



## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT and CHILDREN

*Submission to the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement by Save the Children  
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### Introduction

At the end of 2019, it is estimated that 45.7 million people were internally displaced people by conflict and violence<sup>1</sup>. Close to 20

Global Compact on Refugees – refugee returnees and IDPs are subject to national laws. However, if their national governments are not willing to provide social services and as IDPs are not as visible to the international community, frequently their right to quality education is not realised. Save the Children responds to the education needs of internally displaced children through our role as co-lead of the Global Education Cluster<sup>2</sup> which works towards a predictable, equitable and well-coordinated education response by reinforcing capacities of cluster staff and partners, providing timely



Declaration. Significant efforts need to be made to ensure implementation of the Declaration and provide continuity of education despite the difficult security situation. Governments, armed forces, non-state armed groups need to take action to establish schools as 'zones of peace' and stop attacks and threats against schools, students, teachers and other school personnel to allow them to get access to quality learning for every child.





In Mali, Save the Children provides psychosocial and protection support to conflict-affected children through a child resilience approach, with an emphasis on learning and education. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the programme successfully integrated 255 children, including 111 girls, into the formal education system.

“It was early morning; I went out and saw our house collapsed. In all, I lost my father and two of my brothers and sisters. I do not know what I'm going to do now, my mother took me out of school because she could not afford to pay for cattle. I like school and I would like to go back because my friends continue to go to school and school helps to move forward in life” .

a 15-year-old boy from Mali



who offer guidance and connections to resources, etc. Many have also had their primary or secondary education interrupted for significant lengths and lack basic numeracy or finance skills needed as an entrepreneur. The failure to target youth with appropriate programming is likely to be a factor in recurrent conflict and displacement. Pushing livelihood options for youth, alongside Technical and Vocational Education and Training

- Technical and Vocational Education and Training should be scaled up alongside mechanisms providing access to capital for young entrepreneurs and schemes for mentorship of young





additional harm or increased risks as well as reduced results for children. In contrast, multi-sectoral programming that reflects child protection concerns contributes to higher quality impacts.

- Governments, humanitarian actors, and child protection practitioners at the local and global level must strengthen the integration of child protection outcomes across sectors in line with the principle of Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action, while also supporting stand-alone child protection interventions that are essential to alleviate suffering and save the lives of displaced children.

#### The Impact of COVID-19 on the protection and well-being of internally displaced children

All over the world COVID-19 is disrupting the environments in which children grow and develop. For displaced children, COVID-19 has meant an even further reduction in the protection and support they need to recover. Schools and early childhood care have been closed for the majority of the world's countries. Critical psychosocial programming for children and caregivers has been suspended due to government lockdowns and restrictions on movement. Critically, the social service workforce has more limited access to identify and respond to cases of violence against children. With protection services limited and children and families isolated

shown significant results and requires specific recovery and development programmes to be integrated into solution planning.

Save the Children recently developed set of innovative approaches that includes a prototype tool for [Predictive Analytics](#) that forecasts the duration and scale of forced displacement and provides insights that can help governments, donors, and partners to make decisions and plan appropriately from the onset toward the end of a displacement crisis.

In addition and given the growing scale of the problem and to address data, advocacy and programmatic gaps, [Save the Children Migration and Displacement Initiative](#) developed in 2019 a new set of child-specific indicators to complete existing tools - such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) [Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs](#), to which a new dimension on Mental, Health and Psychosocial Support was added. These indicators were then translated into a "[Durable Solutions for Children Toolkit](#)" - a guidance package establishing clear standards for advocacy and programming, to ensure that children are associated to durable solutions processes. The toolkit paves the way for ensuring a process which includes:

- The assessment and determination of the best interest for displaced children with regards to their solution.
- Advocating for solutions to influence public opinion, policy and mobilising resources for solutions.
- Programming durable solutions for displaced children addressing jointly immediate needs through targeted humanitarian and protection actions together with long-term recoveryEsolutioni /Span

peacebuilding; remedies and reparation from violation and abuses; rehabilitation and recovery; and post conflict reconstruction

- National governments must ensure that comprehensive solutions are inclusive and engage communities and children from both displaced and non-displaced, to inform analysis of efforts that support IDPs and achieve national development goals, such as poverty reduction, social stability and development.
- National governments and their international partners must establish child focuses disaster risks reduction and preparedness constitute an important element to sustain solution as it may prevent the impact of future crisis or the loss of recovery benefit

Save the Children's surveys in countries like Iraq<sup>15</sup> and Syria<sup>16</sup> documented a high prevalence of



## Resources

Protecting Children on the Move: A guide to programming for children affected by migration and displacement (2018)

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/protecting-children-move-guide-programming-children-affected-migration-and-displacement>

A Child is a Child: Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation (2017)

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/child-child-protecting-children-move-violence-abuse-and-exploitation>

Durable Solutions for Children Toolkit (2019)

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/durable-solutions-children-toolkit>