

Achievements and Challenges in De-institutionalization of Children below 3 years in Georgia

Sofia 2012

Ministry of Labor Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
Irakli Nadareishvili, Deputy Minister



Country Profile

- **Total population - 4.2 million**
- **Child population - 979.500**
- **Internally displaced persons – 300.000 (28% 0-18)**
- **Children not registered at birth – 8%**
- **Extreme child poverty (below 1 USD) -12 %**



Children were Overwhelmingly Institutionalized Because of Poverty and Disability - 90% had a Living Parent



There were more than 5200 children at 47 institutions with no social and/or rehabilitation work available



Three Main Priorities of Reform

- ✓ **Reintegration of children living in the institutions into biological families**
- ✓ **Provision of various social benefits as a preventive measures against child abandonment**
- ✓ **Substitution of orphanages with alternative-family based services like small group homes and foster care**

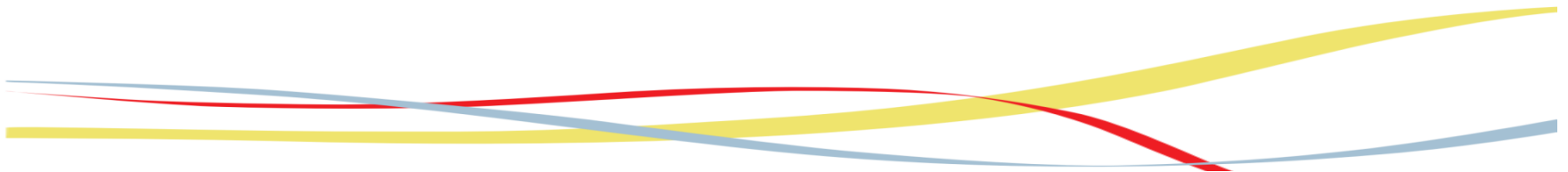


Overview of Reform

Deinstitutionalization and child care system reform launched in 2005

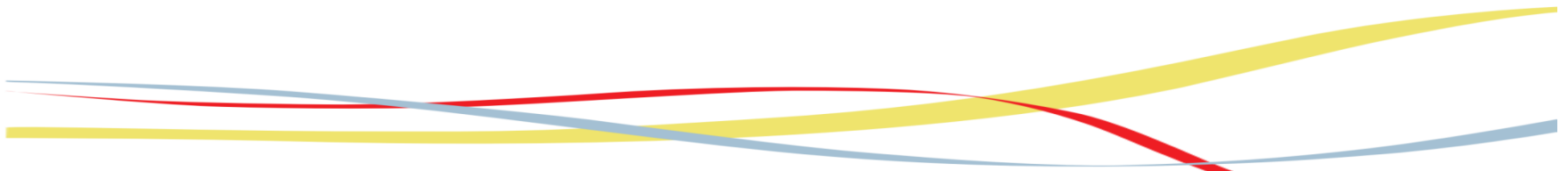
Several major steps have been taken under the framework of the Reform:

- ✓ Development and improvement of relevant legislation to reduce administrative barriers for child's reintegration into biological family, adoption and placement in foster care;
- ✓ Strengthening the role of social workers;
- ✓ Establishment of regional guardianship and care panels;



Overview of Reform (Cont.)

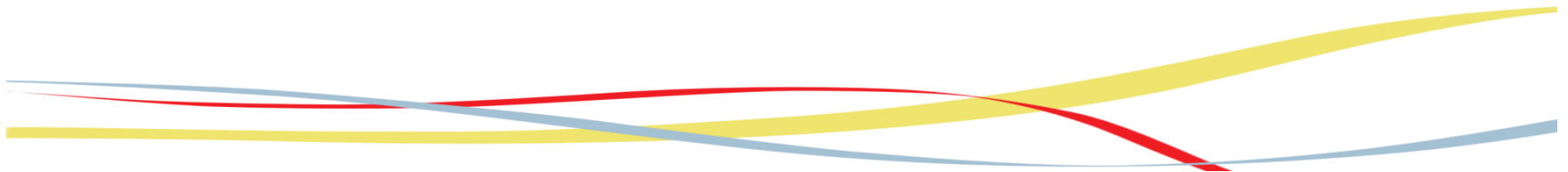
- ✓ Adoption of the child protection and deinstitutionalization action plan by the Government of Georgia
- ✓ Opening of 37 small group homes throughout the country
- ✓ Supporting prevention and reintegration programs
- ✓ Provision of free health care for children 0-5 years
- ✓ Strengthening alternative services:
 - Foster care (emergency, regular, specialized)
 - Small group homes (for 6-18 year olds)



