

CONTRIBUTING TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF MIGRANT CHILDREN AT BORDERS IN EUROPE

BACKGROUND

Child migrants – whether accompanied (by family members, trusted adults, or a group of teenagers and young people with whom they have allied themselves along the way) or unaccompanied or separated from family and friends – are regarded as vulnerable. This vulnerability can be both situational – arising from their dependence on irregular migration routes, smugglers, etc. – and/or inherent in their status as children. At the same time, however, it is important for those responding to the needs of child migrants to recognize their agency and listen to them and contribute to the realization of their fundamental rights. Through the initiative “*Contributing to address the needs of migrant children at borders in Europe*”, funded by unearmarked funding, IOM will contribute to enhancing capacities of different stakeholders involved in the field of child protection in the context of migration across the European Economic Area (EEA).



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OBJECTIVES

The **overall objective** of this initiative is to contribute to the efforts of national authorities and other stakeholders involved in the realization of migrant children’s rights. This will be achieved through the enhancement of the understanding of the particular needs of migrant children, particularly those migrating to/within the EEA Region, their rights, challenges faced in the context of migration and risk factors. Moreover, the initiative will look into enhancing collaboration in the field of knowledge exchange and skills development of frontline workers, national authorities, civil society, and other international actors working together in the realization of migrant children’s fundamental rights.

The proposed initiative purports to accelerate the achievement of SDG Goal 10.7, 16.2, 17 and GCM Objective 7. It also supports a series of EU legislative initiatives to improve the protection of migrant children, including the EU Anti Trafficking strategy and the discussions on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.



SECTORAL FOCUS

The key areas included in the initiative are international human rights principles, safeguards and ethical principles, cross-cultural communication, establishing rapport with migrant children, child friendly spaces, basic principles to support psychosocial support, legal assistance and cooperation.



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KEY ACTIVITIES

- Roll out of a training package for IOM staff to enhance their knowledge and skills on how to contribute to address the needs of migrant children across the EEA+ Region.
- Organization of an international exchange to share promising practices and issue recommendations on concrete practices which local stakeholders can implement to address the needs of migrant children at borders.
- Development of a guidance tool collecting promising practices on how to support the needs of migrant children at borders.
- Delivery of a Training of Trainers package, building on the guidance tool on how to support the needs of migrant children at borders.



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This flyer was prepared by IOM Regional Office for the EEA, EU, and NATO.

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