



# Rights of Migrants in Action: Child Protection Projects

Synthesis Report of Lessons Learned  
in Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala,  
and Indonesia.

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IFRC RoMiA Child Protection Projects – Synthesis  
Report of Lessons Learned in Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia,  
Guatemala and Indonesia  
05/2018 E

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## List of abbreviations

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AFDB	Home Association Don Bosco
ANPPCAN	Association for National Planned Program for Vulnerable Children and in Need
CCRDA	Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DG DEVCO	European Commission's Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation
GEMAPALU	Rural Community Movement
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies
INREDH	Regional Human Rights Advisory Foundation
LIGUE LIFE	Women's League in the Fight Against Women's School Waste, Poverty and Environmental Degradation
LIVE Addis	Livelihood Improvement for Vulnerable Ethiopians
MDWs	Migrant Domestic Workers
NS	National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
PADet	Professional Alliance for Development
RFL	Restoring Family Links
RoMiA	Rights of Migrants in Action
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
VoT	Victims of Human Trafficking

# 1. Background and objectives

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## A. Rights of migrants in action project

The “Rights of Migrants in Action” (RoMiA) was a global project that aimed to protect and promote the rights of migrants while harnessing the knowledge and building the capacity of civil society organizations (CSO). The project focused on enforcing and promoting the rights of, and improving access to services, for migrant domestic workers (MDWs) and victims of human trafficking (VoT), as these are particularly vulnerable groups. Working in 15 countries along migration corridors, the project reflected, from a national and regional perspective, the challenges faced by migrants, their families, governments and service-providing organizations.

From 2014 to 2017, the project has supported 43 CSOs in increasing access to services for MDWs and VoTs with different areas of focus, depending on national and regional migration trends, the needs of CSOs and, most importantly, the needs of migrants.

### **The main objectives of the project were to:**

1. Foster a harmonized and coordinated approach by CSOs regarding the protection of migrants’ human rights , in particular migrant domestic workers and victims of human trafficking.
2. Enhance migrants’ access to social services in the target countries and the provision of services through small-scale CSO projects.
3. Build and strengthen CSOs’ capacities to support the improvement of migrants’ human rights, in particular migrant domestic workers and victims of human trafficking.

The RoMiA project was co-funded by the European Union through the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) and the IFRC.

Overall, the work of the CSOs was actively coordinated and supported by National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (NS) in each of the 15 countries of implementation, under the overall management of the IFRC.

At local level, the NS contributed to the planning, implementation and monitoring of the activities based on their knowledge of the local context. They facilitated interactions and partnerships with key governmental authorities and stakeholders and provided support for the capacity building and visibility of the actions of the CSOs, thus contributing to the sustainability of the projects.



## B. Objective of the synthesis report

Among the RoMiA projects, a number focused on protection and assistance for children on the move affected by or at risk of trafficking or exploitative labour.

Between July and December 2017, four evaluations were conducted by external consultants to understand the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the projects focused on protection and assistance to children in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, and Indonesia. Given its relevance, information on similar projects in Benin was also compiled for this synthesis study. Samples of communication materials from Honduras are also included given their relevance to the topic and contribution to coordinated regional efforts.

The key objective of the evaluations was to determine successes, challenges and future directions of Red Cross and Red Crescent supported projects to protect children on the move.

The focus on children reflects the particular needs of girl and boy migrants, or those at risk of migrating, in relation to trafficking, exploitative labour.

## C. IFRC focus on protection and assistance to children on the move

The **IFRC position**<sup>1</sup> on protection and assistance for children on the move is outlined in five key messages.

1. All children on the move, irrespective of their legal standing, age, gender, or health status, should have access to protection and humanitarian assistance.
2. Because of their greater vulnerability unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) require particular and urgent protection.
3. No child should be detained based solely on her or his migration status.
4. To improve the protection and humanitarian assistance for children on the move, it is necessary to engage meaningfully and provide leadership opportunities for girls and boys to identify protection risks and find and implement solutions.
5. More needs to be done to enhance the evidence base of what specific interventions are effective in protecting children on the move and those that are not, and why.

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1. IFRC Position Paper – Protection and Assistance for Children on the Move, 23/11/2017, <http://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/11/1321500-IFRC-position-paper-P-and-A-for-Children-on-the-move-HR.pdf>

## 2. Evaluation methodology

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### Timelines

The evaluations took place in Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Indonesia between September and December 2017.

For Benin, information was gathered during a monitoring visit in May 2017 and supported by reports and publications.

### Evaluators

- **Ecuador:** Cecilia Zumba E, Consultant.
- **Ethiopia:** Audrey Baëté, LL.M., Consultant.
- **Guatemala:** Dr Victor Puac, Consultant.
- **Indonesia:** Heru Susetyo, SH. LL.M. M.Si. Ph.D, Consultant.

### Methodology

The evaluations were qualitative and used a mixed approach of focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and reviews of relevant CSO documents and literature.

### Limitations

Limitations of the evaluations include:

- The projects in each location were completed before the evaluations occurred and as a result it was difficult to meet with all staff, volunteers, child participants, and relevant key informants.
- It was not possible to travel to all locations where multiple projects in one country were being evaluated, mainly due to limited time.
- For all the projects, except Guatemala, indicators were not specifically designed to measure progress made towards the protection of children in general, and children on the move in particular. Age disaggregation or individual case management was also lacking in most cases, rendering it difficult to access precise information on children. In order to carry out the evaluation, it was therefore necessary to identify and analyse key data through the lens of child protection *a posteriori*.
- The lack of baseline data for the projects impeded comparison with pre-existing conditions that could have provided a starting point against which to measure progress. Similarly, lack of a final baseline, or benchmark, prevented in-depth analysis of the outcomes achieved.

