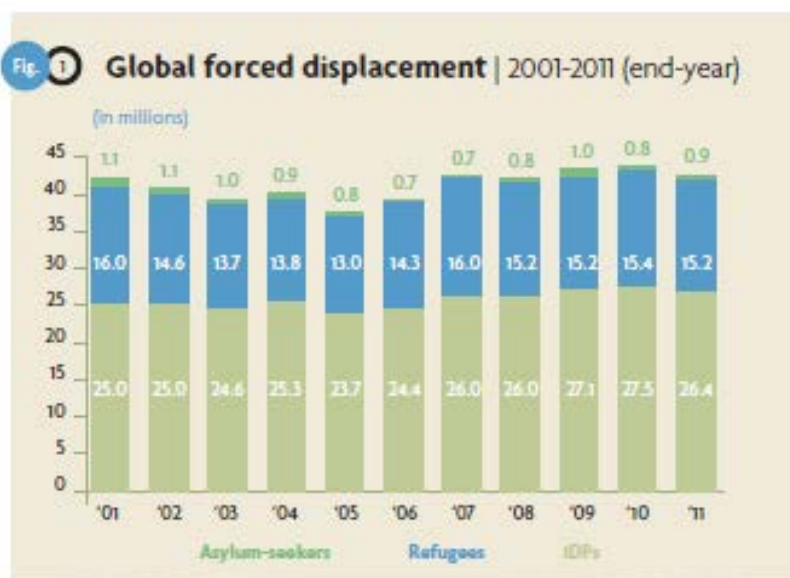


Part 1: Immigration and Settlement of Newcomers of Refugee Origins

What is the refugee situation worldwide?

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [A Year of Crises: UNHCR Global Trends 2011](#) report:

- By the end of 2011, **42.5 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide** because of conflict and persecution. This represented a small drop of 0.8 million from 2010. Of these, 15.2 million were refugees, 26.4 million were internally displaced persons (IDPs), and 895,000 were individuals seeking asylum whose applications had not yet been decided by the end of the reporting period.



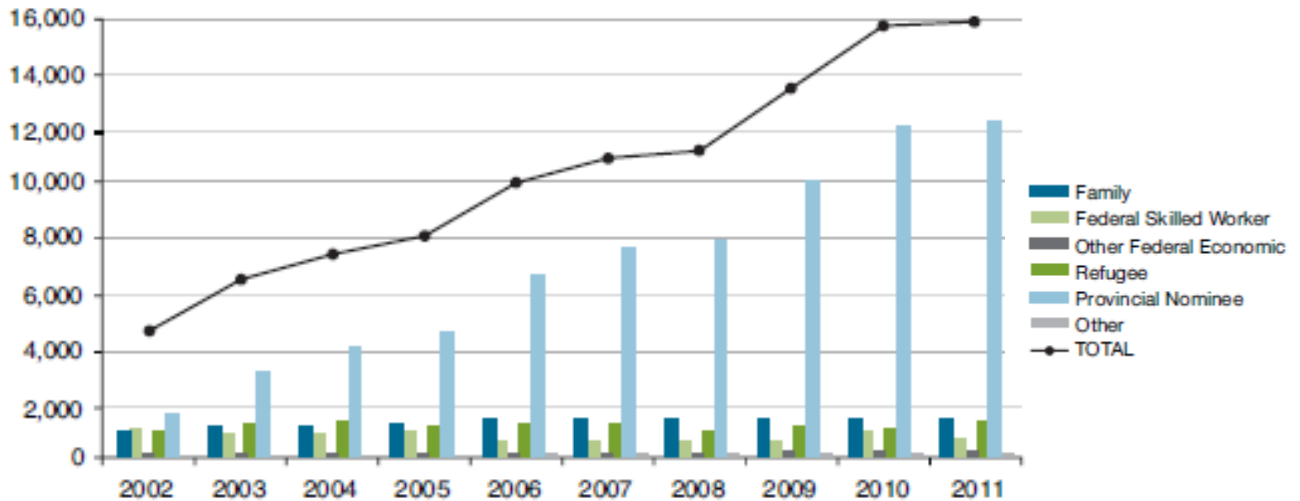
- The year 2011 was notable for a series of major refugee crises resulting from conflicts in **Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Somalia, and Sudan**, which **forced more than 800,000 refugees** to seek asylum in neighbouring countries, the highest number in over a decade. In total, **4.3 million people were newly displaced** in 2011.
- Some **7.1 million refugees were stuck in protracted situations** at the end of 2011, just a small drop from 2010 (7.2 million). They were living in 26 different countries.
- Developing countries hosted four-fifths of the world's refugees.** The 48 Least Developed Countries provided asylum to almost 2.3 million refugees.
- Females constituted 48 % of the world's refugees**, as well as 50 % of all IDPs and returnees. **Children** below the age of 18 accounted for **46% of refugees** and 34 % of asylum-seekers.
- During 2011, UNHCR submitted to various nations more than **92,000 refugee cases for resettlement, with 62,000 departing** with UNHCR assistance. Canada settled **27,877** refugees and Manitoba settled **1303** refugees (representing **6 per cent of Canada's government-assisted** and **14 per cent of Canada's privately sponsored refugees**).
- Worldwide, more than 876,100 people submitted an individual application for asylum or refugee status in 2011**, an increase of 30,300 from 2010.
- Globally, more than 17,700 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied or separated children** in 69 countries in 2011. The applications came mostly from Afghan and Somali children. This represented an increase of 2,100 applications from 2010.

