

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS IN TRANSIT IN CALAIS:

Service Provision, Gaps, and Policy Implications

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POWER TO UAMs
FRANCE Local Report

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IMAGES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This local report investigates how the rights of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in transit in Calais and its surroundings can be respected with regards to access to services.

UAMs in Calais represent a distinct and highly vulnerable group within France's child protection landscape. Unlike most UAMs elsewhere in the country who seek integration and protection, the majority in Calais are "in transit," aiming to cross the Channel to the United Kingdom. This transitory status profoundly shapes their relationship with protection services, marked by mistrust, avoidance, and self-invisibilisation, and exposes them to persistent rights violations.

In October 2025, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) concluded that France bears responsibility for grave and systematic violations of unaccompanied children's rights, particularly in Calais. Interviews confirm that these children's **rights to an adequate standard of living, health, protection from violence, and to special assistance as children deprived of family care are not being respected.** Most sleep outdoors or in makeshift camps, surrounded by adults.

Their basic needs (food, hygiene, clothing, Wi-Fi, and charging facilities etc.) are primarily met by associations serving the broader migrant population. **Local associations demonstrate flexibility and commitment, yet most lack the training and resources to engage effectively with minors.**

While some child specific support exists, through *France Terre d'Asile's* emergency shelter and daily outreach, these efforts remain insufficient. The shelter's distance from Calais and ages assessment requirement act as barriers rather than gateways to protection. Fear of being stopped or delayed in their journey leads many minors to hide their age, avoid protection services, and minimise their needs.

Stakeholders consistently report that UAMs' mistrust, combined with constant police evictions under the "zero point of settlement" policy, undermines protection efforts. Evictions, during which tents are often confiscated, occur every 48 hours, often without age verification or child protection presence, dispersing minors and disrupting NGO follow-up. The influence of smugglers, who discourage young people from attempting to settle in France or give them false information, also hinders access to protection.

Overall, while Calais has seen modest advances in adapting child protection mechanisms, profound gaps persist. **Effective protection for UAMs requires sustained, trust-based engagement, the decoupling of services from settlement obligations, and the recognition that even minors "in transit" are, first and foremost, children entitled to full protection under international and national law.**

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CASF	Code de l'Action Sociale et des Familles [Social Action and Families Code]
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
FTDA	France Terre D'Asile [Mandated UAM Child Protection Organisation]
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières [Doctors without Borders]
NFI	Non Food Items
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
PASS	Permanences d'accès aux soins de santé [Continuity of healthcare]
UAM	Unaccompanied Minor

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INTRODUCTION

The Power2UAMs project aims to explore UAMs' needs, with a specific focus on their unmet needs and the implementation of local social policies, social support and services for the welfare of UAMs. The target group is primarily UAMs in 6 selected cities in 3 EU countries: Athens, Brussels, Calais, Gent, Liege and Piraeus, but we also target those stakeholders who are in close contact with UAMs as local-level service providers.

This local report for the city of Calais focuses almost exclusively on unaccompanied minors 'in transit.' This implies that the UAMs in Calais do not wish to settle and integrate in France, as they aim to leave to the UK, thus they are highly mobile, and often fall under the radar of official statistics and research.

The research was conducted in two steps, first a desk review to identify major service providers and get a grasp of the context. It relied on a couple of academic articles and a large number of grey literature sources.

Second, interviews were conducted with UAMs and stakeholders to identify obstacles to access to services and avenues for improvements. Interviewing UAMs was highly challenging due to their strategy to remain invisible; 7 UAMs were interviewed in Calais, all were boys from Sudan and Egypt. In addition, 9 stakeholder interviews were conducted ranging from state and local representative to associations coordinators and a children's judge. Responses contributed to the needs and service assessment.



2

BACKGROUND

Unaccompanied Minors in Transit in Calais

2.1 TYPOLOGY OF UAMS IN CALAIS AND DIFFERENCES WITH THE UAMS IN THE WIDER FRENCH TERRITORY

The situation of UAMs on the northern coastal border of France, including Calais differs drastically from UAMs in the rest of France. While most UAMs in France seek protection and stabilisation in the child protection system, the majority of UAMs in Calais is 'in transit'. Their aim is crossing the Channel to the UK. Their attitude towards protection services is much more distant than 'settled UAMs.'

CONTEXT – UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Report on UAMs' Rights Violations in France

In a report published on the 16th of October 2025, The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has found that France is responsible for grave and systematic violations of the rights of unaccompanied migrant children.

Following visits to France, including to Calais, the Committee documented minors transiting to the UK who were living in extremely precarious conditions. It concluded that France violates their right to be free from inhumane and degrading treatment (Article 37 of the CRC), noting that “a large number of unaccompanied migrant children have suffered serious harm and lasting effects on their physical and mental health and development” (CRC, 2025: para 87). The lack of access to health and child protection services for UAMs in Calais was also deplored by the Committee.

These violations were deemed systematic due to France's repeated failure to protect children living in makeshift camps, having “systematically refused to provide child protection services” and denied them “an adequate standard of living and basic services.” (CRC, 2025: para 88)

As UAMs in transit in Calais do not appear in the official data of UAMs protected by judicial decision, **there are no reliable estimates of the number of UAMs in transit passing through Calais each year.** Unaccompanied minors in transit are difficult to count because they are found among adults living in various informal settings across Calais. It can sometimes be challenging to identify minors, and determine whether they are accompanied.

The only available numbers are provided by NGOs – which only count the UAMs they meet during outreach activities. Statistics offering some insight on the profile of UAMs in Calais ebased on the desk research and stakeholder interviews:

- In 2023, ECPAT France met 372 unaccompanied minors, seven of whom were girls. Young people aged under 15 accounted for 19% of those accompanied, and the youngest was 8 years old ([CNJED, 2024:17](#)). In 2022, ECPAT outreach teams met 300 UAMs ([ECPAT France, 2023:35](#)).
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) met 296 UAMs during their outreach activities and 177 came to their day centre in 2024.¹
- France Terre D’Asile (FTDA) recorded 1985 UAMs in their emergency accommodations (UAMs can enter the accommodations multiple times) in 2024.²

The situation in the Calais locality is highly dynamic with rapidly evolving migrant population flows as it is a point of convergence between various migration routes. ([Douillard & Lailier, 2025](#)) These evolutions are heavily influenced by smuggling networks which adapt to surveillance and police presence. Geopolitical events also impact the migrant populations present in Calais. The rapid evolution of exiles populations (and thus language, cultural and migratory practices) is a crucial element which must be kept in mind when analysing the data, and planning interventions in the city.



