

# The Growing Crisis of Internally Displaced Migrant Children: the Challenges for Child protection



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## What is the difference between a refugee and an internally displaced person?

- **Refugees** are people who are living outside the country of their nationality "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted" (1951 **Refugee** Convention).
- **Internally displaced persons (IDPs)** have fled their homes but have not crossed an international frontier. IDPs stay within their own country and remain under the protection of its government.

# Aylan Kurdi

- We are all aware of the tragic death of three year-old Aylan Kurdi, the Syrian toddler whose body washed up on a beach in Turkey.
- But when Aylan and his family first fled their home, they moved several times seeking safety within Syria.
- It was only the lack of support and dire conditions that finally forced the family to undertake their most dangerous journey and flee the country, with tragic consequences.

# *Magnitude of the Problem*

- 65.3 million people forcibly displaced around the globe, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> are children
- 40.8 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- These people are among the most vulnerable in the world.
- ***Face persecution within their own recognized state borders, as they do not receive attention as refugees***

# Internal displacement monitoring centre (IDMC)

- The IDMC'S global overview 2015 reported that five countries accounted for 60% of new displacement worldwide.
- Some countries like—  
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan and Syria.

# Child Protection Challenges

- Every Child who is uprooted—even those within their own borders –deserve to be protected and enjoy full complement of Child Rights
- Children are most vulnerable; the first to be affected by war, conflict, climate change and poverty

# Child Protection Challenges

- Migrating children are subject to extreme forms of abuse, deprivation and poverty
- They urgently need essential services and to their protection when they reach their destination

# India

- 15million children migrants in 2007
- Climate, Poverty, conflict, inequality and natural disaster
- **Development induced displacement does not find much mention!**

# Street children are runaway migrants

- UNICEF 2003: 100 million Street Children worldwide
- India: 18 million Street Children( NGO data)
- **UNDP (2020) 53% of developing world will live in cities,**
- Rapid urbanization is a challenging problem.
- Street children are runaway migrants

# **Etiology-Pathogenic Factors**

- **Economic (Poverty) Wide spread disparity on economic levels, forcing children into hunger and child labour**
- **Social (rural to urban migration, droughts, dysfunctional families, lack of education, unemployment)**
- **Political (violence, victims of war)**

# New Delhi –Street children

- **Everyday numerous street children (40-50 per day) migrate from neighboring states**
- **Get employed as : Rag pickers, beggars, cleaners (not formal jobs- no benefits, poor safety, scanty pay etc)**
- **46 resettlement colonies, 100,000 individuals, 10% live in appalling conditions**
- **No or paucity of up to date records of slum census, as they grow and mushroom every 6 months and migrant population**

# BUDS India



- BUDS has been working in two different urban slum locations (Nizamuddin railway station, Red Fort-Mori gate, New Delhi) amongst the orphan and vulnerable children since 2003
- Underserved Village Ghasera, Mewat 2014



Afghanistan

Pakistan

India

Bangladesh

Myanmar (Burma)

Thailand

Kabul

Islamabad

Lahore

New Delhi

Karachi

Ahmedabad

Surat

Mumbai

Hyderabad

Goa

Karnataka

Andhra Pradesh

Bengaluru

Chennai

Mysuru

Tamil Nadu

Kochi

Kerala

Sri Lanka

Colombo

Qinghai

Tibet

Nepal

Kathmandu

Bihar

Jharkhand

West Bengal

Odisha

Sikkim

Bhutan

Assam

Meghalaya

Manipur

Tripura

Mizoram

Naypyitaw

Bangkok

Pattaya

Gulf of Thailand

Andaman Sea

Bay of Bengal

Arabian Sea

Laccadive Sea

Gulf of Oman

Oman

Muscat

Dubai

Abu Dhabi

Ras Al Khaima

Kerala

BUDS ( [www.buds.in](http://www.buds.in))



- Goal is to reduce the vulnerability of children and youth living and working on the urban slums

*Through a continuum of services*

- To address their education, health, physical, psychological, life skills and vocational development.

