

# challenges

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Newsletter on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals from a child rights perspective

## >> Children and international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean



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## The many faces of child migration

Child migration in the region has many contradictory aspects, as reported in the feature article of this bulletin. On the positive side, there are better educational opportunities in countries of destination and, in countries of origin, greater well-being thanks to remittances; greater protection gained by migrating away from situations of violence and social risk; and new horizons for broadening life experiences. On the negative side, there are precariousness and heightened family environment risks when the parents migrate and the children are left behind in the care of others; exposure to abuse and violation of rights during migratory processes; and possibly lower citizen status in receiving countries.

In view of these issues, the article discusses the main spheres of intervention, grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the guarantee of due process in migration policy; the inalienable right to live in a family (right to family unity or reunification); enforcement of migrant children's and adolescents' entitlement to social, economic and cultural rights, with specific policies for meeting their protection and development needs; and ensuring remittances can be used to improve children's lives (for example exempting these flows from taxes and reducing transaction costs for families). The article also focuses on children's and adolescents' right to identity and nationality and protection from violence and exploitation, including from detention and criminalization.

In the testimonial column of this issue are the words of children recorded during an encounter in Quito organized by the Observatory for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. The *Learning from Experience* section refers to a programme in Mexico for training child protection officers and the Healthy Farm Programme in Costa Rica, which provides social protection for indigenous migrants from Panama. Lastly, there is a list of recent and upcoming events and of key documents on child migration.

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Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNICEF TACRO)

**Editorial Committee:**  
ECLAC:  
Martín Hopenhayn + María Nieves Rico  
+ Jorge Rodríguez

UNICEF:  
Enrique Delamónica + Egidio Crotti  
+ Susana Sottoli

**General coordination:**  
María Nieves Rico + María S. Spence

**Design and layout:**  
Paulo Saavedra + Rodrigo Saavedra

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**Contact:**  
desafios@cepal.org,  
desafios@unicef.org

## Recent events

### >> International Seminar on Youth Migration and Transitions to Adulthood in Developing Countries

This seminar is aimed at deepening understanding of the interrelations between migration and young migrants' transition to adulthood. The event will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 8 to 10 December.

<http://www.iussp.org/Activities/adolc/call10.php>

### >> Global Forum on Migration and Development

This is a new initiative by Member States of the United Nations and will examine the interconnections between migration and development in an action-oriented manner. The Forum reflects the recognition of the limitations of a global approach to migratory issues and implications. The event will take place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on 8 and 9 November 2010.

<http://www.gfmd.org/mexico-2010/index.php>

### >> ECLAC will coordinate with the GMG Regional Commissions

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was appointed as coordinator of the United Nations regional commissions for the Global Migration Group (GMG) for the period 1 August 2010-31 July 2011. GMG is an inter-agency group that seeks to promote the application of all instruments and standards relating to international and regional migration.

<http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/>

## Key documents



### >> UNICEF, 2010

De la Garza, Roberto (2010), "Migration, development and children left behind", *Social and Economic Policy Working Papers*, New York, May.

[http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index\\_53719.html](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/index_53719.html)



### >> UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean/National University of Lanús, 2010

"Niños y niñas migrantes en situación migratoria irregular en América Latina y el Caribe. Estándares jurídicos básicos y líneas de acción para su protección", Buenos Aires.



### >> ECLAC, 2010

"Impactos de la crisis económica en la migración y el desarrollo: respuestas de política y programas en Iberoamérica", Santiago, Chile, July. [http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/celade/noticias/documentosdetrabajo/8/40358/P40358.xml&xtsl=/celade/tpl/p38f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom\\_mig.xslt](http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/celade/noticias/documentosdetrabajo/8/40358/P40358.xml&xtsl=/celade/tpl/p38f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_mig.xslt)



### >> ECLAC, 2010

Maguid, Alicia and Marcela Cerrutti (2010), "Familias divididas y cadenas globales de cuidado: la migración sudamericana a España", *Políticas sociales series*, No. 163 (LC/L.3239-P), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), August. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.10.II.G.43.



## Children facing their parents' emigration

"I saw my Dad when I was 1. After that, only in pictures. I know he's not dead, but I know he loves me..."

Magali, 12 years old

"They left because there wasn't any work here and there was there."

Piedad, 13 years old

"They left us with my grandparents when my brother was 4 and I was 6 and they took care of us."

