The impact of the recent Covid-19 pandemic on refugee integration in the UK

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Presentation outline

• Cohort study aims and design
• The data
• Integration indicators
• Linkage strategy and data
• Arabic naming conventions
• Covid-19: UK perspective
• Timeline for the pilot project
Cohort study aims and design

Pilot study aims:
• Assess the feasibility of linking a sample of Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme (VPRS/VCRS) data to administrative data
• Develop linkage strategies for different naming conventions

Full cohort study aims:
• Understand social integration outcomes
• Provide insights that inform refugee policy to improve integration outcomes

UK government’s approach to evaluating Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Schemes:
The data

Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>19,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20,007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Males: 10,441 (52%)
Females: 9,566 (48%)

Source: Home Office Asylum and Resettlement datasets

Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,636</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Males: 872 (48%)
Females: 954 (52%)

Other includes Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Palestinian Authority, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen

Source: Home Office Asylum and Resettlement datasets
Home Office integration indicators

• **Housing** e.g. type, household size
• **English language** e.g. ESOL level, attendance, progress over time
• **Education** e.g. attendance, English language support in schools
• **Employment** e.g. % employed, employment type (full-time, part-time)
• **Benefits** e.g. % receiving job seekers allowance, % receiving health related benefits
• **Social bridges and bonds** e.g. volunteering, community participation
• **Health** e.g. % registered with doctor, mental health needs
• **Secondary migration** e.g. % moved from initial accommodation

Additional integration indicators:
• **Covid-19** - examples?
• Mortality and cause of death
• Fertility and maternity
• Progression to Higher Education
• Possession of car and/or UK Driving Licence
Linkage strategy and data

Strategy

• Apply standard matching algorithms (deterministic, clerical, probabilistic)
• Moderate these algorithms for characteristics of the refugee data
• Optimise matching algorithms depending on the data source we are matching to

Potential data sources to link to

• Health registration  Pilot
• Education including school census, further and higher education, attainment
• Benefits and income including employment, pay, benefits and allowances, address changes
• Driver and Vehicle registration
• 2021 Census including self-reported health, household composition, employment, ability to speak English
• Travel data  Pilot
• Births
• Deaths
Arabic naming conventions

- Transliteration challenges due to spelling, characters or dialectal variations e.g. Fahad – Fahad/Fahed/Fahd
- First names can be compound names written in different ways e.g. Abdulaziz – Abdul Aziz/Add al Aziz
- Surnames denote a family or tribal grouping e.g. al-Hammadi
- Patrilineal or patronymic names reflecting generations of male relatives e.g. Ahmed bin Omar ibn Taymur = Ahmed, son of Omar, son of Taymur
- Parents may incorporate reference to the oldest child e.g. Abu Mahmood (Mahmood’s father)
- A kunya (nickname) can also be a name given to someone that refers to a region of origin e.g. Abu Haitham al-Masri
- Women may choose to keep their family name. Children may take their father’s family name. Family units where husband/wife don’t share a surname
- Names changed or shortened so closer to host country names
- Differences between Muslim, Christian, Jewish or other backgrounds
Covid-19: UK perspective

Weekly air passenger arrivals to the UK, Jan-Jul 2019 vs Jan-Jul 2020

Number of asylum applications and initial decisions

Impact on data sources:
- International Passenger Survey paused 16 March 2020
- Decline in registrations with a doctor
- Hospitals cancel routine operations and treatment
- Home Office issue temporary ‘grace’ period period/request additional time to stay
- A-levels and GCSE exam results based on teacher assessment
- Furlough schemes to support employers and employees
- Benefits for those earning less than usual - including self-employed, made redundant or shielding

Impact on Refugees:
- It has not been possible to undertake any resettlement activity since March 2020 due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and pressures both overseas and in the UK
- The Home Office expect to resume resettlement activity when safe to do so

Source: Home Office statistics relating to passenger arrivals since the COVID-19 outbreak, August 2020

Source: Home office statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system May 2020