Living sites in Calais / Pictures taken by ECPAT Staff

UAMs in transit in Calais mostly come from Sudan, Eritrea, Syria, Egypt Iraq or Iran. ([UNHCR, 2025](#)). These countries have high asylum acceptance rates, with over 60% of persons arriving by small boats who are granted asylum by British authorities. For certain nationalities, such as Sudanese exiles, this rate reaches 99%. ([UK Government, 2025](#))

1. Interview with association staff, Calais.
2. Interview with association director, Calais

Unaccompanied minors in Calais face multiple, overlapping vulnerabilities which are further exacerbated by their age and isolation. They live in precarious and unsafe conditions, often in informal camps or abandoned buildings lacking basic services such as toilets, access to food or clean water, and shelter but also education and health services. Exposure to violence, harsh weather, and constant evictions by police forces under the “zero point of settlement” policy prevents any form of stability and exacerbates their physical and psychological exhaustion.³

In addition, UAMs are frequently subjected to instrumentalisation and exploitation by smugglers or criminal networks, who recruit them for labour, theft, or smuggling activities in exchange for a promised crossing. Sexual exploitation also occurs on an ad hoc basis within camps, though it remains difficult to identify or address. With no legal routes to the UK, minors are forced to rely on highly dangerous irregular crossings, hiding in trucks or boarding overcrowded dinghies, where risks of violence, suffocation, drowning, and death are ever present. All of these vulnerabilities must be kept in mind when analysing the provision of services for UAMs in Calais.



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2.2 OVERVIEW OF SERVICES AVAILABLE IN CALAIS FOR UAMS IN TRANSIT

2.2.1 FOOD, WARMTH, HYGIENE: A FOCUS ON BASIC NEEDS

In 2015, the Lille administrative tribunal condemned the French departmental and national authorities for failing to uphold migrants' fundamental rights in Calais. The judge ordered the departemental council (sub-regional administration) to identify and protect unaccompanied minors in informal living sites, and the prefecture to provide water points, toilets, and fixed or mobile showers. (Conseil d'Etat, 2017) This ruling, contested by the state, was upheld by the State Council in 2017.

Since then, **the prefecture has tasked 'La Vie Active' with daily water and food distribution** across three sites. The association also provides weekday **shower transport** to men and afternoon services for women and children. **Toilets** have been installed on two sites.

3. The prefecture's “zero point of settlement” strategy has been in place since 2021. It aims to avoid the settlement of a massive and ‘organised’ camp as it was the case in 2015-2016 in Calais, thus, informal camps are evicted every 48 hours.

However, these efforts remain insufficient. Several grassroots associations (which are not funded and mandated by a public actor) supplement support:

- *Refugee Community Kitchen* serves hot meals twice daily on weekdays.
- *Salam* provides daily breakfasts at multiple locations.
- *Calais Food Collective* offers water tanks at 12 sites and distributes ingredients on living sites four times a week.

NGOs also provide Non-Food Items (NFIs). *Care4Calais*, active four times a week, offers hot drinks, haircuts, sewing, bike repairs, games, and English lessons. '*La Capuche*' distributes tents via a waiting list.

Smartphones are vital for exiles. *Care4Calais* offers charging three times a week, while *CHIP* provides Wi-Fi, SIM cards, and charging 11 times weekly. *CHIP* also publishes a multilingual guide on services and asylum processes in Calais and Dunkirk. ([Channel Info Project](#), 2025)

The '*Secours Catholique*' offers a day centre for all exiled people with various amenities (tea, food, showers, barber, charging spot, psychosocial activities). Other associations are present to offer their various specific support activities (eg. CRF, la capuche, Chip etc.). A closed off space is available for women and children in the back.

2.2.2 SOME UAM-SPECIFIC SERVICES

In addition to these general services, certain services exist specifically targeting unaccompanied minors in transit. These are provided for both by official services providers (mandated to fulfil the departemental council's legal obligations of child protection) and by NGOs and associations

CONTEXT – Child Protection for UAMs in France

Article L.112-3 of the Social Action and Families Code (CASF) stipulates that '*the purpose of child protection is to prevent difficulties that may be encountered by minors who are temporarily or permanently deprived of family protection and to ensure their care.*' UAMs fall under this definition of "children at risk," including those accompanied by adults who are not legal guardians. They must be protected, regardless of nationality, and have access to the standard child protection system, managed by the departemental council .

This system must include temporary emergency sheltering (*accueil provisoire d'urgence*, or *mise à l'abri*), initially for five days and extendable twice (Article R.221-11, CASF). The departemental council is required to inform the public prosecutor immediately upon placement or extension.

UAMs can request an age and isolation assessment, carried out by departemental services or associations delegated for public service. This assessment, based on interviews and database checks (including fingerprints), determines whether the person is a minor or an adult.⁴

4. The Minister of the Interior has implemented an automated processing of personal data known as 'support for the assessment of minority status' ('Assistance à l'Evaluation de la Minorité' or AEM), to identify UAMs on the basis of their fingerprints. The announced aim of AEM is aiding age assessment and combatting document and identity fraud. Several associations are calling for an end to this practice, which is often perceived as unnecessary and which can, frighten minors

In Calais, **France Terre d'Asile (FTDA)** is the **officially mandated organisation responsible for implementing child protection for UAMs**. Their role includes emergency sheltering and age/isolation assessments. As this research focuses on emergency shelter and, to a limited extent, age assessments, long-term accommodation services are not addressed here, as UAMs in transit often do not wish to settle in France.

FTDA operates two emergency shelters away from the coast: one in Longuenesse (40 minutes drive from Calais), and another in Arras, about an hour away. FTDA's approach differs from other départements : a dedicated outreach team of cultural mediators works daily in Calais to identify UAMs, inform them of available shelter, and transport them to Saint-Omer in the evening.

For UAMs not brought to the shelter by the FTDA team (which leaves Calais between 5 and 7 p.m.), the alternative is to present themselves at the police station, often accompanied by non-mandated associations. Police then contact FTDA, which arranges a taxi transfer. However, transfers are not possible after 10 p.m. and thus UAMs must wait until the next day.

In addition to FTDA, other NGOs assist UAMs. **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** has a **dedicated team including a social worker and cultural mediator**. In 2023, MSF opened a day centre for UAMs, open four afternoons a week, providing a space to shower, rest, eat, play, see a nurse, and engage in psychosocial activities.

ECPAT France, an NGO focused on preventing child sexual exploitation, also supports UAMs. Its outreach team works daily to identify and build relationship with minors, offering them information about available services in Calais. ECPAT also organises psychosocial activities aimed at offering moments of distraction and respite to children in transit.



