

Supporting Refugee Settlement



Who are we?

February 1999 - HMS Trust was established as a Charitable Trust and was originally located in Knox Street in the central city. The purpose of the Trust was to support settlement of newcomers, recognising that language is a barrier to information.

The first service offered by the HMST was interpreting which still operates today under the name **Decypher**. We provide over 1500 interpreting jobs per month.

October 2004 – The Trust moved to the Marist Rugby Club located on Claudelands Park.

Now known as **The Settlement Centre Waikato**.



What we do

We support newcomers to Hamilton – mainly migrants and refugees to settle, connect and thrive.

We provide a range of services and programmes to support their settlement journey including:

- Employment
- Digital literacy
- Information services
- Transport – driver licence and bike training
- Decypher – interpreting and translation services
- Events – Ethnic Football Festival, World Refugee Day
- Budgeting
- Health hub
- Housing Support

What is the difference?

Refugees	Migrants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flee conflict and persecution and have no alternative but to leave• Lose their homes and livelihoods• Often separated from families• Many experience violence, discrimination and deprivation• Political, economic and/or environmental refugees• No documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a conscious choice to leave• Seek information about their potential new home• Study language & explore employment opportunities• Plan their travel and take belongings with them• Say goodbye to important people in their lives• Can return home at any time without risk

Who is a refugee?

The 1951 Refugee Convention defined a refugee as a person who ...

“owing to a well-founded fear of being **persecuted**

for **reasons** of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion ...

is **outside the country** of his/her nationality ...

and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself/herself of the **protection** of that country.”

Conflict areas



Current Figures

- 36.4 million refugees
- 6.1 million asylum seekers
- 62.5 million internally displaced people

NZ accepts 1500 per year



[unhcr.org/refugee-statistics-](https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/) last update 24 October 2023

The Global Context

Nearly **70%** of all global refugees come from just five countries.

What are the five countries?

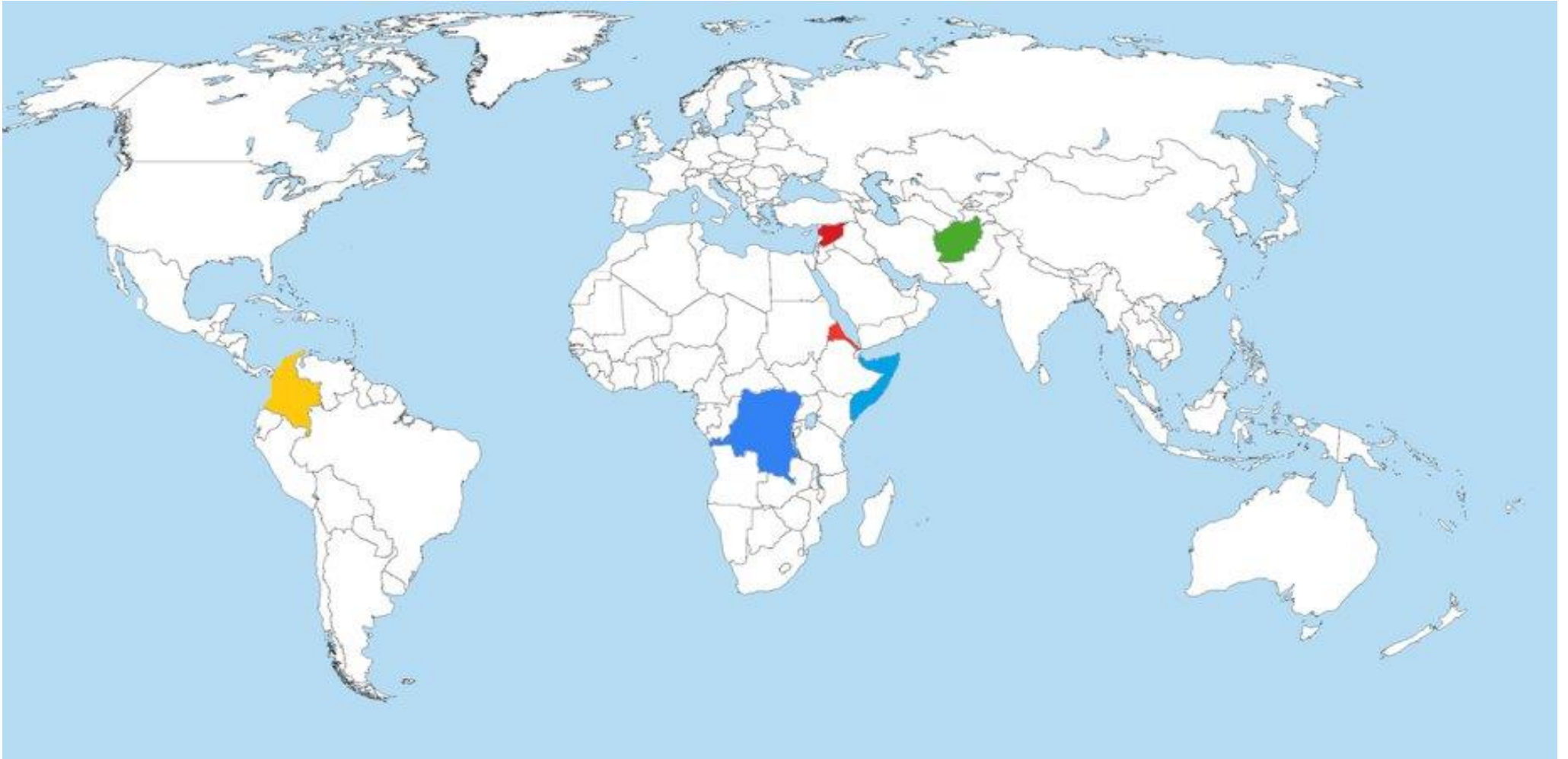
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| 1. Syria | 6.5 million refugees |
| 2. Afghanistan | 6.1 million refugees |
| 3. Ukraine | 6.0 million refugees |
| 4. Venezuela | 5.6 million refugees |
| 5. South Sudan | 2.2 million refugees |

