

## «CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MIGRATION» PROGRAMME'S THEORY OF CHANGE

### The challenges

Children and youth form a significant proportion of the world's migrant population and the number of **children and youth affected by migration (CYAM)** continues to grow steadily.

Around the world, children and youth are forced to leave their homes as a consequence of violence, oppression, conflict and persecution, violation of their rights, poverty, lack of economic opportunities, exploitation and natural disasters (often caused by climate change).

Today, nearly 50 million children have migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced (UNICEF, The growing crisis for refugee and migrant children, September 2006). They face violations of their rights, from exploitation and violence to being separated from their families, detention because of their migration status and deprivation of essential protections and services.

Nevertheless, child and youth mobility also rimes with opportunities. An important part of CYAM move voluntary to access better conditions of life and chances for their future : education, work, family reunification, more protective environment, better social and cultural integration in our global and urban world.

Yet, while CYAM issues cannot be ignored, laws, policies and social or professional practices are too often inadequate and fail to guarantee migrant children's and youth effective access to their rights, a situation further exacerbated in the context of mixed migration.

CYAM barely have a voice to the chapter while decisions impacting their situation regularly disregard their views. They are merely seen as victims or as a threat, not recognised as agents of their own development, nor supported in seizing opportunities in context of migration.

### Our target groups

Children and youth between 0 and 24 years old affected by migration. Any child/youth belonging to one of the 4 following categories:

1. Children and youth **on the move** (involved in an internal or trans-border migration process, forced or voluntary);
2. Children and youth who are **potential migrants** (living in environments that are affected by migration and/or that could lead to migration because child protection issues and for economic, social, cultural, political reasons, etc.);
3. Children and youth **temporarily or permanently out of a migration process** (e.g.: integrated in destination/transit countries, refugees in host countries, reintegrated in a third country or returned to the country of origin...).
4. Children and youth **left behind** by parents/caregivers that left in migration.

### Our 2020 goal and strategic vision

By 2030, CYAM are treated with equity and dignity, realise their right to be protected along all stages of their migration and seize development opportunities. Terre des hommes is recognized as a leading organization, both internationally and regionally, and sought by all stakeholders for its technical expertise in protecting and supporting CYAM.

By 2020, on five major migration flows – in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Central America and Europe – children will benefit from coordinated systems of care, protection and support upon departure, along their routes and in their places of arrival with the aim of sustainably reducing their vulnerability, guaranteeing their rights, addressing their needs and facilitating their access to development opportunities.

### Through the Migration Programme, Tdh contributes to SDGs:

- 5.2 Violence against women and girls / 8.7. Combatting Child Exploitation  
10.7 Protecting Children on the move / 16.2 Violence against Children

## The critical changes needed to address the challenges and achieve our goal

Our Theory of Change illustrates the changes that we believe need to happen in order for **CYAM to be treated with equity and dignity, realize their right to be protected along all stages of their migration and seize development opportunities.**

Based on our analysis, we have identified three inter-related pathways of change described below. **All of our Programme interventions will be designed to contribute to one or more of the changes** illustrated in these pathways:

1. **Formal and informal actors ensure CYAM access their rights along all stages of their journeys**
  - a. Building the capacities of institutional and family/community actors (formal and informal, including children and youth) to act in synergy and coordinate their activities all along the migratory journey for children and youth to realize their rights and satisfy their main needs.
  - b. Gathering conditions for children and youth to be integrated in all mechanisms that impact their migratory journey and for their agency to be valorised as a key condition to make the difference.
2. **CYAM effectively access appropriate and quality services for their protection and their development**
  - a. Improving CYAM access to appropriate and adequate services (education, health, justice, protection, psychosocial support, decent work, social inclusion, information, culture, leisure and sport activities, etc.). Criteria:
    - i. Satisfactory in terms of access (4A : accessibility, affordability, availability and accountability).
    - ii. Proper use of existing services by CYAM.
    - iii. Quantity and quality of services at all stages of CYAM migratory journeys.
  - b. Supporting CYAM to participate in their own protection and development, and that of their peers, together with formal and informal actors.
3. **Social, legal and policy frameworks positively address CYAM rights and needs at local, national, regional and global levels**
  - a. Strengthening governance mechanisms and relevant legal, political and institutional frameworks to ensure effective respect of the rights of children and youth all along their migratory journeys (particular focus at local and global levels).
  - b. Promoting positive attitudes, views, information, narratives and representations toward CYAM and supporting of CYAM led initiatives to express their voices, connect with people and influence decision making processes.
  - c. Promoting a Migration and Development approach by linking field projects with diasporas and policy dialogue at global and national levels.