UAMs at the MSF Day Center © Léo Torréron/MSF



ECPAT staff during Outreach Activities © ECPAT France

3

Unaccompanied Minors' Experience with Local Services and Conditions

3.1 UAMS INTERVIEWED: SAMPLE AND METHODOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Interviewing UAMs in Calais was a complex and difficult process due to their situation of transit. UAMs were reluctant to speak about their lives in the locality, either due to mistrust, lack of time or not seeing the point of such an interview. The most successful interviewee recruitment channel proved to be the emergency child protection shelter, situated in Longuenesse, 40 minutes away from Calais, which welcomes UAMs in transit and UAMs who wish to settle and integrate in France.

While the shelter offered a space where UAMs were less distracted, where their basic needs are met, this introduced a sampling bias, as many UAMs in transit never access the shelter. Attempts to conduct interviews at a day centre in Calais resulted in only one successful interview.

In total, **seven UAMs were interviewed: all boys aged 15 to 17, five from Sudan and two from Egypt.** All had been in Calais between 20 days and two months, and had chosen the city because they aimed to cross to the UK. Most (four) were still attempting to cross, while two had decided to remain in France—either after a shipwreck or following advice from relatives in the UK who warned them the journey was not worth the risk. One interviewee was uncertain about his plans. None of the minors held a specific legal status.

3.2 NEEDS AND ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES: CHILDREN'S RIGHTS BASED-ANALYSIS

3.2.1 UAMS MINIMISE THEIR NEEDS DESPITE A CONTEXT FAR FROM CHILDREN'S RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

When asked about their needs, UAMs tended to downplay them. Many expressed gratitude for what they received and were reluctant to ask for more: *"I take what I am given; everything is a gift from God."* One interviewee, who ate only bread and fruit once a day in Dunkirk, said, *"I did not feel hungry; it was sufficient."* This minimisation of needs should not be interpreted as an absence of necessity, but rather as a strategy of avoidance, driven by fear that seeking help might attract the attention of child protection services and hinder their journey (Douillard & Lailier, 2025). **From a children's rights-based perspective, it becomes evident that UAMs living in such conditions are subjected to daily violations of both their fundamental human rights and their specific rights as children.**

Right to an adequate standard of living

In their October 2025 communication, the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child identified that **the living conditions in the northern littoral border represents a violation of children’s right to and adequate standard of living**. This was clearly corroborated by the responses of UAMs during interviews. **The need for tents and warm clothing was mentioned repeatedly:**



If I had had a tent and a sleeping bag when I arrived in Calais, I would have felt calmer.



The lack of warm clothing and insufficient clothing distributions were recurring concerns.

Two UAMs who had lived in the Orange Squat, a warehouse housing over 400 Sudanese exiles, including many minors, until its eviction in September 2025, reported that **the eviction from their living site had worsened their living conditions**. Most residents relocated to a nearby informal camp in the open air. Interviewees said access to water had deteriorated, making it more difficult to shower or wash clothes. They also described increased vulnerability to bad weather: *“At least at the Hangar [Orange Squat] we were sheltered from the rain; now new people sleep outside if they don’t have a tent.”*



Inside of the Orange Squat prior to the Eviction
© InfoMigrants



Eviction of the Orange Squat, 30th September 2025
© Nord Littoral

Interestingly, none of the interviewees complained about food. One UAM staying in the emergency shelter even remarked, *“The food in Calais was great.”* Indeed, several associations distribute warm meals multiple times a day across different sites, unlike in Dunkirk. One interviewee noted appreciatively, *“There is even ground meat or chicken sometimes.”*

Right to Special Protection and Assistance Provided by the State

The Convention on the Rights of the child also mandates states to offer children deprived of their family environment “special protection and assistance” (Article 20) Refugee children should “receive appropriate protection and humanitarian assistance in the enjoyment of applicable rights set forth in the Convention.” (Article 22) In Calais, the child protection system is operated by FTDA, and takes the form of daily outreach patrols in the camps and an emergency shelter in Longuenesse.

All UAM interviewees were staying in the FTDA-run child protection shelter at the time of the interviews. This reflects the interview conditions and the conditions and possibilities under other UAMs live in Calais and does not represent the typical situation of most UAMs in Calais.

Nevertheless, this setting provided insight into the minors’ perceptions of the shelter and their awareness of child protection services. **The interviewees expressed general satisfaction with the FTDA shelter, particularly valuing the warmth, beds, showers, and washing facilities.** Some had known about the shelter for some time and chose to stay for a few nights “just to see how it is.” One explained, *“The information is there, some [UAMs] come to St-Omer [city nearby the shelter], others don’t; it’s a personal decision.”* This suggests they understood that staying at the shelter did not endanger their prospects of eventually reaching the UK.

When asked why they or their friends had not come earlier, the most common answer was that they preferred to remain with their community in informal camps or squats. One commented, *“If you come to St-Omer, there’s not much you can do, basically, we’re just on our phones.”* UAMs unaware of or distrustful toward the shelter were not included in the sample, which limits the findings on this topic [more on this in section 4.1.1].

Right to Be Free From all Forms of Violence

In its report, the CRC Committee also pointed to the important risk of violence and sexual abuse faced by the children present in Calais and the region ([CRC, 2025](#): para 58).

When asked about violence, most UAMs had little to say, though one mentioned that he and his friends stopped playing football near a camp after being beaten and threatened by other exiles. Indeed, **informal camps are marked by inter-community violence, conflicts between smugglers, and disputes arising from poor living conditions.** In late August 2025, for example, a 20-year-old exile was beaten to death amid tensions between Sudanese and Eritrean communities in a Calais camp; two others were injured the previous day. ([Hamez, 2025](#))

Police forces are omnipresent in Calais: municipal and national police, specialised brigades (border control, child protection, anti-smuggling), coastguards, rescue patrols, and the Republican Security Forces (CRS) all operate in the area. In theory, their role combines both repression and protection, but exiles primarily experience the repressive side, through evictions and border control operations, and rarely turn to the authorities for help.

This is reflected in UAMs' perceptions of and interactions with the police. Most encounter officers during attempts to cross the border, either by boat or by hiding in vehicles. Some described the use of force: *"In Calais, it was hard with the police... when we try [to sneak in cars], they can drag us out violently."* Another recalled:

“ I was waiting to board the boat; the police arrived, everyone panicked. They threw tear gas, there were even women with babies. The canisters landed near the boat, and with the fuel, there was an explosion. ”

When asked whether being a minor affected police treatment, responses varied: *"The police don't ask if you are a minor, they take you to the station for 24 hours."* Another added, *"If you say you're a minor, maybe you can leave after four hours; if not, it's 24 hours."* [More on differentiation in section 4.2.2 on evictions.]

