

2023

A Strategic Framework for the Protection of Refugee Children's Rights



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Introduction

UKRAINIUM is a robust network of diverse high school students from around the globe, deeply invested in public policy and human rights. The escalating Russo-Ukrainian War and the consequential humanitarian crisis inspired us to create a strategic action plan to protect the rights of refugee children. According to UNICEF, over 2 million children have become refugees and 2.5 million children have been displaced by the war. 4.5 million children are in dire need of assistance just from the Russo-Ukrainian War, and there are millions more that require help across the world. Through broad-ranging collaboration within our network and several global conferences, Project SCORE was born.

Project SCORE, standing for Survey, Creation, Operation, Relation, and Evaluation, is a comprehensive five-step plan aiming to safeguard the rights of refugee children in crisis regions. SCORE reflects the collaborative, goal-oriented approach that is essential for making a substantial impact on the lives of these children.

Leveraging the diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives of UKRAINIUM's members, we consolidated research, shared best practices, and integrated expert opinions. Through global conferences and digital collaboration platforms, we engaged in profound discussions, critical analyses, and joint problem-solving sessions to devise a plan that is pragmatic and impactful.



Underpinning Research and Policy Insights

Project SCORE is grounded in extensive research and supported by authoritative policy reports from institutions like UNICEF, UNHCR, and the OECD. Our approach leverages the insights from key international documents to ensure that our strategic action plan is evidence-based, globally relevant, and effective. Notable research and reports include:



UNICEF

Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children

This report highlights the vital importance of obtaining accurate and comprehensive data about refugee and migrant children. It emphasizes the need for policies that focus on child protection, education, health, and social integration. Project SCORE's first step - the Survey - is significantly influenced by this research, reinforcing the importance of data collection and needs analysis.



UNHCR

Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child

These guidelines underscore the need to center the interests of children in all decisions affecting them, especially in crisis situations. It recommends the creation of robust national child protection systems, which directly influenced the Creation step of our SCORE framework, calling for comprehensive laws to safeguard refugee children's rights.



OECD

States of Fragility 2020

This report underscores the value of international cooperation in handling crises. It advocates that partnerships between local and international entities yield more sustainable solutions. This insight inspired SCORE's Relation step, emphasizing the need for collaboration among NGOs, governments, and community bodies for a holistic crisis response.

A Five Step Framework

Project SCORE, by UKRAINIUM, is a robust, evidence-based, five-step framework aimed at safeguarding the rights of refugee children. This comprehensive approach incorporates Surveying needs, Creating protective laws, Operating child-centric programs, Fostering global Relations, and Evaluating outcomes.



01. Survey

The first step involves surveying and understanding the specific needs and risks faced by refugee children. This requires collecting reliable data and information from various sources, including aid agencies, non-profit organizations, and refugees themselves. The surveying should consider aspects like physical safety, emotional well-being, access to education, health care needs, risk of exploitation, and family reunification needs.



02. Creation

The second step calls for the creation of laws. Laws at the international, national, and local levels need to protect refugee children's rights explicitly. Policymakers should ensure the alignment of these laws with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. They must establish systems for accountability and redress when rights are violated, including mechanisms for refugee children and their families to report abuse or exploitation.



03. Operation

The third step involves the operation and implementation of child protection programs tailored to the needs identified in the first step. These could include child-friendly spaces in refugee camps, psychosocial support programs, and access to quality education. To prevent exploitation, it's important to provide vocational training and life skills education. These programs should be designed and implemented with a child-centered and gender-sensitive approach to ensure that they adequately address the needs of all children.



04. Relation

The fourth step calls for the relationship-seeking and building between multiple organizations and partnering with other organizations, including international and local NGOs, governments, UN agencies, and community-based organizations. Collaborative efforts can pool resources, enhance advocacy, and ensure better service delivery. Advocacy should also target the root causes of displacement, like conflict, persecution, and climate change, and push for political solutions to these issues.



05. Evaluation

The final step in the plan involves evaluation. Regularly track programs to ensure they are effective and adjust them as necessary. Track the important aspects of programs. Evaluation should look at the short-term impacts, like improved access to services, as well as long-term outcomes like changes in the well-being of refugee children. Feedback mechanisms should be in place for children and their families to express their opinions on the programs.

VISAS Action Plan for Engagement

For any youths to engage or aid refugee children, enter action plan VISAS. Volunteer, Inclusion, Start Clubs, Advocate, Safe Space

Volunteer

Volunteer at organizations and provide basic services to refugee children near you

- Non-profit Organizations
- Translation
- Tutoring

Inclusion

Include refugee children in locations, activities, and events

- Schools
- Friend groups
- Games

Start Clubs

Raise awareness through refugee children clubs to write and discuss the topic

- Write papers
- Create events
- Brainstorm novel ideas

Advocate

Advocate for the basic rights for refugee children seeking asylum

- Push for change
- Write to the government
- Give basic needs to refugee children

Safe Space

Welcome refugee children to locations with other youths

- Welcome refugee children to school
- Allow them to tour their new homes
- Introduce refugee children to youths

Conclusion

Project SCORE is not just a strategic plan—it is a testament to the transformative power of global collaboration and youth activism. We hope to inspire and mobilize a global community to uphold the rights of refugee children and to demonstrate that through commitment and collaboration, significant strides can be made even in the face of global crises.

UKRAINIUM exemplifies the potential of global youth when united by a shared mission. As we navigate the complexities of global crises, we remain steadfast in our commitment to safeguarding the rights, safety, and well-being of all children. This strategic action plan is a testament to our vision and the power of collaboration. We invite everyone who resonates with our values to join us in our mission to transform policies and lives.



Project SCORE by



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