PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Save the Children

A guide to programming for children affected by migration and displacement

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This guide is primarily intended for Save the Children staff and, whilst the majority of the links are to resources that are publicly available, some of the links are to Save the Children's internal intranet and the tools are only available to staff within the organisation. If you are reading this from outside Save the Children and would like to access any of these internal documents please contact:

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Front cover photo: A dinghy arrives in Lesvos, Greece, on 30th November 2015, with more than 60 Syrian refugees, most of them children. Photo: Pedro Armestre/Save the Children.

* Names have been changed throughout the report

Foreword

In these turbulent times, as dramatic stories of refugees, displaced people and migrants hit our news headlines on a daily basis, never has the need to protect children on the move felt so urgent. The surge in protracted crises and conflicts, climate change-induced environmental degradation, natural disasters and rising global inequalities are all pushing increasing numbers of children to leave their homes. And whilst we see and hear desperate stories of children arriving in overcrowded boats, being separated from families at borders or living in miserable conditions in makeshift camps, we also increasingly hear of attitudes hardening, borders closing, and children greeted with hostility.

At the same time, we also know that for many other children, movement is a positive option that may enable them to fulfil some of the dreams – getting an education or a decent livelihood or giving them access to some of the opportunities that only exist in urban areas or other countries. To realise that dream, however, they may have to face many of the same risks as those children who are forced to move – risks of exposure to violence and exploitation as well as risks to their very survival. These children need to be as well informed as possible about the risks they face and how they can mitigate them.

Save the Children is committed to reaching the most marginalised and vulnerable children, and there can be no doubt that the lived experiences of refugee, asylum seeking, trafficked and migrant children makes them amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised children that we see in our work. The dangers inherent in their journeys, the threat of separation from loved ones, of trafficking, of mental and physical harm means that these children need our support to access the services and help they need to survive, recover and rebuild their lives.

This programming guide is a tool to help our staff in the many varied and complex situations in which they work to provide much needed care and support to children on the move. It was developed by the Children on the Move Task Group that brings together our most experienced practitioners across the world within the framework of our Child Protection Global Theme. We hope and trust that this new guidance, which draws on the experience of staff in Save the Children's programmes around the globe, will strengthen our response and enable us to better protect these children whether when considering a move, in transit or on arrival at a new destination.

Elisabeth Dahlin
Secretary General Save the Children Sweden
Sponsor, Child Protection Global Theme

PHOTO: SUSSAN AKILA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Children in an Internally Displaced People's camp in North East Nigeria.

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About this guide

This guidance was developed through a collaborative process which involved interviews with 31 Save the Children practitioners and advocates working in head offices, regional offices and country programmes, as well a review of more than 120 publications.

The guidance is organised in six sections:

SECTION 1 Introduction

SECTION 2 Key considerations for programme design and a broad overview of protection interventions

SECTION 3 Pre-flight, pre-migration: *key protection interventions*

SECTION 4 During migration and displacement: *key protection interventions*

SECTION 5 Durable and sustainable solutions for children: *key protection interventions*

SECTION 6 Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning in protection programming with children on the move

Section 2 outlines key factors you need to take into account when designing any intervention to protect children on the move. It stresses the importance of applying child rights principles, and the need to have a sound understanding of relevant legal frameworks. It includes a table which provides an overview of protection interventions for children on the move, which can be tailored to address the specific needs of children at different stages of their journey. The table illustrates how many of the interventions are applicable at multiple points and occasions along the child's journey.

Section 3, 4, and 5 provide brief descriptions of specific selected interventions that enhance the protection of children on the move:

- in the pre-flight or pre-migration phase (section 3)
- during migration or displacement (section 4)
- in identifying and supporting durable and/or sustainable solutions for children after they have moved (section 5).

Each of these sections draw attention to critical issues and lessons learned and contain signposts and links to useful guidance and tools.

Section 6 includes brief guidance on monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning that is specific to protection programming with children on the move.

PHOTO: SYLVIA NABANOBA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Betty* 36, with her five children and two separated children from South Sudan.

The programme guidance aims to:

1. Enhance knowledge management and mutual learning among staff working with children on the move, so that both experienced and less experienced protection practitioners can learn from one another.
2. Facilitate improved understanding of the different interventions and activities that Save the Children can and does implement to protect children on the move, to keep children safe and ensure durable or sustainable solutions.
3. Improve staff capacity and confidence to design and deliver a range of child protection interventions to support children on the move, with consideration of best interests of children.
4. Provide brief descriptions of interventions that enhance the protection of children on the move in 3 main areas: 1) pre-flight, pre-migration, 2) in migration or displacement, and 3) durable/ sustainable solutions for children.
5. Signpost readers to existing guidance and tools that can support staff to design and deliver child protection interventions for children on the move in different contexts including:
   - In situations where there is a high likelihood of migration
   - Humanitarian contexts and situations of forced rapid displacement
   - In situations of protracted displacement
   - In preparation for and on return / reintegration

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. This guide has an explicit focus on protection interventions, while also advocating for and supporting multi-sectoral approaches to better address the root causes of unsafe migration and to holistically meet the needs and rights of children and their families who are on the move to ensure solutions.
2. This guide does not provide new tools, but rather signposts to existing guidance and tools.
3. The terminology and language relating to work with refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children are changing. For example, the way organisations use the terms 'durable' (about solutions for refugee and asylum seeking children) and 'sustainable' (for solutions for migrant children) is changing (see current definitions for these terms in section 5). It is therefore important that staff regularly review updated guidance and information, notably from Save the Children's Migration and Displacement Initiative.

Save the Children materials on children on the move, migration, displacement

Guidance materials are continuously being refined and developed. *Make sure you regularly access updated documents from:*

The Migration and Displacement Initiative:
https://savethechildren1.sharepoint.com/what/migration-displacement/pages/home.aspx

The Task Group on Children on the Move:
https://savethechildren1.sharepoint.com/what/child_protection/pages/children%20on%20the%20move.aspx

The Resource Centre:
https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/

NB: The first two links above are to Save the Children's internal intranet site which is accessible to SC staff only. The Resource Centre is an open access site.

Section 1
Introduction

1.1 What do we mean by children on the move?

In 2016, 50 million children are estimated to have migrated across borders or have been forcibly displaced within their own countries.[1] Save the Children's country teams are increasingly working in contexts where children are on the move. Sometimes this is in contexts where populations have been affected by migration and displacement for decades, and consequently all those working in child protection, including Save the Children staff, are experienced and skilled in programming for this group of children. In other contexts it may be a newer phenomenon, or one that child protection actors have never had to respond to at scale before.

Save the Children defines children on the move as: "Children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement, while it may open up opportunities, might also place them at risk (or at an increased risk) of economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence".

This umbrella term brings together a number of categories of children involved in mixed migration to highlight their common protection needs, including:

- children who have been trafficked
- children who migrate (e.g. to pursue better life opportunities, to look for work or education or to escape violence)
- children displaced by conflict or natural disasters, including refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons
- nomadic children and children of Travellers (including Roma children)
- Children born to migrant parents in countries of transit or destination

Source: *Save the Children's Child Protection Strategy 2013-2015: Making the world a safe place for children*

This definition, which has been adopted by the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move and by the Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts, highlights how children may be on the move for different reasons. They may move in and out of different categories within the same journey or over time and, as such, they need protection and support mechanisms that are holistic, coherent and coordinated within and between countries.[2]

Save the Children implements programmes to improve the protection of children who migrate, either voluntarily or involuntarily, by increasing their access to stronger and coordinated care and protection systems, which can protect them from exploitation, abuse, neglect, violence and discrimination.

1.2 Why are children on the move?

Migration is not a new phenomenon for children or adults in many regions. Historically people have migrated in search of better livelihoods and opportunities and to escape conflict or disaster.

However, the world is witnessing an ever-increasing movement of children across the globe. The surge in protracted crises and conflicts, climate change induced environmental degradation, more frequent disasters, and rising global inequalities are pushing ever greater numbers of children to leave their homes.

The reasons, patterns and consequences of children's movement are diverse and complex. Children may migrate with parents, caregivers, other people who are known to them, or on their own. Children's migration may be voluntary or forced.[3] Their status may change at different points in the journey. It is also important to recognise and better understand children's own role in decision making, both as a trigger for movement and as a force for their own self-protection.[4] In each socio-cultural political context, an understanding of the reasons and motivations for girls and boys to move is crucial to inform relevant and effective programming to prevent unsafe migration, to protect children on the move, and to ensure durable solutions.

Reasons why children are on the move

- Economic reasons – family poverty and search for better livelihood and jobs
- Unemployment, low wages, and lack of access to basic services in rural or remote areas
- To access better quality education
- To accompany or be reunited with family members
- Violence, abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual), neglect or exploitation in their family or care setting
- The threat of child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence
- Inequality, social exclusion and discrimination (based on ethnicity, gender, or other factors)
- Socio-cultural traditions which value migration
- Family disputes
- Conflict and insecurity
- Climate change, disaster, drought or famine
- Forced displacement
- Death or illness of a parent
- Lack of freedom, boredom, peer influence, or to join friends
- They are tricked or abducted

1.3 Key protection risks facing children on the move:

Children on the move face increased risks of violence, abuse, and various forms of exploitation both during their journey and once they reach their destination.[5] Unaccompanied and separated children face even greater risks of abuse and exploitation.[6] Whether they are on the move alone or with family, risks are also exacerbated when migrating through irregular channels and when children do not have identity papers or other related documentation (such as a residence permit). While some children and families migrate with a clear destination in mind, their journey may become protracted as they face legal, cultural, and/or economic barriers to reach their intended destination.

Risks facing children on the move

- Family separation
- Lack of appropriate care and risks of being placed in harmful institutions
- Injury, accidents, drowning when on route
- Harassment, corruption, violence and abuse (physical, emotional, sexual) by police, border officials, armed forces, civil groups, members of general public, and others
- Trafficking risks
- Deception and exploitation by smugglers
- Gender based violence, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of girls and boys, including engagement in prostitution and risks of transactional sex and forced marriage
- Exploitation and increased vulnerability to the worst forms of child labour
- Debt bondage and illegal confinement
- Increased risks of coming into conflict with the law as they are perceived as criminals
- Incarceration in detention facilities (with increased risk of physical, sexual and emotional abuse)
- Risks incurred when staying in overcrowded transit or asylum centres, especially if unaccompanied and separated children are accommodated together with adults
- Forced deportation or returns without adequate preparation
- Increased returns to countries of origin or third countries where children may face risk of irreparable harm, due to deportation not based on determination of their best interests
- Leaving behind or losing family and friends
- Psychological stress, emotional and physical suffering from direct experiences and from what they witness, or exacerbation of pre-existing mental health conditions.
- Stressed parents who are less able to provide care and support
- Discrimination and lack of access to basic services
- Recruitment by armed forces and groups

It is also important to recognise that migration can lead to positive outcomes for girls, boys, and families. Children and families migrate to fulfil their aspirations for a better life and/or to escape violence, conflict or insecurity.[7,8,9] Some girls and boys on the move exercise more rights in their new locations through increased access to education, livelihood and other services;[10] girls may enjoy greater equality with boys in different social contexts and feel more empowered as a result, and some families who migrate are able to improve their economic and social status and are better able to support their children.[11]

Positive outcomes for some children on the move

- Improved access to education (formal or non-formal)
- Improved livelihood and job opportunities
- Improved access to other services (health, protection, social protection, legal)
- Increased security or protection when escaping violence, early marriage, conflict, or disaster
- Chance to remain with or be united with family members (immediate or extended)
- Acquisition of new skills, languages, friendships, and other personal development
- Increased participation and agency of girls and boys in navigating the best way forwards

PHOTO: TURJOY CHOWDHURY/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Rohingya refugee children play in a Save the Children-supported Child-Friendly Space in a settlement in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Section 2

Key considerations for programme design and a broad overview of protection interventions for children on the move

2.1 Key considerations

When designing programmes to protect children on the move it is important to consider seven factors that influence the development, implementation and monitoring of effective child rights based programming.

You need to:

1. understand and apply child rights principles
2. understand which groups of children you are working with
3. understand relevant legal and policy frameworks and international standards
4. recognise children's agency and support meaningful participation
5. integrate cross-cutting issues (gender, disability, resilience, child safeguarding)
6. strengthen existing government systems, including transnational systems, to be more accountable for children's rights
7. support multi-sectoral programming.

2.1.1 Understand and apply child rights principles

It is important to understand and apply child rights principles and approaches when designing, implementing and monitoring programming for children on the move.

Getting it Right for Children

Save the Children has published a practitioner's guide to child rights programming which provides ideas and tools to enable development and humanitarian workers to put children and their rights at the centre of their programmes. It will help you:

- recognise and engage with children as rights holders and actors in their own development, and give them opportunities to influence decisions and to claim their rights
- recognise and engage with governments as the main duty bearers in fulfilling children's rights, and promoting accountability to their citizens
- use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a framework, as it provides legitimacy, a reference point and opportunities for engagement with its monitoring mechanisms
- ensure plans and activities are based on four fundamental principles relating to children's rights: **survival and development; non-discrimination; child participation; the best interests of the child**
- analyse the capacity of governments and other concerned duty bearers to fulfil children's rights and use the analysis to inform capacity building and advocacy work
- analyse child rights violations to inform programming and advocacy work that strengthens fulfilment of children's rights and addresses both immediate and root causes of rights violations
- reach the most marginalised girls and boys; and listen to their perspectives to better understand and respond to the diversity of children's experiences
- use participatory processes and promote partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including children and young people, parents and caregivers, civil society organisations, governments, UN agencies, the private sector, etc
- ensure programme goals have a measurable impact on the lives of girls and boys and their rights and undertake evidence-based advocacy to increase the scale of impact on girls and boys (eg, through replication, policy change or increased resource allocation).

Save the Children (2007) *Getting it Right for Children: A practitioner's guide to child rights programming*

Fundamental principles for children on the move

In May 2016, representatives of international and non-governmental organisations met in Geneva to agree on principles to underpin policy relating to children who migrate or are affected by migration. They agreed nine principles, derived from international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. The principles apply to all types and categories of children on the move. Although not otherwise treated within this guide, they also apply to children who remain behind when one or both parents migrate.

Nine principles for children on the move

1. Children on the move (and other children affected by migration) shall be considered children first and foremost, and their best interests shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning them. Children affected by migration should be assured the same rights as all other children – including birth registration, proof of identity, a nationality and access to education, health care, housing and social protection. Those responsible shall not assume that standard solutions work for all children; rather they are required to conduct individual and family assessments prior to making a durable decision about each child. Children at the border shall not be refused entry without an adequate and individualised analysis of their request and due guarantees consistent with a best-interest determination.

2. All children have the right to life, survival and development. All children have a right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, educational and social development. States have a duty to anticipate and prevent harm, including the triggers of child migration, and to invest in robust search and rescue operations to avert harmful migration outcomes. Sustained investment in material and social assistance, and livelihood opportunities is a critical prerequisite to preventing life-threatening journeys and enabling the child to develop.

3. Children have the right to liberty of movement within their State, and to leave their State and any other. Children have the right to migrate in search of family life, safety or opportunity. In particular, they have a right to flee violence and danger.

4. The detention of children because of their or their parents' migration status constitutes a child rights violation and always contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child. States should expeditiously and completely cease detention of migration-affected children and allow children to remain with family and/or guardians in non-custodial, community-based contexts while their immigration status is being resolved.

5. During all phases of migration, children shall not be separated from their parents or primary caregivers (unless it is in their best interests). States shall not separate children from their families (for example, by instituting onerous and protracted family reunification procedures, denying the portability of accrued social security benefits, detaining irregular migrants accompanied by children, deporting parents of minor citizens, or refusing to allow children to accompany migrant worker parents). Conversely, forced expulsion of a child should never be considered an acceptable means of family reunification or assumed automatically to be in the best interests of the child. Any expulsion of a child must be safe, and in the child's best interests. Where the expulsion concerns a child separated from family, it shall be accompanied and monitored.

6. No child is Illegal – children should be protected against all forms of discrimination. The criminalisation and stigmatisation of children on the move, and other children affected by migration, violate this principle. States and other actors should use non-discriminatory terminology when referring to migrants and their children.

7. Child protection systems shall protect all children, including children on the move and children affected by migration. In their design and implementation, national child protection systems shall take into account the distinctive needs and views of children on the move and other children affected by migration. States shall protect children against exploitation, violence, abuse and other crimes, and against resorting to crime or sexual exploitation to meet their basic needs. States and regional organisations have a responsibility to ensure a continuum of protection between local government authorities and States through which children travel, and to promote harmonised protection practices developed by local communities where appropriate.

8. Migration management measures shall not adversely affect children's human rights. States shall respect the rights of children guaranteed by international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, including the principle of non-refoulement, and any child-specific protection measures. States have a duty to ensure accurate identification of children, to evaluate the impact of laws and policies on children on the move (and other children affected by migration) and to avoid adverse impacts. Deliberately making transport unsafe to deter migrants from travelling can never be justified. Children require security and stability for healthy development. States that only consider the best interests of the child until the age of 18 (or only grant children authorisation to remain on their territory until that age) have an adverse impact on children's rights.

9. Children have a right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken into consideration in accordance with their age, maturity and understanding of the options available. States shall ensure that children affected by migration, whether or not in their State of origin, have effective access at all stages of migration to quality information and free of charge legal representation, interpretation, and, if they are unaccompanied or separated, to guardianship.

Recommended Principles for Children on the Move and Other Children affected by Migration (2016) available at: *https://principlesforcom.jimdo.com*

2.1.2 Understand which groups of children you are working with

The term 'children on the move' encompasses a wide group of children including children who are: migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied and separated, internally displaced, trafficked, Roma children or other nomadic groups. Some children may move in and out of different categories within the same journey or over time.[12]

When designing programmes, it is important to first understand which groups of children on the move are present in your context, so that you can identify which duty bearers are responsible to fulfil their rights, and which children and families need to be consulted to assess and better understand their particular needs.

In order to inform the assessments, staff should ensure that they understand legal definitions relating to who is a refugee child, an asylum seeker, a displaced child, a migrant child etc. For example, in one country a 17-year-old refugee in may have the right to work, whereas an asylum seeker won't. There could be restrictions on access to education or healthcare depending on a child's status.

Some definitions

Migrant: There is no universally accepted definition of a migrant. The word is usually understood to apply when the individual concerned has made the decision to migrate freely, for reasons of "personal convenience", with no external compelling factor. This term therefore applies to persons, and family members, who move to another country or region to better their material or social conditions and improve the prospects for themselves or their family.[13]

Irregular migrant: This usually means someone who, owing to illegal entry or the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country. The term applies to migrants who infringe a country's admission rules and anyone who is not authorised to remain in the country where he or she is living. Irregular migrants are also called undocumented migrants or migrants in an irregular situation.[14] Save the Children, together with other human rights focused agencies, does not use the term 'illegal migrant', as it implies criminality. Migration in itself is not a crime, and the term is discriminatory since illegality as a status when applied to migrants is used to deny access to rights and leads to a perception, and policies, that legitimise prosecution and punishment.

Refugee: A refugee is a person who meets the criteria of the UNHCR Statute and qualifies for the protection of the United Nations, provided by the High Commissioner, regardless of whether or not s/he is in a country that is a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951[15] or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees[16], or whether or not s/he has been recognised by the host country as a refugee under either of these instruments.[17]

Asylum seeker: Persons who are seeking to be admitted into a country as refugees and awaiting decision on their application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments are known as asylum seekers. If their application is refused, they must leave the country and may be expelled, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other grounds.[18]

An internally displaced person (IDP) is someone who has been forced or obliged to leave their places of habitual residence, usually as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who has not crossed an internationally recognised State border.[19]

Unaccompanied children (also called unaccompanied minors) are those separated from both parents or from their previous legal or primary caregiver and other relatives. They are typically either with other unrelated adults who are not by law or custom responsible for their care, or with no adult care. They may be with other children who may or may not be related to them.[20]

Separated children are those not with parents or with their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but with relatives / extended family or others with a customary responsibility (defined in context) or in government regulated care placement.[21]

A trafficked child is a child who has been recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received with the purpose of exploitation.[22]

Nomadic children are members of families and communities who live in different locations, moving from one place to another.

Roma children are children who are part of the Roma ethnic group, the largest ethnic minority group in Europe. The term encompasses diverse groups with different names, such as Gypsies, Travellers, Manouches, Ashkali, Sinti and Boyash, and RAE (Roman, Ashkali and Egyptian).[23]

Mixed flows: This term describes complex population movements including refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants and other migrants.[24]

Forced migration: This is a general term used to describe a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or human-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons due to conflict, as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects).[25]

Non refoulement: This term refers to a fundamental principle laid down in the Geneva Convention which forbids a country receiving asylum seekers from returning them to a country in which their "life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion." (Art. 33 (1) and (2), Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951.)

