

Youth Arrivals in Western Australia under the Humanitarian Program



ASeTTS
Assisting Torture
and Trauma Survivors

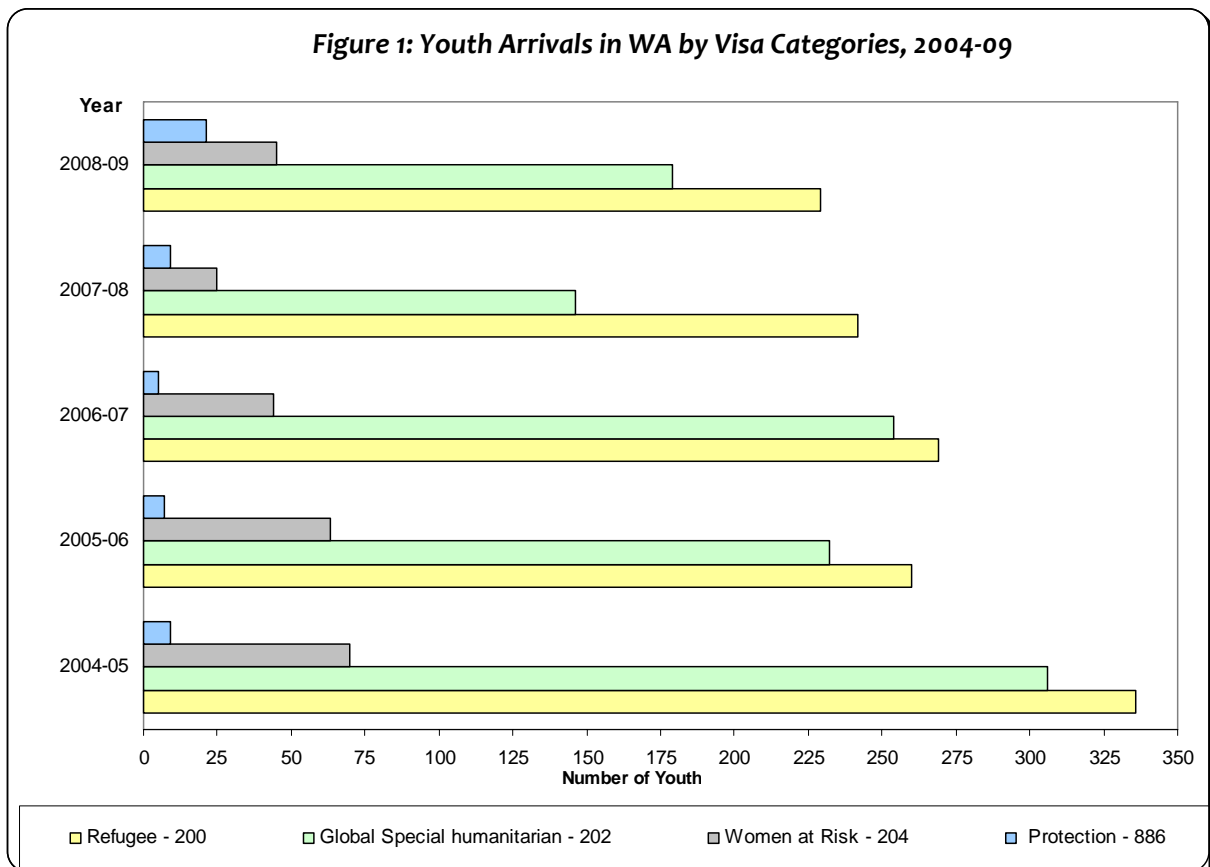
ASeTTS Factsheet No. 2 (2009)

Overview

This factsheet aims to provide a general outline of the demographic and settlement trends for youth or young people (**aged twelve to twenty five**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 young people entered WA under the Humanitarian Program?

On average 550 youth per year arrived in WA between 2004 and 2009. Majority were under Refugee - 200³ and Global Special Humanitarian - 202⁴ visa categories. This was followed by Women at Risk - 204⁵ and Protection - 866⁶ visa categories (Figure 1).



