

INFOGRAPHIC

Introduction

Swansea is a city of sanctuary for an estimated 800-1000 asylum seekers and a significant refugee and undocumented migrants' population. For over 20 years, Swansea Asylum Seekers Support (SASS) has been a source of support to this vulnerable population. Now, shifting migratory trends, changes in migration policies, and shrinking statutory service provision have significantly altered the demographics and needs of these population. It is imperative to understand the evolving and often complex needs of those who engage with SASS. This requires a thorough and updated needs assessment, and so this work was commissioned by the SASS Trustees in summer 2024.

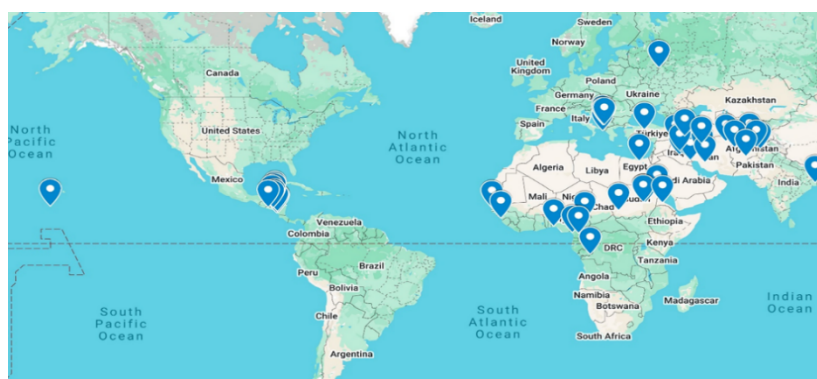
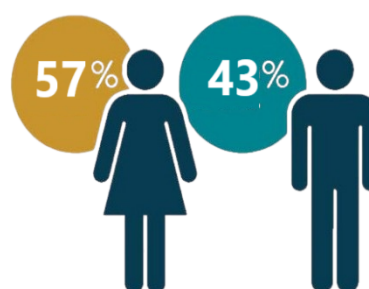
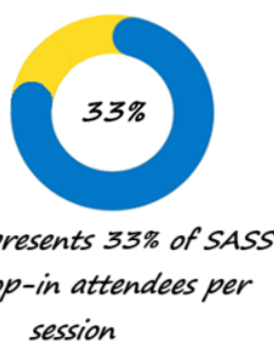
Objectives

We aimed to gather comprehensive data directly from asylum seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants engaging with SASS, to identify their most pressing needs and vulnerabilities. By using this participatory approach, we ensure that their voices are heard and that our support strategies are informed by their lived experiences.

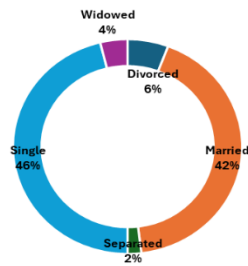
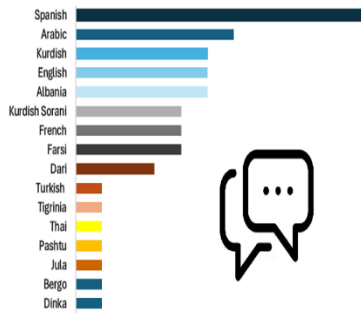
Methods

The assessment was conducted between 16th and 28th of August 2024. A comprehensive questionnaire was administered to a sample of the SASS user population, based on their availability and willingness to participate. Data collection was consensual, confidential and trauma-informed.

