



**Community  
Refugee  
Sponsorship**

# COMMUNITY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP (CORS) PROGRAMME

**Presenters:**

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*HOST Aotearoa New Zealand*

**Alice Garner**

*Immigration New Zealand*

**Saturday 9 April 2022; 9.00am to 10.00am**





# THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

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**Protection:** Making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, religious belief, class, or political opinion; ultimately guided by the protection needs of the refugees concerned.

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**Durable Solutions:** Finding permanent solutions to refugee situations by offering refugees safety, security, and legal status to move on with their lives in a new country.

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**International Responsibility Sharing:** Presenting an opportunity to participate in international responsibility sharing on refugee issues at a local level.

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**Increasing Resettlement Spots – Additionality:** Creating Refugee Sponsorship Programme in addition to existing government resettlement programmes.

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**Community Building/Volunteering:** Creating more welcoming communities. Through direct, personal interaction, sponsors develop meaningful and lasting relationships with the refugees they sponsor.

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**Ongoing Partnerships/Accountability:** Successful public-private collaboration requires commitment and effort to maintain ongoing dialogue, an improvement and solutions orientation, and openness to change. It also requires transparency and regular accountability & evaluation mechanisms.





# THE NEW ZEALAND CONTEXT

The development of an alternative pathway for refugee admission that complements traditional refugee resettlement is intended to provide **durable protection solutions** for refugees and build community engagement and support for refugee resettlement.

It also demonstrates New Zealand's commitment to **international responsibility sharing**. The objectives of the CORS category are to:

- provide an opportunity for community organisations to more actively engage in supporting successful sponsored refugee settlement and to build communities that welcome former refugees;
- enable sponsored refugees, with the support of community organisations, to quickly become **independent and self-sufficient** so they can enter the labour market, navigate and access mainstream support services without requiring additional support.
- provide an alternative form of admission for refugees to complement New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme and, in doing so, demonstrate New Zealand's response to the scale of refugee movement and commitment to international responsibility sharing.

*Promoting  
manaakitanga  
towards  
newcomers*

*Principles of  
partnership,  
protection and  
participation*



# HOW DID WE GET HERE?

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Pilot Programme 2017 – 2018

Co-Design Process 2020 – 2021

Extended pilot 2021 – 2024



## Co-Design Process:

The CORS extended pilot model was developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders and communities

Co-design and test of the programme to:

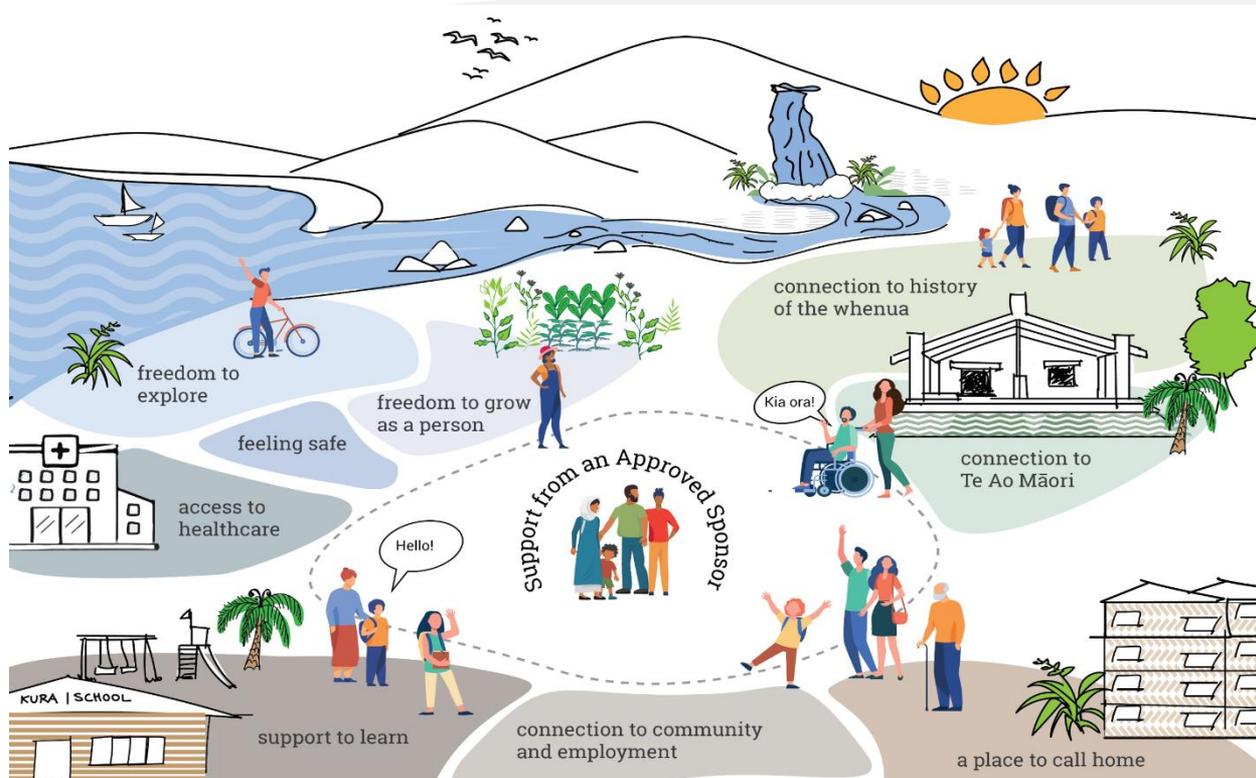
- Build capability and capacity in approved sponsors
- Create robust information sharing channels between parties and support overall wellbeing and safety of sponsored refugees
- Have a national support model for the programme
- Enable promotion of the programme