(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2011a)

What are some of the important trends in immigration to Manitoba?*

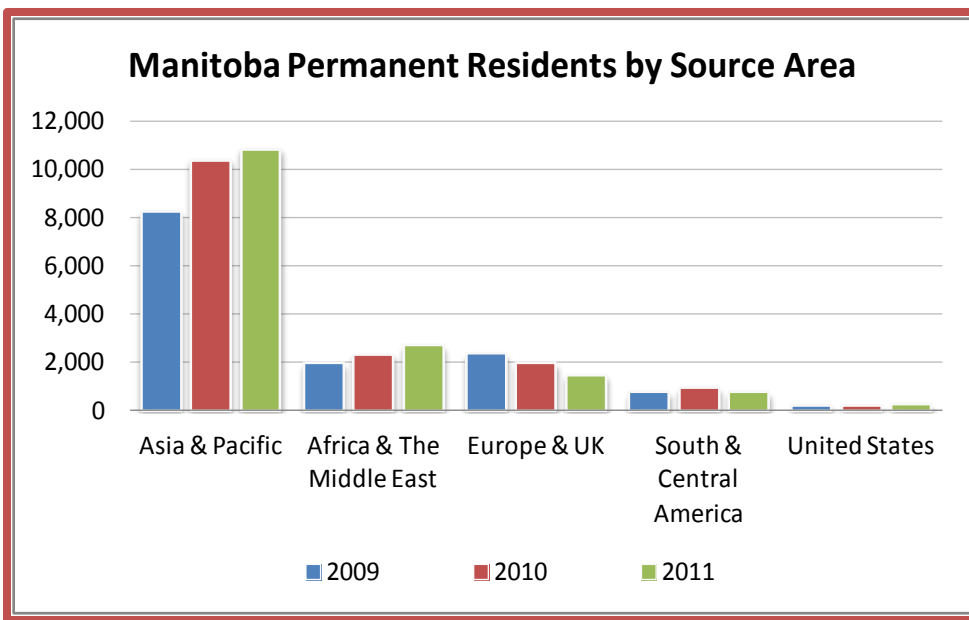
Since 2002, Manitoba has received approximately 104,000 immigrants, of which 15,942 arrived in 2011. Of these, 12,342 came as provincial nominees, 1,419 came as family class, 1303 came as refugees (444 government-assisted and 795 privately sponsored), 809 came as skilled workers/federal economic class, and 89 came that did not fall under any of these four groups.

