

**BCN Newsletter: 28 February 2011**

To the Better Care Network:

We are pleased to announce the launch of **Including Street Children: A Situational Analysis of Street Children in Durban, South Africa!** Developed by Street Action and the Centre of African Studies, it's the first report of its kind documenting the physical and psychosocial health of street children in Durban, South Africa.

Street children have a right to be included on the agenda that seeks to protect those who are marginalized, forgotten and unable to protect themselves. This is the impetus behind the report and its value is in the emphasis placed on how the children describe their own lives and the issues they face living on the streets. Including Street Children provides an important insight into the gaps emerging between practice on the ground and child rights policy at national and international level.

Read the entire report and the accompanying report on the workshops with child participants on our website now:

<http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details.asp?id=24295&themeID=1004&topicID=1027>

Sincerely,

Ghazal Keshavazian and Kathleen Riordan  
Better Care Network Secretariat

**NEW IN BCN'S LIBRARY**

---

- **New York Times: A Families First Approach to Foster Care**  
The New York Times reports on the outcomes of the US based Youth Villages family strengthening program. Youth Villages has provided more than 20,000 youths and their families with intensive in-home services to reunite families or prevent children from being placed in out of home care. It works in tandem with child welfare, mental health and juvenile justice systems. Monitoring outcomes for every child it serves, the organization reports that two years after completing its in-home programs, 83 percent of youths served were living successfully in families, 85 percent were in school or had gained a high school or equivalency degree, and 82 percent reported no trouble with the law. Read more at: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/02/21/a-families-first-approach-to-foster-care/>
- **Capacity to Manage Alternative Care: Assessment Report for Namibia**  
This report prepared for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) with financial support from UNICEF Namibia assesses the country's capacity to manage alternative care systems for children, using a child-sensitive social protection framework adapted for assessing both the capacity to manage and the use of alternative care. Read more at: <http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details.asp?id=24276&themeID=1001&topicID=1006>
- **Forgotten Families: Older People as Carers of Orphans and Vulnerable Children**  
A publication by International AIDS Alliance and HelpAge International provides an overview of the issues identified by older people and orphans and vulnerable children themselves; examples of community-based programs that are improving the lives of older people and orphans and vulnerable children; recommendations that will help to prioritize orphans and

their carers within HIV/AIDS and wider development policies, programs and research. Read more at:

<http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details.asp?id=24275&themeID=1003&topicID=1021>

#### ALTERNATIVE CARE NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

---

- **Government of Ghana to Resettle Most Children in Orphanages with their Families by 2012**

The Ghanaian Reactor Online reports on the recently developed National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children which provides a costed and time bound framework for all stakeholders. Estimates indicate this new mandate will support the deinstitutionalization and family reintegration of 60% of children in orphanages, resettling them with their families or in foster care.

[http://www.ghanaianreactoronline.com/news\\_details.php?newsid=2042A](http://www.ghanaianreactoronline.com/news_details.php?newsid=2042A)

- **Recent news coverage from India and Malaysia documents multiples violations against children's rights in institutions:**

- In Chingmeirong Lei-Ingkhol, India, three children have run away from a children's home, after being mistreated by the secretary of the management committee, who forced them to undertake manual labour and whipped them as punishment.
- In Bangalore, India following revelations of abuse in a children's home, child residents were reported to be suffering from overcrowding, hunger, lack of running water, deficient infrastructure, health issues and beatings and physical torture at the hands of their caregivers.
- In Malaysia, a report of sexual abuse in a children's home in Penang prompted Prema Devaraj, Programme Director of the Penang-based organisation Women's Centre for Change, to identify steps that should be implemented in order to prevent child abuse in children's homes in the country.

