

A Framework and Recommendations for Action on Children Affected by Migration in the Caribbean



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Publishing Organizations



The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was established in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas. From a membership of four in 1973, CARICOM now has 15 Member States and five Associate Members. The objectives of the Community, as identified in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (2000), are: (i) to improve standards of living and work; (ii) the full employment of labour and other factors of production; (iii)

accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence; (iv) expansion of trade and economic relations with third States; (v) enhanced levels of international competitiveness; (vi) organization for increased production and productivity; (vii) achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage and effectiveness of Member States in dealing with Third States, groups of States and entities of any description and the (viii) enhanced co-ordination of Member States' foreign and foreign economic policies and (ix) enhanced functional co-operation. For additional information on CARICOM, see www.caricom.org.



IOM International Organization for Migration
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The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. For additional information on IOM, see www.iom.int.



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The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. For additional information on UNICEF, see www.unicef.org.

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCS	CARICOM Secretariat
COHSOD.....	CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development
CRC.....	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
HIV.....	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO.....	International Labour Organization
IOM.....	International Organization for Migration
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Introduction

Migration presents both opportunities and challenges for societies, communities and individuals. It brings substantial amounts of remittances to the region contributing to the national economy of the territories and the well-being of individual families and their members. Migration can be complex, with mixed flows of refugees, asylum-seekers, economic migrants and other vulnerable migrants such as victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants, stranded migrants, unaccompanied (and separated) minors, those subject to violence (including gender-based violence) and psychological distress and trauma during the migration process.¹ Mixed flows may include migrant workers, cross-border traders and migrants moving for environmental reasons. Migrants can be male and female, adults and children. This complicated migration context is increasingly evident in the Caribbean, necessitating a versatile response tailored to the individual needs of migrants in accordance with established international norms protecting the human rights of all persons, including children. Migration can alter family structures and countless numbers of children are affected in different ways. Children can migrate with their parent(s) or can be left behind by one or both parents who are migrating. Children who are left behind live either with one of their parents, relatives, non-related caregivers or sometimes even alone with younger siblings. Children who migrated may be living with their parent(s) or 'separated' from their parents but living with members of their families or caregivers in the country of destination. They can also be living alone (unaccompanied).

The pace of global migration is expected to continue in the foreseeable future. The legislation relating to the movement of skilled Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Nationals pursuant to Article 46 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas provides for the establishment of appropriate legislative, administrative and procedural arrangements to facilitate the movement of skills in the participating CARICOM Member States.² Therefore ensuring the provision of access to basic services (e.g. education, health care, social services, identity documents) for migrant children and children left behind must be a policy priority. Since the number of migrant children in a nation can be a growing proportion, policies that advantage or disadvantage these children – access to social services, for example – will have a far reaching effect on a country's future development. CARICOM's Protocol on Contingent Rights will deal with rights in accordance with the built in agenda of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and the key rules in the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME), and in particular national treatment will be applicable to it.

Efforts to understand, explore and develop the appropriate state policies for children affected by migration are now gaining in strength. Whatever their condition and their migration status, these children must not be placed in a position where Governments prioritize state security over fundamental rights. Children's fundamental rights regarding well-being and safety will take precedence, as stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).⁴

The extent to which children are affected by migration is a topic that CARICOM Member States are only beginning to explore, despite the region's traditionally strong intra- and extra-regional migration flows. Recent examples of high level discussions in CARICOM are the Twelfth Special Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) (March 2008) as well as the discussions held during the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (July 2008). In fact, as part of the preparations for the Special COHSOD a four country study on children affected by migration was commissioned by the UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS), entitled "The Impact of Migration on Children in the Caribbean."⁵ The findings of the study indicated that children are significantly affected by migration, including psycho-social difficulties such as feelings of abandonment, low self esteem, anger, depression and/or material obsession that could result in behaviour problems. School performance, even losing the right to education, no access to health care and the inability to register newborns are also noticeable effects of migration on children. Furthermore, they are quite vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation.

