

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE
FOR MIGRANTS VULNERABLE
TO VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION
AND ABUSE: HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY
ASSISTANCE

PART 3

CONTENT

| | |
|---|-----|
| INTRODUCTION..... | 117 |
| 3.1 HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY-LEVEL DETERMINANTS OF MIGRANT VULNERABILITY..... | 117 |
| Understanding concepts of household and family..... | 117 |
| Determinants of migrant vulnerability at the household and family level..... | 118 |
| 3.2 HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE..... | 119 |
| Programming principles..... | 119 |
| Actors involved in household/family programming..... | 120 |
| Extension of individual assistance | 121 |
| Social protection programming..... | 134 |
| Social capital enhancement activities..... | 137 |
| 3.3 RESOURCES FOR PART 3..... | 139 |
| 3.4 HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY FACTORS ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT..... | 141 |
| Introduction..... | 141 |
| Guidance for applying and adapting the household/family factors questionnaire..... | 143 |
| Questionnaires..... | 148 |

INTRODUCTION

Part 3 of this Handbook focuses on the determinants of migrant vulnerability at the household and family level, and on appropriate programmatic responses for mitigating and addressing vulnerability factors at this level. It discusses the concepts of household and family, and the roles of households and families in contributing to vulnerability or resilience. It outlines programming principles that should be followed in any household or family level intervention, and describes various forms of programming for addressing household and family vulnerability. Specific topics include shelter and accommodation; water, sanitation and hygiene; food and nutrition; personal safety and security; health and well-being; education and training; livelihoods, employment and income generation; social protection; and social capital enhancement activities.

The guidance provided in Part 3 is intended mainly for case managers providing direct support and assistance to vulnerable migrants, as consideration of household and family factors is usually a key consideration in developing and implementing individual protection and assistance plans. It is also intended for case managers, service providers and development actors involved in household/family-centred care, such as educators, health-care workers, community development actors, religious institutions and local government.

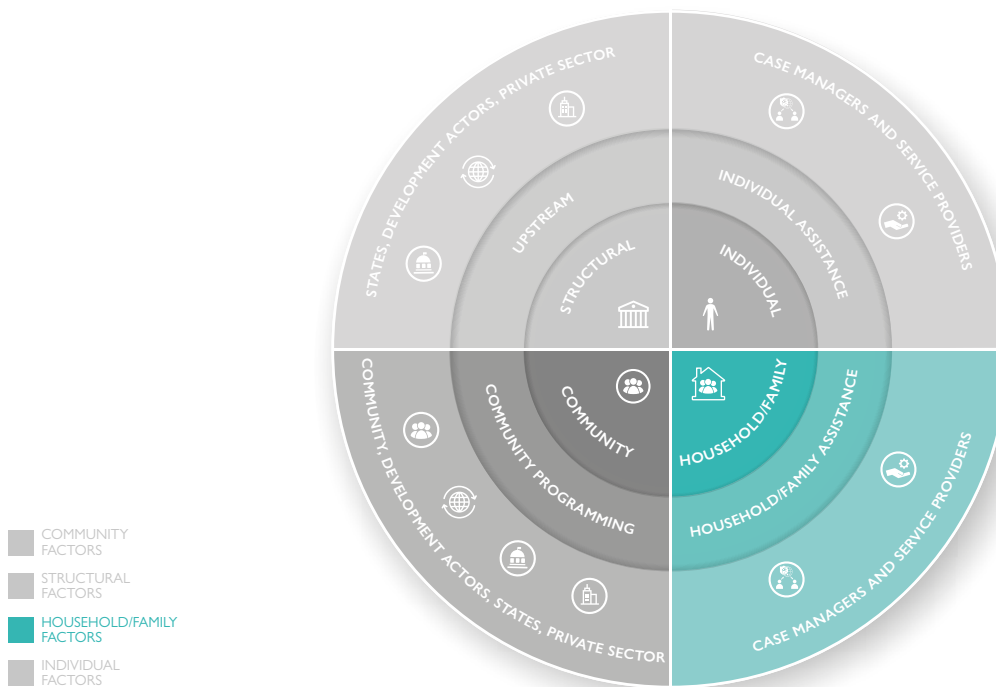


Figure 3.1

Programmatic responses and relevant actors at the household/family level

3.1 HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY-LEVEL DETERMINANTS OF MIGRANT VULNERABILITY

Understanding concepts of household and family

The concept of “family” is closely intertwined with the concept of “household,” to the point where they are often seen as synonymous. They are seen as referring to a set of two adults linked by marriage or its equivalent, with or without children, all sharing the same shelter. The parents are commonly the primary decision makers and providers, are mutually responsible for each other’s well-being, and are jointly responsible for the well-being of the children if there are any. There is typically a hierarchical relationship between adults and their children, especially from the

latter's childhood but often well into their adulthood. However, in different cultural contexts, the notion of family or household may include other individuals with familial bonds living elsewhere, or unrelated people sharing the same shelter. For example, in many societies the boundaries of the household/family may extend to adult siblings and their children (whether adults or minors), elderly parents, and aunts and uncles, who may live in different dwellings or even different locations, but who share ties that include decision-making, sharing of resources and mutual responsibilities.

The terms family and household may take on new meaning in a migration context. Migrants living away from their place or origin may share accommodation with friends, rent part of an apartment shared with strangers, or live – either alone or with members of their family – in migrant or refugee shelters among strangers. Some, especially temporary migrant workers, often live in employer-provided accommodation that is shared with other migrants in the same situation. In all of these circumstances, the living conditions and relationships with other people living in the same accommodation may constitute either risk or protective factors in ways very similar to what we would expect in a traditional understanding of the household/family, even if the circumstances are somewhat different.

This Handbook uses the combined term “household/family” to accommodate local variations in understandings of either term and allow for as much inclusivity as possible.

Determinants of migrant vulnerability at the household and family level

Household and family factors are related to the household and family circumstances of individuals and their household and family members; the role and position of individuals within the household and family; and household and family histories and experiences. Families are especially important in determining vulnerability and resilience, as they are typically the first option for individuals who require support, particularly children and young people. All members of the household and family are rights holders, and the extent to which their rights are respected will affect how family and household factors impact vulnerability or resilience.

Examples of household and family factors include family size, household structure, socioeconomic status, migration histories, employment, livelihoods, education levels, gender or age discrimination and family dynamics, as well as level of participation in kinship and other social networks (social capital).

Households and families can constitute both risk and protective factors against violence, exploitation and abuse. Risk factors can include interpersonal violence between family members, households headed by a child or a single parent, and a history of unsafe migration behaviour. Protective factors can include the presence of a supportive environment within the home, equitable distribution of resources and opportunities between boys and girls, and sufficient earnings to meet both the basic needs and main aspirations of all family members.

Refer to the Household/Family Factors Assessment Toolkit for a more detailed discussion of household/family factors.

The interrelationship between individual, household/family, community and structural factors

It can be difficult to separate out risk and protective factors at the household and family level from those at the individual level. This is because all households and families are comprised of individuals; therefore, individual-level factors, like age and sex of household and family members, affect household and family dynamics. Likewise, family and household factors, such as household size and structure, impact the vulnerability or resilience of individual members to violence, exploitation and abuse. When assessing risk and protective factors for either individuals or household/families for the purposes of protection and assistance programming, a comprehensive assessment at both levels will provide a more complete picture and better inform the intervention. Both individuals and families are affected by their broader social environment; therefore, the intervention should also be informed by assessments at the community and structural levels.

3.2 HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

Protection and assistance services at the household/family level are undertaken to address the vulnerability of a specific individual to violence, exploitation or abuse in a migration context, when there are indications that household/family factors are contributing to vulnerability and/or there are protective factors that can be mobilized to help the individual avoid, resist, cope with or recover from violence, exploitation or abuse. Protection and assistance services at the household/family level can also be undertaken to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience of families and households as a whole. Household and family interventions may require shorter- or longer-term approaches, depending on the particular risk factors being addressed.

Programming principles

As households/families are comprised of individuals, the principles of assistance discussed in Part 2 of this Handbook also apply to household/family level programming. However, it is important to note that the individuals within a household/family are likely to hold different statuses and have different capabilities. For example, it may be the case that the older persons within the household/family hold a position of power and are to be obeyed by younger members; the highest income-earners have greater ability to participate in decision-making; or female members of the household/family are excluded from certain types of activities or access to certain resources, such as participation in education, income generation and social activities. It is therefore necessary to understand the position of and relationships between individuals within the household/family and to ensure that the interests of all individuals are taken into account and given due consideration.

