

Summary Report of West and Central Africa Regional Workshop on Children without Appropriate Care



Dakar, Senegal, December 6th – 9th 2011

Introduction:

Children without appropriate care is a priority focus area for Save the Children's child protection work for the period 2009-2015¹. A regional workshop on Children without Appropriate Care was organised in the West Central Africa region in Dakar from December 6th – 9th 2011 by Save the Children's Child Protection Initiative in collaboration with the Save the Children UK regional office.

“Children without appropriate care” (CwAC) are children who are not receiving suitable, continuous and quality care, nurture and guidance at a physical, emotional, social and psychological level from either their families or from other primary carers who are meant to replace the family environment and who are responsible for their well being and development². This definition includes children within their own families, children in alternative care, and children who have become separated, either voluntarily or involuntarily, from their families, including children on the move. It also refers to children in developed, developing, fragile and emergency contexts.

A mapping of children without appropriate care was undertaken in 9 countries in the region between August and October 2011 to inform preparations of the regional workshop³. This document provides a summary of the main workshop sessions.

Aims of the workshop:

This training was targeted exclusively at Save the Children staff members and partners, where appropriate, who are already working on programmes to support children without appropriate care, or who may begin work in this area. It is being designed as the first stage in a series of capacity building events which will support the development and implementation of improved care and protection systems for vulnerable children.

The regional training workshop was designed with the following objectives to:

1. Provide an overview of Save the Children's strategy and policy positions regarding children without appropriate care.
2. Provide a strong foundation of knowledge and understanding on good practice in care policy and practice, based on international and regional experience.
3. Give participants information, tools, and guidance on how to build and strengthen programs⁴ to support the care and protection of children within families, reduce reliance on residential care, and support quality family-based alternative care.
4. Present detailed information on the experience of the work supported by Save the Children in Indonesia in beginning the reform of the national care system, with guidance on the process and lessons learnt.
5. Present experiences from different country programs in the region on different aspects of the care agenda – for example, supporting the care and protection of children within their own families; community based monitoring and support of children in alternative family based care to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence; reducing use of institutional care; supporting children's participation in care and protection; policy and practice advocacy initiatives to increase use of the international guidelines for alternative care; and emergency preparedness and/or emergency response in the care of children.
6. Assist in the development of country and regional strategies to improve the care and protection of children in the region.

¹ and beyond, as children being cared for and protected in a family environment is now the focus of a CPI 2020 breakthrough.

² definition as per CPI strategy

³ See O'Kane, C. (November 2011) Report: Analysis of Mapping on Children without Appropriate Care, West Central Africa; this workshop report was also prepared by Claire O'Kane (December 2011)

⁴ 'Programs' are defined as both operational practice as well as research and advocacy

Trainers:

Claire O'Kane has more than 15 years of international experience in child rights work with a strong focus on the care, protection and participation of children. She is a qualified social worker originally from Wales, UK where she was involved in research about children's participation in decision making about their care. She has more than 8 years experience with Save the Children working at country, regional and global levels. She is now a freelance consultant.

Clare Feinstein, currently CPI Regional Representative for West Central Africa, has more than 20 years of international experience in child rights work. Similar to Claire, she has focused on the care, protection and participation of children in development and emergency contexts. Between 2000-2008, she worked for Save the Children supporting the organisation's protection and participation work at a global level.

The main trainers were also supported by Teresa Amorim, regional child protection adviser SCUK, Lena Karlsson, Director of the global Child Protection Initiative, Alessandro Conticini (Play Therapy Africa) and Ylva Sperling, child protection in emergencies adviser, SCS Head Office.

Agenda and materials:

The workshop was based on an updated and expanded version of the training materials developed by SCUK and Louise Melville Fulford which were piloted in the Asia region in 2010. The workshop agenda (see *annex A*) was updated based on the regional mapping results to ensure increased focus on: the role of community in the care and protection of children; children's participation; emergency preparedness and response. All the powerpoints were prepared in French and English and the workshop was facilitated bilingually with the assistance of a professional translation service. Furthermore, one regional and seven national presentations were interspersed during relevant workshop sessions to enhance exchange of practice and learning.

Profile of the Participants:

The workshop exclusively targeted Save the Children staff members and partners who are already working on programmes to support children without appropriate care, or who may begin work in this area. The event was attended by 21 participants (see *Annex B*) including: 10 Save the Children and 3 partner staff from country programmes in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and



Sierra Leone; 4 regional staff working on child protection related programmes from Save the Children UK, Sweden and Finland; and 3 staff from Save the Children Sweden Head Office. In addition Alessandro Conticini from Play Therapy attended a few of the sessions and supported as a resource person on social protection. Unfortunately participants from Save the Children Spain programmes from Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal were unable to attend the workshop. In addition participants from DRC were unable to attend due to security concerns regarding current elections.

Day One:

Following a security briefing a **Welcome Speech** was given by **Aboubacry Tall**, **Save the Children UK's Regional Director** for West and Central Africa. Abou welcomed all the participants to the regional workshop. He particularly welcomed Save the Children's partner colleagues from Senegal ENDA, CONAFE and the Nigerian Association for Reproductive and Family Health as *'debate on partnership is very important'*. Abou emphasised that this workshop was an opportunity for all to *'increase sharing of information that could be used to update our strategies, positions and policies on Children without Appropriate Care'* and that the theme *'is focusing on clusters of the most vulnerable children in our region thus providing us with an opportunity for Save the Children to deal with the matter and to ensure that for these children and their families we generate positive impact.'*



A welcome speech was also given by **Clare Feinstein**, **Save the Children's regional representative for the Child Protection Initiative** in West Central Africa. Clare shared her thanks to Abou, Maimoona and Teresa in Save the Children for supporting the organisation of the regional workshop; the participants for attending the workshop; and Claire O'Kane for her contributions to the regional mapping on CwAC. Since the establishment of the regional CPI work in this

region in early January 2011, Children without Appropriate Care has been a priority. This workshop was identified as *'a critical moment to re-launch and re-strengthen efforts to work with CwAC.... a hope that we leave this workshop with clarity about what we can do nationally and regionally on advocacy and programming on CwAC to provide better quality care and protection for and with children.'*

Introduction of participants:

Standing together in a circle each of the participants introduced their name, meaning of their name, their role and country in which they worked.

The aims of the workshop (shown above) were introduced and participants suggested **positive agreements** which would support maximum learning during the week:



- Keep to time
- Respect each individual's views
- Turn mobile phones off/ or on silent
- No use of laptops during workshop sessions
- Active participation by all – especially with opportunities for professional translation

Global and regional developments on Children Without Appropriate Care:

Lena Karlsson the Director of Save the Children's global Child Protection Initiative provided an overview of the role and activities of Save the Children's Global Initiative on Child Protection. She shared key information about the Priority Area work on Children without Appropriate Care, which is one of CPI's 4 priority areas⁵. Recognising Save the Children's dual mandate to work in development and emergency contexts, work on CwAC is relevant to both. Furthermore, especially in this region advocacy and programming on Children without Appropriate Care includes a strong focus on children on the move, and is also relevant to work on child labour. Save the Children's strategy on CwAC emphasises the importance of care and protection of children in their own families; supporting and strengthening family and community based care options; and ensuring that residential care is only used as a last resort.

While continuing broad efforts to strengthen national child protection systems and their links to community based protection, key components of Save the Children's strategic work on CwAC include:

- increased prevention work with families and communities;
- advocacy for implementation of the International Guidelines;
- strengthening the social work cadre;
- advocacy with faith based organisations and donors to invest in families rather than institutions
- improved baselines, documentation, monitoring, evaluation and the reach, quality and impact of our programmes.

Information about the task group on CwAC and the sub-group on Children on the Move were shared. Four of the workshop participants were already active members of these task or sub groups, and other interested participants were encouraged to join and/or to be in touch with group members from their region.

Lena also shared recent updates about the CPI breakthrough to achieve by 2020 which focuses on children's care and protection with their own families or alternative family care settings. It is entitled ***'I feel safe: Children are cared for and protected in a family environment'***.

Clare Feinstein also shared key regional developments concerning children without appropriate care including:

- use of advocacy messages on CwAC (in English and French) during African Day of the Child.
- Preparations for the inter-agency ***Francophone Conference on Family Strengthening and Alternative Care in sub-Saharan Africa*** that will take place 10th – 11th May 2012. The conference is being organised by: Save the Children, Better Care Network (BCN), UNICEF, World Vision, SOS International, ENDA Tiers Monde-Jeunesse Action, Mouvement des Enfants et Jeunes Travailleurs (MAEJT), International Social Services (West and Central Africa), African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ACPAN West and Central Africa). The conference is focused on the francophone audience to mobilise work on the international guidelines for Alternative Care of Children.
- Follow up to this workshop next year either through support to a pilot project, or organising a follow up workshop; and support to advocacy efforts to implement the International Guidelines in at least two countries within the region.
- Support for regional work on children on the move, including plans to roll out the BID (Best Interests Determination) tool when children arrive at their destination.
- Encourage countries to contribute to IMPACT newsletter.

