



# **AN ASSESSMENT OF RECEPTION AND CARE CENTRES**

for migrant and refugee children in México, Chiapas,  
Tabasco and Veracruz

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**This document provides an overview of public and private Social Assistance Centres (CAS in Spanish) in Mexico and contains important information regarding these reception and care centres for migrant children and adolescents. It includes both the characteristics of these centres as well as their needs. These data can thus inform advocacy activities and support in the design of legal frameworks, public policies, guidelines, and reception and care models that respect the rights of children and adolescents in the context of mobility.**



## About IDC

International Detention Coalition is the world's leading movement dedicated to ending immigration detention.

We are a migrant-led coalition, uniting civil society organisations, community groups and individuals behind a clear purpose: to end immigration detention and promote alternatives.

There are fairer, cheaper and more effective ways to approach migration governance. We believe people should be able to live freely while they await the outcome of their immigration case, and we advocate for the human rights and dignity of everyone impacted by immigration detention.

IDC works on multiple fronts to end immigration detention - we strengthen the global movement, generate evidence, work to change laws and policies, and promote practical alternatives to detention.

Ultimately, we want to get people out of immigration detention and into a life within the community, where they can be with loved ones, contribute to society and benefit from education, healthcare, employment and more.



## Acknowledgements

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## Introduction

The International Detention Coalition (IDC) strives to ensure the human rights of people affected by or at risk of immigration detention, with the aim of ending such detention and establishing rights-based alternatives to detention (ATD).

In Mexico, IDC has conducted research and provided technical support to the government to promote ATD. It participated in the legislative reforms of both the Migration Law (ML) and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum, in order to harmonise these with the General Law on the Rights of Children that includes the prohibition of detention for migrant children and adolescents.

This harmonisation, effective since the end of 2020, identifies the three levels of the system for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF), (federal, state, and municipal) as responsible for guaranteeing the protection of migrant children and adolescents, by referring them to public and private Social Assistance Centres (CAS). These centres provide social care and prioritise the family unit.

## I. Methodology

The specific objective of this assessment was to:

**THIS ASSESSMENT WAS TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF THE SELECTED CAS, IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM IDC, TO STRENGTHEN THEIR CAPACITY TO RECEIVE AND CARE FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

As such, information was gathered through a document review of the regulations governing the centres, as well as through interviews with public and private CAS in the states of Chiapas, Tabasco, and Veracruz.

Interviews were semi-structured and complemented by a questionnaire with both open-ended and closed questions. Face to face interviews were conducted between April and May 2022 with the person who coordinates or directs each centre, with respondents sharing their practical work experience. Each interview lasted between 60 and 90 minutes. Responses were systematised using an Excel document.

The selected CAS, listed below, were identified by civil society organisations that, together with IDC, participate as a consortium in the implementation of a project for migrant children and adolescents:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Project entitled: "Comprehensive protection of migrant children and adolescents", financed by the United States Department of State, through the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), with the participation of: Asylum Access México, the Institute for Women in Migration (IMUMI), Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), as well as IDC, referred to as a Consortium.

1. SOS Children's Villages in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas.
2. Celia González de Rovirosa, Social Assistance Centre in Villahermosa, Tabasco
3. Social Assistance Centre for accompanied migrant children and adolescents in Villahermosa, Tabasco.
4. Social Assistance Centre Shelter for children and adolescents, state DIF in Xalapa, Veracruz.
5. Municipal Aldea Meced Shelter by the DIF, Municipality of Xalapa, Veracruz.

These shelters are characterised by the following:

- They are not specialised in children but constantly receive families, and unaccompanied or separated children and adolescents, and are interested in including a focus on this population in their model of work.
- They have not received sufficient training or resources for their work.
- They are located in states that form part of the project, "Comprehensive protection of migrant children and adolescents", conducted by the Consortium.

In addition to the interviews, an observation format was used to identify infrastructure and space design needs, according to the available guidelines that regulate the CAS.

