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### ANNEX

of the Commission Decision on the Pilot Projects in favour of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador

### **Enhance rights and protection for forcibly displaced children and adolescents in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador**

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Enhance rights and protection for forcibly displaced children and adolescents in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador  CRIS number: LA/2016/039-815  financed under PP/AP	
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Central America: Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.  The action shall be carried out in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador	
<b>3. Programming document</b>	N/A	
<b>4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area</b>	N/A	DEV. Aid: YES
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	The contribution is for an amount of EUR 700 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2016 and for an amount of EUR 750 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017, subject to availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget"  This action is a multi-donor action and an amount of EUR 500 000 will be provided by other donors.	
<b>6. Aid modality and implementation modality</b>	Project Modality: Indirect management with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Agency (UNHCR)	
<b>7 a) DAC code(s)</b>	16010 – Social/ welfare services 16011 – Social protection and welfare services policy, planning and administration 13010 – Population policy and administrative management 15160 – Human Rights	

<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	41000 - UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES, FUNDS AND COMMISSIONS (41121 - United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	This action relates to the "migration and asylum" and "human development" Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic areas.			
<p><b>SUMMARY</b></p> <p>The action is a Pilot Project or Preparatory Action financed under the Budget in the sense of Article 54(2) of the Financial Regulation.</p> <p><b>The overall objective</b> of the pilot project is to improve immediate and long-term protection responses for children and adolescents displaced by violence, persecution and violations of human rights<sup>[1]</sup> and to strengthen child protection systems at regional, national and local levels.</p> <p><b>The specific objective</b> is that at least 14,640 displaced children and adolescents including separated and/or unaccompanied minors benefit from stronger and holistic protection mechanisms in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.</p>				

<sup>[1]</sup> Displaced person, for purposes of this Project, include internally displaced and those that cross an international border. It is noted that people may be displaced for a number of reasons; being forcibly displaced suggests the movement was not voluntary and an element of fear and/or security of person was involved. UNHCR is mandated to work with populations who have been forcibly displaced.

**Expected results:**

1. Improved prevention and response to needs of forcibly displaced children, both internally and those seeking international protection, and those deported with protection needs through improved child protection policies and laws at regional, national and local levels;
2. Forcibly displaced children are better identified and protection services improved in dignified child-safe spaces<sup>1</sup> where girls and boys are safeguarded from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation according to international standards;
3. Durable solutions, addressing the root causes of forced displacement and establishing sustainable, local protection mechanisms, are supported by governments and civil society.

The period of implementation is 40 months and the indicative budget EUR 1 950 000.

## **1 CONTEXT**

### **1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area**

The three target countries of this proposal –Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, which form the region of the Northern Triangle in Central America – have been affected by extreme levels violence, increasingly caused by Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and other illegal, armed groups, including those involved in complex drug trade. The criminal activities of these groups provoke violence and contribute to sense of insecurity, as well as limit the capacity of the states to access and control entire territories and provide adequate protection to the populations affected by violence, extortion and threats. The population in these areas is often forced to flee internally or to seek international protection.

The target countries are placed amidst other Central American as well as Caribbean nations that are also seeking to protect their nationals; many of which demonstrate similar national security concerns, political vulnerability and a lack of resources to effectively address the issues. The United States and to certain extent Mexico exert dominant political and economic influence in the region. As they are currently receiving the majority of migrants from Central America, their borders and immigration policies substantially affect migratory flows in the region and more importantly, the humanitarian conditions these individuals face during their journeys.

Thousands of Central Americans are often forced to flee internally or to seek international protection due to the violence, sexual exploitation, lack of stability and security. Many of the children and their families, who are affected by these violent circumstances, are lacking knowledge about their basic rights, and where to find protection, and are vulnerable to further exploitation and threats such as human trafficking. Similarly, government entities and civil society organizations do not possess all the relevant tools and resources to address the

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<sup>1</sup> In developing this proposal we employed a broad use of the term “space” it can include physical spaces such as reception centers, community centers and school zones but it can also include the space shared between a child protection/welfare officer and the child while documenting a case. In the latter, technical training and appropriate documents are necessary to facilitate the space. The former interpretation (physical spaces) also includes detention centers or “safe houses” particularly in the case of Guatemala.

problems and provide basic services to these vulnerable populations. Drug and human trafficking, polarized political systems, weak law enforcement and socio-economic hardship – including poverty, inequality and unemployment – fuel the current crisis.

In addition to the human impact of political policies established in receiving countries are quantified in the increase of deportations from the US and Mexico in 2014 and 2015. In 2014 the flow of unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to the U.S. rose to a level of acute humanitarian crisis. The number of children and adolescents migrating to the US increased from an average of 6,000 per year in 2010 to more than 24,000 in 2013 and to over 63,000 in 2014.

In 2015 the number of unaccompanied children, adolescent migrants and refugees from the region arriving to the US significantly decreased, approximately by 38 % compared to 2014. Almost simultaneous to the decrease of apprehensions by US Border Patrol in 2015, the Mexican Border Patrol apprehended a total of 34,871 accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents. The implementation of the “Plan Frontera Sur” 2015, in Mexico, resulted in a drastic increase in the number of expedited deportations with few protection considerations.<sup>2</sup>

By 2016 the regional picture has changed again. The US has apprehended<sup>3</sup> almost 80,000 children and adolescents from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador; as of 30 June 2016, this number is already 16 % more than 2015. In 2016 Mexico has deported 5,965 unaccompanied children and adolescents (Guatemala 2,804, Honduras 1,322 and El Salvador 1,074) and 5,200 accompanied children and adolescents (Guatemala 2,529, Honduras 1,753 and El Salvador 1,413) for a total of 10,895 children and adolescents deported. Compared to 2015, deportations have increased by 5 %. Other countries in the region such as Costa Rica and Panama have also been affected by increased migration. Panama has registered an exponential increase of 3,500 asylum seekers during 2015 from which applicants from the three target countries rank third in the list. There are no official disaggregated figures on children and adolescents but we can expect a significant proportion. Due to the fact that the increase in asylum seekers from the three target countries has not been limited to just the US, but impacts other Central American nations, regional responsibility sharing, planning and action are critical to respond to the children and adolescents who continue to flee.

Children on the Run, a study of UACs in the US detailed that 58 % of UACs were forced to flee their countries due to violence. Official sources in Honduras, for example, have registered that approximately 30 % of all deported children, adolescents and their families have fled violence and have continued protection needs. Similarly, “*Arrancados al Raíz*,” a study of UACs in Mexico, showed that just under 50 % of children and adolescents fled violence. Furthermore, unofficial statistics and anecdotal information from civil society, government workers and deported individuals suggest that this percentage is significantly underreported; some allude to upwards of 75 % of children, adolescents and families flee their places of origin due to fear for their life, security and/or dignity. Children often become victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which are also important issues causing forced displacement.

