

TOOL



THE ALLIANCE
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Child Labour in Refugee, Internally Displaced and Migrant Settings

RISKS FOR CHILDREN FROM REFUGEE, INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND MIGRANT POPULATIONS

- Lack of official documentation such as birth certificate or identity documents and lack of registration or documentation required for education or social protection.
- Limited access to primary or secondary school due to ineligibility, lack of information about how and where to register for school, poor quality of education, bullying and discrimination in schools, language barriers, unfamiliar curriculum, or school-related gender-based violence.
- Limited access to TVET due to limited availability or due to barriers to meeting the entrance requirements, lack of funding for entrance fees, transport or equipment, or limited pathways to certification or decent work upon graduation.
- Lack of legal protection from child labour including WFCL.
- Invisibility from national and sub-national data and statistics.
- Restricted rights to work and limited access to decent work or self-sufficient livelihoods.
- Social tensions as a result of socio-economic insecurity and marginalisation of refugees, or when host populations feel that refugees are placing strain on employment opportunities.

KEY ACTIONS TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN REFUGEE, INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND MIGRANT SETTINGS

PROMOTE MEANINGFUL POLICY DIALOGUE

- **Advocate with government, national/local partners and humanitarian actors for better inclusion of refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups** in the humanitarian response, policy and legislation, including actions to address:
 - the main drivers of child labour among refugee, internally displaced and migrant children;
 - barriers to education, decent work and employment, civil documentation, and other basic needs and essential services for refugee, internally displaced and migrant children, and their families.

STRENGTHEN SERVICES AND SYSTEMS TO INCLUDE REFUGEE, INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND MIGRANT GROUPS

- **Support services providers to expand their services for and to include refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups** in:
 - FSL and economic-strengthening programmes;
 - child protection and/or child labour monitoring systems;
 - civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems including birth registration services;
 - education, TVET and other certification opportunities;
 - social protection and safety nets;
 - decent work opportunities for adults.

- **Adapt services to the specific needs of refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups through:**
 - addressing language barriers by offering translation services and language classes;
 - cultural adaptations;
 - promoting mobile programming including outreach to populations in hard-to-reach areas or places that lack services.

- **Promote coherence between national and humanitarian services** so that refugee, internally displaced and migrant children and their families are adequately supported once humanitarian assistance ends.

- **Provide technical and operational support to key WFCL actors** including border officials, social workers, interim care providers and other officials working with children and adolescents in or at-risk of WFCL to ensure services are provided in line with humanitarian minimum standards.

INCLUDE REFUGEE, INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND MIGRANT CHILDREN IN CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- **Include refugee, internally displaced and migrant children in child protection case management and/or child labour monitoring systems**, where these exist, and in related inter-agency referral mechanisms:
 - Map existing national and local case management systems and actors, including their roles and responsibilities towards refugee, internally displaced and migrant populations.
 - Work with key actors to establish SOPs for case management of refugee, internally displaced and migrant children who are in or at risk of child labour and expand existing case management services.
 - Where separate systems exist for refugee, internally displaced and migrant children, for example, in refugee or IDP camp settings, ensure linkages with the national service providers and work to harmonise these in the long term.

○ **Provide adapted case management services for children on the move or in irregular migration:**

- Provide (mobile) services and support to children along migration routes, including at start, transit and destination locations.
- In line with case management standards and guidelines, work collaboratively with children and adolescents to assess their best interest and to identify durable solutions, recognising that some may have left their family to seek work and may not wish to be reunified with their parents.
- Provide interim care in line with minimum standards and guidelines.
- Prioritise harm reduction strategies for children who are found to be working or in child labour.
- Prior to relocation or reunification with family, conduct a risk assessment to assess the best interest of the child and potential risks associated with family reunification, including risks of (worst forms of) child labour and other protection risks such as recurring family separation.

SUPPORT REFUGEE, INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND MIGRANT CHILDREN ABOVE THE LEGAL WORKING AGE TO ACCESS FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND PATHWAYS TO DECENT WORK

- **Support children above the legal working age** to access quality formal and non-formal education, including TVET, and other employment-related training programmes, including apprenticeships.
- **Support children and their families** to overcome barriers to education and decent work such as minimum entrance requirements, transport and other costs, accreditation and access to youth employment post-graduation.
- **Promote access to formal education, formal TVET and other certified learning opportunities** for refugee, internally displaced and migrant children and adolescents.
- **Promote access to relevant learning and training opportunities** for refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups which can support their safe return to places of origin, where applicable.

PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION BETWEEN DISPLACED POPULATIONS AND HOST COMMUNITIES

- **Promote social cohesion activities at community level:**
 - Assess how refugee, internally displaced and migrant children in child labour are affected by social tensions between communities; for example, they may be more likely to experience harassment on the streets, violence in the community, or arbitrary arrest or detention.

- Involve (working) children, families and communities, and where appropriate also local authorities, in identifying solutions to tackle social tensions.
 - Organise inclusive community-level social events and activities that bring (working) children and families from different communities together, facilitate dialogue and strengthen integration between communities.
- **Promote equal access to services as a strategy to promote social cohesion between communities:**
- Promote inclusive and equal services for all, including for host communities and refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups.
 - Where specific services provided are only for refugee, internally displaced and/or migrant groups, ensure that this does not lead to (further) marginalisation of host communities.
 - Support service providers to provide information about all available services, to create awareness and understanding within the community and to prevent tensions between groups.
- **Promote social cohesion between communities around issues of employment:**
- Promote inclusive and equal employment opportunities for all, including for host communities and refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups.
 - Raise awareness among refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups about the existing pathways to legal employment, including required registration and work permits for employment, language classes, TVET, and social safety nets for those who are unemployed.
 - Promote inclusion of refugee, internally displaced and migrant adults and youth above the legal working age in economic development opportunities offered by national and international actors, donors and the private sector.
 - Highlight the benefits that refugees bring to the workforce and the local economy.
 - Develop skill-sharing opportunities between different groups to promote sharing and learning.
 - Include representatives of host communities and from refugee, internally displaced and migrant groups in programme design and policy discussions on economic opportunities.

KEY RESOURCES

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2014). *Child Protection Issue Brief: Child Labour*, January 2014.
- UNHCR (2017). *Child Labour within the Syrian Refugee Response: A Regional Strategic Framework for Action*, September 2017.
- UNHCR (2018). *Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child*, November 2018.