The realization of these changes relies on interventions done in partnership all along the migratory movement.

Tdh also proposes 5 **pillars of intervention** and foresees 8 transversal strategies **to make change happen**:

### Pillars of intervention

1. **Prevention** of the risks linked to migration and reduction of the root causes of early and dangerous migration in areas of origin
2. **Protection** of children and youth along their migration path (national and transnational)
3. **Integration** of children, youth and their families in destination or transit countries where they may stay for a long time
4. **Reintegration** of children and youth upon return to their countries of origin or placement in a third countries
5. **Protection of children “left behind”** by their parents/caregivers (migrants or refugees) in countries of origin

## How we will make change happen

1. **Capacity Building and systems strengthening** (formal and informal actors, systems addressing CYAM issues : protection-justice-health-education-employment...)
2. **Access to Services and Social Inclusion** (direct – through Tdh teams – or indirect – through governmental, non-governmental and community partners)
3. **Public mobilization and Multilevel Advocacy work** (State, civil society, local authorities, communities, private sector, ...)
4. **Youth Empowerment** (learning leadership, coaching, living together, economic empowerment, support to youth led initiatives for CYAM protection and development)
5. **Focus on urban areas and at community level** (community dialogue and engagement, links between urban and migration issues)
6. **Evidence-based and Innovation Driven** (mobile data collection and analysis, Euro-Mediterranean observatory, digital innovation, action-research, situation analysis)
7. **Multi-sectorial Partnership** (strategic, operational, academic, financial ; at global, regional, national, local and community level)
8. **Pro-activeness and influencing donors** (NOT donors driven, aware of our responsibility as an international NGO to develop appropriate responses in an independent and constructive way, in support of civil society organizations at local, national and regional level)

These 8 elements are embedded in an overarching Programme philosophy articulated around the concept of **protective accompaniment of children**.

### Protective accompaniment of children and youth affected by migration\*

- Staying alongside CYAM, in all kind of environment they meet, to help them reduce the risks they face, be actors of their life and strive to access their rights.
- Keeping close to CYAM to ensure their best interests are respected and adequate assistance or support is provided according to their priority needs,
- Supporting and protecting all children on the move, throughout their journeys, by ensuring the effective existence of formal and informal services at all stages along their migratory journeys (setting up mechanisms of protective accompaniment).
- Guaranteeing the participation of the children and their family and/or community in the analysis of the children's situation, in seeking protective and durable solutions to guarantee at best their rights, and in implementing the identified solutions.

*\* To be implemented by well-trained social workers, volunteers and informal actors, among them other CYAM.*

**By 2030, children and youth affected by migration (CYAM)  
are treated with equity and dignity, realise their right to be protected  
along all stages of their migration and seize development opportunities**

**Theory of change  
Children and Youth in  
Migration Programme**

**Assumptions**

A holistic and multidisciplinary approach is needed to deal with CYAM issues

Social and digital innovation will improve connection, coordination and valuable information

A better management and governance of integration issues in urban settings will impact CYAM issues

Valuing and integrating CYAM as agents of their own protection and development is key