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<sup>2</sup> Out of which 38 % were 0-11 years old, 62 % were 12-17 years, and 60 % were male and 40 % female.

<sup>3</sup> Apprehensions by the Border Patrol on southwest border, not deportations.

The EU reacted to the ongoing crisis with contribution of EUR 2 000 000 in 2015 through its program Eurolabor for implementation of project Support to youth employment and prevention of migration (2015/ 366-863). Moreover, the Commission provided immediate humanitarian support through various interventions, such as the Children of Peace Initiative, which aimed at responding to the humanitarian consequences of the intensification of violence in the region, including the above-mentioned and ongoing efforts to enhance documentation of such cases. The crisis in 2014 also provoked a strong response from the US government, which announced in November 2014 Alliance for Prosperity Plan, allocating USD 750 million for a five-year initiative that is aimed at boosting security and economic support in an effort to stem the refugee crisis in the Northern Triangle<sup>4</sup>. However the strategic lines of the plan stresses focus on creation of economic opportunities, infrastructure projects security support and foreign investment

The US government through the Alliance for Prosperity Plan and the EU through its development and humanitarian tools have been supporting the response to the migratory crisis alongside the efforts of the governments of the three target countries and regional initiatives. Work is already in motion to strengthen identification and response to protection needs particular to children and adolescents, both those who travel unaccompanied and those accompanied by an adult. Similarly, significant effort is underway to enhance psycho-social responses, including enhanced physical spaces to support children and their families upon reception in countries of asylum such as Guatemala and upon deportation to their countries of origin. Despite the substantial advances and assistance provided to the region the affected population, especially children and adolescents, still face challenges while trying to access immediate protection services and longer term support. Continuity and expansion of provision of protection services and strengthening the position of civil society and local authorities, is necessary to find lasting systematic solutions to the crisis.

All three target countries recognize the severity of the migratory crises, but they vary in their recognition of the status of internally displaced persons. While Honduras is in the process of adopting national law on internal displacement as a response to the crisis, the El Salvador government has not recognized forced internal displacement<sup>5</sup> as a phenomenon, instead focusing on victims of violence on the one hand, and a security response on the other. Recognizing and addressing internal forced displacement as a problem that needs solutions remains a challenge in Guatemala as well. All three states need to be supported in providing a systemic response, which would take a holistic approach, engaging both humanitarian and development actors and national governments: addressing root causes of displacement and providing long term solutions for displaced as well as returnees/deportees, while also securing immediate attention to primary protection needs, in particular those of unaccompanied and separated children.

### ***1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework***

The promotion and protection of the rights of the child is one of the objectives of the EU on which the Treaty of Lisbon has put further emphasis. Notably, Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union explicitly requires the EU to promote the protection of the rights of the child.

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<sup>4</sup> Northern Triangle in this situation, again, refers specifically to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR is currently conducting studies on the profiling of the internal displacement situation in El Salvador and Guatemala. It is expected that the results will inform policy and provide indicators on the situation.

The rights of the child are furthermore enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Article 24 of the Charter recognizes that children are independent and autonomous holders of rights. It also makes the child's best interests a primary consideration for public authorities and private institutions.

The Europe 2020 Strategy sets out a vision for the 21st century of a Europe where the children of today will have a better education, access to the services and to the resources they need to grow up. This is why the Commission launched in 2011 "An EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child". It presents general principles that should ensure that EU action is exemplary in ensuring the respect of the provisions of the Charter and of the UNCRC<sup>6</sup> with regard to the rights of children. In addition, it focuses on a number of concrete actions in areas where the EU can bring real added value, such as child-friendly justice, protecting children in vulnerable situations and fighting violence against children both inside the European Union and externally.

Additionally in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – A European Agenda on Migration the EC stresses the importance of all EU's global role and wide range of tools to address the root causes of migration.

UNHCR in the Central American region has been active in putting in place a comprehensive intervention to better assess current displacement patterns and protection challenges caused mainly by Transnational Organized Crime and other situations of violence, and breaches of human rights. UNHCR conducted a rapid assessment mission to the NTCA<sup>7</sup> in 2015 as well as consultations with numerous stakeholders. Using the Brazil Plan of Action (PAB) as a roadmap UNHCR developed a 3 years *Protection and Solutions strategy for the NTCA and Mexico* (2016-2018).

The strategy intends to provide the technical support and capacity building to governments in the region to ensure that the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons. And returned persons with protection needs are respected, protection provided and that durable solutions are found for them. The fourth objective, of six, focuses on children and other vulnerable cases.

***“Objective 4: Basic protection needs of children and other persons with specific needs are properly identified and addressed. Identification and referral mechanisms, as well as reception conditions will address the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children and other groups at risk (including LGBTI, survivors of SGBV, victims of trafficking, indigenous people and afro descendants). In the case of children, BIA and BID procedures are set up and operational in all countries. Identification and referral mechanisms in place to channel those at risk to corresponding national institutions and/or ad hoc mechanisms (such as NGO's whose work brings them into contact with these populations). The victims and those at risk of displacement with specific needs receive proper attention.”***

The Regional Strategy highlights the specific trainings and legal and political frameworks necessary to effectively respond to the needs of children and adolescents, boys and girls, recognizing their intrinsic vulnerability combined with the fact that they are the main victims of the protection crisis as direct and indirect targets of organized crime.

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<sup>6</sup> UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<sup>7</sup> NTCA: Northern Triangle of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador).

Child protection and welfare is an expressed priority for all governments in the three target countries and in regional mechanisms such as the Regional Conference on Migration. Consequent on the U.S’s official declaration of the crisis in 2014, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and other regional governments responded with an increase in political and financial commitments addressing issues regarding minors. Inter-agency protection groups were established in a number of countries in efforts to coordinate UN actions to assist governments in their responses. These groups continue to exist in countries such as Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and have developed tangible work plans.

The governments of all three target countries have engaged in a variety of initiatives aimed at a response to the migratory crisis. Regarding public policies Honduras has made the most advances among the three target countries in promotion of national legislation on protection of displaced populations by establishing the Comisión Interinstitucional para la Protección de Personas Desplazadas por la Violencia CIPPDV (*Interdisciplinary Commission for Protection of Displaced People by Violence*) in March 2014. This Commission is to give priority to particularly vulnerable cases, especially children and adolescent cases. The commission is currently working on a law on protection for displaced persons, which would contribute to the efforts of combating the negative results of displacement for individuals and family units and could serve as a positive example for other governments in the region.