⁵ The other 3 are: Child protection in emergencies; child labour and PHP (Physical and humiliating punishment).

Who are Children without Appropriate Care? Understanding the meaning and causes of a lack of appropriate care:

This session drew upon findings from the mapping which was undertaken by 9 countries within the region to be understand the meaning, the causes and the impact of children without appropriate care in the region (see *tree analysis photo on this page for a summary of the main findings*). In the West Central Africa region children without appropriate care include:

- ☐ **Children in institutions**
- ☐ **Children living in families affected by extreme poverty** (especially when they have too many children)
- ☐ **Children living and working on the streets**
- ☐ **Child domestic workers** (particularly girls)
- ☐ **Talibé children** (boys sent to study Quran)
- ☐ **Children who are informally cared for or 'adoption' arrangement for education or apprenticeship – 'Enfants en confiage'**
- ☐ **Children who have been neglected, abandoned or abused within their families**
- ☐ **Children who have lost one or both parents** (single/double orphans)
- ☐ **Children from broken families** (some elderly headed households, single headed households, child headed households)
- ☐ **Children living with parents with a chronic illness or disability**
- ☐ **Children with disabilities**
- ☐ **Children on the move** (including children who migrate for education or work)
- ☐ **Victims of child trafficking**
- ☐ **Children who drop out from school or truant from school**
- ☐ **Child workers** (especially children in apprenticeship, herd boys, children working in gold mines, in *abattoirs* (butchers), hawkers, restaurants or service industry, construction, farms, agriculture, children begging or leading blind beggars)
- ☐ **Children accused of being witches**
- ☐ **Children in conflict with the law**
- ☐ **Children affected by HIV/AIDS**
- ☐ **Children affected by armed conflict or natural disaster** (especially when it causes family separation and children associated with armed forces)
- ☐ **Children born to alcoholics**
- ☐ **Child brides/ grooms**



Working in small groups the participants explored indicators that may show a child is without appropriate care when they are living: a) Within their own families; b) within other families; c) on their own or with other children; and d) in institutions. The indicators encompassed different dimensions including:

- Physical care, clothing, sanitation, health and nutrition (including the quality/quantity of food);
- Type of accommodation (and whether girls and boys have separate areas in residential care)
- Emotional care, support, attention, love and protection from parents or caregivers
- Access to education, play and learning opportunities
- Non-discrimination and codes of conduct to ensure child protection.

*In the West Central African context concerns were raised regarding **talibé children** who are sent away to live with religious teachers in Muslim communities; and increases in accusations against children of being **child witches**. Due to discrimination children who are orphaned and/or living with relatives face increased risks of being labelled as a witch, and as a result face increased risks of harm, abuse, being sent away from their home, and exploitation. Thus traditional and cultural beliefs need to be addressed and transformed to increase care and protection of children, especially the most vulnerable.*

Enyo Gbedemah, Save the Children Sweden's regional child protection adviser shared information about **Save the Children's position paper on the protection of talibé children**: talibé children are children on the move to learn the Quran in Niger, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania and Burkina Faso. Studies on talibé children have been undertaken by ENDA, Caritas and Save the Children in 2006 and 2007. Religious, socio-cultural, and economic factors contribute to the phenomena. These children generally face situations of violence, abuse and negligence. They also lack access to quality education, health care and recreation. Save the Children has developed a position paper to encourage more integrated, multi-faceted response to talibé children. Programme interventions encouraged by Save the Children are:

- Based on the principles of child rights programming and the African Charter
- Based on an analysis of the situation and take into consideration research involving children, caregivers, community members and faith based organisations.
- Focused both on prevention and response to abuse, violence and exploitation (including efforts to strengthen the capacity of children and communities to protect children)
- Promoting collaboration between children, communities, faith based organisation, NGOs, and the authorities (including inter-ministerial collaboration).
- Promoting strengthening of child protection systems at national and community levels.

Actions that are discouraged within the position paper include:

- Actions that provide financial or material support to Quranic teachers/ schools
- Some initiatives to improve the infrastructure within Quranic schools/ shelters
- An exclusive focus on talibé children as we need more holistic programming to address other groups of vulnerable children who face abuse, violence and maltreatment.

➔ Different Save the Children members were encouraged to share their views on the position paper so that it can be reviewed, finalised and more widely used.

The laws and policies that protect Children without Appropriate Care:

This session explored and shared information on the laws, policies, and principles that protect the rights of children to appropriate care and which define best practices. These laws and policies include:

- The UNRC
- The African Charter on Child Rights
- The Hague Convention
- National legislation e.g. The Child Rights Act, the Child Labour and trafficking law, Child protection ordinance.
- International Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children

The strengths and weaknesses of the CRC in relation to children without appropriate care were explored which led to the need to develop and agree international Guidelines.

Key Information on the **Hague Convention 1993** was shared as in some countries in the West Central Africa region (e.g. in Liberia) there have been increased risks of inter country adoption of children living in institutions. The Hague Convention 1993 protects children and their families against the risks of illegal, irregular, premature or ill-prepared adoptions abroad. The subsidiarity principles means that a child should be raised by his or her birth family or extended family (kinship group)

whenever possible; and if that is not possible or practical, other forms of permanent family care in the country of origin should be considered, prior to considering inter-country adoption.

Information about the **International Guidelines** were shared, in particular emphasising two key principles of the Guidelines:

- **NECESSARY** – is alternative care necessary?
- **APPROPRIATE** – is alternative care appropriate? Which form of care is appropriate.

Case studies concerning 3 different children were used in small groups to explore application of these principles and whether care was necessary and if so what form of care would be appropriate :

- Mia (girl, aged 2) has been severely beaten by her stepfather. Mia's mother is also hit on a regular basis by her husband. Mia's mother fears for her life as well as her daughter's.
 - Mohammad (boy, aged 14) has been living on the street for 2 years. He does not have contact with his family and claims that they treated him badly and kicked him out of the home. His family live some distance from his current location. He has strong peer relationships and spends his days attending part-time school and street selling. His living conditions are appalling and he is highly vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation.
 - Hilal (boy, aged 6) and Mena (girl, aged 8) have been taken to the local orphanage for admission by their mother. Their father died recently and their mother has 4 other children to look after (ages 12 months, 2 years, 12 years and 14 years). She relies on her 2 older children to work in order to have sufficient income.
- ➔ In each case the importance of: making assessments; listening to the child's own views and feelings; considering the child's evolving capacity; as well as the views, strengths and weaknesses of the parents and other extended family caregivers were emphasized.



Additional information on the International Guidelines was shared among different groups to encourage peer learning on:

- Guiding Principles
- Preventing the need for alternative care
- Framework of care provision
- Determination of the most appropriate forms of care
- Provision of alternative care policies
- Legal responsibility
- Residential care
- Inspection and monitoring
- Support for after care

3 mixed groups were then made to end the day with a **Quiz on the International Guidelines!**

Day Two:

Creative recap using a fire ball enabled participants to share knowledge gained from day one.

