



Ukrainian refugees in Denmark

Seminar, GRS/AAU, 13. October 2022

DRC DANISH
REFUGEE
COUNCIL

Danish Refugee Council (Dansk Flygtningehjælp)

- Founded in 1956 – Hungarian refugees
- Largest Danish NGO with programs in 40 countries – emergency aid, protection, reconstruction etc.
- 8,000 employees
- In Denmark:
 - > Counselling of asylum applicants
 - > Integration
 - > Advocacy



DRC Integration (appr. 80 employees og 6,500 volunteers)

- Employment
- Children & Family
- Volunteer
- Knowledge & Development
 - > *Knowledge Center for Vulnerable Refugees*
- DFUNK

<https://drc.ngo/our-work/what-we-do/integration/>



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.

War in Ukraine

Since 24 February

- 7.6 mill. refugees
- More than 7 mill. IDP's
- Appr. 34,000 applied for residence in Denmark
- Most women and children



DRC in Ukraine

300 staff

- Legal aid
- Community-based protection
- Food security
- Livelihoods
- Mine action



Asylum applicants and refugees in DK

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Asylum applicants	14,792	21,316	6,266	3,500	3,523	2,716	1,515	2,095
Residence permits	6,104	10,849	7,494	2,750	1,652	1,777	601	1,357

	Nationality of asylum applicants	2021
1	Afghanistan	554
2	Eritrea	381
3	Syria	330
4	Iran	67
5	Morocco	67

Ukrainians since
2/24 2022:
34,000 applied
for and 30,000
got residence

Special law

- Residence permit eligible for:
 1. Ukrainian citizens and refugees with asylum in Ukraine, who left Ukraine 1 February 2022 or later
 2. Same group if in Denmark or had residence in DK 1 February 2022
 3. Close relatives to above mentioned groups
- Temporary residence permit until 17 March 2024, can be extended to 17 March 2025
- Fast-track procedure
- Special law largely mirrors EU directive
- Immigration Service decides which municipality you are referred to
- Municipalities given more time to provide parts of the integration services

The Danish Integration Act

- Quota system dispersing refugees to (almost) all municipalities
- Programme for integration – up to 5 years
- Responsibility of municipalities – individual plans



Entitlements:

- Affordable housing
- Free Danish language tuition
- Help finding employment
- Self-support and return benefit (low)
- Health care, mental and social care (trauma rehabilitation etc.)
- Children to daycare, school...

Obligations – 37 hours per week:

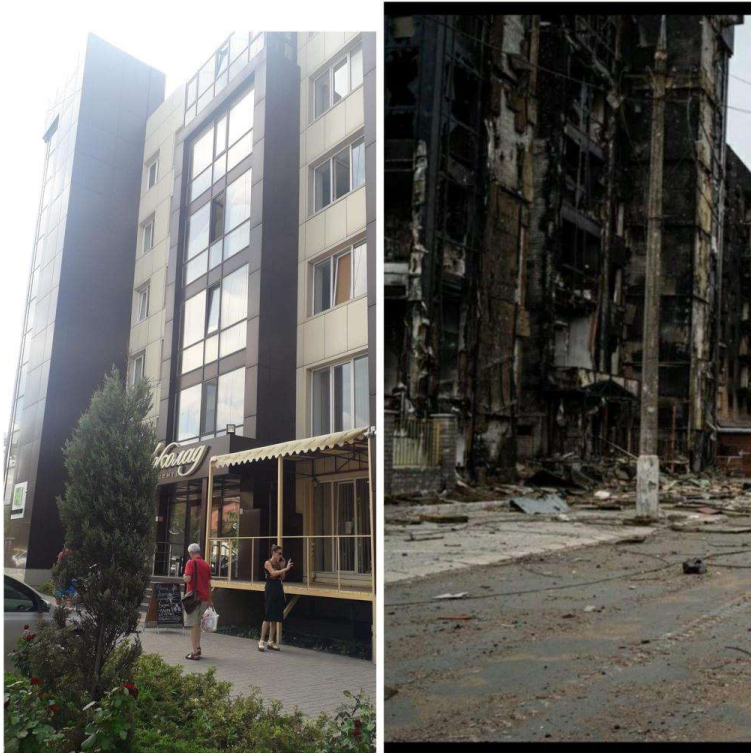
- Attend language training and pass test
- Actively participate in employment promoting schemes

What do we know?

- Many women and children
- Refugees from Ukraine is diverse group
- In some ways Ukraine is similar to Denmark, in some ways different