## II. Conditions for migrant children and Adolescents in Social Assistance Centres (CAS)

### a. Context

According to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)<sup>2</sup>, there are around 50 million migrant children globally, including 36.5 million who have been displaced from their homes<sup>3</sup>, and 6.3 million in the Americas. In Mexico, the number of migrant children and adolescents increased by nine times during 2021.<sup>4</sup>

**Children and adolescents are forced to leave their places of origin for a variety of reasons, however, violence, extortion, poverty and the limited access to quality health and education services are particularly prevalent. That is, children seek to overcome the spiral of structural violence<sup>5</sup> to which they are subjected, and with this, the violation of their rights.**

Using data provided by the immigration authorities in Mexico, the Unit for Migration Policy, Registration and Personal Identity compiles statistics on foreign nationals who are sent to detention centres or provisional accommodation when unable to prove their regular situation in the country. For the purposes of this document, we refer to “detention events”.

At the end of 2021, the manner of reporting changed. Referral of accompanied or unaccompanied children and adolescents to public or private Social Assistance Centres, is now known as “referral events”.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund. “A call to action”. Consulted in: <https://www.unicef.org/lac/media/3321/file/PDF%20Ni%C3%B1os%20y%20ni%C3%B1as%20migrantes%20y%20refugiados%20en%20Am%C3%A9rica%20Latina%20y%20el%20Caribe.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> UN News. A record 37 million children displaced worldwide. Consulted in: [https://news.un.org/es/story/2022/06/1510432?utm\\_source=Noticias+ONU+-+Bolet%C3%ADn&utm\\_campaign=4f4cc79412-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2022\\_06\\_17\\_08\\_41&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e7f6cb3d3c-4f4cc79412-108064978](https://news.un.org/es/story/2022/06/1510432?utm_source=Noticias+ONU+-+Bolet%C3%ADn&utm_campaign=4f4cc79412-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_06_17_08_41&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e7f6cb3d3c-4f4cc79412-108064978) revisado el 17 de junio de 2022.

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF. Hay nueve veces más niñas, niños y adolescentes migrantes en México en los últimos tres meses. (19 April 2021). Consulted in: <https://www.unicef.org/mexico/comunicados-prensa/hay-nueve-veces-m%C3%A1s-ni%C3%B1os-y-adolescentes-migrantes-en-m%C3%A9xico-en-los>

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR. (2014). Niños en fuga. Niños no acompañados que huyen de Centroamérica y México. Consulted in: <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/Publicaciones/2014/9568.pdf>

The graph below shows the data for children and adolescents referred to a CAS from 2009 to April 2022.

