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Alternative Care Options:
Save the Children's Experiences in the Region

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Situation of Orphans and Vulnerable Children after Tsunami

- Children lost parents and caretakers

- Emotional and psychological impact

- Change in social environment

- Exposed to risks from outsiders

- Migrant children are even more vulnerable

- Orphans are placed with foster families with no follow-up system

- Government is building more institutions and 'boarding schools' to care for orphans

Institutional care/ residential care

- Definition

  A group living arrangement which normally takes place in a building provided by organization responsible, with care provided by paid adults who may or may not live on the premises and are not considered as traditional carers within the culture

- Institution is often seen as one of the first care options for children lacking parental care, because it is a tangible and visible response

Institutional care as the last resort

- Increased risks to children during care and following it

- A variable quality of care

- Children's rights ignored

- No individual care

- No well-rounded development of children

- Problems on leaving care (not prepare them for adulthood)

- Run for staff, not for children

- Expensive

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Responses and Rights

- SC's basic framework for developing responses on care is based on internationally-agreed children's rights

- CRC Principles : Survival and development, Protection, Non-discrimination, Participation in decision making ($\rightarrow$ self-esteem and resilience), Best interests of the child

- Good Practice :

  - Negative impact of separation

  - The importance of family-based care

  - Family reunification

  - Planning and reviewing the child's progress

Alternative Care Programmes

- Aims:
    - Protection children from harm (exploitation and abuse)
    - To enable development

- Spectrum of work:
    - Prevention of separation, abuse, and increased vulnerability
    - Work with children in difficult circumstances
    - Reintegration back into community
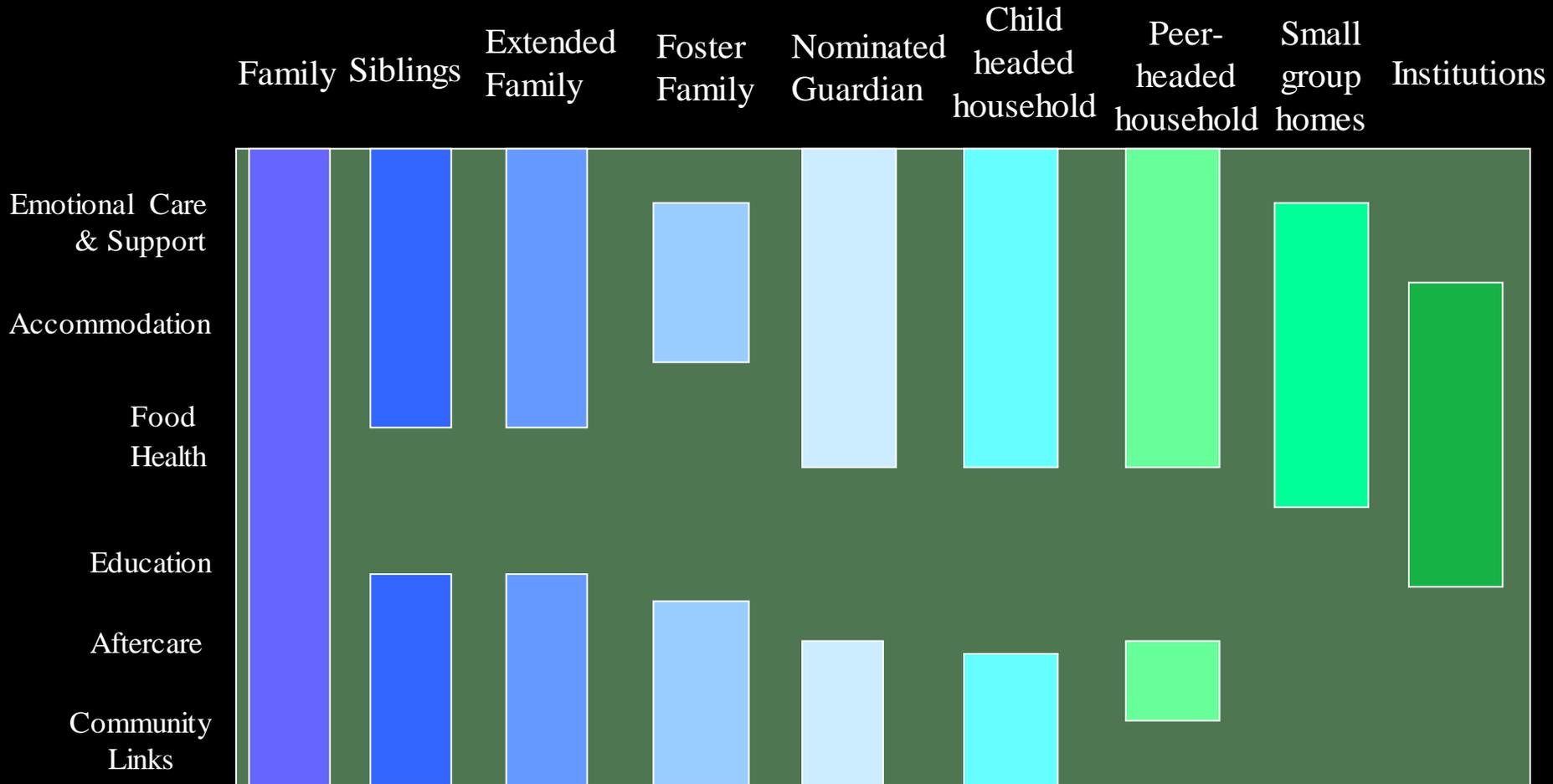   - Promote resilience

Principles for a Continuum of Care

- Community based = Children stays with their family or in the community

- Resilience = Universal capacity which allows a person to prevent, minimize and overcome the damage effects of adversity

  - Factors that promote resilience = strong bonding to loving parents, early security of emotional attachment, availability of caring adults, sense of personal coping ability, social support from family and community

- Children's participation in decision making

- Standards for protection and care services

- Anti-stigma and discrimination

Different Models of Care and their Connection to a Child's Community

Example of Save the children's projects - Family Support in Vietnam

Problem: growing # of children abandoned and placed in institutions

Objective: Comprehensive care and support to create alternative to institutions

- Work with parents

- Home visits to and work with families infected

- Build up parents capacity and skills

- Access to education and health

- Awareness raising in community

- Anti-stigma and discrimination

Community support in Cambodia

- Buddhist monks play key role in identifying OVC
- Creating supportive environment for OVC
- Keeping children in school/ provide education or vocational training
- HIV Prevention education
- Visiting families, counseling to PLWHA

Results:
- Improvement living standards and health of children
- Increase school attendance
- Increase community, school, government, NGO cooperation
- Reduce levels of discrimination

China – Moving from institutional to foster care

- More than 20 million orphans in China, 600 institutions, almost 150 centers for street children

- Others are cared for through kinship/foster care, small group homes, 'SOS villages'

- SC China worked with the government to develop policy that support a shift away from institutional care to foster care.

  - Establishment of standards for foster care

  - Changing institutions to community support centers for foster parents

  - Rehabilitation of children in the community

Children's Participation and Activity Centres in China

- Children's research to identify issues/ situation of children in community

- National Children's forum

- Children's participation in the process lead to developing resilience

- Activity centres as safe space for children

- Psychosocial support, participation, resilience, protection

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Alternatives to Institutions – Community Based Care and Protection

- Wide range of options and flexibility

- Environment familiar to Children

- Promote skills

- Promote resilience

- Framework for protection to implement standards

Thank you