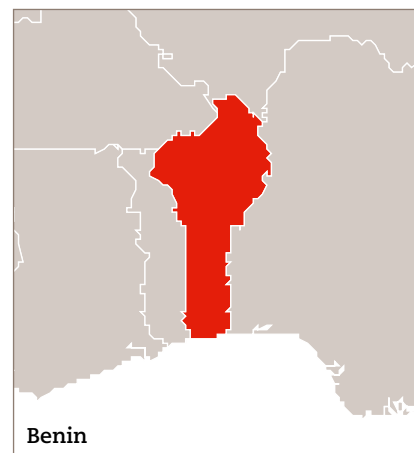
### 3. Summary of projects evaluated

#### A. Benin

##### The problem of trafficking and exploitative labour of child migrants

Demographic growth, poverty, unemployment, increased living costs, difficult climatic conditions and dwindling natural resources push many Beninese to migrate internally from rural to urban areas, within the region and beyond.

Trafficking in Benin disproportionately affects children. The typical profile of victims is children exploited for domestic work in households and in informal trade (markets, bus stations). Traffickers have also transported Beninese children to be sold or leased in Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Nigeria.



The majority of identified victims of trafficking are girls subjected to domestic servitude or sex trafficking in Cotonou. Togolese girls are exploited in prostitution in Benin.

The practice of *vidomegon*, which traditionally provided educational or vocational opportunities to children by placing them in the homes of wealthier families, is now used to exploit children in domestic servitude. Children are forced to work on farms, in commercial agriculture, especially the cotton sector,—in artisanal mines, at construction sites, or as street or market vendors to produce or hawk items. Children from Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria and Togo are also victims of forced labour in these sectors. They are often subjected to various abuses (corporal punishment, mistreatment, economic and sexual exploitation). Girls are the most vulnerable.

Tous les enfants ont droit à une éducation et à des loisirs.

**Respectons-les leur !**



**DROIT DES MIGRANTS EN ACTION**

Projet de lutte contre le trafic et l'exploitation des enfants dans le département de l'Ouémé au Bénin



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### The aim of the projects

CSO	Project title	Objectives	Location
<b>Association Foyer Don Bosco</b> AFDB (Don Bosco Home Association)	“Fight against trafficking and exploitation of children in the Department of Ouémé in Benin”	To strengthen and promote the protection system of migrant children who are victims of internal and/or cross-border trafficking of domestic girl workers “vidomegons” and child victims of economic exploitation, especially in the border area of Sèmé Kraké	Ouémé District
Ligue des Femmes en Lutte contre la Déperdition Scolaire Féminine, la Pauvreté et la dégradation de l’environnement – <b>LIGUE LIFE</b> (Women’s league against women’s school wastage, poverty and environmental degradation)	“Professionalisation project and rights of migrant women domestic workers and girl victims of trafficking”	To provide protection, capacity building and economic empowerment to migrants and domestic workers in the south and central regions of the country.	Cotonou, Zou and Collines Districts



Jess van Spengen / IFRC

## B. Ecuador

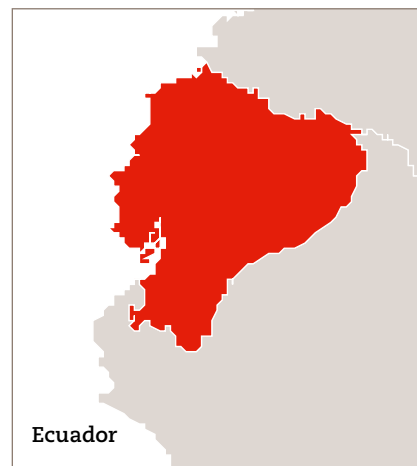
### The problem of trafficking and exploitative labour of child migrants

Ecuador is a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in persons for purposes of sexual exploitation, exploitative child labour and other forms of exploitation such as servitude, recruitment into criminal networks, and drug trafficking.

Ecuadorian women and children are subjected to forced prostitution in neighbouring countries.

Ecuador is a destination for Colombian, Peruvian, and Paraguayan women and girls exploited in sex trafficking and domestic servitude.

Most of the victims of trafficking in the country are women, girls, and boys from border regions, to the north with Colombia and to the south with Peru, as well as communities in the central highlands of the country, for sexual exploitation and labour in provincial urban centres. According to the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016, child trafficking was detected more frequently than adult trafficking in Ecuador.



One of the challenges relates to the separate judicial system for indigenous communities, which creates a corresponding disconnect with the legal system and distrust of authorities among the local population. There is a tendency to focus on prosecution rather than victim support. In some areas, historical complicity within state institutions creates mistrust and additional barriers to addressing human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

Despite these constraints, CSOs felt that there was much to be gained through advocacy and awareness-raising. Key areas where changes could be made included addressing regressive attitudes in the community toward child labour, for example, and influencing the Government to enforce laws in this area. Most important was the need to empower migrants by ensuring that they understand their rights, how to seek redress when these rights are infringed, and where to find assistance.

### The aim of the projects

CSO	Project title	Objectives	Location
Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos – <b>INREDH</b> (Regional Human Rights Advisory Foundation)	"Intercultural programme of prevention of labour exploitation and trafficking of persons in indigenous teenage mobility related to traditional activities"	To contribute, from an intercultural perspective, to the application of the principles of protection of children, especially adolescents, by indigenous communities involved in traditional mobility processes	Province of Imbabura, Otavalo and Cotacachi Cantons





Vladimir Rodas/Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana



Vladimir Rodas/Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana

## C. Ethiopia

### The problem of trafficking and exploitative labour of child migrants

Ethiopia is a source and, to a lesser extent, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking.

