



Ümit Kizilta, Director General and Head of Evaluation, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Canada: The speaker from Canada was Ümit Kizilta, Director General and Head of Evaluation, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Canada looks at responding to the Syrian conflict Refugees (SCRs) within the context of the Canadian nation which embraces diversity and inclusion. To be able to respond to Canada's increasing intakes of refugees and in gaining support to fund services, public support is needed. Communities help assist the attainment of settlement outcomes. Therefore bringing in mainstream players who can impact refugee life is at the core of settlement. Aside from government assessed refugees, many refugees enter through organisations, groups, and individual sponsorship. In terms of funding, government assessed refugees receive one year allowance from government, while privately sponsored refugees and blended group picked by government and pitched and sponsored by organisations receive 6 months allowance from government. All settlement services are available by all groups. Talent Beyond Border assists refugees that are skilled by accessing them as skilled migrants. Innovation such as these enable countries like Canada to take in more refugees and respond to the refugee crises.

Gaps in settling SCRs include illegibility for other services until citizenship (applies to migrants too), and poor identification of skills (therefore inability to connect to community). They also have noticed that Applying English Language training at the workplaces works better than classroom learning. They have also noticed that refugee children do better and those supported by communities get employed faster. However, problems in sponsorship like breakdown of sponsorship relationship occur due to its asymmetrical nature. A challenge has arisen for government to better understand the sponsors and address the type of support and training needed.

As Canada continues to find its way to connect the whole country (migrants and refugees included) closer to its first peoples, its response to the worldwide refugee crises cannot be separated from the context of how people see themselves.