



Resettlement Country: Finland

Last updated: Jan 2022

1. Resettlement Policy and Program Description

1.1 Program Year/Cycle: 2022

- Start date: 01-Jan-22 End Date: 31-Dec-22

1.2 Resettlement Policy and Program

- Provide a brief history and description of the resettlement policy and program.

The Finnish Government has received refugees proposed by UNHCR since 1979. The annual resettlement programme was established in 1985. Since 2001, the refugee quota (the annual resettlement programme) has been 750 persons except for the years 2014 and 2015 when the quota was increased by additional 300 persons as a response to the situation in Syria. In 2020, the Finnish Government increased the quota to 850 persons and in 2021 further to 1,050 persons. Moreover, in response to the dire situation in Afghanistan, Finland increased the annual refugee quota for 2022 to 1,500 persons including a quota of 600 places for Afghan refugees to be resettled from Iran.

Finland has continuously emphasized the importance of strategic resettlement schemes and programmes and considers it important that resettlement is promoted in the EU. Finland has actively participated in the EU resettlement schemes. Finland has also committed resettlement places within the refugee quota to the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM) in response to the situation in Libya. Finland also stresses the need to agree on and implement the EU Resettlement Framework – including the need to get more EU Member States to participate in the global resettlement work in cooperation with the UNHCR.

Finland resettles only refugees referred by UNHCR. In addition to UNHCR, also IOM and EASO are indispensable partners in the area of resettlement providing with logistic and other support for the implementation of the annual quotas.

1.3 Ministries and Departments

- Indicate the ministries and departments responsible for the resettlement program.

The Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, prepares a proposal for the Government on the territorial allocation of the annual refugee quota. The Minister of the Interior confirms the decision on the territorial allocation once the State budget has been approved by the Parliament.

The Finnish Immigration Service is the operational authority implementing the decision on the annual refugee quota. The Finnish Immigration Service carries out the interview selections, decides on the cases submitted, makes travel arrangements for the persons accepted for



resettlement and provides the selected refugees with a cultural orientation programme. At the local level, municipalities are responsible for the reception and integration of quota refugees.

1.4 Process for Determining the Resettlement Admission Targets

- Describe the process for determining the program cycle resettlement admission targets.

The annual resettlement admission target is equivalent with the size of the annual refugee quota. The quota and its territorial allocations for the following year are preliminary discussed between the relevant ministries and agencies involved in the resettlement process. As Finland emphasizes the need to convey the message of continuity, the changes are usually rather moderate as compared to the previous year. The UNHCR recommendations are carefully studied and taken into account when preparing the proposal on the territorial allocation of the quota.

The Finnish Parliament decides annually, in connection with the handling of the State budget, on the resources for admitting resettled refugees to Finland and, in practice, on the size of annual quota. Finland announces the size of the annual quota to UNHCR after the Parliament decision. Finland asks UNHCR for additional 20% submissions on top of the annual quota in order to guarantee a sufficient number of eligible persons to be selected within the respective quota.

2. Eligibility for Refugee Status and other forms of International Protection

2.1 National Legislation defining eligibility

- Summarize the national legislation and any relevant national policies defining eligibility for refugee status and other forms of international protection, with reference to the grounds for inclusion, cessation and exclusion.

Under the Finnish Aliens Act (301/2004), entered into force on 1 May 2004, an alien residing in the country is granted asylum if the requirements laid down in section 87 of the Aliens Act are met. The wording of this section is virtually identical to the definition in the 1951 Convention, omitting the territorial and temporal limitations. An alien residing in Finland is granted asylum if, owing to well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of ethnic origin, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, he or she resides outside his or her country of origin or habitual residence and if, owing to such fear, he or she is unwilling to avail him or herself of the protection of the said country.

Under section 106 of the Aliens Act, refugee status is also granted to an alien who has been admitted to Finland for resettlement under the refugee quota on the basis of refugee status. Refugees admitted to Finland under the refugee quota based on the UNHCR proposal are all granted Convention status. For this reason, Finland expects those that are proposed by UNHCR to have a strong need of protection against the country of origin. With regards to people other than those whom UNHCR has proposed, it is possible, on the basis of individual consideration, to grant these people a residence permit based on the need for protection, instead of granting them refugee status. Furthermore, under section 106 of the Aliens Act,



refugee status is granted to family members of aliens who have been granted refugee status, if these family members have been issued with a residence permit on the basis of family ties and if they are considered refugees (see section 14 of this chapter).

