

Call for Papers

UNICEF/IOM Expert Workshop

"Children on the Move: Building Migration Data Capacities"

Rabat, Morocco, 20th-22nd of March 2019

Reliable, disaggregated, timely and accessible data are essential for identifying and addressing the needs of children on the move and operationalizing the goals, targets and commitments of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) processes, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At present, however, the evidence base remains underdeveloped and fragmentary.¹ This is particularly the case when it comes to determining the needs of migrant and displaced children, who – as a vulnerable group – are entitled to special protections.

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are convening an Expert Workshop to engage in a concerted and cooperative global approach to meeting and sharing the minimum data required for understanding the needs and ensuring the protection of migrant and forcibly displaced children. The workshop seeks to identify data and knowledge gaps, provide insights into which measurements and indicators are needed to strengthen the evidence base, and highlight new methods in data collection and analysis. The organizers invite representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), national governments, and international organizations, researchers and academics to contribute papers for presentation and discussion at the workshop.

Data for children

In 2017, 258 million people worldwide were living outside their country of birth; 30 million of them were children.² Children constitute a particularly vulnerable group of migrant and displaced populations, particularly when they are undocumented. Joint UNICEF-IOM studies on the vulnerabilities faced by children on the move echo other research in clearly showing that children are more likely to find themselves in vulnerable situations than adults on their journeys.³ Despite such evidence, persistent data and knowledge gaps make it difficult to get a real sense of the scale and patterns of child migration globally. The well-known issues of insufficient availability, quality, comparability and timeliness of data on migration more generally are compounded when it comes to children on the move, given the challenges of data disaggregation. Currently, information comes from a patchwork of sources that provide little comparable global or even regional-level data. Variations in the laws, definitions, rights and entitlements that apply

¹ UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, Eurostat, OECD, *A Call to Action: Protection children on the move starts with better data*, New York
IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, *Child Migrants: How little we know*, Geneva, 2017.

² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "International Migration Report 2017. Highlights," 2017.

³ UNICEF. "Harrowing Journeys. Children and Youth on the Move across the Mediterranean Sea, at Risk of Trafficking and Exploitation." New York N.Y., 2017.

to children further hamper comparisons between countries. Data are even scarcer on, inter alia, children moving irregularly across borders; those displaced, stateless or migrating internally; children left behind by migrant parents; and those who have gone missing or lost their lives during dangerous journeys.

Themes and topics

With this technical workshop, UNICEF and IOM seek to advance discussions on how to best overcome data and knowledge gaps on migrant and forcibly displaced children in order to improve protection responses and create the enabling environment that children need to flourish. Broadly speaking, the workshop aims to identify data and knowledge gaps, provide insights into which measurements and indicators are needed to strengthen the evidence base, highlight innovative methodologies in data collection and analysis, recommend priorities for action at the national, regional and global levels and showcase best practices and lessons learnt.

The themes involving data, migration, displacement and child protection are manifold and many intersect and overlap. Researchers and practitioners are invited to [submit papers on methods to collect and analyse data on children and youth on the move](#). The papers should address one or more of the following overarching themes: a) seek to identify data and knowledge gaps; b) theoretically and methodologically contribute to the discussion on needed indicators; and c) describe new methods in data collection and analysis. The papers should address these overarching issues in relation to one or more of the following topics:

- Risks and vulnerability
- Violence and exploitation
- Gender and gender-based violence
- Children in detention
- Non-discrimination and inclusion
- Access to essential services such as health and education
- Measuring long-term impact of migration on the well-being of children
- Development and protection of returnee children
- Impact of labour migration
- Accompanied and unaccompanied children
- Collection and measurement of stock and flow data
- Data collection in emergencies
- Big data, data protection and ethical issues
- Innovative data collection and analysis methods
- Integration of data sources and data sharing

Experts may also propose other topics.

Instructions and deadlines

Papers will be reviewed by a UNICEF-IOM committee and selected applicants will be invited to participate in the workshop and present their work. The following deadlines and requirements apply:

Paper submissions should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words in English (including charts, annexes and references). Recently published work may be submitted. Please submit papers including an abstract to migrationdata@unicef.org by the 6th of February 2019.

If you have any questions, please contact migrationdata@unicef.org or gmdac@iom.int.