The Care System and its place within broader Child Protection System

This session enabled participants to explore the place of the Care system in relation to the national child protection system. While participants agreed that the care system fits within the broader child protection system, there were debates about the visual diagram and a suggestion that the 3 main circles on: children in alternative care; children at risk of requiring alternative care; children and young people leaving care for reunification, adoption or independent living should be interlinked. Components of the national protection system and national care system were explored and in country pairs or small groups participants identified the strongest and weakest components of the care system in their national contexts:

- *In Cote d'Ivoire while laws and policies exist, there is gap in harmonisation of these laws with the international guidelines; and some national laws are not effectively implemented. In addition coordination mechanisms for care provision among the State, INGOs and NGOs are lacking.*
- *In Sierra Leone human resources are weak as the concerned Ministry has very low budgets. There is not sufficient social workforce, such that the State relies more on NGO provision.*
- *In Liberia everything is centrally located in Monrovia. Social workers are lacking in rural areas where many orphanages exist. There is a lack of services, and a lack of regulation and oversight outside of Monrovia.*
- *In Nigeria the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development has main responsibility, however, inter-government coordination is weak.*
- *In Mali while most international conventions have been signed, implementation is lacking, and there is a lack of child protection services.*
- *In Senegal structures and services are centralised. For example there is a Child Protection Unit in Dakar, but these are lacking in other parts of the country. There are also limited human resources.*
- *In Burkina Faso there is a top down approach and the Government is still trying to deal with categories of children. Save the Children is part of a child protection working group that is making efforts with the Government to help strengthen the national child protection system. These efforts include strengthening social services and building the operational capacity.*
- *In Niger there are less prevention services than response services, and there is low capacity of stakeholders on care issues. However, the national child protection system is being developed and there is now a framework reference document, orientation and guidelines.*
- *Clare mentioned that UNICEF has been gathering data for a child protection progress report. However, West Central Africa was the only region where they had no data on CwAC.*

Introduction to care planning and case management

Participants shared their views on the basic elements of care planning and case management. It was recognised that the main elements are similar for both: identification and assessment, planning, referral and support services, monitoring and review. Case management is used to identify and plan a response to individual children for a range of child protection concerns. Care planning is undertaken as part of case management if and when a child is in need of alternative care. Case studies were used to the principles and basic stages of care planning and case management. It was highlighted how increased efforts are needed to strengthen the number and skills of social workers or other social community workers in countries to be able to undertake case management and/or care planning for individual children. The importance of listening to children's views and feelings, considering their evolving capacity and seeking the views of parents, caregivers and community members to understand the situation and the support options were again emphasised.

Assessing risks and needs of children within their own families and determining how to respond:

A role play of a poor mother who sent her children to work on the streets was used to explore how the values of the State and NGO workers and existing policies have an impact of the assessments and types of intervention. The importance of assessing the family members strengths as well as the risks were emphasised, as were the importance of prevention and family strengthening services, including economic strengthening. Guidelines and



handouts to support initial and more comprehensive assessments of children and families were shared. Information about the Best Interests Determination (**BID**) tool was also shared. There are plans to adapt to the West Central Africa context and to roll out this tool by CPI in 2012.

Supporting the care and protection of children within their own families (including social protection mechanisms and economic strengthening)

Participants shared their views about the types of support needed to support the care and protection of children within their own families. The various suggestions were clustered into 3 main categories:

- *Universal services*: including access to basic services (education, health, social services)
- *Economic strengthening*: including social protection schemes, cash grants, livelihood training and income generation activities
- *Social services*: including parenting education, counselling, respite care, 'listening centres', case management, life story work and social work support.

Niger presentation: Ecoute programme

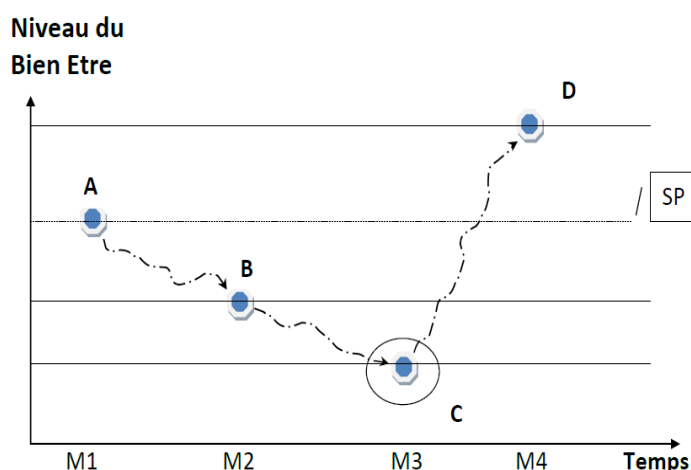
Ousmane from Niger shared experiences from the Ecoute (Listening) programme that was developed by SongES a Belgium NGO that he had worked with prior to working with Save the Children. This programme emphasises the importance of listening skills and counselling skills to accompany children who face challenges to support them and their families to overcome the challenges faced. Existing social workers and school counsellors are trained in the approach to work in conjunction with families to understand the socio-relations and to consider children's needs, views and life plans. Parents have opportunities to take part in training programmes and/or groups to discuss the challenges faced in raising children and to explore the role of family members to better care for and protect children. Children are supported with life skills and resources to overcome difficult circumstances. NGO association staff, social workers and education counsellors involved in the Ecoute programme come together on a regular basis to exchange and learn from each others' experiences, including how to effectively support family mediation and children's care and protection within families. *Manuals on the Ecoute programme (in French) are included in the resource CD.*

Nigeria presentation on OVC care and support programme:

Nigeria team shared their experiences and lessons learned from OVC care and support programming which aims to increase quality care of 11,950 children across 3 States. The programme strengthens civil society, as well as State national policies and strategies for orphans and vulnerable children. Working with children and families, community based protection committees, local and national partners an inter-sector approach is supported. The programme supports education, protection, psychosocial, economic strengthening and health and nutritional services and/or referrals. Parents and caregivers are involved in parenting groups and supported to strengthen their parenting skills. Saving among caregivers is also encouraged through village saving schemes. Community members are mobilised to form and run child protection committees which monitor and support the care and protection of orphans and vulnerable children within their homes. Children are also actively involved in initiatives and have brought about improvements in their schools. Key challenges faced include: the absence of basic infrastructure especially in rural areas; weaknesses in the legal system to address child protection violations; and inadequate support of national state mechanisms for child protection. Family poverty also negatively impacts on village saving schemes. Security and instability also negatively affects the programme.

Social protection and economic strengthening of families:

Alessandro Conticini, a resource person from Play Therapy Africa shared information about economic strengthening and social protection mechanisms to support families. A definition of a social protection system was shared: *'a coordinated set of formal and informal elements that work together to prevent and respond to shocks to promote the well-being of the child and their environment'*. The importance of multi-sectoral coordination was emphasised, and different strategies and interventions including: social assistance (food aid, rice); protection of assets; and opportunities to increase family economy were outlined to strengthen the physical, natural, financial, human and social assets of families. Alessandro introduced a graph to illustrate the importance of interventions to prevent and mitigate against shocks to improve the economic strengths of families. In particular the Government



PREVENTION - PROTECTION - PROMOTION - TRANSFORMATION

needs to take transformative efforts through support for social protection schemes including cash transfers to enable families, especially the most marginalised to get out of the poverty cycle. Cash transfers have proved effective in reducing inequality (poverty), increasing parents/ caregivers access to work, increasing gender equality (as schemes often target women) and increasing children's access to basic services (education, health) – though the quality of the services may still not be good! As social protection schemes are expensive for State Government the basic ingredients for their support include: POLITICAL WILL, mobilisation of resources and technical support.

A **political debate** between a Francophone and Anglophone political parties took place to debate the relative benefits and obstacles to investments in social protection schemes targeting families, especially the most vulnerable.

Understanding quality family-based alternative care:

Working in groups the pros and cons of different forms of alternative care including: kinship care, foster care, child headed households, small group homes, and children's villages were explored:

Care Option	Pros	Cons
Kinship Care	Socio-cultural life of child and family identity continues; Opportunity to implement life scheme; Chance to go to school and to get health care.	Children may lack parental love; May face discrimination; Children may be abused, subject to violence and/or exploitation;
Foster Care	The care is approved by relevant authorities; Care is monitored in the best interests of the child; It provides family and community based care; Child can remain in their cultural setting/ background.	It is easy to be abused; Children may be discriminated and stigmatised; It is difficult to monitor especially if the child is with other children; There is a risk that foster carers take care of the child for financial benefits; Children may face increased risks of abuse and exploitation (including trafficking).
Child headed households	Children stay together, siblings are not separated; Children can provide emotional support and affection to one another.	Children may have less access to education (books, tuition); and less access to health care; Increased vulnerability to risks of abuse and exploitation; Is it the role of a child/ children to take responsibility to take care of their younger siblings? It may have a negative impact on their psychology.
Small group homes	Access to basic needs; Monitoring by a guardian; International Guidelines prepares youth for leaving care (life outside of care); Can be effectively used as temporary/ interim care for young people to adjust (e.g. street children); Peer to peer support.	Requires supervision, requires high level of self reliance; Difficult to transition to life outside; Lack of family structure – which may mean a lack of access to cultural networks and traditions; Peer pressure can also lead to destructive behaviour.
Children's villages	Feeling of belonging to a community; Acceptable standards may be met; Promotes child development – life scheme of children and child autonomy.	Exposed to abuse; Risk of separation from their families and their origins; Loss of identity; Expensive model of care.

A resource fair was organised enabling country programmes to display and share relevant resources which support care and protection programming.