Jorge, 11 years old

"My sister hasn't been to school since my Dad left. She takes care of us and the house. She is the only one who speaks to my Dad."

Jacinto, 11 years old

"When they left they didn't ask me ... I would have told them not to go, that it was best to take care of us."

Jorge, 11 years old

"I wouldn't like to leave because I really love my grandmother, we take walks, and she helps me with my chores, I cook, clean and iron."

Karen, 9 years old

"My father left when I was small, I think I was 2 and my brother stayed in my mummy's tummy."

Olivia, 11 years old

"I was told that they would take me when I am 15. I don't want to leave like them because it's very dangerous."

Piedad, 13 years old

Source: These clips on migration were taken from discussions with children and adolescents organized in Cañar, Quito, in November 2008, by Observatory for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (ODNA) (<http://www.odna.org/investiga.html>)





# Children and international and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup>

Rut Feuk, Nadine Perrault and Enrique Delamónica, UNICEF



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# migration in Latin America

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<sup>1</sup> For reasons of space this brief article does not refer to a number of issues which are important for collaboration among origin, transit, and destination countries, including refugees, consular assistance, asylum-seeking, internal migration (such as internally displaced persons) or urbanization, the latter two often being the first steps towards international migration.

Current migration flows, their root causes and the impact on countries of origin, transit, and destination have positioned migration as a major challenge for States, societies, and especially for migrants themselves.<sup>2</sup> An estimated 6 million people from Latin America and the Caribbean have migrated within the region and some 25 million have migrated to the United States and Europe (ECLAC, 2006, p. 73). Although the exact number of migrant children is not known, recent estimates suggest that around 1 in 5 migrants is a child or adolescent (and girls slightly outnumber boys). However, these numbers do not include the many children who have been left behind by migrant parents (one or both) or children who are born to migrant parents whether they have obtained the nationality of the destination country or not.

There is little evidence to show what proportion of the estimated 6 million migrants within Latin America or the 25 million extraregional migrants are in irregular migrancy situations but there are indications of an increase in their numbers. Within this context, millions of children have been facing severe human rights constraints due to their migration status or that of their parents. Increasingly restrictive migration policies, xenophobia and discrimination, as well as human trafficking, are some of the risks and abuses that migrants may suffer, especially if they have an irregular migration status. However, these vulnerabilities are unevenly distributed and depend on migrants' age, sex and country of origin (RCM, 2007). Addressing these vulnerabilities requires concerted efforts and action by both destination and origin countries.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the root causes of migration are varied and complex.<sup>3</sup> Each year, large numbers of children migrate unaccompanied in the expectation of being reunited with their parents or to escape violence and exploitation. The lack of opportunities for adolescents in their own countries in terms of access to education and quality of life as well as the growing insecurity and violence to which adolescents in poor urban communities are exposed, are also pushing more and more adolescents to migrate. These adolescents usually migrate alone through irregular channels. Children and adolescents migrating alone are one of the most vulnerable groups. Lacking social or legal protection and unaware of their rights as migrants, as

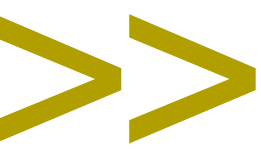
they travel across countries they are particularly vulnerable to heavy work burdens, trafficking for labour or sexual purposes, and physical and sexual abuse. They are also regularly exposed to humiliating situations that leave deep emotional scars. In particular, adolescent girls often experience abuse and violence during their journey, especially at border controls (UNICEF TACRO/National University of Lanús).

During the past decade there has been a significant increase in women's migration from many countries in the region. Migration by women has been driven by unemployment, changes in their economic and social perspectives, or the need to secure additional household income to support family and children left behind. Women also migrate to escape sexual violence, abuse, social stigma or pressure to marry. They may migrate in order to join a migrant spouse or to escape gender discrimination or restrictive gender norms (Santibanez and Calle, 2010).

Children who are "left behind" are at risk of rights violations. Those cared for by extended families or institutions may have less protection from sexual exploitation and abuse than children in the care of their parents. Older children are often burdened with the care of their younger siblings. In addition, the consequences of the steady loss of skilled professionals –the "brain-drain"– undermines the availability and quality of basic services in countries of origin (e.g., when nurses or teachers migrate), which impacts on children's well-being.

