Human Trafficking Threats to Children in Crisis

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What do we know?
• Men, women and UASC are often staying/sleeping in the same areas.
• Less than 50% have someone controlling the entrance.
• Less than 25% of sites report appropriate accommodation of UASC (# of UASCs and staff/ UASC ration).
• Less than 30% of sites say that effective legal guardianship is provided.
• Less than half of sites report access to age appropriate formal education.
• Lack of psychosocial support.
• Less than 50% have case management systems for protection cases.
• Only 43% of sites have sufficient female interpreters.
• Very few report of structured participation mechanisms.
UKRAINE
PROTECTION CLUSTER STRATEGY
2016

Discussion Paper on a Possible Way Forward to Strengthened Policies and Practices for Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Background and objective of the document

Regional and national laws in Europe provide a solid framework for child protection, based on international standards. However, these laws have not systematically translated into practice in the settlement of refugees and migrants, resulting in lack of coordination, oversight, and implementation at both local and national levels. This document aims to support the implementation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)’s Protection Cluster approach to protect unaccompanied and separated children.

UNHCR, UNICEF, and IRC have established a consultation process to support states to tailor operationalized their response to the protection needs of unaccompanied and separated children. This consultation process developed proposals, adapted to the discussion paper, for efficient, fair, and transparent processes which also ensure children’s rights are protected, and can access procedures and outcomes in accordance with their best interests.

Following the consultations with practitioners, a roundtable with EU Member States (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Norway, Serbia, and Sweden) was organized by the Dutch Government and supported by UNHCR on 17 November 2016 to discuss the main recommendations of the practitioners. The conclusions focus on integrating child protection, age assessment, guardianship, care arrangements, best interests in the national systems, and participation of children.

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Concluding suggestions

Problem statement:

- Children protection systems are strengthened by initiatives tailored to crisis contexts
- Victims of trafficking are identified among children
- Coordination between trafficking, child protection and asylum regimes
- Guideline on International Protection No 7 is applied
- Trafficked migrant children are considered for permanent residence on compassionate or humanitarian grounds
- Best interests of the child is streamlined – children are involved in decision making.