

European Migration  
Network

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# Family Reunification: *A view from the coalface*

# Nasc: linking migrants with their rights

- Nasc – Irish word for ‘link’
- We supported 20K people in the last 17 years
- Our frontline services supports +900 people annually
- The work from our frontline service is provides the evidence-base for advocacy and campaigning work

# Nasc: Family Reunification work

Family unity is central to Nasc's work

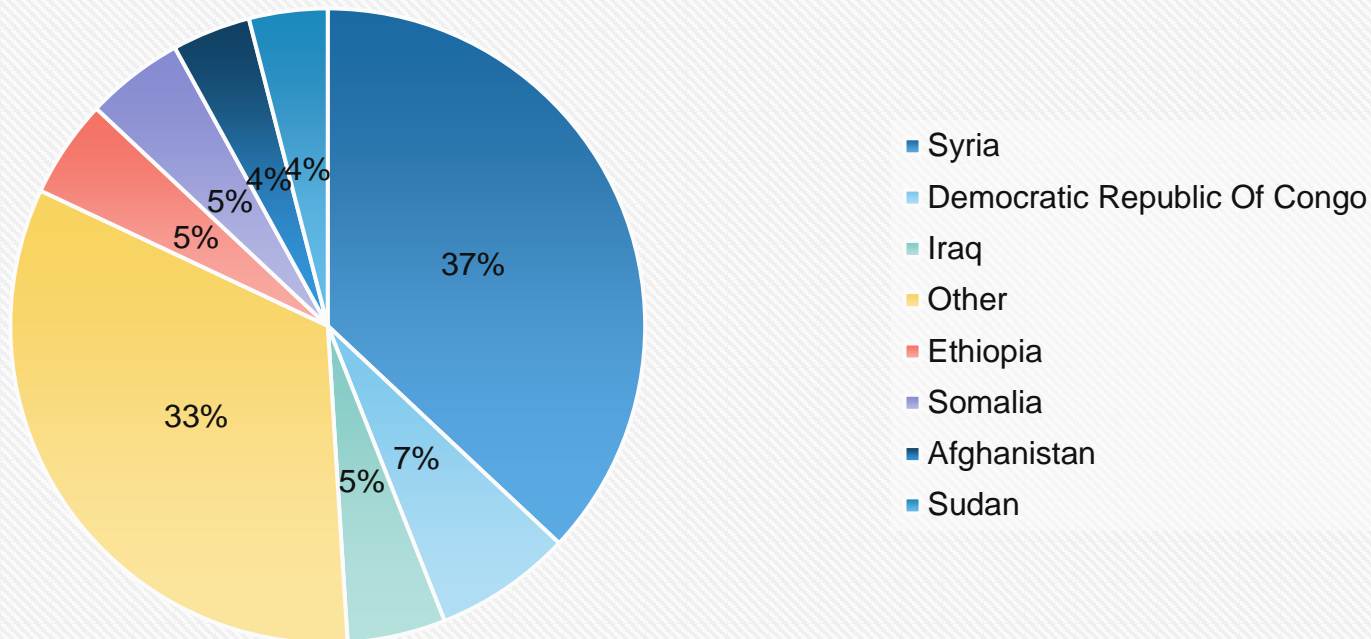
- Beneficiaries of international protection (refugees/subsidiary protection)
- Irish citizens
- EEA citizens
- Other non-EEA migrants

# Snapshots from Nasc's clinics

	Visa Application	Marriage to Irish citizen	De Facto Partner of Irish Citizen	Irish citizen child	EEA Citizen (Free Movement)	Refugee/ Subsidiary Protection	Travel Assistance
2016	64	15	10	31	70	102	-
2017 (to 01.11.17)	91	22	5	42	66	39	22

