Children on the move and other children affected by migration shall be considered CHILDREN FIRST and FOREMOST and their best interests shall be a primary consideration in ALL actions concerning them.

Children affected by migration should be ensured the same rights as all other children, including birth registration, proof of identity, a nationality and access to education, health care, housing and social protection. Those responsible shall not assume that standard solutions work for all children; rather they are required to conduct individual and family assessments prior to making a durable decision about each child. Children at the border shall not be refused entry without an adequate and individualized analysis of their request and due guarantees consistent with a best interests determination.
ONGOING CHALLENGES

Lack of protective spaces for children on the move

[From Syria and Iraq to Greece, Jordan and Lebanon] The harsh physical living conditions in informal settlements and the refugee camps affect children’s well-being.

[From Syria to Jordan and Lebanon] Unaccompanied children on the move are vulnerable to exploitative labour and other forms of abuse.

[From Ghana to Togo; From Togo to Benin] Large numbers of children on the move end up being victims of trafficking or exploitation.

Child protection in emergency settings

[From Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, North Africa to Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus] The fragility and instability that characterizes the lives of refugee families arriving in Europe hinders them from investing in their children’s education and seeking long-term livelihood opportunities.

[From Syria and Iraq to Greece] Hundreds of migrants are arriving every day at the Greek islands Kos and Leros, with many children who are injured or have lost their family members along the journey.

WHAT CHANGED

Child-friendly safe spaces for Children on the Move and their families

[From Africa to Italy] According to the Italian law, unaccompanied children should only stay at first aid and rescue centres for a few days. In reality, due to a lack of a national monitoring system and available long-term shelters, children stay there for up to a year and often escape to the urban areas.

[From Syria to Jordan] There is a lack of a proper coordination mechanism between the various stakeholders to identify and analyse migration trends and to establish proper responses.

[From Africa to Italy] Many children who are injured or have lost their family members along the journey.

[From Syria and Iraq to Greece, Jordan and Lebanon] The harsh physical living conditions in informal settlements and the refugee camps affect children’s well-being.

[From Syria to Jordan and Lebanon] Unaccompanied children on the move are vulnerable to exploitative labour and other forms of abuse.

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Child protection in emergency settings

[From Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, North Africa to Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus] The fragility and instability that characterizes the lives of refugee families arriving in Europe hinders them from investing in their children’s education and seeking long-term livelihood opportunities.
[Sicily, Italy] Local and regional level efforts which address the immediate needs of migrant children and their families should be used as a strong base for national advocacy work.

[Jordan] As many organisations working with refugees might be already working with children at risk but have no understanding of issues related to children’s rights and juvenile justice, it is important to create a linkage between development, juvenile justice programming and the emergency response to the Syrian refugee crisis.

[Global]

- **recommendation 1** Governments should make education, health care and other public services accessible to children on the move.

- **recommendation 2** State officials must refrain from using service delivery facilities as sites for immigration enforcement purposes, such as identifying or detaining parents.

- **recommendation 3** Governments should further support child-led organisations in running child-friendly spaces for children on the move, and encourage their collaboration with other protection stakeholders.

- **recommendation 4** Migrant children should be treated first as children and only secondly as migrants.

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All children have the right to LIFE, SURVIVAL and DEVELOPMENT

All children have a right to a standard of living adequate for their physical, mental, spiritual, moral, educational and social development. States have a duty to anticipate and prevent harm, including with respect to the triggers of child migration and to invest in robust search and rescue operations to avert harmful migration outcomes. Sustained investment in material and social assistance, and in livelihood opportunities is a critical prerequisite to prevent life threatening journeys and enabling the child to develop.
vocational skills development with partner organisations in the Mozambique. From 2013, initiatives targeting vulnerable children and young people in Costa Rica, Within Peru, From Mozambique and Zimbabwe to South Africa, within the West African Region. Ongoing political unrest, violence and scarce livelihood opportunities leave many youth and families with no alternatives other than risky or forced migration.

Limited access to education

[From Burma to Thailand] While Thailand’s policies allow for Burmese migrant children who arrive at the Thai Burmese border to attend school, lack of birth registration documents and language skills remain significant barriers to education for children from migrant communities.

Within the West African Region

Lack of official documents, including birth registration, are an impediment to accessing formal education, even for children within their own country.

[From El Salvador to the US and Costa Rica, Within Peru, From Mozambique and Zimbabwe to South Africa, within the West African Region] Ongoing political unrest, violence and scarce livelihood opportunities leave many young people and families with no alternatives other than risky or forced migration.

[From Burma to Thailand] While Thailand’s policies allow for Burmese migrant children who arrive at the Thai Burmese border to attend school, lack of birth registration documents and language skills remain significant barriers to education for children from migrant communities.

Improved access to education suitable to the needs of children on the move

[Hyderabad State of India] TdH supports children and families working in Brick Kilns and construction sites in India from xenophobia and stigmatisation expressed by teachers and school principals who do not have the skills, capacity or motivation to teach in a bilingual classroom and accommodate these children’s needs.

[With the West African Region] Lack of official documents, including birth registration, are an impediment to accessing formal education, even for children within their own country.

Improving the living conditions of children and their families

[Thessaloniki, Greece] ARSIS implements the ‘Protection and Education Project targeting refugee minors’. The project is implemented through a daily youth support centre, which hosts refugee, as well as other community children. All children attend recreational activities, extracurricular classes and receive individual and group psychosocial support to ensure they are enrolled in schools and are able to successfully complete their education. In addition, street work teams approach refugee families in the camps and inform them about their rights, the support systems and opportunities available in their localities.

[Thessaloniki, Greece] The Conference on “Protection of Refugee Minors” organized by ARSIS was held in Thessaloniki during December, 2016. The main aim of the conference was to present issues related to the protection of children on the move for vocational training, migration status. These efforts are complemented by central level advocacy targeting the Ministry of Education to ensure those children without birth registration or other identification documents can enrol in schools.

[Hyderabad State of India] Through collaboration with local partners, TdH has responded to the needs of children on the move for vocational training, followed by apprenticeships and/or the set-up of income generating activities.
[El Salvador, Peru and Mozambique] Continue vocational training, income generating activities and market feasibility studies to ensure decent work and sustainable income in a non-exploitative environment.