The Aliens Act defines the refugee quota as well as the requirements for admitting aliens to Finland under the quota. The requirements for admitting aliens for resettlement under the refugee quota are laid down in section 92 of the Aliens Act.

The first requirement is the alien's need for international protection with regard to his or her home country. The same factors in determining the need for international protection should be taken into account as within the asylum procedure.

The second requirement is the alien's need for resettlement with regard to the country where he or she is residing. The need for resettlement is apparent if the person is threatened with return to his or her country of origin or with arbitrary arrest or imprisonment in the first country of asylum. Survivors of violence and torture and people in need of resettlement for medical reasons are also persons in need of resettlement. Women, particularly single women and single parents, often find themselves in a more vulnerable position than other alien groups in the country of asylum owing to the lack of social and ethnic networks.

The third requirement is that the requirements for admitting and integrating the refugee into the country have been assessed.

The fourth requirement is that there are no obstacles to issuing a residence permit under section 36 of the Aliens Act. Under the said section, a residence permit may be refused if the alien is considered a danger to public order, security or health or to Finland's international relations.

When considering resettlement, attention is also paid to the need for family unity and to the special needs of children, adolescents and elderly refugees. Resettlement may also be considered for refugees who are not in need of resettlement for reasons of immediate protection but who find it difficult to establish themselves in their country of asylum in a manner appropriate to their cultural, social, religious or educational background. In such cases, a further requirement for resettlement is, however, that there are places available in the quota that are not needed for those in need of immediate resettlement.

2.2 Additional Information

- Provide any other relevant additional information.

3. Resettlement Decision-Making

3.1 Resettlement Admissibility and Public Interest Criteria

- Outline any resettlement admissibility (including inadmissibility) or applicable public interest criteria.
- Cite specific categories or situations in which recognized refugees will be inadmissible for resettlement.



Admissibility criteria for resettlement is defined under the section 92 of the Aliens Act. Furthermore, when preparing the annual resettlement quotas with the national stakeholders and UNHCR, Finland emphasizes the need for balanced caseloads in order to guarantee requirements for reception as well as sufficient number of places in municipalities.

3.2 Requests for Reconsideration

- Explain any procedures for refugees or UNHCR to request reconsideration of negative resettlement decisions based on inadmissibility, public interest criteria, eligibility for international protection, or other reasons.

As a general rule, a case that has been rejected once will not be re-examined. Re-examination will only be possible if significant new information on the refugee's background or circumstances can be presented or if considerable deterioration has taken place regarding his or her health.

3.3 Dependency

- Explain any limitations on considering dependent family members or caregivers of resettlement applicants who are not individually in need of international protection, including individuals with derivative refugee status and non-refugee applicants residing in the same household.

Finland resettles only refugees that have been referred by UNHCR. As a main rule, a case proposed by UNHCR is accepted or rejected as a whole covering all individuals linked to that particular case. All accepted persons are granted a refugee status before their arrival to Finland.

4. Legal Status on Arrival and Citizenship

4.1 Legal Status on Arrival

- Explain the legal status of resettled refugees on arrival.
- Explain whether the legal status of resettled refugees is different to the status afforded to individuals who may be received through a parallel humanitarian admission program, if applicable.
- Explain whether the legal status of resettled refugees is different than asylum seekers recognized as refugees under the 1951 Convention and those granted subsidiary protection.
- Explain the duration of this legal status and any required procedures to change this status.

The refugees referred by UNHCR to be resettled to Finland already have a refugee status and a residence permit when they arrive to Finland. Under section 106 of the Aliens Act, a residence permit on the basis of refugee status or subsidiary protection is issued for four years.

4.2 Eligibility for Citizenship

- Explain the timeline for eligibility to apply for citizenship.
- Provide any other relevant information as needed.



Under section 20 of the Finnish Nationality Act (359/2003) an alien that have been granted refugee status in Finland may be granted Finnish citizenship if he or she is and has been permanently resident and domiciled in Finland for the last four years without interruption.

5. Processing Priorities

5.1 Processing Priorities

- Outline the processing priorities (e.g. if certain groups are prioritized for processing, name these groups and the reasons for their prioritization). If no processing priorities, indicate “N/A.”
- Indicate whether UNHCR or non-UNHCR referrals are prioritized, and which organisations (if any) may be involved in case identification and referrals for resettlement consideration besides UNHCR.

Emergency and urgent cases are prioritized by the Finnish Immigration Service in the resettlement process. All other groups are processed according to the standard process.