**1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis**

Expected results and activities will be mainly implemented with the support of Civil Society Organizations in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

UNHCR has a policy on the selection and retention of partners<sup>8</sup>. The objective of this policy is to ensure the most suitable process for the implementation of Projects, in order to provide quality protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern. The selection procedure is designed to ensure that the selection is done in a consistent and transparent manner.

Although at this stage of the project selection of the implementing partners hasn’t been finalized, the following table contains a list of current UNHCR partners with successful track record of implementing protection activities that will be taken into consideration for this intervention:

Honduras	Casa Alianza, Save the Children, World Vision, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Association of Scalabrinian Sisters.
Guatemala	The “Pastoral de Movilidad Humana” Episcopal Conference of Guatemala (PMH), Save the Children, World Vision, Refugio de la Niñez (Children's Refuge Association) and LAMBDA Association.
El Salvador	Cristosal Foundation, Save the Children, World Vision and Caritas Foundation. Also Human Rights Institute of the UCA (IDHUCA) is a long term partner of the EU in El Salvador and is currently implementing a similar project (348890) mentioned in part 3.2. of the AD.

<sup>8</sup> [data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=6714](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=6714)

Indirect intervention is expected from State Institutions/ Regional Organizations through trainings, human resources and other coordination actions:

<p>Children’s Institutions and Entities</p>	<p>Due to the heightened vulnerability of children and the high numbers of UASCs travelling through the region in an irregular manner, government institutions that are responsible for child protection or for policies and projects that have an impact on child protection are also key stakeholders. In Guatemala this includes the States Attorney’s Office (Procuraduria General de la Nacion, PGN) Secretariat for Social Welfare (SBS); in El Salvador, this includes the National Council for Childhood and Adolescence (CONNA) and the Institute for the Integral Development of Children and Adolescents (ISNA); in Honduras it is the National Directorate for Childhood, adolescence and family (DINAF) and the Ministry of Social Development and Inclusion, which is leading the implementation of Social Protection Law, which takes into account a childhood protection mechanism.</p>
<p>Ministries of Interior and General Direction of Migration (DGME)</p>	<p>While taking into account that the National Immigration Boards are under this Ministry, awareness raising and capacity building will be essential to promote access to information.</p> <p>The DGME have direct access to the persons of concern (PoC) and is able to intervene directly with its partners and engage in information gathering activities.</p>
<p>Secretariat of Justice and Human Rights and the Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of Persons Displaced by Violence –ICFD. (Honduras)</p>	<p>The ICDF is composed by delegates from 7 ministries, 3 state agencies and 4 organizations elected by the Civil Society. The Ministry of Human Rights, Justice, Governability and Decentralization acts as Executive Secretariat and UNHCR plays an advisory role. The ICDF has a comprehensive action plan covering all phases of forced displacement, including prevention, protection and promotion of durable solutions.</p>
<p>Ombudsman Office (El Salvador and Guatemala)</p>	<p>UNHCR has also supported efforts of the Ombudsman Office to raise awareness on new displacement patterns.</p>
<p>The Central American Integration System (SICA):</p>	<p>SICA will play a key role at reaching common goals and improving legal and political frameworks at national and regional level for human rights policies with protection sensitivities.</p>

Regional Civil Society Organizations	The EU Delegation present in all three target countries work closely with CSOs both national and international and coordinate long term sustainable activities implemented through OSCs with emergency interventions financed by ECHO.
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The wider UN System and international organizations will also contribute indirectly to the implementation of the proposed action:

Protection group	Unites 14 international NGOs and UN agencies (Child fund, Save the children, Caritas, World Vision, NRC, Plan, ICRC, UNICEF, IOM, OCHA, Casa Alianza, WFP, UNHCR, MSF), who work in Honduras and provide humanitarian assistance with focus on forcibly displaced children and adolescents. Originally in 2014 activated as a cluster during the migration crisis, now more permanent coordination role with monthly meetings. UNHCR is implementing similar protection groups in Guatemala and El Salvador as well.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP provides a range of support to UNHCR UNDP and UNHCR will establish a cost-sharing agreement, in order to facilitate the Project's implementation.
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	In Guatemala and Honduras, UNHCR works closely with OHCHR and partners to include the issue of forced displacement and OSV in capacity building and monitoring activities.
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	UNICEF is a key alliance throughout the region: at the national and regional level. UNHCR complements the general mandate work of UNICEF to ensure protection mechanisms are in place for persons of concern to UNHCR within general and integral child protection systems. UNICEF and UNHCR also collaborate to create child-friendly materials on human and refugee rights.
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	IOM has a well-established presence in NTCA countries and is instrumental for information gathering and monitoring of migration trends and returnee programmes. They have also taken the lead in remodeling reception centers in the three NTCA countries.

### ***1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis***

The real impact and magnitude of the humanitarian crisis, particularly in terms of internal displacement, still remains largely invisible or under assessed, with a consequent gap in terms of protection, assistance and search for durable solutions for this population. Based on the results of rapid assessment missions, periodical missions and visits, secondary data analyses and discussions with different actors as well as Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons A/HRC/32/35/Add. 4 (for the case of Honduras), the following specific problems have been identified:

**1. Protection focused policies for children and adolescents of concern to the UNHCR, at national and local levels remain weak to non-existent and require technical revision and accompaniment for effective implementation.**

- a. Protection policies are only beginning to decentralize; municipal and local governments require an increased awareness to the causes, risks and responses to forced displacement. The awareness-raising coupled with technical capacity building will also be targeted at securing local and municipal budgets for child protection measures.
- b. Policies responding to specific needs of LGBTI community are non-existent. Cultural belief systems create restraints and limit response, particularly to needs of LGBTI children and adolescents.

**2. Child-safe spaces, including schools, domestic and community areas are compromised by control of organized criminal organization coupled with lack of state presence.**

- a. National child protection and welfare mechanisms are weak to non-existent with limited resources and inadequate staffing. The absence of such systems limits any timely or effective evidenced-based assessments and follow-up on cases of displaced children, including in situations where the child is at heightened risk of domestic abuse.

**3. The causes of displacement maintain strong roots in corruption, violations of human rights and organized crime and violence. Child protection systems lack effective coordination mechanisms particularly due to lack of capabilities, resources and commitment of governments that limit timely and durable solutions.**

- a. Lack of confidence in the State by forcibly displaced persons diminishes the effectiveness of state-organized protection mechanisms.

