

Children Arrivals in Western Australia under the Humanitarian Program



ASeTTS
Assisting Torture
and Trauma Survivors

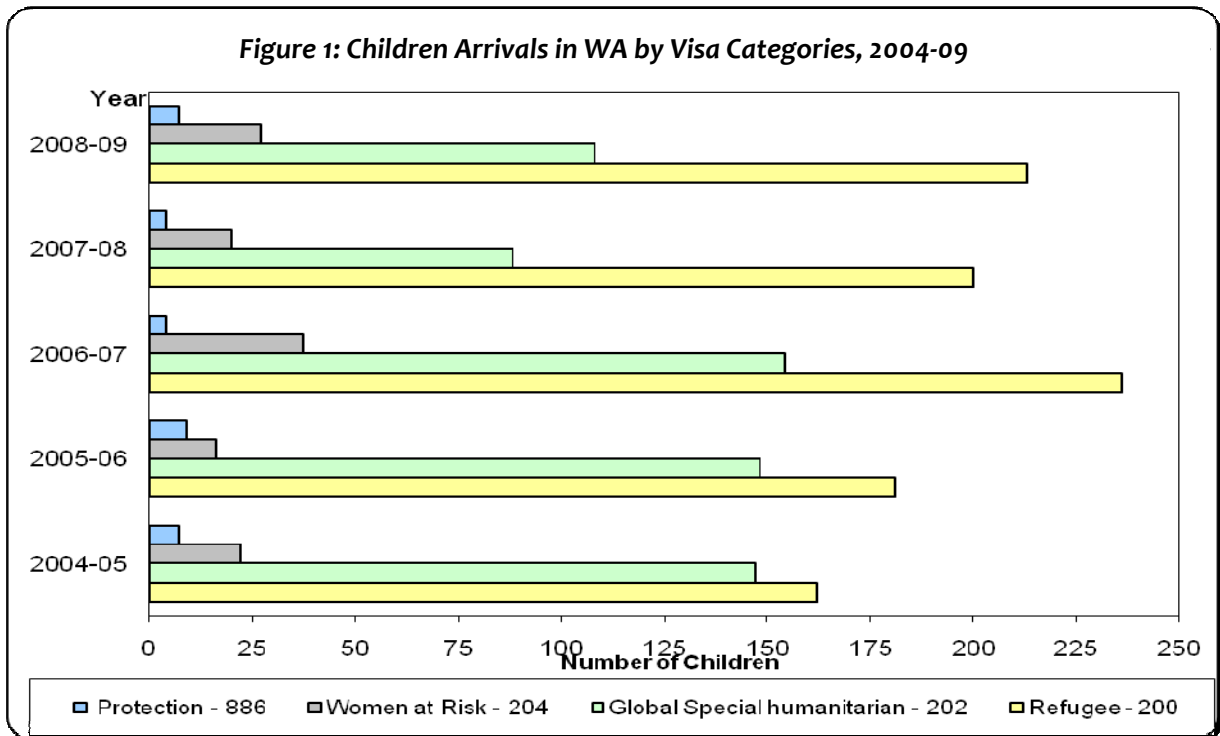
ASeTTS Factsheet No. 1 (2009)

Overview

This factsheet aims to provide a general outline of the demographic and settlement trends for children (aged zero to eleven)¹ arriving in Western Australia (WA) under the Humanitarian program for the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2009. The information presented in this document is based on the statistics collated by the Settlement Database Team, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)².

How many children entered WA under the Humanitarian Program?

On average 360 children per year arrived in WA between 2004 and 2009. Most arrived under Refugee – 200³ and Global Special Humanitarian – 202⁴ visa categories (Figure 1).



In 2008-09, children made up 26% of the total number of humanitarian entrants to WA. There was an equal distribution between male and female, 177 and 178 respectively. Majority (60%) arrived under Refugee – 200 Visa category followed by Global Special Humanitarian – 202 Visa category (30%). The rest arrived under Protection – 886⁵ Visa category and Women at Risk – 204⁶ Visa Category.

¹ Definition of a child

² DIAC's general settlement database can be accessed online at <http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/delivering-assistance/settlement-reporting-facility>.

