Tasiilaq, The Greenlandic National Case

Nordic 0-24, project seminar
Acting Director Helene Horsbrugh
Head of section Sussi Wille Broge
Oslo November 2017
Kalaallit Nunaat
Greenland

- 2,166,086 km²
- Population 55,860 (2017)
- Danish colony until 1953
- Home Rule 1979
- Self-Government 2009
What is the challenges in your region?
Citizens between the age 16-18 outside education
Unemployment rate 2015
# Inuuneritta / Public Health Program (2014)

## Binge drinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Greenland</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Greenland</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Greenland</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Greenland</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart shows the percentage of binge drinking in different regions of Greenland. The highest percentage is observed in East Greenland for both men and women.
Suicidal thoughts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nuuk</th>
<th>Bigger citys</th>
<th>Smaller citys</th>
<th>Settlements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The year of the children 2016

- Children’s welfare
- Abuse
- Rights
- Child neglect
- Education
Local tragedies in Tasiilaq

- November 2015
  - Piteraq (Hurricane)

- First week of January 2016
  - 2 suicides
  - 1 murder
Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq & Naalakkersuisut

- Establishment of cooperation between municipality and government
- Target group – families
  - Prevention
  - Treatment
Children and families in Tasiilaq, Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq
Content

• Background information about Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq, specifically Tasiilaq
• The development plan for children and families
• Possible solutions to challenges in Tasiilaq
Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq

- Area 635.600 km² (Denmark 43.098 km², Sweden 447.435 km²)

- About to become the World’s largest municipality, Area wise (1st January 2018)
The municipality has approximately 1,500 active child cases. The administration receives 100-150 notifications monthly regarding children in need of aid.

In 2015, 332 of 5,259 children (6.3 percent) in Kommuneqarfik Sermersooq were placed with foster parents or in a children’s home.

In Tasiilaq, East Greenland, there are currently 485 active child cases: One for every second child.
Some statistics…

• 2000 inhabitants, hereof 1000 children
• 485 child cases
• 54 cases of violence (including 1 murder and 3 attempts to murder), 29 cases of rape, and 30 cases of sexual abuse of children reported to the Police in 2016
Some quotes

• “The law doesn’t apply here” (Greenlandic artist)
• “According to my experience, seven out of 10 children are severely neglected. Six out of 10 children have been sexually abused” (teacher in public school)
• “The majority of the families are dysfunctional” (social worker)
Burning platform
Development Plan MI 2017-2020
Way forward for Tasiilaq?

Possible solutions on community level

• Build broad alliances across sectors and institutions?
• Build on local resources: Mobilize the community?
• Create life opportunities: Occupation and education?
• Use community rehabilitation rather than individual therapy?
Initiatives

Health
- Local alcohol treatment
- Changing the alcohol law
- Inuneritta, Public Health Program
- Healthy Sexuality

Education
- Parenting education
- Sexual education
- Staff, how to take the ‘difficult conversation’
- Education center

Social service
- Crisis center
- Family apartments
- Special unit, for sexual abuse

Infrastructure
- Airport
- Fisheries
- Sealskin
- Cleaning the local dump
Questions and comments?
QUJANAQ