



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

Evaluation of IOM's Approach for Providing Assistance and Protection to Migrant Children, including Unaccompanied and Separated Ones

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Acronyms

ATD	Alternative to Detention
AVM	Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BIA	Best Interest Assessment
BID	Best Interest Determination
CH	Community Housing
CO	Country Office
CoO	Country of Origin
CoR	Country of Return
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CP	Child Protection
CPMS	Child Protection Minimum Standards
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CT	Counter-trafficking
DC	Detention Centre
DMM	Department of Migration Management
DOE	Department of Operations and Emergencies
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMDAC	Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
EC	European Commission
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FP	Focal Point
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GCU	Gender Coordination Unit
HT	Human Trafficking
HQ	Headquarters
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MAD	Migrant Assistance Division
MCOF	Migration Crisis Operational Framework
MiGOF	Migration Governance Framework
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
PRM	Population Refugees Migration
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

PSN	Person with Specific Needs
PSS	Psychosocial Support
RLPO	Reginal Liaison and Policy Officer
RTS	Regional Thematic Specialist
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STC	Save the Children
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
ToR	Terms of Reference
UAC	Unaccompanied Child
UMC	Unaccompanied Migrant Child
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Child
UNDP	UN Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VoT	Victim of Trafficking
WG	Working Group

Executive Summary

With an increase of large scale mixed migratory flows in the last decades, IOM has paid renewed attention to the exploitation of migrants in vulnerable situations and to the need to assist specifically migrant children, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and migrant children victims of trafficking (VoTs).

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that during 2012–14, over 63,000 victims were detected in 85 countries, with almost 30 per cent being boys and girls aged 17 and below¹. According to IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)², IOM assisted more than 60 million people during humanitarian crises or post-crisis situations since 2010; out of this number, more than 95,000 were trafficked persons³, approximately one third of whom were migrant children.

The evaluation explores the operational strategies and fields of activity implemented by IOM to assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of IOM migration assistance to migrant children, including unaccompanied and separated children. The scope of evaluation also covers IOM's effectiveness in developing innovative strategies and proposing new fields of activity, as well as the collaboration with various partners working in the child protection (CP) area.

IOM's work aligns with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international legal framework concerning children's protection (see Annex 2). The desk research also showed that the international migration laws are well incorporated in IOM's operational framework to guide and support the operationalization of child-oriented assistance. IOM possesses a strong technical background on assistance to migrant children thanks to the implementation of a large scope of activities related to this specific group and is involved in several fora and events related to child assistance in both non-emergency and emergency contexts⁴. IOM is recognized as an important actor in this field.

The assistance and protection to migrants in vulnerable situations, including children, family migration and family reunification are the primary responsibilities of IOM's Department of Migration Management (DMM) and the Department of Operations and Emergencies (DOE). Both departments share responsibilities concerning assistance to migrant children with a thin demarcation line existing in the respective mandates. The departments implemented a total of 70 child-oriented projects amounting USD 50.0 million in the past decade, with over 70 per cent of programmes falling under IOM's assistance and protection activities.

The evaluation findings show that these programmes are relevant and well targeting the needs of migrant children, but at the same time the information on the implemented programmes would deserve to be better organised to enable more meaningful analysis and recording of best practices.

¹ 'Men' are males aged 18 or older; 'boys' are males 17 and below; 'Women' are females aged 18 or older; 'girls' are females 17 and below. Source: UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (2016) based on the elaboration of national data.

² <https://gmdac.iom.int/>

³ IOM has assisted over 70,000 victims of human trafficking and exploited migrants over the past 20 years with nearly 2 out of every 3 victims of trafficking assisted by IOM since 2010 trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, rather than mainly for sexual exploitation as in the past. Source of information: IOM GMDAC, <https://gmdac.iom.int>

⁴ IOM has been an active member of the Inter-Agency group on Children on the Move, a civil society lead initiative aimed at advocating for children's right and protection globally, since its creation in 2011. Moreover, IOM is a member of the following groups (non-exhaustive list): Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Aid Steering Committee and Calls (<https://alliancecpa.org/>); The Unaccompanied and Separated Migrant Children Task Force; the Child Labour in Emergency Task Force (http://ilo.org/ipcc/news/WCMS_543413/lang-en/index.htm), just to mention a few.

A specific policy and detailed guidance on child assistance and protection are not yet fully developed to institutionalize IOM's principles towards achieving the child protection oriented outcomes included for instance in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Concrete steps towards establishing a policy and strategic framework to support this beneficiary group are on-going.

Adequate resources also need to be allocated to guarantee a proper development and implementation of corporate policies and guidelines and an active participation to related networks and specialized committees and groups. As highlighted in the survey conducted, some IOM offices assign the duties over child-oriented protection and assistance to IOM Project Managers (PMs) and in certain cases, the child protection issues are handled by staff who do not possess the relevant expertise on the topic. Survey results also showed that regular training of staff involved in child protection along with the mapping of child-oriented projects to capture relevant information, best practices and lessons learned, are missing.

The recognition of IOM's role by the UN agencies and national stakeholders is also reinforced thanks to its good communication and transparency in the implementation of activities, involvement of all stakeholders in the programme design and implementation, engagement of local governments to accommodate migrant children, and flexible provision of services and support to national counterparts.

In terms of measuring the outcomes of IOM's child-oriented assistance, income generating activities and post-reunification and reintegration assistance to migrant children and their families proved to be effective, including vocational education and skills development training, as well as grant schemes that not only support family income generation but also sustain a healthy development of a migrant child.

Data on IOM beneficiaries is regularly reported upon, and disaggregated by age and sex but this is not always the case for migrant children. There is a lack of standardized tools to ensure that data on migrant children is systematically collected and reported upon, with sources of data in the countries of origin oftentimes missing to enable the full profiling of children on the move. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is currently updated to provide a better understanding of the movement needs of displaced children, through integrated CP indicators.

Field offices (participating in the survey) report that the coordination between DMM and DOE is effective and that the follow-up by Regional Technical Specialists and Focal Points is "*responsive and flexible*" concerning the matters of child assistance and protection. DMM and DOE managers note however that responsibilities over the management of migrant children assistance are not always clearly drawn between the departments, sharing of information can be improved and the challenges in programme implementation are increased with the lack of a comprehensive institutional policy.

In terms of Gender, IOM's strategic papers, guidelines, day-to-day project implementation and IOM recruitment process refer to IOM Gender Equality Policy 2015–19. Surveyed offices note shortcomings due to resource constraints not only at IOM level but also with the governments and other partners, which makes the implementation of gender guidelines quite strenuous. Most of the programmes considering gender are targeting the needs of girls and women but lessons learned are not fully mainstreamed in the programming and coordinated efforts are missing to address specifically the complexities surrounding irregular movements of young men/boys, and how gender roles, norms and expectations are influencing them.

Gender skills and expertise related specifically to children are also lacking. Continuous gender mainstreaming training and building of capacities are needed on how to effectively assist specific gender groups, along with the exchange of best practices in the frame of gender sensitive projects development and implementation and gender-responsive budgeting and reporting.

IOM's operational management of child-oriented programmes has a positive global impact on the Organization in terms of data and research, policy and advocacy, assistance and protection, capacity building, prevention and crisis response. IOM's strength is also shown through (i) increased understanding of the needs of displaced population sub-groups, including migrant children, thanks to its strong technical expertise and long-term experience, (ii) development and coordination of cohesive networks of partner and service providers qualified to address identified needs of migrant children, and (iii) bridging the existing care and assistance gaps by delivering demand-driven and tailored support services. The surveyed IOM offices confirm that, with IOM support, stakeholders and governments have continuously and steadily improved and strengthened the local care and protection support capacities and the special treatment for the children.

The survey also noted the positive trend in prevention as such assistance is being increasingly provided through components including, for instance, school campaigns on trafficking in persons, textbooks for the primary schools including prevention of child trafficking and, most importantly, the children are being provided with messages to easily recognise the dangers of trafficking.

IOM also publishes reports and assessments to better understand the vulnerability related to migrant children, and to better target its assistance and protection activities. IOM also supports institutional stakeholders to align their policies with internationally accepted standards, norms and specific provisions assisting and protecting migrant children.

Monitoring challenges remain in cases of the assistance provided to children victims of trafficking. An ideal timeframe for children would be to monitor their situation during two and a half years after being assisted and reintegrated with their families. However, financial constraints limit such a close monitoring of victims, which ranges from none at the end of the project to a period of six to nine months. A lack of analysis and/or evaluation also prevents IOM from measuring the impact of prevention activities and of IOM assistance to migrant children.

Partnerships with agencies holding child protection mandates such as UNICEF and Save the Children (STC), are continuously advanced to support the migrant children. In 2016 IOM and UNICEF embarked on a bilateral dialogue on the issue of migrant children, within the wider framework of the MoU between both agencies signed in 2005. The positive perception of IOM's contribution is sustained by IOM's agile and prompt response to requests for assistance and return of migrant children and adolescents (female and male), transparent information sharing regarding vulnerable children, respecting however strictly data protection principles and collaborative capacity building activities.

IOM works in close partnership with non-governmental actors to ensure that migrant children can easily access services. IOM collaborates well with the national and international partners and stakeholders to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants, and intends to put a greater focus on the specific situation of migrant and unaccompanied children.

IOM child-oriented programmes produce positive impacts through further streamlining and/or establishing frameworks for child protection assistance to be implemented by governments and partner agencies that frequently count on IOM's technical expertise. There is a strong potential to contribute further to child protection assistance, which requires an investment for reinforcing IOM global institutional framework and policy, the production of reliable data and targeted capacity building for the field staff. The visibility of migrant children has also increased worldwide in the past 15 years, with an increasing number of children in difficult and dangerous migratory situations.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

IOM's work with migrant children, and especially unaccompanied and separated children and children victims of trafficking (VoTs)⁵, has increased substantially in the recent years, with an increasing scope of work within the context of large scale and mixed migration flows. The child migration is part of larger phenomenon such as of exploitation of migrants in vulnerable situations, family migration and family reunification.

Without prejudice to the vulnerability and risks that unaccompanied migrant children may face, it is important to recognise them as agents and specific group in the current migration dynamic, and for IOM to strengthen and support comprehensive approaches of assistance to this category of beneficiaries. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) aims to contribute to the strengthening of IOM's role and strategy by conducting a thematic evaluation focusing on the migration assistance provided to those vulnerable groups.

In line with international migration law, particularly the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and its global mandate of assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations, IOM commits to fundamental principles such as non-discrimination, best interests of the child, full development, family unity, non-refoulement and full confidentiality. A broad range of assistance projects implemented by IOM directly and indirectly addresses the needs and interests of children and youth worldwide under the following categories:

- (i) **Pillar I – Data and Research:** the research projects and data information management systems are aimed to improve data availability on migrant children at all stages of the migratory process to support decision-makers' ability to develop and implement effective and child-sensitive migration policies;
- (ii) **Pillar II – Policy and Advocacy:** by promoting child-sensitive migration policies and programming, alternatives to immigration detention of children, and children's access to protective assistance services, IOM recognises migrant children as a group entitled to specific attention and protection addressing their specific needs;
- (iii) **Pillar III – Assistance and Protection:** assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), family tracing and reunification, placement in alternative care, local integration, humanitarian evacuations and emergency transport, resettlement to a third country (including family reunification), and legal and psychological assistance provided by IOM support the sustainable recovery of children from a situation of vulnerability, exploitation, abuse, or rights violations;

⁵ The terms "migrant children" and "children on the move" will be used throughout the report for an easy reference including all categories of children on the move, i.e. unaccompanied migrant children, separated migrant children and migrant children victims of trafficking.

- (iv) **Pillar IV – Capacity Building:** by increasing the awareness on the rights of migrant children, child-sensitive skills and practices, IOM enhances stakeholder knowledge, capacities and thus streamlines and improves the assistance and protection mechanisms for the children on the move;
- (v) **Pillar V – Prevention:** awareness raising, capacity building in prevention systems and specific assistance in community stabilization programmes contribute to reducing the vulnerability of children to violence, exploitation, abuse, and/or violations of their rights; and
- (vi) **Pillar VI – Crisis response:** IOM mainstreams counter trafficking (CT), protection and assistance to children through family reunification and return, alternative care options, demobilisation and reintegration for children associated with armed groups, humanitarian evacuations, psychosocial support and other life-saving activities. Increasingly, IOM also implements child protection specific programming in crisis response, including protection and assistance to unaccompanied and separated children, prevention and mitigation of Gender Based Violence (GBV), mental health and psychosocial support and anti-child trafficking activities as well as other dimensions described in pillar III.

The assistance to children on the move is referred to in several IOM documents, strategies, frameworks and technical instructions issued by the Department of Operations and Emergencies (DOE) and the Department of Migration Management (DMM), which are the departments specifically dealing with migrant children. The Department of International Cooperation and Partnership (ICP) also contributes to these efforts, mainly through its Migration Research and International Migration Law divisions.

The collaboration and dialogue is maintained with key partners working in the field of assistance and protection to migrant children, such as UNICEF or UNODC, with specialized international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Save the Children (STC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and in the framework of the Inter Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) stemming from the Alliance for the Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the IAWG on Children on the Move (in non-crisis setting), or within the child protection area of responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster.

1.2 Objective of the Evaluation

The thematic evaluation aims to identify and categorise the different strategies, approaches and fields of activity proposed by IOM and examine their relevance, effectiveness and impact as well as the integration of concepts such as gender and protection. The evaluation also aims to identify good and innovative practices, with a forward-looking vision.

As per its Terms of Reference (Annex 1), the overall objective of the evaluation is: *“To evaluate the relevance, overall effectiveness and impact of IOM migration assistance to children and*

unaccompanied minors through its project proposals, programmes, strategic approaches and concept papers framing and promoting such an assistance. Analysis will also cover IOM's effectiveness in developing innovative strategies and proposing new fields of activity, as well as its collaboration with various partners working in the same area".