As households/families operate as a distinct social unit and have their own internal dynamics, there are additional principles that should be taken into account in household/family-level interventions. The household/family-level programming principles described below should be read together with the principles of assistance described on page 29 of Part 2.

Family-centred approach - A family-centred approach is one that focuses on the family unit, and is concerned with engaging and preserving the family wherever possible.¹ In this way, a family-centred approach upholds the right to family life, and the principle of preservation of family unity. Key components of a family-based approach include: (a) working with the family unit to ensure the safety and well-being of all family members; (b) strengthening the capacity of families to find and implement solutions; (c) engaging with family members and empowering them to participate in all decision-making; (d) building relationships on a foundation of trust, respect, honesty and open communication; (e) providing individualized, responsive, flexible and relevant services for each family; and (f) linking families with community-based networks of supports and services.²

Strengths-based approach – This is an approach that recognizes that all individuals and families have strengths, resources or assets to draw upon to overcome challenges. While this approach does not ignore problems, it differs from a deficit-focused approach, which focuses on problems and limitations. It is related to a self-directed approach, which supports individuals and families to make their own decisions and plan their own way forward, with the support of social protection actors and service providers. A strengths-based approach supports empowerment, participation and self-determination.

Age- and gender-sensitivity – Age and gender are important factors at both the individual and household/family levels. When interacting with households/families, it is important to recognize that societal attitudes and beliefs on the roles of children and the elderly, and of men and women, are often replicated and enforced within the household/family. It is therefore necessary to not only understand the specific needs and requirements of each group as individuals (for example, the specific health requirements of women and girls, or of children and the elderly), but also of how family and household dynamics influence and regulate access to these needs or resources (for example,

1 www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/10522158.2017.1348105.

2 www.childwelfare.gov/topics/famcentered/philosophy/.

by encouraging the elderly to state their needs and allocating resources to meet them, or by prioritizing the needs of boys and men over those of girls and women). Age- and gender- sensitivity requires awareness of these dynamics, and efforts to address them and to encourage equality within households/families.

Actors involved in household/family programming

Delivery of services at the household/family level requires personal, face-to-face contact. It is therefore typically delivered by: (a) case managers, who have specific responsibilities for working with families and households to assess their needs, identify goals, develop an assistance plan, organize delivery of the plan, and monitor and follow up on the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the identified goals; or (b) programme staff, who deliver services that are intended to improve household/family well-being but who do not necessarily use a comprehensive case management approach. Case managers and programme staff may be State authorities, or work for international organizations, United Nations agencies, NGOs or civil society organizations.

Service providers, both public and private, have a role to play in meeting the protection and assistance needs of vulnerable families, such as health, education and nutrition. These providers can include public or private hospitals and clinics, community workers, teachers, school counsellors, and staff of nutrition, poverty alleviation or food distribution programmes.

State authorities play a key role in upholding individual and family rights, and meeting protection and assistance needs. Such functions can include provision of safety and security services by police officers, documentation assistance provided by consular officials and civil registry officials, and care and guardianship arrangements for vulnerable children provided by State child welfare agencies.

| Actor | Examples | Sectors |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Case managers | Government social workers, staff of international organizations, UN agencies, NGOs or civil society organizations who undertake case management functions | Overall case management |
| Service providers | Health-care workers, educators, school counsellors, lawyers, community health-care workers, lawyers, financial services providers, and employment counsellors | Health, education, nutrition, finance, livelihoods, poverty reduction, etc. |
| State authorities | Consular officials, police officers, immigration officers, labour officers, child welfare officers | Documentation, safety and security, child protection, workplace safety and compliance with labour laws |

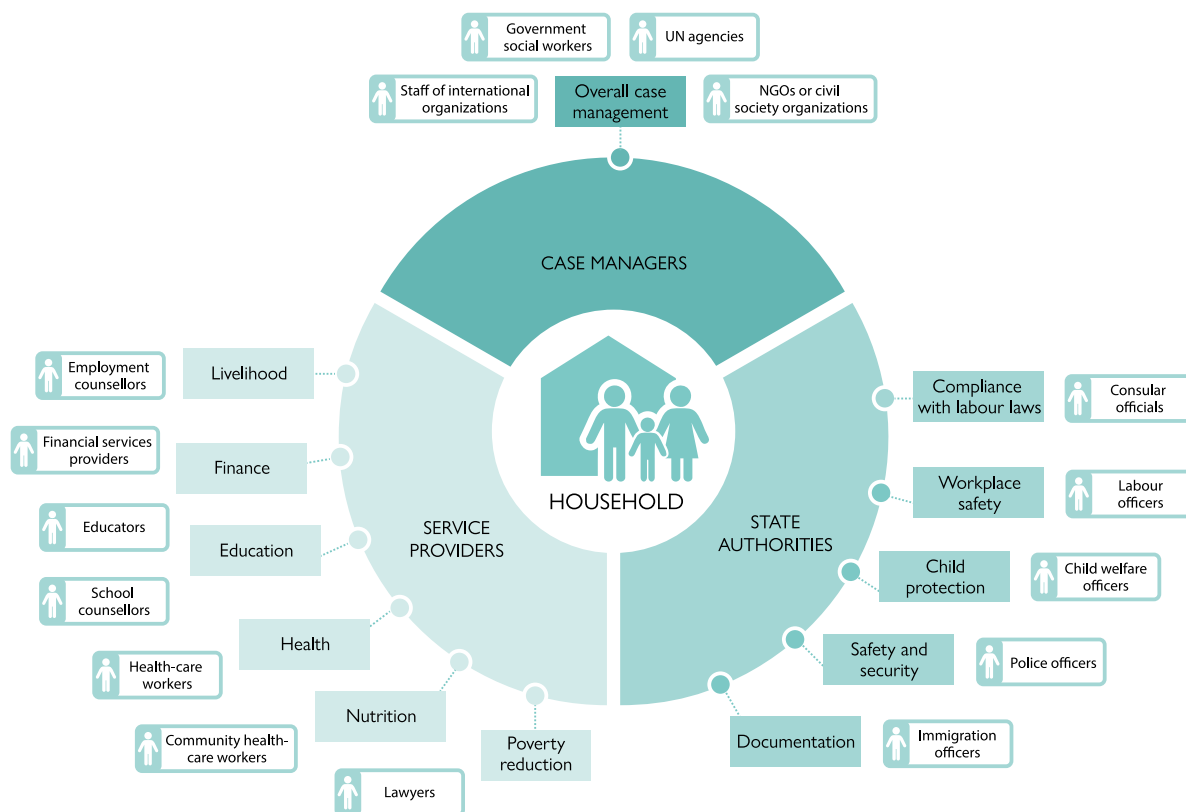


Figure 3.2

Relevant actors and sectors of intervention at the household/family level

Extension of individual assistance

While there is no definition of what constitutes a family under international human rights law, as understandings of the concept vary across cultural, political and social systems,³ there is recognition that families are comprised of individuals that operate as a distinct and fundamental social unit.⁴ Any intervention at this level must therefore not only take into account the fact that the recipients of protection and assistance services are individuals, but also that familial bonds will shape how these services are received, and services delivered to any one member of the family will likely impact other family members as well.

As individuals, members of families are entitled to the forms of protection and assistance described in Part 2 of this Handbook. Families themselves play an important role in protecting the human rights of their members and in providing them with an enabling environment for the enjoyment of those rights.⁵ Further, a number of human rights are directly related to the family, including:

- The right to marry and have a family;
- The right to privacy and family life;
- The right to equality within the family;
- The right not to be subject to violence or abuse within the family; and
- State obligations with regard to protection of the family.

3 Ibid., pages 5 and 6.

4 Recognition of the family as the fundamental unit of society can be found in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (fifth preambular paragraph), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Art. 44(1)) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Preamble, para. X). See also Protection of the family: Contribution of the family to the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living for its members, particularly through its role in poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/31/37), page 3.

5 Ibid., page 4.

Therefore, household/family interventions could include delivery of protection and assistance services that target the needs of one or more members of the family, or they could aim to meet the protection and assistance needs of the family as a whole. The sections below should be read together with Part 2.