³ Refugee 200 Visa - for people who are subject to persecution in their home country and are in need of resettlement.

⁴ Global Special Humanitarian 202 Visa - for people who, while not being refugees, are subject to substantial discrimination and human rights abuses in their home country.

⁵ Women at Risk 204 Visa – for female applicants and their dependents who are living outside their home country without the protection of a male relative and are in danger of victimisation and harassment because of their gender.

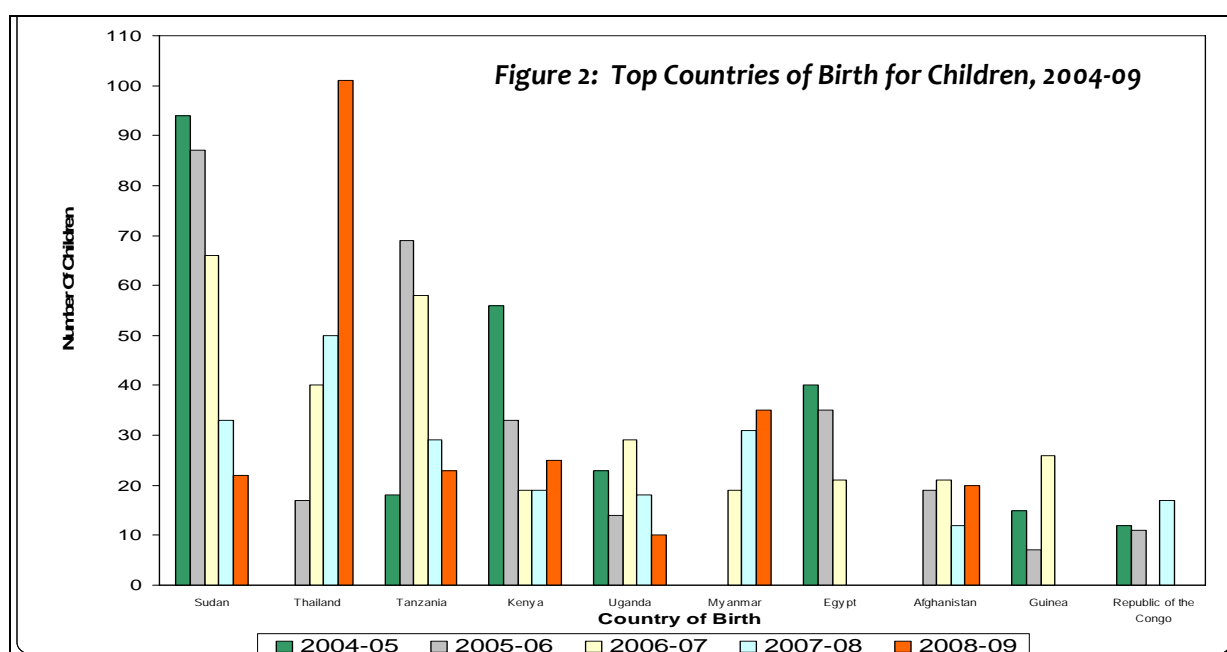
⁶ Protection 886 Visa – for people who are found to be owed Australia's protection under the Convention relating to the status of refugees (1951) and who meet the DIAC's requirements for this visa. (Ref: DIAC website - www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/offshore/visas.htm retrieved 8 August 2009.)

Where are the children coming from?

A total of 355 children from 30 different countries arrived in WA for the period 2008-09 (Table 1).

Country of Birth	Number of Children	Country of Birth	Number of Children
Thailand	101	Sri Lanka	5
Myanmar	35	Ghana	4
Kenya	25	India	4
Tanzania	23	Iran	4
Sudan	22	Egypt	3
Afghanistan	20	Togo	3
Iraq	18	Zambia	3
Ethiopia	16	Zimbabwe	3
Uganda	10	Eritrea	2
Burundi	9	Malawi	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	9	Somalia	2
Malaysia	9	Australia	1
Guinea	8	Cote d'Ivoire	1
Liberia	6	Lebanon	1
Pakistan	5	Syrian Arab Republic	1
		Total	355

