Terms of reference for research

SYSTEMATIC DOCUMENTARY REVIEW OF THE RISK OF AND PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE IN ONE CORRIDOR OF MOBILITY IN AFRICA

Title	Systematic documentary review of the risk of and protection from sexual exploitation of children on the move in one corridor of mobility in Africa
Start date	April 2020
Duration	3 months

1. About Terre des Hommes and Destination Unknown

Terre des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF) is a network of nine Terre des Hommes (TDH) organisations working for the rights of the child and for equitable development, without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination through field projects and advocacy. Our vision is: F**or every child, a childhood. Every young person empowered. Every community engaged.** Our mission is to:

fight to

- ensure child and youth rights are put into practice
- protect children and youth from harm, even in the most difficult circumstances
- influence agendas and strategies that affect children and youth at all levels

strive to

- guarantee all children and youth enjoy a life free from violence, exploitation and discrimination
- empower children and youth as actors of change to actively shape societies, structures and mindsets
- achieve sustainable systemic change for children, young people and future generations

mobilize to

- involve all relevant actors, from local to global, in the solutions we seek
- engage partners, expertise and resources in creating environments in which children and youth thrive
- build capacity for the protection of children and youth and the implementation of their rights

Destination Unknown is a campaigning network led by Terre des Hommes with 100 – mainly local and national - members and partners which are united to campaign for children and young people on the move to be able to exercise their human rights, have perspectives for the future and thrive in inclusive societies where they are free from discrimination. Our vision is that children on the move and other children affected by migration: are considered children first and foremost and their best interests are a primary consideration in decisions and actions affecting them; enjoy the right to life, survival and development; enjoy the right to move within their state and to leave their state; are not detained because of their or their parents' migration status; are not separated from their primary caregivers (unless this is in their best interests); are not discriminated against; are protected by child protection systems; enjoy the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting them

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and to have their views taken into consideration. Destination Unknown was launched in 2012 and, with 50 million children on the move today, is still more relevant than ever.

Destination Unknown's approach is categorised in 4 broad areas:

- (Cross-cutting) **Ensuring children and young people**, particularly with experience of being on the move **are the heart of everything we do**, both internally (increasing our knowledge of child participation and mechanisms for children to participate in internal coordination and governance) and externally (fostering participation of children and youth in all decisions that affect their lives and catalysing the leadership and campaigning potential of children and young people and giving them the resources to initiate and manage activities towards the goal).

- **Campaigning for children to be at the heart of legislation and policies** at international level (Global Compact on Refugees and Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration) and enabling Destination Unknown campaign members to use these for lobbying at national/regional bodies to ensure children's rights are upheld.

- **Knowing more about experiences of children on the move to improve services and influence decision-makers** – continually learning within and from outside of Destination Unknown, undertaking pilot initiatives, and using this knowledge to increase the impact of the work of campaign members and the collective actions of the campaign.

- **Strengthening and diversifying our alliance** with and for children on the move with **greater capacity** to mobilize people, to campaign and educate for children on the move to be able to exercise their human rights.

2. Purpose and background

There are an estimated 50 million children on the move globally and many more affected by migration. Whilst migration can create opportunities, it also exposes children to increased risks, both because they are children and because of being on the move. Policies and laws are all too often inadequate in protecting children and upholding their rights. Legislation, policies and practices relating to migration and asylum are not child-sensitive enough or at all; and laws, policies and practices relating to children do not consider the needs and vulnerabilities of children on the move.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has highlighted on various occasions the risks and violation of rights experienced by children on the move, providing concrete recommendations to States on how to improve their protection. In its most recent Joint General Comment, with the Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers, the CRC reminded States party to the Conventions of their duty to comply with the obligations set out therein to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of children in the context of international migration, regardless of their or their parents' or legal guardians' migration status.

This research builds upon the recommendations of the CRC and seeks to provide concrete guidance to States and all other actors in operationalising such recommendations. The purpose of the research is to learn more about children's experience of protection whilst on the move, to learn from children's perspectives of what they consider to be effective as protection, how they count on each other, communities, State agencies and others, including NGOs to protect them and how such a protection and assistance can be improved from an operational

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point of view. All this information will be used to better inform policy work, campaigning and development of services and practices on the ground.

