“Migrant Children in Emergencies” is an original capacity building initiative in the framework of the “Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC): Supporting an Evidence-based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action” project, implemented by the International Center for Migration Policy Development and funded by the European Union.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective is to strengthen the capacities of national authorities and other stakeholders in origin, transit and destination countries on crisis preparedness and the specific situation of migrant children prior, during and after emergencies.

The specific objectives are:

• To train key national and non-governmental stakeholders on the needs of migrant children in emergencies;

• To strengthen the role and visibility of independent national human rights institutions as key actors for the protection of the rights and interests of migrant children prior, during and after a crisis;

• To support the development of inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms;

• To develop a toolkit to support relevant stakeholders dealing with child protection, crisis and migration in their daily work and more specifically in times of crisis.

FORMAT & ACTIVITIES

1. Training sessions at national and local levels for governmental and non-governmental actors;

2. Study visit combined with a cross-border round table.

LOCATIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES

The initiative is implemented in selected locations in West Africa - namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo - given the large share of children among the migrant population in the region.

PARTICIPANTS’ PROFILE

• Representatives from national authorities and relevant ministries with direct responsibility for child, migration or crisis-related protection issues;

• Other relevant actors, including representatives of national independent human rights institutions, tribal leaders, international organisations and civil society representatives such as youth associations.
CONTEXT

The capacity building component of the EU-funded “Migrants in Countries in Crisis” (MICIC) project aims at enhancing states’ prevention, preparedness and response capabilities to address the specific needs and mitigate the vulnerabilities and address possible long-term impacts of such crises, including the mass return or mass departure of migrants. The needs identified in the MICIC regional consultations are a primary source to define areas of intervention. The capacity building component furthermore builds on the recommendations of the MICIC Guidelines and the MICIC research.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Participants will critically reflect on existing child and migrant protection policies and procedures in their respective countries and expand them to the target group of migrant children, with a specific focus on difficulties arising prior, during and after crisis situations;

- Participants will be trained in better addressing the needs of migrants children in emergencies;

- Participants will strengthen their network of cooperation among all relevant actors, including government authorities as well as international, regional and civil society organisations at the national and local level alike;

- Participants will strengthen their collaboration on crisis preparedness and contingency planning for migrant children with neighbouring countries.

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