Migration in the broad sense has been rapidly increasing over the recent years and has become a matter of serious concern and a priority area for action. Ethiopians, including children, are incited to leave their country for many reasons, either as legal or illegal migrants. Economic pressures are commonly cited, linked to poverty, unemployment, inflation, poor access to a livelihood, lack of land and limited access to saving and credit services. Pressure to migrate on young Ethiopians by family members, their peers and the community at large appears to be another significant push factor. With approximately three million young Ethiopians entering the labour force every year, ensuring productive employment opportunities poses a challenge in both rural and urban areas. As a result, growing numbers of Ethiopians have been looking for job opportunities either in other regions within the country or abroad, through legal and illegal channels. In addition, a lack of sufficient and reliable information, combined with misinformation by human traffickers, is pointed out as a key cause in the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report.



Trafficking and smuggling networks and brokers, usually well organized and rooted in the communities of origin, seek to recruit and lure potential migrants into migration. Young Ethiopians are often recruited from rural areas with promises of a better life in the Middle East and Gulf States. In addition to the risks commonly faced during their journey, notably abduction, robbery, extortion, physical and sexual assault, they are particularly vulnerable to traffickers.

Ethiopian girls are forced into domestic servitude and prostitution outside Ethiopia, primarily in Djibouti and South Sudan, while Ethiopian boys are subjected to forced labour in Djibouti as shop assistants, errand boys, domestic workers, thieves, and street beggars. Boys are often subjected to forced labour in transit and destination countries, while women and girls migrating for labour purposes face severe abuses including physical and sexual abuse, denial of salary, withholding of passports, confinement, sex trafficking and even murder.

### The aim of the projects

CSO	Project title	Objectives	Location
Association for National Planned Program for Vulnerable Children and in Need – <b>ANPPCAN</b>	“Risky Migration and Human Trafficking Prevention through Awareness Raising and Economic Strengthening in three woredas (districts) of North Gondar”	To contribute to the prevention and response of risky migration and human trafficking at local level through a set of awareness raising, capacity building, reduction of vulnerability and economic rehabilitation measures in three <i>woredas</i> (districts) of North Gondar.	Three <i>woredas</i> (districts) of North Gondar
Professional Alliance for Development – <b>PADet</b>	“Migration Awareness and Action Project in six districts of North Wollo – Amhara Region, Ethiopia”	To enhance the awareness of the community, young people, women and children to enable them to take action against trafficking and to provide social services for victims of trafficking by enhancing the capacity of CBOs and local government offices	North Wollo
Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations and Livelihood Improvement for Vulnerable Ethiopians – <b>CCRDA-LIVE Addis</b>	“Prevention of Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking through Integrated Knowledge and Awareness Raising and Socio-Economic Service Provision for Migrant Domestic Workers and Victims of Human Trafficking in Ethiopia”	To create knowledge and promote awareness on issues of migration and to promote access to social services through a coordinated civil society action, with a specific focus on migrant domestic workers and victims of human trafficking.	Addis Ababa





## D. Guatemala

### The problem of trafficking and exploitative labour of child migrants

Guatemala is a country of origin, transit, destination, refuge and return of migrant children.

In the Americas, as elsewhere, instability and poverty are important drivers of migration. The role of violence related to non-state actors, while not unique to the region, has been a key defining trend. Gang-related violence has been particularly important in the Northern Triangle region, which includes Guatemala. During recent decades, large-scale international migration has become an escape valve in response to Guatemala’s multiple internal problems. This pattern emerged during the most violent phase of Guatemala’s 36-year civil war (1960-96), which has generated significant refugee flows since the late 1970s. More recently, in the post-war era, international migration has continued in response



to Guatemala’s severe and continuing socioeconomic problems, successive natural disasters, increasing social violence—and a weak state, lacking the vision, capacity, and resources to resolve these problems internally. Migration to the United States has also included family reunification, although in lower numbers.



CSOs working with the Rights of Migrants in Action project pointed not only to the impact of violence in driving migration, but also the environment of impunity in which it is committed. This, in turn, can be compounded by mistrust of the authorities, which further hinders addressing the problem.

Unaccompanied and separated children are experiencing illegal migration.

### The aim of the project

CSO	Project title	Objectives	Location
Refugio de la Niñez (Children’s Shelter)	“Special Attention to Unaccompanied Children and Teenage Migrants”	To facilitate and contribute to the process of restitution of the rights of unaccompanied children and adolescent migrants who are victims of violence or violation of rights, taking into account cases in which violence is the cause of migration	National

## E. Indonesia

### The problem of trafficking and exploitative labour of child migrants

According to IOM, Indonesia is a prime source, destination, and transit country for migrants. Internally, complex migration patterns are influenced by natural disasters, demand for labour in what is a rapidly developing country, and economically driven migration related to climate change and environmental degradation. About 60 per cent of migrant workers come from rural areas in Indonesia.

Indonesia is also a major source country and, to a much lesser extent, a destination and transit country for women, children, and men who are subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour. Indonesian trafficking victims are found in Brunei, Chile, Egypt, the Gulf States, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan and the United States, among others.



A significant number of Indonesian migrant workers face conditions of forced labour and debt bondage in Asia and the Middle East, particularly Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates.