6. Special Considerations

6.1 Unaccompanied and Separated Children

- State the national definitions for unaccompanied and separated children and explain relevant legislation.
- Explain the legal rights of the child.
- Explain the country program requirements for Best Interests Determinations (BID) and Best Interests Assessments (BIA), including any inconsistencies with the 2021 UNHCR Best Interests Procedure Guidelines.
- Explain any other relevant information.

There is no official definition for unaccompanied and separated children in the Finnish Aliens act, but children who seek asylum without their legal guardians or other legal representatives are pointed a guardian and processed as unaccompanied. Accompanying siblings or other relatives are usually not considered legal guardians or legal representatives. A child who seeks asylum has the same rights as adult asylums seekers (limited to their legal competence of course). Children also have many additional rights to ensure the best interest of the child, the most important being the guardian and having the best interest of the child taken into account in every step of the process.

Unaccompanied minors are usually placed in family group home units once they have arrived to Finland.

6.2 Minor Marriage

- Explain relevant national legislation concerning minor/early marriage (under 18 years of age).
- Explain whether, once resettled, the spouses would be legally permitted to live together.
- Explain whether there is a risk of a split decision, e.g., accepting the child, but not the child’s spouse.
- Explain the legal rights of the child, the child’s spouse, and his/her children.

Under section 4 of the Finnish Marriage Act (234/1929), a person can only marry after turning 18 years. In practice, married minors are not included in the Finnish resettlement quotas.



6.3 Polygamous Marriage

- Explain national legislation concerning polygamous marriage and legal recognition of spouses.
- Explain the legal rights of each of the spouses and all of the children as well as the rights for cohabitation.
- Explain the possibility for accommodating the submission of polygamous families, including case composition, and any documentation and other requirements.
- Explain whether there is a risk of a split decision.

The Finnish marriage legislation does not recognize polygamous marriages. Consequently, polygamous families are not included in the Finnish resettlement quotas.

6.4 Refugees with a physical or mental disability or a serious medical condition

- Explain any limitations on resettlement consideration of refugees with specific needs associated with a disability or a serious medical condition.
- Provide any other relevant information.

Finland has no general limitations based on physical or mental disability or medical conditions but conducts a case-by-case assessment. It is being assessed whether resettlement to Finland is favorable for the general situation of a family or children and whether resettlement is a justified and durable solution for the respective persons. Therefore, there is no single justification which would rule out requirements for integration but, however, especially in a case of a serious medical condition it should be made sure that there is treatment available and if so, there is no obstacles for selection.

6.5 Large families and single adults

- Explain any limitations on resettlement consideration of large refugee families and/or single adults.
- Provide any other relevant information.

Finland does not have specific limitations on the family size for resettlement. However, Finland emphasizes the need for balanced caseloads which means that quotas should include both families in various sizes as well as single adults. Similarly, the same principle of balanced caseloads applies to other demographic factors such as age and professional as well as educational background and different vulnerabilities. Requirements for integration are only a part of the overall assessment for which the main criteria remains the need for protection.

6.6 Other

- Explain any other case composition scenarios for which special considerations need to be taken.

7. Dossier Selection Processing

Cases submitted on a dossier basis do not involve resettlement country selection interviews. Acceptance decisions are based solely on the documentation submitted by UNHCR. If the program does not include dossier selection processing indicate "N/A."

7.1 Dossier Selection Policies

- Explain the policy for receiving selections on a dossier basis, including the decision-making process.
- Indicate which submissions are eligible to be received on a dossier basis.



Dossier selection is used as an exception to the normal procedure, mainly used in emergency and urgent cases when aliens are admitted to Finland without a personal interview on the basis of written documentation by UNHCR. However, dossier selection is a viable option to be considered by the Finnish Immigration Service in all circumstances when a selection mission, either physical or virtual, is not seen appropriate.

The group called unallocated refugees (emergency, urgent or normal refugees without area - or nationality restrictions) will be selected following the same process as urgent and emergency cases, but with normal case timetable. The proportion of emergency and urgent cases compose at least 80% of this particular quota the rest being refugees without area or nationality restrictions. Submissions are received evenly throughout the year. The Finnish Immigration Service normally decides on quota cases within two months after the selection mission. Emergency cases are processed within 5 working days and urgent cases as quickly as possible.

7.2 Additional Information

- Provide any other relevant information.

8. Interview Selection Processing

Resettlement country interview selection processing means that the resettlement country conducts an interview as part of the selection process. If the program does not include a resettlement country interview indicate "N/A."

