DRC, displacement, and integration of refugees
Presentation

- Danish Refugee Council, and DRC Integration
- Displacement – internationally and in Denmark
- Integration of refugees in Denmark – policy and practice
Dansk Flygtningehjælp

DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
Danish Refugee Council

- Established in 1956 to support refugees from Hungary. Today, the largest Danish NGO with programs in 36 countries worldwide.
- In Denmark, we cooperate with government, municipalities, and public institutions for provision of integration services. We carry out advocacy. We provide counselling for asylum seekers.
- Vision: A dignified life for all displaced.
Integration Department – 500 employees + 8,000 volunteers
DRC’s Integration Circle

- A dignified life as a vision for integration activities: Support and enable refugees and migrants to be part of a community and to enjoy equal rights and opportunities in Denmark.

- Language proficiency, employment, participation in civil society, and an inclusive society are pivotal for the quality of life, empowerment and future possibilities of refugees and migrants.

- Meeting the individual with a focus on resources.
Internationally and in Denmark

DISPLACEMENT
70+ million refugees and displaced in the world

- 85% in developing countries
- 80% of refugees in neighbouring countries
- Half of refugees are children
- 5.6 M Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries
- 3.7 M Syrian refugees in Turkey
- 1 M Syrian refugees in Europe
- Lack of funding
- 92,400 refugees resettled in 2018
- Closed borders

Mads Ted Drud-Jensen, Knowledge Center for Vulnerable Refugees (Center for Udsatte Flygtninge)
Homs
(The Guardian 2014)
All refugees are shocked

- Extreme conditions
- Brutal events
- Losses
- Fundamental changes
- Cultural differences
- Minority
- Client
### Denmark: facts and figures

#### Number of asylum applicants and residence permits

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asylum applicants</strong></td>
<td>3,806</td>
<td>6,148</td>
<td>7,557</td>
<td>14,792</td>
<td>21,316</td>
<td>6,266</td>
<td>3,479</td>
<td>3,523</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UAM: 2.144</td>
<td>UAM: 1,184</td>
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<td><strong>Residence permits</strong></td>
<td>2,249</td>
<td>2,583</td>
<td>3,889</td>
<td>6,104</td>
<td>10,849</td>
<td>7,494</td>
<td>2,749</td>
<td>1,652</td>
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#### Nationality of asylum applicants

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>8,608</td>
<td>1,253</td>
<td>864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>2,787</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2,331</td>
<td>1,127</td>
<td>188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stateless</td>
<td>1,734</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1,537</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Before 2015: Also many from Somalia

In 2018/19: Syria, Eritrea
Number of refugees referred to municipalities

Residence permits 2015: 10,849 / 2018: 1,652

Source: Det Nationale Integrationsbarometer, Ministry for Immigration and Integration
INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES IN DENMARK
Permanent residence is far away

Temporary residence permit – everyone!

Permanent residence permit can be applied for after 8 years

Citizenship Can be applied for after 8 years
The Danish Integration Act

Quota system dispersing refugees to (almost) all municipalities
“Self-support and return programme” for refugees – up to 5 years
Responsibility of municipalities – individual plans

*Aim: employment and economic self-sufficiency*

**Entitlements:**
- Free Danish language tuition (up to five years)
- Integration benefit (low)
- Affordable housing – temporary
- Health care, mental and social care (trauma rehabilitation etc.)

**Obligations – 37 hours per week:**
- Attend language training and pass test
- Actively participate in employment promoting schemes
New legislation – "paradigm shift"

- Increased focus on cessation and return – *but residence permits have always been temporary*
- From "integration" to "self-support and return" (*programme from 1 July 2019, benefit from 1 January 2020*)
- Only temporary housing
- Lower benefit for parents after 36 months of residence (when obtained the right to 50% child-support), *this will probably be withdrawn*
- Basic rights and obligations remain the same
Temporary residence permits

"Insecurity. When are they being sent back? And is it a wrong assessment that there is peace in the area? Their focus has moved, and there is a lot of anxiety related to the new ‘paradigm shift’.”

Volunteer at the Danish Refugee Council
Employment figures are good – but gender gap

Refugees in employment after 3 years:

Source: Det Nationale Integrationsbarometer, Ministry for Immigration and Integration
Reception and conditions in exile are crucial for healing and well-being

Risk factors:
- Uncertainty about asylum and stay
- Separation from family
- Lack of network
- Low socio-economic status in exile
- Loss of status
- Language barriers
- Perceived discrimination

Protective factors:
- Family reunification
- Social network
- Employment
- Language proficiency
- Permanent housing
- Access to health services

Preserving and Improving the Mental Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Umar Ikram and Karien Stronks for the Health Council of the Netherlands, 2016
Reception and integration – holistic approach

- Trauma
- Exile-related stress
- Socio-economic stress
Why focus on refugees with trauma?

- 30-45% of refugees have trauma-related symptoms (DK-estimate)
- 13-25% of refugees in high-income countries have PTSD
- Employment rate in Denmark for refugees being treated for PTSD is below 10%
- Refugees receiving treatment for PTSD (in DK) have, on average, lived in Denmark for 14½ years
- Measures to identify trauma are in need of improvement
Detecting trauma

Protect Questionnaire

- Developed by seven European organisations
- For professionals and volunteers working with asylum applicants and refugees
Refugees: diverse group, individuals

- Diversity
- Complexity
- Intersections
- Various countries of origin
- Multi-faceted backgrounds and identities
Thanks

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Center for Udsatte Flygtninge: www.udsatteflygtninge.dk