



EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISORDERS IN CHILDREN ON THE MOVE EMOCIONALNI I POREMEĆAJI U POREMEĆAJU KOD DJECE U POKRETU

Lejla Kuralić-Čišić^{1*}, Lejla Musić¹, Edin Muftić¹, Ranko Kovačević¹, Adela Čokić¹,
Emina Suljkanović-Djedović¹

¹University of Tuzla, Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, Tuzla,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

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ABSTRACT

This scientific research work investigates the social and legal protection of unaccompanied and separated children from the population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the municipality of Velika Kladuša from 2019 to 2022. The research is based on data collected from government records, reports from non-governmental organizations and interviews with key actors, including social workers, lawyers and representatives of civil society organizations. The research reveals that unaccompanied and separated children in Velika Kladuša face significant challenges in accessing social and legal protection. Many of these children experience trauma, violence and exploitation during the journey, but also in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and continue to face significant risks and vulnerabilities upon arrival. Despite the established legal and political frameworks for the protection of these children, the ability of institutions and services to respond to their needs is limited, and many children fall through gaps in the system.

The research highlights the need for increased resources, funding and training for institutions and service providers working with unaccompanied and separated children. It also highlights the importance of a holistic, child-centred approach to social and legal protection, which takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of this population. Ultimately, this research provides important insights and recommendations for improving the social and legal protection of unaccompanied and separated children in the municipality, and contributes to broader efforts to ensure the rights and well-being of all children on the move.

Key words: unaccompanied and separated children, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, social and legal protection, risks, vulnerabilities, institutions, services, capacities, child-centred approach, resources, policy frameworks, recommendations.

*Correspondence author: Lejla Kuralić-Čišić, University of Tuzla, Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation E-mail: lejlamar@gmail.com

SAŽETAK

Ovaj naučno-istraživački rad istražuje socijalnu i pravnu zaštitu djece bez pratnje i odvojene djece od populacije migranata, izbjeglica i tražitelja azila u općini Velika Kladuša od 2019. do 2022. godine. Istraživanje se temelji na podacima prikupljenim iz vladinih evidencija, izvještaja nevladinih organizacija i razgovora s ključnim akterima, uključujući socijalne radnike, pravnike i predstavnike organizacija civilnog društva. Istraživanje otkriva da se djeca bez pratnje i odvojena djeca u Velikoj Kladuši suočavaju sa značajnim izazovima u pristupu socijalnoj i pravnoj zaštiti. Mnoga od te djece doživljavaju traumu, nasilje i iskorištavanje tokom putovanja, ali i u Bosni i Hercegovini, te se i dalje suočavaju sa značajnim rizicima i ranjivostima po dolasku. Unatoč uspostavljenim pravnim i političkim okvirima za zaštitu te djece, sposobnost institucija i službi da odgovore na njihove potrebe ograničena je, a mnoga djeca prolaze kroz praznine u sistemu.

Istraživanje naglašava potrebu za povećanjem resursa, finansiranja i obuke za institucije i pružatelje usluga koji rade s djecom bez pratnje i odvojenom djecom. Također naglašava važnost holističkog pristupa socijalnoj i pravnoj zaštiti usmjerenog na djecu, kojim se uzimaju u obzir specifične potrebe i ranjivosti te populacije. U konačnici, ovo istraživanje pruža važne uvide i preporuke za poboljšanje socijalne i pravne zaštite djece bez pratnje i odvojene djece u općini, te doprinos širim naporima da se osiguraju prava i dobrobit sve djece u pokretu.

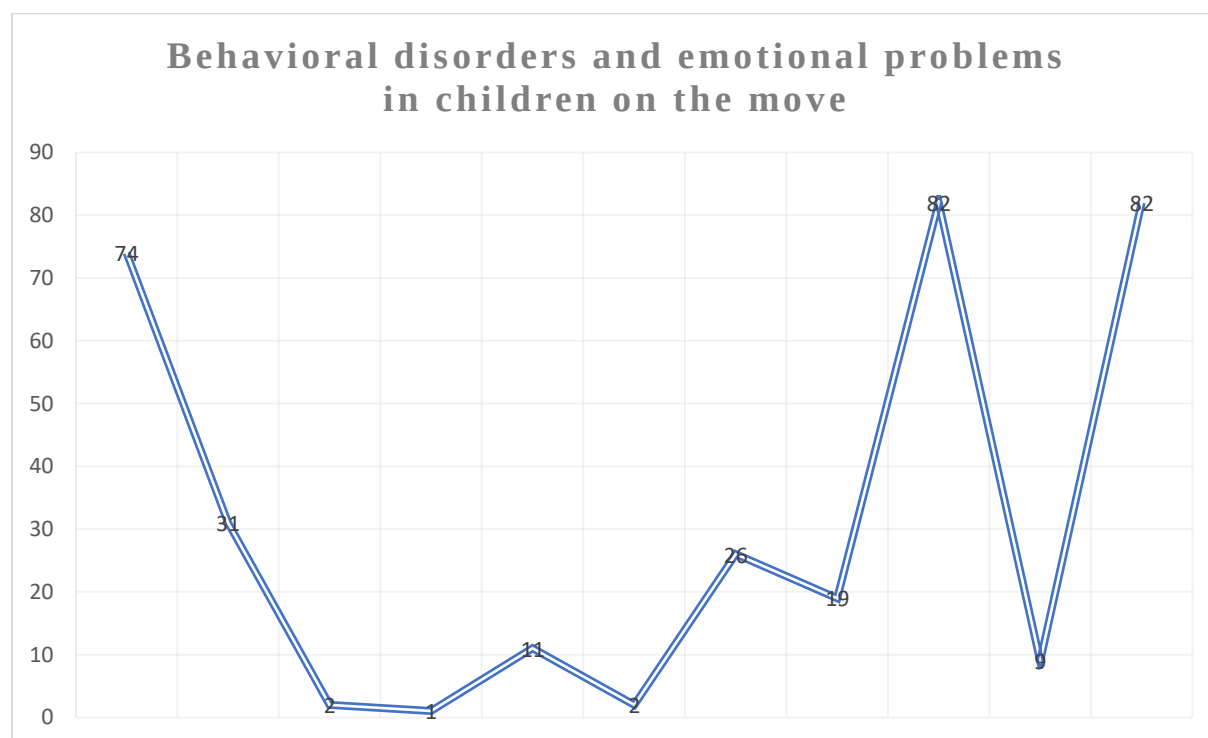
Ključne riječi: djeca bez pratnje i odvojena djeca, migranti, izbjeglice, tražitelji azila, socijalna i pravna zaštita, rizici, ranjivosti, institucije, usluge, kapaciteti, pristup usmjeren na djecu, resursi, okviri politike, preporuke.

