



HELPING REFUGEES

Canada is recognized around the world for its leadership in offering a haven to international refugees. In 2015-2016, Canada resettled 21,102 government-assisted refugees, 15,954 privately sponsored refugees, and 2,851 blended visa office-referred refugees from all over the world. Within this group of almost 40,000, the Government of Canada welcomed 25,000 Syrian refugees to Canada between November 2015 and February 2016. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) disbursed ODA of \$256.46 million via three programs dedicated to assisting refugees.

Under IRCC's Resettlement Assistance Program, government-assisted refugees arriving in Canada receive immediate and essential services during the first four to six weeks after arrival and monthly income support for up to 12 months (blended visa office-referred refugees may receive support for up to six months). In 2015-2016, 18,501 people received services funded through this program.

Canada's Settlement Program, also managed by IRCC, assists newcomers—including refugees—in overcoming barriers specific

to the newcomer experience. Settlement services provide newcomers with:

- information required to make informed decisions,
- language skills to achieve their settlement and integration goals,
- assistance in finding and retaining employment, and
- the support needed to build networks within their new communities.

Settlement services support the full participation of newcomers in the economic, social, cultural and civic life of Canada.

In addition, through the Interim Federal Health Program, health-care costs for protected persons, refugee claimants, rejected refugee claimants and certain persons detained under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* may be temporarily covered until they are eligible for provincial or territorial health coverage. Starting in April 2016, this program was expanded to provide health-care coverage similar to that which provinces and territories provide to Canadians on social assistance.