8.1 Interview Selection Policies

- Explain the policy and procedures for interview selection, including prescreening, interviews, and the decision-making process.
- Explain virtual selection interview procedures, if applicable.

Preparations

The procedure is initiated on the basis of documents submitted by UNHCR. Officials of the Finnish Immigration Service and the security authorities, as well as integration experts, make a pre-selection in Finland. Already at this stage, comprehensive and reliable information relating to the need for resettlement, information on all family members and on the refugee's integration potential should be available.

Selection missions are prepared and carried out in close cooperation with UNHCR. Finland maintains that all UNHCR's submissions should consist of 20% more refugees than the coming intake in order to ensure sufficient scope for selection and to avoid no-shows. All documentation, i.e. Resettlement Registration Forms (RRFs) and all possible supplementary documentation, should be provided by UNHCR and made available at least six weeks before the planned date of departure from Finland of the selection mission.

Case Documentation

UNHCR sends all documentation (RRFs) to the Finnish Immigration Service, which forwards copies of the documents to the security authorities and integration experts. Officials of these bodies review the documentation. When necessary, health care services are consulted on medical needs and possibilities of treatment with regard to persons with medical needs and persons with disabilities.



Decision-making Process

During selection missions, applicants are interviewed by officials of the Finnish Immigration Service, integration experts usually from municipalities and administrative districts, and, if necessary, officials of the security authorities. After selection interviews, the members of the selection mission prepare a tentative list of those who will probably be admitted to Finland.

After obtaining a statement from the security authorities, the Finnish Immigration Service makes a decision on the issue of a residence permit to an alien to be admitted to Finland under the refugee quota. UNHCR and the Finnish diplomatic mission concerned are informed of the decision.

A decision on the issue of a residence permit to an alien to be admitted to Finland under the refugee quota may not be appealed. As a rule, a case that has been rejected once will not be re-examined. Re-examination will only be possible if significant new information on the refugee's background or circumstances can be presented or if considerable deterioration has taken place regarding his or her health.

Virtual Selection mission procedure

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Finland resorted to alternative processing modalities such as remote missions or dossier selections which enabled the resettlement efforts to continue successfully. Especially virtual remote missions were proven to be a useful and applicable measure to organize a selection mission if a traditional physical mission cannot be organized.

Using remote interviews has some features that have to be taken into account. For instance, the venues have to be carefully pre-organized, data connections must be double checked, cameras have to cover the persons fully and properly and of course, audio settings must work well. Finland relies on its partners when it comes to organizing the venues and settings for the virtual remote interviews.

8.2 Additional Information

- Provide any other relevant information.

9. Processing Timeframes

9.1 Policies for receiving emergency and/or urgent submissions

- Explain the policies for receiving emergency and urgent submissions.
- Explain any limitations to receiving emergency and urgent submissions.

Finland has a share of the annual refugee quota dedicated for emergency and urgent submission. UNHCR refers persons to be resettled to Finland as emergency or urgent cases throughout the year and these cases are processed within the set timeframes detailed below.

9.2 Average Processing Times for Emergency Cases

- Indicate and explain reception of submission to decision timeframe.
- Indicate and explain decision to departure timeframe.



Emergency cases are processed within 5 working days after the submission has been received from UNHCR and urgent cases as quickly as possible.

9.3 Average Processing Times for Urgent Cases

- Indicate and explain reception of submission to decision timeframe.
- Indicate and explain decision to departure timeframe.

Emergency cases are processed within 5 working days after the submission has been received from UNHCR and urgent cases as quickly as possible.

9.4 Average Processing Times for Normal Cases

- Indicate and explain reception of submission to decision timeframe.
- Indicate and explain decision to departure timeframe.

The Finnish Immigration Service normally decides on quota cases within two months after the selection mission.

9.5 Additional Information

- Provide any other relevant information.

10. Predeparture Arrangements

10.1 Predeparture Medical Screening

- Explain policies on predeparture medical screening and cost coverage.
- Explain which agency or entity conducts or coordinates medical screenings.

The Finnish Immigration Service has an agreement with IOM about the arrangement on travel to Finland. IOM carries out health assessments to refugees to make sure that there are no health-related obstacles for travelling and that a person who is possibly ill does not pose a risk of infection to other passenger during the flight. The Finnish Immigration Service pays the costs incurred by these assessments.

10.2 Required Predeparture Treatment

- Include information about any required predeparture treatments, including presumptive treatments and cost coverage.

