

Regional Seminar on
**Children Who Cross Borders
In Southern Africa**



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In Southern Africa**

Johannesburg, 2009

Convened by Save the Children UK in collaboration with
University of the Witwatersrand, Forced Migration Studies Programme
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Acronyms and abbreviations

AU	African Union
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FMSP	Forced Migration Studies Programme
INGO	International non governmental organisation
ISS	International Social Security
NGO	Non governmental organisation
OVC	Orphans and vulnerable children
OVCY	Orphans, vulnerable children, and youth
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFM	South African FM Radio
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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Introduction

From 25 to 27 May 2009, Save the Children UK, in collaboration with the Forced Migration Studies Programme (FMSP) of the University of Witwatersrand, hosted a southern African Regional Seminar on Children Who Cross Borders. The seminar was funded by Irish Aid and USAID.

The seminar was prompted by the urgent need to bring together key stakeholders in the region to share and exchange knowledge, experiences and learning on children on the move. The seminar was also designed to respond to the felt need to better establish coordination mechanisms across organisations and agencies who often find themselves with inadequate information on and understanding around children who migrate in the region.

Sixty-eight people representing government departments and agencies, donors, INGOs, UN Agencies, local NGOs, national and regional networks, media, academia and children attended. Participants came from several countries in the SADC region including Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Presenters from other regions, namely West Africa and South East Asia, were also in attendance. The Irish Ambassador to South Africa opened the seminar by emphasising the commitment of the Irish government to assisting vulnerable children. He noted the needs of children who were particularly disadvantaged by their gender, ability and poverty; and the importance of strengthening the family. Through their partnership with Save the Children, Irish Aid has encouraged child participation in decision making as well as a review of legislation and policy for orphans and vulnerable children.

Whilst the mornings focused on presenting lessons learnt and experiences working on issues linked to children who move, much of the seminar was devoted to working intensively in thematic working groups which addressed a different theme each day:

Day One: Who do we mean when we talk about children who cross borders; and what are their key issues in the region?

Day Two: What work is being done around migrant children's issues in the region; and what are the gaps?

Day Three: What are the barriers to providing effective support and assistance to migrant children; and what are our key recommendations?

In addition to the seminar, a two-day migrant children's workshop was held over the preceding weekend. The workshop aimed to enable a group of 12 girls and

boys to address the same thematic issues using art as their medium of expression. In this way, they told their stories of migration as well as developed a powerful statement, which was incorporated into the recommendations of the seminar. The process that was used to enable children to participate meaningfully in the seminar is described in Appendix 3.

The seminar culminated in a series of action-oriented recommendations in four interwoven areas, which are discussed in more detail in this report:

- Access to Services
- Advocacy and Information
- Prevention of Child Labour
- Protection

Preliminary general recommendations, as well as the children's statement, were also circulated soon after the seminar concluded.

This report aims to provide a fuller account of the rich discussion and debate that took place over the three days of the seminar. In order to facilitate dissemination of the workshop recommendations, a steering committee was set up in the planning stages. Not only have recommendations been circulated in the region, but also they will feed into a global conference on children on the move in March 2010 in Barcelona, Spain.

The working groups produced many observations, opinions and in some cases disagreements about children on the move. Whilst we have done our best to capture the discussions from the plenary sessions and summary reports provided from the working groups, Save the Children UK and FMSP acknowledge that the report is not exhaustive with respect to all of the discussions and debates that took place. Nevertheless, every effort has been made to incorporate the range of contributions participants made.

This report will help form the basis of future activities around children on the move for Save the Children UK's programmes in the southern African region. The report highlights priorities for service delivery, advocacy, information gathering and child participation.

Likewise, we encourage you as stakeholders to help translate the recommendations into concrete action in your own advocacy and programming work; and to distribute this report widely to your colleagues in other organisations.

The opinions expressed by participants during the seminar do not necessarily reflect the official positions and views of Save the Children UK, the Forced Migration Studies Programme, Irish Aid or USAID.

Highlights from the Children's Workshop

The Children's Workshop:

Twelve children who are currently being supported by the Sophiatown Community Psychological Services in Johannesburg, South Africa, participated in a two-day workshop prior to the seminar. These young people are from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and all have varied experiences of migration.

Each child created a 'conversation box' that assisted them in telling their stories about child migration to delegates at the seminar as well as the media. The workshop culminated in a statement that was written by the children and read out to seminar delegates on Day One at the end of their interactive art exhibition. Their recommendations were also included in the final workshop recommendations.

There was a keen interest in the children's work and what they had to say, not only from delegates, but also from the media. Interviews with children and the seminar organisers were broadcast on South African national TV and radio (SABC, SAFM, East Coast Radio), as well as across the continent (SABC Africa) and by some foreign radio services (Swedish radio). Articles also appeared in South African newspapers (The Star). The interest in the children's workshop by both delegates and the media, as well as the powerful statement issued by the children, reaffirmed not only the need to include children in discussions which concern them, but also of the potential for children who are normally marginalised to have a strong influence on discussions and decisions. The children themselves enjoyed the process and were keen to do more. As a result, Save the Children UK intends to support the children who participated in the seminar to form a children's advocacy group which will advocate in the medium and longer term for changes in order to improve the situation for children on the move.

Please refer to Appendix 3 for a more detailed breakdown of the children's workshop.

Children's Statement 25th May 2009:

There are organisations and some people that help us. We also do lots of things to help ourselves. But there are still many more important things that need to be done.

Moving away from home: *It is the situation at home that makes us leave. Some of us leave our homes because of war and some of us choose to leave to find a better life.*



A migrant child participating in the workshop.

Food and shelter: *Food and somewhere safe to live are big problems for migrant children. We move across borders and also move from house to house within the country we have migrated to. We are tired of moving from place to place. Many of us do not have enough food every day. There are also other things we need like toiletries and medicine when we are sick. Most children do not have money to pay rent; others have to sleep in unsafe places. Shelters do help us but it is hard to live in a place that is not really a home. One way to help children with this would be to find jobs for us if we are older or our parents. Our parents also need safe places where they can run their businesses. We need to be protected from employers who underpay us and make us do unsafe work.*

Being safe: *We want to feel safe everywhere without local people hurting us or calling us names. People who live in the countries we have come to need to be helped to understand why we are here and that we are all the same. This will stop big xenophobia attacks again. If people abuse us and attack us the police must protect us and police should also stop abusing us.*

Family: *Being part of a family is important to us. We want support to find our family members that have been lost*

Establishing a new framework for children on the move



A migrant child's artwork in progress during the children's workshop.

or to stay in contact with family that is far away. If our family is no longer there we want to be invited into other families.

School: *Those of us who want education should be allowed to go to school.* It should be easy for us to go to local schools even if we arrive in the middle of the year and do not have money for fees. We may need help with school uniforms and stationery. Teachers and local schoolchildren at school must be helped not to call us names and to treat us with respect.

Health: *We also need health care.* Clinic and hospital staff must treat us and not say bad things about us because we are foreigners. Many of us need help to get medicines if we are sick.