More specifically, the evaluation will examine IOM's approaches and achievements of the assistance implemented so far and targeting the migrant children. Due to financial constraints, a rigorous impact evaluation of IOM overall approach and work will not be conducted. The aim is to collect information and data through available resources, a survey and interviews on what is the perceived and expected impact of IOM's work. Detailed evaluation questions can be found in the Terms of Reference (ToR) for this evaluation, attached as Annex 1.

1.3 Evaluation Methodology

The methodology used mixed methods, including:

- (i) A series of interviews conducted at IOM's Headquarters, including the representatives from DMM, DOE, the Gender Coordination Unit (GCU) and the International Migration Law (IML) division to obtain comprehensive views and approaches on the children on the move theme.
- (ii) A survey was sent to IOM's Regional Offices (ROs) and Country Offices (Cos). Fifty-five ROs/COs responded to the questionnaire representing 30% of IOM's ROs/COs surveyed.
- (iii) Exhaustive desk research of IOM's internal and Governing Bodies' documents, documents of UN Agencies and specialized Working Groups (WGs), international conventions and other relevant documents of entities actively involved in the field of migrant child-oriented assistance, including IOM main donors. Strategy papers, concept papers, samples of programmes and projects, research papers, conference reports, memoranda of understanding, formal exchanges with partners and migrant associations, technical notes and other documents were also perused, to contribute to the analysis and categorisation of IOM's work in the field of assistance to children on the move.

The timing of the evaluation was modified due to a heavy desk review, the extended deadline for completing the survey and the reviewing and commenting of the draft report. Interviews and a bibliography can be found in Annex 2, the field survey questionnaire in Annex 3 and a consolidated field survey report in Annex 4.

2. Relevance, Effectiveness and Impact of IOM's Assistance to Migrant Children

In line with the evaluation objective, this section analyses the relevance, effectiveness and impact of IOM strategies, approaches and child-oriented interventions, as well as the inclusion of concepts such as gender and protection.

2.1 Relevance of IOM's Approaches

The subsection examines IOM's initiatives assisting and protecting migrant children, considering the commitment to fundamental principles and the six pillars approach mentioned in Section 1.1. Relevance of the various types of assistance to IOM's mandate, strategy and organizational structure is also covered, along with the integration of IOM assistance to migrant children into migration management frameworks, policies, guidelines and toolkits. Finally, the relevance of IOM's assistance to the needs and strategies of countries of origin (CoO) and host governments has also been analysed.

Child-oriented initiatives

Per the Convention on the Rights of a Child, a "child" is a human being below the age of 18 years. "Unaccompanied children" are children who have been separated from both parents and relatives and are not being cared for by an adult. "Separated children" are children separated from both parents or from legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives as they can be accompanied by other adult family members.

Per UNICEF data, there were 244.0 million people worldwide living outside their country of birth in 2015; 31.0 million of them were children. Among the world's migrants, more than 21.0 million are refugees – some 10.0 million of whom are children – who have been forcibly displaced from their own countries. An additional 41.0 million people in 2015 were internally displaced due to conflict and violence, and 17.0 million of those were estimated to be children. Over 1,000,000 women and children are trafficked worldwide every year. In 2016, IOM provided support to 98,403 migrants returning from 110 host or transit countries to 161 countries or territories of origin, of whom approximately 32 per cent were women and 27 per cent were children. Over 3 per cent of these returnees were victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, or migrants with health-related needs.

IOM has worked in fighting migrant exploitation and counter trafficking in persons (TIP) since the mid-nineties, also in crises including conflict, protracted crisis and natural disasters such as Indonesia (2004), Haiti (2010), Libya (2011), the Philippines (2013), and Nepal (2015). IOM has helped to protect more than 95,000 trafficked persons, approximately one third of whom were migrant children, through direct assistance measures in cooperation with governments, relevant UN agencies and NGOs.

IOM operates a centralized web-based case management system and database, which contains IOM cases of identified victims of human trafficking. Victims of trafficking are registered upon their referral to or identification by an IOM Country Office trafficking focal point. Once a case is registered, case workers record data and testimonies on the trafficking process and monitor the direct assistance

services to be provided by IOM and its partners, such as health care, shelter, and integration or reintegration services.

IOM also works to prevent trafficking in persons (TIP) and migrant exploitation through targeted information, education and communication initiatives and through capacity building of governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) to address the challenges posed by TIP. Prevention also includes expert technical support for the development of counter-trafficking policies and procedures.

In crisis settings, IOM works in close collaboration and coordination with the UN humanitarian response mechanisms to prevent risk and identify potential or actual victims. IOM also leads an Anti-Trafficking in Crisis Task Team within the Global Protection Cluster aimed at identifying the most appropriate mechanisms to systematically include response to trafficking in crisis settings.

The Department of Migration Management (DMM) covers the areas of labour and facilitated migration, counter-trafficking (CT), assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), migration health, assistance to vulnerable migrants (AVM), immigration and border management and overall capacity-building in migration management. It comprises six units that directly or indirectly deal with child-oriented assistance.

More specifically, the Migrant Assistance Division (MAD) provides policy and technical analysis, guidance and capacity building in the fields of AVRR, CT, AVM, including children victims of trafficking (VoT) and unaccompanied migrant children. It provides also general assistance to stranded and vulnerable migrants. MAD supports IOM field offices in developing and implementing related projects in line with international and IOM standards.

The Department of Operations and Emergencies (DOE) incorporates child-oriented assistance in all spheres of its work, overseeing resettlement of refugees and migrants, movements, camps management and camp coordination, preparedness and response in migration crises and humanitarian emergencies, as well as assistance in recovery, transition and peace- building situations. It provides policy and technical guidance and support to respond to forced migration and massive population movements (such as protracted internal and cross-border displacement), to save lives, to improve the conditions of crisis-affected populations and to end displacements through early identification and implementation of durable solutions.

DOE also provides strategic recommendations to field operations on operational issues and oversees inclusion of humanitarian principles, protection mainstreaming and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in IOM activities, including child protection minimum standards in humanitarian action to which IOM has committed in 2014. DOE also manages inter-agency coordination and participates actively in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), among other cooperation mechanisms. The department comprises four divisions related to preparedness and response, transition and recovery, property and reparations, resettlement and movement management, as well as the statistics and knowledge management unit. DOE has a senior protection position and counts on Protection Officers embedded in the Preparedness and Response Division, in charge of providing technical oversight and field support on issues related to protection of all affected groups, including migrant children in crisis settings.

DMM and DOE share responsibilities concerning migrant children and cooperate closely within their areas of work. There is a thin demarcation line on when one department's operations cease

and another department's operations commence, having in mind that many programmes can include aspects of emergency response, migration management and development assistance. Effective communication and close cooperation remain prerequisite for successful assistance and protection. Currently, DOE and DMM are drafting a new internal guidance note to provide guidance and operational information on each department's responsibility regarding the protection and assistance to migrant children.

During the desk review, approximately 70 projects targeting children on the move were identified, amounting to USD 50.0 million. DMM's work includes 50 projects implemented during 2003 – 2016, totaling USD 20.0 million. The design of many projects combines elements of several pillars. For instance, the "*Counselling, return and reintegration of (ex) UMCs in EL Salvador*" project covered activities of pillars II, III, IV and V, working in the areas of AVRR, reintegration (education and employment), coordination between countries to improve dialogue and legal frameworks concerning asylum regime, and research with a comparative study on best practices.

Although difficult to categorise under a single pillar, most programmes (70%) include element of the pillar of assistance and protection (III) covering the AVRR, shelter assistance, local integration, resettlement to a third country for family reunification, and legal and psychological assistance to support the recovery from a situation of vulnerability, exploitation, abuse, or rights violations (see also Annex 4).

Over 40% of projects contain elements falling under pillar IV, which provides capacity building to stakeholders to improve the child-sensitive skills and practices, raise awareness on the rights of UMCs and build the capacities of governmental and NGO actors in prevention, assistance and protection mechanisms for migrant children.

Thirty per cent of projects are implemented with activities under pillar II and 20 per cent target pillars I and V, supporting policy development, research and data gathering for children on the move. The work under these pillars also covers capacity building for alternatives to immigration detention for children, and enablement of children's access to protective and assistance services that meet their specific needs.

Projects under pillar V (12 per cent) contribute to reducing the vulnerability of children to violence, exploitation, abuse, and/or violations of their rights, and involve awareness raising, capacity building in prevention systems and specific assistance in community stabilization programmes, when communities are strongly affected by displacement and inter-communal violence.

DOE provided a list containing 19 projects (11 active and 8 completed) implemented during 2011 – 2016 amounting USD 30.2 million. Over 70 per cent of projects cover child protection assistance, assistance for disabilities, sexual gender based violence, mine actions, which are also including activities of pillar III (assistance and protection) and pillar VI (crisis response). Overall, project activities were conducted in the areas of counter-trafficking, protection and assistance to children in humanitarian and crisis responses, family reunification and return, alternative care options, demobilization and reintegration for children associated with armed groups, humanitarian evacuations, psychosocial support and other life-saving activities.

As confirmed by the interviews and survey, the programmes targeting migrant children are relevant to the needs of government stakeholders and partner agencies, and well targeting the needs of migrant children. However, not all programmes were mapped to provide accurate and complete information on the specific assistance or strategies used worldwide for child oriented assistance

for the past decade, to promote or learn lessons from the assistance provided (for instance budget information on the level of migrant children assistance is missing in many cases). Recently, some initiatives have been launched to better map the programmes and provide streamlined approaches to child-oriented assistance.

Child-oriented assistance and IOM's mandate

With an increase of migrant children in the past decade, IOM adopted a comprehensive legal framework concerning child protection and assistance, including standards and practices of care and protection implemented in different countries. The exhaustive desk research showed that standards and procedures exist to guide and operationalize the child-oriented assistance, in line with the international migration laws, without however being always specifically mentioned as child-oriented assistance.

IOM's *Constitution*⁶ includes the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits all migrants and the society. IOM's *Humanitarian Policy (Principles for Humanitarian Action)* of October 2015 refers to the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence and relates it to all migrants in vulnerable situations without specifically referring to migrant children; or that the assistance is provided to those in need and without discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, religious belief, class, political opinion and age.

The *Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)* provides essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people with specific references to migrant children under the *Principle of good migration governance*. Identification and support to this beneficiary category is clearly stated, to be implemented by incorporating child-oriented, gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate approaches into IOM's policies and programmes.

IOM's internal technical guidelines, such as instruction IN/232, *Guidance Note on how to Mainstream Protection across IOM Crisis Response (or the Migration Crisis Operational Framework sectors of assistance)*, provide a step by step approach on how to integrate protection mainstreaming principles into both crisis response planning and the various phases of the project life-cycle. IOM ensures that "do no harm", promoting non-discrimination, meaningful access, safety, dignity, participation, empowerment and accountability measures become integral part of every response to migration crises. Within the Global Protection Cluster, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility promotes the Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) in humanitarian actions.

IOM's *Twelve points strategy* 2016 contains specific references to child-oriented assistance for the development and delivery of programmes, studies and technical expertise on combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and children.

The *Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC)* 2016 guidelines (a State led consultations product) also inspires IOM's work and refers to women, minors (children, including UASC), older persons and persons with disabilities, and the responsibilities of countries regarding these specific beneficiary groups. For instance, *Chapter 3* emphasizes that education system is an important factor in disseminating preparedness information, showing that children are effective communicators in times of disasters. Having a network of actors to whom unaccompanied

⁶ See www.iom.int. Other internal policies, procedures and technical guidelines can be found under IOM's Internal Portal: <https://genevportal.iom.int/+CSCO+1h75676763663A2F2F766167656E617267636265676E79++/Pages/PoliciesAndProcedures.aspx>

migrant children can be referred to for specialized protection, education, health care and psychosocial support, is mentioned as vital in meeting their needs effectively, the children on the move being among the most vulnerable individuals to abuse, exploitation and TIP.

The DOE's *Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF)* of October 2012 covers migration in emergency preparedness, response and recovery and clearly refers to vulnerable migrants and children. Under *Sector 10* 'Counter-trafficking and protection of vulnerable migrants', MCOF refers to children on the move and IOM's actions in that regard, including the protection of migrant children from exploitation or abuse during crisis and assistance to VoTs.

The draft *Internal Displacement Policy Framework* of November 2016 covers internally displaced people (IDPs) and affected communities. It contains references to vulnerable population, where children, women, the elderly, disabled people are broadly mentioned, and how immediate and longer-term protection needs are addressed (i.e. restoration of dignity, mental well-being, protection from the risks of further violence, family tracing, unification, social network support, education, health care, etc.). The framework also describes the support to be provided to national and local authorities to protect IDPs, including from sexual and gender based violence (GBV), and children from abuse, neglect and exploitation (with specific focus on unaccompanied and separated children).

IOM *Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)* is the source of primary data collection on internal displacement and tracks unaccompanied migrant children providing the aid/humanitarian community and government partners with continuous feedback on the extent of displacement, the changing needs and locations, and their access to durable solutions.

