

# From Protecting Children on the Move to Safeguarding their Rights

Jyothi Kanics - University of Lucerne - NCCR-on the move - [jyothi.kanics@unilu.ch](mailto:jyothi.kanics@unilu.ch)

PROTECT Children on the Move - 5<sup>th</sup> Expert meeting

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# Safeguarding

*“The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.”*

# Durable Solution

*“A **durable solution** in the context of the unaccompanied or separated child is a sustainable solution that ensures that the unaccompanied or separated child is able to develop into adulthood, in an environment which will meet his or her needs and fulfil his or her rights as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and will not put the child at risk of persecution or serious harm.*

*Because the durable solution will have fundamental long-term consequences for the unaccompanied or separated child, it will be subject to a BID.*

*A durable solution also ultimately allows the child to acquire, or to re-acquire, the full protection of a State.”*

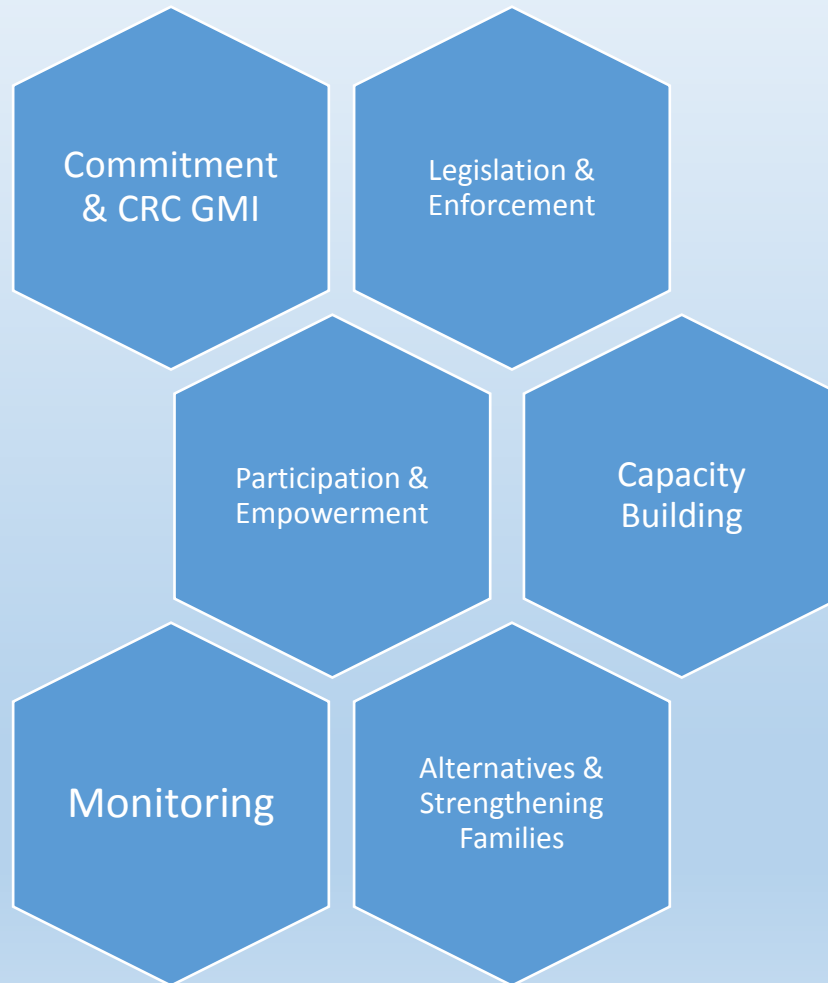
# How can we reach the most marginalised?

Many children remain outside of the asylum and child protection systems, but good practice demonstrates that we can reach them through:

- Low threshold – day centres, drop-in centres & night shelters
- Social work outreach – street work, community work
- Peer to peer work
- Helplines and hotlines
- National Referral Mechanisms



# Protective Environment



- CRC General Measures of Implementation
- Government commitment
- Legislation, effective implementation and law enforcement
- Alternatives to existing attitudes, behaviours and practices
- Capacity building
- Meaningful child participation and empowerment
- Strengthening the protective role of families and communities
- Improving monitoring and oversight – including data & analysis

# What does it take to make a transnational protective environment?

## Legal framework

- Is there a gap? Do we need a new international public law instrument?
- Bilateral agreements should respect children's rights
- Practical MoUs and SOPs should be in place

