Yet, there is also eligibility requirement before offering the OYW to any resettled refugee immigrant or a refugee claimant.

Also to qualify for OYW, a resettled refugee immigrant or a refugee claimant must have fulfilled the conditions. When refugees -- especially Convention refugees from overseas chosen for resettlement in Canada, they have the first priority for the OYW. Again as it is mentioned in the UNHCR Handbook¹⁵⁵, they must have identified their family members before they travel to Canada. In the same book, it says that, “For separated family members to qualify for one-year window processing, the principal applicant must have identified family members on his/her application for permanent residence (IMM0008) prior to departure for Canada”¹⁵⁶. Not only this, submission of additional application is needed as well. Therefore, to qualify for OYW, Canadian

¹⁵² Interview with, Mrs. Nahimana M., Thursday October 2, 2014.

¹⁵³ UNHCR Handbook, (2014: 17).

¹⁵⁴ (Ibid)

¹⁵⁵ UNHCR Handbook Country Chapter, (2014: 17).

¹⁵⁶ (Ibid)

immigration requires the principal applicant or the family member to submit permanent residence application at any internal visa office says the book and this must happen within one year from the date of his or her arrival in Canada. Moreover important information may be requested on both the principal applicant and the family member said in this book. This is, the family members must subsequently submit their own application for permanent resident at a visa office within one year from the date the principal applicant arrives in Canada. It is therefore very important that all immediate family members be identified on the principal applicant's application even if their present location is unknown or they are thought to be diseased. That is why the visa officers abroad counsel refugees at the interview to list all their dependents on their (IMM 0008), including those who are accompanying, non-accompanying, missing (unknown whereabouts), or thought to be diseased says in the book all of their information is needed.

Another issue which seem to be violating the rights of the principal applicants is the case of the dependents. Wars and conflicts which forcibly displace many sub-Saharan Africans also killed many of their immediate family members for example in Global Issues¹⁵⁷, it is says, in DRC alone, "Since the outbreak of the fighting in August 1998, some 5.4 million people have died". More information is added by Anke Hoeffler,¹⁵⁸ *Dealing with the Consequences of Violent Conflicts in Africa*, that is conflicts also kill as many as forced many others to flee their lands. Due to such problems, many Africans found themselves raised by their aunts, uncles, grandparents, other extended relatives, and even neighbors. Sadly, Canadian immigration system, does not consider the principal applicant's de facto dependents in OYW. Instead, it says,

¹⁵⁷ Anup Shah, 2010, Global Issues: *The Democratic Republic of Congo*, Created: Monday, July 05, 1999. Last Updated: Saturday, August 21, 2010. URL= <http://www.globalissues.org/article/87/the-democratic-republic-of-congo>

¹⁵⁸ Anke Hoeffler, *Dealing with the Consequences of Violent Conflicts in Africa*, Background Paper for the African Development Bank Report 2008. Centre for the Stud of African Economics. University of Oxford. March 13, 2008. <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~ball0144/consequences.pdf>

that, “However, they may qualify as refugees in their own right, or may be sponsored under the Private Sponsorship of the Refugees Program” says in UNHCR Handbook¹⁵⁹. In reality, there are many factors which may prevent such de facto dependents from reuniting with their family members in Canada. Their refugee status may be denied and this may be either due to the lack of proper identification documents as it happened in the case of the younger brother of one of my respondents, Mr. Sambina J.¹⁶⁰ originally from Angola, Africa. Also the principal applicant may not afford to privately sponsor his or her de facto dependents after she missed the chance of OYW. Therefore, based on Canada’s humanitarian help for refugees especially from overseas, the de facto dependents supposed not to be excluded from OYW, especially considering the cases of immigrants of Sub-Saharan African origin in Canada.

When refugee claimants in Canada apply for protection and granted asylum, they also qualify for OYW.¹⁶¹ The procedures to qualify for OYW, is similar between resettled refugees overseas and the refugee claimants applying for protection within Canada. To qualify both of them must submit the permanent residence application at a visa office in Canada says the handbook. Also, each one of them must have identified his or her family members in the permanent residence application. In addition, to qualify, the principal applicant must identify family members on his or her Permanent Residence application submitted in Canada. The family members who are not accompanying the principal applicant, but included on the principal applicant’s application for Permanent Residence may submit an application for Permanent Residence at a visa office within one year from the date the principal applicant becomes a Permanent Resident of Canada. It is therefore very important that all immediate family members

¹⁵⁹ (*UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapter*, (2014: 18).

¹⁶⁰ (Interview with Mr. Sambina J., Saturday August 16, 2014).

¹⁶¹ (*UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapter*, (2014: p.17).

be identified on the principal applicant's application even if their present location is unknown as said in the handbook. Furthermore, the chances of getting reunited with the separated family members are a very slim because 12 months are not even enough for the proper settlement, leave alone finding the whereabouts of once separated family members. In this case the respondent Marcko J.¹⁶² suggested that, "At least four to five years window of opportunity may be reasonable if we consider the case of Sub-Saharan African refugee situations"¹⁶³. In fact these are some of the problems new immigrants from Sub-Saharan origin face in Canada.

Quotas also constitute a significant problem. In Canada's immigration system, all the family reunification cases processed overseas are within the annual resettlement quotas says in this UNHCR Handbook¹⁶⁴. In most cases, the Convention refugee family members' reunification cases fall under the OYW, but it depends under which category the principal applicant was resettled. In this aspect, the majority of cases may be under GAR (Government-assisted Refugees). Meanwhile some fall under the PSR (Private Sponsorship for Refugees) as in the handbook. Under whatever category they fall, and whether the result is positive or negative, the principal applicants are notified mentions the book. It is the responsibility of the CIC (Citizenship and Immigration Canada) to inform the principal applicant about the result of their OYW application as soon as CIC receives the result¹⁶⁵ says in the Handbook. Sometimes, the principal applicants are not told earlier that they are eligible to reunify with their family members under the OYW and by the time they realize they are eligible under OYW, it is too late because the deadline has passed or will pass soon in most cases. For example one of the respondents

¹⁶² Interview with Mr. Marcko J., Saturday, August 23, 2014.

¹⁶³ Interview with Marcko J., 2014 Saturday August 23, 2014.

¹⁶⁴ *UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapter*, (2014: 18).

¹⁶⁵ "Request to process following family members under the One-Year Window of Opportunity Provisions' [IMM 5571] from the principal applicant (PA), the local CIC office screens the identified family members for eligibility and, if necessary, sends any queries to the visa office which issued the Principal Applicant's permanent residence visa"

Abdillah F.¹⁶⁶ told me, “The government people did not tell me about the OYW early, I should have brought my uncle who raised me up is still in a refugee camp with his family up to now”. Although sometimes it is very hard to verify whose mistake it is, many respondents raised this issue of not being notified by the settlement service providers about their eligibility of OYW program as soon as they arrive in Canada.

If there is a case of ineligibility under the OYW, the principal applicant is informed by the CIC local office. The letter explaining the reasons for ineligibility is sent to the principal applicant says in the UNHCR Handbook¹⁶⁷. The same is with eligibility; the principal applicant receives the letter of acceptance. It directs the applicant to “send copies of the application for permanent residence directly to his or her eligible family members overseas”¹⁶⁸. In addition, in this letter “the principal applicant is reminded to instruct their family members to ensure that the completed application is submitted to the appropriate visa office within the one-year window period”¹⁶⁹. This is the period starting from the date of applicant’s arrival in Canada. After this, follows the processing time to come to Canada.

Delays are therefore a serious issue. As I mentioned in the previous table above, the process takes between two to five years or even more in some cases. In fact, there is variability in processing application for resettlement to Canada. Some visa offices may have the chance to process the applications within short time, but others may delay the process due to one reason or another. In the case of Sub-Saharan Africans, it takes not less than two years in most cases because there are some factors which delay application processes generally. They are such as, “geographic location, caseload inventory, and medical and health issues prevalent among

¹⁶⁶ Interview with Mr. Abdillah F., Saturday July 26, 2014.

¹⁶⁷ UNHCR Handbook, (2014: 18).

¹⁶⁸ (Ibid)

¹⁶⁹ (Ibid)

particular refugee populations, and also processing capacity, and communication infrastructure”¹⁷⁰. Yet, during the submission of the application, the visa office is notified if the case is urgent. This helps to expedite the processes of the emergency cases.¹⁷¹

Finally, there is a problem of the financial support given to the principal applicant’s family members after their arrival in Canada. Since they come under the OYW, they are not entitled to an exact amount of money given by RAP (Resettled Assistance Program). They are rather assisted by local CIC office from the day of their arrival. The same is with the blended visa office referred refugees, this group receives six months financial assistance from the federal government and other half from the sponsoring group or persons.

When a refugee resettled to Canada through the help of the private sponsorship, he or she is also eligible for OYW, but the responsibility of his or her family member depends on the private sponsorship of the principal applicant. In the case of private-sponsored refugees, the visa offices abroad are instructed to ensure that any family members identified on the Principal Applicant’s application have also been included in the sponsoring group’s undertaking. If the sponsoring group refuses to add the non-accompanying family members to the undertaking and does not find another sponsoring group for the family members, then the sponsoring application is likely to be refused. Therefore, also sometimes most of the Sub-Saharan African immigrants’ applications for the private sponsorship are denied based on such situations. Obviously, the principal applicant’s family members who are coming to Canada under OYW, follow the same procedures as their applicants did. This means to say that both their travel arrangements to and status of arrival in Canada are the same, regardless of the difference in financial eligibility.

¹⁷⁰ (Ibid)

¹⁷¹ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook, Country Chapter- Canada, July 2011, Revised June (2013: 8). <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/52a077640.pdf>

Sometimes the system is so complicated for the principal applicants that many resettled refugees prefer not to apply under one-year window program if they are not sure about the exact whereabouts of their family members or relatives as some of the respondents told me.

All of these issues point to the fact that there are more obstacles than the solutions in the case of these Sub-Saharan African to sponsor privately their family members and relatives to join them in Canada.

Chapter 5: Discussion

5.1 Impediments of the Private Sponsorship and Family Reunification

Canada has a long history of immigration. It was built through the help of millions of settlers and immigrants, which started with settlers from France then followed by settlers from England.

Early immigrants were called settlers because they considered Canada as their colony. Following England and France, came settlers from Holland, Germany and Scandinavia. Many of the immigrants were from religious groups such as Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, and Methodist, Jewish, Quaker, and Catholic religious backgrounds. The majority of the later groups came from United States as Loyalists during the American Revolution.

In addition, during that time there was another strategy which attracted more people to immigrate to Canada. This was called the “Dominion Lands Acts”¹⁷². It was an “1872 piece of

¹⁷² Government of Canada, *Backgrounder-Facts in Canada's Immigration History*, June 27, 2011. URL=http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2011/2011-06-27.asp?_ga=1.93183005.1656878411.1414516209

legislation”¹⁷³ which was made to grant a free land of 160 acres or 64.7 hectares to anyone aged 21 and above. The conditions to acquire that land were that one must be willing to pay only \$10.00 as a registration fee, build a house and dwell on that piece of land permanently, and cultivate at least 30 acres (12.0) hectares for three years consecutively¹⁷⁴. It seemed as that system of granting free land was profitable and working well for the immigrants. This situation was attractive to Canadians who went to the United States but began to come back to Canada in 1901. Not only they, there were some more European immigrants who entered Canada from United States from 1901 and 1941¹⁷⁵. These were also mainly Germans, Hungarians, Norwegians, Swedes, and Icelanders. These groups of immigrants were first settled in Western America originally, but came to Canada eventually.

Furthermore, there were some Ukrainians who immigrated to Canada and settled in the Western Canada for agricultural reasons. Therefore, between 1928 and 1971, there were already “one million immigrants who came to Canada through Pier 21 alone.”¹⁷⁶ Apart from French and British immigrants who initially came and settled in Canada, it was clear that, by 1960s, “one third of Canadians”¹⁷⁷ were already immigrants from different ethnic backgrounds and countries of origin. There are also hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Chinese and other Asian backgrounds in Canada. Therefore, by 2006, 19.8 Canadians were considered originally born as foreigners from other countries. Another fact is that, up to now, 24% Canadians speak other language than English and French. Furthermore, “the majority of Canada’s population growth is

¹⁷³ (Ibid)

¹⁷⁴ (Ibid)

¹⁷⁵ (Ibid)

¹⁷⁶ Government of Canada, *Backgrounder-Facts in Canada’s Immigration History*, June 27, 2011. URL=http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2011/2011-06-27.asp?_ga=1.93183005.1656878411.1414516209

¹⁷⁷ (Ibid)

due to immigration.”¹⁷⁸ Therefore, until that time, it is clear that it was mostly Western Europeans who were allowed to immigrate to Canada. Therefore, up to that time, immigration to Canada was open for some particular groups of people, but after that Canada has change its immigration policies many times. Yet the purpose of this paper is not to discuss Canada’s past immigration history, but it is about its recent and present immigration policies concerning Sub-Saharan African Canadians and the permanent residents of Canada.

