

Information Letter

Refugee Wellbeing Monitor 2021-2025

Odilia M. Laceulle, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Department of Developmental Psychology, Utrecht University.



Content

1	Introduction	4
	1.1 General Information	4
	1.2 Purpose of the Study	4
	1.3 Background of the Study	4
2	Participation	5
	2.1 Participants Profile	5
	2.2 What is expected of you	5
	2.3 Possible Advantages and Disadvantages	5
	2.4 Not Participation or Stop Participation	6
	2.5 End of the Study	6
3	Data Usage and Storage	7
	3.1 Confidentiality of your data	7
	3.2 Retention period of your data	7
	3.3 Refugee User Experience	7
4	Compensation for Participants	8
5	Questions	8
6	Signing Consent Form	8
	Annexes	
	I Phonebook	9
	II Consent Form	10

1 Introduction

We would like to thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. To help you make an informed decision regarding your participation, this letter will explain what the study is about, the possible risks and benefits, and your rights as a research participant. If you do not understand something in the letter, please ask one of the investigators prior to consenting to the study. You will be provided with a copy of the information and consent form if you choose to participate in the study.

1.1 General information

This study is carried out by Refugee Wellbeing and Integration Initiative (RWII) and Utrecht University. 300 people above the age of 18, who seek or have refugee status in the Netherlands and have been here for no longer than 5 years, are expected to participate. The Ethical Committee of Social Sciences Research has approved this study.

1.2 Purpose of the study

This study aims to report on the subject wellbeing of asylum seekers and refugees in the Netherlands. Manuscripts reporting the results of the study will be submitted for publication in several international scientific journals. We will also present our research at international conferences. To reach the general public, we will communicate our findings via the Refugee Wellbeing and Integration Initiative website and write for several popular science outlets. We will use our existing social media accounts and personal blogs to promote our research.

1.3 Background of the study

People who seek or have a refugee status often experienced extraordinary hardships before coming to the Netherlands and are likely to be at a disadvantage in the new society. This study aims to provide a better understanding of indicators that are likely to impact their personal lives and the success of your resettlement, identify adequate responses by integration services, and opens the discussion on needs that are unaddressed, bringing a sense of equality in considering your basic human needs just as the rest of the society, and stress on the idea that “wellbeing for everyone” is fundamentally important to the broader engagement of all members of our community.

2 Participation

If you decide to participate, we will ask you to fill in an online questionnaire once a year for a duration of 5 years. Filling in the survey takes a maximum of 10 minutes of your time. The survey is online, and you can respond any time you want. This questionnaire includes, for instance, questions about your satisfaction with your life in general, satisfaction with your living situation, with your work and education.

The total time investment for you is estimated at 50 minutes over the course of 5 years.

2.1 Participants Profile

This study is only for participants who are above the age of 18, asylum seekers or refugees in the Netherlands, and have been here for no longer than 5 years. In the beginning of the survey, you will be asked whether you meet these criteria. In case you do not meet these criteria, the survey will be terminated. Your personal data which you have filled in at a prior step will be deleted automatically.

2.2 What is expected of you

In order to carry out the study properly, it is important that you follow the study instructions.

The study instructions require that you:

- Answer the questionnaire as directed.

It is important that you contact the investigator:

- If you no longer want to participate in the study
- If your contact details change

2.3 Possible advantages and disadvantages

There are no known or anticipated risks associated with participation in this study. The questions are simple and do not ask about any trauma or past experiences. You can answer the questions alone in your own time when and where you want.

There will be no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, one possible advantage of participating in this study is that by having to reflect on how satisfied you are with different aspects of your life.

If any problems, concerns, or questions arise for you during the study, you will be able to talk to a member of the research team either in face-to-face meeting or by reaching them via contact details provided on the last page of this document.

2.4 Not Participating or Stop Participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. This means you have the right to decline to participate and withdraw from the research at any time, without any negative consequences, and without providing any explanation. If you decided to withdraw from the portion of the study, we would greatly appreciate it if you inform us that you have decided to do so.