N/A

10.3 Predeparture Orientation

- Explain predeparture orientation sessions, including their duration.
- Explain which agency or entity conducts or coordinates predeparture orientation.
- Explain the languages in which the sessions are facilitated.

Since 2001, Finland has been arranging cultural orientation courses face-to-face for the refugees who have been accepted in Finland. Currently, the Finnish Immigration Service, together with its implementing partner (IOM), is arranging three-day comprehensive pre-departure cultural orientation courses abroad in most locations that Finland resettles refugees from. Finland sends a training team consisting of professional teachers, interpreters



and a course coordinator to these locations. All the refugees accepted for resettlement in Finland are invited to participate in the course. During the orientation course, refugees receive basic information on Finland, its society and culture, and they are provided with intensive language lessons in the Finnish language. They also receive information on how to prepare themselves before moving to Finland, what to do before the travel, what happens during the travel and after arriving in the receiving municipalities in Finland. They also receive information on the various services, employment and study opportunities, health and social services, the daily life in the municipality where they are going to live and lots of other useful practical information. In addition, the Finnish Immigration Service has prepared a website for the refugees (www.movingtofinland.fi), providing orientation information in multiple languages.

10.4 Travel Arrangements and Documents

- Explain which agencies or entities coordinate travel to the resettlement country.
- Explain travel cost coverage policy and procedures.
- Explain which agency or entity issues any needed travel documents.

Once the Finnish Immigration Service has decided on the residence permits, it informs UNHCR and the respective Finnish diplomatic mission of the municipalities in which the refugees will be resettled and the timetable in which the municipalities are prepared to receive them. The Finnish mission delivers residence permit cards to the local IOM office. The mission also issues the refugees with travel documents required for arrival in Finland. IOM makes the practical travel arrangements and invoices later for the flights. The Finnish Immigration Service has an agreement with IOM about the arrangement on travel to Finland. IOM Helsinki is asked to book the flights to the final destination of the refugees. The Finnish Immigration Service has also an agreement with the Finnish Red Cross. The Finnish Red Cross receives the refugees at the airport and is informed of the timetables by IOM. Finland introduced biometric residence permit cards at the beginning of 2012. The Finnish Immigration Service pays the quota refugees' travel expenses.

11. Reception and Integration

11.1 Overview

- Describe which integration model(s) (i.e., community sponsorship, co-sponsorship, government-led integration, etc.) is (are) used to support reception and integration of resettled refugees.
- Explain which agencies, entities, organizations (or which types of organizations) facilitate reception and integration arrangements.

Municipalities that have a decision on reception of refugees make an agreement on reception and integration with the regional authority (Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment) that assigns selected refugees to municipalities. Initial reception and integration is organized by a municipality in collaboration by various municipal administrative sectors and voluntary organizations including migrant communities.

As a consequent to the social and health care reform taking place in the beginning of the year 2023 the responsibility for providing social and health care services is transferred from municipalities to wellbeing services counties. A municipality is still responsible for reception



and integration but a wellbeing services county supports reception and integration with its social and healthcare services.

11.2 Placement

- Explain the procedures for placement of resettled refugees, including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for placement of resettled refugees within the country.

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for the national coordination of municipality placement and integration. Regional authorities ensure municipality placement in the regions according to the targets set by the Ministry. For the municipalities reception of refugees is voluntary but to obtain state's compensations for reception the municipality has to make an agreement of reception and integration with the regional authority. Finnish Immigration Service matches a refugee and a municipality by proposing her/him to be assigned by the regional authority to the municipality.

11.3 Reception

- Explain the reception procedures (including temporary arrangements if applicable), including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for receiving refugees in the country.
- Explain language assistance services provided.

Finnish Immigration Service matches refugees to municipalities admitting municipality spots for resettled refugees. Finnish Red Cross with its interpreters assists the reception of resettled refugees at the airport and guide them with the transfer to the municipality in which a resettled refugee will be settled in directly upon arrival. A municipality worker guides her/him to the accommodation and provides her/him with information about life and integration in Finland. Within the first weeks of arrival a refugee will undergo an initial assessment done either by a public or a municipal employment services or a municipality social worker. During assessment her/his individual needs for integration and integration potential are examined. Together with the authorities, she/he will elaborate on his/her personal integration plan that will take into account a situation of both a refugee concerned as well as her/his individual and family needs. The plan consists of steps towards social inclusion, education and labour markets.

11.4 Orientation

- Explain orientation and orientation services including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for orientation and cost coverage.

