TOOL 27

Sample prioritization tool for UASC

Prioritization of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) for family tracing:
Priority 1: There is enough information or the circumstances of the separation make rapid family reunification very likely.

- Start tracing action immediately.

Priority 2: There is enough information or the circumstances of the separation enable family tracing to start, but it is likely to be somewhat complicated/time consuming.

- Start tracing action after working on Priority 1 cases.

Priority 3: There is not enough information or the circumstances of separation do not enable family tracing to start.

- Caseworkers return to the child and current caregivers to obtain more information.

Prioritization of unaccompanied or separated children for referrals to services for basic needs or protection interventions:
Priority 1: High risk/Critical (for example, the child needs medical attention)

- Immediate action needed.

Priority 2: Medium risk

- Action needed within a reasonable, specific time frame (for example, within two weeks).

Priority 3: Low risk

- No current significant concerns; continue monitoring regularly.

COMBINING TRACING AND PROTECTION PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA FOR THE SAME UNACCOMPANIED OR SEPARATED CHILDREN:

Does this child have a high chance of rapid reunification? For example, the child is recently separated, the family/community is likely to be in the locality, the child has a family telephone number or knows where family may be found.

NO

YES

Prioritize and carry out immediate tracing.

Does this child have other urgent needs that present an immediate risk to him or her, such as physical, emotional or security needs?

NO

YES

Lower prioritization according to likelihood of success of tracing and urgent needs. When immediate tracing fails for children prioritized for tracing, additional documentation and tracing activities must continue as part of 'normal' case management.

Prioritize and carry out urgent intervention/referral to specific services/agency or alternative. care.