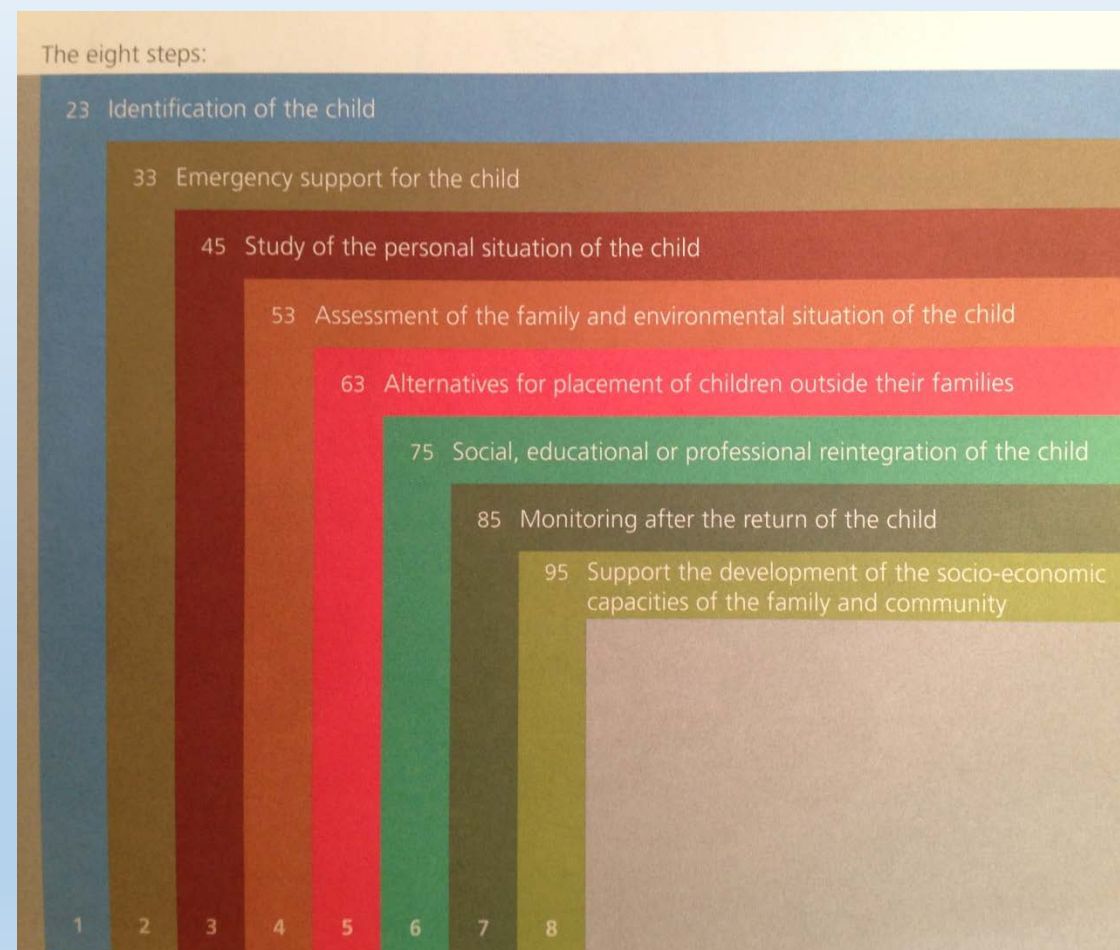
## Monitoring and oversight

- Consular authorities have a role to play
- European Network of Ombudspersons for Children
- National Preventive Mechanisms against Torture
- Committee on the Rights of the Child & CoE GRETA

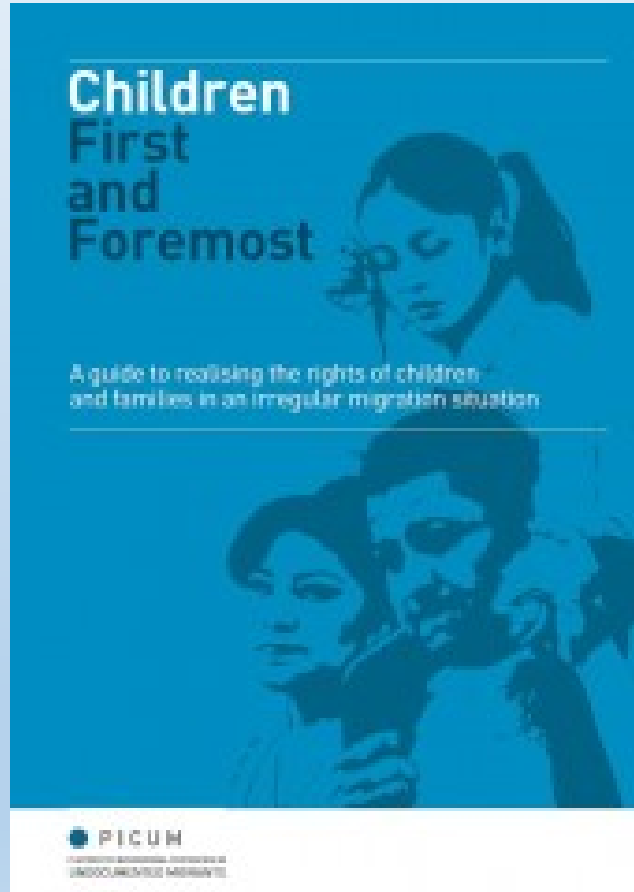
# Transnational child protection case management

*Support Procedure & West African  
Regional Standards for the  
Protection and Reintegration of  
Vulnerable Children*

*West Africa Network  
International Social Service*



# Holistic & Empowering Approach



- Ensure fulfilment of all rights of the child
- Support meaningful child participation including CoE Life Project approach
- Empower through education and employment opportunities
- Strengthen legal pathways out of irregularity such as apprenticeships for undocumented youth
- Secure a durable solution in line with best interests of the child