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Some of the Arab States Have Admitted Many From Syria

The population of Syrians living in the Gulf states jumped by more than 1.1 million from the beginning of the civil war through 2013.

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The basis of Douglas J. Feith's op-ed "[An Obvious, Unused Home for Refugees](#)" (Dec. 1) is that the Gulf states haven't accepted any Syrian refugees. A more detailed look reveals that the population of Syrians living in the Gulf states jumped by more than 1.1 million from the beginning of the civil war through 2013.

World Bank data show that before the outbreak of violence 241,000 Syrians were living in the Gulf states. By 2013 that number increased by 470% to a total of 1.4 million. The number of Syrians living in Saudi Arabia alone rose from 111,764 to a million in three years—an 800% increase. Many are likely on work visas.

These Syrians aren't legally considered refugees because the Gulf states haven't signed the U.N. refugee conventions. Regardless, the increase in Syrian migrants in the Gulf states has helped alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria.

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