



Migration
Multi-Partner
Trust Fund

CHILD SENSITIVITY MARKER GUIDANCE NOTE

This guidance forms an integral part of the Migration MPTF Operations Manual. It was prepared under the leadership of UNICEF, with support from the UN Network on Migration and the Migration MPTF Fund Management Unit. It has been reviewed by the Migration MPTF Steering Committee and endorsed on 06 February 2023.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Migration MPTF, or the Fund) was called for by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Global Compact), adopted by the General Assembly in December 2018. It is a UN financing mechanism to support Member States and regional/global entities in their implementation of the Global Compact, and is the first pooled funding instrument focusing on migration. It is a concrete demonstration of a multilateral commitment to strengthen international cooperation in the pursuit of principled and better governed international migration, placing the wellbeing of individuals at its core.

The Global Compact espouses child-sensitivity as one of its ten guiding principles, stating as follows:

"The Global Compact promotes existing international legal obligations in relation to the rights of the child, and upholds the principle of the best interests of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in all situations concerning children in the context of international migration, including unaccompanied and separated children."¹

As recognised by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:² children, defined as human beings below the age of 18, are recognised internationally as a group that has its own specific rights. They are not 'just' young human beings. Because of their vulnerabilities and dependence towards adults, they are entitled to special protections by States and societies, and the provision of services and special arrangements for their consultation and participation adapted to their evolving capacities and needs. In all actions concerning children, their best interests must be a primary consideration, and therefore best interests processes are essential for assessing their needs and determining plans for their futures.

A child is a child, no matter why they leave home, where they come from, where they are, or how they got there. Every child deserves protection, care and all the support and services they need to thrive. Yet, too often migrant children face numerous risks – such as being forced into child labour or early marriage, exposure to aggravated smuggling, being subjected to human trafficking, put at risk of violence and exploitation. They often miss out on education and proper medical care, including mental health care, and lack adequate support for integration or reintegration into the communities where they are living. Unaccompanied and separated children face particular challenges; and children with families may be overlooked when decisions about their families' future are being made.



¹ See: https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

Millions of children are “left behind” by one or both parents migrating to find work, continue their studies, or seek a better life. The impact this has on a child’s development, economic status, opportunities, and wellbeing can range from detrimental to beneficial. However, policies concerning whether and how children are “left behind” – including migration management and labour migration policies – often ignore the impact on children, increasing their vulnerability. The absence of a parent may impact a child’s protection and may increase risks such as child labour or early marriage, and their emotional and psychological development is likely to suffer if they do not have continuous contact with their parents and if they are not supported by in-country guardians and communities.

Child Rights – the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The CRC is an international treaty that recognizes the human rights of children, defined as persons up to the age of 18 years. The Convention establishes in international law that States Parties must ensure that all children – without discrimination in any form – benefit from special protection measures and assistance; have access to services such as education and health care; can develop their personalities, abilities and talents to the fullest potential; grow up in an environment of happiness, love and understanding; and are informed about and participate in, achieving their rights in an accessible and active manner.

The guiding principles of the CRC are:

- Non-discrimination;
- The best interests of the child as a primary consideration in all actions concerning children;
- The child’s inherent right to life, and State Parties’ obligation to ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child; and
- The child’s right to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting the child, with those views being given due weight.

In line with the Global Compact guiding principle, the Migration MPTF encourages partners to develop Joint Programmes that are child-sensitive, whether or not they are focused specifically on children, and to have considered potential positive and negative impacts of the Joint Programme on children, whether intended or unintended.

The following section, including the tables, provide guidance on child-sensitivity of Joint Programmes, assisting the applicant to determine which marker score applies to their Joint Programme (A,B, C, or N/A). The self-assessment matrix in the Annex is an additional tool, which is only compulsory for the second stage of the application – the Joint Programme document development phase.

2. MIGRATION MPTF CHILD-SENSITIVITY MARKER

This Note provides guidance for the UN system to advance and integrate child-sensitivity as part of the Joint Programmes submitted to, and/or implemented with the financial support of the Fund. It is intended to provide guidance for all Participating UN Organisations (PUNOs) and other stakeholders developing or implementing Migration MPTF Joint Programmes, highlighting that consideration of child-sensitivity is a requirement for all proposal submissions, whether or not they are specifically focused on children.

For those Joint Programme proposals specifically focused on – or intended to contribute towards – realising the rights and meeting the needs of children affected by migration, the child-sensitivity marker will help identify the proportion of the Joint Programme budget dedicated to advancing children’s rights and needs.

Examples of programmes explicitly targeting children could include: improving procedures for child sensitive border management; addressing issues of justice for children affected by migration; improving implementation of best interests processes for children; supporting access to health services, nutrition, education, social protection by children affected by migration; awareness-raising and advocacy on the rights of children affected by migration, etc.

For those Joint Programme proposals without a component focused specifically on children, the child-sensitivity marker will help ensure that children's protection and any inadvertent impacts on children are considered in all Migration MPTF Joint Programmes. Please note that scores of C or N/A would not necessarily disadvantage an application, depending on the objective and content of the submission.

