



**displaced** 

## On the Road to Somewhere

Why ending violence against  
children on the move is possible

## Executive Summary

All over the world, children are living lives with no clear future after being forced to flee their homes. Driven out by conflict, extreme poverty, droughts, food shortages, or political turmoil, they and their families live in refugee settlements, with host communities who themselves struggle to cope, in the shadows, in between laws and in the middle of chaos.

Children on the move experience violence in more extreme, more complex and potentially more damaging ways than those living in their home communities. The impact displacement and migration has on

them, coupled with violence, leave children especially vulnerable. Their normal safeguards have been stripped away, placing them in situations of high risk, abuse or exploitation, and often spurring continuing cycles of fear and aggression.

But safety and protection for children who are on the move will be hard fought and won. Right now, very few policies around the world address the specific needs of children who are outside their home countries, or away from their communities, families, separated from parents.

Yet, these children still have hope that another future is possible, and we have faith that we can make that a reality.

Through this report and our global campaign *It takes a world to end violence against children*, we want to contribute to finding solutions to ending violence against children on the move, even where none seem possible. We have drawn on our experience of working in several, difficult contexts, to see what works and what we can, with partners and donors, do more of and do better.

Join us. It takes a world to end violence against children on the move.

This report was prepared by World Vision International. Lead authors Nina Nepesova and Jessica Bousquette, with support from Tamara Tutnjevic and Amanda Rives. Significant contributions were given by a number of World Vision Field Offices including Syria Response, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, as well as the East Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Offices.

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Cover photograph © World Vision/Jon Warren. Sedra, 7, loves her pink plastic comb. She found it on the ground at Za'atari Refugee Camp where she and her six siblings now live after escaping the war in Syria.



Syrian children Islam, 1, Semer, 2, Adel, 5 live in a dilapidated, empty room in a neighbourhood in Jordan.

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## Introduction

“Children on the move” describes all children who have migrated across borders, or have been forcibly displaced across borders (refugees), or within the borders of their own countries (internally displaced). Many of these children have been affected by violence, some by the worst kind imaginable.

Harrowing stories of sexual abuse, use of children to fight adult wars, forced marriages, trafficking of children for exploitative labour, and domestic abuse, are rife. Children separated from their parents and families because of conflict and displacement are at an even higher risk of violence and neglect. These children have lost the care and protection of their families at the moment when they need them the most.<sup>2</sup>

From addressing violence against children displaced by conflicts in Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan or the Central African Republic (CAR), to reducing risks of trafficking and exploitation in East Asia and addressing the root causes of migration in Central America, World Vision seeks to understand the contexts that force children on the move, and to provide appropriate solutions that work for, and involve, children. This report draws on our experiences in these contexts, and on preventing movement in the first place.

This report provides a snapshot of what’s possible to end violence against

children on the move. Some of the proposed solutions have been tested across multiple contexts, others are more specific to the places they have been applied. Many of them can be replicated and, if scaled up effectively, have a real impact on preventing, mitigating and responding to violence against children.

World Vision works with children on the move around the world. We hear their stories, and we witness transformation in their lives as they, their families and those around them find ways to reduce their vulnerability and protect them against further violence. Ultimately, children on the move want to be in their communities and be safe, with promising futures. That is our hope for them, but while they remain on the move, we must all do more to address their needs and end the violence that affects them.

The Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which will be finalised in 2018, offer the most important forum in more than a generation for the rights and needs of children on the move to be heard and addressed. As governments finalise the negotiations of these compacts and begin to develop strategies for their implementation, World Vision hopes that this report can provide examples of promising solutions to mitigate, address and ultimately end violence against children on the move.

### THE GLOBAL COMPACTS

On 19 September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly held the High-Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants, during which 193 Member States unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. This declaration expresses the political will of world leaders to share responsibility on a global scale for refugees and migrants and contains a number of important commitments to children.

The Declaration launched a two-year process to develop global frameworks for ensuring collective responsibility for refugees and migrants. The resulting *Global Compact on Refugees* and *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration*, present an historic opportunity to realise the objective of the Sustainable Development Goals to “leave no one behind” and many of the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016<sup>3</sup>.

