



Concept Note

Workshop: The Best Interest Determination of Girls, Boys and Adolescent Migrants, Refugees, and those with Protection Needs

**San Pedro Sula, Honduras
March 25, 26 and 27, 2020**

1

BACKGROUND IN THE RCM FRAMEWORK

The Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Girls, Boys and Adolescents of the Regional Conference on Migration, convened in Panama City, Panama, on November 12, 2018¹, submitted its conclusions to the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), including:

“5. In regard to the proposed priority activities for 2019, following up on the achievement of the objectives of the Strategic Plan:

- a. In regard to Activity 3.1 Develop a support guide on implementation of the mechanisms to determine the Best Interest of the Child, with cooperation from academic experts or civil society:*
 - i. Guatemala suggests a workshop to develop regional guidelines for determining the Best Interest of the Child, with support from the observer organizations;*
 - ii. A training workshop on the updated UNHCR Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interest of the Child (BIP Guidelines), offered by UNHCR, which has taken on the commitment to submit a more detailed proposal as soon as possible;*

Consequently, ILO, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF, as RCM Observer Organizations, as well as the RNCOM, present to Member Countries this concept proposal for the development of a workshop with the aim of contributing to the accomplishment of the Conference’s decisions.

2

CONTEXT

The Regional Conference on Migration has directed its efforts to strengthening the respect and protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees in the region. During the last years, the vulnerability of girls, boys and adolescents has been identified as a main matter of concern and therefore the majority of the

¹ With the participation of representatives of Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States, and the following International Organizations: IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and Save the Children as invited guest.



efforts of countries, UN system agencies, and partners for development have been focused on the assistance and protection of migrant and refugee children and adolescents, especially unaccompanied girls, boys and adolescents.

The RCM Member Countries are committed to the wellbeing of girls, boys and adolescent migrants, refugees, and those with protection needs:

1. In 2018, the Member Countries developed regional guidelines to strengthen the protection of girls, boys and adolescents in the context of migration, both at the regional and national level².
2. In December 2018, after a global consultative process with UNHCR colleagues in the field and other international organizations and local NGOs, UNHCR published new *Guidelines on Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child*³.
3. In 2019, UNICEF and IOM developed a Guide on the best interest determination of migrant girls, boys and adolescents in situations of vulnerability. This tool is an annex to the IOM Handbook on Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse (2019)⁴.

In this framework, and following up on the existing tools, the Member Countries, through the Liaison Officer Network for the Protection of Migrant Girls, Boys and Adolescents, identified the need to develop a training workshop on the use of these tools. The UN agencies and the RNCOM have offered to organize and facilitate a 2.5 days workshop during the first quarter of 2020.

3

OBJECTIVES

3.1. General Objective:

- To improve the implementation of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region, in accordance with the existing commitments and standards at the global, regional and national level, through the development of a regional strategy.

3.1.1. Specific Objectives:

- To identify issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region, based on a survey that will be distributed to the Member Countries prior to the workshop, and the discussion of its results during the event.

² <http://www.rcmvs.org/sites/default/files/publicaciones/nna - lineamientos regionales ninez.pdf>

³ <https://www.refworld.org/es/pdfid/5d5dad24.pdf>

⁴ <https://publications.iom.int/books/iom-handbook-migrants-vulnerable-violence-exploitation-and-abuse>



- To build the capacity of participants at the workshop, enhancing the knowledge of regional and global standards related to the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents for its implementation.
- To facilitate dialogue during the workshop for the development of regional strategy to improve the implementation of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region.

3.1.2. Expected Results:

- Participating countries have a mapping of common issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region.
- Participating countries have a roadmap or strategy to implement national and/or regional actions, as applicable, towards improving the implementation of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents.

Prior to the workshop

The organizers, in collaboration with the RCM Executive Secretariat, the PPT and the Government of Honduras, as host country, propose to compile, through the use of virtual resources, inputs from child and adolescent specialists of the protection and care-related institutions, linked to case management, in the RCM Member Countries. These inputs will be used to validate the workshop's proposed methodology and content and aim to provide a preliminary indication of the issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region.

During the workshop

The workshop will be structured in three complementary sessions:

1) Brief overview of the existing standards and tools

This session will contribute to improve the understanding of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents. To do so, the international organizations will share and discuss with participants about the international and regional standards on assistance for cases of girls, boys and adolescents, to outline in the next workshop sessions how these tools may be implemented in the countries of the region.



2) Presentation of the survey results

During this session, the main issues, challenges and best practices identified through the survey will be presented. The most relevant results will be detailed, which will contribute to the development of a regional strategy, focused on key actions and evidence-based data.

