

services) during the period they receive federal government income support.

Reporting the assistance provided to refugees during their first 12 months in Canada as ODA is consistent with guidelines provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. For developing countries, which host the majority of refugees, caring for refugees implies a significant additional burden to an already-fragile economy. Providing asylum and resettlement to refugees in Canada therefore contributes to poverty reduction in developing countries. By providing refugees with settlement services and, in some cases, income support, CIC ensures that refugees have the support they need to overcome challenges and fully integrate into Canadian social and economic life.

CIC works closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure that Canada's resettlement program is able to offer protection to those most in need and is used strategically to relieve the responsibility of refugee protection on host states in the developing world. In addition, CIC frequently discusses the assistance provided to refugees during their first year in Canada with stakeholders including provinces and territories, the Canadian Refugee Sponsorship Agreement Holders Association, the National Settlement Council, service-providing organizations, and the Canadian Council for Refugees.

For more information on Canada's refugee programs, please visit: www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/index.asp.