



Rebuilding Resilience in the Youngest Refugees





Note: The Moving Minds Alliance uses the term “refugee” broadly to encompass persons in refugee-like situations, regardless of their legal status. The population of concern includes young children and families who are forced to flee their homes and communities due to armed conflict, generalized violence, natural disaster or environmental degradation, and who seek safety and protection either within their own countries or across international borders. Moving Minds also seeks to support young children in communities affected by displacement, such as host populations. (Adapted from definitions in [UNHCR Global Trends 2017](#).)

Cover image: International Rescue Committee / Sandra Maignant

Why this initiative

Young children affected by crisis and displacement are not getting the support they need to rebuild resilience and achieve their full potential.

Radical changes to the humanitarian system and major donor and policymaker priorities are urgently needed to raise the life prospects of millions of young children on the move, as well as to achieve long-term social cohesion and peace.

Forced displacement worldwide is at a record high, and children are disproportionately represented among those fleeing from emergencies and conflict-affected contexts. Of the 67.75 million people of concern to the UN Refugee Agency in 2016, children under the age of 5 made up 16 percent – more than 10 million vulnerable young children (UNHCR 2017). Given the protracted nature of modern displacement, most will spend their entire childhoods in displaced contexts.

The prolonged exposure to violence and stress experienced by these children is associated with high levels of depression, anxiety, and in some cases post-traumatic stress disorder, which can have long-lasting negative effects on their development.

Evidence indicates that early childhood services, including those that support and guide parents, caregivers, and families in times of crisis, can mitigate the negative effects of trauma and stress on young children and promote resilience and well-being.

While the international community has made significant efforts to ensure children have access to basic healthcare and nutrition, the provision of services for other critical areas of a young child's development is severely lacking in crisis situations across the globe, as well as in communities hosting refugees and asylum-seekers. A review of active humanitarian response plans for 2016 revealed that only 10 out of 38 plans (less than one third) included interventions specifically targeting the youngest children.

Moving Minds is a funders collaborative and network that works to scale up coverage, quality, and financing of support for young children and families affected by crisis and displacement. Drawing from on-the-ground experience and shared learning, Moving Minds seeks to catalyze a new way of responding to crises that addresses the inter-sectoral needs of the youngest refugees and their families.

What we do

Moving Minds foundation members all fund programs to support young children and families on the ground. Working together and in collaboration with other partners, Moving Minds focuses on activities aimed at strengthening practice of early childhood in emergencies, and mobilizing support to scale-up programs, policies, and financing focused on young children and families.

Vision

Families caught up in crisis are able to rebuild resilience and foster the well-being and development of their young children

Mission

To scale up coverage, quality, and financing of support for young children and families affected by crisis and displacement

Desired Outcomes

To achieve its mission, Moving Minds works to ensure that:

- Implementers have the tools and resources to deliver quality early childhood services to refugee families at scale
- Early childhood services are a standard component of humanitarian response in all contexts
- The policies and practices of countries in the immediate response region, transit and host countries address the inter-sectoral needs of young children and caregivers

Activities

- **Strengthening Practice** – Support development of practical tools and resources, enhance capacity, and enable more effective ways of working
- **Mobilizing Support** – Research and advocate for policies and financing that enable sustainable delivery of quality programs and services at scale

Groundwork

On-the-ground presence and shared learning, taking into account local perspectives and priorities

How we work

The following core principles underpin our work:

Action-oriented

Moving Minds members and partners work together on concrete activities aimed at addressing clear gaps and needs.

Ambitious but practical

The focus of our work is on achieving quality, sustainability, and scale. This means embracing new ways of working, while simultaneously building on existing structures and resources.

Committed to sharing learning

Learning and sharing across sectors and contexts set the foundation for improving quality, sustainability, and scalability.

Collaborative and inclusive

Moving Minds seeks to actively engage all relevant networks and stakeholders, including government representatives; international, national, and local actors; and the children and families we support.

Who we are

Launched in 2018, the Moving Minds Alliance currently includes the following members:



**COMIC
RELIEF**

The **LEGO** Foundation

MacArthur
Foundation

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

 **PORTICUS**

 **Vitol** Foundation

Why we work together

Given the scale and urgency of the need globally, Moving Minds recognizes the added value of collaboration and strategic alignment, enabling members and partners to achieve more than any one organization could on its own. Joining efforts offers members and partners the opportunity to:

- Enhance **impact** and **effectiveness**
- Develop and share **knowledge** and **capacity**
- Expand **access to expertise**
- Raise a **stronger voice** in awareness-raising and **advocacy**



How to get involved

Visit: movingmindsalliance.org

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