INTRODUCTION

Children on the move, such as migrants, refugees and asylum-seeking children, are exposed to a variety of stressors and challenges that can increase the risk of developing emotional and behavioral disorders. These stressors can include traumatic experiences during migration, separation from family members, language barriers, discrimination, and limited access to education and health care. Research has shown that children on the move have an increased risk of developing mental health problems, such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and behavioral disorders. These conditions can have long-term effects on a child's well-being, including their physical health, social functioning, and academic performance. Factors that may contribute to the development of emotional and behavioral disorders in children on the move include:

- Exposure to violence and trauma during migration, such as conflicts, war and persecution;
- Separation from family members;
- Discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and social exclusion;
- Exposure to violence during the migration process itself (physical, psychological, sexual, exploitation - child labor);
- Limited access to education and health care, which can exacerbate existing mental health problems, as well as language barriers, which can create additional stress and isolation.

Preventing and addressing emotional and behavioral disorders in children on the move requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying causes of their distress, as well as their specific needs and circumstances. Table 1 presents the number of residents of the Center for Social Work Velika Kladuš who were at risk of developing certain behavioral disorders or manifested behavioral disorders, and required an individual work plan and inclusion in the case management system. After the inclusion of unaccompanied children at risk in individual and group sessions with psychiatrists, social pedagogues and psychologists, a spectrum of emotional problems and behavioral disorders was diagnosed (graphic representation 1.).



Graph 1. Number of children on the move with behavioral disorders and emotional problems (Depression, Anxiety 74, Bipolar disorder 1, Attention deficit disorder 1, Self harm 11, Suicide attempt 2, Abuse of psychoactive substances 26, Aggressiveness 19, Try migration escape 82, Theft 9, In total 82)

Unaccompanied and separated children are among the most vulnerable groups of people affected by migration, conflict and displacement and as such require special legal and social protection to ensure their safety and well-being. Legal protection of unaccompanied and separated children involves ensuring that their rights are protected and their best interests are promoted. This includes measures such as providing access to legal representation, ensuring that their asylum applications are properly processed and protecting them from exploitation and abuse. Social protection of these children includes providing access to education, healthcare and other basic needs, as well as support for their emotional and social well-being by social pedagogues, social workers, health service providers and others who play a key role in providing services to unaccompanied and separated children. In many countries, there are specific legal and policy frameworks to protect the rights of unaccompanied and separated children. For example, in Europe, the Reception Conditions Directive sets minimum standards

for the reception of asylum seekers, including unaccompanied minors. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) also provides a framework for protecting the rights of children, including unaccompanied and separated children. However, despite these frameworks, many unaccompanied and separated children continue to face significant challenges in accessing legal and social protection. This may be due to factors such as inadequate resources, limited capacity of institutions and service providers, and a lack of awareness of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these children. In many countries, there are specific legal and political frameworks to protect the rights of unaccompanied and separated children. For example, in Europe, the Reception Conditions Directive sets minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers, including unaccompanied minors. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) also provides a framework for protecting the rights of children, including unaccompanied and separated children. However, despite these frameworks, many unaccompanied and separated children continue to face significant challenges in accessing legal and social protection. This may be due to factors such as inadequate resources, limited capacity of institutions and service providers, and a lack of awareness of the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these children. In the territory of the municipality of Velika Kladuša, Una-Sana Canton, the responsible Center for Social Work is under great pressure due to the increased influx of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. With the assistance of non-governmental organizations, easier and more efficient identification and registration of unaccompanied children was made possible, and other needs of the service (legal, medical protection, etc.) were made possible. The hiring of additional staff that will specifically provide services to migrant children, refugees and asylum seekers was a mandatory step towards an adequate response to the influx of people on the move in the area of the said municipality. Additional staff was reflected in the employment of social workers, social pedagogues, who acted as a guardian for a special case in front of the competent Center for Social Work. In this way, an adequate response, provision of social and legal protection, as well as access to each unaccompanied minor child on an individual level, according to the degree of risk to which he is exposed, and if specific support is needed, was made possible.

The aim of the research

The main goal of the research is to determine behavioral disorders of unaccompanied and separated children from the population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the Velika Kladuša municipality and to determine the reasons for migration.

Hypothesis H1: It is assumed that migrant children are more susceptible to development emotional disorders and behavioral disorders.

Hypothesis H2: It is assumed that migrants go to other countries for a better life, education and better economic conditions.

A sample of respondents

The research included unaccompanied boys and separated children who received support from the Center for Social Work Velika Kladuša, more precisely from guardians for a special case in front of the competent Center, in the period from 2019-2022. In the mentioned period, in the

territory of the municipality of Velika Kladuša, as one of the parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina most affected by the process of migration on the Balkan route, and as one of the final exit points in the west of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1192 unaccompanied children were identified, of which 297 children (boys) were directly part of the social protection system through the assignment of guardians for a special case in front of the competent Center for Social Work.

Measurement instruments

Three questionnaires and one behavioral disorder assessment scale were used in the study. The first questionnaire consisted of questions that provided insight into the demographics and placement of children in the movement (when the child agreed to the placement, the child feels safe in the current placement, the child has access to health care, the child has access to education, relationship with peers).

The second questionnaire contained questions about the period of separation and migration, with questions related to: the health status of the child (no special features, visible physical injuries, traces of violence (physical, emotional, sexual, economic), present symptoms of current or chronic illness, present symptoms of mental illness, abuse of harmful substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.), teenage pregnancy, visible signs of neglect); The safety of the child (whether at high risk, medium risk or low risk); Whether intervention measures are needed; What is the family structure in the country of origin (Family with both parents, living with one parent, living with a guardian (relative or non-relative), living in a social protection institution intended for children without parental care or in a foster family, living with minors of relatives or non-relatives (without adults), living on the street); Access to education; Is the child in contact with the parents; What are the reasons for leaving the country (rejection of the child/family in the community, regardless of the reasons, child abandoned by parents/guardians (migrates in search of a better life), illness or death of parents/guardians, deteriorated family relationships - the child's needs are not met due to disruption of relationships within the family, the child is a direct victim of violence or neglect, domestic violence - where the child was an indirect victim and in constant fear of violence, family poverty and poor living conditions in general - lack of food, shelter, inability to attend school for material reasons, etc.), in search of medical care - due to unavailability of the same at home, in search of better educational opportunities - due to the lack of education or because education is below standard, escape from forced labor, taking on the obligation to provide for one's livelihood under pressure from parents/guardians (finding a location to work, begging, etc.), escape from military conscription, child in conflict with the law); Duration of stay in BiH; Duration of migration to current location; Child's companions, Desired destination of the child.