Although Canada endorsed United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees in 1968, it has a very long immigration history which goes back to 1860 and far beyond. Yet, until 1960, its immigration policy used to accept immigrants mainly from European countries only, UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., 2010¹⁷⁹. Moreover, the racial priority through Canadian immigration plans is said to have ended after the 1967 Act came to effect. That is, “The 1966 White Paper on Immigration formed the basis for the new immigration regulations of 1967 Act”, UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S,¹⁸⁰ but this did not stop a sort of racial preference in its immigration policies. That is point system is also another form of specific priority through immigration processes. This means, the introduction of points system which is based on 9 characteristics, also seems as another sort of preferences in Canadian immigration policy. The issue with the point system is that, immigrants are qualified to come to Canada if they have “education and training: personal qualities, such as adaptability, motivation and initiative, age, and knowledge of English or French or both, and demand for the applicant’s occupation in Canada”¹⁸¹. In this aspect, most of the people from Sub-Saharan Africa are not qualify to

¹⁷⁸ (Ibid)

¹⁷⁹ UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S, *Immigration Worldwide: Policies, Practices, and Trends*, 2010, Oxford University Press, New York.

¹⁸⁰ UMS.A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., (2010:96).

¹⁸¹ (Ibid)

immigrate to Canada under points system either. This is because if not all, the majority are not ready to fulfill the preconditions. That is why if there is any chance for them, is the immigration to Canada through the refugees resettlement from abroad.

Luckily, more chances of immigration to Canada were given to many applicants from various parts of the world including some Africans only after the 1976 Immigration Act Amendment. After the 1967 Act, came the 1976 Act which was made by the House of Commons and got implemented in 1978. Furthermore, the 1976 Act was amended in 1993. This time, a category of three classes of immigration system was introduced. These are “family, refugees, and independent immigrants: consisting of business immigrants, skilled workers, and assisted relatives.”¹⁸² Apart from this, the importance of 1976 Act is also meant to monitor the incoming of immigrants in Canada. Under this Act, the eligible applicants are entitled to get landed immigrant status in Canada¹⁸³. In addition, a recent Bill C-11 was approved by the Canadian House of Commons and 2001 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act was made to replace 1976 Act says in the book. Part of the 2001 Act is that, Immigration policy must fulfill Canada’s international obligations, such as upholding the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on Rights of Refugees, Convention against Torture, Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man says in the book. It also refers to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms’ guarantee of the rights of

¹⁸² (Ibid)

¹⁸³ Family class, independent class, selected on the basis of the points system; assisted relatives, who were distant relatives sponsored by a family member in Canada and who met some of the selection criteria of the independent class; and the humanitarian class, consisting of refugees as defined in the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees, and a designated class of displaced persons who do not qualify as refugees under the United Nations’ definition. The Act required the Minister of immigration to announce Annual Immigration Plans, which would estimate the number of immigrants that Canada could require to be presented to Parliament after mandatory consultations with provincial governments and members of the private and voluntary sectors (Ibid).

immigrants and refugees in Canada.¹⁸⁴. Yet there is no changes in the actual reunification process in terms of financial aspect. That is any permanent resident or Canadias who want to sponsor a family member or relative, has to be responsible for their financial needs up to the end of sponsorship period.

Furthermore, other significances of this Act are, “The Act established a definition of family class that, for the first time, included parents, common-law partners, and same-sex partners. Additionally, the Act redefined dependent child to include individuals under the age of 22, whereas the previous Act only included those under age 19.”¹⁸⁵ It also reduced the age of the sponsors from 19 to 18, and for the spouses and common-law partners’ sponsorship requirement is reduced from 10 to 3 years. In this Act, the only thing which is not in the Act is the regulation of the family reunification provision says in the book. It is left under the regulations of the Canadian Council for Refugees 2001.¹⁸⁶ Additional important notes of 2001 Act are “The Act intends to strengthen refugee protection and overseas resettlement by ensuring that people in need of urgent protection are brought to Canada within days and by pursuing agreements with nongovernmental organizations to locate and pre-screen refugees’ applications in areas where refugees are mostly in need of protection.”¹⁸⁷ Still there is no mention of what would be the possibilities for those whose financial situations could not allow them to privately sponsor their family members or relatives whose lives are in danger. In addition they do not have any agency, a group or SAHs to support them in this sponsorship either.

Another noticeable information to mention is that, in Canada’s immigration records, not including Middle East, there was less than one percent of the total admissions of the immigrants

¹⁸⁴ UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., (2010:97)

¹⁸⁵ (Ibid)

¹⁸⁶ (Ibid)

¹⁸⁷ UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., 2010:97

from Africa prior to 1961. Yet, until 2006, combined together the number of immigrants from Africa and Middle East increased up to 11.8, UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S.¹⁸⁸. In the interviews, I discovered that among these number, most of the African immigrants come to Canada as resettled permanent residents or landed immigrants under the refugee class from abroad says in the book. Very few of them come under family class. Based on the above mentioned facts, up to present it seems as if Canada's immigration plans have no clear intention to accept many Sub-Saharan African immigrants as it does to other nations. Therefore, safety and stable living may not be equally enjoyed when you feel that part of you is missing. This means, if not all, almost all of the Sub-Saharan African immigrants still have part of their family members or close relatives left back living in a very dire situation in refugee camps and urban cities of other African countries.

Therefore, although Sub-Saharan Africans came to a safer and more stable country like Canada, they seem to be living in a limbo. Generally, many of them thought that coming to Canada would solve their problems, such as eventually getting reunited with their once separated family members or relatives. However, when I interviewed some of these permanent residents and citizens of Canada, 20 of the respondents have other family members and relatives still living in their countries of origin. 21 said, it was not safe for their families and relatives to continue living in their countries of origin. 4 respondents said it was safe for now, but they are not sure what would happen in the future since the stability in those countries is not guaranteed. 24 of the respondents have other family members and relatives still living in the refugee camps in other African countries and 2 do not have. 22 say, it is not safe for their families and relatives to continue living as refugees in those countries. 20 have family members and relatives still

¹⁸⁸ UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., 2010:98

living as refugees in the urban cities of foreign countries. Moreover, even if the majority of these respondents qualified to privately sponsor their family members or relative to come to Canada, they are not able to accomplish the sponsorship because of the financial shortage. Therefore, though they are desperately in need of seeing each other, yet up to this time, they are not sure if they can meet with their loved ones one day if they continue living on minimal wage paying jobs in Canada and particularly in Ottawa city.

When a person is still feeling that she is not sure whether to stay permanently or leave the country because part of her family or relatives are missing, she is not going to consider herself fully naturalized in that country. Some respondents told me, they are not able to enjoy living in Canada because their family members and relative are not here. In the case of Canadians and permanent residents of Canada originally coming from Sub-Saharan Africa, multiculturalism, integration, and settlement in Canada may not be as helpful as they were expecting. This means these people are still feeling that part of them is absent. That is, families and relatives left behind in unsafe areas are not present here. Also they do not feel that they are able to settle and integrate fully like other immigrants and many of them do not consider themselves as part of the Canadian multicultural society since their hearts are still looking forwards to seeing their love ones one day.

Thus, as explained earlier these immigrants are also at the economic disadvantage in Canada. They are not able to get better paying jobs like other immigrants coming from other parts of the world. In fact it is true that new immigrants' economic situation in Canada is worsening day by day. It is a concern which is also raised in the book, *Immigration Worldwide*, that is to say, "Poverty is increasingly concentrated and long-term for recent immigrants and

refugees.”¹⁸⁹ In addition, although there is progress in terms of education levels and official languages, these immigrants are not able to get well-paying jobs in their new country¹⁹⁰. This indicates that inequality among the Canadian society is also prominent. Therefore, better laws and regulations are needed to solve this problems in Canada. Moreover, bringing immigrants in order to fulfill its humanitarian obligation without at least some equal opportunities in the country’s economic system is not pleasing. It is like indirect way of outsourcing cheap labour form abroad in the name of immigration.

Realistically, in these days, it is very rare to secure a job in Canada and this means it may not be possible to do one job for more than five years consecutively. You may lose your job at any moment due to uncertainty of the business market. That is to say, an employee may be either laid off from the job because the employer or the sector is broke, downsizing, or moving to elsewhere. In addition, it is rather difficult to guarantee a full time job. Therefore, lack of proper and stable jobs are some of the problems these refugee immigrants face in Canada and the consequences of such obstacles, make them unable to reunify with their family members.

5.2 Private Sponsorship Impediments

Apart from the obstacles mentioned in section 5.1, there are other obstacles which also prevent these African immigrants to reunite with their family members in Canada. First, these resettled newcomers face the settlement problem. This is because when they first come to Canada, some of them may know little English or French language and some may not know either of the two at all. For this reason, many of them miss the chance of family reunion under

¹⁸⁹ UMS. A, Doreen E., Nezneen S., (2010:106).

¹⁹⁰ “despite increasing educational levels ‘self-assessed’ official language knowledge, low employment rates and lower initial earnings have characterized these immigrants’ experiences in the labor market with those from Sub-Saharan Africa countries faring worse than members of other groups” (Ibid).

one year window opportunity discussed in the other chapter. They still do not understand the system well. Also even though there are many settlement organizations offering services to the new immigrants, sometimes they do not explain in detail the idea of the One Year Window (OYW) opportunity to the new immigrants. In addition, newcomers face some in security problems in Canada and in Ottawa particular. For example, many of the respondents I interviewed informed me that they knew very little English or French and some knew none of the two when they first came to Canada. As a result, some could not read to know which residential areas were safe to live in Ottawa. Due to this, many found themselves living in very unsecure areas in the city. In this case, unsafe residential areas in Ottawa are the places with higher crime rates because of the problems of illegal drug dealers and gangs. For example in the Statistics Canada Report, 2013¹⁹¹ *crime, police, and traffic statistics report*, says in Ottawa, “The number of drug related offences increased by three per cent in 2013 to 1,546 offences”¹⁹². Therefore, such incidents create more trauma to these already traumatized new immigrants.

Moreover these new immigrants also face financial problems since Ottawa is one of the expensive cities in Canada. That is, shelter, transportation, groceries, and clothing cost a lot of money.¹⁹³ For this reason, the RAP (Resettlement Assistant Program) money they get from the government or private sponsoring group may not even be enough to cover their monthly expenses. RAP assistance money is calculated based on the social assistance (Welfare) program as mentioned in chapter 4. As a result, many of them struggle to make ends meet. Some of them

¹⁹¹ Statistics Canada Report, 2014, 2013 *crime, police, and traffic statistics report*, July (2014: 11). URL=<http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/opsb/2014/07-28/item9b.pdf>

¹⁹² (Ibid)

¹⁹³ Numbeo, in *Cost of Living in Ottawa, Canada: Prices in Ottawa*. 2009 – 2015. URL=http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/city_result.jsp?country=Canada&city=Ottawa

try to find jobs, but most of the jobs available for such immigrants are mainly minimal wage paying jobs. Plus in Ontario, if a person who is still receiving RAP assistance finds a job, whatever income she or he gets, would be deducted by fifty per cent from her assistance money. Even if the RAP period is still effective and the person's income from the job is equal or a little higher than the rap assistance, she or he is no longer eligible to receive RAP assistance. In this way, many of them may begin and continue struggling for the rest of their lives in Canada. Unless there is financial assistance from somewhere may be from the government, otherwise they may not be able to reunite with their separated families and relatives.

Another issue is social problems. According to their cultures, most Sub-Saharan African immigrants were used to communal life and generous to each other in some aspects of life. When they come to Canada, they face the problem of individualism. In general, Canadians lead individualistic life style. Therefore, they find themselves scattered all around Canada and even within one city such as Ottawa, they live far away from each other. In addition, they may lack proper knowledge of either English or French language to help them communicate with other people in their neighborhoods as well. In this way, they feel isolated and lonely. These issues plus the separation from their family members and relatives, increase the longing for their family members left behind in the refugee camps and in their countries of origin.

Lack of education is also an obstacle. Since refugees may not have proper education or acceptable work experiences, they are not qualified for better paying jobs in Ottawa. In this case they face tougher challenges of living in their new country. In some cases such challenges may lead to family disintegration. Traditionally, among many Sub-Saharan Africans, a father is considered as a head of the household, and as a result, he is a bread winner. When they come to Canada, such responsibility has some consequences at times. Sometimes, both the husband and

wife may be working, but only the husband's income is expected to cover all the monthly expenses. When his monthly income may not be enough and he asks his wife to help cover the rest, it may cause some family misunderstanding. That is even in Canada, some wives still consider that it is the responsibility of the husband to take care of his family financially. Consequently, such issues lead to divorce, separation, and imprisonment sometimes. Then the family will be disintegrated even more than it was before their coming to Canada. Lack of better family unit also leaves some children to fall apart. They may drop out of schools and end up with less qualifications to get better paying jobs. Some may become gang members and eventually become criminals and consequently end dead or be imprisoned for long time.

