

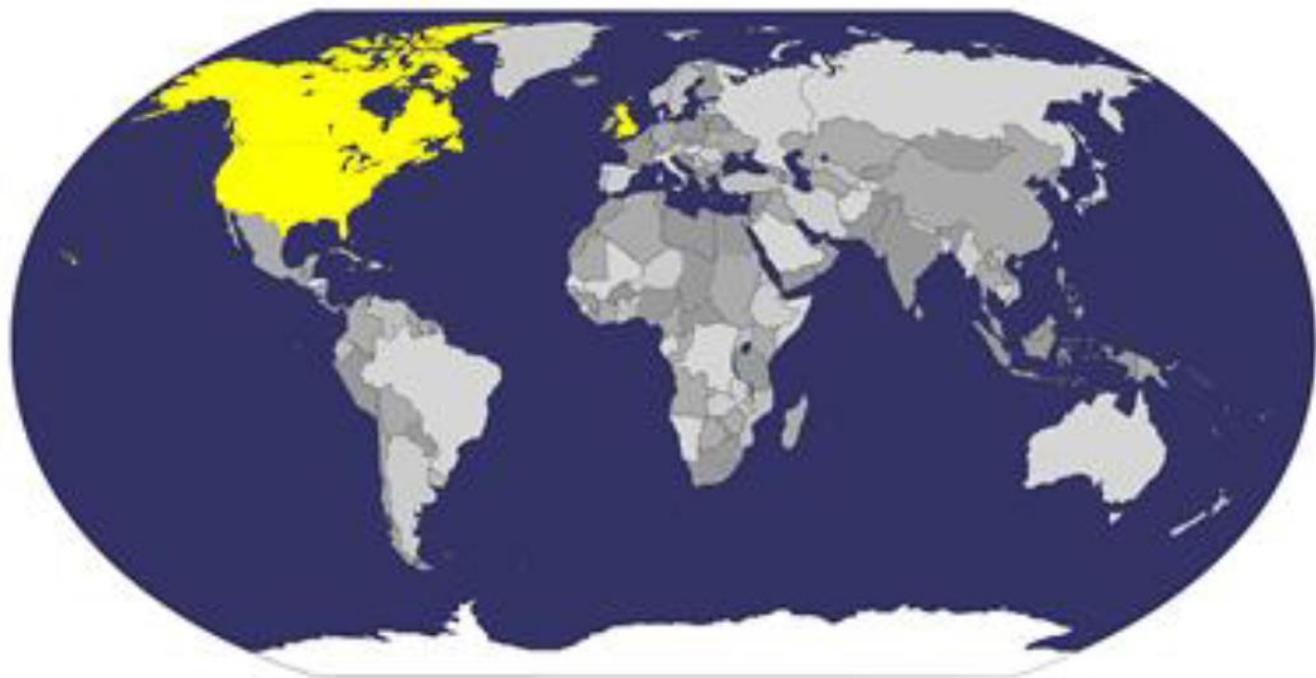


Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures



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Inspiring Children's Futures

Together we are creating a world where all children and young people have what they need to reach their full potential, particularly children who experience adversity.