The third questionnaire referred to questions about the child's current condition and the opinion of the case manager. Examples of questions are: The child agreed to the specified placement; The child feels safe in the current placement; The child has access to health care: The child has access to education: Relationship with peers (The child has friends - characteristics of the relationship, closeness, or the child has no friends (explain why)); Special needs of the child: special diet, specific health and medical requirements, special way of communication - e.g. language translation required, interpreter for deaf-mute persons, etc.,

Has specific religious needs, Has specific cultural needs, other specific needs, the child has no specific needs)

In addition to the questionnaires, a behavioral assessment scale created for the needs of this research was also used. The instrument measures adaptive functioning, i.e. competencies and maladaptive functioning, i.e. behavioral, emotional and social problems of children on the move.

Method of conducting the survey The survey was conducted from 2019 to 2022, and included unaccompanied children who were residents, or under the care of the Center for Social Work Velika Kladuša. A total of 1192 children were included in the survey, of which 297 were under the care of the center and they were the ones who were taken as the sample for this survey. Prior consent was obtained from the Center for Social Work. The survey questionnaires were anonymous, and the survey took 45 minutes through the initial interview and survey.

Data processing methods

Statistical data processing was done in the software package SPSS 21.0 (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for Windows. Survey questionnaires were processed with descriptive statistics. To test the hypotheses, the arithmetic mean (X), standard deviation (SD) and standard error were calculated. The results were examined with a t-test for an independent sample of subjects. Pearson's correlation coefficient was used to calculate the strength of the relationship between the variables. The reasons for leaving the country are presented in the form of frequencies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results show that the development of emotional problems and behavioral disorders is significantly affected by the exposure of an unaccompanied child to abuse, both during the migration process and by lifestyle and violence suffered in the country of origin (Table 1).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics for children on the move on the scale of the impact of abuse on the occurrence of disorders

Variables	N	AS	SD	SG
Abuse	297	1.82	.381	.022
Behavioral disorders in children on the move	297	6.47	4.189	.243

N-number of respondents; AS-arithmetic mean; SD-standard deviation; SG-standard error

From Table 2, we can see that children who suffered some form of abuse, as a reaction to the events developed behavioral disorders.

Table 2. Results of testing the significance of differences on the scale of the impact of abuse on the occurrence of behavioral disorders

Variables	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Abuse	82.61	296	.000	1.825	1.78	1.87
Behavioral disorders in children on the move	26.63	296	.000	6.475	6.00	6.95

We also calculated the Pearson correlation coefficient between these two variables, and found that there is a statistically significant high positive correlation between the presence of behavioral disorders in children on the move and their abuse ($r(603)$; $p < 0.01$) with a level of certainty greater than 99%. This means that the more children are exposed to abuse, the more pronounced behavioral disorders and emotional problems are in children on the move. Research has shown a significant positive relationship or covariation, which indicates that adolescents may show a greater number of different disorders and difficulties (Achenbach et al., 2008).

Table 3. Correlation of results on the Behavioral Disorders and Abuse scales

Variables		Abuse	Behavioral disorders in children on the move
Abuse	Pearson Correlation	1	.603**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	297	297
Behavioral disorders in children on the move	Pearson Correlation	.603**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	297	297

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

High-risk cases are precisely those in which the child has exhibited certain forms of behavioral disorders, as can be seen in the case study of one of the boys, which was created based on the case management system and individual approach to juveniles who are at high risk for developing emotional and behavioral disorders (example 1).

Example 1.

CASE XYZ

The unaccompanied minor, initials XYZ*, was a sixteen-year-old, originally from Morocco, who was identified in the zone for housing single men in the temporary reception center Miral-Velika Kladuša by the guardian in front of the competent Center for Social Work in

Velika Kladuša. Upon identification, the boy was isolated from the zone for housing single men, and placed in a separate zone for housing unaccompanied minors and separated children in the reception center of the same name. The minor is profiled by the Service for Affairs with Foreigners, registered in the reception center and assigned a guardian for a special case in front of the competent Center for Social Work. According to the minor, the reason for his migration is prosperity and the search for better living conditions outside his country of origin. In his country of origin, he attended school, finished elementary school, went on to high school education, and then embarked on the process of migration. He started his journey to Europe from his country of origin with people he is not related to. During the initial interview with the minor, it was assessed that according to the classification, he falls into the category of minors who are at low risk, because he did not show any forms of behavioral disorders or emotional instability. At the very beginning, the minor regularly attended preventive workshops, was sociable, interested in creative workshops, and individual and group sessions with a psychologist. After a certain period of time (approximately a month after identification), the minor learned that his father had passed away. Upon learning this, there was a change in mood, behavior, participation in various physical confrontations, incidents, and the like. The boy lost interest in all activities in which he had regularly participated until then. Changes in behavior began to be noted, which was reflected in verbal and physical conflicts with staff and other boys. He stated that he had never met his father because he had been in prison in Italy for 22 years. He was killed in Morocco two months after his release from prison. He stated that his mother had visited his father, but that he had never had the opportunity to meet him in person. The father was never in favor of the boy going on "this journey" because of the dangerous environment in which he found himself. After the aforementioned unfortunate event (the death of a close family member), the boy began a series of unacceptable forms of behavior, which was reflected in the violation of house rules in connection with the illegal intake and consumption of alcohol, cigarettes, and light and heavy psychoactive substances. Also, several physical and verbal attacks on the staff employed at the reception center were recorded, as well as a death threat to the legal guardian. Also, the boy started to self-harm, and seven days later he tried to commit suicide again by overdosing. The social worker initiated a case conference with relevant actors (governmental and non-governmental sector) in order to find a solution to help and support the child in a multidisciplinary way. The boy was also referred for examination, where the neuropsychiatrist determined the diagnosis and therapy.

