



UPDATE ON CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

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Welcome to the first Update on Children on the move.

Children on the move (CoM) are a 'Priority Area' within the Save the Children Child Protection Initiative (CPI). 'Children on the Move' means "Those children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with out without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement might place them at risk (or at increased risk) of inadequate care, economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence."

Children on the move is an umbrella term that brings together a series of categories of children to highlight their common protection needs, including, for example: children who have been trafficked, children who migrate (e.g. to pursue better life opportunities, to look for work or education or to escape exploitative or abusive situations at home, or because of other protection needs), children displaced by conflict and natural disasters and children who live and work in the streets.

This update is the first of forthcoming quarterly updates on news related to Children on the Move. It should help you with the work you do for children in this area and keep colleagues informed of policy, research, programming and events relating to children on the move.

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1. CPI Sub-group on CoM

A new Sub-group on Children on the Move has been established by the CPI. This group is intended to support staff across Save the Children to develop and oversee the implementation of the CPI global thematic strategy for CoM and to ensure that CoM programming is strategic and systematically works towards the CPI outcomes for 2015 (See Section 2 below).

In addition, the group will function as a virtual arena for: sharing experiences, ideas, good practice and lessons learned relating to programming on CoM; formulating strategy and programming priorities and identifying successful, innovative practices; clarifying



conceptual issues involved in CoM programming and improving insight into the issues, including prevention and response; developing a theoretical background and foundation for CoM work, including contributing to a comprehensive body of literature; and identifying and sharing funding opportunities.

The group brings together experts on a variety of issues that relate to Children on the move in several different contexts. While some participants have been actively involved at the coordination level of initiatives addressing CoM programming, including the West Africa Interagency Platform, others have been more active at community level working either directly with children or with local actors to develop tools, for example for best interest determination for CoM, and campaigns for capacity building and awareness-raising.

The Group will communicate primarily via email and through quarterly teleconferences; the first teleconference took place on 16 May 2011. Members will also be invited to participate in strategic joint policy, learning, advocacy and programming initiatives.

If you wish to join please complete the following form and return it to Camilla Dalla-Favera c.dalla-favera@savethechildren.org.uk

Name:	Job Title:
Organisation:	Address:
Email:	Phone:
Skype:	
A short statement outlining expertise and experience in CoM issues:	
A short statement outlining what support you hope to receive from the CoM sub-group.	

2. Strategic Direction

The Child Protection Initiative has developed a Priority Area Strategy 2010-2015: Children without Appropriate Care, which lays out two strategic goals of care interventions, one of which is Children on the Move. The protection of children on the move crosses other CPI priority thematic areas as it encompasses strong care-related elements, protection from various forms of

exploitation, particularly hazardous child labour, and looks at the impact of conflict and disasters on child mobility.

As stated in the CPI strategy for CoM, Save the Children aims to support the care and protection of all children in the move not by preventing movement per se but by preventing the worst forms of movement (including unsafe migration as well as trafficking, sale of children and abduction) and increasing children's choices, including about whether to move or not, and their access to opportunities. Save the Children plans to deliver this by building effective rights-based child protection systems, services and interventions that aim to: alleviate the pressures that force children to move and reduce the vulnerabilities that put children at risk of the worst forms of movement; provide support to children so that when they do move they do so in a safer manner; offer advice, practical support, interim care and other support to children in transit or those who have already arrived at their destination.

As part of this, Save the Children is committed to:

- The creation or adaptation of national policies and services to protect all children on the move in a coordinated way, taking the child's best interest into consideration from prevention to response.
- Influencing changes to national and regional legislations/policies and frameworks aimed at ensuring coherence in the protection of children on the move so the best interests of the child are served regardless whether they are asylum-seeking, trafficked or migrant children.
- Carrying out awareness raising and capacity building at community level so that in countries where Save the Children has children on the move programmes, communities, children and young people will take action themselves to protect children on the move.