The Migration MPTF Child-Sensitivity Marker is based on a 4-point scale.

Score	Description
A	Joint Programmes that have advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs as the primary objective.
B	Joint Programmes that significantly contribute to advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs.
C	Joint Programmes that make a marginal contribution to advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs, but not significantly.
N/A	Joint Programmes that are not expected to make a noticeable contribution to advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs, but they have considered impacts on children and ensured that there are no negative impacts on them.

Through the Child-Sensitivity Marker, the Migration MPTF tracks allocation of funding for protecting, respecting and fulfilling children's rights and addressing children's needs and reports to Member States, donors and partners on its results. The Fund reviews Joint Programmes on the Child-Sensitivity Marker scale by taking into consideration the extent to which children's rights and needs, and child protection and safeguarding, are integrated into Joint Programme proposals:

The Fund supports Joint Programmes with high-quality standards and therefore requests that all Joint Programmes regardless of their Child-Sensitivity Marker ranking include child rights and needs and child protection and safeguarding considerations in their needs and risk analysis, and disaggregate data and indicators by age and sex.

The table below provides guidance for applicants when assigning a child-sensitivity marker score to their Joint Programmes – to clarify the difference between the child-sensitivity marker scores in terms of how children's rights and needs and ensuring child protection and safeguarding are addressed and advanced in the various elements of the Joint Programme. The applicant is to use this as a 'check-list' to review and compare the Joint Programme against and allocate a marker score or make necessary changes to the proposal to reach the desired marker score.

For All Joint Programmes Submitted To The Fund, Including Those Scored As N/A:

Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a child rights impact assessment, that considers potential positive and negative impacts of the Joint Programme on children, whether intended or unintended (to include all children who could be affected by the Joint Programme, not only direct beneficiaries and not only children who are directly affected by migration).
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUNOs and implementing partners have safeguarding policies and practices in place, including policies for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and other forms of harm, and standards in relation to enforcing such policies, for staff, and non-staff personnel. See Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse IASC / PSEA (interagencystandingcommittee.org). All staff and non-staff personnel of PUNOs and implementing partners working with children have received training on safeguarding. Disciplinary policies with regards to child protection and safeguarding are rigorously enforced, for staff and non-staff personnel.
Disaggregation of Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For any Joint Programme elements (e.g. outcomes, outputs) that involve children, data should be disaggregated by age, sex and, where possible by other identities, e.g. migration status, disability, LGBTQ+, taking into account data protection principles. If data is not disaggregated, an explanation needs to be provided.

Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) questions to consider for an MMPTF proposal:

- What existing research and data on children (aged 0 – 18) is available to inform on the topic of your MMPTF proposal?
- How do you anticipate your project will affect different groups of children, both positively and negatively? Please remember policies focused on adults can impact children too.
- What steps will you take to mitigate and/or reduce any negative effects or risks of harm to children?
- How does your proposal enhance or challenge children's rights, as stipulated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols?
- What participatory work with children have you used to inform your proposal? If you have sought children's views on your proposal, how will you inform them of the outcome?

To Score A, B or C on The Child Sensitivity Marker:

As well as having conducted Child Rights Impact Assessment and complied with requirements on child protection and safeguarding

Budget	<p>% of total programme budget allocated towards advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs³ :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For A: Over 70% For B: 25 to 70% For C: Under 25%
Meaningful Engagement of Children	<p>Elements of the Joint Programmes that involve children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For A, B and C: Children are meaningfully engaged in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme, with special arrangements for their consultation and participation adapted to their evolving capacities, and taking their best interests into consideration.⁴ <p>For A: The Joint Programme includes capacity-building for children on their rights</p>
Staff Training	<p>Elements of the Joint Programmes that involve children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For A, B and C: All staff and non-staff personnel of PUNOs and implementing partners working with children in the Joint Programme will be trained on engaging with children and on children's rights and needs, including on children's participation.
Child Protection and Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For A: Includes work that promotes the protection and safeguarding of children, including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
Theory of Change and Expected Results	<p>Theory of Change (ToC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For A, B and C: For all and any component(s) that involve children, the ToC must clearly articulate the causal link chain that will contribute to advancing the rights and meeting the needs of children affected by migration. <p>Results Framework and Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For A: Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is the overall/primary objective of the Joint Programme. All outcomes and outputs contribute towards, and all indicators measure change in terms of children's rights and needs. For B: Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is a significant component of the Joint Programme. At least one outcome contributes towards, and related output-level indicator(s) measure change in terms of children's rights and needs. For C: Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is a minor component of the Joint Programme. At least one output contributes towards, and related indicator(s) measure change in terms of children's rights and needs.

³ Please note that staffing costs can be included in the child-sensitive budgeting allocation. The ToR of the staff member can be used to guide financial allocation of staffing costs to advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs.

⁴ Consultations with children can be conducted through civil society organisations, youth-led organisations or other institutions that are specifically trained in this area.

