



The Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) of trafficked children

A Resource Pack







About this Resource Pack

Who might use this RRRI Resource Pack?

This pack examines the Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) not just of children who have been trafficked but of any children who are in exploitative or abusive situations. RRRI is a complex process involving a large number of different players. It requires close liaison both between and within countries and clearly worked out protocols, procedures and practices which ensure that at all times the individual child is placed at the centre of all activities and his or her needs, wishes and security are seen as paramount.

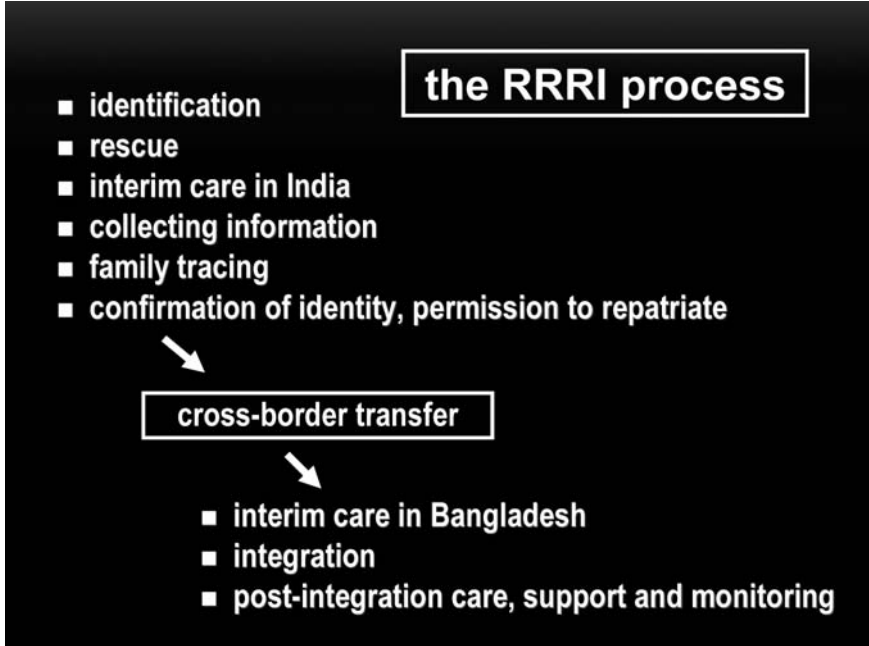
The materials contained in this pack were created during a three year project carried out by John Frederick consultant for the Child Protection Sections in UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, UNICEF India and UNICEF Bangladesh with the overall aim of improving the RRRI within and between India and Bangladesh. The contents do not necessarily reflect the policies or the views of UNICEF.

While the materials in this pack were created within the specific contexts of India and Bangladesh, and contain references to the situation in these two countries, their principles and practices contain generic messages on how to improve the situation for trafficked, abused and exploited children throughout the region. They contain clear guidance and also powerpoint presentations on the different aspects of the RRRI process, what each aspect entails and how it might be improved.

In addition to this pack UNICEF has created a parallel Resource Pack – **Caring for Children: Case Management and Child Friendly Interviewing** - which provides guidance and training materials on how to develop Case Management systems and how to improve basic interviewing skills of all those who are involved in interviewing children in vulnerable situations.

This **RRRI Resource Pack** is designed for all those who work in the area of Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration. This could include: Government officials, NGO workers, police, lawyers, immigration officers and those working in detention centres, care workers, social workers, shelter staff, counsellors, guardians and community workers.

What is the RRRI process?



the RRRI process

- identification
- rescue
- interim care in India
- collecting information
- family tracing
- confirmation of identity, permission to repatriate

cross-border transfer

- interim care in Bangladesh
- integration
- post-integration care, support and monitoring

the RRRI process

- identification
 - rescue
 - interim care in India
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-
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 - post-integration care, support and monitoring

The RRRI process covers all the distinct stages from initial identification of a child to his or her eventual reintegration:



None of these stages are straightforward.

Identification and *collecting information* from children and *family tracing* can all be complex processes as they involve children who may have been away from their home situation for many years and who also may have very genuine protection fears about disclosing sensitive information. *Confirmation of identity and permission to repatriate* can be delayed because of a lack of clear protocols between countries. Children can often spend long periods in *interim care* living in care organisations which might not conform to any minimum standards. Decisions about *integration* are complex with the family home not necessarily being the most appropriate or secure destination for the child. Even when children have been placed in an integrated setting there needs to be ongoing *post integration care, support and monitoring* to ensure that there are not problems with the new living situation.

Challenges in the RRRRI process

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What can be done to address some of these challenges?

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There are challenges at every stage of the process and those working in this area need to ask themselves:

How can the process move more quickly and how can communication between Governments and agencies be improved?