For other terms relating to migration see:

International Organization for Migration (2016) *International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration*
UNHCR (2017) *Persons in need of international protection – Refworld*

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2016) *Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations*

2.1.3 Understand relevant legal and policy frameworks and international standards

Programming and advocacy should support efforts to uphold the human rights of children. International humanitarian law, refugee law and human rights law are complementary bodies of law that share a common goal, the protection of the lives, health and dignity of persons. It is important that staff understand relevant legal and policy frameworks and standards concerning the specific groups of children on the move that they are working with, so that laws can be used to defend their rights.

PHOTO: GABRIELE FRANÇOIS CASINI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Refugees on their way to attempt to cross the border into Macedonia. Among them there were many families with young children and babies.

International conventions and standards

The following international conventions and standards provide some important benchmarks for working with children on the move.

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989
- UN Declaration of Human Rights 1948 *(especially article 13, which concerns rights to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State, and right to leave any country, including one's own, and to return to one's country)*
- Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6: Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, 2005
- Committee on the Rights of the Child 2012 Day of General Discussion: The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration
- Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration
- Consultative Opinion 17/2002, Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Consultative Opinion 21/2014, Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 14: The right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration, 2013
- Resolution 12/6 of the UN Human Rights Council (Human rights of migrants: migration and the human rights of the child) 12 October 2009
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 and its 1967 Protocol
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, 18 December 1990
- Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000
- Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 25 May 2000

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, 14 April 2014
- Hague Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children (Hague Convention 1996)
- International legal instruments dealing with the rights of internally displaced persons, including: UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
- UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2010)
- Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (Child Protection Working Group, Global Protection Cluster, 2012)

Other standards may also be relevant when examining reasons why children are on the move, and the discrimination they can face:

- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 12 December 2006
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 21 December 1965
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16 December 1966
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 18 December 1979

A number of **regional and sub-regional standards safeguard children** in Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Asia-Pacific region, while **each State has its own national laws and policies for child protection.** For example, in West Africa there is an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment. It is crucial that you identify and use relevant national and regional laws, policies and conventions.

Source: *International Social Service (2017) Children on the Move: from protection towards a quality sustainable solution: A practical guide.*

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and Global Compacts

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of commitments to enhance the protection of refugees and migrants, known as the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.* The Declaration reaffirms the importance of the international protection regime, and commits States to strengthening and enhancing mechanisms to protect people on the move. It paves the way for the adoption of two new Global Compacts in 2018: one on refugees, and one for safe, orderly and regular migration.

In the New York Declaration, States:

- expressed profound solidarity with those who are forced to flee;
- reaffirmed their obligations to fully respect the human rights of refugees and migrants;
- pledged their robust support to those countries affected by large movements of refugees and migrants;
- underlined the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime;
- recognized the burdens that large movements of refugees place on national resources, especially in the case of developing countries; and
- agreed to work towards the adoption of a Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Fact sheet on the Global Compacts

2.1.4 Recognise children's agency and supporting meaningful participation

Girls and boys should be recognised and engaged as social actors who influence and make decisions and navigate risks, especially as they get older.[26] Children and young people may choose to migrate even if they are aware of the risks, thus it is crucial to work in collaboration with boys and girls to understand their motivations for migration, and to design programmes with them that build on their own strengths, resilience and positive coping strategies, while also supporting them to make informed decisions and to minimise risks.[27] Opportunities for informed children's participation enhance their protection and well-being.[28, 29] Social networks among children and young people should be strengthened, and child- and youth-led awareness, action and advocacy initiatives to prevent unsafe migration and to protect children on the move should be supported.

It is also important to recognise that some girls and boys have less or no say in decisions affecting them, but are compelled to migrate by their parents/caregivers, either alone or together with family members or other adults.[30] There is a need to understand local conceptions of childhood, including an understanding of how gender, age and other factors influence expectations and choices of girls and boys.[31] Furthermore, children's participation in decision making can sometimes make boys and girls more vulnerable to risks, especially when decisions are not informed by the potential risks associated with their choices.

Participatory programming is required to take into consideration the views, experiences and aspirations of girls, boys, fathers, mothers and caregivers. Activities should include sensitisation of adults (parents, caregivers, professionals, government officials including border officials and police) to listen to girls and boys, to involve them in decisions affecting them, and to take their views seriously. Children and young people should be informed and meaningfully involved in each stage of programming, with efforts to reach and engage girls and boys of different age groups with a focus on their capacities and interests. Special efforts are needed to reach and engage children with disabilities.

All processes in which a child or children are heard and participate, must be:

1. transparent and informative
2. voluntary
3. respectful
4. relevant
5. child friendly
6. inclusive
7. supported by training (for adults and children)
8. safe and sensitive to risk
9. accountable

Different forms of participation can be supported, including: consultation, collaborative participation, and child-led participation. Furthermore, internationally agreed basic requirements for effective and ethical children's participation should be used as a tool to plan, monitor and implement children's participation in programmes with children on the move. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 12[32] sets out nine basic requirements for effective and ethical participation.

"Participation is crucial at each of the stages. This work will only work if we listen to children's views and needs at each step of the journey."

(Save the Children staff member)

Resources to help you support children's participation

Save the Children has produced a guide to help staff develop their own best practice in supporting children's participation and pilot new ways of involving children. *Putting children at the centre. A practical guide to children's participation.*

Children's participation in the analysis, planning and design of programmes. A guide for Save the Children staff includes guidance and practical tools to support children's participation in analysis and programme design. It also includes details on the nine requirements for effective and ethical participation.

The Children's Environments Research Group of the City University of New York in collaboration with Save the Children Norway, WorldVision, UNICEF and Childwatch International, have created a resource kit to support the capacities of children and young people to self-organise and fulfil their rights, in partnership with adults. This module can be useful to help strengthen existing groups and networks among children on the move: *The Article 15 Resource Kit: Exploring What is a good group [Module 3]*

In each subsequent section of this publication, practical case examples and other relevant guidance are provided to support children's active participation in decision making processes affecting them prior to migration, during migration and displacement, and in efforts to identify and secure sustainable solutions.

2.1.5 Integrate cross-cutting issues (gender, disability, resilience, child safeguarding)

When preparing for assessments and designing, implementing and monitoring programmes to protect children on the move it is important to give careful consideration to cross-cutting issue such as gender, age, disability, resilience and other diversity factors from the very start.

Save the Children strives to achieve **gender equality** as a minimum, and also to be **gender transformative.** Gender equality refers to the absence of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, where all people are recognised, respected and valued for their capacities and potential as individuals and members of society. Being gender transformative means using a gender-sensitive approach and promoting gender equality, while working with key stakeholders to identify, address, and positively transform the root causes of gender inequality with and for women and men, girls and boys, shifting unequal power relations to enable the full enjoyment of human rights for both sexes.

Gender affects all aspects of the migration experience of both boys and girls, including the reason for migrating, the decision of who will migrate, the social networks migrants use to move and their experiences of integration in the destination country.[33] Working from a gender perspective involves more than simply disaggregating data by sex or considering sex as just another variable in the equation, similar to age or education level. If we understand that gender relations affect (and are affected by) each step in the migration cycle, then it is necessary to incorporate gender as a central analytical category.[34] During assessments it is therefore important to organise separate consultations with girls and boys of different age groups and backgrounds. For example, the experiences, needs and interests of unaccompanied adolescent boys may be different from the experiences, needs and interests of adolescent girls, which in turn will be different from the needs of younger girls and boys who are more likely to be migrating with their families. Moreover, the inter-sectionality between different diversity factors, including gender, ethnicity, disability, age and family income should be explored to better understand and respond to the diversity of children's experiences. Staff should be open and sensitive to the needs of LGBTQ+ children. It is well known that this group of children is at increased risk of discrimination, abuse and exploitation, given low levels of recognition and acceptance of them in many cultures. This, as well as the lack of opportunities can be strong push factors for migrating. They may also choose to migrate to societies that are more tolerant and open to diverse expressions of gender.[35] As such, they deserve specific attention, and staff teams may themselves need support to improve their acceptance and understanding of the needs of this group.

Existing guidance from Save the Children and other organisations should be applied to support gender-transformative programming in our work with children on the move:

Guidance and tools to support gender-transformative programming

From Save the Children:
Save the Children Gender Equality Policy: Transforming Inequalities, Transforming Lives (2017) guides Save the Children to ensure that we can programme, advocate, partner, and organize for gender equality.

The gender equality marker (2017) is a tool that provides guidance on and measures – at the design stage – whether or not a project proposal or concept note meets Save the Children's essential quality standard to be gender sensitive at minimum, and gender transformative whenever possible.

Save the Children Gender Equality Program Guidance and Toolkit: Engendering transformational change provides guidance and tools for Save the Children staff and partners to meaningfully and strategically integrate a gender equality focus across our programming work.

From UN Women:
Gender on the Move: Working on the migration-development nexus from a gender perspective (Second Edition). This manual addresses the intersection between migration, gender equality and human development and aims to develop the skills and empower those who work at the nexuses of migration and human development.

Staff and volunteers should also receive appropriate human rights training, including sensitivity on gender: threat of gender-based violence is pervasive for women and girls during migration and displacement and often especially high for unaccompanied minors, those with disabilities and sexual minorities. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence should be integrated as standard operating procedure at every stage of the humanitarian response.[36]

Working with children on the move who have disabilities has been identified as a significant gap for Save the Children. Special efforts should therefore be made to reach and engage children with disabilities (with physical and/or cognitive impairments) and their caregivers to better identify and respond to their specific needs and concerns.

Guidance and tools for working with children with disabilities

Save the Children Norway (2015) *Review of Save the Children's Support to Promote the Rights of Children With Disabilities* This series of reports documents the findings, analysis and recommendations of a review of Save Children's support to promote the rights of children with disabilities.

Save the Children (2010) *See me, hear me. A guide to using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*

Programmes should be designed in ways which identify and build on the **strengths and resilience** of girls, boys, families, communities, government authorities, and other relevant actors, and reduce vulnerabilities and risks. Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction processes should include efforts by girls, boys, male and female caregivers, community members and government officials to reduce vulnerabilities, to prevent unsafe migration, and to strengthen resilience.

A core focus on child safeguarding, assessing and mitigating risks, ensuring adherence to **codes of conduct** and **child safeguarding procedures** is also fundamental to safe, quality and effective programming with children on the move. When migration is due to armed conflict, gangs or violence, programme plans should contain special security protocols. Attention to staff and volunteers' well-being is important. All staff and volunteers working with children on the move, especially if working in humanitarian contexts, should be trained in *Save the Children Psychological First Aid Training Manual for Child Practitioners.* Psychological First Aid (PFA) is a way of communicating with children and adults in a way that helps them to feel secure and to have their immediate emotional needs met after a difficult event. The training includes how to communicate with, listen to, and support children, and where to refer children and caregivers for further support.

2.1.6 Strengthen existing government systems, including transnational systems, to be more accountable for children's rights

Protection programming for children on the move should be designed to strengthen government systems at local, sub-national, national, transnational, regional and global levels.

Government systems, including transnational systems, should be strengthened to prevent unsafe migration and to better protect children on the move and secure solutions based on children's views and best interests.

Referral mechanisms should be strengthened to ensure that children and families on the move have non-discriminatory access to services (protection, health, education, psychosocial, legal, social protection, etc). National and transnational child protection policies, including policies and measures on care, child labour, access to justice and due legal process, migration and asylum procedures should be developed and/or reviewed, and advocacy undertaken to ensure that the policies address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children on the move in integrated ways. *A Joint Statement of the InterAgency Group on Children on the Move* to the UNCRC Committee in (2012, p.3 footnote)[37] described how:

> A child-rights centred national protection system should provide non-discriminatory access to all children within the jurisdiction of the State, including migrant, refugee and stateless children. Relevant processes and procedures to assist children travelling as part of mixed movements can include mechanisms to address the child's immediate needs, the appointment of a legal guardian, age assessments, family tracing and identification, restoring family and community links when in the child's best interest, and implementation and monitoring of a durable solution based [on] the child's best interests.

System strengthening protection programming with children on the move requires strategic partnerships with government, UN agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNODC, UN Women, UNDP etc), other INGOs, national and local civil society organisations, including children's and young people's organisations, community, academia, media, and other relevant stakeholders.

In refugee settings, UNHCR is accountable for ensuring international protection and seeking durable solutions, and in exceptional situations where States are unable or unwilling to fulfil their responsibilities toward refugee children, UNHCR, in line with its international protection mandate, may temporarily substitute aspects of the child protection system for children of concern.[38] UNHCR leads coordination and ensures collaboration with state actors, other UN agencies and NGOs to provide support. In non-refugee emergency settings the Cluster Approach has been used as a standardised

but adaptable method for coordinating humanitarian action among different agencies. In most contexts short and long term strategic efforts are made to strengthen government capacities and accountability for child protection.[39] As the leading international organisation for migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) also plays a crucial role to uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants, by assisting efforts to overcome challenges of migration management, and encouraging social and economic development through migration.

Strengthening of community-based child protection mechanisms (informal or formal) with links to formal protection systems are also a crucial element of system building efforts. Enhancing indigenous protection mechanisms has the potential to reduce vulnerability of children at risk of unsafe migration and to prevent and protect migrant girls and boys[40] Moreover, children's participation in community-based child protection mechanisms, and in practice and policy development processes, can enhance the development and monitoring of more relevant and effective practices and policies.

2.1.7 Support multi-sectoral programming

Collaborative, integrated, and inter-sectoral programming helps to tackle the root causes of unsafe migration, to address child protection concerns in more effective ways, and to respond to child protection needs in more holistic ways.[41] Collaboration between protection, education, livelihoods, child poverty, resilience, and child rights governance sector staff is crucial when designing, implementing and monitoring programmes for children on the move. Referral pathways are an essential component of child protection programming to ensure access to education, health, social protection, legal, psychosocial, care or protection services *(see case examples in section 3.4)*.

Multi-sectoral collaborations can address push and pull factors associated with unsafe migration, to better protect children on the move and to support durable solutions, by:

- improving non-discriminatory access to quality, safe, and relevant education
- preventing and addressing discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion, disability or other factors while promoting gender transformative approaches
- increasing access to child-sensitive social protection and supporting skills development and livelihood opportunities for parents, caregivers, children and young people
- increasing budget investments, and the quality, relevance and responsiveness of basic services (education, protection, health, social protection, etc)
- supporting children's participation in good governance, reconstruction, peace building and social cohesion processes
- strengthening children, families and community resilience and enhancing community-based preparedness and disaster risk reduction to reduce vulnerabilities and risks.

Guidance and tools for strengthening government systems

West, A. (2008) *Children on the Move in South-East Asia: Why child protection systems are needed.*

Transnational Coordination Mechanisms for the Protection of Children on the Move in the Context of International Migration and the Fulfilment of their Human Rights.

Submission by Save the Children

PHOTO: JONATHAN HYAMS/SAVE THE CHILDREN

A Syrian mother and her daughter walk along the train tracks running from Serbia into Roszke, Hungary to reach a gathering point where refugees and migrants wait for a transit bus.

2.2 Key protection interventions for children on the move

This section provides an overview of protection interventions for children on the move. The table indicates how different interventions to protect children on the move, such as child protection system strengthening, capacity building, case management etc., are relevant across different phases of work, before, while and after children are on the move. Interventions can be tailored to address the specific needs of children at different stages of their journey.

When designing programmes to protect children on the move, you can review the table to consider the range of potential relevant interventions. Strategic intervention choices should be informed by assessment findings and research to best respond to the specific child rights violations, identified needs of children and families on the move, and capacity gap analysis, in each socio-political and cultural context.

A number of interventions shown in the table are described in sections 3, 4, and 5 of the report, together with links to additional guidance. For interventions which are not described, some key links are included in the table.

An overview of protection interventions for children on the move:

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
Assessments, research and analysis of children at risk of unsafe migration and children on the move	**Assessments and research** on children on the move (including baselines, participatory research, vulnerability assessments, Child Rights Situation Analyses) with disaggregated data (gender, age, legal status, care status, nationality, ethnicity, disability etc) to inform programme design and advocacy work.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Prevention of unsafe migration by sharing information on: • ***risks faced by children on the move*** • ***trafficking risks*** • ***GBV risks*** • ***how to keep safe*** • ***their rights and available services***	Information sharing and training with girls, boys, parents, caregivers and wider community members is crucial to **prevent unsafe migration.** Children and young people, as well as teachers and members of informal or formal local protection structures, can be actively involved in information sharing **using creative and child friendly methods** (e.g. games, booklets, drama, songs, community radio, and **peer education.** **Information sharing about access to relevant services, practical advice on ways to keep safe, and legal advice** is also vital when children and families are on the move. Information can be shared through mobile teams, information hubs, drop-in centres, child-friendly spaces, and access to helplines and mobile phones and through new technologies.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Strengthen child protection systems at local, sub-national, national, transnational and global levels.	Protection programming for children on the move should be supported by an overarching child protection system strengthening approach encompassing: • **Advocacy for refinements, implementation and monitoring of national, transnational and global policies, laws and programmes** that protect children from trafficking, unsafe migration, violence, exploitation, injustice, detention, inappropriate care, and forced returns.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
	• **Advocacy to increase the number and quality of social welfare workers who are trained to support children and families on the move** and undertake child protection case management. • **Strengthening protection services for female and male survivors of violence and trafficking.** *Handbook for Coordinating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings* • **Strengthening transnational and national coordination mechanisms** to prevent unsafe migration, to support child protection case management, and to support a coordinated response to influxes of refugees, migrants and/or asylum-seeking children and families. • **Supporting children's participation in policy and practice developments** concerning children on the move and **strengthening child-friendly reporting and response mechanisms** • **Strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms and referral systems.**			
Support capacity building of government (police, border and immigration officials), civil society and community actors to increase protection of the rights of children on the move.	**Capacity building of police, border, and immigration officials** on child rights, protection (including from GBV), quality care, humanitarian and legal frameworks, and communication with children. **Capacity building of civil society and government partners** on child rights, protection (including from GBV), children on the move, child participation, case management, family tracing and reunification, appropriate care, and quality standards has also enhanced practice and policy implementation in children's best interests. **Awareness raising and capacity building with community and religious elders, members of existing community-based protection groups and other informal actors** can prevent unsafe migration, GBV, trafficking, and ensure referrals for child protection.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Child protection case management	**Build systems, procedures and capacity of government and/or civil society social workers to implement child protection case management** with unaccompanied and separated children, and for children on the move who face significant protection risks or inappropriate care. **Advocate for and support use of child protection information databases** (e.g. Child Protection Information Management System CP-IMS) that can be used within countries and across borders.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
Family tracing and reunification	**Support capacity building and procedures for family tracing and reunification** by government and other concerned agencies whenever it is in the best interests of the child.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Best Interest Assessments (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID)	**Collaborate with UNHCR** to implement the Best Interest Assessments and Best Interests Determination Procedures for unaccompanied children. **Support government authorities** and other key actors to develop and implement standard operating procedures and formats for BIA and BID for other groups of children on the move.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Activate and strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms (CBCPMs)	**Activate and strengthen CBCPMs in communities and camps through training and mentoring to:** • identify, monitor and support vulnerable children and families, including unaccompanied and separated children. • develop mechanisms to identify migrant girls immediately on arrival before they get absorbed into dangerous and invisible situations • raise awareness of risks of unsafe migration, trafficking, and how to keep safe • establish early warning systems to prevent and respond to child separation • support "children left behind" and kinship caregivers when parents migrate for work. *Special Cost of Migration on Children Left Behind: Research summary*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Empowerment and participation of children and young people to strengthen their knowledge, skills, choices, and confidence to influence decisions affecting them.	**Use gender-sensitive and age-appropriate methodologies to empower and support meaningful participation of children** on the move, or at risk of unsafe migration, and wherever possible **use gender-transformative** methodologies: • Strengthen **community-based child and youth groups** that are gender transformative and inclusive. • **Organise training with girls and boys and support peer education** on child rights, life skills, unsafe migration, trafficking, gender equality, gender-based violence, and child protection. • **Support informal social networks** and groups of girls and/or boys among children on the move in camps and communities. • **Support associations and networks of migrant children and young people, including movements of working children and youth** to prevent unsafe migration and to support and protect children on the move. • **Support child- and youth-led action and advocacy initiatives** on safe migration, care, protection, and peace building.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
	• **Support girl-led advocacy initiatives to make girls on the move more visible** and promote increased understanding of the specific push factors, needs and motivations of girls on the move • **Support children's participation in practice and policy developments concerning them** (care, protection, justice, governance, reconstruction, peace building, return and reintegration) at local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels.			
Strengthen civil society networks and inter-agency platforms that support rights-based research, programming and advocacy on children (and people) on the move.	**Strengthen civil society networks and platforms that support research, programming and advocacy on girls and boys on the move and safe migration,** including platforms like the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat in the Horn of Africa and Yemen sub-region *http://www.regionalmms.org/index.php*, and the M-Hub in Northern Africa *http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Family strengthening and support for family-based care and protection	As part of efforts to address root causes and triggers for unsafe migration, family strengthening measures include: • **Livelihood and income generation schemes** for parents and caregivers from vulnerable families *Household Economic Strengthening in Support of Prevention of Family-Child Separation and Children's Reintegration in Family Care* • *Parenting without violence* engaging fathers, mothers and other caregivers in positive parenting through the common approach. • **Advocacy for child-sensitive social protection and cash assistance.**	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Support appropriate alternative care especially of unaccompanied children, and children subject to immigration control	A range of programming and advocacy efforts are needed to end the detention of children for immigration purposes and to support appropriate alternative care of unaccompanied children which meets quality care standards. Efforts include: • **Strengthening capacity for informal and formal foster care** of unaccompanied children. • **Strengthening application of quality care standards** in reception and transit centres. • **Advocating for an end to immigration detention of children** and supporting the development of alternative care options. • **Supporting interim shelters, small group homes, or care facilities** in camps, transit hubs, border towns, and destination points, ensuring application of quality standards.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
	• Advocate for and support improved **use of guardianship** for unaccompanied and separated children. • **Supporting housing units, group homes, and/or independent living and after care** facilities for unaccompanied young people in destination points.			
Support the psychosocial well-being of children on the move	It is important that all protection interventions integrate a focus on supporting children's and caregivers' mental health and psychosocial well-being. The selection of programmes needs to take into consideration the emotional and physical stability of children and caregivers and some more in-depth interventions should not be started, if for example the children will be moving on quickly. Key mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions include: • **Running gender sensitive child- and youth-friendly Spaces** in refugee and IDP camps, communities along key transit routes, border areas, reception centres, and destination locations. • **Train protection actors to use psychosocial tools** with unaccompanied, separated and migrant children (such as *'Map of Children on the Move'* or *Boxes of Wonder*) • **Provide migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children access and referrals to counsellors, psychologists, and other psychosocial services** (when required, including when they experience sexual violence). • **Implement the** *Child/Youth Resilience* package or *HEART (Healing and education through the arts)* – an arts-based psychosocial support package. (Information soon to be available on OneNet – Use the Knowledge Builder to identify which intervention to use in different situations). • **Establish Community Based Mechanisms for CP and MHPSS** (UNHCR (2017) *Community based protection and mental health psychosocial support)* • **Interventions to support caregiver wellbeing,** such as support Groups for Caregivers or safe spaces for breastfeeding.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Advocacy for birth registration, identity papers and/or residence permit; and advocacy for rights of stateless people	Advocacy for birth registration, identity papers and/or residence permits so that migrants and refugees can access services as a citizen is important in terms of: i) addressing root causes of vulnerability and barriers to accessing basic services, ii) reducing risks of unsafe migration and trafficking; and iii) contributing to durable solutions.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
	Advocacy for citizenship of stateless people and increased protection of their rights http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/what-does-it-mean-to-be-stateless/			
Multi-sectoral programming and advocacy for policies and schemes that reduce poverty and vulnerability and increase access to services *(Child Rights Governance, education, health, protection, legal, social protection, livelihood)*	Multi-sectoral programming and advocacy are crucial in order to more effectively address the root causes and triggers of unsafe migration and to meet the holistic needs of children and families. Methods can include: • Advocacy for non-discriminatory access to services, increased investments in basic services and child-sensitive social protection schemes (especially for vulnerable families). • Supporting children's access to inclusive quality education (formal and or informal). *Promising Practices in Refugee Education: Synthesis report* • Improved livelihood and child-sensitive social protection schemes. *Child Sensitive Social Protection Position Paper* • Support for **vocational skills training and transition to decent work for adolescents** is important i) to address root causes of unsafe migration, ii) to support the survival and well-being of children on the move, especially where they remain for a long time in transit areas, and iii) as part of durable solutions. *https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/search/site/youth%20employment%20programs*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Protect children from harmful work, strengthen children's resilience and support life skills	Efforts to protect children from harmful work including awareness raising with parents, caregivers and employers to prevent children engaging in harmful work, support for working children's participation to defend their rights, family strengthening, and improved access to quality education. *Save the Children's Child Protection Strategy 2013-2015: Children and harmful work* Work on *Adolescent Skills for Successful Transitions* promotes the agency and life skills and provides adolescents with relevant market-based skills and opportunities for transitioning to decent work. **Implement the *Child/Youth Resilience* package**	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Support voluntary returns and reintegration	Ensure linkages between different country offices to more effectively **support preparedness and follow up to support voluntary return processes and reintegration** ensuring non-discriminatory access to basic services. Remain mindful of the different risks to the safety of girls and boys in the return context.		✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

