

# Child Protection Briefing Note

## JRS Ethiopia – Addis Ababa Child Protection Programme

August 2018

### I. Overview Refugee Children in Addis Ababa

As of August 2018 a total of 22'802 refugees reside in Addis Ababa, mostly from Eritrea, Yemen, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region. Of the total urban refugee population 7698 (34%) are children. 868 are unaccompanied and separated (377 UAC, 491 SC). Whereas 18'981 refugees are residing in Addis under the Out of Camp Policy, 3821 refugees are urban assisted due to their medical, protection or humanitarian needs and receiving financial assistance from UNHCR and partners.

### II. Main child protection concerns in Addis Ababa

Refugee children in urban Addis Ababa are facing increased protection risks including:

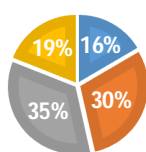
- **Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) & onward movement:** Unaccompanied children and youth are most prone to irregular onward movement which exposes them to risk of human trafficking, exploitation and physical harm
- **Increased protection risks in an urban setting:** High influx of refugee children into Addis Ababa who seek better opportunities while having limited capabilities to support their stay at Addis are at increased risk of violence, abuse and exploitation
- **Alternative care for UASC:** Significant numbers of UASC do not live in adequate care arrangements. UNHCR and JRS strategically promote family-based care, providing UASC with the chance to grow-up in a protective family environment. Particularly in the urban context, refugee community faces barriers to foster UASC as a result of high cost of living, coupled with limited livelihood options
- **Out of school:** A high number of children are out of school, mainly Eritreans with a limited interest to continue their formal education
- **Urban realities: Limited community support, outreach & access to information:** As refugees live scattered across Addis Ababa, the scope of community support networks is limited. Many unaccompanied refugee children are "invisible" and have limited access to information and community support

### III. JRS Child Protection Programme

JRS's child protection programme has been launched in July 2017 with the overall objective of providing comprehensive CP services to unaccompanied, separated and other vulnerable refugee children in Addis Ababa.

To date the project has reached about **1206 children** (553 girls) and 290 caregivers (166 women) through its various services and interventions. As of August 2018 JRS is providing case management services to 200 children (thereof 46 % girls).

**AGE OF CHILDREN ACCESSING JRS CP CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES (AS OF AUGUST 2018 TOTAL NUMBER:200)**