¹ Definition of a youth or a young person

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 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, harassment or serious abuse 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 satisfy DIAC's requirements for this visa. (Ref: DIAC website -www.immi.gov.au/visas/humanitarian/offshore/visas.htm retrieved 8 August 2009).

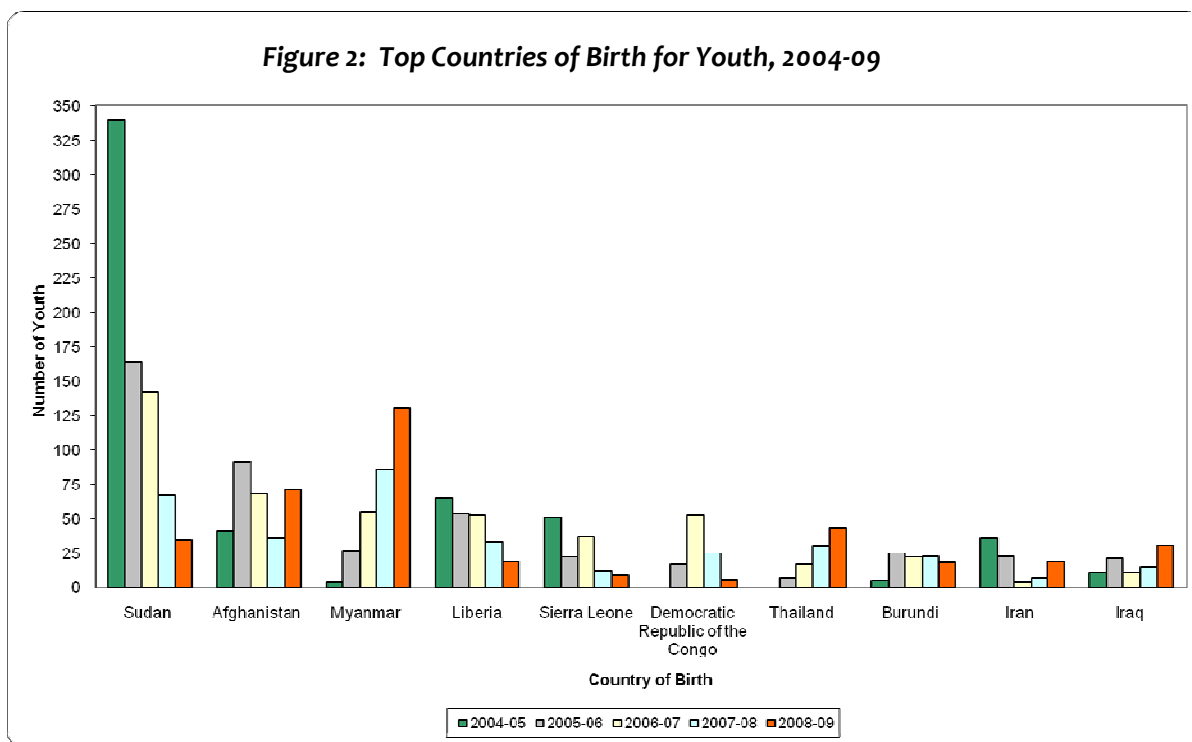
The five year trend shows a 40% decrease in youth arrivals. This corresponds with a reduction of arrivals in all visa categories except for Protection - 886 Visa category. The latter has more than doubled for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09. This is a strong indicator about the rising number of youth seeking asylum in WA. In 2008-09, youth arrivals made up 35% of the total humanitarian arrivals in WA. This was made up of 244 male and 230 female totaling 474 youth. Most arrived under Refugee – 200 (48%) and Global Special Humanitarian - 202 (37%) visa categories.

Where are the youth coming from?