However, migration can have a positive impact on children's lives. Whether they are accompanying their parents, migrating to reunite with their families or receiving financial assistance sent from abroad in the form of remittances, children can obtain greater development opportunities from migration in terms of education, health and psychosocial development. Remittances can help to provide food, housing, better health and education, as well as reducing child labour. Those who move to a richer country may gain increased access to services. Migration can also have a positive impact on child health. The *Human Development Report 2009* shows evidence that mortality rates are significantly lower among the children of migrants than among those who remain in countries of origin with low or medium scores on the Human Development Index (HDI) (UNDP, 2009, p. 55).

In sum, migration affects children in different ways during their life cycle, whether they are migrating with their parents, alone or left behind by one or both migrating parents. The impact of migration (both regular and irregular, internal and external) on children must be seen in the broader context of poverty and disparities between and within countries.



**Recent estimates suggest that around 1 in 5 migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean is a child or adolescent**

<sup>2</sup> This is true of both permanent migration and temporary migration, the so-called "birds of passage". See Regional Conference on Migration (2010), "Taller sobre Programas para Trabajadores Migratorios Temporales Compilación de trabajos", Santiago, Chile.

<sup>3</sup> While there are always economic and or political factors in the decision to migrate, it is always a very personal and difficult decision. (RCM, 2000, p. 39).

## Protection of the rights of children on the move

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) protects every child without discrimination of any kind. It applies to all children in a State regardless of their nationality or migration status, which is why it does not address the situation of children on the move specifically. States have the obligation to adopt the principles enshrined in the convention and apply them to every child within their jurisdiction, including visitors, refugees and migrants, in order to guarantee all child rights. In this regard, the Convention reflects the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirms the existence of a body of basic human rights and freedoms that transcend frontiers and to which all are entitled regardless of their migratory situation or nationality –simply because of their condition as human beings.

One of the main challenges for the region as regards the situation of children on the move, left behind due to migration, or born to migrant parents in the destination country is to first identify this nucleus of rights that will ensure continuous observance of their basic rights throughout the migration process. This in turn will help to harness the positive effects of migration while addressing its risks and negative impacts. Several instruments of international human rights law recognize social, economic and cultural rights for all persons who are residing within a particular State. The Convention sets forth a series of rights which should be guaranteed for all children, including the right to be registered at birth, to live in a family environment, to enjoy an attainable standard of health, to have an education, and to be protected from violence, abuse and exploitation without any distinction based on nationality or migratory status. However the recognition of this nucleus of rights, which cannot be denied to any person on any grounds in any jurisdiction, has been hampered by the adoption in many States of legal and policy frameworks that emphasize the notion of citizenship and make distinctions between nationals and non-nationals. The need to recognize this nucleus of rights merits collaboration between origin, transit, and destination countries. Addressing the critical challenge of migration for children and adolescents may be the way to start.

### Pending challenges

#### MIGRATION POLICY – GUARANTEE OF DUE PROCESS AND RIGHT TO LIVE IN A FAMILY

A recent study carried out by the National University of Lanús on the situation of irregular child migrants in Latin American and the Caribbean concluded that there is an absence of standards, regulations and public policies directed at protecting migrant children, especially in the context of irregular migration. The study highlights the complex problems that have arisen from practices and policies designed to regulate migration flows in terms of entry, residence and expulsion, and which have led to human rights violations of children on the move. With a few exceptions, most countries in the region

## Each year, large numbers of children migrate unaccompanied in the expectation of being reunited with their parents or to escape violence and exploitation



have not recognized the right to family unity or reunification within their legislation, meaning that many children are being separated from their parents for long periods of time. There are several common situations where family reunification should be sought in the region, for instance, cases of parents wishing to join their unaccompanied children in the country to which the children migrated, or children joining their parents in the country to which the parents migrated and/or cases that arise in the context of deportation.

#### SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Most Latin American and Caribbean countries do not have migration laws that deal explicitly with the issue of the economic, social and cultural rights of migrant children. This means that in practice, these rights are not enforced by public policies and few programmes exist for the proper protection and treatment of the specific needs of children. This gap in legislation and lack of specialized services may result in the denial of education, health services and other social support and may in addition lead to situations of exploitation in the form of child labour or sexual exploitation, thereby violating the Convention on the Rights of the Child referred to above.

