

Research Study on Monitoring Toolkit and Good Practices for the Sustainable Reintegration of Child Returnees

commissioned by IOM under the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub

Research overview

Topic: Research Study on Monitoring Toolkit and Good Practices for the Sustainable Reintegration of Child Returnees

Duration: 15 September 2020 – 14 March 2021 (6 months)

Target countries for field testing: Ethiopia, Georgia, Honduras, Iraq and Nigeria

Commissioned by: IOM under the KMH

Undertaken by: Samuel Hall

Funded by: European Union

Background

The EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub (KMH) was established in September 2017 under the European Union-funded Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration. It aims at supporting the implementation of the EU-IOM Actions in support of migrant protection and reintegration¹ by strengthening information-sharing and harmonization of approaches, processes and tools relating to return and reintegration, and by

centralizing and disseminating the knowledge gained from these programmes and beyond.

In this framework, a limited **Research Fund** has been established as part of the KMH, to contract studies in order to address knowledge gaps in the field of migrant return and reintegration. Three comprehensive topics looking at the reintegration outcomes through the prism of **forced return**, **child-sensitivity** and **gender** were identified by reintegration practitioners during the AU-EU-UN Workshop on Sustainable Reintegration in 2017 organised with the support of the KMH², and have been commissioned by IOM.

Rationale

The experience of migrant children returning to their countries of origin, both unaccompanied and with family or caregivers, is often overlooked even though they face unique challenges. It is necessary to look deeper at the experience of child returnees, utilize dedicated indicators and monitoring tools to measure the sustainability of their reintegration and identify good practices to best plan for and implement reintegration processes for returning children. This study will aim therefore to refine the Save the Children' "Durable Solutions for Children"³ indicators specifically for the experience of child migrants, develop child-specific monitoring tools and identify good practices to monitor and evaluate sustainable reintegration of children. The outcome of this study should directly improve the design, implementation and evaluation of reintegration support programmes for children as well as feed into recommendations for child return and reintegration policy and advocacy.

¹ In line with the EU external policy and migration priorities, IOM and the EU have jointly developed the following programmes focusing on migrant protection, dignified voluntary return and sustainable reintegration: Joint Initiative in Sahel and Lake Chad, North Africa and Horn of Africa; Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration; Improving Reintegration of Returnees in Afghanistan (RADA) and Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha).

² The AU-EU-UN Workshop on Sustainable Reintegration took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 27 and 28 November 2018. The press release is available [here](#) and the workshop's report can be accessed on the Return and Reintegration Platform under [this link](#).

³ Save the Children, [Durable Solutions for Children Toolkit](#), 2019.



Research Objective

The research objective for this study is to develop child-specific tools to monitor sustainable reintegration and identify good practices in the field of reintegration of children. This will be done through analyzing data already collected (where available) through the Reintegration Sustainability Survey from EU-IOM Actions and beyond with respect to the reintegration outcomes for child returnees, adapting existing child reintegration indicators to the return context, developing monitoring tools for these indicators, field testing the indicators and tools and collecting examples of good practices in the area of reintegration of children. The study will focus on child returnees but within this group particular attention will also be paid to key variables affecting reintegration sustainability such as sex, gender, situations of vulnerability, type of reintegration support measures received, level of reintegration activity (individual or community level), country from which the return took place, type of return, reintegration support organization, etc. All components of this study should adhere to, build upon and strengthen existing and emerging international and regional legal and normative conventions and frameworks for the rights and protection of children and migrants.

Research Data and Methods

- Review of existing external researches and available resources in the field of child reintegration/durable solutions.
- Analysis of existing IOM reintegration programme monitoring data, including RSS quantitative data where available, to better understand the experience and outcomes of reintegration support for children. This analysis will look at child reintegration outcomes according to the three dimensions of reintegration, economic, social and psychosocial, and identify key trends and challenges.
- Development of child-specific indicators and measuring tools to monitor the sustainability of child reintegration, based on Durable Solutions for Children Toolkit's proposed indicators and analysis of IOM programme monitoring data.
- Field testing of adapted indicators and tools in Ethiopia, Georgia, Honduras, Iraq and Nigeria.
- Complementary qualitative data collected during field work including potentially case studies, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, etc. supporting the identification of good practices in the field of children reintegration. Qualitative data will also look at whether and how interventions at the structural level (for instance capacity-building of governmental stakeholders and reintegration-related service providers) contribute to sustainable reintegration.

Outputs

- Comprehensive review of existing external researches and available resources in the field of child reintegration/durable solutions.
- A detailed Research Plan including RSS data analysis (where available) and field data collection methodology, necessary inputs, updated timeline and roles and responsibilities of the study consultant and IOM. The Research Plan will be agreed between the research consultant, IOM and the Technical Review Panel (TRP).
- Data collection tools for qualitative data collection (key lines of inquiry, questionnaires, sampling techniques and proposed key informant lists) aimed at identifying good practices in child reintegration support to be performed during field work.
- A complete dataset of all RSS or other quantitative data utilized in the study.
- A summary of qualitative data collected, such as minutes of focus group discussions, key informant interviews, etc.
- A final Report in English, not exceeding 20 pages (excluding annexes), containing the following chapters: (i) analysis of RSS data on trend and challenges of child reintegration outcomes; (ii)

framework for and specific child-specific indicators for measuring the sustainability of child reintegration processes; (iii) programmatic tools to monitor these indicators; (iv) summary of the experience and lessons learned from field testing; (v) identification of good practices in the field of child reintegration, citing specific case studies emerging from the field work; and (v) recommendations for further study.

- A summary of the good practices for supporting child reintegration, not exceeding 5 pages.