A total of 474 youth from 27 countries entered Australia in 2008-09. The top five countries are Myanmar, Afghanistan, Thailand, Sudan and Iraq. Table 1 shows these details.

| Country of Birth | Number of Youth | Country of Birth | Number of Youth |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Myanmar | 131 | Cote d ivoire | 6 |
| Afghanistan | 71 | Zimbabwe | 6 |
| Thailand | 43 | Eritrea | 6 |
| Sudan | 35 | Rwanda | 5 |
| Iraq | 31 | Republic of the Congo | 4 |
| Liberia | 19 | Kenya | 4 |
| Iran | 19 | Uganda | 2 |
| Ethiopia | 19 | Pakistan | 2 |
| Burundi | 18 | India | 2 |
| Tanzania | 13 | Guinea | 1 |
| Somalia | 11 | Ghana | 1 |
| Sierra Leone | 9 | Indonesia | 1 |
| Sri Lanka | 8 | Kuwait | 1 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 6 | Total | 474 |

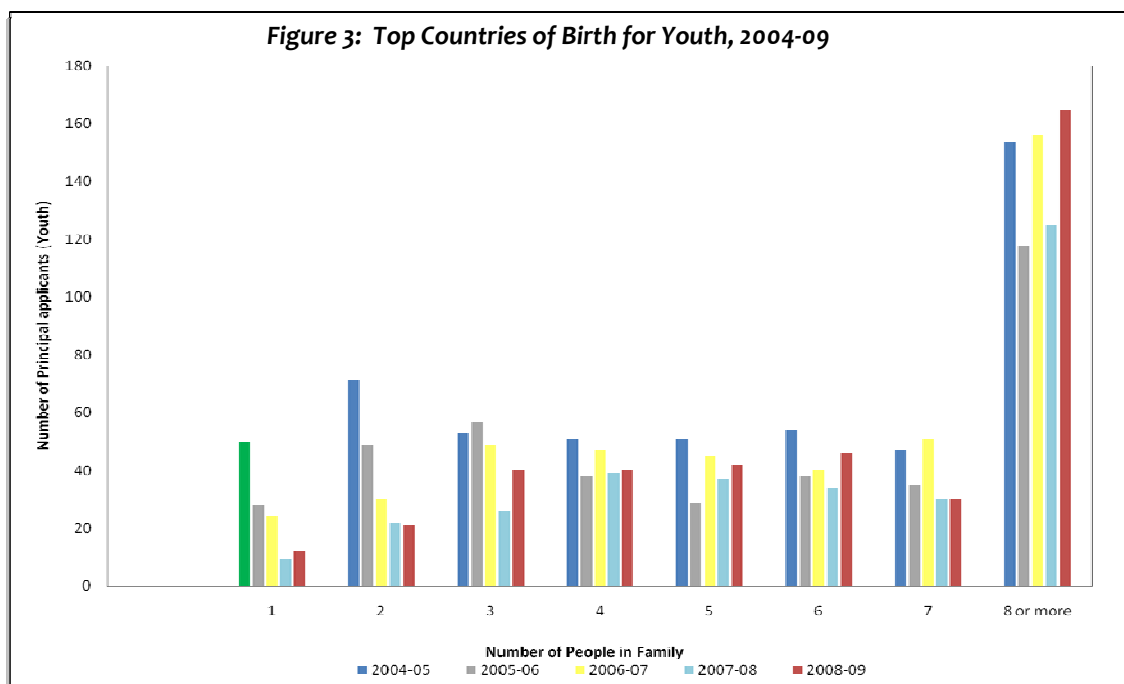
Table 1: Youth Arrivals by country of birth, 2008-09



During the five year period (2004-09) a total of 2755 youth arrived from 49 countries. The top ten countries of birth⁷ are: Sudan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thailand, Burundi, Iran and Iraq (Figure 2). There have been some variations during this period, for example, most youth were born in Sudan for the period 2004-07 while most youth were born in Myanmar for the period 2007-09.

Family Size

The details of family size of youth as principal applicants⁸ are shown in Figure 3.



What languages are spoken?

During the period 2004-09 youth came from at least 97 language groups. The top languages include: African language(s)⁹ – 27%, Arabic – 11%, Dari – 8%, English – 6%, Burmese/Myanmar – 6%, Persian and Swahili – 4%. Top ten languages spoken by youth arriving in 2008-09 are listed in Table 2.

| Language | Number of Youth | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Karen S’gaw | 52 | 11% |
| Burmese / Myanmar | 48 | 10% |
| African Language(s) NEC ¹⁰ | 48 | 10% |
| Karen | 45 | 9% |
| Arabic | 37 | 8% |
| Dari | 32 | 7% |
| Kirundi / Nyarwandwa / Rundi | 28 | 6% |
| Persian | 22 | 5% |
| Oromo | 15 | 3% |
| Farsi (Afghan) | 15 | 3% |

Table 2: Top 10 languages spoken by Youth in 2008-09

⁷ Country birth does not indicate nationality or ethnicity.

