



Destination Unknown campaign and the Initiative on Child rights in the global compacts

WEBINAR SUMMARY

20 April 2017

I. Experts:

Vincent Tournecuillert is a manager of European migration programme at Terre des hommes Foundation. Over the years, Mr. Tournecuiller worked as Global Campaign Coordinator for the International Secretariat of the International Federation of Terre Des Hommes and Regional Child Protection Advisor for the Middle East and North Africa. In 2006, Mr. Tournecuiller created the Regional Office of Tdh for Central and South-Eastern Europe and worked for the past twelve years on transnational child protection issues within Europe and with neighbouring countries.

Amy Hong is a policy and research officer at Tdh, working closely with the Secretary General to ensure the fulfilment of Terre des Hommes' commitments to the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts. Ms. Hong is contributing to the working document "Child Rights in the Global Compacts," the organization of the Global Conference on Children on the Move, and a global advocacy strategy on the importance of a common, harmonized approach to children on the move and other children affected by migration.

II. Content:

Destination Unknown Campaign

First phase of the Destination Unknown (DU) campaign lasted for eight years, from 2002 to 2010, with a focus on child trafficking. In the second phase which is ongoing, a decision was made to shift the paradigm from child trafficking to factors of mobility, children on the move and migration in general. The focus of Destination Unknown campaign also evolved and now includes not only protection of the children on the move, but also promotion of their rights. Currently, this campaign exists in 10 regions all over the world but the most significant is the area between Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe, due to the ongoing migrant crisis in this region.

One of the key campaign outputs are the 9 recommended principles for children on the move and other children affected by migration. Even though the rights of the children on the move are guaranteed by the Child Rights Convention (CRC), they have been poorly implemented. Recommended principles were developed to ensure sound implementation of the CRC in practice.

The nine principles are:

1. Children on the move and other children affected by migration should be considered first as children and their best interest should always be of main concern.
2. All children have a right to life, survival and development.
3. Children have liberty of movement within their country and across borders.
4. Detention of children because of theirs or their parents' status violates child rights and conflicts the child's best interest principle.
5. Children should not be separated from their parents or caregivers during all phases of migration, unless this is in their best interest.



6. No child is illegal and all children should be protected against discrimination.
7. Child protection systems should protect all children, including children on the move and those affected by migration.
8. Migration management measures should not affect children's rights.
9. Children have a right to express their views in all matters affecting them and their views should be taken into consideration.

Today's activities of Destination Unknown campaign are organized across three axes:

- Support of service delivery and providing support to the partners directly implementing service delivery
- Knowledge management and sharing lessons learned
- Advocacy

Second phase of DU will end in the summer 2017, and the design of the third phase is in progress. In the third phase, service delivery will be kept only on the level of the members, not on the level of the Campaign. This will clear the confusion between the Destination Unknown campaign which is based on advocacy, and service delivery – implementing projects on the fields. There is no advocacy without projects, but projects are not managed on the Campaign level. About half a million of children have been using services of this campaign (excluding emergency operations) across 60- 65 countries, depending on the year and crises.

When talking about the future of the DU campaign, the results of the 9 months long institutional learning exercise have just been collected, and the conclusions will be published in the form of a full classical report, as well as 9 different sheets, in line with the 9 principles, to compare what was promised to be done and what has actually been achieved. The same results will also be presented in the format of an interactive, track-changes map.

The Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts

Ms Amy Hong presented the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts, a civil society-led enterprise supported by UN agencies, human rights institutions, the private sector and donors. The initiative is co-convened by Terre des Hommes and Save the Children. It started in October 2016 and it was founded following the high level Summit for Refugees and Migrants in New York in September 2016, when the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted. This declaration calls for two more agreements in 2018 – Global Compact on Refugees and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The essential objective of the Initiative is to ensure that the rights of children on the move are respected and fulfilled. The aim was to promote a common approach to protecting children on the move which will include child-focused goals, targets and indicators which will be directly integrated into both Global Compact. The immediate goal is to influence the content of the Global compact which will be signed next year. On the other side, the ultimate goal is to influence how governments around the world protect and support children on the move.



The initiative has three main components:

1. **Working document “Child Rights in the Global Compacts”**, that will be authored by two consultants, Jacqueline Baba and Michael Dottridge. They will be guided by the Drafting group which includes experts from all 12 organisations that take part in this initiative. This working document aims to layout goals, targets and indicators through which six key commitments to child rights outlined in the New York Declaration can be operationalized across both Global Compacts.
2. **Global Conference on Children on the Move** that will be held in Berlin in June 2017. The final draft of the Working document will be presented and discussed on the conference. The Working document will be finalized shortly after the conference, in line with the obtained feedback and inputs.
3. **A follow-up advocacy strategy** – the final version of the Working document will be used as an advocacy tool to encourage governments around the world to adopt a common approach to protecting children on the move and promote a common approach to protecting the rights of children on the move at the national and global levels.

Working document is going to focus on six key areas of children rights that are outlined in New York declaration:

- Non-discrimination and integration
- Best interests of the child
- Access to services
- Ending child immigration detention
- Durable solutions
- Child protection

All of these areas will be looked up for existing STG framework, relevant indicators, goals or targets. Second step is to draw on other experiences and positive operations to find new indicators, goals and targets that could be integrated in Global Compacts. An important component of this significant advocacy effort includes reaching to national governments to ensure their support to the initiative and to the common approach to protecting the rights of children on the move.