IMMIGRATION TO MANITOBA IN THE PAST DECADE



Composition of Immigration to Manitoba

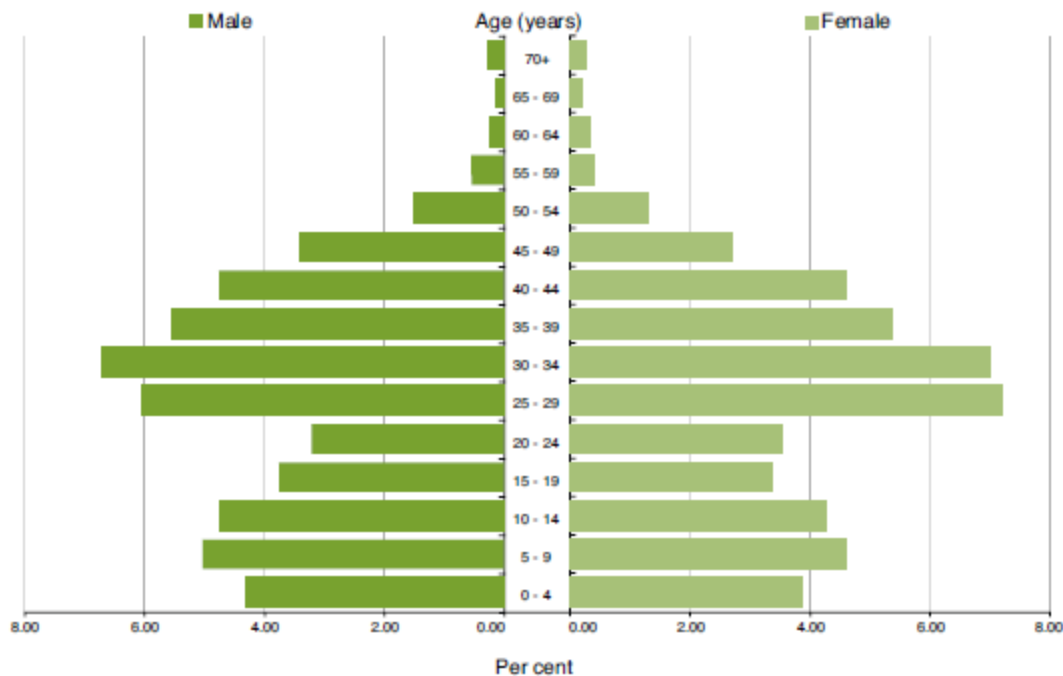
Manitoba’s immigrants are from diverse origins. In 2011, 68 % of Manitoba’s new permanent residents arrived from Asia and the Pacific; however, immigration from Africa and the Middle East represented 17 % of the new residents and surpassed immigration from Europe and the United Kingdom (9 %). (See page 12 for top source countries for refugees.)



* Statistics and charts on pages 7 and 8 were provided by Manitoba Immigration and Multiculturalism.

Immigrants to Manitoba are much younger than the average population and an almost equal number of men and women immigrate on an annual basis. In 2011, the median age of immigrants was 28 years while the median age of Manitobans was 38.4 years (2011 Census).

MANITOBA PERMANENT RESIDENTS BY AGE AND GENDER – 2011



For more Canadian immigration facts and statistics, see <www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/menu-fact.asp>. For more Manitoba immigration facts and statistics, see <www.gov.mb.ca/labour/immigration/publications.html>.

What does the term *refugee* mean?

Today, to be recognized as having refugee status, a person must have left his or her own country or be unable to return to it “owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reason of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.”

(United Nations, 1951)

“A child soldier is any person under 18 years of age who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to cooks, porters, messengers and anyone accompanying such groups, other than family members. The definition includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and for forced marriage. It does not, therefore, only refer to a child who is carrying or has carried arms.”

(UNICEF, 1997)

A *Refugee claimant* is a person who has made a claim for protection in Canada as a refugee.

This term is more or less equivalent to the term *asylum-seeker*, which is often used internationally. A refugee claimant therefore is someone whose legal status as a refugee in Canada awaits determination and may or may not be a refugee. Refugee claimants in Canada are eligible for basic social assistance and emergency health care.