A welcome dinner was organised at a relaxing beach side restaurant enabling the participants to listen to the sound of the waves and share stories 😊

Day Three:

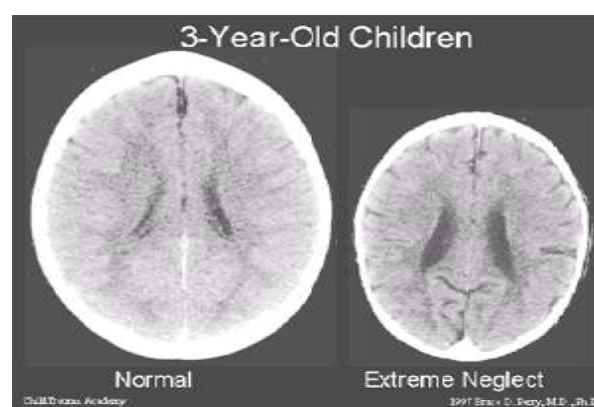
Creative Recap: Participants were encouraged to form pairs to share one thing interesting from day 2 that they would like to apply in their national contexts. Some responses are shared below:

- We discussed various ways of caring for children without appropriate care... For each possibility we brought out the pros and cons. This will help us to do more in Cote d'Ivoire as we are working with partners who are using these different forms of care (Mathilde, Cote d'Ivoire)
- Through the work on strengthening the national child protection system we can encourage State Governments to increase support to care of children in our country (Oge, Nigeria).
- The workshop is interesting, we have learned a lot. I found the social protection debate very interesting as it highlighted how the survival needs of the most vulnerable children need to be addressed. We need to reflect more and make adjustments to our programmes (Celeste, Liberia)
- The group discussion on the case study about the girl who was nearly raped was very interesting. In our communities the community may insist that the girl should move out of her home. We need to make more efforts to sensitise the community based child protection committees so that they have discussions to respond to such cases sensitively (Halima, Nigeria).
- I learned more about the differences between grants, cash transfers and micro credit from the social protection session with Alessandro (Soum, Senegal)
- We work hard to see the importance of investing in families and community care and protection, as it reduces the number of children needing alternative care. It is cheaper to support children in families rather than supporting residential care (Briama, Sierra Leone).
- It is useful that we are focusing on family care and kinship care supporting children with a family environment. In Niger we have just started a new project with vulnerable children, especially street children. A major part of this work will be orienting family and extended family members to be able to care for and protect children and to support children's reintegration (Ousmane, Niger)
- I found the session about supporting families to care for and protect their own children very interesting, looking at universal services, economic strengthening of families and social services (Papa, Senegal).
- We have seen that case management is a fundamental technique for child protection systems. Are countries really involved in capacity building of social service work force (social workers)? We need to harmonise the work we are doing on capacity building of professionals (Frederique, Burkina Faso).

Why does Save the Children consider institutional care as a last resort?

Brainstorm:

- Children are separated from their families. Most children living in institutions having living parents or relatives.
- From different parts of the world children have shared their experiences about living in bad conditions in institutions.
- Children often lack of emotional care; facing increased risks of physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation (including risks of trafficking and sexual exploitation).
- Institutional care has a negative impact on children's development, especially if they are placed in an institutional from a young age (see photo above of reduced brain size of a 3 year child resulting from extreme neglect when living in an institution).
- Children face a problem of identification resulting from isolation from their families and cultural identity.
- When children leave residential care they face increased problems in adjusting to life in society, and are unable to effectively take care of themselves.



Transforming the Care System – learning from Indonesia

Key stages of transforming the care system were explored. It requires a long term approach with strategic and practical work at multiple levels. Information sharing about Save the Children's strategic advocacy and programming work in Indonesia to transform the care system was shared through power point presentation and through the film 'Someone that Matters'.

Information on six strategic areas was shared:

- Assessment and analysis of the care system
- Building constituencies to support strategic planning and coordination
- Regulation on residential care
- Legal and policy reformation
- Strengthening the social welfare sector
- Piloting evidence best practice



Reducing use of residential care, increasing gate-keeping & minimum standards:

Liberia presentation on gate-keeping and standards in residential care:

Geoffrey presented key experiences from Save the Children's work in Liberia to strengthen gate-keeping and standards within institutions and to reduce use of residential care. As a result of conflict the number of orphanages grew from 10 in 1989 to 114 in 2008 accommodating approximately 5000 children. Save the Children has worked with State Government to strengthen regulation and minimum standards in residential care. It has also addressed concerns regarding the links between institutional care and inter-country adoption. Parents were encouraged to relinquish care and legal responsibility for their children by adoption agencies, promising them that their child may have the chance to go to the USA. Due to weaknesses in national law and lack of regulation rates of international adoption from Liberia to the USA rose from 26 in 2004 to 248 in 2008. However, as a result of advocacy work since 2009 there has been a moratorium on inter-country adoption while substantial law is being formulated.

In addition to developing regulations and standards, a section on alternative care emphasising family preservation (including support for social protection) has also been included in the Children's Act. The Government's position on alternative care (emphasising family based care) has also been included in the 10 year Social Welfare Policy and Plan. In addition, Save the Children is supporting the development of the social welfare workforce and para-professional social workers at county and local levels. Save the Children have also supported family reunification of children from institutions that have been closed as a result of increased regulation.

Key challenges faced have included: lack of essential services (education and health); unregulated kinship care; shortage of trained work force; insufficient data on CwAC; and insufficient funding in the Department of Social Welfare.

In country pairs participants identified 'entry points' opportunities and challenges for transforming the care system:

- *In Burkina Faso they can strengthen 'transit centres' for children on the move.*
- *In Cote d'Ivoire they will inform all partners about the importance of care planning.*
- *In Liberia they will undertake assessments to improve care planning.*
- *In Mali and Niger they will collect data on CwAC to feed into the Francophone conference.*

- In Nigeria they will strengthen the capacity of the Government, the social welfare officers, OVC desk officers, police and others working with children. They will start their efforts at the federal level.
- In Senegal where the care system is not in place they will strengthen the national child protection system.
- In Sierra Leone they will strengthen prevention and response services; and they will work through the religious leaders.

National Assessments of the Care System and Formal Indicators:

Recent toolkits to map care and 15 indicators for children in formal care were presented from the UNICEF and BCN (2009) manual for the measurement of indicators in formal care. The importance of national assessments and data collection on CwAC using good indicators was emphasised. Quantitative data collection, as well as qualitative data listening to the views of children and their caregivers are both required. In addition complaints systems that are accessible to children need to be developed.

MERG: Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group is an inter-agency initiative led by UNICEF and Save the Children to strengthen monitoring and evaluation on child protection.

<http://www.cpmerg.org/>

SONG: WE ARE PROTECTORS

Participants repeat each:
 Everywhere we go ooo
 People want to know..... oo
 Who we are?
 We always tell them
 That WE ARE PROTECTORS
 CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTORS
 And if they cannot hear us
 We jump a little higher
 We clap a little louder
 We laugh a little louder etc....



Community based monitoring and support for the care and protection of children:

Strengthening community based protection mechanisms is integral to child protection work in the West Central Africa region. This session enabling sharing of experiences and lessons learned from programmes which strengthen community based monitoring and support for care and protection of children, including children on the move. It also emphasised the active role of children and young people as key change agents within their communities.

An initial brainstorm of the importance of community based monitoring and support for children's care and protection included:

- Children and community members are central actors and agents of change
- Children, caregivers and community members know their own problems best
- Families and communities are the first line of defence and response; and can help care for and protect children
- Children can enhance their own self protection

- Children and families often rely on informal child protection systems within the community
- Communities can mobilise and make effective use of local resources
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness
- > ownership and > sustainability

Burkina Faso presentation preventing and reducing the risks of ‘children on the move’ including community based mechanisms:

This presentation by Frederique shared information about who children in the move are in the Burkina Faso context and neighbouring countries (Mali, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal); and explored different reasons for children’s migration. Socio-economic, social-cultural and historic, and institutional and legal factors contribute to children and young people being on the move. Save the Children’s position on children on the move, recognising that some movement is voluntary and may benefit children and families, rather than just focusing on child trafficking has led to more effective programming responses within communities and within national and regional contexts. Save the Children has increased focus on reducing risks and protecting children along the way: in their origin, on route, and in their destination. Their strategy enables them to develop ‘safety nets’ along the migration routes. It supports counselling, referral and special measures for their protection and involves State actors, security forces, local government officials, transport operators, INGOs, media, associations, CSOs, FBOs, religious leaders, community leaders, village committees, parents, caregivers and children. Associations of Quranic teachers and Godmothers have played an important role in protecting talibé children (on the move) and domestic workers.

