

A REFUGEE PATTERN LANGUAGE

Cluster One - The Refugee Family

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Abstract:

The Portland Urban Architecture Research Lab at the University of Oregon is developing A Refugee Pattern Language (RPL) for refugees in Europe. The pattern method approaches social and spatial aspects in a uniquely combinatory way and is used by numerous social disciplines, as well as environmental disciplines and architecture. Originally written by Alexander, Ishikawa, Silverstein, and others, A Pattern Language (APL) comprises a collection of 253 patterns, which range in scale and mode from large regions, to cities and towns, to construction details (Alexander, Ishikawa et al, 1977). In APL, the traditional use and idea of patterns has been transformed into a modern format and system that can be used by designers, users, and builders alike.

Qualitatively, a pattern can be defined as a generic solution to an environmental context problem, derived from functional arguments. A pattern language can be defined as a coherent set of generic solutions to a complex problem. Patterns can also be considered archetypal solutions to environmental problems, and examples of good environments, which can be applied repeatedly for similar contexts or used and adapted to local conditions and specific communities. The original book, A Pattern Language, provides a general reference and point of departure for creating pattern languages for various types of socio-spatial projects in different locations that can help make sense out of otherwise complex situations such as planning, design, and decision-making processes, as well as trying to understand the refugee situation.

This paper shares a draft pattern language for refugee integration, beginning with the larger refugee family domain. This pattern language later will also include the following domains and sub-domains, with about five to seven patterns each: 1. The Refugee Family; 2. Housing and Living; 3. Economic Integration: Working and Work-learning; 4. Learning and Schooling; 5. New Integration Law: Support and Challenge; 5. Physical and Mental Health; 6. Recreation and Clubs; 7. Multi-Culture and Religion; 8. Sustainable Transportation and Communication. 9. Taking Care and Personal Help.

In summer 2016, the PUARL team completed initial field research in the German communities of Borken, Kassel, Essen, Frankfurt, and Berlin. Interviews and site observations during this research trip and from four more trips by Hajo Neis in 2015-2017 have informed this draft pattern language. The formation of a 'Refugee Pattern Language' (RPL) is one of the key building blocks of PUARL's Initiative Refugee Integration in Europe.

Keywords: *Arrival City, Refugee Acclimatization, Pattern Language, Urban Socio-Spatial Patterns*

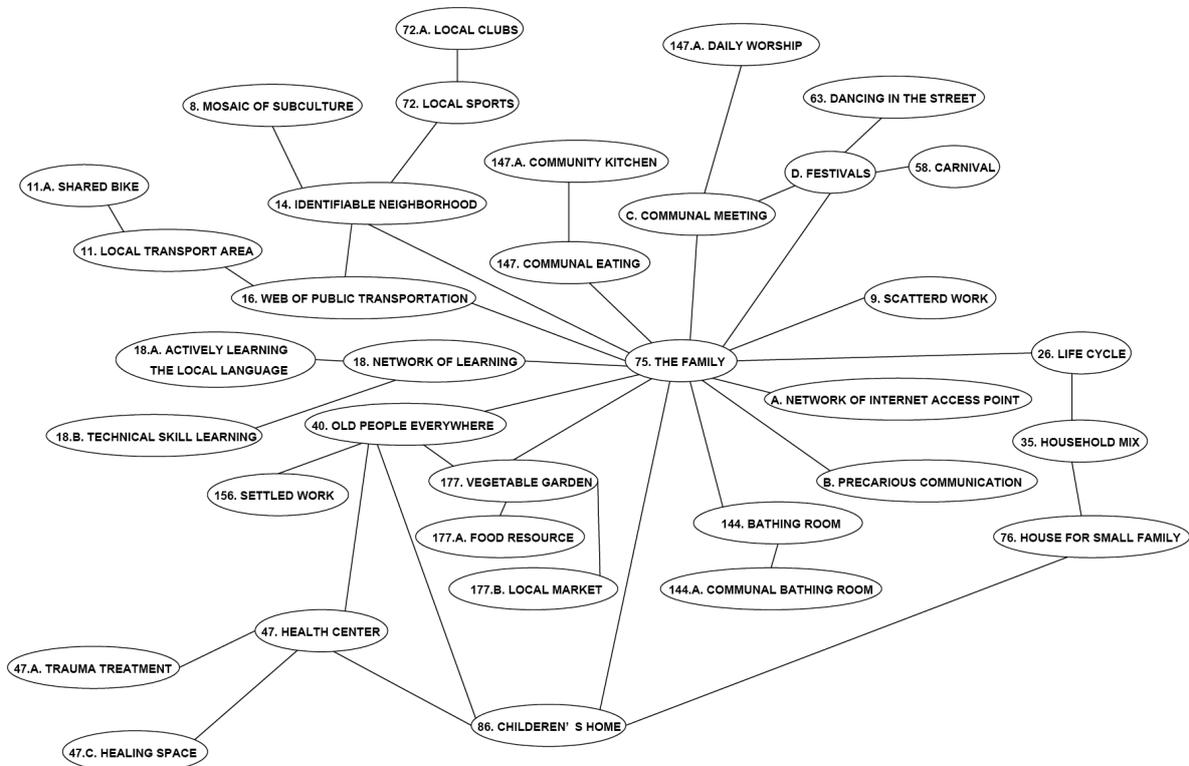


Diagram 1: Initial brainstorming version of a sketch diagram for a possible Refugee Pattern Language