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# GET INVOLVED

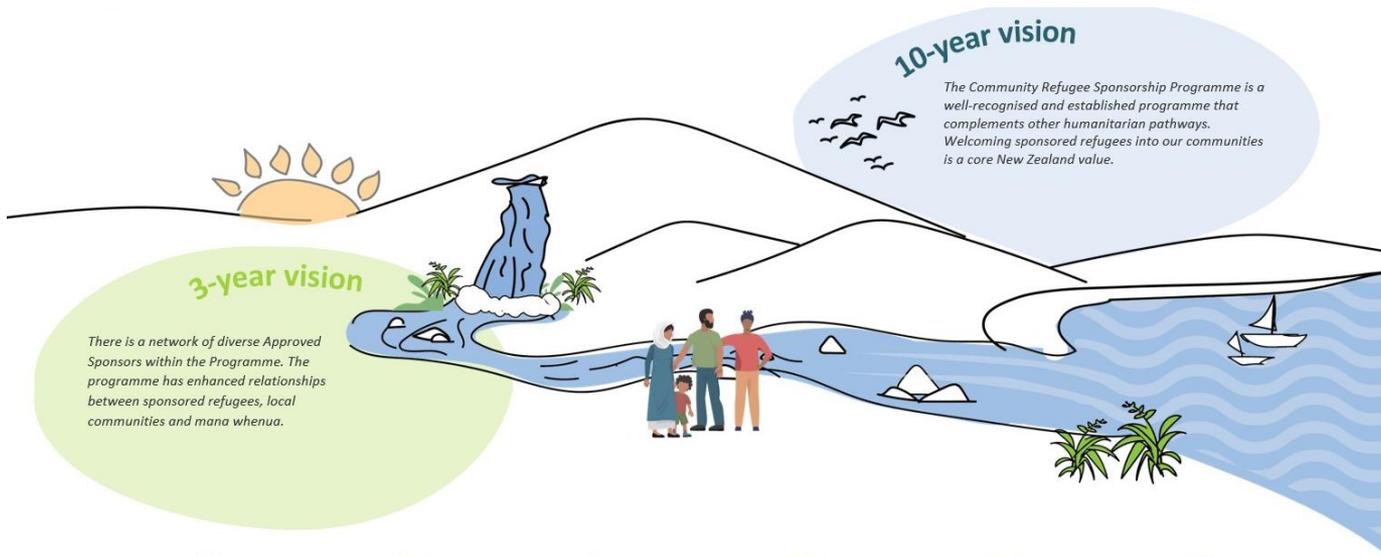


tūrangawaewae  
find a place to  
stand

Connections  
Participation  
Sense of belonging  
Self-empowerment



# PROGRAMME VISION



Designing the extended pilot		Launching and evolving the extended pilot	
<b>YEAR 1</b> +50 sponsored refugees		<b>YEAR 2</b> +50 sponsored refugees	
<b>YEAR 3</b> +50 sponsored refugees			

**Tangata whenua** participate in developing the design of the programme

**Former refugees** participate in developing the design of the programme

Mana whenua, potential Approved Sponsors and sponsored refugees **shape the programme** at a local and national level

The make-up of the Approved Sponsors has **increased diversity** relative to the initial pilot

**Deepening of relationships** between sponsored refugees, mana whenua, Approved Sponsors and government.

**Learnings are shared** throughout the programme to iterate based on feedback from those involved.

**Collate learnings** for the next iteration of the project programme





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## WHO IS PART OF THE PROCESS?