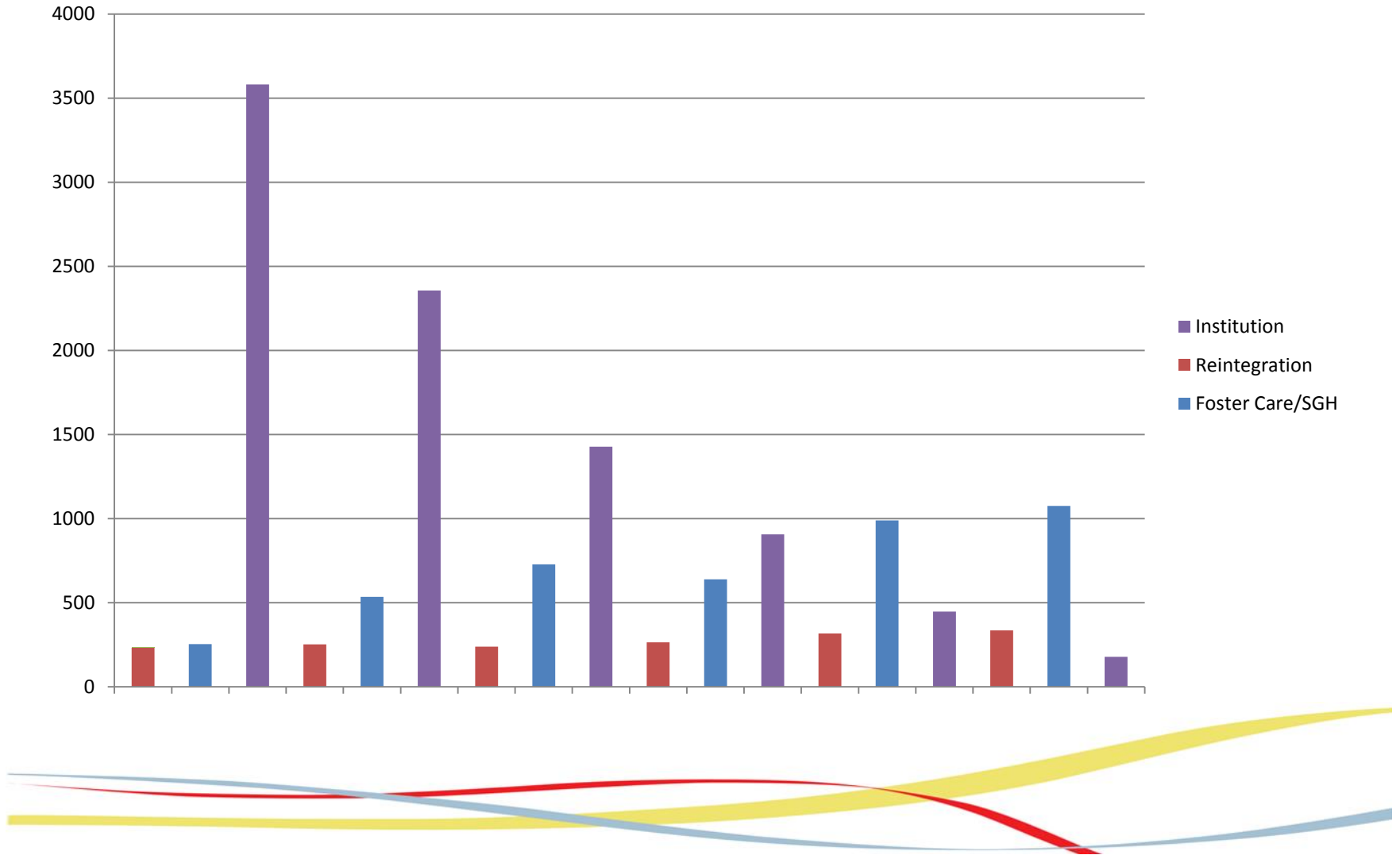
Quick Facts for 2009-2012

2916 CHILDREN RETURNED TO FAMILY ENVIRONMENT

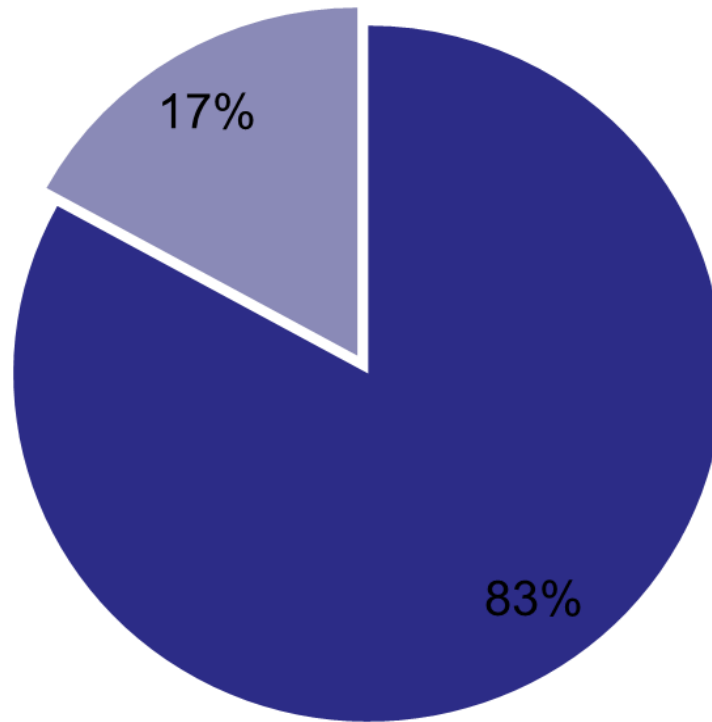
- ✓ 742 children adopted
- ✓ 1330 children placed in foster care
- ✓ 923 children reintegrated to biological families
- ✓ 37 small group homes opened
- ✓ Number of social workers increased from 80 to 225
- ✓ The reintegrated families and children in foster care are provided with health insurance and cash allowance
- ✓ Number of orphanages reduced from 47 to 5 and the number of their beneficiaries from 5200 to 180



