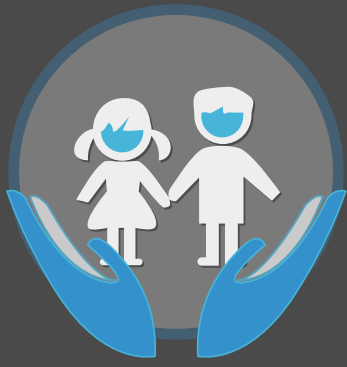


PROTECTING MIGRANT CHILDREN THROUGH ENHANCED CRISIS COMMUNICATION



Project funded by the European Union



Project implemented by ICMPD



ICMPD
International Centre for
Migration Policy Development

During emergencies, information becomes vital. Not only can accurate information mean the difference between life and death, but it can also reassure that response and recovery are truly underway. Often migrant children have no access to information on rescue operations, assistance or protection measures. They may fear requesting assistance or tend to be forgotten by responders.

1 CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION METHODS



Use **clear and child-centred material**, child-spoken language, characters, stories, music and humour, taking all literacy levels into account¹



Be child-friendly by using clear and child-friendly information/ tools



Adopt an integrated approach to communication, i.e. meeting children's emotional, social, cognitive and physical needs. Pay careful attention to all aspects of a message, the obvious and the subliminal



Provide children with relevant information such as their entitlements, services available, the asylum process, family tracing and the situation in their country of origin



Encourage children to take positive actions in the community life to prevent harm, i.e. by presenting the gains to be registered



Focus your communication on strengths by presenting opportunities and solutions rather than problems



Be inclusive by explicitly ensuring that children have the right to be registered, to receive assistance and be better protected



Safeguard the confidentiality and privacy of children at the same levels as adults

¹ Resources on child-centered materials can be found at:

UNICEF RESOURCES CENTER: https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58020.html

Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action from IOM:
<https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/TOOLS-WEB-2017-0322.pdf> or from

Save the Children resources center:
<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/publishers/cpwg-child-protection-working-group>

Resources Center from the Child Protection Cluster:
<http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/tools-and-guidance/protection-cluster-coordination-toolbox/>

2 TARGETED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION



Determine appropriate channels of communication with the help of migrants children (e. g. social media, information board on defined venues, websites of migrant associations, newspapers)



Use diverse, multiple, formal, and informal methods of communication to overcome barriers to effective communication with migrants



Take advantage of social media, places of worship, and migrants' connections with their families and communities in their States of origin



Create communication "safe havens": spaces where vulnerable children can freely express themselves in times of crisis



Set-up a communication plan with a clear schedule and list of information that should be shared with migrant children (e.g. evacuation plan and procedures, a list explaining what to pack, how to prevent family separation, etc.)

3 IDENTIFICATION OF FOCAL POINTS FOR A BETTER OUTREACH



Identify and **train focal points** to overcome communication barriers. Migrant children **can be hard-to-reach** and/or hard-to-engage



Identify, enlist and involve health or outreach workers, family members, teachers, child protection officers and organisations trusted by migrant children



KEY STEPS FOR A BETTER MAPPING OF MIGRANT CHILDREN IN CRISIS-PRONE AREA

Project funded by the European Union



Project implemented by ICMPD



ICMPD
International Centre for Migration Policy Development

1 SELECT SAMPLE AREAS



Identify relevant geographic areas: Examine the characteristics of migrant populations in the specific areas. Remember that unaccompanied and separated children might not be in the same place as children with families



Analyse risks by assessing the potential location of migrant children in crisis-prone areas



Engage migrant children in the community life. Involve them in child-friendly activities and discussions to avoid their exclusion in times of crisis



Avoid extrapolation. Remember that data obtained from a sample area may be very specific to that location, thus not applicable to all cases

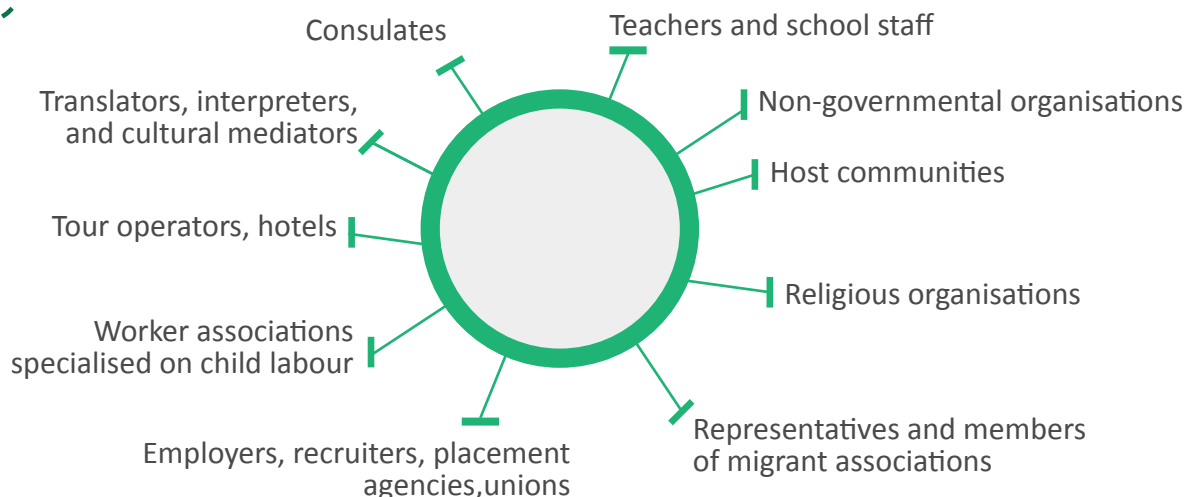
2 SELECT FOCAL POINTS



Consult migrant children and relevant local organisations in the selection of focal points



Resourceful focal points can be, but by no means restricted to:



Define roles and responsibilities to build a respectful and collaborative partnership with the focal points

3 CHILD-FRIENDLY MAPPING



Involve migrant children in all steps of the mapping to ensure their buy-in and to benefit from their experience and knowledge



Conduct interviews in a safe, child, gender-sensitive and fair manner, avoiding any risk of violation of the physical integrity of the child



Guarantee the **confidentiality of the data** collected in all steps of the mapping



Train **interviewers** on child-friendly assessments



Set up a **complaint mechanism** accessible to migrant children and reviewed by dedicated and trained staff



Appointment of a guardian as soon as an unaccompanied or separated child is identified should be guaranteed¹



Investigate as soon as a case of violence, neglect or abuse of a child is identified

OTHER KEY TIPS ON REGISTRATION



Adopt a comprehensive registration system. Registration should allow for an **evaluation of special needs**, in particular with regard to protection and separation status, including family tracing and reunification



Identify and record all information needed to carry out family tracing



Set up a clear **timeline** for an effective identification, registration, tracing and reunification



Coordinate with other stakeholders that have relevant databases



Monitor the situation to ensure the accuracy of estimated number of migrant children. Regularly ask for updated reports, estimates and data

¹https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org/eca/files/REFUGEE_MIGRANT_CRISIS_ADVOCACY__guardianship_08_08_16.pdf