

**Participation at the Conference "No child left behind: Families not institutions – EU external action championing children's rights"**  
**Charlemagne building, De Gasperi Room, 15 June 2018, 10:30-16:00**

## **STEERING NOTE**

### **SCENE SETTER**

#### About the Conference

The high-level international Conference "*No child left behind: Families not institutions – EU external action championing children's rights*" is jointly organised by the European Commission and Lumos, an international NGO working to end the institutionalisation of children around the world by 2050. It is co-hosted by J.K. Rowling, Founder and Life President of Lumos, and yourself. Commissioner Stylianides will also participate at the opening session, while Ms Georgette Mulheir, CEO of LUMOS, will moderate the main sessions.

Over 80 years of research from across the world has demonstrated the significant harm caused to children in orphanages and other institutions, where they are deprived of loving family care and may consequently suffer life-long physical and psychological harm. The Conference is bringing together the voices of girls and boys, global leaders, leading experts and policy-makers to explore the role of the EU and the international community in leaving no child behind, ensuring that all children across the world can realise their right to live in a safe environment, within their families and communities.

#### The objectives of the Conference are:

- To **promote global leadership** in tackling the institutionalisation of children and explore how the EU and the international community can continue to drive and support quality child care and protection reform around the world through: 1) policy leadership and 2) changing donor practice from funding institutions to funding de-institutionalisation (including community care services and overall transition to community and family-based care).
- To **explore the drivers of institutionalisation**, including orphanage trafficking, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability; to explore the solutions and the alternatives to institutionalisation.
- To ensure that children and young people who have experienced institutionalisation can play a **leading role in influencing the EU and international child rights agenda**.

The programme of the Conference is in annex (separate document).

#### Your interventions – opening and closing sessions

- During the opening session "No child left behind" (scripted conversation), from 11:00 to 11:45.

#### Composition of the session:

- Neven MIMICA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development
- Christos STYLIANIDES, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis Management

- J.K. ROWLING, Author, Founder and Life President, Lumos
- (Moderator) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos
- During the closing remarks and recommendations from 14:30 to 15:00.

Composition of the session:

- Neven MIMICA, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development
- J.K. ROWLING, Author, Founder and Life President, Lumos
- Elisabeth RIEDERER, Deputy Head PSC/POL Department, Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU
- Paul d'AUCHAMP, Deputy Regional Representative for Europe, OHCHR
- Youth rapporteur, Emerging Global Leaders' Summit (name TBC)
- (Moderator) Georgette MULHEIR, CEO, Lumos

After the opening session, you can come back to the reserved seat and wait for the morning part of the Conference to end.

At around 12:50, **your bilateral meeting** has been scheduled backstage **with J.K. Rowling and Georgette MULHEIR, CEO of Lumos**. The meeting will last around 15 minutes. J.K. Rowling may invite you to LUMOS event on the margins of UNGA this September. Photographs will be taken.

At around 13:05, **young people participating at the Conference** will join you in the room and have a short talk with you and the two guests. J.K. Rowling will give signed copies of her books to them (they are the only ones who will get those during the event). Photographs will be taken.

You will find the information on young people in annex of this briefing (*they come from all over the world and they all have experience going through orphanage/institutions/residential care systems*). The day before this Conference, they all gathered for a "youth summit", where they prepared their own recommendations for the main Conference. They will share those recommendations in the opening session and throughout the panel discussions.

At around 13:20, this conversation will be finished and you will have a **short interview with BBC4 radio (Zoe Conway)**. Based on this interview and other interviews with participants of the Conference, BBC radio will produce a short material which will be aired after the Conference (*over the weekend*). As they will edit all interviews for that purpose and use a short 30 seconds soundbites/statements, in annex of this briefing we provided you with a short statement/soundbite with your main message to the public, so that you can use it during the interview (*so to allow for this segment to be taken out more easily*).