Identity: *We need papers to show we are not breaking a law as children when we migrate.* We need papers so we can write exams and even get jobs. We want permanent papers so we feel secure. It should be easier to get and renew asylum papers. We should not have to sleep outside Home Affairs offices or pay officials bribes. We know there is a law to stop police deporting children. This law must be followed. Getting a birth certificate and applying for passports should be easy for children so that we can use official points of entry into other countries. This will keep us safe.

People who should be looking after us: *Sometimes the people who should be protecting us abuse us.* Officials including police, home affairs, border officials, church officials, social workers, and staff at shelters should protect us and not abuse us.

Helping us to cope: *Many of us have memories of bad things and live hard lives now.* We need people to listen to our stories and our feelings and to help us feel better about ourselves and have hope for our lives.

Establishing a new framework for children on the move:

An important consensus which emanated from the seminar was the need to establish a broader framework that can more fully describe children who migrate. In order to acknowledge the complex and multifaceted experiences of children who migrate, and in an effort to ensure that children who migrate - but who do not fall easily into existing categories of migrant children - are not excluded, it is suggested that the framework below be adopted:

We recognise that migration is not always a negative phenomenon. We are concerned with children who are made vulnerable by migration. This includes children who have moved either accompanied or unaccompanied, and are either documented or undocumented, who move voluntarily or involuntarily and who:

- migrate within a country's borders
- cross international borders
- are living and working on the street
- are asylum seekers
- cross with poor and/or undocumented migrant care givers
- live with or accompany transient or seasonal worker caregivers
- are left behind when caregivers migrate
- are stateless children
- have been trafficked for any reason.

We also recognise that these categories are dynamic and fluid. They are not mutually exclusive and that a child on the move may fall into one or several of these categories or her/his situation in one category can evolve into another one. It is recommended that 'children on the move' be the preferred terminology to describe children who migrate in what are often complex and varied ways.

The Seminar Process

During the three days of the seminar participants were asked to work each day in thematic discussion groups. Each day focused on a general theme or set of questions.

Day One: Who do we mean when we talk about children who cross borders; and what are their key issues in the region?

Day Two: What work is being done around migrant children's issues in the region; and what are the gaps?

Day Three: What are the barriers to providing effective support and assistance to migrant children; and what are our key recommendations?

The Seminar Process

In turn, there were four working groups each day that discussed the day's theme in relation to a specific area of intervention.

These were:

- Access to services including: health, education, psycho-social support, legal services, social services and assistance
- Advocacy and Information including: community sensitisation, policy and legislation, getting information
- Prevention of child labour
- Protection including: documentation/birth registration abuse, social exclusion, xenophobia

The discussions were recorded and groups were asked to present the key issues each day. In this way, the seminar was able to capture important discussions and debates on the various areas of concern and recommendations which should be addressed by stakeholders in the region in order to improve the protection, care and services of children on the move.

Whilst this report seeks to provide a fuller account of these current areas of concern, preliminary and more general recommendations were put together in the days following the seminar. They were circulated not only to delegates but also to parallel relevant meetings.

Notably the preliminary recommendations and this report were sent to the International Social Services (ISS), which ran a global ISS meeting during the week following our seminar. They have agreed to incorporate, where possible, recommendations from our seminar into their resulting report.

Recommendations from the regional seminar on children who cross borders in southern Africa

Below are some key preliminary recommendations. Whilst they are generally endorsed by the seminar, please note that these do not necessarily reflect commitments by the individual agencies, governments, donors, and other participants.

Children on the move need to be included on national, regional and international agendas:

Generally, children on the move need to be included in international, regional and other development agendas to ensure that migration is made safer for children in the southern Africa region at all stages (origin-transit-destination).

Regional approaches need to be developed:

A regional approach to children on the move must urgently be developed which makes use of current regional bodies such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU), as well

as other regional level stakeholders, including civil society service providers.

Children's vulnerability needs to be reduced in the region:

Efforts by all stakeholders need to be made in reducing the vulnerability of children to move or be moved from their place of origin. This includes looking at supporting community-level social protection programmes in the place of origin that reduce the child, the family and the community's vulnerability and need to migrate.

Parallel interventions for children on the move should be avoided:

Governments in the region need to develop social and economic programmes which address children who move. However, parallel programmes targeting solely children on the move are discouraged. It is more effective to address children on the move issues from within existing and new children's, immigration and other relevant frameworks.

Human and operational capacity needs to be built:

Governments and donors also need to ensure that appropriate investments in human and operational capacity are made accordingly by effectively mainstreaming children's migration into funding and human resources.

Legislation still needs to be developed:

Appropriate legislation still needs to be put in place in many countries in the region that can help ensure the assistance, care and protection of children on the move. In cases where some relevant legislation is already in place, this should be simplified and harmonised with other legislative and policy frameworks, both nationally and across the region.

Identity documentation, including birth certificates, travel and other documents are needed for all children:

Children who move often lack the birth registration and documentation to which they are entitled by international law. A harmonised regional system to address these needs must be developed and implemented, as well as improved country level efforts to ensure birth registration and documentation for all.

Budget lines need to include children on the move:

Donors and governments need to ensure that budget lines for children on the move are incorporated into existing broader child protection resources.

Children on the move issues need to be addressed holistically:

The challenges facing children on the move need to be addressed in a holistic manner, and not in isolation, linking with and incorporating other sectors, ministries, countries, frameworks and action plans.

The Seminar Process

Improved collaboration between sectors is needed:

There needs to be improved collaboration between sectors, especially between NGOs and governments, in order to better address issues related to supporting and protecting children who migrate.

Child participation is essential:

Children themselves need to be more actively involved in all stages of planning and implementation.

Local government needs to be more actively involved:

Local government needs to be more actively targeted and used as entry points in effective planning and programming around children on the move. It is local communities which host these children and as such district level governments must be included in discussions on what needs to be done to better support and protect these children.

Monitoring and evaluation systems need to be improved:

There needs to be improved, as well as a harmonisation of, monitoring and evaluation systems which can be used to track and measure change for children on the move. This applies to country level as well as regional level efforts.

Information needs to be shared more effectively:

There needs to be improved sharing of information around children on the move in-country, between countries and at the regional level. This includes improved networking between countries and stakeholders, improved referral systems and the sharing and effective use of databases.

Plans in place in time for the FIFA 2010 soccer world cup:

There is an urgent need to put in place effective protection frameworks for children on the move in time for the upcoming 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of children on the move, both in South Africa and neighbouring countries, which will host tourists, around this time and an increase in exploitation, abuse and trafficking of children.

Additional research is needed:

Additional research needs to be conducted in countries and areas in southern Africa where there is little information known about children on the move. Urgently, there also needs to be more research undertaken specifically on the vulnerabilities of girls on the move and children's labour exploitation.

Xenophobia is compromising children's rights:

Xenophobia and negative attitudes towards children on the move need to be addressed as they are adversely

affecting children's rights to access to services, care and support.

Information needs to be developed with local communities and children in mind:

Sensitisation and public awareness materials and tools need to be translated into local languages and also into child-friendly language. There is also a need to introduce this information through appropriate community channels such as traditional leaders, district governments and school councils.



Johanna Kistner of Sophiatown Community Psychological Services looks at children's art during the workshop.

