Child Protection and Care Related Definitions

These definitions are an attempt to clarify some of the ambiguities and uncertainties within the field of child protection and alternative care. It is recognised that organisations and professions may define terms differently, and that definitions will change over time. The list given here does not claim to be definitive or exhaustive, and is open to debate. Please contact Protection@savethechildren.org.uk for suggested changes and/or additions to this list.

Bold and italics are used for terms that are defined elsewhere in the table.

Term	Definition	Explanation
Adequate Parental Care	Where a child's basic physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs are met by his or her carers and the child is developing according to his or her potential.	Adequate parental care goes beyond the absence of abuse, neglect or exploitation, and assumes the child has sufficient care and resources to be able to develop healthily. This implies for example, that the child is living in a family environment with a primary carer, has adequate shelter and food, access to schooling and health care. Children living below the poverty line, who are living or working on the street, those at risk of exclusion from their families, or experiencing abuse, exploitation or neglect, may be assessed as having inadequate parental care.
Adoption	The legal transfer of parental rights and responsibilities for a child which is permanent.[1] National adoption involves adopters who live in the same country as the child. *International or intercountry adoption* involves adopters who live in a different country to the child. See also *Extra-Judicial Adoption*	In some countries, especially those in which extended family responsibility for children is strong, the idea of adoption is alien. In other countries, informal adoption is carried out in accordance with custom and practice, but this falls outside of the definition of adoption. In Islamic countries *Kafalah* is usually used instead of adoption. In some legal codes there is a distinction between simple adoption (in France, for example, this means that birth family name and inheritance rights are unchanged) and full adoption (which confers a full and irreversible change in legal status). While adoption normally severs the ties between the child and the birth parents, "open adoption", in which those ties are preserved, has been developed in some societies. For children who require a permanent alternative family, national adoption should always be prioritised over international adoption. This is in accordance with the UNCRC and the Hague Convention. Save the Children, along with other child protection agencies, has significant concerns regarding the practice of *intercountry/international adoption*.
After-Care	The planning and provision of supports to prepare a child/young adult for the transition from alternative care to independent living.	Preparation for leaving care should start well before the young person leaves, and continue for as long as necessary. Typically an after-care programme would include preparation for leaving care, psychosocial support, help with housing, education

		and employment and the development of life and social skills. See also *supported independent living*.
Alternative *Care*	A formal or informal arrangement whereby a child is looked after at least overnight outside the parental home, either by decision of a judicial or administrative authority or duly accredited body, or at the initiative of the child, his/her parent(s) or primary caregivers, or spontaneously by a care provider in the absence of parents. This includes informal *fostering* by family or non-relatives, formal foster care placements, other forms of family-based or family-like care placements, places of safety for emergency child care, *transit centres* in emergency situations, other short and long term *residential care* facilities including *group homes*, and supervised *independent living* arrangements for children[2]. Alternative care may be: **Informal:** any private arrangement provided in a family environment, whereby the child is looked after on an ongoing or indefinite basis by relatives or friends (informal *kinship care*) or by others in their individual capacity, at the initiative of the child, his/her parents or other person without this arrangement having been ordered by an administrative or judicial authority or a duly accredited body. **Formal:** all care provided in a family environment which has been ordered or authorised by competent administrative body or judicial authority, and all care provided in a residential environment, including in private facilities, whether or not as a result of administrative or judicial measures.[3]	The scope of Alternative Care does not extend to children who are deprived of their liberty by decision of a judicial or administrative authority as a result of being alleged as, accused of or recognised as having infringed on the law, and whose situation is covered by the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules on the Administration of Juvenile Justice* and the *United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty.* It also does not extend to children who have been *adopted* or informal arrangements whereby a child voluntarily stays with relatives or friends for a limited period for recreational purposes and for reasons not connected with the parents' inability generally to provide adequate care. [4] Save the Children believes *family based care* is the best form of alternative care and r*esidential or institutional care* should only be used as a last resort.
Assessment	The process of building an understanding of the problems needs and rights of a child and his/her family in the wider context of the community. It should cover the physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs and development of the child. There are various types of assessment e.g. rapid, initial, risk, comprehensive etc.	Assessment is an essential pre-requisite for effective *care planning.* Good practice requires that assessment is undertaken in a participatory way. The assessment should be recorded, referred to in all case planning, and reviewed regularly. It should be undertaken by a social worker or equivalent person, who has training in child development and child protection.
Care	Save the Children uses this term to describe *fostering, adoption*, *kinship care,* supported *child headed households, supported independent living* arrangements and *residential placements.* It also refers to the range of activities involved in the day to day looking after of a child.	This definition varies from the use of the term in HIV or other medical contexts where "care" may refer to a broader sense of supporting people – e.g. home-based or palliative care. The term has various other more specific applications. For example, "duty of care" refers to the responsibilities of people and organisations to protect children from harm.
Care Planning	The process of planning a programme of	Care planning has to be based on a thorough