COHSOD recognized the issue of children deprived from parental care⁶ and in particular for those who are affected by migration. The COHSOD's Communiqué for the March 2008 meeting mentioned that legislative reform should address the following areas: "children without adequate care and protection, particularly those in foster care and **children affected by migration**, enforcement of legislation relating to child labour, exploitation and trafficking and justice for children and reforms related to strengthening birth registration systems."

Methodology for Developing the Framework and Recommendations

As migration appears to affect children significantly, an informal, regional working group was formed consisting of child protection specialists or persons working in related areas from nine CARICOM Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago), the CCS, IOM and UNICEF to discuss the impact of migration on children in a comprehensive manner.

In 2009, working group sessions were convened to exchange practical experiences, identify national strengths and weaknesses and develop a set of recommendations for future action to respond to children affected by migration in the region. Through the discussions, the following points were highlighted:

- All CARICOM Member States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).⁷
- Children, irrespective of their nationality or status⁸, are entitled *inter alia* to access to basic services.
- All countries have child protection laws but they may not adequately cover migration issues.
- There is growing concern about cases involving CARICOM children, who stay behind and do not migrate with their parent(s). Particular challenges may include insufficient food (inadequate nutrition), shelter, clothing, proper adult supervision and care, under-participation⁹ and under-performance at school and psychological struggles (e.g. the child feels abandoned or rejected). In turn, this can negatively affect the child's well-being and development, increase the child's vulnerability and perhaps result in behavioral problems and violence, school truancy, juvenile delinquency and other problematic behavior.
- Some of the migrant children may not be accessing available services due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about available services or the family's fear of deportation which deters it from seeking assistance through government agencies.
- Most migrant children seem to be accompanied; there are few cases recorded of unaccompanied migrant children to date.
- Most countries collect data on child migration but it may not be processed or analysed.
- Some countries have established operating procedures as provided for in their Immigration Acts for the handling of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children, e.g. child welfare/social services as stated within their Immigration Acts.
- A few countries seem to experience a growing number of child migrants which will have an impact on the demands for basic services.

- Most likely the number of child migrants will continue to grow because of the CSME, global economic changes and climate change, for example.

Noting the aforementioned context and challenges, the working group recognized the need for having a comprehensive framework and a set of recommendations that enhance the protection of children affected by migration in the Caribbean in order to enable stakeholders to act at the national and regional levels.

Proposed Framework

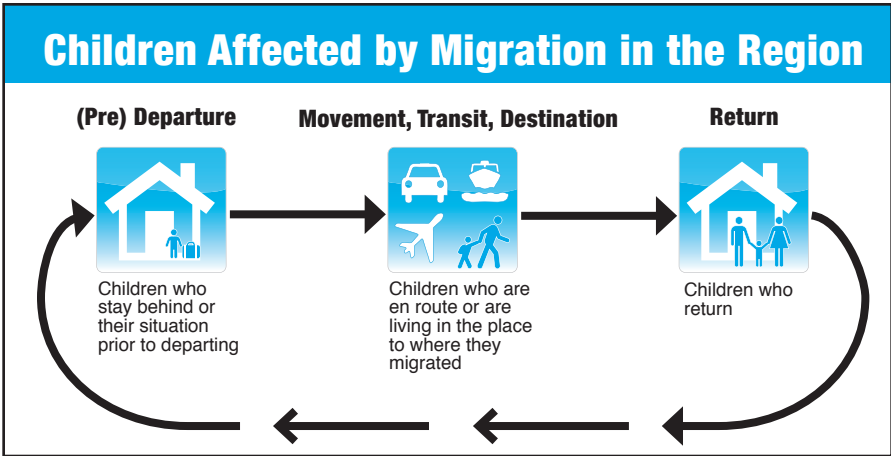
All CARICOM Member States are committed to upholding the principles and rights specified in the CRC. The guiding principles are: 1) non-discrimination; 2) best interests of the child; 3) right to life, survival and development; and 4) respect for the views of the child. The rights and principles prescribed in the CRC must prevail; it must be underscored that migrant children are considered children before they are considered migrants.