[Thessaloniki, Greece] School teachers in areas of destination should be provided with training and guidance to accommodate the special needs of children on the move to ensure these children complete their education.

[West African Region]: Vocational training offered to children on the move should be extended and based on a solid study of the labour market to increase the chances of employability.

[Global]

- recommendation 1 Countries of origin should invest in supporting family life, quality education and health care, skills and vocational training and employment opportunities, especially targeting vulnerable and marginalized communities.

- recommendation 2 When children migrate alone or with family members, States have a duty to provide material assistance and support, particularly with regard to nutrition, access to education, and accommodation.

- recommendation 3 States should strengthen the socio-economic development, care and custodial capacities of families to secure conditions for adequate care and future prospects where child migration becomes a choice rather a necessity.

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Children have the right to liberty of movement within their state, and to leave their state and any other

Children have the right to migrate in search of family life, safety or opportunity. In particular, they have a right to flee violence and danger.
ON GOING CHALLENGES

Blind Migration

[Nicaragua to the USA, Spain and Costa Rica; El Salvador to USA, Costa Rica and Spain; Within Kenya, within the West African region] Children on the move, in particular unaccompanied minors, are at high risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation along the migration route.

Children affected by conflict

Within Afghanistan; Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon; From Iraq and Syria to Jordan and Lebanon) The protracted nature of conflicts in the Middle East and South Asia regions are leading to situations of chronic internal and cross border displacement.

[From Syria to Lebanon] The security situation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region negatively affects the way Syrian refugees are treated by the host communities, which perceive them as potential threats.

[Within Mali and towards Mauritania and Algeria] The ongoing security crisis in northern Mali leads to an increase in internal and cross border displacement and increases the risk of unaccompanied children being enlisted by armed groups or radical movements.

Children on the Move are aware of their rights prior to, during and following migration

[Nicaragua] To respond to the needs of young Nicaraguans who are at risk of unsafe migration, Tdh, in collaboration with the local partner APADEIM, is implementing a safe migration awareness campaign across 16 communities using Radio and TV spots, video forums, community radio, theatre and art workshops. Through these activities, children, youth and young adults learn about the risks, available services, crisis management techniques and the rights of migrants in the countries of destination.

[El Salvador] To support young Salvadorians in making informed decisions about migration and to raise their awareness about the risks, available services and support systems, Tdh along with the local partner ACISAM (Asociación de Capacitación e Investigación para la Salud Mental), conduct information sessions in secondary schools in migration prone communities across El Salvador; produce and disseminate printed materials, Radio and TV spots and facilitate a migration film forum comprised of films produced by youth.

[Nairobi, Kenya] Tdh and its regional partner organisation African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (NFPCAN) work in two informal settlements/slums of Nairobi, which are areas of origin, transit and destination of child migration and trafficking. In collaboration with CBOs, the partners conduct awareness raising campaigns in schools and community centres to promote safe migration and educate youth about the dangers of trafficking along the migration route. In addition, the community members, including community leaders and social service providers, are trained in identification, referrals and provision of support to victims of trafficking in their localities.

[Lebanon and Jordan] Tdh targets Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan who reside in the refugee camps and the informal settlements in the urban outskirts. The support provided to children and families is delivered through three main components: i) Psychosocial support to children in the scope of child friendly spaces using movement, games and sports to enhance children’s psychosocial well-being, coping competence and resilience through building self-confidence, communication and leadership skills; ii) Case management support for individual children who dropped out of school and/or are in exploitative labour situation; and iii) System strengthening for a protective environment for children and their families, including capacity building of local actors working in municipalities and child protection networks.

[Afghanistan] Tdh implements the Tsapar child protection centres across the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The project targets children who cross the border daily to work in Torkham town, which is located on the Pakistani side. The child protection centres include an outreach component to identify the children who work on the streets. Once the children have been identified, they receive non-formal education, accelerated tutorial classes, and psychosocial support through a case management mechanism. The most vulnerable children and their families are provided with sub-grants to boost the family income. In the period between 2014 and 2016, 495 children received case management support; 1,144 parents benefited from child protection awareness sessions; 278 children were referred to external service providers for medical treatment; and 65 vulnerable families received sub grants for livelihood support.

[Mali] Tdh, together with its local partner, works in the northern towns of Timbuktu and Gao to strengthen the resilience of children on the move, through vocational trainings and apprenticeships, and to ensure access to basic social services such as health and legal assistance.

WHAT CHANGED

Responding to the needs of children affected by conflict

[Lebanon and Jordan] Tdh targets Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan who reside in the refugee camps and the informal settlements in the urban outskirts. The support provided to children and families is delivered through three main components: i) Psychosocial support to children in the scope of child friendly spaces using movement, games and sports to enhance children’s psychosocial well-being, coping competence and resilience through building self-confidence, communication and leadership skills; ii) Case management support for individual children who dropped out of school and/or are in exploitative labour situation; and iii) System strengthening for a protective environment for children and their families, including capacity building of local actors working in municipalities and child protection networks.
[Global]

- **recommendation 1** While State protective restrictions may on occasion be warranted, they must always be carefully tailored to the needs of the individual child.

- **recommendation 2** States should ensure that children have access to information on rights of migrants, risk management and safe migration.
The DETENTION of children because of their parents’ migration status constitutes a CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATION and ALWAYS contravenes the principle of the best interests of the child.

States should expeditiously and completely cease detention of migration affected children and allow children to remain with families and/or guardians in non-custodial, community-based contexts while their immigration status is being resolved.
Detention based on migration status

[The Balkan route] At some borders there is no age assessment process while in others, young migrants need to pay for an age assessment process and do not have the sufficient funds. As a result, youth are detained as they are not identified as minors.

[The Balkan route] Children who travel with their families are detained along with their family members.

Limited alternatives to detention

[Global] Children are detained on the basis of their migration status, or that of their parents. Detention has particularly negative impacts on child health and development, even during very short periods of confinement.

[Global] The protection afforded to children in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) continues to be overlooked by States, despite near universal ratification.