INTERVENTION	KEY CONSIDERATIONS	RELEVANT TO WORK		
		PRE-MIGRATION	IN MIGRATION	DURABLE SOLUTIONS
Support community integration	**As part of durable solutions community integration of children and families who stay in destination areas** should be supported through: language training; community-based activities; and mentoring and coaching schemes. During protracted stays in transit areas, it is also important that children and family members learn local languages and are integrated as much as possible into local communities. Efforts to support community integration among different religious and ethnic groups, and/or among different income groups can also be relevant to efforts to prevent the root causes of insecurity and forced displacement.	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*
Promote social cohesion, address discrimination and gender based violence	In order to address root causes of unsafe migration and to support durable solutions it is important to: • **Support community mobilisation** and children's participation to enhance social cohesion and *peace building* and to take initiatives to address different forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, disability or other factors, including gender-based violence. • **Identify roles men and boys can play** in displaced / migrant populations to support gender equality for girls and women on the move. • *Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*	✔ *Yes*

A family shelters in an IDP camp in North East Nigeria.

Section 3

Pre-flight, pre-migration: Key Protection Interventions

Rohingya children have fled from Myanmar to the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazar, where there are widespread shortages of food, water and shelter.

MARIA DE LA GUARDIA / SAVE THE CHILDREN

"It is better to have some good pieces of advice when you start this journey – advice that you get from people who already crossed the same route. So you know what to expect before you set off."

(child on the move, Serbia)

Work to address root causes of forced displacement and migration, including conflict, insecurity, violence, poverty and inequality (based on gender, ethnicity, and other factors), is important to support sustainable solutions where girls, boys and families have non-discriminatory access to quality basic services, and peace and security in their communities.

Recognising that flight and irregular migration are at times a much-needed protection and coping mechanism, Save the Children does not 'prevent' any individual from fleeing or migrating. Rather, Save the Children seeks to prevent causes and triggers of unsafe migration and displacement at household and community level, and to help children and families make safe and informed choices about what is in their best interests.

This section provides brief descriptions, practical examples, and links to existing guidance and tools on interventions that can be implemented to prevent unsafe migration, to reduce vulnerabilities and risks, and to enhance the resilience and protection of children and families who choose to migrate:

This section addresses:

1. Research and assessment tools to better understand risks, vulnerabilities, capacities, and reasons why girls and boys migrate
2. Information sharing and training initiatives with girls, boys, parents, caregivers and other community stakeholders to prevent unsafe migration and trafficking
3. Advocacy for birth registration and identity papers
4. Multi-sectoral collaboration to address root causes of unsafe migration

Key learning and critical issues affecting prevention of unsafe migration/ displacement at origins:

- Community based information sharing about the rights of people on the move and information to prevent unsafe migration using creative approaches such as theatre, dialogue, music and radio and involving girls, boys, parents and caregivers, traditional and religious elders and others, has been shown to be more effective than relying on written information or messages on mobile phones. Creative methods increase opportunities for dialogue and reflection, and community conversations are important to ensure inter-generational dialogue among children, young people and adults.
- Information about risks needs to be based on real risks and updated information and analysis. For example, it is not helpful to spread information and fears about strangers kidnapping and trafficking children if many trafficking cases in their locality involve local intermediaries who the child may know and trust.
- Even when children, young people and family members are aware of the risks they face, they may still decide to migrate due to the strength of push and pull factors. It is crucial that information sharing includes a focus both on risks and on practical tips to keep girls, boys, women and men safe while on the move, to increase informed decision making and protective practices. Research has shown that children and families want practical information on where to go, how to navigate systems along the routes, and safe places and agencies to refer to while in transit.
- Multi-sectoral programming is essential to address push and pull factors which contribute to unsafe migration.
- Work to strengthen social cohesion between migrant or displaced and host communities, and to support children and young people's participation in peacebuilding, is relevant to both prevention of migration and to durable solutions.
- Innovations in mobile phone technologies may support: access to mobile savings; access to information and communication sharing updates; and improved monitoring, support and access to information to children on the move.

3.1 Research and assessment tools to better understand risks, vulnerabilities, capacities, and reasons why children move

To inform effective work to prevent unsafe migration, it is important to undertake research or assessments to understand child migration (including gender related aspects of migration) in the specific socio-cultural, economic and political context, and to keep abreast of changing social dynamics. Research can help you identify which children are most at risk of unsafe migration and understand the different motivations or reasons why boys and girls migrate, either as unaccompanied children or together with family members. In high-risk sending areas it can also be illuminating to research why some boys and girls stay.

Save the Children does not have one comprehensive tool for assessments with children at their place of origin. We have used a range of research and assessment tools including: participatory research, KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) studies, vulnerability assessments, community mapping and services mapping of assets, child rights situation analysis methodologies (including capacity gap analysis), gender analysis tools, and baselines *(see case examples 6.2.1)*.

Save the Children has developed indicators on migration and displacement to include in a Child Rights Situational Analysis (CRSA) *(see guidance list below)*. Asset mapping and capacity gap analysis tools can help identify existing resources and services that can be built on, and capacity gaps that need to be addressed, to enhance accountability of relevant duty bearers.

For each type of assessment it is crucial to disaggregate data according to gender, ethnicity, age, disability, legal status, care status, nationality, family income, and other relevant factors.

Destruction caused by Cyclone Mora.

PHOTO: SAIKAT MOJUMDER/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Case example 3.1.1 Baseline study on migration of unaccompanied girls, boys and adolescents, Central America

When planning a regional project to prevent the forced migration of unaccompanied girls, boys, and adolescents in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, Save the Children Mexico, the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID) and the German Cooperation Agency for Development (GIZ) *(see also case example 3.2.3)* carried out a baseline study in to understand the causes of migration.

Children and adolescents were key actors in the project and provided information concerning: their livelihoods, relationships with their peers, school managers and teachers, fathers and mothers; their expectations, the opportunities they envision to continue studying; their perception of migration; the characteristics of their homes, schools and their community; the conditions of violence; and how they use their time. Other key stakeholders who are involved in children's daily lives (mothers, fathers, teachers and school managers) were also surveyed to gain their insights into relationships and other factors in homes, schools and communities which might influence decisions relating to children's migration. The data collection instruments included: a survey for children from 6 to 12 years old, and for adolescents from 13 to 17 years old; a survey for mothers and fathers; a survey with teachers and managers; an assessment of school conditions; and a mapping of key actors (local and national authorities, civil society organisations and social organisations).

Save the Children Mexico, AMEXCID and GIZ (2017) Análisis de línea de base.

Case example 3.1.2 Research and dialogue undertaken by members of the Child Mobility Platform, West Africa

A regional, inter-agency initiative for West and Central Africa – the Child Mobility Platform[42] – carried out research and facilitated dialogue on child protection vis-à-vis mobility. The Child Mobility Platform underlined the need to base programme interventions on a clear understanding of social norms and motivations for moving. The research informed key learning and joint positions to guide its work which emphasise protection, reduced vulnerability and personal development of children; community-based mechanisms for the accompaniment and protection of children; harmonisation between local social norms, national laws and international standards; and effective participation of children and child/youth organisations.

References to different studies are included in: Plan WARO et al., (2012) *Project of Joint Regional Study in the Mobility of Children and Youth in West Africa: Which protection for children involved in mobility in West Africa*

Regional Working Group on Child Protection in West Africa November (2015) *List of Documents about Child Mobility in West Africa*

Guidance and tools for assessments and research with children in areas of origin:

Save the Children Sweden (2007) *Child Migration and the Construction of Vulnerability*

Save the Children (2014) *Save the Children's Child Rights Situation Analysis Guidelines*
This document provides guidance for undertaking a CRSA. It provides useful guidance to identify duty bearers and to undertake Capacity Gap Analysis to better understand why some duty bearers may not be fulfilling their obligations to children.

Save the Children Lebanon (2015) *Activities to Support Communities to Identify Child Protection Issues including tools to identify protection concerns, and community mapping tools focusing on services, attitudes and behaviour which are useful to identify community assets.*

This set of 3 documents from Latin America provide assessment findings and fact sheets from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico:

Save the Children (2016)
Children on the Move: Guatemala

Save the Children (2016)
Children on the Move: Honduras

Save the Children (2016)
Children on the Move: Mexico

Save the Children (2017) *Egypt Service Allocation Tool. Another useful asset mapping tool as it helps to map available services in relation to: youth livelihoods, case management, education, life skills and resilience, and other forms of youth support.*

Save the Children International, Plan International and World Vision International (2018) *Childhood Interrupted: Children's voices from the Rohingya Refugee Crisis*
The report reflects the views, hopes and desires of children that have been affected by the Rohingya Refugee crisis, who were consulted in Bangladesh in December 2017.

UC Hastings, Centre for Gender and Refugee Studies (2015) *Childhood and Migration in Central and North America: Causes, Policies, Practices and Challenges*

Braeden Rogers & Lindsay Stark (2010) Save the Children UK: Mobile Assessment Tool for Children on the Move South Africa Pilot Report
http://www.cpcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/SAPilot_REPORT.pdf
The annexes which accompany the report and which contain the various assessment tools can be found *here*

Guidance and tools specific to gender assessments and research:

CARE Rapid gender analysis toolkit
http://tinyurl.com/ydgmew42

OXFAM quick guide to gender analysis
https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/quick-guide-to-gender-analysis-312432

Women's refugee commission, Emergency Girl Analysis & Integration Matrix | eGAIM
I'm Here 2014 Foundational Report
http://adolescentgirls.womensrefugeecommission.org/im-here/

3.2 Information sharing and training initiatives with girls, boys, parents, caregivers and other community stakeholders to prevent unsafe migration and trafficking

Across diverse contexts, especially in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, Save the Children and their partners have organised information sharing and training initiatives with girls, boys, parents, caregivers, community and religious elders, members of community-based child protection mechanisms, teachers, and local officials to prevent unsafe migration and trafficking. This work is most effective when it draws on information and tips shared by children and families on the move, with efforts to share updated information as contexts change.

Children walk down a dirt road in Ethiopia.

What kind of information should you share?

Information has been shared with and by community members (children and adults) about:

- Risks they are likely to face when they are on the move including risks of exploitation during their journey and at their intended destination (in conflict-affected areas this may also include risks of association with armed groups).
- Risks of trafficking and smuggling and how to avoid being tricked
- Risks of gender-based violence during transit, which are often especially high for unaccompanied minors, children with disabilities and sexual minorities
- Information about border regulations and necessary paper work
- Realistic information about their intended destination – what they should expect and likely challenges they may face (legal, protection, psychosocial, health, education, livelihood, racial, sexual and gender discrimination) including information about migrant rights, labour laws and regulations and how to access services
- The importance of education and skills training before migration
- Child rights and services children are entitled to when on the move and at their destination
- Life skills education and basic financial management training
- Encourage families and children to think about whether it is in their best interests to migrate
- Ensure that everyone, including young children, know their family surname, the name of their village/town and which district, and have key contact numbers in case of separation
- Procedures and costs associated with getting an identity card, birth registration, and/or passport
- Safest travel routes and routes or risks to avoid.
- Services and resource people they can access on route, information hubs, safe places to stay, places to access education, health, protection, safe work, and details of national helplines or other relevant services (such as social groups and networks)
- Labour market and job opportunities on route and ways to protect themselves from exploitation

Practical tips to give a child to keep safe on their journey

These might include:

- Travel with other people you know and trust and avoid travelling alone and/or at night.
- Before you travel, tell someone where you are going
- Notice and remember landmarks during your travel so you know the way back.
- Carry enough money for bus or train journeys and keep money safely.
- Carry a mobile phone, a charger and an adaptor to keep in touch with family and friends. If you haven't got a phone, what other ways can you keep in touch?
- Make yourself a small book with contact details (names, numbers, addresses) of relatives or friends back home, and people they can stay with or get support from on route, and at your destination. Include contacts for any organisations that might help you.
- Carry water, food, and air time (for mobile phone).
- Try to arrange for relatives or friends to meet you on arrival.
- Consider carrying or taking contraceptives.

As illustrated in the brief case examples below, information has been shared through a variety of creative approaches, including:

- life skills workshops and peer education with and by children and young people in communities and schools
- theatre, songs, rap music
- folk art
- games and sports
- child-friendly booklets and cartoons
- community dialogue and workshops which incorporate discussions about risks and protection factors
- mobile phones
- radio programmes.

Case example 3.2.1 Use of theatre, songs, rap, games and peer led awareness raising about key risks and ways to protect themselves when on the move in Africa

In Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, the Regional Project to Support Migrant Children and Young Workers (PRAEJEM) used theatre, music and games to share information on safe migration with children and members of traditional community structures. They organised competitions (with prizes) to encourage children to use creative ways to share messages more widely; the children used rap music, theatre and other forms of creative expression which attracted and engaged their peers.

In Zimbabwe, Save the Children developed a child-friendly booklet on safe migration which has been distributed to children in schools through the rural district education authorities: *Save the Children Zimbabwe child friendly booklet on safe migration,* In Mozambique, a snakes and ladders game has been developed and used with and by children and young people to discuss risks and ways to keep safe: *Save the Children Mozambique Snakes and Ladders Game*

Case example 3.2.2 Peer education to prevent trafficking, south-eastern Europe and South-East Asia

Non-Formal Education of Adolescent Peer Leaders is a guide that provides models of best practice from the Youth Resilience project, part of the Regional Child Trafficking Response Programme implemented by Save the Children and partners in seven countries in south-eastern Europe to support at-risk or trafficked children in Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Romania and Serbia. It integrates theory with practice and focuses on a core training programme that consists of three modules and 45 hours of practical work in the community.

In Serbia, Save the Children's partner Astra supported school-based efforts to prevent human trafficking in primary and secondary schools across Serbia. Astra (2011) *Combating trafficking in human beings. Manual for teachers* was produced as a result of Astra's many years of experience in dealing with the problem of trafficking. It is based on the results of everyday practice in the areas of prevention and education, as well as on the exchange of experience at local and regional levels and cooperation with partners. The manual provides guidance for teachers about how to teach a controversial topic in class, ideas for extra activities, ideas for organising anti-trafficking actions in school, and accompanying materials.

Save the Children has also supported peer education on unsafe migration and trafficking among children and young people in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. Child-led groups have been supported in communities and schools and children have been provided with training and information about child rights, life skills, unsafe migration and trafficking. Children have used creative expression to share risks on unsafe migration and trafficking with their peers. Children were also able to inform community protection groups about their concerns, and vocational skills training and livelihood activities for families were supported.

Case example 3.2.3 Preventing forced migration of unaccompanied children, Central America

In the Northern Triangle of Central America, Save the Children is implementing a three-year regional project (2016–2019) to prevent forced migration of unaccompanied girls and boys, working in collaboration with the Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), and the German Cooperation Agency for Development (GIZ). The project supports child protection system strengthening in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico and activities to prevent unsafe migration in origin communities in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Project la prevencion de la migracion no accompanada de ninas, ninos y adolescentes en comunidades de origen del Triangle norte de Centroamerica.

Following baseline research *(see case example 3.1.1)*, the project supports activities:

1. **To build a culture of peace** in communities and schools through collaboration with local municipal authorities, school authorities, and community actors. Violence in families, schools and communities – including gang violence – is a push factor for unsafe migration. A series of creative workshops are being organised with children, teachers and parents to build a culture of peace, to promote positive discipline and to strengthen skills and values to resolve violence using non-violent approaches. Information about migration is also integrated into the workshop series, with opportunities to discuss risks people face when on the move, and practical advice to keep safe while on the move. Children are empowered to protect themselves and to make informed decisions.
2. **To strengthen local protection systems** that support violence prevention and are better able to respond to protection concerns raised by girls and boys. Alliances are built between various local actors at the community level, government authorities, and among Mexican embassies in the various countries in order to strengthen protection mechanisms at community, national and transnational levels.
3. **To address causes of unsafe migration on unaccompanied children and adolescents** through efforts to improve quality education and education support; prevent violence by building a culture of peace; and to support livelihood activities.
4. **Model interventions** including the development of rights-based baseline survey tools to identify causes of migration; tools to assess school conditions; and methodologies to build a culture of peace.

