

Better Care Network Listserv: 20 January 2011

To the Better Care Network:

Please make sure to review our “**Request for Support**” Section. BCN partners are leading exciting work relevant to alternative care and are soliciting support for two exciting new projects – one on Corporal Punishment in Alternative Care and another on ECD Training for Children Affected by HIV. We encourage you to review the requests and **share information and feedback wherever possible**.

FEATURED DOCUMENTS

- **Family Strengthening and Support: Policy Brief**, Save the Children , September 2010
In the recently released policy brief, Save the Children explores the stressors experienced by families globally and the steps needed to ensure their viability. Where families lack the support to provide adequate care, children are at risk of being abandoned, placed in institutions, and of being abused and exploited. Greater political and financial commitment is needed to help build parents’ capacity to care for their children and to tackle the poverty and social exclusion that underlie many of the problems experienced by children and their families.
<http://bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23895&themeID=1000&topicID=1000>
- **Positively Caring: Ensuring that Positive Choices Can Be Made about the Care of Children Affected by HIV**, EveryChild, November 2010
This report examines the impacts of HIV on the care choices of children, exploring how HIV affects whether or not children can remain within parental care, and on the alternative care options open to them. It is based on qualitative research in Malawi, India and Ukraine, and on a global literature review. It is in response to alarming global evidence on the rising numbers of children outside of parental care, and growing global recognition that responses to HIV should center on increased support to families as the best means of providing care and protection for children
<http://bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23896&themeID=1004&topicID=1025>

OTHER NEW RESOURCES

- **Spotlight on Bulgaria: Using Television to Promote Deinstitutionalization**
From Selected Innovations and Lessons Learned from UNICEF Programme Cooperation
This document features some of the most notable innovations and lessons learned from UNICEF’s programme reporting, highlighting the innovative initiatives to improve children’s rights and development. Particularly relevant to alternative care issues is the highlighted section on the Bulgarian experience of integrating advocacy, fundraising and communication in order to influence the deinstitutionalization of children without parental care in Bulgaria. It resulted in a review of the child protection system initiated by the Prime Minister and allocation of the state budget for the closure of six institutions for children.
<http://bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23897&themeID=1002&topicID=1017>
- **Thari Ya Bana: Reflections on Children in Botswana 2010**
University of Botswana and UNICEF Botswana
The papers presented here bring together research and reflections on children’s issues in Botswana, highlighting a compendium of the most current data available on a wide range of

indicators of child wellbeing. Most particular to alternative care are the child protection related articles, including:

- Seen but not heard: a call for orphans' voices to be heard in Botswana.
- The urban orphan in Botswana: discarding the homogeneity myth
- Child welfare approaches in local authorities: to what extent are they in the best interest of the child?

<http://bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23900&themeID=1001&topicID=1006>

- **What it Feels Like to Grow Up in a Children's Home**, Stephen Ucembe, *Kenya Network of Care-Leavers*

In this recent opinion-editorial, Ucembe recounts the deeply personal experience of being raised in a Kenyan children's home and his reflections on the harmful impacts of institutional care on children's development and psychosocial wellbeing.

<http://bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details.asp?id=23898&themeID=1003&topicID=1023>

- **Informal Kinship Care of Orphans in Rural China**, Social Policy and Society, January 2011
This study examines kinship care of orphans throughout China. It finds that in addition to children becoming orphaned if both parents die, some children are treated as orphans when their father dies and rural traditional kinship care obligations restrict the viability of widowed mothers continuing to care for their child. When mothers are forced for socioeconomic reasons to leave the paternal extended family, children effectively become orphans, dependent on aging grandparents. Girls and disabled children are most at risk. Implementing financial and other support to orphans, widowed mothers and kinship carers could improve the sustainability of these family relationships.

To receive a full copy, contact BCN at contact@bettercarenetwork.org

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

- **Request for ECD Training Curricula**

The AIDSTAR-One OVC team is looking for examples of ECD training curricula, guidelines and 'how to' documents that program managers can use to help guide the implementation of ECD programs for OVC. Please note: resources do not have to be designed specifically for children impacted by HIV. BCN colleagues are encouraged to share programming and training materials with Marcy Levy, marcy_levy@jsi.com

- **Request for Information on Corporal Punishment in Alternative Care**

The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children is gathering information for a new project focusing on corporal punishment in alternative care of children, which aims to provoke action on prohibiting and eliminating all corporal punishment in all alternative care, including through gathering information for the production of a report to be published (with Save the Children Sweden) in 2011.

This project includes all kinds of institutional and residential care for children, foster care, day care and early childhood care, in any country.

To contribute, please visit the questionnaire. Download it from: <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/children/questionnaire>.

Please return it, together with any accompanying documents, to: elinor@childrenareunbeatable.org.uk. Thank you!

JOB POSTINGS

UNICEF Ethiopia seeks Recruitment of Family Tracing, Reunification and Reintegration International Consultant for 6 Month Consultancy

To facilitate the documentation of an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 children in child care institutions; also provide technical guidance for the deinstitutionalization and reintegration of an estimated 900 children residing in 45 child care institutions in four regions. The FTR+R Consultant will work with the Ministries of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Justice and the Charities and Societies Agency and five regional Bureaus of Labour and Social Affairs, Justice, Women, Children and Youth Affairs on all child care institutions to track the number of children that can potentially be reunified with their families.

http://bettercarenetwork.org/bcn/details_news.asp?id=23899&themeID=1002&topicID=1017

Save the Children, Regional PME Advisor

Save the Children Sweden is also looking for a Regional PME Advisor to be stationed at the Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal. The assignment is two years, starting as soon as possible.

Application deadline: 30 January 2011

http://www3.rb.se/jobb/cgi-shl/User_Applicants.exe?publishLanguage=0 .

African Child Policy Forum (ACPF), Senior Communications Officer

ACPF is looking for a dynamic professional to fill the position of a Senior Communications Officer.

The candidate will be responsible for translating the organisation's work for different audiences. For more details on the role, click here:

http://www.africanchildforum.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=137:senior-communications-officer&catid=74:jobs

Senior Programme Coordinator – Child and the Law Programme

ACPF is looking for a dynamic professional to fill the position of a Senior Programme Coordinator.

The candidate will be responsible for developing, coordinating and implementing projects under the ACPF Child and the Law Programme. For more details on the role, click [here](#).

To apply for these posts, please send an application with a resume, contact details of three referees and an indication of your last salary, preferably by email to: jobs11@africanchildforum.org

Application deadline: 30 January 2011

International Social Service: Researcher/writer

The ISS/IRC is seeking a Researcher/writer to undertake core activities such as the drafting of its monthly bulletin, drafting of country situations for countries of origin in intercountry adoption, answering the questions of financiers and the elaboration of thematic research. The position is located in Geneva, is for a fixed term of one year, but may be extended depending on resources.

<http://www.iss-ssi.org/2009/index.php?id=30>

Children's Rights Specialist

The ISS/IRC is seeking a Children's Rights Specialist to evaluate child protection systems, conduct training, hold seminars, etc. The position is located in Geneva, is for a fixed term of one year, but may be extended depending on resources.

To apply, please send your CV and cover letter to: recruitment@iss-ssi.org For more information on the vacancies, click here: <http://www.iss-ssi.org/2009/index.php?id=30>

Application deadline: 28 January 2011.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As of January 20, 2011, the BCN listserv membership includes 2116 child care experts globally. The purpose of the listserv 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. In the interest of keeping messages consolidated, we will manage announcements on the listserv 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 listserv to send us a message at 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>

Best,
Ghazal Keshavarzian and Kathleen Riordan
Better Care Network Secretariat