Remittances have, in some cases, been shown to benefit “children left behind” while raising their standard of living and increasing access to social services. A challenge for the region is to maximize the positive impact of remittances in order to make sure that they are used for the benefit of children. There has been an incipient debate about how governments could tap into some the remittances (e.g. through taxation) in order to increase public revenues. However, many objections can be raised against this. For instance, from the point of view of the child’s well-being, such a measure would be questionable, given that in many cases the remittances are providing additional income to needy families. A tax of this kind would be regressive, in a region where progressive taxation is needed. In addition, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM (2006)), efforts to tax remittances have not been very successful so far, leading to the diverting of remittances to unofficial channels. The same IOM report recommends the promotion of incentives and regulations that ensure the safety and efficiency of the transfers. An interesting example is Mexico’s “3-for-1” programme, under which remittances sent (instead or in addition to private remittances) by migrant groups in different countries to help communities back home are tripled





by the federal, state and municipal governments, and the total sum invested in socially useful and productive projects. In addition, mechanisms will be needed for the supranational enforcement of child benefits in cases where children and parents who are divorced or separated live in different countries and to prevent cross-border child abduction by a parent. These are important areas of policy cooperation between origin, transit and destination countries.

#### RIGHT TO IDENTITY

The right to be registered at birth and receive a name, identity and legal status is crucial for social integration, protection from violence and exploitation, and also for access, as the need arises, to other social, economic, cultural and civil rights. In the case of children who are born to parents with an irregular migration status, the denial of the right to birth registration

causes great vulnerability, reduced protection and limited access to services in the country of residence. Such children may even find themselves expelled from the country and separated from their parents.

While the principle of *jus soli* is valid almost throughout the region, meaning that the right to nationality in the country of birth of children born of migrant parents is recognized under the legislation of most countries, some countries have a double standard and also apply the principle of *jus sanguinis* especially for migrant children born within their territory depriving them of the right to nationality. Although data are scarce, reliable information shows that migrants in irregular situations may not have access to hospitals for giving birth, or may decide not to give birth in a hospital for fear of deportation, which in turn may result in the child not being registered.

#### DETENTION OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

The detention of migrants, especially children and adolescents, whose status is irregular, either as a result of illegal entry or because of lack of a valid residence permit, is viewed with concern by various organizations (including the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights). While States in Latin America have repeatedly affirmed their commitment to not criminalize migration<sup>4</sup>, the legislation in force in several

**Migration affects children in different ways during their life cycle, whether they are migrating with their parents, alone or left behind by one or both migrating parents**

<sup>4</sup> Asuncion Declaration, Sixth South American Conference on Migration, Asunción, 4-5 May 2006.



countries in the region establishes punitive migration laws without any special protection for migrant children<sup>5</sup>. Although some countries have made major shifts towards increased legal protection for migrant children, in most countries in the region, there are still no special laws, policies or alternative measures to protect children detained on grounds of irregularity in their immigration status. Since, in practice, there are no alternative measures of protection available, immigration authorities, even if they are familiar with international standards, tend to treat detention as the only available option. Hence, children generally receive the same treatment as adults and are held in custody together with adults, which increases their vulnerability to different kinds of violence and exploitation.

### Conclusions

In order to achieve the positive effects of migration and remittances, it is crucial that States in the region address the situation of vulnerability of migrants, with the focus on children on the move, and provide increased opportunities for regular migration. Thus the root causes that serve as push factors for people to leave their home countries must first be addressed.

In order to promote child well-being, countries should avoid taxing remittances, but instead implement policies to facilitate them (e.g. lowering transaction costs and guaranteeing delivery). In addition, countries should explore ways of international cooperation to enforce the obligation of parents who are separated or divorced to provide support to their children, even if they live in different countries.

A protection framework for children on the move must be included, along with social, economic and cultural rights, in national child protection legislation and policies as well as in migration laws and policies, in order to guarantee the broadest protection possible. National legislations will need to be reformed to eliminate any kind of custodial sanctions against migrants based on migratory violations, and to prohibit detention of migrant children, whether they are with their families or unaccompanied. All States (whether developed

## Most Latin American and Caribbean countries do not have migration laws that deal explicitly with the issue of the economic, social and cultural rights of migrant children

or developing and of destination, transit or origin) should explicitly recognize in their legislation the right of children to be reunited with their family.

Immigration laws and policies should recognize the right to education and health, without any limitation, for any migrant child, regardless of his or her immigration status. States should develop and implement policies to ensure special protection to migrant children with irregular status based on their degree of vulnerability. Policies should guarantee that an irregular migration status is not a barrier to proper care during pregnancy and after childbirth. National plans and programmes for the protection of children should provide for the specific needs of migrant children.