Countries that will be the focus for achieving the objectives described above are:

- south-east Asia and the Pacific: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam
- south and central Asia: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka



- south-east Europe: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Italy, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia
- east and southern Africa: Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe
- west and central Africa: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone

Members of the CPI Children on the Move subgroup participating in the first teleconference discussed various activities relating to the global CPI 2011 Annual Plan. These included work in Thailand such as: looking at separation of migrant children in Burma; standards of care for separated children including migrant children; training of local NGOs at community level with regards to standards of care; planned national training on same issues for 2012/13; alternative care mechanisms for migrant children in conflict with the law; non institution based care for trafficked children; integration and re-integration of children on the move; advocacy work at national level.

Also other ongoing activities were discussed that relate to the 2011 CPI work plan, including: finishing the pilot on the Mobility Assessment Tool (MAT); discussion on policy reports, possibly including one about discrimination; the organisation of a global capacity-building event on CoM for SC staff; follow-up on the Barcelona conference, including a meeting with the Global (inter-agency) Working Group on CoM on 23 June.

Lastly, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was discussed at length in relation to the CPI 2011 Annual Plan. All participants felt that it was important for CoM and child migration issues to be presented at GFMD and next steps related to this are described above. It was also noted that this Task Group does not hold any budget and that therefore any initiative for participation during the GFMD would need to be funded, possibly by participating SC Members.

3. Mobility Assessment Tool (MAT)

The MAT is a data collection tool that gathers information about children's reasons for migration, their travel plans, their needs while in transit and their destination, coping mechanisms, and

recommendations for future services or programming.

An initial pilot of the MAT was conducted on the border with Zimbabwe in Musina, South Africa from March 2010 in partnership with the Columbia Group for Children in Adversity. This data collection exercise yielded useful information and demonstrated the value of this tool for collecting data that can inform programming decisions. The pilot in South Africa, however, was conducted over a short period of time and did not fully test the methodology, in particular the potential of Respondent Driven Sampling or the use of secondary incentives. Additionally, the pilot in South Africa took place in one location, and therefore could not provide any evidence about whether this tool is truly mobile, as is the intention.

Save the Children, therefore, decided to undertake a second pilot in Thailand on the Lao PDR border in late 2010 to further test the MAT, the sampling strategy, the mobile application of the tool, the use of secondary incentives, increased involvement of children, and the cross-cultural applicability of the tool and sampling strategy. Save the Children again partnered with the Columbia Group for Children in Adversity to take forward the second pilot.

The Thailand Pilot report and related documents were shared internally with the CPI steering committee and the CoM subgroup of the CPI and externally with the Oak Fellowship Advisory Group, which includes a range of recognised experts on children on the move. Based on feedback from these groups, Save the Children UK is developing a plan for next steps.

4. Children on the Move: Southern Africa Programme Development Workshop

Save the Children Sweden organised this two-day workshop on 24 and 25 May bringing together SC child protection personnel from Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe (with participation from Wits University, SADC's Council of NGOs and South Africa's Department of Social Development). The workshop focused on developing a common understanding of children on the move in Southern Africa, and outlining a



common programme strategy incorporating both regional and country approaches.

South Africa remains the destination of choice for children who migrate across the region. Pushed by poverty, the death of parents and/or lack of access to an income or essential services, many children migrate with or without families in search of the education, work opportunities or healthcare they hope South Africa will provide. For some who have family in South Africa, migration is a seemingly safe and logical survival strategy through which they hope to access better living conditions including familial care and external support.

Yet despite the existence of an established child protection system and sound policy framework, the vulnerability of children who enter South Africa unaccompanied or who become separated from caregivers en route is often exacerbated when they enter the country, especially for the majority who cross the border through irregular channels. Their resulting undocumented status not only restricts their access to the very services in pursuit of which they left home, but often exposes them to abuse and exploitative labour which they are unlikely to report out of fear of deportation. Although legislation entitles migrant children deported from South Africa to rights and services, their rights are often compromised when departmental authorities fail to effectively implement relevant policy due to lack of awareness, capacity or will.

Of particular current concern is the ending, this June, of the South African government's special dispensation which allowed Zimbabwean nationals to work and study in South Africa. This could result in a mass exodus of Zimbabwean nationals, including children, back across the border, with little or no mechanisms in place to ensure a coordinated process which respects the rights of those who might be deported. This situation further highlights the limited collaboration and cooperation between state and non-state actors working on child migration in the region.