### Events of detention children and adolescents 2009 to April 2022

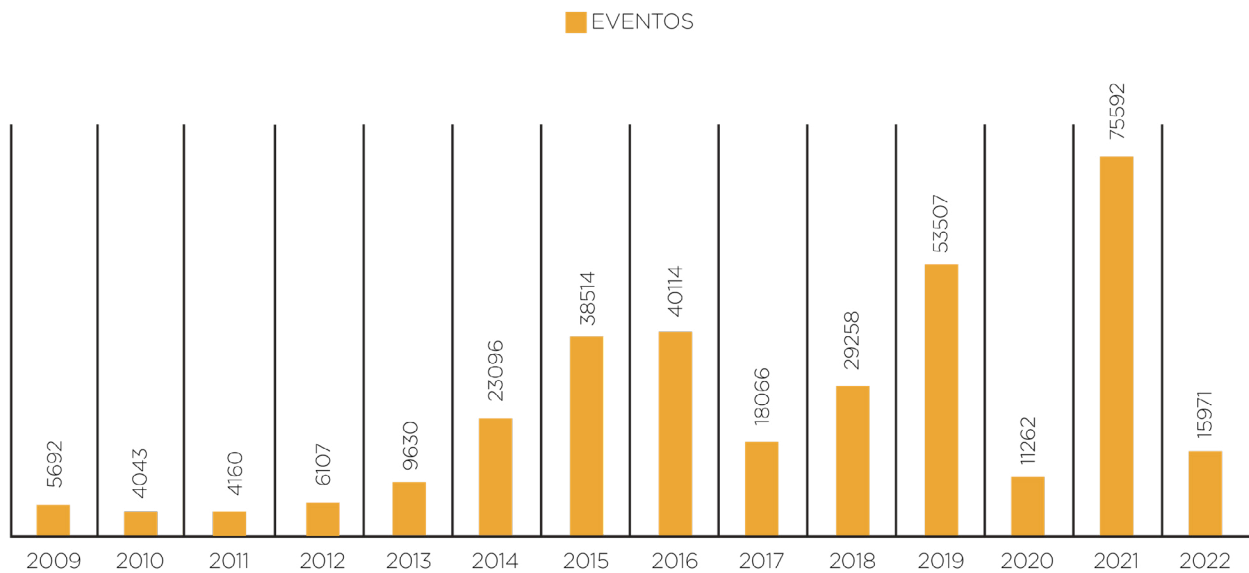


Table 1. Prepared with data obtained from the statistical bulletins of the Unit for Migration Policy, Registration and Personal Identity. Data from 2022 includes figures until April.

#### b. International and National Regulatory Frameworks

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the main international instrument for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents. Its guiding principles include equality, non-discrimination, and the best interests of the child, with the latter considered paramount in all matters concerning this population [General Opinion 5 (CRG/GC/2003/5)].<sup>6</sup>

In terms of immigration policies, Advisory Opinion 21 (OC-21/14) on the Rights and Guarantees of Children in the Context of Migration and/or in need of International Protection,<sup>7</sup> requires that States design, adopt, implement, and apply measures that do not deny liberty, that respect the principle of non-separation, as well as the right to a family unit in reception spaces, among other recommendations.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. (2006). General Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Consulted in: <https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/crcgencommes.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Bulletin.. "La política de derechos humanos de México". 17 September 2014 Consulted in: <https://sre.gob.mx/sre-docs/dh/docsdh/boletines/2014/boletn%2072.pdf>

With regard to Mexican legislation, the constitutional reform of 2011 paved the way for the passing of a General Law on the Rights of Children which recognised children and adolescents as subjects of rights and sought ***to establish the guiding principles and criteria that would orient national policy in matters of children and adolescents.***

As part of the General Law on the Rights of Children, the National Comprehensive Child Protection System was established. This has driven the creation of the Migrant Child Protection Protocol.<sup>8</sup>

In 2020, the above provision was harmonised with the Migration Law (ML) and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum. This helped to redefine the faculties of the National Migration Institute regarding migrant children and adolescents with the clear instruction that this population should not be held in detention centres, regardless of whether travelling alone or accompanied (Article 68, ML), and corresponding to the principle of family unity. Children and adolescents are thus to be received in public or private CAS.

The participation of each of the three levels (federal, state, municipal) of the DIF system is thus crucial to guarantee the protection of children and adolescents when providing social assistance, as well as to establish collaboration agreements with agencies and civil society organisations (article 73, ML).

### **c. Social Assistance Centres (CAS). Regulations and Obligations.**

According to the General Law on the Rights of Children, a Social Assistance Centre is an ***establishment, place or space for alternative care or residential reception for children and adolescents without parental or familial care, offered by public and private institutions and associations*** (article 4), established as a Single Chapter within the Fourth Title, referring to the protection of children and adolescents.

It requires that the centres be administered by a public or private institution or association, and comply with specific requirements regarding infrastructure, security and protection measures, levels of comfort, hygiene, and age-, sex-, physical or mental condition-appropriateness. These elements are taken into consideration for reception, placement, and provision of adequate spaces

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<sup>8</sup> Migrant Child Protection Protocol, June 2019. Consulted in: <https://www.unicef.org/mexico/informes/ruta-de-proteccion-integral-de-derechos-de-ni%C3%B1as-y-adolescentes-migrantes>

(Article 108), as well as for guaranteeing the physical and psychological integrity of children and adolescents under their care (Article 109). Services must also guarantee child and adolescent rights.