Observations on areas of concern and focus from thematic working group sessions

Below follows a summary of the main areas of discussion and specific recommendations that came out of each working group.

Access to services:

Including health, education, psycho-social support, legal services, social services and assistance

Generally it was established that there are services for children on the move available in several countries in southern Africa, which are supported by governments and civil society organisations. These include: provision of food, shelter and clothing; re-unification and follow-up after reunification; psychosocial support; livelihoods support; bereavement support; medical assistance; play and recreation; legal services; assistance with safe travel; assistance with documentation; and advocacy.

Observations On Areas Of Concern And Focus From Thematic Working Group Sessions

However, it was also established that in southern Africa services which assist migrant children are fragmented and inconsistent, and can be difficult to access by children on the move. Ways to improve coordination, such as developing a database of service providers, were discussed during the workshop.

On legal rights:

Whilst it was acknowledged that in some countries such as South Africa, there are legal and policy frameworks in place which are designed to protect all children living within South African borders, the gap between legislation, policy and practice was noted. In a specific example given it was reported that in Musina - a border town with Zimbabwe - nurses allegedly inform the police when an undocumented migrant child from Zimbabwe seeks health care. This often results in the illegal detention and illegal return of the child to Zimbabwe.

Linked to this point it was also noted that while participants agree that local communities and traditional structures that are in contact with migrant children should be involved in providing assistance, community groups should receive adequate training in areas such as child protection.

Examples of this kind of legal rights violation highlight the need to ensure that advocacy efforts across the region do not focus on legislative issues alone. Instead, efforts need to be made simultaneously to ensure that legislation can indeed translate into practice on the ground and to ensuring the protection and service provision for children on the move. This could be achieved in part by recognising which structures, for example local community groups, are likely to have to support and assist children on the move, and providing improved training and support.

On education:

The working group established that a lack of free education for children in some southern African countries forces them out of school and to migrate in search of work in order to support their families. In other words, a lack of service provision - in this case education - in the country of origin can be a "push" factor in encouraging children to migrate across borders. This was observed, for example, in research conducted by the Forced Migration Studies Programme that took place along the South Africa-Mozambique border area.

On the categorisation of migrant children:

Resources for services in the region tend to favour groups of children with a "higher profile", or groups that are more likely to attract the eye of the media and other decision makers. This group discussed the issue that refugee children and those who are trafficked receive more assistance than other categories of children that are "hidden" such as undocumented migrant children. In addition, according to research carried out by the

Forced Migration Studies Programme, the provision of basic needs for children on the move by civil society organisations in southern Africa tends to focus on humanitarian contexts and less so in areas of prolonged child migration. It is for these reasons that the broader framework of children on the move was established and recommended at the seminar. A broad framework (as described on page 8) which recognises the shared vulnerability of the many children who migrate under varied circumstances in the southern Africa region is more likely to include, rather than exclude, children who do not fit into more established categories.

On psycho-social support:

The group established that in southern Africa, there is a lack of expertise in the area of psychosocial support for vulnerable children, including children on the move.

Psychosocial support for children on the move is vital in helping children overcome often very traumatic experiences which can be compounded by the alienation of living and trying to survive in a country which is often hostile towards migrants.

On identity documentation:

Children of migrant workers born in most host countries often do not receive legal registration such as birth registration, nor subsequent legal status such as citizenship.

A lack of documentation and citizenship not only contravenes each child's human rights, but it adds to the difficulty in accessing services in both the country of origin and the destination country.

On child protection:

The group also highlighted that services that protect children on the move are a priority, which should include ensuring the safe reunification of children.

In many ways, the overall discussions at the seminar highlighted the need for improved and effective child protection systems to form the basis of all efforts to ensure better care, protection and assistance of children on the move.

It was also generally established that improved child protection systems should benefit all children in country or region, not just children on the move. This is important as not only does it point towards a more general need to protect all children in the southern African region, but that as far as is possible, parallel interventions aimed specifically at children on the move should be avoided as it can and has fuelled hostility towards foreigners.

Observations On Areas Of Concern And Focus From Thematic Working Group Sessions

The Suitcase Project:

Psychosocial support to refugee children in Johannesburg, South Africa: Case Study

The Suitcase Project is an arts-based psychosocial support project for refugee children. The project is part of the broader Sophiatown Community Psychological Services Families on the Move Programme. The Families on the Move Programme provides a comprehensive mental health service to refugee families in the Johannesburg inner city area. The service includes individual and family counselling and a number of therapeutic groups that meet regularly. Children are referred into the two Suitcase Project groups.

The purpose of the Suitcase Project is to help the children work through traumatic experiences of the past; to develop an integrated sense of personal identity which includes both their history in another country and their life in South Africa; and to build positive coping strategies and support networks. It is a long-term programme that relies on the creative arts to facilitate emotional expression and the development of group cohesion and support.

The children, who are aged between 9 and 14, meet every second week. Creative activities are adapted to the children's developmental needs and have included the making of visual journals, printing projects and working in mixed media to tell their stories on a suitcase.

A ritual conducted at the start of every group session involves the passing around of a "feeling stick". The child who holds the stick shares the "good" and "bad" experiences of the past two weeks. In this way, we are alerted to issues that may need to be taken up in individual case management sessions. Over the past two years, this ritual has become indispensable for the children. While they initially resisted holding the stick and talking about personal feelings or experiences, they now compete for it, and the stick often has to make more than one round before everyone is ready to proceed with other activities. This weekly dealing with issues and the artwork are complemented by the fact that the group meets at Observatory Girl's School in Yeoville where we have access to the school grounds. This provides a safe, green space for the children to play. This freedom is very important as most of the children spend their lives in very small living spaces where they have no space for themselves at all.

Recent discussions with the children in one of the groups about closing the group so other children could join met with great opposition and it became clear to us that in the face of the ongoing insecurities and disruptions in their daily lives the group is the only stable reference point, the only place "where we can talk about our feelings and anything".

Specific recommendations on improving access to services for migrant children

In response to the issues raised above, a number of specific recommendations were made by the working group that could work to improve access to services for children on the move. These recommendations are directed at various actors for the different sectors.

To governments and civil society:

Make information more easily accessible for children on the move in migration hotspots: Governments and CSOs need to create more centres which provide information, referral assistance and other types of services to children on the move. These should be located in border and urban areas with high levels of children on the move.

Whilst some organisations are doing this work, it is on a limited scale. Civil society and Governments need to work more closely together: CSOs and governments should engage in regular dialogue to jointly identify and address the challenges and barriers to children on the

move accessing services. Improved civil society-government cooperation will also require that CSOs need to take a more positive, less critical approach to engaging with their government counterparts.

To civil society:

More advocacy needs to be undertaken to ensure that there are sufficient services provided for children on the move: Civil society, including advocacy groups, need to work to encourage governments and donors to support the provision of basic services for children on the move in both their areas of origin, as well as in destination countries.

Government departments need to be more aware of children on the move: This also includes ensuring that governments and relevant departments are sensitised (e.g. health, education, home affairs, social welfare) to the concerns of children on the move, as well as the types of appropriate responses.

Advocacy: Including Community Sensitisation, Policy and Legislation, Getting Information

Advocacy: Including community sensitisation, policy and legislation, getting information

During the discussions on advocacy for children on the move, delegates identified several forms of advocacy work that are in progress in the region.