Local level



National level





## ELIGIBILITY OF SPONSORING GROUPS

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Approved sponsors must meet several requirements:

- Be a **registered entity** - such as incorporated society, charitable trust or registered company
- Be able to demonstrate **community outreach**;
- Have **demonstrated experience** of working successfully with refugees or vulnerable people;
- Have the **financial capacity** to meet settlement responsibilities;
- Be able to **deliver settlement services** for refugees – particularly suitable accommodation, support to secure meaningful and sustainable employment; and
- Be willing and able to enter into a **Deed of Agreement for Services** with Immigration NZ for the provision of settlement services to the agreed standard.





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## PRACTICAL STEPS TO APPLY

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Complete the Refugee Sponsorship Approved Community Organisation **Application Form**;

Complete a **Settlement Plan** outlining your plans for resettling a refugee/family;

Provide evidence of your organisation's **financial situation and** an overview of how you intend to cover the costs associated with sponsorship;

Complete the **Fundamentals of Child Protection** e-learning module;

Prepare a **Child Protection Statement** that outlines the policies and procedures that are in place to manage risks; and

Complete the **Police vetting process** for staff and volunteers.



# THE SETTLEMENT PLAN

The **Settlement Plan** is your organisation's **road map** to all aspects of the settlement process for sponsored refugee(s). You need to demonstrate that your organisation's members have the skills or connections to deliver on the following settlement processes for the successful integration of sponsored refugees:

- Ability to secure suitable accommodation
- Connections to wider community, community facilities, local government.
- Knowledge and experience on how to best connect with tangata whenua.
- Knowledge of or connections to organisations specialising in supporting refugees or asylum seekers.
- Finance – budgeting, accounting, etc.
- Understanding of the education system (children and adults) and how to access ESOL provision.
- Ability to access interpreters.
- Working with vulnerable families: Child protection knowledge
- Understanding of the health sector
- Ability to find employment or training opportunities for the refugee families.





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## RESPONSIBILITIES OF APPROVED SPONSORS

- Work with Immigration NZ and HOST Aotearoa NZ to coordinate travel logistics prior to arrival
- Welcome and reception of the family/individual
- Ensure appropriate accommodation is arranged prior to arrival of sponsored refugees
- Provide financial assistance until benefit payments are available
- Assist refugees to enrol in education and health services
- Connect refugees with their new community
- Connect refugees to Te Ao Māori and history of tangata whenua
- Support refugees to access employment opportunities
- Provide practical advice
- Participate in monitoring and programme evaluation

**Provide settlement support to sponsored refugees during their first two years in New Zealand.**





# FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR SPONSORS

A budget template tool has been developed to help your organisation estimate the costs of sponsorship.

One-off costs
NZQA Qualification Assessment Fees
Translations of qualifications (where available)
Driver's licence conversion
Driver's licence training
School activity fees
<b>SUB-TOTAL for one-off costs</b>

On arrival
Travel for sponsors to travel to airport to greet sponsored refugees
Transport from airport to community
Interpreters & translation services (if needed)
Money or vouchers for seasonal clothing and shoes
Baby supplies (if necessary)
School fees
Other school costs (e.g. stationery, school uniform)
ESOL class fees for adult family members
Medical check
Mental health services (if needed)
Dental check
Optician (if needed)
Computer
Cellphones
<b>SUB-TOTAL for on arrival costs</b>

Pre-arrival
Bond + first rent payment for accommodation*
Appliances (kitchen, laundry, heating)
Furniture (bedrooms, living/dining, kitchen)
Household supplies (bedding, linen etc.)
Bathroom and kitchen supplies
Basic food, health & emergency supplies
If family with children: toys
Translations of information material (if needed)
Moving truck to transport furniture
<b>SUB-TOTAL for pre-arrival costs</b>

Post arrival: (for first 4 to 6 weeks)
<b>Weekly expenses</b>
Groceries
Rent
Transport
Personal cash
Childcare/daycare
Preschool
School costs (trips, lunch money etc.)
<b>Monthly expenses</b>
Bank fees
Electricity
Gas
Phone
Mobile phone
Internet
Interpreters (when needed)
Unexpected/emergency costs
<b>SUB-TOTAL for first 6 weeks**</b>





Photo credit: Caritas New Zealand

## PREVIOUS SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS

*“Sponsoring the families was a brilliant experience. [...] So, there was a bit of stuff that was a little bit harder than we thought it would be. But overall, it was a pretty amazing experience. I've watched these three families settle into New Zealand and I'm just quite encouraged.*”