Various sources are available to guide the development of a care model<sup>9</sup> and internal guidelines<sup>10</sup> for the CAS, in addition to a guide for the regulation of these CAS.<sup>11</sup> The fact that these spaces are able to transform from welfare tasks to the protection of rights with the preparation of children and adolescents to face future challenges, represents progress. Authorisation to operate as a CAS, as well as the structural transformation of these centres is overseen by the Child Protection Attorneys

The State Child Protection Attorneys, in coordination with the Federal Attorney, are responsible for establishing the necessary procedures for the authorisation, registration, certification and supervision of the Social Assistance Centres.<sup>12</sup>

The CAS are required to comply with basic standards of quality in order to be certified. Those complying with these minimum requirements of operation then form part of the National Registry of Social Assistance Centres.<sup>13</sup>

**It is important to note that residential reception provided by the CAS should be considered a last resort and only for a limited period of time. Social re-insertion and preparation for this should thus be prioritised, as set out in the Guidelines for alternative care models for children.<sup>14</sup> The transition should also consider the gender, age, level of maturity and particular circumstances of children and adolescents.**

<sup>9</sup> Sistema Nacional DIF. Modelo tipo de atención y protección integral de centros de asistencia social para niñas, niños y adolescentes. Published 11 April 2018. Can be consulted at: <https://www.gob.mx/difnacional/documentos/modelo-tipo-de-atencion-y-proteccion-integral-de-centros-de-asistencia-social-para-ninas-ninos-y-adolescentes>

<sup>10</sup> Sistema Nacional DIF. Modelo de Reglamento Interno para Centros de Asistencia Social. Published 14 March 2017. Can be consulted at: [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/199577/Modelo\\_de\\_Reglamento\\_Interno\\_para\\_CAS\\_13-03-17.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/199577/Modelo_de_Reglamento_Interno_para_CAS_13-03-17.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Sistema Nacional DIF (2016). El ABC de la regulación de los centros de asistencia social. Available in: [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/315277/EL\\_ABC\\_DE\\_LA\\_REGULACION\\_DE\\_CENTROS\\_DE\\_ASISTENCIA\\_SOCIAL.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/315277/EL_ABC_DE_LA_REGULACION_DE_CENTROS_DE_ASISTENCIA_SOCIAL.pdf) consulted 1 June 2022.

<sup>12</sup> Sistema Nacional DIF (2018). La Regulación de los Centros de Asistencia Social en México: Un enfoque integral con perspectiva de derechos humanos. Available in: [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/315287/TOMO\\_II\\_LA\\_REGULACION\\_DE\\_LOS\\_CENTROS\\_DE\\_ASISTENCIA\\_SOCIAL\\_EN\\_MEXICO\\_-\\_UN\\_ENFOQUE\\_INTEGRAL\\_CON\\_PERSPECTIVA\\_DE\\_DERECHOS\\_HUMANOS.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/315287/TOMO_II_LA_REGULACION_DE_LOS_CENTROS_DE_ASISTENCIA_SOCIAL_EN_MEXICO_-_UN_ENFOQUE_INTEGRAL_CON_PERSPECTIVA_DE_DERECHOS_HUMANOS.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Can be consulted at: <https://portusderechos.dif.gob.mx/rncasvp/vistas/>

<sup>14</sup> Resolution 64/142. Guidelines for the alternative care of children. Consulted in: <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2010/8064.pdf?file=fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2010/8064>

#### d. Specialised CAS for children and adolescents in situations of mobility.

The CAS are key elements of the Migrant Child Protection Protocol created by the National Comprehensive Child Protection System for the protection of migrant children and adolescents. The National Registry of the CAS contains 151 public and private centres and associations, of which only 10<sup>15</sup> are specifically for migrant children and adolescents. The registry was developed with information provided by State Child Protection Attorneys.