These include:

- research and networking;
- community dialogues;
- awareness campaigns for service providers and children;
- advocacy targeting local governments and local organisations to provide services for children;
- litigation in relation to the detention and deportation of children; and
- civil society providing input into legal and policy development focusing on child protection (e.g. anti-trafficking laws, children's bills, and refugee bills).

While it was recognised that there are already concrete efforts in the region to advocate around children on the move issues, much more can still be done, and much of what is being done can be carried out more effectively. It was also noted that a particular challenge in the region is the lack of political will to address migrant children's issues and that this makes advocacy at the same time more challenging and more urgent. The comments noted below, as well as the specific recommendations, point to key areas of concern and priority areas for action in efforts to ensure that children on the move are firmly on the agenda in southern Africa.

On policy versus practice:

The working group noted that there is currently too much focus on policy change in relation to migrant children issues and too little emphasis on immediate direct services. One participant said that, "children's lives are suspended while policy is discussed."

As noted in the access to services working group, the issue of translating policy into concrete and effective action for children on the move is still a challenge in the region. This comment suggests that additional advocacy priorities should focus on ensuring that adequate resources and training are provided for children on the move to ensure that policy and legislation can become reality.

On getting advocacy right:

The working group also established that although civil society organisations are already involved in advocacy efforts to promote the protection and care of children on the move. However, it is often done in isolation from other relevant or interlinked factors and sectors. Advocacy efforts do not always target the appropriate institutions, and are not evaluated sufficiently to determine whether they are making a tangible difference.

In other words, there are many CSOs and other factors in southern Africa that are not well equipped with the relevant skills to ensure that they can undertake advocacy effectively. Whilst there is much talk about advocacy, there is also a clear need to provide and support more training to CSOs and other actors, not only on how to plan and implement an advocacy strategy but on how to measure its impact.

On working with local communities:

During discussions, it was recognised that it is crucial that we work with local communities. However, certain participants remarked that communities in which they work could be distrustful or indifferent to sensitisation from CSOs on the risks and dangers of child migration and trafficking.

An example was given of a Mozambican community's negative reaction to efforts by one CSO to sensitise people on child trafficking. The main point of disagreement was the involvement of family members in the trafficking process, as claimed by the CSO. Certain members of the community refused to accept that a family would be involved in trafficking their own children. This was despite the counter argument put forward by the CSO, and based on recent research, that family members are indeed involved in trafficking their own children.



A migrant child tells her story through drawing.

Advocacy: Including Community Sensitisation, Policy And Legislation, Getting Information

The research had revealed that traditional practices and socio-economic needs of many families were combining to create a type of hidden child trafficking, which although still considered a form of trafficking by many, bears very little resemblance to the more generally accepted idea of trafficking by criminal gangs.

An example of male labour migration in Mozambique to South Africa was cited as a practice that can be interpreted as child trafficking. On the one hand, it is traditionally expected that boys and men will migrate for work and send home remittances. On the other hand, young boys often appear to be forced by the family to undertake work across a border, often working under-age and in exploitative circumstances.

As a result of discussions around this example and others, the working group suggested that sustained, longer-term efforts are needed to change cultural practices. It also requires greater intercountry collaboration.

This particular discussion and example throws up fundamental questions and dilemmas about how we define child trafficking and how it can be effectively dealt with within a context of traditional or cultural practices.

Traditional practices exist for historical and other important reasons and contribute to the socio-economic and cultural identities and survival of the group concerned. However, current socio-economic stresses, as well as the introduction of new sets of values, such as the concept of children's rights, can lead to both a conflict in values systems as well as more extreme forms of a particular practice in order to survive.

As a starting point, it is recommended that consultations and awareness raising start at the community level and that local leaders be closely involved in leading these activities.

In addition, it should not be assumed that training in child rights and other issues will instantly translate into actions on the ground for local communities. Communities need to be convinced of the advantages of changing a practice in order to adopt a new way of thinking. If underlying challenges to the community such as increasing poverty, illness and unemployment are not addressed, community level buy-in to new value systems and practices will be limited.

On legislation:

The group identified that while there is child protection legislation in most SADC countries, legislation specifically for or including children on the move is often lacking. This requires legislative reform and amendment.

Whilst legislation which targets or includes children on the move is vital, it was also acknowledged more generally during the seminar that legislation can only be effective if there are adequate systems which can ensure



Beautiful children's artwork inside their conversation boxes.

its translation into practice. This calls for adequate resources and training, as well as ensuring that legislation is developed in conjunction with existing and new legislation and policies in other sectors and areas.

Finally, legislation should be harmonised not only between sectors nationally but regionally. If SADC countries can harmonise, and indeed simplify laws that concern children on the move, there is the greater possibility of children on the move being better protected, cared for and assisted.

On priority issues for advocacy:

The group identified that there is poor coordination and networking between stakeholders regarding experiences and best practices on children who across borders. This should be an area where advocacy is undertaken.

The group also stressed that children need to be included more meaningfully in decision making and in the provision of information. They also need to be included more effectively in report backs and be kept up to date on developments and issues which affect them.

Child trafficking (and perhaps it could be argued children on the move more generally) is still not seen as an issue in some countries. Therefore, concerted efforts need to be made to ensure that this issue is acknowledged by all countries in the SADC region.

Specific recommendations on advocacy:

To civil society and government:

More awareness raising at a local level needs to take place regarding children on the move: Governments and their civil society partners in southern Africa should play a bigger role in sensitising traditional and religious leaders in both home and destina-

tion communities on the many forms of children on the move. Local communities should be specifically sensitised on the risks and vulnerabilities that these children face. Leaders should be supported in coming up with local, practical solutions in assisting and protecting these children and should be approached as points of entry into communities as a means of maximising the effectiveness of sensitisation messages.

Training materials need to be more accessible to the local communities and children they are targeting: Governments and CSOs should ensure that community sensitisation and awareness raising materials focusing on children on the move are translated into local languages, are child-friendly, and correspond to the level of education of those who will use the materials. In addition, the importance of oral, as opposed to written, sensitisation in communities in the region should not be minimised.

Government should allocate resources to vulnerable children: there is a need to lobby for governments to adequately budget for the needs of vulnerable children including children on the move.

To Civil Society and United Nations agencies:

Budgets need to be analysed at a country level to monitor expenditure on children on the move: International and local NGOs and UN Agencies should carefully examine national budgets in order to determine what percentage of funds is being allocated to children's programmes, and specifically interventions to assist children on the move.

More development assistance needs to be budgeted for children on the move by donors: International and local NGOs as well as UN Agencies should urge donors to allocate more funding towards assistance programmes for children on the move.

To Civil Society:

Government departments should be held accountable to their legal obligations to support and protect children on the move: Civil society should conduct legal advocacy for children on the move. This would make advocating on their behalf more effective as it would make government departments and agencies more aware of their legal obligations, in relation to existing national and regional legislative and policy frameworks.