These encounters have become normalised, part of UAMs' daily reality in Calais. Their previous experiences with police forces in Eastern Europe or Libya seem to have further increased their tolerance of violence and reinforced a sense of resignation.

Right to Health

The **'Permanence d'Accès aux Soins de Santé'** (Continuity of Health Care) or PASS is an important service (DGOS, 2025). It **offers healthcare without conditions, regardless of income or administrative status, and does not require any form of ID or documents.** It is a specific service present in the Calais hospital.

Usually, a non-mandated association staff member registers and drives exiles to hospital. The smooth running of this service has led healthcare access associations such as the French Red Cross and Médecins du Monde to reduce their services in the Jungles (fewer mobile clinics) so as not to duplicate institutional services.

Overall, UAMs reported being in good health and most had not used the PASS. One interviewee who did seek medical care described a positive experience: although housed in the Longuenesse shelter, he returned to the PASS for check-ups, noting that the doctor spoke Arabic and that waiting times were short. As this is a single account, no broader conclusions can be drawn, but it suggests that the service can provide accessible care.

3.2.2 A VARIETY OF SERVICE PROVIDERS: NGOS, COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICES

UAMs are often unable to name the organisations providing them with assistance and generally do not distinguish between NGOs and public services. What is clear, however, is that **most organisations meeting their basic needs primarily serve the broader exile population**. UAMs frequently share shower slots with adult men and request tents or water without identifying themselves as minors [see Section 4.1.2].

Beyond associations, **UAMs described their communities as an important source of support**. Upon arrival in Calais, they often sought out someone from their home country or region, who would then share information about available services. One boy explained, *“I don’t like to ask for things from associations... if I need anything, I have friends I can call, friends from Greece.”* Though he did not clarify how these friends could help from afar, his statement highlights a hierarchy of trust and reliance within informal networks. Information coming from peers is valued.

Sleeping arrangements often rely on these networks as well. Many UAMs said they shared tents with friends, sometimes minors, sometimes adults. Usually, the tent belonged to the friend and had been passed on by another exile who had successfully crossed to the UK, and received it from an association. When asked if they had tried to obtain their own tents, most said no.

Community members also sometimes act as intermediaries between service providers. One UAM described how, while living in a camp, he alternated between collecting meals at state-run distributions and cooking on site. Ingredients, he explained, were provided by an individual who gathered supplies from an association and redistributed them to others. However, it should be noted that individuals occupying such organisational roles within camps often have connections to smuggling networks.

In summary, the interviews show that UAMs in Calais live in highly precarious conditions, with limited access to adequate shelter, protection, and healthcare. Most rely on a mix of associations and informal community networks to meet basic needs, while avoiding to attract attention for fear of hindering their journey. Although some institutional child protection services, such as the FTDA shelter exist, it remains insufficient to guarantee respect for children’s rights in the locality.

4

Stakeholders' experience with local services to unaccompanied minors

4.1 SERVICES PROVIDED IN CALAIS

4.1.1 OFFICIALLY MANDATED CHILD PROTECTION: SOME WELCOME ADAPTATIONS, BUT GAPS REMAIN

The emergency shelter in Longuenesse, run by FTDA, is the primary institutional response to the immediate protection rights of UAMs, offering food, hygiene, and temporary accommodation. While it technically fulfils the departmental council's legal duty to provide emergency shelter to children without parental care, the system remains flawed. Minors may stay for only five nights, after which they must either apply for permanent protection, triggering an age and isolation assessment, or leave the facility for at least one night before returning. This requirement forces children who do not wish to undergo assessment back to Calais, where they are left to sleep in unsafe informal camps, breaking the continuity of their protection. Conditioning access to basic safety and shelter on a child's willingness to settle in France undermines the adequacy of the system runs counter the best interest of the child.



FTDA Outreach Team © Louis Witter

Many minors therefore avoid the shelter altogether, either refusing accommodation or declaring themselves over 18. **Stakeholders consistently identified the shelter's distance as the main obstacle**, it is located more than 40 minutes from Calais by car. UAMs coming to the shelter on their first night are always driven there by FTDA or by a mandated taxi. However, if UAMs already sleeping in Longuenesse, wish to spend the day in Calais and return at night, transport is conditioned on the number of youths referred that day, certain UAMs will have to take the train. This distance was a deliberate decision *"to prevent people from knocking on the door, to make access more difficult, so that access would be exclusively through [FTDA] outreach workers."* While this may reflect protection concerns, it effectively discourages many UAMs, especially those attempting to cross the border regularly, from using the service.

Distance also separates UAMs from their community. UAMs often travel with adults who cannot access child protection shelters. Leaving these groups, especially without a phone, causes anxiety. Certain nationalities, like Eritreans, are rarely seen in the shelter, as they prefer to remain in informal camps with their communities. For many, personal network is perceived as the main safeguard rather than the official child protection services.

Despite this, departmental authorities and FTDA deny that the shelter's location is problematic. In contrast, non-mandated associations unanimously observe that while UAMs may initially agree to go, they often change their minds upon learning how far it is. Additionally, for those seeking protection after 7 p.m., the mandatory stop at the police station poses another deterrent.

4.1.2 4.1.2 FORT USAGE DES SERVICES DESTINÉS À LA POPULATION ADULTE

When UAMs are not accommodated in the emergency shelter, they must rely on services designed primarily for the wider exile population, such as food distributions, day centres, and charging stations.

The various associations providing these services are listed in Section 2.1 and detailed in Annex 3. Most of them operate thanks to volunteers, resulting in significant turnover within outreach and distribution teams. A recurring comment from interviewed association members concerns their lack of training and time to adequately support UAMs:

“ We have a day centre, which means we meet unaccompanied minors because they come to us (...) but we are not trained to work with UAMs, nor are we equipped to do so. On average, we receive around 500 people per day, so we cannot give them the level of attention they need ”

Association coordinator, Calais.

One actor specialised in UAM support organises a training session on child protection once a month, while it is a welcome initiative, it does not cover the large number of volunteers who may interact with UAMs everyday. The most common practice among non-mandated associations that identify UAMs in the field is to refer them to organisations specialised in supporting this population: ECPAT and MSF, and FTDA if the minor wishes to join the shelter. These organisations in turn orient the UAM, offering them information and support on services available or specific demands.

Interviews also revealed that although many of these associations do not specialise in supporting UAMs, they sometimes adapt their practices; for example, by prioritising minors on waiting lists or during distributions. This informal flexibility highlights both the responsiveness and the structural limitations of the local associative network. It shows that UAMs' access to certain services often depends on individual initiative and ad hoc arrangements rather than a coordinated strategy.