The Registry forms part of the National Assessment of Social Assistance Centres (DNCAS, 2022),<sup>16</sup> which identifies 801 spaces in the country, of which 205 are authorised CAS.<sup>17</sup> The directory identifies 14 specialised centres for migrant children and adolescents. These figures differ from the National Registry of CAS.

In order to guarantee the respect and restitution of rights for migrant children and adolescents, in 2022 the SNDIF increased federal resources for their CAS by 48%, earmarked for the opening of such centres, for strengthening their operations or refurbishing their spaces in 28 states in the country.<sup>18</sup> In this regard, the Official Gazette of the Federation published the *Criteria for the transfer of funds to strengthen the National System for Integral Family Development, that forms part of the National System for Public Social Welfare in matters relating to interventions for migrant children*,<sup>19</sup> as well as the *coordination Agreements for the transfer of federal resources to subsidise the strengthening of institutional actions in matters regarding migrant children, social assistance centres, health institutions and places enabled for this purpose operated by the state and municipal DIF in terms of the Law for Social Welfare, the General Law on the Rights of Children, the ML and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum*.

<sup>15</sup> Sistema Nacional DIF. Registro Nacional de Centros de Asistencia social, site: <https://portusderechos.dif.gob.mx/rncasvp/vistas/> Consulted 10 June 2022

<sup>16</sup> Sistema Nacional de Desarrollo Integral para la Familia SNDIF. Directorio Nacional de Centros de Asistencia Social. DNCAS. See the site: [http://sitios1.dif.gob.mx/procuraduriaDIF/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/DNCAS\\_05\\_2022.pdf](http://sitios1.dif.gob.mx/procuraduriaDIF/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/DNCAS_05_2022.pdf) Consulted 10 June 2022.

<sup>17</sup> SNDIF. Diagnóstico. <https://www.gob.mx/difnacional/acciones-y-programas/registro-nacional-de-centros-de-asistencia-social-293669> With updated data as of 31 March 2022 .

<sup>18</sup> SNDIF op cit.

<sup>19</sup> Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral para la Familia SNDIF. EXTRACT of the Agreement in which its name is modified, and its content is amended and added to the Agreement and the Criteria are issued for the transfer of funds to strengthen the National System for Integral Family Development, incorporated into the National System for Public Social Welfare. Published regarding their intervention in matters related to migrant children. <http://sitios.dif.gob.mx/normateca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ReformaCriterios.pdf> Published 22 April 2022.

## III. Results

Results from the information gathered are presented below according to the three necessary areas for the design of a technical support programme: knowledge of the issue, resources, and identified needs.

### a. Knowledge of the issue

This section focuses on all available information regarding the regulatory framework, such as the General Law on the Rights of Children, the Migration Law, the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum, as well as on knowledge of the prohibition on the detention of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents, and the role of the CAS in caring for migrant children and adolescents.

Results of the interviews:

- Interviewees commented that they were aware of the General Law on the Rights of Children, but the representatives of only two private shelters had knowledge of the Migration Law and the Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum.
- It was only known in two private and one public CAS that migrant children and adolescents were not to be detained.
- Only one private and one public CAS were aware of the Migrant Child Protection Protocol.
- Four of the five CAS are aware that they should receive migrant children and adolescents in order that this population not be held in migrant detention centres.

### b. Resources

For this indicator, CAS were questioned regarding: care models or protocols regarding migrant children and adolescents; specific measures for responding to special situations; the modification of their initial care model to provide different care;

and whether they had the human and economic resources as well as infrastructure that enabled them to provide the necessary care.