Several internal instructions cover child assistance and contain specific references to children on the move:

- Instruction IN/197 "*Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration*" briefly covers children in terms of specific guidance on vulnerable migrants.
- IN/198 "*Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for Trafficked Migrants*" contains detailed instructions for UASC and specifies general parameters for facilitating the return of a trafficked child, including: the best interest determination (BID)⁷ to be conducted by a credible authority with a child protection role, and that the return of the child needs to be in his or her best interest; that the child's legal guardian is notified of child's return; and that there exist willingness and means to receive and care for the child in the country to which the child is returning.
- IN/205 "*Post Arrival and Reintegration Assistance*" refers to migrant children in terms support by relevant government entities in the country of origin (CoO) for the return of the UASC (the legal guardian needs to be identified; the BID process takes place in the CoO; the assistance is in the best interest of the child).
- IN/208 "*IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Unaccompanied Migrant Children*" (currently under revision) lays out key parameters for the identification of a legal guardian, the conduct of BID for the child, family assessment, family tracing, willingness

⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees prepared Guidelines on Determining Best Interests of the Child in May 2008 based on the input and expertise of a wide range of field colleagues as well as from advice provided by other international governmental and non-governmental organisations, in particular UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the International Rescue Committee, the Permanent Bureau of The Hague Conference on Private International Law, Save the Children, the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, among others. BID Guidelines in their final version have been produced following two years of field testing the provisionally released version of May 2006.

of the child to return, and sustainable reintegration assistance for the child. The instruction fills in some gaps in the international legislation on child protection in the context of international migration and the provision of AVRR for migrant children.

- IN/219 “*Assessing Risk when Assisting Victims of Trafficking*” refers to risk assessments for migrant children victims of trafficking (for instance when family members are involved), to be reviewed regularly until the child is referred to credible protection partner; the risk assessment plan should be prepared in parallel to the reintegration plan.
- IN/220 “*Identification of Victims of Trafficking for Purposes of IOM Protection through Direct Assistance*” mentions children on the move under general parameters: IOM needs to act in the best interest of the child, and the ethical responsibility of every organization providing assistance to VoTs requires to assess the potential for harm of any proposed action.
- IN/227 “*Mixed Migration Flows*” contains references to migrant children including how immediate needs are addressed and different protection regimes.
- IN/232 “*Guidance Note on how to Mainstream Protection across IOM Crisis Response (or the Migration Crisis Operational Framework sectors of assistance)*”, covers child protection in emergencies as an essential part of IOM’s prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation in camps, transit centers or temporary shelters, and violence against children, including the prevention of child recruitment and affiliation with armed groups and the fight against child trafficking and labour exploitation.
- IN/236 “*Guidance Note on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for Migrants with Health Needs*” refers to migrant children, highlighting that any person providing assistance to a child, including medical assistance, needs to undergo a training on the specific needs of children. References to IN/208 are included regarding psychosocial assistance in support of the reintegration of a child.

Other operational frameworks refer to migrant children, such as the *Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Handbook (MA/448)* of April 2010. *Chapter 2* defines beneficiary categories including VoTs and UASC, and specifies that the return process requires measures to perform return counselling independently; *Chapters 4 and 5* align IOM’s work with CRC and UN Protocols; *Chapter 8*, transit assistance and shelters, refers to children’s education; and *Chapter 10* provides in-depth information for support to migrant children, starting with the coordinated approach between the child, legal guardians and partner agencies to inform on preparations and counselling upon return.

Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking (MA/53), currently revised jointly with UNICEF to contain a specific section on children, provides detailed references on assisting migrant children, both female and male individuals who seek assistance. Since voluntary return of trafficked minors is a sensitive issue involving child-specific forms of exploitation such as child pornography, child sexual exploitation, forced labour, camel jockeying and forced adoption, the return assistance applies only if the trafficked child expresses the wish or agrees freely to be assisted to return home with the recommendation of a legal guardian, and if a risk assessment confirms that it is safe for the child to return.

Chapter 4 lists residents’ obligations and types of accommodation for children, including psychological care, recreational and crafts activities for therapeutic healing and *Chapter 5* lists health risks and needs of trafficked persons but also ethical and safety principles for care provision. Denied access to appropriate nutrition, exhausting labour and sexual exploitation, coexisting

diseases and infections or substance abuse may all be factors leading to malnutrition among trafficked children. Malnutrition can also lead to developmental disorders, such as anemia, dermatological and dental problems. In the case of children and young persons, assessments of family relationships remain of utmost importance and needs to be meticulously done.

DOE's *Emergency Operations Manual 2016* is a comprehensive document and website resource that contains references to UASC and their basic needs as vulnerable people. Special risks that children are facing during emergencies and armed conflicts, are clearly referred to, including malnutrition, diseases, sexual and GBV but also sporadic education. Specific measures are recommended to assist and protect migrant children, with the assessment and operational planning to be performed by the experts on childcare and protection.

DOE also developed a Special Measures Check-list for Migrant Children evacuated in an emergency setting and during humanitarian evacuations. Finally, DOE included a chapter in the camp management toolkit on child protection (CP) and gender with the minimal standards on how to include CP in project managers' work.

IOM's *Chiefs of Mission Handbook 2014* also contains references to women and children, with a focus on trafficking. IOM continues to protect and help the victims to return home and restart their lives in dignity. It also addresses PSEA under six core principles, among which sexual activity with children (under 18 years old) is strictly prohibited.

Evidence indeed shows that there is a well-developed operational and technical framework that provides a strong basis for the operationalization of child-oriented assistance. However, currently there is no specific policy and corporate strategy on child protection and assistance to inform and guide IOM's management decisions, having to refer instead to the Migration Governance Framework for instance, or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and relying on international conventions.

There is a need of investing more effort in both policy and institutional practice on the topic, including for the support to States in their duty of protecting child rights. However, recent developments in bringing internal cohesion and how future efforts could build on existing experiences and framework, deserve to be noted. The lack of policy framework and specific visibility of IOM's role may hinder the Organization to position itself more strategically among UN and government actors. As also underlined in the survey, better mapping of child protection approaches and capacity building can be improved for easy reference for field offices.

Child-oriented assistance and international conventions

IOM incorporates in its activities the international legal framework related to child protection, and adapts it to the needs of the unaccompanied migrant children in the migration management context. IOM has conducted a research on the international migration laws and published in 2008 a synthesis of *Human rights of migrant children* (2008) summarizing how international laws protect migrant children. The synthesis focuses on the protection given to children by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* of 1989⁸ and examines in detail the rights that are most relevant to migrant children.

⁸ <https://www.unicef.org/crc/>

The work of IOM is primarily guided by the CRC and its fundamental principles of non-discrimination, best interest of the child, full development, family unity, non-refoulement and full confidentiality. Those principles apply to IOM's assistance and protection of migrant children survivors of sexual and gender based violence, exploitation, abuse and/or rights violations, irrespective of their migratory status and calling for the children to be protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment, ensuring the best interests of the child and the right of the child to preserve his or her identity.

The role and responsibilities of legal guardians are fully incorporated in IOM's operational frameworks, in line with *CRC Articles 3 and 8*. Per *CRC Articles 20 and 22*, IOM ensures protection, assistance and alternative care for children 'temporarily or permanently deprived of family environment' and children seeking refugee status, whether accompanied or unaccompanied.

The Committee on the Right of the Child⁹ (comprised of 18 independent experts who monitor the implementation of CRC by the State parties) has clarified the provisions and standards addressing the issue of return of unaccompanied children to their country of origin, to be conducted in the best interest of a child. IOM considers the factors of safety, security, socio-economic conditions awaiting the child upon return, the care arrangements, the views of the child, the child's level of integration in the host country and the duration of absence from the home country.

IOM also abides by the *Optional Protocols to the CRC* on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography specifying that children recruited or used by armed forces and child victims of sale, prostitution or pornography are entitled to assistance to ensure their physical and psychological recovery and their social reintegration. In 2011, the UN General Assembly approved a third optional protocol on a communications procedure allowing individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights, which entered into force in April 2014.

IOM also follows the *UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (1961)¹⁰, per which unaccompanied and separated children whose nationality is unknown are provided with the nationality of the State in which they are found, and the *UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*, which guarantees each child of a migrant worker the right to a name, registration of birth and nationality.

In terms of international humanitarian and refugee laws, IOM abides by the *Geneva Convention* (1949) and the *Additional Protocols* (1977), according to which children and those who are orphaned or separated from their families are given special care in addition to maintenance of family unity during evacuations, transfer or transportation, renewing family contact, family tracing and reunification.

IOM also abides by the *UN Refugee Convention* (1951) and its *Protocol* (1967) which make specific provision for unaccompanied and separated refugee children, by making recommendations to States on the protection of family unity and protection of unaccompanied refugee children with special reference to guardianship and adoption. Moreover, the principle of non-refoulement also applies to UASCs, who are entitled to human rights protection as, for

⁹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx>

¹⁰ UN Conventions and treaties can be found at: <https://treaties.un.org/>

example, per *Article 2* of the *UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* of 1966 as well as the *Migrant Workers Convention (Article 28)*.

IOM applies international standards on immigration detention and non-custodial measures, which clearly refer to vulnerable categories, including children, ensuring the conditions of detention are appropriate, including the provision of health care and skillful professional support. *Articles 20 and 37* of the CRC apply to all unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers, including those whose refugee claims are rejected, stating that they shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State and that the detention of children should always be a measure of last resort and to be used for the shortest appropriate period.

IOM takes into account the *UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children* developed to enhance the implementation of the CRC. These guidelines also provide standards on when unaccompanied children should not be returned to their country of habitual residence.

Humane return is enshrined in two international instruments dealing with trafficking and smuggling, i.e. *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially in Women and Children*, and the *UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*, supplementing the *UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime*.

In 2005, the CRC Committee affirmed that all efforts need to be made to allow for the immediate release of UASCs from detention and placement in other forms of appropriate accommodation. The CRC committee report of 2012 on “*The Rights of all Children in the Context of International Migration*” extends it to all children, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, and states that the detention of children based on either their or their parents’ migration status is never in the best interests of the child and constitutes a clear child rights violation.

The CRC Committee also recognised that immigration detention, even for relatively limited duration or in child friendly contexts, is never an appropriate place for children and called upon States to “expeditiously and completely cease” the immigration detention of children and to adopt alternatives to detention that fulfill the best interests of the child (CRC Committee’s *Report on Treatment of UAC and Separated Children outside their Country of Origin-2005*).

As part of the IAWG, IOM is actively involved in the prevention of and ending of detention per IAWG’s *Summary of Normative Standards and Recommendations to ending Child Immigration Detention* (August 2016), as well as per *UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty*, *UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines)* and *UN Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children* (2010).

IOM recognises the right of everyone to education, especially the children, as per *Article 28* of *CRC*, according to which the States should make the primary education compulsory, available and free to all, encourage the development of secondary education accessible to every child and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education, offering financial assistance in case of need. *Article 13* of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* recognises the right of everyone to education, per which the States are urged to make higher education also available to all, based on capacity. Finally, *Article 30* of the *UN Migrant Workers Convention* (1990) provides for each child of migrant workers with the right of access to education based on equality of treatment with nationals of the State concerned.

Article 3 of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) provides that States need to give foreign nationals residing within their territory, the same access to education to eliminate and prevent discrimination in education. This is also found in *Article 13 of the UN Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not Nationals of the Country in which they live (1985)*.

IOM also strives to eliminate child labour through the implementation of obligations derived from the international labour laws: *International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 138, Minimum Age Convention (1973), ILO Convention 182, Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999)*, and the *ILO Recommendation 190 on the worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation (1999)*.

Collaboration and partnerships

IOM closely collaborates with UN agencies, including UNHCR, UNDP and UNICEF, and is a member of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)¹¹ for the coordination of humanitarian activities, as well as in strategic planning and cooperation within the Humanitarian Response Plan and the appeals. In 2017, IOM is chairing the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG)¹² on UASC, established in 1995 to tackle the range of complex circumstances under which children migrate and become separated, but also in the IAWG on Children on the Move (in non-crisis setting) since 2016. The *Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on UASC*, first elaborated in 2004, establish the core principles for working with UASC, promote a coherent approach and improve collaboration and good practice in working with UASC under the protection framework and in line with international human rights, as well as humanitarian and refugee laws.

With recent emergencies, such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan and recent conflicts in Syria and South Sudan, the IASC elaborated additional technical guidance to support the implementation of inter-agency principles and to strengthen capacity building in programming for UASC. *IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support* were developed by the IAWG-MHPSS (led by IOM), but also the recently published *Unaccompanied and Separated Child Field Handbook (2017)* to provide up-to-date and detailed operational guidance for all actors concerned with the welfare and protection of UASC and other vulnerable children affected by emergencies.

In addition, IOM contributed to child protection outcomes within the framework of the global UNICEF-led Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CPAoR)¹³, under the Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster. The CPWG elaborated documents including the *Minimum Standards for Child Protection (CPMS)*, adopted in 2012 and the accompanying *Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination Handbook and Monitoring Toolkit*, which provide guidance on how to develop and implement systems for monitoring child protection issues that affect children in humanitarian settings.

Finally, IOM works in close partnership with States and in alignment with the laws, policies and practices of countries from and to which the children on the move would be returned, when in their best interest. COs confirm their awareness of and references to the national legal framework in

¹¹ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/>

¹² The members of IAWG include the International Committee of Red Cross, IOM, IRC, STC, UNICEF, UNHCR and World Vision International.

¹³ The UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) was the global level forum for coordination on child protection in humanitarian settings, being active during 2007 – 2015 within the Global Protection Cluster. The group brought together more than twenty NGOs, UN agencies, academics, child protection practitioners, policy makers and other actors who through consultative process have elaborated over 30 child protection documents under the shared objective of ensuring more predictable, accountable and effective child protection responses in emergencies. In the humanitarian system, the CPWG constituted an “area of responsibility” within the Global Protection Cluster.

their specific contexts of operations, as references to family separation are most often found in national family codes, policies, and constitutions.

Child-oriented assistance in host countries and countries of origin

By signing the CRC, governments have universally accepted the incorporation of international standards on the rights of children in the national strategic and operational frameworks. The CRC acceptance by 196 States shows a global commitment to advancing children's rights.

IOM offices worldwide collaborate with relevant stakeholders in assisting and protecting children on the move in host countries, and support the countries of origin and host governments to incorporate the international principles on child protection in the national strategic and operational frameworks. The evaluation survey shows that IOM Country Offices support the drafting of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in cooperation with governments and partner NGOs, to support among other activities, relocation, repatriation, combatting the TIP, identification and referral of migrant children in vulnerable situation, and special protection for migrant children.