4.2 GENERAL CHALLENGES ON OFFERING SUPPORT TO UAMS IN CALAIS

4.2.1 UAMS IN TRANSIT: A MISTRUSTFUL POPULATION WITH FEW DEMANDS

On challenges, stakeholders confirmed the findings of the desk review: **UAMs in transit are particularly challenging to protect and engage with, as their primary focus remains reaching the UK as soon as they can.** Indeed, their priority is to limit their time in Calais. The rest of their time is largely spent fulfilling daily needs such as food, hygiene or phone charging. These young people do not see their future in France, thus they reject any procedures that are perceived as a potential obstacle to their journey. Even when protection measures are explained, any measure considered lengthy, rigid or without immediate effect are usually rejected.

A manifestation of this rejection can be declaring themselves as older than they are. Two stakeholders mentioned the problem of visibly young persons declaring themselves to be over 18 although they look much younger:

“This self-invisibilisation is a survival strategy and/or misunderstanding of one’s right, it is extremely difficult to manage. If a young person tells us they are 19, even if they do not look it, we cannot oppose that.”

Association Fieldworker, Calais.

This self-invisibilisation hinders protection and tailored service provision. It is a challenging issue on how to protect minors’ rights while respecting them as a person who wishes to be perceived as an adult and thus shuts down explanation of child protection measures.

UAMs often live and move within groups of adults, which further complicates efforts to establish contact and provide tailored support. Indeed, it may be difficult to speak with them away from the group, or to get information from the minors themselves because adults speak in their place. Some young people, isolated, tired and disoriented, become involved in group dynamics or in situations imposed by adults or older peers, without clearly perceiving the coercive or abusive nature of these relationships. The promise of passage to the United Kingdom, access to survival resources (shelter, food, protection from other groups), or simply psychological pressure, is enough to establish a form of silent dependence.

This obstacle was unanimously mentioned by public service actors. On the topic of the emergency shelter, one said:

“Today, the biggest obstacle identified is not the shelter itself, the distance or the quality of the accommodation, but the community aspect, particularly with adults. Sometimes, the influence of adults prevents minors from benefiting from shelter for minors. This is clear.”

Association Director, Calais.

A state representative deplored: *“our main difficulty is distancing unaccompanied minors from the influence of smugglers or the group.”* Non-mandated associations also flagged this as an issue but with more nuance, minors in the midst of a group of adult will be flagged and alert workers, but one highlighted that groups created during the journey with persons of the same nationality or ethnicity may also bring comfort and security to UAMs. It may be scary to leave the group, especially when they do not have phones, to sleep in a remote building with unknown workers.

A Focus on Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation

In Calais, the most commonly identified form of exploitation involving unaccompanied minors (UAMs) is **incitement to commit criminal offences. Minors seeking to finance their crossing are recruited by smuggling networks** to take part in boating operations, recruit passengers, or monitor activities, often under the promise of free passage or debt repayment. Their vulnerability and limited understanding of their rights make them easy targets.

Smugglers can have important influence over UAMs, encouraging them to attempt the crossing even if the child is unsure of their plan or pushing them to apply for asylum as an adult to finance the crossing. Misinformation is also spread by smugglers, which can hinder UAM’s access to protection in France and upon arrival in the UK.

Other criminal networks also recruit UAMs for theft, drug dealing, or similar activities. What begins as a strategy to finance their journey can quickly lead to long-term entrapment and exploitation.

Sexual exploitation is another significant risk. While confirmed cases are rare, several suspected cases have been reported, including minors with sexually transmitted infections or displaying harmful sexual behaviours. The French Ombudsperson has documented threats with weapons in exchange for sexual favours among boys in camps, and concerns have been raised about young (potentially minor) women travelling with older men. Such cases are difficult to quantify, and even when victims are identified, the short and precarious nature of their stay in Calais makes sustained support difficult.

Cases of trafficking and exploitation are immensely difficult to spot, ECPAT is working on the ground to improve the protection network on this topic for UAMs. Outreach activities to raise awareness on risks of exploitation are carried out by the staff, and training modules are offered to volunteers and stakeholders.

4.2.2 REGULAR EVICTIONS AS AN ADDITIONAL CHALLENGE

An additional challenge consistently raised by stakeholders, specifically non-mandated associations, concerns the **recurrent police evictions of informal living sites, which further complicates contact with UAMs.** Indeed, the “zero point of settlement” policy implies eviction of informal camps every 48 hours and regular evictions of larger living sites.

In Calais, authorities often fail to take into account the presence of unaccompanied minors during eviction operations, despite repeated alerts from NGOs ([Amnesty et al. 2020:23](#)). During large evictions, no prior social assessment is carried out, and no child protection mechanism is put in place to identify, support, or provide shelter for minors living in dismantled sites, even when their presence had been previously reported ([CNCDDH, 2025: para 104](#)). As a result, associations have witnessed cases where children were forced onto buses with adults and taken to adult reception centres, sometimes in other regions, or left on the streets, situations that should have been avoided. These situations represent blatant violations of children's rights to have their best interest taken as a primary consideration.



Police Evictions in Calais City Centre and BMX Informal Camps. © Human Rights Observers [@Elio__]

The state representative in charge of those operations explained these situations are also caused by the invisibilisation strategies of UAMs:



One of the problems we may encounter during dismantling operations is that there will be individuals who appear to be young adults or elderly unaccompanied minors, and when asked, they will declare themselves to be adults. This is because they want to stay with the group.



The eviction of the 'Orange Squat' in September 2025, is an exception. For the first time, the prefecture respected eviction regulations and rolled out a large information and social assessment scheme. Prior to the eviction, social services and child protection services came to the Squat several times to explain the procedure, identify minors and offer shelter options.

However, on the day of the eviction, a non-mandated association staff present at the eviction reported that no specific measures were put in place to offer shelter to UAMs present. The state mandated child protection organisation was not mobilised during the eviction operation and picked up minors from adult shelters later in the day. A state representative assured that evictions are carried out with "*the utmost respect for human dignity*," a claim highly contested by associations present in the locality.

Unlike the Orange Squat eviction, the flagrante delicto evictions taking place every 48h are never accompanied by protection measure. Ultimately, it **is this recurrent cycle of evictions that undermines both trust and continuity in service provision, leaving UAMs in an even more precarious position** within the Calais transit context.