**4. Despite high indicators of forced displacement as well as children and adolescents being deported with protection needs, effective multi-level identification and reception mechanisms remain weak or non-existent. Lack of coordination amongst child protection actors is an obstacle in implementation of coherent procedures that guarantee best-interests and integral protection of the children.**

- a. Lack of effective control of organized criminal groups threatens provision of protection services: safe houses are at risk of becoming centres for recruitment; the presence of vulnerable or targeted children in temporary housing, such as a foster-care system, threatens the security of potential host families.

- b. Follow-up on cases is critical to ensure integral protection for children and their family units in addition to ensuring adequate data that reflects reality of the crisis. Consequent the official crisis declaration by the US in 2014, Central American governments established reception mechanisms for deported persons. Currently it is estimated that the evaluation processes for children take on average 4-10 minutes and there are no follow-up measures, even for cases determined to be highly vulnerable or at high-risk. Needs are identified but responses are still critically lacking.

**5. Limited visibility of the reality of people fleeing due to violence and persecution represents a challenge to those seeking protection as internally displaced and asylum seekers. Most of the children, adolescents and their families fleeing violence are unaware of their right for protection and can be perceived only as migrants and not potential asylum-seekers.**

- a. Lack of information and awareness on forced displacement by violence of governmental and civil society members to properly implement a protection response. Absence of communications initiatives designed for the population on the protection mechanisms available and possibility of accessing basic rights.

**2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS (max. 1 page, section completed during identification)**

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Political crisis or natural disaster in the region or any of the target countries leads to increased migration, higher demand for assistance in protection centers and as a consequence need to reevaluate selection criteria for provision of assistance.	M	The project design and inclusion of contingencies in the budget allows for a flexibility to intervene in the zones of the highest need and adopt the intervention during the implementation to provide assistance where needed most.
Changes and on-going internal restructuring process in counterparts as a result of changes in the governments in the following months result in disinterest and lack of cooperation.	M	Advocate for and promote development of protocols and SOP <sup>9</sup> embedded in the operational structure of government entities that go beyond changes of the political party in power.
Constraints caused by reluctant positions of government authorities on the issue of national security and forced displacement.	H	Engage all relevant partners working on Human Rights in political dialogue, awareness raising and advocacy with government officials to ensure their support and cooperation.

<sup>9</sup> SOP: Standard Operation Procedures.

Humanitarian access to communities is limited for implementing partners due to security concerns with organized armed groups.	H	Maintain frequent and active communication with implementing partners to evaluate security risks and their security plans. Work with other local partners such as churches, parroquias and local authorities, municipalities are foreseen to secure access to communities.
Raise expectations among NTCA governments about UNHCR that are beyond UNHCR's mandate.	L	Constant dialogue with governments and other actors to clarify UNHCR's role and bring other actors into the process through bipartite of tripartite agreements, letters of intent, Memoranda of Understanding, etc.
Sources of information on ongoing crisis are not trustworthy because of the politicization of the topic.	M	Secure access to independent sources of information, think tanks, objective analysis, etc. Strengthen relationship with EU Delegations, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders that are more aware of the situation in the country.
The mixed-migration flows alter routes, which disable access to migrant/reception centers.	H	Mitigation Secure access to independent sources of information, think tanks, objective analysis, etc. Strengthen relationship with UN RC, other UN agencies, Border Authorities and civil society organizations that are more aware of the situation in the country.
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The political and social situation in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador will remain stable and conducive for development and implementation of protection policies and laws.</li> <li>• The level of interest and support for the project and the commitment of the governments will remain high.</li> <li>• Safe areas or territories exist in each of the target countries, where child-safe spaces can be placed.</li> <li>• Targeted territories are accessible and safe for workers of implementation partners to secure provision of services.</li> <li>• Governments and civil society are willing to cooperate and are capable of identifying and recognizing displaced persons in need of protection.</li> </ul>		

**3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

**3.1 Lessons learnt**

The proposed intervention takes into account the national initiatives of the governments of the target countries and intends to work closely with the national authorities to avoid creating parallel structures. The action takes as reference the previously implemented projects in the region financed by ECHO "Children of Peace" initiative, which focused on enhancing the

access to protective environments for children and adolescents at risk of displacement in the three target countries. The main lessons learned at national and international level are the following ones:

- ✓ Engagement and dialogue among a variety of key stakeholders is crucial to guarantee comprehensive response to the crisis;
- ✓ The pilot project has to encourage ownership and sustainability, making sure that all the activities undertaken entail involvement of national and local authorities and the beneficiaries themselves;
- ✓ Partners have a wealth of experience with local populations and a number of tools and materials that can be adapted to include International protection concerns. Adapting such tools will limit duplication and facilitate implementation as the populations and civil society workers are already familiar;
- ✓ Government instability due to election periods and turn-over of government employees, results in unexpected changes and potentially significant delays in implementing, execution and completion of programs. Most recently this has been the case in Guatemala. It is to be noted that in Honduras 2017 will be an electoral year.
- ✓ Mixed migrant flows are subject to political manoeuvres that cannot always be anticipated (EG: changes in US immigration policy)

### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination**

The EU has financed various related regional projects for Central America: e.g. on migratory South-South flows and protection of migrants (2011/282-739) and institutional strengthening with regard to human trafficking, especially women and children (2012/334-503). All projects are related to and complement the pilot project. Attention will be paid to ensuring synergies without overlaps in this respect.

In El Salvador, one of the components of the currently running project "Shaping Public Safety with Imagination, Participation and Action"(348-890) focuses on providing humanitarian assistance and shelter in emergency cases for internally displaced due to violence. In addition, in the first quarter of 2015, within the framework of the "Support for the Migrant Children Awareness Campaign" (352-696), the Delegation coordinated various awareness raising activities together with the General Directorate for Migration and Development of the Vice-Ministry for Salvadorians living abroad.

In Guatemala, UNICEF and UNHCR co-lead the Protection Group resulting in a strong focus on child protection. Additionally, UNICEF and UNHCR are active in the recently established High level Roundtable for Child Protection and the technical group, wherein both UN agencies advise national child protection and welfare bodies in child protection issues with a focus on Best Interest of the Child. In Honduras, UNHCR and UNICEF have formal agreement establishing a multi-year and multi-level work plan that includes advocacy, direct intervention and capacity building activities, with UNHCR focusing on protection measures for its population of concern. In El Salvador, UNHCR and UNICEF combine expertise for capacity-building activities with government and civil society members, with UNHCR leading on Best-Interest procedures and practices for children amongst its population of concern.

In Honduras a project on support to youth employment and prevention of migration in Honduras (2015/366-863) was implemented. In Honduras, donor coordination is conducted through the G-16 donor group which has three active roundtables which attend issues related to the proposed intervention: (i) transparency and good governance, (ii) migration (iii) gender.

