Sample Scenario 1: Conflict and Children on the Move

Armed conflict breaks out in the northwest region of Country A

Like many adolescent boys in his village, 15-year-old John separates from his family while fleeing an armed group that has attempted to recruit him. Along the way, John is seeking service from a smuggler, who promises to get him to Country C. He now travels as an unaccompanied child. Travelling by illegal channels and dependent upon untrustworthy agents, he faces a high risk of being trafficked.

After crossing the border, John is separated from the smuggler. Authorities take him into custody and hold him in a detention centre. Here he begins procedures to apply for asylum. He is considered both an unaccompanied child and an asylum-seeker.

Family Alexander flees to another region of Country A. They belong to a minority group in Country A that has not been recognized as nationals of Country A for generations, and are therefore stateless. At an internal displacement camp, members of Family Alexander are formally registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs). The mother gives birth to another child, Zora, who is born at the camp and considered part of an IDP-related population. Like her parents, Zora is at risk of becoming stateless because her birth is currently unregistered.

If the asylum applications of Family Campos and John are accepted, each of them are considered a refugee with all legal rights under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

Family Campos from southeastern region of Country A travels for days to a city in Country B where they stay with extended family members. The family intends to apply for asylum but has not yet started the process due to complicated bureaucratic procedures. This makes each family member an international migrant with intention of applying for asylum. However, members of this family may also be classified as migrants in irregular situations, as they currently have no official legal status.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

SAMPLE SCENARIO 2.

A large region of Country D has suffered from a prolonged period of drought. Crop yields have plummeted, livestock has been lost. Families have seen their primary sources of income disappear. Increasing frequency and intensity of droughts have been linked to climate change.

As food and crops diminish, eight-year-old Amara’s parents move to a city in Country D to find alternate sources of income. Amara stays behind with her grandparents, so her schooling won’t be interrupted. She is considered a child who stays behind.

Amara’s parents send home remittances every month to support the family.

As a migrant in an irregular situation, it is unlikely that Anna is accounted for international migration statistics. Data on children like Anna are too often incomplete.

As food and crops diminish, eight-year-old Amara’s parents move to a city in Country D to find alternate sources of income. Amara stays behind with her grandparents, so her schooling won’t be interrupted. She is considered a child who stays behind.

Amara’s parents send home remittances every month to support the family.

As a migrant in an irregular situation, it is unlikely that Anna is accounted for international migration statistics. Data on children like Anna are too often incomplete.

A large region of Country D has suffered from a prolonged period of drought. Crop yields have plummeted, livestock has been lost. Families have seen their primary sources of income disappear. Increasing frequency and intensity of droughts have been linked to climate change.

As food and crops diminish, eight-year-old Amara’s parents move to a city in Country D to find alternate sources of income. Amara stays behind with her grandparents, so her schooling won’t be interrupted. She is considered a child who stays behind.

Amara’s parents send home remittances every month to support the family.

As a migrant in an irregular situation, it is unlikely that Anna is accounted for international migration statistics. Data on children like Anna are too often incomplete.

A large region of Country D has suffered from a prolonged period of drought. Crop yields have plummeted, livestock has been lost. Families have seen their primary sources of income disappear. Increasing frequency and intensity of droughts have been linked to climate change.

As food and crops diminish, eight-year-old Amara’s parents move to a city in Country D to find alternate sources of income. Amara stays behind with her grandparents, so her schooling won’t be interrupted. She is considered a child who stays behind.

Amara’s parents send home remittances every month to support the family.

As a migrant in an irregular situation, it is unlikely that Anna is accounted for international migration statistics. Data on children like Anna are too often incomplete.
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

SAMPLE SCENARIO 3.

The COVID-19 pandemic breaks out in December 2019 and spreads around the world.

Pedro, an international migrant from Country G who works and attends school in country F, is fired from his job as a result of pandemic lockdowns. After his school is shut down, he makes the decision to use his remaining funds to return home.

Along the migration journey home, Pedro meets a group of adolescent migrants and refugees who are travelling for a range of reasons, including to find work in Country G, where lockdowns are less severe. Travelling together, this group is considered part of a mixed movement.

Two unaccompanied children in the group, Luca and Silas, are approached by a trafficker along the journey. The trafficker promises to smuggle them to Country G and offers them work, which they desperately need. They quickly find themselves in debt to the trafficker.

17-year-old Ali and 14-year-old Fatima are refugee children staying in a refugee camp along the border of Country G. Fatima is immunocompromised. But the refugee camp is overcrowded and has limited access to clean water and proper sanitation. To avoid contracting COVID-19 in the camps, the siblings continue onwards to the nearest urban area.

17-year-old Ali and 14-year-old Fatima are refugee children staying in a refugee camp along the border of Country G. Fatima is immunocompromised. But the refugee camp is overcrowded and has limited access to clean water and proper sanitation. To avoid contracting COVID-19 in the camps, the siblings continue onwards to the nearest urban area.

Alexandra, a migrant in an irregular situation in Country G, experiences COVID-19 symptoms, but her mother discourages her from going to the doctor or getting tested, as she fears the family could be detected and deported.

Two unaccompanied children in the group, Luca and Silas, are approached by a trafficker along the journey. The trafficker promises to smuggle them to Country G and offers them work, which they desperately need. They quickly find themselves in debt to the trafficker.

Luca and Silas are forced to work for the trafficker under slave-like conditions in Country G. The risk of child trafficking and child labour has reportedly increased due to the economic strain of measures to contain the pandemic.

Now residing in Country G with his family, Pedro is considered a voluntary return migrant. He struggles to keep up with school online, as there is weak internet connectivity in his home.