*I look at what they have come from and what they're doing now, and it helps put my concerns in perspective. I've built friendships with some of them, and I've met loads of Kiwis around the country that also participated in the programme. That's been pretty awesome too.”*

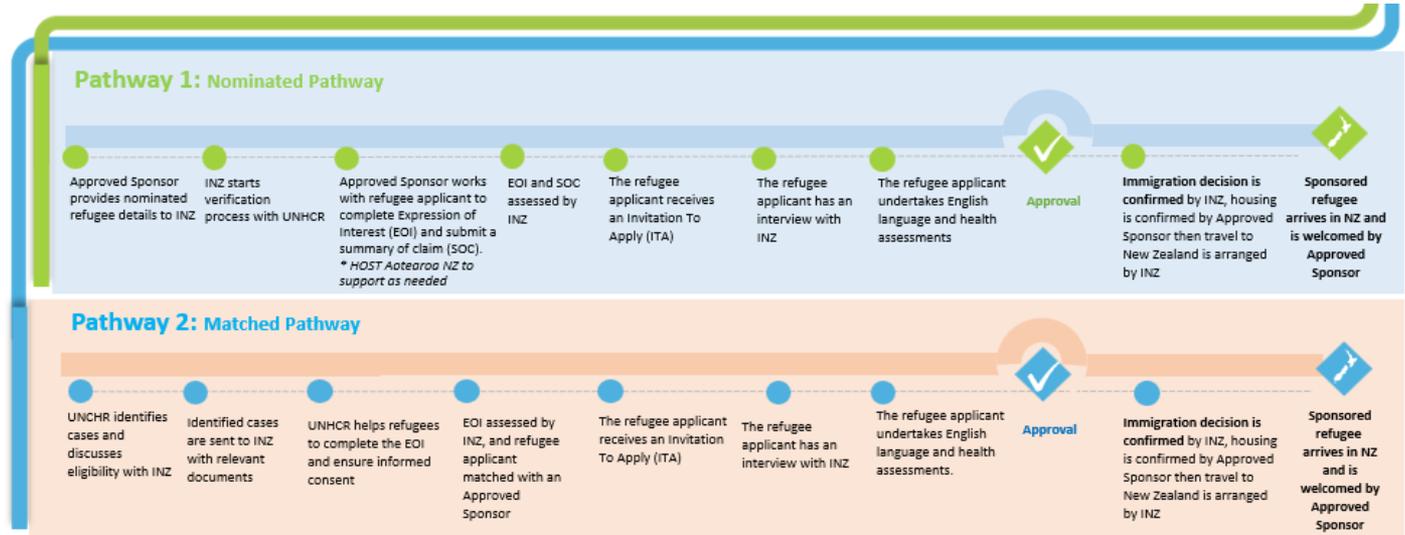
Nick Regnault, South-West Baptist Church



# REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROCESS MAP

Once sponsor organisations are approved, they decide to:

- Nominate a refugee/family who they wish to support and/or
- Be matched with a refugee/family that has been identified by UNHCR.





## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPONSORED REFUGEES

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### **To be eligible for a Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship (CORS) visa refugees must:**

- Be mandated as refugees.
- Meet the relevant immigration criteria including security, risk, settlement and health assessments.
- Be residing in a country that is a UNHCR priority area and one of the international regions Immigration New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme resettles from (Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa).
- Not be eligible to be sponsored for residence under another INZ family category, including the Refugee Family Support Category.





## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPONSORED REFUGEES

### Principal applicants must also:

Have a basic understanding of English.

Have a minimum of three years' work experience — or a qualification requiring at least two years' tertiary study.

Be aged between 18 and 45.

Source: Immigration New Zealand Refugee Sponsorship Programme





## SPONSORED REFUGEES EXPERIENCE

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Nearly four years after arriving in New Zealand, Hisham Al Zarzour is grateful to be here.

*"When I look at my children, they are happy in the schools and they are happy for being here. What's so important is they are happy and their future is a clear and safe,"* he said.

*"I came. I find the house is completely full, like, we don't need anything,"* said Hisham, *"Everything was in the house, even the food."*

*"So there was a bit of stuff that was a little bit harder than we thought it would be. But overall, it was a pretty amazing experience,"* he said.

