

Global Refugee Studies, 4 October 2019

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

Lærdansk



DF DANSK
FLYGTNINGE
HJÆLP
FRIVILLIG

Integrationsnet

En del af Dansk Flygtningehjælp

**FLYGTNINGE
HJÆLPENS
TOLKESERVICE**

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

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

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Asylum applicants	3,806	6,148	7,557	14,792	21,316 UAM: 2.144	6,266 UAM: 1,184	3,479	3,523
Residence permits	2,249	2,583	3,889	6,104	10,849	7,494	2,749	1,652

Nationality of asylum applicants

	Country	2015	2016	2017
1	Syria	8,608	1,253	864
2	Iran	2,787	300	148
3	Afghanistan	2,331	1,127	188
4	Eritrea	1,740	274	355
5	Stateless	1,734	491	138
6	Iraq	1,537	452	145

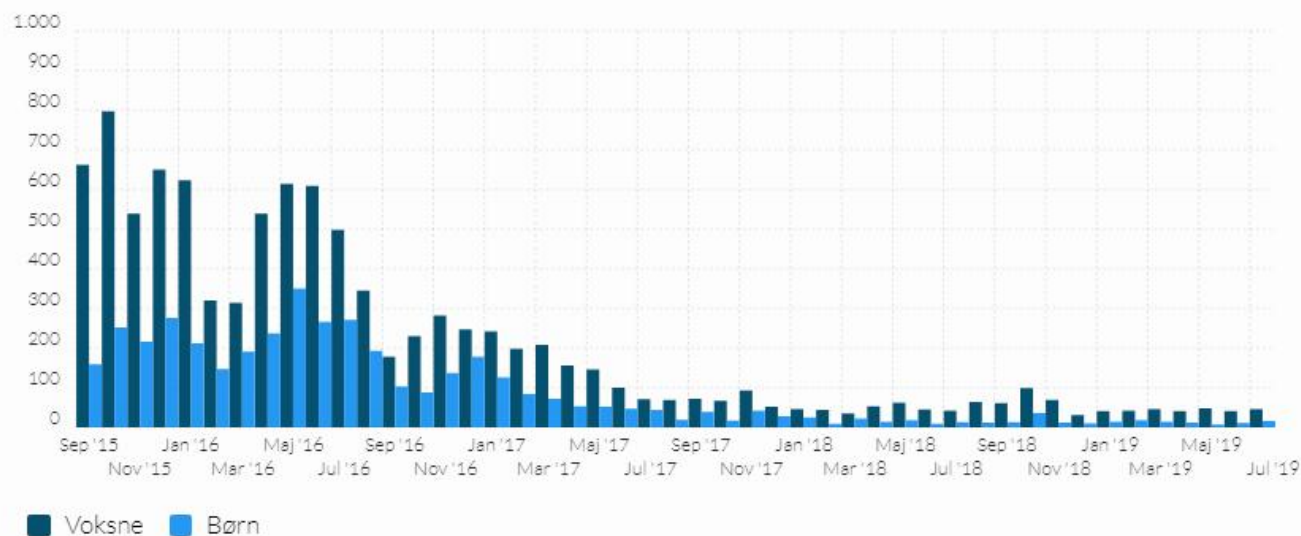
Before 2015: Also many from Somalia

In 2018/19: Syria, Eritrea

Number of refugees referred to municipalities

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

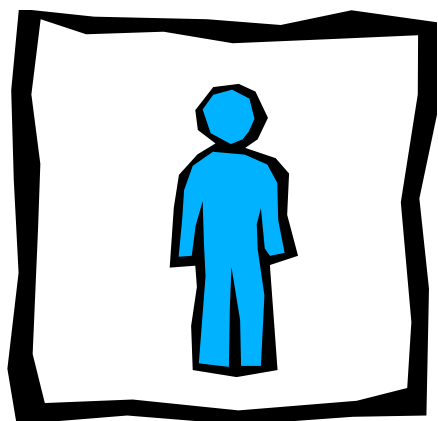
Visiterede flygtninge til kommunerne, fordelt på børn og voksne, september 2015-juli 2019, antal



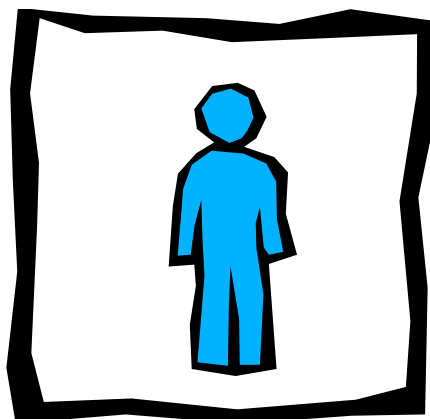
Source: Det Nationale Integrationsbarometer, Ministry for Immigration and Integration

INTEGRATION OF REFUGEES IN DENMARK

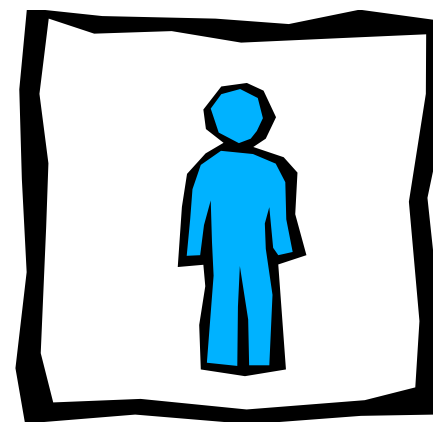
Permanent residence is far away



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'."