(Canadian Council for Refugees)



© United Nations Photo. December 1, 2001. Roghani Refugee Camp, Chaman, Pakistan. UN Photo/Luke Powell. Afghan refugees. CC license. <www.un.org/av/photo/>.

The term *refugee*, which in legal terms has a specific meaning, is used throughout this resource.

A “refugee claimant” is someone who has crossed an international border in search of safety and wishes to be legally recognized as being a refugee. A refugee claimant must undergo a legal process to determine whether they should be considered a refugee and be given asylum in the receiving country. Having come of their own initiative, a refugee claimant must meet the same criteria as all refugees in order to stay.

In this resource, we use the term *refugee* as well as “war-affected”. By war-affected, we generally refer to those who may not legally be recognized as being a refugee but have had similar experiences and whose lives have been significantly affected and disrupted by war and conflict. The term *war-affected* includes children and youth who may have been child soldiers and those who experienced internal displacement, violence, deprivation of food and shelter, sexual assault, abduction, and/or psycho-social trauma as a result of war and conflict.

Why is it important to distinguish refugees from other immigrants?

The distinction between refugees and other migrants is an important one. While other migrant groups arrive with their families as a matter of choice, refugees arrive through no choice of their own. While other migrants freely choose to come to Canada, refugees were forced to leave their homes and countries and arrive carrying the scars of their experiences that drove them into flight. Many young refugees come with emotional, physical, and psychological developmental difficulties. They may have undergone a number of traumatic experiences before arriving in Canada, including torture and trauma, persecution, violent civil discord, arbitrary abductions, sexual abuse, the loss of loved ones, imprisonment, disease and starvation, or periods spent in refugee camps or Third World countries.

The refugee experience may have a detrimental and powerful impact on a young person's ability to learn. For many young refugees, issues of grief, loss and trauma have a profound effect and may result in depression and emotional problems. For some there may be loss of trust toward adults and officials. The effects of torture and trauma overlay with experiences of culture shock resulting in anxiety, anger, depression, and social isolation. Taking into consideration what effects the experiences of pre- and post-displacement for a refugee child or youth is the beginning point for developing supports for the learner.

How do refugees come to Canada and Manitoba?



© UNHCR. Redfern, J. November 21, 2008. Playing children. <www.flickr.com/photos/unhcr/3048228986/in/set-72157609627549530/>. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Most refugee newcomers in Manitoba come to Canada through government, private group, or family sponsorship. War-affected persons, who share some refugee-like experiences, may also enter under one of these streams of migration. Newcomers who have been sponsored through one of these sponsor groups arrive in Canada as “landed immigrants.” In other words, they have all the rights and privileges of any other immigrant who has been accepted by Canada. Along with the many resources of settlement agencies in Manitoba, there will likely be volunteer supporters or hosts; a small sponsorship group (often from a faith community); and for some, family members or friends, and community associations of those who have arrived earlier from the same countries or ethnic groups. Financial sponsorship from

family, government, or the sponsoring community usually lasts for the first year. This period of sponsorship is usually a time of more intensive support from refugee serving agencies and sponsors.