The lack of effort of determination of age or isolation status of UAMs during these operations raises serious concerns: it exacerbates the vulnerability of these children and hinders the detection of potential cases of human trafficking. Indeed, these operations not only dismantle the makeshift shelters where minors stay but also disrupt the fragile networks of support established by NGOs. As one NGO worker specialising in UAM protection explained:



The regular dismantling, the confiscation of equipment, makes them even more insecure. We can no longer reach these young people as easily because we no longer know where they are. They isolate themselves; they hide even more.



These evictions practices run counter to the best interests of the child and undermine the ability of institutions to ensure effective protection for those most at risk.

4.2.3 CONSTANT NECESSITY TO ADAPT

Working in Calais requires constant adaptation to rapidly shifting migration flows, influenced by smuggling networks, policing, and broader trends. Unlike the slow national shifts in UAM typology, Calais sees rapid changes, such as the sudden appearance and disappearance of groups like Somali or Egyptian exiles. As one NGO worker explained, the key challenge is staying flexible to young people's changing living conditions, border-crossing tactics, and survival strategies. Responding to UAMs demands mobility, reactivity, and cultural sensitivity.

As discussed above, UAMs often demonstrate reluctance to engage with child protection measures. However, this hesitancy cannot justify state inaction or inadequate protective responses. Instead, **protection systems must be adapted to the specific circumstances and needs of these minors.** In *Khan v. France*, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that *"their [UAMs] reluctance could not, in any event, justify the inaction of the authorities, which had an obligation to ensure their protection and therefore to find the best means to fulfil it, taking into account the specificities of the minors' situation"* ([Khan v. France](#), 2019: para 90). This judgment prompted improvements in emergency shelter provision and the expansion of outreach activities. Notably, the daily presence of an officially mandated child protection actor in the field represents a distinctive model for UAM protection. ([Douillard & Lailier](#), 2025)

The proactive approach of reaching out to minors and presenting available protection options reflects an essential adaptation to their realities. Yet, this should not be limited to information on the shelter and a lift to St-Omer. A newly published report highlights **the importance of being a constant presence in UAM's lives to build relationships and ensuring that access to certain rights is not made conditional upon a commitment to settle** ([Douillard & Lailier](#), 2025).

Recommendations of the CALENA Report

The scheme for action suggested by CALENA (a consortium of organisation providing protection to UAMs at the Franco-British border) includes 3 major steps:

- 1. Identify UAMs:** through daily outreach (day or night), visits to living sites and socialisation spaces and telephone or digital exchanges.
- 2. Provide Security:** by responding to basic needs, building trust, and reporting situations of concern.
- 3. Support UAMs in their plans:** put young people back at the centre of the intervention, not by imposing a standard path on them, but by actively supporting them in building their own life plan—whatever that may be—in a spirit of protection without constraint.

This approach prioritises a consistent, trustworthy presence that can be reactivated at any moment. It allows support to be provided without coercion, respecting the young person's own timing and, above all, remaining an option available when the context or willingness changes. This does not imply 24/7 availability, but rather a true regularity in educative presence.

It must be noted that given the distrustful attitude of UAMs, these adjustments will not be sufficient to establish relationships with all those present on the coast. However, it would likely improve access to rights and protection.

Policy responses must thus continue to move away from rigid measures conditioned to commitments to stay in France and be grounded in flexibility, mobility, and unconditional engagement. Sustained field presence and the recognition of minors' agency are essential to ensure that protection systems remain both legally compliant and practically effective.

In conclusion, stakeholders' experiences with local services for unaccompanied minors in Calais reveal a protection system marked by both adaptation and limitation.

While the establishment of the FTDA-managed emergency shelter and the deployment of outreach teams represent advances in adapting child protection mechanisms to the Calais context, access remains hindered by geographic, procedural, and psychological barriers. The reliance on adult-oriented services further underscores structural gaps. Persistent evictions, distrust among UAMs in transit, and the pervasive influence of adult groups continue to undermine protective efforts.

Overall, despite some progress toward a more mobile and adaptive protection model, a profound mismatch remains between the institutional framework and the lived realities of UAMs in transit. Strengthening trust-based outreach, ensuring unconditional access to rights, and prioritising the best interests of the child remain crucial for achieving meaningful protection in this complex border environment.

5

Policy recommendations on local service provision to unaccompanied minors

The analysis of the situation of unaccompanied minors in transit in Calais and the existing gaps in their access to services highlights the need for targeted local policy action. While broader structural changes, such as the creation of safe and legal routes to the UK or an overall improvement of reception conditions for UAMs in France, remain essential, this section focuses on local, actionable recommendations for improving daily access to rights and protection.

FURTHER ADAPTATIONS TO THE CHILD PROTECTION NETWORK COULD IMPROVE UNCONDITIONAL ACCESS TO RIGHTS OF UAMs

The outreach operations conducted by the officially mandated organisation France Terre d'Asile (FTDA) are a positive adaptation to Calais' specific context. However, their current approach, primarily oriented toward informing UAMs about the emergency shelter and transporting them there at the end of the day, could be expanded.

A more holistic outreach model should be developed, involving regular and proactive visits to informal living sites, even when minors do not express a wish to access the shelter. The organisation of psychosocial activities or weekly 'office hour' where UAMs can find a social worker in Calais could be considered.

This could enable continuous contact, build trust, and allow for earlier identification of protection needs. **Strengthening FTDA's mobile teams through additional staff, interpreters, and logistical means would further improve their capacity to provide support when UAMs need it.**

Removing the "night out" after 5 consecutive nights at the shelter is also necessary to avoid jeopardising the relationships with UAMs and driving them back into the jungle, a practice which runs counter the best interest of these children.

BETTER PROTECTION OF UAMS DURING POLICE OPERATIONS

The ongoing “zero point of settlement” policy, and the accompanying cycle of bi-weekly evictions, increases UAMs’ precarity by perpetuating displacement and weakening their connection with support services. When police operations do occur, **it is critical to distinguish between minors and adults and ensure adequate protection measures.**

Improving identification and protection offers for minors during these evictions is necessary. This could be achieved through the **application of safeguards procedures meant for large evictions to smaller ones.** This requires the systematic presence of qualified interpreters, legal delays for inhabitants to be rehoused and social inquiries prior to the eviction,

Moreover, police operations during attempts to cross the border must avoid the use of indiscriminate weapons, such as tear gas, which are incompatible with protecting the children present onsite.

IMPROVEMENT OF TRAINING ON UAMS AND RISKS OF EXPLOITATION FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS PROVIDING SUPPORT TO EXILE POPULATION IN CALAIS

Many associations and volunteer groups providing essential services in Calais (such as food, showers, or material distributions) regularly interact with UAMs, even if not specifically mandated for child protection. **Providing systematic training to these frontline actors, including police officers, on legal frameworks, identification of minors, and referral mechanisms, could significantly improve early detection and orientation toward appropriate services.**

Non-field stakeholders must also be better informed on the specificities of UAMs in transit, to improve service provision and adequacy.