3. HOW IT WORKS & WHO DOES WHAT

Joint Programme development and review:

- ➔ The Child-Sensitivity Marker is mandatory for all Joint Programme concept notes and proposals for the Migration MPTF. The Migration MPTF concept note and Joint Programme templates include specific sections for the Child-Sensitivity Marker (Concept note template section 6; Joint Programme document template cover page and section 3b). Proposals that do not include a Child-Sensitivity Marker will be returned.
- ➔ The Child-Sensitivity Marker score (self-scoring) is proposed by the Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) when submitting a proposal (concept note or Joint Programme document) to the Migration MPTF. For Joint Programme documents, the child sensitivity self-assessment matrix must be filled out and submitted as an annex.
- ➔ The Migration MPTF Steering Committee, when approving Joint Programmes, will review the Child-Sensitivity Marker and where necessary recommend changes to strengthen the integration of children's rights and child-sensitivity.

Joint Programme monitoring, reporting and evaluation:

- ➔ During implementation, progress towards advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs should be monitored, at both results and activities level. Results level progress should be included in the annual and mid-year update reporting to the Migration MPTF.
- ➔ At the Joint Programme evaluation stage, the independent evaluator must include, in his/her evaluation, the impacts of the Joint Programme's activities on advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs and the evaluation report should also identify lessons learned. Annually, the Migration MPTF Fund Management Unit will compile the data provided by the independent evaluation reports and capture it in its annual report and overall tracking of results.

4. REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Accountability and Inclusion Resources Portal

[Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse | IASC / PSEA \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/)

International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-protection-rights-all-migrant-workers>

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons>

Joint general comment No. 3 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 22 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the general principles regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a1293a24.html>

Joint general comment No. 4 (2017) of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and No. 23 (2017) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on State obligations regarding the human rights of children in the context of international migration in countries of origin, transit, destination and return

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a12942a2b.html>

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

UNHCR 2021 Best Interests Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and determining the best interests of the child

<https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5c18d7254.pdf>

Resources on Meaningful Engagement of Children

Child participation – UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

[Child participation | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children](#)

Child and youth participation resource guide

<https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/Child%20and%20Youth%20Participation%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>

ENGAGED AND HEARD! Guidelines on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement

<https://www.unicef.org/media/73296/file/ADAP-Guidelines-for-Participation.pdf>

Guidance on Child and Adolescent Participation

[Child and Adolescent Participation in the CG Phase III_Version 1.0-Dec2021.pdf \(unicef.org\)](#)

With Us & For Us: IASC Guidelines on Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises

https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2021-02/IASC%20Guidelines%20on%20Working%20with%20and%20for%20Young%20People%20in%20Humanitarian%20and%20Protracted%20Crises_0.pdf

Youth advocacy guide

[Youth Advocacy Guide Workbook | Voices of Youth](#)

<https://www.voicesofyouth.org/tools-resources/youth-advocacy-guide-workbook>

ANNEX: CHILD SENSITIVITY MARKER SELF-ASSESSMENT MATRIX

To support participating UN organizations (PUNOs) in assessing their compliance with the Child Sensitivity marker, the following matrix should be completed and submitted as an Annex at the Joint Programme document phase (please note that this is not necessary for the concept note stage). This self-assessment should be completed by PUNOs together with implementing partners. The reason for the choice of yes, no, or not applicable should be briefly explained in the final column of the matrix.

Self-Assessment Questions	Answer	Justification/ Additional Info
21. Has a child rights impact assessment been conducted to identify potential positive and negative impacts of the project on children, whether intended or unintended?	Yes/No	
22. Do PUNOs and implementing partners have safeguarding policies and practices in place, and will all staff and non-staff personnel working with children receive training on safeguarding prior to commencement of Joint Programme implementation?	Yes/No	
23. Please provide an estimated percentage of the programme budget allocated towards advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs. If not 100%, explain your rationale/the formula you used for reaching this percentage.	%	
24. Do you have a plan to establish and maintain a meaningful consultation process with children throughout the duration of the Joint Programme, including the evaluation phase?	Yes/No	
25. Does the Joint Programme include capacity-building for children on their rights?	Yes/No	
26. Will all staff and non-staff personnel of PUNOs and implementing partners working with children in the Joint Programme be trained on engaging with children and on children's rights and needs , including on children's participation, prior to commencement of Joint Programme implementation?	Yes/No	
27. For any Joint Programme expected results (outcomes, outputs) that involve children, will all data collected be disaggregated by age, sex, and where possible by other identities, e.g. migration status, disability, LGBTQ+, taking into account data protection principles?	Yes/No	
28. Please choose one of the following below or choose N/A if not applicable. A: Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is the overall/primary objective of the Joint Programme. All outcomes and outputs contribute towards, and all indicators measure change in terms of children's rights and needs. B: Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is a significant component of the Joint Programme. At least one outcome contributes towards, and related output-level indicator(s) measure change in terms of children's rights and needs. C: Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is a minor component of the Joint Programme. At least one output contributes towards, and related indicator(s) measure change in terms of children's rights and needs.	A, B, C or N/A	