In recent years there has been a steady rise in the numbers of women migrating to work abroad, especially as low-skilled labour. Domestic work has become one of the most important sources of employment for Asian women beyond the borders of their home countries. This trend has resulted in the 'feminization' of migration – a growing awareness of the substantial proportion of migrant workers who are women. Lack of employment opportunities at home, especially in declining rural areas, prompts women to seek jobs outside their home towns, often leaving a child behind.

The gendered nature of the current labour migration trend impacts on the families of migrant workers. Despite some evidence of a positive impact on increasing women migrant's private and public standing, increasing conflicts within the family, family breakdown, negative impacts on children's education and psychosocial aspects are also prevalent. UNICEF notes that adolescents left behind by their parents to work abroad are prone to social deviation, such as drug abuse, alcohol abuse and truancy. They are also more likely to become involved in crime compared to children who live with their parents.



### The aim of the project

CSO	Project title	Objectives	Location
Gerakan Masyarakat Pedesaan Lumajang – <b>GEMAPALU (Rural Community Movement)</b>	“Improving Information and Financial Access for Better Fulfilment of Migrant Workers Rights”	To improve the access of potential migrant workers to information and economic services in the Tapal Kuda area by improving the capacity of migrant family-based organizations to function as an information centre for potential migrant workers and to provide assistance to migrant families in establishing and developing their businesses.	Lumajang, Jember and Probolinggo Regency, East Java



Olav Saltbones / IFRC

## 4. Key findings

In Benin, AfDB produced a range of communication materials explaining why children need to be especially protected and what their rights are according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Within the project implemented in Ecuador, children, including adolescents, of the indigenous communities of the Otavalo and Cotacachi Cantons belonging to the Kichwa Otavalo people told their stories through tools such as theatre and puppets with the support of the Ñapash Purina cultural group. This exchange of experience on the transmission of cultural practices facilitated the collection of their views and perceptions about their rights in everyday life. It enabled the participatory construction of a methodological guide that was further consolidated through consultations with indigenous and civil society organizations and communities.

1. The foundation of any activities to protect and assist children at risk of trafficking and exploitative labour must be the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
  - While the Convention on the Rights of the Child is often quoted, it needs to become the basis of project assessments, design, monitoring and evaluation.



- To achieve this, more attention, resources, and time is needed to hear directly from girls and boys. Their experiences and opinions need to be given greater weight in the design of projects and more opportunities should be created for children to help implement solutions.
- While many categories of children can be at risk of trafficking and exploitative labour, two that stand out from the evaluations are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and indigenous children.

The drafting of a reference study in the municipality of Sèmè-Podji in Benin provided current and credible information on profiles, causes of migration and trends in the situations of child victims of economic exploitation in the locality, demonstrating the prevalence of the phenomenon and providing recommendations for better child protection management.





Marco Panzetti/British Red Cross

While in Indonesia, the UASC most vulnerable to trafficking are children left behind by parents working abroad, in Ethiopia those most at risk are children leaving rural areas to reach the nearest economic centre on their own, seeking financial sustainability for their survival.

In Ethiopia, ANPPCAN's original project plan did not include the reunification of children on the move. This activity was added during the course of implementation as partners identified child-family reunification as a critical intervention focus.

## 2. Projects involving children on the move require detailed analysis in their design.

- Detailed assessments need to include ethnographic information.
- Gender analysis needs to be ramped up, in particular services that meet the needs of girls. At present, gender analysis is missing across projects and this means that the specific needs of girls and boys are not being met and, consequently, projects are not fully effective.
- Clear, specific and measurable impact indicators must reflect assessment needs.

*In a similar project part of the global RoMiA but not evaluated in detail for this review, the Zimbabwe Community Development Association (ZCDA) carried out a baseline survey in the former mining communities of Mutorashanga, with the objective to find out the extent to which migrant communities were exposed to human trafficking and excluded from basic social services.*

*The survey was very instrumental in informing the project direction, revealing among other issues that while both men and women were prone to human trafficking, girls were the most affected. Girls were lured to towns such as Harare and Chinhoyi with promises of good jobs where they ended up being used as cheap domestic workers. Their stories are highlighted in a video documentary, also posted on YouTube: short version<sup>2</sup> (7 minutes) and long version<sup>3</sup> (14 minutes).*

*The finding enabled the adjustment of the targeted audience of the awareness campaigns to include boys and girls especially adolescents to participate to the Road Shows.*

2. A snapshot of the Trafficking Issue in Zimbabwe (7 min), ZCDA, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcQRj3BU6cw&feature=youtu.be>

3. A snapshot of the Trafficking Issue in Zimbabwe (14 min), ZCDA, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaOFIEDv61g>



Stephen Ryan /IFRC

Human rights work and notably the promotion of children's rights is restricted in Ethiopia. To ensure conformity with the law and be granted approval from the authorities, the project title was changed from "Rights of Migrants in Action" to "Migration Awareness and Action" and activities merely focused on awareness raising and the provision of services without referring to human rights.

In Ethiopia, the creation of referral mechanisms between bus drivers trained to identify vulnerable UASC and child protection structures ensures the continued identification of newly arrived children on the move at the bus station and their reception and support at the police "Drop-In Shelter".

### 3. Projects need to be localized as much as possible.

- While international tools and approaches can be helpful guides, projects need to be set in the local context and be culturally relevant.
- In addition, working with host communities is essential but often missing in the design of projects. This can mean projects do not receive support from host communities and integration of migrants can face preventable barriers.
- Need strategic alliances including meaningful participation from relevant local government agencies and NGOs.