	alternative care that has clear short-term and long-term goals. A Care plan is a written document which outlines how, when and who will meet the child's developmental needs.[5]	*assessment* of the child and family. Ideally the process begins before the child leaves his/her family, and continues throughout the period in alternative care and will include an *after-care* plan where necessary. *Care planning* should involve the participation of children, parents and other relevant stakeholders and should result in a written document which is regularly updated and reviewed by all those involved. *Life story work* can be a useful tool in preparing a child for a change in placement, and in engaging the child in care planning.
Carer/Care-taker/Care-giver	A person with whom the child lives who provides daily care to the child, without necessarily implying legal responsibility.	The term *guardian* can also have this general meaning. Where possible, the child should have continuity in who provides their day to day care. Frequent changes of placement and carer should always be avoided. In *residential care*, there should be an adequate ratio of carer to children, in order to ensure that a child receives sufficient care, supervision, and stimulation.
Child	Every human being below the age of 18 unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.[6]	It is important to recognise in all care planning and assessment, that children will have varying capacities according to their age, and should not be considered a homogenous group. It is usually preferable to refer to adolescents as young people instead of children.
Child Abuse	Save the Children defines child abuse as: "a deliberate act of ill treatment that can harm or is likely to cause harm to a child's safety, well-being, dignity and development. Abuse includes all forms of *physical, sexual, psychological or emotional* ill treatment.*"[7]*	There is no one universally agreed definition of child abuse. In some contexts, the term 'child maltreatment' is used to refer to all forms of abuse, *neglect* and *exploitation* carried out by a parent or carer. In other contexts, the term child abuse is used as the generic term for *physical*, *sexual* and *psychological abuse* as well as *neglect* and *exploitation.* For some people *violence* is the generic term that covers all these forms of harm. The term 'abuse' is, in some contexts, used primarily to refer to such acts when committed 'in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power such as by someone who has the care of the child including parents, legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child even temporarily such as a teacher, a community worker, a babysitter or nanny etc (e.g. UNCRC article 19). In most contexts though, 'child abuse' is understood to refer to all such acts of ill treatment including when committed by a stranger. [8] Child abuse will be committed regardless of any justification or reason that may be provided for the ill treatment including discipline, legal sanction, economic necessity, the child's own consent to it, or in the name of cultural and religious practice. [9]

		In some contexts the term 'significant **harm'** may be used to determine the threshold for intervention.
Child Headed Household	A child-headed household is one in which a child or children (typically an older sibling), assumes the primary responsibility for the day to day running of the household, providing and caring for those within the household. A supported child headed household: A form of **family based care** in which children are looked after by an older child, with support offered by the local community and/or by external agents.	Children in child headed households are highly vulnerable, since they lack adult protection. They are more likely to not attend school, engage in hazardous **child labour**, and to live in poverty. They may join armed forces as a means of survival. They are at risk of being denied their right to inheritance, leaving them homeless. As children, or not officially recognised households, they may be unable to access available services or financial supports. In some contexts, especially cultures in which sibling care-taking is a widespread practice, supported child headed households may be seen as appropriate if adequate measures can be taken to provide support and protection. Supported child headed households are a form of **supported independent living.**
Child Labour (Economic exploitation of children):	Child labour refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and interferes with their schooling: o by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; o by obliging them to leave school prematurely; or o by requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. In its most extreme forms, it involves children being **enslaved**, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities - all of this often at a very early age. ILO Convention 182 defines the worst forms of child labour as trafficking, the sale of a child, bonded labour, forced labour, use of children in armed conflict, **commercial sexual exploitation** of children, use of children in the commission of crimes including trafficking and production of drugs.	Not all work is 'child labour'. Whether or not particular forms of work can be called child labour depends on the child's age, the types of work performed, and the conditions under which it is performed. Save the Children's work focuses on an appropriate response to the type of work, the harm children face, and the age of the child. The worst forms of child labour, as listed in the ILO Convention 182, require immediate action to remove the child from harm. Children from the age of 15 (14 in many developing countries) to 18 can legally work but should not be involved in work that "… by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardise the health, safety or morals of young persons". In these cases, our intervention needs to look at removing the hazard, improving working conditions, ensuring that young people who are legally working are not discriminated against in pay and conditions at work, and improving their skills for marketable activities.
Child Protection	Save the Children's defines child protection as "measures and structures intended to prevent and respond to **abuse**, **neglect**, **exploitation** and **violence** affecting children."[10]	Child protection work aims to prevent, respond to and redress the abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence experienced by children in all settings. It is a specialist sector in its own right but of necessity works very closely with other sectors, and requires a multi-disciplinary approach with a wide range of formal and informal bodies. (See **child protection system**). Children's right to Protection is enshrined in the UNCRC, as well as other human rights, humanitarian and refugee treaties and conventions, and national laws.