These trainings must include **modules on identifying and reacting to suspected cases of child sexual exploitation or human trafficking.**

6

CONCLUSION

The findings presented in this report highlight the complexity of unaccompanied minors' experiences in Calais. **Their testimonies, coupled with the perspectives of stakeholders, reveal that while certain local adaptations have been made, the rights of UAMs to protection, health, dignity, and an adequate standard of living remain undermined.**

The **young people interviewed, mostly boys from Sudan and Egypt, expressed minimal demands, focusing on immediate survival rather than long-term integration.** Their tendency to downplay needs, often framed through faith or resilience, contrasts sharply with the context they live in. Their living conditions in informal camps, with limited access to warmth, water and hygiene, are highly inadequate. Violence is part of their daily lives, be it between communities or at the hand of police forces.



Informal living camps where UAMs live in Calais © ECPAT Staff

Aside from a couple of officially mandated organisations, **the majority of services are provided by civil society associations.** There are thus a certain number of associative initiatives meeting immediate survival needs, but no true child-centred protection framework. Many frontline NGOs providing food, hygiene, and psychosocial support neither have the training or resources to respond to the specific vulnerabilities of minors. As a result, **UAMs often navigate adult-oriented systems, relying on informal peer networks for safety and information.** This reliance, while an expression of agency, exposes them to heightened risks of exploitation and abuse.

At the institutional level, **the FTDA-managed emergency shelter in Longuenesse stands as the central pillar of child protection in the Calais area.** It provides warmth, food, and hygiene in accordance with legal obligations, yet its effectiveness is limited by geographic distance, restrictive procedures, and conditional access that fails to prioritise the child's best interests. The requirement for minors to "leave for a night" after five days of shelter, or to engage in administrative processes they do not understand or trust, effectively conditions protection on compliance, rather than on need.

Stakeholders consistently underlined three major challenges shaping protection in Calais.

- First, **the transit situation of UAMs**, combined with their mistrust of authorities, creates a self-invisibilisation dynamic: many declare themselves as adults or avoid contact with services altogether.
- Second, **regular police evictions** of informal camps destroy fragile social and humanitarian networks, disrupting outreach work and further isolating minors. The **influence of smugglers** who often encourage UAMs to cross to the UK, and feed them disinformation also makes protection difficult. Some UAMs are recruited to work in the networks, as a form of exploitation.
- Finally, the **constant fluidity of migration flows** requires service providers to remain highly adaptive, flexible, and mobile.

Ultimately, ensuring respect for UAMs' rights in Calais requires moving beyond conditional and reactive measures toward an approach grounded in unconditional protection, mobility, and trust.

Building sustained, relationship-based outreach that accompanies minors without coercion or settlement requirements is key to realising their rights in practice. Ending routine evictions, guaranteeing systematic identification and protection of minors during police operations, and improving child protection training for all actors in contact with exiled populations are essential steps.

Ultimately, a rights-based response to UAMs in transit must affirm that all children, regardless of status, intention, or location, are entitled to the full spectrum of protection guaranteed by the CRC. Unaccompanied minors first a foremost are minors, and not migrants in general, thus they should be treated as minors in a particular vulnerable situation.

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ANNEXES

1. BASIC INFORMATION ON GENERAL AND MIGRANT BACKGROUND POPULATION IN COUNTRY AND CITY

Number / %	Number / % from 2020, 21, 22, 23, 24 (if available)					N or % from 2024 (or latest available year) – please choose one and be coherent across columns			
	total number					gender (M/F)	Age groups	country of origin (top 5, percentage)	languages spoken (top 5, percentage)
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024			
TOTAL pop. – FR	67.4 M	67.6 M	68M	68.2 M	68.4 M	M48.6% F51.4%	0-19 :23% 20-64:55% 65+:23%	/	/
Number and % of foreign-born pop, pop. with migrant background FR	6.8M 10%	6.9M 10.2%	7M 10.3%	7.3M 10.7%	/			1. Algeria (12.2%) 2. Morocco (11.7%) 3. Portugal (7.9%) 4. Tunisia (4.8%) 5. Italy (3.9%) (2023)	/
Number of general pop. – CAL	/	/	67 585	/	/	M48.2% F51.8%	0-19: 24.7% 20-64: 56.7% 65+: 18.6%		
Number and % of foreign-born pop, pop. with migrant background CAL	(2018) 6171 8.6%					M83.8% F16.2% (2018 data)			

2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Number / %	Number / % from 2020, 21, 22, 23, 24 (if available)					N or % from 2024 (or latest available year) – please choose one and be coherent across columns			
	total number					gender (M/F)	Age groups	country of origin (top 5, percentage)	languages spoken (top 5, percentage)
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2023			
TOTAL UAMs FR	9524	11315	14782	19370	13554	M: 91.7% F: 8.3%	<10: 0.15% 10-14: 8.65% 15-16: 60.7% 17: 30.5%	1. Guinea (31.8%) 2. Ivory Coast (22.8%) 3. Tunisia (7.8%) 4. Mali (5.7%) 5. Afghanistan (3.8%)	
UAMs (in transit) CAL	/	/	/	/	/	M:95% F: 5%	<15 15-20% 15+ 75-80%	1. Sudan (over 60%) 2. Eritrea + 3. Egypt (in summer 2025, subject to rapid change)	

