

LEARNING FROM A RESETTLEMENT PROJECT



SOMALI FAMILIES IN ARKLOW:
A REVIEW OF RESETTLEMENT,
REUNIFICATION AND INTEGRATION

SUMMARY REPORT

This review was commissioned by the Co Wicklow Citizens Information Service, Co Wicklow Local Community Development Committee and Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee. It is co-financed by the Citizens Information Board and the Department of Justice and Equality.

In creating this report, we would like to acknowledge the generous participation of the Somali families in Arklow and of key services. Without their participation, this report would not have been possible. Thanks also to the committee members, Deirdre Whitfield, Wicklow County Council, Martina Cronin, Citizens Information Service and for the support of Fionnuala Curry, Children and Young People's Services Committee.

In addition, we appreciate the culturally sensitive interpreting services of Sadri Cali and Kudun Musse which facilitated the participation of the families in creating the report, along with translation work carried out by Word Perfect.

Finally, thanks to report author, Dr Sally Daly and graphic designer, Julio Alberto Pérez Torres.

Cover image: Taken from a painting by a Somali child at a capacity building workshop with Springboard and the Vault, Arklow. 2018.

This is the Summary Report.



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Terminology

AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
CDETB	City of Dublin Education and Training Board
CIB	Citizens Information Board
CIC	Citizens Information Centre. This refers to individual offices, for example, Arklow CIC
CIS	Citizens Information Service. This refers to the service as a whole, for example, Co. Wicklow CIS
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committee
FR	Family Reunification
HSE	Health Service Executive
INIS	Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Services
IRPP	Irish Refugee Protection Programme
KWETB	Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic Community Plan
OPMI	Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration
PEIL	Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning
PPN	Public Participation Network
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
WCC	Wicklow County Council

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Foreword

County Wicklow LCDC

One of the main functions of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is to develop high quality integrated services in the County, particularly where vulnerable groups are concerned. This is Goal Three of the Local Economic and Community Plan. For this reason, the LCDC decided to commission this report, along with County Wicklow CIS, the County Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), and our funding partners, the Department of Justice and Equality.

The report is a very comprehensive analysis of the Refugee Resettlement programme in County Wicklow, involving the resettlement of six Somali families in 2013. The report also addresses the subsequent Family Reunification process. The analysis involves the services and support mechanisms presently available, and recommendations for service delivery into the future and was motivated by a commitment to improving services. There is no doubt that an integrated and concerted effort will be needed to implement the recommendations but we believe that it can be achieved through the agencies of the LCDC and CYPSC, and other crucial partners.

We want firstly to thank sincerely and to praise our consultant, Sally Daly, for a professional and comprehensive report and for her commitment to the project. One of the striking aspects of this report is that it resonates with the voice of the Somali people that have become part of our community.

We would also like to thank the Somali people who took part in this report and shared their stories, the good and the bad. As the report points out, 'As ordinary people, refugees are faced with a set of extraordinary challenges'. This is what has given the report a unique depth and resonance.

The main findings and recommendations of the report will be available in Somali.

Thirdly we would like to thank the agencies involved: Arklow CIS for all the work that they have done so far on refugee resettlement support services and the CIB for co-funding this report. Wicklow County Council who have a key role to play in refugee resettlement. The County Wicklow CYPSC members deserve to be commended for their commitment to this project. A subgroup of CYPSC has already been established to implement the recommendations in the report. Finally, we want to thank the Office of the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality for their ongoing support and look forward to working with them in the future.

There is much learning in this report. The LCDC and partners are committed to doing all they can to implement the report's recommendations in order to develop more structured and sustainable support systems. The report will also act as a guide for the development of the County Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy and will act as a basis for future resettlement programmes in County Wicklow.

We have come across a quote lately that comes to mind when reading this report: *“To listen is to lean in, softly, with a willingness to be changed by what we hear.”* (Mark Nepo). We hope that we keep listening and keep changing.

Co. Wicklow Citizens Information Service

This research aims to provide a comprehensive, collaborative support service, via interagency co-operation, to the Somali Community in Arklow, Co. Wicklow to ensure that it is accessing the full range of civil and social rights and entitlements to enable this community to engage fully in civil society.

Arklow Citizens Information Centre has a remit around the provision of information, advice and advocacy on people’s civil and social rights and entitlements in areas such as social welfare, education, housing, employment rights, medical cards, application form filling and much more. We have been working closely with the Somali Community in Arklow for the past four years, supporting them to access their entitlements and providing representation where necessary.

Our funders, the Citizens Information Board (CIB), provided Co. Wicklow Citizens Information Service with a grant to undertake research into the diverse and complex needs of this community. This report was to provide us with recommendations, in direct consultation with the Somalis themselves, to improve services and to develop more sustainable and structured support mechanisms. CIB funding was combined with funding received by Wicklow County Council, from the Department of Justice and Equality, in order to commission more extensive research. County Wicklow Partnership, through its Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (known as SICAP) funding, contributed to the cost of translation of the report.

It is envisaged that some of the findings and recommendations from the report will have transferrable applications to other communities where programme refugees are located especially given that the Somali Community is now over five years in Arklow and still have significant levels of support needs.



Painting Workshop hosted by Springboard and The Vault

Executive Summary

Six Somali families were invited to Ireland and subsequently to live in Arklow under a Refugee Resettlement Programme in 2013. In the immediate years after this, they were joined by twenty family members, following applications for family reunification. The majority who came in under family reunification are under the age of 22. The Refugee Resettlement Programme operates under the direction of the Department of Justice and Equality and is an essential humanitarian response by the Irish State to an exceptional set of circumstances¹. As ordinary people, refugees are faced with a set of extraordinary challenges in their countries of origin. A small number will be granted refugee status in Ireland and the resilience displayed by people in such circumstances is beyond the life experiences of most of us. Resilience is a word that is overused, yet it uniquely reflects the responses of the Somali families' resident in Arklow, both in responding to difficult and dangerous circumstances in their countries of origin, in negotiating transit and in ongoing strategising in their country of resettlement. This report has sought to document the experiences of these families in Arklow; the research process has revealed the clear potential of these families to contribute to life in Ireland, along with a determination to shape future outcomes for themselves.