Guidelines, handbooks, child protection codes of conduct and protocols on family tracing are also developed with IOM's support, which are not always aligned with the inter-agency tools. They cover issues for children and youth in human mobility situations, for special protection in cases of repatriation of children and adolescents, for establishing inter-institutional coordination mechanisms to provide special protection and facilitate the process of repatriation of children VoTs and for the care of UMCs in repatriation cases. SOPs are also being used to build capacities of national agencies and for information campaigns being conducted to raise the awareness on child protection and risks of TIP.

In the survey, IOM Offices confirmed that many countries have incorporated international legislation in their legal frameworks, strategies and policies on migration management that clearly govern child protection. Research papers about migrant children are being prepared with IOM's support, covering the legal situation of unaccompanied children, and parliamentary inquiries' responses on migrant's children.

CONCLUSION

IOM has worked in assisting and protecting migrant children since the mid-nineties; DOE and DMM share institutional responsibilities concerning children on the move and cooperate closely within the areas of their remits.

There is a thin demarcation line between departmental responsibilities, and transparent and close communication and cooperation between the departments remain the main prerequisites for successful implementation of assistance and protection programmes targeting migrant children. Collaboration also exists with the ICP department, which works on international migration law, IOM's protection role, MiGOF and on the SDG.

The evaluation findings show that IOM's strategic and technical framework provides a strong basis for the operationalization of child-oriented assistance, but there is no specific policy on child protection. However, steps are currently undertaken towards establishing such a policy framework, i.e. guidance note on assistance and protection to migrant children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) An IOM Child Protection Policy and corporate strategy should be prepared to better frame IOM important work in the field of migrant children and to gain visibility as a main UN actor. The drafting of the policy will also delineate more precisely the responsibilities of DOE, DMM and ICP.
- 2) A mapping should be conducted for all child-oriented programmes, with information and indication on targeted migrant children, including categories of beneficiaries (separated, stateless, orphaned children, adolescents, girls, boys, etc.). Advisories should be regularly published containing information, news and updates on migrant children.
- 3) IOM's Intranet portal and IOM Website should contain links for easy reference to IOM's internal technical guidelines and international conventions relating to migrant children. The same clarity with better links also apply to the *Emergency Operations Manual*. The protection mainstreaming webpage includes for instance a specific column on children related issues to familiarize IOM offices with child protection.

2.2 Effectiveness

The section examines the global effectiveness of the various approaches and ways of measuring and reporting on the contribution and outcome of IOM's initiatives in the field of child-assisted migration. Collaborative efforts for an effective international recognition of IOM's role to assist and protect UMC, UASCs and vulnerable youth groups are also covered. Departmental coordination is assessed, including overall decision-making, decentralized management and field-driven approaches. Finally, the gender perspective in the development of strategic papers and guidance for implementation of programmes is covered, as well the fields of activity where IOM could develop comparative advantages.

IOM's approach to child-oriented assistance

Budgeting and staffing

Survey results show that over 50% of Country Offices provide budget for staff positions that technically support the implementation of assistance to migrant children in multiple areas: AVRR, repatriation of UMCs and VoTs, family reunification, camp management and displacement tracking, shelters, transport assistance, health, psychosocial support, community stabilization and transition, disaster risk reduction and resilience building, CT and protection of VMs and humanitarian communications.

Over 60 per cent of COs have implemented programmes targeting migrant children in the last five years, with projects varying from USD 10,000 to USD 22.8 million, the latter being the USAID funded project in Colombia on children and adolescents' rights. Survey also reveals that Regional Technical Specialists (RTS) or FPs undergo relevant training provided by the UN agencies on various UMC topics, and then continue to provide training on children and migration related topics to national counterparts.

Some offices assign the responsibility over child-oriented assistance to Programme Managers, who closely coordinate migrant children protection and assistance with stakeholders (UN, governments, embassies, NGOs, etc.).

Some COs hire international expertise to coordinate the child-oriented assistance in partnership with the UN agencies, embassies, government and partner NGOs to ensure effective and transparent protection assistance to children and cultural orientation to help them prepare for the new lives.

IOM Offices that do not implement child oriented programmes (35% of COs surveyed) or not having child protection staff in place (45%) rely on the support from RTS or Regional Liaison and Policy Officers (RLPO). It should be noted that IOM's support staff is also trained in child counselling and protection needs of the children.

In cases when there is no system in place to assist UMCs, IOM offices rely on a close cooperation with national counterparts, such as ministries for gender equality, child or social welfare who act as legal guardians, establish the procedures for screening and identifying children VoTs, regularise child's immigration status, place the migrant children in safe shelters or provide other protective services and facilitation of family tracing.

In terms of fundraising, IOM lobbies with the donors to increasingly consider specific funding for migrant children in the framework of projects, having in mind the vulnerability and tailormade assistance needed for this target group.

With the massive migrant influx in the Mediterranean from September 2015 to March 2016 for instance, migrant children gained visibility with numerous stakeholders receiving specific funding. IOM and UNICEF also prepared a joint report on children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation¹⁴.

As is the case in other areas of work, shortcomings and funding constraints limit however the support that IOM can offer on various issues related to migrant children; the projectized nature of IOM operations may impede, to some extent, the long-term continuity and sustainability of interventions.

[Data collection and reporting](#)

In terms of data collection and reporting, IOM offices desegregate data on IOM beneficiaries by age, sex and migrant children category. Templates are used to collect, store and share data related to assistance provided to UMCs and other categories of vulnerable migrants on a quarterly basis, with specific reports or studies on the contribution to and outcome of migrant child-oriented assistance prepared based on donor needs.

Measuring and reporting support the monitoring of progress towards reaching the programme objectives, and constitute the main tools to record and identify lessons learned, best practices and practical experiences. Regular stakeholder meetings are often convened to share information on child protection, with national and regional working groups on Counter Trafficking, UMCs and labour exploitation.

The IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a comprehensive system that regularly and systematically captures and monitors the displacement and population mobility, as well as

¹⁴: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/harrowing-journeys/>

disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movement needs of displaced population. DTM also integrates child protection indicators that enable collection and analysis of data relating to migrant children.

COs confirm that the existing reporting scheme is an adequate measuring and reporting mechanism that enables the assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of child-oriented assistance. However, as also noted through the desk review, regular reporting on global and corporate effectiveness of IOM child-oriented assistance is missing and the tools of measuring and reporting sometimes overlap.

The knowledge management within IOM is challenged by the lack of uniformity in data sources, of more comprehensive data analysis of child-oriented assistance along with the insufficient outreach and visibility of this data. This is partly due to available funding that does not always allow more result oriented measuring and reporting.

Unified and systematic application of specific indicators addressing the children oriented assistance is missing. The gap in monitoring effectiveness and sustainability of return and reintegration assistance globally is also underlined, and data on migrant children is not systematically and properly analysed and reported upon. COs also report that sources of data in the countries of origin and host countries are oftentimes missing, to enable the profiling of migrant children, their protection needs and challenges encountered by the service providers.

Other areas of concern include: the absence of data on children on the move with disabilities; partial coverage of family reunification; and deficiencies in data on detention and return, particularly of those who were unaccompanied minors and then reach 18 years of age.

In some countries, IOM has been working with governments to improve the collection and analysis of data on migrant children. In the case of Zambia for instance, IOM is working with the Department of Social Welfare to establish a database of migrant children who receive protection assistance. The challenge of ensuring that the database is kept up to date was addressed by integrating variables into already existing national databases, as opposed to stand-alone systems, to ensure system operations are smooth and user friendly.

In recent years, Regional and Country Offices began to increasingly prepare studies on legislation, practices and statistics on activities targeting children (capacity building, AVRR, family assessment, for instance), and conduct research on the migration of families and children left behind (such as 2015 study on UMCs conducted in the Horn of Africa).

International cooperation

As mentioned under section 2.1, IOM maintains regular and good relations with all agencies holding CP mandates, such as UNICEF, STC, UNFPA, various CSOs/NGOs and other partners working in this field. Platforms such as the IAWGs, ensure effectiveness of jointly implemented child oriented initiatives and prevent overlap in cases where child-oriented programmes are individually implemented. The UASC- IAWG operates within the Alliance for the Protection of Children in Humanitarian Aid and covers complex circumstances under which children migrate and become separated.

IOM is part of the Strategic Advisory Board of the Alliance as well as the Strategic Advisory Board of the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, stemming from the Global Protection Cluster. IOM actively contributes to the IAWGs on UASC and children on the move, and became

the IAWG Chair in July 2017. Since its inception in 2011, IAWG on Children on the Move¹⁵ aims to advocate for the improvement of CP standards globally and of services available to children, and to coordinate efforts and foster synergies in that regard. An initiative on Child Rights in the Global Compacts¹⁶ has been created at the end of 2016 to address issues of children on the move within the two global compact processes on refugees and migrants.

MoUs and cooperation frameworks between IOM and its partners are signed to clarify and streamline the CP responsibilities. IOM is contributing more and more to CP policy development and together with partner agencies and NGOs raise publicly issues regarding the violation of the rights of the child (i.e. the joint press statements with UNICEF, STC, the International Detention Coalition and the EC on actions accompanying recommendations regarding return for instance). UNICEF and IOM cooperate to further develop child focused analysis in the context of displacement and migration with joint/coordinated assessments, particularly in the use of DTM.

IOM also makes efforts to institutionalise cooperation with UNHCR and UNICEF, to find alternatives to detention, setup best interest determination procedures, raise awareness on the gaps in child guardianship regulations, assist through cultural orientation measures, increase children's knowledge about their rights, build capacities of frontline responders, relevant asylum authorities, social workers caring for migrant children and to strengthen networks with all relevant partners.

IOM is also supportive of various regional platforms, including the European Migration Network, the UN-led Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting Grave Child Rights Violations in the Philippines, the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), with the adoption of the international principles relating to UMCs.

IOM is active in strengthening cooperation with governments, national and local stakeholders, to ultimately result in systems and processes able to provide protection to all children regardless of their immigration status, in line with the *'leaving no one behind'* approach. COs surveyed confirm that IOM's support is recognised by its Member States, who rely on IOM's expertise concerning: the protection and assistance to children VoTs; the provision of capacity building on UMCs and UASCs; UMC's identification and referral to the relevant authorities; information material for border agencies, which act as reference points for law enforcement officials operating at the border; access to social services through the referral mechanisms, particularly health and education; and study visits to exchange practices on migration management and CP.

Internal cooperation and coordination

The Country Offices surveyed report effective coordination and cooperation between DMM and DOE, as well as *"responsive, flexible and effective"* follow up by the HQ specific focal points, RTS, RLPOs and FPs on matters of child protection. Headquarters and Regional Offices are providing strong strategic guidance and programmatic, administrative and technical support. Country Offices are also effective in ensuring that specific cases are coordinated between the IOM

¹⁵ The WG members are: STC and Terre des Hommes (Coordinators), UNICEF, ILO, UNHCR, IOM, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), International Detention Coalition, Oak Foundation, International Social Services, ICVA, World Vision, Plan International, African Movement of Working Children and Youths (AMWCY/MAEJT), Environmental Development.

¹⁶ It has been driven by a civil society led steering committee convened by Terre des Hommes and Save the Children and it is made up by members of the Inter-Agency Committee listed above plus the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Destination Unknown Campaign, Global Partnership to end Violence Against Children, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), International Detention Council (IDC), Norwegian Refugee Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM).

offices and the government counterparts in charge of assistance and protection to children on the move.

Operational responses very often require interventions by staff from different entities belonging to the two main operational departments. Good cooperation and coordination between departments is therefore important as responsibilities are not always clearly drawn between them, also to guarantee coherent and effective communication with external stakeholders. The survey also identified other issues deserving attention: insufficient guidance adapted to the regional contexts and inter-agency standards; insufficient capacity building provided to staff in charge of CP issues to enhance the regional capacity to assist migrant children; lack of periodic newsletters and exchange of staff among sending and receiving offices.

A DOE-DMM internal guidance note is currently being finalized to address some of these issues and other similar guidance is also developed with the same objective in mind (for instance the issuance of special measures for evacuation of children in the framework of MICIC initiatives). Internal challenges in effective implementation were also reported due to the missing child protection policy, along with a policy on detention.

Regarding other internal strengths, IOM field driven and decentralized management approaches have benefits, such as the greater flexibility and responsiveness to migrant children; assistance provided to beneficiaries on a case by case basis, enabling well targeted support on needs basis; coordinated approaches and exchange of best practices between IOM offices facing similar working conditions; and better consideration and understanding of the local context and constraints.

Gender perspective

Most surveyed COs confirm that gender is well covered in IOM's strategic papers and guidelines globally, but also programming and day-to-day project implementation. During the drafting stage, the project proposals include the gender indicators that need to be met during the project implementation, addressing the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys, but also the access to and utilization of services and benefits by these target groups. The gender specific needs are acknowledged during the identification, recording, documentation and referral procedures, to ensure the protection of girls, women, boys and men in terms of gender based violence (GBV) and discrimination.

In terms of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), the identification, registration, referral mechanisms and tailored assistance (such as family reunification, legal advice, opportunities for rest and play, and appropriate nutrition) take into account the gender perspective and pay the utmost attention to migrant groups that may be the most vulnerable to the risks of trafficking, i.e. single-headed households headed by women, women and girl victims of domestic violence, ethnic, racial, religious, social and gender minorities, and other migrants marginalized due to their status and ethnic factors.

IOM continues to strive to include the gender perspective in capacity building activities, which could also impact assistance to migrant children: in a study tours provided to national stakeholders for instance, out of 10 border police officers from the South-East Europe region selected to attend it, only two border police officers were female.