The Global Compacts are a unique opportunity to realise the rights of children on the move and to overcome the humanitarian-development divide in order to address the needs of children on the move and the communities who host them.



Azida with her son Lunus and newborn baby make their new life in a refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar Bangladesh after being forced to leave Myanmar.

## The Problem: Violence against children on the move

The number of children on the move has grown exponentially in recent years, reflecting the fact that conflict and violence is driving a growing number of children into forced displacement.

In 2016 alone, 16 million children were forced to move within their own countries by conflict and violence<sup>4</sup>. World Vision's findings show that as well as facing forms of violence children face all over the world, many children on the move have also been affected by grave violations. The six grave violations against children in conflict are: killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access<sup>5</sup>. At least 3,270 cases of these were documented

in the DRC in 2017 alone, a 245 percent increase in just two years<sup>6</sup>.

In South Sudan, girls were forced to marry fighters, sexually abused and displaced from their communities. In the Central African Republic, children were forced to join armed groups either to fight or work, and forced to leave their homes. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, more than 400 schools have been attacked in the Kasai Region alone, with at least 260 destroyed by fighting<sup>7</sup>.

While not all children on the move experience the worst forms of violence, many do and addressing them in the context of displacement and migration can be especially difficult. Children

on the move require special care and support to help them integrate back into society, overcome the psychological effects of their ordeal and gain a sense of normalcy. Children who fall victim to some of the worst forms of violence, such as sexual violence or recruitment into armed forces, are often also rejected by their families and communities, making their recovery much harder.

Children who are on the move do not often quickly return home. The reasons that drove them from their homes may take years to resolve, and when that happens, returning can be a political and logistical nightmare. The long-term impact of children being exposed to violence for so long is difficult to

overstate. It can have far-reaching effects on children's social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual well-being and development<sup>8</sup>. This is true of all forms of violence against children but for those who live with the uncertainty of living away from their homes and communities, the impact can be worse.

In times of conflict, children can be forced to move multiple times and often end up separated or unaccompanied by their parents or caregivers. Children on the move are at higher risk of trafficking, and often have no legal status due to the illegal nature of their migration. They often face prejudice because of their migratory status, a lack knowledge about services or no documentation proving their right

to access services even when they are available. Many may not want to be found, and can be particularly hard to identify and track.

Identifying and providing services to any child affected by violence and requiring specialised assistance is particularly difficult when they are on the move, but also in the new places they live. Few governments have systems that target the protection of children on the move within their own country's borders. In conflict, national protection systems may be destroyed or impossible for children on the move to access. The protection systems may have to be set up from scratch, building on local, community or faith-based support networks.

**“They told me I was going to get powers to protect myself and my family, but they planned to initiate me into the militia. I stayed in the bush and I was given a machete. A lot of bad things were happening. A friend died after being shot. I was very scared and decided to escape.”**

Ngala, 10-year-old boy, Kasai Region of DRC



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Displacement camp in Somaliland.

## The Problem: Political and public will

Despite all we know about the worsening situation facing children on the move, global political will to address the issue of forced displacement and migration, in a way that protects children's rights, is dangerously moving in the opposite direction.

In the current political climate children's rights often take second place to national interests and security concerns. Children are too easily defined by their migration status, which often limits their rights and access to protection.

Whether crossing international borders, or moving within their own countries to escape violence, children face

detention, abuse by law enforcement, intentional separation from their parents, incarceration, statelessness through refusal to give them legal recognition, or intentional obstruction of their movements leading to death or injury. These are becoming common stories. Sadly many are no longer making headlines.

As international decision makers finalise the *Global Compact on Refugees* and the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* there is still a glaring gap. Neither Compact deals with the situation of children displaced in their own countries. Defined as internally displaced persons (IDPs), these children

form the largest proportion of children on the move. Yet their protection needs, especially from violence, often do not get attention and consideration in international discussions. Dealing with internal issues internationally is often seen by states as impeding on their sovereignty – or the right of states to determine policies within their own borders, often leaving violence against internally displaced children across countries like South Sudan, DRC, Iraq or Syria as nobody's concern.