**How we will make change happen**

Capacity Building and systems strengthening

Access to Services and Social Inclusion

Public mobilization and Multilevel Advocacy work

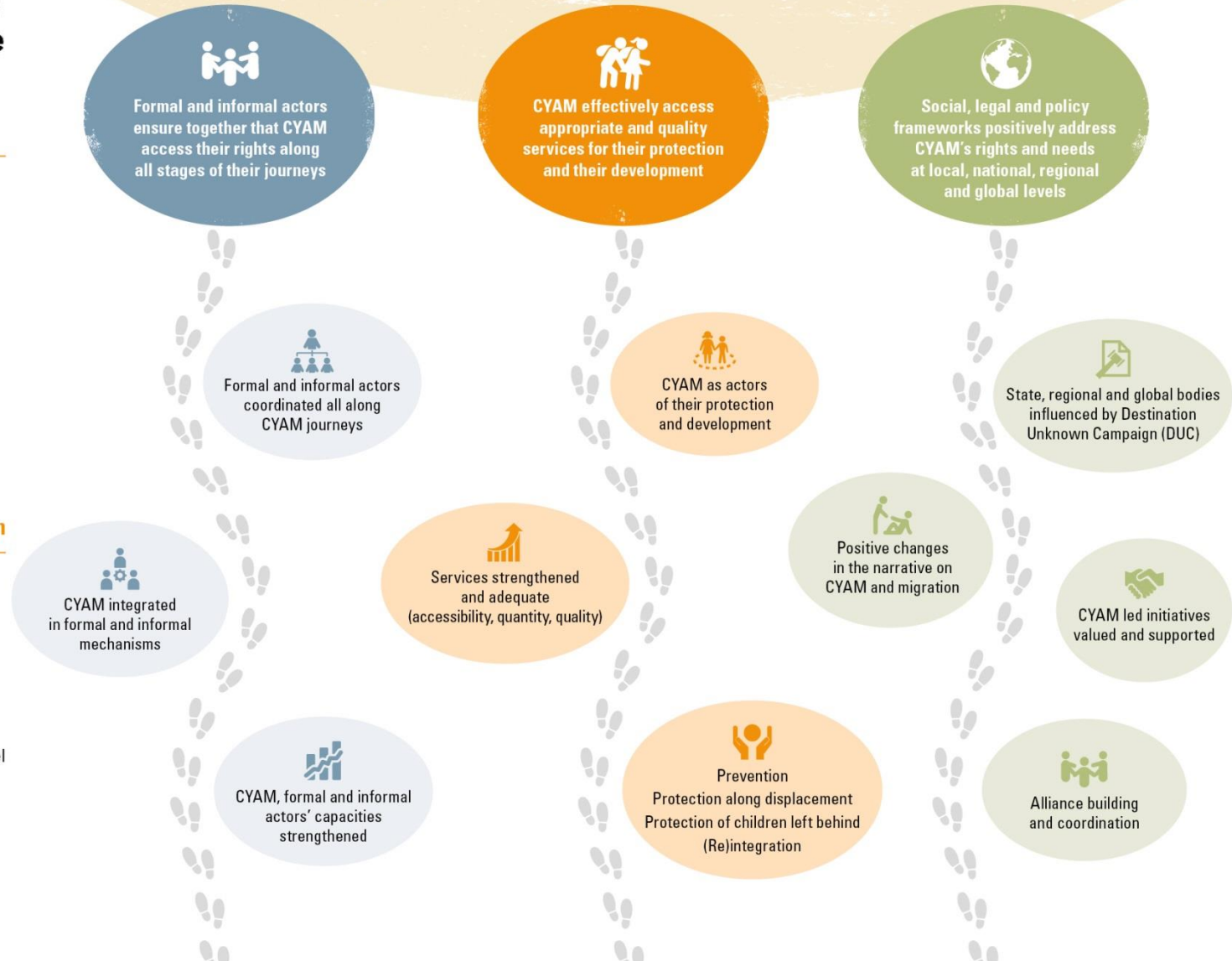
Youth Empowerment

Focus on urban areas and on community level

Evidence-based and Innovation Driven

Multi-sectorial Partnership

Pro-activeness and influencing donors



They are based on **15 key assumptions** about how we think our Programme can best influence change:

### WE BELIEVE...

- ... faithful CYAM situation analysis, and effective collaboration/confidence between actors depend widely on dialogue and social work at local level
- ... valuing CYAM as agents of their own protection and development and integrating them in all mechanisms impacting their journeys is fundamental to fulfill gaps in child protection systems
- ... formal and informal actors (including CYAM) should share learning and good practices, value each other's roles and report gaps in implementation of policy as well as good practices.
- ... strengthening the capacities of all child protection actors - formal and informal - will get them additional skills and competencies to accompany and empower CYAM.

### WE BELIEVE....:

- ... a holistic and multidisciplinary approach is needed to deal with CYAM issues (care and protection, health, justice, education, decent work ...)
- ... protective accompaniment will allow CYAM and their families / communities to improve their own situation analysis and make their decisions in the interests of CYAM.
- ... a better understanding of CYAM needs and a proper assessment of existing services will allow adequate capacity building to improve accessibility, adequacy, appropriateness, quantity and quality of services and practices.
- ... participation of CYAM in protection, development and communication activities is key to strengthen their well-being and coping strategies to respond to migration-linked risks.
- ... access of CYAM and parents/caregivers to livelihood opportunities will reduce the use of negative coping mechanisms,
- ... digital connexion between CYAM and other youths will allow them to support their peers to access valuable information, protection services and development opportunities, and to integrate social and solidarity networks.