What changed

[Global] Very few States collect and publish statistics on the number of children in detention. Even when States do publish statistics, data is not collected in a consistent manner, which makes comparisons difficult.

[Global] Alternatives to detention for migrant children are not always available and in many cases fall below the standards outlined in the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.

[Global] Access to education, healthcare, family life, legal representation, age assessment and guardianship continue to be areas of specific concern in both immigration detention and alternatives to detention.

Alternatives to detention are made available and meet a child’s needs

[Thailand] While Thailand continues the practice of immigration detention of some undocumented Burmese migrant children who arrive at the Thai-Burma border, TdH partner organisation Foundation for Women works with immigration authorities to negotiate their placement in shelters instead of immigration removal centres at the border town of Mae Sot. Sometimes the partner manages to negotiate a solution, which is in the best interest of the child and avoids the detention of unaccompanied children. This work is based on good relationships, but indicates that ending immigration detention of children in Thailand and introducing alternatives is a viable possibility.

[Indonesia] Supported by the Global Campaign to End Child Detention, Indonesia has increased the capacity of their shelters for unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum to 250 places in 2015. A number of organisations operate shelters for unaccompanied minors including UNHCR, IOM, and local NGOs.

[Central and South-eastern Europe] The Mario project, implemented by TdH across Central and South-eastern Europe, strives to ensure that all stakeholders in Europe are able to address the vulnerability of children on the move at local and regional levels and strengthen cooperation of authorities across borders. In 2016, members of the Mario project carried out a study to document the number of children pushed back to the Serbian border in contravention with the principle of non-refoulment. This study will be used to advocate for the establishment of a mechanism to identify the vulnerability of children on the move and the most appropriate and suitable referral process that avoids the use of detention.

Unaccompanied and separated children are protected via mainstream child protection systems

[Mexico] Following the launch of the Campaign to End Child Detention which has raised national awareness, Mexican stakeholders have seized the opportunity to take up the challenge to lead change in a complex transit context. The culmination of various advocacy efforts resulted in the adoption of a national child protection system under new legislation that includes migrant children, and regulations directly prohibiting the immigration detention of children. This work has been further strengthened by the development of a pilot project for unaccompanied children to be released from detention into an alternative care program where they are ensured freedom of movement, access to education and healthcare, and communication with family members.

[Zambia] Zambia has developed a National Referral Mechanism for its frontline immigration officers to identify unaccompanied and separated children and refer them to the mainstream social welfare ministry. The up-skilling of the partners UNHCR and UNICEF via the Global Campaign to End Child Detention has been instrumental to the establishment process of this mechanism.

[Global] The Global Campaign to End Child Detention is comprised of more than 120 organisations, 1000 staff members, 5000 volunteers and 200,000 individuals including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Destination Unknown Campaign. These stakeholders are also members of the Inter Agency Working Group to implement the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.
[Global]

- **recommendation 1** The protections afforded to children by the CRC should be transposed into domestic legislation with a specific emphasis on States to expeditiously and completely cease the immigration detention of children.

- **recommendation 2** States should adopt alternatives to detention that fulfill the best interests of the child, along with their rights to liberty and family life in non-custodial, community-based contexts while their immigration status is being resolved, in line with the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children.

- **recommendation 3** States mainstream child protection systems should be utilised for children whose migration status is yet to be resolved, effectively treating them first and foremost as children.

- **recommendation 4** Civil Society and government stakeholders should mobilise the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, which will collect quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data on the situation of children deprived of liberty in all settings (migration, criminal, military detention and institutionalisation), to formulate recommendations and good practices to implement international standards, as well as to reduce the number of children deprived of their liberty.

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States shall not separate children from their families, for example by instituting onerous and protected family reunification procedures, denying their portability of accrued social security benefits, detaining irregular migrants accompanied by children, deporting parents of minor citizens, or refusing to allow children to accompany migrant worker parents. Conversely forced expulsion of a child should never be considered an acceptable means of family reunification or assumed automatically to be in the best interests of the child. Any expulsion of a child must be safe, and in the child’s best interests. Where the expulsion concerns a child separated from family, it shall be accompanied and monitored.

Children during all phases of migration shall NOT BE SEPARATED from their PARENTS or primary caregivers (unless this is in their best interests)
ongoing challenges

Unskilled labour migration leaves children behind in countries of origin

[Romania and Moldova] The mass unskilled labour migration leaves children behind, cared for by their extended family members in places of origin.

Limited transnational identification and care standards

[The Balkan route] Throughout the Balkan route, professionals lack the capacity to ascertain the relationship of a child with "a primary care giver".

[Across Europe] Social care services in Central and South East Europe often discriminate Roma ethnic minority families, separate children and place them in foster families instead of trying to address the deprivation they face.

[The West African Region] Transnational migration of unaccompanied minors to support family livelihood separates children from their families.

[The West African Region] Precarious living conditions force many people to move in search of income, leaving behind children to be cared for by their extended family.

what changed

Child Protection in the context of parents' migration

[Moldova] The migration project aims to raise awareness and encourage action with regard to reducing negative effects of migration on children. The project was initiated in November 2015 and targets parents, children, child protection professionals and the public. The project features a 3D animated short film “In Exile” which tells the story of a boy who is left behind. The film serves as a tool to carry out some further activities on the topic. In addition, child protection professionals, and members of multidisciplinary teams participate in workshops focused on ways to offer better assistance to migrant parents to protect their children who are left behind. All project deliverables are disseminated among migrating parents through online social media and diaspora associations.

[Romania] Since 2013, the Roma Inclusion Project implemented by Tdh in 12 communities across the country has been focusing on improving inclusion and access to education, health, housing and employment. Even though the Roma communities are the main beneficiaries of this project, children who are left behind by migrating parents attend the after-school and psychosocial activities and are provided with special support tailored to their specific situation and needs.