Save the Children (2017) *Governance Manual Guidelines for the work of committees: by community, country, management and executive Prevention of unaccompanied migration of children and adolescents in communities of origin in the Northern Triangle of Central America.*

Guidance and tools for information sharing and training initiatives to prevent unsafe migration and trafficking:

M Dottridge (2007) *A handbook on planning projects to prevent child trafficking.*

Terre des Hommes (2011) *Exploring methods to protect children on the move. A handbook for organisations wanting to prevent child trafficking, exploitation and the worst forms of child labour*

UNICEF and Terre des Hommes (2006) *Action to prevent child trafficking in South Eastern Europe. A preliminary assessment*

UNHCR (2001) *Prevention And Response To Sexual And Gender-Based Violence In Refugee Situations*

3.3 Advocacy for birth registration and identity papers

People without birth registration or identity cards often lack access to basic services that they require for their survival, development and protection. Stateless children are particularly vulnerable – they may be denied access to education, nutrition and health services, and may experience restricted freedom of movement, arbitrary deportations, social exclusion, and, in some cases, greater vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. Children's stateless status is often a direct result of their parents' own statelessness, which is in turn frequently due to deeply entrenched discrimination against persons of particular racial, ethnic, national or linguistic origins. Gender discrimination in nationality laws is also a leading cause of statelessness and has been recognized by the UN Security Council as a factor that exacerbates the vulnerability of displaced women and children. To prevent vulnerability and unsafe migration it is important to advocate for and to support universal birth registration, with particular efforts to advocate for registration of stateless children and adults. Advocacy for the revision of gender discriminatory nationality laws which prevent women from conferring nationality on their children is also needed.

Partnerships with legal agencies who can identify and address legal obstacles both at the policy and procedural level, and in terms of providing legal support for individual cases, may be needed. If children and family members carry birth registration or other identity papers with them it can support their access to health, education, protection and care services, and social benefits.

Case example 3.3.1. Supporting children to get birth registration and carry identity papers, South-East Asia and Africa

Save the Children has incorporated information sharing and advice to support children, parents and caregivers to obtain and to carry identity cards in regional anti trafficking and migration programmes in South-East Asia and Africa.

In Northern Thailand, Save the Children is supporting legal cases to help stateless children and families get birth registration and identity papers.

In Zimbabwe, Save the Children and partner staff have shared information with community members about the costs of obtaining a passport as while some people were paying smugglers $50 to take them illegally into South Africa, the cost of a passport which would allow them to cross legally was $55.

20 year-old Sarah* with her son Richard* who was born prematurely in Bidi Bidi refugee camp in Yumbe district, Uganda.

PHOTO: SYLVIA NABANOBA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Guidance and tools to support advocacy for birth registration and identity papers

Plan (2014) *Birth Registration in Emergencies - Plan International USA*

UNHCR (undated) What does it mean to be stateless? *http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/what-does-it-mean-to-be-stateless/*

The website of the European Network on Statelessness includes reports and guidance on tackling statelessness *European Network on Statelessness*

3.4 Multi-sectoral collaboration to address root causes of unsafe migration

It is important to work systematically to address the root causes of unsafe migration and forced displacement, including violence, discrimination and inequality (based on gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or other factors), poverty, unemployment, poor infrastructure in rural and remote areas, conflict and disasters. More resilient, peaceful and prosperous societies will positively affect children's safety, development and education, establishing an environment where people do not see flight or unsafe migration as their only option.[43]

Case example 3.4.1 Multi-sectoral programmes to address drivers of migration, Ethiopia:

Working in collaboration with the local government and local organisations in Ethiopia, Save the Children has designed multi-sectoral programmes that address the main drivers of migration and protect migrant children, targeting sending, transit and destination communities of rural-to-urban migrant children. The programme addresses protection issues including domestic and gender-based violence, such as denying girls' education, child neglect, physical and humiliating punishment at home, and lack of access to quality education. It encompasses: case management to ensure family tracing and reunification or alternative family-based care arrangements for unaccompanied migrant children; linking vulnerable households to social protection schemes, livelihood opportunities and micro-credit; organising positive parenting sessions; and working with schools and education authorities to strengthen access to quality primary education, organise positive discipline training for teachers and parents, and conduct structured resilience-building sessions with children and young people.

See *Save the Children Ethiopia (2016) Approach to Migration.*

Case example 3.4.2 Multi-sectoral efforts to reduce vulnerability and drivers of unsafe migration, Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe Save the Children's programming with children on the move encourages prevention efforts including:

- Strengthening community-based child protection committees to prevent violence against children, including gender-based violence including child marriage.
- Support for vulnerable children to access schools (through paying school fees).
- Livelihood interventions with community-based child protection committees in three rural district councils to generate funds which the committees can use to support vulnerable children who are at risk of unsafe migration, including children who have dropped out of school. The committees generate income through small livestock production or other initiatives (e.g., a tuck shop at school) and use these funds to support vulnerable children and their families. They also encourage and support children to return to and stay in school.

See Save the Children Zimbabwe (2017) *Mid-term evaluation report for Children on the Move 2016-2018 for three supported districts (Hurungwe, Beit Bridge and Chipinge) in Zimbabwe*

PHOTO: ANNA PANTELIA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Fadia*, 8 years-old from Syria carries her sister to their tent in Cherso camp where they stay with their mother and their aunt.

Guidance and tools to support multi-sectoral collaboration to address root causes of unsafe migration:

Care and Promundo (2017) *Men and boys in displacement: assistance and protection challenges for unaccompanied boys and men in refugee contexts.*

MIGS, The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (2012) *A manual for empowering young people in preventing gender-based violence through peer education*

Save the Children (2010) *Engaging Boys to Stop Violence: A step-by-step guide for initiating social change*

Save the Children Norway (2015) *Conflict Management and Peace Building in Everyday Life: A resource kit for children and youth*

Save the Children *Adolescent Skills for Successful Transitions*
This shares information about the ASST interventions and provides links to relevant reports.

Save the Children (2017) *Youth Experiences in Jewellery-Making: Improving work potential and opportunities of youth in Cauca and Nariño, Colombia*

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and Norwegian Refugee Council (2015) Briefing paper: *http://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/56684ce89/briefing-paper-understanding-root-causes-displacement-idmc-2015.html*

Women's Refugee Commission (2011) *Preventing Gender-based Violence: Building Livelihoods. Guidance and Tools for Improved Programming*

Section 4

During migration and displacement: Key protection interventions

I was anxious about myself and my family, we had no protection and I was terrified that something would happen to anyone in my family. It was a very dangerous journey, full of risks and dangers; I did not know if I would manage to get there. I was thinking of reaching a place where our rights would be fulfilled.

(A refugee girl on the move with her parents)

PHOTO: GABRIELE FRANÇOIS CASINI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

A little girl plays with a stroller in Idomeni camp.

This section provides brief descriptions, practical examples, and links to existing guidance and tools on:

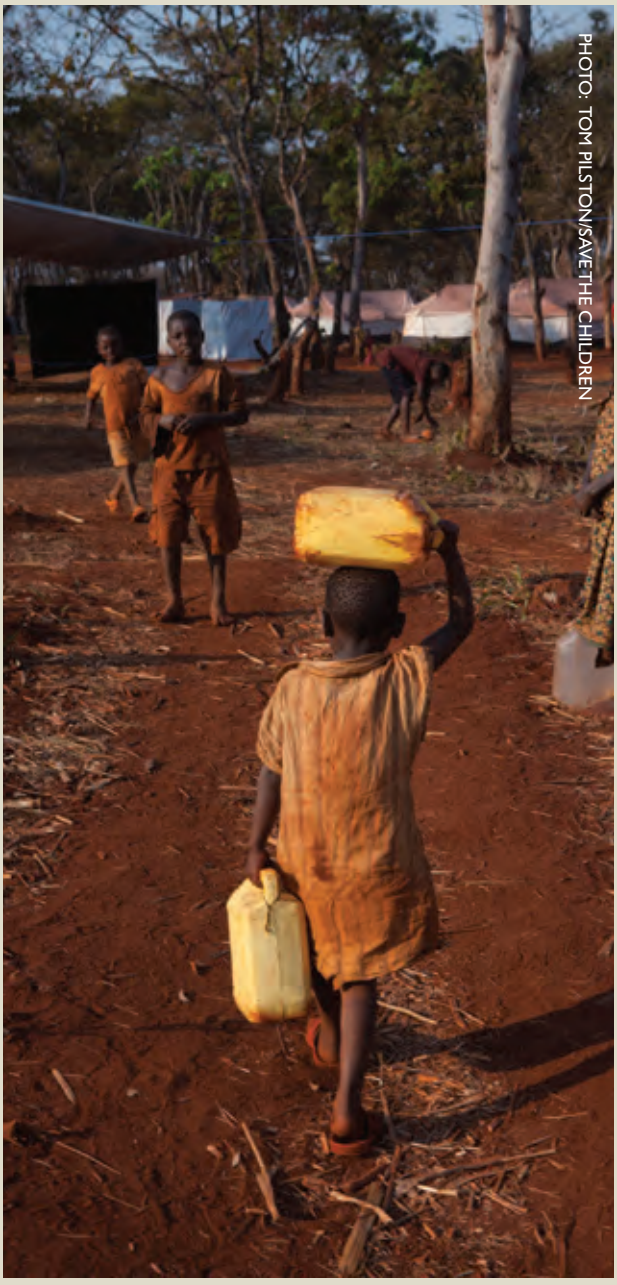
1. Assessing the situation and needs of children on the move
2. Supporting participation and agency of children on the move
3. Mobile teams, listening to and sharing information with children in key transit hubs, border towns, and transit centres
4. Inter-agency platforms to promote rights based research, programming and advocacy for children and adults on the move
5. Strengthening transnational coordination mechanisms
6. Case management and use of best interest assessments and best interests determination
7. Family tracing and reunification
8. Supporting appropriate care of unaccompanied children during transit
9. Providing psychosocial support
10. Capacity building of government, civil society and community actors to increase protection, safeguarding and good communication with children on the move.

When children are on the move, either on their own or with their families, there are a number of key protection interventions that can be implemented to support them to access services and to enhance their care and protection. The context, whether working in development or humanitarian contexts, within or across national borders, with migrants, refugees or internally displaced people, will determine which legal frameworks and protection coordination mechanisms are most relevant.

Programming needs to be strategic, flexible and responsive, with particular efforts to establish information hubs or listening points at different points along the journey, in order to better understand and respond to the particular needs of children and families, taking into consideration different needs based on gender, age, disability, legal status, family status, and other factors. Work in strategic transit areas, border towns, coastal areas, bus and train stations, and camps is important, and inter-agency partnership work is essential. In each context, special efforts are needed to reach and support unaccompanied and separated children who face increased risks of exploitation and abuse.

Key learning and critical issues affecting protection work when children are in migration or displacement:

- Efforts to strengthen protective environments for children on the move should build on children's positive coping mechanisms and their own social networks, while also strengthening and linking informal and formal protection and referral mechanisms.
- There are challenges in responding to high influx emergencies if the existing child protection system is fragile. It is important to mobilise local actors including informal community actors, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, and formal government actors. However, it is also important for NGOs to avoid setting up parallel protection structures and systems that will not be sustained by the government and other local actors. Thus ongoing efforts are needed to strengthen formal protection systems and the links between informal and formal systems.
- When working with children on the move it is necessary to understand key relevant legal frameworks and to increase children's and families' access to legal support.
- When working in contexts of irregular migration there is sometimes more support available for refugee children, especially unaccompanied and separated refugee children, than for unaccompanied and separated child migrants in the same region. For example, in the Horn of Africa there is less protection support for child migrants who are foreign nationals without refugee status than for refugees. Systems for family tracing and reunification are less developed in non-emergency settings.
- There are insufficient options for family- and community-based care for unaccompanied children on the move. In some countries there is an over-reliance on institutional care, and social services are often under-funded and under-developed.
- There are challenges in reaching migrating and refugee children who avoid formal routes and registration processes in order to avoid detection by the authorities. Creative ways are needed to reach and engage with children and families on irregular routes, while ensuring we do not put them at increased risks.
- Difficulties are faced in protracted emergencies where children and families may be stuck in transit for much longer periods than they expected.
- Transnational cooperation can be complex due to disparate legal, political, economic, and linguistic factors.
- In many contexts there are insufficient gender-sensitive services for supporting girls and boys on the move who are survivors of sexual violence. *The Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health* is the established global standard to address these issues in emergencies but its implementation remains low.



Refugees fleeing unrest and violence in Burundi due to the contested Presidential elections, find refuge in the Nyarugusu refugee camp over the border near Kasulu in western Tanzania.

Guidance to protect children during migration or displacement

Consortium for Street Children and Plan International (2011) *Still on the street- still short of rights. Analysis of policy and programmes related to street involved children*

International Organization for Migration (2013) *Children on the move A Report by the Inter-Agency Working Group on Children on the Move*

International Social Service (2017) *Children on the Move: from protection towards a quality sustainable solution: A practical guide.*

Population Council (2013) *Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls & Migration in the Developing World*

Save the Children (2008) *Away from home- Protecting and supporting children on the move*

Save the Children (2008) *Children on the Move in South-East Asia: Why child protection systems are needed*

Save the Children, International Rescue Committee and others (2017) *Out of Sight, Exploited and Alone: A joint brief on the situation for unaccompanied and separated children in Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia.*

Save the Children and Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (2016) *Young and on the Move: Children and youth in mixed migration flows within and from the Horn of Africa*

UNICEF (2017) *A Child is a Child: Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation*

Francois Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University (2016) *Children on the Move: An urgent human rights and child protection priority*

4.1 Assessing the situation and needs of children on the move

It is important to assess the needs of children on the move, in order to better assist boys and girls in accessing services and protecting them from abuse, violence and exploitation. Research and assessments can help to understand:

- the number and background of girls and boys on the move
- different motivations and reasons why girls and boys are on the move
- key migration routes, transit points and intended destination
- rights violations,
- needs and suggestions of children on the move to improve their situation
- strengths and positive coping strategies of children, families, and communities to prevent unsafe migration and to ensure protection while on the move
- available services and capacity gaps of duty bearers and actors

It is important to seek information from girls, boys, male and female caregivers, government officials, practitioners and policy makers. All data should be disaggregated by gender, age, legal status, care status, disability, nationality, and other diversity factors. Research to better understand the specific needs of boys or girls on the move is also important to inform gender-sensitive and gender-transformative programming. Moreover, ongoing monitoring is needed to gather updated information about the context and social dynamics that affect children's migration.

Case example 4.1.1 Study on violence and trafficking in persons in Central America: opportunities for regional intervention

Save the Children carried out a study into violence and people trafficking in Central America, in collaboration with Nicaragua's Institute for Public Policy and Strategic Studies. The study covered the seven nations of Central America: Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The report shows the magnitude and complexity of violence and criminal activity associated with illegal immigration and human smuggling, and the need for social and institutional responses. It highlights numerous factors that contribute to people trafficking (children and women are worst affected), including poverty, social exclusion, domestic violence and gender discrimination, coupled with weak legal and protection systems in the region. The study provides information on the range of instruments available to combat human trafficking and illicit migrant smuggling and looks at achievements, good practices, challenges and ideas for future actions from a regional perspective.

See I Agudelo (2012) *Violencia y trata de personas en Centroamérica. Oportunidades de intervención regional* (Violence and people trafficking in Central America: Opportunities for regional intervention) Save the Children and Nicaragua's Institute for Public Policy and Strategic Studies

Case example 4.1.2 Anthropological research with unaccompanied and separated boys on the move in the Balkans

Anthropological field work and discussions with unaccompanied and separated boys on the move in the Balkans, boys who are primarily from Afghanistan, is informing the development of more gender-sensitive and gender-transformative programming to influence notions of masculinity to reduce the risks boys face.

Learning from these boys has revealed risks associated with their masculine identity pre-departure which included threats from militant groups and risks of being sent out to earn money for the family. Family members made investments to send boys to Europe in order to become providers for the whole family. This created expectations that were difficult for the boys to fulfil, and placed them at increased risks of physical and sexual exploitation.

Building upon the lessons learned, Save the Children in Serbia has identified and mapped out in-country gender resources available through existing networks of civil society and grassroots organisations and is adapting its programmes to make them more gender specific. Efforts include: psychosocial and life skills activities with boys and separately for girls to enhance their self-protection and prevent sexual violence. Counselling is also provided to boys or girls who have experienced sexual violence.

Save the Children (2017) *Powerpoint: Displaced Masculinities Unaccompanied minors and separated children throughout the 'Balkan route'.* (See the notes accompanying the presentation)

Case example 4.1.3 Developing a geographic information system on child migration, West Africa

In a regional project in West Africa Save the Children is planning to use a geographic information system (GIS) to understand and find solutions to support children on the move. The set of GIS tools can collect, store, analyse, manage and present data related to the location of particular sites such as social services. Global Positioning System (GPS) can be used as an aid to navigation, tracking migratory movements, planning and resource management. The project will use GPS combined with GIS to produce maps for the management of child and youth migration between Mali, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. A geographic database will be set up in each social service using ArcGIS, software tools to implement a user-friendly, integrated and scalable system for a community of users. For further information contact the West And Central Africa regional office or the Cote d'Ivoire Country Office.

Case example 4.1.4 Mobility Assessment Tool

Save the Children commissioned Columbia University to assist in the development and piloting of a Mobility Assessment Tool (MAT) for children on the move that could gather information about children's evolving needs and coping strategies throughout the course of their journeys. MAT was piloted between 2010 and 2011 in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Thailand. The Mobility Assessment Tool (MAT) was developed to be a data collection tool that gathers representative information on children's reasons for movement; their movement plan; their needs while in transit; the protective resources they expect to or actually rely on; and the services that would help them along the travelling route. The MAT is also intended to contain a real-time service component by consulting with children and other agencies on ways to reach out to other children (e.g. creating a protective network for information and peer support) and the services that would help these children along their travelling route. The MAT is unique in that it is a) mobile, which means it will be used to collect information from children in a number of different locations along a migration route and b) that it will not be divorced from response mechanisms. See the *MAT interview guide* that was used for the pilot in South Africa.

Guidance and tools for assessments and research with children during migration and displacement:

Save the Children (2011) *Mobility Assessment Tool (See above)*

Save the Children (2010) *Protecting children on the move. A study based in the probation district of Hambantota, Sri Lanka*

Save the Children (2016) *Children on the Move: A crisis in the Northern Triangle, Mexico and USA*

This factsheet presents information on the regional context and the causes of migration and displacement. It also includes a brief description of the regional strategy to work with children on the move in the Northern Triangle and Mexico.

PHOTO: ANNA PANTELIA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

A young Syrian girl looks on at new arrivals to the informal camp Kara Tepe on the Greek island of Lesvos.

4.2 Supporting the participation and agency of children on the move

As emphasised from the outset of this document recognising children's agency and supporting opportunities for girls and boys on the move to express their views, ideas, and suggestions is crucial for relevant and effective programming and advocacy in the best interests of the child. Different approaches to support the participation of children on the move have included:

- 'Listening points' to listen to children, to help them build on their positive coping strategies and support them in accessing services, care and protection (see case examples 4.2.3 and 4.3.2)
- Consultations with girls and boys (of different ages) in camps, transit centres, street settings, etc, to seek their views and to inform programme design, monitoring, evaluation and learning (see section 6)
- Ensuring individual children's views are heard and carefully considered in decisions affecting them, especially in child protection case management (see section 4.6)
- Strengthening children's informal social networks and supporting children's groups and associations in refugee and IDP camps, in street settings, and in other transit communities.
- Sharing information and training girls and boys (in different age groups) about child rights, protection, gender equality, life skills
- Supporting girls and boys to organise their own child-led awareness, action and advocacy initiatives (see sections 4.2.1 and 5.4)
- Organising life skills activities and psychosocial activities with children on the move in drop-in centres, child- and youth-friendly spaces, and other settings (see section 4.9)
- Supporting children's participation in community-based child protection mechanisms in camps, transit communities, and street settings
- Supporting participatory action research with children on the move
- Supporting participation and representation of children on the move in sub-national, national, regional, and global policy and practice processes affecting them.

Case example 4.2.1 Guidance for consulting children on the move including a 'Map of Children on the Move' tool, Bosnia-Herzegovina

In Bosnia-Herzegovina Save the Children developed guidance which draws upon practical experiences and includes detailed conceptual and practical guidance to support consultations with children on the move to inform programming responses. The guide encourages processes where time is invested to build rapport among children (wherever possible building on existing peer groups) and between children and facilitators, especially if sensitive issues are being discussed. As children can have different views on some issues, it is important to encourage an environment where diversity and different opinions are respected. Facilitators who speak children's language, or interpreters, are needed. It is also important to inform parents or guardians about the children's consultation process.

