Children and youth on the move: Risks, vulnerabilities and data challenges

World Bank—CMI High-level Brainstorming Session
Marseille, 5 November 2019
**Global context**

**Rising share of children on the move**
- 37.9m people aged 19 or under living outside their country of birth, 14% of total migrant stock (UNDESA, 2019)

... But only 77% of countries and territories have age-disaggregated migrant stock data (57% of countries Africa)

**Agenda 2030**
- Target 17.18
- Leave no one behind

**Global Compact for Migration**
- *Child sensitive*
- Objective 1 (among others)
CHILD AND YOUNG MIGRANTS

CHILDREN
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) defines a child as a “human being below the age of eighteen”.

13.9%
of the total migrant stock in 2017 are CHILD MIGRANTS

YOUTH
For statistical purposes, the United Nations defines youth as “those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years without prejudice to other definitions by Member States”.

10.8%
of the total migrant stock in 2017 are YOUNG MIGRANTS

IOM data sources on children

Case-management / MiMOSA
- Victims of trafficking – The Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC)
- Migrants in vulnerable situations – (MiMOSA AVM Module released 2018- emerging dataset)
- AVRR/Reintegration – (available from MiMOSA reports, soon data portal)
- Resettlement, health etc.

DTM – Displacement Tracking Matrix
- Baseline population data (mostly IDPs)
- Site Assessments – Mostly indexed at https://displacement.iom.int/
- Flow Monitoring – https://flow.iom.int/
- IDP Registration
- Ad hoc surveys/research/estimates

GMDAC
- Missing Migrants Project
1. Exploitation, abuse, trafficking

HARROWING JOURNEYS
Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation
Adolescents and youth made up a greater proportion of migrants and refugees interviewed on the Central Mediterranean route...

Fig. 3: Survey respondents on the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes by age, 2016–2017

On the Central Mediterranean route, most travelled alone, while on the Eastern route, most travelled in groups...

Fig. 4: Proportions of survey respondents traveling alone or in a group (family or non-family) on the Central and Eastern Mediterranean routes by age, 2016–2017
1. **Adolescents and youth on the move are more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation than adults**

The risks are high for everyone on the CMR – but even higher for adolescents and youth, 77% of whom reported exploitation, compared to 69% of adults 25 and up.

On the EMR, 17% of adolescents and youth reported exploitation, compared with 10% of those 25 and older.

**On the CMR**

8 of 10 adolescents and youth reported exploitation

**On the EMR**

adolescents and youth face nearly 2x the risk
Adolescents and youth from sub-Saharan Africa are at particularly high risk of trafficking and exploitation

On the EMR, the risk is four times higher for sub-Saharan African adolescents and youth – 65% report exploitation, versus 15% of those from other regions.

On the CMR, adolescents and youth from sub-Saharan Africa also face considerably higher risks – 83% report exploitation, versus 56% of those from other regions.

Anecdotal accounts and qualitative research point to racism as a factor underlying this differential treatment.
Adolescents and youth travelling alone are more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation than those in groups.

On the EMR, 28% of adolescents and youth travelling alone reported exploitation, compared with 12% of those travelling in groups, whether with family or not.

On the CMR, being in a group confers some measure of protection, with 79% of adolescents and youth travelling alone reporting exploitation, compared with 72% of those travelling in groups.
Adolescents with lower levels of education are more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation

On the EMR, the risks for adolescents with no education are two thirds higher than for those with secondary education – with 23% of the former reporting exploitation, and 14% of the latter.

Adolescents with no education face higher risks on the CMR as well, with 90% reporting exploitation, compared with 75% of those with secondary education.

On the CMR

9 of 10 adolescents with no education reported exploitation
2. Fatalities

- At least **33,480 deaths and disappearances** recorded during migration worldwide since 2014

- **Identification rates** of missing migrants remain extremely low, leaving families without closure

- Nearly **1,600 deaths of migrant children** recorded since 2014
  - Many more go unrecorded

Source: IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, 2018
Children make up 4.5 per cent of migrant fatalities recorded by IOM January 2014 - September 2018

At least 241 under the age of 10
- 165 under the age of 5

48% of child migrant deaths were recorded in the Mediterranean
- 14.6% in Central Mediterranean
- 31.6% in Eastern Mediterranean
- 1.8% in Western Mediterranean

Source: IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, 2018
Note: Data from 1 Jan 2014 – 4 Oct 2018. Includes estimated 250 child deaths during Rohingya crisis of 2014.
3. Access to services: 

**Education**

- By 31 Dec. 2018, 83m children and adolescents of school age in the EU (4% born outside the EU; Eurostat)
- Education: a key factor shaping the decision to migrate to Europe and going to school a top priority (IOM)
- Fundamental right to education for all children but in practice difficult access
- Challenges ranging from insufficient school capacity, language barriers, psychosocial issues and administrative barriers
- Only 10 out of 28 EU MS capture migration status in education statistics (FRA)
Total number of international migrants at mid-year 2019

Source: UN DESA, 2019
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Addressing policy and programming gaps

- **Listen** to the voices of migrant and refugee children and youth
- Provide **safe and regular pathways** for children and youth
- Work together across borders to protect children and youth on the move
- **Strengthen services to protect** migrant and refugee children in all countries
- Ensure **access to education and other services** for children and youth on the move
- **End the detention of children** on the move
- **Protect** working children and youth **from exploitation**
- **Fight racism, xenophobia and discrimination** against migrants and refugees
- **Gather more evidence** on children and youth on the move
CTDC Global Dataset: Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative, 2018
www.ctdatacollaborative.org