		Child protection should not be confused with the protection of all children's rights, which is the responsibility of everyone working with children. Similarly, child protection is related to – but distinct from – the internal organisational protocols, policies and procedures aimed at staff working with children.
Child Protection Committee	A committee constituted at a local, national, regional level to develop child protection strategies, to review individual cases, and to monitor and evaluate progress.	There is considerable variation in the tasks and roles undertaken by CPC's in different contexts. While some may consist of professionals, others may be made up of volunteer community members. They may use the committee as a means of identification, assessment and case planning for vulnerable children, or as a forum for discussing strategies to respond to broad protection concerns.
Child Protection System	A comprehensive system of laws, policies, procedures and practices designed to ensure the protection of children and to facilitate an effective response to allegations of *child abuse*, *neglect, exploitation and violence.*	*Child Protection* work aims to strengthen the capacity of governments, multilateral agencies, doors, communities, carers and families to develop systems which will provide meaningful protection for children. While providing immediate and longer term responses, it seeks to address the root causes of child protection failures such as chronic poverty, insecurity, power imbalances and harmful traditional attitudes and behaviours.[11] Good child protection systems will include preventive measures; systems to facilitate the reporting of child abuse and neglect; systems to investigate allegations and assess the child and family; a framework of child protective legislation and a judicial system that is separate from but integrated with the laws and systems that respond to criminal behaviour; procedures to provide immediate safety for the child and longer-term alternative care when required; psychosocial support for the child and other family members; rehabilitation programmes for abusers; and an overall system of coordination among the many stake-holders involved. Each national system will be developed differently, and there is no one model of a protection system.
Child Slavery	A child is in slavery when he or she is: • Forced to work -- through mental or physical threat; • Owned or controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or threatened abuse; • Dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property'; • Physically constrained or has restrictions placed on his/her freedom of movement.	Slavery or slavery-like conditions include: • *Child trafficking* • *Commercial sexual exploitation of children* • Bonded *child labour* • Forced work (for example in hazardous sectors such as mines or agriculture or begging) • Recruitment of children as soldiers/combatants • Forced child marriage • Domestic slavery • Slavery by descent
Child Trafficking	Save the Children mainly refers to the definition of Trafficking of the UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children: (a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer,	The exploitative purpose is central in the definition of child trafficking. Trafficking takes place for a series of exploitative purposes including: • *Sexual exploitation* • *Slavery* or bonded labour, where the child is

		harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. (Article 3). In the case of a child, however, the entire question of the consent is irrelevant.	unable to leave their employer until the debts have been cleared • Hazardous *child labour* or forced labour • Domestic work • Begging • Illicit activities such as stealing • Irregular *intercountry adoptions* • Recruitment into the armed forces as child soldiers, camp labourers, cooks or sexual partners to combatants
Children Affected by HIV/AIDS	This broad term encompasses children who have lost one or both parents to an AIDS-related disease; children in families in which a parent or other care-giver is HIV+ or suffering from an AIDS related disease; children who are themselves HIV+; and children living in communities seriously affected by the epidemic.	This term is very similar to *orphans and vulnerable children* but is obviously limited to those affected by HIV/AIDS. In those communities most affected by the epidemic, the term includes children whose families, though not actually infected, are affected through such factors as the widespread loss teachers to AIDS-related diseases.
Children Living or Working on the Street	Children whose habitual workplace is on the streets, some of whom also either live there or spend time living on the streets	Save the Children prefers to avoid the term "street children" because of its ambiguity. Many children who work on the streets live with their own, or an alternative family and many children who sometimes sleep on the streets do have some kind of family with whom they are in contact.
Children Without Parental Care	All children not living with at least one of their parents, for whatever reason and under whatever circumstances. Children without parental care who are outside their country of habitual residence or victims of emergency situations may be designated as *unaccompanied* or *separated*[12]	See also refer to the definitions for *adequate parental care* and *orphans.*
Children's Village	A type of *residential care* in which children live in small houses (rather akin to *group homes*) but on a large campus that also includes some communal facilities (e.g. for play, healthcare etc.).	The main difference between this type of care and a *group home* is that the scale of *children's villages* can make it difficult for the children to be integrated into the wider community. This is particularly the case if children do not attend the local community school, or the children's village school only admits residents of the children's village.
Community Based Support	A range of measures to ensure the support of children and families in the community.	Examples include volunteer visiting, community day-care, income generating projects, children's clubs etc. In HIV/AIDS and other medical settings, "support" is often referred to as "care" – for example "home based care". See also *Family Support Services*
Community Child Care Forum/Committee	A group of people mandated within their community to take responsibilities for the protection and care of children and families.	This may be similar to a community-based *child protection committee*. A mandate to operate may be obtained by direct election by the community or by accepting powers delegated by a village, refugee camp or community committee. A child care committee should ideally have child and adult representatives from the community.
Corporal or Physical Punishment	Forced pain intended to change a person's behaviour or to punish them e.g. hitting a child with the hand or with an object (such as a cane, belt, whip, shoe, etc); kicking, shaking, or throwing the child, pinching or pulling their	Corporal punishment typical refers to school settings, or other forms of *institutions*, where corporal punishment may be a means of disciplining or controlling children. It overlaps with the term *physical abuse*.