Guidance is provided on consulting children about:

- the process of migration from their perspective and their experiences on the move
- the rights of the child in the context of migration
- protection of children on the move
- recommendations for improving the system of protection of children on the move.

Detailed guidance is provided to enable children to create a 'Map of children on the move' to enable them to share their views, negative and positive experiences, coping mechanisms, and feelings on different parts of their journey. The map can be used to explore violations of children's rights during the journey, and sources of support and protection. Furthermore, children's recommendations for strengthening existing systems of protection can be explored. The final phase of the mapping activity focuses on how children see their experience of migrations and the impact it has on their lives (past, present, and future), with a special focus on their strengths and abilities to cope with difficult situations.

Save the Children (2014) *When we are asked, not questioned: Consultations with children on the move.*

Case example 4.2.2 Participatory research with children's migration, Southern Africa

Save the Children's Southern Africa Regional Office and country teams in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe supported a participatory study with migrant children in six cities to determine suitable methodologies for seeking out and building a profile of children who are most at risk of migrating alone. The information and evidence collected through this study, based on the insights and advice from children who migrate, now provides the basis for identifying the most effective strategies in the most critical locations which can reach the most vulnerable children and protect them on their journeys.

Save the Children (2015) *Jozi Lights: How to protect children engaging in rural to urban migration*

PHOTO: SEILA DIZDAREVIC/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Children play and draw at an art workshop held by Save the Children's mobile *Child Friendly Space* team in the Serbian capital, Belgrade.

Case example 4.2.3 Protective accompaniment of children on the move, West Africa

In the West Africa region, Terre des Hommes has developed programme guidance on the 'protective accompaniment of children' (l'accompagnement protecteur des enfants) working with children on the move and those who are vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation or abuse. This recognises the active role of the child in his/her protection, and in protecting others. The way of working increases children's ability to analyse their needs and choices, and to find solutions; and it focuses on strengthening their relationships with other people and with their surroundings (integration). Protective accompaniment means: staying alongside children to help reduce the risks they face, to help them be actors, access their rights, ensure that their best interests is respected, and that assistance is provided. The protective accompaniment of children emphasises the importance of building a respectful relationship with the child, listening to their views and suggestions, and working with them in cooperative way around specific situations affecting their well-being and rights. Children are recognised as key social actors whose situation, needs, and perspectives on solutions need to be understood and taken seriously. The approach also emphasises the importance of building social relationships within families, communities, and NGOs. It ensures systematic efforts to strengthen the protective environment of children on the move, taking into account the views of the child, family members, and community members. Children are linked to informal and formal protection systems.

Boursin, F. (2014) *The added value of protective accompaniment, Terre des hommes. (English and French) https://www.tdh.ch/fr/mediatheque/documents/la-valeur-ajout%C3%A9e-de-laccompagnement-protecteur-des-enfants*

Links to key guidance and tools to strengthen children's participation and representation to defend the rights of children on the move:

Child to Children (2002) *Child to Child: A practical guide- Empowering Children as Active Citizens*
Provides useful practical guidance to support a child to child approach

Global Movement for Children (2010) *Leaving home:Voices of children on the move*
Draws upon research with children to share the views and experiences of children on the move, why they leave, and their positive and negative experiences. Policy recommendations are also presented.

Plan (2014) *Sticks and Stones: A training manual for facilitators on how to increase the involvement of children in their own protection*

Save the Children (2001) *Breaking through the clouds: A Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project with Migrant Children and Youth Along the Borders of China, Myanmar and Thailand*

Save the Children (2007) *Advocacy Matters: Helping children change their world- A Save the Children guide to advocacy: Participant's Manual*

Save the Children (2008) *One Step Beyond:Advocacy handbook for young people and children*

Save the Children (2012) *The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration: Voices of Children on the Move. This report summarises the consultations with migrant children carried out in preparation for the Day of General Discussion (DGD) in five regions around the world over a period of 3 months, involving over 100 children.*

Save the Children (2013) *Participate With You and Participate With Me*
This is a child friendly booklet for children and young people about the meaning of and benefits of participation.

4.3 Mobile teams, listening to and sharing information with children in key transit hubs, border towns, transit centres

Findings from the assessments, consultations and participatory research should be used to target, plan and implement programming in high risk sending areas, strategic transit areas and hubs, border towns (both sides of the border), in camps, in reception or other relevant centres, and in key destination locations. Work in urban locations may strategically include work in bus and train stations, and work in coastal areas may encompass efforts to prevent and respond to risky sea crossings. When identifying potential strategic target areas, it is important for Save the Children managers to assess risks, to liaise with the concerned authorities to negotiate and secure safe access, and to ensure programming approaches which strengthen existing government systems. Programmes should also be designed and implemented in ways which build on the existing strengths and positive coping strategies of children, families, communities, civil society organisations and local authorities. Moreover, there must be systematic implementation of child safeguarding procedures.

A range of strategic and creative approaches are being developed and implemented to reach, listen to and share information with children and families on the move including:

- mobile teams, establishing listening points, information hubs *(see section 6)*
- use of mobile phones, drop-in centres, or child- or youth-friendly spaces *(see section 4.9)*
- participatory research with children *(see case example 4.2.2)*.

Listening is key to understanding and responding to the specific needs of girls, boys, women and men who are on the move in diverse contexts, so that efforts can be tailored to build on positive coping strategies, to reduce risks and vulnerabilities, to address rights violations, and to ensure non-discriminatory access to services, including protection and legal services. Efforts to reach and respond to the needs and rights of unaccompanied and separated children must be prioritised.

Case example 4.3.1 Mobile teams and practical protection monitoring, Balkans

In the Balkans Save the Children established mobile teams to work with refugee and migrant children and families at different entry and exits points (including in the bus station in Belgrade), and in transit centres. Due to the scale of the influx, Save the Children initially established mobile teams directly in Serbia, they then transitioned to work with partners in the Balkans. Praxis, together with Balkans Migration and Displacement Centre, which originated from Refugee Responses in Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia, runs mobile outreach teams.

In 2016/2017, the NGO Praxis developed a manual which provides guidance and tools for establishing and running teams to conduct protection monitoring activities. Guidance is provided on a system for collecting, verifying, and analysing information, in order to identify human rights violations and protection risks encountered by refugees and migrants. The Guide also identify how these activities are combined with complementary activities, such as provision of information, referrals, protection by presence, and advocacy activities.

Praxis (2017) *Practical Protection Monitoring Guide*

Case example 4.3.2 Listening points for children on the move, West Africa

Local partners in West Africa have set up 'listening points' in key areas where children pass through, to listen to children's views and needs, to strengthen their protection networks and to support referrals to relevant services. The idea of listening points was developed by the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY/ MAEJT) *http://english.maejt.org/*

Save the Children works in collaboration with AMWCY and other NGOs to run informal "listening points" in communities, bus stations, market places, etc. along key migration routes. These listening points tend to be linked to informal community protection committees and referral mechanisms supported by some representative of a formal protection system, such as a social worker, health worker or local police officer. In communities where AMWCY has associations of working children and young people, these members are often actively involved in supporting outreach activities to make contact with children on the move, to listen to them and to support practical responses. AMWCY has published a manual with information and guidance to support children's associations in organising a range of activities to prevent and protect children from abuse, violence and exploitation.

AMWCY (2013) *Child Protection Manual by the Associations of Working Children and Youth*

Guidance and tools for information sharing with children on the move:

Save the Children (2017) *Protecting Children on the Move in Asia through Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Social Media*

4.4 Inter-agency platforms to promote rights based research, programming and advocacy for children and adults on the move

Save the Children should actively promote and contribute to inter-agency platforms to promote rights-based work with children and adults on the move. Inter-agency platforms enable complementary skill sets and knowledge to be brought together to ensure strategic use of human and financial resources. They often have more leverage to influence governments' policy, coordination, and practice developments, while also influencing donor priorities and investments.

Save the Children has supported and actively contributed to strategic inter-agency platforms in different countries and regions, in order to bring a focus on children into broader platforms on migration, and also to support specific platforms, networks and working groups on children on the move.

Case example 4.4.1 Informing policy on mixed migration, North Africa

Mixed Migration Hub, or MHub, works on behalf of the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force consisting of the Danish Refugee Council, International Organization for Migration, OHCHR, Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNODC. It promotes a human rights-based approach to ensuring the protection of people moving in mixed and complex flows to, through and from North Africa. MHub produces knowledge on the human rights protection issues faced by people on the move in North Africa for use by policy makers agencies, donors, public and academia, to inform advocacy, policy and programme development. It fosters collaborative approaches among key stakeholders and serves as the secretariat of the Task Force.

MHub provides information on routes, flows and trends in mixed migratory movements in North Africa. It provides support to governments and other agencies on research on refugees and migrants, conducts in-house research and analysis, and commissions external researchers to undertake dedicated multi-country studies. MHub has field researchers stationed in a number of countries along key migratory routes, undertaking field surveys with people on the move. MHub also conducts academic outreach and holds research events with research partners and stakeholders.

http://www.mixedmigrationhub.org/

Case example 4.4.2: Joint advocacy initiatives

The Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move and more recently the *Inter-Agency Initiative on Children Rights in the Global Compacts* are groups whose aim is to increase the evidence base on issues affecting children on the move and advocate jointly for ensuring children are at the core of international dialogues and processes that have impact on policy development and practice.

Links to key guidance and tools to inter-agency platforms and reports on children on the move:

International Organization for Migration (2013) *Children on the move- Report by the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move*

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (2016) *Safety and Fundamental Rights at Stake for Children on the Move*

PHOTO: SUSSAN AKILA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Children play at a Children Friendly Space (CFS) in North East Nigeria.

4.5 Strengthening transnational coordination mechanisms

The UNCRC addresses the rights of all children falling within the jurisdiction of a State, regardless of their nationality or immigration status. States should develop national laws, policies and programmes which are informed by children's views and guided by child rights and the best interests principle to support and protect children on the move. Appropriate responses also require the existence and functioning of transnational cooperation and coordination mechanisms involving state and non-state actors in different countries to develop and implement transnational policies and practices for all groups of children on the move based on the best interests of the child.[44] Save the Children has been actively involved in collaborative advocacy and programming work to strengthen transnational coordination mechanisms and case management for children on the move in different regions, with the aim of building a continuum of care and support to children as they move. This has included efforts to:

- develop common understanding and facilitate the development of bilateral policies, practices and agreements between relevant authorities across borders relating to the rights, care and protection needs of children on the move
- develop Standard Operating Procedures for transnational coordination at Ministerial levels, and at implementation levels for government officials and child protection case workers who directly engage with children and families
- advocate for increased human and financial resources to implement coordination and case management processes to ensure responses in the best interests of the child
- build capacity of government officials, border officials and social workers on child rights, protection, legal frameworks, participation, communication, gender equality and case management (see 4.7).

PHOTO: HANNA ADCOCK/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Rohingya refugee Sajida*, 12, in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Case example 4.5.1 Strengthening transnational coordination mechanisms in Southern Africa

In the Southern Africa region, significant efforts have been made to build government relations across borders, to establish cross-border working groups to discuss and agree on harmonising policies and procedures at the high level and at the implementation level in border areas. Initially Save the Children undertook a *policy review and a comparative review for UASC*, enabling them to identify gaps and opportunities to harmonise procedure on different borders. It became clear that child protection case management needed to be strengthened across the borders, and in at least two of the three countries.

Cross-border coordination working groups were established for the Mozambique/South Africa and Zimbabwe/South Africa borders. Terms of reference for the working groups have been established and Save the Children has provided technical and financial support for period cross-border meetings. The groups bring together state and non-state actors working at the borders to identify and implement child protection measures to support unaccompanied migrant children, including efforts to return and reintegrate children when in their best interests. The groups are also establishing more effective protocols and guidelines for communication between social workers and law enforcement agencies on both sides of the borders to enhance implementation of child protection case management, family tracing and reunification, and psychosocial support to children in shelters and those who have returned home. Save the Children Zimbabwe (2016) *Cross-border coordination.*

The Zimbabwe and South Africa governments made bilateral agreements on handling unaccompanied migrant children. These resulted in increased protection of Zimbabwean children engaged in unsafe migration and living in South Africa. Deportations of these children stopped, instead they are now placed in safety where they receive protection and welfare services including court order to regularise their stay in South Africa, food and access to education whilst they are encouraged to accept voluntary repatriation. Through the National Case Management system in Zimbabwe, child returnees receive protection and welfare services offered by the Government of Zimbabwe. Save the Children Zimbabwe (2012) *ToR for shelter visits.*

Bi-lateral agreements between South Africa and Zimbabwe culminated in the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Handling Unaccompanied Migrant Children. The Government of Zimbabwe has generalised these SOPs to be a standard for handling all unaccompanied migrant children within the borders of Zimbabwe.

The governments of Mozambique and Zambia have replicated the cross-border forum model and it is being taken forward in other countries in the region, including Botswana, Swaziland and Zambia.

Save the Children also worked with Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to bring a focus on children into the South Africa migration agenda through the Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration which the International Organization for Migration steers.

Through active engagement in these high-level platforms, Save the Children influenced the establishment of an inter-ministerial steering committee on child migration at the regional level. A Southern Africa Strategic Plan to address mixed migration was developed which focuses on child protection system strengthening and case management. As a result of this advocacy work, child protection case management with children on the move will now be rolled out in 15 different member states.

Save the Children (2012) *Transnational coordination mechanisms for the protection of children on the move in the context of international migration and the fulfilment of their human rights;* and information shared in interviews October – December 2017

Save the Children (2014) *Regional Policy Review Report and Guidelines: Migration and Repatriation laws and Procedures for Unaccompanied Migrant Children in Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe*

Terms of Reference for National Technical Working Groups on the Implementation of the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Recommendations to Address Mixed and Irregular Migration in the SADC Region (DRAFT)

Case example 4.5.2 Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate repatriation of trafficking victims. Myanmar and Thailand[45]

As part of Save the Children's Cross-Border Programme strategy in Myanmar, linkages between the governments of Myanmar and Thailand were fostered and a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding was developed to facilitate the repatriation of trafficking victims. Regular bilateral case management meetings have been organised involving relevant UN agencies, international and local NGOs and government representatives, to address issues of family tracing, assessing safety of reunification and prosecution of traffickers. These meetings have helped to improve coordination, strengthen repatriation procedures and reduce the amount of time required to process cases. Social workers responsible for managing cases of foreign trafficking victims in Thai government shelters stated that the recruitment of the Burmese social workers was extremely beneficial for facilitating bilateral communication and alleviating communication barriers with Burmese victims and Myanmar government counterparts.

Evaluation of Save the Children's Child Protection Interventions in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Solomon Islands and Their Appropriateness to System Strengthening

Child Frontiers (March 2012) *Final external evaluation of Save the Children's sustainable multi-actor solutions to migration-related child poverty in the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Programme.*

Guidance and tools to strengthen transnational coordination mechanisms and efforts to respond to cross-border trafficking:

Save the Children (2004) *Responding to child trafficking: An introductory handbook to child rights-based interventions drawn from Save the Children's experience in Southeast Europe*

Save the Children (2012) *Transnational Coordination Mechanisms for the Protection of Children on the Move in the Context of International Migration and the Fulfilment of their Human Rights. Submission by Save the Children*

Save the Children (forthcoming) Study on transnational coordination mechanisms for the protection of children on the move in the context of international migration and the fulfilment of human rights.

PHOTO: SOUVID DATTA/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Children in Guatemala City take part in a peace building workshop.

4.6 Case management and use of best interest assessments and best interests determination

Child protection case management and related guidance, tools, mechanisms, and processes including best interest assessments and best interests determination are extremely relevant in programming to plan, implement and monitor durable solutions for individual children. Strengthening referral mechanisms to ensure access to a range of sectoral support is also integral to case management.

Case management in child protection is a systematic way of organising and carrying out work to address an individual child's (and their family's) protection and/or welfare needs in an appropriate, systematic and timely manner through direct support and/or referrals, and in accordance with a project or programme's objectives.[46] Case management can be relevant at each stage of programming with children on the move, including pre-flight, during migration/ displacement, and to support durable solutions.

Save the Children has developed a *common approach on Steps to Protect* for case management which includes guidance on the overall approach, the roles and responsibilities of different actors in the case management process (involving formal and informal actors including members of community-based child protection mechanisms, para-social workers, and social workers).

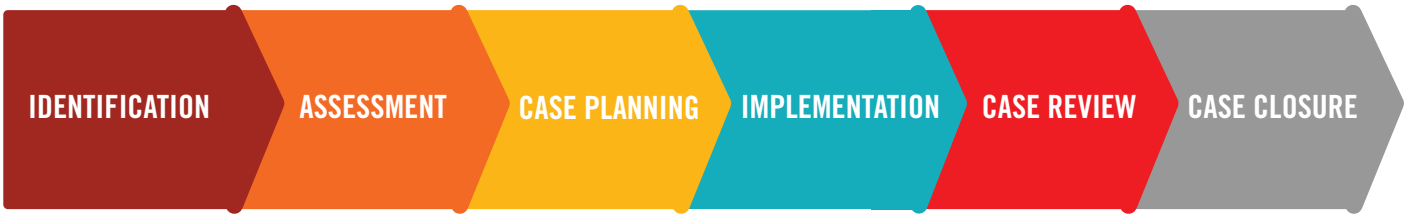


Figure 1: Steps to Protect

Sections of the guidance have been developed to specifically support case management with children on the move, including unaccompanied and separated children, who should be prioritised. Agreeing standard operating procedures between different national authorities for case management is essential. Guidance on cross-border case management is available in the Steps to Protect Common Approach.

A best interests assessment (BIA) generally results in an assessment of the situation of the child and recommendations on protection and care interventions. The best interests assessment should be conducted as soon as a child is identified to be at risk, and it should always be undertaken prior to family reunification or placing a child in care. A BIA is an essential element of case management and general child protection work. It assists child protection actors in taking a decision or action on behalf of a child in line with Article 3 of the CRC.[47]

Determining a child's best interests may involve the formal process of a **best interests determination.** The Best Interests Determination (BID) is a more formal process with specific procedural safeguards and documentation requirements that is conducted for children at risk, whereby a decision-maker is required to weigh and balance all the relevant factors of a particular case, giving appropriate weight to the rights and obligations recognized in the CRC and other human rights instruments, so that a comprehensive decision can be made that best protects the rights of children.[48] As stated in the Committee on the Rights of the Child 2005, General Comment No. 6, "A determination of what is in the best interests of the child requires a clear and comprehensive assessment of the child's identity, including her or his nationality, upbringing, ethnic, cultural and linguistic background, particular vulnerabilities and protection needs. Consequently, allowing the child access to the territory is a prerequisite to this initial assessment process. The assessment process should be carried out in a friendly and safe atmosphere by qualified professionals who are trained in age and gender-sensitive interviewing techniques."[49]

The formal BID is designed to determine the child's best interests for particularly important decisions that affect him or her. It facilitates adequate child participation and involves decision-makers with relevant areas of expertise. It also helps to identify and balance all relevant factors in order to assess the best option. The BID process enables social / care workers to ensure that decisions are in line with the provisions of the CRC and other relevant international and national legal instruments. In addition, through its individual child-focused approach, the BID may also identify protection

gaps affecting individuals or groups of children, monitor the effectiveness of measures taken in the past to address gaps and enable follow-up actions, if needed. The process must be documented.[50]

Factors that should be considered when determining a child's best interests include:[51]

- ***the child's wishes and feelings*** taking into account their age and ability to assess the implications of various options
- ***the child's environment and safety*** and their exposure to harm, and any history of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation
- ***family and close relationships***, family members views, the quality of attachments, the capacity of families to care for the child, the potential effect of separation due to migration, and possibility of family reunification

Case example 4.6.1 ~ A toolkit for best interest assessments and determinations, Southern Africa

In 2010, Save the Children developed a toolkit aimed at improving the best interests determination process for unaccompanied children on the move in South Africa. The materials are for practitioners (especially statutory social workers) who manage the identification, documentation, tracing and reunification processes in the South African context. The toolkit combines various tools and informs the tracing and reunification by eliciting information about the child's intentions and interests and increases the chance for the child him/herself to influence the decision.

The BID toolkit is designed to assist decision making on durable protection solutions for children on the move without appropriate care and is comprised of two components designed to work in conjunction: a Best Interests Assessment Form and a Durable Solution Recommendation Matrix. The Best Interests Assessment Form is an instrument guiding the collection of information required from a child who has crossed international borders without appropriate care at the identification and registration phase. The Recommendation Matrix helps the assessors make durable solution decisions with confidence by systematising the information collected through the form and identifying one of six possible options for durable solutions.

Overall, from the feedback received during testing, the best interests determination toolkit appears to be a promising instrument to improve practice on best interests determination for children on the move. Tests showed that the tool was successful in making the decision-making process more consistent. The testing also highlighted some learning points which can inform the future use and adaptations of the tool to different contexts.