Data Source - www.un.org/en/global-issues/refugees

Who do we settle?

1990's to present

Afghan, Somali, Congolese, Burmese, Colombian, Eritrean, Bhutanese, Djibouti, Syrian



How do UN-quota refugees arrive in NZ?

1. Flee across a border



2. Register with UNHCR



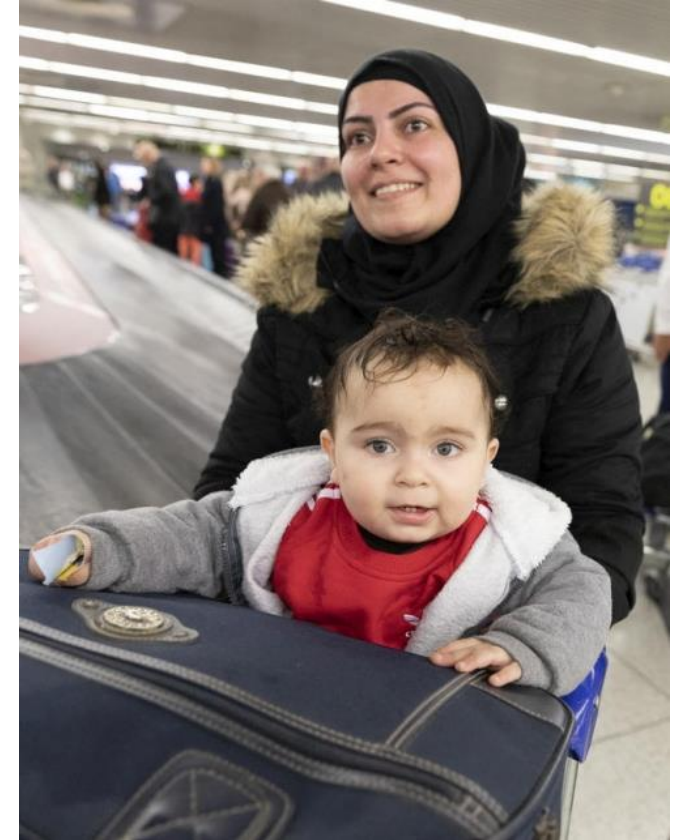
3. Refugee camps or urban cities spaces



- This is long process and can take up to 20 years.
- Average time in a refugee camp is 14 years

Process for UN-quota refugees

1. UNHCR refers refugees to NZ Government- (Immigration NZ)
2. Immigration NZ selects / interviews before arrival – Offshore.
3. Arrival
 - When refugees arrive in NZ, they are given a Permanent Resident Visa
 - After 5 years they can apply for NZ citizenship



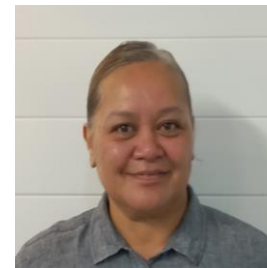
Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre



Can stay here from
5 weeks to 3 months

Local Settlement

- Practical support is offered by the **NKSS** Team **New Kiwis Settlement Service**
- Supported by staff 1 – 2 years
- Supported by volunteers 3 – 6 months



Five goals of NZ resettlement strategy towards independence



Thank you for being interested



Questions ?