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Education, Children on the move and Inclusion in Education

Lessons learned and scalable solutions to accelerate inclusion in national education systems and enhance learning outcomes

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Children playing in "Children's friend Area", in Kaya, in the north central region of Burkina Faso.

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Cover note

When UNICEF was established 75 years ago, the world was home to nearly 11 million displaced people due to World War II. Five years later, the 1951 Refugee Convention specified that the State shall guarantee all refugees and displaced peoples have access to education. Today, the world is facing compounding humanitarian, environmental and economic crises that have spurred the migration and displacement of millions of children and their families. UNICEF has remained steadfast in its mission to improve the lives and livelihoods of children and their families. At the core of this mission is ensuring that nearly 9.8 million refugees and 23 million internally displaced children and adolescents have access to quality, inclusive education. UNICEF's work with governments, United Nations partners, the private sector and with civil society has led to longstanding educational solutions for children on the move in search of better opportunities.

The following report summarizes how UNICEF and its partners have contributed to the creation of education solutions that support the skills development and educational attainment of children on the move in countries and regions across the world. Country case studies highlighting best practices from 19 countries and the East African and Sahel regions showcase UNICEF's work with country governments on issues such as the inclusion of refugees in national education systems and improving relations between refugee children, their families, and their host communities.

We hope that the lessons generated from practical experiences in the field can be used to inform strategies and programming of partners to achieve our collective mission of finding durable educational solutions that will improve learning outcomes for children on the move across the world.

Robert Jenkins
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Definitions

Children on the move: International or internal child migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as internally displaced children or returnees.

Young people and 'youth': While there is no single definition of 'youth' or 'young people', this report focuses on young people, aged 14 to 24, and uses the terms 'young people' and 'youth' interchangeably.

Migrant: A person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a home country, regardless of whether the move is voluntary or involuntary and regardless of their legal status or length of stay.

Refugee: A person who lives outside his or her country of nationality and is unable to return because of persecution or fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs): Individuals or groups of people who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence; in particular, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

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