



Translators without Borders (TWB) is a non-profit organization offering language and translation support for humanitarian and development agencies, and other non-profit organizations globally.

INTERPRETATION TIP SERIES FOR INTERPRETERS

TIP 6

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children and youth are the largest age group to receive humanitarian assistance. UNICEF calculates that nearly half of all refugees are children. There are 50 million child migrants worldwide.

Who is a child or a youth?

Youth is usually understood as a period of transition to adulthood.

Definitions vary per country/cultural context.

- For the UN, youth are 18-25 years old.
- The African Youth Charter defines youth as any individual between 15-35 years of age.
- The new Nigeria youth policy states 18-29, as against the previous 18-45.





THE CHALLENGE:

- "In northeast Nigeria, there are currently 1.9 million people displaced from their homes. Sixty percent of them are children, with 1 in 4 under the age of five.
- Estimated 19 million children displaced in their own countries Globally
- Children and youth are the most numerous age group to receive humanitarian assistance - **UNICEF.**






Role of development

Interpreting for children can have special challenges, based on the age of the children as well as their development.

The four key levels of children's development are physical, emotional, cognitive and social. When interpreting for children be aware of how developed they are in each of these ways their development.

Physical Health, brain and body development 	Emotional Confidence, self-esteem and relationships 
Cognitive Language, intelligence, and problem-solving skills 	Social Communication, attitude, social skills, conflict resolution skills, ethical and moral development 

Techniques to improve communication with children

-  Make sure the child feels safe
-  Be non-judgemental
-  Let them express themselves
-  Try to not interrupt
-  Take breaks when needed

For more information about this tip sheet or to find out how Translators without Borders is supporting humanitarian action in northeast Nigeria, visit our website or contact: nigeria@translatorswithoutborders.org



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