SYRIAN REFUGEES: A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

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Police Situational Awareness
Syrian Newcomers

Syria: Country Overview

- Area: 188,180 sq km
- Population: 21,667,000
- Official language: Arabic
- Literacy rate: 77%
- Religion: predominantly Muslim
- Industry: Petroleum, textiles, food processing and beverages
- Agriculture: Wheat, barley, cotton, lentils and beef
- Exports: Crude oil, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, cotton fiber and clothing.
The Syrian Crisis

One in five Syrians is now a refugee in a neighbouring country.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE: 6.3 million

Source: Map: Issam Abou-Rass / Data: UNHCR

Who are the Syrian Newcomers?

- Victims of war in need of protection.
- Women, children, the elderly and complete families.
- Undergone robust and multi-layered security and health screening before coming to Canada.

#WelcomeRefugees

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
Who are the Syrian Newcomers?

• Experienced traumatic events in Syria and harsh living conditions as refugees in neighbouring countries.
• Fearful of the unknown in Canada and saddened by having to abandon relatives and the familiarity of their life back in Syria.

Who are the Syrian Newcomers?

• Intend to work hard and become productive members of society.
• Hopeful for a safe life and a better future for their children in a country that does not discriminate against them.
• Once in Canada, their priority are basic needs: food, shelter, health care, finding work and schooling for children.

SYRIAN REFUGEES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND
A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS
SYRIAN REFUGEES IN BC
November 4, 2015 – March 18, 2016
• 26,176 Syrian GARs in Canada
• 2,329 (9%) have settled in BC

Syrian Refugees as a % of Canada, by Category

Graph utilizes Provincial Refugee Response Team Boundaries

Fraser Valley includes Surrey, Delta, Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge

Metro Vancouver includes those still in temporary accommodations so numbers may change (IRCC and ISSofBC data)

SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ASSISTED REFUGEES IN BC
November 4, 2015 – March 18, 2016

• 1804 Syrian GARs / 419 family units
• 60% age 18 and younger
  • 24% (427) ages 0-6
  • 26% (462) ages 6-12
  • 11% (197) ages 13-18
• Characteristics:
  • Large family sizes (avg 6, up to 13)
  • Most Syrian GAR adults have not completed high school (avg 5-7)
  • Many adults literate in Arabic
  • Limited English/French (<5%)
  • Past Training/Work Experience
    • Farmers, drivers, labourers, construction hands
  • Physical / visible impairments

Characteristics:
SYRIAN REFUGEES ON VANCOUVER ISLAND AND SUNSHINE COAST

November 4, 2015 – March 18, 2016

- 281 – 287 Syrian refugees have settled in 7 communities, including:
  - 65 BVORs
  - 18–24 PSRs
  - 196 GARs

- An additional 86 PSRs are in the inventory

* A blank number has been suppressed by IRCC (<5)