However, despite their potential, the families face ongoing barriers to their experiences of integration in Ireland. In commissioning this research, Co Wicklow Citizens Information Service, Co Wicklow Local Community Development Committee and Wicklow Children and Young People's Services Committee show a commitment to improving interagency responses to supporting integration.

Although refugee resettlement programmes have been in place over a number of years, to date, there have been few publicly available evaluations of these projects. In the 2016 ESRI study on the experiences of migrant children in Ireland by Darmody *et al.*, they suggest that a new category of inequality is emerging, associated with national identity. They advocate for further analysis of migrant children in Ireland under educational and social integration outcomes (2016). Notably, their analysis does not include refugee children, yet where refugee children and their families have an additional range of issues as identified in this report and elsewhere, we need to include them in longitudinal research to understand better the specific social inclusion barriers they face and how we might plan for and respond to these.

The disproportionate number of young people (0-24yrs), in resettlement projects are nominally entitled to the same rights as Irish Citizens. However, in order to realise these rights, refugee resettlement and subsequent family reunification needs to be considered under the remit of the cross-departmental framework, established under *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2014-2020*.

Finally, Local Community Development Committees and their members are central players at the local level in overseeing a commitment to social inclusion for all residents in their communities, including refugees. At the same time, the State has a responsibility under the Irish Refugee

¹ Since 2016, the resettlement programme is implemented as part of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

Protection Programme to support the integration of people and their families offered protection in Ireland. As co-funders of this research report, the Citizens Information Board and the Department of Justice and Equality are acknowledging the importance of resourcing interagency responses to identifying barriers and building integration bridges. With regard to current and future resettlements, linking LCDC committees directly with the Department of Justice and Equality as part of a long-term collaboration to support integration could foster a culture of replicating good practice and ensuring that local services are building knowledge, resources and capacity to respond to the diverse needs within their communities. Resettlement projects are the beginning of an integration journey; if these processes are appropriately resourced and supported, they could lead to *Better Outcomes* and *Brighter Futures* for all.

1.1 The Main Findings

1.2 On Education:

A key issue from the report for the 12-24 age cohort was trying to adapt to the Irish education system. In addition, mothers identified a concern with supporting their primary age children in education, precisely where the curriculum was unfamiliar to them and where they were worried about developmental progress for their children. For the adults themselves, they were concerned with job searching and felt it essential that education be linked to an employment outcome.

Issues to be aware of in education:

- The young people aged 12 + had limited or no previous experience with formal education, and yet their learning strategies display a keen intelligence and resilience. They need specific, tailored responses to support educational outcomes and to prosper in Ireland.
- In order to support the younger cohort with educational and developmental outcomes, parents need assistance in supporting their children.
- For adults, assistance with educational outcomes needs to be linked to training and employment opportunities.

1.3 On Employment and Training:

Amongst the adults, employment is regarded as a significant indicator of integration and as part of a life strategy; it was a consistent feature of life before resettlement. Employment is also linked to a responsibility to support other family members, left behind. Importantly though, most former employment was informal, such as in construction, hospitality and housekeeping and not readily transferable to the Irish labour market.

Issues to be aware of in employment and training:

- The lack of a social network aligned with lack of access to a previous employment history in Ireland has hindered job search.
- The need to support skills development through training, aligned with language supports was an issue identified by service providers and participants.
- Supporting young people to transition from education and training/employment programmes is vital.

1.4 On Health and Well-being

Experiences with GPs were mixed, some of the adults conveyed very positive relationships with their GPs, while those with poorer English struggled to address primary care needs. In most cases, people relied on a family member or friend to interpret for them; this proved more challenging in understanding the formal nature of the medical correspondence. Using Dublin hospitals as a primary care facility

was a strategy utilised by some, creating challenges regarding transport and access. The issue of unassessed trauma was evident, raising concern for unmet mental health needs and responses to support this group in coping with the effects of traumatic events from the past.

Issues to be aware of for health and well-being:

- The health services are the key initial services the families interact with when they first come into the country and consequently, communication and understanding are of utmost importance.
- Being able to interact with health services independently with limited knowledge of the health system and without access to interpreters has been a significant challenge for the families.
- The issue of unassessed trauma and supporting related mental health needs was raised by service providers and by participants themselves. It is an issue that requires an immediate response.

1.5 On culture, Religion and Belonging

The significance of the value of being able to express cultural identity and having access to music, shops, places to socialise and access appropriate clothes was present for all the families. Having access to freedom of religious expression was also actively communicated through the mapping process.

Issues to be aware of on culture, religion and belonging:

- Recognising unique cultural identities is important in supporting refugees to connect with a sense of belonging. The work of the Vault in partnership with Glenart College has done much to facilitate this for the young people.
- Religion can be a constant in the disrupted life that the refugee experience presents, thus access to places to pray is vital.
- Culture shock experienced by many of the group upon arrival serves as a reminder of the time required in allowing cultural adjustment to take place.
- Strong connection with the Somali community in Dublin has been an important aspect in the development of self-reliance and community resources.

1.6 On Family

The well-being of family members displaced in other countries is key to the successful integration of Somali people into life in Ireland. The stories of family connection across a global network were many with a social web of communication interacting on a daily basis. People's lives are therefore lived in more than one country simultaneously with concerns ranging from supporting displaced younger siblings or children to access education; contributing to their income, and making family reunification applications where family members are deemed eligible to apply.

Issues to be aware of on family:

- The objective of achieving an education and gaining employment in Ireland is tied to an obligation to support other family members, whether in Ireland or elsewhere.
- The presence of family members can accelerate the integration of both new arrivals and family members in Ireland and can make it easier for them to concentrate on employment, education and other key integration activities.
- However, the process of supporting family with adjustment to Ireland can be very stressful. As well as support needed with accessing public services and registering family members with these services, there is a significant emotional impact of being reunited after a separation.
- Families need support with transition following family reunification.

