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. 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.
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.’

- **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.’

Migrant and trafficked children have the right to protection under the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)](https://www.unicef.org/) 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.

**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.
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.

COLOPHON

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

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