H. Al Zarzour





## ROLE OF HOST AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

*Umbrella organisation  
for the CORS programme*

### **About HOST Aotearoa New Zealand**

- HOST Aotearoa NZ is a New Zealand national charity and is part of the HOST International family that operates in Australia, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.
- The organisation works with refugees, displaced people and host communities to build hope and inclusion by facilitating individual wellbeing, community inclusion and global change.

### **Umbrella organisation for the CORS programme**

- HOST Aotearoa NZ is the umbrella organisation for the CORS programme for the duration of the extended pilot.
- Our role is to coach, support and work alongside interested and approved sponsor organisations, to provide information, resources and training throughout the programme.





## ROLE OF HOST AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND



### **Application Process**

- General community information sessions and initial consultation meetings with potential sponsor groups.
- Guidance on eligibility as a sponsor organisations.
- Coaching, information, resources and support throughout the application process.

### **With approved sponsoring organisation**

- Working alongside sponsor organisations to prepare host communities and tangata whenua for welcoming refugee families.
- One-stop shop with resources, training and support (e.g. Community of Practice; cross-cultural training).
- Support and advice on refugee needs and how they need to be met during settlement.
- Advice on specialist support agencies.
- Ongoing support during the two-year settlement period.





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## QUESTION TIME

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# INFORMATION & RESOURCES

[www.refugeesponsorship.org.nz](http://www.refugeesponsorship.org.nz)



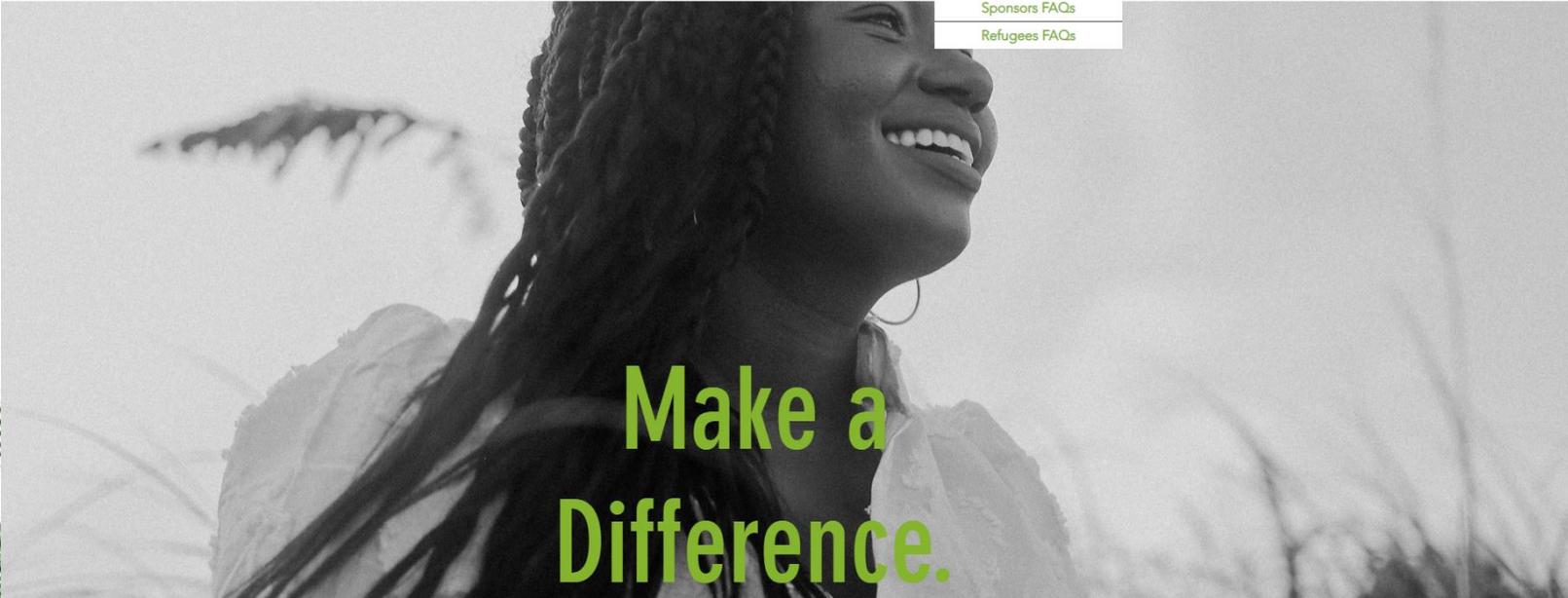
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Make a  
Difference.



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## GET IN TOUCH

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*Umbrella organisation for the CORS programme*

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Website: [www.refugeesponsorship.org.nz](http://www.refugeesponsorship.org.nz)



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