1.7 On Housing

During the life of the resettlement project, the six families were all housed successfully, however, the families raised issues with being able to resolve issues as tenants of the Council. Also, following family reunification, the needs of the families changed as their family composition grew with the welcome of children, siblings and parents: Some families are at risk of poverty where they are unable to access rental accommodation for family members.

Issues to be aware of on housing:

- A good relationship with the Council is key to supporting people to independent and self-reliant lives. With 70% of the population at age 22 or under, it is inevitable that in the future, the young people of the Community will have their own housing needs.
- In order to understand the complexities of the various applications under the housing system, for example, Housing Assistance Payment and in requesting housing transfer it requires mediation, and information that is accessible in order to foster independence amongst the families. Arklow CIC have been a key intermediary to date.

1.8 On Resettlement

The resettlement programme existed between 2013-2015, during this time, an interagency response was in place to support the families. However, the composition of the interagency group was not fully inclusive of state, community and voluntary sector services. In addition, there was no long-term interagency plan to support and foster ongoing integration after the life of the resettlement project. As well as this, under the current system, family reunification is not considered as a core part of a resettlement programme when in fact, it is a crucial aspect of integration for families:

Issues to be aware of on resettlement.

- The Resettlement Interagency Committee and the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration at the Department of Justice and Equality have a long-

term responsibility to support the ongoing integration of families in Refugee Resettlement Programmes.

- This ongoing work must align with mainstream policy concerns on social inclusion and human rights obligations of the Local Community Development Committee

1.9 On Participation and Resilience

The strategies utilised by the families in their country of origin have continued to this day. As such, they display an exceptional level of resilience and drive in supporting their own integration outcomes. Utilising the skills and capacities of members of the Community is an essential aspect of an ongoing commitment to inclusion, providing an excellent opportunity to support participation and civic engagement.

Issues to be aware of on participation and resilience:

- The active participation of the Somali families in civic life in Ireland could be harnessed more to facilitate structured participation in civic and political life in Ireland.
- Participation in consultations by the state authorities to identify ongoing and changing needs is key.

2 Recommendations

The following recommendations concern the Somali families in Arklow. Included here are recommendations for local agencies and national agencies. In addition as Wicklow County Council is due to commence another period of refugee resettlement, there are further recommendations that refer to future planning for a new phase of resettlement.

2.1 Resettlement: The Local Context

The Local Community Development Committee and Wicklow County Council.

The Public Sector and Human Rights context for reform of services implicates all public service providers and is a legal obligation originated in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. The following recommendations are made in light of the requirement to undertake the Public Sector and Human Rights Duty:

Under the **Public Sector Duty, Wicklow Co. Co. and the LCDC:**

1. Commit to undertaking the Public Sector and Human Rights Duty. Importantly, it aims to promote equality of opportunity and treatment of staff and the persons to whom it provides services. Also, it seeks to eliminate discrimination and protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.
2. Following good practice elsewhere², Wicklow LCDC should establish a subcommittee on social inclusion to ensure that broad social inclusion outcomes for the county be addressed, inclusive of but not limited to the SICAP funding and related programmes.
3. As the Local Economic Community Plan is due to be redrafted, recommendations from this report should be incorporated, extending the current commitment from social inclusion to recognition on an obligation to embed a human rights standard across the work of public services in Wicklow. Also, the current range of policies informing the LECP should be extended to include specific intercultural policies that target diversity and inclusion as highlighted in this report.
4. Commit to **commissioning external training** for relevant departments and services on the specific needs of refugee families under resettlement and reunification and the specific human rights context of their relocation to Wicklow.
5. Commit to **commissioning external training** for relevant departments with the community and voluntary sector on anti-racism, cultural competency and diversity. **The Immigrant Council of Ireland** has recently developed an Anti-Racism Training Project for Public Service Providers, funded through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

² Phone conversation with Carlow County Council 17/08/2018

6. In order to maintain an ongoing commitment to integration, the LCDC (Social Inclusion Sub-committee) should liaise directly with the Department of Justice and Equality to keep apprised of available or upcoming funding streams. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is one option in this regard.

Under the **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)** programme³, the following recommendations are made:

7. The range of projects aiming at refugee inclusion should be reconsidered by the LCDC, and a targeted response to local social inclusion should follow⁴.
8. The SICAP programme identifies disadvantaged young people (aged 15 – 24) as a priority target group. This funding stream matches a need for support identified at **Employment, Education and Training** below.

As part of an **Integration Strategy**:

9. The Wicklow Integration Strategy, currently in draft form should include a specific reference to supporting the integration of refugees in Wicklow and with a cross-reference to related inclusion targets of the LECP. The issue of refugee integration is an aspect of rural development policy with the Departments of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Rural and Community Development. Action 52 of the Migrant Integration Strategy requires local authorities to update the integration strategies.
10. In light of current and upcoming refugee resettlement programmes and concerning a broader concern for inclusion and participation of people from minority ethnic backgrounds, the Wicklow Integration Strategy should also develop a framework for integrated agency responses to integration.
11. Following the LECP target ‘to promote active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making’ the LCDC should set up a Migrant Integration Forum as part of an Integration Strategy.

Concerning **Future resettlement**:

12. A future Refugee Resettlement Interagency Committee should have a full complement of agencies and services targeting inclusion, and following the model

³ A 2018 ESRI review of SICAP found that disadvantage is exacerbated in certain households, e.g. jobless households, people belonging to an ethnic minority: <https://www.esri.ie/news/new-research-examines-barriers-to-social-inclusion-in-ireland/>

⁴ In 2016, North Tipperary Leader Partnership and Youth Work Ireland Tipperary partnered to deliver a Homework Club for Syrian children in Thurles (email with YWIT, 22 August, 2018); in 2018, Paul Partnership used their SICAP budget to provide a bespoke employment, training and mentoring programme. ‘Transition to Independent Living Training Programme for Asylum Seekers and Refugees’ in collaboration with Limerick City Community Development Partnership (<https://www.paulpartnership.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PAUL-Partnership-RFT-SICAP-Transition-to-Independent-Living-Programme-ToR.pdf>); in 2016, South Tipperary Development Company utilised SICAP to support Diversity and Inclusion Training with ‘How Inclusive Are You?’ Workshops for Community Organisations (email with STDC, 23 August 2018).

established by the Carlow Rohingya project (see Appendix 2). The inclusion of the Citizens Information Service and the Vault Youth Project will be vital to the success of this Committee and a commitment to integration for these families.