Transnational standards and procedures for children on the move

[Albania and Kosovo] The Mario project implemented by Tdh in Central and South Eastern Europe is focused on the protection of European children on the move (particularly those coming from the region). The project is aimed at closing the protection gap affecting these children, as well as advocate for the protection of all children, including third-country national children on the move. Intense advocacy efforts targeting authorities at both national and transnational level resulted in the signing of a joint protocol between Albania and Kosovo. Furthermore, a joint Technical Group was established between the two countries which led to the development of clear standard operating procedures, that will improve the transnational case management practice for vulnerable children on the move between Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro.

[The West African Region] A regional advocacy document, outlining shared inter-agency positions and recommendations for protecting children on the move, has called for a specific approach to be applied, entitled "protective accompaniment for children". The approach has been operationalised by Tdh in recent years in several countries of the region (notably Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Togo). According to this approach, the best interest of the child needs to be the primary consideration in all decisions related to the protection of children on the move. Moreover, children need to be considered actors in their own protection and that of their peers.

Family reunification through the case management system

[West Africa Region] The West African Network for the protection of children (WAN), in partnership with the International Social Service West Africa (ISS WA) and the International Social Service Switzerland (ISS Switzerland), supports migrant children in family reunification with parents or extended family members. Local partners identify the child within the transnational case management mechanism. If the child provides information about the family, the case manager traces the family members, in order to make an assessment of the family situation.

In some cases, the family is not ready to receive the child or the child is not willing to return. The local WAN case management partners will try to mediate. If the family members raise certain challenges, the case management team mobilises the community members in the areas of origin to address these challenges. Sometimes the solution in the best interest of the child may also be with other family members in the host country or resettlement in a third country. Once the geographical solution is determined, the two case managers (one for each country) arrange the case handover and conduct the family reunification.

The next stage is an extended follow-up to support family livelihood and ensure that the child is enrolled in and attending school. Each child has reference persons at the school and the community who closely monitor his/her situation and report to the case manager.
[Romania] As parents are often not aware of the emotional impact migration may have on their children who are left behind, civil society stakeholders should focus their efforts on awareness raising, targeting the parents prior to migration.

[Global]

- **recommendation 1** As part of the commitment to make the best interests of the child a primary consideration in all actions affecting children, States should make a best interests determination, or interception of a child or placement in residential care.

- **recommendation 2** The best interest determination should include an assessment of the situation of the child and the family by considering the opinion of both the child and his/her family members.

- **recommendation 3** If a best interests determination concludes that it is in a child’s best interest to return to his or her country of origin, the child must be accompanied throughout the return journey, with inter-state coordination to ensure this occurs. The returning State should also monitor what happens to the child after he or she leaves the territory, as part of a wider policy of monitoring the effects of all deportations of this nature.

- **recommendation 4** Data on the consequences of expulsions and deportations should be taken into account when governments review and amend migration policies.

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The criminalisation and stigmatisation of children on the move and other children affected by migration violate this principle. States and other actors should use non-discriminatory terminology when referring to migrants and their children.

NO CHILD IS ILLEGAL. Children should be protected from all forms of discrimination.
ONGOING CHALLENGES

Discriminatory policies and plans of action

Across South East Asia; Across Europe There is no concrete action plan or any significant effort by relevant ministries in destination countries to provide coherent and synergized support to refugees and asylum seekers.

From Middle East to Malta; from Mozambique to South Africa Negative perception and discourse related to migration impede the developing of a positive understanding of the phenomenon, thus hiding positive aspects of child migration.

Within Ethiopia, From Cambodia and Laos to Thailand Stigma and discrimination towards children victims of trafficking.

From Syria and Iraq to Greece, Malta, Italy, Lebanon and Jordan Xenophobia and discrimination expressed by local authorities, communities, social service providers and school staff towards refugee children and families in areas of destination.

WHAT CHANGED

Reduced stigma and discrimination experienced by migrant children and children victims of trafficking.

[Malta] The ‘Bodyless’ project implemented by KUPIN features a virtual reality game, an audio-visual exhibition and a publication of the autobiographical story of Farah Abdullahi Abdi ‘Never Arrive’. The game provides insight into the complexities underlying the migration crisis, with an emphasis on the journey. In addition, ten educational workshops are provided to secondary school students to raise their awareness about the realities and needs of refugees and asylum seekers. ‘Never Arrive’ tells the story of Farah Abdullahi Abdi, a young Somali man who is forced to flee his home in Kenya at the age of 16 because of persecution and stigma associated with his sexual orientation. The book is based on his mental and emotional journey and his challenges as he crosses borders and endures hardships in search of the future he believes he deserves.

[Thailand, Cambodia, Laos] Tdh works to support children’s right to participation by advocating, in alliance with other regional civil society and UN organisations, for their views to be heard and considered by policy-makers. The governments in the Greater Mekong Sub-region participating in a regional anti-trafficking initiative (COMMIT) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation against trafficking in persons in the Greater Mekong Sub Region have agreed to provide space for children’s views both at their national level structures and at the regional senior officials and inter-ministerial meetings. The regional level involvement is realised through the organisation of an annual youth forum, which is immediately followed by a meeting and discussion between the participants in the youth forum and senior civil servants from the six COMMIT governments. Tdh has also supported the holding of the bi-annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) children’s forum, which this year brought together children and young people from the 10 ASEAN member states to discuss child trafficking and migration, online child protection and child sexual exploitation.

[The West African region] Although child mobility is not a new phenomenon in West Africa, States have been considering it for a long time - primarily as a human trafficking issue. ISS Switzerland and ISS West Africa have made great efforts to bring the topic of children on the move to the attention of the Economic Community West African States (ECOWAS) member states. In 2015, ECOWAS officially recognised the West African Network for the protection of children and thereby the necessity to support and protect children on the move. This is a milestone in recognising that migrant children need to receive protection as all children. Their concerns need to be included in regional and national child protection frameworks as well as considered in migration or development policies.

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[Mozambique] Mozambican parents who migrate to South Africa often request taxi drivers to cross the border with their children who were left behind. They trust that the taxi drivers bribe the officials and know how to cross the border. Due to the strict security measures, most children are left alone at the border once the taxi drivers discover they cannot cross it. To ensure family reunification and reintegration support, these children are referred by the partner The Southern African Network Against Trafficking and Abuse of Children (SANTAC) to the regional referral system, which is managed by the National Prosecution Authority in Mozambique. Throughout the referral and reintegration process, SANTAC documents their stories in videos and booklets which are used in workshops involving official stakeholders to create a new dialogue and improved awareness to meet the needs of children on the move.