1. Introduction

Much has been written about refugees and the dire refugee situation. Newspapers, governmental reports, weekly journals, and scholarly studies cover large and dramatic events, particular human problems, and specific points of support in order to understand and deal with such a huge problem in today's Middle East, Africa, Europe, and in our case, particularly Germany. Recently, work is emerging from voices who consider most of what has been written and practically accomplished as a wonderful achievement, but who find a more fundamental way of thinking about such a large problem missing. New efforts help contribute to a body of work that would guide us to fundamentally understand and address such a dramatic problem in a more deliberate and thoughtful way (First International Conference of InZentIM, Essen June 21-23, 2017).

Our own attitude to this basic critique and challenge for thinking about and approaching the refugee problem in a fundamental way, which can better comprehend and prepare for such a large crisis, is to apply and develop the methodology of patterns and a pattern language as a framework for understanding, as well as guiding action and activities for practical purposes in this large and complex body of activities and thoughts. At the same time, with the pattern language approach, we open the door to a specific humanistic outlook and method that can help to lead into more detailed studies and work to capture the essence of human exertions in this large problem.

The theory and practice of working with patterns and pattern languages is by now very well known, used, and adapted in many scholarly and also practical disciplines, so that we would like to only explain a few particular points necessary for understanding patterns and pattern languages (Neis, H. & Brown, G., eds., 2010; Neis, H. J., Brown, G., Gurr, J. M., & Schmidt, J. A. eds, 2012; PUARL International Conference ,2016; Baumgartner, P. / Sickinger, R. eds., 2015; Baumgartner, P. / Gruber-Muecke, T. / Sickinger, R. eds., 2016).

First, it is important to understand what a pattern is and how it is constructed and formed. While there might be different ways how patterns are adapted in different fields and academic disciplines, for the purpose of this article, we stay with its original format, albeit in a shortened version. In order to get an understanding of how this works, let us first look at the build-up of a pattern in its full original formulation. We will use pattern 75, 'The Family', from the original book, which can be read in full in APL pages 376-380. We are using this pattern as an example partially because we will start the pattern language for refugees with a related pattern, 'The Refugee Family.'

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composition of a Pattern from the Original Text of A Pattern Language (APL)• Pattern Title (in bold): The Family* (75)• An Illustration that shows the pattern in an example• Hyperlinks I, which connect the patterns to higher scale patterns (26 Life Cycle, 35 Household Mix, etc).• Definition of the Problem (in bold): "The nuclear family is not by itself a viable social form."• Main Text and Discussion of Pattern: Here the empirical or analytical facts are discussed to demonstrate the validity of the pattern, and a number of possible solutions are being discussed. Here is the first paragraph of The Family (75) text in APL:
"Until a few years ago, human society was based on the extended family: a family of at least three generations with parents, children, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, all living together in a single or loosely knit multiple household. But today people move hundreds of miles |
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to marry, to find education, and to work. Under those circumstances the only family units that are left are those units called nuclear families: father, mother, and children. And many of these are broken down even further by divorce and separation...”

- **Solution Proposals:** Text in bold, presenting the solution of the problem, or the social and physical connections necessary to solve the. The solution is written in form of an instruction so that one knows what to do or how to proceed: **“Set up processes which encourage groups of 8 to 12 people to come together and establish communal households...”**
- **Solution Sketch/Diagram**, that shows the solution in form of a diagram.
- **Hyperlinks II**, which connect to lower-scale specific patterns, and which help to complete this pattern for particular contexts (79 Your Own Home, 76 House For A Small Family, etc.).

While a full pattern is made up at least of eight to nine particular points, we will focus here on three specific points that are essential to the meaning and formulation of a pattern. These three points are:

- Definition of the problem: a recurring problem that needs a solution
- Main text and discussion of pattern: a discussion that investigates the problem
- Solution proposals: a solution/suggestion that can be applied for the problem in its different kinds of real world situations and contexts

In addition, we will work with a title, possibly also the asterisk as a qualitative expression, and also one illustration as an example of the pattern discussed. At the same time, we will suggest a sort of overarching pattern that somehow covers the cluster of the refugee family pattern in a larger perspective. We can also call this kind of pattern a cluster pattern because it pretty much defines the problem for a domain or a cluster of problems. Here is the example:

- **Modified Composition of a Pattern for A Refugee Pattern Language (in its current format) RPL**
- **Pattern Title: The Refugee Family**
- **An Illustration** that shows the pattern in an example
- **Definition of the Problem:** “The refugee family is a disrupted and fragmented family.....it lost connection to its larger family and familiar spatial context....”
- **Short Discussion of Pattern:** Here, empirical or analytical facts are discussed to demonstrate the validity of the pattern, and a number of possible solutions are being discussed.
- **Solution Proposals:** Text that shows the solution/proposal of the problem. This also includes the physical and social connections that are needed to solve the problem. The solution/proposal is given in form of an instruction, so that you know what to do or how to proceed:
“Do everything that helps to make the larger refugee family whole again. Set a process into motion in which these fragmented families and family members can start to become connected and whole again a) within the new country to which they fled and, b) within the remaining family in the home country.... and even as part of new family groups including host country members.”
- **Connections** to other patterns (APL, RPL)
- **References** in text and at the end of paper

This highly simple example format, with its threefold division of **problem – discussion – solution**, covers the basic understanding of a pattern. There are also certain criteria that can tell you if you have found and defined a pattern or if you just express your own opinion and claims. One of these criteria is to have a universal solution to a recurring problem that can be applied to many particular situations (from universal to specific). You may have a good discussion and investigation, but if you do not have a believable solution, you do not have a pattern. Empirically speaking, if you cannot get a significant response from 20-25 people who

concur with the proposed solution, statistically you do not have a pattern. (We will continue to talk about methods later in the paper.)

The second larger point then is the question: what is a pattern language? Many patterns together create a pattern language through connections and relationships. These kinds of connections are most easily understood in a particular domain under investigation. In our case, our domain is the refugee situation in general and more specifically in Europe/Germany, and we want to develop a pattern language for this domain that may be made up of more detailed domains or clusters that need to be defined for each case. In our particular case, we have loosely hypothesized a larger pattern language as a starting point (see diagram of larger pattern language). Now we are in the process of starting to discover patterns in particular clusters, following the previously defined problem-discussion-solution format. (Diagram 1: Initial brainstorming version of a sketch diagram of possible Refugee Pattern Language)

2. Refugee Pattern Language Cluster One: The Refugee Family Cluster

- PATTERN 1: The Extended Refugee Family
- PATTERN 2: The Small Refugee Family
- PATTERN 3: Young Single Male Refugee
- PATTERN 4: Single Female Refugee
- PATTERN 5: Refugee Mother with Children
- PATTERN 6: Unaccompanied Minors
- PATTERN 7: Aged Refugee
- PATTERN 8: The Precarious Migrant
- PATTERN 9: The Family in the War Zone

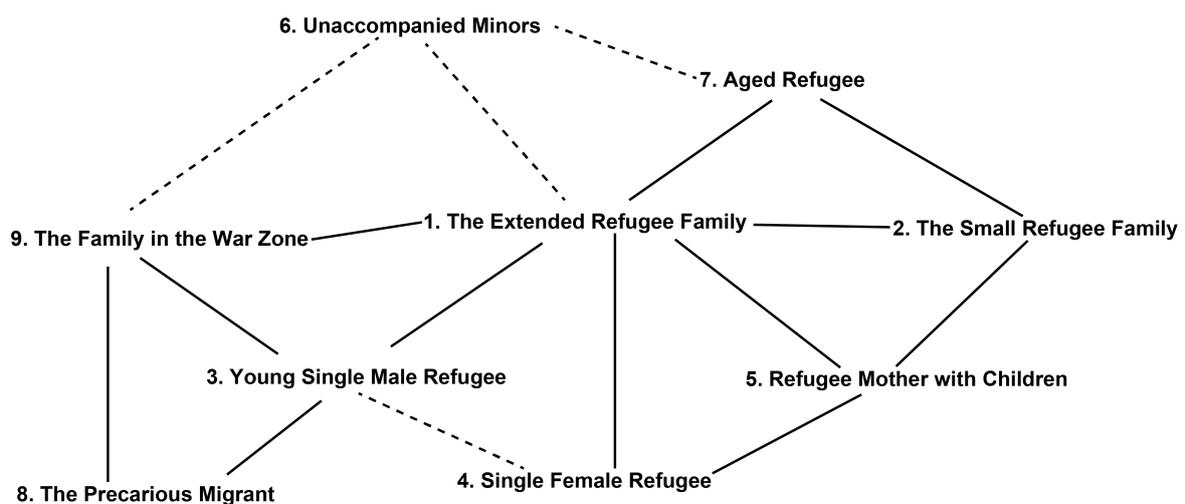


Diagram 2: Initial sketch diagram of Refugee Pattern Language RFP Cluster One: The Refugee Family

PATTERN 1: The Extended Refugee Family (connected to APL 75: The Family)



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Illustration 1: A Syrian Extended Family (the women are sisters-in-law) and a German couple (left and center-back).