According to the latest *Global Report on Internal Displacement* only 31 countries currently have dedicated policies and strategies on IDPs, yet 143 countries

and territories were affected by internal displacement due to conflict and disasters in 2017.<sup>9</sup> In 2016, the United Kingdom amended its Immigration Act to include a scheme to accept 'a specified number of unaccompanied refugee children from other countries in Europe'. The number was originally set at 3000, but the scheme was abandoned in February 2017 after only accepting 480 children. However, the scheme closure is currently being challenged in court. Recent public attention on US government policies has highlighted laws that allow the removal of children on the move from their parents at border posts.

Public opinion studies indicate that there is willingness for change in policies and approaches to children on the move. A World Vision study in the US in 2015 found that 71 percent of Americans were willing to help Syrian refugee children<sup>10</sup>. The Canadian government's initiatives to resettle refugees in 2017, coupled with programmes designed to tackle prejudice led to more favourable public opinion towards children on the move<sup>11</sup>. While these relate to resettling refugees specifically, the issue of doing more for children displaced within their own countries remains relatively unexplored.

**In 2016:  
28 million children were forced to flee their homes<sup>12</sup>**

**16 million children were displaced by conflict and violence in their own countries<sup>13</sup>**



Syrian internal displacement camp.

## The Solutions: Promising progress

Ending violence against children on the move takes national and international political solutions that fully respect children's rights and see them as children first, regardless of their status. It takes scaling up investment in effective prevention and response approaches to reach every child on the move, particularly in the hardest places. But it also takes positive change in collective attitudes towards migration to ensure that all children are safe and protected from violence.

### World Vision's experience highlights five critical elements to ending violence against children on the move:

- 1 Creating safe environments
- 2 Strengthening child protection systems
- 3 Ensuring safe access to education
- 4 Challenging attitudes, norms and behaviours
- 5 Empowering children as agents of peace

Many of these are closely linked to the INSPIRE framework<sup>14</sup>, a package of seven evidence-based strategies, developed by the World Health Organisation, to addressing violence against children. World Vision's experience is that more investment is needed to adapt and test these strategies to work in fragile contexts, but that it is possible to implement them when room is given for adapting designs, scale, delivery mechanisms, and those involved in implementing.

Our experience tells us that when working to tackle violence against children on the move, conflict sensitivity must be integrated into every approach to ensure that programmes do not exacerbate tensions but instead maximise positive impact. This includes conducting regular context analyses of the situations that children on the move find themselves in, and training all those involved with the programmes.

**“Our home was completely destroyed; my mother was killed and my brother was detained by one of the armed groups. They forced us to leave our village. We left immediately as we no longer had a home there.”**

Ahmad, 14  
Syria

### INSPIRE FRAMEWORK<sup>15</sup>

The INSPIRE framework identifies a group of seven strategies that have shown success in reducing violence against children. Developed by experts, INSPIRE places a strong emphasis on prevention through a multi-sectoral response, with strategies that include health, social welfare, education, finance and justice sectors. INSPIRE is a collaboration between 10 organisations initiated by the World Health Organization.

INSPIRE stands for:  
**I**mplementation and enforcement of laws;  
**N**orms and values;  
**S**afe environments;  
**P**arent and caregiver support;  
**I**ncome and economic strengthening;  
**R**esponse and support services; and  
**E**ducation and life skills

### Creating safe environments

In studies and conversations with World Vision, displaced children identify their parents and caregivers as primary sources of their protection from violence and abuse. In providing a nurturing and safe environment for their children, even while on the move, parents and caregivers can support healthy management of children's distress, and make sense of difficult and frightening experiences.

But this isn't the case for so many children on the move. World Vision research finds disturbing levels of violence that children on the move see as normal, as merely part of being on the move<sup>16</sup>. Half of all children we spoke to in Syria said they experienced physical or verbal violence in their home<sup>17</sup>. In El Salvador, World Vision research found that only 32 percent of children felt safe at home.

Being on the move puts stress on parents and affects their ability to cope with the dramatic changes in their living environments and circumstances. Supporting parents and caregivers to provide a nurturing safe environment at home, regardless of what home looks like or how temporary it is, contributes to ending violence against children on the move.

In World Vision's experience, effective ways to help parents and caregivers provide the right environment at home for children on the move include psychosocial support, empowerment and positive parenting programmes.