RESPONSES



RESPONSES

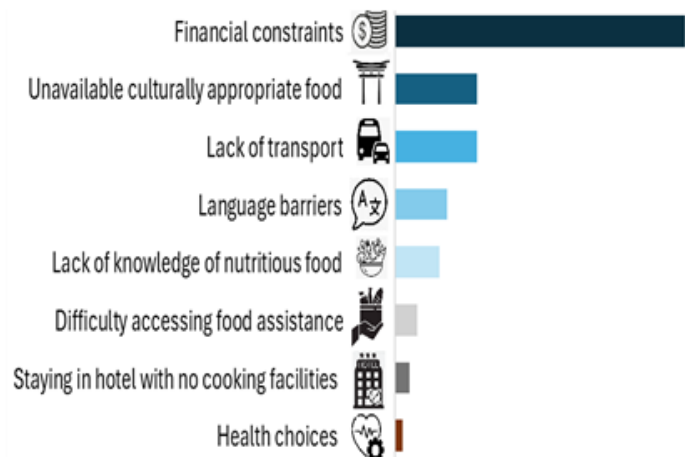


Finding of the Assessment

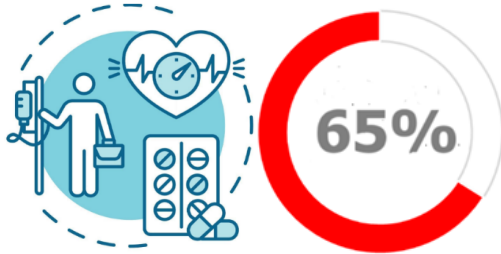
Food access and consumption



Barriers to food access and consumption



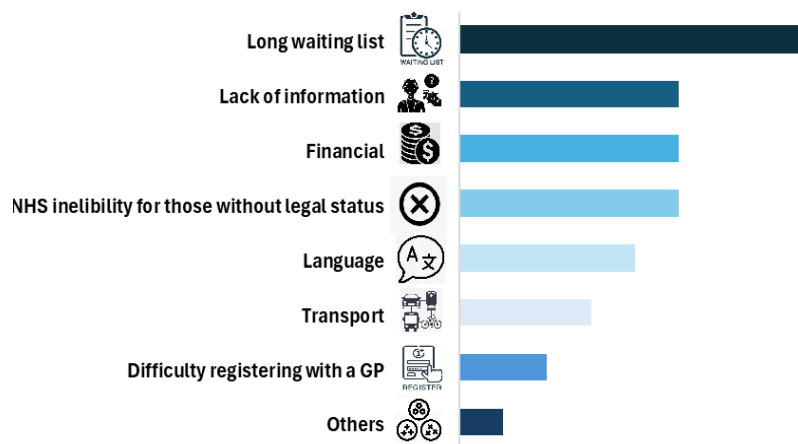
Health status and service access



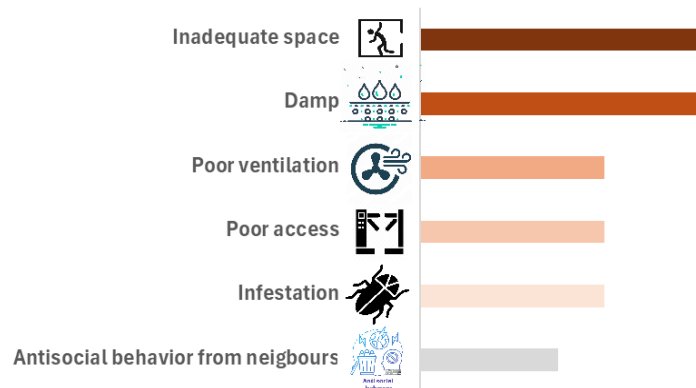
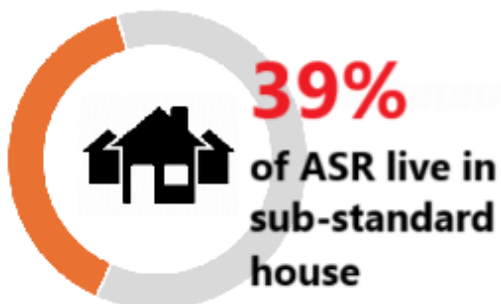
ASR or family members are experiencing some health challenges