### WE BELIEVE....:

- ... the Global Compacts on Migration will influence local, national, regional and global governance mechanisms on migration.
- ... civil society plays a key complementary role to enhance children and youths' participation and Destination Unknown Campaign plays a crucial role of amplifier.
- ... children and youths' empowerment can address migration issues in a broader framework than the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and raise CYAM ability to connect with people, express their voices and influence decision making processes
- ... a better management and governance of integration issues in urban settings would have a strong impact on CYAM issues as migration, globalization and urbanization are strongly linked.
- ... changes in perceptions and narratives of migration and CYAM are essential to better respect child rights in context of migration and manage the challenges and opportunities of migration.



## Terre des hommes' added value and contribution to change

Tdh addresses the protection and development challenges faced by CYAM. It contributes to positive change by **empowering them and their families and by working in partnership with key actors** to improve their understanding, level of commitment and practices.

Tdh has a long experience of working with **children and youth as well as their families and communities** to build their confidence, increase their agency and support them to raise their voice. Building upon a strong understanding of the different vulnerabilities of girls and boys, Tdh has developed a systemic and integrated approach called "protective accompaniment" of children and youth affected by migration. This approach consists in giving social support to children and youth (direct support) or to their families and communities (indirect) with the aim to :

- Mitigate the risks connected with child mobility (particularly early school dropout, lack of their legal identity, violence, exploitation, trafficking and dangers related to unsafe migration);
- Help CYAM to improve their situation, exercise their rights in their best interests and lead a better life;
- Ensure that children and youth victims of violence, exploitation and trafficking receive adequate support;
- Enable three categories of actors to be more protective all along children and youth's migratory journey: communities children and youth belong to, host communities and institutional environment.

Tdh recognises the importance of CYAM expressing their views, living in safe and secure environments and benefiting from opportunities for their development. It also recognises the fact that boys and girls have different motivations to move, gender-specific vulnerabilities and needs, requiring our programming to adopt a gender sensitive approach.

Tdh's added value specifically lies in:

- Enabling formal and non-formal actors to better collaborate and understand their respective roles, responsibilities and competencies;
- Supporting coordination and strengthening of child protection systems not only at local and national level but also at transnational level;
- Systematically linking environments of origin, transit and destination on migration routes;
- Accompanying children and youth in becoming actors of their own protection and development, and leaders of actions of change;
- Grounding our direct interventions and advocacy in information gathered from the field as well as in experiences, views and needs expressed by CYAM;
- Factoring in all information, expertise and resources available in the design and implementation of our interventions;
- Fostering strategic partnerships and alliances at local, national, regional and global level (academic, research, community actors, local and national authorities as well as civil society at large) to maximise our impact on CYAM.

## How we will measure our contribution to change

Every year, through our project and Programme monitoring and evaluation systems we will test our assumptions and gather evidence about our contribution to change. In order to do this, we have identified **thirteen global Programme indicators**, related to our Theory of Change pathways.

Indicators: Formal and informal actors ensure children and youth access their rights along all stages of their journeys

- Indicator 1.1: Number of people affected by Child and Youth Migration, whose knowledge on the risks of migration and how to prevent them is strengthened through appropriate sharing information.
- Indicator 1.2.c: Number of resources players at the community level whose practices have been improved to better respond to the needs of children and young people affected by migration in terms of protection.
- Indicator 1.3: At places of origin, transit and/or destination, amount of pilot projects which have led to the development of knowledge on migrants engagement in local development actions for children and youth affected by migration.
- Indicator 1.4: Number of protection actors whose capacity is sustainably strengthened on risks prevention and the protection of children against violence.

Indicators: Children and youth affected by migration strive for their protection and development with formal and informal actors

- Indicator 1.2.a: Number of institutional services contributing to the protection of children and young people affected by migration for which quality has been improved in areas of origin, transit or destination where Tdh is involved.
- Indicator 1.2.b: Number of groups at community level for which practices have been improved in order to better respond to the needs of children and young people affected by migration in terms of protection.
- Indicator 1.2.c: Number of resources players at the community level whose practices have been improved to better respond to the needs of children and young people affected by migration in terms of protection (see also bucket # 1).
- Indicator 1.5: In Central and South Eastern Europe, number of children affected by migration and their family members whose resilience has been enhanced.

