

Children on the Move

FICE, 70th year celebration
Troger, april 2018

By Dr. Djibril FALL Director ISS-West Africa
President FICE-West Africa

General movement of children within the W/A Region



Who are these CoM

- *These are children and youths who have voluntarily or by force or been fraudulently induced to leave their village, town, region or country of origin for a known or an unknown destination; and some of whom, in the course of their mobility are confronted with situations that undermine or may undermine their physical and/or psychological well-being either at their destination or in transit.*
- Median age 12 years
- 1/3 girls

Context of mobility

Children victims
of
Trafficking

**Orphans, lost or
abandoned
Children**

**Involuntary
Migration**

Children
**Victims of
harmful practices**



Children
**Affected by
Crises**

Children
**Living on the
street**

Children victims
of
Exploitation

**Early
Migration**

Problematics of children CoM

- Unaccompanied children and children exposed to dangerous or illegal forms of migration
- At-risk children or victims of trafficking (internal or trans-national)
- Children, victims of mistreatment and abuse (in households, workplaces or institutions where they are placed)
- Children deprived of care and education (such privation may be the cause or the consequence of a departure)
- Orphans, lost or abandoned children

Problematics... (Contd.)

- Children living on the streets
- Children affected by crises, disasters and conflicts (refugees, displaced persons, individuals associated with armed groups)
- Children in conflict with the law (entered into conflict during mobility and/or went into mobility due to a conflict)
- Children, victims of Harmful traditional practices (FGM, forced marriages, so-called 'child-witches', etc.)

This group has three particular characteristics that increase their vulnerability: first, they are children; second, they are unaccompanied; and thirdly, they are migrants

WEST AFRICA NETWORK

- WAN is about the protection of Children and Youths on the Move in vulnerable situations in the ECOWAS Space & Mauritania.
- It is a transnational coordination and collaboration mechanism between different actors in different countries for the referral, care and protection of vulnerable children on the move in West Africa

WAN

WAN is a transnational MECHANISM

- **It's not a project, not an organisation, not a closed club**

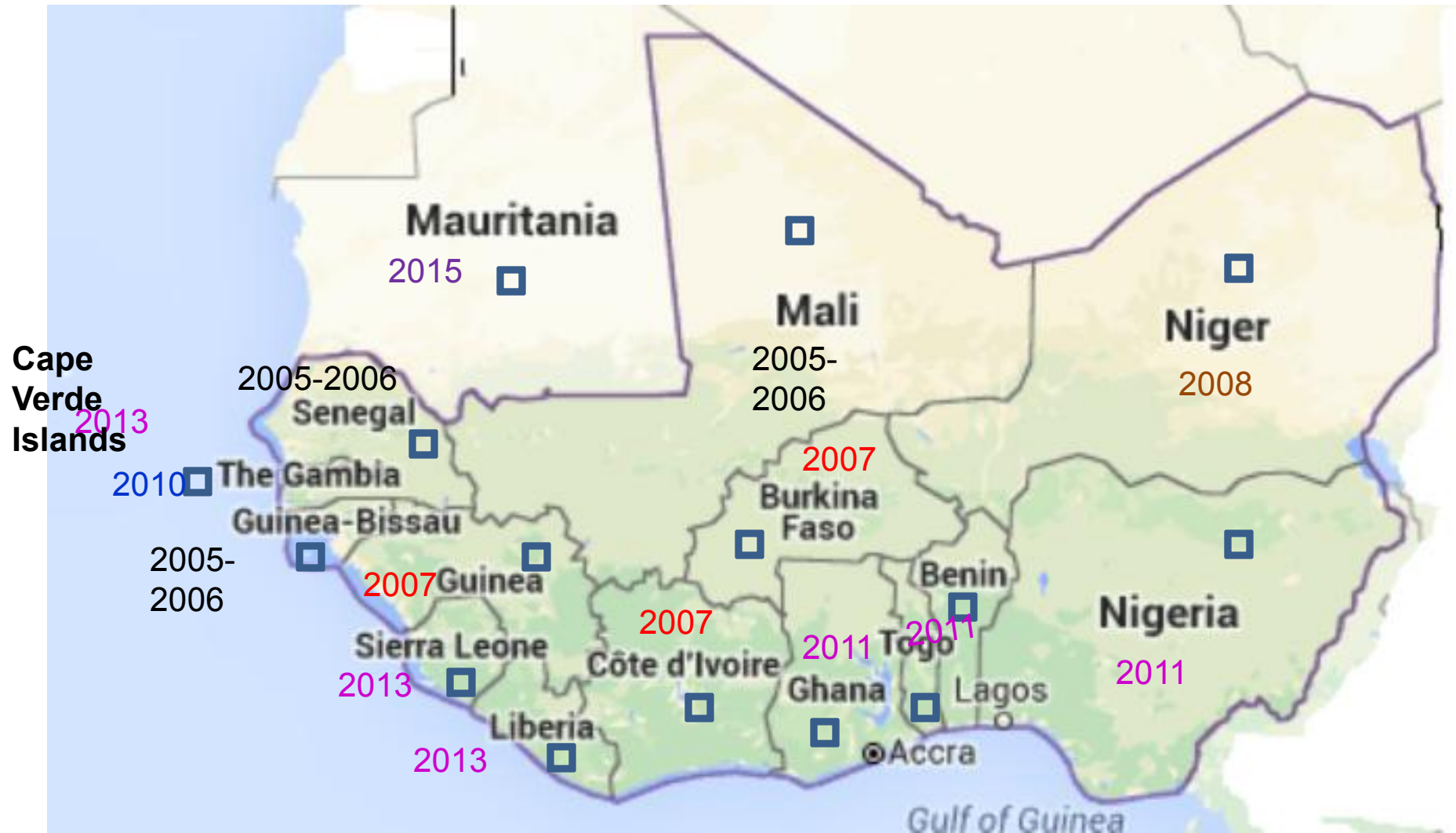
WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR THE NETWORK?

