

KEY MESSAGES

Launch of the Innocenti Insight
**Children in Immigrant Families in Eight Affluent Countries:
 Their family, national and international context**
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Key Messages

- Migration is an increasing occurrence in most of the affluent countries. Children in immigrant families represent a growing share of the child population in those societies. However, very little is known about the living conditions of migrant children, and they remain an invisible component in the debate about migrants in affluent societies.
- Children of migrants are far from being a homogeneous population. Data disaggregated by age, gender, country of origin, socio-economic status and other factors are essential to understand their living conditions. More knowledge is needed for better social integration of the children and their families, informed dialogue and strengthened government policies.
- Despite their differences in cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds, in some cases their family composition is not far from that of other children of the country of settlement.
- However, the situations of the children and youth in immigrant families, particularly those who come from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), remain critical in several areas, including health, education, economic security, housing and work opportunities.
- The vast majority of children in immigrant families are second-generation immigrants. Being born in the country of settlement, they are rooted there, and consider the country their home. These children will be increasingly prominent as workers, voters and parents in the coming years.
- There is scope for government policies in affluent countries to further foster civil integration and social inclusion in many aspects of the lives of children of migrants. These policies will benefit not only children and parents of immigrant families, but also the affluent countries of settlement.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF is on the ground in over 150 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

Note to Editors

Embargoed media materials and copies of the *Innocenti Insight* in English, as well as the sevenational reports for seven of the eight countries are available from the Centre's newsroom: <http://www.unicef-irc.org/presscentre/indexNewsroom.html>

For further information, please contact:

Patrizia Faustini, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence: (+39) 055 2033 253, pfaustini@unicef.org

Veronique Taveau, Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division, Geneva, (+41 22) 909 5716, vtaveau@unicef.org

Rebecca Fordham, UNICEF Media Section, New York, (+1 212) 326-7162, rfordham@unicef.org