A potential case of a victim of gender-based violence:

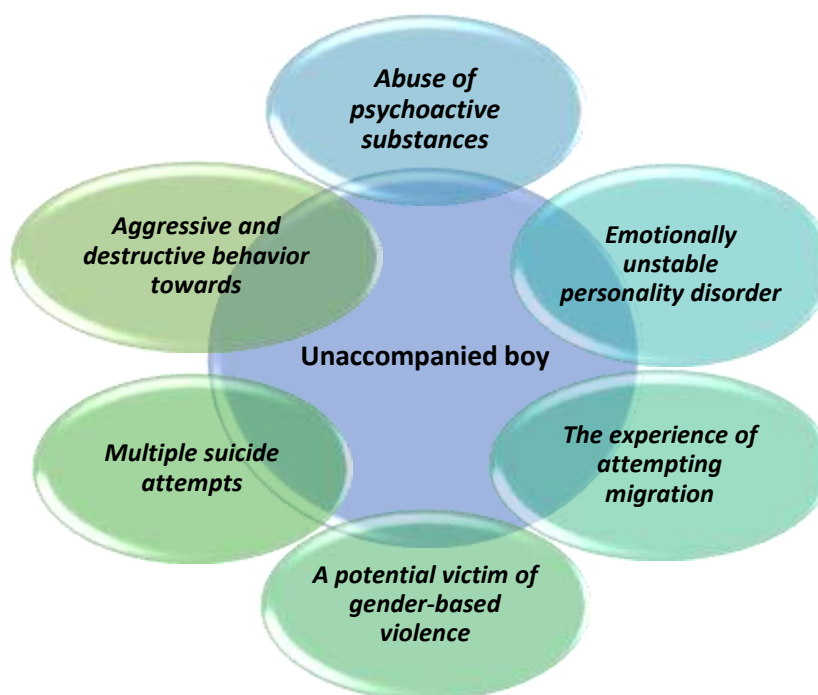
In addition to all the unpleasant events related to the aforementioned minor, the child protection officers through regular monitoring activities prevented further development and prevented potential sexual violence against the aforementioned boy. A single man had inappropriate contact with the boy, and the police and the administration of the reception center were immediately called. After reviewing the video surveillance, it was proven that a single man molested the boy, and he was detained and ordered to be detained for 30 days.

The boy had regular phone conversations with his mother, and after one of them he tried to hurt himself, threatened suicide and eventually harmed himself, despite all the staff's efforts to

stop him, by attempting suicide by throwing himself in front of cars in front of the reception center.

The first case of an unaccompanied child in Bosnia and Herzegovina who visited a child psychiatrist: Accompanied by his legal guardian, the boy was transported to the cantonal hospital. The doctor decided that there was no need for hospitalization, despite the legal guardian's allegations that this was not the first attempted suicide and self-harm. According to the recommendations of the competent guardianship authority, the boy was referred to the University Clinical Center Tuzla - Department of Psychiatry, and regardless of the established diagnosis, the state and government institutions had no choice or opportunity to find a solution or alternative care and accommodation for a vulnerable minor, with a spectrum of behavioral disorders. A neuropsychiatrist at the University Clinical Center Tuzla discovered that: "these were very infantile thoughts and that he was still very young and had an uninformed approach to life, both during his journey and in general. Also, somewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina, his life game was frozen, which brought him to the state he is in currently, and regardless of the suicide attempts on several occasions there is no need for hospitalization." The established diagnosis is: Emotionally unstable personality disorder - F60.3, Harmful use of alcohol and psychoactive substances F 19.1, as well as the experience of attempting migration.

The minor was denied adequate treatment for behavioral disorders and emotional disorders, as well as adequate alternative accommodation for the aforementioned category of persons on the move. The state has failed to ensure that such cases of unaccompanied children from the population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are taken care of in an alternative way, and that adequate help and support is provided (graphic representation 2.).



Graph 2: Developed forms of behavioral disorders in unaccompanied boys as a result of the migration process

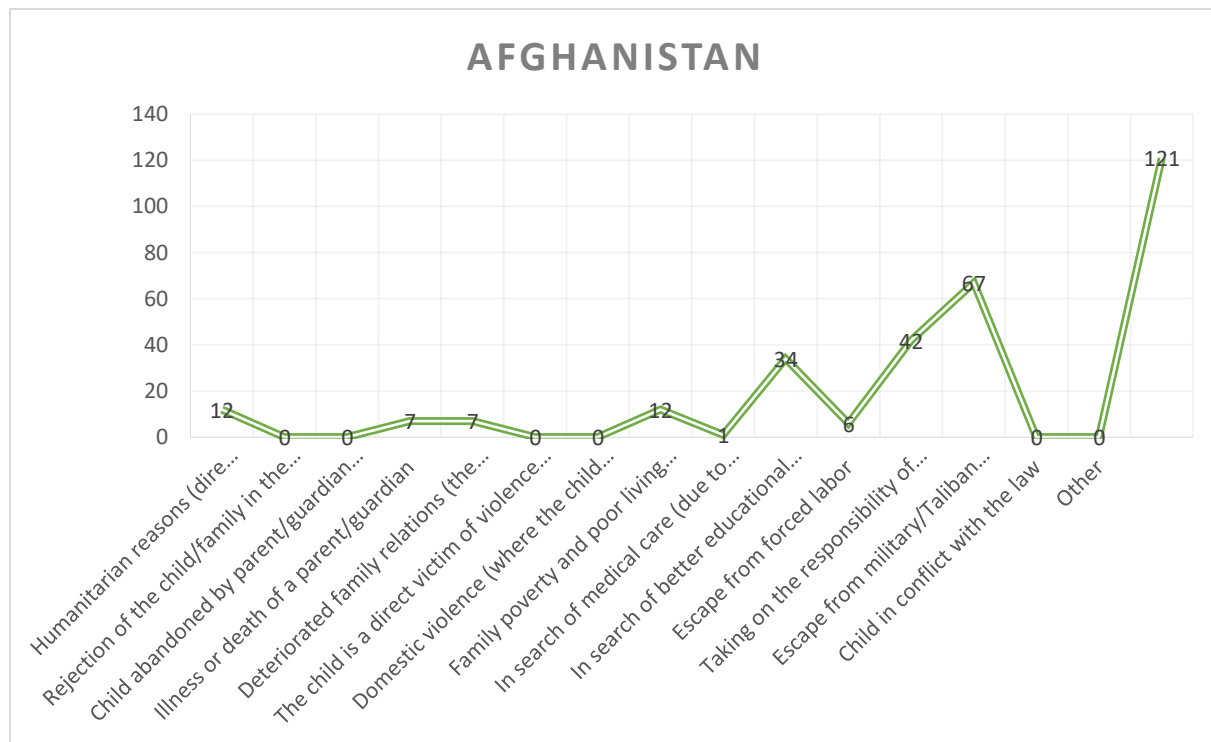
In order to answer the assumption of whether migrants go to other countries for a better life, education and better economic conditions, through the individual case management system shown in table 4, residents of CSW Velika Kladuša who are at risk and need an individual work plan, the guardians of 82 unaccompanied boys, during the assessment of risks and needs, found out that the reasons that force people on the move to leave their homes are specific to the geographical area, i.e. the country of their origin. According to the data presented in graphic representation 5, when it comes to unaccompanied minors originating from the countries of the African continent (Burundi 11%, Egypt 7%, Morocco 6%) from the area of Velika Kladuša, and who were included in the case management system, the reasons for leaving the home country are: escape from poverty, exploitation, broken family relationships, conflicts, leaving school, addiction to psychoactive substances and other problems related to social vulnerability, such as which are unemployment, limited income and lack of basic services. On the other hand, unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan (41%) were forced to leave their home country to escape insecurity, protection of physical integrity and escape from recruitment into the Taliban military regime, escape from chronic poverty, food insecurity, natural disasters, gender-based violence specific to boys ("bacha bazi boys"). Afghans as a people have suffered more than 40 years of conflict and changes in government. However, there are specific factors that lure them to Europe and which are common to everyone, regardless of their country of origin. These are the search for security and respect for their fundamental rights and freedoms, escape from poverty, and the chance for additional and better education. The situation is similar with unaccompanied minors from Syria, the least of whom were in the area of Velika Kladuša (2%), who left the country to escape the conflict, chronic hunger, lack of drinking water, food and medicine. A specific case is unaccompanied children from Myanmar (Burma) who leave the country to escape the conflict and escape from concentration camps. When children and young people feel they have no choice, no secure future and no legal alternatives to migration, they will take matters into their own hands and face even greater risks of violence, abuse and exploitation, seeking the help of smugglers and traffickers.