Since 2014, World Vision has been providing psychosocial support, including specialised services for cases of gender-based violence via health centres and school-based Child Friendly Spaces, to families affected by the conflict in Syria.

Across Latin America, World Vision introduced skills and leadership training for children to empower them to play an active role in their own protection. The programme, in more than 500 youth and adolescent clubs across the region, helps children understand how to protect themselves, learn more about the risks of unsafe migration, and to work together to address problems in their schools and communities. In Guatemala, positive parenting and non-violent discipline programmes have involved more than 24,000 parents.

In Uganda, World Vision uses our Celebrating Families project model to conduct positive parenting training for parents and guardians of South Sudanese refugee children. This model also equips adults who want to offer foster care to separated or unaccompanied refugee girls and boys.<sup>18</sup> Particular support is given to child-headed households as maintaining existing family systems, even if it is a child-headed family, is vital to provide children with a sense of normalcy. Support is provided by Child Protection Committees and by community leaders. World Vision follows and closely monitors unaccompanied and separated refugee children. Trained caseworkers visit children at home at least twice a week, more often for high-priority cases. Trained foster-care networks support unaccompanied children who are also mothers and train them in positive parenting skills.

In East Asia, World Vision works with parents to increase and diversify income and provide safe options for saving and obtaining credit. This access helps to keep families out of debt making them less likely to migrate to find work or place their children into situations where they are vulnerable to false promises of traffickers.

**“I used to think that I couldn't play or laugh, but now I'm convinced that I can. Now I understand that at my age, that is what I should be doing. I'm a completely different person after taking part in the Child Friendly Space. It truly is the light in my life.”**

Lamia, 15  
Syrian refugee in Jordan

## Strengthening child protection systems

Displacement, violence, and disaster weaken or destroy the protective environment around children. Working with parents, teachers, faith leaders, community leaders, and children themselves can strengthen the factors that protect children on the move.

In Syria, as community trust in World Vision grew, we were able to strengthen a more systematic, local-level protection system, which included an expansion of safe spaces for children. This occurred through women and children's centres, mobile protection teams visiting schools and homes, and Child Friendly Spaces working directly to prevent and respond to risks of violence against children. World Vision programmes focused on play, age-appropriate messaging about preventing separation of children from parents and caregivers, and risks associated with child recruitment by armed actors

and other forms of child labour. Child Friendly Spaces also provide children with access to trained staff who can identify and respond to signs of distress and provide basic psychosocial support to children and their families as well as connect them to other vital services that are available.

World Vision works with governments across Latin American to develop stronger child protection structures and services, and has worked with children, parents, teachers and community members to campaign against bullying and violence in schools.

Our Celebrating Families model used in Uganda is linked to child protection committees and refugee welfare committees which form part of a local child protection system set up in the settlements. Both committees have improved refugee children's access to Child Friendly Spaces, and helped to identify children in need of protection and psychosocial support.

In the DRC, returnee and host community children engage in World Vision-supported children's clubs. Together, they set up a complaint mechanism for victims of sexual abuse in four schools. They were linked with police and the judicial system and so far 26 cases of child abuse have been brought before the courts.

**“When you report that you have been raped, the police will even laugh at you. They will ask what you were doing or wearing. They may say it was your fault.”**

Young survivors of rape in South Sudan

## Ensuring safe access to education

In every World Vision emergency response in displacement (and non-displacement) contexts over the past ten years, children identified education as a key priority. They said that the long-term impacts of receiving an education help them rise above their current situations, care for their families, create financial resilience for their families, increase their knowledge and literacy and become good people.<sup>19</sup> In East Asia, World Vision found that the higher the literacy level of a child, the more aware they are of trafficking.

Beyond a desire to learn, education and life skills can be provide alternatives to child labour, child marriage, and recruitment into armed groups and provide the necessary tools for children to protect themselves. In many contexts, children said teachers and learning facilities make them feel safe. However, in other contexts, teachers and schools were associated with a

place of violence. In Syria, 42 percent of children World Vision spoke to said they have witnessed violent discipline by teachers.<sup>20</sup>

Across Syria, Lebanon and Jordan World Vision works with schools, teachers, parent groups and faith leaders to promote violence-free environments in schools. These include engaging teachers to promote protection and inclusion, training them in non-violent ways to discipline children, to address negative perceptions of child refugees and treat children with respect.