Save the Children UK (2010) *Best Interests Determination for Children on the Move: A Toolkit for Decision-Making and updated versions: Updated BIA toolguide (2017) and Updated BIA Procedure (2017)*

Best Interest Assessment Form for Temporary Care Arrangements & Durable Solution

Reale, D *'Protecting and supporting children on the move: Translating principles into practice'* in International Organization for Migration (2013) *Children on the Move*

Case example 4.6.2 Development of best interest assessments and best interest determination tools for children involved in unsafe internal migration, Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, Save the Children worked with the government Bureau of Women and Children Affairs of Amhara Region to develop specific tools on best interest assessment and determination for using with children who are involved in unsafe internal migration.

The tools were adapted from the UNHCR handbook and guidelines, and aim to offer guidance on how to implement best interest determination process in practice for the effective case management of children involved in internal migration and trafficking.

The tools are

1. A *Best Interest Assessment Tool Guideline*, which contains a form to assist in the identification of child protection risks and questions to ask during child protection assessments, documentation, planning, monitoring and follow up. The form should filled in immediately a child is identified as involved in migration and at risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation or violence, and continually maintained by case workers. The form is a tool to be used until a sustainable solution has been found for the child, and can inform the best interest determination process, this is needed at a later stage.
2. An *Operating Procedure for Best Interest Determination. These Best Interest Determination* Procedures describe the guiding principles, procedures, roles and responsibilities when assessing and deciding on the best interest of children involved in internal migration in order to identify durable solutions. It also presents the steps and process followed by agencies involved in best interest determination of the child. In addition it contains a BID report format and summary of activities checklist for the child protection officer and BID supervisor.

Best Interest Assessment Tool Guideline for Children Involved in Unsafe Internal Migration and are at Risk of, or Experiencing, Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Violence

Operating Procedure for Best Interest Determination of Children Involved in Unsafe Internal Migration and are at Risk of, or Experiencing, Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Violence

Guidance and tools to support child protection case management and best interests assessment and determination:

Child Protection Working Group (2014) *Inter Agency Guidelines for Case Management and Child Protection*

UNHCR (2006) *Guidelines on Formal Determination of Best Interests of the Child*

UNHCR (2011) *Field Handbook for the Implementation of UNHCR BID Guidelines*

UNHCR and UNICEF (2014) *Safe and sound: what States can do to ensure respect for the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children*

Separated Children in Europe Programme (2009) *Statement of Good Practice (4th Edition) (endorsed by UNICEF and UNHCR)*

Council of the Baltic Sea States (2015) *Guidelines Promoting the Human Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Transnational Child Protection Cases*

Global Migration Group (2017) *Principles and Guidelines, supported by practical guidance, on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements*

4.7 Family tracing and reunification

While case management is a key component of family tracing and reunification, work with unaccompanied and separated children requires additional steps, including: the actual tracing of the child, verification of the child's and family's identity, and reunification.

Key elements of family tracing and reunification will include: community outreach and awareness raising; strong inter-agency coordination, with shared Standard Operating Procedures and documentation forms; specific tools to help children remember; a family assessment to verify the ability of a family to care for the child; and steps to verify a child's and family's identity before formal reunification. As with any other form of case management, there must be follow up with the child and family following reunification and the provision of basic or specialist mental health and psychosocial support services, depending on the circumstances that led to the separation, to ensure the best interests of the child have been met. As described above, determining a child's best interests may involve the formal process of best interests assessment and/or determination. Further guidance on family tracing and reunification is available in the Steps to Protect Toolkit, as well as the tools described below.

Case example 4.7.1 Family tracing and reunification, South Sudan

Save the Children in South Sudan developed a *Practice Handbook: For family tracing and reunification in emergencies*, with contributions from UNICEF and other members of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children.

Save the Children is the lead agency for family tracing and reunification in South Sudan working with international, national, and community partners to coordinate the humanitarian action and response to children who have become separated from their families.

Save the Children liaised with community leaders and community-based organisations to identify and strengthen existing community-based child protection groups to help prevent and identify family separations, to facilitate family tracing, and to monitor reunification of children. Working with community groups allowed existing informal community communication networks and self-reunification methodologies to be tapped into.

The handbook shares practical guidance and insights to factors that improved effectiveness and coverage of family tracing and reunification in emergency-affected regions of South Sudan. The practical guidance includes a focus on:

- practical reference on how to set up and operationalise a national inter-agency family tracing and reunification programme as part of an emergency response
- information and guidance on key principles (do no harm, best interests, emphasise family life, building on community-based support, confidentiality, non-discrimination, child participation) prioritising unaccompanied and separated children, and case management
- practical steps including: community mobilisation, community assessment, identification and registration, assessment of need, family tracing, family reunification, case closure and transfer, and coordination.

Save the children (2017) *A Practice Handbook: For family tracing and reunification in emergencies*

Guidance and tools to support family tracing and reunification:

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2017) *Toolkit on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*

Restoring Family links website from The International Committee of the Red Cross

4.8 Support appropriate care of unaccompanied children during transit

When working with unaccompanied children on the move, programming and advocacy are often required to increase access to quality interim care. This is challenging in many contexts where there is an over-reliance on institutional care, with insufficient family- or community-based care options. Efforts to support interim care options and to develop and ensure implementation of minimum standards are needed. Programming work undertaken by Save the Children to support interim care of children on the move has included:

- establishing short-term informal or formal interim foster care with families through strengthening formal and/or informal care options
- supporting the establishment of interim shelters or reception centres
- advocating for and ensuring application of quality standards for interim care settings
- advocacy for alternatives to detention (see section 5).

Case example 4.8.1 Developing formal interim foster care of unaccompanied children, Serbia

In Serbia Save the Children has collaborated with the International Rescue Committee, the government authorities, and a local partner organization Center for Foster Care and Adoption to develop and support interim alternative care options for unaccompanied children. *Specialised Foster Care for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Serbia: A case study.* This collaboration has built upon existing processes to support to support the de-institutionalisation of care processes in the region, including support for the development of foster care. Building upon earlier work, Save the Children has promoted and supported specialised fostering of unaccompanied children as an alternative to institutional care. Working with a centre of fostering and adoption they have developed a training programme for foster care of unaccompanied children. In late 2017, 20 families were fostering unaccompanied children.

Specialised Foster Care for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Serbia: A case study

Case example 4.8.2 Promoting family-based care of displaced, deported and returnee children, El Salvador

Save the Children El Salvador is working collaboratively with the National Council for Children and Adolescents, and with Courts for Children and Adolescents to implement a protection program called "Living as a Family" as an alternative to residential care. Foster care is supported as an alternative for displaced, deported and returned children who do not have conditions of protection and care. This program identifies and trains foster carers for temporary foster care of unaccompanied children and adolescents. Social workers also undertake simultaneous work with the child's family of origin to strengthen the family and to support family integration whenever in the best interests of the child.

Save the Children El Salvador, Project to Strengthen the social fabric to advocate for migrant and displaced children

More than 10,000 refugees are stranded in Idomeni, at the border between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

PHOTO: PEDRO ARMESTRE/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Case example 4.8.3 Supporting informal foster care and an interim shelter for unaccompanied children, Iraq

In Iraq, Save the Children developed a toolkit to support their care programming. If a child was identified as unaccompanied, initial efforts prioritised trying to find their parents or relatives. If a child had no relatives or neighbours, they would be placed in informal interim care with a foster family, with efforts to place them with a family from the same part of Iraq as them. Case management ensured close monitoring, provision of material support to the foster family, and the child was also encouraged to attend the child-friendly space regularly. In Ninewa camp, unaccompanied children often required emergency care for a few days while waiting for their families. Thus, Save the Children set up an interim shelter which was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Other actors would also refer unaccompanied and separated children to Save the Children at the shelter.

Louise Melville Fulford (2012) *Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit Save the Children*

Links to key guidance and tools to support interim care of children on the move:

Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (2013) *Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit, published by Save the Children on behalf of the Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children.*

Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar (Network of Latin-American Fostering Families) (2011) *Application of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children: A Guide for Practitioners*

Save the Children (2011) *Children without Appropriate Care: Participant Manual for Asia and the Pacific*

Save the Children (2014) *Policy Brief: Protection and Care for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Emergencies*

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2017) *Toolkit on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*

UNICEF (2017) *Minimum Standards in Refugee Accommodation Centres*

4.9 Providing mental health and psychosocial support to children on the move

Recognising the stress, fear, frustrations and hardships faced while migrating, while also acknowledging children's and families' aspirations to reach their destination, it is important to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to children and families on the move, with particular efforts to support separated and unaccompanied children. Mental health and psychosocial support to parents and caregivers, especially mothers and fathers with young children, is also important to encourage their self-care, in order that they in turn have sufficient emotional resources to support their children.

A Save the Children staff member holds Syrian baby girl in Cherso Child Friendly Space in Northern Greece Border.

The selection of programmes needs to take into consideration the emotional and physical stability of children and caregivers. In situations where children are moving quickly, it may be appropriate to provide psycho-educational activities or basic counselling to support coping, but not trauma focused counselling which requires longer and more stability, or interventions which involve working together as a group over a series of sessions, such as the Child and Youth Resilience programme. If the children are emotionally very unstable or the danger and risks affecting the child are very acute, the priority should be on stabilization, through the provision of calming support, reassurance, information and ensuring physical safety. Psychological First Aid (PFA) is appropriate at this point.

Staff and volunteers need to be well trained, and mechanisms put in place to identify children and caregivers in distress, including those with pre-existing mental health conditions, and ensure referral to relevant services. Where children have survived GBV, timely referrals must be made to health, protection and MHPSS services, and staff must be trained to do this sensitively and effectively.

Integrating a mental health and psychosocial support approach into the way of working and engaging with people, and providing MHPSS services, are important parts of protection work. MHPSS helps to mitigate short- and long-term vulnerabilities and strengthen the resilience of children, families, and communities.

Save the Children has provided MHPSS to children on the move through:

- establishing and running child-friendly and youth-friendly spaces and 'listening points' along transit routes, in camps, reception centres etc; and supporting children to access non-formal education. Depending on the context, these spaces are often gender specific and allow for addressing the needs of girls or boys separately
- running drop-in centres for refugee, migrant and street-connected children
- using the Children and Youth Resilience package to promote coping skills and resilience among children and youth in order to support their protection, psychosocial well-being and healthy development
- implementing HEART (Healing and Education through Arts), an arts-based approach to providing psychosocial support for children affected by serious or chronic stress
- training protection actors to use psychosocial tools with unaccompanied, separated and migrant children (such as 'Map of Children on the Move' or Boxes of Wonder)
- organising community-based PSS activities such as: games, sports, creative arts, music, dance, and recreational activities for children of different ages, with opportunities for children to organise their own groups and initiatives
- providing space for caregivers to meet to support one another, and organising sessions on stress management and positive parenting
- case management, one to one and group counselling sessions and referral to specialised services
- training of staff and volunteers on Psychological First Aid for Children (PFA)
- strengthening of peer support mechanisms through Child to Child PFA
- providing migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children and caregivers access and referrals to counsellors, psychologists, and other MHPSS services as relevant

Case example 4.9.1 Child- and youth-friendly spaces, Child Youth Resilience, HEART and other psychosocial activities, Iraq

Save the Children has been working with internally displaced children in Iraq. Psychosocial activities were organised as an integral part of the child protection programme through:

- Child-friendly spaces and youth-friendly spaces, to provide safe spaces for children to come and play, and to relieve the burden of care of parents and caregivers. Activities were designed to meet the interests of girls and boys of different age groups, such as football and vocational skills training for older children.
- Supporting children of different age groups to form child and youth groups and to organise their own initiatives, with some budget provided by Save the Children (for example a group of boys planned and organised a football league)
- Using *Save the Children's Child Resilience Programme* and *The Youth Resilience Programme: Psychosocial support in and out of school*, Safe you, Safe me and HEART with children in the child-friendly space. (Information on HEART to be available on OneNet shortly)
- Organising sessions for caregivers in the child-friendly space.

Save the Children Denmark (2015) *Save the Children's Child Resilience Programme*

Save the Children Denmark (2015) *The Youth Resilience Programme: Psychosocial support in and out of school*

Save the Children (2010) *Safe you; Safe me*

Case example 4.9.2 Psychosocial support for children on the move, Balkans

In Serbia Save the Children's child protection teams provide ongoing support for refugee and migrant children in Presevo Refugee Camp through a drop-in centre which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In Belgrade and Bogovadja other partners are running child-friendly spaces and youth corners, providing psychosocial activities as well as legal counselling. Save the Children/Praxis run outreach teams providing protection, monitoring, and legal assistance in parks and public places in Belgrade. The teams also assist in the voluntary relocation of people sleeping rough in Belgrade, focusing on protection of unaccompanied or separated children. Their psychosocial activities also include use of the 'Map of children on the move' (see 4.5.1):

Save the Children (2014) *When we are asked, not questioned: Consultations with children on the move.*

PHOTO: TOM PILSTON/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Refugees fleeing unrest and violence in Burundi due to the contested Presidential elections, find refuge in the Nyarugusu refugee camp over the border near Kasulu in western Tanzania.

Guidance and tools to provide mental health and psychosocial support to children on the move:

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) (2007). *Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*

IASC Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (2017). *A Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Mental health and psychosocial support programmes in emergency settings*

Council for the Welfare of Children et al. (2017) *Philippine National Implementation Guidelines for Child Friendly Spaces in Emergencies*

The Child Protection Working Group, The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2011) *Child Friendly Spaces Guidelines for Field Testing*

Save the Children Finland (2017) *Child Friendly Spaces in Reception Centres: Supporting asylum-seeking children and their families in Finland*

Save the Children (forthcoming) Field Friendly Guidelines for Child Friendly Spaces

The Child Protection Working Children (2012) *Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (Standard 10 is on mental health and psychosocial support)*

UNHCR (2017) *Community based protection and mental health psychosocial support.*

Guidance and tools to provide mental health and psychosocial support to children (including on the move) who have experienced GBV:

WHO (2012) *Mental health and psychosocial support for conflict-related sexual violence: principles and interventions*

IRC (2012) *Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Guidelines for health and psychosocial service providers in humanitarian settings*

4.10 Capacity building of government, civil society and community actors to increase protection, safeguarding and good communication with children on the move

Capacity building is relevant at every stage of programming with children on the move, including pre-flight, during migration or displacement, and to support durable solutions. Save the Children has an important role to play in supporting capacity building and technical support to governments to enhance their capacity as key duty bearers to fulfil children's rights, and in building the capacity of a range of civil society actors to increase the care and protection of children, and to support children in claiming their rights.

Key areas of capacity building and technical support provided by Save the Children include:

- ***Capacity building of civil society and government partners*** on child rights, humanitarian law and standards, child protection, children on the move, child participation, case management, family tracing and reunification, appropriate care, quality standards, and use of standard operating procedures.
- ***Capacity building of police, border, and immigration officials, and staff working in transit or reception centres,*** on child rights, protection, quality care, humanitarian and legal frameworks, communicationwith children.
- ***Capacity building and awareness raising of community actors*** including: community and religious elders, community-based child protection mechanism members, informal protection actors, and children and young people on child rights, child protection and gender-based violence, migration, trafficking, case management, family tracing and reunification, and children's participation.

Case example 4.10.1 Inter-agency emergency Standard Operating Procedures for prevention and response to gender-based violence and child protection in Jordan

Inter-agency child protection and gender-based violence assessments carried out in camps and urban settings in Jordan in 2012/2013 showed that some of the key protection challenges facing refugees in Jordan were lack of access to services and lack of information about services available, exploitation of women and children, gender-based violence including domestic violence, sexual violence and early marriage, children separated from their families, lack of access to education and child labour.

The National Council for Family Affairs, in cooperation with Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA, developed Inter-agency Emergency Standard Operating Procedures to address the issue, with a particular focus on those affected by the Syrian crisis, whether living in camps, settlements or urban centres in Jordan. This aims to harmonise standards and procedures for responding to child protection and gender-based violence among all organisations providing prevention and response services to refugees and host populations, within the National Family Protection Framework. The procedures also indicate which organisations are responsible for action in the four main response sectors: health, psychosocial support, law/justice and security. The standard operating procedures help ensure that survivors of gender-based violence and children exposed to protection risks will be referred to appropriate specialised response services in a timely manner. Save the Children was actively involved in training government, UN and civil society agencies on the Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that refugees and host communities are aware of the services available, and where they can be accessed.

Save the Children, International Rescue Committee, National Council for Family Affairs, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA (2014) *Inter-agency Emergency Standard Operating Procedures for Prevention of and Response to Gender-based Violence and Child Protection in Jordan*

Case example 4.10.2 Capacity building of border officials and police in Southern Africa

Save the Children Sweden supported a Pan-African project to train police officers, military, security and peacekeepers in child rights.

On the borders between Mozambique and South Africa, Save the Children collaborated with the International Organization for Migration to support the establishment of a border control inter-disciplinary team which enabled immigration officials at the border to be better linked to both government and non-governmental service providers, including community-based child protection committee. The team were trained and mentored in child rights, working with children, case management and determining children's best interests. They were mentored to consider each individual case, in order to prevent mass repatriation without attention to individual children's best interests.

Save the Children Sweden (2009) *Behind the Uniform: Training the military in child rights and child protection in Africa*

Case example 4.10.3 Building community-based protection systems that prevent irregular migration of young people and protect those on the move, Ethiopia

In Ethiopia Save the Children worked with local partners, community leaders and representatives, the local government Women and Children Affairs Department, and the community police to establish a child protection unit, managed by the local police, and a community taskforce against unsafe child migration and trafficking which works in and around the main bus station of Addis Ababa with migrant-sending communities and along the main migrant transit areas. Bus owners and drivers associations, and small bed renters (owners of cheaper accommodation services) are also represented in the community taskforce. Save the Children has trained members on unsafe migration and risks of trafficking and exploitation and how to identify cases and referral mechanisms to services. The bus owners, drivers, and small bed renters help to identify unaccompanied child migrants and suspected cases of trafficking and report these to the police child protection unit. The police follow up on identified cases and support tracing and reunification in collaboration with the Women's and Children's Affairs Department and other social services.

Guidance and tools to support capacity building of government, civil society and community actors to better protect children on the move:

Care International (2014) *"To Protect Her Honour": Child marriage in emergencies- the fatal confusion between protecting girls and sexual violence*

Saul Sanchez, Save the Children Mexico (2017) *Presentation on human rights, children's rights and migration: https://prezi.com/p/meqiw4pm5gei/*

Terre des Hommes (2014) *Locally-Developed Child Protection Practices Concerning Mobile Children in West Africa*

A general view of displaced Rohingyas in a makeshift camp in the Bangladeshi district of Cox's Bazar, where there are widespread shortages of food, water and shelter.

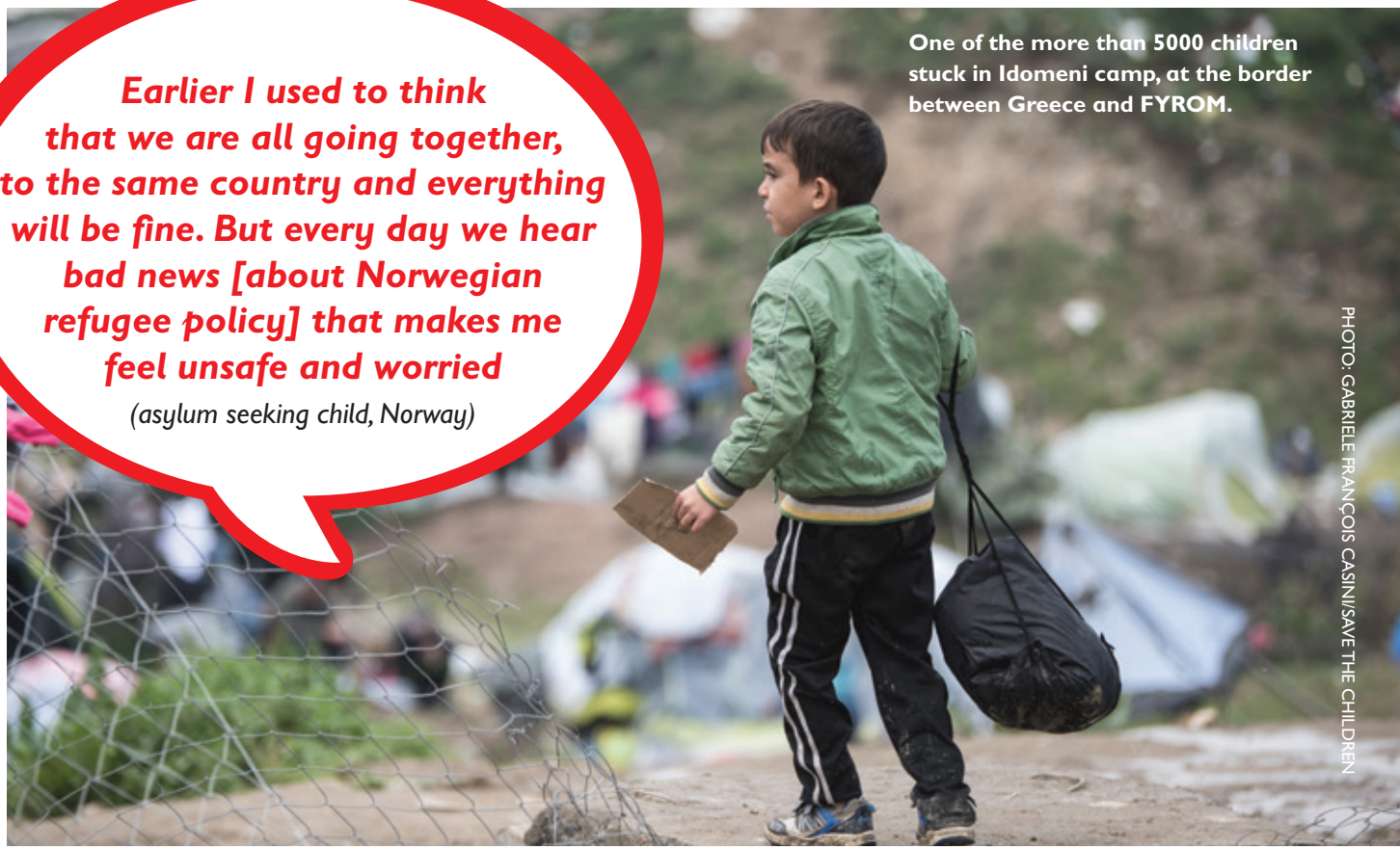
PHOTO: GMB AKASH/PANOS PICTURES/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Section 5

Durable and sustainable solutions for children: Key protection interventions

Earlier I used to think that we are all going together, to the same country and everything will be fine. But every day we hear bad news [about Norwegian refugee policy] that makes me feel unsafe and worried

(asylum seeking child, Norway)



One of the more than 5000 children stuck in Idomeni camp, at the border between Greece and FYROM.