Problem:

The extended refugee family consists of the family and family members at home and members of the family who had to escape war and disaster and find new places to live.

The refugee family has lost connection to its larger family and familiar spatial context. It is therefore a fragmented family that needs some form of healing and coming together.

Short Discussion:

The extended refugee family is a fragmented family. It consists of several parts that are no longer in normal healthy family life. It consists first of the family at home in a war zone or other region of conflict, disaster, or struggle. Sometimes, in particularly difficult cases, some or all of the family at home may only live in memory as victims of the war. The extended refugee family also consists of other members who decided to flee and look for a new life in a different world.

When we look more closely from the perspective of the fragmented refugee family, we will recognize that almost all of individual refugees who arrive to Europe are actually part of larger families in one way or another. Refugee families are made of: single men, many who had to leave their own spouses and children behind; single women with or without children who have families left behind; young teenagers who have lost their families, and older people who have also lost their families. While the notion of a nuclear family with a mother and father with one or two children has, in recent generations, been the dominant family structure in the west, family understanding has been extended to same-sex parent families, single parent families, and other family structures. All of these people are fragments of families because they have lost close connection to their larger families.

The refugee families have also lost familiarity with their spatial context in their home towns and neighborhoods, where the larger family was distributed within a neighborhood or city,

could be visited for family occasions, birthdays, marriages, even funerals, and every day events of eating and drinking tea and having a conversation.

According to the United Nations, "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State" (UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948). For the extended refugee family, this means that it needs all the protection and help it can get to become more complete again in all its parts as an extended family.

At the same time that the refugee family has been fragmented, at least part of this fragmented family has arrived to Europe with the hope to build something new in a new community. In this way, the refugee family can grow by connecting with the host community, while the host country family can also grow by including newcomers.

Solution/Suggestion:

Do everything that helps to make the larger refugee family whole again.

Set a process into motion in which these fragmented families and family members can start to become connected and whole again in the following was: a) within the new country to which they fled, b) within the remaining family in the home country, and c) as part of new family groups, including host country members.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75), Life Cycle (26), Household Mix (35), Communal Eating (147)

RPL: The Small Refugee Family (RPL 2), The Family in the War Zone (9)

References:

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (12/2016), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-dezember-2016.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (07/2017), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-juli-2017.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), 10 December 1948, 217 A (III), (<http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3712c.html>)

Pattern 2: The Small Refugee Family



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Illustration 2: A Syrian family: a father (32), a mother (26), a daughter (6), and a son (4).

Problem:

The small refugee family is a part of a larger fragmented family partially still living in the home country. In a new host country and alien location and environment, the small refugee family is separated from its usual connections and may need help and close association with other refugee and local families. While an extended family or new kind of community is very helpful for starting life in a new country or city for a small family, the small family also needs its own privacy, individual space, and personal life.

Short Discussion:

The small refugee family is a fragmented family. It has lost its main connection to its larger family and its familiar social and spatial context, and it is therefore not a quite complete family in its new country of arrival and new existence. In some sense, because of this fragmentation we need to understand the family in this new social and spatial context. When we look at the statistics in European countries that are hosting refugees, we are usually confronted with roughly something like 65% single men, 15% single women with and without children, and about 12% small families similar to the Western nuclear families. There are also about 3% elderly people and unaccompanied minors (BAMF, July 2017, p. 7).

While the small refugee family (parents and children) needs its own private time and space, it also needs extensive communication and connections with other nuclear families and with the extended larger family or some other form of closely knit community. The extended family includes much more than mother, father, and child. It includes grandparents, even great-grand parents, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, and family connections with other families through members who have married. The extended family can be seen as a small community of people who belong together by blood connections. In older times, the extended family existed mostly in the same village or region, quite often indicated by particular family names in a particular town or region.

The extended family can be considered still today a very good social model, because any member of such a larger family has so many more options to communicate with other family members than is possible in the now more typical small family. This is what the refugee small

family has lost, and the task is to find an advanced, new kind of extended social group that can substitute for the older extended family. An extended, family-like community in the new country, including other refugee small families and individual people, and even some new members from the host society, may be an alternative for the lost extended family.

Within this new community, it is important that each member has their own privacy and small family social life with father, mother and children each provided with some form of private activities and spaces.

Solution/Suggestion:

Make the small refugee family more whole and complete with a new kind of community. Create an environment in which small refugee families have their own privacy, but also, at the same time, have opportunities for meeting other refugee nuclear families and aged people. This should include close connections to a number of local families, small and extended, so that they can start to create a community and have a chance for a decent and rich social life and for bringing up their children in a new environment.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75), the Small Family (76)

RPL: The Extended Refuge Family (RPL 1), The Small Refugee Family (RPL 2)

References:

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (12/2016), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-dezember-2016.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (07/2017), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-juli-2017.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

UN General Assembly, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), 10 December 1948, 217 A (III), (<http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3712c.html>)

Pattern 3: Young Single Male Refugee



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Illustration 3: Syrian refugee Mohammad (27 who has learned how to swim and speak German since arriving in Germany).

