**MEETING OF THE LIAISON OFFICER NETWORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

**Report on the Meeting of the Liaison Officer Network for the   
Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents**

**24 May 2018**

The Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents held a Special Meeting in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on 24 May 2018, within the framework of the Workshop on the Return, Reception, and Reintegration of Migrant and Refugee Children and Adolescents (22-23 May 2018). The Network Meeting was attended by participants from the following countries: Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

The Network hereby submits to the consideration of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM) its Report regarding the points described below.

1. Express appreciation to the delegations from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, Mexico, and Honduras for presenting their reports on new efforts and good practices for the comprehensive protection of migrant children and adolescents.
2. Regarding the activities of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan for the RCM’s Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents, it was agreed to prioritize the following activities:
   1. Exchange of positive experiences with systems for locating missing children and adolescents.
      * Ask the ICRC to have the Semester II Workshop address the issue of missing children and adolescents.
      * Express appreciation to Save the Children for its offer of training regarding missing children and adolescents.
   2. Carry out a mapping effort by gathering existing information on institutions that support migrant children and adolescents and those who need international protection.

* Mapping of institutions that offer rapid and emergency response.
* Promote immediate support services for children and adolescents who are experiencing extreme situations (violence, abuse, school bullying, etc.) that drive the irregular migration of children and adolescents.
* Ask each country to send to the Technical Secretariat a description of their networks for protecting migrant children and adolescents.
* Publish this Member Country information on a micro-site on the RCM website, and subsequently request that the TS coordinate with the IOM to make this information available on the MigrantApp.
* Disseminate the Regional Directory on Protection Systems through the micro-site on the RCM’s website.
* Invite the Member Countries to download and disseminate the MigrantApp.
* Ask UNICEF for support for the development of a tool with indicators for monitoring regional and international standards related to the human rights of migrant and refugee children and adolescents.
  1. Create a support guide for implementing the mechanisms for determining the best interests of children, with cooperation from academic or civil society specialists.
* Using as a basis Mexico’s Guide and the Guide prepared by UNHCR at the global level in 2011, ask UNICEF, the IOM, the ILO, and UNHCR for a proposed regional guide on the best interests of migrant and refugee children and adolescents, with the respective validation strategy.
* Take note of UNCHR’s observations regarding the updating of the Guides at the international level.
  1. Develop a workshop on implementing protection standards.
* Implement mechanisms such as Took Kits on international standards for building capacities and raising awareness among personnel who serve migrant children and adolescents who have been displaced and have protection needs, and migrant children and adolescents who have been displaced and need international protection, with support from UNHCR, the IOM, UNICEF, and Save the Children.
  1. Socialize the common indicators for recording unaccompanied or separated migrant children and adolescents, as part of consular activity by RCM Member Countries.
* Develop registry cards for migrant and refugee children and adolescents for use throughout the region (indicating the minimum data to be recorded), in order to prevent the revictimization of this population.

Regarding the ongoing development activities, the following are given priority status:

* 1. Promote an information, evaluation, and monitoring system for the migration of children and adolescents that permits data to be provided for the participation of children and adolescents and for strategic decision-making.
  2. Share good practices related to the process of receiving and providing comprehensive psycho-social attention to returned migrant children and adolescents, including those with international protection needs.
  3. Create and strengthen spaces at the regional and national levels for the participation of children and adolescents, with focuses on age, gender, and diversity. Develop practical guides for implementing social formation processes in local settings, including topics related to rights.
  4. Explore the national reintegration initiatives that are being or have been implemented, for purposes of disseminating good practices, methodologies, and results that encourage local ties. Simultaneously incorporate same into the RCM Platform so that other countries may implement them as part of their national programmes.
  5. Ask each country to establish focal points for each protection system and communicate the contact information to the TS.
  6. Train the Consular Network in key countries regarding the best interests of the child.
* Reinforce training efforts for the Consular Networks in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador regarding the protection of migrant children and adolescents and those needing international protection.

1. Take note of the recommendations of the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RROCM) concerning protection for migrant children and adolescents. Express appreciation for the civil society observations for the respective analysis in institutional spaces.
   1. The RROCM Report shall be included in the Network Meeting support documentation.
   2. The RROCM Report shall be included in the PTP-TS-RROCM Tripartite Team Reports.
2. Express appreciation for the information provided by the Observer Bodies.
   1. To UNICEF for the information on the follow-up and monitoriing of international and regional protection standards.
      * Express appreciation for the willingness of UNICEF, the RROCM, and the other Observer Bodies to support training processes on the non-detention of migrant children and adolescents and those subject to international protection in transit and destination countries.
   2. To the ICRC for its support regarding missing migrant children and adolescents and its interest in the conclusions and recommendations generated by the countries during the Workshop.
   3. To the IOM for the information provided concerning the Mesoamerica Programme, the Virtual Self-Learning Platform, the Didactic Kit for supporting training processes, and the MigrantApp and InformArt in Movement.
   4. To the IOM for the fundamental preparation of the migrant youth who shared their stories through the Young Leaders of Western Guatemala.
   5. To the ILO for its interest in bringing visibility to the link between child labour and migration as one of the 2030 Agenda topics.
   6. To UNHCR for offering support and training for the development of national protocols on the best interests of the child, as well as information on the projects being carried out within the Regional Comprehensive Framework for Protection and Solutions (MIRPS).
3. Express appreciation to the Government of Guatemala for its hospitality in hosting the Workshop on the Return, Reception, and Reintegration of Migrant and Refugee Children and Adolescents, with very special appreciation being expressed to UNICEF, Save the Children, the IOM, UNHCR, Child Fund, KIND, REDNNYAS, and Alliance House for organizing the encounter with adolescent migrants, who shared their life stories, suggestions, and feedback.
   1. Based on the first-time participation of youth in an RCM event, recommend the participation of adolescent migrants and adolescents subject to international protection at least once yearly at meetings of the Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Children and Adolescents.
   2. Recommend the participation of adolescent migrants and adolescents subject to international protection in High-Level RCM spaces, with proper prior accompaniment by the RCM Member Countries, UNICEF, and Save the Children to support the participation of this population in said spaces.