

CONCEPT NOTE
STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR
CHILDREN ON THE MOVE IN DJIBOUTI
Submitted by UNICEF Djibouti to the Italian Agency for
Development Cooperation (Addis Abeba)

February 2018



Project title	Strengthening child protection systems for children on the move in Djibouti
Contry	Djibouti
Total budget	EUR700,000
Project duration	July 2018 – June 2020
Country programme outcome	By 2022, the most vulnerable children and adolescents in disadvantaged regions and/or in an emergency situation benefit from strengthened and comprehensive child protection and social protection systems, and families and communities protect children from violence.
Project objective	To strengthen of the capacity of Djibouti’s child protection system to respond to the needs of migrant and other vulnerable children, including those who are victims of trafficking.
Expected results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The legal and policy environment in Djibouti is strengthened to enable children on the move and other vulnerable children to access quality child protection and other basic social services. 2. The social workforce in Djibouti has strengthened capacity to identify, refer, track cases of migrant and other vulnerable children and provide them with quality child protection services.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministry of Women and Families ○ Ministry of Justice ○ Ministry of Interior ○ NGOs
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Children on the move/migrant girls and boys, including those who are victims of trafficking
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1 Context

Djibouti shares its borders with countries that generate migrants and refugees, particularly Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. Djibouti is a destination and a transit country for tens of thousands of migrants wishing to visit the Gulf of Arabia and Europe. In addition to this, there is a continuous influx of rural populations who are facing chronic drought and increasingly difficult conditions to the capital Djibouti City. Therefore, Djibouti currently represents a context of mixed migration which exposes children on the move to a number of risks and vulnerabilities.

Given that migrants are faced with limited legal and safe options to migrate, they frequently have to rely on smuggling networks and their exact numbers are unknown. However, according to IOM, over 20 to 25 % of migrants are unaccompanied or separated children. 90% of the children interviewed as part of family tracing and reunification processes are boys. While the visible majority of migrant children are boys, the girls who migrate to Djibouti are exposed to an even wider range of risks, including sexual exploitation and forced recruitment into prostitution.

In addition to migrants, Djibouti also hosts significant numbers of refugees in three refugee villages (Ali Addeh, Holl Holl, Markazi). The latest UNHCR data of 2017 show a total of 27,296 (51 % male and 49 % female) refugees and asylum seekers, of whom 48% are children aged 0 to 17 years coming from Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen.

According to reports from implementing partners, many migrant children come to the capital in search of opportunities and are concentrated in the two municipalities of Djibouti. Many migrants have no identification documents, and without a birth certificate, they are denied the right to an official identity, a recognized name, and access to basic social services such as education and food. Since migrant populations put additional pressure on basic social service delivery systems which are already overstretched, tensions can arise between host and migrant communities.

Implementing agencies on the ground also report that many migrant children or displaced children are forced by their parents or guardians to beg on the streets and are thus particularly vulnerable to violence as well as economic and sexual exploitation. Moreover, migrant children, especially street children, are frequently victims of police roundups and are arrested/deported to border areas by police to encourage them to return home. Unaccompanied migrant children are more likely to end up in detention for minor infractions than other children as they do not have legal guardians to negotiate informal settlements and as there is currently no formal system for alternative measures to detention.

In terms of Djibouti's overall child protection system, progress has been made in creating

an enabling environment for child protection through the adoption in 2015 of a Child Protection Code, which is aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. However, the Child Protection Code does not take into account the specific situation and challenges that migrant children face. Only a limited number of non-governmental organisations (e.g. Caritas and the Diocese of Djibouti) provide direct services, including psychosocial support, basic health services and second-chance education services to children on the move. Nevertheless, the delivery of child protection services is constrained by limited law enforcement, inadequately skilled human resources and weak case management/referral systems. The lack of a national child protection strategy also hinders progress and the child justice system is still in its infancy.

2 UNICEF past results in child protection for children on the move

UNICEF's interventions in Child Protection are based on a systems strengthening approach and aim to strengthen Djibouti's child and social protection systems for them to be able to protect the rights of all children, including those of unaccompanied or separated migrant minors transiting through or residing in Djibouti and finding themselves in precarious situations. The programme aims to ensure that institutions have the capacity to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse and that children have equitable access to services that are able to respond when such child rights violations do occur. This includes upstream work around policies and legislation (including for child-friendly justice), modelling service delivery as well as engaging with communities to change family care practices and social norms.

Specifically for children on the move, UNICEF Djibouti in partnership with IOM conducted a training for 34 child protection actors on best interest determination mechanisms and tools to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of migrants. As resulted in the 13 children (12 boys and 1 girl) in 2016 and 29 boys in 2017 benefited from voluntary repatriation in Ethiopia for family reunification. In line with the Core Commitment for Children in Humanitarian Action, UNICEF partnered with the Lutheran World Federation to establish a child protection committees in the refugee camps (Ali-Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi), including the establishment of a safe space for girls in the Markazi camp. As a result, 139 unaccompanied or separated refugee children (23 girls and 116 boys) were placed with foster families within their communities. Furthermore, 46 teachers and 85 community leaders and youth were trained on Child protection risk and response in the camp. Finally, a total of 1,238 refugee children in the three camps benefited from psychosocial support activities. Moreover, 8,969 (1,256 men, 1,505 women, 3,163 boys and 3,045 girls) participating in awareness sessions on child protection issues in the refugee camp.