Problem:

The young male refugee accounts for the largest statistic of refugees and is in an age group of refugees full of energy looking for new activities, opportunities, and work.

Short Discussion:

Young males (ages 18 to 39) comprise the largest group of refugees, at about 40% of total refugees (BAMF, December 2016, p. 7). They are the most visible refugees in the media and in public, and they form a memorable picture of refugees. Young male refugees need and desire to create a new future through meaningful work. Many are also supporting their larger families in their home countries. For many young, married males there is also strong natural desire to bring their own families to their new country.

Young males are also the populace that presents a challenging presence to European culture. Young males need friends, which they mostly find with other refugees and occasionally with local young people. They also need something to do during the arduous process of asylum application. Mostly, they need housing and work as all other refugees. While housing is mostly provided by the government during the asylum process, work as a full job is usually not provided if asylum has not been granted. This may be changing in Germany, where a new law was recently passed regarding refugees and their abilities to hold employment. However, in many towns and cities, local town halls provide internships and professional practice for learning a profession or working within an already learned profession.

Young male refugees also need cultural and social activities, including language learning, praying and going to a mosque, or participating in a local club. For example, sports clubs ("Sportverein" in German) fulfill a key role in helping young male refugees to engage their energy.

Solution/Suggestion:

Provide a variety of activities and encouragements, such as work and learning, for young male refugees for making progress with life and concretely grasping the future. Create connections to all kinds of social and cultural activities in clubs and other social institutions. In particular, sports activities are very popular for single young male refugees. Make use of the new refugee law in places like Germany to encourage work opportunities, mentorship programs, and apprenticeships.

Connected to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75), Children's Realm (137)

RPL: The Extended Refuge Family (RPL 1), The Precarious Migrant (RPL 8) The Family in the War Zone (RPL 9)

References:

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (12/2016), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-dezember-2016.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (07/2017), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-juli-2017.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

Pattern 4: Single Female Refugee



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Illustration 4: Nujeen (right), 18, a Syrian refugee from Aleppo in a wheelchair, and her old sister Nisreen (left) in their new home in Wesseling.

Problem:

Single female refugees in Europe find difficulties in living independently in western culture.

Short Discussion:

In middle-eastern countries, single women often have not the freedom to work and live independently of their families. In most cases, they depend on their guardian, who is usually a male adult member of their family, such as a father, brother, uncle, or grandfather. Once married, women are financially and socially dependent on their husbands. Upon arriving to Europe, single female refugees find that they lack training and social skills that would allow them to work, live, and travel as independent citizens. After leaving their home countries - the only social context they knew - and arriving under duress, with various types psychological and physical traumas, to a totally different cultural environment that is more individualized and treats women and men as equals, single and unaccompanied women refugees often have issues changing their lifestyles to adapt to the new host country.

In addition, single and unaccompanied female refugees have often experienced physical abuse and financial exploitation, more than any other refugees. Women traveling alone are considered unprotected and easy targets by smugglers, criminal groups, and other male refugees. Many single women who are not accompanied by a member of their family are entrusted to other male refugees, who often take their money and travel documents to have control over them and who can also turn physically abusive (Deadman, November 28, 2016).

For example, in refugee camps, single females feel particularly threatened and unsafe in situations where they are forced to sleep alongside hundreds of refugee men and use unlocked bathrooms. Some women have taken extreme measures, such as not eating or drinking to avoid having to go to the toilet where they felt unsafe (Deadman, November 28, 2016 and Amnesty International, January 18, 2016). Operating permits should require refugee centers to have mandated safety measures that would be regularly controlled by the authorities to make the transition easier for these vulnerable refugees.

Solution/Suggestion:

At all stages of refugee life, from arrival in temporary camps, through asylum approval and after, single female refugees must be provided special coaching and counseling on how to acclimate to European society and how to work with the traumas they experience. For example, coaching might take the form of agency skills and even job training classes combined with a one on one mentor systems in which European women help single female refugees to become accustomed to living independently by accompanying them on everyday errands and appointments. Existing organizations such as Women for Women International provide models from which to draw. Universities can provide special programs to encourage female refugees to attend.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75), Your Own Home (79), Bathing Room (144)

RPL: The Extended Refugee Family (RPL 1)

References:

Amnesty International (2016), "Female refugees face physical assault, exploitation and sexual harassment on their journey through Europe," January 18, 2016, (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/01/female-refugees-face-physical-assault-exploitation-and-sexual-harassment-on-their-journey-through-europe/>)

Dedman, H. (2016) "A Woman Alone - As an English-speaking Syrian, Zeina Al-Shamaly has more opportunities than many refugees. Her future is still bleak." November 28, 2016, (http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/gender_and_migration/2016/11/a_single_childless_woman_among_the_refugees_trapped_in_greece.html).