Table 4. Main reasons for leaving home according to countries of origin of migrants

Variables	Country							
Main reasons for leaving home	Afghanistan	Pakistan	Burundi	Egipat	Maroko	Bangladeš	Sirija	Oth
Humanitarian reasons	12	39	13	29	2	4	6	16
Rejection of the child/family in the community, regardless of the reasons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child abandoned by parents/guardians (Migrates in search of a better life)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3
Illness or death of parents/guardians	7	3	0	0	1	0	3	5
Worsened family relationships (child's needs not met due to disruption of family relationships)	7	3	0	0	1	0	3	2
Child is a direct victim of violence or neglect	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence in the family (where the child was an indirect victim and in constant fear of violence)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Family poverty and poor living conditions in general (lack of food, shelter, inability to attend school for material reasons)	12	39	13	32	2	11	4	13
In search of medical care (due to unavailability at home)	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	1
In search of better educational opportunities (due to lack of education or substandard education)	34	19	12	30	11	10	5	19
Escape from forced labor	6	19	0	0	0	0	0	4
Assume the obligation to provide for one's livelihood under pressure from parents/guardians (finding a place to work, begging)	42	41	16	32	11	12	0	17
Escape from military/Taliban recruitment	67	0	6	0	0	0	3	2
Child in conflict with the law	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total number of children:	121	59	25	32	17	14	6	23

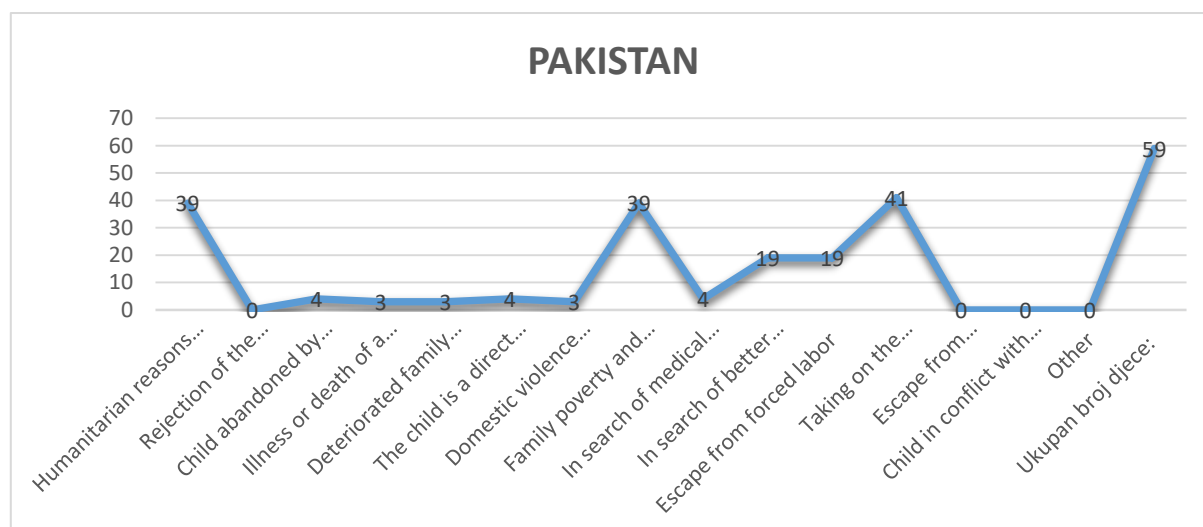
The collected data, listed in Table 4, show the differences among unaccompanied children in the reasons for leaving home according to their countries of origin. Unaccompanied children from Afghanistan, based on the analysis of the data in graphic representation 3., 67 of them state as the main reason for leaving their country of origin the escape from conscription into the army, and the escape from the Taliban regime in their country, which results in the denial

of education, as well as the denial of basic human and children's rights. Unaccompanied boys, 34 of them stated that in addition to other reasons for leaving, one of the motivating reasons for leaving the country of origin are humanitarian reasons, which rely on the assumption of the obligation to provide living conditions (finding a place to work) due to family poverty and poor living conditions.



