

What local governments can do for #ChildrenUprooted

Protect children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation

Invest in and train social workers, police, lawyers and teachers in child rights and protection, to equip them to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, including trafficking.

Siliguri tackles child labour and trafficking through empowering community stakeholders in six target slum areas through supporting and providing training to child protection actors, school teachers, social workers and local leaders as well as local police and border patrol officers.

Create **one-stop shops** where children and families can receive information, counseling and assistance at the same time.

Reception centres in **Norwegian municipalities** provide supervision, counselling and support for children, as well as access to education, language or training courses, and health care.

End the immigration detention of children

Create and advocate for alternatives to detention for all migrant and displaced children in the city, including those traveling with their families.

The Mexican municipality of **Villahermosa** has created an 'open-door' longer-term shelter for migrant children and asylum seekers as an alternative to detention. Children receive psychosocial support, have access to education, health services, legal information and assistance.

Appoint, train and monitor qualified guardians for unaccompanied and separated children to prevent child detention.

In **Sweden**, guardians are appointed at the local government level to support the child with their asylum application, access to health care, financial support, education, representation and general support.

Give children legal status

Facilitate children's access to **official registration as city residents**, regardless of their status – including through municipal ID cards.

New York provides municipal IDs regardless of status. IDNYC is a free government-issued photo ID card that secures access to services and cultural institutions to every city resident, including disadvantaged communities, including youth and undocumented migrants. Personal information collected from IDNYC applicants is not shared with immigration authorities.

Keep families together

Accompany and support migrant and displaced children through the family reunification process.

Gather evidence about integration of families arriving to the city, and **advocate with national authorities** for more opportunities for families to seek refuge or migrate together.

Barcelona supports families applying for family reunification through the New Families in Barcelona program, which provides orientation and support to families before, during and after the process of family reunification. In the absence of a national-level program, the city uses its local budget to offer refugee and migrant families comprehensive and personalized guidance on the legal, practical and psychological aspects of the family reunification process

Keep every migrant and displaced child learning and give them access to health and other quality services

Establish firewalls between local service providers and immigration authorities, so undocumented families are not discouraged from using services for fear of being detected. **Remove identification requirements** that restrict access to services.

Florence, Turin and Genoa have established firewalls for undocumented children to attend nursery school, removing any obligation to check the residence permits of parents.

Partner with universities and the private sector to offer scholarships, grants, language classes and professional training opportunities for migrant and displaced students.

New York City University provides scholarships to children of immigrants in the United States who are undocumented and who have applied for or received DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) or Temporary Protected Status, or meet the past eligibility criteria for DACA.

Address the underlying causes that uproot children from their homes

In departure cities: **invest in mobile outreach programmes to identify and support children at risk**, including children left behind, to help prevent unsafe migration.

The municipalities of **San Pedro Sula, Catacamas and Choloma** are supporting the emotional recovery of returned migrant children and other children at risk, through providing care, psychosocial support and referral to a psychologist when required.

In arrival cities: **create partnerships with other cities along migration routes** to strengthen transnational protection responses, information sharing and learning from good practices.

The Hague and Almere support Lebanese and Jordanian municipalities hosting refugees - they focus on municipal services (waste, water, sewage), local economic development, strategic planning, and cooperation across cities.

Promote measures to combat xenophobia and marginalization

End legal and policy discrimination on the basis of migration, asylum, nationality or residence status, as well as all practices that criminalize undocumented stay in the city.

Los Angeles has introduced an Executive Directive that requires equal access to city facilities, programmes and services for all residents without regard to citizenship or immigration status.

Partner with local businesses to support access to the labor market and entrepreneurship for young migrant and displaced people

Saint-Denis has taken action to close the opportunity gap between talented immigrant youth and corporate employers through providing recruitment services and diversity training, in partnership with a recruitment agency and HR consulting non-profit.