More specifically, assistance provided to various categories of migrant children ensures that special needs of children and gender aspects are considered in customizing the provision of appropriate care and assistance. For instance, during the transportation of female minors IOM ensures that there is a female escort to take care of the children's special needs or that unaccompanied minors are assisted in gender separated shelters.

Survey results showed that most programmes with gender perspective focus on the needs of girls and women, but coordinated efforts are missing to address more specifically the complexities surrounding young men/boys on the move as well as gender roles, norms and expectations that are influencing the different trends for boys and girls. Besides insufficient funding in certain cases to advance gender issues, the survey also notes that internal resource capacities lack gender skills and expertise, especially related to children. COs further reported that the mainstreaming of gender in project proposals is often reduced to collecting segregated data on project beneficiaries without in-depth gender analysis.

IOM's comparative advantage

During the past decade, IOM has been increasingly referenced as a knowledgeable and effective counterpart in the implementation of child-oriented assistance. Its comparative advantage related to its migration mandate, transparency and involvement of stakeholders in programme implementation, especially State actors and civil society organizations, is noted by both international and national stakeholders.

Engagement of national stakeholders

Engagement of national stakeholders in the provision of services to migrant children, flexibility to expand the services to increase effectiveness and support to the management of government UASC shelters are recognised as strong benefits linked to IOM assistance. Factors contributing to IOM's comparative advantage include:

- (i) IOM's presence in the CoOs and countries of destination;
- (ii) Well established networks of specialized agencies in the field of CT and CP;
- (iii) Fast deployment and service delivery;
- (iv) Improvement of the assistance through continuous capacity building efforts; and
- (v) Involvement of migrant population (migrant focal points) to provide targeted protection and assistance for migrant children, especially UMCs, separated and abused children in all population settings, i.e. detention centres, interception sites and community housing.

Thanks to its network of offices worldwide, IOM can liaise with child/social services being part of national reference groups on CT and CP in countries of origin and countries of destination, and make the identification of children on the move more coordinated and streamlined. In some countries, like Angola, IOM is the only agency in the country possessing relevant expertise in identifying children vulnerable to human trafficking.

Multi-stakeholder cooperation on AVR for UMC (and accompanied children in vulnerable situations), including with CoO embassies and CP services (where required), ensure that a) all stakeholders are aware of the processes and their requirements, and b) that the child's best interest is examined to contribute to safe and sustainable returns. Efforts are also coordinated with the national and local governments to ensure access of children on the move to the formal education.

In collaboration with the departments in charge of social protection, IOM establishes SOPs and tools for family tracing and national referral mechanisms to provide protection assistance to UMCs, UASCs and other vulnerable migrant groups. The BIA and BID forms and guidelines for UASC and UMCs are also prepared in close consultation with UNHCR and UNICEF. These tools have been adapted by many countries, particularly in the southern Africa region, in national protection guidelines, profiling forms for vulnerable migrants, service provider directory and training manuals. Thanks to the establishment of national referral mechanisms for the VoTs, many children are expected to be identified as potential VoTs.

A good example of a change in mindset in countries was noted in the abandoned practice of placing systematically any irregular migrant, regardless of age or gender, in detention centres. IOM is constantly fighting to placing of the children in accommodated housing and advocates the implementation of CRC in terms of free development, unconfined environment and free access to formal education through the provision of facilities and services, which are friendly and accessible to all migrant children. Governments have been receptive to IOM's support and jointly implement assistance procedures for vulnerable migrants, especially the migrant children.

Capacity building

IOM remains actively involved in the sharing of best practices and building capacities of its stakeholders and engages in the following key areas: (i) non-discrimination and integration; (ii) ensuring the priority of the best interests of the child; (iii) ensuring children's access to services; (iv) ending child immigration detention; (v) promoting durable solutions; and (vi) child protection.

Support and technical assistance to governments are increasingly requested; UNICEF and other child protection agencies are regularly turning to IOM as a partner. IOM also works closely with civil society organizations for promoting its capacity building efforts. Governments are committed to building capacity of national staff in various departments.

Capacity building in case management is provided for instance to social workers, as well as to prosecutors and investigators working on child-oriented issues. Financial support for the publication of official documents is also provided in the framework of its capacity building initiatives. IOM has also contributed to the establishment of migration management cross border forums between various governments, which enables easier communication and provision of relevant assistance across borders, including for migrant children.

The IOM cultural orientation training for young refugees has proven highly helpful during the integration process, so much that it was adopted by many local governments. The curriculum can easily be adapted to any local context and to any target group (irrespective of age, gender, etc.). Projects are also implementing information campaigns on children's protections and for raising awareness of social authorities and law enforcement agencies on potential dangers for minors in migration.

However, as highlighted in the survey and interviews, technical capacity in child-sensitive/tailored approaches of protection can still be reinforced to align with the expertise that other partners specialized in CP do possess (for instance UNICEF and STC).

Good practices and targeted assistance

Many examples support IOM's commitment to child protection and illustrate good practices of IOM's work with migrant children. In South Sudan for instance, IOM conducts DTM monthly

rounds with the CP sub-clusters and supports the registration of UASC and family tracing activities. In Ukraine, IOM provides shelter and non-food items to internally displaced children. In Central African Republic, transportation assistance is provided to affected populations, including evacuation services for children in conflict-affected areas. IOM medical staff provides vaccines as part of the campaign led by Jordan's Ministry of Health to immunize Syrian and Jordanian children against polio and raise awareness on the disease, while psychosocial support is provided in Iraq, Nigeria, Syria and South Sudan. In Burundi, IOM supports reintegration of returnee children. In Colombia, IOM supports the prevention and response to children's affiliation with armed groups. In Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, school-aged children are provided with the Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Programme to build resilience to climate-induced hazards in vulnerable communities. During the Haiyan crisis in the Philippines, IOM implemented programmes to fight child trafficking and child labour. IOM's emergency consular services assist UASC in Tunisia in the framework of the Libyan crisis, to receive emergency travel documents and be involved in best interest determination procedures in coordination with other CP actors. In Haiti, IOM conducted a communication campaign against child servitude ('restavek' in creole) to protect vulnerable children following the 2010 earthquake.

Other good practices have also been identified for pre-departure counselling for separated children willing to apply for AVRR, family assessment in countries of return and effective reintegration of the child. IOM is also effective in supporting migrant children's integration and development in the host countries or through the resettlement or relocation in a third country. IOM's comparative advantage in the field of data collection, and the development of child-specific questionnaires is also an important feature. IOM is also embarking on researching the impact of migration on children left behind.

Additionally, IOM is strengthening referral pathway mechanisms to make the provision of assistance and other services to children more accessible, by raising awareness on the services provided by government and non-government actors for the migrant children. Migrant community based approaches to assess the needs and gaps for child-oriented assistance are recognised as being extremely beneficial. Some governments designed a scholarship scheme to sponsor partial costs of schooling and education of the children of migrant workers.

In some circumstances, IOM chairs field shelter Working Groups for the purpose of refurbishing and upgrading the children shelters run by national stakeholders (with roles in gender equality and child welfare) and partners, to strengthen the capacity of shelter support staff on protection of migrant children and VoTs.

Country Offices surveyed noted several opportunities and adjustments for future programmes such as: (i) psychosocial support to be provided to children in rural areas, left behind by migrant parents, but also communication with parents to be facilitated (computers/phone at community centres etc.), as well as support to caretakers; (ii) in terms of irregular migrants and treatment of UMC cases, shorter procedures of legal guardian appointments and strengthened psychosocial support and counselling could be considered; (iii) studies and research on the phenomenon of children who are migrating with their families are increasingly needed; (iv) bicultural marriages and aspects of family migration affecting children need to be supported (issues of identity, parental support and recognition); (v) education programmes for returnee children and children of migrants to be considered; (vi) guardianship roles in government policies and strengthening local capacities to implement CP assistance; (vii) to standardize Best Interest Determination (BID) tools and risk assessment processes worldwide; (viii) to continue routine detention monitoring to address cases

of migrant children being detained or exploited in detention centers; and (ix) contribution to family tracing and assessment in favour of UASCs, including relocation (currently developed for adults and accompanied children).

CONCLUSION

Frequent and good relations with agencies holding child protection mandates and with government authorities are maintained by IOM, with continued efforts and lobbying with donors to ensure CP is included in the framework of the existing and future projects.

Many initiatives were identified in the field of assistance and protection to children on the move in which IOM has a comparative advantage and a good record of best practices. However, the process of streamlining and coordinating CP resources and efforts can be better institutionalized to support and underline IOM's effective role in these areas.

Institutionalisation of standardized tools to ensure UMC data is collected and used as a reference for research also deserves more attention. Projects and staff performing CP functions could be better mapped, with relevant CP training consistently provided and the outcomes and visibility of child-oriented assistance systematically reported upon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Building on existing cooperation, a reference document or implementation guidance note, to complement the corporate policy already recommended, should be prepared to further develop comprehensive interventions, technical guidance and capacity building on CP, effective support and follow up on UMC cases, coordinated fundraising activities, and regular exchange of best practice and lessons learned.
- 2) To ensure effectiveness and sustainability, the ROs and COs should specifically allocate whenever possible, a certain percentage of the project budgets to the assistance to migrant children, with focus on a longer-term on access to health, education, psychological assistance and reintegration support.

2.3 Impact

The section examines the implementation of various initiatives under the six pillars presented under Section 1.1 and the perceived institutional impact in the field of child-oriented migration assistance. Unfortunately, impact assessments or evaluations are not systematically conducted for this area of work and conclusions on impact are drawn mainly from evidences collected through the effectiveness analysis and on possible changes induced by good overall performance. In addition, assistance and protection are provided under a single umbrella covering all vulnerable migrants and assistance to UMCs is not always specifically visible.

The implementation of programmes covering family tracing, AVRR, counter-trafficking, social integration, psychological assistance, and migrant children referrals equipped IOM with enhanced understanding and sensitization towards the needs of these displaced population sub-groups. During this long-term process, a cohesive network of service providers qualified to address the needs of UMCs, UASCs and abused children has been developed and coordinated by IOM.

Another noticeable change in mindset can be noticed at the level of local care and protection support capacities and services that are steadily strengthened and improved with a specific focus on migrant children, for instance with shelter operations for vulnerable children, in finding permanent solutions for children without parental care, mainly to prevent them from trafficking and unlawful domestic adoption, and with a range of assistance covering educational, recreational and vocational activities.

IOM regularly provides technical support to governments on protection, case management, referral and assistance to migrant children, which often contributes to the development of national strategies, action plans and mechanisms that address mixed and irregular migration flows including children on the move. In several states, assistance provided during the development of guidelines and modules resulted with specific chapters devoted to the special treatment and care for children.

Thanks to capacity building initiatives provided on the topics of child protection, human rights of vulnerable migrant children, identification and prevention of child trafficking, crisis management, and smuggling to enforcement agencies (police, military and border agencies) and social workers, the capacities of governmental and community service providers are consistently enhanced and knowledge integrated in daily operations, with possibilities of being replicated.

In the case of the prevention pillar including school campaigns targeting students and teachers, IOM programmes significantly raise awareness on TIP issues among children. Textbook curricula on CT prevention for primary schools are developed with IOM's assistance, providing children with skills to easily recognise and be aware of the dangers of trafficking.

Under the policy and advocacy pillar, IOM supports institutional stakeholders to align their policies with internationally accepted standards, norms and specific provisions assisting and supporting children on the move. Positive impact was noted in many cases, in Indonesia for instance, where IOM improved the quality of care for children asylum seekers within the structures of the Indonesian law to provide the children with legitimate status resolution pathways. In Southern Africa, IOM supported the elaboration of MIDSA Regional Action Plan, where UMC protection is one of four priorities, and facilitated regional dialogue to respond more adequately to mixed migration challenges.

In the scope of IAWGs on UASC and children on the move, and within the Child Protection Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster, IOM and UNICEF actively work on synchronizing the approach to children on the move. The recently released *Field Handbook on Working with UASC*, and the accompanying training materials, ensure that inter-agency standards are agreed upon and that the responses are appropriate.

Humanitarian assistance provided during crises reaps immediate positive impacts in view of improved living, health and psychological conditions of vulnerable populations, migrant children included, as well as for family tracing, transportation and reunification.

With its experience, IOM has been able to propose targeted programmes, such as the ECHO funded programme in 2016, involving protection and humanitarian assistance to UMCs and single female cases, to provide post-reunification and immediate assistance to UMCs and their families and prevent irregular migration and smuggling of UMCs from Pakistan to Iran. IOM also establishes with ease children related alliances with different government institutions, academia and civil societies.

In terms of partnerships with agencies holding CP mandates, COs confirmed that agencies recognise the importance of IOM's contributions to migrant children on the move. UNICEF, UNHCR and STC partnered with IOM in numerous child-oriented programmes, UNICEF being extremely supportive to IOM and funding IOM's work.

CONCLUSION

COs confirmed that the governments have been commending IOM's assistance to UMCs and that IOM evolved over the past years into the UN international organization with a global mandate exclusively devoted to migration and migrant children. Lasting effects of IOM assistance can be noted, considering also that the world is facing an increasing number of children in migratory situations, deserving specific attention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ROs and COs, with the support of relevant departments, should strengthen the evidence base analysis and knowledge by designing projects aiming to improve data collection systems at national level to strengthen the formulation and implementation of child-sensitive migration policies, as well as preventive actions. More specific impact evaluations and research should be conducted to better document the changes and adjustments still required in the way assistance is provided and the long-term benefits for children on the move.

3. Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusions

Relevance

IOM has worked in assisting and protecting migrant children since the mid-nineties; DOE and DMM share institutional responsibilities concerning migrant children and cooperate closely within the areas of their remits.

