Why focus on data in child protection now?

**Harnessing the potential & addressing the demands**

- Expanding commitments to equity
- Growth in data sources and technology
- Innovative partnership opportunities
- Closing data gaps for all children and in all contexts
- Interoperable and cross-sectoral data
- Faster collection and processing for timely action
Basic principles of UNICEF data work

1. Data demand, supply and use are equally important

2. Data investments must support government data systems not supplant them

3. Effective data systems must function both within and across sectors

4. Different data are appropriate for different uses and contexts

5. Data for children is a team sport and working with partners is essential to create value
What is the ‘bigger picture’ of improving availability, quality and comparability of child protection data?

1. Conference of European Statisticians Task Force on Statistics on Children, Adolescents and Youth
2. Revisioning TransMonEE: Child protection indicators
3. DataCare Project: Mapping alternative care data systems
4. New EU Policy initiatives
5. Data for Impact (D4I) USAID
6. BetterCareNetwork: Country Care Snapshots, Evidence for Impact
7. UNICEF: data system assessment and mapping tools
How is it all interconnected?

Conference of European Statisticians
Task Force on Statistics on Children, Adolescents and Youth

Revisioning TransMonEE: Child protection indicators

DataCare Project: Mapping alternative care data systems

Generic issues
- Alternative care
- Violence against Children
- Children with disabilities

Alternative care

Country-level work:
- Mapping data landscape
- Data advocacy
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and data systems

New EU Policy initiatives:
- EU Child Rights Strategy/Child Guarantee

Recommendations / Further data work

Revised Social Scoreboard

- Country-level work:
  - Mapping data landscape
  - Data advocacy
  - Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and data systems

Alternative care

- Generic issues
  - Alternative care
  - Violence against Children
  - Children with disabilities

- Country-level work:
  - Mapping data landscape
  - Data advocacy
  - Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and data systems
Where is this going?

- Connecting TransMonEE (NSO network) to broader initiatives & EU-wide expansion of the network (longer term)

- Informing the development of national action plans and monitoring frameworks within the Child Guarantee including a revised EU Social Scoreboard

- Working towards an internationally recognized core set of child protection indicators and towards statistical standards incl. standard definitions

- Continuing to increase demand, supply and use of data at country-level to drive better results for children
THANK YOU!
The DataCare Project

Mapping Child Protection Data Systems in Europe
What is the DataCare Project?

An ambitious Eurochild-UNICEF collaboration to map and analyse the *data and reporting systems on children in alternative care* in 28 – including the UK - European countries in 2020-2021

• Three main research questions:

1. *Do national systems collect the data needed for family-centred policy on alternative care?*

2. *What alternative care definitions are used in the countries, and are there common grounds to establish comparable definitions reflecting international concepts?*

3. *What promising practices exist in different countries?*

• **The project’s tools:** Research Protocol, National Template, Glossary

• Research team, Research Advisory Group, National Correspondents/Key Informants
Interim findings

Data is being Published

In all 14 countries some official data has been found to be published on children in alternative care.

Most disaggregate by age and sex, some also by disability.
Interim findings

Interest in Reform

Many countries are interested in data system reform. The initial stage of the mapping exercise has shown that 9 of the 14 countries (Be, Bu, Dk, Gr, Hu, Ir, Ro, Sp, Sc. UK) are in the process of reforming their data system on children in alternative care and the way data is disseminated.

Great enthusiasm for taking part in the Project, not just from local experts, but also from National Statistical Offices and Government representatives.
Feasibility of Change

It has been shown that it is possible to report on different alternative care systems in a comparable, more or less uniform way at the higher aggregated level.

Many countries use broadly comparable terms for things like residential care and foster care.
Interim findings

Room for Improvement

The information gathered points out:

• Gaps or inefficiencies in data gathering
• Room for strengthening of quality of data
• More data gathered than published
• Instances of promising practice could be used as guidance
• Harmonisation is needed for definitions and terminology, as well as statistical standards used
Thank you!