Results of interviews:

- Two private and one public CAS had care models, however neither were specialised in migrant children and adolescents. As a result of having received cases in recent years, the private centres had developed certain guidelines for providing care as well as reception criteria, and understood that differentiated attention should be provided given that migration experiences, and reasons for leaving, among other factors, undoubtedly impact the psycho-emotional development of this population.
- The two public CAS that do not have care models have received migrant children and adolescents, however, given their limited technical, financial, and human resources, and the time demands of their work, they have been unable to create a model.
- All the CAS have the physical space and a team of workers, however, differences in resources are notable.
- The private CAS have adequate space to receive children and adolescents, specialised areas to attend to their health, education, training, food, and recreational needs, as well as trained and specialised multidisciplinary teams.
- Only one recently opened public CAS, with experience in dealing with girls in situations of violence, has adequate conditions, as well as space and work teams.
- The municipal, public CAS receive migrant children and adolescents, but do not have the appropriate infrastructure nor teams to provide the necessary care.

### **c. Identified needs**

In this section, respondents were asked about their challenges and successes in caring for migrant children and adolescents. Needs were identified that were considered important for the provision of care, as well as the type of support that would be required.

## Results of interviews:

- The private CAS identified their main challenge as the relationship with the authorities responsible for protecting children and adolescents. They report that authorities such as the Child Protection Attorneys, the INM, or the Consulates, appear to be relatively insensitive to the care needs of migrant children and adolescents, as are other authorities involved in the care of this population, such as the education authorities.
- All the CAS identified continuous training of their teams and the sustainability of their organisation as their main internal challenge.
- For the public CAS, their main challenge related to the lack of financial and human resources needed to secure the minimal infrastructure for providing care, contract the required staff, and provide the children and adolescents with basic necessities.
- Regarding the opportunity for technical support, all requested further training for their teams regarding legal issues, the situation of migrant children and adolescents, the Migrant Child Protection Protocol, recommendations for care, specific procedures for immigration status regularisation, and the procedures for asylum seekers.
- The CAS also welcome financial support or support in-kind that could contribute to strengthening their work. Two private and one public CAS are receiving in-kind support from a civil society organisation that forms part of the Consortium.

## IV. Conclusions

Progress has been made in Mexico in the protection of the rights of the migrant population, through laws and reforms that guarantee human rights. In particular, matters regarding children have undergone substantive and structural changes and have moved from a tutelary system to one with a focus on the rights of children and adolescents, including migrant children and adolescents.

One of the main challenges has been, on one hand, the time taken to introduce the reforms and incorporate a rights-based perspective, including the rights of migrant people. On the other hand, for institutions responsible for the care of children and adolescents, the change in paradigm from a welfare focus to one that places children and adolescents at the center (rights-centered) has been challenging.

The CAS have become key actors in ensuring the non-detention of migrant children and adolescents, and thus the importance of understanding their history, objectives, functions, areas of action, and reception capacity, among other characteristics. It is also helpful to understand their status and areas of opportunity that may require support to guarantee the protection of the rights of migrant children and adolescents.

The review of documents revealed a concerning lack of information regarding the actual number of CAS in the country, both private and public. Efforts by the SNDIF to create a directory and registry of the CAS are notable, although it depends on the willingness of the Centres to register themselves. This registration goes hand in hand with the authorisation and certification process, which, despite the time taken, is necessary for compliance with basic standards of quality, and the incorporation of a focus on the protection of rights.

The interviews conducted with the CAS teams revealed their limited knowledge of the legal framework related to migrant children and adolescents, as well as the importance of the role of the CAS in providing alternative care and temporary or permanent residential reception so that children and adolescents are not deprived of their liberty in migrant detention centres.

Even when training initiatives exist for the teams involved in the protection of migrant children and adolescents, both by civil society organisations and international bodies, these have been insufficient. One possible explanation for this is that those who receive the training tend to be operational staff with limited participation in these spaces, combined with constant staff rotation that accompany changes in the public administration at the various levels of government. Such changes are

also reflected in political willingness to either promote or end programmes and public policy that favor migrant children and adolescents.