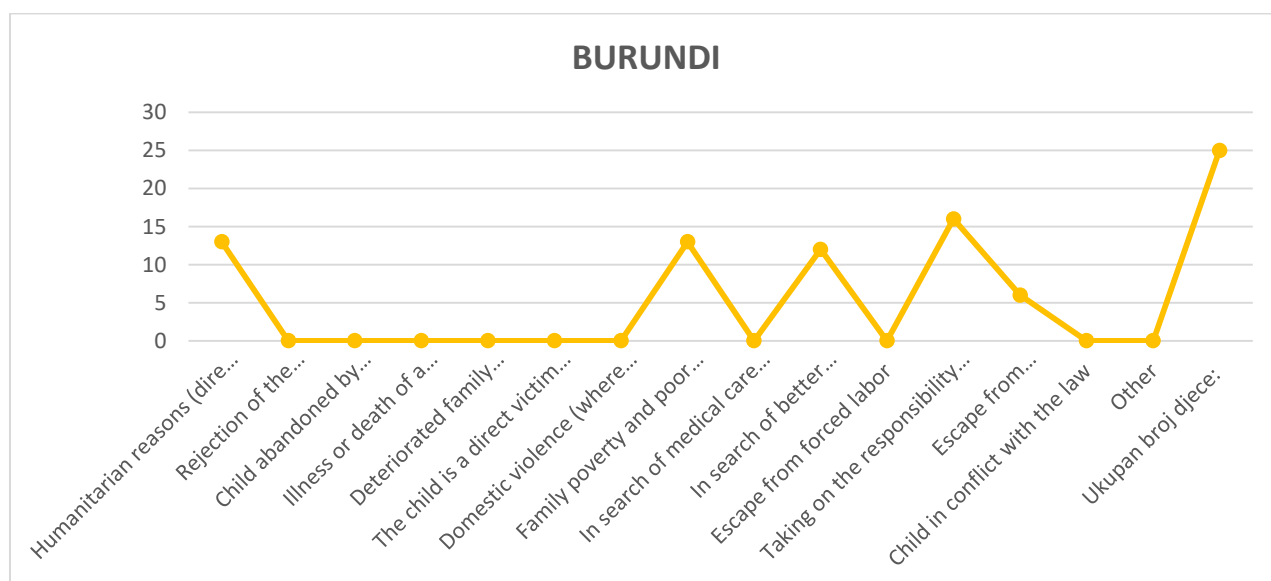
Graph 3. Reasons why children on the move leave Afghanistan

Unaccompanied children from Pakistan, based on the analysis of the data in graphic representation 4, 41 of them state as the main reason for leaving their country of origin the obligation to provide living conditions (finding a place to work) due to family poverty and poor living conditions, which is based on the fact that 39 boys cited family poverty and poor living conditions as the reason for leaving their home in the country of origin. Unfortunately, some unaccompanied children may be forced to leave Pakistan by traffickers who take advantage of their vulnerability, poverty and poor living conditions by promising them a better life or opportunities. They may be exposed to trafficking, forced labor or other forms of exploitation during travel or upon arrival in other countries.



Graph 4. Reasons for children on the move to leave Pakistan

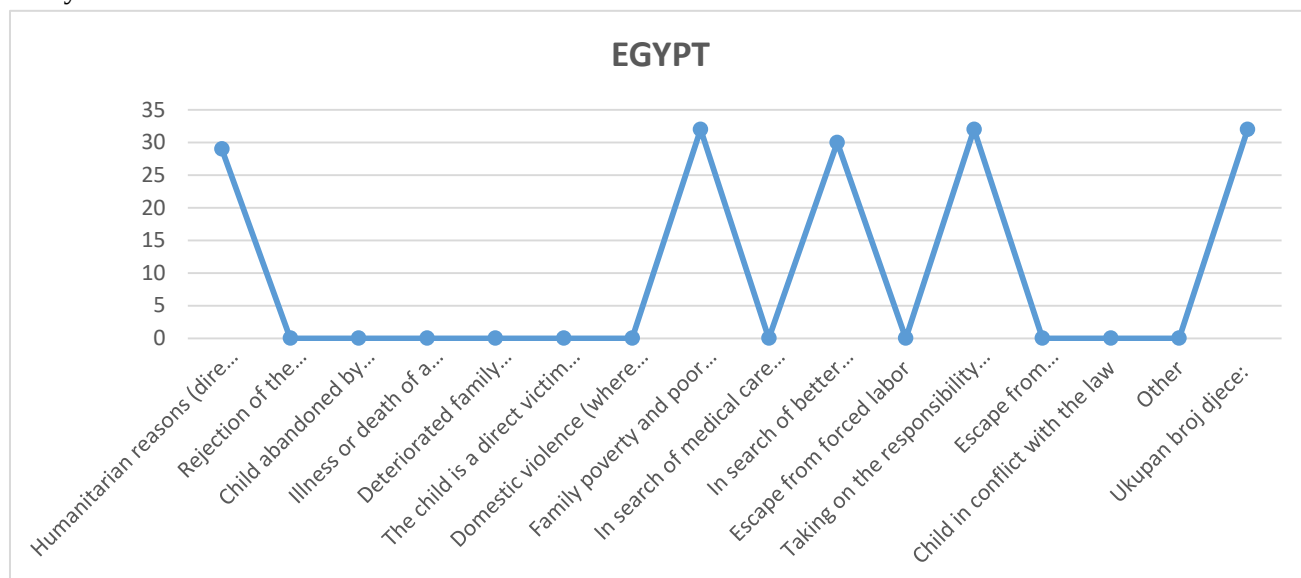
Unaccompanied children from Burundi, based on the analysis of the data in graphic representation 5, cite as the main reason for leaving their country of origin the obligation to provide living conditions (finding a place to work) due to family poverty and poor living conditions. Poverty, high unemployment and limited access to basic services such as education, health care and food security can encourage children to seek better economic mogućnosti na drugim mjestima. Oni se mogu nadati da će naći bolje izgleda za posao, veće plate i poboljšane uslove života u drugim zemljama.