The organization of coffee ceremonies empowered Ethiopian community members to identify and report children vulnerable to exploitation to police officers. The community now oversees school drop-outs as well as girls and boys on the move.

In the district of Debark, workers at the bus station reported 8 runaway girls who were about to leave for the capital city with a trafficker. After explaining the risks involved to their families and providing psychosocial support, they were reintegrated within their communities with the help of the police. The trafficking network is also currently facing prosecution.

In Guatemala, unaccompanied migrant children benefited from a programme that comprehensively attended to their priorities: placed within a temporary shelter following the order of a judge, they received basic essential services provided by trained and professional social workers and through partnerships with local agencies. The process focused on the restitution of their rights and special attention was given to their emotional recovery and psychosocial support.

In particular, two migrant girls, victims of trafficking, have been accompanied in the process of criminal prosecution of their perpetrators.

#### 4. Comprehensive approaches including access to basic essential services and reintegration are required to adequately protect and assist children at risk of trafficking and exploitative labour.

- Shifting away from piece-meal interventions is necessary to effectively meet the many needs of children at risk of trafficking and exploitative labour. In particular, children require access to essential basic services including healthcare, psychosocial support, education, legal advice, and restoring family links (RFL). This needs to be complemented, as a minimum, by girls and boys having access to local protection referral services.
- When girls and boys are reintegrated, providing them with a livelihood is a must. This includes training adolescents in life skills, partnering with local businesses to help mentor adolescents to learn skills in specific trades, and teach about safe work habits and their right to a safe work environment.

Children reintegrated within rural *woredas* of Ethiopia could choose to receive a sheep, a goat or seed money to cover their schooling costs by generating income on the side. An agreement was signed between the beneficiary, his or her carers, local authorities and school attendants to establish their mutual responsibilities in ensuring that the benefits would be invested in the children's well-being and education







Focusing on hot spots when developing municipal policies is key. When this is not done, vulnerable children can be missed, and priority areas not provided with the attention they require. In Guatemala, the development of municipal ordinances required finding a balance between focusing on areas where prevalence of violence impeded progress to the point of risking the life of community leaders and still engaging the dialogue.

**5. Projects need to become more flexible in adjusting to ongoing changes in the local context**

- Ongoing monitoring is needed to ensure that projects adjust to changing realities and constantly improve services to children. When this does not occur, tools that are developed can become less useful or even irrelevant.

**6. Sustainability needs to be planned from the start and can be accomplished through partnerships.**

- Each of the projects evaluated were considered partially sustainable. This is mostly because local government agencies were planning to continue aspects of the projects as part of ongoing government services to children at risk of trafficking and exploitative labour. Each project was able to accomplish this by involving government and local NGOs in their projects from the start and often building their actions around local government priorities.

Prior to the project, Guatemala had received strong criticism from neighbouring countries for its practice of judicialization of children in transit. The opening of a specific shelter providing comprehensive protection enabled the Guatemalan State to better comply with its international obligations regarding children.

**santé** **loisirs** **nom** **nationalité**  
**non-maltraitance** **soins spécifiques** **participation**  
**jeu** **éducation** **sphère privée**  
**non-discrimination** **repos**

**J'ai aussi des droits**

**Tous les enfants ont des droits. Respectons-les leur !**

**DROIT DES MIGRANTS EN ACTION**

Projet de Lutte contre la traite et l'exploitation des enfants dans le département de l'Ouémé au Bénin

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**MIGRATION & ENVIRONNEMENT**

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## 5. Key child protection achievements

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### A. Benin

1. **Practical and emotional support** has been provided to children who had experienced severe violence, trauma and isolation. Reception centres for migrant children throughout the Republic of Benin and protection programmes were run in partnership with local government authorities as well as the Central Office for the Protection of Minors.



José Manuel Jiménez/IFRC

- Identification of, support and assistance to 404 child victims of trafficking and economic exploitation
- Care for 79 children victims of trafficking and economic exploitation

#### 2. Vocational training empowered 100 girls victim of human trafficking.

After choosing their activities, the girls undertook a three-stage training process. After graduating from preliminary on-the-job training, they followed a higher proficiency training course in the government regional training centre, before being placed in different professional women-owned corporations and businesses. With the support of the project, they were then regrouped within community cooperatives to establish their own businesses and achieve self-sustainability.

The fact that the Certificate of Professional Qualification received by beneficiaries after the internship period was issued by the Covè Centre des Metiers (trades centre), which is a public structure, gives more value to this diploma.



Mathieu Willcocks / MOAS / IFRC

*Lessons learned:* The girls, who returned from Nigeria and other neighbouring countries, were identified in partnership with Social Promotion Centres, the municipalities of the nine communes involved and the Central Office for the Protection of Minors. The beneficiary targeting model was based on a document validated by the Ministry of Works and Social Affairs. Every single step and action leading to the identification of beneficiaries was fully described with clear directions for each responsible stakeholder.

- 3. Awareness sessions on children's rights and a campaign against children trafficking** sensitized migrants as well as the general population on issues such as migration and child labour. Radio programmes on children rights and human trafficking were also broadcast in local languages (Gouin and Fon), as well as in French.







Stephen Ryan/IFRC

For indigenous communities, a mindalae is an ambassador and representative of their culture, dedicated to the trading of articles that have a cultural meaning. This activity can be exercised nationally or internationally.

## B. Ecuador

1. The CSO INREDH conducted an **ethnographic study** as part of the project assessment. The aim of the study was to understand in detail the perspectives of children at risk, as well as the risks that they faced and capacities to be protected from trafficking and exploitative labour.

