

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE
GENEVA

A Better Future is Possible

PROMOTING FAMILY LIFE AND QUALITY CARE
FOR CHILDREN
LIVING IN INSTITUTIONS



Projects 2021-2023

What are the needs?

ISS has a long-standing experience visiting institutions and orphanages in over 20 countries, and two key issues were regularly observed:

1. There are very few actual "orphans" residing in orphanages. Most children in residential care still have at least one living parent. For example, in Haiti, 80% of children still have a family, and in Vietnam, 60% of children with disabilities still have family links.
2. Children with disabilities are among the last to benefit from programs enabling them to leave institutions and are more likely to be left behind in orphanages. UNICEF also agrees with this observation in 'The State of the World's Children 2013' report.

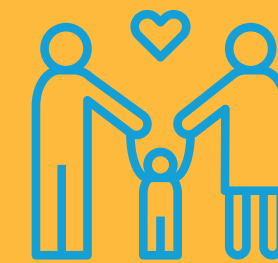
Research also indicates that residential care can have a devastating impact on a child brain development leading to life-long negative implications. Even well-intentioned and well-managed institutions can never replace the love, support and stability that children need to form secure attachments that are critical for their overall development.

ISS is convinced that numerous children, including children with disabilities, cared for in institutions could also get a chance to live in a family environment by combining efforts from professionals and officials at different levels and targeted training.

What is the solution?



Improve Care
in Orphanages



Reunite Children With
Their Families



Support and Train
the Families

Sustainable Development Goals



Project Summary

Through its global project, *A better future is possible*, ISS aims to strengthen the capacity of staff in orphanages, families, and communities to improve the care for children, with a specific focus on children with disabilities (CWD), so they can be successfully placed with their family and community. Healthy and well-cared children are more likely to be reunited with their family or adopted, hence their daily care must improve. The project strengthens the staff's capacity to learn and implement social work activities as well as to improve daily care, nutrition and feeding practices.

Furthermore, families and communities need to be supported and empowered so that they can provide the optimal level of care for their children.

We also assist governments in our partner countries in their care reform to progressively phase out residential care institutions and promote family setting for all children (including CWD) through family reintegration and family-based care. *A better future is possible* is currently being implemented in the following countries: **Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Cambodia, Vietnam and Haiti.**

*Once you have built a care system
for children with disabilities, you have built
a system for all children.*



Our Objectives

In each partner country, we have two main objectives:

1. To improve quality care within residential care. We provide targeted training to develop the staff's capacity to learn and implement social work activities mainly focusing on case management, case planning and adapting the process for family reunification, kinship and foster care. We also train staff to improve individual daily care through proper nutrition, safe feeding and adapted stimulation of the child.
2. To develop national family care options adapted for children with disabilities. In direct collaboration with governments, we provide tailored technical assistance according to their strategic plan, context and specific needs of the country.