Discussions at this workshop have kick-started the development of a joint SC regional programme to tackle the movement of children across Southern Africa in a more coherent and coordinated way. A concept note will be prepared in the coming weeks, and funding sought from a variety of donors. Joint

programme work, likely to involve advocacy, capacity building and direct support will seek to complement existing SC member projects and programmes on the issue, and will dovetail with the Southern Africa component of SCUK's recently secured global project to protect and support children on the move, funded by Oak Foundation (See Section 5 below).

A detailed meeting report has been finalised and will be circulated to CPI Children on the Move sub-group members in the coming weeks. For more information contact Timothy Bainbridge, Regional Director - Southern Africa, Save the Children Sweden TimothyB@saf.savethechildren.se

5. OAK Foundation Grant for the Protection and Support of Children on the Move

Save the Children UK has been awarded an OAK Foundation grant for a global protection programme for children on the move.

The Protection and Support of Children on the Move project will target policy-makers and practitioners and will use evidence generated from research and key programmatic initiatives to advocate for changes in both policy and practice that affect the protection of Children on the Move.

This will be achieved through three complementary components:

1. **Policy Development and Advocacy:** This aims to promote holistic and harmonised policies aimed at all Children on the Move which bridge the divide between trafficking, migration and asylum frameworks.
2. **Learning and Capacity Building:** This aims to bring together learning from programme and research work on Children on the Move and to provide guidance and research briefs to support new initiatives in this area based on well-founded evidence.
3. **Development of programmes:** Save the Children aims to develop programmes that adopt a holistic approach to the protection of all Children on the Move. This aims to test innovative approaches, improve practice and generate evidence by working directly with and for Children on the Move.



The project will include work in seven countries in three regions:

- Southern Africa: Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa
- West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Mali
- East and Southeast Asia: Thailand, China and Vietnam for country level work; and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including Greater Mekong Sub-region

It will be implemented through strong interagency partnerships bringing together Save the Children members with other international intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies, grassroots organisations at the local level and regional networks involved in the debate on child mobility.

The start date for the project is July 1st 2011. For more information contact Jonathan Blagbrough, j.blagbrough@savethechildren.org.uk.

6. Presentation of the Reports by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrant's

On 31 May, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, spoke on behalf of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the rights of migrants, presenting his report to the 17th Session of the Human Rights Council.

Related to children on the move the report stated that migrant children constitute a particularly vulnerable group that require a high level of protection due to the particular challenges and risks they face, particularly the risk associated with organized crime, trafficking and exploitation. The report expressed concern about the detention of migrant children and reaffirmed the principle of best interest at the heart of all matters concerning children and promoted family unity and reunification. The SR's report also underscored the difficulties for children to access education in Japan, either in Japanese or foreign schools. Finally as far as South Africa is concerned, the report pointed to the situation of unaccompanied children and called for proper investigation into this issue.

Speakers welcomed the focus on migrant children and underscored the need for stronger protection. Several States mentioned that they had developed policies and initiatives giving particular attention to migrant children in accessing basic services such as

education and health and in obtaining protection from trafficking. The situation of unaccompanied children and the issue of family reunification were also picked up by some States as being a matter of concern.

Senegal stressed that the government was making efforts to prevent the emigration of Senegalese unaccompanied minors and that this was indeed in the agenda of the Steering Committee of the Convention signed between Senegal and Spain in 2008. Moreover Senegal was supporting awareness raising campaigns to address the situation of Talibés children victims of exploitation despite the reluctance of some stakeholders to engage, including concerned families, Koranic teachers, religious leaders, whose participation is key to overcoming this challenge.

South Africa reported that efforts were being made to raise effectiveness and credibility of the migrant policy by developing an enabling framework to reduce the vulnerability of unaccompanied children. It was also looking more closely into the process of ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers.

The Save the Children Geneva Office followed the presentation of the SR's report and the information in this section has been gathered from their summary of highlights relating to children. For a full copy of this summary and especially for the highlights from the Interactive dialogue with Council Members, Observers, NHRIs and NGOs, please contact c.dalla-favera@savethechildren.org.uk.