**Being a Mindalae is an ancestral mobility practice of the merchant indigenous communities of Otavalo and Cotacachi in the Ecuadorian Andes.**

Since the Inca period, Mindalae have travelled to other communities to exchange products or luxury goods, but also knowledge, beliefs, values and cultural practices. Often, children help and travel with their parents or stay with extended members of the community. This experience of “learning by living” is key for the transmission of the Kichwa language and their cultural identity. But young Mindalae outside their family environment do not have anyone to protect them and often fall into labour exploitation.

**Mrs. Maria Rauras, an indigenous woman from the parish of Imantag explains:**

*“The problem was that the migration of children and adolescents did not always remain within the framework of formative work, but rather fell into child labour, a situation that puts their life and integrity at serious risk.”*

**Indigenous children leaving their communities to go abroad are exposed to many risks of abuse:** accidents, violence, disappearance, deportation, kidnapping, extortion, abuses and exploitation by organized crime networks such as drug cartels or trafficking networks.

Hitherto, the application of the principles of protection of the adolescent population in Ecuador had been based on policies designed from the perspective of Western culture. Little had permeated the indigenous population where it is a moral duty of adolescents to accompany their parents and the community in productive work.

**In these communities, talking about the elimination of adolescent labour exploitation was understood as an interference in their own way of life and organization.**

With the support of INREDH, several indigenous communities acknowledged that the practice of Mindalae was sometimes used to deceive youth and place them in situations of exploitation. Thus, it became necessary to face the problem from within the communities, appealing to their own dynamics and understanding of the world, using their own systems of organization and administration of justice

**2. Traditional practices for indigenous children were supported to help girls and boys connect with their cultures, the local history, and to see alternatives to migration.**

The project activities had to be adapted to the unique cultural context of the indigenous communities of Otavalo and Cotacachi to prioritize awareness raising in relation to the rights of children and adolescents.

**The basis for dialogue was the principle of protection of the rights of children and adolescents, seen from an intercultural perspective.**

**There is now universal agreement within the indigenous peoples of Otavalo and Cotacachi:** *“The trip must be exceptional when it comes to children, girls and teenagers”*

The findings of the study became the starting point for discussions and the collection of inputs for the construction of guiding principles.

Indigenous communities do not usually resort to the ordinary justice system. Their beliefs, values and traditions lead them to seek solutions through indigenous justice which is recognized as one of the seven systems of administration of the country. In their view, while ordinary justice pursues the punishment of the criminal and his/her subsequent rehabilitation, their own mechanisms seek to compensate for the damage and restore harmony between the victim, the criminal and the entire community.

Accordingly, INREDH worked with the indigenous communities to develop a guide for the application of justice that seeks the coexistence of both systems of justice when dealing with cases of violation of child protection.

42 communities of the Cotacachi and Otavalo Cantons, including 528 direct and more than 2000 indirect beneficiaries, now benefit from the guide.

**Martha Arotingo, 34, an indigenous, community leader of the Cotacachi people, midwife and defender of the rights of women, children and adolescents explains:**

*“Knowing clearly that human trafficking is a crime and not thinking that the perpetrators are saviours of the situations of scarce economic resources in which families live in the communes is the beginning of a great change”, says Martha. Also, it is important that the councils of the communes understand that trafficking in persons is a crime and assume their responsibility to combat it as such.”*





## C. Ethiopia

1. **Human trafficking awareness campaigns** about safe and responsible migration were conducted by peer educators.

Young peer educators were trained to sensitize students of their schools about the risks inherent in migration. They organized regular activities within the school “Mini Media” workshops to increase child rights awareness and discuss human trafficking and unsafe migration.



Given the enthusiasm of their communities, peer educators decided to continue after the end of the project and initiated additional outreach for children in their villages who were not enrolled in school.

Psychosocial services were also provided by counsellors who supported potential dropout students in developing life skills, withstanding push factors and pursuing their education.

Additionally, billboards were erected in clear and strategic areas, sharing messages such as “Let us collectively stop risky migration and human trafficking” in the Amharic language. Child protection radio programmes were also broadcast on local FM radio stations and SMS on prevention.

2. **Restoring family links** was identified as a priority need and added to the project.

Family reunification was one of the most critical contributions of the ANPPCAN project. Overall, 80 (20 girls and 60 boys) migrant children were reunited with their families and guardians and able to resume their education. This was made possible through the referral linkages with police officers and government offices.

3. The **surveillance and reporting** by the authorities **of vulnerable UASC in a migration** situation were improved.

The projects have enhanced the material and technical capacities of the relevant government offices working directly on the prevention of risky migration and human trafficking, intercepting migrant children and reuniting them with their parents and/or carers.

The provision of computers and digital cameras enabled proper documentation and follow-up of cases.

The setting up of temporary shelters to protect intercepted children from potential abuse, exploitation and harassments and provide psychosocial support until they are reunited was also particularly appreciated by the local police forces.





