



IN SCHOOL
SETTLEMENT
PROGRAM

Addressing the diverse stresses impacting Syrian Refugees: Challenges, Opportunities and Tools



THE CALGARY BRIDGE
FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH

About Us - In School Settlement Program

CONNECT

SETTLE

INTEGRATE

**The ISSP provides settlement
information and services as you begin
your journey in Canada**

In School Settlement Program

Funder:



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

Partners:



Calgary Board
of Education



Workshop Objectives

The session will cover:

- The path and journey of Syrian Refugees
- The difficulties faced since arriving in Canada
- Tools, strategies, resources and best practices that best support students and their families

Refugees Assisted by ISSP's Syrian Initiative Team January to August 2017

Immigration Status	Number. of families	Number. of individuals	Country of Origin	Language
Government Sponsored	57	314	Syria, Iraq	Arabic, Kurdish
Privately Sponsored	30	122	Syria	Arabic
Church Sponsored	4	19	Syria	Arabic
Combination of church and private sponsorship	18	79	Syria, Iraq	Arabic
Refugee Claimant	11	46	Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Eritrea,	Arabic, Tigrinya
Total	120	580		

The path and journey of Syrian Refugees

What Have Refugee Families Experienced (*In Their Country*)?

- Violence (as witnesses, victims, and/or perpetrators)
- Lack of food, water, and shelter
- Physical injuries, infections, and diseases
- Torture
- Sexual assault
- Lack of medical care
- Loss of loved ones
- Disruption in or lack of access to schooling

The path and journey of Syrian Refugees

Traumatic Events During Displacement

- Living in refugee camps
- Separation from family
- Loss of community
- Uncertainty about the future
- Harassment by local authorities
- Travelling long distances on foot
- Detention

Greatest difficulties new Immigrants/Refugees faced since arriving in Canada

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adapting to new culture or values / Cultural chock• Learning new language• Missing support from homeland• Finding on adequate job• Financial constraints Recognition of Credentials/Experience• Access to Education/ Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to professional help• Lack of Social interaction• Discrimination or Racism• Finding good quality housing• Access to childcare• Trauma• Well-being, Health Concerns |
|--|---|

Strategies, Tools and Best Practice

Client-centred and Culture Sensitive Approach

Challenge, Tools and Best Practice Language

Challenges	Tools
Low literacy levels in their home country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage attendance of library programs • Enroll students in extracurricular activities to increase integration and language development (CBFY/ communities) • Connecting refugee youth with volunteer students in schools • FECC English program (CBFY) • Financial literacy workshop/ Saving program
Difficulties to read and understand instruction	
Barrier to seek help and access services	
Dependency or Isolation	
Prioritize employment on language	
Genders/Child care concerns	
Transportation/Distance	
Long wait time	
Banking system	

Challenge, Tools and Best Practice Culture

Challenges	Tools
Urban Vs. rural Housing Different Value systems Parenting Social Support system/ Isolation Body language	Conducting Workshops in Arabic on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting in Dual Culture Series • School System • Local Communities Resources • Welcome to Canada Workshops series
Stigma around the Mental Health topic/Access to Mental Health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking down the taboo surrounding the Mental Health • Helping the Support Programs at schools reaching the families • Foster a good communication about the topic in a safe and non-judgmental environment • Conduct awareness education workshop to normalize mental health challenges • Presenting mental health care services in culturally-sensitive ways

Challenge, Tools and Best Practice School System

Challenges	Tools
<p>School Division</p> <p>Adjustment to school routine and structure</p> <p>Sex Education Program</p> <p>Respect/ Accept gender roles changes</p> <p>Transportation</p>	<p>Workshops on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation (Educational sessions) around these issues to assist families in their journeys of understanding, acceptance and role in decision making (For parents). • Anti-bullying for LEAD students program • Addressing pathways to success and high school preparation <p>Educational series in classes (LEAD) addressing cultural education around expectations and appropriate behaviour in school and society (For students)</p> <p>One on one meeting to discuss concerns</p>
<p>Large educational gaps resulting in difficulty with academic content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEAD Classes (CBE) • Workshops addressing pathways to success and high school preparation • Homework Club (CBFY) • Calgary library programs • Communities Program referrals

Challenge, Tools and Best Practice Employment

Challenges	Tools
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve English level• Volunteering• Entry level job• Employment short term /long term Plan
Low literacy	
Recognition of credentials	
Canadian Experience	
Recession	

Addressing the diverse stresses impacting Syrian Refugees: Challenges, Opportunities and Tools

Any Questions? Suggestion? Sharing story?

Contact Information

Souheir Jamil Ph.D

**In-School Settlement
Practitioner**

Tel: 403-990-5450

Email: sjamil@cbfy.ca