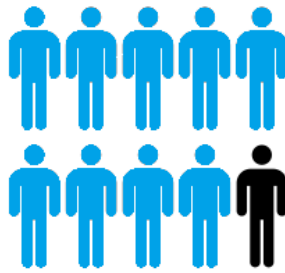
Barriers to health services



Housing



Employment

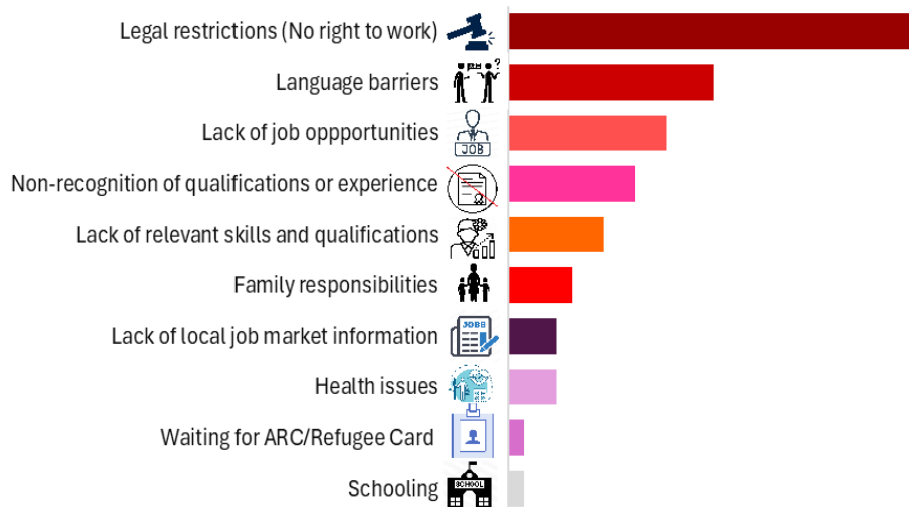


90 %
**ASYLUM SEEKERS
AND REFUGEES
ARE NOT EMPLOYED**



1 in 3
**ASR do not have
support in finding
employment**

Barriers to employment



Education

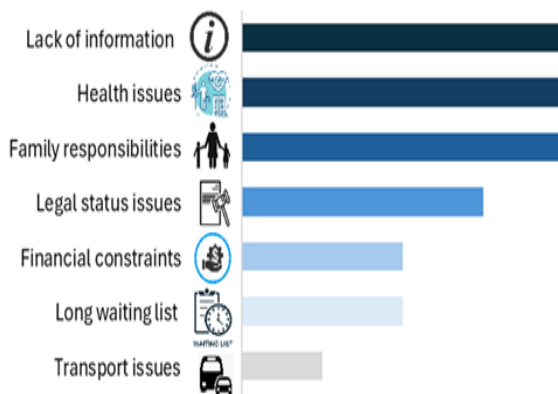


1 in 3
**ASR are currently
excluded from
educational
opportunities**

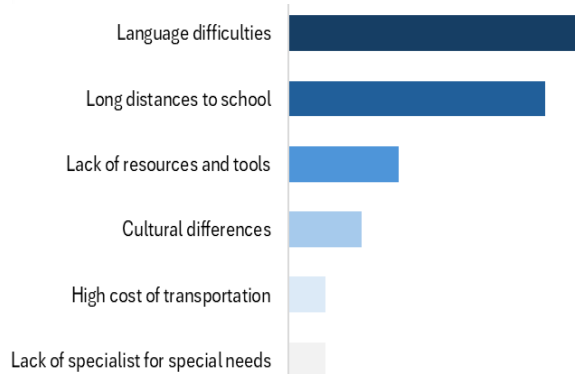


40%
**of ASR children
face challenges
in school**

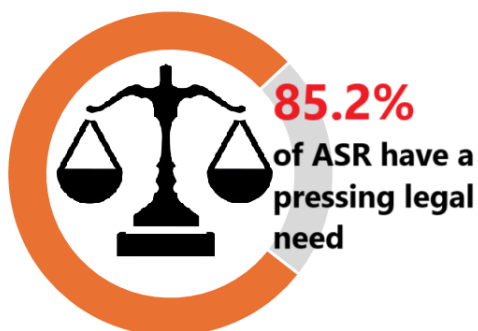
Barriers to education for ASR



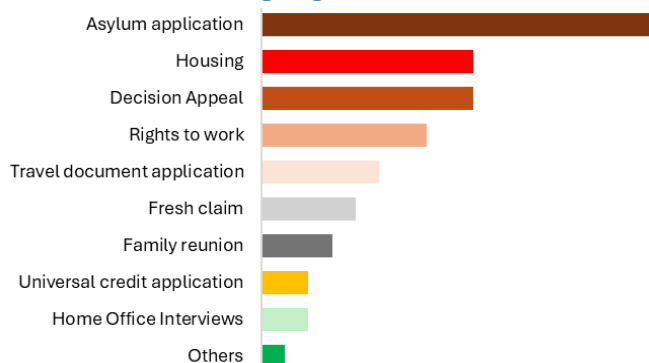
Challenges faced by ASR children in school