	hair; forcing a child to stay in uncomfortable or undignified positions, or to take excessive physical exercise; and burning or scarring the child. [13]	
Economic Child Exploitation	The use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others. This includes, but is not limited to, *child labour*. E.g. Child domestic work, the recruitment and involvement of children in armed conflict, child bondage, the use of children in criminal activities including the sale and distribution of narcotics, the involvement of children in any harmful or hazardous work.[14]	Economic exploitation implies the idea of a certain gain or profit through the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. This material interest has an impact on the economy of a certain unit, be it the State, the community or the family.[15] See also *child labour*, *child slavery* and *sexual exploitation*.
Emotional or Psychological Abuse	Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development e.g. humiliating and degrading treatment such as bad name calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation. [16]	Some level of emotional abuse is typically involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.
Exploitation	The use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development.[17]	Exploitation covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimization, oppression or ill treatment. There are two main forms of child exploitation that are recognized: *Sexual exploitation* and *Economic exploitation*[18] See below for explanations of these and *child labour and slavery.*
Extended Family	The wider network of family members that might include grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins etc.	In some societies it is common for members of the extended family to live together in the same household but this is not necessarily implied by the term "extended family".
Extra-judicial Adoption	A form of *adoption* that has the effect of conferring legal rights and duties, but undertaken by a process that is not legal – e.g. by the adopters accepting someone else's child and registering him/her as though he/she were their birth child.	Although unknown in many parts of the world, this has been quite a common practice in some countries in Latin America.
Family Based Care	A form of care arranged for a child which involves living with a family other than his/her birth parents. The term encompasses *fostering*, *kinship care*, supported *child headed households* and *adoption.*	Care in a *small group home* would fall outside of this definition, though in some cases the distinction between *fostering* and *small group care* is a blurred one.
Family Support Services	A range of measures to ensure the support of children and families – similar to *community based support* but may be provided by external agents such as social workers and providing services such as counselling, parent education, day-care facilities, material support etc.	Family Support services generally refers to direct support, including a wide range of interventions, including but not limited to: • Assessment of vulnerability and entitlements to benefits, and assistance in accessing those benefits e.g. form completion, birth registration. • Provision of direct services needed in addition to, or instead of entitlements. These may be provided by social workers or community networks e.g. home based care, day care, counselling on coping skills (all forms, e.g. in-school, etc.); referral networks. • Substitute temporary care e.g. respite care, foster care. • Referrals to services e.g. health, vocational

		training, parenting programmes, peer support groups. To agree and prioritize research questions and key design elements. The goal of family support services is to enable families to provide *adequate care* and protection for children. An *assessment* should be carried out to consider the needs and best interests of the child and the level of support required. A *care plan* should be developed, with regular *reviews*. Government provision of family support services should form part of *social protection* and *social welfare* planning and delivery.
Formal Care	All care situations where the child's placement was made by order of a Competent Authority, as well as residential care, irrespective of the route by which the child entered. [19]	See also '*alternative care*'
Foster Care/Fostering	An arrangement whereby a child lives with an unrelated individual or family, usually on a temporary basis, without any implication that the birth parents lose their parental rights or responsibilities. **Formal foster care** is arranged by an external agent, usually under a legislative order, granted by a competent authority, where one or two adults have undergone a process of assessment of their competence to care for children.[20] **Informal foster care** is arranged by the parties without the intervention of an external agency.	Some organisations use the term to include children placed within the extended family; however Save the Children prefers to define this as *kinship care* as there is a considerable qualitative difference from the experience of children placed with strangers. Fostering can be permanent, but usually *adoption* is preferable as it gives the child and the family a greater sense of security. In formal foster care, the external agent can be a government department, NGO, CBO etc. Formal foster care usually involves a process of assessing and training foster carers, placing the child and supporting the placement. Informal fostering is sometimes referred to as "spontaneous" fostering.
Gate Keeping	The prevention of inappropriate placement of a child in formal care. Placement should be preceded by some form of assessment of the child's physical, emotional, intellectual and social needs, matched to whether the placement can meet these needs based on its functions and objectives.[21]	Gate keeping should precede admission into residential or other forms of care. This is a hugely important (and frequently absent) process in any form of *residential care* to ensure that children are only admitted if there is a conscious decision that admission is the most appropriate course of action for the child. Gate keeping will require *assessment* and *care planning*.
Gender Based Violence	'An umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. Acts of GBV violate a number of Universal human rights protected by international instruments and conventions. Many — but not all — forms of GBV are illegal and criminal acts in national laws and policies. The nature and extent of specific types of GBV vary across cultures, countries, and regions. Examples include: • Sexual violence, including sexual exploitation/abuse and forced prostitution • Domestic violence	Around the world, GBV has a greater impact on women and girls than on men and boys. The term "gender-based violence" is often used interchangeably with the term "violence against women." The term "gender-based violence" highlights the gender dimension of these types of acts; in other words, the relationship between females' subordinate status in society and their increased vulnerability to violence. It is important to note, however, that men and boys may also be victims of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence.[23]