Indicators: National, regional and global relevant legal and policy frameworks address the rights of children and youth affected by migration

- Indicator 2.1: # Standards, policies or procedures that have been enacted, amended or repealed following the intervention of Tdh (led outside, or in networks and/or alliances to which Tdh belongs)
- Indicator 2.2: Level of coverage on the positions of Tdh or on information provided by Tdh repeated by the media about the realities and experiences, as well as the causes, needs and necessary interventions in the protection of children affected by migration.
- Indicator 2.3: Positions of children and young people affected by migration are taken into account in advocacy and communication documents, and in the context of national, regional or global events.
- Indicator 3.1: Level of Tdh's participation in three major networks at a global level (1), regional level (2) and national level (3): the Initiative for Child Rights in global compacts (migration/refugees); the regional working group for child protection in West Africa; and the Swiss Civil Society Platform on migration and development.
- Indicator 3.2: Number and importance of positions and recommendations promoted by Tdh regarding to protection of the rights of children and youth concerned by migration having been taken up and promoted by global, regional and national networks.
- Indicator 3.3: Number of documents [about children and migration] published [by Tdh] with academic institutes and number of articles published in scientific journals.

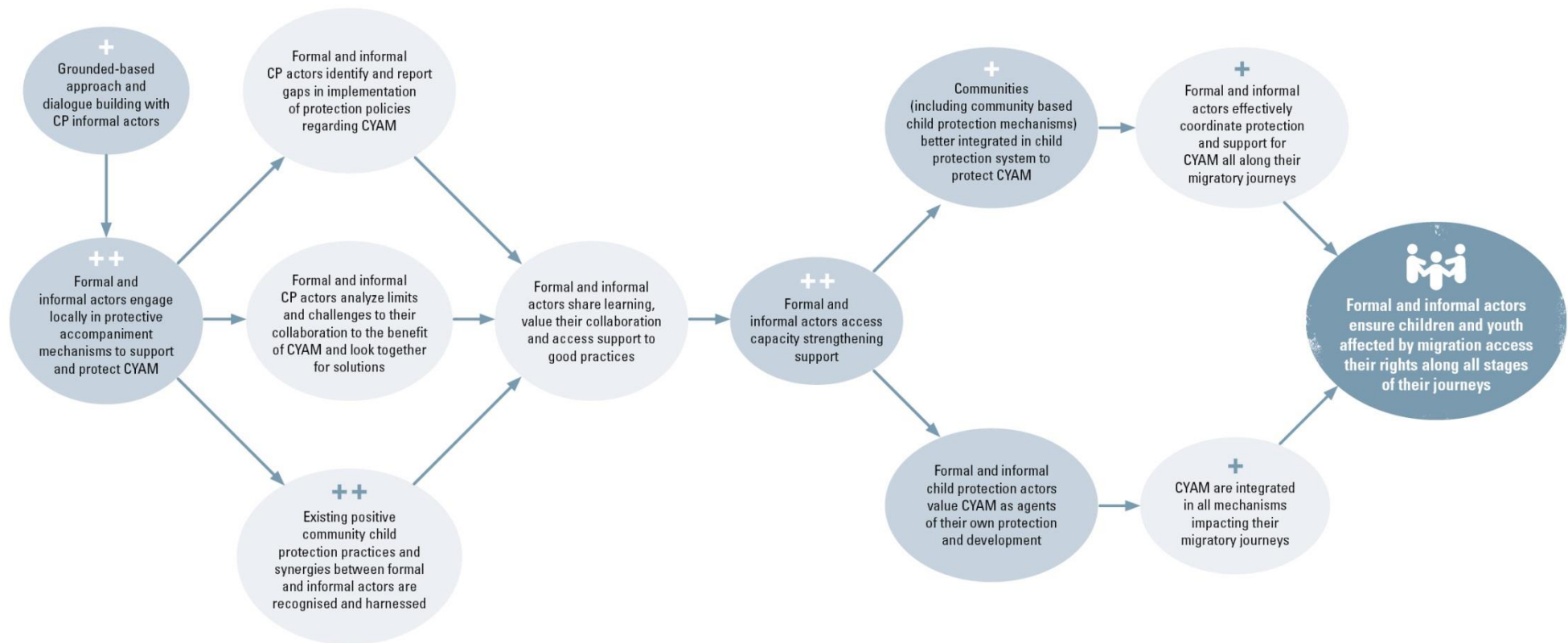
## Our detailed pathways of change

The detailed pathways of change regarding coordination between formal and informal actors, services strengthening and adaptation of social, legal and policy frameworks are shown below. The pathways illustrate **what kinds of changes** we hope to see in the short, medium and long term, and list the **Programme strategies and interventions** that we will use to contribute to change. During this strategic period, we will **focus and prioritise our Programme efforts** towards achieving the changes highlighted in our Theory of Change visual. The priority changes, reflected in the summary visual, are highlighted and illustrated by colour and shape in the detailed pathways below. All new Programme interventions will be designed to contribute to one or more of these pathways.



## Theory of change Children and Youth in Migration Programme

Formal and informal actors ensure children and youth affected by migration (CYAM) access their rights along all stages of their journeys



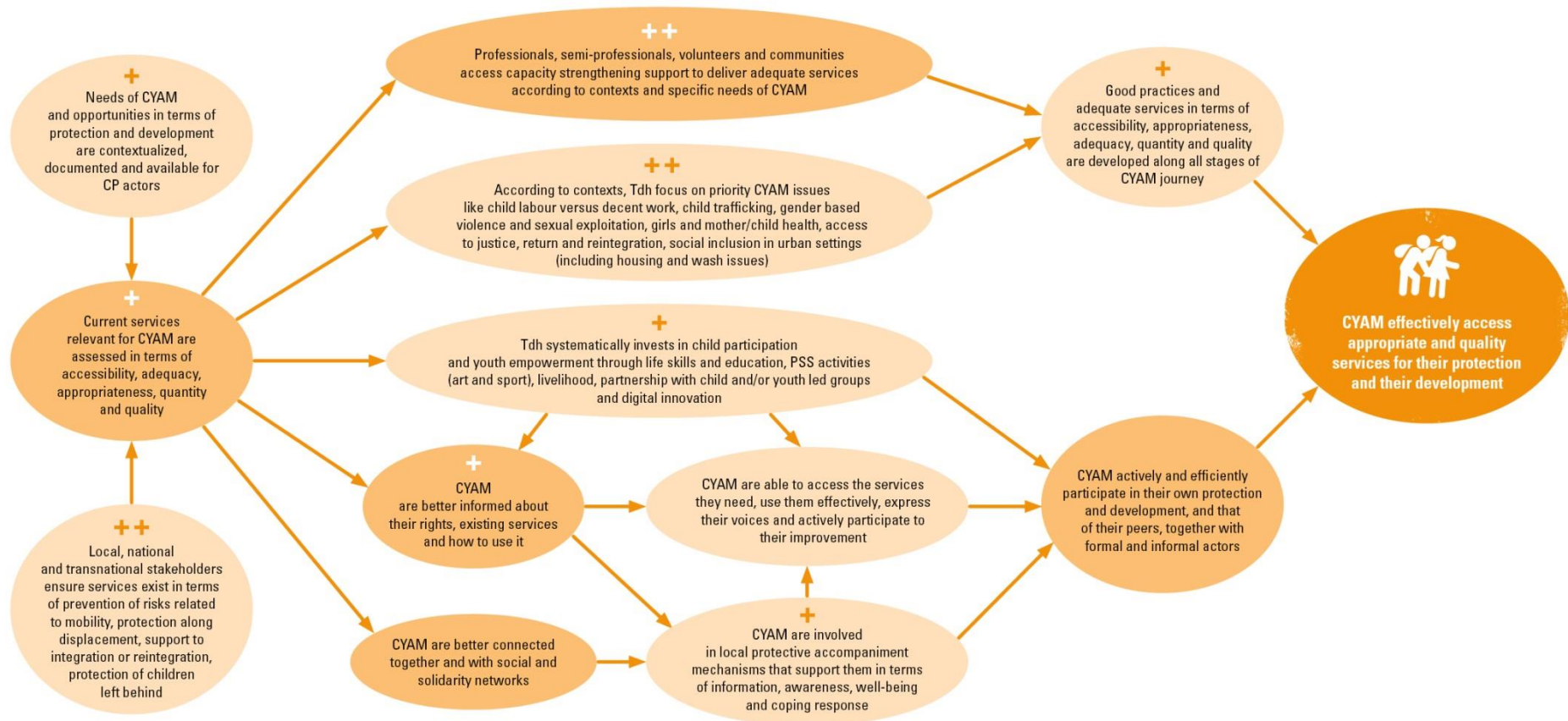
Building the capacities of institutional and family/community actors (formal and informal, including children and youth) to act in synergy.  
Gathering conditions for children and youth to be integrated in all mechanisms that impact their migratory journey.