**While this assessment is based on a limited number of CAS, both private and public, it provides an overview of the current situation in this regard. In the case of public CAS, the responsibility of temporary reception of migrant children and adolescents appears to have taken them by surprise, despite the fact that article 111 of the Regulations of the General Law on the Rights of Children, published in 2015 establishes the prohibition on the detention of migrant children and adolescents, and that it was only in 2020, with the harmonisation with the Migration Law, that children and adolescents actually began to be referred to these SNDIF spaces.**

## **Recommendations**

The following recommendations, directed mainly at the CAS and the DIF system at all three levels, are based on the documentation review and interviews conducted.

- Increase knowledge regarding the current regulatory framework, not only in terms of the rights of children and adolescents, but also regarding human mobility, through appropriately pitched training, in order to ensure a basic minimum level of knowledge.
- Certify the competencies of the CAS, and in particular, the public centres. In order to do this, it is important to develop a protocol with established timeframes that helps to identify needs, challenges and goals.
- Strengthen capacity to incorporate a focus on child rights, with emphasis on human mobility, to move towards the eradication of the welfare-based perspective.

- Facilitate the development of skills to support migrant children and adolescents, through knowledge of the context of their places of origin, access to immigration procedures or the recognition of refugee status, resettlement, or family reunification in a third country, or the return to their countries of origin, according to their best interests.
- Encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices for the care of migrant children and adolescents, that help to create models with a focus on rights and in accordance with the determination of the best interests of the children.
- Work in parallel with the protection system, such as the Child Protection Attorneys, the National Comprehensive Child Protection System, the INM, COMAR, consulates, international agencies, and other bodies related to health, education, and identity, to articulate actions that guarantee access to and respect of the rights of this population.

These recommendations can be grouped into three strategic actions for the technical support of the CAS:

- **Increase technical capacity:** a through training spaces that seek to raise awareness on the issue and develop care skills and practical tools that complement knowledge, as well as to support the development of protocols, models or internal guidelines that enable their work.
- **Secure links** between the various actors involved in the protection of children and adolescents to exchange experiences and strengthen the role of the CAS, as well as that of each of the actors, to ensure that they fulfill their corresponding obligations.
- **Carry out advocacy** to promote regulatory and public policy changes still necessary for the effective protection of the rights of migrant children and adolescents, to prevent those travelling both accompanied and unaccompanied from being deprived of their liberty due to their immigration status.

Unfortunately, the CAS (by their own admission), the Child Protection Attorneys, and other authorities responsible for the protection of children appear to be highly influenced by INM practices, returning thousands of children and adolescents without determining their best interests and risking their physical and emotional integrity, and even their lives.

Nevertheless, the results reflected in this document are a starting point to understand the situation of the CAS, to which migrant children and adolescents who require temporary or permanent reception are referred, in accordance with the law. The development of a strategic plan for the technical support of the CAS could serve as a guide for other involved authorities and contribute to strengthening the protection system for migrant children and adolescents.

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## Treaties // Conventions

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## Resolutions

- United Nations General Assembly (UN) Resolution 64/142. Guidelines for the alternative care of children, 24 February 2010: <https://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2010/8064.pdf?file=fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2010/8064>

## Observations / Opinions of human rights organisations

- Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Advisory Opinion (OC-21/14) 19 August 2014. Rights and Guarantees of Migrant Children and / or in Need of International Protection.

## Legislation

- General Law on the Rights of Children, 4 December 2014. Official Gazette of the Federation, last reform 28 April 2022.
- Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum from 27 January 2011. Official Gazette of the Federation, last reform 18 February 2022.
- Migration Law, 25 May 2011. Official Gazette of the Federation, last reform 29 April 2022.

## Appendices

### 1. Interview questionnaire

**Instructions:** Explain the purpose of the interview, request authorisation for their testimony and the recording thereof; indicate that notes will be taken at certain moments to ensure the capture of all informationn.