	• Trafficking • Forced/early marriage Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings • Harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, honour killings, widow inheritance, and others. [22]	
Guardianship	This term is used in three different ways: 1. It can be used as a legal device for conferring parental rights and responsibilities to adults who are not parents. 2. It can refer to an informal relationship whereby one or more adults assume responsibility for the care of a child 3. It is sometimes a temporary arrangement whereby a child who is the subject of judicial proceedings is granted a guardian to look after his or her interests	Different countries will have differing legal terms and devices to confer parental rights and responsibilities The term "guardian" can simply refer to anyone who is caring for a child This type of guardian is sometimes referred to as a *guardian ad litem* (or guardian for the time being)
Harm	**Harm** is the result of the *exploitation*, *violence*, *abuse* and *neglect* of children and can take many forms, including impacts on children's physical, emotional and behavioural development, their general health, their family and social relationships, their self-esteem, their educational attainment and their aspirations.[24]	In some contexts, the term '**significant harm'** is used within the protection system to determine the threshold of harm required before intervention by protection services can be undertaken. This approach seeks to balance the potential risk posed to the child facing the protection issue with the real risks that may come with the intervention itself.[25]
Institutional/Residential Care	Save the Children's defines institutional or residential care as orphanages, children's homes and other group living arrangements for children in which care is provided by paid adults who would not be regarded as traditional carers in wider society. In some contexts, boarding schools may be considered as institutions if children are placed there primarily for care purposes, as an alternative to an orphanage or children's home.	In some contexts (including many non-western societies) the term *institution* is used rather than residential care: in other contexts the term *institution* has negative connotations. Because of these differences, SC prefers to use the two terms interchangeably without any implication of a qualitative judgement about the quality of care being offered. Note that while boarding schools may be used as a form of orphanage in some contexts, their status in society may be quite different.
Inter-country/International Adoption	*Adoption* which involves a parent or parents adopting a child from a different country.	Inter-country adoption is usually *also inter-cultural adoption* For children who require a permanent alternative family, national adoption should always be prioritised over international adoption. This is in accordance with the UNCRC and the Hague Convention. Save the Children, along with other child protection agencies, has significant concerns regarding the practice of intercountry/international adoption. [26]
Inter-cultural Adoption	*Adoption* which involves adopters from a different ethnic or cultural background from that of the child.	Inter-cultural adoption is often also *inter-country adoption*. It also exists within a country when for example a European family adopts a child of Asian parentage.
Interim/Emergency Care	Care arranged for a child on a temporary basis – for example, while his/her own family is being traced where accidental separation has occurred.	The term should not be used when care becomes longer-term. It is important for all parties that the transition to the child's family or *alternative care* is planned for. See also *transit care centre.*

Kafalah	A form of *family based care* used in Islamic societies that does not involve a change in kinship status, but does allow an unrelated child, or a child of unknown parentage, to receive care, legal protection and inheritance.	Islam prohibits breaking the blood tie between children and their birth parents. As a result, change of parental status, name, inheritance rights, *guardianship* requirements (including for marriage purposes) are not allowed and *adoption* is rarely accepted in Islamic societies. Some Islamic countries and countries with large Muslim communities do have *adoption* legislation, but these tend to stipulate that the blood tie to the birth parents is not severed by adoption.
Kinship Care	Family-based care within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal in nature.[27] **Informal Kinship Care** takes place outside formal child welfare systems, and is essentially a private arrangement within families, usually extended families. **Formal Kinship Care** describes those arrangements brokered by and approved by a competent authority.	Informal kinship care is the most common form of out of home care. Formal Kinship care will usually involve an assessment of the suitability of the family for the child and possibly the provision of some kind of continuing support and monitoring. Some authorities may not distinguish between those children living with relatives approved as *foster carers* (and therefore subject to fostering regulations and *standards*) and those children known to social welfare agencies and living with relatives.
Life Story Work	Life story work is a process through which the worker helps children learn about events in the past, present and future in order make sense of their care placements. It involves a series of individual sessions with the child and a trusted worker, where they discuss negative and positive events of the child's life and collate factual information relating to the placement into care. Life story work centers on the development of an album of the child's life. It includes photographs, descriptions and explanations, which the child can refer to in times of stress and into adulthood.[28]	This work is vital for children who are in care and are unlikely to return to their birth parents in the near future or at all. Such children will feel confused about the reasons for their placement and insecure about what will happen to them. Life story work helps to reassure them that they are not at fault and prepares children for any future move.
Neglect	Deliberately, or through carelessness or negligence, failing to provide for, or secure for the child, their rights to physical safety and development e.g. abandonment, the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm as much as is feasible, the deliberate failure to carry out important aspects of care which results or is likely to result in harm to the child, the deliberate failure to provide medical care or carelessly exposing a child to harm.[29]	Neglect is sometimes called the 'passive' form of abuse in that it relates to the failure to carry out some key aspect of the care and protection of children which results in significant impairment of the child's health or development including a failure to thrive emotionally and socially.[30] Evidence is usually needed of persistent or severe neglect (repeated failures or a failure that is in itself so serious that it severely endangers the child). Determination of neglect has to be considered in light of the resources available to families or caretakers. When resources are available but a child's essential needs are not met through persistent, severe or deliberate negligence on the part of the carer, then neglect as a form of abuse may apply.
Orphan	Save the Children uses this term to describe a child who has lost both parents.	Other definitions exist – for example, a child who has lost one or both parents (sometimes referred to as a single orphan or double orphan respectively. However, there is a major qualitative difference