PHOTO: GABRIELE FRANÇOIS CASINI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

When working with children on the move, we strive to help girls and boys regain a comprehensive set of rights which they may have lost during their displacement or migration. A solution will be long-term and sustainable.

Save the Children considers

> ***a solution when a child's rights are reinstated during and/or after migration or displacement, and that specific vulnerabilities and risks for the child, arising from migration or displacement including discrimination are minimised.***

The term "durable solution" is often used in the context of interventions with refugee or internally displaced persons. The term "sustainable solution" encompasses interventions with broader groups of children on the move (see table on definitions below).

Securing durable or sustainable solutions is a principle objective for all work with children on the move, particularly after situations of immediate and acute emergency migration or displacement.[52]

This section provides brief descriptions, practical examples, and links to existing guidance and tools on:

1. Consultations and research on the situation of refugee children and families at destination
2. Advocacy for refinements, implementation, and monitoring of "children first" national, transnational and global policies, laws and programmes
3. Appropriate care of unaccompanied children as part of durable solutions
4. Support children's and families' participation and integration in communities and strengthen social cohesion
5. Support voluntary returns and re-integration

The central aspect of a solution for a migrant, refugee or IDP child is:

1. an assessment of his or her best interests to identify the most appropriate settlement option (in the first country of arrival, in their country of origin or in a third country) and
2. a (re)integration process ensuring a continuum of care and physical, legal, material and psychosocial protection.

It is important that global or local solutions discussions are not solely focused on *Return and Reintegration*. *Resettlement* to a third country remains a key instrument to protect the most vulnerable and local integration in the first country of asylum is an important solution in cases of very protracted displacement.

PHOTO: SIMINE ALAM/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Children play with the items from the 'children on the move recreational kit' provided by Save the Children in a transit camp for refugees and migrants in Gevgelija, Republic of Macedonia.

Save the Children definition of solution[53]

REFUGEE CHILD	INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILD	IRREGULAR MIGRANT CHILD
Durable Solution: There is no explicit, legal definition for a durable solution for refugees even though the resumption of legal/ national status is a central pillar of refugee protection. Article 1 of the 1951 Refugee Convention refers to the conditions when the Convention ceases to apply to an individual; all six circumstances are linked to gaining permanent status or cessation of the protection risk. The definition of a durable solution, according to UNHCR, can be extrapolated from the Refugee Status Determination handbook[54], and other sources. UNHCR considers that national protection can be resumed by: i) return or voluntary re-availment of the protection of the country of origin, ii) reintegration or acquisition of the rights and obligations of a national of the country of integration or iii) resettlement to a third country with permanent legal status.	**Durable Solution:** There is no legal definition of a durable solution for IDPs even though the Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement, Principle 6 states that, 'displacement should last no longer than required by the circumstances,' and provides language against refoulement. The preferable definition therefore, comes from the IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs which states that, 'A durable solution is achieved when internally displaced persons no longer have any specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.'	**Sustainable Solution:** For irregular migrants, a clear definition for solutions is not available. However, a solutions definition can be assumed with Human Rights Law and Convention on the Rights of the Child. In their 2014 report, *Safe and Sound*,[55] UNICEF and UNHCR suggest a definition which can be applied to irregular migrants: 'a durable solution will be long-term and sustainable. It will ensure that the unaccompanied or separated child is able to develop into adulthood in an environment which will meet his or her needs as well as fulfil her/his rights as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and will not put the child at risk of persecution or harm.'

Save the Children's Migration and Displacement Initiative (MDI) supports staff to access guidance and tools so that Save the Children can comfortably partake as a central actor in facilitating solutions for children. See the *Durable Solutions for Children Toolbox* (forthcoming) which includes an introduction to concepts and definitions, a Solutions Assessment Package, training material and various related positions. For example, the MDI has developed a framework for assessing the achievement of a solution, to ensure a systematic approach. The framework is aligned with child, migrant and refugee rights as well available sector standards.

SOLUTIONS DOMAIN	SOLUTIONS (SUMMARY) INDICATOR	REFERENCE CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION	GLOBAL THEME CONVENTION
Physical Safety	Children are protected from conflict	Article 6, Article 38	Child Protection
	Children are protected from abuse	Article 19, Article 36, Article 37	Child Protection
Material Safety	Children are healthy	Article 23, Article 24	Health and Nutrition
	Children have access to education	Article 28, Article 29	Education
	Children do not suffer from poverty	Article 27	Child Poverty
Psycho-social Safety	Children's mental health is supported	Article 25, Article 39	Health and Nutrition/Child Protection (MHPSS)
	Children have a sense of belonging	Article 13, Article 14, Article 30	Health and Nutrition/Child Protection (MHPSS)
Legal Safety	Children have civil documents	Article4, Article 7, Article 8	Child Protection
	Children are united with their families	Article 9 & Article 10	Child Protection

This section provides brief descriptions, practical examples, and links to existing guidance and tools on:

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3. Appropriate care of unaccompanied children as part of durable solutions
4. Support children's and families' participation and integration in communities and strengthen social cohesion
5. Support voluntary returns and re-integration

PHOTO: JONATHAN HYAMS/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Rabia* and Mohamed* board a train for the Croatian border, carrying their daughter Yasmin*, four months and son Abdul*, one year 9 months, in Presevo, Serbia.

Key learning and critical issues when trying to secure durable or sustainable solutions for children:

- Solutions are often politically sensitive. Full local integration (aiming at 'new' citizenship) is often not accepted fully by host nations; return or repatriation is often impeded by a fragile context and long-running conflicts; and resettlement is dependent to the political will of other countries.
- Children and families often remain in 'transit' countries for protracted periods of time, but programmes are often designed with a short-term focus, rather than a longer-term focus supporting non-discriminatory access to basic services and local integration.
- Legal challenges are sometimes faced when trying to reunite children with their parents or relative caregivers who are in the same country but living as irregular immigrants.
- There is a growing trend by global policy makers to focus on returns, which can increase protection risks to children.
- There are debates and different positions about how Save the Children should respond to the forced returns of migrants.
- In many countries there are insufficient alternative family- and community-based care options for unaccompanied children, including under-developed use of legal guardianship.
- Transnational systems for child protection information management are under-developed.
- Donors are beginning to recognise migration and displacement as a development issue, as well as a humanitarian issue. This creates opportunities for Save the Children to access new types of funding and to strengthen partnerships to support durable solutions, including efforts to reduce the root causes of displacement and unsafe migration.
- While most hosting states are amenable to facilitating access to basic services such as education, healthcare, food and shelter, refugee hosting regimes are (far) less likely to grant the right work or to free mobility. Achieving the right to work, including ensuring self-reliance and inclusive growth for displaced and host communities, are key challenges in longer-term or protracted displacement situations, and will be a key entry point for development actors.[56]

Guidance and tools to support durable solutions:

Save the Children MDI (2017 draft) *The Durable Solutions for Children Toolbox* (Forthcoming on this site)

Connect (2014) *Connect Project: A Tool To Assess And Improve Reception Conditions http://www.connectproject.eu/*

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2010) *IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*

Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat (ReDSS), of which Save the Children is a member: Solutions Framework Guidance *http://www.regionaldss.org/*

Danish Refugee Council (2014) *What facilitates solutions to displacement? Lessons learned on key drivers for displacement solutions*

UNHCR: *Handbook for Repatriation and Reintegration Activities*

Blay, C and Crozet, S (2017) *Durable Solutions in Practice, Global Cluster for Early Recovery,*

See UNICEF's Child Notices: Child-specific country of origin reports at *https://www.unicef.nl/ons-werk/nederland/child-notices*

5.1 Consultations and research on the situation of refugee children and families at destination

Research and consultations with migrant and refugee children, young people, and families at destination, including participatory action research projects (see section 4.2) have informed programme design and advocacy efforts. Resource mapping and service mapping tools have also helped to build on the assets of migrant families and to link them to local services.

Case example 5.1.1 Consultations with refugee, migrant and asylum seeking children, Norway

In 2015 Save the Children undertook a study with refugee, migrant and asylum seeking children in Norway: Child friendly participatory tools including body mapping, drawing, and flashcards were used in focus group discussions with children aged 5 to 17 years. The children were mostly from Syria and Afghanistan, while a few were from Iraq, Somalia and Uzbekistan. The study explored and documented children's needs and experiences, their views and priorities while they were on the move and when they reached Norway. It also shares their proposals and recommendations to fulfil their rights, and their hopes and fears for the future. The study underlines children's universal need for safety and protection and to be with their families; to live in a safe place where there is access to education and hope for the future.

Save the Children Norway (2016) *Hear it From the Children- on the move and arriving in Norway.*

Case example 5.1.2 Unaccompanied children's experiences of trafficking and labour exploitation in Italy

Save the Children's 2017 report *Young Invisible Enslaved: Children victims of trafficking and labour exploitation in Italy* draws upon data collected at borders and in towns supplied by humanitarian staff, as well as drawing upon a review of existing secondary data. The report highlights the cruel practices many unaccompanied children arriving in Italy are subject to at the hands of traffickers. The report begins with a review of the international, European, and Italian legal framework on trafficking and serious exploitation. It then presents profiles of trafficking and exploitation victims, highlighting the connections between recent migratory trends and the different types of exploitation suffered by minors. It also provides an overview of the main issues detected in Ventimiglia, Rome and Calabria, where trafficking and exploitation of girls and boys is increasing. The profiles of those who take advantage of the vulnerability of trafficked children every day have been examined to provide a comprehensive picture of the criminal chain, which will help inform a political and programmatic plan of action against trafficking.

Save the Children (2017) *Young Invisible Enslaved: Children victims of trafficking and labour exploitation in Italy*

Guidance and tools to support consultations and research with children and families:

Save the Children (2003) *So you want to consult with children? A toolkit of good practice*

Save the Children Norway (2008) *A Kit of Tools for Participatory Research and Evaluation with Children, Young People and Adults: A compilation of tools used during a Thematic Evaluation and Documentation on Children's Participation in Armed Conflict, Post Conflict and Peace Building*

UNICEF (2013) Ethical Research Involving Children
This compendium provides practice guidance and case examples to guide ethical research with children.

A forthcoming toolkit from Save the Children's Migration and Displacement Initiative will contain three complementary guides:

1. Guide to assess if an environment is enabling to durable solutions for children
2. An indicator framework and user-friendly tool to measure if children have reached a durable solution
3. Guide on how to assess child safeguarding procedures and child sensitive processes with regards to durable solutions for children

5.2 Advocacy for refinements, implementation, and monitoring of 'children first' national, transnational and global policies, laws and programmes

Save the Children believes that all children in displacement or migration are considered children first and foremost, independent of their migration status. They are therefore entitled to all fundamental rights as stipulated in the UNCRC and the accompanying guiding documents. Together with other child-focused agencies Save the Children is advocating for refinements, implementation and monitoring of 'children first' policies and laws. Addressing the rights and needs of children involved in international migration requires first of all that their rights and needs as children are fully recognised. The fulfilment of child rights obligations to children on the move[57] requires coordination of efforts between government departments responsible for children's protection, care, justice, immigration, education, labour, social security, health, and other departments.

Save the Children's programmatic approach should include strong advocacy, as well as a legal and child rights governance component.[58] Advocacy should support direct programmatic interventions to ensure system-based reforms that promote non-discriminatory access to all basic services (education, health, protection, social security), in addition to rights to birth registration, to secure identity papers, and permits for parents, caregivers and young people to work. Partnerships are key to this, including partnerships with legal and policy experts, as well as other implementing agencies who are operational at different levels (from local to national, regional and global) and, importantly, refugee and migrant groups, including children and youth.[59]

Participation and representation of children on the move in the development of policy and practice is an important vehicle for effective advocacy and for empowering rights holders to claim their rights. Risk assessments and risk mitigation carried out in collaboration with children and young people can inform decision making in the best interests of the child.

Case example 5.2.1 Advocacy on 'children first' policies, UN Day of General Discussion on the rights of Children in the Context of International Migration

Save the Children was one of the founding members of the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move. This group brings together agencies working for the protection and support of children involved in or affected by migratory situations and includes Save the Children, UNICEF, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, Terre des Hommes, World Vision, Plan International, the African Movement of Working Children and Youths (AMWCY/MAEJT), Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), the Oak Foundation and individual experts and academics. In September 2012, during a Day of General Discussion, the Inter-Agency Group submitted a Joint Statement to the UN Committee. The statement called on State Parties, as part of their regular reports to the Committee, to report on key initiatives and progress aimed at developing effective and appropriate child protection systems and implementing integrated, coordinated and comprehensive responses for all children, based on the best interests of the child and inclusive of the specific needs of children on the move. *Joint Statement of the InterAgency Group on Children on the Move*

PHOTO: GABRIELE FRANÇOIS CASINI/SAVE THE CHILDREN

A young girl holds her little sister in the middle of the rail tracks passing through Idomeni camp.

PHOTO: PEDRO ARMESTRE/SAVE THE CHILDREN

More than 10,000 refugees are stranded in Idomeni, at the border between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The refugees live in tents placed by the railway tracks waiting in hope for the border to open.

Case example 5.2.2 Advocacy to inform child-focused developments of the Global Compacts concerning refugees, and migrants.

The Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts

Following the adoption of the New York Declaration, Save the Children supported the creation of a multi-agency Initiative on child rights in the global compacts. The initiative is being driven by a steering committee, co-convened by Save the Children and Terre des Hommes, which comprises experts, multilateral institutions, and non-governmental and philanthropic organisations. The aim of the initiative is to ensure that the Global Compacts are adopted with coherent and harmonised child-focused goals, targets and indicators in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda.

The initiative drafted a report outlining goals, targets and indicators that the two global compacts should include in order to fully reflect commitments to children's rights in the context of flows of migrants and refugees.

Resources on the Initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts:

Save the Children's key recommendations for the Global Compact on Refugees

Save the Children's key recommendations for the Global Compact on Migration

Save the Children also collaborated with the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council and International Rescue Committee to develop and share an advocacy paper to inform the development of the Global Compact on Refugees: *Joint NGO Recommendation on Durable Solutions for the Global Compact on Refugees' Programme of Action.* This includes a priority recommendation to make solution approaches sensitive to vulnerable groups, in particular children and outlines specific measures that should be implemented. Staff from across the movement were actively involved in the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Children on the Move in Geneva in December 2016. Again, Save the Children and partners highlighted the urgent need to focus on the needs of children in the Global Compacts. Information and materials from the High Level Dialogue can be found *here*.

Case example 5.2.3 Advocacy to end immigration detention of children

Globally, and in different regional and country programmes, Save the Children is advocating for an end to the detention of children for immigration purposes. In the Asia region, we have undertaken research with children and families on the move which has informed advocacy with government authorities to end detention. Strategic approaches to end immigration detention of children have included a focus on:

- Reviewing or developing new national legislation and policies prohibiting the practice of detention of child immigrants.
- Advocacy for the right to work for parents, caregivers and young people of legal working age from migrant, asylum seeking or refugee families
- Strengthening of child protection case management to ensure individual plans are guided by the best interests of the child
- Increasing access to community housing and/ or open shelters or reception centres and other programmes or mechanisms which effectively divert individuals away from detention or secure their release from detention
- Working with government agencies to strengthen family- and community-based alternative care options including: guardianship, kinship care, foster care, group homes and supervised independent living.

Save the Children (2016) *The Journey of Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children Across the Andaman Sea*

In terms of programming with children in immigration detention there are different positions. As outlined in the MDI paper Locked Up: *Understanding and Responding to the rise in the Immigration Detention of Children: "By engaging programmatically, we risk being seen as directly supporting, or complicit with, the detention of child migrants and the forced return of children. By* ***not*** *engaging, Save the Children risks not delivering assistance to children in need of support and undermining our ability to advocate for these children."* Save the Children teams who have access to children in immigration detention and who are considering offering case management support should consult the guidelines in the MDI paper, ensuring in particular that intervening is in the child's best interests and that they have approval from their senior management.

Locked Up: *Understanding and Responding to the rise in the Immigration Detention of Children*

A scoping study of Save the Children's work on **Alternatives to Detention** was carried out in early 2018. This study sought to identify organisational approaches to alternatives to immigration detention for children to contribute to SC's organisational understanding and awareness of alternative options and to support both our programmes and advocacy efforts. It concerns migrant children who are subject to, or at risk of, detention by states due to their immigration status or that of their parents. It aims to identify some of the more promising approaches, the principles and steps required to develop alternatives, key challenges and gaps that need to be addressed and signpost the reader to tools to support them in their work in this field.

Links to key guidance and tools to support rights based advocacy on children on the move:

Coram's Children's Legal Centre (2014) *Standards to Ensure that Unaccompanied Migrant Children are Able to Fully Participate: A tool to assist actors in legal and judicial proceedings*

Save the Children (2007) *Advocacy Matters: Helping children change their world. A Save the Children guide to advocacy- Facilitator's Manual*

Save the Children (2013) *Guidelines for Children's Participation in Humanitarian Programming*

Save the Children (2016) *The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration: Voices of Children on the Move*

Save the Children and International Organization for Migration (2015) *Children on the Move: Mancala, the Game of Moving*

Terre des Hommes (2016) *Be a Protector of Children on the Move: Guidance for journalists*

Save the Children (2018) Report on Internal scoping study on alternatives to detention for Children

5.3 Support appropriate care of unaccompanied children as part of the durable solutions

Appropriate care of unaccompanied children is an essential component to ensure durable solutions. Preserving family unity is a key principle of the UNCRC, and should be prioritised, unless it is assessed not to be in the best interests of the child. In circumstances where a child is unable to be reunited with her or his own parents, a case management approach is required to support assessments and care planning for appropriate care arrangements in the best interests of the child, with crucial efforts to listen to the child's own views and preferences. Family- and community-based care options should be favoured, including options such as: kinship care, foster care, guardianship, supervised independent living (for young people), or small group homes. Efforts to monitor quality care standards (in the range of care settings) are crucial. There is increasing advocacy to strengthen guardianship systems to support unaccompanied and separated children, with growing efforts by government agencies in some countries to identify and train legal guardians, while also ensuring necessary safeguards are in place.

Case example 5.3.1 Supporting quality reception services, child-friendly spaces, and alternative care of unaccompanied children in Finland through housing units, foster care, and after care

Save the Children Finland has a long history of supporting home-like care in Finland. With increased numbers of unaccompanied children coming to Finland, the government and municipal authorities sought support from Save the Children to run *two temporary interim reception centres* (from 2015–2016). Both units, Espoo and Oulu, were established rapidly at the request of the Finnish Migration Service (Migri) in November 2015 in order to strengthen the capacity of reception services for children. Units were funded by the Ministry of the Interior through Migri.

