Background

- From July 2020, the New Zealand Refugee Quota Programme will increase to 1,500 quota refugees annually.
- All refugees selected for resettlement under New Zealand’s Refugee Quota Programme have undergone comprehensive screening and assessment processes focusing on credibility, security, and settlement needs. Quota refugees must also meet Immigration New Zealand health requirements.
- For more information about the Refugee and Asylum seekers: [Refugee and Asylum Factsheet](#)

New Settlement Locations

- Currently, New Zealand settles quota refugees in eight locations: Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill. To manage the quota increase, an additional five to six new settlement locations are required.
- To select the new settlement locations, a cross-government New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Officials’ Group considered the availability of employment opportunities, housing, education, health and cultural support services, local government and community support in locations across the country.
- The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Official’s Group also consulted mayors and representatives from local councils to ensure an understanding of opportunities and issues from a local perspective.
- The New Zealand Refugee Resettlement Strategy Senior Official’s Group selected six new settlement locations: Whanganui, Levin, Masterton, Blenheim, Ashburton and Timaru. This would result in a total of 14 refugee resettlement locations throughout New Zealand.
- Blenheim and Timaru will receive refugees from April 2020. Masterton, Levin and Ashburton will receive refugees from June 2020. Whanganui is yet to be confirmed.
- The dates for starting refugee settlement in the new locations will ensure that support services and local communities have time to prepare prior to the overall refugee quota increase in July 2020.
It is planned that three to five families will arrive every eight weeks in the new settlement locations. The nationalities settling in the new locations are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blenheim</td>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timaru</td>
<td>Syrian</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterton</td>
<td>Syrian</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levin</td>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashburton</td>
<td>Afghan</td>
<td>Dari/Farsi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refugee Resettlement Programme

- All quota refugees spend their first weeks in New Zealand at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) in Auckland, where they participate in a comprehensive reception programme that prepares them to live, work and study in their new communities.

- The reception programme addresses settlement planning and orientation to New Zealand life. A Settlement Plan is developed with each quota refugee family that outlines the types of services they will be connected with to support their successful settlement in the community. This includes onward referrals as well as the family’s goals and ambitions for their future.

- Families will be provided with a public or private tenancy prior to departing MRRC to their settlement location. No refugee family leaves the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre without a property being secured in their settlement location.

- On arrival in settlement locations, refugees receive 12 months of government-funded settlement support. These settlement support services include coordination of a community orientation programme, enrolment in GP practices, early childhood education, schools, English language classes and employment.

- The Settlement Plans developed at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (MRRC) provide guidance to local settlement service providers on the services and specific needs of each family.
The settlement service providers contracted in the new locations to support newly arrived refugees for their first 12 months in the community are:

- Levin – New Zealand Red Cross
- Masterton – New Zealand Red Cross and Connecting Communities Wairarapa.
- Blenheim – New Zealand Red Cross
- Ashburton - Safer Communities (Ashburton)
- Timaru - Presbyterian Support South Canterbury

For more information about the Refugee Resettlement Strategy:

[INZ Refugee Resettlement Strategy](#)

**Settlement Location Preparation**

- The Immigration New Zealand Refugee and Migrant Services Branch will work closely with local councils, iwi, settlement service providers, and communities to ensure that new locations are prepared in advance of quota refugee arrivals.

- A training day for key stakeholders will be given prior to refugees arriving in the community. The training will include: understanding the refugee resettlement process, refugee health and well-being, education, the refugee journey and settlement support services. This training is delivered in partnership with settlement service providers and partner government agencies.

- The Immigration New Zealand Refugee and Migrant Services Branch will continue to work alongside key stakeholders in each new settlement location to provide ongoing information and coordination.