7. Presentation of the Report by the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking to Human Rights Council

On 1 June, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Special Rapporteur (SR) on trafficking in persons especially women and children, presented her latest report to the 17th Session of the Human Rights Council.

She said her report focused on the right to an effective remedy for trafficked persons, as adequate and effective remedies were often out of reach of the victims despite the human rights violations they had suffered. There remained a wide gap in practice between the law and its implementation and in many States trafficked persons were not provided with



remedies as a matter of right but only with ad hoc measures primarily aimed at criminal investigation.

The SR highlighted a need for special considerations for trafficked children in seeking remedies, which should be guided by the general principles of the CRC and ensuring that the best interest of the child should be the primary consideration. Furthermore, information for children must be child appropriate and available in a language that they understand. The SR also addressed the implications of cases where parents or caregivers are involved in trafficking, saying that an alternative situation needs to be found for the children involved in these cases, as returning to such an environment is unsafe. Finally, the SR noted the need for re-integration programmes for trafficked children.

Concerning the country visit to Argentina, the SR said that Argentina had clearly become a destination country for children, women and men trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, or slavery. Trafficking in children for the purposes of bonded labour and forced prostitution is an especially worrying issue. There is limited coordination of anti-trafficking activities between national and provincial levels, lack of identification and referral mechanisms for trafficked persons and insufficient availability of facilities and services specifically designed to provide victims with direct assistance.

The information in this section has been gathered from the Save the Children Geneva Office's summary of the presentation made by the SR. For a full copy of this summary and the highlights from the Interactive dialogue with Council Members, Observers, NHRIs and NGOs, please contact c.dalla-favera@savethechildren.org.uk.

8. European Commission Migration Communication

The EU Justice and Home Affairs Council met on Thursday, 12 May to discuss the implications on migration issues in the Southern Mediterranean caused by recent events in North Africa, especially in Libya. Particularly contentious and receiving much press attention, is the consequences that this meeting and a June 24th meeting of the European Council will have on the Schengen agreement and

the possibility of reintroducing border checks in certain circumstances.

In advance of the meeting, the commission published a Communication on migration. This communication included a brief but significant recognition of the need for child-specific reception measures for unaccompanied minors.

Save the Children has and will continue to press at every stage of the discussion for child rights and child protection to be a visible and clear concern of the EU in this discussion. Also in advance of the May meeting and June decisions, the CEOs of several Save the Children Organisations across Europe signed a letter to the Minister of the Interior of the EU Presidency (Hungary) calling on the EU and Member States to establish a common child protection agenda to:

- "provide effective support to help strengthen humanitarian assistance and protection capacity in North Africa for these children and their families;"
- "show solidarity with EU Border States to ensure that children who arrive in Europe are identified and assisted;"
- "fully recognise child specific forms of persecution and other protection needs of children;"
- "find durable solutions for each child, taking their best interests as a primary consideration."

For the full text of the *European Commission Migration Communication May 2011* or the *Save the Children European CEO letter to the Justice and Home Affairs Council April 2011* contact Camilla Dalla-Favera, c.dalla-favera@savethechildren.org.uk.

8. Important Dates & Events

20 June: World Refugee Day

For more information contact: Jarnah Montersino jarnah.montersino@savethechildren.org.au

23 June: Global Interagency Working Group on Children on the Move, Geneva, Switzerland

July and August 2011: In 2011, UNHCR marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (July 28) and the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (August 30). The organisation is also



planning a special celebration on October 10th to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of the late Norwegian polar explorer, diplomat and politician Fridtjof Nansen, who was the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

For more information on the UNHCR commemoration, visit the website:

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4d22e8a26.html>

Or follow the commemoration newsletter at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/4dda1b399.html>

18 to 21 October 2011: International Forum for Child Welfare in Melbourne, Australia

<http://www.ifcw.org/>

SHARE....

If you would like to share your own experiences, learning, events or any other news in a future **CoM Update** please get in touch.

We also welcome any feedback to improve future CoM Updates. We are keen to hear from you about what information you wish to receive and whether you found this update helpful.

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