Kenny Karpov / IFRC

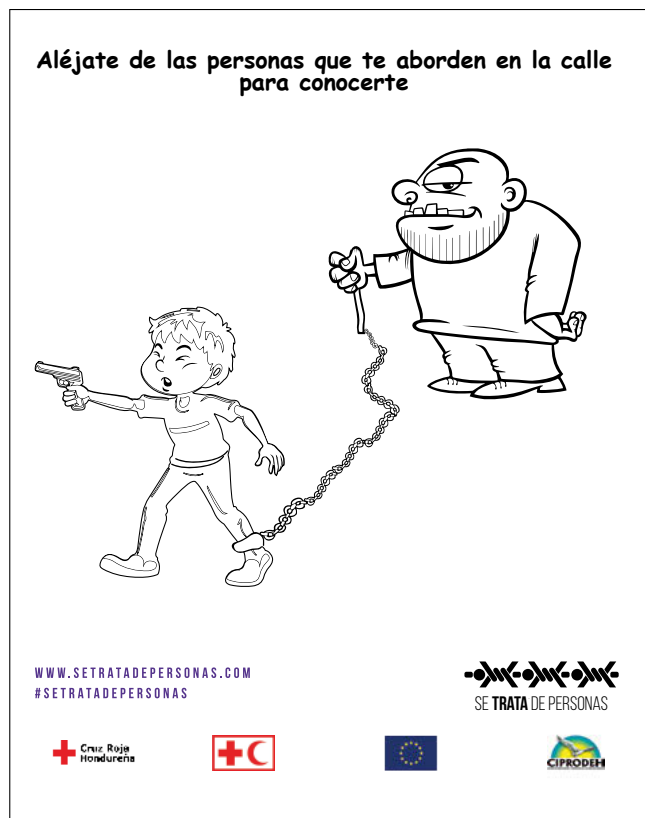
*My name is Yirbeb, I was born in 1994 in a rural village of Workaye Mariam. When I was 7, I went to the Workaye Elementary School and followed Grade 1 to 3. Then my family faced economic difficulties and could no longer provide for me and my younger brother. Forced to drop my education, I decided to migrate to Flakit, in Meket Woreda city.*

*My plan was to come to the city to earn money but I encountered many challenges and I became hopeless. I was eventually hired as a house maid in a small household where I suffered physical punishment by my employer. Fortunately, I was then contacted by a government expert who visited the area with a project manager from PADet. I told them my story and that my next step was to migrate to a bigger city. They offered me to participate in their program. They guided me for a while and offered to reunify me with my family.*

*After I consented, they helped me return to my village and talk to my parents. We agreed that I would receive some support, 4 ewes, to sustain myself and resume school. All the things I have gone through gave me the power to confront challenges. Now I will try to accomplish my education with good results to make my future better.*

## D. Guatemala

1. The “Roots of Love” shelter was established to provide comprehensive protection and temporary shelter to judicially referred Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).



The girls and boys in transit or returning to Guatemala referred by a judge found a healthy, safe and educational space to stay in the “Roots of Love” shelter while they prepared for their immediate future

Based on their contributions, as well as those of relevant institutions, the team developed a “Model of Integral Attention with Focus on the Rights of Migrant Children and Adolescents with Special Protection Needs”. Taking a human rights approach, the model defines the main interventions to be provided in response to the needs of UASC.

The model was made available for use by Guatemalan governmental institutions as well as civil society organizations. It now serves as a reference for many institutions involved in child migrant protection activities.

Immediate referral of migrant children and adolescents to the shelter further increased following the collapse of the state-run shelter “Virgen de la Asunción”, allowing the provision of emergency support to survivors.

### José Diego: Escaping violence in Central America

José Diego was born in a broken home in Santa Ana, El Salvador. From the end of his childhood, he was harassed daily by members of the “MS” and “Barrio 18” gangs. As he reached pre-adolescence, they approached him to join their ranks. For fear of losing his life or going to jail, he moved with his family to Sonsonate, about 60 km away from Santa Ana. After evading the gangs for a while, the situation turned out to be the same and he could no longer continue his studies normally. Dealing with the pressure became more and more complicated, until he received death threats from gang members. As his parents did not have the resources to keep him safe, José Diego decided to cross the border into Guatemala, with the aim of migrating to the United States in search of a better future.

As José Diego did not have identification documents and spoke with a strong Salvadoran accent, he was taken to the State-run shelter “Virgen de la Asunción” where he stayed for two months. Finally referred to “Roots of Love” shelter, he received specialized care as well as legal guidance to seek asylum.

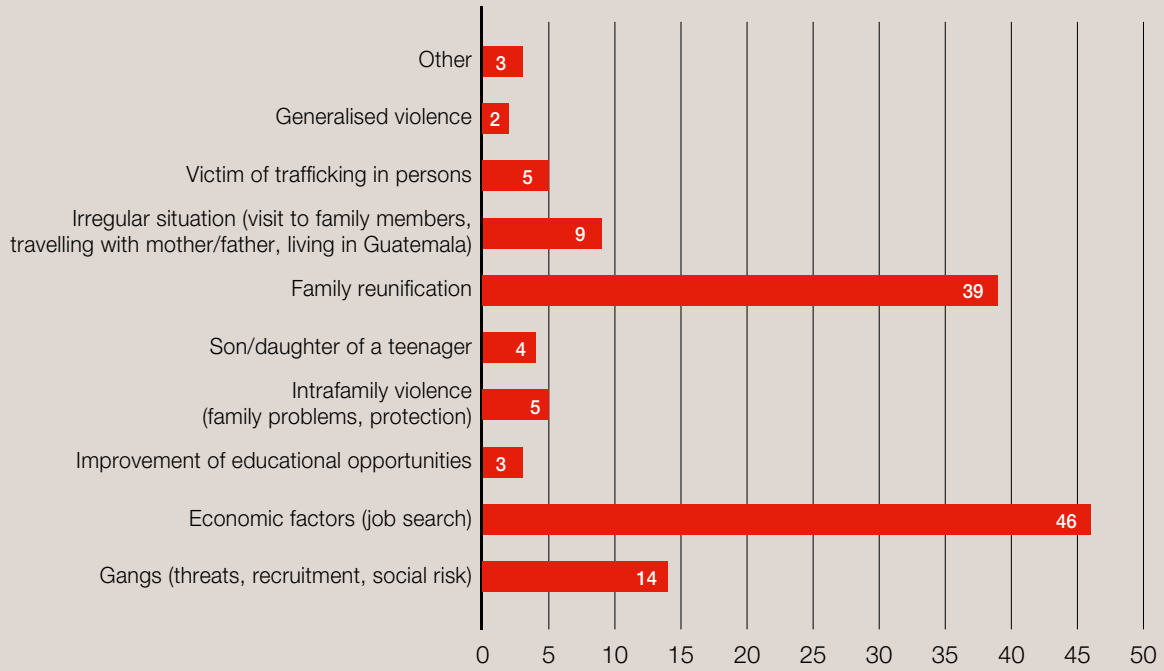
José Diego was eventually granted refugee status in Guatemala, reintegrated with the support of a family and is now employed by one of the largest companies in La Nueva Concepción, Escuintla, as a hardware store employee. He continues to receive follow-up visits from the social worker and psychological support when he requires it.

