Counting Children Outside of Family Care: Children in Orphanages and Other Institutions

#CHILDREN COUNT17
CLOSING THE CHILD DATA GAP

JULY 18 – 19 2017
NEW YORK CITY
Tip of the Iceberg

2.7 million children 0-17 (UNICEF)

# Children in registered institutions

# Children in non registered institutions

Global Number?

8 million children 0-17 (DCI et al.)
Global Data only as Good as National Data

- Some countries have **no official reported data**
- Many countries have only **partial data (‘available data’)**
  - State institutions but not private ones
  - Registered/known institutions only
  - Not including specialised institutions (i.e. for children with disability)
- A number of countries have with **quite comprehensive data systems** (OECD countries/ Eastern and Central Europe/CIS)
**South Asia**
93,000?
Pop 1.75 billion!
Majority privately run/weak regulations

**CEE/CIS**
664,000
Majority State run/regulated systems

**ESAR**
286,000?
Majority private institutions/weak regulations

**WCAR**
126,000?
Majority privately run/weak regulation

**MENA**
212,000
Mostly private/mixed regulation. Data transparency?

**LACR**
189,000
Mix State/Private
Strong regulatory framework, weak enforcement?

**EAPR**
772,000
Mixed State/private
Mix of strongly to poorly regulated

**Industrialized countries**
384,000; State/private, highly regulated

UNICEF Count 2017 based on available data (rate applied)
What data should be collected?

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

- **State is responsible** for the care and protection of children outside of family care (Articles 3, 9, 19, 20)

- **Required to monitor, regulate, and oversee** the quality and appropriateness of alternative care (Article 3.3)

- **Complete record of each child in care required**, including details of placement, information on child’s family, regular reviews (Guidelines on Alternative Care, Art.101)

> Not Just a Number: Administrative and Statistical Data Required- child and institution level data
Political Barriers?

• Weak regulatory systems: In Ghana, government audit in 2013 found 96% of children’s homes were unlicensed, operating illegally and were not monitored.

• Private unregulated funding > fuels their growth, including international funding (i.e. Cambodia, Uganda, Haiti)

• Decentralization and lack of centralized administrative data systems

• Vested interests linked to ‘orphanage business’ but also social status and faith;
Technical Barriers?

- **Definitions** not consistent

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential care institutions</td>
<td>406</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transit homes and temporary emergency</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Group homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pagodas and other faith-based care in religious buildings</td>
<td>65</td>
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<td>Boarding schools</td>
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- How big/small is a group home and how large is an institution?
- When is a boarding school a residential care facility or vice versa?
- When is a faith based run facility a child care institution?

- **Child protection** and ethical issues to collecting data
- **Getting access** to facilities and children
- **Keeping the data updated**/ reliable/confidential
- **Who collects/** who manages the data- link to system
• **Weakest Ministry/Dept. in charge** > Small budget/limited capacity;

• **Decentralization** can lead to under-resourced local authorities;

• **Building Administrative Data System**: significant investment linked to capacity and information system building;

• **“White elephants”**: big IT projects that are not sustainable in terms of financial and human resources available in the particular context;
Good examples? England

Data on numbers and characteristics of Looked after Children collected each spring from all Local Authorities, including detailed data on children in children’s homes.

The majority of looked after children are placed with foster carers

In 2016 the number of children in foster care continued to rise; of the 70,440 looked after children at 31 March 2016, 51,850 (74%) were cared for in foster placements – the same proportion as last year.

• Established in 1992 by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre
• Covers 28 countries of Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States
• Captures data on 180 economic and social indicators relevant to well-being of children and women
• Collaboration with national statistical offices (NSOs)
• Updated every year using a standardized template
• Efforts to standardize indicator definitions

Includes children in residential care by sex, age, disability, in public (State) or private residential care, by type of facility including infant homes and boarding schools, Children who left residential care by reason;
A CHILD’S RIGHT TO A SUPPORTIVE AND CARING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

More than 1.4 million children in formal care in 22 countries. Many of these children are in residential care.

Rate of children in formal care in selected countries, 2002 and 2012*

Source: UNICEF Regional Office for CEE/CIS, TransMonEE 2014 Database (www.transmonee.org)
Notes: Children in formal care are those in residential or family-type care (in care of foster parents or guardians)
For detailed notes by country, check TransMonEE Tables 6.2.2 and 6.3.2.

www.transmonee.org
Thank you!

www.bettercarenetwork.org