13. The Committee should begin to plan for long-term integration and inclusion from project inception so that families are included within mainstream service delivery at the end of the Refugee Resettlement Programme.
14. The Interagency Committee should sit for as long as it takes to ensure that families are supported into inclusion measures, including offering support to families who successfully apply for family reunification.

Information Provision

The staff of Arklow Citizens Information Centre⁵ have developed an expertise in responding to the needs of the Somali families, specifically on immigration and rights-based issues, therefore, the following actions are recommended:

15. As the Irish Refugee Protection Programme is rolled out and resettlement takes place across Ireland, the CIB should make a specific commitment to supporting staff with relevant training needs identified by Arklow CIC and Co.Wicklow CIS so that staff are well placed to respond to needs presenting.
16. In light of an imminent further resettlement programme, given the significant expertise that has developed in the last four years, create Arklow CIC as a centre of excellence on Immigration, Rights and Entitlements within the Wicklow CIS.
17. As a new phase of resettlement commences, Arklow CIC should look at delivering outreach services in relevant parts of the county to support resettlement in line with Goal 3.2, iii of the LECP: Facilitate expansion of services and outreach opportunities where possible through, e.g. new opportunities for shared services, use of existing premises, such as libraries.
18. As the Irish Refugee Protection Programme is rolled out, CIB should hold a seminar on sharing expertise amongst service providers including specialist organisations, such as the Irish Refugee Council, NASC, ICI, Doras Luimni etc in collaboration with the Citizens Information Service to ensure that information resources are built and shared. This is in line with the CIB's role as the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services.
19. To support diversity targets within Arklow CIC volunteer service and to support progression for Somali community members, Co.Wicklow CIS should implement flexible volunteer placement models that might meet the needs of a refugee cohort or other disadvantaged members of the community.

⁵ See Appendix 1 for an example queries arising and responses by Arklow, CIC.

An interagency approach to integration

The CYPSC have already identified an intention to develop a sub-committee on Refugees and Integration. This interagency approach is in line with an interagency commitment to supporting at-risk families identified in *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* and the in the Wicklow Local Economic Community Plan.

20. Select a representative number of community and statutory services to respond to identified needs. Members to include representation from: Co. Wicklow Citizens Information Services, Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board- Youth Officer and Adult Literacy representative, County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Childcare Committee, The Vault, Tusla, Springboard, Public Participation Network, Health Service Executive, Gardaí and other relevant agencies from the Child and Family Support Network.
21. Select two members of the Somali Community to attend meetings of the Committee. One invitee should be a young person, and she/he should be mentored within the Committee by a member of the Vault. The second invitee should be a parent, given the significant number of young children on the project.
22. Using plain English, the roles and organisations of each committee member should be made clear at Committee set-up.
23. Support an interagency response to needs identified in this report.
24. Work with the Community to respond to other needs emerging, including social and cultural supports such as access to Halal food.
25. Support access to childcare to facilitate access to group work, training and development.
26. Work to find a community prayer space for the families to assist them with integration, i.e. acknowledging that access to one's own culture and customs is key to a sense of belonging in a new environment.
27. Support the formation of a Homework Club for the children to respond to specific support needs identified. Importantly, following good practice elsewhere, situating the Homework Club within a youth or community service provides an opportunity to build relationships between families and services for broader family support work.
28. The work of the Committee should inform the redrafting of the LECF.
29. Provide intercultural competency training for the Steering Committee and frontline staff in order to assist staff from various agencies with the skills to respond effectively to needs presenting.
30. In acknowledging that racism is an issue for people with a Black identity in Ireland, it is essential that members of the interagency familiarise themselves with [ireport.ie](https://www.ireport.ie) which is an independent reporting mechanism for instances of racism⁶.

⁶ <https://www.ireport.ie/about-ireport-ie/>

Family Support Work

The role of the HSE and Tusla in supporting integration is crucial and to achieve this outcome, building relationships is vital. This process takes time but will be crucial for ongoing family supports and ongoing personal development and related work. Accordingly:

31. Tusla should support Springboard with provision for staffing and with specific training on refugee needs in order that culturally sensitive and safe spaces can be developed for family support work to take place.
32. Parenting classes should be offered as a way to support specific challenges currently faced by parents and as an opportunity to build relationships with family services.
33. Facilitate the development of a safe space for mothers (this could include a craft group) in a family oriented environment.
34. Support family group work post family reunification.
35. Family support work can help identify specific mental health support needs of individuals and with referrals into appropriate services.
36. The Meitheal processes should also be utilised to support outcomes for families.

Health and Well-Being

While there are many excellent healthcare providers in Arklow, unmet needs have been identified by service providers and families in the mapping process. Individuals have had little or no interaction with mental health services to identify and support their needs. Also, overall health needs as yet unassessed require support⁷. In addition, in order to support access to primary health care, collaboration across services is key along with outreach supports and advocacy. This includes support with organising, for example hospital appointments and general practitioner (GP) registration and ongoing access. The following is therefore recommended:

37. Following the model established in the HSE SE, the position of Intercultural Health Worker should be developed for the Wicklow region with a focus on refugees who have been resettled. This is crucial to supporting current and future resettlement plans, providing a link across health care services and not adding to the distress of refugees.
38. The Intercultural Health Worker role should deliver an essential mediation and capacity building role in working alongside families to access services.
39. Following guidance from the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland, we can no longer ignore or downplay the significance of the mental health needs of

⁷ The services of the Public Health Nurse and the Arklow Health Clinic were seen as very supportive and facilitative by the families. Notwithstanding cultural and language barriers, the families appreciated ongoing support and responses from both these services. The importance of the PHN as a mediator in accessing health services for Somali women in Ireland has been identified elsewhere (Cali 2015).

refugees or migrants. This needs to be addressed in a coordinated, culturally sensitive and appropriately resourced manner (College of Psychiatrists of Ireland 2017).