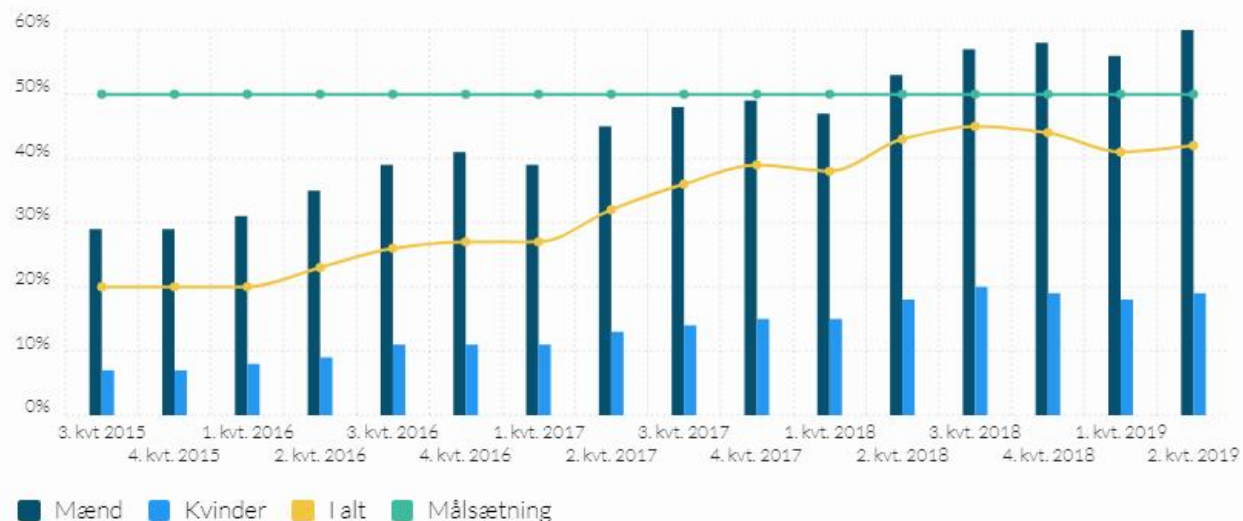
Volunteer at the Danish Refugee Council



Employment figures are good – but gender gap

Refugees in employment after 3 years:

Andel af 21-64-årige flygtninge og familiesammenførte til flygtninge i lønmodtagerbeskæftigelse efter 3 år i Danmark, 2. kv. 2015-2. kv. 2019, pct.



Source: Det Nationale Integrationsbarometer, Ministry for Immigration and Integration

Reception and conditions in exile are crucial for healing and well-being

Risk factors:

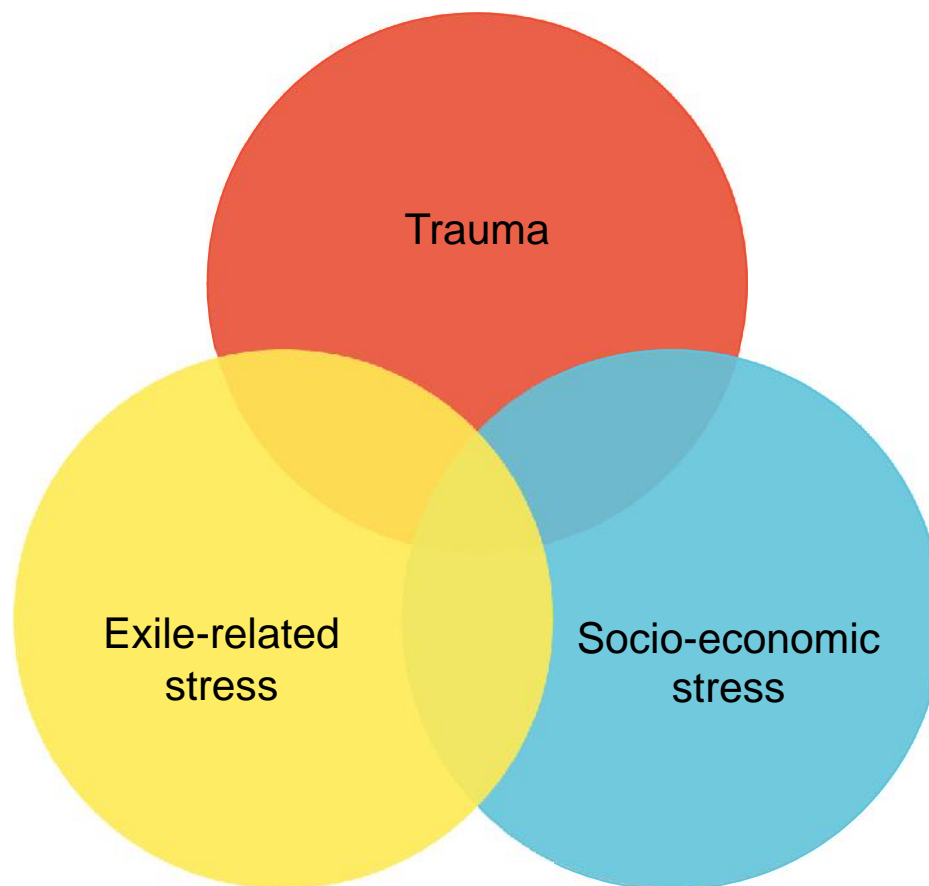
- Uncertainty about asylum and stay
- Separation from family
- Lack of network
- Low socio-economic status i exile
- Loss of status
- Language barriers
- Perceived discrimination



