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Statement submitted by Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2011/100.

Statement*

Among other forms of distress, wars and migration, on a large scale, lead to young boys and girls being uprooted and having to migrate. Without parental or family protection, these children may become targets of organized crime, with organizations exploiting either their body or status and, consequently, severely compromising their development. These minors may be the victim of heavy physical, psychological and sexual abuse, often linked to substance abuse.

A target group of minors from several regions of the world is identified which includes children showing various problems and self-protective behaviours that undermine their development and interfere with social inclusion. Primary education offered in host countries is an opportunity for self-development and the development of self-protection skills, even more so if envisaging a return to their countries of origin.

Proposal

Reception and accommodation of these minors in safe and well-organized centres which are able to handle and address trauma and development processes is fundamental for hindering any developmental distortion resulting from distress. Such reception may indeed protect minors against forms of exploitation and abuse.

Attendance of primary education is crucial within such a reception process: without it, minors would remain vulnerable and excluded even if within safe networks of reception. Indeed, schooling not only helps them to acquire cognitive skills and knowledge, but also to develop sound peer relationships, as well as foster solidarity processes, cross-ethnic exchange, interreligious coexistence and school attendance without gender discrimination.

Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta manages residential homes to accommodate and support children who are orphans or have been separated from their family, either from war-torn countries and/or extremely poor backgrounds such as Somalia, Afghanistan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Côte d'Ivoire.

Each minor receives a personalized education plan according to which they can either: attend primary State schools regularly, complete primary school classes, attend vocational training courses for adolescents, and engage in job and career guidance activities.

Our team cooperates with public education bodies within a socio-educational network which prevents developmental distortions and promotes individual and collective well-being.

Our experience has been positively evaluated so far, although insufficient for the existing requirements.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

Remarks

- Minors who are victims of migration and war-related social traumas and distress must be received at welcoming facilities with staff skilled in taking care of post-traumatic disorders and supporting the best chances for development.
 - Minors must be given the opportunity to attend primary education without any discrimination by gender, ethnic origin and religion.
 - Primary schooling must be supported by an adequate network to promote health in minors who have suffered traumas.
 - Education institutions must be properly trained in order to deal with children affected by post-traumatic disorders but also to promote cross-cultural understanding.
 - Residential homes for underage people as well as social and health-care services must collaborate to accomplish the personalized education plan for each minor.
 - Each personalized education plan must be properly and systematically assessed in all its stages so as to allow the minor to gain expected skills and develop their potential for independence.
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