The working group noted the need to reinforce some areas that fall under the CRC in the particular context of children affected by migration. Such areas for CARICOM Member States to strengthen adherence to the CRC include:




- Safe guard the rights of all children, irrespective of their status, especially those at risk (CRC's Article 2).
- Promote the rights of all children to national identity and support families in legalizing status (CRC's Articles 2, 7 and 8).
- Provide equal access and opportunity to affordable and relevant quality education for migrant children that is threat-free from deportation¹⁰ (CRC's Articles 2, 28 and 29).
- Guarantee equal access for migrant children irrespective of their status to basic health care, including HIV/AIDS training, immunization, pre- and post-natal care (CRC's Articles 2, 6 and 24).
- Provide access to basic social services, and promote the availability of social services for all children, on the basis of equal access and opportunity, among the public (CRC's Articles 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 40).
- Strengthen foster care systems and/or offer social security and support for the care of children who have been left behind (CRC's Articles 20, 21, 25, 26 and 27).
- Promote children's input and participation in decisions affecting them (CRC's Articles 12 and 13).

Using the CRC as a guiding tool, the working group identified three general categories of children affected by migration in the Caribbean. The categories are: 1) children who stay behind when their parents or legal guardians migrated, 2) children who have migrated unaccompanied or accompanied to a CARICOM country, and 3) CARICOM children who are returning to their country of origin/birth.

The chart below captures the process of how children can be affected by migration in the Caribbean.



Subsequently the working group identified areas for improvement per these three categories as captured in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: Specific Areas of Improvement for the Three Categories of Children Affected by Migration in the Region		
 Children staying behind	 Migrant children	 Migrant children returning
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• data collection, analysis, usage• social/migration policies and procedures• education• social services• health• psychological support/ counseling• budgetary allocation• community acceptance/ cultural education• alternative care¹¹• housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• data collection, analysis, usage• social/migration policies and procedures• education¹²• social services• health• psychological support/ counseling• budgetary allocation• nationality• community acceptance /cultural education• alternative care• housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• data collection, analysis, usage• social/reintegration policies and procedures• education¹²• social services• health• psychological support/ counseling• budgetary allocation• nationality• community acceptance/cultural education• housing

In no particular order of importance, Table 1 depicts several thematic areas – data, policies and procedures, social services, education, health, psychological support/counseling, and investing in human and financial resources to sustain services – cutting across all categories. Improvement within these specific areas, therefore, helps to ensure that children affected by migration have an adequate standard of living for their physical, mental, spiritual and moral development.

The working group recognized that, in order to achieve the framework's purpose, not every area could be included at this time. The group decided that the framework and ensuing recommendations would be underpinned by the CRC's four guiding principles: every child matters, social integration, universality and a rights-based approach.

Seven Thematic Areas of Recommended Action for Children Affected by Migration

The working group selected seven thematic areas on which to focus and recommend action. Enumerated below are the seven areas, each with a general context, recommendations for government to pursue at the national level and recommendations for CARICOM to pursue at the regional level.

1. Data collection, analysis and usage

General context: no clear data or statistics are being collected about child migrants and where data is collected it is not compiled, analysed and disseminated. This seems to hold true for migrant children who are CARICOM and non-CARICOM nationals, accompanied or unaccompanied.

>> To improve data collection, analysis and usage, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Develop a national protocol on regular data collection, analysis and dissemination systems and proceedings on data regarding children affected by migration.¹³
- Develop and/or expand national surveillance (e.g. national monitoring systems, census, surveys) to include migration issues.
- Provide a yearly report on migration trends and impact and effects of migration on children.