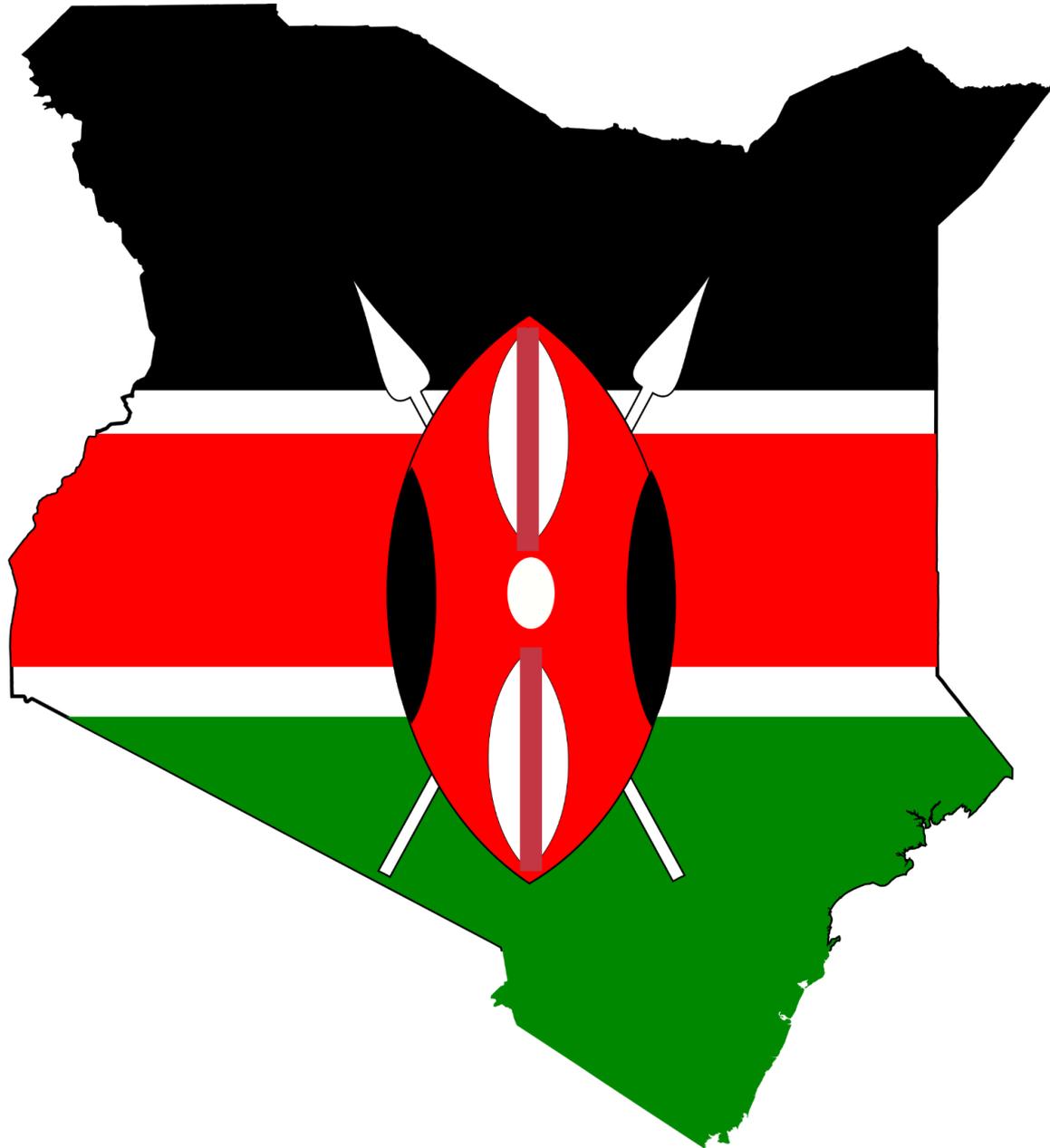


Inspiring Children's Futures



Centre for excellence
for looked after children in Scotland





UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children



Necessity Principle



Suitability Principle





**Strategic/
Policy Level**

**Systems/
Operational
Level**

**Practice
Level**

Towards the Right Care for Children



- 1st study of its kind
- European Commission project
- Partnership with SOS Children's Villages International
- Research was carried out by CELCIS, led by Dr Chrissie Gale
- 3 continents: South America, Africa, Asia
- 6 country case studies: Chile, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Uganda

Towards the Right Care for Children



Proposes ways to understand, assess and improve alternative care systems in developing and middle-income countries.

The research findings will help to influence the EU's global strategy to improve systems of care for children.

Country Case Studies

A word cloud featuring various research-related terms in different colors and orientations. The words include: purposive, key, young, desk, Spanish, people, respondent, visits, 685+, review, French, in-depth, documents, informant, English, Portuguese, questions, guide, profile, facilities, research, interviews, sampling, children, residential, and purpose.

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The Findings



The findings: commonality and diversity

- A synthesis report by Nigel Cantwell of the results of the 3 regional and 6 in-depth country studies
- **Common features include:**
 - informal care arrangements are by far the most frequent
 - residential care is far more frequent than formal family-based settings
 - low investment in prevention, reintegration and workforce development
 - national laws, standards and policies in place are not the main problem: it is their implementation and enforcement that are failing.
- **Key variations from country to country**
 - the main reasons why children are in formal care
 - the ways in which formal care provision is funded and organised.
- While commonalities point to certain issues that will likely need to be addressed, **the diversity demonstrates the need to understand fully each country situation before attempting to draw up appropriate plans for reform.**

The findings:

Why children are in formal care

- Orphanhood and abandonment are **not** reported as major reasons for children entering the formal care system.
- Major reasons vary from country to country, in part depending on the extent to which the social services, police and courts are involved in placements (e.g. reacting to situations of abuse, neglect and exploitation within the family).
- While “poverty” is frequently cited as a major reason for placement, there are indications that it is more the vulnerability created by poverty that is the main driver, compounded by discrimination – we need to know more.
- That said, in many countries lack of access to education simply because of family poverty is clearly both a push factor and a pull factor for placement in residential facilities.
- Exacerbating factor: active recruitment of children by private residential care providers.