Information was shared about 7 stages of work: 1) Surveillance and collaboration; 2) early warning; 3) interception, pursuit and referral; 4) care support (including interim foster care families while in transit); 5) accompanying; 6) socio-economic reintegration; 7) reintegration and follow up. Strategies to prevent and protect children on the move within communities include: community awareness, children’s participation, formation and action of ‘child relay committees’, peer education, life skills, child led media, drama initiatives and public awareness. Capacity building for local community members, religious leaders, as well as district officials on child protection, monitoring and follow up and advocacy is also provided; and community members (including children and young people) play active roles in monitoring, early warning, mediation, response and awareness raising. The importance of understanding and building upon positive traditional practices, and involving and transforming roles of religious leaders (e.g. Quranic teachers) to be child protection actors, especially of the most marginalised children has been an important lesson learned. Challenges faced necessitate: improved operational capacity of social services; improved child protection mechanisms at community, national and trans-national level; improved traceability of children at their destination; and increased alternative options for care, protection and livelihood of young people.



Senegal presentation on community based approach with children as actors:

Pierre from ENDA a partner organisation of Save the Children based in Senegal shared information about their community based approach to care, protection and empowerment of children, including talibé children and child workers including domestic workers. ENDA has more than two decades of participatory action research with marginalised children, and empowering

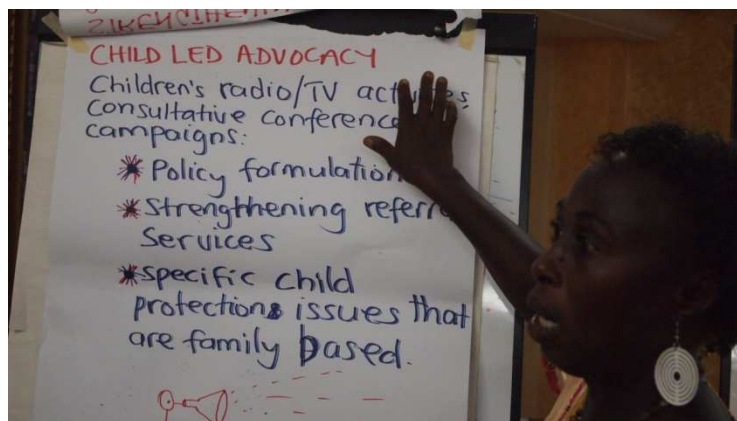
working children and supporting them to form their own associations and movement. Adoption of a rights based approach has also strengthened their approach as they work with children’s associations, communities and with Government duty bearers. In Senegal building upon existing

neighbour 'cultural and sports associations' they have supported children and young people (especially the most marginalised) to organise themselves and to take action for their own protection. In addition, they have supported domestic workers who tend to gather with neighbours from their original communities to mobilise and form associations. Through their own associations children and young people gain solidarity and mutual support to solve the difficulties they face, and their collective power enhances the protection of individual child workers. Members of associations can also access training from ENDA on child rights and child protection enhancing their skills to protect themselves and their peers, and to raise wider public awareness on child rights and protection within the community and among their employers. Children and young people also produce regular radio talk shows, organise dramas, develop murals and drawings which are all effective and creative ways to sensitise communities about child rights, child protection and issues affecting child workers and children on the move. Children have also been involved in advocacy initiatives at the local, national and regional level to improve practices, policies and budget allocations. Community based participatory work with children, parents/ caregivers and community leaders has: > awareness on child protection and abuse; increased the understanding of risks and information concerning children; > prevention and referral mechanisms; and > reporting on child protection concerns.

Summary findings from the inter-agency work on 'what are we learning about protecting children in communities' was shared regarding the importance of: community ownership; building on existing resources; support from leaders; children's participation; management and issues of power, diversity and inclusivity; resources; and linkages with the national child protection system.

Importance of children's participation:

The importance of children's participation had been emphasised by participants throughout the workshop. Listening to children's feelings and views, and involving them in decisions about their care and protection was recognized as integral to good care and protection practice. While taking into consideration their evolving capacity girls and boys should be actively involved in care planning and case management decisions affecting their lives. Formation and strengthening of children and young people's associations can increase their access to information, expression, and collective power to defend and claim their rights to care and protection; and can enable them to hold duty bearers accountable. In addition, children and young people can influence national care and protection policies and programmes in their best interests; and can make significant contributions to community based protection.



Sierra Leone presentation on children's participation in case management, community protection and advocacy:

Joy and Briama shared information about the various processes, activities regarding children's participation in case management, community based care protection and child led advocacy initiatives. Children and young people are supported to form Child Clubs which interact with the Child Welfare Committees and other CBOs to prevent and to respond to a wider range of child protection and care issues affecting them in their communities. Girls and boys of aged 5-18 years, including children with disabilities are involved in the Child Clubs which have weekly meeting.

Community based child mobilisers support the Child Clubs and enable their interaction and partnership work with the Child Welfare Committees. Life skills, livelihood activities, coaching and mentoring with children and young people, as well as family mediation helps strengthen family based care. Through children's media (TV/ radio) and drama initiatives children play an active role in raising awareness on child rights and child protection within their communities. Children have been involved in mapping community service providers and assessing child friendly services. Children and young people are also actively involved in local, district and national level conferences and campaigns to influence policy formation, to strengthen referral and response services, and to address specific child protection and care concerns affecting them (such as child work, early marriage, sexual violence, leaving their home to access education). Children have played an influential role in the Governments establishment of the Child Right Act.

Practical tools for using with children, parents/ caregivers or community members were shared including:

- **'H' assessment** for exploring the 😊 strengths, ☹ weaknesses and (!) suggestions to improve their children's participation/ child protection initiative
- **Mobility map** to explore children and families' social networks and support options
- **Flow diagram** to explore the chain of resource persons approached by a child or family in need.
- **Spider tool** for self assessment and planning of child led initiatives and organisations.



Day Four:

Creative recap: Sharing about lessons learned through a creative recap game included:

- *The relevance of the two questions raised at the end of the Indonesia film 'Are institutions in the best interests of the children? Or in the best interests of the institutions?' and 'why should children have to choose between the rights to education and their rights to live in families?'*
- *We learned more about why institutional care should be a last resort – especially of the negative damage it can have on children's development.*
- *Lessons learned and experiences relating to de-institutional care*
- *The importance of reaching and supporting child domestic workers to organise themselves to defend their rights.*
- *The relevance and importance of children's participation has been emphasised in all presentations.*
- *We emphasised the importance of sensitising adults to support increased children's participation. We also need to consult with parents and caregivers.*
- *We learned a lot from the Burkina Faso presentation on children on the move, as this area of work is relatively new in Liberia and can be strengthened.*
- *We became more aware of the challenges ahead to provide quality care and care alternatives. Considering children on the move we can look how to apply minimum standards in the 'interim foster care' while in transit.*
- *We considered the importance of working in partnership with local religious leaders.*
- *All the country presentations were very interesting and we learned a lot from each other and also realise the challenges we face.*

Emergency preparedness for care and protection of children:



The final morning of the workshop focused on emergency preparedness and emergency response in terms of care and protection of children. An initial brainstorm of components to consider in these topics highlighted the relevance of:

Emergency preparedness:

- Training of staff
- Contingency planning including identification of available resources
- Coordination

Emergency response

- Human resources
- Logistics support (including transport and materials)
- Rapid assessment (inter-agency, consulting children and communities)
- Immediate response to ensure basic survival needs
- Prevention of family separation
- Family tracing and reunification (and use of a data base)
- Ensuring care options (especially family and community based care)

The **ACE 'Alternative Care in Emergencies' Toolkit** which has been recently developed by the Inter-agency working group on separated and unaccompanied children was introduced to the participants. The ACE Toolkit contains: 1. Summary Guidance, 2. Extended Guidance, and 3. Tools (zip file). The summary guidance outlines key priority actions relating to preparing for and determining the need for interim care, developing and delivering placements, preventing separation and reunifying families, and ensuring effective case management for children in care. In addition to guiding principles, guidance is provided on:

- 1) Emergency preparedness
- 2) Rapid onset programme planning
- 3) Initial care response
- 4) Building on the initial response and preparing longer-term care options

In their country pairs/ small teams the participants were encouraged to review the **guidance for emergency preparedness** on children's care and to identify opportunities and challenges to apply such guidelines in their country contexts.