World Vision expanded child protection and basic psychosocial support activities in Northern Syria into schools, offering programmes in 10 schools for six months. These include art and other creative activities, play, life skills, raising awareness of child rights and responsibilities as well as emergency case management and referral for especially vulnerable children.

In Honduras, together with local and private partners, World Vision's Bright Futures (Futuros Brillantes) project, funded by the US Department of Labor, works to combat child labour by providing educational and vocational services to more than 5,000 children.

**“I was approached by someone who offered me to go to Thailand, but I refused. I was able to refuse because I have learned from the children's club. If I was not with the children's club, I might believe the person and go to Thailand.”**

Youth club member Laos



“I want to prove that girls can do it,” says Marie, the only girl in her class at a school in South Sudan.

## Challenging attitudes, norms and behaviours

When social attitudes shift, and behaviours and mindsets move, sustainable change is possible, even where civil conflict triggers massive and repeated displacement.

In South Sudan, women and girls experience disproportionate degrees of violence exacerbated by conflict and displacement. Among the most vulnerable are children born of rape, some of whose mothers were forced to 'marry' soldiers who later abandoned them. World Vision found that half of the surveyed community in Yambio, the state capital of former Western Equatoria, said they knew of children who were born of rape and 79 percent said that these children faced significant stigma.

Strengthening social norms and values involves supporting non-violent, respectful, nurturing, positive, and gender equitable relationships. In South Sudan, working together with faith leaders and community action teams, World Vision has trained church congregations and communities to raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence, and to be drivers of attitudinal change. Women's organisations are now leading dialogues at the village level, engaging Chiefs and Headmen to join them in promoting more inclusive attitudes and increase their understanding. Youth associations have held more than 150 events to raise awareness on sexual violence and the consequences, to advocate an end to stigma, and to promote peaceful reconciliation. Before participating in this programme, 51 percent of faith leaders felt a female survivor of rape may have been at fault and should

marry her perpetrator as a form of settlement. After participating in the programme 97 percent now understand the harm of sexual and gender-based violence, and seek to respect the wishes of survivors in their approaches.

In Myanmar, Vietnam, and Laos World Vision worked with children who were promised a job either in another city or another country only to find a situation that was nothing like the sales pitch. This involved educating communities and especially children aged 15-17 years, and most likely to take a job, on the dangers of risky migration. World Vision ran youth clubs that follow a toolkit composed of safe migration and trafficking prevention skills and information. Youth participants receive a pocket guide in local languages explaining what human trafficking is, and includes easy-to-access information such as basic instructions on how to make an international phone call.

World Vision supported trafficking survivors to engage national governments with recommendations on what's needed. As a result the Government of Myanmar made strong efforts to increase awareness of human trafficking across the country.

Awareness-raising activities through this programme, led by governments, World Vision and partners, reached more than 240,000 people across the region. We saw a 12.6 percent increase in children on the move's self-protective attitudes and behaviours. These included more children completing secondary education or higher, joining children's clubs and adopting safe migration practices. In three years, we saw a 17.2 per cent reduction in those considered at high risk of trafficking.<sup>21</sup>

## IT TAKES FAITH

Children on the move say faith leaders are key to their protection and have moral and cultural authority in their community.

World Vision's experience shows that engaging faith actors to address violence against children on the move can provide spiritual support to children and their families, ensure a continuum of protection through local faith community programmes, strengthen local child protection systems, combat stigma, and promote reintegration.

World Vision works to broker faith and inter-faith dialogue by creating safe spaces for faith leaders and faith communities to learn, share and debate.

Faith leaders can and should be vehicles for ending violence against children on the move. Partnering with faith leaders leads to better prevention and response.

World Vision is working with a growing number of faith bodies and faith-based organisations, networks and academics to hold the first Faith Action for Children on the Move: Global Partners Forum<sup>22</sup> on October 17-19, 2018, in Rome, Italy.

The Forum will provide a platform to reflect on faith contributions to ending violence against children on the move and to agree on a high-level action plan to increase awareness, strengthen partnerships, improve delivery, scale up interventions and influence decision making.