*To note: during the entire event, we will have official photographers and EbS video cameras present. Participants will not be allowed to film or take photographs. This is a closed event, by invitation only.*

**Authors of the briefing:** [REDACTED]

## **KEY MESSAGES**

*Opening session 'No child left behind', from 11:00 to 11:45, scripted conversation*

### **Script:**

*Moderator will ask you, Commissioner Stylianides and J.K. Rowling to intervene based on pre-prepared questions (2 questions each). We are still waiting to receive J.K. Rowling's questions, who will be the first to intervene.*

*Your and Cmmr Stylianides questions are as follows:*

1. (Commissioner Mimica) What role can EU external action play in tackling the institutionalisation of children globally? What is your vision for change?
2. (Commissioner Stylianides) Ensuring the protection needs of children in emergencies is complex and challenging, how does the European Commission (DG ECHO) respond in these circumstances? What approach should we be moving towards?
3. (Commissioner Mimica) What role can the EU play in responding to the following issues – strengthening child protection systems, law enforcement, planning for reform? How is that being addressed and put into action through EU external relations and financing instruments, including in development policy?
4. (Commissioner Stylianides) In situation of humanitarian crises, especially in post-conflict situations and in situations of large-scale forced displacement, the situation of unaccompanied children and children separated from their parents is a huge challenge that humanitarian actors are faced with. How does the EU respond in order to provide care to these children?

*At the end, the moderator will refer to the recommendations of the young people, summarise the key points and ask you all three to comment (very likely that there will be a recommendation on greater involvement of young people in the decision-making and on stopping financing of institutions/orphanages). We will receive those questions in advance.*

### **LTT:**

*Q: What role can EU external action play in tackling the institutionalisation of children globally? What is your vision for change?*

- For me as a father and grandfather, there is **only one global vision** any of us can imagine:
  - **happy, healthy, confident children;**

- raised in **families and communities** that provide the **love, care and affection** every child and young person needs **to thrive in life**.
  - A vision of **leaving no one behind** – as also agreed at the international and EU level.
- **What role is there for the European Union?** To continue to provide **global leadership** on this issue – to **champion children's rights** both **within and outside** the EU, and to challenge others to do the same.
  - We have already made **a lot of progress** within Europe. And **we are doing a lot** in our external action. This is our priority in **development cooperation**, and in **human rights' dialogues** with partner countries.
  - But we must continue to **spread the message more widely** in cooperation with our partner countries, including on the transition from institutional to community-based care.
  - And while we **understand the challenges**, we know - and must promote – **better solutions**. And we know **they exist**.
  - The **study we commissioned last year** – on **quality alternative care** in Asia, Latin America, Africa – showed us that the **needs are everywhere** – **every context, with no exceptions**.
  - In all countries I visited – I have seen **many children** separated from their families, lacking quality care and proper life conditions. This is **heart-breaking - and cannot be tolerated**.

- But the **8 million children in institutions - that we know of - may just be the tip of the iceberg**. Not all institutions or children are counted – making them **statistically invisible** and at even greater risk of **being left behind**.
- So we need **better knowledge and data**. As promised in the 2030 Agenda and the European Consensus on Development, we are ready to invest in better **data and evidence-based programming**.
- We know there are **no quick fixes or easy solutions to de-institutionalise** the whole system.
- So we need to continuously work with **everyone concerned** – governments, civil society, families, communities; and above all, with **young people themselves - putting them at the centre of the decisions** affecting them, and ensuring their voices are heard. **Like what we are doing today**.
- We also need to work on **prevention** alongside de-institutionalisation. And here the EU can work harder through our development cooperation to **address the push factors** that lead to separation.
- From **combatting violence and discrimination**, to **tackling poverty** and ensuring **access to inclusive and quality services**.
- But it's not because it's **difficult that we should not dare!**

*Q: What role can the EU play in responding to the following issues – strengthening child protection systems, law enforcement, planning for reform? How is that being addressed and put into action through EU external relations and financing instruments, including in development policy?*