For some refugees there is an age problem. Some of them come to Canada at the age of fifty to sixty-five. At this age, it is difficult to learn a new language or get a job in Ottawa. They may live either on social assistance or welfare or old age benefit which is not enough to make a better living too. Furthermore, they find it rather impossible to integrate into the new society. Therefore, they mostly spend their live time within their dwellings because their children or in-laws may be working either during the day or night time. Even worse, for some who do not have neither the children nor in-laws, they are completely on their own. Sometimes, some of them wish not to have come to Canada had they known life was going to be like this. In a nut shell, lack of financial ability and other problems prevent these Canadian citizens and residents of Canada from qualifying to privately sponsoring their family members or relatives from abroad. The consequences of not being able to privately sponsor their family members or relatives cause them other physical and mental problems. These are such as, loneliness, worrying, unknown

future, hopelessness, depression, crime, and health deterioration – all of which are becoming common among these Sub-Saharan African Canadians and permanent residents.¹⁹⁴

Unfortunately these problems are made even more difficult because Canada is among those countries which have no clear poverty line in their governmental mandates. Yet according to the record of Statistics Canada, “*How is poverty measured in Canada?*”, “poverty refers to the intersection of low-income and other dimensions of ‘social exclusion’, including things such as access to adequate housing, essential goods and services, health and well-being and community participation” says in the Statistics Canada¹⁹⁵. This is also another evidence showing that even if the Canadian immigration by law and regulations allows the private sponsorship for family members and relatives from abroad, practically it is not possible for people who are in this line to afford that sponsorship.

Psychologically, although many of the Sub-Saharan Africans come from the poor countries, they thought coming to such developed country, might have elevated them from the poverty and given chance to be reunited with their loved ones. In this case, compared to their situation in Canada now and the unforgettable memories they bear in their minds, it is a very sad life for many of them. Instead, had it not been because of lack of their safety and insecurity in their countries of origin, many of them would have been financially well off there than in Canada. In Ottawa, they are among visible minorities, mostly qualified for minimal paying jobs, and poor because of their low-income. Even if some of them work full time or two to three different part time jobs at once, yet the money they earn is not enough to cover all the monthly

¹⁹⁴ CBC News Ottawa, *Immigrants struggle with declining health*. Posted: February 17, 2010. February 17, 2013. URL= <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/immigrants-struggle-with-declining-health-1.904767>

¹⁹⁵ Statistics Canada, *How is poverty measured in Canada?*, 2008. URL= http://www.novascotia.ca/coms/departement/backgrounders/poverty/poverty_stats-May2008.pdf

expenses sometimes. As a result, some of them are often obliged to get some social assistance to cover their monthly bills or get drug cards to cover some of their prescription medications. This drug card also covers vision and dental care for children under 18, but it covers for adults only in some severe cases (such as painful toothache). Therefore for such reasons, they are among the people who live in poverty in Ottawa. For example, 2008 statistic from the City of Ottawa, indicates that, 15.2 per cent of Ottawa residents live on low income says the document. Apart from these immigrants also poverty rates for children in Aboriginal, other visible minority, recent immigrants, and single mother families, at least double the national average. 40 per cent of visible minority children live in poverty as stated in the document. Almost half of new applicants to Ontario Works (OW) in Ottawa are born outside of Canada. The low income cut-off for a family of one adult with two children is \$32,450 per year before taxes. Minimum wage at \$9.50 per hour is less than \$20,000 per year before taxes. Lone parent families with two children on OW (Ontario Works) get as little as \$11,604 per year as mentioned in *People Living in Poverty*, Statistics Canada¹⁹⁶. Also due to this issues, they cannot afford to privately sponsor their family members or relatives.

The following table explains some details of financial assistant given to the Ontario Works (Welfare) and ODSP (Ontario Disability Service Program) recipients in Ottawa. The rates were effective since December 2009 and the rent allowances allocation is calculated to the maximum. Plus any person from 0 to 17 years old is a child¹⁹⁷. This minimum wage rate was effective in Ontario since March 31, 2010 and the average market rent is of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) rent which was effective in October 2009. And the amount is

¹⁹⁶ Statistics Canada (Ottawa, *Diversity Snapshot, People Living in Poverty: Equity and Inclusion Lens*, Version (2010: 3-4). URL=
http://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents.ottawa.ca/files/documents/poverty_en.pdf

¹⁹⁷ Ottawa, *Diversity Snapshot, People Living in Poverty: Equity and Inclusion Lens*, Version (2010: 3-4).

Canadian dollar. More information is in, *People Living in Poverty*, Statistics Canada¹⁹⁸ and the following table is from the same source.

Table 1:

Persons	Monthly income		Monthly cost		
	Ontario Works (OW)	Ontario Disability Support (ODSP)	Minimum wage (\$10.25/hr)	Average market rent	Food
Single person	\$585	\$1,042	\$1,775 (40 hr week)	\$853	\$180
Parent with two children	\$961	\$1512	\$1,775 (40 hr week)	\$1,257	\$560

Source: Statistics Canada, Ottawa, *People Living in Poverty*.¹⁵

This table shows the monthly income a single person would when they live on Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and minimum wage per hour in the Ontario province, Canada before 2015, plus the average monthly cost for market rent and food

Table 2:

Per Month			Per Ride				Per Day	
Adult	Regular Routes	\$100.75	Adult & Student 13-19	Regular Routes	Presto	Cash	Tickets	DayPass
Student 13-19		\$80.25			\$2.77	\$3.45	2	
Adult	Express & Regular Routes	\$124.25	Senior 65+	Express Routes	\$2.09	\$2.60	3	\$8.10
or Student (13-19)		\$94.25	Adult, Senior 65+, & Student 13-19		\$4.18	\$4.90		
Senior 65 +		\$40.75	Child 6-12		All Routes	\$1.53		
			Child 5 & under	Free				

Source: OC Transpo¹⁶ (Ottawa Public Transport).

In addition, this table shows some examples of the cost of public transportation in Ottawa and the amount is calculated in Canadian dollar. These fares were updated and became effective in July 1, 2014, in OC Transpo¹⁹⁹, *Transit Fares*. This table show one more inevitable add up cost of living in this city is the transportation fares. Thus comparing the cost of basic needs and these people's income per month, it is realistic that they cannot afford to privately sponsor any of their loved ones on their own.

¹⁹⁸ Ottawa, *Diversity Snapshot, People Living in Poverty: Equity and Inclusion Lens*, Version (2010: 3-4). URL= http://documents.ottawa.ca/sites/documents.ottawa.ca/files/documents/poverty_en.pdf

¹⁹⁹ OC Transpo, *Transit Fares, 2014* or Ottawa City Transport. URL= <http://www.octranspol.com/tickets-and-passes>

For example, until March 2010, the adult minimum wage per hour was \$10.25 CAD in the province of Ontario, which was increased up to \$11.00 CAD per hour in June 2014, Government of Canada²⁰⁰, *Labour Program*. Yet, compared to the item prices in the market, it is difficult to make a better living on such wages if you live in Cities like Ottawa. Due to this situation, high prices of food articles or groceries forced many low income people to stop eating nutritious food. As a result, in 2012, Ottawa public health workers were concerned about the rising prices of groceries in Ottawa, CBC News- Ottawa²⁰¹. They knew high food prices would have impact on people's health. This is because the consumers in this city might turn to eating low nutritious food or junk food instead of healthy food. To find out, they did some shopping in eight different groceries stores in the city says in the document. The result was, the average family of four people was spending at least \$745 per a month to buy the food basics. In this case, whether the newcomers receive financial assistance from the government, their private sponsors, or from their jobs and as long as they still in line of low income, they would not be able to reach a qualifying level of annual income to sponsor privately. For more information, see Government of Canada's document in Financial Assistance-for Refugees²⁰², how the resettled immigrants are expected to be helped by their sponsors. Therefore, it is clear that, unless the Government of Canada's immigration system gives some consideration to these people's financial shortage and help them to privately sponsor their family members or relatives, they will not be able to do it on their own. Moreover, the consequences of the failure seems and will always make these

²⁰⁰ Government of Canada, Labour Program, 2014, *Current and Forthcoming Minimum Hourly Wage Rates For Experienced Adult Worker in Canada*. January 27, 2015. URL= <http://srv116.services.gc.ca/dimt-wid/sm-mw/rpt1.aspx?lang=eng>

²⁰¹ CBC News, Ottawa, *Cost of groceries a concern for Ottawa health officials*. November 19, 2012. URL= <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/cost-of-groceries-a-concern-for-ottawa-health-officials-1.1261719>

²⁰² URL= <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/sponsor/infx.asp> and <http://www.cic.gc.ca/ENGLISH/refugees/outside/resettle-assist.asp>

immigrants feel that they are at the bottom and inferior class citizens who lived and are still living very miserable life both before and after coming to Canada.

In addition, the only solution for such refugees is to be given some loans by both federal and provincial governments to help them qualify for private sponsorship. Again in terms of humanitarian assistance, Canadian government at all levels has done a lot to help refugees who are not able to pay for their immigration medical examination and travel documents, they are given immigration loan to cover the cost says in UNHCR Handbook, 2014²⁰³ also transportation cost is added in the loan. This is in the case where a refugee has an interview, but she or he lives in a camp or urban city which is located very far away from the location of Canadian visa office. Obviously, before the loan is granted, there must be a guarantee that refugee has potentiality and able to repay that loan after she or he settles in his or her new country. According to Canadian refugee loan arrangement, refugees are required to repay their loan in monthly instalments after they are settled. Refugees are notified to pay back their loans shortly after their arrival in Canada .This may be after five to six months from the date of their arrival. Occasionally, under some circumstances, there may be up to two years deferral before a resettled immigrant is asked to begin repaying their loan. In some rare cases when a resettled refugee is unable to begin to pay back his or her loan because she or he has some special needs, CIC may cover the cost of such as flight ticket or medical examination and others expenses such as some nights they stayed in the hotel on their way to Canada.

These issues were confirmed by interviews I conducted with four representatives. Three are SAHs' (Sponsorship Agreement Holders) or agency staff members or representatives and one

²⁰³ UNHCR Resettlement Handbook Country Chapter, (2014: 8).

chairperson of the community. Due to the confidentiality, their names are not mentioned. Three of these staff live and work in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. One works with the refugee Working Team of the Anglican Church Diocese of Ottawa. This diocese by itself has more than eighty parishes within the Ottawa city and its region. Second is a University of Ottawa professor who also helps newly resettled, new immigrants, and refugees both in the university and in the Church. Third is the manager of refugee settlement services department in the CIC (Catholic Immigration Center) in Ottawa. This center is directly funded by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada. Many new immigrants and refugees are served there. Forth is the chairperson of the Darfur Association (non-profit Organization) which is based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The SAHs organizations have agreement with the citizenship and immigration Canada. They help the Citizenship and Immigration Canada with the settlement of the resettled or landed immigrants and refugee claimants or asylum seekers in Canada and also privately sponsoring some refugees from abroad sometimes. Currently, there are eighty-seven SAHs across Canada.

In fact the majority of the SAHs are faith based organizations. Some are ethno-cultural, community based, and nongovernmental organizations. They are partners with the Federal and provincial governments in the assistance of the settlement of the resettled or landed immigrants and the refugee claimants or asylum seekers in Canada. Three of the Different SAHs representatives were interviewed one on-one in Ottawa. One chairperson of Darfur Association in Winnipeg was interviewed on telephone. This association is not a SAH member, but does help often in privately sponsoring few refugees from abroad to Canada as well. Data collected from these staff is for verification of the problems immigrants face in Canada. In addition, I got much information about the private sponsorship system for refugee program in Canada as well.

Therefore apart from this, and with the exception of the Darfur community, three other representatives said, any sponsor to be must first be a well-known church or a certain community member before they accept to co-sign the application. Second the sponsors to be must have enough money to pay for the fees and prove that they are financially capable to sustain the family members or relatives of the sponsored person(s) when they come to Canada. If not, they are not qualified for private sponsorship at all.

This is also confirmed by some of the immigrants of the Sub-Saharan origin in Ottawa city. That is four of them responded to the survey questionnaire and said they have no other choice to sponsor their loved ones anymore, but they are not giving up. Furthermore, for more information about this, I interviewed 26 immigrants of Sub-Saharan origin in Ottawa plus 3 SAHs representatives and a community chairperson. 18 of the respondents were men and 12 women. Their age variation is 18 to 75 years old. 27 of them came to Canada as resettled refugees from abroad including one Community chairperson. 25 came under the government assisted sponsorship and 4 initially entered Canada as refugee claimants. By the time of the interview, 15 were Canadian citizens already and they got their citizenships after 3 to 7 years while living in Canada. 10 have been permanent residents for 2 to 7 years by the time of the interview and 1 was a protected person (asylum seeker). The other 3 are Canadian citizens whose parents or great grandparents originally came to Canada from other parts of the world. 20 of them were interviewed one on-one in their houses, units or offices, 10 were interviewed on telephone in the same way. Interviews were conducted from July to October 2014 and each interview lasted between 35 to 50 minutes.

27 interviewees originally came from 12 different Sub-Saharan African countries such as Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, DRC (the Democratic Republic of Congo),

Burundi, Rwanda, Angola, Nigeria, Senegal, and Ivory Coast. Out of these 27, 24 of them lived in refugee camps for 5 to 25 years before they came to Canada, 3 lived as refugees in urban cities of other countries. 25 of them including one community representative came to Canada directly from Sub-Saharan African countries, 1 came through Turkey and another one through India. All the 27 entered in Canada since 1994 to 2012. By the time of interview, they have been in Canada between 2 to 17 years since their arrival. 15 came to Canada with some of their families, 8 arrived without their families and 3 came with their relatives. By the time of interview, 15 were already married, 7 were singles, 1 divorced, 1 widow, and 1 separated. 6 got married after they came to Canada. See the appendices for more information.