Migri set minimum standards for care, based on laws such as the Act on the Reception of Persons Seeking International Protection, the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration, the Child Welfare Act, the Act on checking the criminal background of persons working with children and the Aliens Act.

Save the Children ensured that all the reception centre employees received relevant training in topic, such as migration, human rights, and working with children who have experienced distress. They ensured that:

- every child had their own supervisor with whom they could build trust
- advice was sought or referrals were made to an adolescent psychiatrist when needed
- children had access to school and training workshops on several topics, such as Finnish society, sexual health and rights and harmful cultural practices.

When the reception centres were closed, Save the Children was supported by the local authorities to run a ***housing unit for unaccompanied children*** (from January 2017) working with the same employees and with children from the reception centre who had received a residence permit. Support encompasses ***supported independent living*** and ***after-care services*** for young people aged 18 to 21 years old. Furthermore, Save the Children is advocating for after-care support until the age of 25 years.

In order to support the psychosocial well-being of accompanied asylum seeker children and families, Save the Children Finland established child-friendly spaces in four family and adult reception centres in 2015, funded by Save the Children UK. From March 2017, two child-friendly spaces are still running and are supported by the Finnish Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations. See *Child Friendly Spaces in Reception Centres: Supporting asylum-seeking children and their families in Finland*

In February 2017, Save the Children Finland started a project to identify and train foster families for unaccompanied children who have received a residence permit.

Save the Children Finland has advocated:

- for a strengthened legal guardian system
- for family reunification
- for a shorter asylum process
- against deportations of families and children to countries currently considered unsafe.

Case example 5.3.2 Guidance and tools for good practice on reception and protection of unaccompanied migrant children, Europe

In 2014, the European Union funded a one-year inter-agency initiative to identify and promote good practices on the reception and protection of unaccompanied migrant children based on national mappings carried out in Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. Agencies involved included: Save the Children (Sweden and Italy), UNHCR's Bureau for Europe, NIDOS (the Dutch guardianship institution responsible for unaccompanied children in the Netherlands), Coram Children's Legal Centre in the UK, Don Calabria Institute, the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies in Italy and the County Administration in Västra Götaland in Sweden. This project resulted in a series of practical tools and guidance including:

- *Who's Responsible? A tool to strengthen cooperation between actors involved in the protection system for unaccompanied migrant children*
- *Local Co-Operation for Unaccompanied Children: A tool to assess and improve reception conditions*
- *Standards to Ensure that Unaccompanied Migrant Children are Able to Fully Participate: A tool to assist actors in legal and judicial proceedings*
- *The Right to be Heard and Participation of Unaccompanied Children: A tool to support the collection of children's views on protection and reception services*

Guidance and tools to support alternative care (also see guidance in section 4.10):

FRA, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2014) *Guardianship for children deprived of parental care: A handbook to reinforce guardianship systems to cater for the specific needs of child victims of trafficking*

International Social Service (2017) *Children on the Move: From protection towards a quality sustainable solution: A practical guide*

International Social Service (2017) *Handbook for the Care of Unaccompanied Minors in Switzerland: A practical guide for professionals*

International Rescue Committee, UNHCR and UNICEF (2017) *The Way Forward to Strengthened Policies and Practices for Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Europe*

5.4 Support children and families' participation and integration in communities and strengthen social cohesion.

Migrant, refugee or asylum-seeking children and families are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation when they are isolated or discriminated against in the communities in which they live. Thus, support for community integration, strengthening of social networks and opportunities to actively participate in communities and schools is important to strengthen protection factors. Children and young people have also emphasised the importance of community integration – to access local schools, to join local children's or youth groups, to learn local languages, to join local sports teams, etc. Mentoring and befriending schemes, and access to mental health and psychosocial support for children and caregivers, also contribute to community integration and stronger social networks. Integrated community projects which provide opportunities for relationships and social networks between members of host communities and asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are needed to strengthen non-discriminatory, safe and welcoming communities.

Case example 5.4.1 Supporting community integration, participation and advocacy by unaccompanied children and young people through creative empowering methodologies, Sweden

Save the Children Sweden has supported community integration, coaching and participation of refugee and asylum-seeking children in Sweden, with a particular focus on unaccompanied children. Volunteers working with local branches of Save the Children in different parts of country have supported different activities with unaccompanied children, including: language coaching, homework support, and linking young people to different services.

Projects have also been implemented to support participation and advocacy by unaccompanied children to improve their situation using creative and empowering methodologies including:

- ***meeting places*** as a method to get children's feedback and suggestions to improve reception centres
- ***digital story telling*** using photography, drawing and film to express and share key messages
- ***youth panels*** to enable unaccompanied children and young people to have dialogue with relevant policy makers, practitioners and service providers.

Reflections and guidance on the methods that have been developed and used are documented: *From Participation to Empowerment: Including feedback from children in evaluating and improving services*

5.5 Support voluntary returns and re-integration

Programme staff need to understand legal frameworks on humanitarian systems and governance relating to returns in each national and regional context. There are ethical considerations with regard to whether and how Save the Children engages in the return processes. Save the Children never supports involuntary return of children and return processes should be in accordance with international conventions and adhere to UNHCR ExCom Conclusions on International Protection. Save the Children advocates for careful consideration of children's best interests. Voluntary and safe return processes for children and families should ensure careful consideration around protection, reintegration, livelihood opportunities, and non-discriminatory access to basic services (education, protection, health).

Voluntary return is one of UNCHR's three durable solutions for refugees. It is typically the preferred solution for refugees themselves. Save the Children supports the return of children if it is genuinely voluntary and meets the principle of non refoulement (the practice of not forcing refugees or asylum seekers to return to a country in which they are liable to be subjected to persecution). Voluntary return can also apply to irregular migrants or (failed) asylum seekers when they voluntarily choose to return to their country of origin.

When voluntary return processes are underway, Save the Children can support better linkages and information sharing between destination, transit and countries of origin to support preparation and better integration. Save the Children will support the development and promotion of context-specific standards for a safe return environment for children, and monitor the extent that children and families with children have access to basic services, such as health, education, access to sufficient livelihoods, etc. Prior to returns, Save the Children should set a baseline for safe return conditions for children, and support the build-up of a safe and conducive environment

Risk assessments and consideration of children's best interests are needed to determine whether and how to undertake programming with coerced or forcibly returned migrant, refugee and internally displaced children. Assessments should also consider the needs of the host community. See MDI holding paper on the era of returns: definitions, trends and programmatic responses to child return and reintegration (forthcoming).

Syrian children try to keep warm in the rain with other refugees and migrants who have crossed from Serbia into Roszke, Hungary.

Case example 5.5.1 Assessment to support the rights of migrant children and adolescents who are returning to their countries of origin in Central America

In Central America a rapid assessment was undertaken to address the lack of information on policies and services of government agencies and non-governmental organisations responsible for protecting the rights of child and adolescent migrants returning to their countries of origin in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico.

The report focuses on actions to restore the child's or adolescent's right to family life and community integration. In particular, it seeks to identify operational and institutional deficiencies and economic, social and cultural factors that generate gaps between national and international legislative developments. The ultimate goal of this publication is to serve as a basis for model policies and services that ensure adequate protection of the rights of migrant children and long-term reintegration.

Red Latinoamericana de Acogimiento Familiar (Network of Latin-American Fostering Families) and UNICEF (2015) *Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes Migrantes Retornados. Un análisis de los contextos y las respuestas de los servicios y las políticas de protección en El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y México*

Case example 5.5.2 Research to support return process, Afghanistan and Sweden

Save the Children advocates for durable solutions and long-term solutions in the best interests of the child whether it be in the host community, resettlement or return to their country of origin. Post-arrival monitoring or follow up of children being returned is an important safeguard. Save the Children Sweden and Afghanistan have developed *Terms of Reference for a study on safe return and durable solutions for children returning to Afghanistan from Europe*. The study will provide: knowledge on the post-return and reintegration situation of children; an understanding of children's experiences of having been returned voluntarily or by force to Afghanistan, as well as their experience of seeking asylum in Europe, and the possibilities of return as a durable solution. Following the study a research manual for assessing return contexts will be developed and tested.

ToR for study on safe return and durable solutions: Prospects for children returning to Afghanistan from Europe.

Links to key guidance and tools to support return and reintegration:

Inter-agency group on children's reintegration (2016) *Guidelines on Children's Reintegration*

UNICEF (2015) *Children's Rights in Return Policy and Practice in Europe: A discussion paper on the return of unaccompanied and separated children to institutional reception or family*

PHOTO: SAIKAT MOJUMDER/SAVE THE CHILDREN

A mother and child amid the destruction caused by Cyclone Mora.

Section 6

Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning in protection programming with children on the move

Children and families gathered at a temporary informal camp in Röszke, Hungary.

PHOTO: JONATHAN HYAMS/SAVE THE CHILDREN

Save the Children has undertaken a number of assessments and studies of children on the move which has informed programme and advocacy developments. There continues to be a critical need to strengthen monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) of protection programming for children on the move. More robust baselines, mid-lines and end-lines, using mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative), are needed to determine what does and does not work to prevent unsafe migration, to protect children on the move, and to ensure durable and long-term solutions in the best interests of the child. There is also a need for more longitudinal follow-up evaluations to determine programmatic impact over time, particularly with regards to durable and sustainable solutions.

Participatory monitoring, evaluation and accountability mechanisms are needed to ensure that the views and experiences of girls, boys, women and men are gathered and used to improve evidence-based advocacy and programme improvements. Accountability mechanisms need to be designed in flexible and creative ways to ensure that feedback is given to children and families on the move. Moreover, gender-sensitive indicators are needed, and data needs to be disaggregated by gender, age, legal status, nationality, ethnicity, disability and other factors.

This section provides brief descriptions, examples, and links to existing guidance and tools on:

1. Outcome indicators for protection programming
2. Baseline studies, mid-term evaluations, and outcome evaluations
3. Feedback and accountability mechanisms

Key learning and critical issues when undertaking MEAL with children on the move:

- There is insufficient evidence about what does and does not work to ensure protection of children on the move.
- It is difficult to collect periodic data from girls, boys, women and men when they are on the move, especially when they are crossing borders, and especially when informal illegal routes are used.
- Children and adults on the move have increased fears about sharing background information and that allowing agencies to collect and store their personal data may increase their vulnerability. As with all data collection exercises, a comprehensive risk assessment must be carried out before any data collection begins.
- There are insufficient efforts to collect, analyse and share disaggregated data in relation to gender, age, legal status, family care situation, ethnicity, disability, etc.

Guidance, examples of evaluation reports and tools for MEAL with children on the move

Save the Children (2015) *Child Protection Outcome Indicators*

Braeden Rogers & Lindsay Stark (2010) *Save the Children UK Mobile Assessment Tool for Children on the Move South Africa Pilot Report.* Accompanying tools can be found *here*

Child Frontiers (2012) *Final External Evaluation of Save the Children's Sustainable Multi-Actor Solutions to Migration-Related Child Poverty in the Greater Mekong Sub-regional programme.*

Margot Rothman for Save the Children (2012) Final Evaluation of the Jacobs Foundation Initiative Capitalizing on Youth Mobility in West Africa. Final Report

Save the Children (2013) *Programme Accountability Guidance Pack. A Save the Children Resource.*
This resource includes written guidance and DVDs to put accountability into practice, including setting up a complaints and response mechanism.

Save the Children (2012) *Evaluation Handbook*
This handbook focuses on the key role evaluations play in gathering evidence to inform this learning cycle. It explains Save the Children's evaluation requirements and sets out good practice to help you improve the evaluation process for your project or programme.

International Organization for Migration (2008) *Handbook on performance indicators for counter-trafficking projects*

Save the Children Zimbabwe (2016) *Government of Zimbabwe and Save the Children International Chipinge Migration Cross Border Collaboration Forum Stakeholder Baseline Assessment Report*

Save the Children Zimbabwe (2017) *Mid-term evaluation report for Zimbabwe Children on the Move 2016-2018 for three supported districts (Hurungwe, Beit Bridge and Chipinge) in Zimbabwe, January 2016 – December 2018.*

Save the Children Eastern and Southern Africa (2017) *ESA Quality Benchmarks – Child Protection*

Save the Children's *Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Introductory Course*

6.1 Outcome indicators for protection programming with children on the move

Save the Children has developed a menu of indicators, including specific outcome indicators, for protection programming with children on the move. The individual menus include a set of tested indicators that have been used not only by Save the Children, but also by other like-minded organisations, such as World Vision, International Organization for Migration, UNICEF, and UN Development Programme, as well as various government and donor agencies. They are designed to support the development of monitoring and evaluation systems and mainstream Save the Children's child protection work both at project and strategic levels. Indicators for the goals, outcome indicators and intermediate outcomes of protection programming with children on the move are available in *Child Protection Outcome Indicators.*

CHILD PROTECTION OUTCOME INDICATORS

GOAL

Improve the protection of children, who migrate either voluntarily or involuntarily, by increasing their access to stronger and coordinated care and protection systems, which protect them from exploitation, abuse, neglect, violence and discrimination

KEY OUTCOMES

1. Preventing unsafe migration: are prevented from unsafe migration through the provision of various preventative quality care and support interventions.

2. Responding to the needs of children on the move: Children in transit, or who have arrived to their destination, receive adequate support and protection.

3. Legal and policy reform at national and regional levels: Children on the move are protected by national and regional legislations/policies and frameworks, which are coherent across asylum, migration and trafficking policies and are based on the best interests of the child.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

1.1 Strengthened families and communities:
Children grow up in a safe and nurturing home, which decreases the need for risky child migration

1.2 Access to adequate resources:
Children and families have access to social protection, livelihoods and anti-poverty and employment support schemes in areas of origin to decrease the need for risky movement

1.3 Understanding the risks:
Children and communities are aware of the risks associated with unsafe migration and are able to mitigate these and prevent the need for unsafe migration through effective community-based mechanisms

2.1 Service provision:
Appropriate short-, medium-term and durable solutions based on the child's best interests are identified and implemented for children on the move in transit and destination

2.2 Service coordination:
Service providers effectively coordinate within and between countries to ensure adequate responses and services are provided and accessible to children on the move in areas of origin, transit and destination

3.1 National policy and legislative frameworks:
States implement effective national laws and policies that provide appropriate protection to children at risk of unsafe migration and to children on the move in areas of transit and destination independently of their migration status

3.2 Integrated regional and international policy and legislative frameworks:
Regional and international bodies have coordinated legislation, policies and programmes to protect children who move across borders

3.3 Increased capacity and budgetary provisions:
Budget allocations and local capacity for the effective implementation of child protection systems are in place or increased to adequately respond to the needs of children on the move

6.2 Baseline studies, mid-term evaluations, and outcome evaluations of CoM programmes

Improved baseline data collection, mid-term evaluation and outcome evaluation are needed to develop an evidence base concerning the relevance, effectiveness, outcomes, and sustainability of protection interventions with children on the move. Ongoing monitoring with regular opportunities to listen to and act on the perspective of girls, boys, parents and caregivers, practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders are also necessary to increase accountability to children, and to inform understanding of what does and does not work in different contexts, for whom, and why. See *also case example 3.1.1 Baseline study in Central America.*

Case example 6.2.1 Baseline and mid-term evaluation of a regional PRAEJEM project on children on the move, West Africa

In West Africa Save the Children implemented the PRAEJEM project in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso to promote social cohesion and livelihood support for young migrant child workers, and to set up national and transnational coordination mechanisms. In 2015, a baseline study was undertaken to identify knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding the protection of young migrant workers in internal and cross-border mobility between Burkina Faso, Mali and Côte d'Ivoire, and their access to basic services, training and employment opportunities. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were used including: focus group discussions with children and young migrant workers (some separated by gender); a questionnaire with children and young migrant workers; a questionnaire with employers; interviews with members of community-based organisations and civil society organisations; and interviews with members of social and administrative authorities.

Ligne de base/ CAP pour le projet

In 2017 a mid-term evaluation was undertaken to assess the extent to which Save the Children has been able to respond effectively to the project objectives: A field study was conducted by an external consultant using both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods including: a questionnaire, interview guide and focus group guide. A questionnaire was sent to a sample of 661 children or young migrant workers, (209 girls (32%) and 452 boys (68%)) and 242 adults (employers, mothers, fathers, tutors, shelter providers, etc.), of whom 79 were women (33%) and 163 men (67%). Semi-directed interviews were conducted with officials of state or private social services structures (Education, Justice, Security, Health, etc.). A focus group guide for children was developed and sent to groups of children. Following the completion of field investigations, a set of qualitative and quantitative data was obtained (field survey data and routine project data), on the basis of which the project implementation performance was assessed.
The mid-term evaluation provided evidence of the relevance of coordinated efforts. 86% of respondents (children / young migrants and adults) believe that they have changed their behavior as a result of project interventions. 67% confirmed that they are taking precautions to mitigate the risks associated with dangerous migration. Coordinated efforts were undertaken to support children's access to education and apprenticeships, and to protect their rights. Apprenticeships were supported for young people aged 15 to 25 years. Positive feedback was provided relating to legal assistance that was provided to migrant children and young workers. Collaborative child protection coordination mechanisms were strengthened at sub-national and national levels to support family reunification, and 323 state actors were trained in Protection Case management.

Evaluation à mi-parcours du Projet Régional d'Appui aux Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs Migrants – PRAEJEM.

6.3 Feedback and accountability mechanisms with children on the move

Save the Children has developed and adapted child-friendly feedback and accountability mechanisms for use with children on the move, and in particular with unaccompanied and separated children. The inter-agency project has developed guidance to improve good practice on the reception and protection of unaccompanied children in Europe *(see case example 5.3.2)* including *The Right to be Heard and Participation of Unaccompanied Children: A tool to support the collection of children's views on protection and reception services.* Furthermore, the Save the Children Sweden publication *From Participation to Empowerment: Including feedback from children in evaluating and improving services* (case example 5.4.1) includes guidance and tools for feedback, evaluation, and accountability mechanisms for work with unaccompanied children and young people.

Case example 6.3.1 Creative child-friendly feedback mechanisms with refugee and migrant children, the Balkans

As part of its efforts to improve accountability to refugee and migrant children, The Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub explored different options for a contextually-appropriate feedback mechanism that would provide an effective, accessible, and safe channel of communication for refugees and migrants to express their needs, ideas, and opinions about their work. One of the key results of this process was the development of the Multimedia Suggestion Box, a Facebook Messenger based platform for continuous collection of feedback from beneficiaries on the activities the Hub was implementing and the services they were providing. Its purpose is to offer an easy-to-use channel for communication with beneficiaries, inform decision making, and improve overall responsiveness to beneficiaries' needs. This document describes key features of the Multimedia Suggestion Box and a clear explanation of how it is used.

Save the Children (2018) *Balkans Migration and Displacement Hub: Multimedia Suggestion Box*

Guidance, examples of evaluation reports and tools for MEAL with children on the move

Save the Children (2013) *Programme Accountability Guidance Pack. A Save the Children Resource*

Save the Children (2012) *Case studies: Child participation and Accountability*

Save the Children (2010) *Accountability matters in emergencies. Listening to children and responding to their feedback during Save the Children's humanitarian response in Myanmar (Burma)*

Save the Children (2010) *Speaking Out, Being Heard. Experiences of child participation and accountability to children from around the world*

PHOTO: DAPHNEE COOK/SAVE THE CHILDREN

A mother and her two children at a Save the Children Supplementary Feeding Centre.

References

1 Unicef (2016) *Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children*

2 Inter-agency group on Children on the Move (2012) *Joint Statement of the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move to the UN CRC Committee. Day of General Discussion.*

3 Voluntary migration is where the child willingly decides to migrate. Forced migration is a general term used to describe a migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or human-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects).

4 International Organization for Migration (2013) *Children on the Move.*

5 Inter-agency group on Children on the Move (2012) *Joint Statement of the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move to the UN CRC Committee. Day of General Discussion.*

6 Save the Children and International Rescue Committee (2017) *Out of Sight: exploited and alone: A joint brief of the situation for unaccompanied and separated children in Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Croatia.*

7 Terre des Hommes International Federation (2011) *Exploring methods to protect children on the move: A handbook for organisations wanting to prevent child trafficking, exploitation and the worst forms of child labour.*

8 Save the Children (2008) *Protecting and supporting children on the move.*

9 Population Council (2013) *Girls on the move: Adolescent girls and migration in the developing world. A girl's count report on adolescent girls.*

10 Terre des Hommes International Federation (2011) *Exploring methods to protect children on the move: A handbook for organisations wanting to prevent child trafficking, exploitation and the worst forms of child labour.*

11 International Social Service (2017) *Children on the Move: from protection towards a quality sustainable solution: A practical guide.*

12 Inter-agency group on Children on the Move (2012) *Joint Statement of the Inter-Agency Group on Children on the Move to the UN CRC Committee. Day of General Discussion.*

13 International Organization for Migration (2016) *International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration.*

14 Ibid.

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