

Tracking Progress Initiative

HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN
& BETTER CARE NETWORK

Outline

- Background information
- What is Tracking Progress
- Testing the tool in Rwanda
- Benefits of the exercise
- Creating momentum for reforms

I. Background Information

a. Context and Process

- Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children approved by the UN General Assembly in 2009 (A/RES/64/142)
- Need for a tool measuring country progress in implementing the Guidelines
- Inter-Agency Initiative launched in 2013, co-facilitated by Better Care Network and Save the Children and supported by OAK



b. Steering Group:

- BCN and Save the Children
- Family for Every Child
- Hope and Homes for Children
- ISS
- RELAF
- SOS Children's Villages International
- UNICEF
- A member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child



c. Developing and testing the tool

- Centre for Excellence for Looked after Children in Scotland (CELCIS) commissioned to support development of the tool
- Broad e-consultation held involving more than 160 individuals from all regions, including representatives of governments, NGOs, treaty bodies and UN agencies, among others;
- Draft refined through field tests in 3 countries: Rwanda, Romania, and Paraguay;
- Tool expected to be finalised in Autumn (Sept/Oct) 2015.

II. What is Tracking Progress

- An interactive, strengths-based diagnostic and learning tool to help governments and NGOs determine the extent to which a state or region has effectively implemented the Guidelines, and the priorities for change still ahead.
- A web-based resource available so that teams can work on completing it over a period of time, saving the data as they go along.
- A paper version of the tool will also be available to overcome the limitations of the internet in many areas.



A two-stage approach to gathering data and evidence:

Part A: Overview of the formal alternative care system

- Answers to the questions in Part A provide general insights and provide an introduction to the more detailed thematic areas.

Part B: In depth exploration of thematic areas

- Each theme has sub themes which are divided into general and detailed indicators.

III. Testing the tool in Rwanda

- Field test organised as a team effort by the Programme Coordination Team (PCT), composed of the National Commission for Children – NCC (a Government body), UNICEF, Hope and Homes for Children, and Global Communities. Better Care Network was also involved.
- **Lessons Learnt:** Involvement of the Government through the National Commission for Children and UNICEF key to success and ownership.



The task of testing the tool was organized in four stages:

1. Building the knowledge base of participants on the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care & the Tracking Tool itself
2. Review of questions to see if the language is clear, identify information gaps or questions missing and finally examine if there are questions that should be removed
3. Pre-testing the tool by answering the questions on a hard copy questionnaire
4. Filling in the information on the web-based questionnaire

IV. Benefits of the exercise

- Cooperation between experts from very diverse backgrounds of child protection and care
- Increased understanding of the alternative care framework in a country
- Identification of gaps in legislation, policies, standards, services, and their implementation, as well as solutions to address them
- Identification of training/supervision needs and human resource requirements for the provision of alternative care;
- Identification of areas where data collection and documentation need to improve.



V. Creating momentum for reform

- Identify priorities for change still ahead
- Secure political commitment for concrete follow-up actions
- Create civil society coalitions to advocate on shared priorities
- Bring together the information that is needed to be used by the care reform coalition and ensure that various partners are able to access it easily

VI. Questions for discussion

- In your view what can be the benefit of using the Alternative Care Guidelines as the framework for measuring progress in care reforms?
- How will the information and assessment inputted be owned collectively, ensuring they reflect the assessment by all partners and not just one, including Government?



Thank you so much