#CHILDREN COUNT17 CLOSING THE CHILD DATA GAP

JULY 18 – 19 2017
NEW YORK CITY

Better Care Network

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

Global Data only as Good as National Data

- **Some countries have <u>no official reported data</u>**

- **Many countries have only <u>partial data ('available data')</u>**

  - 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 <u>quite comprehensive data systems</u> (OECD countries/ Eastern and Central Europe/CIS)**

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

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

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

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

South Asia
93,000?
Pop 1.75 billion!
Majority privately run/ weak
regulations

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

WCAR
126,000?
Majority privately
run/weak regulation

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

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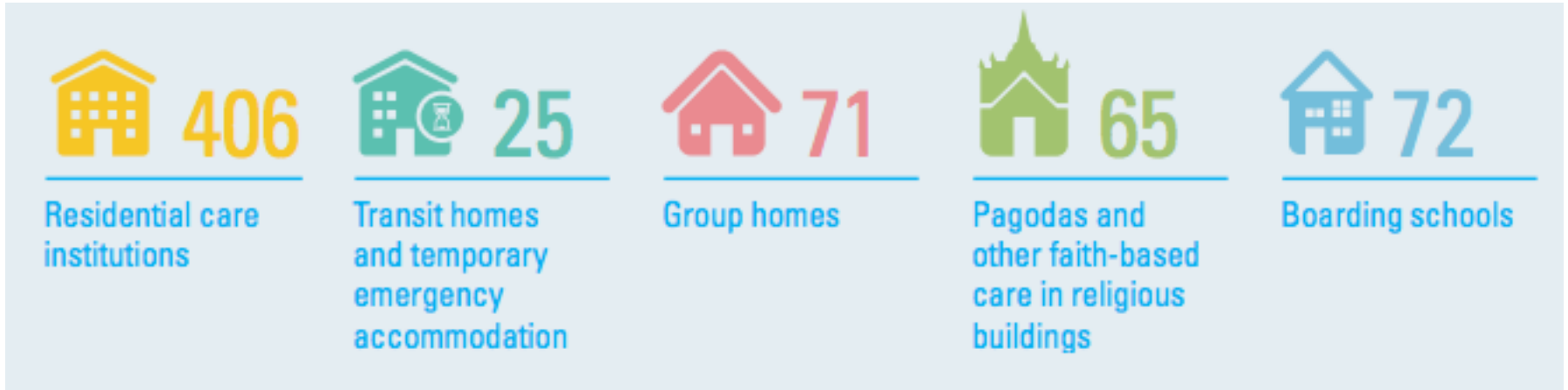
> Not Just a Number: Administrative and Statistical Data Required- child and institution level data

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

406	25	71	65	72
Residential care institutions	Transit homes and temporary emergency accommodation	Group homes	Pagodas and other faith-based care in religious buildings	Boarding schools

- 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
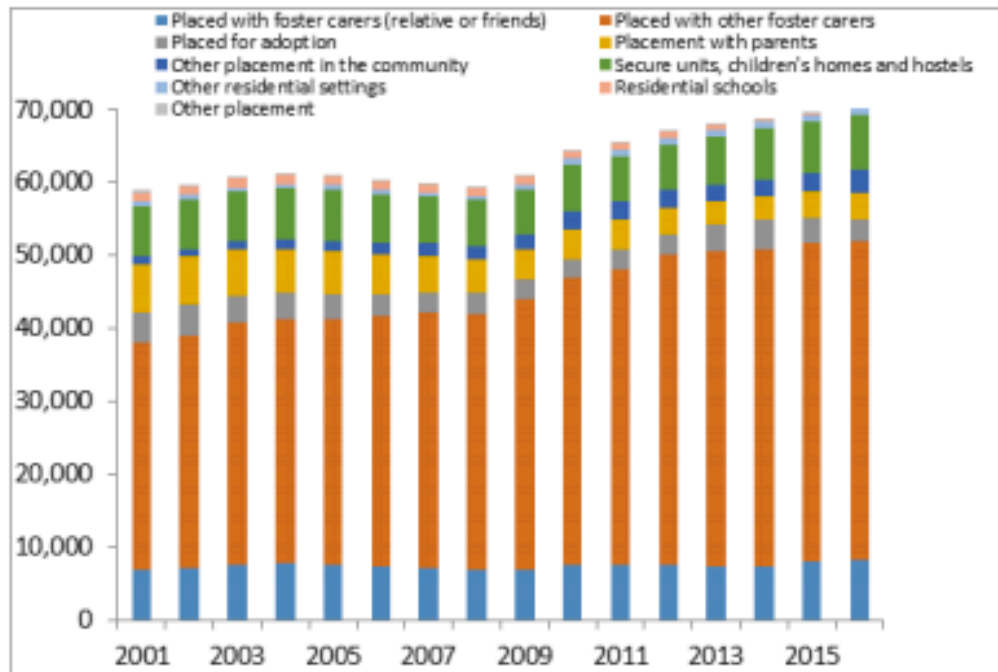- **Who collects**/ **who manages** the data- link to system

Resource Barriers?

