



“Beyond Institutionalization”

Module II: Changing law, policy, attitudes and practices

2022

change

IN CHILD PROTECTION & CARE SYSTEM REFORM

CREATING CONDITIONS

STEP 1

Developing readiness

STEP 2

Setting change in motion

WHAT DO WE NEED TO REFORM
CHILD PROTECTION AND CARE?

HOW TO REFORM CHILD PROTECTION
AND CARE, **THE THEORY OF CHANGE**


International
evidence


A common
language


A shared
vision


The right
people


Clear & strong
government
mechanisms


Co-operation


Investment


Engagement
help

COMMON
LANGUAGE

GOVERNMENT
COLLABORATION

NGO
COLLABORATION

COMMITMENT
TO INVEST IN
CHILDREN

POLITICAL WILL

EVIDENCE AND
KNOW-HOW

CAPACITY TO DELIVER

FUNDING

TIMELINE

Some steps may be achieved in a short period
while others may be achieved in the longer term.



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unicef 
para cada infancia

**HOPE AND HOMES
FOR CHILDREN** 

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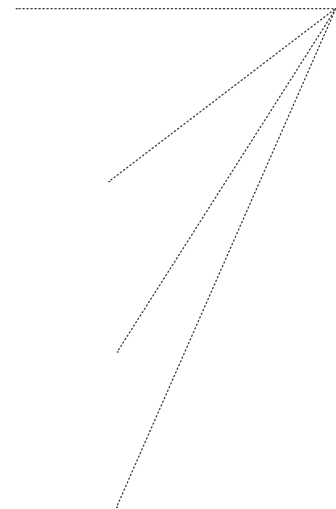
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 **DONCEL**

 **RELAF**
Por el derecho a vivir
en familia y comunidad

WHY DO WE NEED TO REFORM CHILD PROTECTION AND CARE?

nd resources. **Engage** as widely as possible





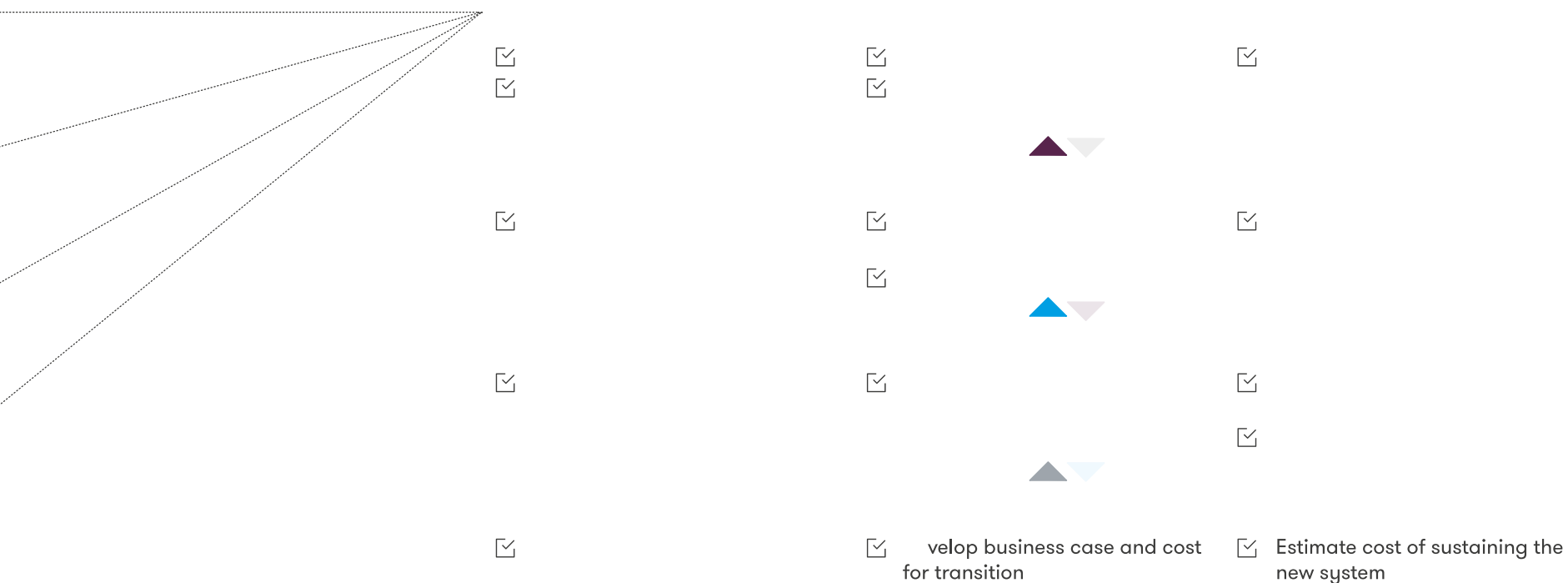
Communication and advocacy goals and strategies

- ✓ High level commitment in place to investing in children
- ✓ High level commitment and plans to invest in capacity building of a national social workforce
- ✓ A clearly articulated vision for reform
- ✓ A broad understanding of deinstitutionalisation as a key driver of child protection and care system reform
- ✓ A clear understanding of key terminology translated and agreed for use in national context
- ✓ Cooperation across government ministries and a functioning inter-ministerial working group
- ✓ Support for a collaboration with civil society and open channels of communication
- ✓ Understanding of and access to expertise and resources from within civil society

With these elements in place, you can capitalise on the progress you have made and turn your attention to ensuring you create the conditions that will enable you to set change in motion.



