

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the Canadian flag, showing the red maple leaf on a white field and the red and white stripes. A semi-transparent blue rounded rectangle is centered over the flag, containing the title text in white.

Addressing the Yemen Refugee Crisis

Policy Solutions for Canada

The Policy Team

The Intergovernmental Team
for a Canadian Refugee
Strategic Response Plan for
the Yemen Humanitarian
Crisis



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Context in Yemen



Worst humanitarian crisis

3 million forcefully displaced

15 million on brink of starvation

1.1 million with cholera

Risk of Inaction

Short-Term

Backlog and process issue reduces:

- Acceptance of refugees
- Accessible services for refugees

Long-Term

Lack of effective resettlement services negatively impacts:

- Canadian public perception of newcomers
- Canada's ability to act as leader in global humanitarian efforts

The Challenge

Canada's limited administrative capacity inhibits effective and timely resettlement of Yemeni refugees fleeing from a humanitarian crisis

Short-Term

Lack of efficiency in
Canada's refugee
processing system

Long-Term

Absence of
resettlement plan for
refugees in crisis

Lessons Learned from Syria

25,000 Syrian refugees arrived to Canada between Nov. 2015 and Mar. 2016

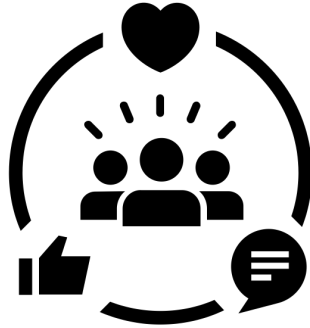
Key Takeaways

- Lack of sufficient planning to effectively deliver settlement services
- Insufficient intergovernmental & service provider coordination
- Communication gaps & lack of information

Criteria



Time

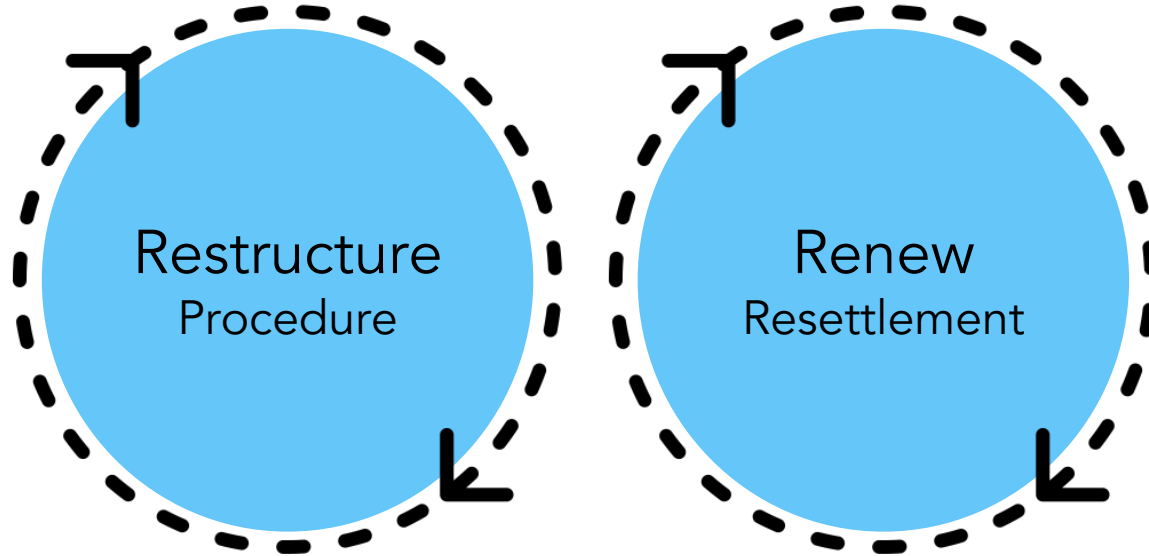


Social
Impact



Finance

Strategic Response Program



Policy 1A: Address the Backlog
Policy 1B: Incremental Acceptance

Policy 2A: Increase Private Sponsorship
Policy 2B: Economic Integration
(Housing, Language, Employment)