40. The HSE, Springboard and the Vault should look at partnering on the Music in Mind programme identified. The Vault already operates a music programme and use music as a critical tool to connect with young people.
41. While specialist mental health agency SPIRASI has a referral process in place for victims of trauma, they are required to travel to Dublin to avail of this. Specialised services such as psychotherapy that may be required for survivors of torture and other traumas should be available and accessible regardless of the resettlement area.

Also, in order to be able to access health services and to navigate health outcomes independently:

42. The use of plain English in literature from health service providers should be promoted and critical literature translated into relevant languages for refugee resettlement programmes. Where this information has already been translated, *sharing of this information across HSE, related services and practitioners* is key. The HSE has developed some useful resources in this regard:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/about-social-inclusion/translation-hub/common-health-concerns-translated/>

As well as links to Mobile Health Apps:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/about-social-inclusion/translation-hub/mobile-health-apps/>

43. Information for healthcare professionals on Essential Practice Points Islam (Muslims) should be shared:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/socialinclusion/interculturalguide/islam/>

Supporting participation and nurturing resilience

The strategies utilised by the families in their country of origin have continued to this day. As such, they display an exceptional level of resilience and interest in engaging with services. Utilising the skills and capacities of members of the Community is an essential aspect of an ongoing commitment to inclusion, providing an excellent opportunity to support participation and civic engagement:

44. The Vault is key to supporting the participation of young people in Comhairle na nÓg and in other participative fora, such as the CYPSC sub-committee on Refugees and Integration. This is in line with Goal 2, iii, LECP: Support existing and emerging representative networks, e.g. the Comhairle na nÓg, Older Person's Council, Disability Fora, Irish Environmental.
45. Following the OSCE (2018), participation may include participation in voluntary associations, civil organisations and political parties; electoral participation and participation in consultations of the state authorities with the population.

46. The feasibility of ‘supported’ Volunteer placements in community organisations for members of the Somali community should be explored. Volunteer placements could form part of an employment/job placement strategy and could be supported by the Volunteer Centre-*specifically* if there is relevant employment mentoring expertise available there.

Employment, Training and Mentoring

Access to the labour market is a critical tool in facilitating integration. The recommendations of this report are in line with objectives outlined in the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan, accordingly Goal 7: Develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county. The role of SICAP is important to this implementation:

47. Evidence suggests that some women may be in need of targeted supports in looking for work in order to overcome the additional barriers they may face⁸, as well as support with childcare needs.
48. Establish a programme that links targeted language support with training support; skills development, workplace experience/job mentoring; one to one coaching and workplace rights workshops.
49. As part of an employment strategy, employers who support placements should be given knowledge on the experience of being a refugee so that they understand the human rights context of the refugee experience.
50. In developing a response, it is essential also to work closely with KWETB and the local youth service in supporting the employment and training needs of the younger cohort.

Education

Following the ESRI report on The Experiences of Migrant Children in Ireland (2016), the need for a greater focus on educational attainment and social integration outcomes is critical. This need is heightened when it comes to refugee children, as displaced young people face an increasing need for more flexible education opportunities (UNHCR 2016). The education of the mother (a consequence of war), previous access to formal education, language barriers and unassessed trauma are all factors in successful outcomes for young people. Accordingly:

51. The homework needs of the primary age children have been identified by the mothers and requires a response.
52. Where most of the young Somali people are within the ETB education system at the secondary level, combining strategies in non-formal and formal education, is recommended. Specifically, a formalised programme that combines the

⁸ Many female migrants find it difficult to get a job interview, due to obstacles including ‘subtle’ racism and stereotypical attitudes, according to a local community group:’ June 19 2018: <http://www.meathchronicle.ie/news/roundup/articles/2018/06/19/4157644-meathbased-group-says-migrant-women-have-little-or-no-chance-of-employment/>

KWETB literacy programme working with the Vault to deliver on educational and social integration outcomes and creating an ongoing channel of support within this context. Under the current system, young people are shoehorned into mainstream education, notwithstanding earnest efforts to make this work. It would better serve the young people if their needs could be adequately assessed and supported. ‘Carefully assessing migrant students’ knowledge and skills is an essential step in facilitating their educational integration and successful outcomes’ (OSCE 2018, 165).

53. A coordinated and formalised response that oversees the progression of young people from the school system and into further education or training is vital.
54. For adults, the need to link learning and literacy programmes with job search and or job training is critical.
55. In identifying integration strategies in education, it is imperative that the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Education work in consort to respond to young people between the ages 13-24 as in need of targeted education and training supports. Young people in this age category are some of the most vulnerable refugees.

Housing

Under the International Protection Act 2015, refugees and their families (under family reunification) have the same rights to access housing as an Irish citizen. The right to an adequate standard of living encompasses a right to adequate housing. Four key issues emerged as a result of this mapping process and these are addressed below:

56. In order to build capacity for the refugee families to be able to engage directly with housing services in the local authority, the use of plain English in the literature on housing is critical, along with the translation of this information into the relevant community language where resettlement takes place.
57. Building capacity amongst tenants to be aware of their rights and responsibilities is a key step toward building independence and self-reliance. Also, being supported directly to understand the complexity of the housing system is key, especially where there is a requirement to engage with the Housing Assistance Programme in order to alleviate overcrowding in the home.
58. A good relationship with the Council is key to have independent and self-reliant lives. With 70% of the population at age 22 or under, it is inevitable that in the future, the young people of the Somali Community will have their own housing needs.
59. Families need direct mediation support in trying to access housing where they can not access housing for family members and are at risk of poverty.

Building Community Knowledge in Arklow

Social support and understanding are critical from the host community. Following concerns raised by service providers on the lack of information for and consultation with the local community as part of resettlement, a more extensive education piece on the human rights context of refugees and the Somali resettlement would benefit the community:

60. Where there is a knowledge gap to respond to this need locally, this can be resourced externally and brought in as a training programme for a local community group or volunteer group. Funding may be sourced from Communities Integration Fund or directly from the SICAP budget to support this, following the practice established elsewhere. Some excellent training resources have been developed recently to support this work⁹. One of the members of the Somali community could be recruited, supported and trained in an education role as part of a team.
61. Following Doras Luimni's Volunteer Family Advocate Project, a similar model could be developed locally, but the key to its success will be intercultural training and ongoing organisational support and knowledge for the Volunteers.