To SADC and Civil Society:

Children on the move need to be on regional agendas: Civil society should push regional bodies, such as SADC and the African Union, and governments to include children on the move in high profile national conference agendas focusing on orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS and broader children's

rights and protection issues. Likewise, SADC should be ensuring that these issues are brought to the attention of Member States and other regional bodies. CSOs must engage SADC in the implementation of its recently finalised OVCY framework and find entry points to ensure that issues of children on the move are pushed forward,



Beautiful children's artwork inside their conversation boxes.

Prevention of child and exploitative forms of labour

Learning from other regions:

Exploitation of migrant child labourers in Ivory Coast: Case Study

Interviews were undertaken with 200 working children in the rural Montagne region near the Liberian border and in urban Adame district of Ivory Coast. The findings indicate that child migrants, both from within and outside Ivory Coast, are primarily involved in domestic work and agriculture, as well as selling goods in markets.

Research revealed that there are more boys involved in child labour in rural settings; and more girls working in urban settings. In Abidjan, the country capital, 75% of children interviewed and involved in child labour are girls. Research findings indicate that girls as young as nine are engaged in commercial sex work.

A contributing factor to increased child labour and exploitation in Ivory Coast is a traditional family respon-

sibility of children to contribute to household income. In addition, there is a massive internal movement of girls in Ivory Coast through the practice of 'confiage', an informal child fostering arrangement where parents send their children to people they trust. It is expected that the child will work for the household in return for lodging and access to school.

However, in many cases, the children lose contact with their families altogether; are required to work full time six or seven days per week, while the host family's children go to school. Children in these situations often live with threats, violence and discrimination.

In some cases, girls are sent to work in towns in order to conserve resources for the education of boys in the household.

It was interesting to note that this group at times struggled with these issues. There was the impression that at this seminar there was a lack of knowledge and experience in dealing with child labour and exploitation issues, especially when compared to the experiences of those representing other regions such as West Africa and South East Asia. It is not clear if this is due to the particular range of knowledge and skills of the representatives at the seminar or if this was indicative of a more general lack of information and policy around child labour in southern Africa.

Either way, it was made clear by those from other regions, as well as those working directly with children on the move, that child labour and exploitation underpins much of the movement of these children. It was stressed by some that if we do not address child labour and exploitation when looking at children on the move we will struggle to improve the care, protection and service we can offer them.

On the lack of identity documentation:

A lack of documentation for children on the move increases their vulnerability to exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous employers. Specific examples of this include: children with undocumented status (in a foreign country) having worked for several months without being paid; children being mistreated without recourse to justice or assistance because of their undocumented status and fear of discovery; employers refusing to pay a child for work done and instead calling the police after the job is finished, with the child being deported.

Many children on the move will lie about their age, and have no documentation which proves otherwise, which

makes the prevention of underage employment of children difficult for authorities to prevent and investigate.

Employers who exploit children also do their best to hide these kinds of work arrangements with migrant children. It was, however, emphasised throughout the conference that employment is an area we know very little about and so this section is less informed than the others.

On family pressure to migrate for work:

A family may push a child to leave home in search of work without having a sense of the risks and dangers involved. The children may be keen to undertake the task without having sufficient awareness about the difficulties that child labourers encounter.

Because migrant children are often breadwinners for the family they are unlikely to report being exploited to the police as they feel more pressurised, or have a strong sense of duty, to ensure they can remit funds to their families, as well as fearing abuse from the police.

On child labour legislation:

Although labour laws protecting children do exist in many southern African countries, implementation and enforcement are still challenges. As an example, one group participant cited Namibian legislation and the difficulty in implementing this legislation.

In addition, the group established that many people in southern Africa are still not aware of the existence of child labour legislation, as well as children's rights more generally, or if aware, do not understand its application. It was felt that many existing labour laws are too



Children discuss their work with seminar participants on the first day of the seminar.

difficult to understand and should be communicated to communities in simpler forms, as well as in local languages.

From a regional point of view, the group identified the need to harmonise immigration acts and child labour policy between countries in efforts to ensure that children's rights can be guaranteed in a standard form throughout the SADC region.

In general, the challenge of turning legislation and policy into reality is once again conspicuous in these discussions.

As with the advocacy group, much emphasis has again been placed on the importance of targeting and working with local communities, and ensuring that materials are suited to the groups that are being targeted.

On local attitudes and practices:

The group established that some attitudes and practices, particularly in the poorest communities, may

cause people to view the exploitation of children as acceptable; in that children, when required, have a duty to earn money for their parents and extended families, regardless of whether the work is exploitative or not.

In order to counter this, CSOs need to include communities and children who move more meaningfully in the development, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects created to prevent harmful forms of child labour.

Once again the challenge of addressing deeply engrained practices and attitudes in the light of newer frameworks and values such as child rights in relation to labour and exploitation was highlighted. As with the advocacy group, the group suggested that the key to addressing this challenge is to work directly with local communities and target groups, including children.

On the vulnerability of non-national and rural children:

The group established that in southern Africa, domestic workers, especially children, from rural areas are easier to manipulate and exploit than those from urban centres. Rural domestic workers have less access to information and education on labour laws and are less able to negotiate fair work conditions.

This vulnerability is similar to children who come from across borders. Not only do both groups of children have low levels of understanding regarding the laws which are in place to protect them and their subsequent rights, but they have reduced access to traditional support groups. We can also assume that as poverty levels are higher in many rural areas of southern Africa, and that many cross border migrants undertake journeys to richer countries, there is also the dimension of relative poverty and therefore desperation to consider.

Child Migration, Displacement and Trafficking in South East Asia: Challenges and Responses

Child trafficking is recognised as a particular problem in South East Asia whilst more general migration is a common way of life for many people in the region. Trafficking and labour migration are interlinked in Asia, as traffickers are said to 'fish in the stream of migration'.

In South East Asia, children often become 'debt-bonded' to employers and spend many years paying them back. Common forms of employment for children in South East Asia are: domestic work, sex work, construction, agriculture, seafaring, begging and factory work.

Children are often trafficked by their relatives. In a

1995 study in Cambodia, 50% of surveyed sex workers under 18 years old were forced into the trade. Half of those were sold or deceived by someone they knew, including parents, relatives and neighbours. Transnational crime syndicates are also involved in trafficking of children.

In Asia, migrant children are moving from Cambodia to Vietnam, Vietnam to China, Cambodia, Burma, Laos to Thailand, and from Thailand to Singapore, South Korea and Japan.

In some South East Asian countries, identification of child migrants is linked to national efforts to limit child labour such as factory inspections and raids.

Governments in South East Asia typically have three responses to migration:

- Controlled repressive migration - strict immigration policies; rigid labour contract systems; little state tolerance for civil activism (e.g. Singapore, Malaysia);
- Uncontrolled repressive migration - loose border controls; many undocumented workers; inconsistent migrant labour laws; limited civil action (e.g. China, Vietnam);
- Controlled open migration - tight border controls; many undocumented workers, relatively high toler-

ance for collective action: organisations challenge the state and provide legal/cultural assistance to migrants (e.g. Japan, Korea and Thailand)

Thailand is the largest receiver of migrant and trafficked children in South East Asia. Displacement due to conflict has led to high numbers of refugees, migrants and trafficked people in this country.