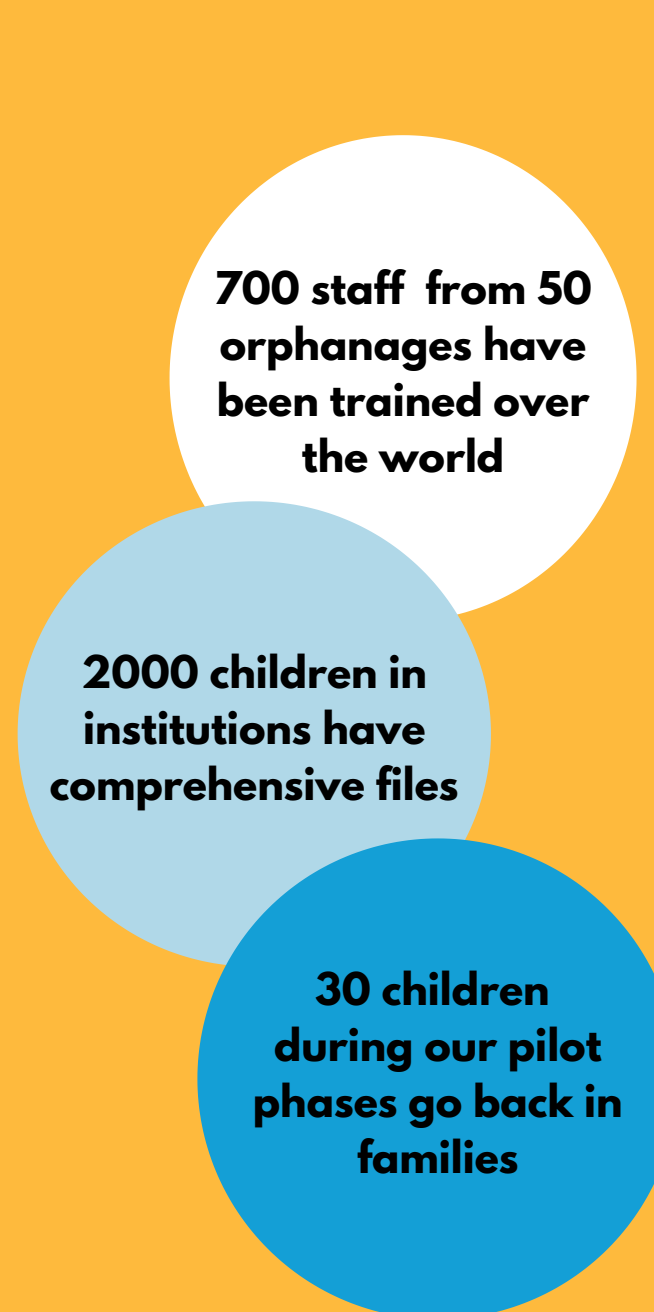


What has already been achieved?

Since 2014, we are piloting groundbreaking projects that are designed to be sustainable and standardised by national decisions makers and practitioners:

- We partnered with child welfare authorities and civil society organisations to ensure the continuity of the project and with international partners to share their expertise.
- We ideated and promoted tools to help local professionals and governments to better identify and take into account the needs of all the children without parental care and especially the needs of children with disabilities.
- We encouraged the governments to develop inclusive family care options to include children with disabilities in care reform.
- We promoted the return of children growing up in residential care back to their family whenever possible and if in the best interest of the child.
- We developed foster care programs adapted for children with disabilities and helpful for all children.
- We reflect on how to strengthen family support services (essential and specialised) in their communities and improve collaboration between main stakeholders.

This has been possible thanks to our donors:



Embassy of France in Vietnam,
Haiti and Ivory Coast



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Private Foundations

And now we plan to consolidate our work and expand the projects on a national scale in the following countries

In Burkina Faso we will

- Organise a country wide field study on the social care network
- In collaboration with the local authorities, publish a manual of standard procedures for the placement of children with disabilities without parental support in suitable family setting.
- Promote and disseminate procedures through the training of the main actors concerned (social workforce, ministry officers, front line staff in orphanages, foster families associations, etc.)
- Create and train a pool of specialised foster carers at national level that will allow to place children with disabilities primarily in family based-care.
- Create communication tools to promote family reintegration, disseminate good practices and raise awareness among local communities and national actors.

In Vietnam and Haiti we will

- Help children in residential care to go back home when possible and if in the child's best interest.
- Develop specific training for residential care staff adapted to the priority needs of children on how to better monitor their growth and improve their nutrition.
- Support practitioners and frontline staff to create community-support services for children and families and to strengthen collaboration between public and private sector.



Standardisation of procedures in all Burkina Faso

600 children living in residential care in Haiti

More than 1'800 children with disabilities living in 14 orphanages in Vietnam

Detailed Project Presentations are available per country

Who we are?

The International Social Service (ISS) is an expert in child protection and reunites families across borders. Advocacy, policy development, research, training, and capacity building are among our main focus areas. Since 1924, through its global network, ISS strives to find solutions that enhance the protection of children and families in vulnerable situations. Our key priorities are to protect the best interest of the child above all other considerations and to provide socio-legal counsel and psychological support.