2.2 A Cross-Departmental Approach to Resettlement

Evidence from this report and best practice elsewhere shows the need to commit to a cross-departmental response to refugee integration. Accordingly, the cross-departmental commitments of Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures 2014 (see policy panel) are in line with the cross-departmental aspiration of the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017. A cross-departmental committee should ensure the following:

62. Create a process of evaluation of all resettlement projects, which can be shared and learned from so that best practice can be replicated and scaled up, where appropriate and mistakes avoided.
63. Ensure that the Interagency Resettlement Committees are reflective of a broad social inclusion agenda (refer to Appendix 1) and that such fora commit to engagement beyond the life of funding provided by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration.
64. Situate the resettlement programme of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme into long-term integration outcomes that intersect with cross-departmental social inclusion concerns.
65. Support Resettlement projects to apply for ongoing funding.
66. Undertake appropriate training such as that provided by the OSCE in their Good Practices in Migrant Integration training programme (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe 2018).

⁹ See Appendix 3 for a list of resources.

67. Ensure that outcomes under resettlement be included in LCDC targets as part of the core work of the Local Economic Community Plan for each region..
68. Provide appropriate translated information and efficient interpreter services across public services. This will not only provide a more efficient process for staff and families, it will also help to protect families' rights and entitlements and remove the responsibility from the family to independently navigate through systems that are often unfathomable.
69. Following, ESRI (2016), as part of a long-term view on resettlement and concerning the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, research refugee children and young people's academic experiences, as well as employment/training, health and social integration experiences.
70. Following the College of Psychiatrists Ireland (2017), set up Consultant led Multidisciplinary Teams regionally but at the very least, as a matter of priority, one team nationally to support all mental health services that provide treatment to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

Family Reunification:

71. The Department of Justice and Equality and specifically, the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration should take the lead on a cross-departmental evaluation of national procedures and protocols for newly arrived reunified families to determine the issues nationally, and develop preventative and effective measures to ensure families are assisted efficiently and appropriately. Cross-departmental responses are required to ensure an effective transition for reunified families.
72. Following recommendations from Crosscare, ensure that family reunification decision letters from the Minister of Justice and Equality provide adequate and appropriate information on steps to take to ensure a smooth transition for family members, including appropriate referral to statutory agencies and support organisations. This will assist families to prepare in advance of the arrival of reunified family members and during their transition to Ireland. It will provide them with immediate knowledge as to which offices to approach for support (Crosscare Refugee Service 2018, Mackey 2013).
73. Ensure that all relevant statutory agencies have procedural protocol and trained staff to assist the sponsor before their family members' entry into the country and during their settlement (as per Actions 16 and 18 of the implementation plan for the Migrant Integration Strategy).



In June 2018, the Vault brought 11 of the young Somalis to the President's Garden Party for Young People at Áras an Uachtaráin.

SOMALIA, THE CRISES AND CONSEQUENCES & life in Ireland



More than **two million** Somalis are currently displaced by a conflict that has lasted over two and a half decades.

Family is very important to Somalis. In 2015, **23% of Somalia's GDP came from displaced Somalis** sending money to relatives to help with basic necessities.

An estimated **1.5 million** people are internally displaced in **Somalia** and nearly **900,000** are refugees in the near region, including some **308,700** in **Kenya**, **255,600** in **Yemen** and **246,700** in **Ethiopia**



Even though refugee camps are meant to be temporary, some Somali refugees have lived in camps located in neighbouring countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia for decades.

85% of refugees are hosted in developing countries, a minority live in Europe or US.

It is estimated that there are between **2-3000 Somalis** living in Ireland.

Somalis are at risk of homelessness in Ireland

Over 2 million people left Ireland because of the Great Famine 1845-1850 – equal to a quarter of the total population of the country. **Over 70%** travelled on boats across the Atlantic Ocean to America.

55% of all refugees are children

The rights of refugees:

A child born in Ireland to a parent who has refugee status is automatically entitled to Irish citizenship.

The rights of someone with family reunification:

The person who enters and resides in the State as a result of family reunification is entitled to remain in the State and to the same rights and privileges as a person who has international protection for as long as the refugee or sponsor who made the application is entitled to remain in the State

Sources:
UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/591ae0e17.pdf>
Guardian article: https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/mar/24/somalia-refugees--head-home-sense-of-duty-rebuild-country?CMP=share_btn_gp
Citizens Information: citizensinformation.ie
Trocaire.ie
Crosscare.ie
Moreno and Lentini (2010)

- Refugees in Ireland; Under the International Protection Act 2015, a person with **Refugee Status** is entitled to certain rights:
- The right to seek and enter employment in the State.
 - The right to carry on any business, trade or profession in the State.
 - The right to access education and training in the like manner and to the like extent in all respects as an Irish citizen.
 - The right to receive the same medical care and services and the same social welfare benefits, including housing, as an Irish citizen.
 - The right to reside in the State for at least 3 years which is renewable.
 - The same rights of travel in, or to or from the State as those to which Irish citizens are entitled.
 - The right to apply to the Minister for Justice and Equality for permission for a member of their family to enter and reside in the State.

