

Better Care Network Listserv: 30 December 2010

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<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org>

FEATURED DOCUMENTS

- **Misguided Kindness: Making the Right Decisions for Children in Emergencies**
Using lessons learnt in emergencies, from the genocide in Rwanda to the Asian Tsunami and the earthquake in Haiti, our new report, *Misguided Kindness*, demonstrates what action is needed to keep families together during crises and to bring separated children back into a safe and nurturing family life. *Save the Children* warns that people who support orphanages or international adoption in the belief that they're doing the best for children suffering after a major emergency could in fact be putting those children in even more danger.
- **Voices of America Examines Inter-Country Adoption, Child Welfare in Ethiopia in a Two Part Series**

Under Pressure, Ethiopia Plans Crackdown on Baby Business

Ethiopia is planning to shut down dozens of orphanages and withdraw accreditation from several foreign adoption agencies, in an effort to halt what critics say is a thriving baby business. The rapid rise in Ethiopian adoptions has set off alarm bells among children's lobby groups. The U.S. State Department issued a statement this month expressing concern about reports of adoption-related fraud, malfeasance and abuse in Ethiopia.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Under-Pressure-Ethiopia-Plans-Crackdown-on-Baby-Business-111848424.html>

Ethiopia Working with Child Advocacy Groups to Clean Up Adoptions

Ethiopia is vowing to put a stop to what has been described as a 'free for all' in the adoption of its children by foreigners. But cleaning up a system rife with fraud and deception will require international assistance to fight well-entrenched and well-financed interests. Part two of this series will examine whether an impoverished country like Ethiopia, with a weak social services infrastructure, can successfully fight the moneyed interests intent on keeping the baby pipeline open. And, if they do succeed, whether the phenomenon will simply pop up in another part of the globe

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Ethiopia-Working-with-Child-Advocacy-Groups-to-Clean-Up-Adoptions--112078034.html>

OTHER NEW RESOURCES

- **Positive Care? HIV and Residential Care for Children in South Africa**
African Journal of AIDS Research
Responses to the HIV epidemic leading to an increase in the number of residential care facilities for children across sub-Saharan Africa have prompted concerns that large numbers of orphaned children are being placed in institutional care. There is little empirical research

into the role that institutions are playing in the provision of care to children affected by HIV in the region. This paper draws on an exploratory study of the provision of residential care for children in the context of the HIV epidemic in South Africa. The analysis reveals missed opportunities for non-institutional placements for HIV-positive children and identifies important gaps in the HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support interventions within the facilities. The article argues that a global and local preoccupation with orphans as being the children most severely affected by HIV, and as the primary category of children requiring alternative care as a result of the HIV epidemic, may have diverted attention away from the extent to which HIV-positive children populate institutions in South Africa. Furthermore, we suggest that adjustments are required to both decision-making regarding placement of HIV-positive children requiring alternative care and the provision of HIV-related interventions in residential facilities in order to ensure an adequate response to children's health and wellbeing.

To request a full text copy of this journal article, please contact the BCN Secretariat at contact@bettercarenetwork.org

- **Voices of Foster Parents of Sudanese Refugee Youths: Affirmations and Insights**
Journal of International Social Work

Many countries have developed formal refugee resettlement programmes and others have offered resettlement on an ad hoc basis in response to specific humanitarian crises. However, the mission to the refugees does not end at the point of their acceptance. The experiences of Sudanese 'lost children' and their foster families perhaps shed light on how social workers worldwide may aid in this resettlement process, from placement to acculturation. Foster parents of Sudanese refugee adolescents were both gratified and frustrated by their desires to nurture, successfully parent, and socially interact and experience cultural differences with the youths. These parents coped with challenges with the help of faith, family, peers and self-talk. Study found that foster parent's commitment to their wards typically was lifelong.

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- **HIV - Sensitive Social Protection: What does the evidence say?**

HIV and AIDS can push people and households into poverty, in part by reducing household labour capacity and increasing medical expenses. In some cases, HIV-related stigma and discrimination marginalizes people living with HIV and households affected by the virus, and excludes them from essential services. While many social protection schemes were not set up with HIV as a primary focus, their potential to contribute to a comprehensive HIV response is increasingly recognized. The UNAIDS business case on social protection, which was a catalyst for the development of this paper, shows how HIV-sensitive social protection can reduce vulnerability to HIV infection, improve and extend the lives of people living with HIV, and support individuals and households. While not specific to children, the paper includes sections on HIV and Child Protection and HIV and Early Childhood Development.

- **National Standards for Foster Care: Ireland**
Department of Health and Children, Ireland, April 2003

The Report of the Working Group on Foster Care, 'Foster Care: A Child-Centred Partnership' highlighted concerns about the quality of foster care services provided in Ireland. Following its publication, a committee was established to develop National Standards on Practices and Procedures on Foster Care. These Standards are based on the relevant legislation, regulation

and guidance and best practice derived from evidence based research and professional experience from home and abroad. Additionally, the development of this document was influenced by the inspection experience of residential child care, feedback from foster carers and young people in care, the National Standards for Children's Residential Centres, and the outcome of the consultation process undertaken for the Foster Care Standards.

- To view the entire report, visit:

JOBS

- **UNICEF Namibia Seeks Consultant for Implementation of Foster Care Minimum Standards and Guidelines** The consultancy aims to take forward the major recommendations from the 2010 foster care consultancy, namely to pilot the implementation of the foster care minimum standards and guidelines. Applicants should be submitted to Matthew Dalling (mdalling@unicef.org) and Laina Shatipamba (lshatipamba@unicef.org) by January 21, 2011.
- **Save the Children Finland Seeks a Project Manager**
Save the Children Finland is looking for a Project Manager for a regional child protection project in francophone West Africa. The Project Manager will ensure overall coordination, monitoring, management and technical support for project implementation. **Application deadline: 11 January 2011.** For more information, visit: <http://www.pelastakaalapset.fi/en/topics/news/?x99673=196379>
- **UNICEF Headquarters Seeks a Child Protection Specialist in Emergencies.** Under the guidance of the Senior Adviser, Child Protection in Emergencies, the CP Specialist will provide programme guidance and technical support to enhance UNICEF's approach on psychosocial support to the needs of children and women in emergency situations, both natural disasters and armed conflicts. Applications can be submitted via the internet (www.unicef.org) by 14 January 2011.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As of December 30, 2010, the BCN listserv membership includes 2052 child care experts globally. The purpose of the listserv is to enable members to exchange information on matters of mutual concern. If you would like to share a document, raise a specific issue, or reach out in any other way to the Network, please send the information to us at kriordan@unicef.org. In the interest of keeping messages consolidated, we will manage announcements on the listserv and send out a few messages each month.

We would like to involve as many people as possible who are concerned with better care issues in the Network. Please advise anyone who would like to be added to the listserv to send us a message at kriordan@unicef.org with "listserv request" in the subject line.

Alternatively, visit the homepage of the Better Care Network website, and click on the upper right box where it says "click here to sign up for our email announcements".

<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org>

Best,
Ghazal Keshavarzian and Kathleen Riordan
Better Care Network Secretariat

