TOOL **38**

Decision tree for determining a child's separation status, UNHCR Management System

Is the child with both biological parents?

YES

NO

Child not separated.

Is the child with one biological parent?

NO

YES

Is the child with the person normally responsible for looking after them before flight/conflict ?

The child is not separated. A best interests assessment (BIA) to be conducted if child is considered for resettlement.

YES

NO

Child not separated. Screen for other vulnerabilities. A best interests determination (BID) to be conducted if child is considered for resettlement.

Is the child staying with an adult sibling, aunt/uncle, grandparent, cousin, or great-grandparent related to the child by birth?

NO

YES

Is the child staying with an adult who is related to the child through marriage (for example, brother-in-law, uncle by marriage, 2nd wife of child's father), or another legal/customary relationship (for example, clan membership, godparent)?

The child is separated. Conduct BIA. BID required for durable solutions.

YES

NO

Is the person the child is staying with his or her spouse?

Is the child staying with any person 18 years old or older?

YES

NO

NO

YES

Are the child's parents present in the same location as the child and his/her husband/wife?

Child is separated. Conduct BIA. BID required for durable solutions.

Is the child staying with other children below the age of 18?

Child is unaccompanied. Conduct BIA. BID required for durable solutions.

YES

NO

YES

NO

Child is not separated, but is a child spouse. Conduct BIA.

Child is separated, and a child spouse. Conduct BIA. BID required for durable solutions, and for separation from spouse if necessary.

All children are unaccompanied, and also members of a child-headed household. Conduct BIAs. BIDs required for durable solutions.

Child is unaccompanied. Conduct BIA. BID required for durable solutions