Close coordination has been established between DG ECHO and EU Delegations at regional and national levels. Coordination will also be maintained with humanitarian actors working in the region (REDLAC, Red Cross movement) and the UNDG-LAC to promote a comprehensive response to security and development challenges in the region.

A close relationship of UNHCR with UNICEF in each country and at the regional level exists and is fully anticipated to continue to grow. UNICEF's expertise and work in integral protection systems has opened the door for UNHCR to guarantee specific procedural and practical adjustments for refugees, asylum-seekers, returned children with protection needs and forcibly displaced children and adolescents. Areas of collaboration exist in formal education sites, where UNICEF is working with the right to an education while UNHCR evaluates protection issues that stem from education institutions and contribute to forced displacement.

Since 2013, UNHCR has successfully completed two actions with ECHO's financial support in the region. The first project: "Information gathering and advocacy for increased protection of refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced persons in Central America" and the second project implemented: "Enhance access to education, protection and information for Central American unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents (UASC) in Mexico and Guatemala", which benefited 28,510 individuals and 29 organizations and achieved among other improved protection of children and adolescents from Central America in Mexico and Guatemala and created educational and recreational programs in migrations centers and shelters, where it also provided psychosocial support to the displaced children.

The proposed action complements the recently approved ECHO Funding to UNHCR for two new projects: 1) "Enhance access to education, protection and information for Central American children and adolescents in the Northern Triangle", period of implementation: 1/1/2016 to 30/6/2017 and 2) "Profiling of the internal displacement situation and strengthening of protection responses in El Salvador", period of implementation: 1/4/2016 to 31/12/2016.

On the synergies between those actions, including planned actions in the same thematic areas (for example forced displacement, child protection) and same geographic areas (NTCA countries) the interaction of these projects combined will produce greater protection and solutions results. Interventions included in the present project will further explore synergies between stakeholders at local, national and regional level, in view of achieving long-term results and increasing government's involvement, participation and accountability, in a joint effort with the civil society and international organizations already established in the NTCA, such as development actors from the UN system and political bodies such as the SICA. As the issue of forced displacement due to TOC seeks to be at the top of the protection agenda of States, strategic planning needs to be ensured through strengthened protection networks and all key stakeholders involved.

### **3.3 Cross-cutting issues**

The project fosters cross cutting issues of good governance, human rights and gender. This intervention is built on a rights-based approach drawing attention to the basic obligation of the state to take care of its most vulnerable citizens, including those not able to claim their rights for themselves.

Numerous studies in the region, individual cases and daily news sources demonstrate the extreme risk and normalized occurrence of violence based on gender discrimination. UNHCR's study "Women on the Run" (2014) demonstrates that one of the most vulnerable populations in the place of origin and through the regional flight are females and LGBTI persons. According to this study, approximately 21 % of girls admitted to being a victim of sexual abuse, 24 % reported having been a victim of gang violence. At the same over 60 % of women, ages 18-57 indicated being victims of direct attack, including sexual assault, by criminal groups; this statistic demonstrates not only a dangerous environment but a grim future these girls. While these statistics demonstrate a shocking number of female victims, it is feasible this number is underreported for a number of psycho-social or methodological reasons.

While all three states have laws governing prevention and/or intervention in a SGBV case, awareness-raising and technical reviews of laws and policies to enhance effective and timely implementation of protection mechanisms will be strengthened through this project. Access to justice and due process in asylum procedures and national protection mechanisms for girls, both accompanied and unaccompanied is a critical protection concern. Additionally, enhanced documentation and referral of persons that seek protection and/or are forcibly displaced due to gender-based violence will increase visibility of the issues which in turn, obliges a response from both state and civil society actors.

Collaboration with other international stakeholders, including UN agencies through Protection groups and through integrated work plans, particularly with UNWomen, UNFPA and UNICEF will ensure integral protection response and maximize the impact of the project. This project, as prioritized in Objective 4 of UNHCR's Regional Strategy and through UNHCR's Age, Gender and Diversity Approach will directly address gender-based issues among young females with protection needs.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **4.1 Objectives**

This pilot project is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal 10. *Reduce inequality within and among countries; and more specifically to 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies*, and also promotes progress towards Goal 16. *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

This does not imply a commitment by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador benefiting from this programme.

**The overall objective** of the pilot project is to improve immediate and long-term protection responses for children and adolescents displaced by violence, persecution and violations of human rights<sup>[1]</sup> and to strengthen child protection systems at regional, national and local levels.

**The specific objective** is that at least 14,640 displaced children and adolescents including separated and/or unaccompanied minors benefit from stronger and holistic protection mechanisms in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

#### **4.1.1 Beneficiaries' selection Criteria:**

Serious human rights abuses, violence and persecution continue to disproportionately affect children, adolescents and family units in Central America. These children, adolescents and their families differ from general migrant populations: the lack of volition in leaving and the fact that they often cannot return to their places of origin due to threats to their lives, security or dignity make them more vulnerable and in need of International Protection.

In the face of imminent or perceived danger, many children, adolescents and their families may first opt to seek protection with another family member or close friend within their country: thus they become an **internally displaced**. Because many of them are unaccompanied and vulnerable, they need to be protected.

When another protection option does not exist, or the risk remains too large, the individual or family are forced to abandon their country to seek international protection: thus a second beneficiary group are **refugee children or adolescents (accompanied or unaccompanied)**.

Furthermore, the continued protection crisis in the three target countries demonstrates that many children and adolescents are deported to their country of origin despite on-going protection needs, mainly from Mexico and United States. Upon their return these individuals often chose to immediately flee again from their place of origin, becoming once again internally displaced or refugees. **Deportees children and adolescents (accompanied or unaccompanied)** with continued protection needs are therefore a third beneficiary group.

Among this vulnerable population there are sub-categories of populations where multiple intrinsic and immutable characteristics compound discrimination and risk experienced by the individual. As stated above, girls and LGBTI persons experience higher risk of persecution based on their gender, or gender-expression.

Statistics remain sparse and imperfect to reflect the percentage of deported children who have continued protection needs. On the other hand, data on the number of internally displaced children and adolescents in El Salvador and Guatemala it not available yet (UNHCR is currently conducting studies on the profiling of the internal displacement in those countries).

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<sup>[1]</sup> Displaced person, for purposes of this Project, include internally displaced and those that cross an international border. It is noted that people may be displaced for a number of reasons; being forcibly displaced suggests the movement was not voluntary and an element of fear and/or security of person was involved. UNHCR is mandated to work with populations who have been forcibly displaced.

Data is available for the magnitude of forced displacement only in Honduras (an approximate of 174,000 persons<sup>10</sup>).