# BUDS strategic activities



- Mobile health clinics, primary medical check-ups and immunization drives
- Day care facility and mid-day meals at drop-in-centers
- Home repatriation
- Non formal and formal education programs
- Vocational Training programs to improve livelihood opportunities
- Annual children's day events, cultural program, recreational activities and sports

# BUDS Activities



# Health & Education Services

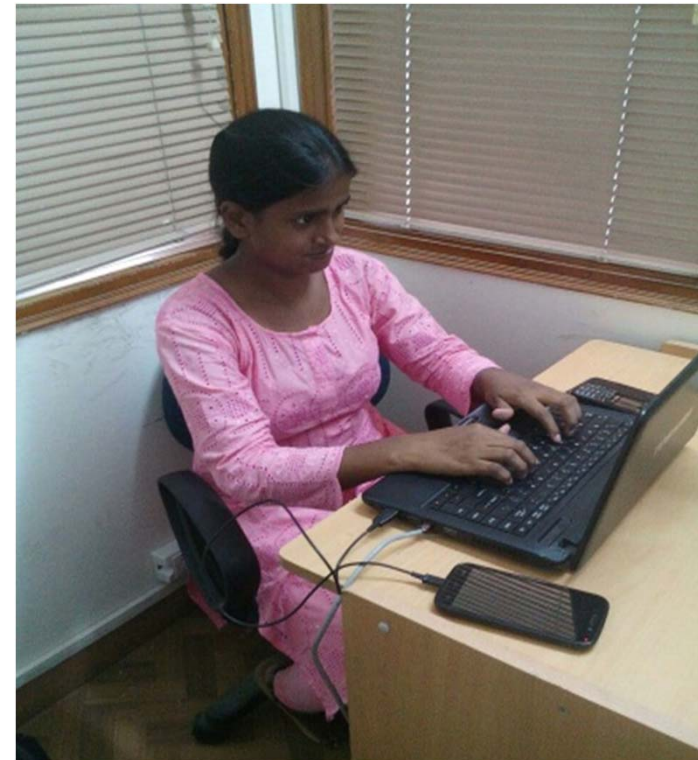
- Program since 2000: 25000 children
- Drop in Center (DIC ): provide non- formal education, free medical care, mid day meals and vocational courses, counseling
- Mobile health services in urban slums: Health, education and monitoring,
- Village Ghasera, Mewat, Haryana



# Street Children Rehabilitation-Results

- **Drop in Centers: served more than 25000 street children**
- **Home Repatriation (2005): 350**
- **Shelter home placement(2005-): 347**
- **Vocational skills, Job placement**

# Pintu & Kavita: Chance for a dignified life



# UN CRC

- Article 2 ( Non Discrimination)
- Article 3 Best interest of child
- Article 6: Right to survival , development
- Article 12 Right to participation

# UN CRC : Rights to migrants

- Articles 9, 20 and 22: Rights of separated, displaced and refugee children, explicit attention given to the protection of unaccompanied minors
- Article 30: Responsibilities of transit countries
- Article 39: Rights of children affected by armed conflict
- Articles 24, 26, 27 and 28: Rights of all children to educational, health and welfare services

# Universal Principles

- There are no universal principles of addressing Internally Displaced People
- UN General Assembly (1998) & UN Commission of Human Rights; guiding principles
- International Humanitarian Law( IHL) ( Geneva Convention IV and Additional Protocols)

# Protect child exploitation and violence

- Strengthen child protection systems
- Training of medical social workers, NGO, Professionals
- Clamp Child Trafficking, access to information, socio-legal, Government support and guardians
- End Detention, provide community support, foster placement, compulsory registration

# Strategic Initiatives

- Keep families together
- Registration
- Collective effort for right to education, health, shelter, nutrition, safe water, socio-legal
- Address the root cause of migration: conflict, violence, extreme poverty
- Prevent discrimination and marginalization

# Sustainable Development Goals 2030

- Work is guided by humanity and humanity has no borders.
- Ensure that no group is neglected.
- This was the world's pledge through SDG
- We also address the long-term political and development challenges resulting from internal displacement.

# Recommendations

- We urge governments, world leaders, thought leaders and the public to unite behind this cause.
- We should come together to propose better ways to prevent internal displacement and support the invisible majority of displaced people.
- We also call on leaders and members of the public to keep the spotlight of our compassion on the internally displaced, alongside refugees and migrants.

# Children Day Celebration 2016



# High Achievers



# Thank you