## Empowering children as agents of peace

In response to conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2012, World Vision began implementing the Empowering Children as Peacebuilders (ECaP) project to support children affected by violence. Children in CAR faced some of the worst types of violence, including grave violations. More than 500 children participating in the programme were formerly associated with armed groups and returning home. Many displayed signs of distress, suffered nightmares, were withdrawn socially, and had difficulty concentrating. Children formerly associated with armed groups also met with reticence and opposition from their communities, leaving the children feeling isolated, lonely and hopeless.

The ECaP project was implemented through Peace Clubs and was designed to help children become agents of peace and change. It targeted internally displaced children and host communities, providing a community-based approach for the protection and empowerment of children.

World Vision engaged people from youth groups, women's groups, religious leaders and village chiefs to provide community management and oversight of the Peace Clubs. The Clubs offered a platform to receive individual and peer support. Parents, caregivers and community leaders were also trained in child protection, child rights, peacebuilding and conflict resolution and were supported to begin the reconciliation processes

in their communities. The women's groups contributed to the reintegration of adolescent girls formerly associated with armed forces and groups by providing them with vocational training, specifically on sewing skills, so they could earn a sustainable income in the future.

The programme saw a growing increase in trust and acceptance of each other, and a reduction in children experiencing violence or feeling of aggression. Caregivers and children said the children involved in the project were able to make significant gains in overcoming signs of distress<sup>23</sup>.

A similar project was introduced in areas of Uganda. Today, Uganda has the highest refugee and asylum seeker numbers in Africa, most of them from neighbouring South Sudan. At the time of the project, more than 61 per cent of all refugees were children<sup>24</sup>. The majority of newly arrived refugees were settled in the West Nile area of Northern Uganda, an area which has suffered from high levels of pre-existing vulnerability. World Vision's analysis showed that despite refugee children escaping a conflict zone, they still faced threats of violence from possible ethnic tension carried over to Uganda from South Sudan, as well as from tensions with Ugandan host communities over access to resources.

World Vision began implementing the Empowering Children as Peacebuilders (ECaP) project model in a number of settlement areas to provide refugee and host community children with the right tools to dissolve tensions within

and between communities, including by fostering peaceful co-existence.

Through the Peace Clubs, children draw action plans and create activities and ways to mobilise other children, irrespective of their ethnic, refugee or host community status, to join the club. Community meetings, outreach activities and peacebuilding dialogues on child rights and peaceful co-existence are initiated by the children where they seek commitments from the communities.

Promising examples of violence prevention as a result of the activities by youth peace builders have led to a reduction of bullying and mistrust in schools, and better equity during distributions to ensure fairness towards all children.

**“Going back home was much more difficult than I imagined. I was lonely and frustrated. I had the urge to turn the tables and help my community. The project brought young people and ex-combatants like myself together. It is definitely helping change the way people see us.”**

**Odre, 18, former child soldier  
Central African Republic**



## Recommendations

World Vision believes that preventing and ending violence against children on the move is possible, and we call on international and national decision-makers to:

- **Change attitudes, norms and behaviours:**

- Recognise that children are children first and foremost and their rights and protection must be a priority, whether they are migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, stateless or internally displaced.
- Always put children's best interests at the heart of decision making in all situations of a child's displacement.
- End criminalisation of children in transit or at destination.
- Accurately portray the stories of children on the move, including why they move, their distinct vulnerabilities and capacities, their experiences and challenges.

- **Systematically scale up solutions that work:**

- Address the root causes that force children to move, the risks to children on the move, and the risks for children in their destination.
- Scale up solutions that work for children and protect their rights.
- Strengthen national and local child protection systems to identify and meet the needs of children on the move, provide adequate economic and human resources and ensure that systems are child-friendly and gender responsive.
- Through voluntary state reporting, clearly articulate how implementing the Sustainable Development Goals addresses violence against children on the move with relevant linkages to Goals 10 and 16 and Goals such as 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 where relevant.
- Consider and strengthen engagement with faith communities, to reinforce context-appropriate local child protection systems.