The Thai government and civil society organisations are collaborating in terms of identifying trafficked and migrant children; providing care and rehabilitation; and raising public awareness about the plight of these children.

Specific recommendations on prevention of child and exploitative forms of labour

To Government:

Labour laws need to be produced in simplified versions: Governments in the region should produce simplified versions of national labour laws, specifically on sections focusing on harmful and exploitative forms of labour.

Increased Government-Private partnerships should be fostered: Governments should approach the private sector to encourage increased community development and investment. Private sector-supported initiatives could help encourage poor and vulnerable children to remain in their home communities by benefiting from, for example, vocational training and small business grants, as opposed to becoming victims of harmful child labour practices.

Policies which provide more opportunities for vulnerable children in both their home countries and in destination need to be supported: Governments in the region should develop social and economic policies and programmes which promote grants, bursaries, health schemes, cash transfers and income generating activities which provide opportunities for vulnerable children. These types of activities could help reduce the involvement of children in the worst forms of labour exploitation.

To Civil Society, the Media and Government:

Outdated labour laws need to be updated: Countries with outdated labour laws that do not reflect present challenges need to be updated or changed to protect the rights of undocumented child workers in terms of working hours, wages, sexual exploitation and abuse.

NGOs, regional and national networks, lobby groups and the media can play an important role in advocating for changes to laws.



Scenes from the seminar with the children on Day One.

There should be regional coordination of laws so that countries have to uphold the same standards. Otherwise children can simply go to where the laws are non-existent or not enforced.

Protection of children on the move including documentation, birth registration, abuse, social exclusion, xenophobia

On legislation and law enforcement:

The group established that although child protection laws do exist in a number of southern African countries, in some cases these laws only focus on the protection of national children and not of non-nationals. Legal and policy reform is still needed in the region to incorporate the protection of foreign children into existing and new child protection laws. It is interesting to note that in the case of South Africa it has been made clear on a number of occasions that the Constitution and existing children protection legislation does cover all children, including non-national children. However this does not always translate into implementation on the ground, representing another challenge linked to legislation.

The group also noted that when undocumented children turn 18 in a foreign country, they are no longer protected by children's laws and can then be arrested, detained and deported.

There is still little discussion in the region around this issue or adequate solutions. It is suggested that policies and legislation need to be developed which ensure that children who turn 18 do not suddenly find themselves subject to immigration laws with no recourse to assistance.

In addition, the group noted a lack of practical and meaningful implementation of policies and laws that are supposed to protect migrant children. Processes established to put laws into practice are unclear and delayed.

It was discussed that police and border officials often focus too much on crime detection rather than crime prevention and victim protection especially with regard to foreigners. Children who move are often exposed to dangerous situations which require protection from authorities. However, for local authorities the focus might still remain on identifying and detaining migrant children instead of on the protection of these same children.

In this instance, the need to accept and work towards safer migration, instead of trying to prevent migration, was clearly highlighted. However, it would seem that participants had the general impression that migration prevention and containment still takes precedence over the goal of safe, managed migration for children.

On getting and sharing information:

While there are inter-agency child protection databases in existence in the SADC region, such databases do not focus exclusively on civil society and service providers that assist child migrants. There is also a lack of maintenance



Children discuss their work with seminar participants on the first day of the seminar.

and updates of databases, and some confusion about how to use them effectively.

On attitudes towards non-citizens:

Many police in several southern African countries are already trained in child protection and in how to identify abused and exploited children. However, in general there is still a low capacity and level of motivation among authorities to enforce existing child protection laws, especially in relation to foreign children. To add to this, there is often a lack of empathy for the plight of migrant children by local populations.

Attitudes towards foreigners, including children, need to be better understood and more effectively addressed. In many cases there is the impression within the community that it is acceptable to exploit these children because they are foreign. There is also the sense that scarce resources for the protection, assistance and care of children should be directed at local, rather than foreign children. Finally, in some countries prevailing xenophobic attitudes

Protection of Children on the Move

amongst authorities and communities often compromise children's rights if they are considered foreign.

On government capacity:

Capacity in diverse government departments such as Education, Police, Justice, Labour, and Social Development must be increased and better coordinated. For example, in southern Africa there is a lack of trained social workers which means that many children's cases are not adequately investigated and followed up.

Therefore, when addressing government capacity to provide for the protection, care and assistance of children on the move, it is not sufficient to assume that additional police training on child protection should take priority. Resources and training also need to be directed at other relevant departments whilst at the same time ensuring that there is adequate coordination between departments.

On the need to be inclusive:

The group discussed the fact that when considering protection frameworks for children who cross borders, it is important to ensure that these children are integrated into broader child protection frameworks as opposed to creating separate, parallel frameworks for children on the move.

Specific recommendations on the protection of children on the move

To Civil Society:

More child protection community committees should be supported: Civil Society should increase support to and increase the number of community child protection committees in southern Africa. Such committees comprising children, traditional leaders, elected local leaders, parents and teachers can assist both vulnerable children in home communities as well as playing an important role in identifying and assisting children on the move.

To governments and civil society:

More social protection policies are needed: Governments and Civil Society should focus on community level development of safety nets for vulnerable children that will help mitigate push factors for migrating to other regions of the country or across borders. Social protection policies also need to be designed to respond to child protection issues linked to poverty and other underlying factors.

Identity documentation is needed for all children: Governments should ensure greater access to legal documentation for children such as passports, birth certificates and other forms of registration.

To SADC:

Improved monitoring of implementation of legislation and policies: A SADC-led task force, which would include gov-



Mandla Mazibuko of Save the Children Swaziland at the seminar

ernment and civil society representatives from the region, should be established to monitor the implementation, execution and enforcement of existing laws and policies around child migration and trafficking. This task force should operate from within the context of broader child protection laws and structures.

Improve child protection frameworks and structures: Implement, within the development of long-term protection frameworks, child protection mechanisms that include children on the move. The structures should take into account the specific risks linked to the FIFA 2010 World Cup for children including sexual exploitation, trafficking, and labour exploitation. Structures and systems should include coordination with the police, Departments of Immigration and Home Affairs, and other agencies for emergency response preparedness during the World Cup. Mobile child protection response units and intensified awareness campaigns on children are recommended.

To Donors and governments:

Dedicated budget lines: Donors and governments should have clear budget lines for existing and developing protection systems for all children and to include children on the move.

Build human and operational capacity: Governments and donors, as well as other stakeholders, should work together to increase human and operational capacity of key government service providers which exist to support and protect children on the move.

Conclusion and Way Forward: Highlights from the Children's Workshop



Zimbabwean dancers at the welcome drinks.

Conclusion and way forward:

The workshop successfully highlighted key areas for intervention with children on the move. These can be summarised as follows:

- There is the need for more cooperation across the region by both governments and civil society
- We need to focus interventions on children's countries of origin and their destination
- Services for migrant children should be mainstreamed into existing child services
- There is the need for monitoring and evaluation of interventions and sharing of good practices
- Laws across the region should be harmonised
- Supporting children means supporting their families and communities as well
- We need to advocate for the needs of children on the move through existing agendas of SADC and the AU
- Resources need to be allocated by both governments and donors for children on the move.