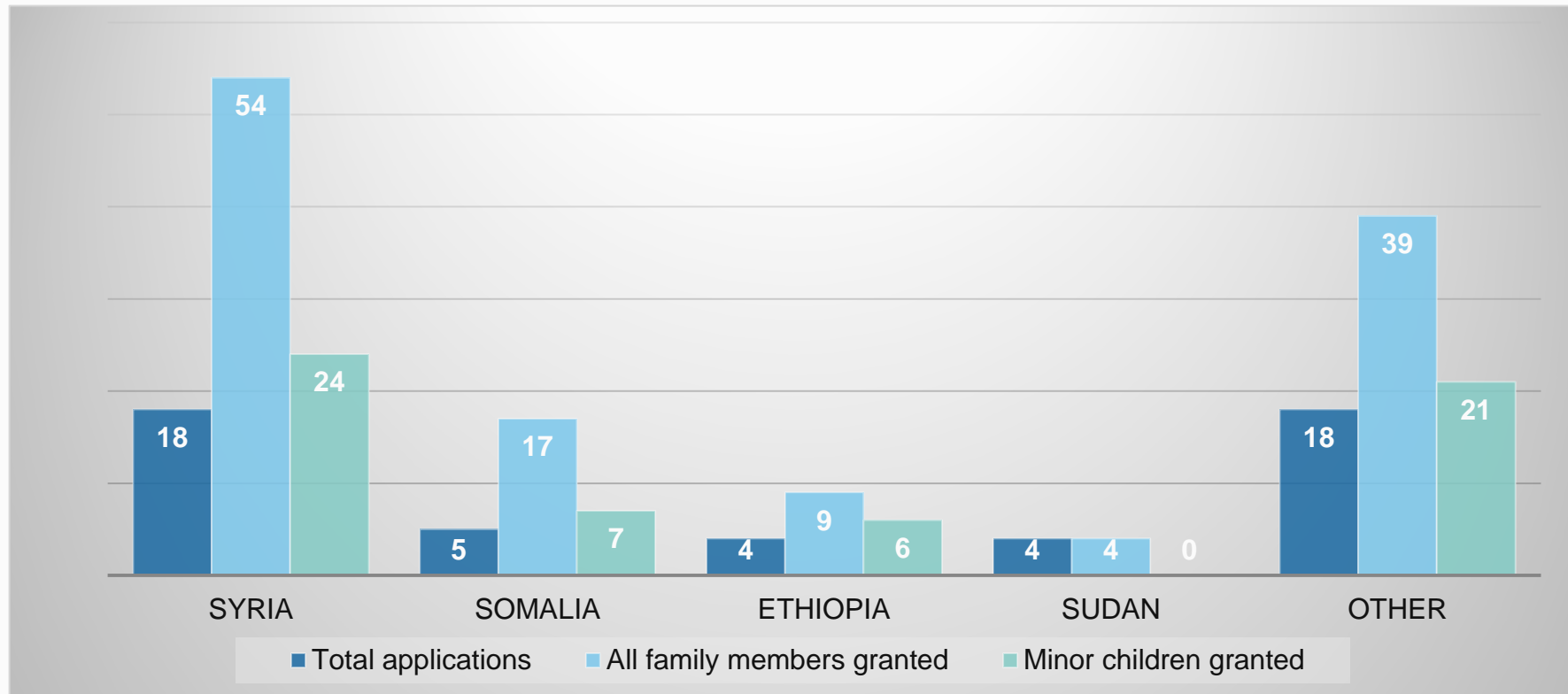
# Family Reunification – Refugees/Subsidiary Protection

New inquiries by nationality 2016 – Nov. 2017



# Family Reunification – Refugees/Subsidiary Protection

## Snapshot from Nasc's clinics – applications granted Jan 2016 – Nov 2017



# Visa Applications – a blunt instrument?

*Displaced person in Syria*

*“You have not provided evidence to show that you are unemployed/have no private means/cannot access state supports/do not qualify for a pension etc...”*

Family in Aleppo

*“It therefore seems plausible that if the Syrian authorities wishes to conscript him into the army they would not have too much difficulty in locating him.”*

Elderly parents with serious medical conditions in Damascus

*“Damascus has been left relatively unscathed by the conflict...”*

Displaced persons in Syria

*“Bank statements are still available in Syria and it is not clear why these were not supplied to two business men.”*

# Challenges

- Opaque immigration and visa systems
- Inconsistent and slow decision-making
- Lack of legal aid for family reunification type applications
- Lack of independent appeals process
- International Protection Act 2015 significantly restricted family reunification



# Adapting our approach to needs in the community

- Supporting resettlement alternatives (2014)
- Calling for a humanitarian admission programme



- Pilot Community Sponsorship – Wicklow Syria Appeal (2016-now)

# Pilot Community Sponsorship

- **Assessing and selecting a suitable family**
- **Securing residence permissions and getting them to Ireland**
- **Once in Ireland, supporting the family, the sponsoring group and the wider community**
- **Learning – Challenges → Positive experience**

# Future Developments

- International Protection (Family Reunification)(Amendment Bill) 2017
  - Introduced by Collette Kelleher 19 July 2017
  - Passed Seanad Committee stage 08 November 2017
- Family Reunification Humanitarian Admission Programme (FRHAP)
  - Announced by Minister Flanagan and Minister of State Stanton
- Community Sponsorship
  - Concordia Summit announcement September 2017

# Contact Us

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