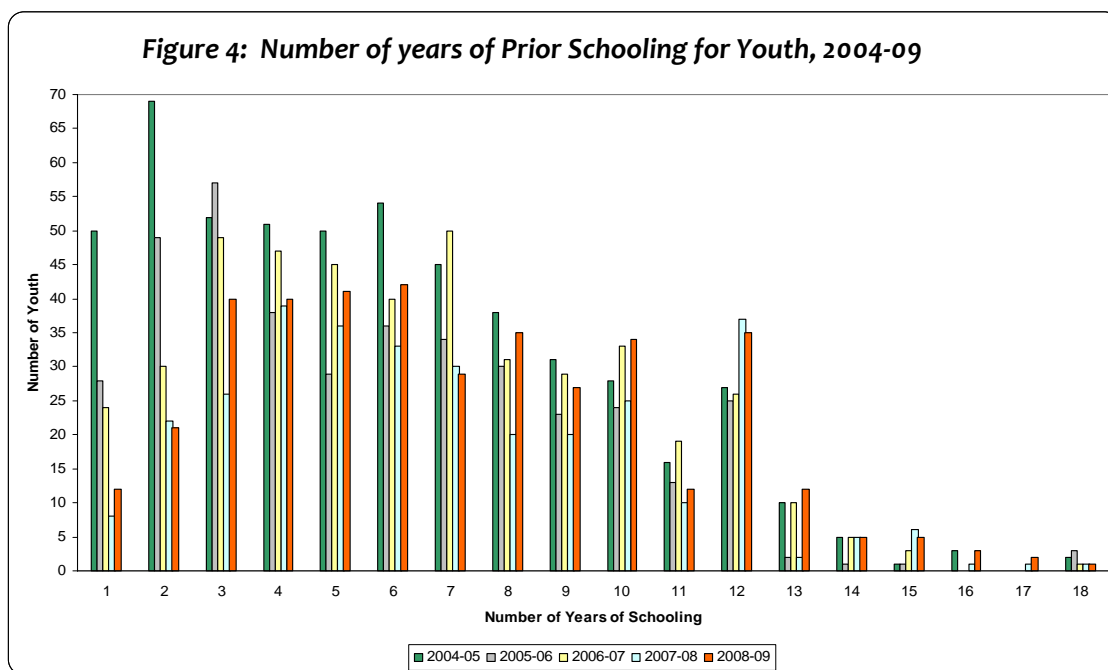
⁸ As defined by DIAC

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

¹⁰ NEC - Language/Ethnicity is new and does not have a code allocated at the time of recording in the DIAC system.

Prior Schooling for the Youth arriving in WA

For the five year (2004-09) period at least 76% of the newly arriving youth had some form of prior schooling. Figure 4 shows these details. The number of youth with no prior schooling has declined by more than half for period 2004-05 (189 youth) to 2008-09 (78 youth).



Where are the youth settling in WA?

In 2008-09 the majority (97%) were living in Perth in North Metropolitan (35%), South East Metropolitan (30%) and East Metropolitan (8%) 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 | 110 |
| City of Canning | 79 |
| City of Wanneroo | 55 |
| City of Gosnells | 30 |
| City of Bayswater | 19 |
| City of Swan | 19 |
| City of Belmont | 18 |
| City of Melville | 7 |
| Town of Victoria Park | 7 |
| City of Armadale | 6 |
| Town of Kwinana | 6 |
| Town of Cambridge | 5 |
| Perth (Unspecified) | 3 |
| City of Fremantle | 2 |
| City of Joondalup | 1 |
| City of Rockingham | 1 |
| Unknown/Invalid | 94 |
| Total | 462 |

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

| LGAs in regional or rural areas | Number of Youth |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Shire of Plantagenet | 5 |
| Shire of Busselton | 3 |
| Shire of Katanning | 2 |
| City of Bunbury | 1 |
| City of Mandurah | 1 |
| Total | 12 |

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