

# Destination Unknown

*An international campaign to protect children on the move*

*Thousands of children around the world are on the move. They lost home. They are escaping poverty, violence or disaster. They may end up exploited or abused. Their destination is unknown. Let's mobilize to protect their rights.*

## “children on the move”: who are they?

They are children who have left home. They are on the way to a new destination, or have already reached it. They move within or between countries, accompanied or alone. *Trafficked, unaccompanied, in street situation, kidnapped, forced to migration, refugees, asylum seekers, nomadic...across the world millions of children are on the move.*

## what is at stake?

An estimated 214 million persons worldwide are international migrants. 740 million are internal migrants. Youth represents a big share of migrants from developing countries; about one third is between 12 and 25 years old. In the coming years the number of children and youth on the move is going to rise. Their needs and interests are largely absent from the preoccupation of public authorities. Public opinion tends to perceive them as a threat. They are often subject to prosecution, detention or unsafe return. Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, governments are obliged to protect all children – including children on the move. But they generally fail to do so.

## how do we approach the issue?

They have the right to move and to be protected. Prevention aiming at simplistically avoid children to move has proven to be inappropriate. This also hampers the fundamental right of a child to move. Their mobility increases their vulnerability and risk of being exploited. Their mobility also represents a potential for their future life and personal development. Provided they can benefit from adequate protection along their trip or at destination.

## what do we do?

With Destination Unknown, Terre des Hommes intends to promote protection and best interest of the child whenever she or he moves away from home. By joining forces with partners, Terre des Hommes will:

- **RAISE AWARENESS** by showing concrete violations of rights experienced by children due to the lack of specific protection and services when they move.
- **OPERATE** by programs that develop solutions and put in place protection measures for children from their place of origin to their final destination.
- **ADVOCATE** by influencing policy, practice and legislation based on solutions that respond to the needs and interests of children on the move

To do so, Terre des Hommes will engage directly with children and youths to give primacy to their views on how to protect children when they move.

*Destination Unknown is a 5-years international campaign led by Terre des Hommes. It is supported by partners who will join forces to develop protection mechanisms for children, raise awareness and advocate the campaign messages.*