Table 1: Children Arrivals by country of birth, 2008-09

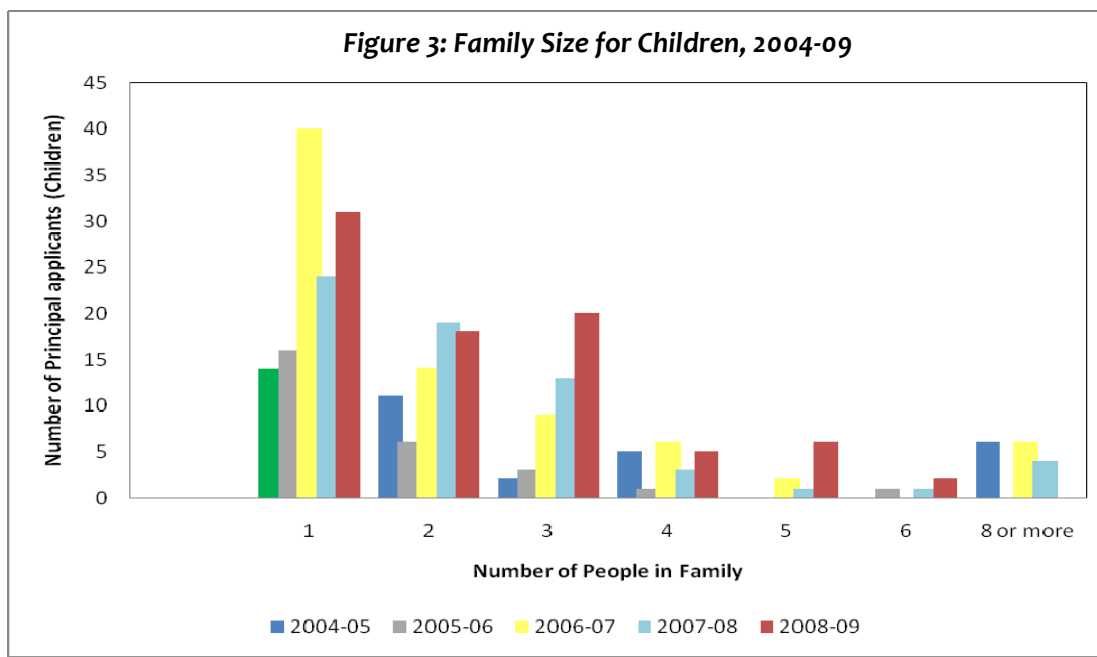


During the five year period (2004-09) a total number of 1799 children arrived from 56 countries. The top ten countries of birth⁷ are: Sudan, Thailand, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Myanmar, Egypt, Afghanistan, Guinea and Republic of the Congo (Figure 2). There have been some variations during this period, for example, the largest proportion of children came from Thailand in 2007-09 while the largest number of children came from Sudan in 2004-07.

⁷ Country of Birth does not indicate nationality or ethnicity.

Family Size

Most of the children as principal applicants⁸ came from a family consisting between one person and three people. Figure 3 shows the details. There was no data for family size of seven.



What languages are spoken?

During the period 2004-09 children came from at least 97 language groups. The top languages are: African language(s)⁹ – 27%, Arabic - 18%, Karen S’gaw - 7%, Burmese/Myanmar - 5%, Dari and Swahili - 4%. The top ten languages spoken by children arriving in 2008-09 are listed in Table 2. The majority were from Karen S’gaw language group (23%), reflecting the ethnic minorities from Myanmar and Thailand. This is a change from the previous three years where the largest proportion of children was from African language(s)¹⁰ speaking communities.