Do all aspects of the process work according to clearly laid down procedures and if not how can these be developed?

How can liaison between Government agencies and between Government and NGOs be improved?

Is there always a person whose role it is to represent the child's best interests?

Are procedures in place to ensure that different agencies work together to create and monitor a unified plan for an individual child?

Are the protection and security of the child ensured at every stage of the process?

Governments who are repatriating children and Governments who are receiving them need to draw up a **Joint Action Plan** which clearly states specific responsibilities in the RRRRI process and contains procedures for improving communication and ensuring that decisions are acted upon as quickly as possible. A system of **Temporary Guardians** can be established both in the country children are being repatriated from and the country receiving them so that the child always has an individual to ensure that decisions are being taken in his or her best interests.

Complex decisions need to be taken at every stage of the RRRRI process. There needs to be clear guidance on **Decision Making** with information on who makes decisions, the principles by which decisions should be made, how the decision is recorded and who should be notified of it.

Systems of **Case Management** need to be established which ensure that all services working with a child receive training on how to established protocols for working together so that they can draw up and monitor a holistic action plan with each individual child.

Children will need to undergo several interviews during the RRRRI process. All those involved in carrying out these interviews need to receive **Interview Guidelines** and also basic **Interviewing Training** to ensure that the methods they use are child friendly and supportive of the particular needs of children in very vulnerable situations.

Guidelines for the **Security and Protection** of children need to be drawn up, implemented and monitored to ensure children's safety at all stages of the RRRRI process.

Those involved in the process of **integration** need to be aware of how to work closely with the child to establish the most appropriate final destination. They need to be able to carry out family and community assessments and also to recognise that reintegration with the family might not always be the best solution for a child. At national level there need to be plans to develop more facilities for supported independent living for children who are not able to return to their family.

What is in the RRRI Resource Pack?

- 1. Rapid Assessment of Existing Practices and mechanisms Concerning Rescue, Recovery and Reintegration of Child Victims of Trafficking between India and Bangladesh.**
- 2. Overview of RRRI**
- 3. Joint Action Planning**
- 4. Temporary Guardianship for the RRRI process**
- 5. Decision Making in the RRRI process**

The RRRRI Resource Pack contains documentation which addresses each of the areas listed above. It includes:

This assessment, while focussing specifically on India and Bangladesh, provides a clear analysis of the complexities of the RRRRI process with recommendations as to how some of the problems might best be addressed.

This includes:

The Standard Operational Procedures of RRRRI of Trafficked Indian Children Victims in Bangladesh to India

This is a brief overview of the operational procedures which need to be in place before trafficked children can be repatriated to their home country.

Set of power points on RRRRI Key Concepts

Set of power points on RRRRI from child's perspective

This contains:

Reader Friendly Joint Plan of Action

A reader friendly version of the action plan drawn up between India and Bangladesh on the RRRRI of Child Victims of Trafficking between India and Bangladesh

A two page summary of the case documentation required during the RRRRI process

Personal data form

Family tracing form

This contains:

Technical notes on Temporary Guardianship for the RRRRI Process

Set of power points on Temporary Guardianship

This contains:

Technical Notes on Decision Making in the RRRRI process

A flow chart on guidelines in decision making

Set of power points on decision making

6. Case Management in the RRRI process

7. Security and Protection in the RRRI process

8. Interviewing during the RRRI process

9. Integration

NB. All of these documents were created within the specific context of RRRI between India and Bangladesh and many of them contain specific references to these two countries. They are given here to share generic information and give examples of training powerpoints and assessment forms. If they are to be used in another country setting they will need to be reworked and adapted accordingly.

This contains:

Technical Notes on Case Management in the RRRI process
A flow chart on the Case Management process
Set of power points on Case Management

(NB For those requiring more detailed information on Case Management along with model forms which could be used in the case management process see UNICEF ROSA's **Case Management and Interview Training Resource Pack**)

This contains:

Technical Notes on Security in the RRRI process
A flow chart on Security during the RRRI process
Power points on security during the RRRI process
Guidelines for the Safety and Personal Protection of Trafficked, Abused and Exploited Children.

This is a longer document which details the possible security risks for children at all stages of the RRRI process and how to ensure safety and protection of children. It contains a series of annexes detailing standards of protection, procedures, training needs and relevant assessment forms.

This contains:

Technical Notes on Consideration for Interviewing during the RRRI process
Witnessed Verbal Informed Consent Guidelines

(NB NB For those requiring more detailed information on providing Interview Training see UNICEF ROSA's **Case Management and Interview Training Resource Pack**)

This contains:

Technical Notes on Integration
Guidelines for Integration Planning
Guidelines for Follow Up Support Planning
Power points on integration

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