

# Human Trafficking Threats to Children in Crisis

**Sarah Elliott**

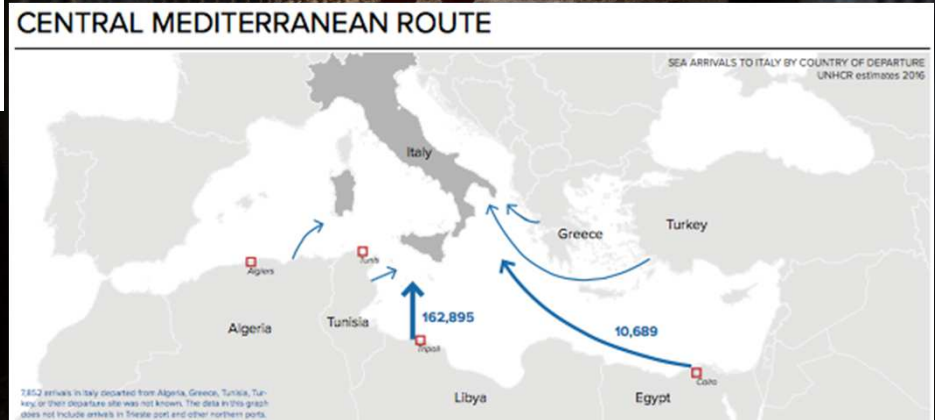
**Legal Specialist Asylum and Migration  
UNHCR**

[elliotts@unhcr.org](mailto:elliotts@unhcr.org)

**OSCE 17th Alliance Conference**

**Vienna 3–4 April 2017**

# What do we know?



# Results of Protection Risk and Response Mapping August 2016

- Men, women and UASC are often staying/sleeping in the same areas.
- less than 50% have someone controlling the entrance
- Less than 25% of sites report appropriate accommodation of UASC (# of UASCs and staff/ UASC ration)
- Less than 30% of sites say that effective legal guardianship is provided.
- Less than half of sites report access to age appropriate formal education.
- lack of psychosocial support,
- Less than 50% have case management systems for protection cases.
- Only 43% of sites have sufficient female interpreters
- very few report of structured participation mechanisms.





# UKRAINE PROTECTION CLUSTER STRATEGY

2016

## Discussion Paper on a Possible Way Forward to Strengthened Policies and Practices for Unaccompanied and Separated Children

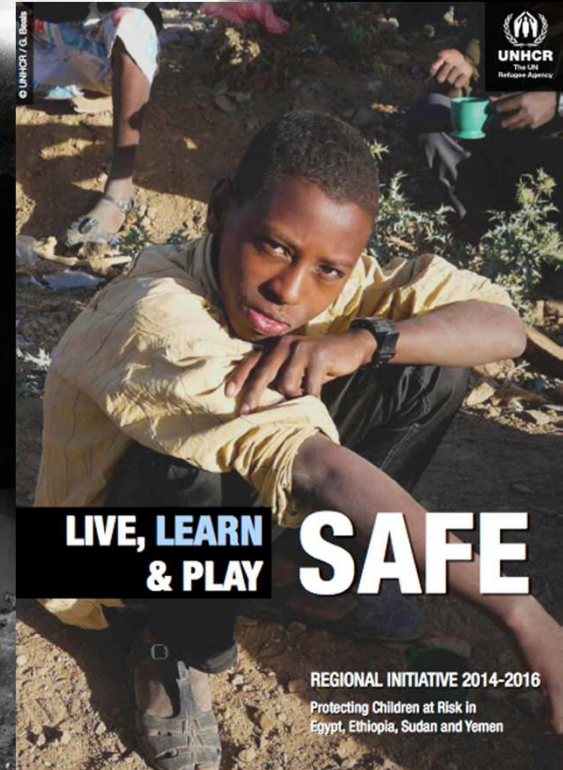
### Background and objective of the document

Regional and national laws in Europe provide a solid framework for child protection, based on international standards<sup>1</sup>. However these laws have not systematically translated into a positive impact on the wellbeing of refugee and migrant children. Instead, children, state institutions, and non-governmental actors often find themselves confronted with complex, confusing, costly, and bureaucratic procedures which do not adequately take into account the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).

UNHCR, UNICEF, and IRC have established a consultative process to support states to better operationalise their response for the protection of UASC in Europe – the Roadmap to Strengthened Policies and Practices. During a set of three consultations, around 100 practitioners (guardians, psychologists, social workers, lawyers, teachers, etc.), from nearly all European countries involved in the current refugee and migrant crisis, developed concrete recommendations to better operationalise existing child protection standards in light of the specific challenges faced<sup>2</sup>. The consultative process developed proposals, captured in this discussion paper, for efficient, lean, and harmonized processes which also ensure children are protected, and can access procedures and solutions in accordance with their best interests.

Following the consultations with practitioners, a roundtable with nine European states (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Serbia, and Sweden) was organised by the Swedish Government with support from UNHCR on 17 November 2016 to discuss the main key recommendations of the practitioners. The roundtable focused in particular on identification, registration, age assessment, guardianship, care arrangements, best interests in the national systems, and participation of children.

<sup>1</sup> See Overview of all UNHCR protection standards and for on EU level under [https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/pdf/CONNECT-6EU\\_Paper-16.pdf](https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/pdf/CONNECT-6EU_Paper-16.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> The three consultations took place in Berlin (24-25.11.2016), Rome (2-3.11.2016) and Beograd (14-15.11.2016)



# LIVE, LEARN & PLAY SAFE

REGIONAL INITIATIVE 2014-2016  
Protecting Children at Risk in  
Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen

# Concluding suggestions

## Problem statement:

- Children protection systems are strengthened by initiatives tailored to crisis contexts
- Victims of trafficking are identified among children
- Coordination between trafficking, child protection and asylum regimes
- Guideline on International Protection No 7 is applied
- Trafficked migrant children are considered for permanent residence on compassionate or humanitarian grounds
- Best interests of the child is streamlined – children are involved in decision making.