The location of the reception centers, which will be supported through this project, depends on the country and target population. For internally displaced the reception centers are intended at the local and municipal levels. Such centers and relevant procedures are underway in Honduras. Both El Salvador and Guatemala require additional advocacy at the Central level. In case of deportees El Salvador has decentralized reception centers that provide protection services for deported children. Two are currently operating and two more are intended to be established in 2016. Reception centers for deportees in Guatemala are dispersed throughout the country. Currently the only option for UAC asylum-seekers is a “safe house” (Hogar Seguro), where however the children stay in detention like conditions. UNHCR through its partners has gained direct access to this facility to address protection needs of non-Guatemalan children. Conditions in the facility are of great concern; UNHCR is working to build technical and humanitarian capacity of staff in the facility, judges and lawyers who review these cases and with civil society to develop safe alternatives for care. The “safe house” for unaccompanied asylum seekers in Guatemala is near the Capital. In Honduras, the majority of reception centers for deported populations are on the border.

#### **Number of beneficiaries:**

In order to define the target beneficiaries, UNHCR is taking into consideration official statistics available on the number of children and adolescents from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (*accompanied or unaccompanied*) apprehended during October 2015 to May 2016 (in Mexico) and during October 2015 to June 2016 (in USA).

Based on the official statistics, UNHCR estimates that a total of 5%<sup>11</sup> of the average Children and Adolescents (accompanied or unaccompanied) apprehended in Mexico and USA per month, will benefit from the implementation of the proposed activities during the 24 months duration of the project, up to 14,640 children.

#### **4.1.2 Expected results are:**

1. Improved prevention and response to needs of forcibly displaced children, both internally and those seeking international protection, and those deported with protection needs through improved child protection policies and laws at regional, national and local levels;
2. Forcibly displaced children are better identified and protection services improved in dignified child-safe spaces<sup>12</sup> where girls and boys are safeguarded from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation according to international standards;

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*10 The Government of Honduras presented the report conducted by the Interinstitutional Commission for the Protection of People Displaced by Violence in November 2015. According to the report, approximately 41,000 families (in 12 departments and 20 municipalities) have been displaced due to violence and insecurity between 2004 and 2014, with a total of 174,000 internally displaced persons.*

*11 This figure takes into account that not all apprehended children and adolescents have protection needs and therefore would not be of concern to UNHCR.*

*12 In developing this proposal we employed a broad use of the term “space” it can include physical spaces such as reception centers, community centers and school zones but it can also include the space shared between a child protection/welfare officer and the child while documenting a case. In the latter, technical training and appropriate documents are necessary to*

3. Durable solutions, addressing the root causes of forced displacement and establishing sustainable, local protection mechanisms, are supported by governments and civil society.

## 4.2 Main activities<sup>13</sup>

As indicated in the Stakeholder Analysis Section, UNHCR will be the umbrella for coordination, implementing and monitoring the proposed activities with the support of implementing partners, and national authorities in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. UNHCR will integrate an age, gender and diversity approach based on its policy<sup>14</sup>.

### Result 1:

**Activity 1.1:** Establish and strengthen protocols and coordination mechanism regarding forcibly displaced and asylum-seeking children and adolescents among child protection institutions (national agencies, and civil society organizations) to ensure integral response to child needs at a national and a regional level.

*Impact:* Civil society and governmental child protection actors have developed and implemented standard operation procedures or programs that communicate and refer cases through local and national services. A regional mechanism, coordinated with State and Civil Society organizations is available for extremely vulnerable cases with international protection concerns. These mechanisms are particularly important for children who are deported with continual protection needs.

**Activity 1.2:** Provide technical assistance in policy formulation and law implementation as well as capacity building support in child protection measures for forcibly displaced populations to governments and civil society organizations at a national and a regional level.

*Impact:* National and regional laws and policies for forcibly displaced children, adolescents and their families will be promoted.

### Result 2:

**Activity 2.1:** Support civil society organizations in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to manage and provide services in children and family shelters/reception centers and schools, where forcibly displaced and deported children and adolescents could meet their specific protection needs in a secure environment.

*Impact:* Civil society organizations receive means to provide protection services to children in need in community-based safe spaces and to organize recreational

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*facilitate the space. The former interpretation (physical spaces) also include detention centers or “safe houses” particularly in the case of Guatemala.*

<sup>13</sup> Activity 2.1 and 3.2 could have a positive impact not only on forcibly displaced populations but also on general migrants found in the mixed migrant flows.

<sup>14</sup> UNHCR Age, Gender and Diversity Policy: Working with people and communities for equality/ protection. 1 June 2011.

activities that are seen as alternatives to delinquent and risky activities. At the same time through technical support of their professional capacities their programs effectively assist and protect displaced and deported children and adolescents. Certain programs that receive assistance could include, but are not limited to community-based livelihood support and income generating initiatives, education and training.

**Activity 2.2:** Support governments and key civil society partners in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in the establishment of reception procedures, BIDs (Best Interest Determination) and BIAs (Best Interest Assessment) and enhance their capacities to effectively carry out such assessments/determinations.

*Impact:* Coordinated and collaborative child protection and welfare systems take the best-interest of each child as priority in all protection responses and the best interest assessment procedures are effectively implemented to provide effective assistance to forcibly displaced children and adolescents.

### **Result 3:**

**Activity 3.1:** Build partnerships with civil society organizations and municipalities in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to address root causes of displacement through community-based presence, provision of assistance to vulnerable persons at risk of displacement (i.e.: children, LGBTI, persons with disabilities) and support to existing municipal and civil society violence prevention committees to prevent the forced recruitment of children/youth into gangs.

*Impact:* Civil society partners have been working in communities for decades; as the eyes, ears and citizens of areas consumed by violence they are aware of the micro and macro issues that feed into violence and unlawful structures. Often violence has been normalized or the community does not have adequate resources to provide adequate responses. This activity will enhance and coordinate local capacity to accurately recognize protection concerns and to increase more appropriate protection response.

**Activity 3.2:** Raise awareness and support the government and civil society organizations in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in informing children, adolescents and their families on the access to basic rights to protection mechanisms available before, during and after experiencing displacement.

*Impact:* The dialogue between governments, service providers and beneficiaries regarding their rights and options for protection is enhanced.

### **4.3 Intervention logic**

Throughout the past years thousands of children and adolescents have fled and continue to flee extreme violence, persecution and human rights abuses in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Evidence demonstrates that some of these children and adolescents are forced to flee multiple times, in search of international protection, after being deported without proper knowledge of, access to or representation in asylum and general child protection systems.