Furthermore, at the time of the interview, 24 of the respondents have other family members and relatives still living in the refugee camps in the foreign countries in Africa. Also 20 of them have other family members and relatives still living in their countries of origin, 5 do not have and 1 is not applicable. 21 said it was not safe for their family members and relatives to continue living in their countries of origin and 4 respondents said it was safe, but there is not guarantee for how long it would last. All of them agreed saying that it is not safe for their families and relatives to continue living as refugees in those countries, also 20 of them have family members and relatives still living as refugees in the urban cities of foreign countries in Africa said it is not safe for their family member and relatives to continue living in those countries.

Additionally out of 26, only 4 were able to privately sponsor their family members or relatives since they came to Canada. Among these 4, first one was able to sponsor his wife on his own. His sponsorship period was 3 years. Second was helped by his religious group to sponsor his relative. Third was helped by the church to sponsor her sister and the family. Forth was

helped by an organization to sponsor his mother and the siblings. The sponsorship period of time for these three was 12 months. One was on the process of privately sponsoring her husband from Eritrea, she was not sure if would succeed. 6 tried to sponsor their family members or relatives, but they did not succeed. Reasons for their applications denial was lack of financial sufficiency. Although the remaining 16 have always been thinking of how to sponsor their family members or relatives, they did not try because they know their financial inability would result to the rejection of their applications. For more information see the appendices.

Except for 1, all 25 are worried about the safety and well being of their remaining family members and relatives still living in refugee camps and urban cities in Sub-Saharan Africa. They have the same concern with their family members and relatives still living in their countries of origins. Almost all of them said the reasons are the insecurity because of wars, persecution, and repression. Some added that, there is endless compulsory military conscription (as in cases of Sudan and Eritrea), violation of their basic human rights, bad living conditions in the refugee camps, uncertain future, potential conflicts or wars, political instability in almost all Sub-Saharan African countries is another factor. Further concern is lack of proper health care, proper education at all levels, sudden break out of epidemic diseases (such as Ebola, or HIV/AIDs). In addition, the threat of terrorism and Islamic extremists such as in Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Nigeria etc. All except for 2 emphasised that, it is not safe at all for their family members and relatives to continue living in refugee camps because of many insecurity reasons. For the same reason, they do not want them even to be locally integrated or voluntarily repatriated either because until now security and safety of all those people is not guaranteed in those countries.

Sincerely, all the interviewees are very grateful to the Canadian government in general. This is because by saving their lives and the lives of some of their family members and relatives

by allowing them to immigrate to Canada. In addition, and as I mentioned in other chapters, Canada has a very good reputation on the side of humanitarian help in general. Yet, many of the interviewees are also concerned about some changes in Canada's immigration policies which sometimes seems to be mixing politics with its humanitarian immigration. Many of them said that sometimes Canadian Immigration system seems to have less interest in resettling enough refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa. This phenomenon is mainly started since the beginning of the Iraq war in 2003 and Syrian civil war which started since 2011 as a result of Arabic Spring uprising says in BBC News²⁰⁴, Iraq profile – timeline and Syria profile – timeline²⁰⁵. These countries are both in the Middle East and their conflicts or wars also produced thousands of refugees like in Africa. Furthermore, Canada's immigration system is mostly interested in bring foreigners who have skills and not like Sub-Saharan African immigrants who are assume not to have proper work skills.

Additionally, Steven Chase argues that Canada's government does not abide with its Charter of Human Rights in a real humanitarian needs, but mainly to promote its political role in the international community²⁰⁶. In addition, changes like less permanent residents, but more temporary foreign workers and the introduction of the family Super Visa are affecting those who want to reunite with separated families and relatives. This means permanent resident and Canadian citizens are allowed “to bring parents and grandparents to Canada for a period of two

²⁰⁴ BBC News, Iraq profile – timeline. April 2, 2015. URL= <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14546763>

²⁰⁵ BBC News, Syria profile – timeline. March 24, 2015. URL= <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703856>

²⁰⁶ Steven Chase, *Ottawa to cherry pick most desirable economic immigrants for fast track access to Canada*, OTTAWA — The Globe and Mail news. Published Wednesday, Dec. 03 2014. Last updated Friday, Dec. 05 2014. URL= <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-to-allow-more-desirable-economic-immigrants-to-jump-the-queue/article21900381/>

years before they have to renew their visa”²⁰⁷ is not helpful to many Canadians. Other changes such as the Canadian Citizenship Exam, is also difficult to many immigrants. That is, since November 2012, in order to become a Canadian citizen, every applicant of 18 to 54 years old, must prove that she or he has “a Canadian Language Benchmark Level of 4.”²⁰⁸ This is affecting many refugees especially those who have never been to any formal schools and Sub-Saharan Africans are the majority among these groups. That is why it is taking many years for some of them to get their Canadian citizenship. Moreover, such changes in Canada’s immigration policy also indicate that they may have less interest in resettling immigrants from Sub-Saharan African under refugee class from abroad. In conclusion, below are some of the respondents’ recommendations to the Canadian Government to change its immigration policy and resolve at least some of the issues these immigrants of Sub-Saharan African origin face whenever they want to reunite with their separated family members and relatives who are still refugees in camps and urban cities in foreign countries.

Recommendations:

1. To meet its humanitarian obligations, Canada should extend the OYW (One Year Window of Opportunity) from one year to five years so that it can give enough time for the new arrivals who come from the war torn countries to search and find out the whereabouts of their once separated family members and relatives.

²⁰⁷ Bronwyn Bragg, *A Guide to Canada’s Changing Immigration Policy*.1st Edition, February 2013. Ethno-Cultural council of Calgary, Calgary, Canada. URL= http://www.ecccalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/Immigration_Policy_Guide_06-13.pdf

²⁰⁸ Bronwyn Bragg, *A Guide to Canada’s Changing Immigration Policy*.1st Edition, February 2013. Ethno-Cultural council of Calgary, Calgary, Canada. URL= http://www.ecccalgary.com/wp-content/uploads/Immigration_Policy_Guide_06-13.pdf

2. For the sake of its humanitarian immigration and to abide by its charter of Human Right at least for basic human rights, Canada should create loan and grant system for the qualified citizens and permanent residents who want to privately sponsor their family members or relatives who are still refugees in foreign countries without any durable solution.
3. Canada should include qualified dependents as part of the immediate family unit because for the Sub-Saharan Africans, the de facto dependents are the real family members as well. Also since these people are forced to leave their countries of origin, some lost their parents due to wars and conflicts. Therefore, these may be the only remaining family members and relatives left for them.
4. In many ways, these African conflicts and wars also killed many civilians and innocent people. That is why you will find some families or parents have only one son or a daughter remaining for them. Thus because of this Canada's immigration system supposed to change the definition of the dependent children from 19 years to at least 24 or 25 years old. In this way, many eligible dependent children will still come together with their parents or relatives or join them later on through family or private sponsorship.

In a nutshell, Canada should stick to its humanitarian immigration for the sake of the humanitarian needs. It does not mean that resettling one or two family members would solve the problem of the entire family members of those resettled immigrants whose other separated family members and relatives still living in refugee camps and urban dwellings of other foreign countries. They need their other family members and relatives who are still living in a very dire humanitarian situations to join them. In this way they can feel that they are equal productive

citizens of their new country and plan for their future in a very devoted, organized and energetic ways. Therefore in any of its immigration policy changes, Canada should consider the importance of the family reunification in all different ways and assist those who fall behind the annual income level to privately sponsor their loving ones.

Chapter 6: Conclusion

This thesis has shown the miserable pathway of Sub-Saharan African refugees as they attempt resettlement in a new country -- this case in Canada. It is a pathway which almost all of them started unwillingly. It shows how some deeply rooted historical man made issues create problems on the African continent and in Sub-Saharan Africa in particular. In this matter, even though the legacy of colonialism in Africa may not be the primary cause of these kind of African problems, it has at least contributed to some of the secondary causes of the problems in this part of Africa. It has created political instability during the period of decolonization, which has created so many wars and violent conflicts. The result and the consequences of such violence has cost millions of lives of innocent people, made so many millions of Africans' lives miserable and forced them to leave their countries of origins to look for safer and secure places elsewhere.

The solutions to these problems present very difficult challenges. While some people flee their countries and take refuge in the neighbour countries, they are forced to live in refugee camps which are under the protection of UNHCR and its partner non-governmental organizations. Yet life in refugee camps is a "take it or leave it" life without many choices. Therefore since these refugees have no other options to take than to continue living in refugee camps, they persevere with all kinds of humiliations, intimidations and suffering hoping that

there would either be peace in their home countries in the near future which may allow them to return back to their countries, or the UNHCR may find a better durable solution for them.

Even worse, apart from the bad living conditions in the refugee camps, the majority of these refugees also battle with post-traumatic stress and grief. They have been separated from some of their family members, relatives, community and even fellow country men or women. In many situations they do not even know whether their separated family members are still alive and living in their country of origin, fled and crossed the border in a different direction or they are dead. On top of that they are still worried if those camps will continue to be safe and secure for long time. Concerns range from getting sufficient food to sustaining a roof over their heads. Basic supplies which are taken for granted elsewhere -- good quality food, meat, sugar, bathing and washing soaps, and clothes – are not provided by the UNHCR. Therefore, the need for such necessary items urge the refugees to look for other sources of income as mentioned in chapter two. In this way, they also jeopardise and risk their lives to go and search for sources to buy such food items. That is where some of them get abused or sexually assaulted. Other intimidating situations they face are like doing some kind of jobs that they have never done because they were considered to be against their cultures and traditions.

There is then a rude awakening from the idea that this kind of hardship is going to end soon when the peace and stability comes, and to their surprise they find themselves being living there for years on without peace or UNHCR durable solution. This is also another incident which prevent many refugee separated family members and relatives from being able to see each other anymore when one member dies. In most cases this may be considered nature's way which can happen to many other people anywhere as well, but realistically, it is more painful when it happens to somebody's relative or family member in the refugee camps. This means if there was

a better health care system in place, those kind of diseases could have been cured or eradicated easily especially with this current medical advancement. Therefore, losing a family member or relative for good is very sorrowful, but to some degree it is more painful and sorrowful when this happens to someone in the absence of some of her or his beloved ones as it happened to many of these refugees in this part of Africa.

Furthermore, after having their basic human rights being violated in their countries of origin and sometime in the refugee host countries, they continue looking forward seeing their separated family members one day or get a UNHCR's durable solution, but this does not happen to many refugees in this part of Africa. That is why up to now there are many protracted refugees living in camps in those countries. Luckily some few among them get the UNHCR durable solution which is resettlement to a third country as it happened to many of the respondents I interviewed.

In my research I have shown that many of the respondents thought coming to Canada might have been a good opportunity for them to start a better and new life and also a chance to be reunited with their separated family members and relatives. This is because Canada is an advanced country and has better means of communication and might provide a way to search and relocate the whereabouts of their once separated family members and relatives. Yet once in Canada, they found themselves struggling for their lives. First many of them face the problem of communication because they do not know neither English nor French which are the official languages of this country. Some few among them who know one of the two languages, but the majority do not.

They then face the problem of the lack of the Canadian work experience. In general, this is a requirement to have when you are applying for a job including the minimal paying jobs in many Canadian cities and especially Ottawa city. Yet, they continue struggling with some language learning and sometimes getting lesser minimal paying jobs in order to get Canadian work experience. Apart from this, since the majority of these Sub-Saharan African new immigrants came to Canada with no profession and no other technical work skills, they have to get these kind of the minimal paying jobs even after they get Canadian work experience. In reality many live in a very desperate situations because doing minimal paying jobs do not help them achieve what they were longing for such as a better life and free from worries. Instead they are more worried about how to pay bills at the end of the month and provide food and other necessities for their families or themselves here. In addition they are worried about those whom they not know their whereabouts or protracted in the refugee camps or in the cities and need their help.

More shockingly the dream of better living condition and future plans to reunite with their family members or relatives is not happening as they were expecting. Instead it has become a nightmare to the majority of these new immigrants. That is, they found themselves living in the society where by the lifestyle is very demanding and it is all about to have more money to live better. Yet it is not possible to live a better life when you do menial jobs because of this they can hardly cover their monthly bills and therefore they found themselves falling behind very thing. That is, they are worried about the safety and security of their family members and relatives who are still suffering in the refugee camps, but they cannot afford to sponsor them on their own. In addition, up to now Canadian immigration system cannot help them to privately sponsor their family members and relatives to join them in Canada because of its immigration rules and

regulations. In rare cases, the government assist only a few Canadians and permanent residents who qualified to have their family members or relatives sponsor by the government. In this way, they are in a situation as if there is no rights for them and for their separated family members and relatives to live a peaceful, secure and better life. However, the government cannot support them to sponsor their family either.

In a nut shell, it is apparent that these Sub-Saharan African immigrants found themselves living in a limbo. They were forced to leave their countries of origin due to the atrocities committed against them by the authorities of their countries. Then for the sake of their own and their children's safety and security, they had no other options than to live as refugees in foreign countries. Yet on their pathway looking for real and secure place to settle and live, they had to endure a lot of suffering even in countries which they thought were like dream lands. Granted resettlement to a third country, and in this case to Canada they thought that they came to a safe and secure place and it is the right place to start a new life, yet it turned out to be completely the opposite.

