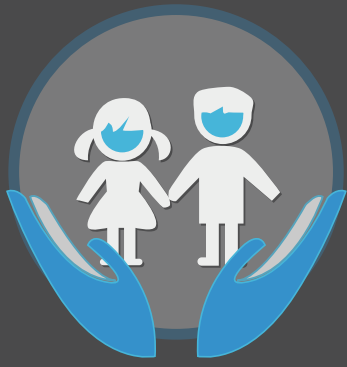


PROTECTING MIGRANT CHILDREN THROUGH ENHANCED CRISIS COMMUNICATION



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During emergencies, information becomes vital. Not only can accurate information mean the difference between life and death, but it can also reassure that response and recovery are truly underway. Often migrant children have no access to information on rescue operations, assistance or protection measures. They may fear requesting assistance or tend to be forgotten by responders.

1 CHILD-FRIENDLY COMMUNICATION METHODS



Use **clear and child-centred material**, child-spoken language, characters, stories, music and humour, taking all literacy levels into account¹



Be child-friendly by using clear and child-friendly information/ tools



Adopt an integrated approach to communication, i.e. meeting children's emotional, social, cognitive and physical needs. Pay careful attention to all aspects of a message, the obvious and the subliminal



Provide children with relevant information such as their entitlements, services available, the asylum process, family tracing and the situation in their country of origin



Encourage children to take positive actions in the community life to prevent harm, i.e. by presenting the gains to be registered



Focus your communication on strengths by presenting opportunities and solutions rather than problems



Be inclusive by explicitly ensuring that children have the right to be registered, to receive assistance and be better protected



Safeguard the confidentiality and privacy of children at the same levels as adults

¹ Resources on child-centered materials can be found at:

UNICEF RESOURCES CENTER: https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58020.html

Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action from IOM:
<https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/TOOLS-WEB-2017-0322.pdf> or from

Save the Children resources center:
<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/publishers/cpwg-child-protection-working-group>

Resources Center from the Child Protection Cluster:
<http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/tools-and-guidance/protection-cluster-coordination-toolbox/>

2 TARGETED CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION



Determine appropriate channels of communication with the help of migrants children (e. g. social media, information board on defined venues, websites of migrant associations, newspapers)



Use diverse, multiple, formal, and informal methods of communication to overcome barriers to effective communication with migrants



Take advantage of social media, places of worship, and migrants' connections with their families and communities in their States of origin



Create communication "safe havens": spaces where vulnerable children can freely express themselves in times of crisis



Set-up a communication plan with a clear schedule and list of information that should be shared with migrant children (e.g. evacuation plan and procedures, a list explaining what to pack, how to prevent family separation, etc.)

3 IDENTIFICATION OF FOCAL POINTS FOR A BETTER OUTREACH



Identify and **train focal points** to overcome communication barriers. Migrant children **can be hard-to-reach** and/or hard-to-engage



Identify, enlist and involve health or outreach workers, family members, teachers, child protection officers and organisations trusted by migrant children