3. LANGUAGE, INSTITUTIONAL, SERVICE AND RECRUITMENT CHANNEL MAPPING

Mapping	
<p>Language mapping: list the main languages of refugees and UAMs in the locality. Please add prevalence/frequency and put them in order</p>	
<p>[in September 2025] 1 Arabic (Sudanese dialect): Common 2 Tigrinya: Common 3 Arabic (Egyptian dialect): Common 4 Amazigh: Rare 5 English: Rare 6 French: Very Rare</p>	
Institutional and service mapping	
<p>Relevant national, regional and local level policies and legal framework relevant for UAMs (with a summary)</p>	<p>1 Child Protection: In France UAMs fall under the responsibility of child protection (CP) authorities, not migration authorities. Departemental services are in charge of protecting children in danger. Child protection is part of their mandatory mission; it is a decentralised service. To be protected, UAMs must request protection, go through age and isolation assessment and be subject to a protection order signed by a child judge (juvenile court judge in charge of protection and sentencing of children). This procedure is rarely requested by UAMs in transit.</p> <p>2 Asylum Policy: Adults can apply for asylum at the prefecture. Their fingerprints are taken, and if this is their first asylum request in the EU (Dublin system), they are invited to an interview to determine the veracity of their account. During the whole procedure (which can last for months) asylum seekers are entitled to a small allowance and a place in accommodation centres. To apply for asylum a UAM must be attributed an ad-hoc administrator (specific guardian) in charge of representing the child throughout the procedure. They are not concerned by the Dublin system, they cannot be transferred to another EU country.</p>
<p>Relevant national, regional, but mostly local administration units, stakeholders, NGOs, etc. responsible for supporting UAMs. The list should provide information on each organization's area of expertise, services, responsibilities, target groups etc. and contact information and the linkages between various organizations. Add these information below the table, if more space needed.</p>	<p>1 Mandated Association</p> <p>1.1 <u>France Terre D'Asile (FTDA)</u> – Association mandated by the département to provide protection to UAMs. They have daily outreach activities to advertise their 'mise à l'abri' or (emergency shelter) which is situated in Longuenesse (40 min away from Calais.) UAMs in transit can sleep there for 5 nights and either leave for 1 night and return for 5 nights (etc.) or decide to request protection from CP services. If they choose the latter, they may remain in the centre during the age and isolation assessment procedure. It will then be determined by judges and national authorities whether they remain in Pas-de-Calais or to another département. If they are recognised as minors, they can request asylum with the support of an ad-hoc administrator (specific guardian). Inside the shelter, UAMs share rooms with two to four beds, each equipped with a sink and mirror. Bathrooms are shared between two rooms. Clothing can be washed, and some clothing items are distributed. The facility includes a resting room with a TV. Meals, provided three times daily by a catering service, have reportedly improved and better reflect UAMs' preferences.</p>

A nurse is present on site. All UAMs seeking assessment must undergo a medical check-up beforehand, though UAMs in transit can also request to see the nurse. Social workers organise psychosocial activities, and UAMs can speak with them to discuss their future, personal plans, or the French child protection and asylum systems

1.2 La Vie Active – Local French association mandated by the prefecture to carry out water and food distribution as well as a shower service.

2 Non-Mandated Associations

- 2.1 MSF: provides *medical* support to all exiled persons living in Calais and have a specific team and day centre dedicated to UAMs open 3 afternoons a week where they can shower, participate in psychosocial activities or benefit from guidance on healthcare.
- 2.2 CRF: The French Red-Cross has mobile medical teams which offers healthcare to all exiles people in Calais. They also have a restoring family link team.
- 2.3 ECPAT France: Through the PROTECT II project, staff conducts outreach activities in informal living spaces with the aim to identify and protect children at risk, most particularly children at risk of sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
- 2.4 Secours Catholique: Offers a day centre for all exiled people with various amenities (tea, food, showers, barber, psychosocial activities). Other associations are present to offer their various specific support activities (eg. CRF, la capuche, Chip etc.). A closed off space is available for women and children in the back where 'project play' conducts activities. Team largely made up of volunteers.
- 2.5 Utopia 56: Association which conducts outreach activities in the evenings and weekends, including on the coastline to support persons returning from failed crossings. Their emergency number is active 24/7. They orient exiles to shelters and distribute tents as a last resort. Team largely made up of volunteers.
- 2.6 Care4Calais: British association which carries out food and Non-Food Item distributions.
- 2.7 Salam: Association which carries out food and material distributions (tents, winter clothes etc.).
- 2.8 Channel Info Project (CHIP): Association providing electric charging stations and Wi-Fi connection near living areas and facilitating access to essential services for exiles and participating in risk prevention and reduction during Channel crossings through outreach programmes and information points.
- 2.9 La Capuche: Association distributing tents and sleeping bags five days a week, through a referral system shared with partner organisations. Each month, they distribute up to 300 tents and 600 sleeping bags.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>2.10 Project Play</u>: British association offering activities for young (accompanied) children. • <u>2.11 Refugee Woman Center</u>: French association supporting displaced women and families, in transit, living in outdoor informal camps. They provide essential non-food items such as hygiene products, women's and children's clothing, and baby care products. They are important actors when Unaccompanied Girls are identified, which is rare. • <u>2.12 Calais Food Collective</u> installed large water containers in 12 living and distribution sites across Calais. They come regularly to fill them up. Moreover, they distribute ingredients rather than hot meals which allows persons to be more independent, preparing their meals when they wanted and according to their tastes. • <u>2.13 Kaleidoscope</u> – French association organising psychosocial activities for minors age 12-18, including UAMs. <p>3 Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3.1 CD62</u>: the departmental council is the legally responsible administration for the protection of children in danger. They have appointed FTDA to carry out this mandate for UAMs in transit • <u>3.2 Tribunal Judiciaire Boulogne</u>: the children judge at the Boulogne Tribunal is responsible for the judicial protection orders for UAMs who wish to stabilise in France. Prosecutors are also responsible for inquiries on crimes (or suspected crimes) committed against children (incl. trafficking and exploitation). The public prosecutor also receives alerts on the most worrying cases of UAMs in danger. • <u>3.3 Brigade de protection de l'enfance et des familles / Police Brigade in Charge of Crimes against minors</u> <p>5 Healthcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>5.1 'Permanence d'Accès aux Soins de Santé' (Continuity of healthcare) or PASS</u> – special service present in public hospitals, offers healthcare without conditions, regardless of income or administrative status, and does not require a form of ID. • <u>5.2 Emergency Room of the Calais Hospital</u>: UAMs in need of medical attention when the PASS is closed, or brought by emergency response teams are brought to the ER of the Calais hospital, they are treated even if they have no papers or legal status.
<p>Recruitment channel mapping: of relevant local institutions (including social services providers, reception centers, hotspots, schools), NGOs, localities (e.g. popular meeting or leisure time spots in the city), channels and methods to recruit potential respondent UAMs for quantitative and qualitative research.</p>	
<p>UAMs</p>	<p>1 Centre de mise à l'Abri Longuenesse (FTDA) – This center, situated 40min away from Calais, welcomes up to 40 UAMs for stays of 5 nights maximum (before a night away to return). This is a preferred location for interviews, as there is a</p>

possibility to talk privately and UAMs are having their vital needs met, at least for the duration of their stay.

2 Accueil de Jour (Secours Catholique)– The day center is a space where exiles come to rest. Many services are available there, and an office is available in the back for privacy.

Stakeholders

1 Recruitment of local stakeholders will be done through the partner network of ECPAT and contact with institutions.



Power to UAMs: Ensuring Equal Access, Participation, and Voice at the Local Level
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