Today many of them cannot afford to bring their separated family members or relatives through the private sponsorship because of either their annual income is very low or they do not have permanent steady jobs which can make them earn enough money to qualify to privately sponsor their loving ones. They also cannot return. Canada's immigration system has no plans to either help them privately sponsor nor assist them to reunite with their separated family members and relatives through government assistance sponsorship. Furthermore, they could not get the SAHs (Sponsorship Agreement Holders) to support them in this kind of sponsorship because generally, SAHs apart from being faith based, religious, ethno-cultural, or humanitarian organizations, they too support only a few applicants every year and these too must either have

enough money to qualify or steady jobs to show that they have enough and guaranteed income as well otherwise they are not qualified to be supported by them either.

Many refugees appear to be living a liminal life in which there are few rights. These immigrants have found themselves in the situation of the violation of their rights and freedoms even if the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms talks of equality. Not only this, when we consider that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person as it is stated in the article 3, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, then these Canadian Africans chose the right of life, liberty and security for both themselves and for their separated family members and relative, but it is not granted to them in anyway. Therefore, when rules, regulations, and laws are set for the purpose of administration, but in reality they are more politically correct than practically possible, it creates injustice within the Canadian immigration system in terms of private sponsorship for refugee's family members and relatives with whom they got separated.

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Interviews

Mr. G. X., Interview, Wednesday July 16, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Abdillah F., Interview, Saturday July 26, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. Abdi H., Interview, Thursday July 31, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. Salma X., Interview, Friday September 5, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Salaamu X., Interview, Saturday September 20, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mrs. Nahimana M., Interview, Thursday October 2, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Mr. Luk R., Interview Thursday October 9, 2014, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Appendices

Master of Arts in International Studies (MAIS) Program
College of Arts and Sciences
University of San Francisco, KA 332
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www.usfca.edu/mais

Consent

Step One

Script for Verbal Consent

I am a student completing a master's degree in International Studies, in the college of Arts and Sciences at the University of San Francisco in the United States. I am here to conduct research that will look at the effects of the Canada's Citizenship and Immigration and Refugee Board's policies on the Private Sponsorship program. I will be looking at the effects of such policies on Sub-Saharan African Canadians and permanent residents of Canada in the City of Ottawa.

Before we begin, I would like to take a minute to explain why I am inviting you to participate and what I will be doing with the information you provide to me. Please stop me at any time if you have any questions. After I have told you a bit more about my research program, you can decide whether or not you would like to participate.

I am doing this thesis research as part of my master's degree program in International Studies at the University of San Francisco. I will be interviewing about 20 Canadians and permanent residents of Canada who are originally from Sub-Sahara Africa. The aim of my research is to explore and investigate the challenges and possibilities for Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor privately their family members to come to Canada. I also want to analyze what the effects might be for family members of these Canadians and permanent residents in the Sub-Saharan Africa if they are not sponsored privately to join the other family members in Canada. I will be using this information for research connected to my master's thesis. I may also use this information for an article that might be published.

Participation may take about one to one hour and a half or as long as you can spare. Participation is on a purely voluntary basis. During this time, before I ask you any question, I will let you know that, all the questions I am going to ask you are related to Canada's private sponsorship program for refugees and the experience of refugees after they got resettled to a third country. The types of questions I will be asking may need a short answer or a longer one, which I will explain. They will relate to your life experience and may be helpful to think about your position within the community.

There may be no risk participating in this research. The only risk of you being part in this research is that someone could find out what you said to me. And to avoid this risk I will not share what you tell me with anyone else, except with the authorized persons such as my thesis advisor and the University of San Francisco. And these authorized personnel, are obliged by law to keep it as confidential as I do. On my side, I am going to keep all the data safely locked away. As I mentioned to you earlier, your real name will not appear in the final data unless you want your exact name to appear. If you do, you should let me know. Apart from authorized persons, no one will have access to your information. Your name or any other identifying information will not be used when I talk to other people about this research. I hope that you will find it interesting and helpful to talking about your refugee life experiences and now living in Canada as either a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

If at any time or for any reason, you would prefer not to answer any question(s), please feel free not to. If at any time you would like to stop participating, please tell me. We can take a break, stop and continue at a later date, or stop altogether. You will not be penalized in any way for deciding to stop participation.

If you allow me, I would like to voice record this interview so as to make sure that I remember accurately all the information you provide. I will save it in either a CD or flash drive and keep it locked away. It will only be used by me or an authorized university professor. If you have questions, feel free to ask them now. If you have questions later, you may contact me at:

Yohannes Sawassi
2832 N Cedarwood Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 7R1
Contact cell phone: (613) 709-5521
E-mail address: saage11@yahoo.ca or yksawassi@dons.usfca.edu

If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this research, you can contact the following office at the University of San Francisco:

IRBPHS
University of San Francisco
Department of Counseling Psychology
2130 Fulton Street
San Francisco, CA 94117-1071, United States
Phone: (415) 422-6091
Fax: (415) 422-5528
Email: irbphs@usfca.edu

Are you interested in participating in this research?

Consent to Record Interview

Question should be posed at the start of the recording. And the answers should be according to the question(s) (that is, yes, no, or brief explanation).
May I record this interview?

Consent to Quote from Interview

I may wish to quote some points from this interview to explain or justify the argument when I am writing my thesis paper. And the thesis paper may later be published in a form of a book, or an article. Do you agree to allow me to quote from this interview?

Consent to Use Name

There are a number of reasons for which you may prefer that your true name be used in a book or an article related to this research. Would you like your name to be used in any oral or written documents resulting from this research?

Step Two

Interview and Questionnaire Questions

Please answer the following questions as clearly as you can. Please ask for clarification during the interview if you need it. When you are filling out questionnaires, ask for help if you have any difficulty understanding these questions. If possible, you can ask your family member or community member(s), a friend(s), or an acquaintance(s) to explain the meaning of the questions. And if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate, to call me using the contact number or email provided on this questionnaire. And if a question does not apply to you, answer it by writing **N/A** or not applicable. Then proceed to the next question(s).

Answer these questions with yes, no, or explain briefly:

#	Section One I am trying to get this information which may be helpful for some Canadians, permanent residents of Canada, or refugee claimants who are originally from Sub-Saharan Africa. In this case, please allow me to ask you some questions.
1	
a.	If you do not mind, feel free to mention your name.
b.	How old are you? 48

c. And where were you living before you came to Canada?	
I was living in the Republic of India prior to coming to Canada	
2	
a. <i>For all Canadians and permanent residents of Canada who were not born in Canada, have a specific date in which they entered in Canada. When did you come to Canada?</i>	
b. How did you come to Canada?	
I came to Canada as landed immigrant refugee through RAP program ie I landed as a refugee and became landed immigrant/ Permanent Resident at the port of entry.	
c. And what is your country of origin?	
3	
a. <i>Some people came to Canada through the help of Canadian government and others were privately sponsored by their family members or relatives to come to Canada. Did you come to Canada through the help of the government of Canada?</i>	
b. If not, were you sponsored by your family member(s) or other group(s)?	
c. Or did you come to Canada on your own?	
4	<i>If you came to Canada as a convention resettled refugee or a landed immigrant. Did you come under government sponsorship or private</i>

	sponsorship?
5	<i>When you come to Canada through government or private sponsorship, there is limited period of that sponsorship. If you came to Canada through government sponsorship, how long was or is your sponsorship period of time?</i>
6	If you came to Canada through private sponsorship, how long was or is your sponsorship period of time?
7	<i>And as I mentioned earlier, some people come and apply for refugee status in Canada. If you are a refugee claimant, did you come to Canada directly from your country of origin or through another country(s)?</i>
8	<i>Some people come to Canada for different reasons. If you are not a resettled immigrant, or a refugee claimant, how and why did you come to Canada?</i>
#	<u>Section Two</u> The information needed in this section is about the sponsorship and the sponsor(s)

9	<i>Canada's immigration system allows Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor their family member(s) or relative(s) to come and join them in Canada</i>
	a. If you came to Canada through one of the private sponsoring groups, who sponsored you?
	b. Was or is your sponsor an individual (a family member), group of five people, community, SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holders), or Church (or religious community)?
	c. Please specify if your sponsor(s) was or is other than the above mentioned and how long was or is your sponsorship period of time?
10	
	a. <i>Both the sponsor(s) and the sponsored person(s) must abide with some conditions.</i> Please mention, what were or are the conditions of your sponsorship?
	b. <i>If you were sponsored until your sponsorship period came to an end.</i> Please mention how did the sponsor(s) help you?

c. <i>If you were sponsored, and your sponsorship is still effective, how are or how is the sponsor(s) helping you?</i>	
#	Section Three In this section, the information needed is about your family member(s) or relative(s).
11	Many people come to Canada with their family or relative(s); some are separated from their family member(s) because of one reason or another.
a. Do you have a family or any family member(s) with you here?	
b. If no, proceed to a second question.	
c. If yes, did you come to Canada together with your family member(s) or made family after you came to Canada?	
12	This question is about your family and family members and relatives.
a. <i>If you have family member(s) or relative(s). How many family member(s) have you got?</i>	
b. Are they or is she/he living with you currently?	

13 If one of your family member(s) came to Canada together with you, but they do or she/he does not live with you currently, where do they or does he/she live currently?

14

a) If your family member(s) or relative(s) are not or does not live in Canada currently, where do they or does she/he live?

a) If your family member(s) did not come to Canada together with you, where are they or she/he is living now?

#	<p><u>Section Four</u></p> <p>This section is about your status in Canada</p>
15	
	<p>a. <i>Everyone who lives in Canada must be one of these: a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, refugee claimant, visitor, Student, diplomat, migrant worker, and so on.</i> What is your status in Canada?</p>
	<p>b. <i>If you are not born in Canada, after how long did you get your Canadian citizenship? Or for how long have you been as a permanent resident of Canada?</i></p>
	<p>c. <i>If you are a permanent resident of Canada, have you applied for the Canadian citizenship?</i></p>
	<p>d. <i>When did you apply for the citizenship?</i></p>
	<p>e. <i>If not, why didn't or don't you apply for the citizenship?</i></p>
16	<p>a. <i>Some people come to Canada and after that apply for refugee status.</i> If you are a refugee claimant in Canada, did you apply for an asylum?</p>

b. If yes, when did you submit your application?	
c. If not, why didn't you apply for an asylum?	
#	Section Five The information needed in this section is about the sponsor(s).
17	
a. <i>If eligible, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada are qualified to sponsor their family member(s) or relative(s). Since you came to Canada, have you sponsored any of your family member(s) or relative(s) to come to Canada?</i>	
b. If not, proceed to the next question(s)	
c. If yes, when was that?	
d. And how did you sponsor your family member(s) or relative(s) to come to Canada?	

a. <i>Many people have their family member(s) or relative(s) who do not live with them in Canada.</i> Do you have any family member(s) or relative(s) who are or is not living with you in Canada currently?
b. If no, proceed to the next question(s)
c. If yes, are or is your family member(s) or relative(s) still living in your country of origin?
d. If yes, do you think it is safe for your family member(s) or relatives(s) to continue living in your country of origin?
e. If yes, proceed to the next question(s)
f. If it is not safe for her/him or them to continue living there, explain briefly why it is not safe?

20	
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a. *If your family member(s) or relative(s) are not or is not living in your country of origin. Where do they or does she/he live currently?*

b. Is that the only foreign country your family member(s) or relative(s) have been or has been living in?

c. For how long have they been or has she/he been living in those/that country(s)?

d. Is it safe for your family member(s) or relative(s) to live in that country?	
e. If the same is happening to your family member(s) or relative(s) are you worried about their safety?	
f. If you also feel in that way, please mention briefly, how do you plan to help them or her/him?	
#	<p><u>Section Seven</u></p> <p>This section is about comments. Your comments will be very helpful in finding solutions to problems facing some Sub-Saharan African Canadians and permanent residents of Canada. It may be helpful in helping them to privately sponsor their family members or relatives to come and reunite with them in Canada. Please give your brief comments about the following:</p>
1	If you succeeded in sponsoring your family member(s) or relative(s)

2	If you tried to sponsor your family member(s) or relative(s), but you did not succeed
3	If you thought of sponsoring your family member(s) or relative(s), but you never tried
4	If you do not think about sponsoring your family member(s) or relative(s) to come to Canada?

5	Give comments of your opinion about private sponsorship
#	<p><u>Section Eight</u></p> <p>This section is about your own suggestions which are also as important as your comments. Please write your own suggestions about what can Canada's private sponsorship for refugees program and Citizenship and Immigration do to solve problems facing some of the Sub-Saharan African Canadians or permanent residents of Canada in privately sponsoring their family member(s) or relatives</p>
1	<hr/> <hr/>
2	<hr/> <hr/>
3	<hr/> <hr/>
4	<hr/> <hr/>

5	

Interview Questions for Staff and Representatives

The following were the interview questions for some agency or centre staff, church or organization staff, association representative (s), community representative (s), or group representative (s).

I would like to ask you some questions concerning the role of your Agency, centre, church, organization, association, community, or group in the new immigrants and refugee assistance in Ottawa city, Canada:

1. Do you help both new immigrants and refugees?
2. If yes, how do you help them?
3. Do you help landed immigrants who are privately sponsored or you help the ones sponsored by the government of Canada only?
4. Do you help some immigrants to privately sponsor their family members or close relatives?
5. If yes, under what conditions do you help them?
6. Do you help immigrants who are coming to Canada from different parts of the world or you have some specific regions?
7. How do you advocate on behalf of the new immigrants and the refugees?