Graph 5. Reasons why children on the move leave Burundi

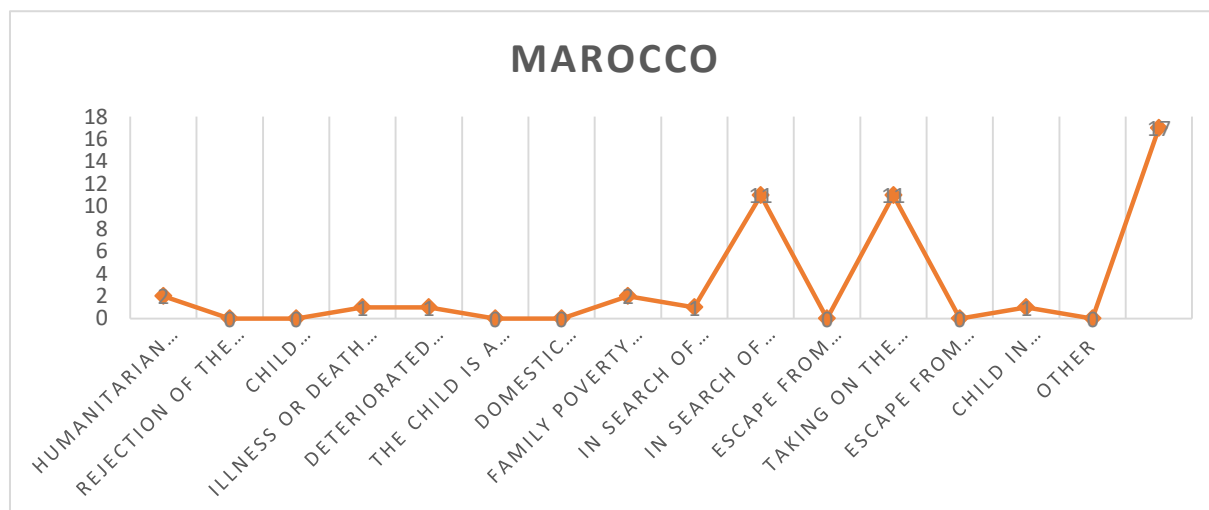
Unaccompanied children from Egypt, based on the analysis of data in graphic representation 6, as well as children from Pakistan and Burundi, as the main reason for leaving their country of origin cite the obligation to provide living conditions (finding a place to work) due to family poverty and poor living conditions. Some unaccompanied children may have family members or relatives who have already migrated to other countries. They may decide to migrate in order to get support and stability more

easily.



Graph 6. Reasons why children on the move leave Egypt

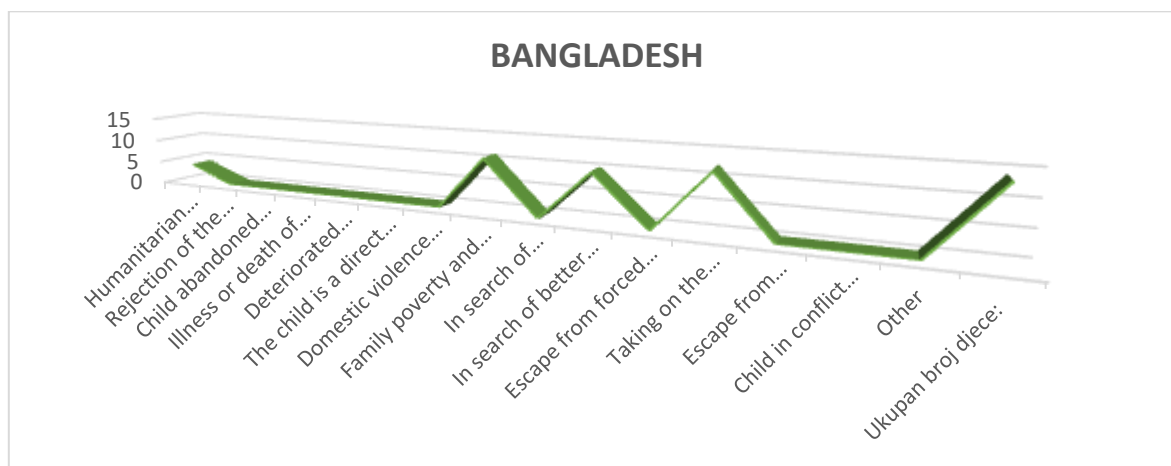
Unaccompanied children from Morocco, based on the analysis of the data in Figure 7, cite the obligation to provide for their livelihoods as the main reason for leaving their country of origin. Socioeconomic inequalities and poverty in certain regions of Morocco may force children to migrate in search of better living conditions and opportunities to escape poverty. Political unrest, social tensions or instability in Morocco may create an environment of uncertainty and insecurity. Unaccompanied children may leave their country of origin to escape political repression, violence or persecution related to their political beliefs, religious affiliation or other factors.



Graph 7. Reasons why children on the move leave Morocco

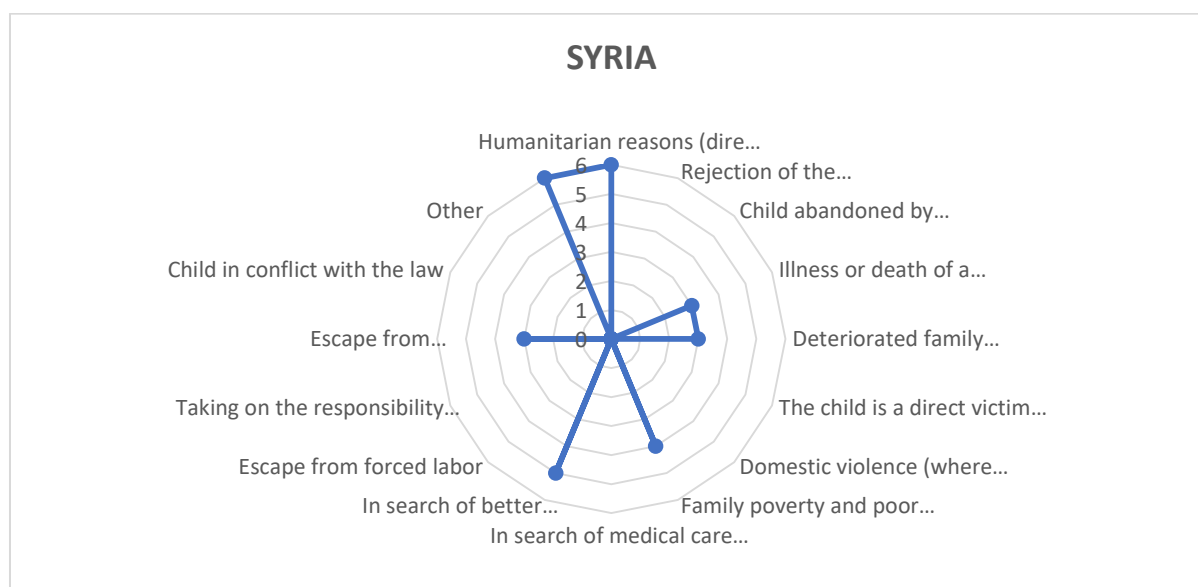
In graphic representation 8, the analysis of data based on the statements of unaccompanied children from Bangladesh about the reason for leaving their home in the country of origin is presented. Bangladesh is a densely populated country with limited employment opportunities, especially in rural areas. High poverty rates, lack of income and limited access to basic

services can encourage children to find better paying jobs and improve living conditions to support themselves and their families outside their country of origin. Unaccompanied children can leave in search of safety, stability and better living conditions in less affected countries. ekološkim izazovima i siromaštvom. Kao i djeca iz Pakistana, mogu biti exposed to trafficking, forced labor, or other forms of exploitation during travel or upon arrival in other countries.