In addition, the children's workshop is a testament to the success of children's participation and their ability to assess their own needs and make recommendations for improving their conditions. Children were able to articulate their needs clearly and express them confidently to the audience. They made a very valuable contribution to the recommendations that emerged from the conference.

Finally, the seminar highlighted the multiple role players who need to be involved if interventions for children on the move are to be successful. In particular, participants emphasised the need for regional coordination of responses by both government and civil society and the channelling of donor and government resources for vulnerable children, including children on the move.

Appendix I: Seminar Participant list

Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh	Refugee and Migrant Rights, Lawyers for Human Rights
Duncan Breen	Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
Colin Wrafter	Irish Ambassador to South Africa
Ingrid Palmary	Forced Migration Studies Programme, WITS University
Susan Le Roux	International Organisation for Migration
Anacleto Pereira	Save the Children in Angola
Stanford Mahati	Forced Migration Studies Programme, WITS University
Cindy Milford	Family Health International - Cambodia
Alec Mhone	Save the Children Norway
Manuel Finelli	Save the Children UK
Johanna Kistner	Sophiatown Community Psychological Services
Shelter A. Mushipe	Doctors without Borders (MSF) - South Africa
Vusi Ndukuya	Amazing Grace Centre, Malelane - South Africa
Lucy Hillier	Save the Children UK
Rodney Knotts	Save the Children UK
Claudia Serra	Refugee Aid Organisation - South Africa
Isidro Afonso Alberto	Moamba District Services of Health, Woman and Social Action - Mozambique
Martin Malama	Zambian Police Service - Zambia
Moses Nkono	Malawi Law Commission - Malawi
Ilundi Cabral	Save the Children in Mozambique
Ndeshi Namupala	University of Namibia
Glynis Clacherty	Clacherty and Associates
Kirk Felsman	USAID
Samantha Yates	UK Department for International Development
Stephen Blight	UNICEF
Daniela Reale	Save the Children UK
Carmel Gaillard	The Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative
Mandla Mazibukom	Save the Children Swaziland
France Maphosa	University of Lesotho
Leon Muwoni	Ministry of Public Service Labour & Social Welfare – Zimbabwe
Timothy Bainbridge	Save the Children Sweden
Lynette Mudekunye	Save the Children South Africa
Thomas Winslow	Save the Children UK
Elizabeth Hughes	Save the Children UK
Glenda Caine	Independent Projects Trust
Octavia Moneedi	Child line – Mozambique
Priscilla Molaudzi	Child line – South Africa
Berta Fumo	The African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect
Kedir Awol Omar	International Committee of the Red Cross
Angela Odiachi	USAID
Bridget Steffen	Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
Deidre Kleynhans	Save the Children Sweden
Karen Allan	Save the Children UK
Chris Bjornestad	Consultant
Khangalani Moyo	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Sarah Norton-Staal	UNICEF
Yoko Kobayashi	UNICEF
Shapestone Kazembe	Chisomo Children's Club - Malawi
Tinashe Chimbidzikai	South Africa AIDS Trust
Sipho Mfeya	Umthombo Street Children's Advocacy
George Kalu	Media Monitoring Africa
Ronell Naidoo	Media Monitoring Africa
Barbara Kalima-Phiri	Southern Africa Trust
Jorge Alberto Mazive	National Institute for the Mozambican Abroad
Nick van der Vyver	International Organisation for Migration
Malica de Melo	Southern Africa Regional Network on Trafficking and Abuse of Children
Unita Ndou	International Organisation for Migration
Monica Kiwanuka	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Ana van Eck	Consultant
Kathryn Takabvirwa	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Barbara Nyangain	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Katharina Obser	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Godfrey Maringira	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Tatenda Mukwedeya	WITS University
Bertha Chigurare	Refugee Children's Project
Mumtaz Mia	USAID
Gift-Chipo Muponisi	Forced Migration Studies Programme
Heidi Loening-Voesey	UNICEF
Anne Anamela	Irish Aid
Yukiko Kumashiro	International Organisation for Migration
Trevor Molife	Refugee's Children's Project
Lorena Núñez	Forced Migration Studies Programme, WITS University

Appendix 2: Report on children's participation in the regional seminar on children who cross borders in southern Africa, Johannesburg, 25th to 27th May 2009

Conversations with migrant children

Berta* is a very shy girl of 11. She came with her family from Mozambique some years ago and settled in Rhamaphosa, an informal settlement on the outskirts of Johannesburg. During the recent xenophobic attacks she and her family sought refuge in the short-term camps that were set up. Following the promise of school, her parents let her go to a nearby informal shelter where conditions were not suitable for a young girl. She has recently moved to a nearby children's home where the staff are in the process of tracing her family. Berta was one of the children who participated in the recent seminar held to discuss child migrant issues in the region.

As we said goodbye to the children at the end of the Monday on which they participated Berta said "I liked to do that so much! I liked to talk to all those people. from Zimbabwe and Mozambique – all of them were children with stories to tell. The psychologist at the project had selected children who had been part of a therapeutic process for some time and she felt would now benefit from sharing their stories.

When planning for children's participation at the seminar the organising team felt that it was important that the experience of participation was meaningful for the children and for the adults. One of the aims of the seminar was to give adult participants a clearer understanding of the issues facing migrant children.

Traditionally children's participation at a seminar of this nature usually includes a presentation by children in a plenary. This allows for the few more confident children to speak and for the adults to listen. We thought that this time we would try something different – a conversation between children and the adults.

To facilitate this conversation we decided to create a conversation box through which the children could share their ideas. It was this conversation box that the children worked on at the weekend camp.

We started the process on the Saturday morning when the children drew a very long charcoal drawing telling the story of the different places they had lived. They then chose one of the situations and using oil pastels on canvas drew a detailed picture. Some children chose the time they crossed the border informally, others chose a refugee camp, others their home in their country of origin and some the many places they had lived in South Africa.

Once they had drawn the situation in detail they began working with the three dimensional 'conversation pieces' that we had cut out. These pieces were open-

ended symbols such as hands, people, addition signs and no-entry signs.

Working on these symbols with collage, paint, crayon and printing the children depicted the following:

- Problems I faced in this situation
- Ways I was able to help myself
- People/things that helped me
- How I could have been helped more

Each of these pieces would be a tool for creating conversation between the children and the adults. They were all placed in a box that presented the situation as a kind of backdrop to the pieces. The children decided that these boxes should all have an arrow space as it depicted only a step in their journey there was "more to come". An outline of the process we followed is included in this report.

On the Monday morning with much excitement and anticipation we left the campsite to set up our exhibition of conversation boxes at the seminar venue.

Initially, the media, and then later the participants at the seminar, were invited to meet the children who stood alongside their conversation boxes ready to talk about them with the adults.

After some time the children presented a statement that they had prepared based on discussions we had had over the weekend. The statement is also included in this report.

The response of the adult participants was very positive. It was clear that it was the first time some of them had interacted directly with migrant children. Some were quite emotional and obviously shocked by what they had heard. Throughout the seminar participants referred in discussions to the conversations they had had with particular children. It was clear that the personal contact had had an impact.