Our local partners

Molisa (Ministry Of Labour Invalids and Social Affairs) is the Vietnamese child protection authority that promotes community-based care for children with disabilities (CWD).



IBESR (Institut du Bien-être Social et de la Recherche) is the Haitian child welfare authority. An official agreement has been signed with them for phase 1 and is prepared for this next stage.



International Social Service West Africa (ISS-WA) is our partner in Burkina Faso. It has a staff composed of professionals from all over West Africa.



Service Social International Afrique de l'Ouest
Serviço Social Internacional África Ocidental
International Social Service West Africa

It aims at providing holistic protection of children, especially those who have left their families and countries for various reasons and find themselves in difficult situations, through the delivery of quality, transnational and national social work that is individualized and based on rights and needs. It aims as well at strengthening the capacity of families and communities to improve their self-care and protection.

RAPHA International is our partner in Haiti and works to combat the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children by providing aftercare for survivors and prevention for the vulnerable. Rapha's prevention efforts include: providing social work services and education support to at-risk children; educating families and communities on abuse prevention and the realities of human trafficking; and contributing to empower families and prevent unnecessary family separations.



Our international partners

International Social Service Australia (ISS Australia) is our partner in Vietnam supports children and families across international borders. ISS Australia provides social work, legal and mediation services for children, families and individuals.



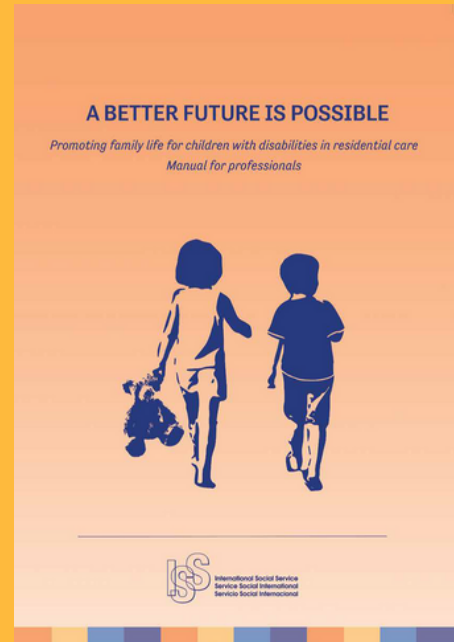
SPOON is our partner for the projects in Vietnam and Haiti. It is leading the global effort to transform nutrition and feeding for children living outside of family care and children with disabilities. SPOON develops the capacity of caregivers and community-based organizations by providing training, tools, and resources. They address both what and how children are fed so malnutrition rates decrease and feeding practices improve.



We also work with a team of international experts: Disability Experts, Child Psychiatrists, Paediatricians, and Psychologists.



ISS tools



Practical Handbook for Professionals, a guide that includes methods and procedures to support political authorities and field actors involved in designing permanency planning for children with disabilities in residential care and practical tools for practitioners in charge of them.



Lifebook My Story™, a book created for every child living in residential care institutions to collect and keep all relevant information related to their life story.



SPOON tool

Count Me In™ is a web-based app conceived by our partner SPOON to improve the nutrition and feeding practices for children living outside of permanent family care and Children with disabilities.



What are our needs?

We now need financial support to scale up our current programs in Vietnam, Burkina Faso and Haiti. Each program has a duration of **2.5 years** and, if funding is secured, will be implemented from June 2021 to December 2023.



Burkina Faso 60'000 CHF/year

Vietnam 75'000 CHF/year

Haiti 62'000 CHF/year

Detailed budgets are available per country.

Children only get one opportunity to grow up, and every day matters to assure a healthy and better future.

Thanks to your support, we will be able to help these children who are often forgotten, their families, as well as professionals working in local institutions.

#FamiliesNOTorphanages



INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE GENEVA

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!



WWW.ISS-SSI.ORG

For more information,
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