



PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

Red Cross of Chad

CASE STUDY

Title page: Child participating in Chad Red Cross services
Photo credit: IFRC

ifrc.org

Advice

Due to its geographical position and the security context that prevails at its borders, Chad has become a migratory and mobility route for thousands of vulnerable children, fleeing armed conflicts and natural disasters in their areas of origin. Chad is recognized as a country of origin, transit and destination for trafficking in persons. Child smuggling and trafficking are difficult to qualify and quantify because of their hidden, mobile and cross-border nature.

The Red Cross of Chad, like other National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, works to alleviate and alleviate the suffering of human lives. The protection of family ties (PLF) includes various activities aimed at preventing separations and disappearances, restoring and maintaining links between family members (family reunification), shedding light on missing persons.

Background

The Chad Red Cross (CRT) implements activities with unaccompanied and separated children in the country's provinces where the population has been affected by displacement related to armed conflict.

The work of the CRT with unaccompanied and separated children falls within its Protection Unit. The strategic direction is informed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Restoring Family Links Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Activities are implemented through the presence of a network of focal points and volunteers.

CRT works with children moving away from conflicts in Sudan, the Central African Republic and Lake Chad, the Cameroonian inter-community conflict, and it can also accept cases related to other migration situations. The CRT registers unaccompanied children and vulnerable separated children (ES) in Chad along with UNICEF.

The CRT, with the support of the ICRC, is organizing regular phone calls within refugee camps in different provinces of the country. Phone calls last three minutes and can be made anywhere in the world.

Support to unaccompanied and separated children is also delivered through newly established IFRC Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) in Batha and Adre provinces are funded by the British Red Cross and IFRC. These HSP are in response to the needs of Sudanese refugees; in particular, support on SGBV, health, WASH and RFL activities.

Who was Supported and How

The CRT organizes the following activities for refugees:

- Restoration and maintenance of family links through the Collection and Distribution of Red Cross Messages (RCM),
- Calls;
- Family tracing
- Identification and registration of unaccompanied minors, family reunification;
- Prevention of Family Separation

Successes

The BRC does not have a national framework of co-produced outcomes for young refugees. However, it does support high numbers of young refugees and can show its impact in numbers.

- Restoring and maintaining family ties:
 - Phone calls: 780,850 calls made
 - 89 MCRs were exchanged
- Family reunification:
 - 342 gold miners have been reunited with their families.
 - 16 Cross-border reunification of children in partnership with the ICRC.
 - 15 minors (Bovier children) reunited with their respective families, the specific needs of girls and boys are taken into account, including children living with disabilities.
 - 19 referral cases of voluntary return of migrants

Challenges and Difficulties

Chad is a vast country with several conflict zones; in view of the cases of migration, which has become a concern in Chad, limited funding does not cover all of the required activities.

Too often work with unaccompanied and separated children, especially RFL, is seen exclusive to ICRC, although this is not the reality and all Movement actors have a role.

The CRT has limited funds to carry out its activities to protect and assist unaccompanied and separated children.

Lessons Learned

In order to enhance the reach and strengthen the impact of work with unaccompanied and separated children, more efforts need to be made to raise awareness among the community and the authorities to gather their support.

Movement partners, such as the ICRC, IFRC and British Red Cross are important allies in supporting the budget. It is effective when this is built into framework agreements.

Although CRT has had multiple DREF Operations, aspects around protection and assistance to unaccompanied children do not make it into the final plans or budgets. This is an area to improve.

CRT has found it effective to build capacity and experience across the organization and to build multiple partnerships with other agencies in order to ensure that protection and assistance of unaccompanied and separated children is not seen as an issue for any single unit.