• The New Zealand Refugee Quota Programme arrivals are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 response. Immigration New Zealand is working with agencies and international partners, including the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) on requirements to support the resumption of quota refugee resettlement. This includes ensuring international travel routes are available for safe refugee movements and appropriate health measures and controls are in place.

• As the COVID-19 response progresses, the Government will consider when quota refugee resettlement under the Refugee Quota Programme is able to resume in a manner that is safe for quota refugees and our communities.

• The safety and wellbeing of the quota refugee families in Immigration New Zealand’s care at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) remains our key priority and we have continued to provide services throughout the COVID-19 response.

• Access to MRRC is in line with the COVID-19 Alert Level 1 recommendations. Quota refugees are able to leave the centre and receive visitors during set hours with health protocols undertaken as per advice from the Ministry of Health.

• Refugee families in the March Refugee Quota intake arrived in New Zealand on 13 March 2020, prior to the COVID-19 lockdown being put in place, and remained at the MRRC for the lockdown. At Alert Level 3, families were able to participate in and complete the onsite reception programme.

• Since 12 June, families have started to leave the MRRC and settle as planned in the following settlement locations: Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Blenheim, Nelson, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill.

• As of 1 July, a total of 17 quota refugees remain at MRRC. These families are awaiting accommodation to be secured in the settlement locations.

• New Zealand’s Refugee Quota for 2019/20 reached 797 quota refugee arrivals from the 1,000 places. The COVID-19 pandemic response globally impacted on scheduled intakes.
• From 1 July 2020, New Zealand’s Refugee Quota is increasing to 1,500 places per financial year. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic globally, it is unlikely that this increase will be reached in the 2020/21 financial year.