



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 Alliance 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

Image on 6: Jacobs Foundation

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.

Experiences in the very first years of life shape the architecture of the brain and lay the foundation for future development and learning. Coordinated action by the humanitarian community, donors, and policymakers is needed to raise the life prospects of millions of young children on the move.

Forced displacement worldwide is at a record high, and children are disproportionately represented among those fleeing from emergencies and crisis-affected contexts. One in four children around the world lives in contexts affected by conflict or disaster, and more than 30 million children have been displaced by conflict. Given the protracted nature of modern displacement, most will spend their entire childhoods away from home.

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.

Originally established in 2017 by a group of philanthropic foundations, today Moving Minds Alliance is a multi-stakeholder partnership working to scale up the financing, policies, and leadership needed to effectively support young children and families affected by crisis and displacement everywhere.

What we do

Vision

Families caught up in crisis are able to rebuild resilience and foster the wellbeing and development of their young children.

Mission

To scale up the financing, policies, and leadership needed to effectively support young children and families affected by crisis and displacement everywhere.

Outcomes

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

- **Joint Advocacy:** Donors, humanitarian actors, networks and country governments prioritize and champion early childhood development in crisis contexts
- **Sharing & Learning:** A thriving network is sharing and applying insights effectively to deliver on its common agenda for change for young children in crisis

Who we are

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



The LEGO Foundation

MacArthur
Foundation

OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

PORTICUS

Vitol Foundation



brac

early
opportunities

ACT



The Partnership
for Maternal, Newborn
& Child Health



RIGHT TO PLAY



SESAME
WORKSHOP



unicef



World Vision

Why we work together

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

Contact: info@movingmindsalliance.org



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