

CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS



Children in street situations are children just like you!

They have different connections to the street.

For them, street is a place where they live, work, and spend time with their peers.



"We are children with rights. Each of us are different! We are on the street for different reasons."

"Some of us work on the street. We support ourselves or our family."

"We live on the street but also go home some times."

"We do many things on the street ...work, hangout with friends, sleep, cook, wash..."

"sometimes we are arrested just because we are on the street."

"We develop skills and make friends to survive."

Children in street situations exist **all around the world**, including the 'richest' countries. But no one really knows how many are there.

... because, children in street situations are difficult to count... for example, because many of them are not in school, others move often and do not have an address.

Some children spend **days and nights**, living on the street.

... some spend the day on the street and **go back home at night**. Others spend periods on the street and **go back home sometimes**.

Children in street situations face many risks:

Sometimes they are **sexually abused or exploited in other ways**, like being sent to beg on the street.

They **can be arrested** just because they are on the street.



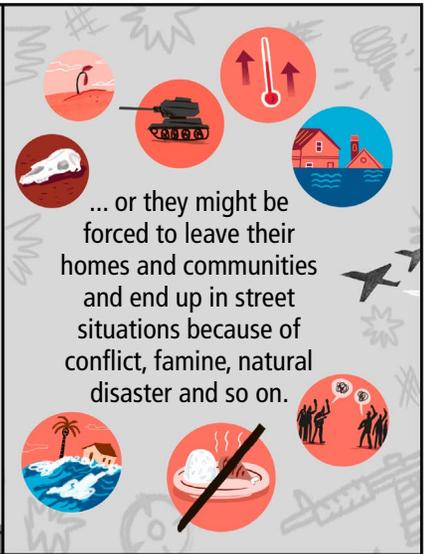
Why are children in street situations?



... because of poverty, children might leave home to find work to support their family.



... because street might feel safer than where they were before, for example... children may be running away from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.



... or they might be forced to leave their homes and communities and end up in street situations because of conflict, famine, natural disaster and so on.



CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION...

... **are children first!**
They are holders of rights. They are children in danger who need protection.

For example, they have the right to:

- Be protected from harm.
- Have a place to live.
- Have healthy meals.
- Receive education.
- Be able to see a doctor when they feel ill.
- Express their views and opinions.



[Click here to read the Convention on the Rights of the Child that talks about the rights ALL children have.](#)



... **are NOT criminals.**
They are victims because society is failing to provide care, protection, and services for them.



... **are taking actions.**
They know their reality well and they are taking actions to support one another.



GOVERNMENTS AND DECISION MAKERS NEED TO...



... recognize that ALL children are important and they ALL have a right to grow up in a safe and caring environment.



... make sure ALL children, including children in street situations have access to services like education, health, protection, and justice.



... spend enough resources on fighting poverty and support families to prevent children from being in the street situations.

Also, train social workers and have a better system so children in street situations can get better support and re-join their family and community.



... **involve children in shaping the responses**

#ActNOWToEndVAC

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