

**Urban Migration Research Consultant**  
**Save the Children Switzerland**  
**Terms of Reference**

Reporting to	Head Migration & Protection – Save the Children Switzerland
Starting date	Mid-February 2021
Work location	Flexible

### **Background**

Cities continue to be the main destination and transit points for migrants across the globe, with urban centres often being home to large diasporas and networks critical to mixed migration. For vulnerable migrants, such as migrant children, cities take on a more complex double life: spaces of intertwined opportunities and protection risks, with well-documented and wide-spread exploitation of migrant children’s search for income, protection, and options for onward movement. When looking at mixed migration flows in particular, children quickly become invisible in urban centres, their lives getting lost in the general anonymity of the city.

For migrant children in particular, cities – both as transit space and destination – offer an opportunity to civil society organisations, municipalities, diaspora communities, and other actors seeking to support and protect migrant children. This opportunity most likely arises out of cities being breaks or stops in the children’s movement, as well as the greater density of services and stakeholders, creating a situation where migrant children could be reached with essential activities such as outreach, access to basic services, legal advice, family reunification and coordinated management of protection cases.

The city is an intricate space for migrant children and protection actors alike. Therefore, we need to develop a better understanding of how the centrality of cities along migration routes can be leveraged to ensure a continuum of protection interventions.

Save the Children Switzerland's Urban Hub and Child Migration Platform are commissioning this exploratory research to understand and inform how Save the Children and other aid/government organisations can design and implement more effective responses in urban settings ensuring that migrant children in cities are protected and able to access their rights.

### **Objectives**

The overall objective is to understand urban spaces from the perspective of migrant children, including their attraction, sense of opportunity, and risk in order to offer a more accurate narrative that goes beyond urban centres as sites of enhanced risk and allows strategic interventions to enhance the protection of migrant children more effectively.

- a. Examine the interactions of children with urban spaces in order to (1) understand the different motives or reasons for coming to/staying in cities, (2) identify/summarise specific protection risks and vulnerabilities in urban spaces; and (3) document how children navigate cities, including how they

settle, how they survive, what services they use or require, and what strategies they employ to mitigate and manage risks. This examination of migrant children in cities should be sensitive and aware of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, and other relevant intersecting factors.

- b. Identify actors and services which support/enhance the protection of migrant and displaced children in cities of concern and decrease their vulnerability to the identified risks; those actors should include – amongst others - international and local civil society organisations, local authorities/municipalities, government-led basic services, cultural mediators, diaspora members and peers.
- c. Map out which aid/government initiatives, policies and cultural factors which could be leveraged in urban settings to improve the protection of migrant children; those can be – amongst others - coordination platforms, outreach campaigns, case management, similar languages, advocacy initiatives and access to mass media.
- d. Propose recommendations for programmes, advocacy messaging and further research work for Save the Children and the wider sector

The analysis is to consider three/four different cities as cases studies and basis to inform the findings above. Identified cities must provide a combination between capital and secondary cities, transit and destination urban centres, and be located throughout different migration routes.

### **Suggested methodology**

This research will employ a mixed methodology which consists of a desk-based literature review which is to be complemented by interviews with field-based practitioners (providing data, reports, lessons learnt, operational observations, etc).

### **Deliverables**

1. A 3-page inception report, setting out the planned study outline, design, methodology and timelines/delivery dates
2. A final, high quality and accessibly written (approximately) 10-page report which should consist of a desk-based study complemented by interviews with field-based practitioners. In addition, this report should propose clear and tailored recommendations for subsequent actions aimed at strengthening Save the Children's Migration & Urban programming, advocacy and future research related to migrant and displaced children in urban areas.

### **Timeline**

- Start date: mid-February 2021
- Inception report: due within 10 days from start date
- Final report: due within 3 weeks from Inception report

### **Required Skills/Knowledge**

- Proven experience of applying a range of evaluation and research designs and methods (qualitative and quantitative) including leading field-based and remote research and research communication
- Extensive consultancy experience and ability to establish credible and strong working partnerships with team members and other stakeholders, leveraging existing networks where appropriate
- Demonstrable knowledge with urban/migration research and academic works
- Understanding of child migrants' vulnerabilities in urban contexts and experience in child rights
- Postgraduate degree or PhD in social sciences: urban or migration studies or related disciplines
- Excellent oral and written analytical and reporting skills, including fluency in written and spoken English.

### **Payment (total budget €3.000)**

- 1st installment: 30% upon receipt of the inception report
- 2nd installment: 70% after submission of the final report

### **Application procedure/deadline**

Interested consultants/teams should submit the documents below by January 26<sup>th</sup> 2021 (max 5 pages in total, in one document) to [migration@savethechildren.ch](mailto:migration@savethechildren.ch):

- CV
- Cover letter outlining (i) the consultant/team's profile, (ii) how experience and motivation fit this research and (iii) the proposed approach including examples of focus cities
- Indication on remuneration requirements to deliver the final report
- Contact information of at least three work-related referees

Incomplete applications which do not include all the above information will not be reviewed. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.