Feasible, children either move to live with their relatives or start a new life on their own. In such cases, the CBOS sensitise the communities and schools’ vocational service providers to ensure that the host communities welcome these youths and they in turn, do not experience stigma and discrimination. When the children are enrolled in schools or vocational training centres, the partners work closely with the teachers and school principals to assign a mentor teacher who supports the child to ensure smooth enrolment and retention until completion.

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[Europe] Emphasis on influencing the discourse in Western Europe around migration by portraying stories of how migrants positively contribute to their country of destination.

[Global]

- **recommendation 1** States have the obligation to respect the dignity and right to life and equal treatment of all children, irrespective of their migratory status.

- **recommendation 2** States need to actively combat hate speech and xenophobic narratives and promote information on the situation of children on the move.

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Child protection systems shall PROTECT ALL CHILDREN including children ON THE MOVE and children affected by migration.

In their design and implementation, national child protection systems shall take into account the distinctive needs and views of children on the move and other children affected by migration. States shall protect children against exploitation, violence, abuse, and other crimes, and against resorting to crime or sexual exploitation to meet their basic needs. States and regional organisations have a responsibility to ensure a continuum of protection between local government authorities and States through which children travel, and to promote harmonized protection practices developed by local communities where appropriate.
Ongoing Challenges

Limited transnational referrals for continuum of care

[From Laos and Cambodia to Thailand] In a clear absence of a continuum of protection between government authorities in South East Asia, children victims of trafficking face significant risks when they are being returned to their country of origin. The decision to return such children to their countries of origin is the default option with no best interest determination process in place.

[From Mozambique to South Africa] Domestic servitude is considered a non-formal sector in Mozambique and is therefore not regulated. As a result, many children who work in this sector find themselves in exploitative situation, which pushes them to unsafe migration across the border to South Africa.

[Within the West African Region] National child protection systems often work in different ways, complicating transnational cooperation to protect children on the move.

Limited transnational referrals for continuum of care

[Within India] Children victims of trafficking often feel ashamed, following their traumatic experience, and do not have the skills or emotional capacity to explore options outside their safe zone.

[Internal and cross border migration within the West African region] Despite the growing number of children on the move, there are not enough effective regional measures to respond to their needs and to respect their rights.

[Internal and cross border migration within the West African region] The child protection mechanisms are often weak, there is a lack of recognition by institutional protection actors and therefore it receives little governmental support.

What Changed

Transnational referral systems for continuum of care

[Thailand, Cambodia, Laos] When child victims of trafficking are repatriated from Thailand back to Cambodia and Laos, TdH’s local partners such as Friends International, conduct referrals from Thai shelters to a shelter run by local NGOs in Cambodia or Laos, such as Village Focus International. The partners plan and coordinate the return with government authorities in both countries, but the continuum of care is entirely provided by TdH partners. Once in the shelter in their country of origin, children are offered support with reintegration.

[West Africa Region] The West African Network for the protection of children (WAN), supported by International Social Service (ISS) link up protection systems in West Africa for transnational care and family reunification of children on the move. A total of 6,500 children across the region are provided with support through the case management system.

Specific services delivered to children and families include: a shelter offering basic services; individual psychosocial support and access to social services; family tracing and assessments; and individual follow-up support for school enrolment or vocational opportunities. The ongoing follow-up of reintegration includes livelihood support to family members and communities, on-going monitoring by a social worker and appointing a person of confidence from the child’s social environment to ensure that the child is treated well and is regularly attending school.

Community based support and protection for children and families in areas of origin and destination to migration

[Mozambique] The Child Helpline, implemented by the partner Jesuit Refugee Service, supports children victims of exploitative labour, domestic violence and neglect. The helpline has a tracking system, which allocates the geographic location of the call, whether the call was made by a child or an adult and traces the origin of the call. On average, the hotline receives 250,000 annual calls, most of them by children on the move who are in exploitative labour in the border areas or the capital city where children work as domestic labourers prior to crossing the border to South Africa. The helpline number is published at the border, throughout the various outreach programmes and promoted by other NGOs through their prevention campaigns. Once a child calls the helpline, the case is recorded and a social worker makes a call to the nearest social service provider. The helpline is also connected to a cross border reference group for repatriation, family reunification and prosecution of traffickers.

[India] In the areas of Chattisgarh and Odisha, adolescent victims of trafficking who were able to escape and return to their villages, have been successfully reintegrated into their community by TdH and its NGO partners People’s Cultural Centre (PECUC) and Bastar Samajik Jan Vikas Samiti (BSJVS). These children, both boys and girls, and their parents, are provided with both individual and group counselling to overcome the experienced trauma, along with skills building to generate alternate sources of income.

[The West African Region] TdH has conducted a regional meta-analysis on locally-developed child protection practices for children on the move, offering concrete recommendations on how to support the community actors involved in these practices. Currently, TdH is finalising a more in-depth study in Northern Mali, which will offer an analysis on the advantages and risks in including locally developed child protection practices within humanitarian responses concerning children on the move.
[The West African Region]

- **recommendation 1** Governments and civil society stakeholders should continue prioritising the identification and analysis of community mechanisms to ensure their support, as well as the harmonisation of quality standards of protection and care provided by government authorities, NGOs and CBOs.

- **recommendation 2** States should ensure elaboration of bilateral and multi-state agreements for the protection of children on the move.

[India] Civil Society stakeholders should continue to strengthen village level child protection mechanisms.

[Southern African region] There is an urgent need for extended advocacy efforts to ensure that the current package of standard procedures for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVCs) is updated to accommodate the needs of children on the move.

[Global]

- **recommendation 1** The child protection structures for children on the move should be accessible in the places where children on the move are located and adapted to their needs and the threats they face.

- **recommendation 2** States should develop joint case management and information sharing systems, which facilitate protection and care and follow up on children on the move.