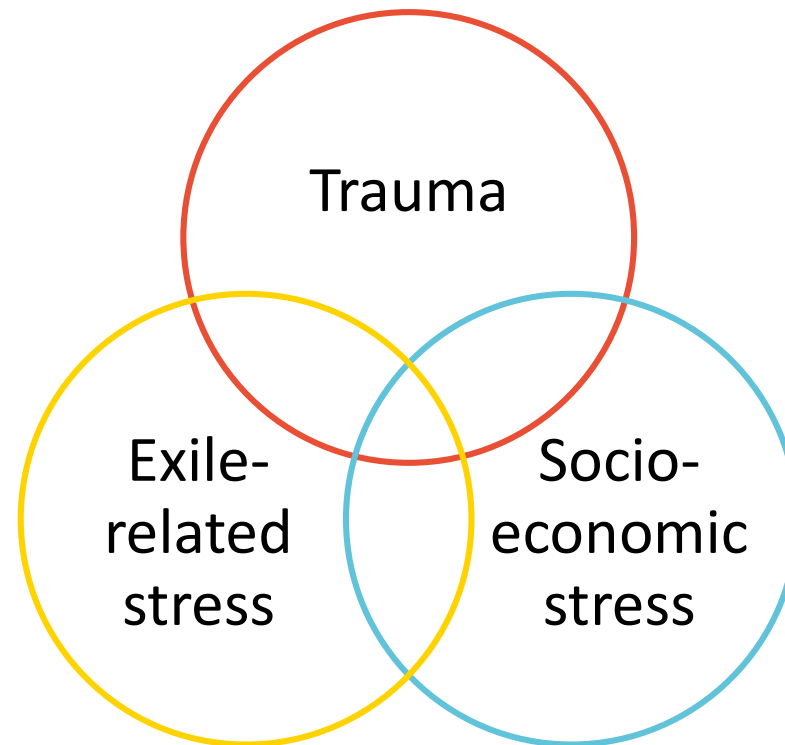
- All have experienced war and fleeing, but in various ways
- People react in various ways to what they have experienced
- Children with same needs as all other children, but some are having very hard time

All refugees are shaken

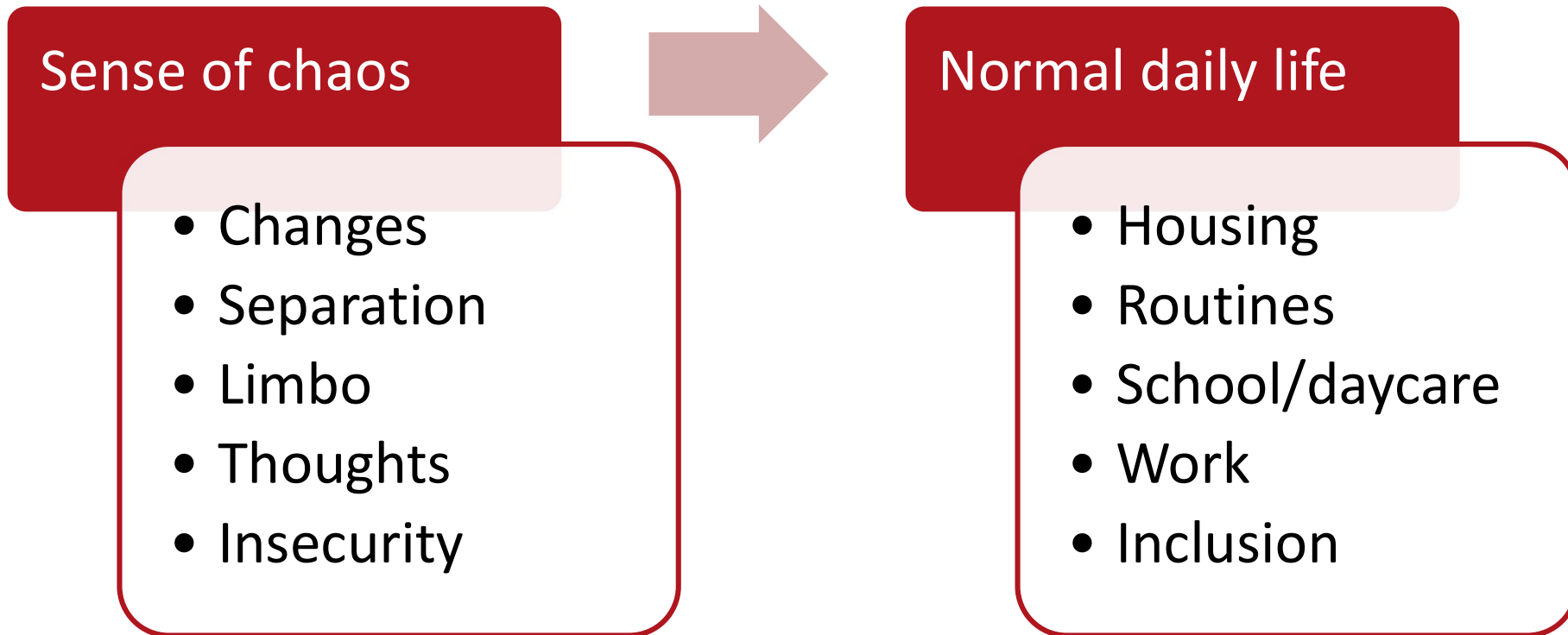


- Extreme conditions and events
- Losses
- Fundamentally changed situation
- Cultural differences
- Minority
- Client

Need for holistic approach



Important in first phase



Conditions in exile are crucial

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 (or education)
- Language proficiency
- Permanent housing
- Access to health services

Source: Preserving and Improving the Mental Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Umar Ikram and Karien Stronks for the Health Council of the Netherlands, 2016

Status now

- Reception of Ukrainians positive example of what can be achieved with collective will and effort
- Municipalities under pressure (e.g. housing and schools)
- Many in employment already, many still not
- Children and elderly
- Some struggle with wellbeing
- Some have gone back
- Winter is coming...

DRC Integration's activities in DK

- Various hotlines (for volunteers, professionals, Ukrainians)
- Courses and training
- Translated info-material to Ukrainian
- Site about life in Denmark in Ukrainian:
<https://ukrainian-in-denmark.dk/>
- Scaling up volunteer network
- Psycho-social group programs (MindSpring), and play groups for children
- Professional psycho-social support
- Screening project for some municipalities (labour market)





Thanks!

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