



children first.

## Take Action

Spread the word on social through UNICEF USA's Social Press Kit, visit: [thesocialpresskit.com/unicefusa](https://thesocialpresskit.com/unicefusa)

# Children on the Move Toolkit

Awareness, Advocacy and Support for Refugee and Migrant Children

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Iraqis displaced by fighting between ISIS and the Iraqi armed forces carry their belongings as they walk on the outskirts of west Mosul, Iraq.

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A South Sudanese refugee child plays with homemade toys in Bidibidi refugee settlement, Yumbe district, northern Uganda.

# Introduction

The world is in the midst of the largest refugee crisis since World War II. From the Lake Chad basin and South Sudan to Syria, Iraq and Yemen to Central America, children are being uprooted by conflict and poverty. Meanwhile, the ongoing impacts of El Niño and La Niña have wreaked havoc on southern Africa in the form of seasonal storms and famine that threaten the lives and futures of more children today than perhaps any other time in history. Globally, some 50 million children are on the move. Many are traveling with their families, many others on their own. Whether they travel on shoddy rafts across angry seas or by tractor-trailer in suffocating heat, they all share a common goal: the desire for a better life and a safer place to call home.

This toolkit is built to provide a variety of ways for you and your community to come together in support of the millions of children on the move today. You can make a difference in the lives of children, when they need it the most.

## Children on the Move

The child refugee crisis remains one of the gravest humanitarian emergencies of our time, and demands an unprecedented response from UNICEF to ensure that children affected by conflict and displacement are protected and that their needs are met. Amid this unrelenting child migrant and refugee crisis, UNICEF has procured and distributed critical supplies to families on the move, set up child-friendly spaces, and provided access to water, sanitation, nutrition, health services and education. Limited access to quality education at home is one of the key reasons why children decide to migrate. Yet refugee and migrant children face numerous challenges and obstacles to get the education they have risked their lives for. Without protective services and a sense of routine, children can suffer toxic stress that limits their physical, cognitive and social development, jeopardizing their futures and negatively impacting their countries' development for years to come.

Today, the world's refugee and migrant crisis has grown to engulf nearly 50 million children, including 28 million children uprooted by violence and conflict. At the heart of the refugee crisis is the Syrian Civil War, which entered its seventh year in March and has been the primary reason why the number of child refugees worldwide has increased by roughly 75 percent since 2010.

Here are some global statistics around refugee and migrant children:

- Approximately 10 million child refugees are hosted across the world, primarily within the regions where they were born.
- Since 1990, the proportion of international child migrants within the global child population has remained stable at just over 1 percent, but a rising global population means that the absolute number of child migrants has increased significantly in the past 25 years.
- Today, 1 in every 70 children worldwide lives outside their country of birth. Like adults, most children who move migrate primarily within their own geographical region.
- Refugee children and adolescents are 5 times more likely to be out of school than their nonrefugee peers.
- Only 50% of refugee children are enrolled in primary school, and less than 25 percent are enrolled in secondary school.



Hire Hgan 7, receives meal at a food distribution area in Danaan-Shinile, Somali regional state, Ethiopia settlement which has been particularly hard hit by a drought.

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# Fundraise

This child refugee crisis is the worst since World War II — **a humanitarian emergency that demands immediate action**. Whether these children are migrants, refugees or internally displaced, they are all children first. They didn't choose where they were born. They urgently need — and deserve — our help now.

**Learn more about the specific issues affecting children around the world.**

## Take Action

The power of one can do so much, and the power of many is even greater! Together, your community can change lives through collective impact for children. First, start with determining what are ways your community likes to come together. Second, make a few asks to see who can help organize a few different events so as many people as possible can join at least one event. Lastly, promote the event out to your community through local news sources, sharing on social media and by word of mouth!

Here are a few ideas for actions your community can take to raise funds for children:

- **Dine in:** Organize a potluck where attendees bring a dish, and donate a “dish,” which would be the equivalent to a meal at a restaurant.
- **Movie night:** Host a movie showing at a convenient location for your community whereby people donate to support children as their entry.
- **An offering:** Whether at a member meeting, or a service, make an ask to your community to build their combined efforts into making an impact.
- **Facebook fundraiser:** Start a fundraiser via Facebook to benefit refugee children and share this on your organizational page, and encourage members to share it!

A great way for kids to get involved is for them to do their own organized fundraiser, such as a **Lemon Squeeze for Refugees**.



Rohingya refugees endure a heavy rain in Balukhali camp, in Cox's Bazaar District, Bangladesh.

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# Advocate

Join us to advocate and influence public policy and legislative action in support of refugee and migrant children.

## Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act (H.R. 2408/ S. 1580)

Returning to school every fall is a rite of passage for children in the United States. And yet, in many places around the world, children are deprived of this basic right to education. By advocating to your U.S. legislators, you can help multiply UNICEF's work to ensure that the most vulnerable children, including those in emergency and conflict settings, can access their right to quality education.

### Take Action

Please help share and advocate for girls by contacting your federal legislators to urge for this support.

[Send a letter to your legislators.](#)

[Share this link](#) on social media and encourage others to support.

## Protect Children at our Southern Border

UNICEF USA is calling on America to urgently revise its strategies for protecting children at our southern border.

For those children fortunate enough to make their journey with family members, we're calling on our leadership to end the separation of children from their parents as a deterrent tactic. Separation from family leaves children more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, no matter what the care setting. And, traumatic separation creates toxic stress in children and adolescents that can profoundly impact their development, and increase the risk for stress-related disease well into adulthood.

Fear of separation and detention is one of the factors driving many children away from care and protection. Reports of missing children are extremely alarming, and we urge authorities to act swiftly to ensure that they are safe and cared for.

Please help by contacting your federal legislators to urge them to demand that the U.S. Government stop the traumatic practice of separating children from their parents at our borders.

### Take Action

Please help share and advocate for girls by contacting your federal legislators to urge for this support.

[Send a letter to your legislators.](#)

[Share this link](#) on social media and encourage others to support.



Siblings from Honduras travel north expecting to cross the border to the United States to reunite with their family.

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Two boys walk to their settlements in Hadhwe sub-district, which has been particularly hard, hit by a drought. The houses are built especially for the nomadic lifestyle of the Somali ethnic group.

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## Raise Awareness

Mobilize your networks by using your voice to raise awareness about the nearly 50 million children who have been uprooted across the globe.

Here are a few ideas to engage your community:

- Spread the word on social through [UNICEF USA's Social Press Kit](#).
- [Organize a panel discussion](#) at a library or coffee shop
- [Host a book club](#) with friends and family
- [Throw a movie night](#) at home or at a local movie house
- Focus on World Refugee Day which is held every year on June 20th to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of children on the move around the world.

## Share on Social Media

Share UNICEF's [donation form for refugee children](#) or [Facebook Fundraiser page](#) on your social media channels, by email or even word of mouth.

## Contact Us

Please reach out and tell us how you are engaging your community to support Children on the Move.

Please contact Emma C. Pfister, Manager, Global Cause Partnerships, at [epfister@unicefusa.org](mailto:epfister@unicefusa.org) or 212-922-2644.