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Facilitating Access to Basic Services in Host Countries

Presentation

- The Danish Refugee Council and integration
- The Danish case: Integration of refugees and beneficiaries of family reunification
- Access to basic services

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, public institutions, and civil society for provision of integration services. We carry out advocacy.



Integration Department – 500 employees + 8,000 volunteers

Lærdansk



Center
for
Udsatte
Flygtninge

FRIVILLIG
AFDELINGEN

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.
- *Equal rights do not per se entail equal opportunities and equal access.*

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	1,889 <i>per 31 July</i>
Residence permits	2,249	2,583	3,889	6,104	10,849	7,494	2,749	894 <i>per 31 July</i>

Country of Origin Non-western immigrants, 2017	Country of Origin Asylum applicants, 2015-2017
1. Turkey (63,173)	1. Syria (10,725)
2. Syria	2. Afghanistan
3. Iraq	3. Iran
4. Lebanon	4. Eritrea
5. Pakistan	5. Stateless (Palestinians)
6. Bosnia-Herzegovina	6. Iraq
7. Somalia	7. Somalia



The Danish Integration Act

Quota system dispersing refugees to (almost) all municipalities

5 year integration program (max.) for refugees

Responsibility of municipalities – individual integration plans

Aim: employment and economic self-sufficiency

Entitlements:

- Free Danish language tuition (18 hours weekly up to five years)
- Social assistance benefit (in accordance with Danish Social Law)
- Affordable housing
- Health care, mental and social care (trauma rehabilitation etc.)

Obligations – 37 hours per week:

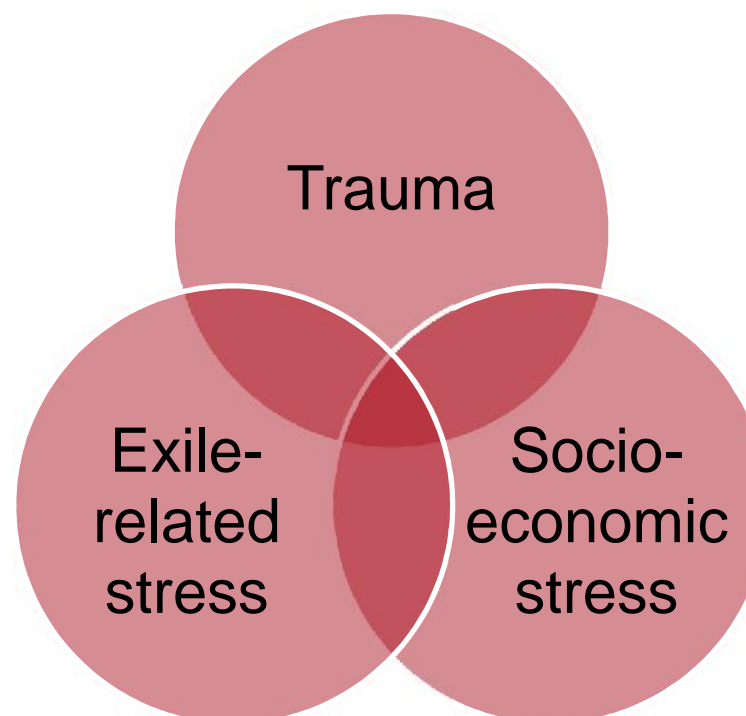
- Attend language and cultural orientation training and pass test
- Actively participate in employment promoting schemes

Various people – various challenges

Service providers must take into consideration the specific needs of the individual:

- Migration history
- Socio-economic background
- Gender
- Age
- Etc...

Challenges facing refugees:



Conditions in exile crucial to mental health and quality of life

Can impact access to basic services:

- Poor socio-economic conditions
- Lack of social relations
- Language barriers (interpretation?)
- Experienced discrimination or marginalization
- Failing connection to the established healthcare system
- Lack of treatment for PTSD

Access to basic services

Housing

- Right to housing, municipalities must provide, not in 'ghetto' areas
- Temporary/permanent housing
- Dispersal and the right to move

Healthcare

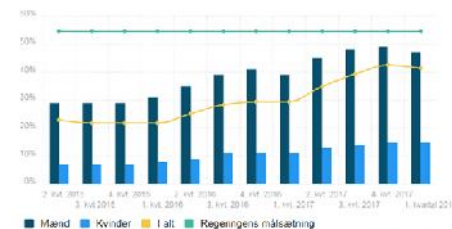
- Access to universal healthcare
- Treatment for e.g. PTSD
- Failing connection with health (incl. mental health) services
- Lack of intercultural competences

Social services and benefits

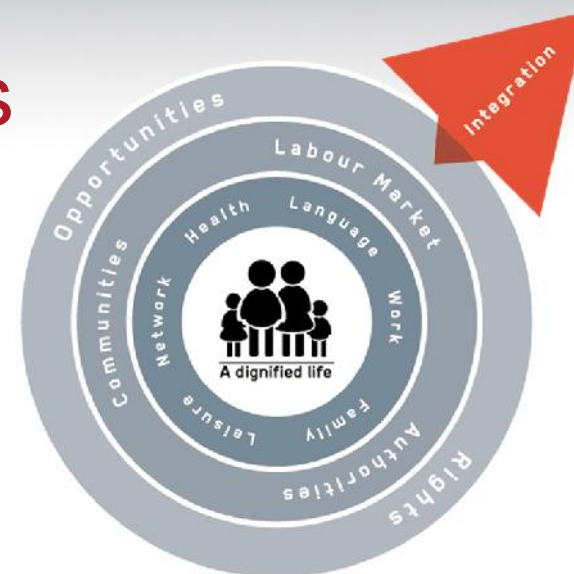
- Access to services and benefits
- Lower benefits
- Rights depend on years of residence (e.g. child benefits, pensions)

Employment

- Employment promotion schemes
- Gender gap



Facilitating access – our focus



- Advocacy for equal rights
- Developing and implementing targeted measures
- Information and counselling about rights and entitlements
- Building competences – training – of professionals (social workers, teachers, health personnel etc.) to ensure intercultural competences and equal treatment
- Promoting holistic and interdisciplinary approaches and cooperation

Thank you!

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Knowledge Center for Vulnerable Refugees

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