In relation to the right to an identity and a nationality, the legal framework for the registration of children of migrants has to be reviewed in order to eliminate any obstacles based on criteria such as nationality, ethnicity or immigration status of either parents or both of them. In addition, States should reformulate their immigration rules to eliminate public-sector migration control mechanisms which could lead to the denial of fundamental rights. In particular, they should refrain from checking at health centres, civil records, courts and other agencies involved in birth registration procedures.

In order to ensure respect for this nucleus of rights and maximize the benefits of migration for children and adolescents, national legislation and policies must be brought in line with international and regional human rights principles and standards.

<sup>5</sup> Chile: Executive Decree 1094 (Rules relating to Foreigners in Chile), articles 69 and 87. Paraguay: Migration Act (Ley 976), article 108. Nicaragua: Control of Smuggling of Migrants Act (Ley 240), article 21. Antigua and Barbuda: The Immigration and Passport Act, articles 40 and 41. Bahamas: Immigration Act, article 19(2). Barbados: Immigration Act, article 30. Belize: Immigration Act, article 34.2. Jamaica: The Aliens Act, article 20. El Salvador: Migration Act, article 60.

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# Child migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: peculiarities and policies

## What distinguishes child migration in Latin America and the Caribbean?

First, child migration is not as well documented as for other groups, perhaps because of a sometimes overly reductionist view that migration is mainly a labour issue (and a male one at that). While it is true that in such cases the children often do not migrate (and this is another issue), those who do encounter opportunities as well as vulnerabilities arising from disadvantages. The latter are sometimes transmitted by the child's own parents, or they may stem from the individual circumstances surrounding the move. As a general hypothesis, then, there are particularities which, whether or not they follow the patterns of labour migration, are for the most part poorly documented or studied despite the availability of basic information. A useful differentiating feature could thus lie in identifying the intra- and extra-regional pattern of international emigration. While the latter accounts for most movements of this type in Latin America and the Caribbean, the former is characterized by the fact that it brings immigrants –children among them– to our countries and opens a potential door to appropriate integration.

First, there are children who have come with their parents, who have difficulties in integrating into the host society. Such is the case for a substantial portion of intra-regional migrants, especially between bordering countries. Emigration to the United States and Europe can lead to complex situations, especially for Central American and Mexican children whose parents (whom they accompany, but sometimes only the mother) have to deal with school enrolment and with health care, which is sometimes neither timely nor sufficient because of migratory irregularity. It would seem that migratory irregularity to a large extent determines what becomes of the children, although countries receiving children in this situation usually apply more lax policies and are more respectful of their rights (perhaps out of sensitivity or the feeling that caring for migrant children is more fitting and less controversial). This is especially the case in Latin American countries that receive migrant children.

Second, there are unaccompanied minors who for a variety of reasons are driven to leave a country, although they are not always victims of trafficking and are sometimes fleeing



Jorge Martínez Pizarro

CELADE-Population Division, ECLAC

violence or direct threats. The data available to us are too scanty to reveal the magnitude or distinguishing features of this kind of migration, but they do suggest an enormous vulnerability to trafficking and rights violations (including violence).

What policies should be considered? What should be done?

Protecting migrant children in the broad sense entails designing, implementing and constantly evaluating measures based on migratory status, for example, how they migrate and whether they are accompanied, the destination or the reasons for migrating (paying particular attention to the possibility that it might have been forced).

And, to put it very briefly, interculturality is key to the healthy development of migrant children, letting them grow in freedom and choose, without impositions, among the options that the culture provides and enabling them to learn from their otherness while teaching both the native children and the school.

This is borne out by documented integration regulations and initiatives in some of the countries of the region, and by interculturality experiments at schools. Such experiments involving construction workers or female domestic workers are unimaginable. Migrant children are thus a priority group where intervention is both necessary and possible.

## Training of child protection officers, Mexico

The Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Mexico has worked intensively, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, to promote policies and specific measures to ensure respect for the rights of children migrants. An important step was the creation of an inter-agency panel on unaccompanied children and adolescents and women migrants launched in March 2008 by the Ministry of the Interior. The panel comprises 17 institutions, including the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, IOM and UNICEF and its purpose is to promote better inter-agency coordination, exchange of information and agreements on measures and mechanisms to guarantee the rights and protection of unaccompanied children and adolescents and women migrants arriving in, passing through, or leaving national territory, bearing in mind their particular vulnerability.