8. Some immigrants tell me that, they have family members and relatives in the refugee camps and they have the intention of sponsoring them privately to come to Canada, but they can't because of the difficult rules and regulations of the private sponsorship program in Canada. *In this case, what do you think?*
9. Other immigrants tell me that, the issue of 'Super Visa' is a kind of discrimination in the name of immigration through private sponsorship. *What do you think and do you have any kind of help for such immigrants?*
10. Some immigrants also say, they face a sort of economic discrimination here in Canada. That is, they neither have better skills nor good education to qualify them to get better paying jobs. Then if any of them decides to go to school to obtain some skills, the government does not help them to privately sponsor their family members or relatives either. *What do you think and do you have any kind of help for such immigrants?*
11. Some immigrants originally from Sub Saharan Africa say that, the Canadian government sometimes ignores the issues of the protracted refugees in the refugee camps in Africa. Instead, the govern tries to help only the refugees whose crisis started recently. For example, the new situations such as the Syrian refugees in these days. *What do you think and how do you assist such African immigrants when they ask for help from you?*

Do have any suggestions for me?

Thank you for your time.

Interview Result Tables

The following 12 tables show the complete result of the interviews conducted from July to October 2014 in Ottawa city, Ontario, Canada. They contained the interview and survey questionnaire answers. Notice, due to the confidentiality all respondents names given are pseudo names.

Table 1:

#	Respondent	Sex	Research Method	Place of Research	Day	Date	Time
1	AA. Adam	M	Questionnaire	from his place	Monday	Sept. 29, 2014	Unknown
2	Abdalla S.	M	One on-one interview	in his apartment	Monday	Oct. 6, 2014	11:35 am to 12:15 pm
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	Questionnaire	Ottawa South Ontario, Canada	Received on Friday	Aug. 29, 2014	unknown
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	One on-one interview	in his unit	Tuesday	Sept. 16, 2014	08:15 to 08:58 pm
5	Abdi H.	F	One on-one interview	in her unit	Thursday	July 31, 2014	01:00 to 01:43 pm
6	Abdillah F.	F	One on-one interview	in her house	Saturday	July 26, 2014	06:37 to 06:24 pm
7	Abdulahi A.	M	Questionnaire	from his place	Received on Tuesday	Sept. 30, 2014	Unknown
8	Abraham X.	M	One on-one interview	Public Library, Carling Wood (Ottawa West)	Sunday	Oct. 10, 2014	11:00 to 11:39 am
9	Eboru A.	F	One on-one interview	Adult High School	Wednesday	Sept. 17, 2014	11:15 to 11:54 am
10	Gasana P.	F	One on-one interview	in her unit	Friday	Oct. 3, 2014	07:00 to 07:45 pm
11	Ibrahim S.	M	telephone interview	from his place	Saturday	Sept. 13, 2014	09:00 to 09:44 pm
12	Jibril X.	M	One on-one interview	Billings Bridge (Ottawa South)	Saturday	Aug. 30, 2014	100:00 to 11:46 am
13	Koffi Y.	M	One on-one interview	Adult High School	Thursday	Sept. 4, 2014	01:00 to 01:45 pm
14	Lubosha A.	M	One on-one interview	Adult High School	Wednesday	Oct. 1, 2014	11:25 am to 12:04 pm
15	Luk R.	M	telephone interview	from his place	Thursday	Oct. 9, 2014	06:00 to 06:38 pm

16	Marcko J.	F	telephone interview	from her place	Saturday	Aug. 23, 2014	08:07 to 08:49 pm
17	Megeri T.	M	Questionnaire	Ottawa East	Received on Friday	Sept. 19, 2014	Unknown
18	Mohamed P.	F	One on-one interview	in her unit	Thursday	Sept. 18, 2014	11:00 to 11:45 am
19	Mohamed S.	M	One on-one interview	at Tim Horton, (Ottawa West)	Wednesday	Oct. 8, 2014	09:00 to 09:42 am
20	Nahimana M.	F	One on-one interview	in her apartment	Thursday	Oct. 2, 2014	04:00 to 04:43 pm
21	Nganga C.	M	telephone interview	from his place	Sunday	Oct. 5, 2014	12:00 to 12: 37 pm
22	Saaba M.	F	telephone interview	from her place	Friday	Aug. 22, 2014	08:05 to 08:45 pm
23	Salaamu X.	M	telephone interview	from his home	Saturday	Sept. 20, 2014	07:00 to 07:41 pm
24	Salma X.	F	telephone interview	from her place	Friday	Sept. 5, 2014	05:00 to 05:42 pm
25	Yanga L.	F	telephone interview	from her place	Wednesday	Oct. 8, 2014	07:15 to 07:56 pm
26	Zambina J.	M	One on-one interview	Rideau Center, Downtown Ottawa	Saturday	Aug. 16, 2014	08:05 to 08:46 pm

Table 1: shows respondent's name, sex, research method, place of research, day, date, and time.

Table 2:

#	Respondent's Name	Sex	Age: 18-30, 31-48, & 51-75	Her/his Country of Origin	Arrived Canada in	Came to Canada Via	Immigrated to Canada as a
1	AA. Adam	M	31-48 years old	Sudan	2001	India	Landed/resettled immigrant
2	Abdalla S.	M	31-48 years old	Sudan	1998	Egypt	Landed/resettled immigrant
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	18-30 years old	Sudan	2008	Ghana	Landed/resettled immigrant
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	31-48 years old	Sudan	2008	Eritrea	Landed/resettled immigrant
5	Abdi H.	F	31-48 years old	Somalia	2004	Egypt	Landed/resettled immigrant
6	Abdillah F.	F	51-75 years old	Somalia	1999	Kenya	Landed/resettled immigrant
7	Abdulahi A.	M	31-48 years old	Somalia	2012	Turkey	Landed/resettled immigrant
8	Abraham X.	M	18-30 years old	Eritrea	2011	Libya	Landed/resettled immigrant

9	Eboru A.	F	31-48 years old	Nigeria	2012	Direct from Nigeria	Refugee Claimant (asylum seeker)
10	Gasana P.	F	31-48 years old	Rwanda	1995	Direct from Rwanda	Refugee Claimant (asylum seeker)
11	Ibrahim S.	M	31-48 years old	Sudan	2006	Egypt	Landed/resettled immigrant
12	Jibril X.	M	31-48 years old	Somalia	2012	Kenya	Landed/resettled immigrant
13	Koffi Y.	M	31-48 years old	Ivory Coast	2012	Direct from Ivory Coast	Permanent resident
14	Lubosha A.	M	18-30 years old	Congo (DRC)	2010	Uganda	Landed/resettled immigrant
15	Luk R.	M	31-48 years old	South Sudan	2003	Ethiopia	Landed/resettled immigrant
16	Marcko J.	F	31-48 years old	Congo (DRC)	2005	Uganda	Landed/resettled immigrant
17	Megeri T.	M	31-48 years old	Ethiopia	2007	Kenya	Landed/resettled immigrant
18	Mohamed P.	F	31-48 years old	Ethiopia	2008	Direct from 19Ethiopia	Landed/resettled immigrant
19	Mohamed S.	M	31-48 years old	Eritrea	2007	19Sudan	Landed/resettled immigrant
20	Nahimana M.	F	51-65 years old	Burundi	2010	United States	Refugee Claimant (asylum seeker)
21	Nganga C.	M	18-30 years old	Congo (DRC)	2003	Tanzania	Landed/resettled immigrant
22	Saaba M.	F	18-30 years old	Eritrea	2007	Sudan	Landed/resettled immigrant
23	Salaamu X.	M	31-48 years old	Senegal	2003	United States	Student
24	Salma X.	F	31-48 years old	Sudan	2006	Direct from Sudan	Permanent resident
25	Yanga L.	F	18-30 years old	South Sudan	2004	Egypt	Landed/resettled immigrant
26	Zambina J.	M	31-48 years old	Angola	1998	Zambia	Landed/resettled immigrant

Table 2: shows respondent's name, sex, age, country of origin, arrival date in Canada, host or refuge country before, and her or his status on the day of arrival in Canada.

Table 3:

#	Respondent	Sex	Was/is Sponsored by	Duration of Sponsorship	Current Status in Canada	Got Canadian Citizenship After	Has Been Permanent Resident of Canada for
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1	AA. Adam	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	3 years	3 - 4 years
2	Abdalla S.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	4 years	3 years & 11 months
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years & 11 months
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	5 years
5	Abdi H.	F	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	4 years	3 years & 11 months
6	Abdillah F.	F	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years & 11 months
7	Abdulahi A.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	2 years & 10 months
8	Abraham X.	M	Private Sponsorship	3 years	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	3 years & 10 months
9	Eboru A.	F	N/A	N/A	Not yet	N/A	Not yet
1	Gasana P.	F	N/A	N/A	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years
11	Ibrahim S.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years & 11 months
12	Jibril X.	M	Private Sponsorship	12 months	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	2 years & 10 months
13	Koffi Y.	M	Private Sponsorship	3 years	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	2 years & 10 months
14	Lubosha A.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	2 years & 10 months
15	Luk R.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	4 years	3 years & 11 months
16	Marcko J.	F	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	4 years	3 years & 11 months
17	Megeri T.	M	Private Sponsorship	3 years	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years
18	Mohamed P.	F	Government of Canada	12 months	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	6 years & 11 months
19	Mohamed S.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years & 11 months
20	Nahimana M.	F	N/A	N/A	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	3 months

21	Nganga C.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	7 years	6 years & 11 months
22	Saaba M.	F	Government of Canada	12 months	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	7 years
23	Salaamu X.	M	N/A	N/A	Permanent resident of Canadian	Not yet	5 years
24	Salma X.	F	Private Sponsorship	3 years	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years
25	Yanga L.	F	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	4 years	3 years & 11 months
26	Zambina J.	M	Government of Canada	12 months	Canadian citizen	5 years	4 years & 11 months

Table 3: shows respondent's name, sex, type and duration of sponsorship in Canada, his or her status in Canada and when she or he became Canadian citizen, and if not, for how long has she or he been a permanent resident of Canada.

Table 4:

#	Respondent	Sex	Came to Canada with her/his family	Came to Canada with her/his relative(s)	She/he got married after coming to Canada	Current marital status	Number of family living together currently
1	AA. Adam	M	His wife	No	N/A	Married	4
2	Abdalla S.	M	No, wife came later	No	Yes	Married	Not yet
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	No	No	No	Single	N/A
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	yes	No	No	Separated	4
5	Abdi H.	F	Yes	No	No	Married	7
6	Abdillah F.	F	Yes	No	No	Widow	6
7	Abdulahi A.	M	No	No	N/A	Single	N/A
8	Abraham X.	M	No	No	No	Single	N/A
9	Eboru A.	F	Yes	No	No	Single	3
10	Gasana P.	F	No, husband came later	No	No	Married	2
11	Ibrahim S.	M	Yes	No	No	Married	7
12	Jibril X.	M	No	No	N/A	Single	N/A
13	Koffi Y.	M	No, wife came first	No	N/A	Married	5

14	Lubosha A.	M	No	Yes	N/A	Single	4
15	Luk R.	M	Yes	Yes	N/A	Married	7
16	Marcko J	F	Yes	No	No	Married	8
17	Megeri T.	M	No, wife came later	No	Yes	Single	3
18	Mohamed P.	F	Yes	No	No	Separated	
19	Mohamed S.	M	yes	No	No	Married	6
20	Nahimana M.	F	No, husband came first	No	No	Married	4
21	Nganga C.	M	No, wife came later	No	N/A	Married	7
22	Saaba M.	F	Yes	No	Yes	Married	1
23	Salaamu X.	M	No	No	yes	Married	5
24	Salma X.	F	No, husband came first	No	No	Married	7
25	Yanga L.	F	No	Yes	Yes	Married	5
26	Zambina J	M	No	No	Yes	divorced	3

Table 4: shows respondent's name, sex, whether she or her came to Canada together with his or her family or relatives, or got married after coming to Canada, his or her current marital status, and the number of family members living together at the time of the interview.