Legal support and representation



Pressing legal needs of ASR

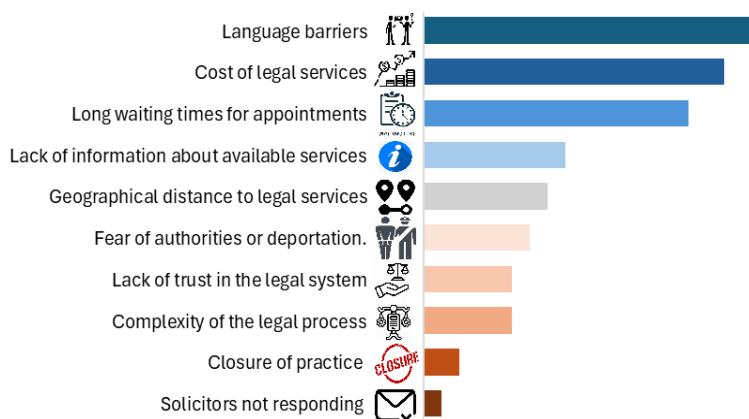


1 out of 3



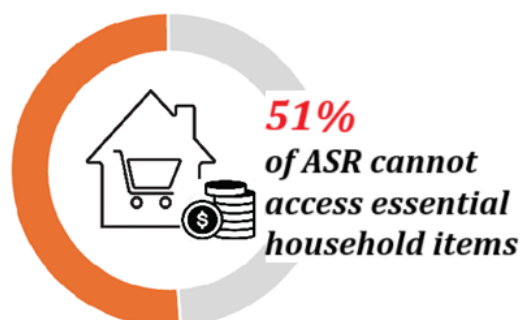
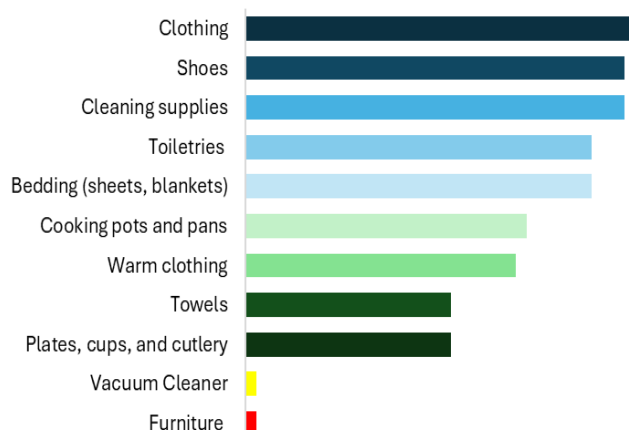
**ASR do not
have legal
representation**