One important outcome was the design and implementation of the model for the protection of child and adolescent migrants and unaccompanied repatriates, with agreed roles between consulates, migration and child protection services.

One of the steps to ensuring an adequate functioning of the model was the creation, in March 2008, of a body of specialized officials in the National Migration Institute to protect the rights of unaccompanied child and adolescent migrants: child protection officers. These officials have been trained in child-sensitive interviewing techniques, and in protecting the rights of unaccompanied child migrants at the northern and southern Mexican borders.

The creation of the inter-agency dialogue and the appointment of child protection officers are important developments; however, many other challenges remain to be resolved in order for children's rights to be fulfilled in situations of migration. For this reason, UNICEF offices, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and IOM have been supporting South-South cooperation within the Central and North American region, to promote agreed standards and procedures for the protection of the rights of migrant children.

Source: "UNICEF por los derechos de la niñez migrante" [online] [http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/proteccion\\_12170.htm](http://www.unicef.org/mexico/spanish/proteccion_12170.htm)

## Healthy Farms (Finca Sana), Costa Rica

Although the country in general offers relatively high standards of living, Costa Rica is home to an indigenous migrant population that is often excluded from social services. The Ngöbe-Buglé are a diverse and culturally rich indigenous people, with communities in Costa Rica and Panama, and a migrant population that travels between the two locations to earn a living as seasonal workers on farms. Each year, an estimated 20,000 migrate into Costa Rica to pick coffee following centuries-old migration routes across the border. With minimal access to basic services or sanitation facilities, the living conditions on many farms are poor. Furthermore, access to health services is limited, due to this group's mobility and separation from the resident population.

The Healthy Farms (Finca Sana) project seeks to improve health among indigenous migrant workers and their families. Its key objectives are to create sustainable health services, and provide health education and medical attention and care during emergencies, among others. One of its specific benefits is medical care and check-ups for 3,000 Ngöbe-Buglé, provided by the visiting mobile health team. IOM is implementing the Finca Sana project, which is based on four principles: (i) public-private partnerships; (ii) decentralized health services; (iii) traditional healers; and (iv) personal accountability and health self-sufficiency.

In addition, the Clean Soils (Suelos Limpios) programme was incorporated in 2009. This programme consists in decreasing levels of parasitic infections in children by providing them with rubber boots and anti-parasitic treatment, both of which are fundamental to their overall growth and development.

The principal activities are focused on the establishment of community homes, health networks, emergency transportation systems and logistical support for health promoters along migration routes, all done through extensive coordination with all stakeholders: the Ngöbe-Buglé people, government institutions, civil society, Costa Rica and Panama's health authorities and health partners.

Source: "Improving Health Care for Indigenous Migrant Workers and Their Families" [online] <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/activities/by-theme/migration-health/finca-sana-improving-health-mobile-populations> and Project "Health Care for Migrant Indigenous Communities" [online] <http://www.cepal.org/dds/innovacionsocial/e/proyectos/cr/salud/default-i.htm>



**...children of migrants can face a number of emotional and economic challenges unique to their circumstances, in particular a greater vulnerability to human trafficking, child labour and violence.**

Source: United Nations Secretary-General's Message on International Day of Families, New York, 15 May 2010, <<http://www.un.org/en/events/familyday/sgmessage.shtml>>.

**...more than half of Bolivians, 3 out of 10 Peruvians and one fourth of Colombians and Ecuadorians living in Spain in 2007 had migrated unaccompanied by their children and were not able to bring them later.**

Source: Maguid, Alicia and Marcela Cerrutti (2010), "Children of South American immigrants in Spain: the social environment, family and residential", *Project documents*, Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), July, unpublished.

**...in 2007, 26% of children in the canton of Cañar, in Quito, Ecuador have one or both parents living in another country.**

Source: Observatory for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (2008), "Niñez y migración en el cantón Cañar", November [online] <http://www.odna.org/ODNA-PDF/migracion.pdf>.

**...article 30 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families stipulates that access to preschool or public schools may not be denied to these workers' children because of the irregular situation of either parent in the host country or in employment.**

Source: United Nations (1990), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, New York [online] <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cmw.htm>. >.

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