The role of the families within communities is also noted, as per Human Rights Council Resolution 29/22, which notes that “the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community.”⁶

Shelter and accommodation

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care.” Efforts to uphold this right can include improvements to existing or construction of new shelter or accommodation, or assistance in finding appropriate accommodations, for example in the rental market or in social housing.

As described in the section on shelter and accommodation in Part 2, shelter can take many forms, including temporary settlements, institutional shelters, and semi-independent and independent living. When addressing shelter needs for households/families, it is important to make every effort to preserve family units, including sibling groups. Ideally, and where necessary and appropriate, households/families should be assisted to access independent housing in a manner that reflects their preferences and social and cultural practices: for example, a house or apartment for parents and children; or a group of huts on a shared piece of land that accommodates different family units in an extended family.

Household/family living spaces should have adequate space for all members and should take into account the requirements of any members with disabilities. They should also take into account any age-specific requirements, including safe sleep spaces for infants and children and adapted bathing facilities for older persons with limited mobility. Adequate provisions should be made to respect the privacy of individual household/family members, in line with the household/family’s social and cultural practices. These could include separate sleeping areas for couples and children, or for different sex or age groups. Household/family living spaces should include adequate space for sleeping, dressing, bathing and cooking, and contain necessary equipment for safe and healthy storage, handling and preparation of food.

Housing should be of safe construction, built with safe materials and suitable for the local climate. Measures should be taken to ensure that permanent housing is durable and capable of withstanding weather events that occur in the region, for example by storm-proofing windows in regions that experience hurricanes or typhoons. To the extent possible, construction and repair of housing should minimize adverse environmental impact.

The role of housing in ensuring personal safety must also be considered, with security provisions such as adequate lighting and internal and external locks considered and provided as necessary.

The location of household/family living spaces should also be considered. This should include: (a) consideration of proximity to any natural hazards (for example, do not situate shelter right on the banks of a river prone to flooding); (b) proximity to basic social services such as education and medical facilities; (c) connections to transportation networks (roads, rivers, buses, trains, etc.); and (d) proximity to livelihoods. For example, working members of a household/family whose primary source of income is formal employment should be able to report to work without excessive time or money being spent on transportation, while a household/family whose primary livelihood is agriculture should be housed in a location that gives them easy enough access to land.

The equality of household/family members should be upheld and reflected in living spaces by ensuring that individual members are not marginalized. For example, elderly persons or persons with disabilities should not be excluded from primary living spaces (for instance, by putting them in small external buildings) or other practices, implying a marginalized and excluded position within the family.

6 Human Rights Council Resolution 29/22 Protection of the family: Contribution of the family to the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living for its members, particularly through its role in poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development (A/HRC/RES/29/22), page 2.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

While the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights does not explicitly refer to the right to water, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its General Comment No.15 on the right to water, defined the right of everyone “to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses” and deemed the right to water part of the right to an adequate standard of living.

In order to ensure that household/family-level interventions on water, sanitation and hygiene meet these conditions, it is important to consider the individual members, as each may have different water, sanitation and hygiene needs and/or differing levels of access to water. For example, menstruating women and girls have specific hygiene requirements, as do persons with specific medical conditions. While a well in the centre of town may be safe and physically acceptable to most persons in the community, it may not be to persons with disabilities. It may be safe for adults to access communal hygiene facilities day or night, but not so for children. Efforts should be made to ensure that each person in the family has independent access to water, sanitation and hygiene, in a manner that suits their age and capacities and meets their own specific needs.

Further, the impact or work associated with fetching or otherwise maintaining access to water should be considered. In cases where fetching water places an undue burden on one or more family members (for example, if it takes several hours and interferes with schooling) or exposes them to harm (for example, by exposure to wild animals), efforts should be made to share the burden equitably among able family members and to reduce the exposure of all family members to harm.

Food and nutrition

The right to food is a human right recognized by international human rights law, and the right to food for families is specifically noted. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes, in the context of an adequate standard of living, that: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food” (Art. 25). The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, recognizes the right to adequate food as an essential part of the right to an adequate standard of living (Art. 11 (1)). It also explicitly recognizes “the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger” (Art. 11 (2)).⁷

When providing food and nutrition support to households/families, either through direct provision of food, cash or vouchers to purchase food, or agricultural inputs to improve the ability to grow and produce food for consumption, the aim is to assist that household/family to achieve food security. Households/families can be considered to be food-secure when they have year-round access to the amount and variety of safe foods that members need to lead active and healthy lives. At the household/family level, food security means the ability of the household to obtain, either through their own production or by purchase, enough food to meet the dietary needs of all members of the household.⁸ The ability of a household/family to achieve food security is closely related to its economic status and therefore the livelihoods, employment and income-generating activities that support the family. Refer to the section on livelihoods, employment and income generation below.

If food aid will be provided to the family, the food must be of sufficient variety, quality and safety and must take into account the individual needs of each member of the family. For example, pregnant and lactating women have specific nutritional requirements, while persons engaged in strenuous work may need to consume more calories than others in order to stay healthy. Where necessary, family members should be provided with information on food and nutrition, safe food handling and storage, and the specific nutritional requirements of all members of the household.

Personal safety and security

If one or more members of the household/family face personal security risks (refer to Part 2 for information on risk assessments and security planning), it is necessary to consider the potential impact of such risks on other members of the household/family. At times, traffickers, smugglers or others may specifically threaten a vulnerable migrant’s family members, meaning that each member of that family faces heightened personal security risks. The procedures described in the section on personal safety and security in Part 2 should be followed in all such instances.

⁷ www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet34en.pdf.

⁸ www.fao.org/ag/agn/nutrition/household_en.stm.

In responding to safety and security risks, the impact on the household/family as a whole should be considered; to the full extent possible, special accommodations for the household/family as a whole should be made. This could mean, for example, finding safe, secure and suitable accommodation for a high-risk vulnerable migrant's entire household/family, rather than separating the migrant from the family and putting him or her in secure accommodation.

In some cases, individuals within the household/family face security threats from other members of the family, for example in cases of family involvement in trafficking, intimate partner or domestic violence, or child abuse. It is important to identify these risks and work with the affected individuals to ensure they are protected from these risks. When there are children involved, any action to protect them from these risks must reflect the best interests of the child principle (see Part 6) and may require involvement of the appropriate authorities.

Health and well-being

At times, health-care professionals may engage with a patient's family using a "family-oriented" or "family-centred" approach. This approach may be undertaken: (a) to mobilize the family to support a member with a health condition; (b) to address the impact of the patient's health problems on other members of the family; and/or (c) when an intervention aims at addressing health-related behaviours in the family as a whole.⁹ Family factors impact health, which in turn influences vulnerability to violence exploitation and abuse:

Multiple family characteristics have been related to good and poor health outcomes. Family closeness, caregiver coping skills, mutually supportive relationships, clear family organization, flexibility and adaptability, and direct communication about the illness and its management have been linked to better clinical outcomes and have been identified as family protective factors. Correspondingly, negative family characteristics, such as intra-family conflict, criticism, blaming, lack of an extra-family support system, rigidity, and patient and family member's pre-illness psychopathology are associated with poorer clinical outcomes and therefore, are identified as family risk factors.¹⁰

Health considerations and access to appropriate health services are often prioritized by households/families. In households/families where resources are limited, choices about how and when to access health care, and which members of the household/family have access to health care, may have to be made. Practitioners can work with households/families to encourage decision-making that is fair and equitable and based on the individual needs of all members of the household/family. They can also provide support to households/families in finding low- or no-cost services of adequate quality. Further, practitioners can assess family members' knowledge and beliefs on health and healthy practices, such as safe household sanitation practices and vaccinations, and, if necessary, provide information or refer family members to community health workers or others for more information. The continued ability of a household/family to ensure the health and well-being of its members is closely related to its economic status and therefore the livelihoods, employment and income-generating activities that support the family.

Education and training

Quality primary education for all is a fundamental human right articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Quality education means education that is available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable.¹¹ Further, education is considered fundamental for individual development,¹² a key determinant of personal well-being and a major catalyst for development.¹³

Household/family-level interventions on education and training can be undertaken both for child and adult learning. Interventions may include:

9 www.jstor.org/stable/583766?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents.