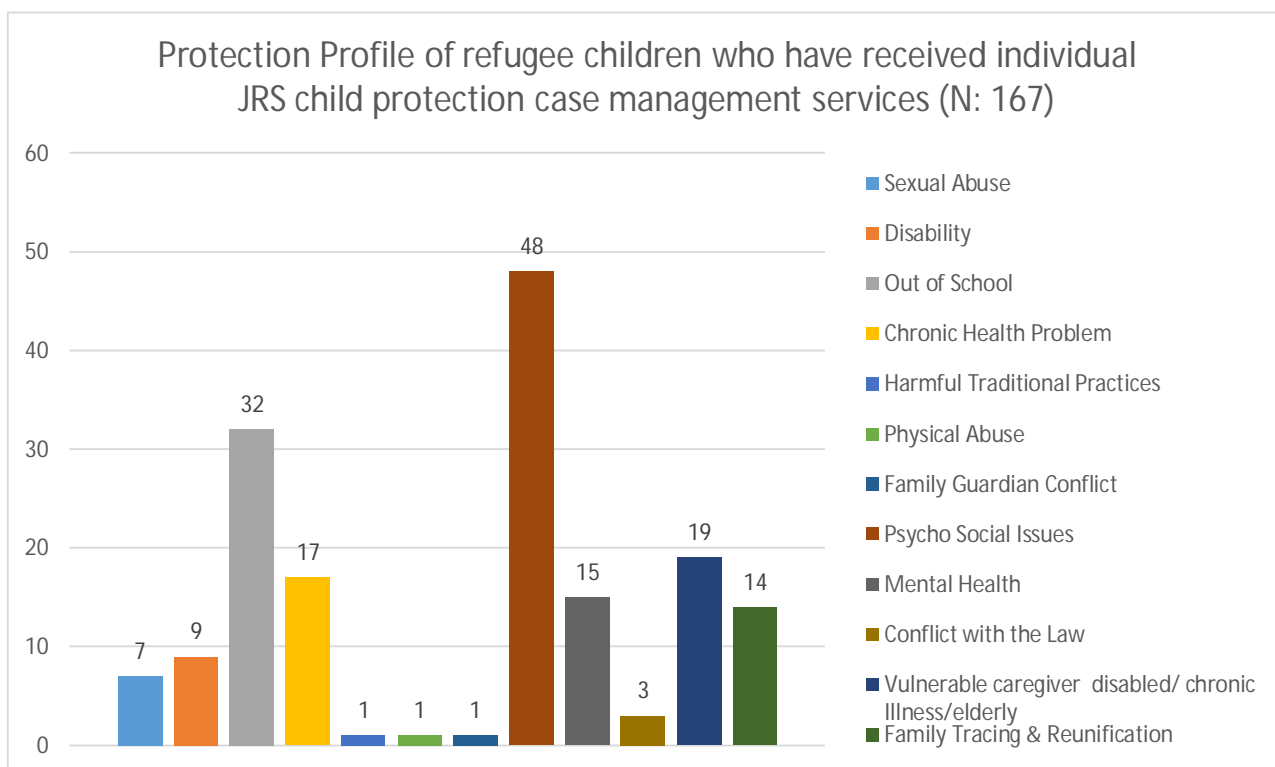


■ 0-6 years ■ 7-12 years ■ 13-17 years ■ 18+ years

#### Key components of the JRS urban Child Protection Programme:

- Quality **case management** for children at risk (incl. through home visits)
- **Refugee Outreach Volunteer** Programme (24 para-social workers from 8 refugee communities)
- Provision of individual **psychosocial support**
- Targeted **assistance** for UASC incl. **family-based alternative care**, cash assistance for foster families
- **Recreational activities** at indoor child friendly space & outdoor play activities at the Child Protection Center
- **Child / Youth empowerment:** provision of language classes, life skills interventions, child parliaments
- **Education support**

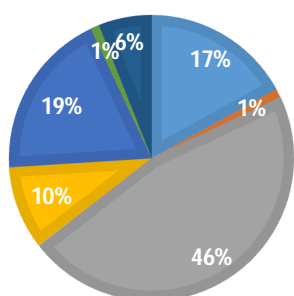
## IV. Protection Profile of refugee children



The Protection Profile of refugee children who have received JRS child protection case management services since the start of the programme in July 2017 shows that a majority of the cases involve psychosocial issues and out of school children. Connected to the vulnerability profile of refugees included in the urban assistance programme in Addis Ababa, a relatively high number of children also have vulnerable caregivers, chronic health problems and mental health issues.

### NATIONALITY OF REFUGEE CHILDREN ACCESSING JRS CP CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES (AS OF AUGUST 2018 / TOTAL NUMBER: 200)

■ Congo ■ Other ■ Eritrea  
■ Somalia ■ South Sudan ■ Syria  
■ Yemen



### Key achievements of the JRS urban Child Protection programme:

- ★ **Strong outreach** through home visits by JRS case management team and management of Refugee Outreach Volunteer Programme – ROV's supporting
- ★ Over **1200 children** have accessed the center to date. Children identified at risk received specialized case management support
- ★ JRS providing **comprehensive child protection responses** addressing various protection needs of children, mitigating protection risks incl. risky irregular migration

## V. Existing Gaps & Challenges:

- **Identification of foster carers** and placement of unaccompanied and separated children in family-based alternative care
- Due to absence of locational proximity, many refugees face **access constraints** to the Child Protection Center, thus a limited number of refugee children are accessing JRS CP services
- Refugee children from different **nationalities** are not equally reached by the programme. Predominantly Eritrean children access the services at the Child Protection Center.
- Addressing **protection and education needs of out of school children**
- High cost of living and financial stress leading to **negative coping strategies** of refugee families, affecting children