Date:  Place:

Name of CAS:

Sector:  Public  Private

Name of respondent:

Position:

Name of interviewer:

Question	Answer	Notes
Do you know of the General Law on the Rights of Children, ML and Law on Refugees, Complementary Protection and Political Asylum?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Do you know that the law prohibits the detention of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Do you know of the Migrant Child Protection Protocol?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	Explain:
Do you know what role the Social Assistance Centres play in the care of migrant children and adolescents?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	Explain:
Does the CAS have a care model? Protocol for care or case management??	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Has the model/ protocol/ programme changed or been adjusted for the reception of migrant children and adolescents?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	Explain:
Do you think that migrant children and adolescents require different care to Mexican children? ?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	Explain:

Question	Answer	Notes
What resources do you have to provide care?	<input type="radio"/> Material <input type="radio"/> Human <input type="radio"/> Infrastructure <input type="radio"/> Economic <input type="radio"/> Other	Explain:
What are the main needs for your work?	<input type="radio"/> Material <input type="radio"/> Human <input type="radio"/> Infrastructure <input type="radio"/> Economic <input type="radio"/> Other	Explain:
With which actors do you coordinate the care of migrant children and adolescents?	Name of actor and identify sector. <input type="radio"/> Municipal <input type="radio"/> State <input type="radio"/> Federal <input type="radio"/> International organisation <input type="radio"/> Civil society organisation <input type="radio"/> Academia <input type="radio"/> Private sector <input type="radio"/> Networks <input type="radio"/> Public Human Rights Organisations <input type="radio"/> Private	Coordination details:
What are the main challenges for the care of accompanied and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents?	<input type="radio"/> Care <input type="radio"/> Coordination <input type="radio"/> Resources <input type="radio"/> Other	Explain:
Are there guidelines or specific practices for certain situations with migrant children and adolescents? For example, anticipated release, family reunification in Mexico and/ or in the United States, integration and/ or living an independent life?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	Explain:

Question	Answer	Notes
What successes can you identify in the care of accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Care</li><li><input type="radio"/> Coordination</li><li><input type="radio"/> Resources</li><li><input type="radio"/> Other</li></ul>	Explain:
Regarding technical support for your work, what would be most useful? Information, skills training, case supervision, crisis resolution, case management, links with authorities or other actors.		

## 2. Observation Format

**Instructions:** Explain to the person in charge that you would like to see the physical space of the CAS in order to complement the assessment with additional information that can be useful for making recommendations. Request authorisation to take photographs. Be careful not to take photos of people, or alternatively, ensure that their identity is protected.

Date:  Place:

Name of CAS:

Sector:  Public  Private

Name of interviewer:

Aspects to review	Notes	
Profile of the CAS		
Profile of population received	<input type="radio"/> Mexican <input type="radio"/> Foreigners Spanish speakers <input type="radio"/> Children/ adolescents <input type="radio"/> Families <input type="radio"/> Single men <input type="radio"/> Single women <input type="radio"/> LGBTTTIQA+ <input type="radio"/> Senior citizens <input type="radio"/> People with disabilities <input type="radio"/> Other	
Duration of stay	<input type="radio"/> Less than 3 months <input type="radio"/> More than 6 months <input type="radio"/> Life Independent <input type="radio"/> Unlimited time	
Location of the CAS		
Is it easily accessible?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The CAS is located near a detention centre, the INM office, or the Child Protection Attorney.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	

The CAS is visibly identifiable.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Some obstacles or risks to accessing the space can be observed.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Infrastructure of the CAS		
Description of the place. Register the type of construction (house, building, warehouse, etc.) completed, still in construction, type of materials. Approximate size (m2).		
Property is owned, remitted, rented, other	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Capacity (expected)		
Number of people at the time of the interview.		
It has a reception area.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The CAS has dormitories	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The dormitories are divided by sex or other	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The CAS has toilets and showers	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The toilets and showers are divided by sex or other.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The CAS has a kitchen area	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The CAS has a dining area.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	

The CAS has a recreational area / patio	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
The CAS has a washing area.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
<b>Services</b>		
Medical area	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Psychological area	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Social work area	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Legal department	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
Communications area	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	
What other areas does it have?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>	