- **recommendation 3** National child protection systems should be equipped to respond appropriately to the difficulties, including detrimental effects on psychosocial wellbeing, experienced by children on the move, including children whose parents have migrated.

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States shall respect the rights of children guaranteed by international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, including the principle of non-refoulment, and any child specific protection measures. States have a duty to ensure accurate identification of children, to evaluate the impact of laws and policies on children on the move and other children affected by migration and to avoid adverse impacts. Deliberately making transport unsafe to deter migrants from travelling can never be justified. Children require security and stability for healthy development. States that only consider the best interests of the child or grant children authorisation to remain on their territory until age 18 have an adverse impact on children’s rights.

MIGRATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES SHALL NOT adversely AFFECT children’s HUMAN RIGHTS
protection of children on the move, which will then allow more individualisedfight against trafficking are currently being revised to extend their scope to theExisting bilateral agreements focusing solely on the
trafficking reference group involving all official stakeholders.
efforts, the General Attorney Office in Mozambique coordinates a national anti-
legislation in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Furthermore, due to these
African Association of Prosecutors. Today, the issue of trafficking is incorporated in
Police Investigators, in collaboration with the regional INTERPOL office, and The
are delivered through trainings/workshops with policy makers, prosecutors and
inclusion of measures for prosecution of traffickers and protection of victims of trafficking.

[The Balkan Route] Since
November 2015, the gradual
restrictions along the Balkan route
and the final closure of borders on
March 2015 has trapped tens of
thousands of refugees, including
minors, in transit centres with
limited food and poor sanitary
conditions. Many are leaving
the centres by using dangerous
informal routes and eventually
falling victim to smugglers on their
way to Western Europe.

Limited national
and regional referral
mechanisms

[Within The West African Region]
Existing bilateral agreements focus
uniquely on the fight against trafficking
without taking into account the broader
phenomenon of children on the move.

[Within The West African Region] Inefficient legislation to ensure
adequate protection of children on the move.

[Within The West African Region] Existing bilateral agreements focus
uniquely on the fight against trafficking
without taking into account the broader
phenomenon of children on the move.

ONGOING CHALLENGES

Poverty and vulnerability in areas of origin
Inadequate migration management policies and Anti-Trafficking legislation.

[Within The South African Region] State policies and legislation do not
include laws and measures for the prevention of trafficking, protection of victims of trafficking, and prosecution of offenders.

[Within The West African Region] Inefficient legislation to ensure adequate protection of children on the move.

[Within The West African Region] Existing bilateral agreements focus uniquely on the fight against trafficking without taking into account the broader phenomenon of children on the move.

WHAT CHANGED

Advocacy for child friendly measures and legislation

[The South African Region] For the past years, The Southern African Network Against Trafficking and Abuse of Children (SANTAC), has been lobbying with parliamentarians and decision makers in the Southern African region for the inclusion of measures for prosecution of traffickers and protection of victims of trafficking within the national legislation framework. The advocacy efforts are delivered through trainings/workshops with policy makers, prosecutors and Police Investigators, in collaboration with the regional INTERPOL office, and The African Association of Prosecutors. Today, the issue of trafficking is incorporated in legislation in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Furthermore, due to these efforts, the General Attorney Office in Mozambique coordinates a national anti-trafficking reference group involving all official stakeholders.

[The West African region] Existing bilateral agreements focusing solely on the fight against trafficking are currently being revised to extend their scope to the protection of children on the move, which will then allow more individualised responses to address these children’s needs and support child-friendly spaces along migration fluxes.

[Hyderabad, India] TdH is organising public hearings with migrant child labourers. The public hearing is an alternative court of law in which children present their cases to a panel of judges and other public figures. The jury interacts with the children and finally gives a morally binding verdict. The verdict includes 8-9 areas where the government should focus its work on promoting safe migration and eliminating exploitative child labour. For example: increasing the number of shelters to accommodate unaccompanied migrant children and supporting children’s access to schools, health and counselling services. This verdict is disseminated throughout the media channels and given to the ministries of Labour and Education as part of the efforts to influence legislation.

[The Balkan Route] Since October 2015, TdH, in partnership with the IRC, Lastrada in Macedonia and the Bulgarian Red Cross have initiated a monitoring and documentation project, assessing the situation of refugees, specifically unaccompanied minors, in three countries; Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria. The monitoring teams in the target countries assess migration management aspects such as how many children have benefited from family reunification? How many of these worked and how many failed? How many unaccompanied minors were identified? And How many have started a process of identifying a guardian? This documentation exercise will be utilised to influence national and regional policies, regulations and migration management measures targeting children on the move.

[The West African Region] Since
February 2013, TdH in collaboration
with partners advocated for and offered
technical support to the revision and/or elaboration of bilateral agreements for the protection of children on the move. Draft agreements are currently being discussed between Guinea and Mali; Benin and Nigeria; and Benin, Nigeria and Togo. These draft agreements specifically promote the best interests’ principle as well as the participation of the child.

Integrated framework for care and reintegration of unaccompanied minors

[Nicosia, Cyprus] The foster care programme implemented by the partner Hope for Children in Cyprus provides foster care and optimal reception conditions to unaccompanied minors who are applicants or beneficiaries of an asylum status. Following a suitability assessment, individuals or couples are appointed as foster homes. This programme strengthens the institutionalisation of a foster family model, builds the roles and responsibilities of community members towards inclusion of unaccompanied migrant minors and contributes towards a smoother and more effective integration of unaccompanied minors into society.

[Madredios region and rural areas of Cuzco, Peru] The migration influx to the Madredios region to work in the gold mines has created an informal industry of entertainment bars mainly employing young girls who migrate from the rural areas of Cuzco. These girls are either trafficked or migrate with the intention to obtain decent employment, and eventually end up in exploitative situation. TdH and its local partners conduct awareness raising and sensitisation campaigns in the villages where most of the girls arrive from, explaining the risks along the migration route. Additionally, the most vulnerable families receive support for improved access to employment and economic resources so that youth are not obliged to migrate. In the destination area, TdH provides technical support to local government shelters, which provide reintegration, referrals, family reunification and education services to the victims of trafficking. Overall, the project supports the local and national authorities in building a coordination system between local and regional social and judicial service providers and NGOs to build a case management and anti-trafficking prevention system.

