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Good Practice Sharing

Adaptation and assimilation programmes and counteracting social isolation of migrants, including information, psychological, linguistic, cultural, educational and social support

Nasc: New Beginnings, Children & Families Project

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Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre

Nasc, the Irish word for “link”, is a non-governmental organisations advocating for the realisation of the rights, inclusion and integration of all migrants into Irish society.



Nasc's goals and priorities

- Deliver one-to-one advocacy and information to migrants and refugees to empower them in realising their rights and entitlements
- Provide integration supports to vulnerable cohorts, such as women, families with children and young people
- Raise public and political awareness around challenges faced by migrants
- Evidence based research and policy
- Promote and advance secure pathways for refugees to reach Ireland, especially through the Community Sponsorship model

New Beginnings: Children & Families Project

- **Problem Addressed:**

- Ensuring family unity and family reunification is crucial for successful integration of refugees in host communities. It leads to wider participation in society through education, employment and engagement with available services.
- Refugee families with children face many challenges when starting their lives in their new communities: lack of affordable housing, troubles accessing education, healthcare and the increasing cost of living
- Challenges facing many communities in Ireland, which have disproportionate impact on families struggling to navigate trauma, culture shock and entirely unfamiliar bureaucratic systems



New Beginnings: Children & Families Project

- **How Objectives are reached:**

- Nasc has a dedicated social work team supporting refugee families transitioning out of state provided accommodation and into the community and refugee children arriving to Ireland through refugee family reunification.
- Nasc's Advocacy Service supports refugees in achieving family reunification.
- Once their applications are approved and their families are on the way to Ireland, the Advocacy Service Team refers the family to the New Beginnings project to ensure the family receives post-arrival orientation and are correctly set up to start their life in Ireland
- Post-arrival orientation includes support in: obtaining Personal Public Services numbers, residence permit cards, enrolling children in schools, registering with a family doctor
- Additional integration supports include: prevention work against chronic poverty, deprivation of work & homelessness; accessing education, adequate & social housing, social welfare supports, language supports, mental health and wellbeing services.

- **Stakeholders:**



, Community Foundation Ireland, St Vincent de Paul, Community Connect

New Beginnings: Children & Families Project

- **Resources Needed:**

Cost of developing and rolling out the New Beginnings @ Nasc:

- Overall cost per annum: 81,347 €
- Staff costs 57,147
- Direct project costs:
 - Language supports: €5,000
 - Education & Integration Supports €6,500
 - Essential Needs €2,000
 - Direct Provision Transition Costs €6,100
 - Admin €4,600

New Beginnings: Children & Families Project

- **Evidence of Success:**

In 2023, New Beginnings:

- Supported 64 children from 19 families & 12 countries
- Prevented and alleviated poverty for 19 families
- Prevented homelessness for 13 families
- Ensured access to education for 9 families, facilitating 24 children & young people's access to education placements and learning supports
- Post-arrival orientation: securing Public Services numbers, residence permit cards, registering with GP, school enrollment
- Facilitated applications for social assistance supports for 19 families
- Facilitating access to healthcare and mental health supports
- Provided home-set up materiall
- Provided 22 young people from 12 families with intensive English language

- **Timeline:**

- Ongoing since 2021
- Renewed for 2024

New Beginnings: Children & Families Project

- **Potential for Learning or Transfer:**

- Nasc's New Beginnings project has been consistently and successfully supporting families since 2021.
- It could be reproduced and adapted to different contexts and countries by using social work as a means to offer integration supports. An important first step is assessing what the needs of refugee families are in the relevant context. Before setting up the New Beginnings project, Nasc commissioned research into the needs of refugee families reuniting in Ireland. The resulting report informed the structure and work of the New Beginnings project.
- Following this example, other organisations and institutions can design informed social work strategies to support and empower refugee families in overcoming barriers within local housing, social welfare, education, employment and immigration systems.



Further Information:

Eilís Ní Laoi, New Beginnings Social Worker, Nasc.

Web: <https://nascireland.org/current-projects/new-beginnings-children-families-project>

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Thank you!

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SLIDE 8