Language	Number of Children	Percentage
Karen S’gaw	82	23%
African Language(s) NFD ¹¹	50	14%
Arabic	30	8%
Kirundi / Nyarwandwa / Rundi	25	7%
Burmese / Myanmar	15	4%
Chin Haka	14	4%
Karen	14	4%
Oromo	14	4%
Dari	13	4%
Persian	10	3%

Table 2: Top 10 languages spoken by Children, 2008-09

Prior Schooling for Children Arriving in WA

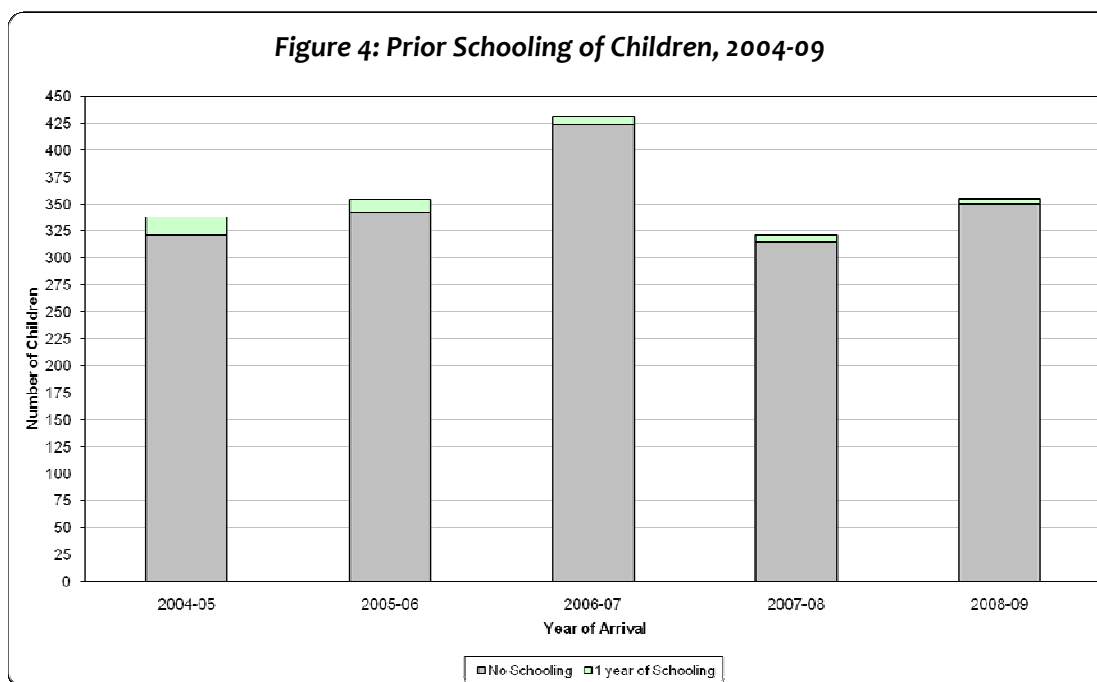
Most of the newly arriving children have had little or no prior schooling (97%) during the period 2004-09. The number of years of prior schooling among children has declined as well. In 2004-05 at least 5% of children had one year of prior schooling but in 2008-09 this was at 1%. Figure 4 shows the details.

⁸ As defined by DIAC.

⁹ Only the continent information is available and the definition is set by DIAC and not ASeTTS.

¹⁰ Only the continent information is available and the definition is set by DIAC and not ASeTTS.

¹¹ NFD - Not Further Defined, no further detail is available except for the community language group from DIAC.



Where are the children settling in WA?

In 2008-09, the majority of children (97%) were living in Perth in South East Metropolitan (33%) and North Metropolitan (31%) areas. The Local Government Areas (LGAs) of residence in Perth and Regional/Rural areas of WA are shown in Table 3 and Table 4 respectively.

LGAs in Perth	Number of Youth
City of Stirling	78
City Canning	67
City of Bayswater	32
City of Wanneroo	32
City of Gosnells	22
City of Belmont	21
City of Kwinana	4
City of Swan	4
Town of Victoria Park	2
City of Rockingham	2
City of Armadale	1
Town of Cambridge	1
City of Fremantle	1
City of Joondalup	1
City of Perth	1
Town of Vincent	1
Perth (Unspecified)	2
Invalid /Unknown	72
Total	344

Table 3: Perth - LGAs of residence in Perth, 2008-09

LGAs in regional or rural areas	Number of Youth
City of Mandurah	5
City of Bunbury	2
Shire of Busselton	1
Shire of Katanning	2
Shire of Plantagenet	1
Total	11

Table 4: Regional/Rural LGAs of residence in WA, 2008-09