



Concept Note

Presentation of the Operational Guide for the Determination of the Best Interest of Boys, Girls and Adolescents in Contexts of Human Mobility

Thursday, May 13, 2021
Virtual Meeting (Zoom Platform)

BACKGROUND

The Liaison Officers Network for the Protection of Migrant Girls, Boys, and Adolescents of the Regional Conference on Migration, met in Panama City, Panama, on November 12, 2018, and submitted its conclusions to the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), particularly:

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

Likewise, in the Conclusions of the Meeting of the Regional Consultation Group on Migration (RCGM), held in Panama City in November 2018, the following activity was recommended:

f. Workshop of the Liaison Officer Network to develop regional guidelines for determining the Best Interest of the Child, with support of UNICEF, IOM and UNHCR, in a place and date to be determined.

During the 2019 PPT in charge of Guatemala, the RCM was relaunched and the Liaison Officers Network for the Protection of Migrant Girls, Boys, and Adolescents was transformed into the Working Group on Protection, which began functions in 2020.

The workshop “The Best Interest Determination of Girls, Boys and Adolescent Migrants, Refugees, and those with Protection Needs” was planned to be held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras in March 2020. However, due to the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to be suspended. In order to carry out this activity, 4 Webinars were organized with the support of IOM, ILO, UNICEF and UNHCR.

The webinars were held between the months of March and October 2020 and covered the following topics:

1. **March 25.** During the first webinar, the topics of Contextualization, Preliminary results of surveys and discussion of the COVID-19 situation were covered.
2. **April 29.** Guidelines and standards on girls, boys, and adolescents.
3. **May 20.** Dialogue on the challenges identified in the region.
4. **October 26.** Towards the construction of a strategy.

The international agencies provided support through a consultancy for the preparation of the Operational guide to apply the Best Interests of the Child Principle in contexts of human mobility.

JUSTIFICATION

In the fourth webinar held on October 26, 2020, the consultant Luisa Rosario presented the guide's index, prepared with the support of IOM, ILO, UNICEF and UNHCR, as an operational instrument aimed at field and first contact officers with migrant or refugee children and adolescents; it establishes a set of tools and procedures to guarantee the application of the BIC in cases of human mobility in the region. Subsequently, comments and suggestions were received from the RCM Member Countries, which were considered in the preparation of the Operational Guide.

The objective of the Guide is to provide recommendations to lead the correct observance and application of determining the Best Interest of migrant and refugee children and adolescents in the region, in accordance with existing commitments and standards at the global, regional, and national levels.

OBJECTIVE

The event seeks to present to the Member Countries, the Operational guide to apply the Best Interests of the Child Principle in contexts of human mobility.

METHODOLOGY

Virtual format: 1. The Executive Secretariat will present the background. 2. The consultants will present the guide and the strategy, and then a space will be opened for comments from Member Countries. 3. Next steps.

Duration: 2 hours maximum

IOM, ILO, UNICEF and UNHCR provide cooperation in the preparation of the guide and in the realization of the webinar.

PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE

Preferably, it is recommended the participation of officials who have knowledge of the Operational Guide and those who submitted comments to the Index in the last quarter of 2020.

- **Representatives of the Presidency Pro-Témpore Mexico 2021**
- **Members of the Working Group on Protection**
- **Member Countries:** Government officials, directors of national systems, prosecutors and / or national migration offices in charge of the protection and comprehensive assistance to children and adolescents, as well as of determining the Best Interest of the Child.
- Representatives of the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) and RCM observer organizations.



AGENDA

Presentation of the Operational guide to apply the Best Interests of the Child Principle in contexts of human mobility

Thursday, May 13, 2021 (Virtual format)	
Hour (local time Mexico City)	Activity
10:00- 10:10	Welcoming words <i>Mexico, Presidency Pro- Témporte of the RCM</i>
10:10 – 10:50	Background, by the Executive Secretary (5 minutes) Presentation of the Guide, by the consultant Luisa Rosario (25 minutes) Presentation of the strategy proposal, by the consultant Martina Benedetti (10 minutes)
10:50 – 11:20	Questions and comments from Member Countries (30 minutes)
11:20 -11:30	Next steps , Presidency Pro-Témporte (10 minutes)
11:30 - 11:40	Closing of the session