Children in the Context of Migration and Displacement

October 2019
CHILD MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN LAC: SNAPSHOT

• Approx. 3.5 m Venezuelans in countries within LAC, 4.3 in total. Over 1.1m estimated to be children in need of assistance in 2019 as a consequence of the crisis.

• In recent years, significant increase in number of families and children in migration and displacement flows in northern C America & Mexico. In USFY 2019, out of 811,106 apprehensions on the southwestern border, 530,444 were unaccompanied children or family units.

• From Jan-Aug 2020, 36,582 children were returned to northern countries of Central America from Mexico and USA.

• 500,000 (approx.) irregular Haitian migrants in Dominican Republic.

• 7.7 million IDPs in Colombia (2017).

• Increased flows (including children) in Panama and Costa Rica in 2018 and 2019 (Extra-regional and Nicaraguan).
MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

• Not a new issue for children (nor for UNICEF)

• It became a global urgent priority for UNICEF (Europe Crisis; LAC-US; SDGs; UNGA Summit)

• Involves large numbers of children and families across regions

• Polarizing/politically sensitive

• At the core of our rights agenda

• UNICEF SP (limited), ROMP, Strategic Consultation, regional priority, Uprooted campaign

• Growing demand to expand UNICEF’s engagement, to increase coherence, establish priorities and guiding principles
6 KEY POLICY ASKS

1. Protect child refugees and migrants from exploitation and violence

2. End the detention of children seeking international protection or migrating

3. Keep families together as the best way to protect children and give children legal status

4. Keep all refugee and migrant children learning and give them access to health and other quality services

5. Press for action on the underlying causes of large scale movements of refugees and migrants

6. Promote measures to combat xenophobia, discrimination and marginalization in countries of transit and destination (and return)
A Global Programme Framework (April 2017) organized around the core policy asks unpacked as follows:

• Scope
• Programming principles
• ToC
• Key programmatic interventions
• UNICEF’s comparative advantage/Partnerships
• Normative framework
• Measurement (outcome indicators)
Global Programme Framework: Scope

• Children who are migrating within their own country or across borders
• Children migrating on their own or with their caretakers
• Children forcibly displaced within their own country and across borders
• Children whether they move in an undocumented or documented manner, including those whose movement involved smuggling or trafficking networks
• Children who remain while parents move?
International and regional legal and political instruments

- CRC and CRC General Comment #6
- The 1951 International Refugee Convention And Its 1967 Protocol
- The 1984 Cartagena Declaration On Refugees
- The 2014 Brazil Declaration And Plan Of Action For Refugees, Displaced And Stateless Persons
- Interamerican Court Of Human Rights Advisory Opinion On The Rights And Guarantees Of Children In The Context Of Migration And/Or In Need Of International Protection - 21/2014
- Joint General Comment No. 3 of the CMW and No. 22 of the CRC in the context of International Migration: General principles
- Joint General Comment No. 4 of the CMW and No. 23 of the CRC in the context of International Migration: States parties' obligations in particular with respect to countries of transit and destination
- New York Declaration and Compacts
UNICEF PRIORITIES, CAIRO AGENDA (2019-2020)

1. **Programme**: Integrate into CPDs; increased humanitarian/development coordination; work with Natcoms; include in PERs and job descriptions across sectors; standardized program interventions and guidelines for protection, health and education; models of cross border case management; youth participation mechanisms.

2. **Partnerships**: Greater clarity with UNHCR and IOM; GMC pathfinder countries; engagement in regional forums; agreements with local governments; UNICEF part of Steering Committee of Global Migration Network.

3. **Skilling up and working together**: Capacity building module; knowledge domain; global migration practice group; documentation of practices.

4. **Data and Research**: Develop a pilot-tested assessment and guidance tool for data collection, establish International Data Alliance for Children on the Move; flagship publication and issue briefs.

5. **Uprooted Campaign**: Revamped positive narrative; new partners; toolkit for frontline workers on xenofobia and discrimination.
GLOBAL LEVEL COORDINATION

Directors Group

Global Migration Practice Group (GMPG)

Uprooted Campaign

HQ Migration Task Team

Regional Networks?
Knowledge Domain
Uprooted Campaign

Children Uprooted

A child is a child, no matter what.
Stand with refugee and migrant children.

Children Uprooted

World Cup activation: What excites us, unites us.
The World Cup activation launches on 23 June.

Fifty millions children have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced. Some are driven from their homes by conflict or disaster; others are migrating in the hope of finding a better, safer life. Far too many encounter firstly hunger, discrimination, deportation and disillusionment.

The Children Uprooted campaign was launched in 2017 and is one of UNICEF’s four flagship campaigns in the Cause Framework. The campaign works to uphold refugee and migrant children’s rights through three allied streams: policy advocacy, fundraising and by influencing public opinion.

At the heart of Children Uprooted is UNICEF’s six-point Agenda for Action—every piece of the campaign builds up and achieves these points for action.

A child is a child - Campaign Photos

Next:

LACRO Child Alert

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR 60 MILLION REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

The challenge

UNICEF is looking to partner with purpose-driven companies to help solve one of the most urgent problems facing children and young people around the world.

The challenge: in partnership to unlock the latent and potential of some 50 million refugee and migrant child workers providing access to accelerated learning.

We are looking to identify which companies’ business goals can help address this challenge, by leveraging their resources, expertise, influence and innovation. The aim is to move the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in order to deliver primary and secondary school education to every child by 2030.

As a convention of international development, education should always be a top priority.
LAC REGIONAL ADVOCACY AGENDA

Latin American and Caribbean Action Agenda for Child Migrants and Refugees
EXAMPLES OF WORK IN THIS AREA IN LAC

• Models in Central America and Mexico (non-detention, return and reintegration, root causes, consular protection, psychosocial support) Support to Venezuelan child migrants and families: emergency and development response (Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, etc.).

• Protection protocols in countries throughout region and with a regional approach for a transnational protection

• Care for children of migrant workers Panama-Costa Rica

• Dominican Republic and Haiti: Border protection and integration

• Legal reform and addressing xenophobia (Argentina, Chile)

• DTM with specificity to children throughout region.
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Development versus Emergency response
- Partnerships with IOM and UNHCR
- Integration in other sectors beyond Protection
- Data and evidence gaps
- Risk of institutionalization vs alternative care adapted to needs of migrant adolescents
- Cross border collaboration for advocacy and case management
- Politically sensitive issues
- Technical gaps
- Resources
- Operationalizing Global Migration Network and GMC in region and at country level?
Thank you