POLICY CONTEXT INFORMING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WICKLOW LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2016-2022

HIGH LEVEL GOALS

- Goal 1** Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development
- Goal 2** Promote active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
- Goal 3** Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups
- Goal 4** Develop a vibrant and Innovative Community and Social Enterprise Sector
- Goal 5** Address access to education and training to increase life opportunities for all
- Goal 6** Develop infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation in strategic locations
- Goal 7** Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the County, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
- Goal 8** Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes and proximity to the Dublin market, excellent quality of life, human capital, tourism, landscape, marine, agricultural and forestry resources
- Goal 9** Support a shift towards low carbon and climate change resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, promoting the sustainable use of resources and leading in the Smart Green Economy
- Goal 10** Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014
Eliminating discrimination, promoting equality and protecting human rights

1. Irish Refugee Protection Programme.
2. Migrant Integration Strategy 2017.
3. International Protection Act 2015
4. Intercultural Health Strategy 2007-2012
5. Intercultural Education Strategy 2010-2015

The full list of National, Regional and local Government Policy and Strategy Documents informing the LECP are available in the Appendix Incl:



Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures - National Policy Framework for Children & Young People 2014-2020

A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS



BETTER OUTCOMES



CROSS-CUTTING

BRIGHTER FUTURES

IMPLEMENTATION

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	SPONSOR
Outcome 1 Active and healthy, physical and mental well-being	Department of Health
Outcome 2 Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development	Department of Education and Skills
Outcome 3 Safe and protected from harm	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
Outcome 4 Economic security and opportunity	Department of Social Protection
Outcome 5 Connected, respected and contributing to their world	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
Transformational goals and Chair of the Sponsors Group	Department of Children and Youth Affairs

CULTURE, RELIGION AND BELONGING



What Anchors us?

Brené Brown

What is the difference between fitting in and belonging?

FITTING IN

This is what I have to change to be accepted

The things society expects of me

BELONGING

Dress is also key to Somali identity

Also important for adults

CDET Youth and Education Service for Refugees and Migrants

I'm a footballer, a brother, a music lover, a mother, a cake baker, a father, a grandmother

This is who I am

RELIGION CAN BE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR YOUNG REFUGEES. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS THE ONE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS REMAINED CONSTANT

Somali language is key to identity and belonging

- The language of family
- The language of story
- The language of information
- The language of communication
- The language of memory

CULTURE

When cultural traditions get broken down, young people don't know who they are and who they can be. Celebrating differences supports their sense of belonging.

Rebecca Hersher

A quiet space to pray is important

Schools acknowledging special events in different religions' calendars

Encourage inquiry into diversity of cultures and religion

EAST WICKLOW YOUTH SERVICE

THE VAULT

Supporting social integration; providing protective functions, nurturing a sense of belonging & emotional support, and being a source of information.

A constant feature of a disrupted life

Halal food is also key to well-being

GLENART COLLEGE

MEDITATION ROOM IS A SPACE USED BY SOMALI YOUNG PEOPLE

No space for adults

HALAL FOOD AND DUGSI

Take the bus to Dublin

Wicklow LECP promote active citizenship & public participation

National Outcome 5.2 support and promote young people's involvement in Corrairle na nóg.

Dugsi is the lessons we learn from the Quran about faith, values, being a good person

What is Dugsi?



Car insurance is expensive

The Vault linking Wicklow Comhairle young ambassadors to support Somali participation in Wicklow Corrairle

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: Strengthen Transitions and achieving in all areas of learning and development

12 yrs and under

- Parents concerned with homework support for children
- Concern that different developmental needs of children not identified
- War has had inter-generational impact on education.
- Parents need support to understand curriculum and support children.

12-22 yrs

- The majority have no significant prior experience with formal education. Some young people have limited literacy
- No interagency response to family reunification.
- KWETB provided intensive English and classes - an exceptional short-term measure
- While young people are highly motivated, there's a challenge for schools to respond to their specific unassessed needs

Workshops with young people show great resilience and learning strategies BUT the challenge is great

Definition of INTELLIGENCE FROM MERRIAM WEBSTER DICTIONARY
The ability to learn or understand or to deal with new or trying situations: REASON; also : the skilled use of reason.

ADULTS Education

- Good relationship with KWETB
- English attainment often connected to job search
- Language development is the focus for some
- Literacy development is the focus for others
- Childcare a challenge
- Also, pressure to respond to Department of Employment and Social Protection has caused stress in efforts to attain basic English. (see employment)



Missing out: Refugee education in crisis - UNHCR - 2016 - Report

Refugee children x 5 more likely to be out of school

To support refugees' particular educational needs, innovation and sustainable solutions are required.

Refugee children's educational needs are often invisible

EMPLOYMENT (Adults and Young People)

- People are highly motivated in wanting to work.
- Some young people engage with education too late for it to support labour market access
- For adults and young people, the lack of a social network makes job search difficult.
- Focused one-to-one support with job placement, language support and mentoring is key
- Discrimination is also a factor in job search

"Mentoring practices in Europe and North America" (2015) found that mentoring is key to improving immigrants' employment outcomes.

ESRI (2015) found that people with a Black identity are significantly more likely to experience discrimination when looking for work.

The Migrant Access Programme*

A transition programme to equip young people with tools to engage with mainstream curriculum

- English, Maths, Life Skills and basic IT
- A range of after-school activities
- Ranging in age from 13 - 18
- A focus on learning to learn
- Based in a youth centre
- Also cooperates with schools and teachers

* CDETB Youth and Education Service for Refugees and Migrants

Wicklow LECP: Goal 5 - Address access to education and training to increase life opportunities for all. Goal 7: Develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county

PEIL is funding 5 Irish projects under 'Integration and Employment of Migrants Projects' as well as co-financing SICAP. See PEIL projects here: http://eufunding.justice.ie/en/EUFunding/ESF_Booklet_Final%202017-09-08.pdf/Files/ESF_Booklet_Final%202017-09-08.pdf



HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures
National Outcome 3

Safe and protected
from harm

Healthy Ireland
Strategy:
2013-2025

The importance of recognizing the life consequences of trauma is a crucial aspect of the refugee experience

Use of interpreters and access to childcare is key to these processes

People have shared their experiences with staff of services

Youth Mental Health is a National Taskforce issue

MENTAL HEALTH

ANXIETY

SLEEPLESSNESS

TRAUMA

ANGER AND FRUSTRATION

The civil war context: many Somalis suffer traumatic memories, flashbacks, depression or anxiety.