The findings:

Alternative care settings

- ***Informal care (kinship care, customary arrangements)***
 - Under pressure, sometimes seriously so
 - Provision of support is problematic, but without it the arrangement may fail
- ***Formal family-based care (notably foster care)***
 - Low acceptance of caring for “stranger children” (esp. in Africa and Asia)
 - Overall implications of providing a fully-fledged foster care service are rarely recognised/acted upon
 - NGO “pilot projects” on foster care tend to have limited impact, scaling up not being planned from the outset with the authorities and thus not taking place
- ***Residential care (including, but not limited to, “institutions”)***
 - Facilities can range from very small (8 children) to very large (>500)
 - Up to 99% of facilities may be run by non-State actors (e.g. Uganda/Nepal)
 - Generally poor levels of registration, authorisation and oversight
 - Lack of gatekeeping (especially in Africa and Asia)

The findings:

General pointers for reform

- In most countries, the **quantity, quality and type** of formal alternative care provision – and the circumstances in which it might be deemed necessary – are largely determined in practice by the non-State sector (domestic and/or foreign), and lie essentially outside the control of the authorities
- Unless the authorities are both convinced and enabled, as necessary, to work towards a given proposed reform, efforts to secure **sustainable change** have been shown as unlikely to succeed
- **How – and from where – alternative care is financed** must be a key element in devising reform strategies and determining the main targets thereof.

“The voices of children and the need to listen to them have been a crucial aspect of this report. We cannot underestimate just how powerful it is to hear directly from them as to their experience of the care system. This, in turn, can help shape future thinking about how care systems are structured and delivered, all with the interest of children at its centre.”

Chrissie Gale, International Lead at CELCIS and co-author
on the report





“It is a common assumption that national laws, standards and policies are the main challenge in the context of alternative childcare systems. Our research shows this not to be the case. It is their implementation and enforcement that are failing. Towards a solution, there needs to be a full understanding of each country’s context before change can be implemented appropriately in a significant way.”

Nigel Cantwell, co-author on the report

Resources!



For a copy of the reports:

www.celcis.org

search terms:
towards the right care children

ONLINE COURSE

Getting Care Right for All Children: Implementing the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children



Ensure that alternative care is a necessary, suitable and positive experience for children, with this free online course.

Join now – starts 15 May



What is it about?

ONLINE COURSE

Caring for Vulnerable Children

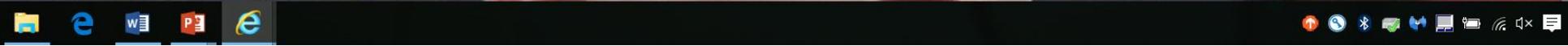
Develop an understanding of some of the approaches involved in caring for vulnerable children, with this free online course.



Join free

Upgrade - £59

What's the difference?





Thank
you!



Moving Forward with the Guidelines

The principles of 'Necessity' and 'Suitability'

'Necessity':

- Preventing
- Gatekeeping

'Suitability':

- Standards
- Matching based on need

The Study

Aims and objective of study

- Map and summarise **existing knowledge** on deinstitutionalisation - 3 reports - Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South East Asia
- **Increase knowledge base** on deinstitutionalisation – 6 in-depth country reports – Chile, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria and Uganda
- **Provide guidelines** for future EU strategies on deinstitutionalisation in these regions and beyond
- Gatekeeping: **Broadened study** to frame within a child protection system approach & principles of ‘necessity’ and ‘suitability’

