

# QUOTA REFUGEE'S JOURNEY TO FINLAND AND TO THE HOME MUNICIPALITY

## REASONS FOR FLEEING

- War, conflict, persecution.



## FINDING REFUGE

- Internal displacement.
- Cross-border displacement.

## UNHCR (THE UN REFUGEE AGENCY)

- Displaced person goes to an UNHCR office outside her/his country of origin, seeks international protection and has her/his case registered.
- UNHCR starts the refugee status determination process.
- UNHCR decides on the refugee status.
- If the UNHCR defines a person to be a refugee, the best durable solution will be assessed by the UNHCR: whether a person can return to her/his home country and if not, can she/he stay in the country she/he is residing in. If neither is an option, the UNHCR aims to resettle the person as a quota refugee.
- UNHCR submits the quota refugee cases to the resettlement states, such as Finland.

Only a fraction of refugees in need of resettlement are accepted to be resettled.

## THE SELECTION

- Finnish authorities (SUPO - The Finnish Security Intelligence Service, Migri – The Finnish Immigration Service, and experts on integration) interview the majority of the quota refugees suggested for Finland for resettlement during a selection mission in the country where the refugees reside (country of first asylum).
- The interviewees are given short information briefs about Finland during the selection interviews.
- Finland admits urgent emergency cases selected solely on a dossier basis, usually the urgency is caused by the health or safety conditions facing the refugees.

## FINLAND

- Finnish authorities process UNHCR's quota refugee proposals for Finland.

- Finland is one of the resettlement countries admitting quota refugees and the Parliament sets the annual refugee quota.
- Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment prepares a proposal for the territorial allocation of the refugee quota for the Government.
- Finland admits persons recognised as refugees by the UNHCR in need of international protection and resettlement.
- Finland-bound quota refugee must fulfill the requirements of the Alien's Act's section 92.

## RESIDENCE PERMIT

- Migri makes the decision on the refugee status and on the admission in the annual quota and issues the residence permit to Finland.



## CULTURAL ORIENTATION

- A 3-4-day long training about moving to Finland and the Finnish society is usually organised for Finland-bound quota refugees, with interpretation or in the native language. The training also includes Finnish language lessons. IOM and Diaconia University of Applied Sciences implement the cultural orientations under Migri's lead.



## MUNICIPAL PLACEMENT

- Municipalities decide independently whether they will admit quota refugees.
- Finland-bound quota refugees are assigned their municipality of residence, i.e. one cannot choose one's locality.
- Quota refugees arriving in Finland move directly to the municipality, not to a reception centre.
- Migri in cooperation with the ELY Centres (the Centre for Economic Development, Transport, and the Environment) allocate the quota refugees to municipalities having an agreement with the ELY Centre about municipal placements and a municipal integration program.
- Municipal placement means that the ELY Centre and the municipality have agreed that the municipality provides quota refugees with their first rental apartment.
- The government of Finland reimburses costs for admitting refugees to the municipalities (imputed reimbursements and actual costs).
- Imputed reimbursements are intended for measures supporting integration stipulated in the municipal integration program. These include e.g. social and medical services, cultural and leisure activities and services promoting inclusion.

## IOM ASSISTS WITH THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

### JOURNEY TO FINLAND



## PREPARATION IN THE MUNICIPALITIES

- The receiving municipality prepares rental apartments for the refugees arriving and coordinates the official services and networks.
- The Finnish Red Cross (FRC) agrees on the arrival arrangements together with the municipalities.

## ARRIVING AT THE NEW HOME

- Reception at the airport (FRC and municipal worker).
- Arriving at the new home.
- Becoming a municipal resident.



## MEETINGS WITH THE BASIC PUBLIC AND INTEGRATION SUPPORT SERVICES BEGIN

- Coordination of integration.
- Guidance and counselling in the initial phase via interpreters and community-based outreach work.

## DIGITAL AND POPULATION DATA SERVICES AGENCY

- Registering in person within a week the latest.



## KELA – THE SOCIAL INSURANCE INSTITUTION OF FINLAND

- Applying for social benefits when necessary.
- Kela card.

## HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

- Initial health examination (incl. X-ray and laboratory testing) within 2 weeks of arrival, before starting day care or school.
- Dentist.
- Maternity clinics and specialist medical care when needed.

## ADULTS BELONGING TO WORKFORCE – TE SERVICES:

- Individuals aiming for the labour market are guided by the municipality to register as jobseekers at the TE Services.
- Initial assessment.
- Integration plan:
  - Participation in integration training as directed by the TE Services, or
  - Independent study approved by the TE Services.

## THE POLICE

- Application for foreigner's identity card.

## ADULTS OUTSIDE THE WORKFORCE - MUNICIPALITY:

- Individuals outside the workforce receive services supporting their integration from the municipality.
- Initial assessment (within 2 months of registering as a client).
- Integration plan (within 2 weeks of the initial assessment):
  - Depending on what the municipality offers: Training, independent study or other activities supporting integration.
  - Guidance when needed also to services for the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with mental health or substance abuse conditions, family services and to activities provided by civil society organisations.

**THE INTEGRATION PERIOD USUALLY LASTS 3 YEARS, AND 5 YEARS AT THE MOST**

## BANKING

- One can open a bank account and receive online banking codes when she/he has a passport or an identity card.

## APPLICATIONS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ENROLMENT IN SCHOOL

## MIGRI - THE FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE

- Application for a refugee travel document ("green passport") when necessary.