CARICOM should:

- Standardize migration indicators for Member States while taking into account

the outcomes for ongoing initiatives.

- Provide technical assistance to Member States on the development of protocols regarding data collection systems and procedures.
- Develop and disseminate yearly reports on regional analysis of migration trends and its impact on children.
- Prepare and support the establishment of a Children's Observatory.

2. Policies and procedures

General context: when handling unaccompanied migrant children, some countries have established operating procedures for immigration or other relevant authorities, e.g. child welfare/social services. All countries have child protection laws but they may not adequately speak to migration issues.

>> To help ensure that there are policies and procedures established, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Prioritize the development of national child protection strategies and systems to also include children affected by migration and ensure that all migrant children have access to legal representation.
- Review existing policies, procedures and legislation and develop a national policy on migration to standardize procedures for the protection of rights of children affected by migration and provide access to and opportunities for basic services.
- Identify and/or strengthen a focal point/Child Development/Protection agency or unit that is responsible for and can coordinate matters pertaining to children affected by migration and encourage/enhance multi-sectoral agency collaboration with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- Ratify the Optional Protocols to the CRC¹⁴, Palermo Protocols¹⁵, The Hague Convention and Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.¹⁶

CARICOM should:

- Complete the Protocol on Contingent Rights cognizant of the fact that fundamental rights of children are enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to which Member States are party and which would be reiterated in the Protocol.
- Establish a Special Bureau/unit/desk to address migration including children affected by migration that would seek to develop (i) a regional platform of action to include guiding principles on children affected by migration and unaccompanied minors, (ii) policies, (iii) provide technical assistance to Member States in establishing and implementing their policies and procedures.
- Establish a protocol that enables families/children to be relocated to other

CARICOM countries for safety concerns.

- Take into account children affected by migration when developing the Regional Child Protection Guidelines.

3. Social services

General context: children affected by migration can have difficulties accessing social services. It can also be difficult to identify children affected by migration who require assistance. The current workload of the social workers is significant, and following up regularly with cases is not easy. Placing CARICOM children with family members in the region makes coordination and follow up an additional challenge.

>> To help ensure that children access social services, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Establish networks with and/or enhance the capacity of partners to identify children affected by migration and ensure that, whenever needed, children are referred to relevant agencies (e.g. child protection, social services).
- Develop and establish a protocol for tracking and exchanging information about children who have moved to other jurisdictions.

CARICOM should:

- Research and disseminate best practice models based on different methodologies relating to the social services of migrant children, which are being implemented in other countries and/or regions.
- Establish a discretionary assistance fund to which governments and donors contribute and would be accessed to assist with cases that overwhelm the local system.

4. Education

General context: some child migrants face difficulties integrating into the mainstream education due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about available public services, capacity constraints in the public education system and/or fear of deportation. As a result they use their community network to receive private or informal education.

>> To help ensure that children access education, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Establish centres for English as a Second Language (ESL) or the host country's national language that can provide support to children of migrant families to develop the required language competency.
- Develop a Child Protection Plan for the education sector, with special attention

to children affected by migration.

- Develop and include in the teacher training curriculum a Module on the psycho-social effects of migration, related learning disabilities and tools to positively deal with cultural differences of students.

CARICOM should:

- Reaffirm the right and access to primary and secondary education in completing the Protocol on Contingent Rights for children who stay behind, children who have migrated and children who have returned.
- Incorporate a special Module in HFLE (Health and Family Life Education) and/or other Life Skills Programmes on the appreciation of cultural differences and inclusiveness.
- Lobby through the Teacher Education Task Force for the strengthening of the teacher training curriculum in dealing with multicultural and psycho-social issues including those experienced by children affected by migration.
- Take into account children affected by migration within the education sector when developing the Regional Child Protection Guidelines.

5. Health

General context: some child migrants use their migrant community network to receive private health care due to language barriers, lack of knowledge about available public services and/or fear of deportation.