10 <https://clinmedjournals.org/articles/jfmdp/journal-of-family-medicine-and-disease-prevention-jfmdp-1-009.pdf>.

11 International Network for Education in Emergencies, Minimum standards for education: preparedness, response, recovery (New York, 2010).

12 [13 <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-health-and-well-being>.](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/in/documentViewer.xhtml?v=2.1.196&id=p::usmarcdef_0000366556&file=/in/rest/annotationSVC/DownloadWatermarkedAttachment/attach_import_137c596c-6ac9-4ee6-81ca-94dd196c855e%3F_%3D366556eng.pdf&locale=en&multi=true&ark=ark:/48223/pf0000366556/PDF/366556eng.pdf#2138_18_ED_EN_Handbook%20on%20the%20right%20to%20education_int_ok.indd%3A.48860%3A469, page 31.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

- Promotion of enrolment and attendance of all school-aged children in the household: In many contexts and circumstances, girls do not have the same level of access to education as do boys. This can include girls being kept out of school while boys are in school, or girls being sent to schools of lesser quality than schools to which boys are sent. Such practices can reflect attitudes and beliefs about the roles of women and girls in society. Despite having sufficient resources to send girls to school, some parents do not, due to the belief that it is improper to educate girls or that it is better for girls to engage in domestic work and other activities. In other circumstances, parents may want to send both boys and girls to school, but face challenges in paying for the education of all their children. Hence, parents may prioritize access to education for boys rather than girls, on the belief that this may provide a better return on investment and/or that it is more appropriate to prioritize boys' education. Practitioners can seek to understand household/family decision-making processes related to participation in education, and advocate for fair and equitable access to education within the household/family. Where necessary, practitioners can assist households/families to identify low- or no-cost education services of sufficient quality, and/or refer them to social welfare programmes aimed at supporting families to send their children to school.
- Access to adult education and training activities: Parental education levels have significant impact on family well-being. Higher educational attainment is associated with improved socioeconomic status, which in turn has a positive impact on a broad range of indicators of well-being.¹⁴ Ongoing education and training can help adult family members maintain or improve employment, which can increase their own sense of well-being and help ensure that there are adequate resources to meet the education and other needs of all members of the household. It can also help provide them with the skills and abilities to access safe migration information, evaluate the reliability of migration information received and navigate safe migration pathways .
- Efforts to encourage parental involvement in children's education: Parental involvement in children's education is an important contributor to children's educational achievement and attainment.¹⁵ Interventions can assist parents to become fully engaged in their children's education from birth through to adulthood. For example, during children's infancy (ages 0 to 2), parents start the learning process by interacting with them and attending to their needs, continuously expressing affection, and engaging in two-way talk by listening and responding positively to encourage vocabulary expansion and develop language skills. From ages 3 to 5, children can be exposed to numeracy and literacy, in order to ready them for school. Between ages 6 and 11, primary school children may need help with homework; parents may also volunteer and engage more with their child's school. From ages 12 to 18, children in secondary school may need support in the form of parental encouragement, supervision and motivation within a stable home environment.¹⁶

Birth registration

Birth registration is the act of a government officially recording a child's birth. It establishes the existence of the child under the law and provides the foundation for safeguarding many of the child's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifies that every child has the right to be registered at birth without any discrimination.¹⁷

A child whose birth is not registered may face difficulties in accessing social services, including education and health care. Families should be encouraged to register their children at birth. If children have not been registered, practitioners can help rectify this situation by assisting families in filling out birth registration forms, providing financial assistance to pay any associated fees, etc.

14 www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/series/ALL/Short-Article-Healthy-and-wise.

15 <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/research/Engaging%20with%20families>; <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.2304/gsch.2014.4.1.21>.

16 <https://learningportal.iiep.unesco.org/en/issue-briefs/improve-learning/learners-and-support-structures/parental-and-community-involvement-in>.

17 www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58010.html.

Livelihoods, employment and income generation

The right to work is set down in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and includes the right to opportunities to earn a living through work that is freely chosen or accepted and the right of everyone to just and favourable conditions of work. According to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the term “work” should be understood to mean “decent work” (see text box on decent work on page 70) that provides, inter alia, fair wages, a decent living for workers and their families, safe and healthy working conditions, equal opportunities within the working environment, rest and leisure, and reasonable working hours and holidays.

Livelihoods, employment and income-generation support is often approached as an individual-level intervention, as it is individuals who obtain employment. However, households/families are very often involved in household/family livelihoods such as farming, and in income-generating activities such as production of items for sale in markets. Further, adequate livelihoods, employment and income generation are critical for households/families, as they provide the resources necessary to pay for basic necessities such as shelter, clothing, food and water; purchase key services for human development such as education and health care; and pursue interests and hobbies.

Livelihoods, employment and income generation are therefore usually key elements of assistance services (refer to Part 2 for a description of individual-level livelihoods, employment and income-generation assistance). At the household/family level, key things to consider in any livelihoods, employment and income-generation intervention include livelihoods diversification, participation of household/family members in work, and management of income and resources.

Livelihoods diversification can be an effective strategy for ensuring that a household/family has a stable source of goods and income. It is a process whereby households/families undertake a range of different activities to generate income and produce resources. Such activities may include a combination of producing items such as blankets or baskets for sale or exchange in a market, farming to produce meat, eggs, milk and/or vegetables for sale and personal use, and formal employment. Diversified livelihoods are considered to be more sustainable, as disruption to one source of income – for example, in the event of a job loss or the temporary inability of a household/family member to work due to illness – can be offset by the income or resources gained through another.

When considering household/family livelihoods, employment and income generation, it is important to understand the role and capability of each individual household member to contribute, and to understand the age, gender and other dynamics that may underpin decision-making. For example, it is a widespread cultural belief that men should be the primary income-earners in a family. When men are unable to meet the needs of their family because of an insufficient supply of work in their community, this may create pressure on them to migrate in search of work. They may migrate even if it is risky or unlikely to lead to sufficient employment and may result in impoverishment or vulnerability of household/family members who remain in the place of origin. An alternative livelihood strategy could include training and enabling other adult members of the family to enter the workforce and contribute to the household, or to develop complementary income-generating activities, such as micro-businesses. Children’s participation in the family’s economic activities should be age-appropriate and should not interfere with their education or healthy development.

Child labour

Child labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. This includes work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or
- interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

Whether or not particular forms of “work” can be called “child labour” depends on the child’s age, the type and hours of work performed, the conditions under which it is performed, and the objectives pursued by individual countries. The answer varies from country to country, as well as among sectors within countries.¹⁸

Child labour is incompatible with the aim of supporting households/families and all of their constituent members to flourish, and when it occurs, practitioners should work with families to withdraw the affected child or children from child labour, and to find alternative means of meeting the household/family’s needs.

Once a source of livelihoods and income has been established, it is also important that families understand how to manage these resources. This is known as financial literacy. It is necessary to have good financial literacy skills in order to use resources in a way that supports the family to meet its needs and goals, especially when the family has limited resources and needs to prioritize and make choices that support achievement of such priorities. Improved financial literacy is associated with an increased likelihood to save and plan for retirement, an improved ability to manage money, better debt management, and better economic and financial stability.¹⁹ Practitioners working with families should encourage efforts to build the financial literacy of household/family members, and provide age-appropriate financial literacy materials to household/family members and/or refer them for training, as appropriate. See the text box below for a list of useful financial literacy skills.

| Basic banking and budgeting ²⁰ | Credit and debt |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using financial institutions • Opening accounts • Reading statements from financial institutions • Managing a checking account • Using electronic banking services • Recognizing the range of saving options • Calculating interest and understanding compound interest • Understanding the importance of budgeting to achieve personal and financial goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and using credit • Improving poor credit • Ordering and reading a credit report • Securing loans • Identifying expenses • Identifying and assessing assets and debts • Avoiding high-cost financial services • Developing strategies to reduce expenses and increase income • Determining ways to reduce debts and/or save money |

18 www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/lang--en/index.htm.

19 www.oecd.org/finance/financial-education/PISA2012FrameworkLiteracy.pdf.

20 Adapted from www.nationalservice.gov/resources/economic-opportunity/identifying-topics-financial-literacy-training.

| Income planning, risk management and taxes | Money flow and asset creation |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial planning for different stages of the family life cycle or for life events, such as moving in together or getting married, separation or divorce, having children, personal or family illness or disability, buying a home, retirement, educating children, losing a job, death of a partner or family member • Reading a pay cheque • Understanding and identifying various types of insurance, the protections they provide, and the risks associated with remaining uninsured • Understanding taxation, tax obligations and filing taxes • Learning how to avoid tax penalties, underpayment or overpayment • Decision-making and problem-solving • Identifying values • Managing risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding economic and financial terminology • Understanding basic investment principles • Recognizing the interconnectedness of the economy • Accessing resources – community, financial assistance, credit counselling, financial planning and online resources • Applying economic concepts to personal financial management • Communicating about financial matters with family or household members • Standing up for one's rights as a consumer • Recognizing accessible investment options |

| Homeownership preparation | Social enterprise |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing what to look for when buying a home • Dealing with mortgage lenders • Identifying affordable homeownership programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting a business • Understanding the main components of a business plan • Creating a budget for a start-up business • Finding training programmes about how to start a small business |

Family tracing, assessments and reunification²¹

Migration has the potential to separate family members, particularly if it is: (a) forced; (b) sudden; (c) includes multiple, unsafe or irregular methods of transportation, border crossings or routes; or (d) due to a natural disaster and/or armed conflict. Children, the elderly, those who are physically or mentally unwell, persons living with disabilities and detained migrants are particularly vulnerable to being separated from their families. The definition of family differs between cultures and societies and may change in the circumstances, including the experience of migration.

Separation is a distressing experience that contributes to poor health and form, including feelings of anxiety, depression and loneliness; it can also have a negative impact on child development. Migrants, especially children, might be more vulnerable because they have been separated from their families.

Under international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims and their Additional Protocols, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, everyone has the right to know what happened to missing relatives, to communicate with members of their family, to stay united with their family members, and to be reunited if they are separated. Primary responsibility for ensuring respect for these rights lies with the State and, in situations of conflict, the organized armed group exercising control.

Family separation in migration can be unintentional or deliberate. Unintentional separation is not planned or anticipated. Deliberate separation occurs when families make a conscious decision to separate. It may start out being intentional, with the expectation that the family will be reunited in the future, but it can become longer than planned.²²

21 As family tracing, assessments and reunification are relevant services at both the individual and household/family levels, this entire section is presented in both Parts 2 and 3 of the Handbook.

22 The definitions and causes of accidental and deliberate family separations are adapted from *Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*, Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children/Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2017). Available at www.iom.int/sites/default/files/HANDBOOK-WEB-2017-0322.pdf.

Families may be unintentionally separated when:

- Family members are accidentally split up during an unplanned or poorly planned migration;
- Family members are split up owing to confusion associated with spontaneous or irregular migration;
- Younger, older or less-mobile family members are unable to keep up;
- Unsafe or unreliable transportation routes or methods are used (for instance, boats that capsize);
- Family members are in different locations (for instance, school and work) when an event causing spontaneous migration occurs, such as a natural disaster, and are unable to find one another;
- Family members are injured, killed, captured, kidnapped, trafficked, arrested or detained;
- Family members are abducted for ransom, recruitment into armed forces or groups, or forced labour;
- Family members are separated in transit sites, camps or settlements;
- Families that separated with every intention of reuniting face challenges or barriers to doing so;
- Service providers' policies or practices do not ensure families remain united (for instance, shelters that admit only women and their children or residents of a certain age or sex).

Deliberate separations may occur when:

- Families under stress, including as a result of poverty or the death, illness or disability of a parent, send their children away or entrust them to the care of others in an effort to increase the children's chances of survival, improve their well-being or alleviate stresses, including financial stress on the household;
- One or more family members migrate to areas where education, employment or services are available or presumed to be available;
- Families leave their children, older family members or those living with disabilities with relatives, community members or institutions when they migrate;
- Some family members are encouraged to migrate because the legal and policy framework is favourable for them but not for all family members (for instance, if unaccompanied children are allowed through border crossings or there are migration pathways for men who receive temporary permits for employment in male-dominated industries);
- One or several family members travel the migratory route first to assess its safety and security;
- Families choose to migrate in smaller groups to heighten the chances of successful entry into a territory through irregular means;
- One or several family members migrate to another location to establish themselves by securing a livelihood, finding suitable shelter or accommodation, or regularizing their immigration status before the rest of the family joins them.

Reunification can have a positive psychosocial impact on all family members, improve overall health and well-being, enhance feelings of safety and security, and reduce vulnerability factors for separated family members.

Tracing family members

Individuals have the right to a family life, and family tracing programmes help uphold that right. They exist in many contexts and may be operated by States, including through embassies and consulates, IOM, the ICRC, a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society, UNHCR, UNICEF, the ISS, the International Commission on Missing Persons or NGOs. Vulnerable migrants searching for family members should be referred to family tracing programmes, where they exist. Any family tracing efforts should be coordinated with the relevant local authorities and organizations in countries where separated family members are known or thought to be, as appropriate.

Methods of tracing family members include:

- Filing missing person reports with law enforcement agencies;
- Registering on family tracing websites;
- Notifying embassies or consulates about missing family members;
- Posting photos/names of family members on dedicated notice boards in public places;
- Broadcasting names of family members on radio or television;
- Distributing leaflets with photos/names of family members;

- Sending messages or messengers to the last known address of family members;
- Searching the records of hospitals, border crossings, police stations, detention facilities, schools and other institutions and service providers for the names or identifying information of family members;
- Using social media platforms to search for, or post messages soliciting information on, family members.

All these methods can be used in vulnerable migrants' places of origin, along the migratory path and at their current destination. It might also be necessary to trace family members in other locations, including their intended destination.

The risks of using any of the available methods must be assessed. For instance, if sharing information publicly would identify family members to authorities or criminal elements that would do harm to any of them, including those who have been separated, other tracing methods should be sought. Vulnerable migrants should help determine the most appropriate and effective method of family tracing and should be asked for their views on methods of contacting family members that are most likely to succeed.

The risks associated with tracing methods should be mitigated. For example, if photos are used, it might be safer not to include names, contact details or information on current location on notice boards, community messages or leaflets. Vulnerable migrants searching for family members must consent to the use of their personal information, including photos, and location.

Vulnerable migrants who do not wish to be registered with the local authorities, for fear of deportation or detention, should not be denied support to trace family members.

Migrant families will often undertake their own tracing efforts, including by the methods listed above or by accessing their community and social networks. Their efforts should be supported insofar as they do not pose a risk to the migrant, including by providing phones, phone credit or access to the Internet.

When the tracing process leads to the discovery that a family member has been detained, family members should be reconnected, and the most effective communication channels identified and established. Support should be provided for family members wishing to visit detained relatives; this may require advocacy vis-à-vis the detaining authorities for visits and financial support to cover transportation costs.

Family tracing may uncover news of a family member's death. The vulnerable migrants concerned should be afforded the ability to mourn their loss in the way they feel most comfortable with. They should be given information on the whereabouts of the deceased's remains and any known information about the death. They may wish to travel to the place where the death occurred or share this information with their community, and should be helped to do so.

A family member's death may have financial implications, including costs of burial or cremation, funeral rights and/or repatriation of remains, and different cultural, religious and social approaches to mourning and handling of remains should be considered and respected. Any expenses should be monitored; if they become unaffordable, vulnerable migrants may require additional livelihood support or support to manage their household finances. Where available, consular assistance should be provided to surviving family members, including for repatriation of remains.

Vulnerable migrants should be provided with psychosocial support throughout the tracing process, which involves uncertainty and can therefore be distressing, igniting feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, helplessness and depression. This is particularly the case when a family cannot trace a missing member or discovers that a family member has been detained or has died.

Where family members cannot be located, there should be collective advocacy in support of the establishment of mechanisms and processes to provide information on the fate of those who are unaccounted for or missing, or those who cannot be located. If the vulnerable migrant is a child and no family members can be located, appropriate and sustainable alternative care arrangements must be found.

Reconnecting family members

When family members have been located, appropriate methods of communication should be identified and used to re-establish a connection between them. These may include phone calls, text messages, letters, emails, online audio/video platforms and/or social media. The principles of confidentiality, privacy and data protection apply to all steps in the family tracing and reunification process, including information shared between family members.

Where communication with family members involves risks – the communication platform is insecure or correspondence could be intercepted – vulnerable migrants should be informed and choose whether or not to communicate.

When separated family members include children, the principle of the best interests of the child should guide all actions, including those aimed at reconnecting and reuniting family members. This should include an assessment of the best interests of the child and may require an assessment of family relationships, especially for younger children. For more information on best interests assessments and determination for migrant children, see [Part 6](#).

The Interagency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children*

contain the following definitions:

Unaccompanied children: Children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

Separated children: Children separated from both parents or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. This category may therefore include children accompanied by other adult family members.

Orphans: Children whose parents are known to be deceased. In some countries, a child that has lost one parent is also referred to as an orphan.

* Interagency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (Geneva, ICRC, 2004).

Separated and unaccompanied children²³

Separated and unaccompanied migrant children are at increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the cornerstone of the international legal framework that guides policies, programmes and decisions regarding separated and unaccompanied children.

When separated and unaccompanied children are identified, every effort should be made to reunite them with family members, but only when this is in the best interests of the child.

The best interests of the child are determined in a best interests assessment (BIA) undertaken by child protection agencies and individuals with appropriate training, with the participation of the migrant child. BIAs are an essential component of any child protection system or programme, but are particularly important for separated and unaccompanied children.

BIAs should be conducted:

- Before efforts are made to trace the family;
- Before the child is placed in alternative care settings in the absence of family members;
- Before family reunification.

Best interests determination (BID) may also be required and must be conducted by a State agency or delegated authority. Those involved in the protection and assistance of migrant children may be requested or required to support a BID process.

²³ This section refers only to family tracing and reunification of separated and unaccompanied children. For more information on separated and unaccompanied children, see [Part 6](#).

More detailed information on separated and unaccompanied migrant children, including on family reunification, BIAs and BIDs, can be found in Part 6.

Reuniting family members

Family reunification between countries requires considerable coordination and communication between the relevant authorities and the vulnerable migrant, including authorities from all relevant countries. In some cases, international organizations may help States reunite families, typically IOM, the ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNHCR and UNICEF.

When the person to be reunited is a separated or unaccompanied migrant child, the family relationship must be verified to protect the child and ensure there have been no errors in the tracing process. (For more information on reuniting separated or unaccompanied migrant children, [see Part 6](#).)

All family members should be prepared for reunification, and support, including psychosocial support, should be provided to individual members of the family and the family as a whole. A significant amount of time may have passed since the family members last lived together or saw one another, and they may not be aware of everything that has happened in each other's lives since their separation.

In preparation for family reunification, vulnerable migrants and their family members may require support to obtain travel documents, including passports and visas. Vulnerable migrants should be offered support to make travel arrangements and, especially in the case of children, provided with a suitable escort for their journey. Travel escorts should have specialized training and expertise in supporting vulnerable migrants and must abide by all the principles of assistance ([see page 29](#)). Vulnerable migrants and their family members should be consulted about and agree to the choice of the escort.

Any costs associated with family reunification, including to obtain appropriate documentation, transportation and accommodation, should not be prohibitive or prevent reunification. Where possible, grants or loans should be provided to vulnerable migrants to cover such costs.

Post-reunification support

After vulnerable migrants and their families have been reunited, they may require additional support, including to register recently reunited family members with the relevant authorities and service providers. The services available for reunited family members should be mapped, including health care, training and education, and livelihoods, employment and income-generating services. All reunited children should be enrolled in school. Ideally, State social services or other service providers in the country of reunification should be able to conduct follow-up assessments to verify that reunification continues to be in the child's best interests.

The addition to the household may be a source of financial stress. This should be monitored and, where possible, additional financial support provided to the family to cover additional costs.

Some or all members of the family may benefit from psychosocial support to adjust to the reunited family and deal with the circumstances of the family separation. Appropriate support should be made available to all family members for a sufficiently long time.

Maintaining family unity

Efforts should be made to maintain the unity of families of vulnerable migrants, prevent separation and ensure that families that have been reunified stay together. This can be done by: (a) registering all family members with the relevant authorities; (b) registering all births, adoptions and deaths in the family; (c) providing shelter and accommodation for entire families; (d) ensuring livelihoods are sufficient for the family size; (e) ensuring children have the opportunity to attend school; and (f) ensuring all family members have access to health care in their communities.

A family of migrants wishing to continue its journey should be helped to do so as a unit. If a family chooses to separate – for instance if one member will travel to a new location before the others join him/her –, it should find ways to stay in touch. This may require support for the purchase of mobile phones, SIM cards and airtime vouchers, or training in the use of available means of communication, including social media. Any available information about

the migratory pathway, including risks, should be shared with family members so that they can make informed choices about who migrates and how. Information on what to do if a family member is unintentionally separated should be shared with and understood by all family members in the event that communication is interrupted, or the separation continues longer than planned.

Interaction with the legal and justice system

When a household/family member is involved with the legal or justice system, either as a victim of violence, exploitation or abuse or as a result of being charged with a crime or an immigration offence, it can have a significant impact on the well-being of other members.

Victims of violence, exploitation and abuse may experience a range of ill-effects from their experiences (see the “Health and well-being” section of Part 2). Witnessing these effects on loved ones may cause distress to household/family members, and may affect victims’ ability to perform their roles and responsibilities in the household/family in the way that they did prior to experiencing harm. Being charged with a crime or an immigration offence may have similar impacts, as both the person charged and the members of his or her household/family are likely to experience stress and concern about the future. These concerns may be about the future well-being of the individual charged, as well as the impact of any possible legal consequences, such as detention or incarceration of the individual, on the well-being of the remainder of the household/family.

When working with households/families impacted by interaction with the justice system, case managers and others should consider the effect of this interaction on the household/family and include measures to address the impact. These measures could include planning for alternative sources of income in light of the potential incarceration of the primary income-earner, counselling to help family members cope with stress, and advocating for alternatives to immigration detention (see page 41).

Families who have migrated, either in whole or in part, may also have interactions with family law systems. Family law refers to laws governing family relationships and property, such as marriage and divorce, child custody and child support, guardianship and division of marital property in case of divorce. There are a number of scenarios in which family law will be relevant in protection and assistance for migrants and members of their families, including:

- In situations where children are separated or unaccompanied and it is necessary to establish guardianship;
- In situations where consent from both parents for actions concerning children are required (for example, when both parents have custody rights, but one parent is attempting to travel across international borders with the child), but where only one parent is present;
- In situations where both parents have custody rights and are both present, but have disagreements on the next course of action (for example if one parent wishes to return with the child to the country or origin and the other parent wishes to stay in the current country or travel to another country with the child);
- In situations where one parent breaches custody arrangements or access rights; and
- In situations in which: (a) abuse, neglect, exploitation or abuse of a child, or violence, exploitation or abuse of another family member, is occurring within a family context or with involvement of a family member; and (b) action is required to protect the family member, including restraining orders against spouses or family members, temporary or permanent removal of the child from the family, and termination of parental rights.

The roles and responsibilities of different actors, such as parents, guardians, consular officials and family courts, vary from country to country. It is critical that practitioners are familiar and comply with all relevant local laws and regulations. However, in some contexts local laws and regulations may not specifically address concerns relevant to migrant families when family members reside in different countries. In such cases, practitioners must work closely with State authorities to determine the best way forward.

For more information on the protection, care and assistance of vulnerable migrant children, see Part 6.

Equality of men and women in marriage, family and property relations

International legal frameworks and policy guidance on marriage, family and property rights – such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women; and the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages – call on countries to set standards of equality of treatment between men and women in marriage, family and property relations.²⁴

Social protection programming

Social protection systems help individuals and families, especially the poor and vulnerable, cope with crises and shocks, find jobs, improve productivity, invest in the health and education of their children, and protect the ageing population. There is an increasing consensus that social protection systems, also called “social security,” should be universal, reaching all poor and vulnerable groups with a variety of measures to ensure that no one lacks access to key forms of support when needed. Social security is a right articulated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, which recognizes the role social security plays in securing human dignity.

The Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) establishes minimum standards for nine branches of social security: medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors’ benefit.²⁵ Such assistance can be provided by the State through universal schemes, social insurance, social assistance services, public works programmes, cash transfers, school feeding programmes and other schemes guaranteeing basic income security.

Social protection systems that are well-designed and implemented can be an important tool to enhance human capital and productivity, reduce inequalities, build resilience and end the intergenerational cycle of poverty. They not only help the poor and most vulnerable mitigate economic shocks, but also help ensure equality of opportunity by giving these groups a chance to climb out of poverty. When poor and vulnerable people are given an opportunity to improve their lives and that of their households/families, they are less likely to engage in unsafe or irregular migration.

Since jobs are critical in reducing poverty and promoting prosperity, social protection systems not only deliver social assistance and insurance to the poor and vulnerable, but also help link them to jobs, improve productivity, invest in the health and education of children, and protect the ageing population.

Social protection systems are typically the domain of States. Where they exist, practitioners can identify the social protection systems for which the households/families they are working with may be eligible and can assist them in enrolment. If State-run social protection systems do not exist, or have insufficient coverage, other actors, such as local development groups, United Nations agencies, international organizations, NGOs or civil society organizations may engage in such programming.

Since the 1990s, there has been a trend towards targeting social protection services for the most vulnerable, marginalized or poorest members of society through specific instruments such as social funds (that is to say, through funding institutions that are meant to provide social protection services) which are administered by State actors, international organizations, NGOs or poor communities themselves. The rationale for this approach, which is almost always focused on household/family interventions, is that these social safety nets would support the poorest and most vulnerable members of society and protect them from economic shocks in the short term and would also provide a basis for development by creating income-generating opportunities.

24 www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/PractitionerToolkit/WA2J_Module2.pdf.

25 www.ilo.org/secsoc/areas-of-work/legal-advice/WCMS_205340/lang--en/index.htm.

Cash-based programming

One of the main ways in which non-State actors can engage in social protection systems is through cash-based programming. Cash-based programming is a means of delivering assistance by directly providing programme participants with cash or vouchers for goods or services, with or without conditionalities. There are two main types of cash programming: cash transfers and cash for work.

Cash transfers

Cash transfers are direct payments of money or provision of vouchers for particular goods or services to a recipient. They can be paid directly by the implementing organization, or through a third-party intermediary, such as a bank. Transfers can be unconditional or conditional. For unconditional transfers, recipients receive the cash or vouchers simply by virtue of qualifying as a programme participant within the programme's scope. For conditional transfers, the recipient must do something in order to receive the cash or vouchers.

Unconditional cash transfers allow programme participants to choose for themselves how and where they will spend the cash received. The general assumption is that they will use the cash to cover basic needs. However, recipients sometimes use the money to repay debts or to invest in their livelihoods, for example by purchasing goods to resell or machinery or seed for agricultural production. In the case of unconditional voucher provision, there are some restrictions on the use of the resources provided, as they can only be used in particular stores or to receive specific services. However, these are still considered to be unconditional in the sense that the recipients are not required to fulfil specific duties or adopt specific behaviours.

The size and frequency of payments made may influence how the money is spent. One-time, large transfers might be used to rebuild or recover livelihoods, for example through the purchase of agricultural equipment, while more frequent, smaller transfers tend to be spent on basic household needs. When designing cash transfer programmes, practitioners should therefore take into account the potential impact of the size and frequency of payments on types of expenditures.

Conditional cash transfers²⁶

Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes give money to households on the condition that they comply with certain predefined requirements. In particular, conditionalities are often designed to encourage investment in the household/family and its members by accessing education and health services, for example regular health checks and growth monitoring, vaccinations, school enrolment and attendance. These forms of programmes frequently focus on children, and are often intended to help children acquire skills, knowledge and experiences – also referred to as human capital – that will help them break intergenerational transmission of poverty and vulnerability. When designing CCT programmes, practitioners should clearly understand and specify the types of behaviour they aim to encourage (and why) and clearly communicate this to programme participants.

Cash for work

Cash-for-work programming is a type of CCT, where the conditionality is the performance of specified work. This type of intervention pays participants for skilled or unskilled labour on projects that build or repair community assets or infrastructure. Typically, programme participation is for a given period of time, and payment can be made in cash or vouchers. It is not a jobs-creation or livelihoods programme, since its objective is to provide steady short-term earnings to a targeted group of vulnerable, usually crisis-affected households. This type of programming is also intended to address the psychological burden of boredom for people displaced after an emergency or crisis. Cash-for-work programming is typically used when the objectives include restoring community assets and infrastructure and/or keeping affected populations engaged in recovery.

In order not to exclude households that are unable to participate in the work component, these types of programmes are usually paired with unconditional cash transfers. In this way, households that are able to physically participate in work benefit from cash-for-work transfers, while those that are unable to do so receive unconditional cash transfers.

²⁶ IDB, *How Conditional Cash Transfers Work: Good Practices after 20 Years of Implementation* (2017).

Designing and implementing cash programming²⁷

When establishing cash programmes, key considerations include definition of the target population, beneficiary identification and enrolment, and establishment of conditionalities.

Definition of the target population

Definition of the target population is the process of specifying which households/families will be eligible for participation in a cash-based programme based on one or more specified criteria.

Typically, this will involve socioeconomic criteria. As cash-based programming is an intervention designed to assist low-income households to emerge from poverty, it is likely that programmes designed to reduce migrant vulnerability will include households/families where financial hardship has been identified as a risk factor contributing to their vulnerability. However, it may be necessary to further refine this criterion, for example by deciding that only households that fall below the relevant national poverty line will be eligible for the programme.

A second potential criterion is demographics. For example, a programme could allow for enrolment of any vulnerable household/family, or it may allow only for households/families with children.

Targeting methods

Once the target population has been specified, it is necessary to establish a method of selection. There are four commonly used methods that may be used on their own or in some combination:

- **Geographic targeting** selects all households/families within certain areas of a country, as long as they meet the established criteria of the programme (for example those where the incidence of extreme poverty exceeds a particular rate, or where migrant populations represent a given percentage of the population).
- **Categorical targeting** grants automatic eligibility to specific populations or persons in a particular category. For example, Colombia's Más Familias en Acción programme offers automatic eligibility to victims of displacement. Meanwhile, Brazil's Bolsa Familia programme gives priority to some self-identified historically marginalized racial groups, indigenous people, households/families relying on child labour and households/families with members freed from slave labour conditions, among other groups.
- **Means testing** is a process of assessing the assets and income of potential participants to see if they are eligible for the benefit. This can include a self-declaration, where potential candidates share information themselves, as well as information from local authorities; cross-checking with other databases; information on local poverty conditions; and local peer monitoring.
- **Community-based targeting**, generally used in combination with one or more of the other methods, places responsibility for selecting the beneficiaries in the hands of the community. It aims to use community knowledge about each household/family's standard of living to help inform selection of participants.

Beneficiary identification, enrolment, recertification and exit

After selecting the target population and targeting methods, the next operational steps include: (a) gathering programme applications that include information needed to determine eligibility; (b) entering data into an information management system; (c) reviewing applications and deciding on eligibility; (d) generating a list of eligible households/families; and (e) enrolling beneficiaries. This may require the development of application forms, establishment of specific thresholds or cut-off points, purchase of equipment for managing data, and development and implementation of data protection policies and procedures, as well as enrolment procedures.

Once beneficiaries are enrolled and begin receiving benefits, it is important to regularly conduct monitoring. Monitoring will allow practitioners to assess the impact of cash-based programming on the households/families participating in the programme, as well as to monitor any changes to the participants' circumstances that may affect the benefits received (for example, pregnancies, births, deaths and school participation) or impact their eligibility for continued assistance.

A recertification process should be established, where programme staff periodically review the eligibility of beneficiaries through an update to the household/family's level of welfare. This process helps to reduce the provision

²⁷ See IDB, *How Conditional Cash Transfers Work: Good Practices after 20 Years of Implementation* (2017).

of cash transfers to those who do not or no longer meet eligibility criteria, and to ensure that places in the programme continue to be made available to newly eligible households/families.

It is also important to have clear procedures and criteria relating to programme exit. Participants should be informed of criteria for continued participation in the programme, and procedures for termination of benefits should be clearly explained. Usually, households/families exit such programmes for one or more of the following reasons: (a) their socioeconomic status improves (either due to the programme, external factors such as economic growth and job creation, or a combination of both); (b) they do not meet the criteria for recertification; (c) they do not comply with conditionalities; (d) the household/family structure changes; (e) they do not collect their benefits for a long period of time; (f) they are found to have enrolled using false information; or (g) they choose to withdraw from the programme.

Establishment of conditionalities

If the cash programme is conditional, the conditionalities must also be determined and clearly communicated to the households/families that are applying to the programme. The aim of such programmes is typically to increase a household/family's human capital to empower it to break the cycle of poverty. Therefore, conditionalities are usually related to health and/or education behaviour, though they might also be in line with programme objectives, such as participation in psychosocial, intercommunal or other forms of activities. Any conditionalities established should be:

- Potentially achievable by all households/families in the programme. For example, the conditionality should not state that parents must enrol their children in private education if the cost would be out of reach for any programme participants.
- Clearly related to the programme's stated objectives. For example, a programme with the sole stated aim of improving children's school enrolment should only contain conditionalities related to school enrolment.
- Easy to monitor and measure through objective means.
- Responsive to identified limitations in the ability of households/families to accumulate social capital.

Social capital enhancement activities

Understanding social capital

Social capital is generally understood as the resources that an individual, a household/family or a community can access through social networks. For example, when an individual looking for a job gets friends or neighbours to "put in a good word" with their employers, that jobseeker has leveraged his or her social network to access the job market. Social capital requires mutual feelings of trust and a sense of shared values and understanding between people. The more social ties or social networks that a person or household has and the better the quality, the greater the likelihood that they can tap into those social networks to access information, resources or other things of value in order to meet their needs. Better social capital is broadly associated with better health and well-being.²⁸

Social capital is of particular concern for migrants as it can weaken when they migrate, and their absence can also weaken the social capital of the households/families that they left behind. For migrants, this is both because social relationships can be weakened by absence, and social relationships in the place of origin are less likely to be helpful in their new contexts (for example, while a neighbour at home may have good connections and information on the job market in the home community, it is less likely that the same neighbour would have good and reliable information on the job market in different communities and countries). When migrants are in new locations and find themselves in need of information or assistance, they may not be able to access it as quickly as they could back home, as they do not have the social networks to provide or guide them to those resources. One coping strategy often deployed by migrants in such situations is to tap into local migrant communities, which can be an extremely important new source of information and other resources. Household and family members who do not migrate but remain in their community of origin may also face reduced social capital following the migration of one or more family members, particularly if the household/family members who migrated were very important in managing and maintaining social ties. For example, in some contexts and cultures women are very involved in building and maintaining the family's

²⁸ Muhammad Majeed and Tahseen Ajaz (2018) Social capital as a determinant of population health outcomes: A global perspective. *Pakistan Journal of Commerce and Social Science*, 12:52–77.

social network through participation in school activities and religious events and the like. In such contexts, if adult female family members migrate for work, the household/family members left behind may find themselves more socially isolated and with less social capital.

Social capital is affected by migration, but a lack of social capital may also be a cause of migration. Often vulnerable individuals and groups are vulnerable, at least in part, due to their marginalization and exclusion. This marginalization and exclusion, which may be based on race, religion and other factors, can manifest in a lack of and/or lower quality social ties or networks, meaning that individuals and groups have fewer social resources to draw on in times of need. This in itself can prompt migration, including unsafe or risky migration, in an attempt to leave the marginalized status behind.

Mobilizing and supporting social capital development

Social capital can be an important protective factor as it can be mobilized specifically to address or mitigate risk factors. For example, if a migrant is facing violence in her home, she could seek assistance from her friends, neighbours and extended family members. These social contacts could assist by providing information on resources available, such as safe shelter, or by offering safe shelter themselves. They might provide cash or loans to enable the migrant to leave her situation, or emotional support while she reports the matter to the police. More broadly, the migrant's friends, neighbours and community could speak out on her behalf to demonstrate that domestic violence violates the community's social norms.

At times, vulnerable migrants may not recognize the full range of social capital available to them and would benefit from a closer examination of such. Practitioners working with vulnerable migrants can help them assess their social relationships in terms of how many social contacts they have, the strength of those relationships, the types of assistance they might be able to request from those contacts, and how these contacts and networks could be mobilized in problem-solving. For example, a person with few financial resources but a rich set of social networks might be able to organize a group-lending arrangement and therefore access credit that they might not have been able to access on their own.

Practitioners can also help vulnerable migrants to understand the importance of social capital and to work towards increasing their social capital as a longer-term way of improving well-being. This can include measures such as investing in social relationships by increasing the number of contacts, spending time with contacts, building trust and engaging in reciprocal supportive activities. Concrete activities can include forming or joining local associations; engaging in social, cultural and religious events; forming mutual aid societies; and volunteering.

3.3 RESOURCES FOR PART 3

Resources for shelter and accommodation; water, sanitation and hygiene; food and nutrition

OHCHR, Toolkit on the Right to Food

www.ohchr.org/En/Issues/ESCR/Pages/food.aspx

OHCHR and FAO, The Right to Adequate Food (Fact Sheet 24)

www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet34en.pdf

OHCHR, The Right to Adequate Housing Toolkit

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/toolkit/Pages/RighttoAdequateHousingToolkit.aspx

OHCHR and UN-Habitat, The Right to Adequate Housing (Fact Sheet 21, Rev1)

www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf

OHCHR, The Right to Water and Sanitation Toolkit

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/ESCR/Pages/Water.aspx

OHCHR, UN-Habitat and WHO, The Right to Water (Fact Sheet 35)

www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet35en.pdf

Sphere, Minimum standards in shelter, settlement and non-food items

<https://handbook.spherestandards.org/>

Sphere, Standards in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion

<https://handbook.spherestandards.org>

Resources for health and well-being

OHCHR, Toolkit on the Right to Health

www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/ESCR/Pages/Health.aspx

Resources for education and training

UNESCO, Global Education Monitoring Report, The intersections between education, migration and displacement are not gender-neutral

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366980>

Resources for livelihoods, employment and income generation

IFRC Livelihoods Resource Centre

www.livelihoodscentre.org

IFRC, Guidelines for Livelihoods Programming

www.livelihoodscentre.org/documents/20720/100145/IFRC+Livelihoods+Guidelines_EN.PDF/9d230644-9b02-4249-8252-0d37e79ad346

OECD, PISA 2012: Financial Literacy Framework

www.oecd.org/finance/financial-education/PISA2012FrameworkLiteracy.pdf

Resources for family tracing, assessments and reunification

Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children (2017)

<https://childprotectionallianceblog.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/handbook-web-2017-0322.pdf>

Child Protection Working Group, Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action (2012)

<http://cpwg.net/?get=006914%7C2014/03/CP-Minimum-Standards-English-2013.pdf>

Hall, Samuel, *Coming Together: A critical analysis of key issues, actors and tools in the current global landscape of Family Tracing & Reunification*, commissioned by the IKEA Foundation (2017)

<http://samuelhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Samuel-Hall-2017-Coming-Together-commissioned-by-IKEA-Foundation.pdf>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Guidelines on family reunification for National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* (2001)

www.ifrc.org/Global/Publications/migration/perco/perco-family-en.pdf

ICRC, *Activities for Migrants* (2016)

https://shop.icrc.org/activities-for-migrants.html?___store=default

ICRC, *Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children* (2004)

www.unicef.org/protection/IAG_UASCs.pdf

ICRC, *Restoring Family Links Strategy, 2008–2018* (2007)

www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/icrc_002_0967.pdf

ICRC Restoring Family Links website

<https://familylinks.icrc.org/en/Pages/home.aspx>

ICRC, *The Need to Know: Restoring Links Between Dispersed Family Members* (2011)

www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-4037.pdf

IOM, *Children on the Move* (2013)

https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/children_on_the_move_15may.pdf

IOM, *Missing Migrants Project*

<https://missingmigrants.iom.int>

OHCHR, *The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Migrants in an Irregular Situation* (2014)

www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-14-1_en.pdf

UNHCR, *Guidelines on Determining the Best Interest of the Child* (2008)

www.refworld.org/docid/48480c342.html

UNHCR and International Rescue Committee, *Field Handbook for the Implementation of UNHCR BID Guidelines* (2011)

www.refworld.org/pdfid/4e4a57d02.pdf

UNICEF, *The Lost Ones: Emergency Care and Family Tracing for Separated Children from Birth to Five Years: Working Paper* (2007)

www.refworld.org/docid/468e2f632.html

Resources for cash programming/social protection

IDB, *How Conditional Cash Transfers Work: Good Practices after 20 Years of Implementation*

<https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/How-Conditional-Cash-Transfers-Work.pdf>