

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND MIGRATION

POSITION PAPER TERRE DES HOMMES NETHERLANDS



Terre des Hommes / Ronald de Hommel

PROBLEM

Complex and large-scale population movements are strongly influencing the vulnerabilities of children worldwide. The number of children 'on the move' is growing dramatically, with an estimate of 36,6 million international migrants worldwide under the age of 20.¹ Children become particularly vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation when leaving their protective network, and lack access to child-friendly services and support, both during their journey and at their new destination. Authorities see these children as outsiders not entitled to the same rights as local children, which results in abuse, detention and harsh working conditions.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH NL) aims to end child trafficking and unsafe migration by 2030. From 2016-2018 we will work in fourteen countries in Asia and Africa (**India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia**) to end child trafficking and unsafe migration.

terre des hommes
stops child exploitation



POSITION OF TERRE DES HOMMES NETHERLANDS

TdH NL believes that all children ‘on the move’ - either trafficked, abandoned, or forced to flee - must be given the protection they are entitled to. We use an inclusive approach, focussing on supporting all Children on the Move and fighting all forms of cross-border or domestic child trafficking, e.g. for the purpose of forced labour, sexual exploitation, child marriage and other forms of exploitation. TdH NL separates ‘Children on the Move’ as a general category from ‘child trafficking’ as a specific category of children on the move, using the following definitions:

- *Children on the Move* are ‘those children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntary or involuntary, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement, while it may open up opportunities, might place them at risk (or at an increased risk) of inadequate care, economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect or violence.’²
- *Child trafficking* is ‘the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. It is a violation of their rights, and well-being, and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential’.³

Migrant and trafficked children have the right to protection under the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** which is strengthened by the specific considerations formulated under General Comment 6. From 2016, we will work together with many other stakeholders towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 16.2 states the eradication of abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children by 2030. Our work to end child trafficking and unsafe migration directly contributes to the achievement of goal 16.2.

ADDRESSING UNSAFE MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING

Our Theory of Change is the roadmap to the sustainable changes we aim to achieve and guides us in the interventions that are needed to eradicate the exploitation of children.

Terre des Hommes’ Theory of Change uses four strategies (Prevention, Provision, Promotion and Prosecution) to combat child exploitation. The protection of Children on the Move and in particular trafficked children requires an international, multi-layered response. Through its Trafficking and Migration programme, TdH NL aims to ensure that the rights of Children on the Move are taken into account, to prevent children from falling victim to trafficking, and to provide adequate support to victims. We seek justice against perpetrators and call upon the responsibility of authorities to strengthen legal frameworks to ensure the protection of Children on the Move. Working with local partners and applying a participatory approach is a precondition to do this.

Core components of TdH NL’s work on Trafficking and Migration are:

- ensuring that children and families make well-informed decisions about migration, and that communities are aware of the benefits and risks of migration;
- direct support for Children on the Move in source countries, in transit and in receiving countries;
- identification of, and direct support to victims of child trafficking;
- advocacy for improved laws, systems, procedures and services for Children on the Move.

CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR WORK

FOCUS ON ALL CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

TdH NL focusses on all Children on the Move rather than just trafficked children, as children easily move from one of these groups into the other. A focus on all Children on the Move also ensures that vulnerable children can be identified at an early stage and trafficking can be prevented.

CHILD-CENTRED APPROACH

TdH NL regards Children on the Move as active agents in their journey, and aims to ensure meaningful participation of children concerning the determination of their best interests. Additionally, TdH NL works closely with partners to offer integrated services along migrant routes for Children on the Move, as well as comprehensive support to trafficking victims.

WHO WE WORK WITH

Six actors form the pathways to change that are addressed in our Trafficking and Migration programme:

The Private Sector implements policies in line with UN global standards, contributes to protective networks, and enters into dialogue with governments and civil society on child migration and trafficking.



Civil society holds government, private sector and other CSOs accountable, advocates for child rights and activates their constituency.

WHO WE WORK WITH



Governments develop and implement legal frameworks to protect children, allocate resources, provide access to services for victims, and ensure cross border cooperation in combatting trafficking.

Children

have agency to make decisions about migration, understand strategies to protect themselves, and have access to protective and support services.



Families and Communities

are well-informed about migration, form a protective network, and develop sustainable income generating activities to provide for their own basic needs.



Law Enforcement Agencies

actively investigate trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, apply child-friendly protocols, and facilitate reporting of trafficking and unsafe migration cases.



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERS

TdH NL has built up an extensive, international network of local partners that can work closely together to support Children on the Move. By creating protective networks and offering child-friendly services on internationally popular migration routes, children become less vulnerable and trafficking can be prevented.

ADDRESSING PERPETRATORS AND SEEKING JUSTICE

TdH NL focusses on both the demand and supply side of trafficking to ensure sustainable solutions and an end to child trafficking. To do this, we build the capacity of criminal justice officials, police and anti-human trafficking committees to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases or syndicates. In some countries, we contribute to the setting up of national databases to monitor

child trafficking. To ensure that victims are treated with dignity and respect, we also train law enforcement agencies in child-friendly approaches and interviewing techniques.

RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

TdH NL seeks to influence policy makers at local, national and international levels to adopt, maintain and enforce legislation to protect Children on the Move and prevent child trafficking. To support this, we conduct new, innovative studies to build a stronger understanding of child migration and trafficking.

GOALS

TdH NL aims to end child trafficking and unsafe migration by 2030. From 2016-2018 we will work in fourteen countries in Asia and Africa (**India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia**) to end child trafficking and unsafe migration together with our partners.

By the end of 2018 Terre des Hommes Netherlands aims for:

- 144,092 children and 502,100 adults to participate in awareness raising activities to learn about the risks of migration and trafficking;
- 23,600 survivors of child trafficking and unsafe migration to receive immediate support and be referred to services such as shelter and health care;
- 43,005 children vulnerable to trafficking and unsafe migration, and survivors of trafficking, to have received educational services;
- 6,182 families with children vulnerable to trafficking and unsafe migration, and survivors of trafficking, to participate in income-generating activities to meet their own basic needs;
- 7,280 trafficking survivors to receive legal advice while seeking justice;
- 4,265 government officials, judiciary and police staff to be trained in child protection, child-friendly interview techniques and releasing press statements after convictions;
- 777 CSOs and NGOs to be involved in networks promoting children's rights with policy and the judiciary;
- 211 companies with whom we have interaction on children's rights.

REFERENCES

More detailed information about Child Trafficking and Migration and Terre des Hommes' approaches can be found in the Child Trafficking and Migration Policy Paper.



¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2016). International Migration Report 2015: Highlights (ST/ESA/SER.A/375).

² Children on the Move (IOM): An agreed definition by an inter-agency working group of NGO and International Organisations.

³ Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.

COLOPHON

Terre des Hommes Netherlands prevents child exploitation, removes children from exploitative situations and ensures these children can develop themselves in a safe environment.

Terre des Hommes

Zoutmanstraat 42-44

2518 GS Den Haag

Tel. 070 - 3105000

www.terredeshommes.nl

www.facebook.com/terredeshommes.nl

<https://twitter.com/terredeshommes>