Barriers to legal services for ASR

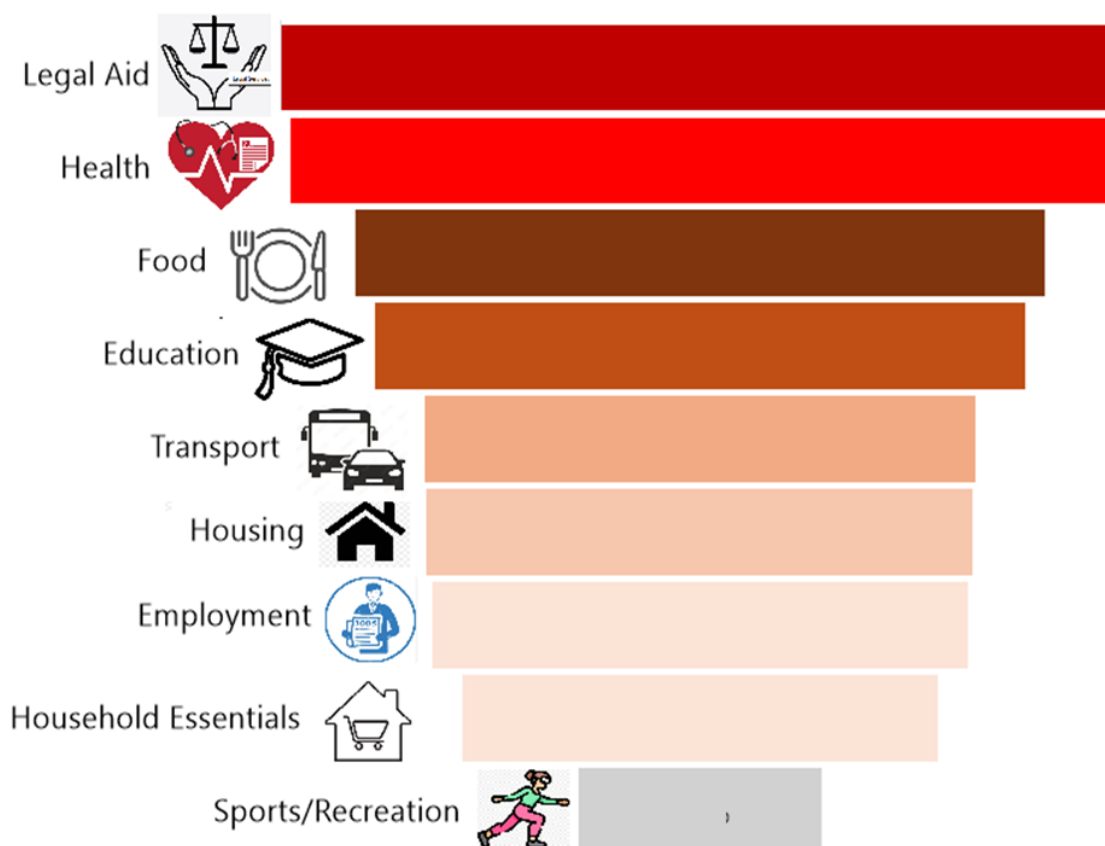


Essential Household Items

Essential Household items need of ASR



Ranking of ASR Needs (by mentions)



Recommendations to SASS and partners

FOOD

- Increase the availability and accessibility of food assistance initiatives, such as food banks, community kitchens, and subsidized food programs (food vouchers).
- Implement educational initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of a balanced diet and how to achieve it within budget constraints.
- Provide multilingual resources and outreach programs to educate individuals about available food assistance services and nutritional information

HEALTH

- Develop clear and accessible information about available healthcare services, including language support
- Implement patient advocates program, to help individuals navigate the complex healthcare landscape.

LAW

- Conduct advocacy to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with no legal status
- Expand the support program for Home Office interviews
- Develop targeted campaigns to inform asylum seekers and refugees about available legal services in multiple languages.

- Develop the SASS language ambassadors' program to increase the availability of qualified interpreters for legal support and proceedings.
 - Develop links with the legal aid clinic of Swansea University to improve legal representation for ASR
 - Advocate for policies that protect the rights of asylum seekers and refugees and ensure access to justice
- HOUSING
- Assist ASR to engage with housing services to ensure housing maintenance and upgrades to ensure that accommodations meet acceptable living standards
 - Collect, curate and distribute more donated household essential items
- TRAVEL
- Bus tickets should be provided for families who live far away from essential services
 - Local Authority to provide bus tickets to children covering long distances to and from schools
- EDUCATION
- Develop multilingual information resources to address the lack of awareness of educational opportunities and support services.
 - Provide ASR with resources on educational opportunities including HE funding and scholarships.
 - Provide ASR children with essential school supplies and learning materials.
- WORK AND TRAINING
- Advocate for policy changes that facilitate quicker access to work permits and reduce legal restrictions on working for asylum seekers
 - Develop and expand programs that improve ASR access to services that assess and recognize foreign qualifications and experiences
 - Accentuate Vocational and Employability ESOL Classes
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