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[The South African Region] Following the approval of anti-trafficking legislation, civil society stakeholders should monitor the implementation of laws, policies and plans of action.

[South America region] A need for evidence-based advocacy to promote prevention and protection of victims of trafficking.

[The West African Region] Governments should continue revising child protection policies and bilateral agreements, and at the same time including child protection concerns in migration legislation, policies and action plans.

[Global] When conducting a best interests’ determination process with the child, States should support durable solutions that guarantee the protection and the personal development of the child to enable him/her to make plans for education, vocational training or employment in the long-term.

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Children have the RIGHT TO EXPRESS their views FREELY in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken into consideration in accordance with their age, maturity and understanding of the options available.

States should expeditiously and completely cease detention of migration affected children and allow children to remain with families and/or guardians in non-custodial, community-based contexts while their immigration status is being resolved.
**WHAT CHANGED**

Refugee youth have access to information and individual support based on their specific situation and needs.

**[Greece]** ARSIS, in partnership with the local NGOs Praksis and Greek Council for Refugees (GCR), implements the Humanitarian Support via interventions project at the pre-relocation Korinthos Detention Centre. The project aims to meet the urgent care needs of youth detainees, such as psychosocial care and family tracing, and simultaneously, to provide information and individual socio-legal assistance for better access to protection and education services according to each individual case.

Youth are actively involved in advocacy and awareness raising efforts to improve children’s access to information and support children on the move to fully fulfill their rights.

**[South Africa]** In August 2016, the partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) held a Youth Advisory Committee meeting hosting 47 migrant youth residing at the Yeoville Community in South Africa. The aim of this event was to allocate the most outspoken youth who will later form a Youth Advisory Committee. During the meeting, the youth spoke about their daily challenges as migrant children and the various issues confronting children on the move in South Africa. The overall impression was that the youth were aware of the challenges surrounding immigrants such as xenophobia and discrimination in schools and in their neighbourhoods. A total of 12 youths were selected to meet once every two months and hold meaningful discussions about the issues affecting them. As part of the discussions, the youth initiated strategies to support the government in drafting plans of action which will address the needs of migrant children.

**[Global]** As part of the efforts to enhance youth participation and better understand the demands, needs and interests of children on the move, the Destination Unknown Campaign Working Group has concluded that children and youth will take an active role in the campaign at a global scale through a Youth Call initiative. The aim of the Youth Call is to create a common document, which will include common demands made by children on the move. Youth from Thailand, Myanmar, Germany and Morocco have joined this initiative and are continuously supported by the campaign’s working group. Using a child-friendly and simple language, the document highlights the opportunities and threats, the positives and the negatives concerning the realities of children on the move. The different partners will use this document in national and regional advocacy work, communication and awareness raising activities.

**[Cyprus, France, Greece, Malta, Switzerland, and Sweden]** The Global Refugees Youth Consultations (GRYC), organised jointly by UNHCR and the Women’s Refugee Commission, aims to create structured spaces for young refugees to have a voice and engage in a participatory dialogue with other youth and stakeholders for improved understanding of the current need and action. The GRYC consist of a series of ten consultations, the recommendations of which the overarching theme is “Youth.”

**[Kolkata, India]** As part of the efforts to promote active youth participation and voice children’s concerns among the authorities at local, state and national level, a children’s consultation was organised by TdH in Kolkata, West Bengal, to share case stories of unsafe and safe migration and create paintings based on the stories. The workshop is part of an initiative to create Information, Education Communication (IEC) materials in the form of digital stories.

A total of 39 children shared their experience of rural–urban migration and life in the streets of Kolkata. Throughout the process, the recommendations voiced by these children were sent to the UN as part of the General Comments exercise. Some of the recommendations/requests included: the government should make income generation opportunities available to families residing in rural areas; children should have a recreational space in their localities; and children should not be separated from their parents, they should only be placed in shelters and foster homes as a last resort.

**[West African Region]** A regional advocacy document, outlining shared inter-agency positions and recommendations for protecting children on the move, has called for a specific approach to be applied, called “protective accompaniment for children”. The approach has been operationalised by TdH in recent years in several countries of the region (notably Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Togo). According to this approach, the best interest of the child should be the primary consideration in all decisions related to the protection of children on the move. Moreover, children should be considered as active actors in their own protection and that of their peers.

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**ONGOING CHALLENGES**

Limited opportunities to participate in decisions affecting them

**[From the Middle East to Greece, Cyprus and Italy; Within the European Union]** The inability to understand the local languages affects children’s access to information concerning their socio-legal rights.

**[Across Europe]** Children accompanied by their families often do not participate in decision-making procedures this has a long term impact on their lives.

**[The Western African Region]** Decisions to refer children on the move to their country of origin are often made without consulting them.

Children’s voices are not included in policies and plans of action

**[East Africa; The South African Region]** Migrant children’s voices are often not heard and considered in national and regional policies and plans of action.
[India] Adults and children should be trained on their rights and duties.

[Across Europe]

- **recommendation 1** Children on the move should participate in all decisions that will affect them, whether these are children within families or unaccompanied and separated children.

- **recommendation 2** Adequately trained guardians should be appointed expeditiously for all unaccompanied and separated children.

[South Africa]

- **recommendation 1** Local authorities have the duty to receive and address complaints from children.

- **recommendation 2** Children should be informed that they have the right to approach any high administration authority to make a complaint without fear.

[West African Region] The protective accompaniment approach should be further promoted and operationalized to ensure children are fully considered actors in their own protection.

[Global]

- **recommendation 1** Civil society stakeholders should promote children’s clubs, assemblies and parliaments as these enable improved access to information.

- **recommendation 2** Children should be part of finding solutions addressing the needs of children on the move and should take an active role in decision-making.

- **recommendation 3** Governments should provide children on the move accurate information about their options, including their legal status and their access to educational facilities and other public services.

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Durable solutions for children on the move

Setting the scene for durable solutions

All actions promoted by the 9 principles contribute to reaching a durable solution for each child. This thematic sheet on durable solutions highlights and articulates the challenges and building blocks of continuous and quality care of migrant children. Thereby it proposes a durable solution approach, which goes beyond the immediate protection paradigm.