Children Living in Institutions Compared to Alternatives over a 5-Year Period



Inflow into infant homes versus emergency foster care in 2011-2012

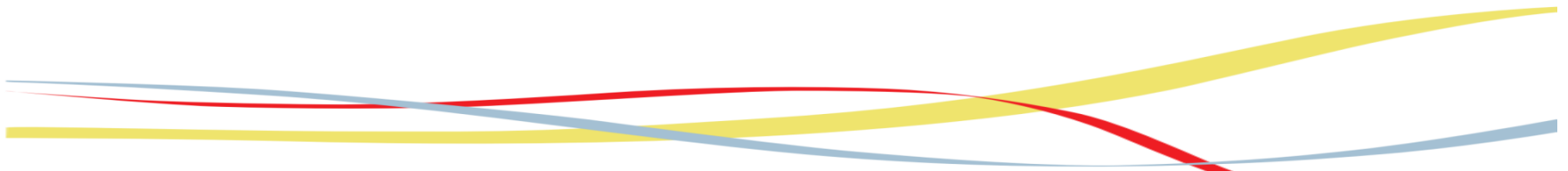


■ Emergency Foster Care ■ Institutions



Present situation

- 991 children in foster care
- 320 children in small group homes
- 180 children in 5 institutions
- Remaining institutions: 2 for 6-18 years old children, 2- for disabled and 1 infant house estimated closing by 2013
- Number of children in infant houses decreased from 220 up to 80
- **No large size institutions in Georgia by the end of 2013**

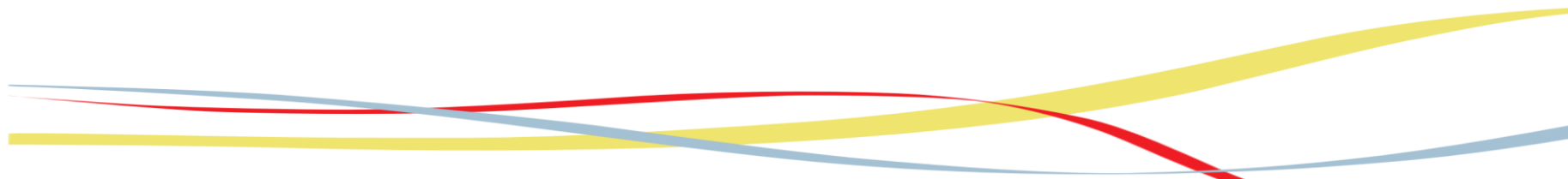


New Frontier of Family Support Services for Children 0-3 Supported by the State

2005 / 2012

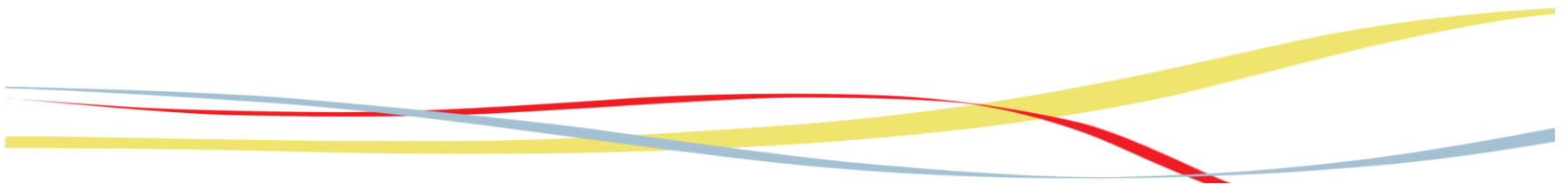
Early Intervention service for children with disabilities	0
Home care for children with disabilities	0
Day care center for 0-2 years	0
Reintegration, prevention, food vouchers	200
Mother/baby shelters (places)	30
Social work services (basic)	80

Early Intervention service for children with disabilities	81
Home care for children with disabilities	100
Day care center for 0-2 years	50
Reintegration, prevention, food vouchers	900
Mother/baby shelters (places)	62
Social work services (basic)	225



Challenges in full DI and prevention of placement of children below three in institutional care

- Need for more preventive/family strengthening programs
- Lack of specialized foster care families for children with severe disabilities and health needs
- Problem with early identification and timely intervention for disabled children
- Disability stigma



Thank You!

