

OUR WORK

Save the Children reaches over 2,5 million children each year with direct services in protection, education and support. Its activities in advocacy and improvement of national protection systems benefit millions of children in the Northern Triangle, Mexico and USA.

EL SALVADOR

In terms of migration, Save the Children in El Salvador focuses on prevention and protection. Under prevention, they have developed several projects in food security, education and violence prevention. Regarding their response on protection, Save the Children in El Salvador works to strengthen the capacities of government institutions for the protection of human trafficking victims, with an emphasis on women and children.

GUATEMALA

Save the Children Guatemala carries out projects in prevention to eradicate violence in communities of origin, improve economic opportunities through training and entrepreneurship activities, and provide better food and nutritional security. Similar to El Salvador, Guatemala implements a project to strengthen capacities of government institutions to offer protection to victims of human trafficking. In addition, Save the Children Guatemala supports the creation of child friendly spaces for returned children in the centers for attention to migrants.

HONDURAS

Save the Children Honduras carries out programs on the prevention of child labor and promotes youth participation to build a culture of peace in schools. To improve economic opportunities in the communities of origin, Save the Children Honduras promotes youth employment and entrepreneurship, along with building capacity of staff in national agencies responsible for children. In the area of protection, they are working with governments and the civil society to strengthen institutional capacities on comprehensive protection of children, with a special focus on child trafficking.

MEXICO

Save the Children Mexico implements projects on violence prevention, "attachment and identity" workshops, and works to create a culture of peace. Save the Children Mexico recently became part of an important project on the protection of unaccompanied migrant children in the Northern Triangle, supported by Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). It is also developing the conformation of national protection systems for children in situations of human mobility.

REGIONALLY

The Latin American and Caribbean regional office in Panama coordinates the work across the sub-region, develops research and knowledge products on Children on the Move for national, regional and global use, and provides technical support to the Children on the Move initiative in the Northern Triangle and Mexico.



Photo: Kyle Degraw / Save the Children

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE: A CRISIS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE, MEXICO AND USA



Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
City of Knowledge, Building #123
Panama City, Panama

Follow us:

 SavetheChildrenLAC  @savechildrenLAC



In the past two years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of unaccompanied children and adolescents from the Northern Triangle who migrate to the USA, and in the number of migrant families with children, particularly young women with children.

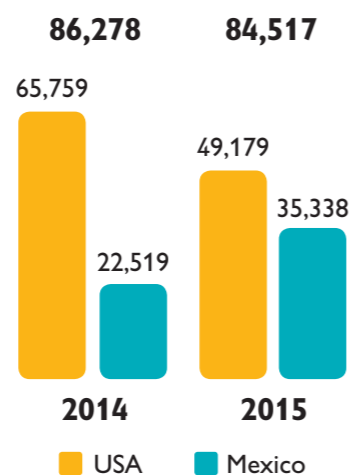
Save the Children is responding to this reality by strengthening systems and mechanisms to meet the needs for special protection of children and adolescents in situations of human mobility in accordance with international human rights standards.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

The increase in migration of children and adolescents in the Northern Triangle is considered a “humanitarian emergency”. There are no accurate estimates of the number of children trying to cross the border into the United States due to the irregularity of the channels and migrants’ avoidance of border posts. These clandestine channels present grave risks for children and youth who attempt to migrate. During transit, children may be victims of trafficking, suffer violence, physical and sexual abuse, and even death.

Children and youth detained in the USA and Mexico



“Over 80,000 children were detained each year in 2014 and 2015 in USA and Mexico.”

SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN TRANSIT, DESTINATION AND RETURN

- Extreme dangers related to trafficking, sexual and economic exploitation along the migratory route.
- Poor conditions for children and their migrant families who are placed into custody.
- Impossibility of access to a fair trial, to legal advice in their migratory process and to request asylum or international protection.
- Poor management of the repatriation process and little follow-up regarding the re-insertion and conditions after they return.
- Lost opportunities to prevent further attempts to undertake dangerous migration.

“My cousin went to the United States with her parents and she returned a year ago; she says she does not want to go back... she only tells me she felt lonely”.

María, 12 years old. Cruz Chich, Guatemala



Photo: Kyle Degraw / Save the Children

CAUSES OF MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

- Insecurity, violence and high homicide rates in their countries of origin.
- Violence against children (human trafficking, kidnappings and extortions).
- Family reunification with fathers or mothers who migrated to the USA for work reasons.
- Socio-economic reasons (low quality and access to livelihoods).

“One of the causes is the violence within the family and the communities; another is the lack of economic and social opportunities for youths.”

Dora, 25 years old. Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Overall objective: Prevent forced and unsafe migration of children and adolescents and ensure compliance with all of the rights of children in situations of human mobility.

PREVENT

Improve opportunities for children and adolescents and their families, increase their protection in the communities of origin and their knowledge and information about the risks on migration routes.

PROTECT

Strengthen national and local systems to protect children and adolescents in situations of human mobility. Ensure care, welfare and the restoration

of rights, based on the child’s interests, regardless of their immigration status (detainees, returnees).

ADVOCATE

Strengthen cross-border and regional mechanisms that articulate national systems to protect children and adolescents in situations of human mobility, with emphasis on child victims of trafficking and exploitation. Ensure all their rights, based on the best interests of the child.