- **Invest in comprehensive and conflict-sensitive responses to violence against internally displaced children:**

- Develop country-led frameworks for reducing internal displacement to facilitate planning, target setting and monitoring for change<sup>25</sup>. Within these, set explicit targets and indicators for reducing violence against internally displaced children and for improving their access to protection services.
- Integrate protection needs of internally displaced children into national and international commitments to end violence against children everywhere.

- **In conflict contexts, enhance efforts to systematically prevent grave violations against children:**

- Take swift and appropriate action to prevent grave violations occurring.
- Ensure the provision of specialised services and appropriate care for children experiencing violence.
- Where grave violations occur, all children must have access to justice for violations and crimes committed against them.

- **Urgently invest in solutions that work for children on the move:**

- Increase funding for sustainable and evidence-based approaches to addressing violence against children on the move and for durable solutions to forced displacement.
- Ensure funding is timely, predictable, multi-year, and flexible.
- Recognise the critical and life-saving importance of sectors like child protection, psychosocial support and education.
- Fund regular context analyses, and training in conflict sensitivity to help prevent any possible contribution to further violence.

### INITIATIVE ON CHILD RIGHTS IN THE GLOBAL COMPACTS<sup>26</sup>

The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts draws on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and guidance from the Committee on the Rights of the Child to advocate for a common approach to protecting children on the move. World Vision sits on the Steering Committee.

In June 2017, the Initiative partners came together with children and youth, representatives from governments, civil society, multilateral institutions and the private sector at a Global Conference on Children on the Move<sup>27</sup>. We agreed a set of recommendations for protecting, promoting and implementing human rights of children on the move in the proposed Global Compacts. These recommendations should continue to be implemented in full at all levels by nation states, and apply to all children on the move as the threshold for upholding their rights. The recommendations<sup>28</sup> are:

- **Non-discrimination and integration of children**
- **Best interests of the child**
- **Child protection**
- **An end the immigration detention of children**
- **Children's access to services**
- **Sustainable solutions in**

## On the road to somewhere

Concerned citizens around the world must stand up for the rights of children on the move and fight political and public indifference.

In partnership and solidarity with affected children and young people, political, business, academic, religious, and civil society actors, we need to design more courageous, context-appropriate and conflict sensitive solutions that address violence against

children on the move.

The vast majority of forcibly displaced children and their families remain displaced because of political impasse.

We know what works to prevent violence against children on the move. We must act now to protect the unprecedented number of them. To do anything less than that cheats not only their future, but all of ours.



A family from South Sudan takes shelter from an oncoming storm just a few days after they arrive in Uganda.

## Annex

### Terminology used in this report

In order to better describe children's migratory situation several terms are used in this report.

- Children on the move:** children who have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced across borders or within the borders of their own countries.<sup>29</sup> These children can be international child migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as internally displaced (IDP) children.<sup>30</sup>
- Migration:** The movement of a person or a group of persons, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes; it includes migration of refugees, displaced persons, economic migrants, and persons moving for other purposes, including family reunification<sup>31</sup>
- Migrants:** any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of the person's legal status; whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; what the causes for the movement are; or what the length of the stay is.<sup>32</sup>
- Forced migration or displacement:** A migratory movement in which an element of coercion exists, including threats to life and livelihood, whether arising from natural or man-made causes (e.g. movements of refugees and internally displaced persons as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects)<sup>33</sup>.
- Refugees:** any person who, due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.<sup>34</sup>
- Asylum seeker:** A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds.<sup>35</sup>
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.<sup>36</sup>
- Stateless person:** a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.<sup>37</sup>
- Separated children:** children separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or usual primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. As a result, this may include children accompanied by other adult family members.<sup>38</sup>
- Unaccompanied children:** children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives, and who are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.<sup>39</sup>

## Endnotes

- It's time to end violence against children*, Global Campaign Report, World Vision 2017
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- These include but are not limited to: the Grand Bargain and the Commitment to Action, which address the long-standing gaps between development and humanitarian actors that are critical to realising collective outcomes, working on multiyear timeframes, and harnessing the comparative advantage of different actors.
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World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

We believe a world without violence against children is possible, and World Vision's global campaign It takes a world to end violence against children is igniting movements of people committed to making this happen. No one person, group or organisation can solve this problem alone, it will take the world to end violence against children.

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**It takes a world**  
to end violence against children