		between children who have a surviving parent and one who has no parent to act as duty-bearer. Cultural factors may cloud the distinction between double and single orphans: for example, in some patrilineal communities, the loss of the father may result in the mother leaving the children with the father's family and returning to her village of origin. In some contexts, the term translated as orphan implies not parental death but rather a child living in an irregular situation (e.g. on the streets). The term 'orphan' can be highly stigmatising. It is therefore very important to use this phase carefully, taking into account the local context and understanding.
Orphans and Vulnerable Children	Children who have been orphaned by AIDS and/or affected by the HIV and AIDS pandemic (children living with sick parents, children living in highly affected communities, children living without adult care).	This is a widely used term that was introduced as the numbers of orphans increased because of the impact of HIV. It includes children living in a family in which a parent or other care-giver is HIV+ or suffering from an AIDS related disease, and children who are themselves HIV+. This term should be used with caution since it implies that all HIV- and AIDS-affected children are 'vulnerable', and it can isolate such children from other vulnerable children in the community. It can also potentially ignore other vulnerable children. Terms such as 'vulnerable children', and 'children affected by HIV and AIDS', are preferred. It is important that children and communities determine their own criteria for what makes a child 'vulnerable' in their own community.
Package of protection and care	A cluster of measures of support for a particular child or family where the aim is the *prevention of care* or the support of children living in some form of *alternative care.*	A package of care should be considered when *care planning.*
Parent	A child's biological mother and father or another adult who has *adopted* the child	It is important to note that in some societies it is very common for children to spend various periods of time with other members of the extended family. Where this becomes long-term, the child may look to other people in a parental capacity.
Physical Abuse	Physical abuse involves the use of violent physical force so as to cause actual or likely physical injury or suffering (e.g. hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, female genital mutilation, torture).[31] Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child whom they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using such terms as factitious illness by proxy or Munchausen Syndrome by proxy.	The categories of *violence* and physical abuse of a child may overlap e.g. torture.
Prevention (of a child needing care)	A variety of approaches that support family life and help to diminish the need for a child to be separated from her/his immediate or extended family or other care-taker and be placed in *alternative care.*	The term incorporates a wide range of approaches that support family life and prevent the need for the child to be separated from his/her immediate or extended family or other care-taker.