Overall physical health needs unknown

Mixed experiences with GPs – positive experiences and also challenges with language and access
Some people using Dublin hospitals for primary care treatment.
Arklow Health Centre and PHN relationship supportive

CASE STUDIES

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT
see report

Arklow CIC key to accessing health for families

Child and family support services

- Building relationships between the families and key support services is key to building trust for ongoing and separate family support work
- Creating safe space that nurtures the child and family relationship
- Creating safe space for mothers e.g. craft, parenting programmes etc
- Identifying specific mental health supports for individuals – referrals
- Metheal offers a safe space/process to support families with transition to a new life
- Support services to develop specific capacities to respond to presenting needs

SPRINGBOARD AND THE VAULT

Painting Workshops April 2018 with mothers and under 12s

A way to support relationship building for ongoing family support work.

GYM+
FOOTBALL+
PLAYGROUND



MUSIC GROUP
THE VAULT

Active Participation

Family Reunification

- Family reunification can be a key aspect of Integration, health and well-being for a family unit.
- Yet, families need support with transition to family life in Ireland.
- Separation can put a burden on young people to take responsibility for younger children, changing family dynamics.
- Putting family supports in place avoids other costly expenses e.g. foster care and/or crisis social service intervention.

Rebuilding Family Life: An exploration of Female Refugees Experiences of Family Reunification, S Mackey (2013).

Voices of Strength and Pain – Impacts of separation, loss and trauma on health and wellbeing of reuniting refugee families – British Red Cross (2017).

COMMUNITY GARDA

Building positive relationships with Gardai is key to community well-being & confidence in reporting crime e.g. racism.



Appendix 1

Arklow CIC, Case study

Abdul dropped into Arklow Citizens Information Centre (CIC) to inform us that he was bringing over additional members of his family under Family Reunification. He had the approval to bring some of his young siblings to Ireland. When the CIC interviewed Abdul, he reported that due to the value of his siblings' travel documents, who were temporarily residing in another state, that they had been targeted by criminals as such documents are a valuable commodity in the black market. Thus he had made urgent arrangements to have them transported to Ireland as soon as possible. In order to pay for their flights, Abdul had borrowed the money. When the CIC contacted the Irish Red Cross for assistance with travel costs, we discovered that such payments could not be paid retrospectively under this scheme. The CIC Information Provider voiced her concerns to the Irish Red Cross about such a rule, and shortly afterwards the system was changed - travel documents are now sent to the nearest Irish Embassy or Consulate rather than directly to the refugee.

We conducted a benefits check for Abdul's children and assisted him with applying for Child Benefit and an Increase for Qualified Child payments. We also assisted with organising schools for the children as well as school transport, i.e. registering for the school bus. Under the International Protection Act 2015, Abdul's siblings are entitled to the same rights as he is, e.g. medical cards. Applying for these has become a protracted process as all of the GP practices in Arklow are oversubscribed. We assisted Abdul to draft a letter to inform the HSE that he had approached three GP practices in the town but that none could accommodate his siblings. The HSE subsequently nominated a GP practice to take on his siblings. Unfortunately, this GP practice was a different practice to the one that Abdul and the other members of his family use. It is often the case that families are broken up in this manner in relation to their medical practitioners.

Abdul was advised to inform the Local Authority of the changes in his family circumstances as there was now overcrowding in his home. We assisted some of the adult members of Abdul's family to apply to the Local Authority, and they were subsequently approved for social housing and the Housing Assistance Payment or HAP. However, there is currently a shortage of both Local Authority and private rented accommodation in Arklow making it difficult to secure accommodation in the town.

The interventions outline above are lengthy, complex and difficult which are exacerbated by the language barrier and an unfamiliarity with the Irish welfare system. The forms are detailed and are not very user-friendly, and the automated telephone systems are impossible to navigate particularly for those from overseas. Very often the relevant state agencies can be hard to contact by telephone and email is the only option. Again this can pose a difficulty for some of our marginalised clients to follow up themselves. This work involved countless interventions spread over an extensive period and some of the issues are still ongoing. As Arklow CIC is a frontline service, we have become the 'the safety net' for our Somali clients who very often have nowhere else to go.

Appendix 2

Carlow Refugee Resettlement Committee 2009-2011

1. Carlow Local Authority
2. Carlow County Development Partnership
3. St Catherine's Community Services Centre
4. Department of Social and Family Affairs
5. Carlow Regional Youth Service
6. Health Service Executive
7. Carlow County Childcare Committee
8. Department of Education and Skills
9. An Garda Síochána
10. Carlow Women's Aid
11. Barnardos
12. County Carlow VEC
13. Carlow and South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre
14. National Education Welfare Board

Appendix 3

List of Resources for Intercultural and Human Rights based Training

Amnesty International: Human Rights: The Rights of Refugees.

This course will teach you about the human rights of refugees and empower you to defend them.

<https://www.edx.org/course/human-rights-the-rights-of-refugees-0>

PPENDIX

Doras Luimni: Anti-Rumours Resource Pack

This resource encourages discussion about stereotypes and rumours, particularly those that relate to migrants. Learners will be asked to consider where stereotypes come from and how these stereotypes affect people. These issues are also considered in relation to prejudice and discrimination.

<http://dorasluimni.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Training-Resource-Pack.pdf>

National Youth Council of Ireland: Peace and Justice: It's Up to YOUth:

The resource seeks to put the plight of refugees and the drivers of migration into a wider political context using the Sustainable Development Goals. The activities challenge you to be empathetic to the stark reality and perilous journeys facing refugees and migrants, including giving some insight into what it might be like to have to live that reality and make the tough choices facing their fellow human beings every day.

http://www.youth.ie/Global_Rights_Resource

Youth Work Ireland Tipperary: "What's the Photostory Syria-Tipperary?"

This toolkit tells the stories from 15 young Syrian refugees and seeks to create a bond between the reader and the teller of the stories. Many young people come to live in a new country with their family, or sometimes on their own, because of circumstances that are out of their control. This movement away from all that is familiar can be very disrupting to a young person's sense of self. Some young people carry painful memories with them. At the same time, moving to and settling in a new country can also be a period of discovery, of learning new things.

<https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu/?material=whats-photostory-syria-tipperary-en>

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