- **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.

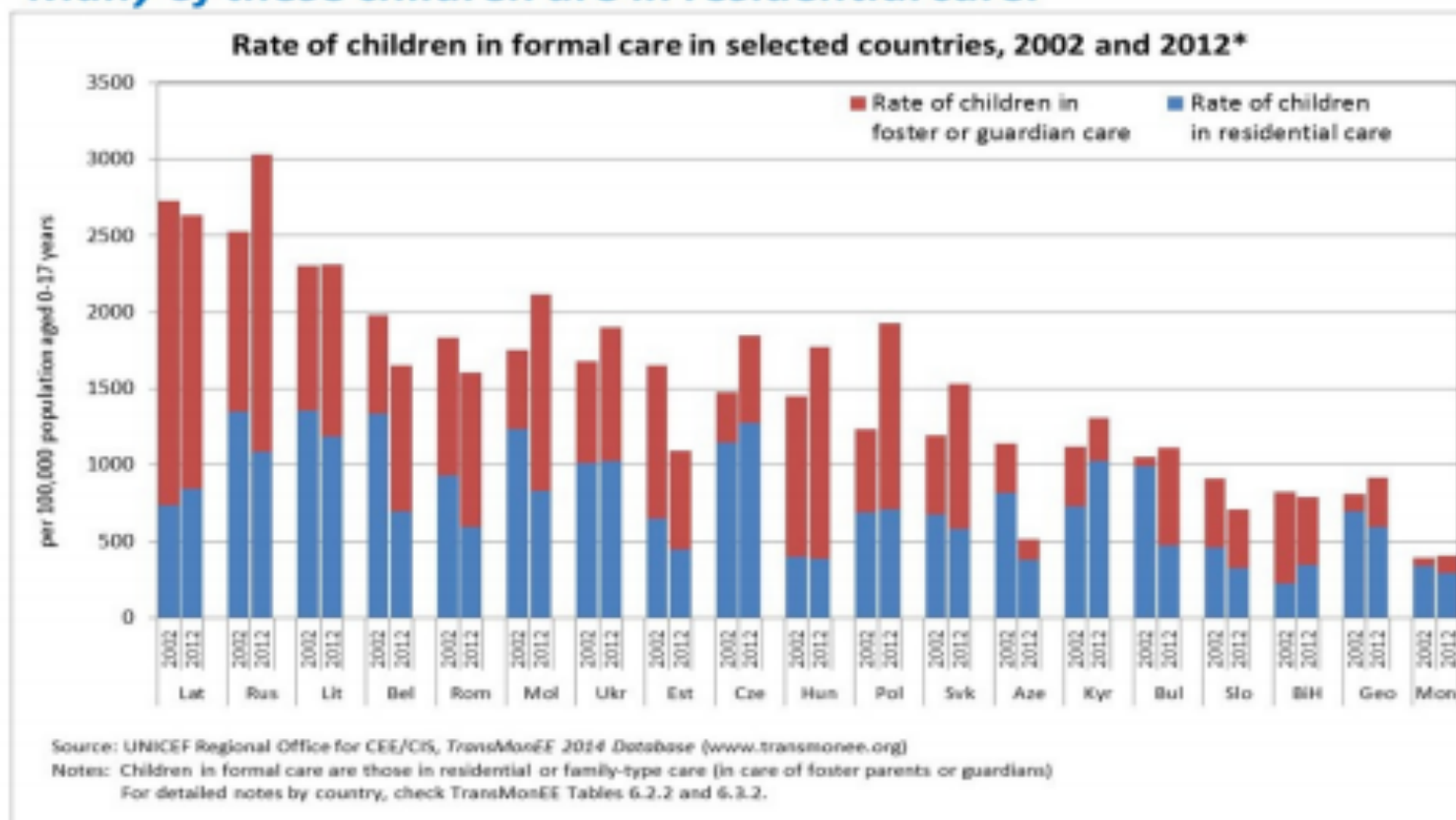https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2015-to-2016

Good examples? TransMonEE

- **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

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Thank you!
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