- In Mali there is food insecurity and a famine is looming. The Child Protection Cluster is activated and a common plan of action has been developed for an emergency response with coordination among different agencies. Planning of activities to support the psychosocial care of children has also been integrated, as well as efforts to prevent family separation.
- In Cote d'Ivoire there has been inter-agency coordination among NGOs, UN and the Government. However, we need to draw upon our lessons learned to help structure our emergency preparedness plans. We also need to ensure use of an inter-agency data base for unaccompanied and separated children, and knowledge and use of tools on gender based violence.
- In Liberia the coordination is often initiated in the onset of an emergency. We have also faced challenges in stock piling materials in warehouses as part of preparedness, as resources are linked to time bound projects and we then face difficulties with the auditors. However, we have identified places where we can purchase necessary items in case of emergencies. Human resources is also a challenge, as even if we train our existing staff as part of preparedness, for an emergency response we need more staff.

- In Senegal we realise the importance of the preparatory phase and having coordination for effective response (e.g to floods). With the forthcoming political elections there are risks so we need to be prepared.
- In Sierra Leone we risk having an influx of refugees from Liberia and/or Cote d'Ivoire. We need to be prepared and consider use of transit centres. We need to building upon existing coordination and collaboration among the Government and NGO agencies working on child protection. We have prepared a SC country emergency preparedness plan (EPP).
- In Burkina Faso there were floods in 2009. We have a draft emergency plan which includes mobilisation of the child protection cluster. I will re-read this draft and the contingency planning document with suggestions to improve care planning.
- We also need coordination at the regional level with the child protection clusters as emergencies can lead to movement across borders.
→ Soumahoro explained that there is regional coordination involving the UN system, and for separated and unaccompanied children there is an inter-agency data base managed by IRC, ICRC and UNICEF.
- Ylva shared updates on a child protection assessment tool that has been developed by the Global Child Protection Working Group – it will be finalised in English and French soon.



Emergency response to care and protection of children:

Cote d'Ivoire presentation on emergency response to separated and unaccompanied children:

Hyacinthe and Mathilde shared information and rich lessons learned from their emergency response to prevent separation and to respond to separated and unaccompanied children during the crisis in Cote d'Ivoire. Existing social workers, NGO child protection staff and community actors were trained in IDTR (identification, documentation, tracing, and reunification); and a data base (managed by IRC) was used to ensure coordinated tracing and reunification. Furthermore, weekly case management meetings were organised to ensure an effective response. Radio messages and awareness raising on measures to prevent family separation were undertaken in communities before and during the crisis. Community based child protection mechanisms were also strengthened to support IDTR. Kinship care and foster families were identified and supported as forms of family and community based care during the crisis.

Lessons learned included:

- the importance of ensuring a very clear understanding of who separated and unaccompanied children are at the outset to ensure correct identification and data collection in the initial phases;
- the need for more social workers especially in the West region;
- the importance of involving communities and awareness raising among families and communities;
- the need to train personnel in prevention and response, including case management;
- the importance of monitoring and follow up of separated and unaccompanied children;
- the need for vehicles and logistic support to ensure effective follow up;
- the importance of photographing children to enhance tracing and reunification efforts;
- the benefits of inter-agency collaboration within the country and cross-border, and the importance of an inter-agency data base; need for increased coordination among agencies;
- the need for assistance to host families (foster cares and kinship carers), while ensuring that it does not become a factor contributing to family separation;

- the benefits of involving the judiciary to identify legal guardians for children if their parents cannot be traced; and challenges of tracing and verifying the parents of very young children and the urgency of such efforts;

Karin and Clare also shared positive contributions and solidarity among associations of working children and youth to the crisis both in terms of emergency preparation and response with street and working children. The associations were actively involved in prevention work, and supporting children to stay with host families to increase their protection.

Information sharing on relevant resources for emergency response to children's care and protection:

Participants were encouraged to look at the **ACE toolkit** guidance on: 2) Rapid onset programme planning and 3) Initial care response.

In addition Ylva shared information about:

- ☐ the **ARC Resource Pack** (Action for the Rights of Children) – a capacity building tool for child protection in and after emergencies
- ☐ The **Minimum Standards for Child Protection** developed by the CPWG
- ☐ The **Save the Children Resource Centre** for accessing a range of relevant documents

ARC Resource Pack www.arc-online.org

The ARC Resource pack has been developed over a number of years as an inter-agency initiative at a global level involving: International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, Terres des Hommes, UNHCR, OHCHR and UNICEF. The updated ARC resource pack includes:

- Expanded knowledge base and interagency commitment
- New standards, definitions and guidelines on child protection and child rights
- Broadened scope of emergencies to include a stronger focus on natural disasters and internally displaced children (former focus on refugee population)
- Adoption of a rights-based approach both in terms of the content and perspective of study materials and the capacity-building methodologies for training and workshop environments.

The pack comprises 14 modules, in two groups: 7 Foundation Modules & 7 Critical Issues:

Foundation Modules	Critical Issues
1. Understanding childhoods	1. Abuse and exploitation
2. Child rights-based approaches	2. Education
3. Programme design	3. Children with disabilities
4. Participation and inclusion	4. Sexual and reproductive health
5. Advocacy	5. Landmine awareness
6. Community mobilisation	6. Separated children
7. Psychosocial support	7. Children associated with armed forces or armed groups

Note: The French translation of the updated ARC resource pack will soon be on line and will be launched in the region in 2012 ☺

Minimum Standards for Child Protection:

- Have been drafted by the Global Child Protection Working Group. As while Sphere standards (covering various sectors) and the INEE (Education standards) exist, standards for child protection were lacking.
- The standards build on pre-existing tools and guidelines and provide checklist. They are currently being field tested. When they are finalised they will be circulated to country programmes.

Joint dinner Save the Children Sweden and UK regional offices: Save the Children staff from both the Save the Children Sweden and UK regional offices came together for lunch and a CPI presentation from Lena Karlsson, Director CPI. Lena presented priority areas of work for CPI; links with other global initiatives (on emergencies, education, child survival, CRG and HIV); and some key updates regarding CPI activities, including initial plans for the 2020 breakthrough.



Next Steps for Country and Regional Programming⁶:

Building upon the training workshop sessions, their analysis during the workshop and their mapping on CwAC participants from each country were encourage to develop a national plan to take forward strategic and programmatic work on children without appropriate care. Sub-themes that the participants were encouraged to consider included:

- **Prevention work:** strengthening care and protection of children within their own families; children's participation; community based care and protection;
- **Developing and strengthening alternative family based care:** supporting kinship care, foster care; ensuring community based monitoring for care and protection of children living with alternative care givers; ensuring children's participation in decision-making etc
- **Reducing use of institutional care:** gate-keeping, supporting de-institutional care of children; ensuring participation of children in care planning
- **Advocacy for Implementation of International Guidelines**
- **Emergency preparedness and/or emergency response** for care and protection of children.

Nigeria Action Plan:

Actions:	Principle actors:
1. Development of an advocacy package on protection	a) Oge/ Halima and the LFC team b) Save the Children Nigeria SMT c) SCUK regional office/ CPI d) Save the Children Nigeria Emergency Response Team e) Other support from country offices in the region
2. Conduct advocacy visit to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development at the National, State and local government levels.	
3. Build capacity of Government agencies involved in child protection – social workers, OVC desk officers in MOWASD, police.	
4. Sensitisation of gate keepers at the community level in the 3 States of LFC project	
5. Strengthening the capacity of our existing Child Protection Committees/ Child Welfare Committees on	

⁶ Francophone countries developed their action plans in French, but for this summary report they have been translated into English.

protection, especially on case management and the care system.	
6. Facilitate the formation of CPN in our project communities where they are non-existent and strengthen their capacity on child protection.	
7. Build the capacity of our partners and CPC/ CWC on emergency preparedness.	
8. Mapping of community social providers and sensitisation on child protection and care system.	
- <i>Children's participation will be cross-cutting across all activities</i>	

Sierra Leone Action Plan:

Objective	Activity
PREVENTION:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to community prevention and response services by local society actors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Piloting children on the move methodologies - Community led awareness raising activities on children without appropriate care; and support to CSOs, MSWGCA, Child Clubs and CWCs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XX% of children by 2012 have increased capacity to protect themselves and other children from violence and abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life skills, family mediation, child led advocacy - Workshop and training on child rights and child protection, including care and protection for children without appropriate care.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) in place by August, 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare emergency preparedness plan in each of our operational communities.
ADVOCACY:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of International Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate community discussions on customary practices for CwAC and link to national and International Guidelines.
<i>Cross-cutting – do a CRSA and develop a TPP that has a strategic focus on children without appropriate care (CwAC).</i>	

Liberia Child Protection Programme Action Plan:

Sub-Theme	Activities:
1. Prevention work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen social protection assessment and support.
2. Reducing use of residential care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of placement committees at the county level. - Strengthen care planning and case management.
3. Emergency preparedness and emergency response for care and protection of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing case work with Ivorian refugees emergency. - Strengthen cross-border communication re: case management.