Policy 1A: Address the Backlog



Delayed hearings

1

Required hearing for refused applications only

2

Prioritize "express entry" for skilled new inland refugee claims

3

Ease verification of refugee status



Wait-time for privately sponsored refugees

Policy 1A: Backlog Alternatives

Time



Social
Impact



Finance



Continue current
hearings system

Continue current
requirements for
privately-
sponsored
refugees

Increase
employees in
Canadian
government
agencies



Policy 1B: Incremental Acceptance

Incremental acceptance of Yemeni refugees to facilitate preparedness, monitoring, and action

Strengths

- Addresses coordination and information flows
- Short and long term strategy
- Prepares for future emergencies

Weaknesses

- Requires 3 months
- Requires monitoring



Policy 1B: Incremental Acceptance

Short-Term

25 000 refugees

- 3rd month: **12 500**
- 6th month: **7 500**
- 9th month: **5000**

Long-Term

- Strategic Initiative to be deployed for future refugee waves
- Online platform
- Address backlog



Policy 1B: Alternatives to Incremental Acceptance

Time



Social Impact

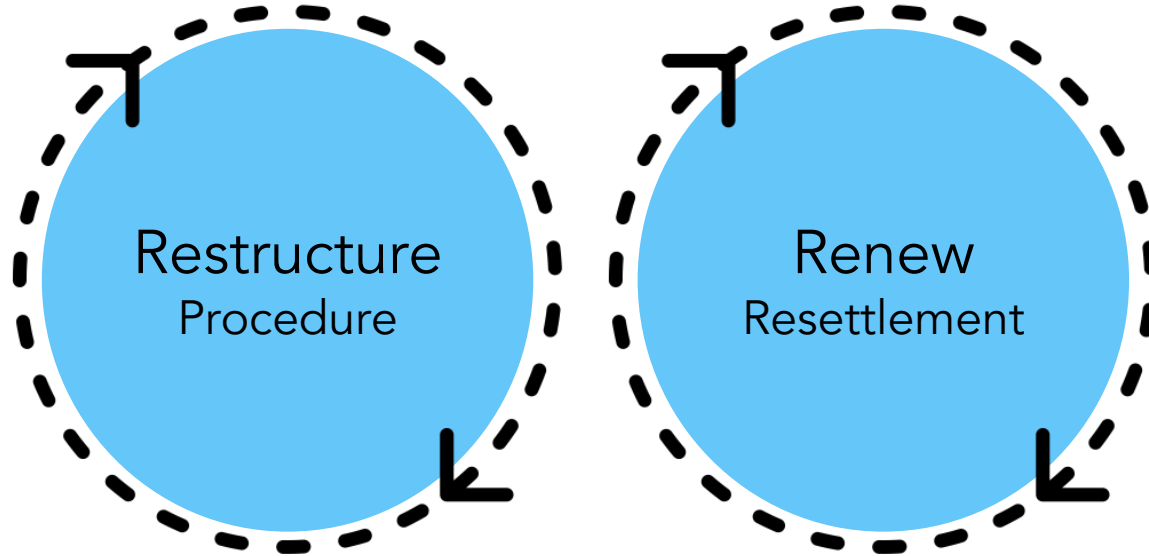


Finance



Lump acceptance of Yemeni refugees	Develop online platform to improve coordination	Increase funding to IRCC
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Strategic Response Program



Policy 1A: Address the Backlog
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Policy 2A: Private Sponsorship

Increase private sponsorship to 12,500 refugees through charitable tax credit incentive and enhanced advertisement

Strengths

- Economically feasible
- Stronger public-private partnerships
- Improve community integration

Weaknesses

- Limited oversight



Policy 2A: Private Sponsorship Alternatives

Time



Social Impact



Finance



Relax
information
verification

Simplify
application
process

Increased
funding for
program

Policy 2B: Economic Integration - Regional Housing

Construct modular housing communities on public lands

Strengths

- Timely construction
- Job creation
- Not infringe on affordable housing market
- Permanent address
- Cost effective

Weaknesses

- Public perception of modular housing
- Availability of public land in different regions



Policy 2B: Economic Integration - Language Learning

Blended learning program

Strengths

- Reduce strain on in-person resources
- Portability
- Increase accessibility
- Limit infrastructural constraints

