



## SUPPORTING FAMILY REUNIFICATION

### Finnish Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent

#### INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Finnish Red Cross guides beneficiaries with finding the necessary information about the rules and requirements of family reunification, while also working together with municipalities on the distribution of information and finding suitable solutions for refugees and their family members. In some cases, the Finnish Red Cross facilitates the process through communicating with the authorities and other organizations in Finland and abroad. Those include fellow National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration, Finnish Embassies abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Finnish Immigration Services as well as legal aid providers.

“*I had a house, but it was empty and full of sadness” – one mother’s seven years in limbo*”<sup>1</sup>



”

The Finnish Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent assisted a mother to reunite with her child. While fleeing from Turkey to Greece, Arezou was separated from her son. She spent years not knowing how and where he was.

*“First, I went to the authorities who referred me to the Finnish Red Cross. The Red Cross contacted the Turkish Red Crescent and they both started to manage the process for family reunification, while I continued to wait with hope.”*

She says the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement has given her a new life.

*“I would like to thank both Finnish Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent. Their staff accompanied us and provided all the services like accommodation and transportation making sure we were comfortable during our stay in Istanbul.”*

*\*Name has been changed at the request of the interviewees.”*

#### IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

During the year 2021, the Finnish Red Cross received more than 180 requests related to family reunification, with a particularly high number of requests for assistance coming from people with an Afghan background since August 2021.

In 2021, at the request from authorities and after their family members had been granted residence permits to Finland, the Finnish Red Cross arranged for the trips of 18 family members of resettled refugees who had previously arrived in Finland. The Finnish Red Cross also supported the family reunification of 7 people in co-operation with in the Turkish Red Crescent and the French Red Cross.

PERCO

Platform for European Red Cross and Red Crescent Cooperation  
on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants

An Initiative of European National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



<sup>1</sup> Story and picture by Ece Ceren Doğar; [See the full story here>>>](#)