There is a thin demarcation line between departmental responsibilities, and transparent and close communication and cooperation between departments remain the main prerequisites for successful implementation of assistance and protection programmes targeting migrant children. Collaboration also exists with the ICP department, which works on international migration law, IOM's protection role, MiGOF and on the SDG.

The evaluation findings show that IOM's strategic and technical framework provides a strong basis for the operationalization of child-oriented assistance, but there is no specific policy on child protection. However, steps are currently undertaken towards establishing such a policy framework, i.e. guidance note on children on the move.

Effectiveness

Frequent and good relations with agencies holding child protection mandates and with government authorities are maintained by IOM, with continued efforts and lobbying with donors to ensure CP is included in the framework of the existing and future projects.

Many initiatives were identified in the field of assistance and protection to children on the move in which IOM has a comparative advantage and a good record of best practices. However, the process of streamlining and coordinating CP resources and efforts can be better institutionalized to support and underline IOM's effective role in these areas.

Institutionalisation of standardized tools to ensure UMC data is collected and used as a reference for research also deserves more attention. Projects and staff performing CP functions could be better mapped, with relevant CP training consistently provided and the outcomes and visibility of child-oriented assistance systematically reported upon.

Impact

COs confirmed that the governments have been commending IOM's assistance to migrant children and that IOM evolved over the past years into the UN Agency with a global mandate exclusively devoted to migration, including migrant children. Lasting effects of IOM assistance can be noted, considering also that the world is facing an increasing number of children in migratory situations, deserving specific attention.

3.2 Recommendations

Relevance

- 1) An IOM Child Protection Policy and corporate strategy should be prepared to better frame IOM important work in the field of migrant child and to gain visibility as a main UN actor. The drafting of the policy will also delineate more precisely the responsibilities of DOE, DMM and ICP.
- 2) A mapping should be developed for all children-oriented programmes, with information and indication on targeted migrant children, including categories of beneficiaries (separated, stateless, orphaned children, adolescents, girls, boys). Advisories should be also regularly published containing information, news and updates on migrant children.
- 3) IOM's Intranet portal and IOM website should contain links for easy reference to IOM's internal technical guidelines and international conventions relating to migrant children. The same clarity with better links also apply to the *Emergency Operations Manual*. The protection mainstreaming webpage includes for instance a specific column on children related issues to familiarize IOM offices with child protection.

Effectiveness

- 4) Building on existing cooperation, a reference document or implementation guidance note, in complement to the corporate policy already recommended, should be prepared to further develop comprehensive interventions, technical guidance and capacity building on CP, effective support and follow up on children cases, coordinated fundraising activities, and regular exchange of best practice and lessons learned.
- 5) To ensure effectiveness and sustainability, the ROs and COs should specifically allocate whenever possible, a certain percentage of the project budgets to the assistance to migrant children, with focus on a longer-term on access to health, education, psychological assistance and reintegration support.

Impact

- 6) ROs and COs, with the support of relevant departments, should strengthen the evidence base analysis and knowledge by designing projects aiming to improve data collection systems at national level to strengthen the formulation and implementation of child-sensitive migration policies, as well as preventive actions. More specific impact evaluation and research should be conducted to better document the changes and adjustments still required in the way assistance is provided and the long-term benefits for children on the move.

Annex 1: Terms of Reference

EVALUATION OF IOM’S APPROACH FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION TO CHILDREN ON THE MOVE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN, INCLUDING UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED ONES

Terms of Reference

1. BACKGROUND

IOM aims to assist and protect migrants that have been or are currently suffering from violence, exploitation, abuse and/or rights violations, irrespective of their migratory status, including by identifying and proactively assisting migrant children, particularly unaccompanied and separated migrant children and children victims of trafficking¹⁷. IOM’s work with children has grown substantially in recent years, with an increasing scope of work within the context of large scale and mixed migration flows.

In line with International Migration Law, in particular the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), IOM commits to fundamental principles in its work with migrant children such as non-discrimination, best interest of the child, full development, family unity, non-refoulement and full confidentiality. Based on these principles and its global mandate of assistance to vulnerable migrants, IOM implements a broad range of assistance and projects, which directly and indirectly address the needs and interests of children and youth worldwide and which falls within the following six pillars:

Data and research:

Evidence is emerging that children are increasingly on the move, in particular in the context of multiple large-scale migration movements. However, there are limitations in the data available affecting decision-makers’ ability to develop effective migration policies and the formulation and implementation of child-sensitive migration policies. IOM is engaged in research projects and data information management systems to improve data availability on migrant children at all stages of the migratory process, as well as to provide targeted assistance to those vulnerable groups.

Policy and advocacy:

IOM is engaged in advocacy efforts to promote child-sensitive migration policies and programming, alternatives to immigration detention of children, and for children’s access to protective and assistance services that meet their specific needs. IOM also works with partners to encourage responses to migration crises that recognize children as entitled to specific protection.

Assistance and Protection:

IOM provides protection and assistance services to migrant children in need, such as assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR), shelter, local integration, humanitarian evacuations

¹⁷ Migrant children will be used for easy reference including all categories such as children on the move or trafficked children.

and emergency transport, resettlement to a third country in particular in the framework of family reunification, and legal and psychological assistance in order to support their sustainable recovery from a situation of vulnerability, exploitation, abuse, or rights violations.

Capacity building:

Lack of awareness of the rights of migrant children, along with limited child-sensitive skills and practices can contribute to rights violations as well as difficulty in identifying vulnerable children within migration flows. IOM works to build the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors, including social workers and communities, in order to enhance prevention, assistance and protection mechanisms for migrant children. Assistance can consist of identifying the gaps in institutional capacity, facilitating sharing of information and ideas through networking and dialogue between service-providing organizations, and improving knowledge and awareness among government officials, civil society, international organizations and other relevant actors.

Prevention:

In order to contribute to reducing the vulnerability of children to violence, exploitation, abuse, and/or violations of their rights, IOM implements a broad range of prevention activities, such as awareness raising, capacity building in prevention systems and specific assistance in community stabilization programmes, in particular when communities are strongly affected by displacement and inter-communal violence.

Crisis response:

Crises around the globe produce increasingly complex and often large-scale migration flows and mobility patterns, which typically expose affected populations, including children, to significant vulnerabilities and generate serious and longer-term migration management challenges. IOM increasingly mainstreams counter trafficking and protection and assistance for vulnerable migrants including children in all of its humanitarian and crisis response activities. IOM also assist directly children affected by migration crises through targeted interventions, ranging from family reunification and return, to alternative care options for unaccompanied and separated children, to demobilization and reintegration for children associated with armed groups, humanitarian evacuations, psychosocial support and other life-saving activities.

Child-oriented assistance is not specifically mentioned in IOM Constitution as a category of migrants needing specific attention, but assistance to vulnerable children and youth has been included in the IOM's 12 points strategy, in IOM's frameworks such as the *Migration Crisis Operational Framework* (MCOF) and the *Migration Governance Framework* (MiGOF), as well as in various internal instructions and technical guidance notes (for instance IN/208 '*IOM assisted voluntary returns and reintegration of unaccompanied migrant children*', International Migration Law (IML) information notes on '*the protection of unaccompanied migrant children*' and on '*International standards on immigration detention and non-custodial measures*', and in some of the recently published Department of Migration Management (DMM) thematic pitches).

IOM has also increased its collaboration and dialogue with key partners working in the field of assistance to migrant children and unaccompanied and separated children, in particular in the humanitarian field and for counter trafficking activities, such as with UNICEF, UNODC, with

specialized INGOs like STC, International Rescue Committee, in the framework of the Inter Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children or within the Child Protection Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION

With the increased attention paid to child migration as part of a larger phenomenon of exploitation of vulnerable migrants, family migration and family reunification, the work of IOM has substantially grown in relation to providing assistance to children on the move, particularly those who are unaccompanied. Without prejudice to the vulnerability and risks that unaccompanied migrant children may face, it is important to recognize them as agents and specific group in the current migration dynamic, and for IOM to strengthen and support coherent approaches to unaccompanied migrant children. OIG proposes to contribute to the strengthening of IOM's role and strategy by conducting a thematic evaluation focusing on the migration assistance provided to those vulnerable groups.

The evaluation will identify and categorize the different strategies, approaches and fields of activity proposed by IOM and examine their relevance, effectiveness and impact as well as the integration of concepts such as gender and protection. The evaluation will also identify good and innovative practices based on years practice with a forward looking vision.

The overall objective of the evaluation is: *“To evaluate the relevance, overall effectiveness and impact of IOM migration assistance to children and unaccompanied minors through its project proposals, programmes, strategic approaches and concept papers framing and promoting such an assistance. Analysis will also cover IOM's effectiveness in developing innovative strategies and proposing new fields of activity, as well as its collaboration with various partners working in the same area”*. More specifically, the evaluation will examine the following issues:

Relevance:

- Analyze and categorize the various initiatives implemented by IOM in the field of child-oriented assistance and protection taking into account the commitment to fundamental principles and the six pillars presented under Section 1 above, and steps taken to formalize and institutionalize them;
- Evaluate the relevance of the various types of assistance and protection and categorization of IOM child-oriented migration assistance, to IOM's mandate, strategy, organizational structure and other international conventions;
- Analyze the integration of IOM child-oriented migration assistance into migration management frameworks, policies, guidelines, toolkits¹⁸ as well as conferences, declarations and other institutional approaches and initiatives, including the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals; and
- Assess the relevance of IOM's assistance to the needs and strategies of countries of origin and host governments, as well as the expectations of the migrant communities and other international actors.

Effectiveness:

¹⁸ It includes IOM own policies and guidelines but also instruments that IOM has contributed to developed.

- Assess globally the effectiveness of the various approaches and recommend ways of measuring and reporting regularly on the contribution and outcome of IOM's initiatives in that field, highlighting possible shortcomings;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the collaborative efforts for an effective international recognition of IOM's role in assisting and protecting migrant children, unaccompanied and separated children and vulnerable youth groups, including for fundraising;
- Assess the effectiveness of the coordination and collaboration between departments for an effective positioning of IOM in that field and for delivery of activities, including overall decision-making, decentralized management and field-driven approaches;
- To assess gender perspective in the development of strategic papers and guidance for implementation of programmes, as well the effectiveness of protection to those vulnerable groups; and
- Identify and analyze the fields of activity where IOM has or could develop a comparative advantage.

Impact:

- Examine the changes achieved in the recent years with the implementation of the various initiatives taking into account the six pillars presented under Section 1 above, and the perceived institutional impact in the field of child-oriented migration assistance;
- Examine IOM's contribution to changes in the way the assistance and protection has been provided for the management of child-oriented migration, including how gender consideration are addressed; and
- When possible, analyze the partner agencies, target groups and other stakeholders' perception of the impact of IOM's contribution, including on the needs and strategies of countries of origin and host governments.

3. METHODOLOGY

Mixed methods of qualitative and quantitative analysis will be used. The methodology will mainly consist of a series of interviews inside IOM and an extensive documentation review, including IOM internal and Governing Bodies documents, documents of United Nations Agencies and specialized Working Groups, international conventions and other relevant documents of entities actively involved in that field, including from IOM main donors. It can include strategy papers, concept papers, samples of programmes and projects, research papers, conference reports, memoranda of understanding, formal exchanges with partners and migrant associations, technical notes and any other documentation that could contribute to the analysis and categorisation of IOM's work in that field.

The list of interviews will be coordinated with the Department of Migration Management (DMM) and the Department of Operations and Emergencies (DOE) and if relevant, they will advise which external partners could be included in the interviews (for instance UNICEF staff). DMM and DOE will provide documentation and substantive feedback for the evaluation work, as well as comments on the draft report before finalization. If deemed appropriate and in coordination with DMM and DOE, the evaluation will conduct a survey with IOM field offices.

The evaluation does not plan to conduct a rigorous impact analysis of IOM overall approach and work in that field but will collect information and data through available resources and through

interviews on what is the perceived and possible impact of IOM's work. If relevant, the evaluation can recommend to conduct a more rigorous impact evaluation.

4. RESOURCES AND SUGGESTED TIMING

The cost of the evaluation will be borne by the Office of the Inspector General. Discussions and interviews at Headquarters with the various departments is planned for January/February 2017, with the draft report to be made available for comments to DMM and DOE by mid-March 2017, with the target date of end of April 2017 for the submission of a final report. The timing could be modified if a survey is conducted with the participation of field offices and more time is required to receive feedback before preparing the draft report.

Annex 2: Interviews and Bibliography

Interviews Conducted

- 1) Mohammed Abdiker, Director, DOE, IOM HQ;
- 2) Louis Hoffman, Deputy Director, DOE, IOM HQ;
- 3) Amina Saoudi, Project Support Officer, PRD/DOE, IOM HQ;
- 4) Agnes Tillinac, Protection Officer/CCCM, Preparedness and Response Division, DOE, IOM HQ; Agn Nguyen, Head of MAD, DMM;
- 5) Heather Komenda, Programme Coordinator, MAD, DMM, IOM HQ;
- 6) Laura Lungarotti, Senior Protection Officer, Preparedness and Response Division, DOE, IOM HQ;
- 7) Tim Howe, RTS, IOM RO Nairobi;
- 8) Maria Chiara Tognetti, Project Officer, Prevention and Protection, IOM Moldova (phone interview);
- 9) Irina Arap, Project Officer, Prevention and Protection, IOM Moldova (phone interview);
- 10) Natalia Moisevici, Project Coordinator, Prevention and Protection, IOM Moldova (phone interview);
- 11) Theodora Suter, Gender Officer, GCU/ODG, IOM HQ;
- 12) Lee Kanthoul, Gender Specialist, GCU/ODG, IOM HQ;
- 13) Rudi Maxwald, Senior Donor Relations Officer, International Cooperation and Partnerships (ICP), IOM HQ;
- 14) Ann Althaus, Migration Law Officer, International Migration Law Unit/ICP, IOM HQ;
- 15) Irina Todorova, RTS, Policy and Programme Support Unit, RO Brussels (phone interview);
- 16) Kristina Touzenis, Senior Migration Law Officer, Head of IML, IOM HQ;
- 17) Kateryna Ardanyan, Project Specialist, CT Unit, IOM Ukraine (phone interview);
- 18) Tatiana Shtaneva, CT Reintegration Specialist, CT Unit, IOM Ukraine (phone interview).