Pattern 5: Refugee Mother with Children



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Illustration 5: A Syrian mother and her son in Germany; her husband and her daughter are still in Greece.

Problem:

Women refugees who arrive pregnant or with children face the same sets of problems as other women who arrive to Europe as refugees, but they must navigate these issues while also addressing their children's needs.

Short Discussion:

Mothers who arrive to a host country pregnant and/or with their children, but without the support network of the spouse, the extended family, and the home society, are particularly challenged with carrying out basic tasks of applying for asylum and becoming established in the new country.

Further, most women refugees arriving in Europe come from cultures in which they had limited autonomy in comparison to women in Europe. In Europe, refugee mothers are expected to interact with agency representatives and in everyday public situations, to learn the new language, to work outside the home, and also to navigate asylum and integration processes for their children.

While many, if not most, women refugees are escaping situations of violence and trauma, mothers are also helping their children to recover from violence and other trauma and to integrate in the host country society. It is common for refugees to be escaping fear of military conscription for young boys or marital conscription for young girls, as well as fear for safety for the mothers, so attention to safety and psychological well-being is important.

According to a recent UN report, refugee programs and facilities are not typically established or managed with specific attention to the needs of mothers and children.

Temporary and long-term housing arrangements often serve to further isolate refugee mothers and their children. Efforts that connect single mothers and their children with other families with children, and special efforts to re-unite separated family members, can help to address some of the issues of safety and isolation facing these fragmented families.

Solution/Suggestion:

At all stages of refugee arrival and integration, give special support to help this kind of most vulnerable family with children through legal, financial, and practical help.

Connection to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75), Children's Realm (137)

RPL: The Extended Refuge Family (RPL 1), The Small Family (RPL 2),

References:

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (12/2016), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-dezember-2016.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Aktuelle Zahlen zu Asyl (07/2017), (http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Statistik/Asyl/aktuelle-zahlen-zu-asyl-juli-2017.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2016), Initial Assessment Report: Protection Risks for Women and Girls in the European Refugee and Migrant Crisis - Greece and

Pattern 6: Unaccompanied Minors



© UNHCR/Giles Duley

Illustration 6: Mahmoud, age 13, an asylum-seeker and unaccompanied minor from Syria, who fled his home in Damascus with his older brother.

Problem:

Children who arrive in Europe as refugees without adult guardians face a double challenge of learning to integrate into a new country and culture while learning to live without their immediate families to care for them. But there is also tremendous potential for positive development.

Short Discussion:

The laws of several European countries ensure that all minors, citizens and refugees alike, are provided with housing, food, education, medical care, and legal guardianship by the government if a family member is not able to provide care (BAMF, Unaccompanied Minors, October 2016). In this way, refugee children who are unaccompanied by an adult guardian are ensured basic care until they reach eighteen years of age.

Refugee children must make an adjustment from living with their families to living in care facilities with other refugees. At least temporarily, the government, rather than these young peoples' families, will care for their basic needs and oversee decisions about their lives. In their flight to new countries, all unaccompanied minors have been separated from their families, caretakers, and the lives and security they knew before. They must cope with the loss of their families and homes while learning to integrate in a new culture with new languages, laws, education systems, and expectations for minors. In addition to adjusting to life in a new country, young people are coping with the psychological issues of separation from their families. They also need special help to apply for asylum.

In spite of all these negative experiences and nightmares for children, there is also tremendous hope for these children if taken care of well. They are the ones who will be most affected by their upbringing in a host country. Especially the very young ones, between three to eight years old, need great investment and care because they will have a great future in

their host country with a solid education and special care. The nine to twelve year old children still have a chance to get a good education and will possibly be able to get places in the well established three year apprenticeship system in German education that starts with fourteen year olds. Older children still have solid chances to find their place in society, although they may have a number of difficulties blending in to a new society (Fennel, 2017).

Solution/Suggestion:

Make sure that children who arrive as refugees are given special opportunities to connect with other refugees from their own cultures, and to begin to integrate with the host society by connecting refugee children with both host country and refugee ‘foster’ families, with whom refugee minors may live, and/or experience support through ongoing interaction. Take particular care of the very young children, who will have tremendous opportunities within a new host society.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: Network of Learning (18), The Family (75), Old People Everywhere (40), Children’s Home (86), Common Areas at the Heart (129)

RPL: The Extended Refugee Family (RPL 1), Refugee Mother with Children (5), Aged Refugee (RPL 7),

References:

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF), Unaccompanied minors, (<http://www.bamf.de/EN/Fluechtlingsschutz/UnbegleiteteMinderjaehrige/unbegleitete-minderjaehrige-node.html>).

Fennel, H. (2017). Personal interview.

Pattern 7: Aged Refugee



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Illustration 7: A Syrian father, Mohammed (right), 51, who now works with his son Yousef (left) at the Kiel sail making company.

