

## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

The arrival of newcomers requires a broad and coordinated response to ensure that they have access to safe living conditions, security, and opportunities to rebuild their lives. The provision of housing and the welcome offered are crucial components of integration efforts in the current climate.

To address the challenges faced various support initiatives have been implemented, both by governments and by non-governmental and community organizations. Sponsorship programs, such as Community Sponsorship (CS) is one such initiative. It aims to involve civil society in the welcoming process, offering social and financial support for newcomers' integration.

A commitment to accessible housing and integration plays a central role in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, ensuring that refugees can not only survive but also thrive in their new communities.

Community Sponsorship Ireland (CSI) is a structured initiative, supported by the Government, that enables local communities to directly assist in the resettlement of refugees fleeing conflict. Led by the Irish Red Cross, CSI operates in partnership with Nasc, the Irish Refugee Council, and Doras, with support from the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) under the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (DOJHAM). The programme is funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2021-2027).

## **WHAT IS COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP?**

**Community Sponsorship provides an opportunity for communities to support refugee families' integration as they begin their new life. Communities throughout Ireland have demonstrated so often how they come together to support refugees arriving in Ireland and this programme provides a framework to harness that support.**

**The CSI programme encourages a group of friends, colleagues and neighbours to come together to welcome a refugee family to Ireland.**

**Its community-first approach fosters meaningful connections between refugees and their host communities, leading to more sustainable and positive integration within localities.**

**Doras together with the other partners (Irish Red Cross, Nasc and Irish Refugee Council) are responsible for the continued promotion, development and implementation of Community Sponsorship Groups across Ireland.**

**The consortium has worked on Community Sponsorship implementation since 2019 and has significant expertise in working with communities across Ireland to find homes and to create a warm welcome for Syrian and Afghan refugee families.**

**Community Sponsorship is a form of resettlement. It will work alongside and within a similar model as the existing resettlement framework under the IRPP. The key difference is that a family that opts for community sponsorship will be supported in financial and non-financial ways from the outset by members of the community in which they arrive.**

## How it works Community Sponsorship

- 1) The family;
- 2) The Community Sponsorship Group;
- 3) The National Support Organization;

# Doras



COMMUNITY  
SPONSORSHIP  
IRELAND

# Doras

## THE FAMILIES

### Who are the families?

- The programme supports the safe relocation of at-risk Syrian families currently living in refugee camps in Lebanon;
- At present, there are 15 families waiting to move to a safer place;
- The situation in Lebanon is rapidly deteriorating, making this support more urgent than ever;
- Most households are families, but the programme is also open to single vulnerable individuals and other household types. The average household consists of 4–5 members.



# THE GROUP

- A group can be made up of neighbours, friends, hobby clubs, businesses, or other social groups;
- There are many ways to get involved;
- Typically, the group is based in the same area where the family will begin their new life and has established local networks.

# Doras



## What it will do?

- The group will begin working together before the family's arrival, to ensure everything is in place when the refugees land in Ireland;
- After the family arrives, the group will support them on their integration journey by assisting with access to local services, schools, language support, and more.

# Doras



# The National Support Organizations (NSO)

- The NSO's role is to recruit, support, and oversee both groups and families throughout the Community Sponsorship process.
- The NSO will guide the group through the entire journey — from the initial expression of interest to the conclusion of the program, and beyond.

# Doras