>> To help ensure that children access public health services, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Provide and/or expand community culturally-sensitive rights-based outreach programmes (on public health, hygiene, sanitation) and strengthen health centres in communities taking into account language and other migration specific circumstances.
- Develop or enhance existing national and institutional policies which promote universal access to HIV and AIDS prevention treatment and care for migrant children.

CARICOM should:

- Reaffirm access to basic health care for migrant children under the Protocol on Contingent Rights.
- Support and develop a network of migrants and employer/trade union based initiatives in the workplace which promote health and reduce the social vulnerability of migrants and their families.
- Support initiatives undertaken by the Pan Caribbean Partnership on HIV/AIDS

(PANCAP) as outlined in the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS (CRSF) 2008-2011 to advocate for regional policies addressing migration and to provide prevention, treatment and care services for most at risk populations including migrant children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

- Reaffirm commitment by regional countries to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV through “prevention of mother-to-child transmission” (PMCT) programmes which target mothers regardless of country of origin.

6. Psycho-social issues

General context: there is growing concern about cases particularly involving CARICOM children who stay behind and do not migrate with their parent(s). Specific challenges may include insufficient food, shelter, clothing, proper adult supervision and care, under-participation and under-performance at school and psychological struggles (e.g. the child feels abandoned or rejected). In turn, this can negatively affect the child's well-being and development, increase the child's vulnerability and perhaps result in behavioral problems and violence, school truancy, juvenile delinquency, etc.

>> To help ensure that children affected by migration receive appropriate psychological support and counseling, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Establish policies and protocols for psycho-social support for children affected by migration.
- Develop and/or expand institutional structures and support to provide psycho-social counseling and mentoring for children affected by migration (e.g. welfare units, child guidance clinics, school guidance counselors, counseling centres, mentorship programmes, etc).
- Develop and/or adopt existing tools for identifying and assessing psycho-social needs for children.

CARICOM should:

- Create cross-regional exchange programmes to build capacity at the national level and learn from the expertise of psycho-social professionals (i.e. counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists, etc) working with children affected by migration.
- Create cross-regional psycho-social programmes to assist countries in providing psycho-social support to children affected by migration.
- Negotiate with Third States¹⁷ on the prioritization of scholarships for psycho-social training of professionals in CARICOM countries (e.g. social work, counseling, psychology and/or psychiatry).

7. Investment in human and financial resources

General context: governments should engage in medium to long term development planning to ensure that resources are available to support human and social planning, programmes and policies. Ensuring appropriate human and financial resources are allocated to assist children affected by migration requires child friendly budgeting. This means formulating and managing the social expenditure with a children's rights perspective. In other words, children oriented results management (including budgeting), and Children Participatory Budgeting.¹⁸ This will help to understand how much investment (human and financial) is done and will be the basis to analyse the required investment based on specific indicators.

>> To help ensure that there is investment in human and financial resources, the following is recommended:

Government should:

- Create and fund positions particularly in labour, social services, education and health, e.g. for more psycho-social counselors, social workers, etc, who can handle matters related to children affected by migration.
- Provide additional budget allocation and/or funding to support professional training for under-represented professional sectors (e.g. psycho-social professionals).
- Provide sufficient human and financial allocation for National Action Plans for Child Development/Protection, including children affected by migration.
- Institute child friendly budgeting and include this process into the fiscal budget cycle.
- Create incentives for the private sector to financially and socially contribute to initiatives in child protection and migration. Such incentives could be providing a tax break or other options that foster and/or encourage corporate social responsibility (CSR).

CARICOM should:

- Convene joint meetings between COHSOD and the Council on Finance and Planning (COFAP) about social expenditure, budgetary allocations and long-term planning.
- Include this Framework in the Regional Plan of Action for Child Protection.