Weaknesses

- Comprehension of online delivery



Policy 2B: Economic Integration - Expanding Employment

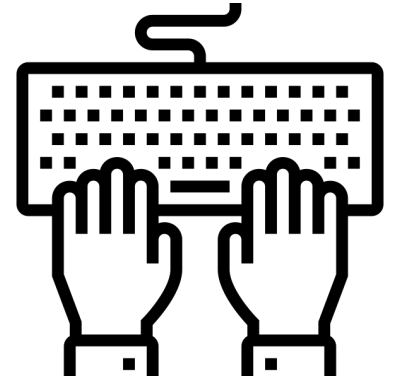
Promotion of newcomer coding program access

Strengths

- Minimize language barriers
- Fill existing job gaps
- Utilize human capital
- Accessible by all Canadians

Weaknesses

- Transferability of skills



Policy 2B: Economic Integration Alternatives

Time



Social Impact



Finance



Housing	Language Learning	Employment
Cruise ship	Increase resources for existing program	Improve transferability of formal qualifications
Hotel/ P.O. boxes	1 year access starts when begin accessing resource	Consultant service to access more welfare

Cost-Benefit

	Policy 2A	
Cost	12,500 Privately sponsored	\$19 million
	12,500 Government Assisted	\$150 million
	Tax rebate on private sponsorship	\$20 million
Benefit	Private Sponsor Cost	\$132 million
Net Cost		\$57 million

Cost-Benefit

		Policy 2B
Cost	Modular Housing investment based on recent construction in Vancouver for 12,500 people	\$687 million
Benefit	Hotel room cost for 12,500 people based on 3-person per room in Vancouver	\$400 million
Net Cost		\$287 million and benefit of long-term housing supply investment

Public Opinion and Political Risk



Majority of Canadians do not believe there is “too much immigration”