2. A qualitative study was carried out for the **identification of the risks faced by UASC** along the migratory route.

During the execution of the project, 170 children and adolescents in special need of national and international protection were attended, of which 70 were from El Salvador, 52 from Honduras, 2 from Mexico, 5 from Nicaragua, 39 from Guatemala plus 2 cases of dual nationality United States-Guatemala.

The most recurrent causes motivating the exit from their country were: family reunification, gang violence, lack of study opportunities due to gang pressures on educational centres, sexual violence and several cases of trafficking.

**Reasons for migration**



In Guatemala, a qualitative study on the reasons for migration of UASC was carried out, based on the information collected within the programme.

While the main reason often mentioned in the first interviews was family reunification, subsequent exchanges with UASC brought up additional factors such as threats or forced recruitment from gangs.

**LOS NIÑOS, NIÑAS Y ADOLESCENTES MIGRANTES TIENEN DERECHO A SER ATENDIDOS Y PROTEGIDOS ANTE CUALQUIER CIRCUNSTANCIA Y EN EL PAÍS EN EL QUE SE ENCUENTREN**

Atención Especial a Niñez y Adolescencia Migrante no Acompañada

Refugio de la niñez

**3. Municipal public policies for the prevention of violence against children** were drawn up in 13 municipalities.

Although there has traditionally been a perception that migration is mainly driven by the desire to improve living conditions or pursue family reunification, violence in its different expressions now constitutes a significant trigger in the region. Working on the prevention of violence, therefore, became an increasing priority for authorities at local level.

*A process of collective construction, validated by the different actors at municipal level*

Therefore, the Refugio de la Niñez worked together with the Ministry of the Interior, municipal authorities and other civil society actors to facilitate the drawing up of municipal public policies for the prevention of violence. Taking a rights-based approach, the aim was to help reduce the factors generating children's migration and increasing the risk of trafficking and exploitative labour.

The views of children and adolescents was taken as a priority in the process.







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## E. Indonesia

1. The **establishment of education fund savings** has significantly increased awareness among members who now pay serious attention to the education of their children.

709 members have opened an education fund account, with deposits of IDR 1,071,883,838 (€ 63,988).

2. The **implementation of a mobile library service** has become part of the routine activities of the community.

At least 1,684 books have been borrowed by 1,505 people. The books cover many topics. Most of the borrowers are children of migrant worker families. In parallel, children's reading groups have been set up to improve school performance and reinforce access to information about social issues, religion, and handicraft skills.

The books most in demand relate to recipes, agriculture and livestock. They have provided inspiration to many members. After reading various books on hand crafts, a migrant family from the village of Pasrujambe Lumajang created artificial flowers for sale while other families started growing worms for feeding catfish, thus generating higher incomes. Moreover, children of migrant workers who were experiencing psychological distress due to lack of attention or affection tend to be less taciturn and regain confidence.



Daniel Cima / American Red Cross

**Lessons learned:** *Establishing community-based libraries is developing the community's reading culture. For the initiative to be successful, the books must relate to the daily needs of the readers.*

Viky, a twelve-year-old boy living in the Senduro Pandansari Village in the Subdistrict of Lumajang, was five when his mother left to work in Malaysia. Being taken care of by his 65-year-old grandmother, a farmworker with low income needing his help, Viky had to drop out from school after the 4th grade. The establishment of the library service enabled him to resume learning reading. Viky is now more active than other children in borrowing books and communicating with enthusiasm through story books. He would like to go back to school and be back with his mother.

Recently, Viky's mother returned from Hong Kong. She is not planning to work abroad any more and Viky is attending elementary school again.



Olav A. Saltbones/IFRC

3. A **safe migration campaign** was conducted with children of fifteen schools severely affected by migration. The campaign tools included pocket books and posters on safe migration procedures.
4. Another **campaign on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Safe Labour Migration** was implemented, putting a particular focus on children who have graduated from school and require information about opportunities to create businesses in their village rather than choosing to work overseas as migrant workers.
5. Children's groups were established, e.g. in the Sumber Mujur villa, to support **Village Tourism Programmes**. The children learn traditional dance skills and also contribute to weekly community library activities.









# The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

**Humanity** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

**Impartiality** It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

**Neutrality** In order to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

**Independence** The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

**Voluntary service** It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

**Unity** There can be only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

**Universality** The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

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