

# The Situation for Refugee Children in Sweden



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*“I want to find my father again and be able to be with him. That is my biggest dream and wish. I only have one father in this world. To live with him – that is what I want”*

# Concerns for refugee children

- Access to social services
- Access to guardian
- Lack of information
- Access to education
- Long waiting period before decision
- Access to health care

# Health care for refugee children

- Mental health problems
  - Trauma from country of origin and journey to Sweden
  - Waiting period i Sweden
    - Sleep deprivation
    - Stomach pain
    - Headaches
    - Difficulty concentrating in school
    - Not eating enough
    - Self harm
- Lack of access to health care
  - Many meet the health care for the first time in school
- Lack of coordination and co-operation between actors involved in the health care of children

# Good practices

- Civil society played initially a vital role
  - At arrival in Sweden – eg train stations
  - In reception centres
    - Teaching Swedish
    - Organising leisure activities, providing clothes

# The new Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

- ENOC study January 2016 – fundamental rights for children at stake in Europe
- Particular concern in the proposal for a new CEAS
  - Only temporary protection instead of durable solutions
    - Risk the right to education, health, rehabilitation - development
  - Detention of children
    - In contradiction to art 37 of the CRC

*“If God wants to I will become a psychologist. I didn’t have much hope for that before, but since I came here I feel a little bit more hopeful”*