A durable solution describes a process that aims at establishing a continuity of care in a safe and enabling environment. The establishment of stable social relations and individual development opportunities is central and gives young migrants prospects for the future under the respect of their human rights.

The determination of a suitable durable solution is a process, which requires careful assessments of the children's personal situation in the host country, in the country of origin or in the country of residence of family members. This includes not only the consultation with the children but also an evaluation of the situation of their families or potential caregivers, in order to determine an individual care plan.

Geographically, a durable solution can result in local integration in the host country, voluntary resettlement in a third country or re-integration in the country of origin of the children. Considering the various stages of the child’s migration journey, a number of care and protection stakeholders need to be involved to determine and put a durable solution into practice. Their transnational collaboration is key, in order to ensure that the child moves safely from one protection system to another and receives continuous care across borders.
Ongoing Challenges

Lack of long-term view and solutions for children on the move across heterogeneous national child protection contexts

The existent international care and protection guidance on durable solutions rarely translate into national contexts: currently, the focus lies mainly on immediate protection measures such as emergency sheltering and the provision of basic needs. However, States fail to provide concrete and long-term-oriented (re)integration solutions, which consider social, educational and professional perspectives for children on the move. Consequently, many children remain for years in uncertain and precarious situations in countries of transit or arrival, unable to plan and build their futures.

National migration and border policies often constrain migrant children’s rights: immigration or asylum procedures too often limit the minors’ enjoyment of their human rights. In particular, an unstable residence status generates a situation of insecurity and hinders both social and professional integration;

There is a protection gap for children on the move who reach adulthood abroad: upon turning 18 years of age, young migrants no longer have access to specialised support measures. Moreover, it is common practice for States to issue international protection status and not national child protection measures to children who reach adulthood abroad: at the age of 18, these children lose access to legal recognition and services.

Neglect of the rights of the child related to social, educational and professional integration

In current protection frameworks, the child rights related to family links and social relations as well as educational and professional development do not receive enough consideration. However, they are the backbone of stability and future perspectives for children on the move.

Insufficient transnational collaboration for a holistic and child rights-centred care approach

Development policies do not sufficiently address the root causes of unsafe child migration: families and communities in the countries of origin lack livelihood alternatives and the means to provide their children with opportunities that make reintegration durable.

There is insufficient collaboration and coordination among decision-makers and care professionals across borders.

Durable Solutions: The building blocks

For the implementation of a durable solution, protection and care professionals should put the emphasis on exploring the possibility of family reunification to re-establish a stable and nurturing care environment for the child. In some circumstances, the tracing of and reunification with the family or relatives is not possible or not in the child’s best interest.

Under these circumstances, States must become active and build a support structure for the child, which includes the following main elements:

Protection; Integration; Future Prospects.

These elements are the three pillars of any durable solution. Foremost, the child needs to be able to integrate in a community, which provides stability and opportunities to develop their personal skills and resources. These are prerequisites for children on the move to build resilience and enjoy their human rights fully. Moreover, it is important for the sustainability of any individual care solution that the families and communities of children on the move engage to ensure safe and orderly migration. This also includes the strengthening of their capacities to care for these children and provide them with future prospects in the local context.

Vectors of change

The 8 steps procedure for the protection and care of children on the move

1. The durable process starts with the identification of a vulnerable migrant child. The protection stakeholders establish their identity and immediate care needs.
2. Meet the physical and psychological needs of the child, in order to stabilize their situation and provide an environment of security and trust.
3. Conducting with the child, protection stakeholders collect relevant information on their individual situation in the host country and revisit the situation in the country of origin in order to make decisions on care arrangements.
4. Implement an individual support plan that assesses quality care for the child and promotes the personal development of the minor during the stay in the host country (Social, educational or professional integration measures).
5. Family tracing if appropriate and the conduct of a social assessment of the child/ the family and the community is crucial information when considering the reintegration of this child in the country of origin or determining another geographical solution.
6. Based on the collected information and under the lead of a legal representative or main care worker, an interdisciplinary panel makes a best interest decision on the durable solution for the child (country of origin, host country or third country).
7. An individual action plan outlines the different steps to implement the durable solution for the child. It prepares the minor and sets out measures for their future social, educational or professional integration.
8. Monitor the child and his or her environment as well as support the implementation of the child’s reintegration, in order to ensure the well-being and adequacy of the life project.
Enhance durable solutions: Recommendations to states and civil society protection stakeholders

**States** should work towards mainstreaming the development of durable solutions for each child.

**Protection stakeholders** should carefully assess the personal situation of the child and the situation in the country of origin: this requires a consultation with the child as well as family members or relatives. Accurate, quality information should also support an asylum or migration procedure in the best interests of the child.

**States** should reinforce the social integration of children on the move and facilitate the development of personal resources and potentials: States should strengthen their efforts and collaborate effectively with civil society in order to (re)build a social support network for migrant children. This includes promoting social integration as well as adequate schooling and professional skills training. The development of personal capacities builds resilience, but also facilitates social (re)integration irrespective of whether it is temporary or permanent.

**States** should strengthen families and local communities in their care and custodial capacities and livelihoods: local communities of countries of origin, transit and destination need to be engaged in order to implement and monitor future prospects for children on the move.

**States** should establish genuine transnational collaboration among protection and care actors: States should take co-responsibility and collaborate better by linking the care professionals across countries, in order to ensure a continuity of care.

**States** should develop contextualized and harmonised quality standards for the care and protection of children on the move: wherever durable solutions involve two or more countries, harmonizing guidelines to ensure a quality of care across borders.

**States** should develop a joint methodology for cross border case management: Joint case management and information sharing systems are necessary to facilitate the determination, implementation and monitoring of the durable solution for each child on the move.

**States** should provide a continuity of support to children on the move beyond their transition into adulthood: children who turn 18 on their migration journey should receive support to prepare for and transition into adulthood. Specific protection and care measures should continue beyond the 18th birthday if appropriate, to make (re-)integration or an eventual return smooth and durable.