In the case that you withdraw from the study, we hope that we may retain and use any information obtained from you up to the point of withdrawal for the purposes stated in this letter. However, at your request, this information can be destroyed, and your personal details will be removed from all study files.

If there is any new information about the study that is important for you, the investigator will let you know. You will then be asked whether you still want to continue your participation.

Please note, it is not possible to withdraw your data once papers and publications have been submitted to publishers.

2.5 End of the study

Your participation in the study stops when:

- You have completed all the 5 questionnaires as described in point 4;
- You choose to stop;
- The Ethics Review Board of the Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences decides to stop the study.

After processing the data, the investigator will inform you about the most important results of the study. This will happen yearly from year 2 and till the end of the study.

3 Data Usage and Storage

Your personal data will be collected, used and stored for this study. This concerns data such as your name, address, date of birth. The collection, use, and storage of your data is required to answer the questions asked in this study and to publish the results. We ask your permission for the use of your data.

3.1 Confidentiality of your data

To protect your privacy, your data will be given a code. Your name and other information that can directly identify you will be omitted. Data can only be traced back to you with the encryption key. The encryption key remains safely stored on secured servers at the Utrecht University. The data cannot be traced back to you in reports publications about the study. Any information that could enable your identification will not be disclosed to third parties unless this is required by governmental, legal, or other regulatory authorities.

3.2 Retention period of your data

Your de-identified Responses will be kept for the required 15 years. As for your identification data such as your name, date of birth, postal address, and email will be destroyed upon the end of the study.

3.3 Withdrawing consent

You can withdraw your consent to the use of your personal data at any time. This applies to this study and also to storage and use for future research. The study data collected until the moment you withdraw your consent will still be used in the study.

More information about your rights when processing data

For general information about your rights when processing your personal data, you can consult the website of the Dutch Data Protection Authorities.

If you have questions about your rights, please contact the person responsible for the processing of your personal data. For this study, that is Kinan Alajak. (See Appendix I for contact details).

If you have questions or complaints about the processing of your personal data, we advise you to first contact the research location. You can also contact the Complaints Officer of FERB at (klachtenfunctionaris-fetcsocwet@uu.nl) or the Dutch Data Protection Authorities.

4 Compensation for participation

You will not receive payment for your participation in the study.

5 Any questions?

If you have any questions, please contact researcher Kinan Alajak (see Appendix I). If you would like independent advice about participation in this study, you may contact independent researcher Laurien Meijer (see Appendix I). She knows about the study but is not involved in it.

6 Signing Consent Form

When you have had the sufficient time for reflection, you will be asked to decide on participation in this study. If you give permission, we will ask you to confirm your consent (see Appendix II). You can sign this consent with an electronic signature. This electronic signature is binding by law. By this signature you indicate that you have understood the information and consent to participation in this study.

Annexes

I Phonebook

Dr Odilia Lacuelle, Principle Investigator

o.m.lacuelle@uu.nl

Kinan Alajak, RWII Director

k.alajak@rwii.nl

Laurien Meijer, Intendent Researcher

l.meijer@uu.nl

II

Informed Consent Form

- I have read the information presented in the information letter.
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions related to the study and have received satisfactory answers to my questions and any additional details.
- I was informed that participation in the study is voluntary and that I can withdraw this consent by informing the researcher.
- I give my consent to collect, store and use my data for this study.

This study is reviewed by the Utrecht University Ethical Review Board of the Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences [FETC20-639]. If you have questions for the Committee contact them at klachtenfunctionaris-fetcsocwet@uu.nl. For all other questions contact our information desk at info@rwii.nl.

I agree with my own free will to participate in the study.

I do not agree to participate.

**RWII – Stg. Refugee Wellbeing
& Integration Initiative**

Salamancapad 311, 3584 DX Utrecht

Phone +31 (0)6 453 220 77

www.rwii.nl

info@rwii.nl