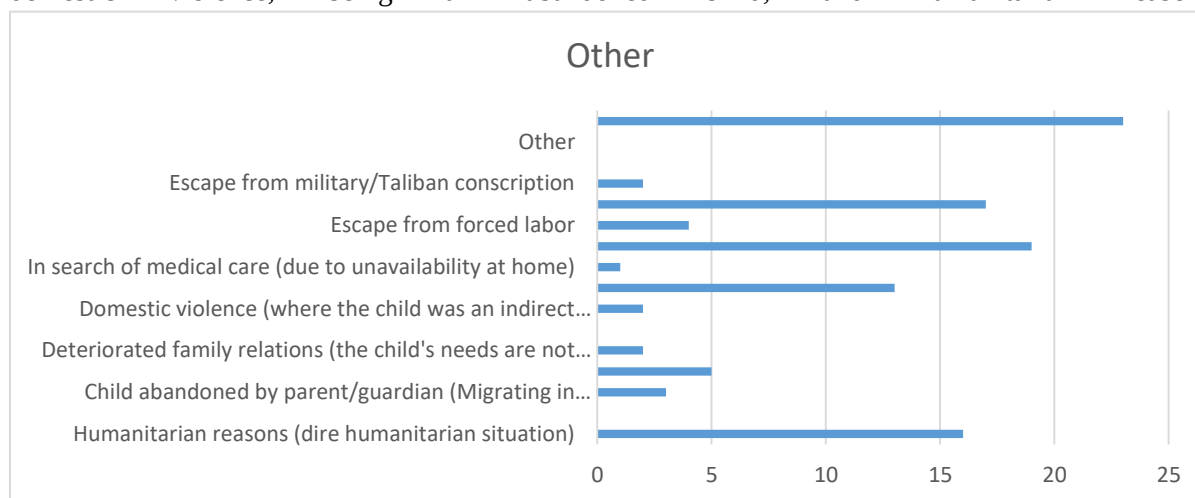
Graph 8. Reasons why children on the move leave Bangladesh

The analysis of data on the reasons for leaving the country of origin of unaccompanied children from Syria, in graphic representation 9, shows the difficult humanitarian situation as the main reason. Since 2011, Syria has been facing a protracted and devastating civil war. The current conflict, characterized by widespread violence, airstrikes and displacement, has created a very dangerous and unstable environment for children. Unaccompanied children may leave Syria to escape immediate threats posed by the conflict, including the risk of injury or death. The conflict in Syria has resulted in a severe humanitarian crisis, including the destruction of infrastructure, limited access to basic services such as health, education and food, and a lack of safe living conditions. Migration can be seen as a means of escaping these risks and finding a safer environment.



Graphic 9. Reasons why children on the move leave Syria

Other reasons cited include fleeing military conscription, fleeing forced labor, seeking medical care, domestic violence, being an abandoned child, and humanitarian reasons.



Graph 10. Reasons why children on the move leave their country of origin (other countries)

CONCLUSION

Socio-pedagogical, legal and health protection of unaccompanied children and separated children from the population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the entire state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially in the territory of Velika Klduša, remains a critical issue, and this is especially worrying considering the high level of violence, trauma and exploitation that many of these children experienced during travel and transit through the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The research, the results of which are presented in this paper, shows that, despite the legal and political framework for the protection of these children, the ability of institutions and services to respond to their needs is limited. As a result, many children fall through gaps in the system and face significant challenges in accessing social, legal and health care. There is evidence that supports the first hypothesis that migrant children are more susceptible to the development of emotional and behavioral disorders, especially related to the abuse of psychoactive substances, aggressive behavior and other behavioral disorders. Research has shown that migration-related stressors, including family separation, trauma and exposure to violence and abuse, can have a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of migrant children. According to individual cases, such as the case of XYZ, it is an indication that through the process of migration, children on the move are exposed to a high risk, difficult situations make them vulnerable and unstable, and it manifests itself through certain forms of behavioral disorders and emotional problems. In addition, the challenges associated with adapting to new cultural and social norms may further increase the risk of emotional and behavioral disorders in migrant children. Overall, research shows that there is a strong link between migration and the development of emotional and behavioral disorders in children, and that targeted support and interventions are needed to address these issues. Taking into account that unaccompanied and separated children move alone, and that they are exposed to numerous risks during their journey, and that there is no one to take extra

care of them, they are certainly susceptible to developing numerous emotional and behavioral disorders, and this hypothesis is confirmed.

The second hypothesis, which we assumed that migrants go to other countries for a better life, education and better economic conditions, was confirmed. Some of the reasons for migration can include poverty, violence, persecution and lack of opportunity, especially in regions such as Africa and Asia. Although economic conditions can be an important factor that encourages migration, it is important to recognize that other factors can also play an important role, such as conflicts/wars and human rights violations. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that all migrants seek only economic benefits. In short, although the hypothesis is partly true, it is important to recognize that there are many factors that contribute to migration, including but not limited to economic conditions.

Unaccompanied migrant children and separated children in Bosnia and Herzegovina face numerous challenges in accessing social and legal protection and assistance, including the right to seek asylum. In order to ensure social and legal protection and assistance for unaccompanied and separated migrant children in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is crucial to prioritize the development of comprehensive services and support structures aimed at children. This includes increasing resources, funding and training for institutions and service providers that work with this population, as well as strengthening coordination and cooperation between different actors involved in protecting the rights of migrant children, funding and training for institutions and service providers that work with unaccompanied and separated children in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in the territory of the municipality of Velika Kladuša itself. The importance of a holistic approach to social and legal protection focused on children, which takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of that population, is emphasized. Moreover, the research highlights the importance of collaboration and partnership between government institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and international organizations to address the complex challenges these children face.

In conclusion, the findings of this paper indicate that a comprehensive and coordinated response is needed to ensure the social and legal protection of unaccompanied and separated children from the population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By providing adequate support, protection (social, legal, medical) and access to education and other services, these children can be empowered to overcome the challenges they face and reach their full potential.

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