

## INTRODUCTION

In Canada, refugees mostly live in urban settings, and their access to affordable and adequate housing is an essential component of their social inclusion in a host society. Since 4 November 2015, 1,290 Syrian refugees resettled in Winnipeg. Local non-profit organizations took the initiative to provide settlement services for Syrian refugees in Winnipeg.

This research project critically examined the role of Winnipeg's non-profit organizations in supporting Government Assisted Syrian Refugees (GARs) to access secure, safe, and affordable housing. This research project also examined how the support and services provided by these local organizations facilitated the social inclusion of Syrian refugees in Winnipeg.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the challenges facing organizations that focus on housing and the resettlement process for Syrian refugees in Winnipeg?
2. What additional support and resources do they need to promote social inclusion for Syrian refugees in Winnipeg?

## METHOD

Semi-structured interviews with representatives from six different non-profit organizations in Winnipeg, that provide settlement services for Syrian refugees.

## FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

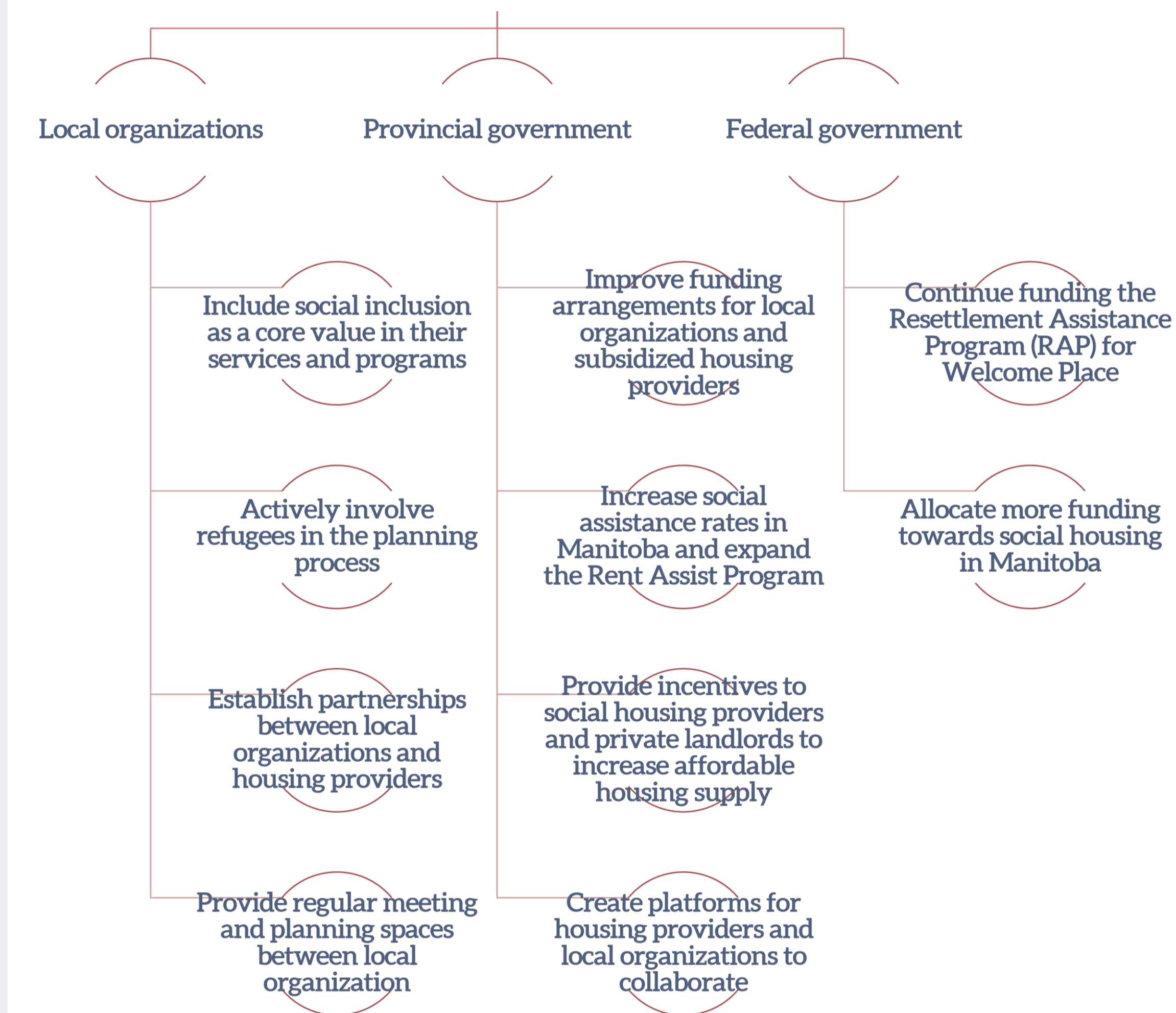
Accessing affordable housing presents a major challenge for Syrian refugees in Winnipeg. Next, housing conditions, location, tenancy regulations, and a lack of housing units with an adequate number of bedrooms for large households impede Syrian refugees from belonging to and thriving in their host society.

Local organizations assert that continuity in funding and opportunities to collaborate with other resettlement service providers would increase the quality of resettlement services provided. Local organizations realize the need to build their capacity to be more flexible and advocate for refugees, and to develop approaches or initiatives to facilitate the social inclusion of Syrian refugees.



Table 1: Four primary themes and subcategories that emerged from an axial coding of the semi-structured interviews.

## RECOMMENDATIONS



## CONCLUSION

Local organizations have a prominent role in ensuring the social inclusion of Syrian refugees. However, local organizations' initiatives are often obstructed by inconsistencies in or absence of financial support, insufficient affordable housing in private the market, as well as deficiencies in subsidized housing. Therefore, ensuring that Syrian refugees have access to affordable and adequate housing is an essential step in their social inclusion.