UNICEF also has a continuous partnership with Caritas which aims to provide a safe space to

children living on the streets (many of whom are migrants) where they receive basic assistance (food, clothing, hygiene) and social workers listen attentively to their needs and problems. In 2017, as a result of UNICEF-Caritas partnership, 100 per cent of the targeted 260 migrant street children (234 boys and 26 girls) benefited from a package of social services, including food, hygiene, and literacy, healthcare and para-counselling. Following an analysis of their social profiles, thirty-five children (15 girls, 20 boys) were reunited with their families in Djibouti-City in addition of those voluntary repatriate in Ethiopia.

In the past, UNICEF also supported Caritas to provide vocational training in collaboration with a partner organisation called Al Rahma. Ten migrant boys completed the training and received professional kits to enable them to start their activities. Some of them were immediately hired by local companies.

3 Project objective

The project objective is to strengthen of the capacity of Djibouti's child protection system to respond to the needs of migrant and other vulnerable children, including those who are victims of trafficking.

Implementation strategies will focus on advocacy for an enabling policy and legislative environment; the development of a workforce to deliver both social protection and child protection services; modelling of service delivery for children on the move.

The proposed actions are aligned with the government's priorities for improving human capital as outlined in SCAPE 2015-2019, but also will contribute to the result of the child protection program for UNICEF's Country programme (2018-22) which aims to improve the ability of Djibouti's child protection system to prevent and respond to violence against girls and boys, including in emergencies.

4 Planned interventions and results

The prevention of and response to cases of child exploitation and abuse, including for children in the move, through the establishment of a social service workforce will be used as the entry point for child protection systems strengthening. Case management and referral systems will be established and frontline workers in different sectors, including the social protection and education sectors. UNICEF will provide technical assistance for the development of national strategy of child protection, by-laws for the Child Protection Code, update of legislation on birth registration and operationalization of laws and policies to protect children from violence and exploitation. Furthermore, UNICEF will focus on the establishment of a coordination mechanism bringing together central government ministries to enhance intersectoral linkages with social, education, justice sectors and

humanitarian interventions. In the context of South-South cooperation, UNICEF will play an active role in developing partnerships with neighboring countries to strengthen cross-border collaboration for the protection of unaccompanied children on the move and exchange of best practices.

Result 1: The legal and policy environment in Djibouti is strengthened to enable children on the move and other vulnerable children to access quality child protection and other basic social services.

- Advocacy and technical support for development of implementing decrees for the Child Protection Code, in particular in child-friendly justice (development of judicial assistance system; alternative measures to detention) in line with international standards;
- Advocacy for Government to provide legal identity and / or provide other identity documents so that migrant children can access services, in particular health and education services;
- Establish a multi-sectoral mechanism with Government, civil society and relevant development partners to ensure coordination of interventions affecting migrant children;
- Development of standard operating procedures for the identification and guidance system for vulnerable children, in particular unaccompanied and separated migrant children.

Result 2: The social workforce in Djibouti has strengthened capacity to identify, refer, track cases of migrant and other vulnerable children and provide them with quality child protection services.

- Strengthen national child protection systems through development of case management and referral systems that also take into account the needs of vulnerable girls, including (digital) information management systems;
- Strengthen cross-border collaboration for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children and exchange of best practices;
- Support establishment of a government social workforce to deliver child/social protection services, including through capacity-building for social workers to prevent, identify and respond to cases of violence, abuse and exploitation (including among migrant children) with psychosocial care and appropriate referral;
- Strengthen capacity of key actors in the justice system (judges, prosecutors, police) to deal with children in contact with the law;
- Support service delivery for unaccompanied migrant and street children (including education, vocational training healthcare, psychosocial support, social and judicial protection/assistance), taking into account the needs of vulnerable girls.

5 Implementing partners

This project will be implemented by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Families, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the State Secretariat for Social Affairs, Vocational Training institutions, as well as NGOs such as Caritas, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Association pour la promotion et la protection des enfants mineurs (APPDEM). Provided there is an interest, UNICEF Ethiopia will be a key partner on interventions seeking to strengthen cross-border collaboration on improving child protection services for children on the move.

6 Budget

The total budget is estimated at EUR700,000.

Description of activity	Budget (in Euros)
Interventions to strengthening the child protection system and services for children on the move and other vulnerable children	490,000
Technical support	70,000
Communication, monitoring and evaluation	28,000
Operations support to programme delivery	56,000
Recovery cost (8%)	56,000
Total	700,000

7 Monitoring and reporting

In accordance with UNICEF procedures, programmatic and financial monitoring will be subject to the requirements of the Harmonized Cash Transfer Approach (HACT) that are included in the agreements with partners.

UNICEF teams will conduct regular program visits to project areas to assess progress towards programme results together with implementing partners and to make recommendations to guide partner interventions to overcome any bottlenecks. Financial spot checks will also be conducted after the same partners to ensure the sound financial management of funds allocated for the implementation of the project with the collaboration of the teams of operations within UNICEF.

UNICEF Djibouti will submit a narrative and financial progress reports to the donor after one year of implementation as well as a final report upon completion of the project (after 2 years).

Furthermore, UNICEF will send an official note to the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation upon receipt of the first disbursement, indicating that this date will be considered as the start date for the 2-year project.

Feature story: [Providing safe spaces to migrant children](#)



Ali*, 13 years old, attends the dedicated centre for street and vulnerable children set up by UNICEF's partner Caritas in Djibouti. Three years ago, Ali and his friends decided to leave their hometown in Ethiopia determined to search for a new perspective and better life. But his dreams quickly faded away. [READ MORE](#)