The free movement of persons is promoted via the ECOWAS protocol of 1979; however, measures to protect vulnerable groups on the move, including children are inexistent. People, including children are allowed to move freely within the ECOWAS space, but there are no specific transnational measures to protect them from the risks associated with their movements. Children, who for various reasons move as much as adults are very often victims of this policy omission. **This group has three particular characteristics that increase their vulnerability: first, they are children; second, they are unaccompanied; and thirdly, they are migrants.**

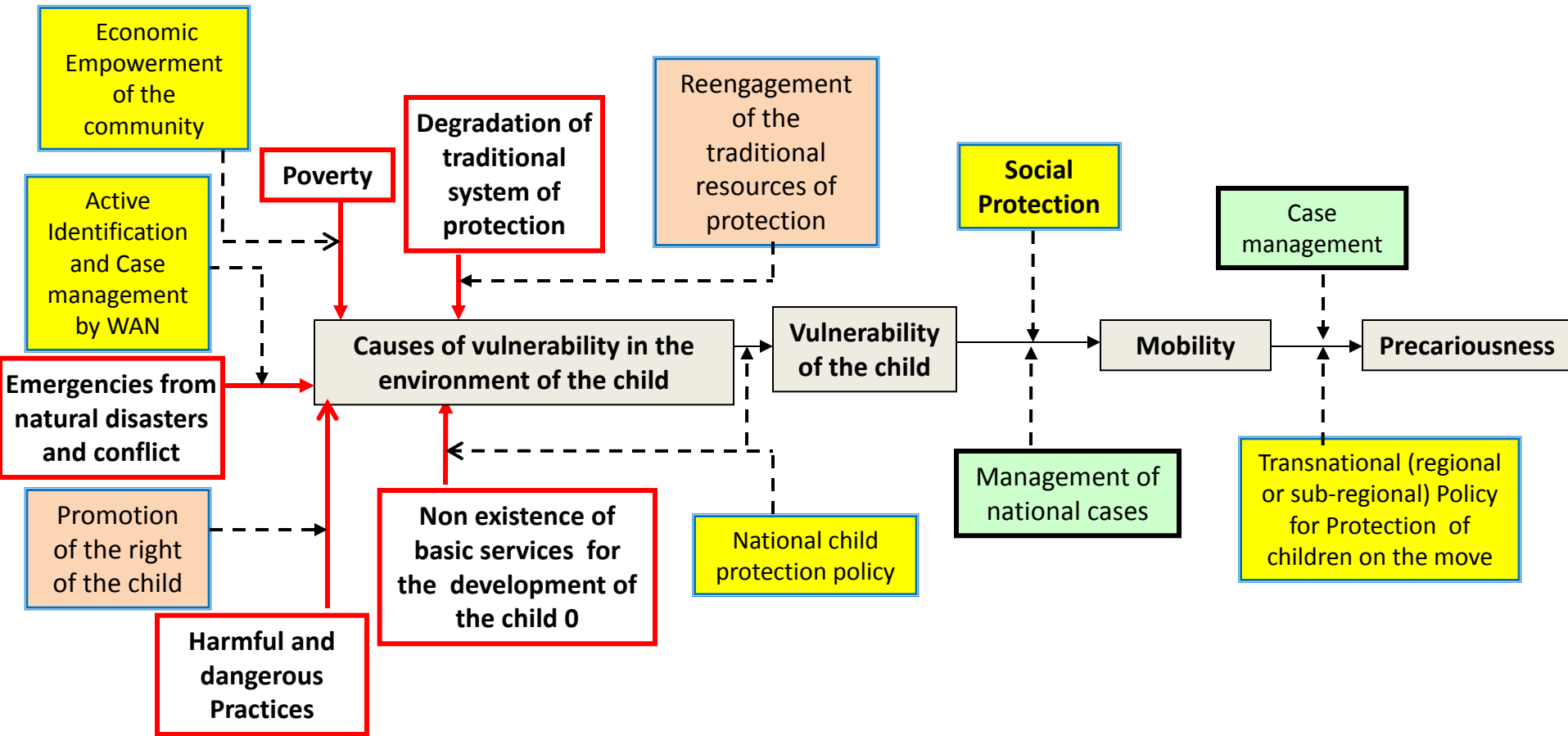
Development of WAN mechanism

Chronology du WAN	
2002 – 2005	Definition of problems and analyses of needs in West Africa. Mobilisation of resources
2005 – 2006	Pilot Project (Senegal, Mali, Guinea Bissau)
2007 – 2010	Developmental phase; 9 countries integrated
2011 – 2014	WAN covers the 15 countries of ECOWAS. Introduction of quality approach. (Standards)
2015	Integration of Mauritania
2017	Collaboration with Morocco

MEMBER COUNTRIES AND INTEGRATION DATES



WAN Model of Action of Vulnerability induced by mobility



From repatriation to reintegration

- Lots of young Africans are repatriated from Europe and with in Africa

<https://youtu.be/IHTHd5tzhrY>

- How we can support these children and their families in Africa when they return back home?
 - From their needs/resources to solutions
 - From existing programs/organisations
- How do we accompany these children/youth for a sustainable view/perspective of their future ()

Mechanism of Support

Children on the move identified in other countries (other than their country of origin) are returned and reintegrated in their country of origin / a third country or the country of identification

Children to returned....

The reception structures provide

- The identification,
- The emergency support,
- The assessment of the personal situation of the child

Children to be returned...

The structures of reception refer to WAN children who wish to return ***voluntarily***:

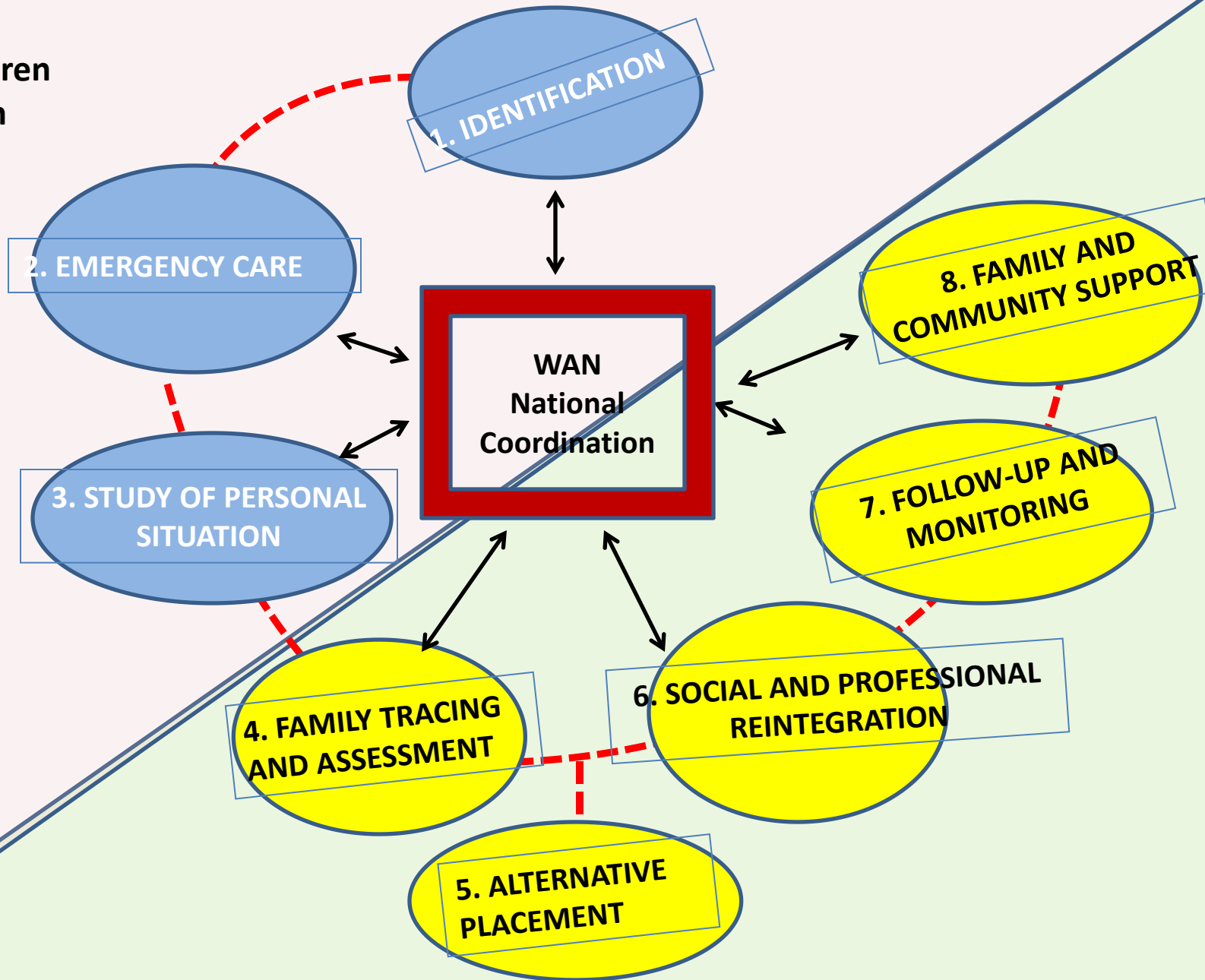
- The research of their families take place; thanks to the cooperation of the coordination in the country of origin,
- The situation of the family is assessed,
- Family mediation (return, life project) of the child

Procédures of the manual (Working tool)

- 1. Identification
- 2. Emergency Care
- 3. Study of personal situation
- 4. Family tracing and assessment
- 5. Alternative placement
- 6. Social and professional reintegration
- 7. Follow-up and monitoring
- 8. Family and community support

WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE MANUAL?

Protection of
FOREIGN Children
on the move in
difficulties



- WAN offers a number of services (package) to benefit children on the move in West Africa:
 - At the level of the children: the PEC, the reintegration and follow up
 - At the level of professionals: the training, the mutual reinforcement, the sharing of information
- For stakeholders, a mechanism for all the actors of the protection

Working tools of WAN

- Identification Sheet
- Listening and Assessment of the Personal Situation of the Child Sheet
- Family Tracing and Assessment of the Family Situation of the Child Sheet
- Elaboration of the Child's Reintegration Project/Training Sheet
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Reintegration Sheet

WAN today

- More than 1500 CoM et young migrants supported (individual and specific)per year
- 20 community projects
- More than 300 actors per year are trained on topics of protection of CoM
- Annual per-review of 16 countries
- Regional database used in 16 countries by civil society organizations and government social services

ISS-WA monitors, provides technical assistance as well as financial support to WAN