		It is important to note that in AIDS-affected contexts the term prevention tends to refer to the prevention of infection rather than to the prevention of care.
Protection	A very broad term that describes an activity that helps to prevent or respond to a threat.	The term **protection** is used in many more specific ways – for example **child protection**. In refugee situations, UNHCR uses the term to describe the legal protection of refugees, while in HIV/AIDS contexts, **protection** is used to describe a range of measures to limit the spread of infection.
Registration	The process by which an organisation or institution is monitored by a competent authority, as being 'fit for purpose', set against an established criteria of quality. [32]	Registration typically applies to formal **foster carers**, and **residential institutions**, but may also include prospective **adoptive** parents, and formal **kinship care** placements. It assumes that certain **standards** will have been met which provide for the adequate care of the child.
Residential Care/Institutional Care/Orphanage	Save the Children's defines institutional or residential care as orphanages, children's homes and other group living arrangements for children in which care is provided by paid adults who would not be regarded as traditional carers in wider society. In some contexts, boarding schools may be considered as institutions if children are placed there primarily for care purposes, as an alternative to an orphanage or children's home. The term 'orphanage' is not representative, as in practice these facilities often admit many children who are not actually orphans.	The Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children, 18 June 2007 define residential care as care provided in any non-family-based group setting. In some contexts (including many non-western societies) the term **institution** is used rather than residential care: in other contexts the term **institution** has negative connotations. Because of these differences, Save the Children prefers to use the two terms interchangeably without any implication of a qualitative judgement about the quality of care being offered. Note that while boarding schools may be used as a form of orphanage in some contexts, their status in society may be quite different.
Respite Care	Planned, short term care of a child, usually based on foster or residential care, to give the family a break from caring for a child.	Respite may be provided as a one off break for parents or carers e.g. when the carer has to be admitted to hospital for treatment, or it may be a regular arrangement e.g. scheduled breaks for carers looking after a disabled child. It can include day care and/or overnight stays.
Reviews	The regular meeting of those responsible for the child's best interests and the child, during which the progress, current and future, of the **care plan** is discussed. [33]	Reviews are a specific requirement of the UNCRC (Article 25). Like **care planning** it should be a participatory and formal process involving the child, parents and other relevant stake-holders.
Separated Child	A child separated from both parents or from his/her previous legal or customary primary care-giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. [34]	See also **unaccompanied children**.
Sexual Abuse	All forms of sexual violence including incest, early and forced marriage, rape, involvement in child pornography, and sexual slavery. Child sexual abuse may also include indecent touching or exposure, using sexually explicit language towards a child and showing children pornographic material. [35]	Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Child sexual abuse refers to the immediate abusive act against a child and forms the basis of the exploitation of the child. Sexual abuse is therefore inferred in **sexual exploitation**
Sexual Exploitation of children and Commercial	The abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes; this includes profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the exploitation of	The commercial sexual exploitation of children consists of criminal practices that demean, degrade and threaten the physical and psychosocial integrity of children. There are three primary and interrelated

Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)	another as well as personal gratification e.g. child prostitution, trafficking of children for sexual purpose, child pornography, sexual slavery. [36] Save the Children also uses the definition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) identified by the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action against Commercial sexual Exploitation of Children (1996): *"The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children's rights. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary slavery"*	forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children: - prostitution, - pornography (although pornography may also be distributed for no commercial gain) and ***trafficking*** for sexual purposes. Other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children include child sex tourism, child marriages and forced marriages. See also ***economic exploitation***, ***child labour***, and ***slavery***
Small Group Home	A type of residential care in which a small group of children live in a house that is almost undistinguishable from others in the neighbourhood, and are cared for in an environment that is as family-like as possible.	***Small group homes*** are often staffed by a married couple with or without their own children. Some small group homes are difficult to distinguish from large ***foster homes*** in which the foster carers are paid. The main difference is that in the case of the former, the house is usually provided by the agency.
Social Policy	Public policy, having to do with issues seen as 'social' e.g. family policies, housing policies, drug policies and criminal justice polices.	
Social Protection	A wide range of activities undertaken by societies to alleviate hardship and respond to the risks that poor and vulnerable people face and to provide minimum standards of well being. This includes services and financial transfers.	There is no one definition of social protection. Some organisations may define it more narrowly, focusing on social insurance (the pooling of contributions by individuals in state or private organisations so that, if they suffer a shock or a change in circumstances, they receive financial support) and social assistance (conditional and non conditional cash transfers to the vulnerable). Within child protection, it is recognised that families and children will frequently need some form of ***family support service***, in order to be able to access financial transfers, and also to ensure that they have a minimum standard of wellbeing.
Social Services	Services provided by public or private organisations aimed at addressing the needs and problems of the most vulnerable populations, including those stemming from violence, family breakdown, homelessness, substance abuse, immigration, disability and old age. These can include day and residential care, income support, home visiting, and specialist services such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation and so on.	This term sometimes incorporates universally-available services that might include health-care, rubbish collection, water and sanitation etc. ***Social Work*** is a component of Social Services
Social Welfare	Public provision for the economic security and welfare of all individuals and their families, especially in the case of income losses due to	Social welfare services are usually targeted at people in particular need e.g. the poor, elderly, disabled. The term encompasses not only social