A municipality is the main provider of orientation for a resettled refugee. Those who register as job seekers will get orientation from public or municipal employment services. Orientation is also provided by non-governmental organizations such as Finnish Refugee Council.

11.5 Support Services

- Explain support services to meet immediate material needs including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for support services and cost coverage.

A municipality is responsible for reception and integration of the resettled refugees covering all immediate material needs.



11.6 Housing

- Explain housing assistance provided including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for housing services and cost coverage.
- Specify housing at initial reception if different from subsequent longer-term arrangements.

A quota refugee is settled in an apartment assigned to him/her by the receiving municipality directly upon arrival. A municipality uses its own municipal housing or apartments rent by third sector actors, foundations or private sector housing providers.

11.7 Health

- Explain the health services available to refugees including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for housing services and cost coverage.

Health care services provided by the municipality or municipal consortium are at the disposal of the refugees. Some special services for mental health issues and traumas are provided by special health care units or by non-governmental organizations.

11.8 Language

- Explain available language training opportunities including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for facilitating them and cost coverage.

Resettled refugees over 17 years are entitled to integration training for immigrants provided by either public employment services or as municipal services. Integration training is mainly organized as labour market training by PES and consists of language training, working life skills and cultural orientation. Language training and literacy education for immigrants are provided also as part of adult basic education and liberal adult education. Occasionally non-governmental organizations and projects complement language training opportunities for the migrants.

11.9 Education

- Briefly explain the educational system and policy, including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for supporting access to education for resettled refugees, and cost coverage.

Children attend basic education for which there may be preparatory education for strengthening language skills. Also adults without education may attend basic education first before they, for example, start vocational training or other higher education.

11.10 Employment

11.10.1 Employment Opportunities

- Explain which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for supporting access to employment opportunities for resettled refugees, including types of employment available, and any requirements, in addition to cost coverage.

Resettled refugees may register as job seekers at the public employment office or municipal employment services that offer employment opportunities, guidance and counselling and labour market services e.g. integration training for the unemployed. Non-governmental organizations such as Finnish Refugee Council, Red Cross, Start Up Refugees and many others also provide support for job seeking and occasions for internships or work especially for refugees.



11.10.2 Employment and Vocational Training

- Explain employment and vocational training programs and cost coverage.

Resettled refugees have a right to work or attend e.g. vocational training. Vocational studies usually require sufficient Finnish or Swedish language skills. Some vocational institutes also offer language studies and support combined with vocational studies. Immigrants can also attend a short pre-vocational preparatory education to improve their language, study and career skills before applying for the vocational training. Vocational training is organized mainly in vocational institutes. Public employment services also provide vocational labour market training opportunities for the job seekers.

11.11 Financial Assistance

- Explain the financial assistance provided to resettled refugees, including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for providing this assistance and cost coverage.
- Explain whether resettled refugees receive a resettlement “loan” which they are eventually obliged to repay the government once they are resettled and earning a taxable income.

Unemployed person, who is registered as a job seeker at public employment services or municipality’s employment services, is entitled to a monthly labour market subsidy. Those outside of the labour markets (i.e. the elderly or disabled) are entitled to subsidies from the social security Institution of Finland (KELA). There are no specific financial assistance or resettlement loan for refugees in Finland.

11.12 Supporting Specific Needs

- Explain the services provided to resettled refugees, including e.g. unaccompanied minors and refugees with specific health or other needs, including which agencies, entities, organizations are responsible for providing this assistance and cost coverage.

Resettled refugees are entitled to basic and special health care services based on the needs assessment conducted by the social and health care workers. Moreover, there are some non-governmental organizations and foundation based actors providing support for special needs.

11.13 Family reunification

- Explain the possibilities, conditions, and timeframe for family reunification once a resettled refugee is in the country

There is no particular timeframe for family reunification in Finland meaning that an application on the basis of family ties to a family member of a refugee or an alien can be submitted at any time. However, issuing a residence permit on the basis of family ties requires, as a main rule, that the alien has sufficient financial resources. However, the requirement for sufficient financial resources does not apply if, in the case of resettled persons, the application for a residence permit on the basis of family ties has been submitted within three months of the date on which the sponsor has got the decision that he or she has been admitted to Finland under the refugee quota.

12. References & Resources on resettlement

- *Include links to any relevant references and resources about the country resettlement program*



Addendum on complementary pathways

- Separate complementary pathways available in the country to be discussed separately here.
- Present and describe existing complementary pathways (e.g., education scholarships, community sponsorship), humanitarian corridors, etc.
- References and resources on complementary pathways