A week later we met with the children who had been involved to report back on the seminar and to get feedback from the children about the process. What they had to say was very enlightening. The children had all enjoyed the camp. They loved being in a beautiful place outside the city and enjoyed the good food and the games we played – they had fun! Fun is an important part of any children's participatory process – it must be a positive experience for children! They also told us that they felt sad about leaving home and their families and especially guilty about those children in their families who did not come to the camp.

* Berta's name has been changed.

Appendix 2: Continued

They talked about how it had been difficult to think about their stories at the camp. On the Sunday morning they agreed that they had all felt sad, as they had to think a lot about their situation to do the artwork.

This is an important point to keep in mind as no matter how well prepared children are or how much therapy they have received, work of this nature raises emotions for children. Experienced staff from The Suitcase Project accompanied the children throughout the process. They stopped at points along the way to find out how the children were feeling. This was done through games and discussions. The children were able to express and name their feelings and the counsellor was able to help them contain these emotions. This kind of emotional support is essential.

In the feedback session some of the children said they had felt tired at the Monday exhibition. Those of us who worked with the children had noticed this and we agreed that it was quite a challenge for each child to produce a finished piece of artwork in only a weekend. We spent time playing games, climbing the mountain at the campsite and jumping on the trampoline to make sure that everyone had fun in between the work, but the process should perhaps have been spread over three full days rather than two.

Most of the children had enjoyed the experience of sharing their story with the adults.

"I was proud to tell my story."

"The people were kind to me and they did not ask any questions I could not answer."

Some said that they found some of the questions difficult to answer. The group agreed that it was especially difficult when people asked them about their parents.

"It was hard when they asked 'where are your parents?' for me I just did this (he puts his hand up in front of him) I just did not answer. I just thought 'I will leave that.'"

One of the girls said she had found it possible to tell

her story, but found it difficult to tell it over a few times ...

"It was good to tell the first time but then when I had to tell the whole thing again to some other people I suddenly felt sad."

One girl in the group talked about how people often reacted with shock when she tells her story. The group thought it was important that we had also included the positive aspects of their story in the conversation pieces.

"Sometimes if I tell people my story, some people they say 'ooh and aah' and I can see (shock) on their face. Sometimes it makes me feel that my life is a total disaster."

I also showed people the picture of me as a brave girl who is strong. I liked that we made those pictures too."

Some of the children commented on the difference between talking to seminar participants and the media. The journalists had asked more personal questions. One child said that a radio journalist had asked her to repeat parts of her story using correct French. She found this very trying. Some of the children felt that some of the journalists had asked invasive questions.

They did also mention though that the journalists had kept to the 'no faces and no names rule'. One boy told us very proudly that he saw his story in *The Star* but the person had given him his pseudonym. He felt proud that his story had helped people to learn about crossing the border, but no one knew it was his. These comments about the press show how important it is to brief the media before they interact with the children. Though there were some aspects of the process that could have been done differently the children's participation was successful. It allowed adults who make decisions about migrant children to listen to them and most importantly, the process allowed some of the most marginalised children (like shy young Berta) to speak directly to adult decision makers on an equal footing.

Appendix 3: Children who Cross Borders Regional Seminar, Child Participation Process.
Outline of weekend workshop “Conversations with migrant children”

Activity 1: Conversations with migrant children -
An introduction to the seminar theme

1. Explaining who will come to the seminar and the children's role.
2. Brainstorming on pieces of scrap paper of different sorts placed on a large piece of brown paper using words and images 'Things I would like to say about being a migrant child'. Reading these words out and recording them. We will use these recordings in the 'digital story' (see below).
3. Discussing who migrant children are
Explain that we will make a box of 'things to talk about with people that will tell them about the life of a migrant child' – a box for conversations. The box will have artworks of different kinds on it and in it that will tell the different stories of our lives as migrant children.

Activity 2: Places I have lived in

Children will use a long piece of paper and charcoal to show all the places they have lived. We will briefly talk about these.

Activity 3: Choosing one situation I found myself in

Children will choose one situation they found themselves in and draw it on to a piece of canvas and then stick it into a large pre-constructed box.

Activity 4: Issues I faced in each of the places

Using 3D symbols they will show using collage etc on to the symbols the issues/ problems/challenges they faced in this situation.

Activity 5: 'Help' I have had

Using different symbols again represent the different organisations/people/circumstances that helped them on their way – we will include a discussion on how their own personal attributes and strengths and actions also helped them.

Activity 6: What would have helped me more

Using different media again on a symbol they will now present their ideas for things that would have helped them, that they did not get, in this situation. We will also talk about what things do they need now, what should be done, how would they like services to be, what do they feel is not being done, what do they feel they can do for themselves - we will focus on things related to the people/organisations and also things that will help them to help themselves. We will pitch this so we avoid the idea that 'migrant children are victims and need help'.

Activity 7: Reflection session

They look closely at what they have produced and think about what it means and what it potentially might mean and have conversations with each other about what they have made.

Appendix 4: About the hosting organisations

About Save the Children UK

Too many children are still dying because they do not have enough food or because they cannot get treatment for simple illnesses. Millions are not getting an education and are being exploited and abused. This is not good enough.

We are changing this, partly by working directly with children, and partly by using our experience and influence to persuade governments and others who are responsible for children to do the right thing by them.

We seek out the most marginalised children, wherever they are in the world, so that means we work in a really broad range of countries, from fragile states like Afghanistan, to developed countries like in the UK. We work closely with our colleagues in the International Save the Children Alliance, both in our programmes with children and in our international campaigns and advocacy work.

We have high ambitions for what is achievable for children - we aim to inspire dramatic change for children and to involve them in creating that change. We would like you to get involved too.

Our values

- We are outraged by child exploitation, neglect and suffering. We demand justice for the world's poorest and most vulnerable children.
- We are ambitious about achieving dramatic change for children, and we are determined to deliver it. We never give in to those who think big changes are impossible.
- We are creative. We are looking for new and better ways to help children, drawing on different perspectives and experiences around the world — especially those of children themselves. We are not afraid to provoke and surprise people if it gets the job done.
- We keep our promises to children, to our supporters

and partners, and to each other. We work hard to earn their trust, and we take responsibility for everything we say and do.

Our mission

Save the Children fights for children's rights; we deliver immediate and lasting improvement to children's lives worldwide.

We share our vision and mission with our partners in the International Save the Children Alliance.

Safeguarding children

We aim to be a 'child safe' organisation. We will do all that we can to ensure that children and young people's experience of our organisation is one that is free from any form of exploitation or abuse and that they feel respected and safe.

About the Forced Migration Studies Programme

Founded in 1993 as the Refugee Research Programme, the Forced Migration Studies Programme (FMSP) at Wits University is southern Africa's premier institution for research and training on migration, humanitarianism, and social transformation. With students from across Africa and around the world, it offers rigorous academic training, field research experience, and access to a network of committed professionals, scholars, and activists.

Based in Johannesburg – the heart of southern Africa's politics, culture, and economy – the programme offers insight into the causes and consequences of migration in Africa from a global perspective. From within the School of Social Sciences, the FMSP provides an introduction for those new to the field, as well as opportunities for critical reflection for those with practical experience.

Graduates of the programme are now working at universities, non-governmental and governmental agencies, and international organisations throughout Africa, Europe, and North America.