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UN, *Convention against Discrimination in Education*, 1960;

UN, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, 1965;

UN, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1966

UN, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, 1966

UN, *Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1967;

UN, *Convention on Reduction of Statelessness*, 1967;

UN, *Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who are Not Nationals of the Country in which They Live*, 1985;

UN, *Convention on the Rights of the Child and accompanied protocols*, 1989;

UN, *Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, 1990;

UN, *Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty*, 1990;

UN, *Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines)*, 1990;

UN, *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 2000;

UN, *Convention against Transnational Organised Crime*, 2000;

UN, *Optional Protocol II to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, 2000;

UN, *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, 2000;

UN, *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, 2000;

UN, *Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, 2001;

UN, Report of the Secretary General, *Protection and Assistance to Unaccompanied and Separated Refugee Children*, 2001;

UN, *A World Fit for Children*, 2002;

UN, *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*, 2004;

UN, *Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, 2004;

UN, Report of the Secretary General, *Follow-up to the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children*, 2005;

UN, *Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children*, 2010;

UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, 2016;

US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, June 2017.

Annex 3: IOM Survey Questionnaire

Thematic Evaluation of IOM's Approach to Providing Assistance to Unaccompanied and Separated Children Questionnaire to IOM Country Offices

IOM's work with children has grown substantially in recent years, in terms of identifying and proactively assisting migrant children, including unaccompanied and separated migrant children and children victims of trafficking¹⁹ who have been or are currently suffering from violence, exploitation, abuse and/or rights violations or who are asylum seekers. IOM remains committed to fundamental principles of non-discrimination, best interests of the child, full development, family unity, non-refoulement and full confidentiality per International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and implements a range of projects and programmes directly and indirectly impacting the needs and interests of children and youth worldwide. These projects fall under the pillars of: (i) data and research; (ii) policy and advocacy; (iii) assistance and protection; (iv) capacity building; (v) prevention; and (vi) assistance and protection in crisis response.

With an increased attention paid to child migration as part of larger phenomenon of assistance to and exploitation of vulnerable migrants, family migration and family reunification, it is important to recognise the migrant children (including unaccompanied, separated children and children victims of trafficking) as agents and a specific group in the current migration dynamic, and for IOM to strengthen and support coherent approaches of assistance to and protection to all migrant children.

OIG proposes to contribute to strengthening of IOM's role and strategy by conducting *thematic evaluation* focusing on the assistance and protection provided to those vulnerable groups. More specially, the thematic evaluation will focus on the *identification and categorization of the different strategies, approaches and fields of activity proposed by IOM and examine their relevance, effectiveness and impact as well as the integration of concepts such as gender and protection (see evaluation ToR attached for easy reference)*. The evaluation will also identify good and innovative practices based on years practice with a forward looking vision.

OIG considers the views of all IOM Country Offices (COs) as important contributions to the evaluation exercise and is pleased to send out this short questionnaire. Some offices with active programmes have already been contacted through interviews, but any other global views from those same offices by answering the questionnaire are welcome. Questionnaire queries can be sent to **Elma Balic** **OIG Oversight Officer (M&E)** at ebalic@iom.int or **Evaluation** at eva@iom.int. Questionnaire should be completed and returned by **28 February 2017**. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used only for the purpose of this evaluation.

Thank you in advance for your contribution!

¹⁹ Migrant children will be used for easy reference including all categories such as children on the move or trafficked children.

Country Office (CO):

1. Do you have a designated person or a unit/department that tackles child-oriented assistance?

Yes (Budget level:) No

Please provide some additional comments below:

2. Have you implemented in the last 5 years, or are you now implementing projects/programmes:

a) Targeting migrant children and more specifically, unaccompanied and separated migrant children and children victims of trafficking as a target group?

Yes (Budget level:) No

If yes, kindly provide some details on the projects (their number, titles, budgets) below:

b) Integrating unaccompanied and separated children as project/programme components?

Yes (Budget level:) No

If yes, kindly provide some details on the projects (their number, titles, budgets) below:

3. Which of the below pillars your CO projects/programmes tackling the migrant children-oriented assistance belong to?

- a) data and research:
- b) policy and advocacy:
- c) assistance and protection:
- d) capacity building:
- e) prevention:
- f) assistance and protection in crisis response:
- g) no child oriented assistance:

4. Does your CO refer to and use specific protocols, frameworks, policies, guidelines or initiatives while designing, negotiating and/or implementing migrant children-oriented protection and assistance (IOM, government or other UN agency)?

Yes No

If yes, kindly provide some details on products used:

- a) protocols:
- b) frameworks:
- c) policies:
- d) guidelines:
- e) initiatives:
- f) other:

Please provide below any specific comments related to IOM products:

5. Have you and your CO identified good prospects in terms of migrant children-oriented assistance?

Yes

No

If yes, kindly provide some details below:

6. Are you satisfied with IOM's measuring and reporting on the contribution to and outcome of migrant children-oriented assistance?

Yes

No

Kindly provide more details below in case of both good practices but also shortcomings:

7. Did you and your CO identify some innovative/best practices contributing to improved children-oriented assistance and where IOM can develop comparative advantage?

Yes

No

Kindly provide more details below in case of both good practices but also shortcomings:

8. Are you satisfied with the cooperation between IOM, international and government stakeholders in assisting and protecting migrant children (including unaccompanied and separated migrant children and children victims of trafficking)?

Yes

No

Kindly provide more details below in case of both good practices but also shortcomings:

9. Are you satisfied with IOM's departments support in terms of overall decision making, decentralized management/assistance and field driven approaches (global, regional and national)?

Yes

No

Kindly provide more details below in case of both good practices but also shortcomings:

10. Do you believe that gender perspective is sufficiently included in the development of strategic papers and in the implementation of projects/programmes relating to vulnerable groups and migrant children in particular?

Yes

No

Kindly provide some details below in case of both good practices but also shortcomings:

11. Do you believe that partner agencies, target groups, stakeholders' perception of IOM's contribution to children oriented projects/programmes is positive?

Yes

No

Kindly provide more details below in case of both good practices but also shortcomings:

12. Finally, do you have any recommendations to further improve IOM's contribution to children oriented projects/programmes?

Yes

No

Kindly provide your recommendations below:

Annex 4: Consolidated Field Survey Report

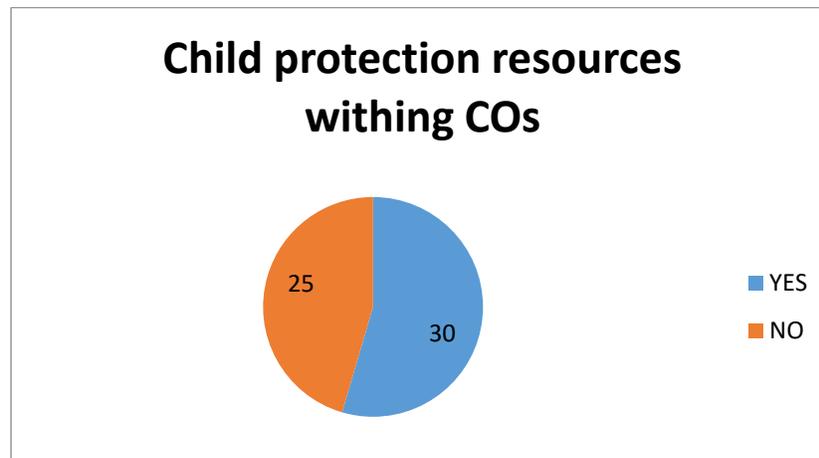
THEMATIC EVALUATION OF IOM'S APPROACH TO CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

8 February – 8 March 2017

Consolidated Field Survey Results and Summary of Responses

The IOM Regional and Country Offices (RO/COs) worldwide have been asked to complete the evaluation questionnaire relating to IOM's in-house capacities to tackle and implement the child-oriented assistance, the use of strategic guidelines, the cooperation with internal and external actors, the inclusion of gender and recommendations to improve the overall approach to children on the move. Below is the summary of **fifty-five RO/CO responses (1/3 of the total surveyed)**.

1. Designated post or a unit/department that tackles child-oriented assistance:



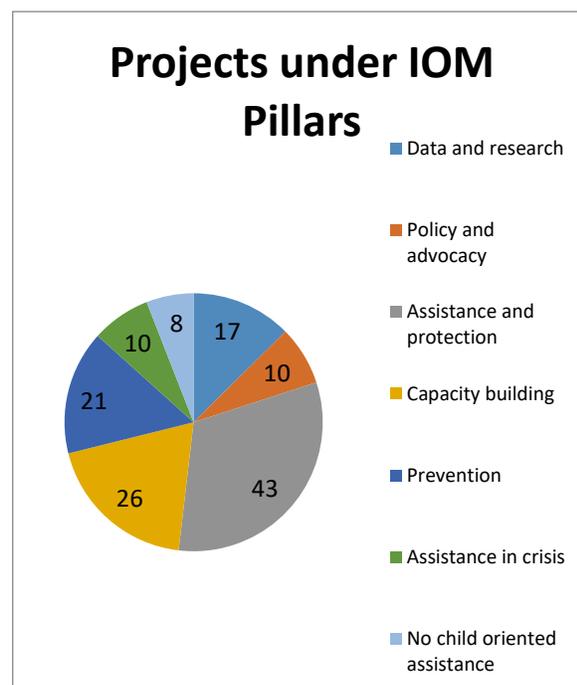
Over 50% of RO/COs tackle programmes or components assisting and protecting unaccompanied and separated migrant children (UMC/UASC) and children victims of trafficking (VoTs), either through Regional Thematic Specialists, Regional Liaison and Policy Officers or Focal Points. In some cases, Project Managers are assigned to coordinate the child protection issues or international expertise is hired to follow up on such issues. Twenty-five COs or 40% do not implement UASC projects and do not have a designated person dealing with UMCs or children VoTs. Some of these countries include Angola, Bangladesh, Cambodia (assistance to children 5% of caseload), Latvia, Malawi, Peru, Spain and Sudan.

2. Number of ROs/COs tackling children-oriented assistance under six IOM pillars:

- I. Data and research – 17 COs
- II. Policy and advocacy – 10 COs
- III. Assistance and protection – 43 RO/COs
- IV. Capacity building – 26 COs
- V. Prevention – 21 COs

VI. Assistance in crisis – 10 COs

Almost 80% of COs implement child-oriented programmes under the Assistance and Protection Pillar (III). There are 26 COs (50%) that tackle the increasing of capacities of national stakeholders under Pillar IV. Programmes in Prevention and Data Research, under Pillars V and I respectively, are tackled by 30-40% of COs. Less than 20-15% COs implement programmes under the Pillars of Policy and Advocacy (II) and Assistance in Crisis (VI). Eight COs or 15% do not implement any child-oriented programmes. Thirty-four COs (62%) have implemented in the last 5 years or are currently implementing projects and programmes targeting migrant children and more specifically, UASCs and children VoTs as a target group, while 30 COs (55%) integrated UASC as project/programme components. The information obtained from RO/COs on the implementation of programmes targeting UMCs in the past years is incomplete as 50% of below programmes have not extracted budgets dedicated to child-oriented components from the overall programme budgets dedicated to vulnerable migrants. Total figures of assisted migrant children are not clearly shown under some projects:



RO/CO	Programmes	Amount ²⁰	# UASCs
IOM Angola	AVRR	550,000	60 UASC
IOM Austria/ RO Vienna	Regional children protection programme; AVRR programmes including UASC as components	1,860,000; 6,700,000	647 UASC; 317 vulnerable incl. UASC
IOM Belarus	Programmes for AVRR of VoTs	720,000	390 VoT incl. UASC
IOM Bangladesh	Two CT programmes	5,100,000	-
RO Brussels	Reintegration of UASCs; Return Assistance of Asylum Seekers from Belgium (AVRR) 2012-2016	850,000 38,000,000	- -
IOM Benin/IOM Togo	IDF project for VoT	100,000	10 child VOTs
IOM Botswana	Component of programme on protection	15,000	

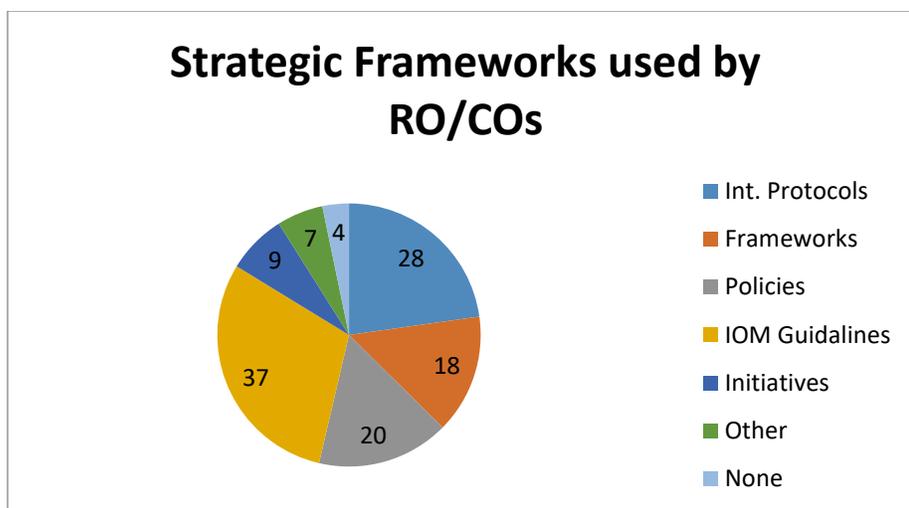
²⁰ In USD. Amounts in red present total programme budgets with UMC component included in the overall amounts.

