

## Draft Program

### **Child Protection in Emergencies**

Hosted by United Nations University - CRIS

18 March 2019, 10:00 – 16:30, UNU-CRIS, Potterierei 72, 8000 Bruges, Belgium

This workshop will bring together key actors from United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations, committed to deliver protection to children in emergencies across the globe, as well as representatives of the academic community and EU institutions. It is a platform through which key stakeholders can share views and concerns regarding various risks children face in emergencies and discuss innovative and creative solutions and policies to address them.

### **Thematic background**

Children's dependence on adults and their need for care make them vulnerable, especially in emergencies.

Nearly 50 million children have been uprooted from their homes due to violence, poverty or natural disasters (UNICEF, 2018). Protracted conflicts, such as in the DRC, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen (among other countries), refugee crises and an unprecedented number of cholera outbreaks, particularly in conflict-affected countries, have separated children from their families and communities, deprived them from decent education and healthcare and put them at risk of being subject to physical and sexual violence, exploitation and recruitment to armed forces or armed groups. These risks require effective and sustainable solutions to provide both short and long-term protection to children.

According to the Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for Child Protection to Humanitarian Action, the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) includes both response and prevention of risks, guaranteeing that children receive all the necessary humanitarian assistance, required for their safety and wellbeing.

### **Objectives and expected outcomes**

The aim of the event is to raise awareness of children's challenges in emergencies and ensure a platform for discussing sustainable child protection.

The objectives are:

- to call attention to the risks children face during and in the aftermath of emergencies;
- to highlight the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders;
- to bring in the experience of practitioners;
- to present recent academic work;
- to discuss concrete steps, gaps and recommendations on key priorities;
- to discuss innovative and impactful good practices.

The expected outcomes are:

- underscoring challenges to children during and in the aftermath of emergencies;
- discussing solutions related to child protection;
- identifying novel avenues, partnerships and networks that support the design and implementation of relevant activities.

## **Target audience**

The main targeted audience are practitioners committed to support child protection, academics working on children in emergencies, students and representatives of civil society engaged in the topic.

## **Draft Agenda**

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| 10:00 – 10:30 | Registration, welcome coffee  |
| 10:30 – 10:40 | <b>Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop</b><br><br>Prof. Madeleine O. Hosli<br>Director, <i>United Nations University - CRIS</i>  |
| 10:40 – 11:30 | <b>Protection of Children's Rights in Emergencies</b><br><br>Ms. Sandie Blanchet<br>Director, <i>UNICEF Office for Relations with the EU</i>  |
| 11:30 – 11:40 | Coffee break  |
| 11:40 – 12:30 | <b>Challenges for Child Protection in Emergencies: A UNHCR Perspective</b><br><br>Mr. Stefan Maier<br>Senior Policy Officer, Policy and Legal Support Unit, <i>Regional Representation for EU Affairs</i>   |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch   |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | <b>Panel on Refugee and Migrant Children (Part I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Protecting the Child's Right to a Nationality in a (Forced) Migration Context</b><br/><br/>Dr. Laura van Waas<br/>Co-Director, <i>Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion</i><br/>Assistant Professor, <i>Tilburg University</i></li><li>- <b>Challenges and Stories of Hope from Lebanon</b><br/><br/>Dr. Louma Albik, Ms. Ana Londoño and Ms. Maria Rosales<br/><i>Soutien Belge Overseas</i></li></ul> |

- 15:00 – 15:15      Coffee break
- 15:15 – 16:15      **Panel of Refugee and Migrant Children (Part II)**
- **The Wellbeing of Unaccompanied Young Refugees in the Current European Political Context**  
  
         Prof. Ilse Derluyn  
         Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR),  
         *Ghent University*
  - **The Silent Majority: The Particular Plight of Young Syrian Male Migrants**  
  
         Dr. Vanessa Newby  
         Assistant Professor, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, *Leiden University*
- 16:15 – 16:30      **Closing remarks**