Conclusion

As mentioned in the introduction, discussion on the topic of children affected by migration in the region is new and evolving. This publication is intended to serve as a reference resource for stakeholders in government and civil society who desire to improve policy and practice regarding children affected by migration, whether they are children who stay behind, children who have migrated or children who have returned.

The framework and recommendations outlined in this document can be a starting point for governments to consider and act at the national level and for CARICOM to consider and act at the regional level. The working group proposed a framework and recommended action in seven thematic areas as a comprehensive approach to improving protection measures for children affected by migration in the Caribbean. Not all of the thematic areas and corresponding action will be relevant to any one country; as such, States are expected to adjust the framework and recommendations to the local context while upholding the principles codified in the CRC. In fact, the growing concern within the Region of the consequences of climate change on children that will likely result in their need to adjust and 'readjust' to displacement, migration, separation from parents and friends, loss of community, and change/loss of identity is an area that requires further focus and discussion.¹⁹

On a final note, the working group also identified three horizontal issues that underpinned all of the seven areas. Those issues were public education, training and re-training and action oriented research. As such, the group offered the following recommendations for government to consider and act:

Government should:

- Develop public awareness/education programmes on the protection of child migrants, immigration policies and procedures to prevent discrimination and exploitation.
- Publicize national policies on child migrants' rights to access and use of basic services free from intimidation and threat of deportation.
- Provide specialised training on sensitive and friendly techniques when dealing with children for officials and/or relevant authorities.
- Conduct an analysis of the quality of life and integration level of seasonal workers' children affected by migration.
- Ensure that language and cultural diversity is included in public awareness/education campaigns, PSAs (public service announcements) and other basic services related information.
- Document and disseminate information on best practices and interventions regarding children affected by migration.
- Have the relevant ministry, for example Foreign Affairs (embassies/consulates), liaise with counterparts on matters such as deportation, reintegration and cultural and language barriers.