Table 5:

#	Respondent	Sex	Has family member(s) or relative(s) still living in her/his country of origin	Has family member(s) or relative(s) still living in refugee camp(s) & in other country(ies)	For how long have they /has or she/he been living there?
1	AA. Adam	M	Yes	Yes	5 - 6 years & for some since 2003
2	Abdalla S.	M	Yes	Yes	32, 12, & 9 years
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	Yes	Yes	10 -11 years
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	Yes	No	10 -11 years
5	Abdi H.	F	No	Yes	15, 13, & 10 years
6	Abdillah F.	F	No	Yes	19, 15, 13, 10, 7, 5 & years

7	Abdulahi A.	M	No	Yes	More than 13 years
8	Abraham X.	M	Yes	Yes	10 years
9	Eboru A.	F	Yes	No	N/A
10	Gasana P.	F	Yes	Yes	Since 1959, 1973, & 1994
11	Ibrahim S.	M	Yes	Yes	10 -11 years
12	Jibril X.	M	Yes	No	N/A
13	Koffi Y.	M	Yes	No	N/A
14	Lubosha A.	M	Yes	Yes	14, 9, & 8 years
15	Luk R.	M	Yes	Yes	25 years
16	Marcko J.	F	Yes	Yes	15, 14, 11, & 5 years
17	Megeri T.	M	Yes	Yes	18 to 11 years
18	Mohamed P.	F	Yes	Yes	17, 15, 10 & 8 years
19	Mohamed S.	M	Yes	Yes	30, 20, 15, 10, & 5 years
20	Nahimana M.	F	Yes	Yes	Since 1973
21	Nganga C.	M	Yes	Yes	Over 15 years
22	Saaba M.	F	Yes	Yes	44 -45 years
23	Salaamu X.	M	Yes	Yes	30, 15, 10, 8, & 5 years
24	Salma X.	F	Yes	Yes	10 -11 years
25	Yanga L.	F	Yes	Yes	8 years
26	Zambina J.	M	Yes	Yes	More than 20 years

Table 5: shows respondent's name, sex, whether she or she has some family members or relatives still living in their country of origin. Also if she or he has some family members or relatives still living in in the refugee camps in the foreign countries and if so, for how long they have been living there.

Table 6:

#	Respondent	Sex	Has family member(s) or relative(s) still living as refugee(s) in other country(ies)	For how long have they /has or she/he been living there?	Has other family member(s)/relative(s) still living in other countries
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1	Abdelkarim A.	M	Yes	unknown	No
2	Abraham X.	M	Yes	unknown	yes
3	Luk R.	M	Yes	unknown	no
4	Nganga C.	M	Yes	Over 15 years	yes
5	Abdalla S.	M	Yes	32, 12, & 9 years	yes
6	Mohamed S.	M	Yes	30, 20, 15, 10, & 5 years	yes
7	Salaamu X.	M	no	N/A	Yes
8	Abdelrahman A.	M	Yes	10 -11 years	no
9	Nahimana M.	F	Yes	Since 1973	yes
10	Gasana P.	F	Yes	Since 1959, 1973, & 1994	yes
11	Mohamed P.	F	Yes	17, 15, 10 & 8 years	no
12	Megeri T.	M	Yes	18 to 11 years	yes
13	Yanga L.	F	Yes	8 years	yes
14	Salma X.	F	Yes	10 -11 years	yes
15	Eboru A.	F	Yes	No	N/A
16	Abdillah F.	F	No	19, 15, 13, 10, 7, 5 & years	yes
17	Abdi H.	F	No	13 &10 years	yes
18	Marcko J.	F	Yes	15, 14, 11, & 5 years	yes
19	Zambina J.	M	Yes	More than 20 years	yes
20	Lubosha A.	M	Yes	14, 9, & 8 years	yes
21	Ibrahim S.	M	Yes	10 -11 years	no
22	Abdulahi A.	M	No	More than 13 years	yes
23	Jibril X.	M	Yes	No	yes

24	Koffi Y.	M	Yes	No	yes
25	Saaba M.	F	Yes	44 -45 years	Yes
26	AA. Adam	M	Yes	5 - 6 years & for some since 2003	Yes

Table 6: shows respondent's name, sex, whether she or he has some family members or relatives still living as refugees in urban cities of other foreign countries and if so, for how long they have been living there. Also if she or he has other non-refugee family members or relatives living in other foreign countries rather than their country of origin.

Table 7:

#	Respondent	Sex	Is it safe for her/his family member(s) or relative(s) to continue living in their country of origin?	Reasons of Lack of Safety	Is it safe for her/his family member(s) or relative(s) to continue living in the refugee camp(s)?	Reasons of Lack of Safety
1	AA. Adam	M	No	Insecurity, unknown future, very bad living conditions	Not at all	War & insecurity
2	Abdalla S.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
5	Abdi H.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
6	Abdillah F.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
7	Abdulahi A.	M	N/A	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
8	Abraham X.	M	No	Compulsory conscription, endless national ,military service & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
9	Eboru A.	F	Yes, may be for some people	Insecurity in so many ways & Ebola now	N/A	N/A
10	Gasana P.	F	Yes, may be for now	War may broke out at any time	Not at all	War & insecurity
11	Ibrahim S.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
12	Jibril X.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
13	Koffi Y.	M	No	War, insecurity, & Ebola now	N/A	N/A
14	Lubosha A.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
15	Luk R.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	Uncertainty in their future, & insecurity

16	Marcko J.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
17	Megeri T.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
18	Mohamed P.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
19	Mohamed S.	M	No	Compulsory conscription, endless national ,military service & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
20	Nahimana M.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
21	Nganga C.	M	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	Uncertainty in their future, & insecurity
22	Saaba M.	F	I do not think so	Compulsory conscription, endless national ,military service & insecurity	I am not sure	Insecurity issues in many ways
23	Salaamu X.	M	May be yes	Security is not guaranteed	N/A	N/A
24	Salma X.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
25	Yanga L.	F	No	War & insecurity	Not at all	War & insecurity
26	Zambina J.	M	Yes, may be for now	There is insecurity in many ways	Not at all	War & insecurity

Table 7: shows respondent's name, sex, whether it is safe for her or his family members or relatives to continue living in their country of origin. If not, what are the reasons of unsafety and is it also the same with the family members or relatives who are still living in the refugee camps.

Table 8:

#	Respondent	Sex	Was/is she/he able to sponsor her/his family member(s) or relative(s)?	If yes, how did she/he sponsor the family member(s) or relative(s)?	Year	Her/his relationship to the sponsored person(s)	Time duration of sponsorship	Conditions of sponsorship
1	A.A. Adam	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Abdalla S.	M	Yes	On his own	2010	Wife	3 years	Full responsibility
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Abdi H.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
6	Abdillah F.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Abdulahi A.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

8	Abraham X.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
9	Eboru A.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Gasana P.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	Ibrahim S.	M	yes	An organization	2009	My mother & siblings	1 year	Full responsibility
12	Jibril X.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
13	Koffi Y.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	Lubosha A.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15	Luk R.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16	Marcko J.	F	Yes	Our church	2007	My sister and her family	1 year	Full responsibility
17	Megeri T.	M	Yes	Religious group	2008	relative	1 year	Full responsibility
18	Mohamed P.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19	Mohamed S.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
20	Nahimana M.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
21	Nganga C.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
22	Saaba M.	F	Not yet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
23	Salaamu X.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
24	Salma X.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
25	Yanga L.	F	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
26	Zambina J.	M	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 8: shows respondent's name, sex, whether she or he was able to privately sponsor any of her or his family members or relatives to come to Canada. If so, how did she or he do that, in what year did the sponsorship take place, what is her or his relationship with the sponsored, how long is or was the duration of sponsorship, and what are or were the conditions of that sponsorship.

Table 9:

#	Respondent	Sex	Did she/he try to sponsor her/his family member(s) or relative(s), if yes, was it successful, and if not was the sponsorship application rejected?	Year of sponsorship	Reasons of application rejection/denial
1	A.A. Adam	M	Yes, I wanted to sponsor my mother through visitor visa twice	Since 2003	Financial requirements

2	Abdalla S.	M	Yes, one successful, but one denied	2004	Peace between North and South Sudan
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
5	Abdi H.	F	No	N/A	I can't afford
6	Abdillah F.	F	Yes	2002	Low income
7	Abdulahi A.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
8	Abraham X.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
9	Eboru A.	F	I am not eligible yet	N/A	N/A
10	Gasana P.	F	No	N/A	I can't afford
11	Ibrahim S.	M	Yes, and it was successful	2009	N/A
12	Jibril X.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
13	Koffi Y.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
14	Lubosha A.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
15	Luk R.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
16	Marccko J.	F	Yes, and it was successful	2007	N/A
17	Megeri T.	M	Yes, and it was successful	2008	N/A
18	Mohamed P.	F	Yes	2012	Low income
19	Mohamed S.	M	Yes	2010	low income
20	Nahimana M.	F	No	N/A	I can't afford
21	Nganga C.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
22	Saaba M.	F	No	N/A	N/A
23	Salaamu X.	M	No	N/A	I can't afford
24	Salma X.	F	No	N/A	I can't afford
25	Yanga L.	F	No	N/A	I can't afford
26	Zambina J.	M	Yes	2001	Low income

Table 9: shows respondent's name, sex, whether she or he tried to privately sponsor any of her or his family members or relatives to come to Canada, but the sponsorship application was rejected. If so, when did that happen, and what was the reason of that application denial.

Table 10:

#	Respondent	Sex	Did she/he ever thought or thinks, but never tried to sponsor her/his family member(s) or relative(s)?	Year	Impediments
1	A.A. Adam	M	Yes, I tried two times, but did not succeed.	Since 2003	Financial requirements
2	Abdalla S.	M	Yes, I tried once	2004	Peace agreement b/w North & South Sudan
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	Yes	Always	Low income
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	Yes	Always	Low income

5	Abdi H.	F	Yes	Always	Low income
6	Abdillah F.	F	Yes	2002	Low income
7	Abdulahi A.	M	Yes	Since I came to Canada	Low income
8	Abraham X.	M	Yes	Always	Low income
9	Eboru A.	F	Yes	Since I came to Canada	Not eligible yet & low income may be in the future
10	Gasana P.	F	Yes	Always	Low income
11	Ibrahim S.	M	Yes, I tried once & succeeded	2009	N/A
12	Jibril X.	M	Yes	Since I came to Canada	Low income
13	Koffi Y.	M	Yes	Since I came to Canada	Low income
14	Lubosha A.	M	Yes	Since I came to Canada	Low income
15	Luk R.	M	Yes	Always	Low income
16	Marcko J.	F	Yes, I tried once & succeeded	2007	N/A
17	Megeri T.	M	Yes, I tried once & succeeded	2008	N/A
18	Mohamed P.	F	Yes	Always	Low income
19	Mohamed S.	M	Yes	Always	Low income
20	Nahimana M.	F	Yes	Always	Low income
21	Nganga C.	M	Yes	Always	Low income
22	Saaba M.	F	Yes, now I am on the process to sponsor my husband to join me in Canada	2014	May be low income
23	Salaamu X.	M	Yes, I tried once	Since I got my permanent residence	My mom does not want to come Canada
34	Salma X.	F	Yes	Always	Low income
25	Yanga L.	F	Yes	Always	Low income
26	Zambina J.	M	Yes	2001	Low income

Table 10: shows respondent's name, sex, whether she or he thinks or thought of privately sponsoring any of her or his family members or relatives to come to Canada, but never tried to submit the sponsorship application. If she or he did, in which year was that and what is or was the impediment.

Table 11:

#	Respondent	Sex	Is she/he worried about the safety of his/her family member(s) or relative(s) still living in their country of origin?	Is she/he worried about the safety of his/her refugee(s) family member(s) or relative(s) still living as in other foreign country(ies)?
1	A.A. Adam	M	Yes	Yes
2	Abdalla S.	M	Yes	Yes
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	Yes	Yes
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	Yes	Yes
5	Abdi H.	F	Yes	Yes
6	Abdillah F.	F	Yes	Yes
7	Abdulahi A.	M	Yes	Yes

8	Abraham X.	M	Yes	Yes
9	Eboru A.	F	Yes	N/A
10	Gasana P.	F	Yes	Yes
11	Ibrahim S.	M	Yes	Yes
12	Jibril X.	M	Yes	Yes
13	Koffi Y.	M	Yes	N/A
14	Lubosha A.	M	Yes	Yes
15	Luk R.	M	Yes	Yes
16	Marcko J.	F	Yes	Yes
17	Megeri T.	M	Yes	Yes
18	Mohamed P.	F	Yes	Yes
19	Mohamed S.	M	Yes	Yes
20	Nahimana M.	F	Yes	Yes
21	Nganga C.	M	Yes	Yes
22	Saaba M.	F	Yes	Yes
23	Salaamu X.	M	N/A	N/A
24	Salma X.	F	Yes	Yes
25	Yanga L.	F	Yes	Yes
26	Zambina J.	M	Yes	Yes

Table 11: shows respondent's name, sex, and whether she or he is worried about the safety of her or his family members or relatives still living in their country of origin. Is she or he also worried about those family members and relatives still living in refugee camps and refugees in the urban cities as well?