Continued and concerted efforts to strengthen child protection systems for the forcibly displaced population, focusing more on multi-level interventions (local, municipal and national) and working complementary programs with government agencies and civil society organizations will enhance individual and collective rights of children and adolescents with protection needs. By strengthening the technical capacity and the coordination of actors this project will address root causes of violence and distribution of power to make more efficient and effective government responses. The direct inclusion of children in design and implementation of programming, combined with advocacy for increased governmental funding, aim to enhance sustainability within local and national systems. Finally, increased awareness of the children and their families of their rights and the general society on the protection needs of these populations will contribute to protected citizens in safer community spaces.

## **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is **not foreseen** to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 40 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

### **5.3 Implementation of the budget support component**

N.A.

### **5.4 Implementation modalities**

#### **5.4.1.1 Indirect management with an international organisation**

This action may be implemented in indirect management with UNHCR in accordance with Article 58(1) (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation entails all of the envisaged activities of the proposed project managed by UNHCR. This implementation is justified because of the technical expertise, past experience and regional presence of UNHCR. The indirect management modality will also allow the EU Delegation in Honduras to implement the activity with entrusted international entity, which passed the PAGODA assessment and has a successful track record working with the EU funds. This will minimize the need of close administrative follow up and facilitate efficient and impact oriented implementation of the project.

UNHCR's added value stems from over 60 years of experience of providing international protection and direct assistance to refugees and displaced persons in 125 countries worldwide. Since the beginning of the crisis UNHCR has been providing technical support and capacity building to the national authorities of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, in particular on child protection and refugee status determination. This proposed pilot project would also not have existed has it not been for a concept note submitted by UNHCR to European Parliament in 2014, which was approved and received allocation of funds for this action.

UNHCR Regional Operation in Central America is expanding not only in terms of human resources at field offices level but also in terms of new implementing partners in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. An approximate of 20 agreements focused on these 3 countries have been signed this year in different action areas such as child protection, law and policy, community empowerment, fair protection and documentation processes, operative logistic support, etc. UNHCR will have then sufficient capacity to manage all the actions within this project proposal. It is anticipated that the operation will continue to expand over the next years.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks: accounting, internal control, audit and procurement.

#### **5.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

This action is Pilot Project/Preparatory action and therefore as per instruction in Action Document this section is not applicable.

## 5.6 Indicative budget

<b>Activities</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</b>
<b>Result 1: Adequate prevention and response to needs of forcibly displaced children, both internally and those seeking international protection, through improved child protection policies and laws at regional, national and local levels;</b>		
<i>Indirect management with UNHCR</i>	<i>265,000</i>	<i>140,000</i>
<b>Result 2: Forcibly displaced children are identified and protection services are provided in dignified child-safe spaces<sup>15</sup> where girls and boys are safeguarded from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation according to international standards;</b>		
<i>Indirect management with UNHCR</i>	<i>826,000</i>	<i>240,000</i>
<b>Result 3: Durable solutions, addressing the root causes of forced displacement and establishing sustainable, local protection mechanisms, are supported by governments and civil society.</b>		
<i>Indirect management with UNHCR</i>	<i>265,000</i>	<i>120,000</i>
Operational/administrative cost ~7 %	<b>94,000</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
Total envelop under section 5.4	<b>1,450,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>
Total	<b>1,450,000</b>	<b>500,000</b>

## 5.7 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

UNHCR has developed a Protection and Solutions Strategy for Central America and Mexico, this strategy, as a work in progress, was intended to be expanded in the course of 2016 through the strengthening of UNHCR's regional office in Panama (ROPAN), including

<sup>15</sup> In developing this proposal we employed a broad use of the term "space" it can include physical spaces such as reception centers, community centers and school zones but it can also include the space shared between a child protection/welfare officer and the child while documenting a case. In the latter, technical training and appropriate documents are necessary to facilitate the space. The former interpretation (physical spaces) also include detention centers or "safe houses" particularly in the case of Guatemala.

through reinforcing the presence in all National Offices in NTCA (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) highlighting the need of field presence to enhance protection responses through the establishment of UNHCR field offices in Peten (Guatemala) and San Pedro Sula (Honduras). Each of these National Offices is now lead by a P4 Head of National Office, and supported by Protection Officers and a solid base of dedicated Associate Work Force Protection Staff including a Child Protection Officer in Honduras. An area of programme and administration in National Offices has also been reinforced with local staff positions and affiliated work force programme staff. These National Offices are under the overall supervision of the ROPAN Regional Representative, the Regional Operation Deputy Representative, the Regional Protection Deputy Representative, a Regional Child Protection Officer, and receive the support of Protection, Programme and Public Information Units.

**Protection staff responsibilities:**

- Provide legal and technical guidance on child protection issues to internal and external interlocutors.
- Ensure legal assistance is accessible to UNHCR's persons of concern.
- Support the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for protection/solutions activities.
- Advice and train national authorities, relevant institutions and civil society to strengthen legislation and status determination procedures and mechanisms.
- Ensure that the strategies recognize Child Protection as core elements of the overall comprehensive protection framework and integrate an age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach.

**Programme staff responsibilities:**

- Develop and periodically review monitoring tracking system to assess the overall progress made and gaps in the implementation of the projects. Draft quality project reports for donor as required.
- Undertake field visits to evaluate and improve the planning and implementation of projects.
- Serve as liaison between UNHCR and donor, drafting internal and external correspondence and assisting in planning of donor delegation visits, including designing itineraries and drafting briefing notes.

**Public Information Staff responsibilities:**

- Coordinate the implementation of the activity 3.2 with the ROPAN Protection, Programme Unit and UNHCR's National Offices in NTCA.
- Monitoring media regarding the political and social context in the NTCA countries as well as coordinating the design and distribution of protection materials for children, visibility items, printed and/or digital PI tools on the implementation of the project and awareness raising events on the educational and

UNHCR Regional Operation in Central America is expanding not only in terms of human resources at field offices level but also in terms of new implementing partners in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Projects in Central America are implemented by partners (IP) with relevant experience in human rights and migration issues. An approximate of 20 agreements focused on these 3 countries have been signed this year in different action areas such as child protection, law and policy, community empowerment, fair protection and documentation processes, operative logistic support, etc.

UNHCR works in close coordination with government authorities and, in particular, those involved in refugee issues. During the last few years, they were also actively involved in the promotion of protection sensitive policies, within the broader context of mixed migrations and particular attention to child protection issues.

## **5.8 Performance monitoring and reporting**

As part of its monitoring strategy, UNHCR foresees annual, other periodic and ad hoc reviews, in order to analyse the results of specific outputs, methods of support and the ability of programme interventions to create a real impact on beneficiaries. The baseline of the project is based on data collected by UNHCR and their partners during their ongoing activities in the region.