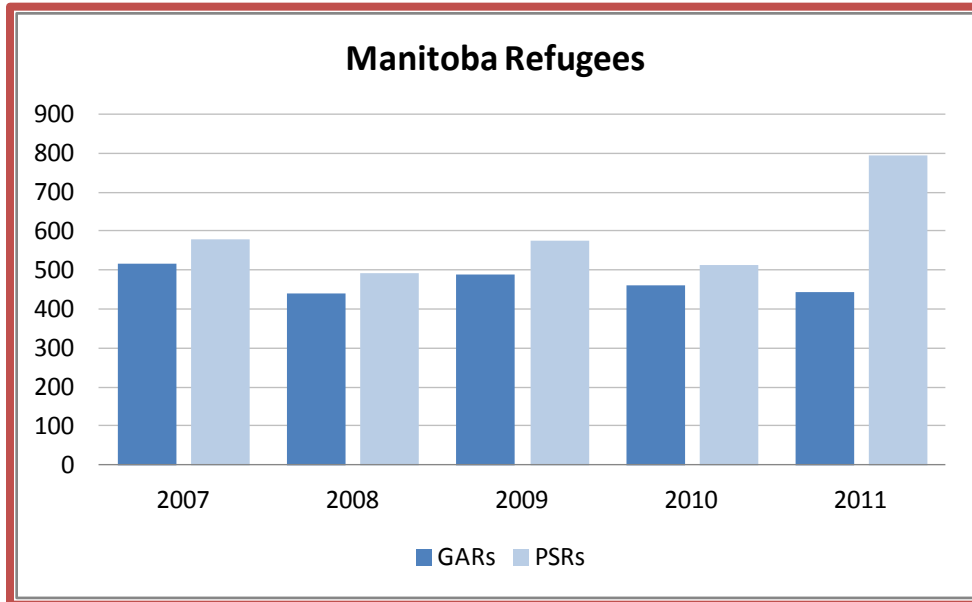
Refugee claimants are another source of refugee immigration to Canada. In 2010, there were **102,124** refugee claimants in Canada and **473** in Manitoba (Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2011). Refugee claimants are allowed to remain in Canada on a temporary basis (Minister's permit) until their request to be recognized as refugees has been completed and a determination of their status is made. Usually, some restrictions are placed on the refugee claimants and they do not have all the same rights as a *landed immigrant* or other citizen of Canada. However, school-age children are eligible to be enrolled in the school system during the refugee determination process.

Refugee claimants who are deemed not to meet the requirements for refugee status and have exhausted all legal avenues of appeal will usually be deported back to their country of origin. Conversely, refugee claimants who are determined to meet the criteria for refugee status will then be granted permission to remain in Canada as a landed immigrant.

What are some important facts about refugee immigration to Manitoba?*

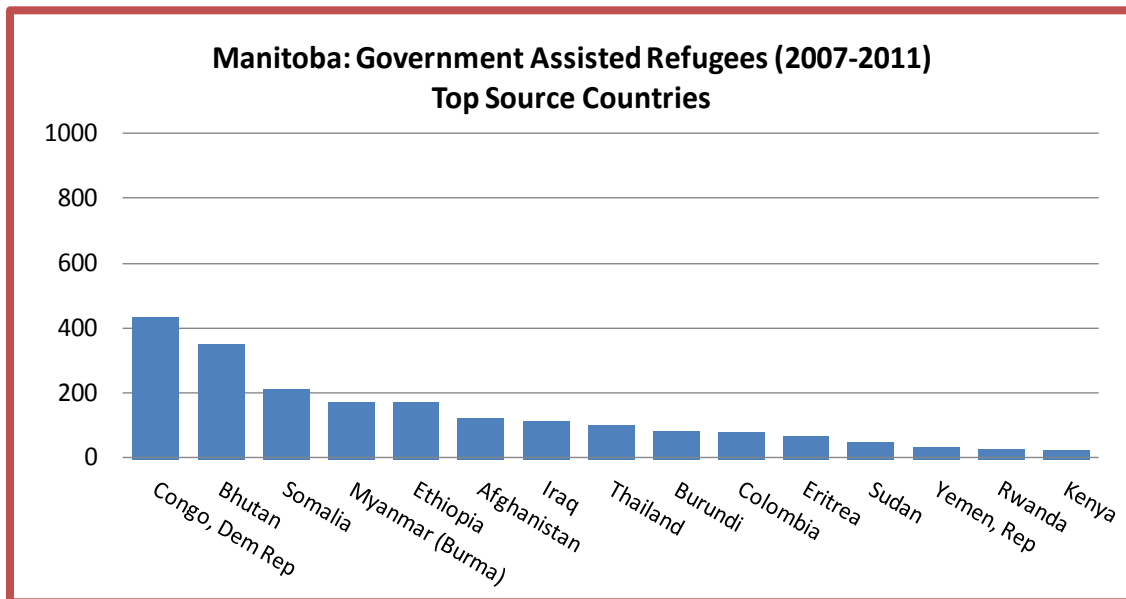
The section that follows provides an overview of trends and information pertaining to refugees who arrived in Manitoba in a given period. The information was used with permission of Manitoba Immigration and Multiculturalism.