Table 12:

#	Respondent	Sex	Her/his comments	Her/his suggestions
1	A.A. Adam	M	It takes less than 90 days to bring a Pilipino to Canada, but it takes forever to bring your wife from Africa??? (Personal opinion). Private sponsorship is better than individuals, because private sponsorship may have a better resources, better connection with employer and once they bring these individuals they may be able to employ them at any jobs.	My personal opinion on this, I personally like the private sponsorship as group or organizations. However, refugee sponsorship is addressing humanitarian issues which ultimately do not solve the problem. You give this family a food and leave the rest to die in their home country! , again old saying (give a man a fish and they will eat fish for a day but teach them how to fish and they will eat fish for life) refugee resettlement is not a solution..... We want Canada to play an active role in changing these bad regimes in Sub- Saharan countries. Canada did in South Africa when Prime Minister Brian Malruni played a big role in tightening sanctions against the Apartheid regime by then, today all South Africans are able to eat fish (freedom) for

				life!!.
2	Abdalla S.	M	<p>In 2004, I submitted the application to privately sponsor my late uncle's family to join me in Canada. And there was an organization which was willing to support them for the period of the sponsorship (12 months). By the time, the family was living as refugees in Kenya. But sadly, my application was denied after one year (in 2005). The rejection reason given to me was that, there was peace between North and South Sudan at that time. So, my uncle's family could go back from refugee camp to Sudan and live there peacefully. And up to now, they are still living as refugees and there is no peace even after the country got splitted into tow. Therefore, the government of Canada shouldn't prejudge the situation of peace in war torn zones like Sudan until it is sustainable for a number of years.</p> <p>I am happy with the system of private sponsorship through group. But in most cases, the process takes a very long time. This has to be changed.</p>	<p>Government of Canada will play a very important role to urge the UNHCR (The Refugee Agency) office to treat all the refugees fairly. I realized, there is a lot of discrimination in the UNHCR office in Cairo (Egypt). Canadian immigration system should work closely with the UNHCR offices & other foreign immigration offices to properly determine the real refugees. I say this because I realized some criminals take opportunity and immigrate to Canada in the names of the real victims of crisis. While the genuine victims do not get the chance they deserve to have. In the security screening, the Canadian immigration system should give the priority to the situation of the refugee and not his/her name. This happens because to the refugees who have Arabic or Islamic names which are rather similar among the Muslims in general. I know many fellow refugees who lost their chance of coming to Canada because of their Arabic or Islamic names.</p>
3	Abdelkarim A.	M	<p>It is really impossible for the majority of the immigrants, who are originally from Sub-Saharan Africa to sponsor their family member(s) or relative(s) to come to Canada through private sponsorship. I say this, because the majority of them work menial jobs with a minimum wage per hour. Some of them, do not belong to any church or know any organization to support them to privately sponsor their family member (s) or relative(s).</p>	<p>I think, the government of Canada should help these low income Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor their (family member s) or relative(s) through the government sponsorship.</p>
4	Abdelrahman A.	M	<p>Up to now, I am not able to sponsor my parents and siblings to reunite with me in Canada because of my limited income.</p>	<p>In my opinion, the private sponsorship is not easy for low income Canadians. I hope government of the Canada should help low income immigrants to privately to sponsor their family member (s) or relative(s) through the government sponsorship.</p>
5	Abdi H.	F	<p>I always think about bringing my parents and siblings to Canada, but I can't. It is almost impossible to privately sponsor a family or a relative to come to Canada. The conditions are very hard for a person like me. Because of this, Government of Canada should help some resettled immigrants to bring their family and relatives to Canada.</p>	<p>Private sponsorship conditions supposed to be based on fulltime jobs, not on annual income. For resettled immigrants who have their immediate family members in the refugee camps government of Canada should help them to privately sponsor their families or relatives.</p>
6	Abdillah F.	F	<p>I felt very bad when my husband became sick and could not work anymore because my income alone was not enough. Then my sponsorship application was denied. That made me feel helpless and useless because I wanted to sponsor my brother and his family to join me in Canada. Therefore, I always think of sponsoring my relatives, but the private sponsorship rules could not allow me.</p>	<p>Government of Canada should help us bring our people who are suffering in refugee camps. Government of Canada should help immigrants who have their family members or relatives in refugee camps to bring them to Canada. Private sponsorship</p>

				spouse to be easier for the landed refugee immigrants in Canada.
7	Abdulahi A.	M	I do not want to think of sponsoring my family or relatives to come to Canada. This is because I do not have enough income to support them. But I really like to have them live with me here in Canada.	Since the issue of the private sponsorship is all related to the income. Government of Canada should empower the new resettled immigrants to acquire better job skills through good education system. This would help them to get better and good paying jobs. As a result, they will easily be qualified to sponsor their families or relatives because they have guaranteed financial resources.
8	Abraham X.	M	I have always been thinking of privately sponsoring my family member (s) or relative(s) since I came to Canada. I also want to get married and sponsor my wife, but I do not have money to do that. I am still at school and there is no body to help me in this case. Government should by helping people like me sponsor my family. This will encourage the students to work hard to achieve better education. Then they would be able to get better jobs and be very productive citizens of Canada.	I think, the government of Canada should help the new immigrants to sponsor their family members, especially for the Students.
9	Eboru A.	F	I have no comments because I am not eligible to sponsor anyone.	I think, it would be better for Canadian immigration to help resettled immigrants to sponsor their family members through private sponsorship.
10	Gasana P.	F	No comments	Canada should be more on the humanitarian side than financial. Canada should help resettled immigrants from Sub-Saharan Africa to bring their families in Canada. The majority of these new Canadians are financially unable to privately sponsor their family member(s) or relative(s).
11	Ibrahim S.	M	I thank Canadian government, MTC, Villta Village, and UNHCR for helping me through the private sponsorship to reunite with my mother and my siblings.	Settlement program which receive the resettled immigrants, should clearly explain to them other means of how to privately sponsor their relatives or families. This has to happen immediately from their arrival in Canada. To my knowledge, it seems all the resettled refugees may need help to be reunited with their family members or close relatives. Government of Canada should urge the Citizenship and Immigration section of refugee board to speed up the processes of the private sponsorship applications for the resettled immigrants who want to sponsor their families or relatives. Private sponsorship supposed to arranged directly between the Citizenship and Immigration Canada not through SAHs (Sponsorship Agreement Holders) organizations which are based either on faith such as, church, synagogue , or mosque or ethno-cultural.

				<p>Private sponsorship conditions such as certain amount of money should be changed into other responsibilities, like fulltime job, and other capabilities to ensure that, the sponsor is able to take care of the family member(s) or relative(s) until the sponsorship period is over.</p> <p>Government should know how we new immigrants are willing to share with our sponsored members. This can be sharing in accommodation, feeding, transportation, helping in job search, registering their kids in the schools or ESL classes, and all the other requirements.</p> <p>Private sponsorship period of time should be reduced to less than 12 months to all the sponsored immigrants who are able to easily get integrated to the society. The orientation for the resettled immigrants whether sponsored by the government or privately sponsored, should include the basic knowledge about the Canadian criminal and family law. These will help them in the near future, to avoid any issue which may lead them into breaking the law of the country. Since almost all the refugee immigrants may have faced some terrible situations in their country of origin or in the foreign countries they have been living before they come to Canada. This may have created a sort of Trauma or fear of any person in police or military uniform. For this reason, orientation for the new resettled immigrants should include some information about how the Canadian police system works. And such information has to be presented by the police in uniform. This will help the immigrants not to have unnecessary fear of the police present within the civilian society.</p>
12	Jibril X.	M	Private sponsorship is a very important system of immigration. I thank Government of Canada because it is through the private sponsorship I came to Canada.	The process of private sponsorship application takes a very long time. I think it is better to reduce or speed up the application processes.
13	Koffi Y.	M	I am very happy that I am reunited with my wife through the help of private sponsorship in Canada. But I am not able to sponsor any of my family member or relative because I am not qualified yet. That is, my sponsorship period is not over yet. I am still under the responsibility of my wife and her parents financially. Now I understand that, it is not easy to sponsor a person to come to Canada through private sponsorship.	The issue of Supper Visa is a kind of discrimination in the name of immigration through the private sponsorship. I think government of Canada should reconsider this idea. It is an indication that many of the resettled immigrants from Africa may not be able to reunite

				with their parents in Canada. It is only the rich people who can afford to bring their parents to Canada through Super Visa.
14	Lubosha A.	M	No comments.	Reduce the waiting time. The process takes a very long time. Reduce the amount of money. \$10,000.00 is too much for the low income person. Reduce 10 years period of sponsorship for some relatives because it is too long. Also increase the money for the resettled refugees who are sponsored by the government of Canada. \$755.00 is not enough money to cover all the monthly expenses including rent.
15	Luk R.	M	Government of Canada should make immigration rules and regulations for private sponsorship feasible to all Canadians as it used to be 10 years ago. That is, during that time, it was easy for new immigrant Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to privately sponsor their family member (s) or relative(s) to join them in Canada. Otherwise; it may not be possible for the majority of African resettled immigrants to privately sponsor their family member (s) or relative(s) to join them in Canada. It is because of the frequent changes of the rules and regulations of the private sponsorship program for refugees in Canada.	I think, the government of Canada should help these low income Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor their (family member s) or relative(s) through the government sponsorship.
16	Marcko J.	F	Private sponsorship is a good opportunity for the resettled immigrants. I am grateful to the Canada's private sponsorship of refugee program. Through the help of our church, I was able to sponsor my brother and his family. I am sure without the help of the church; I could not have done it on my own. My annual income is below the average.	Government should help the resettled immigrants who left behind their close relatives or family members to join them in Canada. Private sponsorship's conditions should base on responsibility. That is, to see how responsible the sponsor is going to be. Not on how much money he or she makes per a year.
17	Megeri T.	M	I thank God and the government of Canada for helping me to come to Canada through private sponsorship. Then I also managed to sponsor privately, my friends from the refugee camp to come to Canada. But I did it through the help of religious group. Even though I succeeded in sponsoring my friends through the religious group, to my knowledge, for an individual to sponsor a person, is not easy.	I think in some cases, the government of Canada should help the low income Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor their family member (s) or relative(s) through the government sponsorship.
18	Mohamed P.	F	I do not really know what to do. I do not have any income to bring family to Canada. I can't do any kind of job now because I am a single mom and have very young kids. In this case, I suppose to get help from the government to sponsor my parents.	I think the condition to have a certain amount of income before you are qualified for private sponsorship, have to be changed.
19	Mohamed S.	M	It is very disappointing not even to be able to privately sponsor my family member (s) or relative(s) to reunite with me in Canada. As long as the sponsoring person is able to take care of their families or relative after they or she or he comes to Canada, eligibility of private sponsorship should not be based on sponsor's annual income, but the ability to take full responsibility of the sponsored in all aspects of their or her/his necessities. That is, once a person is working full time and he or she is able to sponsor, then he or she is supposed to be qualified.	Canada is still in need of human power. For this reason, the government of Canada supposed to encourage Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to privately sponsor their family member(s) or relative(s). This can even save money to the government. It is because in most cases, the privately sponsored immigrants get into work force much easier than the government sponsored immigrants. .
20	Nahimana M.	F	My income is very little, that is why I am not able to sponsor any of my relatives to come to Canada. I feel very sad when I talk to them	I hope the government of Canada

			through the telephone. They think that, I am living in a paradise that is why I do not want to bring them to Canada. Since I came to Canada, I have been working very hard, but I do not earn much income from my job. It is just a minimum wage job, I tried many times to get a better paying job, but they did not call me at all. I assume they reject my job applications because I do not have other work skills than cleaning.	helps me to sponsor my relatives.
21	Nganga C.	M	I personally, have many relatives who been living in many different refugees camps in Tanzania, Uganda, and even in Malawi for a very long time. These refugees are still suffering badly as I used to be when was in the refugee camp. The rules of the private sponsorship are getting tough. So it is almost impossible for low income families and individuals to afford private sponsorship of their family member (s) or relative(s). Sometimes, the processes of private sponsorship applications are not fairly done on the side of the government. They only take some emergency causes and leave the causes of the protracted refugees. Example is Syrian refugees these days, now the Canadian government has forgotten about the African refugees. Instead, it thinks much about the Syrian refugees than the Africans in the refugee camps. I think this is a mix-up of politics in the name of Humanitarian help for refugees.	Sponsoring family members or relatives should be done automatically when a member of the family or relatives come to Canada as a resettled immigrant. Government of Canada should help the new immigrants to sponsor their close relatives. I mean close families such as, brothers/sitters, mother/father, uncle/aunt, cousin brothers/sisters, and nephews/nieces.
22	Saaba M.	F	Private sponsorship system is a very good way of helping new resettled immigrants to bring their family members and relatives to Canada. But in most cases, it is not easy to sponsor a person if you do not have other people to work together as a group and sponsor one person at a time.	Government of Canada should help some resettled immigrants to sponsor their family members or relatives to come Canada. These can be people who have genuine reason not to get required income per a year. Such as single moms or sick people.
23	Salaamu X.	M	The process of private sponsorship takes a very long time. New resettled immigrants, who are originally from Sub-Saharan Africa, face a kind of economic discrimination. The majority of them, lack both language and educational qualifications. That is why almost all of them end up as low income citizens of Canada.	Government of Canada should help these low income Canadians and permanent residents of Canada to sponsor their family member(s) as long as the sponsor is willing and able to fully support the person they want to sponsor.
24	Salma X.	F	No comments	Private sponsorship rules should be based on fulltime job not on a certain amount of income per a year. Immigrant parents should join their children in Canada because it is part of reunion program. This has not to be connected with how much income one makes annually.
25	Yanga L.	F	I have no comments because there is a lot to say about the Canada's private sponsorship system.	Instead, I want the government of Canada to help South Sudan government to solve the problem of that country.
26	Zambina J.	M	Canada's private sponsorship program, should consider humanitarian side more than financial ability. My application to sponsor my brother was rejected because there was misspelling in my brother's middle name. I eventually submitted more details about the reason to that incorrect name, but it was too late because the decision was made by the immigration officer.	Private sponsorship should be part of the government sponsorship program. Particularly for the resettled immigrants who left their families or relatives in the refugee camps or in horrible situations in other foreign countries or even in their country of origins.

Table 12: shows respondent's name, sex, their comments and suggestion to the Canadian government and its immigration system.