Endnotes

- 1 IOM Paper (MC/INF/297), Ninety-Eighth Session "Irregular Migration and Mixed Flows: IOM's Approach," 19 Oct. 2009.
- 2 Article 46: Movement of Skilled Community Nationals states:
 1. Without prejudice to the rights recognized and agreed to be accorded by Member States in Articles 32, 33, 37, 38 and 40 among themselves and to Community nationals, Member States have agreed, and undertake as a first step towards achieving the goal set out in Article 45, to accord to the following categories of Community nationals the right to seek employment in their jurisdictions: (a) University graduates; (b) media workers; (c) sportspersons; (d) artists; and (e) musicians, recognized as such by the competent authorities of the receiving Member States.
 2. Member States shall establish appropriate legislative, administrative and procedural arrangements to: (a) facilitate the movement of skills within the contemplation of this Article; (b) provide for movement of Community nationals into and within their jurisdictions without harassment or the imposition of impediments, including: (i) the elimination of the requirement for passports for Community nationals travelling to their jurisdictions; (ii) the elimination of the requirement for work permits for Community nationals seeking approved employment in their jurisdictions; (iii) establishment of mechanisms for certifying and establishing equivalency of degrees and for accrediting institutions; (iv) harmonization and transferability of social security benefits.
 3. Nothing in this Treaty shall be construed as inhibiting Member States from according Community nationals unrestricted access to, and movement within, their jurisdictions subject to such conditions as the public interest may require.
 4. The Conference shall keep the provisions of this Article under review in order to: (a) enlarge, as appropriate, the classes of persons entitled to move and work freely in the Community; and (b) monitor and secure compliance therewith.
- 3 Birth registration and identity documents are the entry point and prerequisite for children's enjoyment of all other rights. As such, the strengthening of the birth registration process is encouraged. The importance of birth registration is highlighted in the CRC Article 7.1 "The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents." The issue of state obligations for provision of nationality and thus identity is further outlined in Article 7.2 and Article 8.
- 4 CRC Article 2.1: "States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status." <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>.
- 5 Reis, 2008. *The Impact of Migration on Children in the Caribbean: Dominica, Bahamas, Belize and Guyana*. Analytical Report
- 6 'Parental care' here is the same terminology the CRC uses.
- 7 This Convention enumerates the basic rights to which children are entitled, including the right to survival; to develop to the fullest potential; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm>.
- 8 CRC Article 2.1. See endnote 2 for text of Article. 2.1.
- 9 Under-participation within the education system may refer to the ability to access the service but not maximizing or utilizing the opportunity/ies presented. As such, it embraces issues such as curriculum participation, classroom and school participation and attendance. It can also be understood as the State providing access but as a result of capacity constraints there is under-participation by the school-aged population, that is, children are out school.
- 10 Access to the education system can be threat free of deportation for the child, but if a country deports the guardian then the dependents can also be required to leave.
- 11 Alternative care is care for children who are deprived from parental care. Different forms of alternative care are inter alia foster care, adoption and institutional care.
- 12 Education, in this column, should also include the needs of children who are learning in their non-native language.
- 13 The data collected should be based on the agreed template and indicators taking into account existing IOM, UNICEF, ILO and ECLAC initiatives and the CARICOM Secretariat. The data should be disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, region/parish, accompanied or unaccompanied, separated, type, sector, etc. The protocol should identify a lead repository for migration statistics.
- 14 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict establishes 18 as the minimum age for compulsory recruitment and requires States to do everything they can to prevent individuals under the age of 18 from taking a direct part in hostilities. The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography draws special attention to the criminalization of these serious violations of children's rights and emphasizes the importance of fostering increased public awareness and international cooperation in efforts to combat them. (See http://www.unicef.org/crc/index_protocols.html for more information).
- 15 The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime. The Convention is further supplemented by three Protocols, which target specific areas and manifestations of organized crime: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. Countries must become parties to the Convention itself before they can become parties to any of the Protocols. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime sets out the parameters for international judiciary co-operation against transnational organized crime, and creates an international judicial regime under which traffickers can be held accountable for their crimes. The Trafficking in Persons Protocol recognizes the need for a combined approach that integrates effective prevention of trafficking, with the prosecution of traffickers and the protection of human rights and assistance to victims of trafficking. (Source: <http://www.nikk.uio.no/?module=Articles;action=Article.publicShow;ID=522>).
- 16 The Hague Adoption Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. The Hague Convention is an international agreement to safeguard intercountry adoptions. Concluded on May 29, 1993 in The Hague, the Netherlands, the Convention establishes international standards of practices for intercountry adoptions. (Source: <http://adoption.state.gov/hague/overview.html>).
- 17 Third State usually refers to a non-CARICOM country. The meaning is clearest when we are speaking about relations between two CARICOM member states (or between the CARICOM institutions and a member state) and another country - literally a third country - that is outside the CARICOM grouping.
- 18 Child friendly budgeting is an attempt to examine what resources government allocates to programmes and services that benefit children and whether these programmes and services adequately reflect the needs and rights of children. It represents an important policy analytical tool that can help take stock of development investments for children, and identify glaring gaps in resource investment. In other words, it supports a results oriented management. An emerging approach to child friendly budgeting is child participatory budgeting.
- 19 Addendum to the Regional Framework For Action For Children 2002-2015. Twelfth Special Meeting of the Council of Human and Social Development, March 2008, Guyana.

The discussion on the topic of children affected by migration in the Caribbean is relatively new and evolving. Several Caribbean countries, the CARICOM Secretariat, IOM and UNICEF worked together to identify how migration affects children in the region, particularly for:



children who stay behind when their parents or legal guardians migrate,



children who migrate unaccompanied or accompanied, and



children who return to their country of origin/birth in the Caribbean.

To assist these children, we collaborated to develop a framework and recommendations for action. This publication is intended to serve as a technical resource for stakeholders to improve policies and practices that protect children.