Country Case Studies

in-depth desk review 685+documents in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French

research guide questions

respondent profile –purposive sampling

244 key informant interviews

177 children and young people

visits to residential facilities

Research Methodology

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Literature References	General Information	Definitions	Total child population	No.without parental care 2000 - 2013	no. inresidential care 2000 - 2013	No. in alternative care 2000 - 2013	Other Data	Normative Framework	Standards	Lead agencies responsible
<p>Conselho Nacional do Ministério Público, 2013. Relatório da Infância e Juventude – Resolução nº 71/2011: Um olhar mais atento aos serviços de acolhimento de crianças e adolescentes no País. Brasília: Conselho Nacional do Ministério Público.</p>	<p>According to the Statute of Child and Adolescent, it is responsibility of Public Defendants to monitor and evaluate alternative care services (residential and foster care). In June 2011, the National Council of Public Defendants (“Crown”) released the Resolution 71, which aims to rule and standardize the monitoring inspections to residential and fore care services in all States of the country. The resolution stated that public defendants in the child protection area would document periodical and annual inspections to those services aiming to gather a wide range of information</p>	<p>Use definitions stated in the current normative framework. See below: ECA, Orientacoes tecnicas</p>			<p>2754 alternative care services; 2598 residential care and 156 foster care (initial numbers provided by the Ministry of Social Development and then updated by this work). In 2013, residential care: 1.736 (77,3%); family-like care placement (a couple lives in a facility and takes care of a small number of children): 511 (22,7%). Total: 2.247, representing 86.5% of services in the country.</p>	<p>2013: 123 foster care services; 1,019 children in care. Capacity of services (residential care and family-like care): 45,569 children. Currently in their care: 29,321 (86,5% of total services in the country).</p>	<p>In 2013: 123 foster care services (78,8% of total in the country), 817 foster families registered, of which 526 are active In 2013: 76,4% of residential and family-like care services are co-ed. 95% of foster care services are co-ed. Among boys, most of them in residential care are between 6 and 11 yo; among girls, from 6 to 11 yo and 12 to 15 yo. In family-like care, most of girls are</p>	<p>Orientações Técnicas: Serviços de Acolhimento para Crianças e Adolescentes, aprovado pela Resolução Conjunta CNAS/CONANDA nº 1, de 18 de junho de 2009</p>		
<p>▶ ◀ Argentina / Belize / Brazil / Brazil (map) / Columbia / Costa Rica / Cuba / Ecuador / El Salvador</p>										

Recommendations to EC

- Unless the authorities are both convinced (**political will**) and enabled, as necessary, to work towards a given proposed reform, efforts to secure sustainable change have been shown as unlikely to succeed
- Ensuring the **role of the State** is the principal proactive generator and guarantor of change whilst bringing on board all key stakeholders

Recommendations to EC

- Sustainable reform should be envisaged as a **long-term process**, not least because it usually requires a substantial change in attitudes and practice
- Simultaneous actions should tackle identified priority concerns regarding reasons children come into alternative care and prevention as well as quality and appropriateness of the care they receive (“**necessity**” and “**suitability**” principles)

Recommendations to EC

- Clearly locating alternative care within a **child protection system** approach is necessary
- Increased investment in **work force** is essential
- **Meaningful participation** of children and young people and their families will improve outcomes and results

Recommendations to EC

- How – and from where – alternative care is **financed** must be a key element in devising reform strategies and determining the main targets thereof
-
- Reaching a full understanding of each **country situation** before attempting to draw up appropriate plans for reform

Recommendations to EC

- Avoiding consequences of **poor policy transfer** (i.e. western concept of foster care without cultural appropriateness and adequate resources to implement)
- Increased investment in **rigour and use of data** will allow for more effective policy and planning

Findings

- Informal care arrangements are by far the most frequent
- Residential care is far more frequent than formal family-based settings
- Very low investment in prevention and reintegration

Findings

- Orphanhood/abandonment - not major reasons
- Major reasons and degree vary from country to country and region to region:
 - “poverty” /social exclusion/ stigma/ discrimination/poor coping mechanisms in times of crisis/lack of access to services
- abuse & neglect - happens to rich children too but less attention

Findings

- real or perceived lack of access to education -found this more than anticipated
- active recruitment/trafficking by ‘private’ residential care providers – failure of State to regulate and enforce
- funding maintains/perpetuates existence of care facilities

Findings

- National laws, standards and policies not the primary challenge in many countries – implementation/enforcement that are failing
- Regulation, inspection and oversight of all forms of alternative care provision are seriously deficient
- Low investment in workforce development

Findings

- Quantity, quality and type of formal alternative care provision
–largely determined by non-State sector (domestic and/or foreign) & lie essentially outside the control of the authorities
- Lack of and/or poor quality data & usage

Findings

Key variations from country to country

- the main reasons why children are in formal care (protection v unnecessary placement)
- the ways in which formal care provision is funded and organised