*The sign + or ++ in a block indicates that evidence is available for the concerned statement or element of change*

*The priority actions within the change pathways are shown in a darker color*

## Theory of change Children and Youth in Migration Programme

### CYAM effectively access appropriate and quality services for their protection and their development



Improving CYAM access to appropriate and adequate services

(education, protection, psychosocial support, health, wash, justice, livelihood, decent work, social inclusion, housing, information, culture, leisure and sport/creative activities, etc.).

Criteria:

- Satisfactory in terms of access (4A: accessibility, affordability, availability and accountability).
- Proper use of existing services by CYAM.
- Quantity and quality of services at all stages of CYAM migratory journeys.

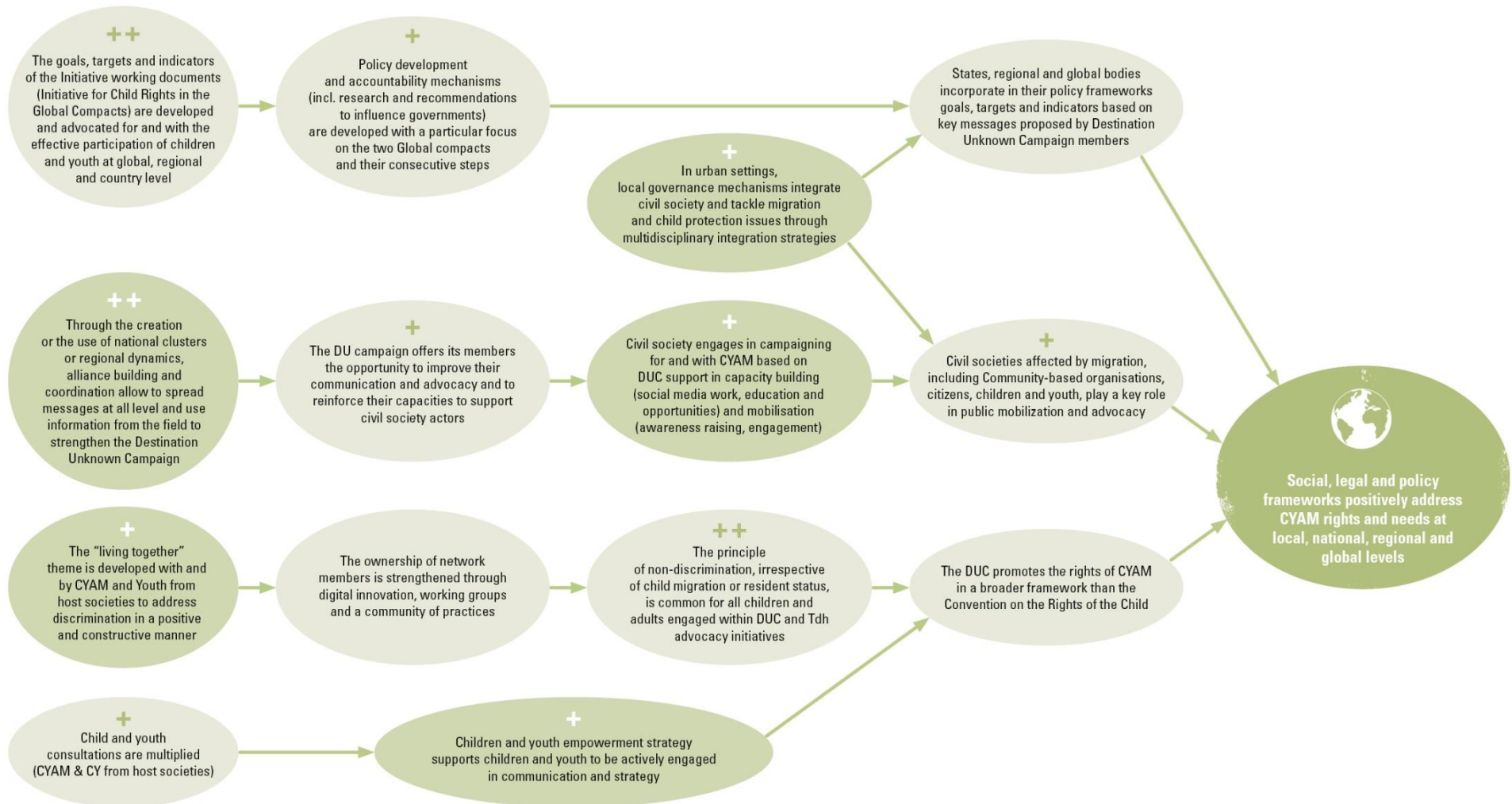
Supporting CYAM to participate in their own protection and development, and that of their peers, together with formal and informal actors.

