

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

National Secretariat

From July 2021 to November 2022

Successes - Challenges - Learnings

Umashanie Reddy
Pathways to Prosperity Conference
November 15, 2022

Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more.

Pope Francis



Historical Information and Successes

- National and Regional Communication and Engagement Structure
- National Steering Committee enacted: 90-100 members
- Communication, collaboration, engagement and collective impact
- Afghan Needs Assessment and Referral (NAARS)
- National Housing Event
- Engaged over 25 corporate & community providers
- Resettlement Service Providers: 34-41
- National Afghan Program website established
- Corporate donations: in excess of 1 million dollars
- Community volunteers: 7,033



Welcomed 22,915 Afghan Refugees - November 2, 2022

Challenges

- 8 days to strategically plan and get the engagement structure in place
- No playbook to inform us, had to collaboratively enact along the way
- Secretariat staffing challenges and expansion (4)
- Deployment of resettlement staff to 4 regional hotels in Toronto
- Housing availability and movement to smaller centres
- Employee wellness
- Afghan refugee employment

Lessons Learned and Moving Forward

- Secretariat ethos: collaboration, communication and collective impact
- Transformative learning experience
- Design a playbook: create and adopt for large scale refugee movements
- Closeness between IRCC and the resettlement sector: seamless communication and transparency
- Re-view and re-align Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) Handbook
- Mixed methodology research design tells the unique refugee experience



WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER