Conditions, Challenges and rights-based responses to support families and children in the context of migration

Ruth Farrugia
San Anton Palace Attard Malta
ruth.d.farrugia@gov.mt
The Questions

What are the vulnerabilities specific to the migration of children?
How is gender mainstreamed into migration policies and debates?
What impact do various migration regimes and policies have on children and families?
What comprehensive policy approaches exist to address migration challenges affecting families at home and abroad?
Percentage of EU total asylum claims in five top receiving countries 2013

Number of asylum seekers per 1000 inhabitants - EU 2009-2013

2013 sea arrivals in Malta: 2,008 people arrived by boat from Libya.

by nationality

Somali 50%
Eritrean 23%
Syrian 8%
Nigerian 4%
Palestinian 3%
Gambian 3%

by age and gender

25% registered as children upon arrival
Men 63%
Women 12%
Migrants risking lives in Mediterranean topped 45,000 in 2013: IOM

Posted on Tue, Jan-28-2014

Italy - Over 45,000 migrants risked their lives in the Mediterranean to reach Italy and Malta in 2013. The arrivals are the highest since 2008, with the exception of 2011 - the year of the Libyan crisis.

More than 42,900 landed in Italy and 2,800 landed in Malta. Of those who arrived in Italy, over 5,400 were women and 8,300 were minors – some 5,200 of them unaccompanied. Most of the landings took place in Lampedusa (14,700) and along the coast around Syracuse in Sicily (14,300).

"...effectively forced to leave their countries and they have the right to receive protection under the Italian law," he notes.

Landings are continuing in January 2014. On 24 January, 204 migrants were rescued by the Italian navy in the Straits of Sicily and landed in Augusta, close to Syracuse.

"The real emergency in the Mediterranean is represented by those migrants who continue to lose their lives at sea. They disappear and their loss simply remains unknown. The identification of the bodies is still a humanitarian issue to be resolved. Numerous relatives of the victims are still waiting to know if their loved ones are among the bodies collected after October's shipwrecks," says Oropesa.

Over 20,000 people have died in the past twenty years trying to reach the Italian coast. They include 2,300 in 2011 and around 700 in 2013.
At least 10,000 unaccompanied minors reached Malta, Italy by sea in 10 months

UNHCR estimates that, so far in 2014, over 3,000 people have died or are missing at sea

Miriam Dalli  2 October 2014, 11:12am

So far in 2014, over 18,000 children have arrived to Malta and Italy by sea, including at least 10,000 unaccompanied
What are the vulnerabilities specific to the migration of children?

• Age Assessment
• Guardianship
• Participation Rights
• Reunification
Bill
entitled

AN ACT to replace the Children and Young Persons (Care Orders) Act, to establish Child Court Services, to introduce child protection orders, to provide for special care and protection for children removed or separated from their parents and placed in out-of-home care.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

1. The short title of this Act is the Child Protection Act (Out of Home Care), 2014.
– Recent Initiatives

- EASO Age Assessment
- UNHCR Unaccompanied and Separated Children Programme
- Defence for Children Netherlands Guardianship Initiative
- IOM Pruma Project on Family Reunification
The Questions

What are the vulnerabilities specific to the migration of children?
How is gender mainstreamed into migration policies and debates?
What impact do various migration regimes and policies have on children and families?
What comprehensive policy approaches exist to address migration challenges affecting families at home and abroad?
The Answers?

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- MA & Others v UK (C-648/11)
- M.M. v Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform (C-277/11)