Widespread positive sentiment towards refugees in BC

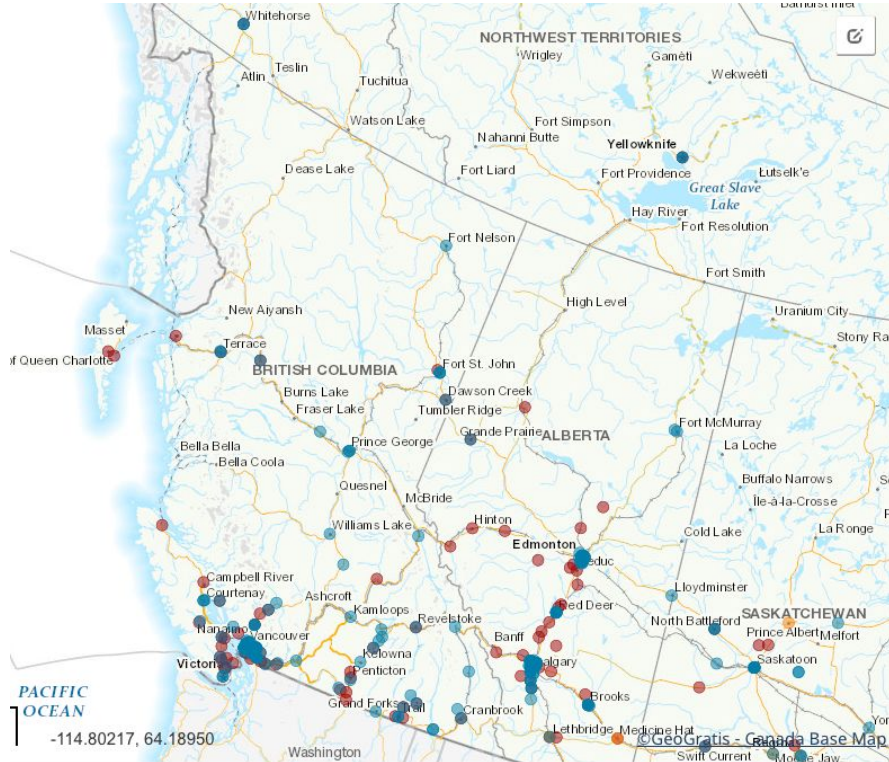


Top 3 important issues:
economy, environment, health care

Perceived “legitimacy” of refugees shapes public opinion



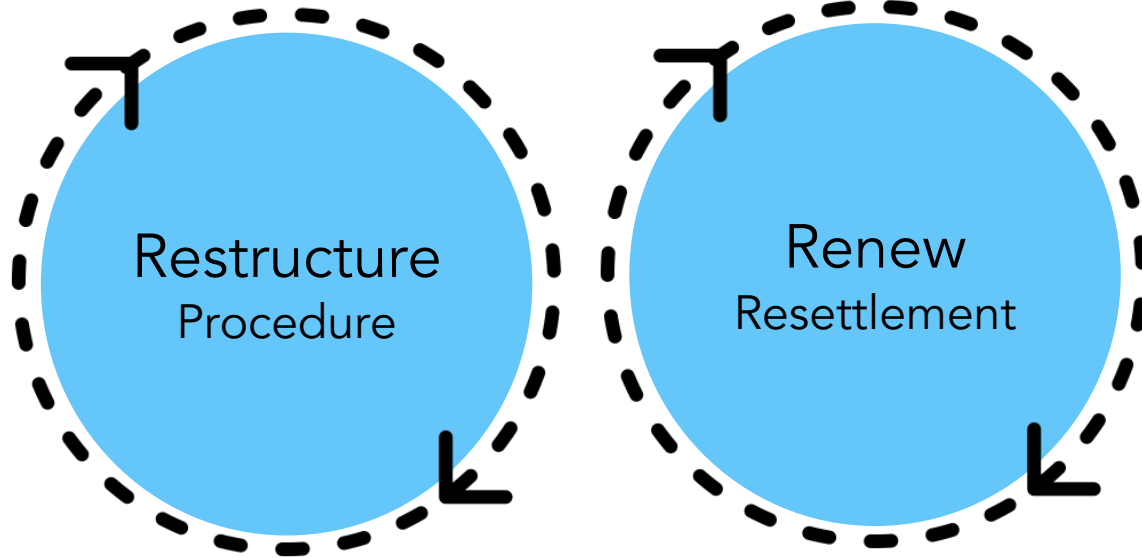
Communications Strategy



Provincial strategy, federally financed

- Clarify distinction between economic migrants and humanitarian crisis migrants

Strategic Response Program



Policy 1A: Address the Backlog
Policy 1B: Incremental Acceptance

Policy 2A: Increase Private Sponsorship
Policy 2B: Economic Integration
(Housing, Language, Employment)

Appendix

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Policy 2A : Cost Benefit Analysis

**Total average cost for Refugee Assistance Program (RAP) client for one year:
\$10,573.00**

Total cost per application decision:

Government Assisted Refugees (GARs): \$1388.75

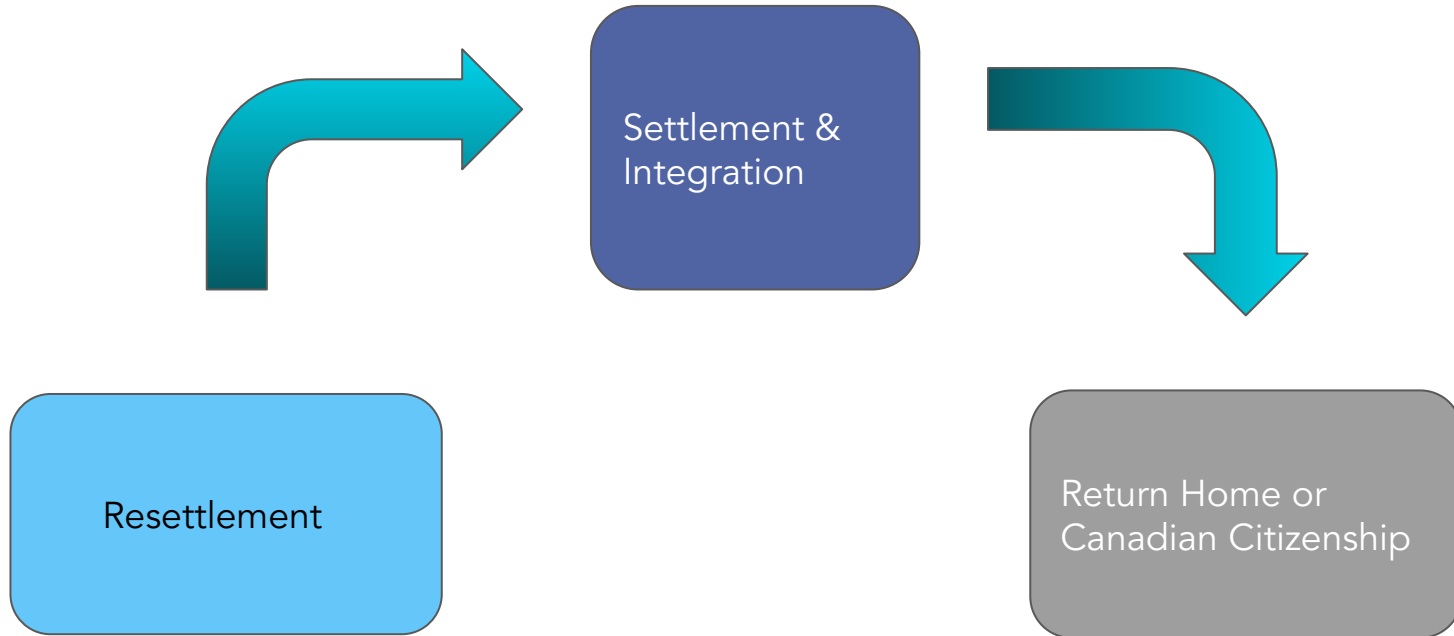
Private Sponsored Refugees (PSRs): \$1544.50

Policy 1A: Addressing the backlog

Backlog	47,451 claims in-land asylum claims in different province	20 000 Syrian Refugees in Lebanon, UAE, Turkey
Problem	Delays in hearings	Waiting time for sponsored refugees
Required regulatory changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduce hearings to only refused applications- Allow IRCC do the hearings	Limit Refugee status process
Benefits	Reduces period of services provision for refused claimants	Incentives for private sponsors

By gradually eliminating the backlogs, successful applicants will take part of the settlement proposed policies

3 Phases of Refugee Resettlement



Refugee Assistance Program Characteristics - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Gender Profile: GARs male 50%; PSRs male 54%, BVOR male 52%

Overall admissions: 26,466 GARs (53%), 22,737 PSRs (46%) and 313 BVOR refugees (1%).

Proportion of Adults: GAR 61%, PSR 70%, BVOR refugees 69%

Knowledge of Official Language: GAR 26%, PSR 38%, BVOR refugees 14%

Education: GAR 61%, PSR 48%, BVOR refugees 54%

Country of Origin: **GAR:** Iraq, Bhutan, Somalia; **PSRs:** Iraq, Eritrea, Ethiopia and **BVOR** refugees: Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran

Case Composition (% of single adults): GAR 47%, PSR 57%, BVOR refugees 56%

Family Composition: PSRs and BVOR refugees, more commonly arrived as a single adult as compared to GARs (57%, 56%, and 47%, respectively)

Legal framework

- United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees
- The Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- The Safe Third Country Agreement (2004)
- The agreement prevents people who first enter one country from applying for asylum or refugee status in the other. Exceptions:
 1. Refugee claimants who have a family member in Canada;
 2. Unaccompanied minors under the age of 18;
 3. Individuals holding a valid Canadian visa; and
 4. Those who have been charged with or convicted of an offence that could subject them to the death penalty in the U.S.

Previous policies

Immigration Act 1976

- Refugees still had to demonstrate that they would “be able to become successfully established in Canada”.
- This approach was criticized by other refugee receiving countries as “skimming the cream off the milk” rather than providing asylum to the most needy.

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Regulations in 2002

- officers are still supposed to assess the ability to settle successfully, the criteria are much less stringent and the timeline for establishment is now three to five years

Balanced Refugee Reform Act 2010

- Every claimant has a hearing
- Supposed to solve in 60 days
- Advocates consider impossible to prepare a case in that timeframe

Canada's Current Targets

Canada's Immigration Plan for 2019–2021, the Refugees target is:

- By 2019 **58,500**
- By 2020 **61,500**
- By 2021 **64,500**

Innovation and Skills Plan:

Canada will increase the number of new permanent resident admissions in Canada to **340,000 by 2020**, including 195,800 economic class admissions.