In line with the pillar assessment, the UNHCR and EU reporting formats are considered equivalent.

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## **5.9 Evaluation**

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components through a joint mission. The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes, in particular with respect to an adjustment of strategic priorities, management arrangements and the advisability and usefulness of launching an extension of the action. The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account the pilot nature of the action and its regional context.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

In order to allow for differences in terminology, the mid-term and end-of-term reviews foreseen by UNHCR may be considered equivalent to evaluations. In case of substantial divergence, the above evaluations may be carried out additionally. The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

### **5.10 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements. The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

### **5.11 Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.6 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations. All procurement in relation to the communication and visibility plan and its implementation shall be undertaken by the implementing partner.

The EU and UNHCR agree not to introduce any visibility measures which would be detrimental to the effectiveness of the action.

## **6 PRE-CONDITIONS**

Any successful child protection intervention has to lead to behavioural change and change in the political culture. Number of preconditions is necessary to proceed with the intervention and achieve results:

- Willingness of the target governments to cooperate and enable implementation of the action.
- information accessibility about displaced and deported children allowing targeted and adequate provision of protection services
- the favourable legislative framework is established or in the process of establishment
- relevant public institutions or local organization supplementing their work are which are assigned adequate resources, institutionalised budgets and human resources to function efficiently and provide necessary support
- Cooperation and coordination exists among the key actors, enabling efficient use of resources and durability and sustainability of the changes in the system and the establishment of effective protection procedures for migrant, displaced and deported children and youth.

## APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) <sup>16</sup>

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	OO: Improve immediate and long-term protection responses for children and adolescents displaced by violence, persecution and violations of human rights[1] and to strengthen child protection systems at regional, national and local levels.	1.# of public policies developed both at national and regional level to reduce the impact of violence and provide assistance to forcibly displaced populations.	1.0 (2016)	1.3 (2019)	1. legal code of the target countries; Administrative records of governments in the area of child displacement; and Final and intermediate project reports.	
Specific objective: Outcome	SO 1:At least 14,640 forcibly displaced children and adolescents including separated and/or unaccompanied minors benefited from stronger and holistic protection mechanisms in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.	1.1. # of forcibly displaced children, girls and boys, and adolescents including separated and/or unaccompanied minors provided with immediate protection response in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (disaggregated by sex)	1.1.0 (2016)	1.1.14,640 (2019)	1.1. Mission reports; Administrative records of governments in the area of child displacement and Periodic financial and narrative project reports.	-The political and social situation in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador will remain stable and conducive for development and implementation of protection policies and laws.
	<b>O 1.</b> Adequate prevention and response to needs of forcibly displaced children, both internally and those seeking international protection	1.1.1. # of protocols and coordination mechanisms established among national agencies relating to child protection.	1.1.1.9 (2016)	1.1.1.15 (2019)	1.1.1.-1.1.3. Mission reports. - Periodic financial and narrative project reports.	-The level of interest and support for the project and the commitment of the Governments

<sup>16</sup> Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '\*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '\*\*'.

		1.1.2. # of organizations trained in provision of protection services and provided with technical assistance.	1.1.2. 30 (2016)	1.1.2. 60 (2019)		
		1.1.3. # of child protection coordination mechanisms for an integral response to child needs supported on national and regional level	1.1.3. 9 (2016)	1.1.3. 19 (2019)		
	<b>O 2.</b> Forcibly displaced children are identified and protection services are provided in dignified child-safe spaces <sup>17</sup> where girls and boys are safeguarded from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation according to international standards.	2.1.1.# Number of child safe-spaces and school zones with protection mechanisms that comply with international standards.	2.1.1. 0 (2016)	2.1.1. 20 (2019)	2.1.1.-2.1.3. -Mission reports.  -List of participants.  -Photo - documentation  - Administrative records of government in the area child displacement; government statistics (child displacement).  - Periodic financial and narrative project reports.	-Safe areas or territories exist in each of the target countries, where child-safe spaces can be placed.  -Targeted territories are accessible and safe for workers of implementation partners to secure provision of services.
		2.1.2. # of civil organizations running children and family shelter/ reception centers supported.	2.1.2. 3 (2016)	2.1.2 30 (2019)		
		2.1.3. # of reception procedures: best interest determination/assessment (BID/BIA) established by the governments and relevant reception bodies and organizations and implemented in reception and reinsertion centres.	2.1.3. 9 (2016)	2.1.3. 20 (2019)		

<sup>17</sup> In developing this proposal we employed a broad use of the term “space” it can include physical spaces such as reception centers, community centers and school zones but it can also include the space shared between a child protection/welfare officer and the child while documenting a case. In the latter, technical training and appropriate documents are necessary to facilitate the space. The former interpretation (physical spaces) also include detention centers or “safe houses” particularly in the case of Guatemala.

<p><b>O 3.</b> Durable solutions, addressing the root causes of forced displacement and establishing sustainable, local protection mechanisms, are supported by governments and civil society.</p>	<p>3.1.1.# of representatives of civil society violence prevention committees provided with assistance and training on identifying the root causes of displacement and population at risk in their communities and on prevention of the forced recruitment of children/youth into gangs (disaggregated by sex).</p>	<p>3.1.1. 50 (2016)</p>	<p>3.1.1. 400 (2019)</p>	<p>3.1.1.-3.1.5. -Mission reports. - Periodic financial and narrative project reports. -List of participants.  -Newsletters and web stories published by partner NGOs, governmental agencies and international organizations  -Agenda of events.  -Photos, mission reports.  -List of participants of media/ people that attended raising awareness events.</p>	<p>- Governments and civil society are willing to cooperate and are capable of identifying and recognizing displaced persons in need of protection.</p>
	<p>3.1.2. # of violence prevention committees with elaborated diagnostic and/or strategy</p>	<p>3.1.2. 0 (2016)</p>	<p>3.1.2. 3 (2019)</p>		
	<p>3.1.3. # of agreements established with implementing partners in order to address root causes of forced displacement.</p>	<p>3.1.3. 10 (2016)</p>	<p>3.1.3. 20 (2019)</p>		
	<p>3.1.4.# of information materials designed and distributed informing children, adolescents and their families on the access to basic rights and protection mechanisms</p>	<p>3.1.4. 1,500 (2016)</p>	<p>3.1.4. 6,000 (2019)</p>		
	<p>3.1.5.# of advocacy and public information awareness related interventions on the protection needs of internally displaced persons. It is a proposal so that we formulate indicator in a neutral way.</p>	<p>3.1.5. 12 (2016)</p>	<p>3.1.5. 60 (2019)</p>		