	unemployment, work injury, maternity sickness, old age, and death.	insurance but also health and welfare services and various income maintenance programs designed to improve the recipient's welfare. See also *social protection.*
Social Work	Organized work intended to advance the social condition of communities and disadvantaged individuals. Social work comprises professional activities connected with social problems, their causes, their solutions and their human impacts. Social workers work primarily with individuals, families, groups, and communities, as members of a profession which is committed to social justice and human rights.	Other definitions exist and there is an international debate about whether social work can be considered a profession. There is also a debate about whether volunteers or people without full-time training can be considered as social workers. Save the Children would normally refer to these cadres by terms such as "community service workers".
Standards in Care	A written document outlining the provisions that must be in place in a care setting, in order to ensure that a child receives an adequate level of care. This may apply to *residential* settings, as well as *family based care*. Standards should set out the admission and care planning processes, the delivery of all aspects of a child's care, staffing, child protection procedures, and after care.	Core documents on standards include: - Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children - Raising the Standards: Quality Childcare provision in east and central Africa, Save the Children Fund, 2005 - Applying the Standards. Improving quality childcare provision in east and central Africa, Save the Children Fund, 2006 -Quality 4 Children Standards for Out of Home Child Care in Europe, 2007: www.quality4children.info
Supported Independent Living	Where a young person is supported in their own home, a group home, hostel, or other form of accommodation, to become independent. Support/key workers are available as needed and at planned intervals to offer assistance and support but not to provide supervision. Assistance may include timekeeping, budgeting, cooking, job seeking, and parenting.	Supported *child headed households* may be considered a form of independent living.
Transit/Crisis/Emergency Care Centre	A *residential care* setting used to provide short term care, until family reunification can be undertaken, or alternative care provided.	This type of care may be used to provide a period of stability or treatment before a child can move to their family e.g. demobilised child soldiers, or to allow for tracing activities e.g. for children who are *separated or unaccompanied*. Save the Children advocates for *family based care* over the use of institutions, wherever possible.
Unaccompanied Child	A child who has been separated from both parents and other relatives and is not being cared for by any adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.[37]	See also *Separated Children*.
Violence	The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against a child, by an individual or group, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity. [38]	There are a number of definitions of violence used depending on the focus and approach taken to it. For example, whether it is defined for legal, medical, sociological purposes. The UN Study on Violence Against Children (2006) definition of violence draws on Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: "*all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse*" Violence can be committed by individuals or by the

		State as well as groups and organisations through their members and their policies. It results not only in fear of/or actual injury but also in fundamental interference with personal freedom. WHO has identified 3 types of violence: 1. *Self directed violence*: suicide and self mutilation 2. *Interpersonal violence*: all forms of physical, sexual and psychological abuse, neglect and exploitation including domestic violence and other forms of gender based violence 3. *Collective violence*: Violence committed, condoned or allowed by the State and its security forces of all kinds but also violence committed by any other State agent. State violence against children include the use of the death penalty, torture, forced displacement unlawful imprisonment, extra-judicial killings and executions, enforced disappearances, all forms of violence against children living under the care of the State including children living in **institutions** and children in detention and penal facilities among other examples. Collective violence also includes violence resulting from internal and international armed conflicts, terrorism, organised crime, and violence targeting specific groups of people such as child infanticide, honour killings, and gang violence. [39] The term 'violence' against children, frequently overlaps with **abuse** and **physical abuse.** Violence is more commonly used to refer to acts carried out by non-family members e.g. deliberate targeting of children in acts of war, torture, and unlawful detention. Domestic Violence is the physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of a spouse. It is included in the term **Gender Based Violence**
Vulnerable Children	Children whose rights to care and protection are being violated or who are at risk of those rights being violated. This includes children who are poor, abused, neglected, or lacking access to basic services, ill or living with disabilities, as well as children whose parents are ill, who are affected by fighting forces or who are in conflict with the law.	Determination of a child's level of vulnerability is usually determined via an **assessment** of the child, their family, and circumstances. See also '**orphans and vulnerable children'**.

[1] Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care (Draft), UNICEF, August 2006

[2] Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children, 18 June 2007

[3] Id.

[4] Id.

[5] Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care (Draft), UNICEF, August 2006

[6] UNCRC

[7] Save the Children and Child Protection, Save the Children Alliance, 2007

[8] Id.

[9] Id.

[10] Id.

[11] Id.

[12] Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children, 18 June 2007

[13] Save the Children and Child Protection, Save the Children Alliance, 2007

[14] Id.

[15] Id.

[16] Id.

[17] Id.

[18] Id.

[19] Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care (Draft), UNICEF, August 2006

[20] Id.

[21] Id.

[22] Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, IASC, 2005

[23] Id.

[24] Save the Children and Child Protection, Save the Children Alliance, 2007

[25] Id.

[26] For more information, please refer to the fact sheet *Intercountry Adoption: The Debate*, Save the Children, 2007 http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/31_58.htm

[27] Draft UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children, 18 June 2007

[28] Working with Children and Families, Volume 2, Louise Melville, The British Council, 2005

[29] Save the Children and Child Protection, Save the Children Alliance, 2007

[30] Id.

[31] Id.

[32] Manual for the Measurement of Indicators for Children in Formal Care (Draft), UNICEF, August 2006

[33] Id.

[34] Inter-agency Guiding principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, ICRC, 2004

[35] Save the Children and Child Protection, Save the Children Alliance, 2007

[36] Id.

[37] Inter-agency Guiding principles on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, ICRC, 2004

[38] World Report on Violence and Health, WHO, 2002

[39] Save the Children and Child Protection, Save the Children Alliance, 2007