*The sign + or ++ in a block indicates that evidence is available for the concerned statement or element of change*

*The priority actions within the change pathways are shown in a darker color*

## Theory of change Children and Youth in Migration Programme

Social, legal and policy frameworks positively address CYAM rights and needs at local, national, regional and global levels



Strengthening governance mechanisms and relevant legal, political and institutional frameworks to ensure effective respect of the rights of children and youth all along their migratory journeys (particular focus at local and global levels).

Promoting positive attitudes, views, information, narratives and representations toward CYAM and supporting of CYAM led initiatives to express their voices, connect with people and influence decision making processes.

The sign + or ++ in a block indicates that evidence is available for the concerned statement or element of change

The priority actions within the change pathways are shown in a darker color

## How we will use the Theory of Change

We will use the Theory of Change (ToC) of our Programme to guide the design of actions and projects belonging to the Migration Programme. Nevertheless, other technical documents will complete this ToC in a more practical way, in particular to strengthen – when needed – the degree of alignment of existing projects.

We will also use our ToC to support the monitoring and assessment of Terre des hommes' impact and added value in contributing to positive change in the lives of boys and girls, children and youths, affected by migration.

The Programme team will review the ToC assumptions and change pathways on an annual basis (more frequently if needed in response to changing operating contexts). The review process will involve:

- Updating the contextual analysis for the global Programme.
- Analysis of monitoring and evaluation information gathered by Programme interventions against the Programme global indicators.
- Assessing the quality and extent of evidence supporting or challenging the Programme pathways of change, including whether the key assumptions are holding true.
- Identifying evidence gaps and prioritising areas for focussing research and learning during Programme implementation.
- Reflection, generation and dissemination of lessons learned, including information from focussed research, convergences and capitalisation meetings.
- Adaption of the Theory of Change.

We will also use our Theory of Change to communicate and share our understanding of change with our key stakeholders, including our donors and international and national partners, as well as peer organisations and actors also working on children and youth in migration. We will use this as a basis for identifying potential areas for collaboration, complementarity and advocacy for achieving change for girls and boys, children and youths, affected by migration across the countries and contexts where we work.



## How this Theory of Change relates to other Programmes' ToC

Due to the complexity of the issues related to migration and the numerous determining factors, it is necessary to apply a holistic approach. Maternal and child health, WASH<sup>1</sup>, access to justice and tackling child labour components can be integrated into a comprehensive response to protect children and youth in migration, and work with their communities.

More specifically, the Migration Programme works closely with the Access to Justice and Tackling Child Labour Programmes, as well as with the unit for Transversal Protection. Together we develop coherent approaches on a number of related topics such as:

- Institutional strengthening of child protection systems
- Community-based child protection mechanisms
- Participation-Empowerment-Resilience

Children can also be in migration in emergency contexts. This is why it is essential to coordinate with the Humanitarian Aid division when addressing such issues.

Finally, advocacy is an unavoidable and cross-cutting element for all Programmes. Evidence-based advocacy is a crucial driver to advance migration issues and thus an essential entry point to our Theory of Change. Campaigns and international advocacy are coordinated and implemented in conjunction with the members of the TDHIF (Terre des Hommes International Federation) working group.

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<sup>1</sup> Water, Sanitation and Hygiene