To serve this purpose, Destination Unknown is commissioning a pilot review of published and unpublished material in the last five years on one specific route within Africa which reveals children's experiences during their movement. The corridor to be determined could be intra-regional or inter-regional but should include movement across and between at least 3 countries. The review would look broadly and cover the child's access to rights and services such housing, food, and livelihood, health, formal or informal education, psychological and spiritual support (i.e. access to religious facilities), advice on safety, including on safe migration, translation or interpretation services, and access to communication technologies, including mobile phones and internet. The review will also look at the legal and policy framework and practices of a more formal character in child protection, asylum, migration governance etc. A specific focus will be given to sexual exploitation risks for children on the move and framework and practices effective in addressing such risks.

The choice of Africa is due to the large scale and large diversity of children moving within the region as well as the importance of Africa for Destination Unknown where we have 4 sub-regional approaches (West Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa and North Africa- part of MENA) and where Destination Unknown members undertake a significant amount of work with and for children and youth on the move.

The research is intended to respond to the working hypothesis that psychological, physical and sexual violence are among the main threats to children on the move in Africa. Sexual violence is an enormous problem through their migratory journey, especially for girls and young women, but the extent is not well defined.

3. Audience and use

The extent of children on the move's risk of and protection from sexual exploitation is insufficiently understood and documented.

Internally for Destination Unknown members, a better understanding on this subject would allow members to propose innovative solutions and to develop a more informed strategy. It will help us to strengthen children's rights by improving our own work, and influencing other organizations and local, national and international authorities.

The findings would enable Destination Unknown to gain better insight on the subject and develop recommendations on how to tackle it and to use this information in targeted campaigning for change.

Through a better understanding of key child protection issues along a corridor in Africa, advocacy campaigning would have a clearer target, more defined and adapted messages at **national level** and also support calls for improved **cross-border collaboration**.

The research findings and accompanying recommendations would be of use to **authorities and other stakeholders, including NGOs, at local and national level** who are responsible for or involved in protecting children on the move in the geographical area.

Informed research incorporating the views of children would also enable targeted advocacy at **regional bodies**. Having a deeper understanding on figures, causes and consequences would allow States and Regional organizations to better respond to children's basic needs.

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The research would be used to advocate at **global level**, for example in the framework of the Global Compacts as part of the Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts.

This is a pilot study, the approach to which could be replicated in other parts of the region or in other corridors of mobility globally.

4. Research questions

1.0	What children and young people say about the risks of sexual abuse and exploitation.
1.1	The setting in which it occurs; the factors leading to it and who are the main perpetrators.
1.2	What young migrants recall finding helpful in terms of assistance, support, advice and protection from harm or potential threats, whether the source was other migrants or the local population or international organisations, NGOs or government agencies with a formal mandate to protect children.
1.3	What measures the children undertake themselves, what was useful, what was not useful.

5. Methodology, phases and approach

1	Inception Phase: a. Establishment of the advisory committee (with role of guiding and feeding the research; selecting and supporting the consultant; endorsing the findings and recommendations and ensuring follow-up and dissemination); b. Proposal of the research corridor to focus on by researcher(s) based on preliminary collection of research material and assessment of material; c. Decision by the Advisory Committee on the corridor on which to focus the research.
2	Desk-based research – systematic review of collected material
3	Field-based qualitative research – interviews/ focus group discussions
4	Drafting of report
5	Discussion of draft with advisory committee
6	Endorsement of final report by the AC, publication and dissemination

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The researcher(s) is/ are expected to:

For the desk-based research:

1. Make an informed and expert recommendation on the corridor on which this research should focus on in Africa
   The researcher(s) will make a proposal of a corridor where:
   - *it is anticipated that there is sufficient material available and where this has been confirmed by an initial preliminary assessment of research materials*
   - *it is possible to do first-hand research*

2. Collect empirical evidence

3. Include in the sources to consult: governmental and non-governmental data, academic research sources and articles awaiting publication, as well as reports and information from organisations working on the issue (sexual exploitation risks for children on the move and efficient ways to protect them) and with children along the route;

4. Establish if others are undertaking similar initiatives and seek to coordinate with them;

5. Undertake detailed review of all the responses tried along route in as much detail as necessary, concentrating on results both in prevention and protection as per scope of the research

6. Provide a summary of findings to the Advisory Committee with a recommendation on whether primary research is needed, the scope of the research and timeframe and with proposal for interview questions.