#### UPDATES FROM CONFERENCES AND EVENTS ON ALTERNATIVE CARE

---

- **Presentations Available from 2010 FICE Congress: Celebrating the Courage to Care in a Diverse World**

The 2010 FICE Congress: Celebrating the Courage to Care in a Diverse World, took place in South Africa in December 2010. The full presentations from speakers and presenters are now available online at <http://www.fice2010.org.za/presentations/index.html>

- **Update from: Social Welfare Workforce Strengthening Conference: Investing in Those who Care for Children.**

In November, the Presidents Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, under USAID, funded a global conference in South Africa to highlight this crisis and explore strategies for addressing the crisis at a country level and global level. The conference provided an opportunity for country teams to develop realistic, time bound plans to address workforce challenges as well as outline longer-term global goals - such as a new research agenda, ideas for global workforce benchmarks, advocacy and coordination plans. Participants celebrated the conference as the launch of a new global movement intended to not only strengthen the social service workforce but also contribute to stronger, more effective social service and child protection systems. For more information, visit <http://www.ovcsupport.net/s/index.php?c=96>

- **JCICS NYC Conference: Passion and Practice: Strengthening Evidence-Based Approaches in Children's Services**

The Joint Council on International Children's Services announces its registration for its Medical Institute and Annual Conference in New York from April 11-13, 2011. The theme for this year's Annual Conference is; Passion & Practice: Strengthening Evidence-Based Approaches in Children's Services. Conference workshops focus on the range of viable permanency solutions for children living outside of permanent parental care. Keynote Speakers this year include, Jean-Robert Cadet, former Haitian restavek, advocate against the Haitian Restavek system and the founder of Jean R. Cadet Foundation, and Dr. Charles Nelson, co-author of the Bucharest Early Intervention Study. For a full list of this year's speakers, the Conference schedule, and registration information, visits:

<http://jcics.org/Registration2011.htm>

## **JOB POSTINGS**

---

- **UNICEF Ethiopia: Consultancy for Alternative Care in Management Information Systems**  
Under the technical guidance of the Child Protection Specialist, ADPH Section, the consultant shall work with the national alternative care inter-ministerial technical working group to develop an SQL/MS Access suite of applications Alternative Care MIS parameterized for national alternative care inter-ministerial technical working group and hosted at the Ministries of Women, Children and Youth Affairs and Justice.  
[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?ID=24277&themeID=1001&topicID=1011](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?ID=24277&themeID=1001&topicID=1011)
- **Global Partnership for Children: Senior Consultant**  
The Global Partnership for Children (the Partnership) exists to unite private funds around a clear and pressing goal: reducing reliance on residential institutions for children who are at risk of separation from their families and those currently living in institutions. The Oak Foundation, on behalf of the Global Partnership for Children, seeks a candidate with extensive international experience, an advanced degree, at least ten years of relevant professional work experience that includes technical and operational leadership as well as guidance and coordination provided to key government and non-government partners.  
[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?ID=24278&themeID=1003&topicID=1023](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?ID=24278&themeID=1003&topicID=1023)
- **Terre des Hommes: Social Worker acting as Regional Protection Advisor (RPA)**  
Terre des Hommes is seeking a Social Worker to act as a Regional Protection Advisor (RPA) for the organisation's projects in Central and South Eastern Europe to be based in Bucharest, Romania for a period of two years with an immediate start. For more information, visit:  
[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?ID=24279&themeID=1002&topicID=1016](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?ID=24279&themeID=1002&topicID=1016)
- **SOS Children's Villages International**  
SOS seeks qualified candidates for a Messaging Advisor for their External Communications Department. Position will be located in Vienna or Innsbruck, Austria. Deadline for applications is 20 March 2011.  
[http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details\\_news.asp?id=24293&themeID=1002&topicID=1016](http://bettercarenetwork.org/BCN/details_news.asp?id=24293&themeID=1002&topicID=1016)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

---

As of 28 February, the listserv has 2103 participants who are working on issues related to the care and support of vulnerable children across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

The purpose of the newsletter is to enable members to exchange information on matters of mutual concern. If you would like to share a document, raise a specific issue, or reach out in any other way to the Network, please send the information to us at [kriordan@unicef.org](mailto:kriordan@unicef.org) [mailto:kriordan@unicef.org]. In the interest of keeping messages consolidated, we will manage announcements on the newsletter and send out a few messages each month.

We would like to involve as many people as possible who are concerned with better care issues in the Network. Please advise anyone who would like to be added to the newsletter to send us a message at [kriordan@unicef.org](mailto:kriordan@unicef.org) with "listserv request" in the subject line. Alternatively, visit the homepage of the Better Care Network website, and click on the upper right box where it says "click here to sign up for our email announcements".

<http://www.bettercarenetwork.org>