HOW TO REFORM CHILD PROTECTION AND CARE, **THE THEORY OF CHANGE**



Communication and ADVOCACY





ORPHANAGES VS FAMILY CARE



10 TIMES AS MUCH

Our work in Bosnia shows that orphanages can cost nearly

as keeping a child safe at home



UNACCEPTABLE.



Communication and ADVOCACY Interministerial working group, BG (Govt led advocacy)

In 2010 Bulgaria launched a national scale reform of the child protection and care system outlined in a nation strategy “Vision for De-institutionalisation of the Children in the Republic of Bulgaria”. The strategy’s first Action Plan created the management and coordination structures essential for unlocking the reform and overcoming initial resistance.

The Interdepartmental management and coordination working group was established at the highest political level to:

manage the overall implementation of the Action Plan;

monitor and evaluate the implementation of the specific activities and projects under the Action Plan.

Communication and ADVOCACY



Assessment of institutions influencing government commitment: Rwanda

Hope and Homes for Children, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), conducted a national survey of residential institutions for children in Rwanda in 2012²⁸. Due to the lack of data on children's institutions and the children residing within them, evidence had to be generated to inform national care reform strategy and planning.

The assessment revealed the perceived attractiveness of services offered by institutions, noting: *“the very existence of an institution increased the likelihood of a child from that neighbourhood to be placed in an institution.”* It highlighted that, when there are no residential care facilities nearby, families find other care options such as kinship or informal foster care.

The findings and recommendations significantly informed and influenced the current care reform process in Rwanda²⁹, forming the basis for planning the Government of Rwanda's Strategy for National Child Care Reform³⁰ and its implementation.



Communication and ADVOCACY Ukraine (research led advocacy)

How a Hope and Homes for Children study informed the child protection system: Over 2015-16, Hope and Homes for Children conducted a study of the care system in Ukraine. To ensure comprehensiveness, the study included components focused on different levels of the child protection system (national, regional and local), and combined both quantitative and qualitative approaches and methods.

The study focussed on children in institutions. The findings revealed that, in many cases, reform has simply meant renaming an institution without changing how it operates. In addition, there was evidence of institutions being artificially 'filled' with children to preserve their funding.

The study identified that there were no clear roles and responsibilities for the different state agencies responsible for child protection and care. This made it challenging to assess the validity of decisions relating to a child.

The institutionalisation of a significant number of children could have been avoided if a local infrastructure of support services for children and families was in place. The analysis confirmed that the number of child protection specialists, and their professional capacity, was very low and insufficient to prevent institutionalisation and to provide support to children and their families.

Communication and ADVOCACY



Youth Led Advocacy:

Understanding how the the child protection system is experienced from the perspective of a child can highlight gaps and incoherency in the system. Children's opinions and views can help shape and improve interventions and solutions.

Precise response (elements of system strengthening and how)

A 2020 study, 'More Independence, More Rights', captures the experiences of 100 young people who have already left or are preparing to leave care in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

Impact of the change

This research offers recommendations for developing public policies to support transition of adolescents and young people from the alternative care system to independent living, and to contribute to the reform of child protection systems with a rights-based approach, moving from models based on residential care to models based family and community care. The evidence is informing Governments and policy makers through national launches and care leaver advocacy in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru as well as contributing to the growing momentum across the continent.



Communication and ADVOCACY Demonstrating that change is possible: Rwanda (demonstration/practice led advocacy)

Demonstrating that change is possible: Rwanda

The first comprehensive and successful closure of an institution in Rwanda was the Mpore Pefa institution, which closed in 2012. In order to pilot care reform and deinstitutionalisation at a local level, Hope and Homes for Children, with the support and oversight of Rwandan national and district government authorities, ensured the transition of every child residing in the institution into family- and community-based care.

This enabled the complete closure of the institution, with all 51 children transitioned into family and community-based care, and services in place to prevent new children from being institutionalised, by supporting families at risk and developing alternative care services.

The successful closure of Mpore Pefa institution served as a defining demonstration project, providing both *“proof that a transition to family care is possible, and a model for others to follow”*³². The model, lessons learned and team involved in the project, directly informed Rwanda’s Strategy for National Child Care Reform and its implementation

Relevant links and contacts



Hope and Homes for Children (2020). Mas alla del cuidado institucional. Una hoja de ruta para la reforma del sistema de proteccion y cuidado infantil destinada a los Gobiernos de America-Latina y el Caribe [Available](https://www.hopeandhomes.org) on www.hopeandhomes.org

Hope and Homes for Children (2020). Beyond Institutional Care: A roadmap for child protection and care system reform for governments in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Available](https://www.hopeandhomes.org) on www.hopeandhomes.org

Hope and Homes for Children (2020). Au dela des soins en etablissement. Feuille de route pour la reforme du systeme de protection et de prise en charge des enfants pour les gouvernements d’Amerique latine et des Caraibes. [Available](https://www.hopeandhomes.org) on www.hopeandhomes.org

GRACIAS

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