Mali and Niger Action Plan:

Components :	Activities :
1. Digesting the Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessing the situation of children without appropriate care. - Putting mechanisms in place to collect centralised data from all key actors.
2. Services	<p>Prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Putting in place and/or strengthening community based child protection committees for identification, monitoring and response. - Implementation of activities to reach and mobilise the community. <p>Response :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities to strengthen families and communities ability to care for and protect children. <p>EMERGENCY : Provide psychosocial support in nutrition centres.</p>

Burkina Faso Action Plan:

Expected result : Duplication and strengthening of alternative care options to increase the care and protection of children on the move in Burkina Faso.			
Activities :	With :	Responsible :	When :
Capitalise on existing alternative models that exist in the context of mobility : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory research - Forum on recommendations to support advocacy for implementation of the International Guidelines. 	Ministries and services, NGOs, international organisations, children's organisations, CBOs, CONASUR (National committee for emergency response)	MASSN/DPLUE SC Canada GTPE (working group on child protection ; UNICEF, TdH Lausanne, Plan, GIZ, SC Canada, Rouge Burkina etc	April – September 2013

Cote d'Ivoire Plan of Action:

Components :	Activities:
a) Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structures to take care of children – institutional and family based - Available care services for children - Human resources
b) Strengthening Capacities :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State structures - Save the Children staff - Local NGOs - CBOs and children's organisations

c) Support for care options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying partners working in this domain - Technical and financial support
d) Advocacy with Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation of care centres - Deinstitutionalisation of children without appropriate care.
e) Coordination of actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revitalising the working group on children without appropriate care - Data base management - Task force for national strategy for separated and unaccompanied children.

Senegal Plan of Action :

Activities:
➔ Mapping of the types of care provision (formal and informal)
➔ Standards for listening centres
➔ Training workshops : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case management - Emergencies - Accompanying the family - International Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children - Exchange visits and sharing with Save the Children Liberia

Regional Action Plan:

Thematic areas :	When:	Comments:
I. Prevention: Opinion poll - Second Workshop CWAC PHP; or pilot project on caregivers in two countries?	After June 2012	Related to training SCS PHP & Francophone Conference in Dakar in May 2012
II. Developing and strengthening alternative child care options : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) KAP/ Research on kinship care (including children) b) Indicators for M&E relating to informal care options of children 	Francophone Conference organising till June ; Other activities from August 2012	
III. Advocacy for implementation of the International Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) At least 2 countries support implementation of the Guidelines in their country 	Before May 2012 After May 2012 (after francophone conference)	
IV. Reducing use of institutional care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Advocacy with other agencies 	From January 2012	
V. CPIE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ARC resource – launching in French ; and consultation on the CPIE minimum standards. 	From January 2012	

➔ **Opinion poll** on CwAC follow up in 2012: 11 voted for a follow up workshop and 3 voted for pilot study. Comments:

- *I would like a follow up workshop in 2012 to review implementation of our plans of action and to build upon the experiences gained and action taken; We need follow up for an increase knowledge and skills to address CwAC challenges.*
- *Follow up is perfectly necessary; We need a follow up workshop to strengthen our capacities.*
- *We definitely need follow up, even if to share experiences from after this workshop.*
- *After implementing our action plans it will be interesting to have a follow up workshop in 2012 (x2)*
- *Evaluate the implementation of the actions plans in 2012 to identify the lessons learned; and a follow up workshop will be necessary (x2)*
- *I hope that CPI and the regional office will provide technical assistance as and when it is needed.*
- *Support national role of the workshop to reach more staff and partners.*
- *I think the idea of pilots for 2012 and follow up workshop in 2013 is good.*
- *I prefer to have the pilot experiences.*

Global Action Plan:⁷

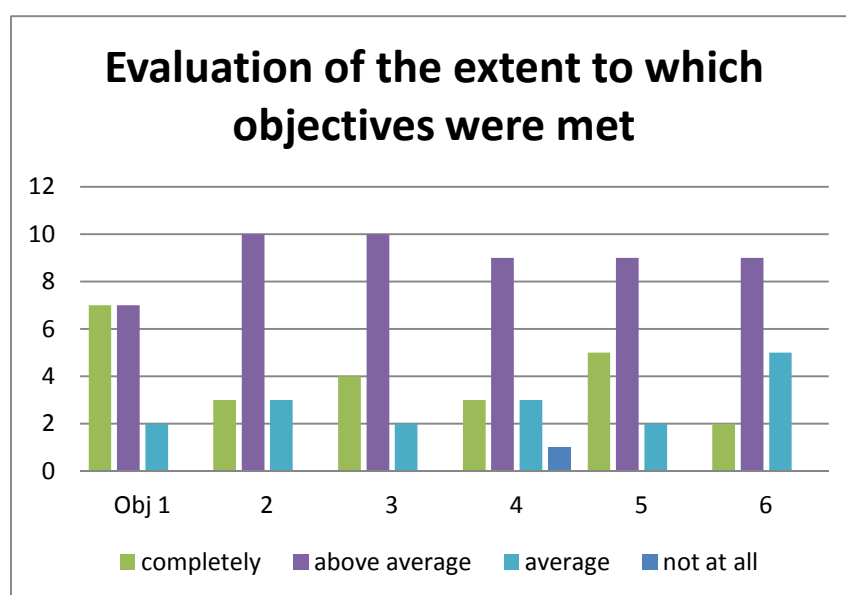
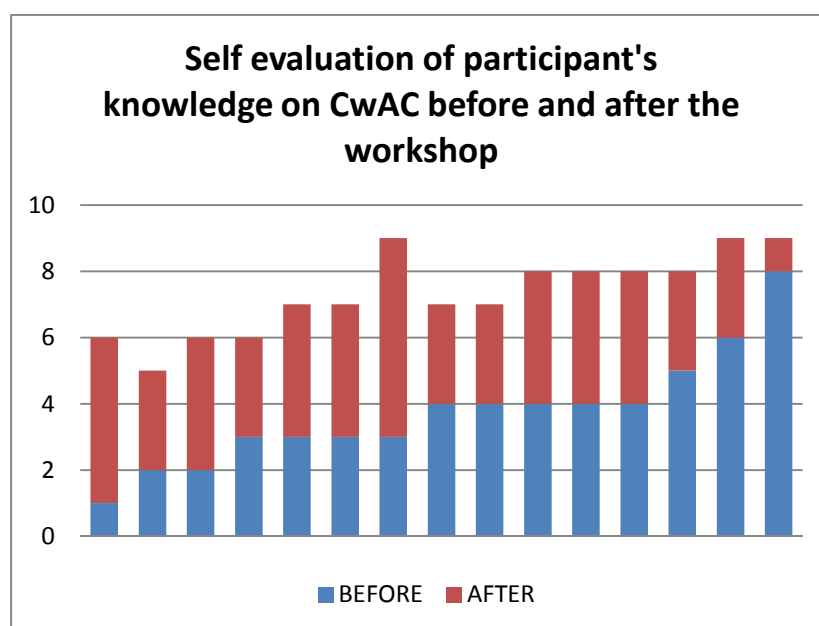
Activities:

- Develop on indicators on family strengthening.
- Advocacy with donors and implementing agencies to invest in family care.
- Global research – children’s participation and views on feeling safe, cared for and protected in families (linked to breakthrough – subject to funding)
- Explore the cost effectiveness (micro and macro) of investments in family care.
- Strengthen links between the Everyone Campaign and other GIs
- Roll out Minimum Standards on CPIE, ARC and others
- Support EPPs and DRR to place more emphasis on a family strengthening approach.



⁷ Ylva, Lena

Evaluation – key findings:



Overview of comments⁸:

- The organisation of the workshop was very good, and preparation was sufficient to enable a well run workshop; a lot of documents have been shared which we really appreciate.
- Lots of questions I had in mind before coming have been answered; There was a lot of information to take in.... (sometimes a rush!)... we need to encourage country programmes to take it further.
- The experiences shared by various countries have helped me take note of the ones that may be applied in my own country; presentations were well done.
- Indonesia experience is quite similar to the situation in my country, and this means that the lessons learned can be applied.
- We need more information on economic strengthening – tools, lessons from other countries.
- Facilitation was very good (x 8)/ excellent (x3)/ perfect (x1); Translation was excellent (x6)/very good (x5); accommodation was perfect (x2)/ v. good (x2)/good (x4); food was good/very good.

