

Intervention Strategies and Outcomes for Children on the Move Programs in Central America and Mexico: An Evidence Review of ChildFund International's Programs (2017-2024)

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INTRODUCTION

- **Largest and Most Complex Crisis:** Child and family migration within and from the Americas and the Caribbean is among the largest and most complex migration crises globally.
- **Heightened Risks for Children:** Migrant children face greater risks than adults, i.e., sexual and gender-based violence; lack of access to education; increased vulnerability to trafficking & exploitation.
- **Knowledge Gap:** Critical need exists to understand what works/does not work in providing support to migrant children and their families.

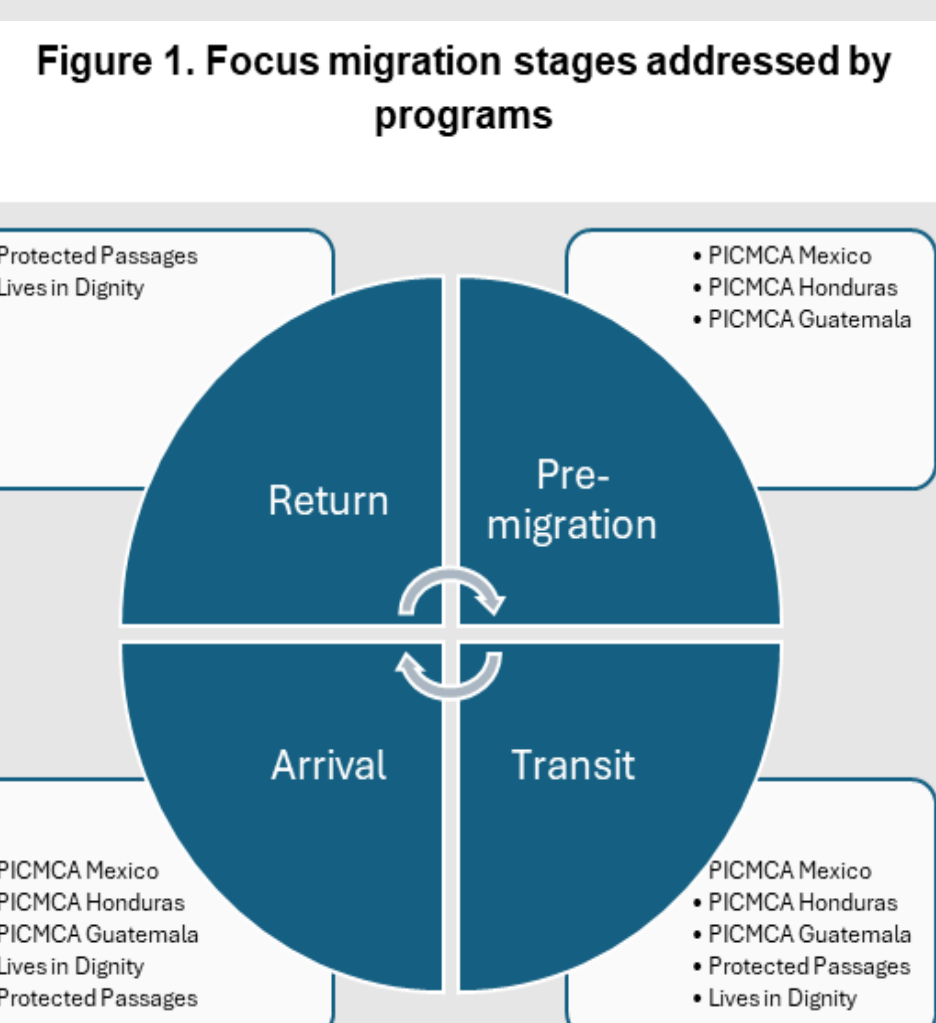
REVIEW OBJECTIVES

1. Document and synthesize the implementation characteristics and outcomes of **3 ChildFund Children on the Move (COM) programs** delivered in Central and South America and Mexico over the past 7 years.
2. Use the results to inform best practices for expanding and scaling successful approaches in the Americas and other regions.



METHODS

- Used standard methods for systematic review (data extraction forms, descriptive tables, thematic synthesis) for **5 evaluation studies** of **3 programs**.
- The **3 programs** were delivered in **4 countries**; **5 pre/post evaluation studies** (1/ delivery):



RESULTS

Intervention Characteristics

	CONFINO/PICMCA Guatemala	CONFINO/PICMCA Mexico	CONFINO/PICMCA Honduras	Protected Passage	Lives in Dignity
Influencing policies and authorities					
Child-friendly spaces					
Education support					
Health support					
Capacity Strengthening of local authorities and partners					
Building youth leadership					
Trafficking prevention					
Providing information about migration risks, services					
Providing referrals (child protection, violence prevention, mental health)					
Regional, collaborative approaches					
Training on livelihood skills					
Violence prevention activities					

Program Outcomes

Program	Outcome Area	Outcome	Which Groups	Positive Change Example
CONFINO/PICMCA	Migration	Increased knowledge of rights, risks of migration	Young people	2/3 reported enhanced knowledge of irregular migration risks
		Reduced intention to migrate	Young people	25% reduction in reported intent to migrate
	Protection	Increased knowledge of and improved safety skills (e.g., protecting children from harm)	Adult community Stakeholders and Duty Bearers	16% increase in feeling very safe in the community (79% to 95%)
Protected Passage	Access to Services	Increased knowledge of rights and where to seek services	Survivors of GBV	32% increase in referrals for GBV-related services (40% to 72%)
	Protection	More migrants in shelters reporting feeling safe	Children and adults	37% increase in feeling safe in shelters (46% to 83%)
	Mental Health	Reduction in reported symptoms of mental and psychosocial distress	Children	35% reduction in reporting mental and psychosocial distress symptoms (59% to 24%)
Lives in Dignity	Mental Health	Increased skills/knowledge about mental health/burnout	Teachers	96% reported gains in new skills and new knowledge related to their mental health

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **3 programs:** Distinct in their main target groups & objectives; use similar core intervention strategies & share some positive outcomes.
2. **Inter-institutional coordination:** Essential for developing activities that address marginalized populations' needs and achieving core outcomes.
3. **Program evaluations:** Enhanced by using multi-method approaches and creativity (i.e., journey mapping, rapid Most Significant Change) to assess program impact amid shifting circumstances.

"ChildFund is on a mission to ensure that no child in adversity stands alone. Our continuing work with children on the move will help to safeguard them and support their families through collaborating with governments, and fostering protective factors that build resilience at individual, household, community, and systemic levels." ~Radwa el Manssy



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