Protective factors:

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

Reception and integration – holistic approach



Why focus on refugees with trauma?

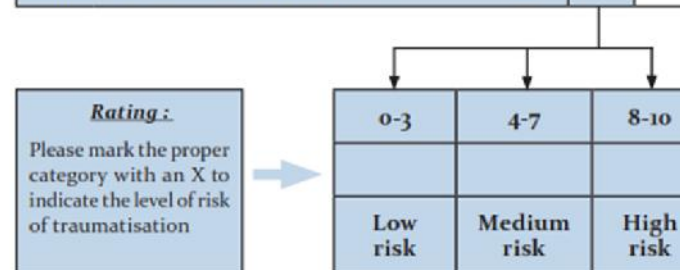
- 30-45% of refugees have trauma-related symptoms (DK-estimate)
- 13-25% of refugees in high-income countries have PTSD
- Employment rate in Denmark for refugees being treated for PTSD is below 10%
- Refugees receiving treatment for PTSD (in DK) have, on average, lived in Denmark for 14½ years
- Measures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

Detecting trauma

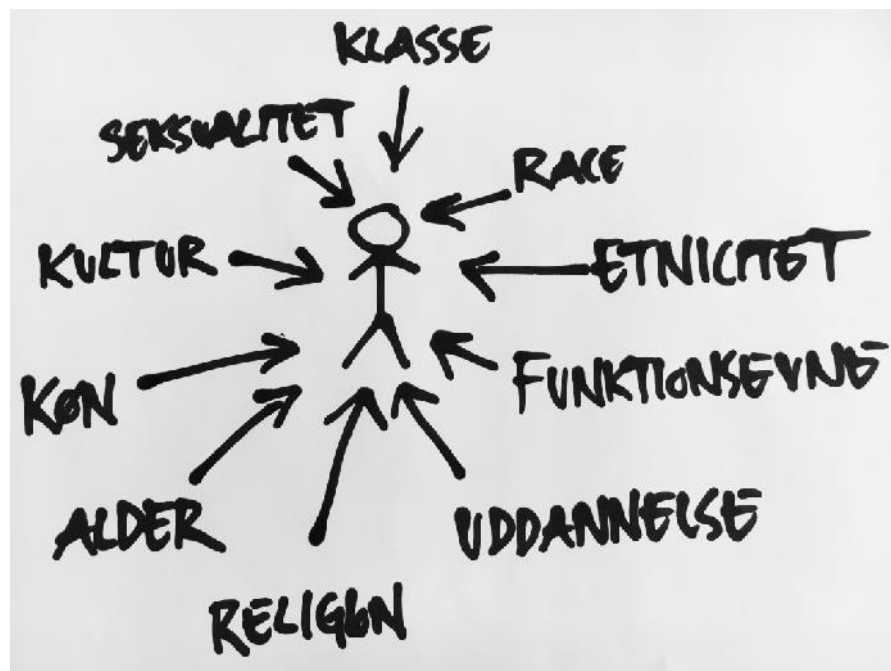
Protect Questionnaire

- Developed by seven European organisations
- For professionals and volunteers working with asylum applicants and refugees

Questions		Yes	No
<i>"Often" means : more than usual and causing suffering</i>			
1	Do you often have problem falling asleep ?		
2	Do you often have nightmares ?		
3	Do you often suffer from headaches ?		
4	Do you often suffer from other physical pains ?		
5	Do you easily get angry ?		
6	Do you often think about painful past events ?		
7	Do you often feel scared or frightened ?		
8	Do you often forget things in your daily life ?		
9	Do you find yourself losing interest in things ?		
10	Do you often have trouble concentrating ?		
Number of questions answered "Yes" →			



Refugees: diverse group, individuals



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

Thanks

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