Problem:

In 2016, less than three percent of asylum applicants (male and female) in Germany were older than 60 years. Compared with the world average of twelve percent of the population older than 60 years, there are fewer aged refugees, as one would expect (BAMF, December 2016, p. 7). This situation shows the fragmented and imbalanced nature of the refugee community, and this imbalance can also cause instability and less calm within younger refugees. While older people have their own needs for help, aged people still can contribute a lot to their family and new community.

Short Discussion:

Older people have their own needs for help in medical matters and getting help in their households. Often, they just need some care for feeling part of the community. This need of care and help is probably even more critical with older refugees, who have been through trauma and inhuman experiences. And older people of course need to be taken care in their own right and needs.

In traditional societies old people were very respected, needed, and asked for help and advice in everyday and also difficult situations:

“Some degree of prestige for the aged seems to have been practically universal in all known societies. This is so general, in fact, that it cuts across many cultural factors that have appeared to determine trends in other topics related to age” (Simmons, 1945, p. 69).

Nevertheless, there are a number of older refugees who are strong enough to take leading roles in helping the community. Aged refugees in host countries can take care of younger refugees, and they can play a role in providing wisdom and practical help in a number of functions. They can help to make the fragmented families and the community work better, mostly in helping the very young and advising young families, female and male adults, and playing a leading role in guiding the refugee community. This role can lead to respect for older people by refugees and hosts alike, and it also can lead to more stability and calmness within the refugee community. This potentially critical role should also be recognized and accommodated by the local host authorities.

Solution/ Suggestion:

Therefore, encourage older refugees in their tendency to help others and also to play important and guiding roles in the refugee community as respected elders.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75), Old people everywhere (40), Life Cycle (26), Household Mix (35), Settled Work (156), Vegetable Garden (177)

RPL: The Extended Refugee Family (RPL 1), Young Single Male Refugee (RPL 3), Unaccompanied Minors (RPL 6), Single Mother with Children (RPL 5)

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Pattern 8: Precarious Migrant



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Illustration 8: Hajo Neis talking with Tahir from Afghanistan, who became a precarious migrant in December 2016.

Problem:

A precarious migrant might be understood as a migrant who has not been granted asylum in the host country, but who cannot safely return home.

Short Discussion:

A precarious migrant is different from a regular migrant inasmuch as he or she is not an officially recognized refugee. Although the migrant applied for asylum, he or she was denied asylum. The reasons for a denial may be complex, but mostly fall within two broad categories of denials. First, migrants who do not come from an officially recognized country for refugee eligibility may be denied asylum. In Germany, recognized countries for the past few years are Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Eritrea.

The second general reason for denial is that, although some migrants from other countries are granted asylum, asylum is often denied if the migrant could not convince the officials that he or she deserves asylum because she or he would face a life threatening situation if she or he returned to one's home country:

“While people that flee brutal regimes or conflict are naturally entitled to asylum, some EU states closely scrutinize whether asylum seekers from other countries are actually entitled to safe refuge, based on whether their homeland is considered a “safe country of origin” or not. The German asylum law defines a safe country as a country wherein “neither political persecution nor inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment takes place”. If an asylum seeker's homeland is on such a list then asylum is normally not granted, although individual assessment and burden of proof inevitably come into play” (Weber 2016).

Precarious migrants are persons in need, who for most of their escape and stay in a host country assume that they are refugees. Precarious migrants are those initially taken care of

by the host country, but who suddenly find themselves in a situation in which they have to fight for their refugee status in order to even stay in the country, otherwise, they are in danger of being deported. These people suddenly need to get the help of lawyers, and they must also pay for legal services.

Many of these migrants, mostly young men, cannot bear the pressure and start to secretly depart, thereby becoming double refugees. First, they flee from their home country, and now they also flee from their host country, possibly into another EU country. Rejecting asylum applications quite often results in the criminalization of these refugees. In the worst cases, they are being deported back to their home countries into dangerous situations, sometimes suddenly, without money or means to support themselves. In Germany, since January of 2017, precarious migrants with a criminal record are being sent home by plane to countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan, where they are left with an uncertain future (Süddeutsche Zeitung 2017).

Solution/Suggestion:

Do everything to help a precarious migrant continue to live as a regular migrant or refugee without asylum within a particular host country, possibly exploiting the 'Duldungsparagraph' in German law that permits further stay if there are some problematic issues with early departing. Even when the precarious migrant has returned to his dangerous home country because he or she had no other option, try to help her or him to come back for a second time, if she or he really wants to stay in the new host country.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75),

RPL: The Extended Refuge Family (RPL 1), Young Single Male Refugee (RPL 3), Single Female Refugee (RPL 4), Aged Refugee (RPL 7), The Family in the War Zone (RPL9)

References:

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Pattern 9: The Family in the War Zone



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Illustration 9: 58 year old Mohammed lost contact with his elderly parents, his two brothers, his sister, and her family of three, including two children in Al-Hosn.