- 24% of the population is going to be over the age of 65 by 2040
 - 65% of the Refugees are less than 29
- Refugees have the lowest contribution to the GDP. Worth consider:
 - Age relates to adaptability
 - Contribution of 2nd generation immigrants

Impact evaluation of the Syrian Refugees (2016) 1/2

According to the 2016 Rapid Impact Evaluation (Dec. 2016):

	GAR's	PSR's
Language	83% no English or French Reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Lack of availability· Lack of children spaces	79% higher knowledge of English
Employment	10% employed	50% employed
Education	81.3% secondary or less	44% above secondary education
Family size	56.5% 4 to 6 members	48% single

Impact evaluation of the Syrian Refugees (2016) 2/2

Between Nov 2015 and March 2016 **25,000 Syrian Refugees arrived to Canada.**

Compared with previous resettled Refugees:

- Syrian GAR's are less educated
- Syrian refugees had **less access to employment services and** had gained less knowledge and skills

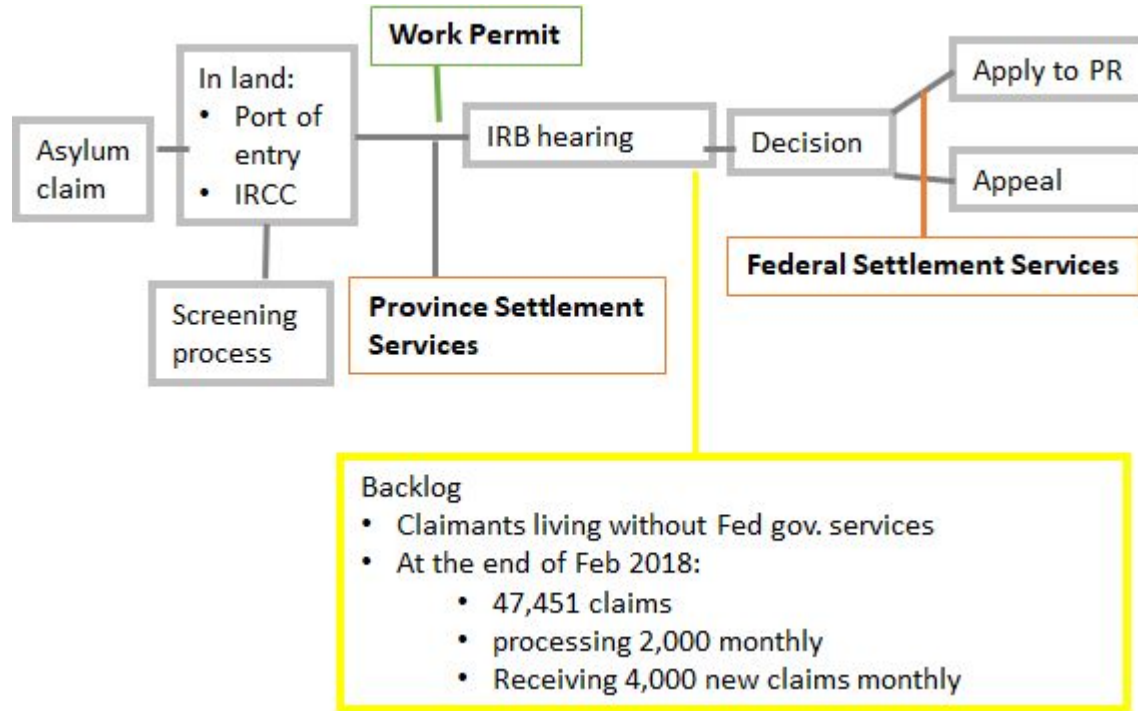
Early Resettlement and Settlement outcomes:

- Overall **happy in Canada**
- PSR's indicated **more satisfaction** of immediate needs
- Lack of consistency in delivery of orientation, temporary accommodation, reception. Among others
- Lack of enrollment in language training

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) considered it **a success**

Assessment of the 2015-2016 Syrian Refugee Initiative:

Current In-land claim process



Current resettlement refugee process

