

Building Bridges for Every Child: Reception, Care and Services to Support Unaccompanied Children in the United States

Building Bridges for Every Child: Reception, Care and Services to Support Unaccompanied Children in the United States

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	5
Beyond Labels	6
Section I. Executive Summary	6
Recommendations to strengthen child-sensitive reception, care and services for unaccompanied children in the United States	8
Section II. An increasingly dangerous journey for unaccompanied children	13
Upholding children’s rights to protection, to seek asylum, and to remain and reunite with family members, while taking public health precautions	15
Section III. An unaccompanied child’s journey through the U.S. reception and care system	16
Part 1. First encounters with immigration authorities	16
Strengthening child-sensitive border and reception processes	17
Ending child immigration detention	18
Part 2. Placement in Office of Refugee Resettlement Custody	19
Prioritizing family- and community-based care	21
Ensuring inclusion, non-discrimination and equity in care	22
Building care around the needs of children	24
Ensuring children’s best interests	25
Engaging young people as contributors, actors and experts	26
Section IV. Transitioning to families and communities	29
Scaling up post-release services and case management	30
Ensuring access to legal services	30
Leveraging schools as a link to community integration	32
Facilitating access to comprehensive support	33
Section V. The journey into adulthood: Aging out of care	35
Supporting independent living for those who “age out” of care	35
Section VI. Return journey: Child-sensitive return and reintegration	36
Ensuring child-sensitive return and reintegration support	37
Annex: Thirty years of global policy and guidance related to the care and protection of unaccompanied children	38

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report would not have been possible without the generous contributions of many individuals and organizations in the United States and around the world. Among the many contributors – some of whom are mentioned in this report – special thanks to the following organizations that contributed substantive review, feedback, knowledge and ideas, or helped ensure that youth voices were part of this work.

Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities Community Services (Archdiocese of New York), Children’s Defense Fund-New York, Cincinnati Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools, Kids in Need of Defense, Las Americas Newcomer School, Legal Services for Children, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Migration Policy Institute, Oakland International High School, ProBAR (South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, a project of the American Bar Association), Rising Ground, S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, Inc., The Door, The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Women’s Refugee Commission, Young Center for Immigrant Children’s Rights.

Project and Editorial Team

Authors: Gillian Huebner and Rhonda Fleischer

Contributing editors: Verena Knaus and Lauren Farwell

Copy-editing: Natalie Leston

Fact-checking: Yasmine Hage and Baishalee Nayak

Graphic designer: Pierluigi Rauco

Cover: © UNICEF/Bindra - A boy reacts to a letter of support he received from another Mexican teenager at a shelter for unaccompanied migrant adolescents in Tijuana, Mexico (2019).

© United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) February 2021

UNICEF Programme Division

3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

BEYOND LABELS

Refugee, migrant and asylum-seeker are terms used throughout this report. Most have specific legal meanings enshrined in international and U.S. laws that correlate to a status in a country. No matter which term is used, a child is a child.

Migrant: A person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a home country regardless of whether the move is voluntary or involuntary and regardless of the length of stay.

Refugee: A person who lives outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence and is unable to return because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

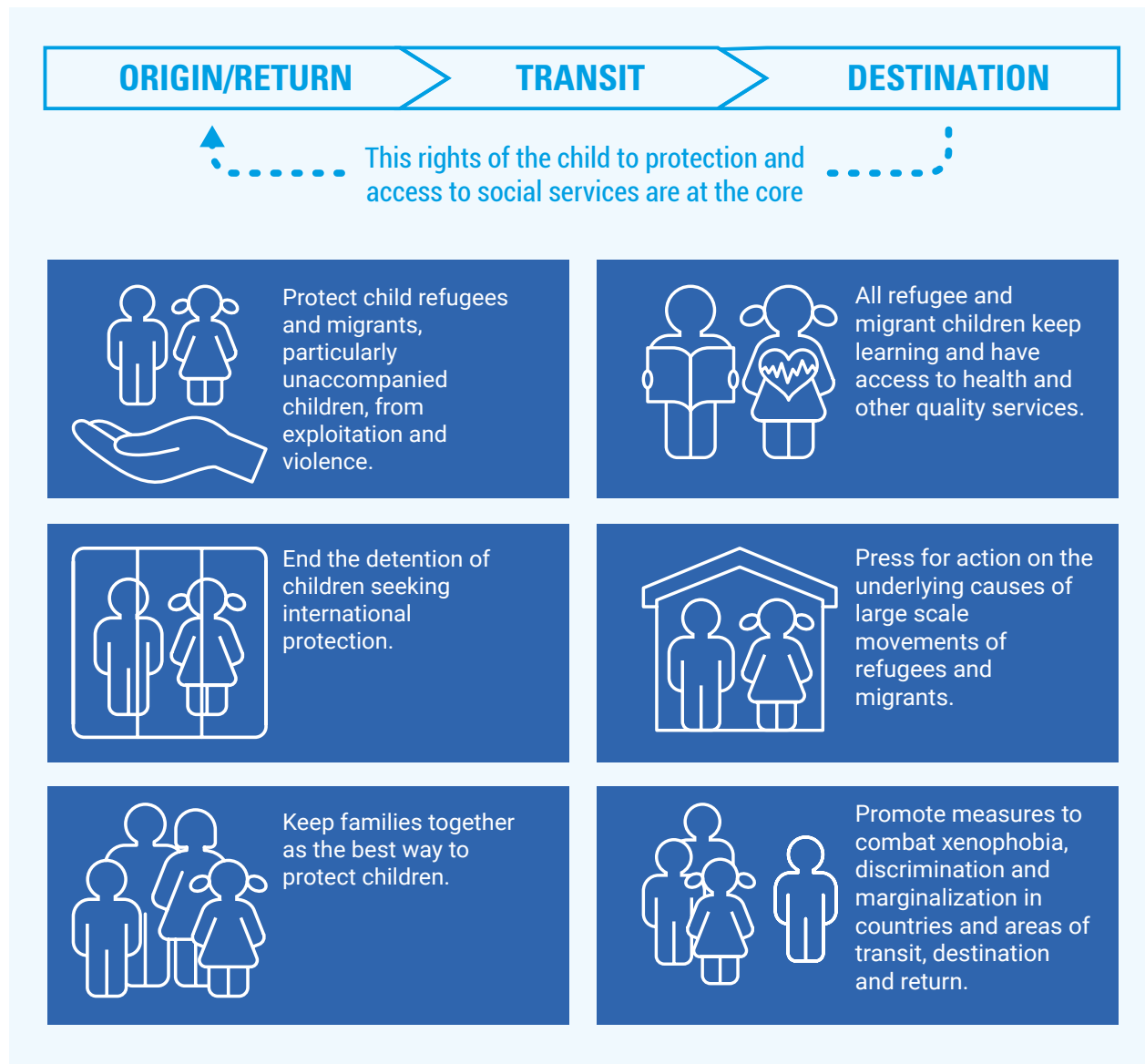
Asylum-seeker: A person who seeks international protection in a country to which she or he has fled because of persecution.

Unaccompanied child: A child separated from both parents and other relatives who is not being cared for by any other adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Sources: UNICEF, *Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children*, UNICEF, New York, September 2016; Inter-agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, *Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, March 2017, p. 15; United Nations Children's Fund, *Education Uprooted*, UNICEF, New York, September 2017, p. 5.

UNICEF'S WORK ALONG THE NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA – MEXICO – UNITED STATES MIGRATORY ROUTE

In northern Central America, Mexico and the United States, UNICEF takes a comprehensive approach to protecting children in countries of origin and across the migratory route. Our work is guided by UNICEF's Agenda for Action,¹ the same priorities that guide our work for uprooted children across the globe.





预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_5962