Problem:

Families in home countries quite often quickly lose touch with their refugee relatives, partially because of the problems and perils of the escape itself and the lack of communication technologies available to the refugee, or worse, because the family situation at home has become intolerable through more terror, bombing, and acts of war or other disasters.

Short Discussion:

One word comes up a lot when you meet refugees: family. The destruction of family life is everywhere in the refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East. Families have lost loved ones because of the violence, and refugees who have survived to flee have been divided from their families across borders and continents.

Refugees who have made it to safe countries don't always have ways to communicate with their family at home. They live in constant fear for their loved ones, having witnessed their family homes destroyed. The lack of communication between the refugee and his or her family back home create serious psychological issues for both parts. Every refugee aspires to get reunited with her or his family, but there are many restrictions that make the situation very complicated, if not impossible.

For refugees who have made it to Europe, the Dublin Regulation, sometimes referred to as Dublin III, provides some family reunion rights. But this regulation is not applied fairly or proactively across the European Union, and it is restrictive. Currently a refugee can be joined by their spouse and under-18 children, but anyone else would need to be granted a visa exception. Thus, facilitating communication options, even for those who cannot be together in the same location, would tremendously help refugees keep in touch with their families.

Solution/Suggestion:

Do everything to help keep refugees connected with their families at home. This can include simple means of keeping up communication by phone, internet chat, video, etc., up

to the other end of the spectrum of reunification of the refugee with his or her family - especially the family members in threatening situations - by finding legal ways to bring them to the host country or reunifying at home when safe.

Connections to other patterns:

APL: The Family (75),

RPL: The Extended Refugee Family (RPL 1), Young Single Male Refugee (RPL 3), Single Female Refugee (RPL 4), Aged Refugee (RPL 7), The Precarious Refugee (RPL 8)

References:

3. Conclusion

With the previous nine patterns, we have covered the first cluster or domain of the 'Refugee Pattern Language' (RPL). In this first cluster, we have developed nine patterns for the refugee family in order to understand the people who are forced to migrate to Europe from other countries, including the essential reoccurring problems refugees have, and solutions/proposals to solve these problems. We have not covered all the problems, but we have addressed essential problems at the domain level of scale we are working on. Other scholars may select other domains or topics and scales; in fact, one could take each of the patterns we worked on and create a number of new patterns with each of them. The system of a pattern language can go much into depth and breadth with any pattern topic. In this work, and the level and mode we are working on, which is the socio-spatial mode for refugees, we will continue to develop new clusters appropriate for a Refugee Pattern Language.

Based on earlier work on a rough overall pattern language for refugees (see illustration of first RPL), we have initiated a range of clusters that include the following domains and sub-domains with about five to eight patterns each: 1. The Refugee Family; 2. Housing and Living; 3. Economic Integration: Working and Work-learning; 4. Learning and Schooling; 5. New Integration Law: Support and Challenge; 6. Physical and Mental Health; 7. Recreation and Clubs; 8. Multi-Culture and Religion; 9. Sustainable Transportation and Communication. 10. Taking Care and Personal Help. This rough outline will obviously be refined with work on each of these domains. There are also additional domains that may be considered more closely, such as economic integration, detailed help for refugees, and a very fascinating cluster of 'refugees on the move,' that may deserve a special kind of pattern cluster in sequence. We imagine to have a book of 160-180 pages or a few more that covers a full range of refugee issues to be solved in a practical but also qualitatively human way.

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5. List of illustrations

Diagram 1: Initial brainstorming version of a sketch diagram of possible Refugee Pattern Language RFP

Diagram 2: Initial sketch diagram of Refugee Pattern Language RFP Cluster One: The Refugee Family

Illustration 1: A Syrian Extended Family (the women are sisters-in-law) and a German couple (left and center-back).

Illustration 2: A Syrian family: a father (32), a mother (26), a daughter (6), and a son (4).

Illustration 3: Syrian refugee Mohammad, 27, who has learned how to swim and speak German since arriving in Germany.

Illustration 4: Nujeen (right), 18, a Syrian refugee from Aleppo in a wheelchair, and her old sister Nisreen (left) in their new home in Wesseling.

Illustration 5: A Syrian mother and her son in Germany; her husband and her daughter are still in Greece.

Illustration 6: Mahmoud, age 13, an asylum-seeker and unaccompanied minor from Syria, who fled his home in Damascus with his older brother.

Illustration 7: A Syrian father, Mohammed (right), 51, who now works with his son Yousef (left) at the Kiel sail making company.

Illustration 8: Hajo Neis talking with Tahir from Afghanistan, who became a precarious migrant in December 2016.

Illustration 9: 58 year old Mohammed lost contact with his elderly parents, his two brothers, his sister, and her family of three, including two children in Al-Hosn.

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