⁸ More detailed evaluation comments are available from Clare Feinstein

Annex A: Regional Training Workshop Agenda

DAY 1: Tuesday December 6th

Morning

08.30 – 8.50	Registration
08.50 – 9.00	Security Briefing – SCUK
09.00 – 10.00	Welcome and introductions – Abou and Clare AIM: To present the Workshop Agenda and introduce participants to each other; pre-training evaluation
10.00 – 10.45	Session 1: Global and regional developments on Children Without Appropriate Care - Lena AIM: To provide an overview of the role and activities of the CPI, to present the CPI Care Strategy and relevant developments at global and regional level
10.45 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 13.00	Session 2: Who are Children without Appropriate Care? Understanding the meaning and causes of a lack of appropriate care AIM: To understand the CPI definition of Children without Appropriate Care and to highlight the root causes of their care and protection problems within the national context <i>Presentation (10 mins): Save the Children Sweden West Africa – Save the Children's position on the protection of talibé children</i>
13.00-1400	Lunch

Afternoon

1400-1530	Session 3a: The laws and policies that protect Children without Appropriate Care AIM: To provide information on the laws, policies, and principles that protect the rights of children to appropriate care and which define best practices (including the UNCRC, Hague Convention, International guidelines, and other relevant legislation)
1530-1600	Break
1600-1730	Session 3b: International Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children AIM: To explore the content of the International Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children and to share experiences and lessons learnt regarding its application in different countries

DAY 2: Wednesday December 7th

Morning

09.00 – 09.20	Creative recap
09.20 – 10.10	Session 4: The Care System and its place within broader Child Protection System AIM: To define and map key elements of a National Care System and its relationship within a National Protection System
10.10 – 11.30 <i>(continues after tea break)</i>	Session 5: Introduction to care planning and case management AIM: to introduce the basic principles and process for care planning and case management

10.40 – 11.00	Break
11.30 – 13.00	Session 6: Assessing risks and needs of children within their own families and determining how to respond AIM: To explore the process and criteria for assessing the level and type of risks to children in families and the available resources
13:00 -1400	Lunch

Afternoon

14.00 – 16.20 <i>(continues after tea break)</i>	Session 7: Supporting the care and protection of children within their own families (including social protection mechanisms and economic strengthening – Alessandro Conticini, Resource Person) AIM: To share experiences and lessons learned from programmes which support a range of social and economic interventions and policies for children to be better cared for and protected in families <i>Country presentations (10 mins each): Niger ‘L’écoute’ programme; Nigeria integrated OVC programming.</i>
15.30 – 16.00	Break
16.20 – 17.30	Session 8: Understanding quality family-based alternative care AIM: To provide an overview of the family-based and residential forms of alternative care, the issues facing each, and the development of quality alternative care
17.30 – 18.00	Resource Fair Display of national and international resources and documents relating to Children without Appropriate Care
19:00-21:00	Group Dinner

DAY 3: Thursday December 8th

Morning

09.00 – 09.20	Creative Recap
09.20 – 10.45	Session 9a: Transforming the Care System – learning from Indonesia AIM: To provide an overview of the process and challenges to transforming the Care System
10.45 -11.15	Break
11.15 -12.30	Session 9b: Reducing use of residential care, increasing gate-keeping and minimum standards; country examples and lessons learned AIM: To present and explore the steps taken in countries within the region to reform their Care Systems and to strengthen quality standards <i>Country presentations (10 mins): Liberia standards and gate keeping</i>
12.30 – 13.00	Session 9c: National Assessments of the Care System and Formal Indicators AIM: To introduce toolkits and indicators being used in global level monitoring and mapping of care
13.00-1400	Lunch

Afternoon

1400-1530	Session 10: Community based monitoring and support for the care and protection of children (including children in alternative family based care) <i>country examples and lessons learned</i> AIM: To share experiences and lessons learned from programmes which strengthen community based monitoring and support for care and protection of children (including children in alternative family based care). <i>Country presentations (10 mins each): Burkina Faso ‘Children on the Move’; Senegal</i>
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	<i>community based approach with children as actors</i>
1530-1600	Break
1600-1730 90 mins	Session 11: Importance of children's participation (in case management, community based monitoring, prevention and response, and advocacy work); <i>country examples and lessons learned</i> AIM: to explore the benefits of, and processes for children's participation in care and protection programming and advocacy <i>Country presentations (10 mins): Sierra Leone – children's participation in case management, community protection and advocacy</i>

DAY 4: Friday December 9th

Morning

09.00- 09.20	Creative recap
09.20– 10.45	Session 12a: Emergency preparedness for care and protection of children AIM: to introduce the ACE toolkit, Alternative Care in Emergencies to inform emergency preparedness for the care and protection of children
10.45 – 11.15	Break
11.15 – 13.00	Session 12b: Emergency response to care and protection of children: <i>country examples and lessons learned – Ylva Sperling (Resource Person)</i> AIM: to share experiences and lessons learn from emergency response programming for the care and protection of children <i>Country presentations (10 mins): Cote d'Ivoire lessons learned on child care and protection in the emergency response</i>
13.00-14.30	Extended Lunch for all staff (SCS-SCUK) and CPI presentation

Afternoon

14.30-16.00	Session 13: Next Steps for Country and Regional Programming AIM: To continue the process of development of next steps at national and regional level
16.00-16.30	Break
16.30 – 17.00	Sharing plans and contributing to regional planning
17.00-17.30	Session 14: Evaluation, feedback, closure AIM: To evaluate training and support needs and to highlight available resources

Annex B: List of Participants

Participant name	Country	Position	E-mail
Hawa Joy Cummings	Sierra Leone	Child Protection Programme Officer	h.cummings@savethechildrensierraleone.org
Braima Sellu	Sierra Leone	Child Protection Program Manager	B.Sellu@savethechildrensierraleone.org
Geoffrey Oyat	Liberia SCUK	Protection Programme Manager	g.oyat@savethechildrenliberia.org
Celestine Brown	Liberia SC UK	Child Protection Technical Specialist	c.brown@savethechildrenliberia.org
Frederique Boursin	Burkina Faso SC Canada	Charge du BusDev, Plaidoyer et Documentation	fredboursin@savethechildrencanada.bf
Ousmane SANOGO	Mali SC US	Coordinateur Protection des Enfants	osanogo@savethechildren.org
Papa Demba Fall	Claire Enfance Saint Louis - Sénégal	Assistant de programme	clairenfance@orange.sn
Halima Nuhu Dikko	Association for Reproductive and Family Health Nigeria	Deputy Project Manager Links for Children Project	dikkohalima@yahoo.com
Ogechukwu Abazie	SC UK Nigeria	OVC Advisor	o.abazie@scuknigeria.org
Hyacinthe Bohoussou	SC Cote d'Ivoire	Charge de programme	Hyacintheb@ci.savethechildren.se
Mathilde Sokoty	SC Cote d'Ivoire	Coordinateur Programme Protection	mathildes@ci.savethechildren.se
Ousmane Abdoul Aziz Diop	SC UK Niger	Coordinateur de programme Protection	national.childprotection@savethechildrenniger.org
Pierre Marie Coulibaly	ENDA JEUNESSE ACTION Dakar - Sénégal	Coordinateur National	pmc@enda.sn
Lena Karlsson	Save the Children Sweden Stockholm	Director Child Protection Initiative	Lena.Karlsson@rb.se
Eva Bellander	SC Sweden Stockholm	Senior Advisor Child Protection	Eva.bellander@rb.se
Enyo Gbedemah	Save the Sweden Waco RO Dakar Senegal	Conseiller Régional Protection de l'enfant SCS	enyog@waf.savethechildren.se
Karine Buisset	SC Finland Dakar Sénégal	Représentante régionale Afrique de l'Ouest, Responsable régionale du projet de réduction de l'exploitation des enfants et jeunes travailleurs	Karine.buisset@savethechildren.fi

Soumahoro Gbato	SCS Bureau Régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest Dakar, Sénégal	Conseiller Régional/Protection des enfants dans les urgences	gbatos@waf.savethechildren.se
Teresa AMORIM	SC UK WACO Regional Office Dakar, Senegal	Regional Child Protection Advisor	T.Amorim@savethechildren.org.uk
Ylva Sperling	SCS Sweden	Senior Advisor – Child Protection in Emergencies	Ylva.sperling@rb.se
Alessandro Conticini	Play Therapy Africa (PTA)	Director	conticini@hotmail.com

Facilitators: Claire O'Kane, SC Consultant, claireokane2008@gmail.com,
Clare Feinstein, Regional Representative CPI, ClareF@waf.savethechildren.se

Opening: Aboubacry Tall, Regional Director SC UK

