

# DESTINATION UNKNOWN CAMPAIGN

to protect children  
on the move

Millions of children around the world are on the move. They lost home. They are escaping poverty, violence or disaster. They may end up exploited or abused. Their destination is unknown. Let's mobilize to protect their rights.



Go to [destination-unknown.org](http://destination-unknown.org)  
[info@destination-unknown.org](mailto:info@destination-unknown.org)

**Terre des Hommes**  
International Federation

## Children on the move: who are they?

They are children who left home. They are on the way or have reached a destination.

They move within or between countries, accompanied or alone.

Trafficked, unaccompanied, in street situation, kidnapped, forced to migration, refugees, asylum seekers, nomadic... across the world millions of children are on the move.

## Why an international campaign?

Because children on the move are invisible and ignored. They are not listened to. They are seen as a threat and not as children. They suffer isolation, prejudice and marginalization.

Their health and emotional well-being are affected. Their needs and wish to seek their project life are not recognized. They are detained, prosecuted, forced to displacement. They are exploited.

They disappear. Their interests are often absent from the preoccupations of public authorities.

Governments are obliged to protect all children – including children on the move. But they generally fail to do so. Solutions to protect them exist. They need to be put in place by all actors concerned.

## What is at stake?

**33 million children** and youths under the age of 20 leave home to cross borders and migrate.

**20 millions** of them reside in low income countries (60%).

**13 millions** in developed countries (40%).

Additional millions of children move within countries, especially in low income countries.

The phenomenon is worldwide. Their number is going to rise in the next years, together with increasing migration flows. Finding and implementing adequate solutions to protect them remains a challenge.

## How do we approach the issue?

They have the right to move and to be protected.

Prevention aiming at simplistically avoiding children to move has proven to be inappropriate. This also hampers the fundamental right of a child to move. Their mobility increases their vulnerability and risk of being exploited.

Their mobility also represents a potential for their future life and personal development. Providing they can benefit from adequate protection along their trip or at destination.

## What do we do?

With Destination Unknown, Terre des Hommes and partners:

- **Raise awareness** by giving the floor to children who have left home and make their stories known.
- **Operate** by field programs that develop solutions to protect children on the move.
- **Advocate** by producing expertise, research and field observation, to influence policy, practice and legislation. 10 demands will guide the campaign for policy change.

To do so, Terre des Hommes engages directly with children and youths to give due weight to the views and opinions of the child concerned.

**Destination Unknown is a multi-year international campaign led by Terre des Hommes. It is supported by partners who join forces to develop protection on the field, raise awareness and advocate for the campaign messages.**



## **R**EGIONS of ACTION

we advocate globally and locally on the basis of projects in the field

**Terre des Hommes**  
International Federation



We had been here for about 45 days and, every day, we asked the police, the government and the political people what will happen to us. But they didn't answer. So we were compelled to stop eating to solve our problems.

**A school-aged Afghan boy detained on the Island of Leros (Greece) - Kids Abroad - 2008**

My situation has improved since I have paid an ox and sheep. If I had not gone, I'll never have had all this cattle. According to the Bamana "one never gets something being idle".

**Boy aged 14, Mali - Which protection for children involved in mobility - 2011**