

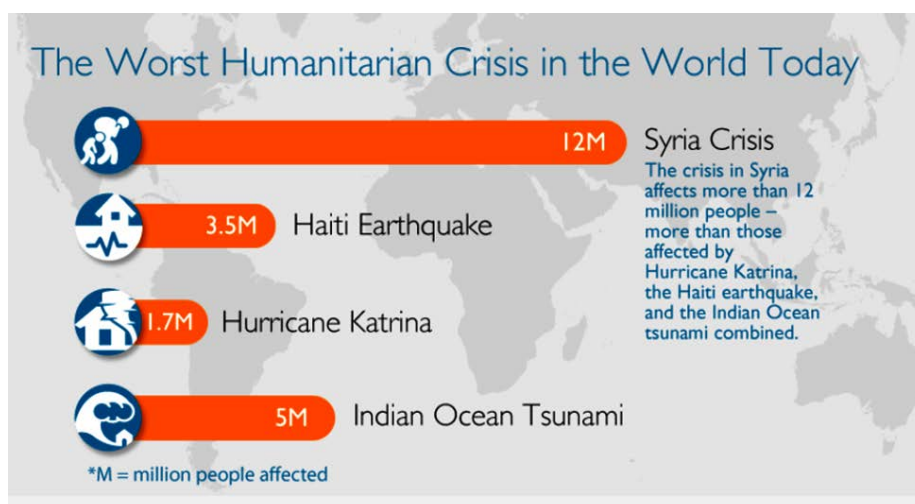


# Fact Sheet – Syrian Crisis and Refugees

## Why are Syrians fleeing?

There are three main reasons:

- Violence – since the Syrian civil war began, more than ¼ million people have been killed and another million wounded or permanently disabled
- Collapsed infrastructure – within Syria, health care, education systems and other infrastructure have been destroyed and the economy shattered
- Children's safety – children have lost loved ones, missed years of school and witnessed violence and brutality.



Source: World Vision

## What do we know about the refugees?

- 4 million Syrians are refugees living in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan
- 52% of refugees are under the age of 18
- Arabic is the native language of 90% of the population
- 46% of Syrian refugees who have immigrated to Canada to date arrived speaking one of our two official languages. English is taught in Syrian schools starting in Grade one and French is taught from grades 7-12. However due to the crisis 68% of refugee children are not attending school
- 87% are Muslim, 10% Christian and 3% are Druze
- 85% of Syrian refugees are currently living in non-camp environments in large urban centres (abandoned buildings, sheds, garages, spare rooms and tent settlements)
- Majority of adult refugees worked in construction or agriculture prior to the conflict
- Tend to have large families (3+ children) and large extended families
- 1 in 10 refugee households have a family member with a disability and 41% of these are children
- Much of the Syrian refugee population has experience some form of trauma and therefore mental health and psychosocial support services are essential
- Refugees coming to Canada receive security and medical screenings prior to and upon their arrival and are permanent residents once they arrive