

**Online Meetings on Migration Statistics** 27-29 October 2020

**ABSTRACT**

<b>Title</b>	The impact of the recent Covid-19 pandemic on refugee integration in the UK
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<b>Session</b>	Impact of the pandemic on foreign population, refugees, and internal migration
<p>The UK Office for National Statistics and the Home Office have set up a pilot project to link a sample of Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme (VPRS/VCRS) data to administrative sources. If successful, and a full cohort study is implemented, this will provide valuable insights into integration outcomes such as English language, education, employment, health outcomes and secondary migration for this vulnerable group. VPRS and VCRS were established by the UK Government to resettle vulnerable adults and children fleeing the current conflict in the MENA region.</p> <p>The pilot is experimental given the unique challenges of linking administrative datasets without a common identifier; relying on name, address, gender, date of birth and even nationality. This is more challenging where name can be structured in many ways due to differing naming conventions. The pilot study follows refugee cohorts who were resettled between 2015 and 2020. We can compare, for those arriving at the beginning of the scheme and for recent arrivals, their experiences in the context of the current pandemic.</p> <p>As this pilot is in its early design and development stages, this would be a good opportunity to share and receive feedback on our study design, linkage methods, integration indicators and measures of disruption to healthcare, education, housing and employment. We anticipate that the shocks from the pandemic may be felt for some time. We are interested in developing collaborations with other NSIs/Government agencies who have similar studies set up or need to understand this vulnerable group in more detail.</p> <p>Presenters: Nicky Rogers and Louisa Blackwell, Office for National Statistics</p>	