3) Development of a Regional Strategy

Most of the workshop will focus on group work with the purpose of jointly developing a regional strategy to improve the Best Interest Determination of girls, boys and adolescent migrants, refugees, and those with protection needs.

In the sessions dedicated to the regional strategy, groups will be formed to develop technical inputs, followed by a plenary presentation and discussion, according to the survey results.

4) Defining next steps and completion of the strategy

Session	Objective	Expected result	Methodology
Standards	To improve the understanding of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents through an overview of the international and regional standards on assistance for cases of girls, boys and adolescents	Participating institutions of Member Countries improve their understanding of the international and regional standards on assistance for cases of girls, boys and adolescents and have knowledge on how to implement them	Plenary presentations and open dialogue facilitated through guiding questions
Presentation of survey results	To share, prior to the workshop, among Member Countries, a survey to identify the issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region	Participating institutions of Member Countries develop concrete actions on the issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region	Plenary presentations and open dialogue facilitated through guiding questions
Regional Strategy	To build the capacity of workshop participants in	Participating institutions of the Member Countries	Group work and presentations



	the implementation of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents, enhancing the knowledge of regional and global standards for the identification, assistance and reference of child and adolescents at risk.	have a regional, technical strategy that guides actions founded on evidence-based data.	
	To facilitate a dialogue during the workshop for the development of regional strategy to improve the implementation of the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region.		

5

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

Each Member Country is invited to nominate **two persons** to participate in the workshop. One of these persons must be an officer of the government entity in charge of child protection at the national level, with direct responsibilities in the determination and assessment of girls, boys and adolescents, with decision-making power to, upon his/her return, provide feedback about the training to lower-ranked officers. The second participant must have functions in the governmental institution specialized on migration and asylum, either the National Institute of Migration, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Relations, National Commission for Refugees, etc.

The participation of Observer Organizations and the RNCOM is also welcomed.

6

PROFILE OF WORKSHOP FACILITATORS





Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration



A panel of experts, regional and national specialists of the participating agencies: ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, as well as representatives from the RNCOM, will facilitate this workshop.





PROPOSED AGENDA

The Best Interest Determination of Girls, Boys and Adolescent Migrants, Refugees, and those with Protection Needs

San Pedro Sula, Honduras
March 25, 26 and 27, 2020

Wednesday, March 25th

08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome remarks <i>Costa Rica, RCM Presidency Pro-Témpore</i> <i>Honduras, Host country</i> <i>ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF</i>
09:30 – 10:00	Introduction: Objectives and Methodology Presentation of participants and expectations Activity: Presentation
10:00 – 10:30	The international and regional standards on assistance for cases of girls, boys and adolescents Interactive presentation and open dialogue in plenary facilitated through guiding questions. Facilitates: <i>ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:00	Continuation: The international and regional standards on assistance for cases of girls, boys and adolescents Interactive presentation and open dialogue in plenary facilitated through guiding questions. Facilitates: <i>ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF</i>
12:00 – 01:30	Lunch
01:30 – 03:00	The issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region Activity: Presentation of the survey results Moderates: <i>ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF</i>



03:00 – 03:30 Coffee Break

04:00 – 05:00 The issues, challenges and best practices concerning the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region

Activity: Guided interventions by countries to deepen and complement the mapping of issues and challenges

Moderates: *ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF*

Thursday, March 26th

09:00 – 09:15 Summary of previous day

Facilitates: Executive Secretariat

09:15 – 10:00 Development of a regional strategy to improve the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region

Methodology: Group Work

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee Break

10:15 – 12:00 Development of a regional strategy to improve the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region

Methodology: Group Work

12:00 – 01:30 Lunch

01:30 – 3:00 Development of a regional strategy to improve the Best Interest Determination of migrant and refugee girls, boys and adolescents in the region

Methodology: Validation of inputs in plenary session

03:00 – 03:15 Coffee Break

03:15 – 05:00 Roadmap towards the implementation of a Regional Strategy

Methodology: Group work, by country, to identify next steps

05:00 Conclusions and closing

Costa Rica, Honduras

RCM Executive Secretariat



Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
Regional Conference on Migration

Conferencia Regional sobre Migración
COSTA RICA 2020
Presidencia Pro-Tempore



Friday, March 26th

- 08:30 – 09:15** **Departure for the Belén Assistance Center for Children and Families**
Facilitated by: Executive Secretariat
- 09:15 – 10:15** **Visit to the Belén Assistance Center for Children and Families**
- 10:15 – 11:00** **Return to the Hotel and Departure of Participants**