In 2011, 6 per cent of Canada's government-assisted refugees (GARs) (444) and 14 per cent of Canada's privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) (795) settled in Manitoba.



Note that some provincial nominees may be affected by war or displaced because of conflict or other events prior to arriving in Canada; however, they do not immigrate with refugee status.

Government-assisted refugees (GARs) are selected abroad for resettlement to Canada as convention refugees under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act or as members of the Convention Refugees Abroad Class and receive resettlement assistance from the federal government (CIC).

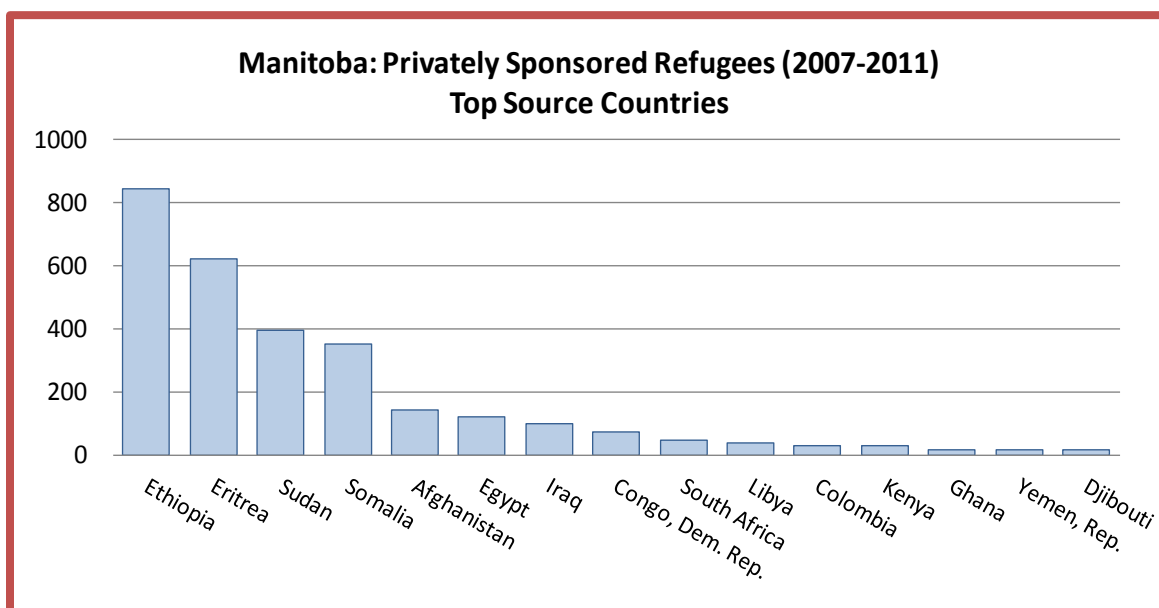


* Statistics and charts on pages 11, 12, and 13 were provided by Manitoba Immigration and Multiculturalism.

In 2011, 51 per cent of all GARs were female and, of these, 47 per cent were under 19 years of age. During the 2009–2011 period, 865 GARs of 0 to 24 years of age settled in Manitoba.

Manitoba: Government-Assisted Refugees						
	2009		2010		2011	
AGE GROUP	male	female	male	female	male	female
0 to 4	21	25	21	26	18	26
5 to 9	35	33	37	22	27	30
10 to 14	40	37	30	28	27	23
15 to 19	40	38	25	36	24	27
20 to 24	30	23	29	26	34	27
25 to 29	13	20	17	28	22	22
30 to 34	15	21	14	19	18	13
35 to 39	14	16	12	--	12	18
40 to 44	8	12	10	11	11	12
45 to 49	--	11	11	14	11	8
50+	21	13	23	17	15	19

Privately sponsored refugees (PSRs) are selected for resettlement in the Convention refugee abroad class, the source country class, or the country of asylum class and are privately sponsored by organizations, individuals, or groups of individuals.



