



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES
INTERNATIONAL**

Trafficking in children and the best interests of the child

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SOS Children's Villages at a glance

Founded
in 1949

Active in 135
countries,
42 OSCE
participating
states

Vulnerable
children who have
lost or are
at risk of losing
parental care

- Alternative care
- Prevention of separation through family strengthening
 - Advocacy
- Emergency response





What we do with our partners in child protection

FAMILY STRENGTHENING: More than 460,000 children and young people at risk of losing parental care, around 87,000 families, benefit from services supporting families to care for and protect their children, **preventing family separation**

ALTERNATIVE CARE: Around 84,000 children and young people who permanently or temporarily lost parental care are supported with long- or short-term family-like care in SOS families, foster families, small group homes, and through other support services

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: Over 789,000 services in 2016, providing safe environments and meeting children's basic needs, access to education, play, family counselling and reuniting unaccompanied minors with their families



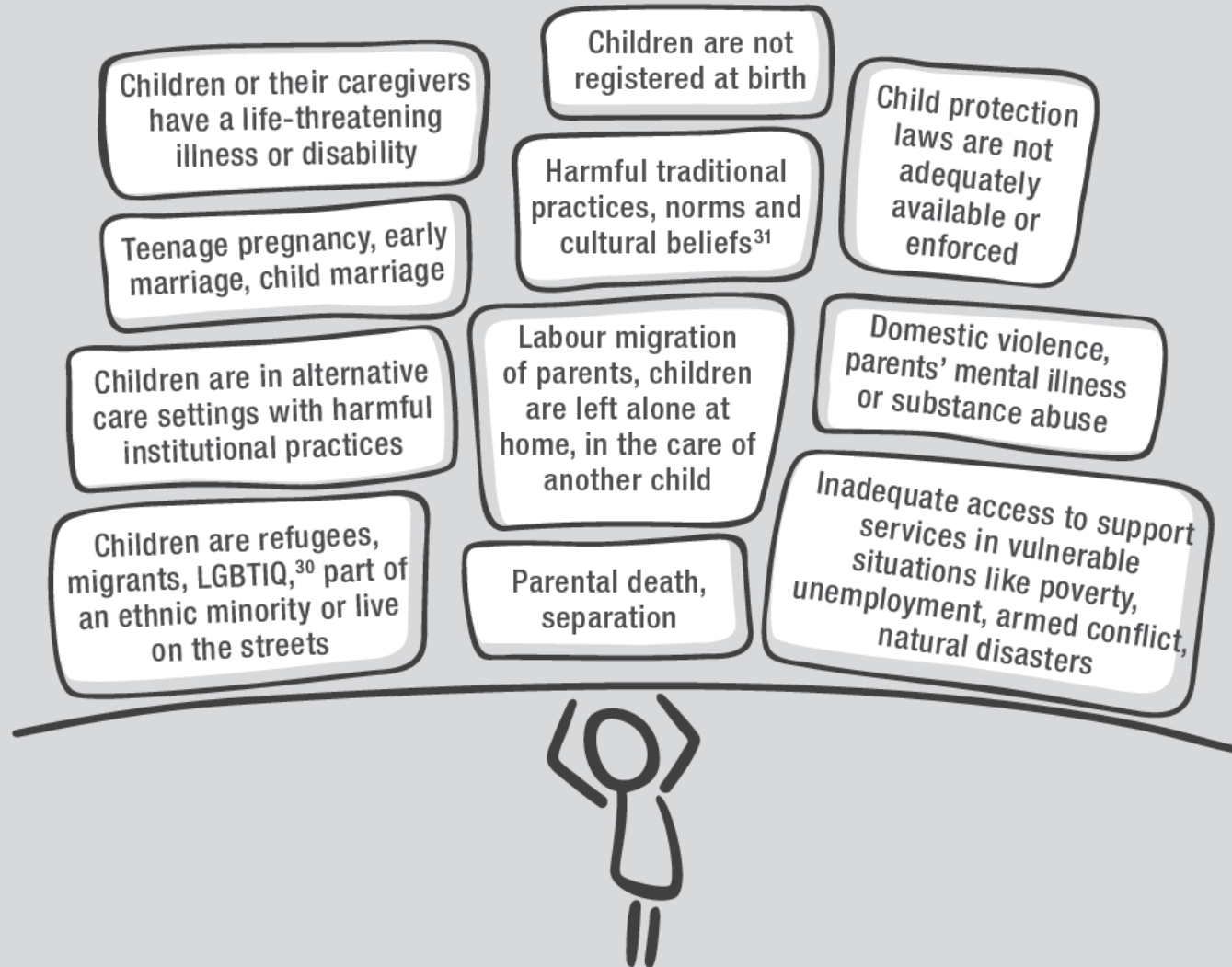
Vulnerable Children

Children who have lost or are at risk of losing parental care may also be at risk of trafficking and exploitation. The root causes are the same!





Vulnerability factors





Measures to prevent trafficking of children living in vulnerable families

Strengthen the most vulnerable families through provision of community based family support services based on individual needs

**Home
visiting**

**Parental skills
and child rights
training**



**Case
management;
Indiv. family
development
planning**

**Psycho-social
health and
education
support
services**

**Parent
support
groups**

**Financial &
Housing
support**

Economic strengthening



Mobile rural family support



**Day care and after
school support**



**Parent & child
crisis shelter**





Reaching out to families: Ileana's story

- When families face hardship, support tailored to the specific needs of each family helps to create opportunities and a more stable environment for children.
- In our family strengthening programmes, we work with the whole family to identify what kind of support is necessary to improve the individual situation and to avoid family breakdown or separation of children from their parents.
- This [video](#) shows how SOS Children's Villages Romania works with families like Ileana's.



Measures to prevent trafficking of children in alternative care

All alternative care settings should provide adequate protection to children from abduction, trafficking, sale and all other forms of exploitation (UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children)

- A protective and caring family type environment fostering participation and enabling children to develop life skills, self confidence, have good education, find employment
- De-Institutionalization
- Strong leaving care support
- Awareness raising among children and care givers of risks and signs of exploitation and trafficking
- Emphasis on children with special needs
- Training of care professionals in adopting a child rights based approach
- Regular state monitoring of alternative care





Measures to prevent trafficking of children in emergencies and unaccompanied minors

- Provision of comprehensive support to children who lost or are at risk of losing parental care in emergencies, including refugees, to ensure their safety and wellbeing
- Training of staff working in emergencies to recognize and document child rights violations, including signs of trafficking
- Awareness raising about trafficking and exploitation among families and children
- Provision of family type and trauma informed care for unaccompanied minors





Measures to respond to the needs of victims of trafficking and exploitation

- Comprehensive needs assessment and individual child support planning
- Support reunification of the child with the family where feasible – prepare for and work with the family after reunification
- Provision of family type and trauma informed alternative care



Child victims of trafficking should neither be detained in police custody nor subjected to penalties for their involvement under compulsion in unlawful activities (UN guidelines for alternative care of children).



Other Recommendations

- Ensure participation of children and young people in shaping interventions
- Organisations working with children must implement International Child Safeguarding standards
- Establish integrated child protection systems
- Improve cross border cooperation of child protection authorities
- Strengthen case management, also across borders
- Improve data collection and research





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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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