7. Following Advisory Committee agreement on follow-up primary research, identify partners to conduct focus groups with a) children with experience of migration along the corridor and b) communities, and representatives of State and NGO actors working along the corridor; develop the methodology and the questions to be validated by the advisory committee.

8. Compile and analyse all the data, draft the report, including drawing recommendations for improved policies and practices;

9. Present draft findings to advisory committee and finalise it with input from the advisory committee.

6. Child Participation

See terre des hommes Germany's manual on child participation.
For the qualitative research with children, the planning tool on pages 3 to 9 of the accompanying toolkit should be used to ensure the nine basic requirements for children's participation have been elaborated by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the General Comment on the Child's Right to be Heard (CRC/C/GC/12, June 2009) are adhered to.

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7. Research products

1. An inception report detailing the situation analysis, methodology, data collection instruments and work plan

2. Final report in English (see below)

3. Debriefing meeting to present the draft findings to the Advisory committee (Geneva or Brussels with remote connection) and gather feedback needed to finalize the report.

Final report must include, but is not limited to, the following sections:

- *Executive summary*
- *Background*
- *Objectives*
- *Situation analysis*
- *Methodology*
- *The bibliographies for 1 corridor*
- *General data on interviews and focus group discussions conducted (number of focus groups, number of participants, location, period, etc.)*
- *Detailed report on the corridor focused on in-depth analysis of all data with a systematic presentation and synthesis of the findings*
- *Key recommendations*
- *Annexes (to include references, questionnaire, etc.)*

8. Timetable

	OUTPUTS	TIMEFRAME
1	Provision of proposal for the corridor	1 week
2	Decision on corridor	1 week
3	Desk-based and primary research	2 months
4	Final report	3 months

9. Ethics and Risk

The research will be guided by the following ethical considerations:

- Use of methods that are respectful towards children and which are adequate and relevant.
- Data protection: the consultant will abide by the guiding principles for data protection of Tdh Protection response protocol. If an acute protection case is identified during the research, TDH has 'the best interests of the child' as its central theme of the research. This is to be a grounding part of all aspects of the research.

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- The outcomes and conclusions of the research must be correct, trustworthy, cross-checked and open to scrutiny without embarrassment to Tdh and the participants of the research.
- The consultant must sign the Terre des hommes Child Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct and be willing to adhere to its principles and expected practices. If a breach of the policy or code of conduct takes place the consultancy will be terminated immediately without any financial burden on Tdh.

For all ethical questions, Tdh also refer to the Child Ethics project https://childethics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ERICcompendium-Ethical-Guidance-Introduction-section-only.pdf

10. Research management

Caroline Horne: caroline.horne@terredeshommes.org, Head of Destination Unknown, and the Destination Unknown advisory committee which Destination Unknown has put in place for this research.

11. Child safeguarding

The organisation and researchers must commit to Terre des Hommes' child safeguarding policy: https://www.terredeshommes.org/child-safeguarding-policy/

12. Profile of the researchers

The team of experts should meet the following conditions, qualifications and experience:

- Master's degree in social sciences, development studies, economics or related field
- 10 years minimum working experience in African countries
- Strong understanding of migration and children's rights and experience of working on this in Africa
- Thorough knowledge of and expertise in conducting studies, situation analysis, evaluations involving process of data collection and analysis
- Experience in conducting field research using qualitative and quantitative methods
- Good knowledge of issues related to children on the move
- Knowledge of child-friendly data collection method
- Sound understanding of methodological and ethical issues related with studying a CP topic and sensitive environments
- Experience with participatory data collection approaches
- Excellent analytical skills (experience in consolidating and analysing data, writing reports and making operationalizable recommendations for development projects)
- Ability to present complex data in a clear and understandable format
- Fully Available for the whole period of the study
- Proficiency in English and French.

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13. Application procedure

Please send a proposal in English to include demonstration of relevant expertise and experience, a technical proposal for the research and financial plan for the consultancy (with number of days needed for the completion of the entire assignment) **by 1 April 2020.**

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