In 2011, 40 per cent of the PSRs were female and 28 per cent of all PSRs were under 19 years of age. During the 2009–2011 period, 884 PSRs of 0 to 24 years of age settled in Manitoba.

Manitoba: Privately Sponsored Refugees						
AGE GROUP	2009		2010		2011	
	male	female	male	female	male	female
0 to 4	30	22	35	21	35	36
5 to 9	27	25	22	21	28	24
10 to 14	32	27	16	20	24	28
15 to 19	24	17	22	10	32	22
20 to 24	31	26	36	31	68	42
25 to 29	65	38	46	41	93	60
30 to 34	54	31	45	31	94	43
35 to 39	30	28	41	14	58	24
40 to 44	12	9	24	11	34	19
45 to 49	14	7	9	8	8	9
50+	16	11	6	--	5	9

Where do refugees settle?



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www.flickr.com/photos/afghanyouthvoices/6045268716/in/set-72157627436908300/. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Initially, newcomers may have little choice as to where they may settle, as their destination is largely dependent on being accepted by the host country and finding suitable sponsorship.

Newcomers will be attracted to countries and areas where a community of compatriots or members of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic, or faith group exist, or where other family members have settled. Often, refugees apply to several countries to be accepted for sponsorship.

Once they arrive in the host country, they initially settle in areas determined by the host country. It is not uncommon for newcomers to move frequently after settling in a new city or community as they seek better conditions or move to be closer to employment, family members, or ethnic/community facilities and services.

Refugee settlement agencies and sponsoring groups provide some assistance in helping refugees to settle. Orientation sessions are offered and settlement workers and volunteers help refugees find housing and initial employment, and also help them register students in schools and access other essential services. English as an Additional Language classes are delivered by a variety of agencies. There are also support groups and other services. Short-term financial assistance for housing and essential services is provided by government or community sponsors to assist in the settlement process.

As refugees settle and begin to become more familiar with the social, health, and educational systems, refugee families and individuals are expected to become more independent and to access services from mainstream institutions and service providers.

Do unaccompanied or orphaned youth resettle as refugees?



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Because of safety concerns, some children are brought to Canada without their parents. These youth may be immigrating independently or as orphans. While their numbers are relatively small, they are a real presence in our schools and communities, and must be considered. In some countries, children and youth are conscripted into training for military indoctrination and duties, and some become child soldiers. They may have great difficulty in locating family again. Many more have lost parents who died or disappeared while fleeing dangers. Some have witnessed their parent's deaths due to war, illness, or

dangerous circumstances. Families have been separated because of individuals belonging to persecuted groups in their countries of origin and, at times, on the willingness of both parents to come to yet another country of asylum. Some come with the hope of reunification in Canada, but, this is delayed because parents are applying from different countries.

Such children and youth may have special circumstances, such as foster parenting by other family members and sponsorship with fostering as part of the financial and living arrangements in Manitoba. Unaccompanied youth may require specialized, supportive housing that takes into account all of the pressures upon them in the adaptation and settlement process.

Finding affordable room and board and networks of special support may make a crucial difference for completing educational goals.



© United Nations Photo. December 23, 2009. Abu Shouk, Sudan. UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran. Children at IDP Camp playful during UNAMID patrol. CC license. <www.un.org/av/photo/>.

"I think about what I have been through and this gives me more determination to do well in life." A 19 year-old male former child soldier from Kono (just promoted to his final year of secondary school)

(Betancourt, 2011, p. 37)

For information on the Government of Canada's current policies concerning health and other services for refugees see <www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/outside/arriving-healthcare.asp>. However, the document *Working With Immigrant Communities: A Guide for Service Providers* (2008) is still helpful. The resource is available online at <www.serc.mb.ca/resource-library/working-immigrant-communities-guide-service-providers-improving-access-project-2008>.