IOM Cambodia	Alternative care for children without parental care	800,000	-
IOM Columbia	1) USAID assistance to children and adolescents for prevention of rights violation; 2) Reintegration and Prevention of Recruitment Programme: (i) adult assistance and (ii) children and adolescents, disengaged from illegal armed groups or at risk of being recruited; 3) Programme for adult and children VoTs	22,800,000 20,000	- -
IOM Croatia	Regional programme under RO Vienna	850,000	
IOM DRC	Programme for UMCs 2013-16 and projects are implemented in host countries	550,000	-
IOM Finland	AVRR	-	-
IOM Former YU Republic MK	USAID PRM Programme enhancing capacities and mechanisms to identify and protect vulnerable migrants	1,200,000	-
IOM France	AVRR to VoTs and vulnerable migrants	1,300,000	-
IOM Ghana	AVRR, TIP and VoT programmes for UASC; AVRR (4 UMCs in 2015)	2,900,000	-
IOM Hungary	Regional programme under RO Vienna	750,000	
IOM Indonesia	RCA AVRR (\$100 million over last 3 years) for asylum seekers, incl. 2,160 migrant children since 2000; components under ICARE programme for vulnerable population (1,115 children)	3,700,000	129 UMCs
IOM Italy	AVRR programmes for vulnerable migrants “Children first” talents project	660,000 40,000	- -
IOM Japan	Bridge School project for children of migrants 2009-2014; Programmes on: AVRR, children VoT, integration in schools (plus \$ 100-200,000 annually from Gov for AVRR)	38,000,000 500,000	-
IOM Kyrgyzstan	Reginal VoT programme for vulnerable migrants	540,000	-
IOM Malta	Components under three EU Programmes: Relocation (IOM Malta charges service fee per person-no budget), AVRR, USRAP, family tracing	1,400,000	236 UASCs
IOM Mauritania	EU Reginal Development and Protection: children AVRR component; Support to children VoTs	280,000 35,000	-
IOM Micronesia	TIP and AVRR for vulnerable migrants	750,000	-
IOM MK	Components under US funded Regional programme for vulnerable migrants	1,200,000	-
IOM Mozambique	UMC components under 11 PRM 11 projects	14,800,000	-

IOM Netherlands	AVRR programme (\$ 2,700 in kind per minor and \$ 2,100 in cash after asylum proc.; 25 cases yearly counselled)	490 service fee	15 UMC per year
IOM Niger	AVRR programme for vulnerable migrants	2,190,000	
IOM Norway	Component under AVRR projects for vulnerable pop	780,000	15 UMCs
IOM Philippines	Family reunification programme for VoTs with IOM Washington	Service fee	9 UMCs
IOM Romania	AMIF programme for vulnerable migrants	750,000	-
IOM South Africa	Regional programme with migrant children component	20% of overall budget	
IOM Vietnam	Assistance to vulnerable migrants and children VoTs	760,000	
IOM Zambia	UN programme on social protection (2016-18); EU programme for children VoTs (2012-16); Prison capacities, vulnerable migrants (2014-15); Reginal programme for irregular migration & human rights of migrants	1,010,000 930,000 100,000 570,000	- - - -
IOM Zimbabwe	PRM projects; Components under SIDA AVRR projects for vulnerable population	240,000 2,240,000	370Cs

3. Strategic guidelines and frameworks RO/COs are referring to:

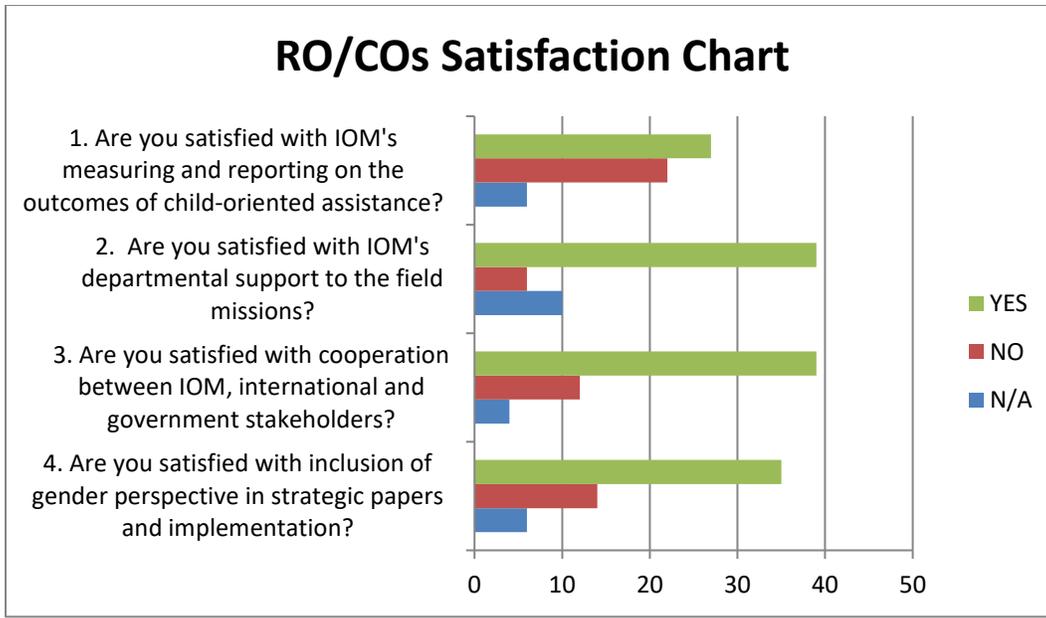
- Protocols – 28 respondents
- Frameworks – 18 respondents
- Policies – 20 respondents
- Guidelines – 37 respondents
- Initiatives – 9 respondents
- Other – 7 respondents
- None – 4 respondents



The above chart shows that IOM missions predominantly use the internal IOM guidelines (IN: 197, 205, 208, 219) when operationalising the IOM’s child-oriented assistance (almost 70%). International protocols are referred to by 50% missions, but also government frameworks and policies by almost 40% of missions. Some missions (12%) use other instructions, such as handbooks, tools or child protection procedures developed by NGO partners, international and national protection agencies.

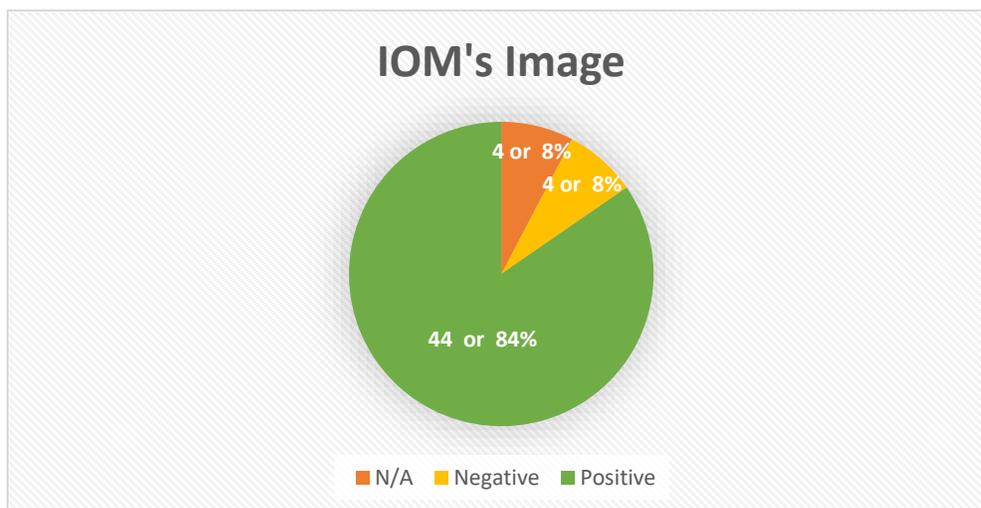
4. RO/COs satisfaction with various aspects of child-oriented assistance:

Questions:	YES	NO	N/A
1. Are you satisfied with IOM’s measuring and reporting on the contribution to and outcome of migrant children-oriented assistance?	27	22	6
2. Are you satisfied with IOM’s departments support in terms of overall decision making, decentralized management/assistance and field driven approaches (global, regional and national)?	39	6	10
3. Are you satisfied with the cooperation between IOM, international and government stakeholders in assisting and protecting migrant children (including unaccompanied and separated migrant children and children victims of trafficking)?	39	12	4
4. Do you believe that gender perspective is sufficiently included in the development of strategic papers and in the implementation of projects/programmes relating to vulnerable groups and migrant children in particular?	35	14	6



As seen above, RO/COs are the most satisfied with the Departmental and Headquarters support provided to the missions in terms of child-oriented assistance, as over 70% confirm this support is provided timely and is strategically and operation-wise oriented. It is also interesting to note that 20% of COs did not comment on this support. The same percentage or 70% of RO/COs is completely satisfied with the cooperation with external stakeholders. The missions are dissatisfied the most with the reporting and measuring on the outcomes from the child-oriented assistance, as 40% believe such reporting and measuring are not streamlined, is insufficient and scattered. A high percentage of missions is not satisfied with how gender is integrated into the child-oriented assistance, as 25% believe more can be done in that regard.

5. The partner agencies, target groups, stakeholders' perception of IOM's contribution to children oriented projects/programmes:



More than 80% of RO/COs confirm IOM's positive image among external stakeholders, including partner agencies, target groups and government counterparts. Those few that do not agree, believe that IOM can do so much more and that IOM's mandate in terms of assistance and protection of children should be clearer as well as demarcation lines with its partners.

6. RO/COs suggestions and recommendations to improve IOM's contribution to children oriented projects and programmes:

Re child protection **policies, operating procedures, resources:** (i) IOM policy on child protection to be prepared to improve the general vision of what IOM is trying to achieve in the medium to long term, and improve on the general/regional action plans; (ii) child protection officers to be appointed in ROs (versed in laws, international frameworks, assistance, protection measures for children); (iii) organise advanced mainstreaming of general protection and CP capacity building for staff working on child-oriented assistance, training on human rights, BID and global standards (training opportunities for all IOM staff, especially to local staff); (iv) establish protection unit within IOM to consider UMCs but also other sensitive cases; (v) diffuse more broadly SoPs done by some CoO (guidelines are useful but often too general and not practical enough); (vi) use BID process for unaccompanied and separated migrant children more harmoniously across the missions and projects; (vii) develop harmonized documentation in French;

Re **advocacy:** (i) IOM should advocate with donors to include a reintegration component into every AVR programme; (ii) lobby for funding to be raised for vulnerable categories.

Re internal **coordination:** (i) organise regular regional and country meetings to establish links between missions that support UMCs, exchange experiences, lessons learning; (ii) organise regular meetings between UMC focal points; (iii) systematically gather and share regional best practices in terms of designing and implementing child assistance to learn from experiences, be guided on new policies and approaches at a global level (including those from partner organisations, including UNICEF, STC, etc).

Re **external** coordination: (i) strengthen collaboration with stakeholders with CP mandates and explore cooperation opportunities, i.e. with UN agencies, NGOs and State agencies to develop regional partnerships, support missions in developing similar partnerships and SoPs for their country to develop sustainable working models; (ii) Sign memorandum of understanding with UNICEF missions worldwide to support UAMs returning to CoOs and continue education;

IOM's visibility and **image:** (i) increase outreach of IOM's work with migrant children and child oriented projects to increase IOM visibility; (ii) improve IOM global website with a section on migrant children to make IOM commitment and activities more visible to broader public; (iii) invest in media and communication activities to alert stakeholders and donors about the contribution IOM is making to migrant children related issues;

In terms of **programming:** (i) adopt community based approach to best identify the needs of migrant children, i.e. conduct needs assessment in consultations with communities to ensure services and assistance target the needs of communities, and children in particular and adolescents' perspective to be listened to and included in the policy making exercises; (ii) conduct

assessment of child support services, programmes, opportunities and shortcomings in the country to support IOM country programming; (iii) design projects under topics: rights of migrant workers including their families – children and women in particular; children’s empowerment and internal well-being; access to health, education and basic services; psychological assistance, psychological therapy programmes; transition programming policy and adult transition issues (18-24 years old) of UMCs turning 18 years of age while under IOM care; social protection and rights of migrant families, inclusion and effect of migration in social structures; preventive CT and SGBV to target UMC’s needs; support the governments to establish ATDs; migrant children not accompanied by migration from south to south (Nicaragua to Costa Rica); continue work on south-north migration (Central America - USA); migration and child labour; families; reintegration of migrant children and adolescents (female and male); strengthening of institutional entities; raising awareness and sensitivity regarding children, adolescents; (iv) consider Member States’ contexts and national policies in project design; (v) include longer timeframe for projects to explore on the outcomes and impact – three years maximum instead of short term time frame (six months to one year);

In terms of **budgeting**: (i) establish special fund to assist missions that face challenges in providing assistance to migrant children; (ii) allocate larger resource envelopes to have more sustainable impact; (iii) increase funding for publishing reports, research papers, etc. regarding this topic to be able to strengthen IOM’s mandate re children’s protection; (iv) allocated additional funds to assist the missions in providing comprehensive protection assistance to migrant children to address: national referral mechanism; shelters that meet minimum standard of care according to international standards; psycho social support including a school curriculum; recreation facilities and a structured BID process; (v) allocate certain percentage of the budget in every mission for reducing the vulnerability of migrant children;

Re **data**: (i) with children and young people being most vulnerable in global migration trends, increase efforts for collect more precise data, conduct risk and situation analysis about children in the country of origins, during the journey, but also in the countries of destinations to address: children’s integration; challenges children face; guaranteeing children fundamental rights by the authorities; address and resolve the children “disappearing” from official statistics phenomenon during journeys.