- It's the primary role of **parents and families** to raise **happy, healthy children**. And it's our role to **ensure they can fulfil that responsibility**, by ensuring the right **support, services and structures**.
- We have the **legal and policy frameworks** in place – globally and at the European level. These are **ambitious, but very essential** to ensure we **leave no child behind!**
- **The European Consensus on Development** recognises children's **rights, needs and aspirations** and promises a **safe and nurturing environment for children**.
- **Our EU guidelines for protection and promotion of rights of child:**
  - recognise the **particular risks** faced by children in institutions
  - provide **practical guidance** to all European actors to support partner countries' own efforts, and
  - insist on a **system-wide approach** to strengthening child protection – involving **all actors and services**.
- We are committed to **engaging with partner countries' governments** to:
  - improve **regulation, supervision and control**;
  - develop a workforce of **carers, social workers and professionals**;
  - ensure that children end up in a **family or family-like** settings according to their needs.

- This also includes **raising awareness, training and providing guidance to our EU Delegations on the ground**, so that they can further promote the de-institutionalisation approach with partner countries.
- Also, putting our money where our mouth is. For example, this year we have dedicated **13 million euros** of funding specifically for projects focusing on **alternative care and de-institutionalisation**. And we are currently assessing the proposals received, after our call.
- And finally, we have a **unique opportunity to build on all these actions so far** with our **yesterday's proposal** for the EU's **new external financing instrument** under the future long-term budget (2021-2027).
- Our proposal calls for **stronger child protection systems and protection from violence; and for the first time** includes an **explicit reference** to promoting the transition from institutional to **community-based care through our external action**.
- **Our commitment is clear** – and we will follow it with **determination and concrete actions** around the world.

*Q: Young People's recommendations (prevention, evidence and the role of young people – you already have the elements to reply above)*

*LTT/defensive if they push to "stop funding for orphanages outside the EU"*

- The EU is **firmly committed to supporting the best care solutions** for every child in every context, adapted to their best interests.

- This is a **long term process** that cannot happen overnight. We need to **accompany our partners on this path to reform** – focusing on the whole child protection system and **moving away from an institutional culture**.
- We need to ensure that children can find a **safe and nurturing place** to thrive - **in their family or in family-like environments** - which is why we insist that the **right alternatives and conditions must be put in place**. Otherwise we may risk leaving even more children behind.
- At the same time we have a massive role to play in addressing the factors that drive children to be separated from their families in the first place.
- In the end **we share the same vision** - the best place for children is in safe families.
- This is why we are **prioritising quality care** for children through our external action, stressing the importance of moving from institutions to community-based care. Just yesterday – and **for the first time so explicitly** - we stressed this in our proposal for the next external financing instrument, which is a major step forward [*and means your message is being heard!*].



*Closing remarks and recommendations – your intervention*

Let me begin by **sincerely thanking Ms Rowling and Lumos, and all of our partners and participants** here today, for continuing the fight to **leave no child behind**.

Every child has a right to **dignity**, to **participate actively** in every aspect of daily life, and to **decide their own destiny**. As our **inspiring young leaders** have shown, every one of them represents an opportunity for **hope**, for **change**, for a **better future**.

The **best interests of the child** must be the primary consideration in everything we do. And above all, we must make sure that we do not take any **decisions about them, without them**. On everything from **employment to education needs**, or **combatting gender-based violence** - which still affects millions of girls and boys - **we need to do more, do it now and do it together**.

The same goes for **de-institutionalisation of young people**. Today we have discussed the **devastating costs** to our communities when children are raised outside a loving family. This is **simply unacceptable**.

But we have also heard that **viable alternatives to keep families together exist** – especially when the **vast majority** of children placed in institutions still have living parents or close relatives.

Making this transition from institutions to community or family-based care is clearly **not an easy or overnight** process. But, as the evidence shows, providing the right social services to children and families can be up to **eight times more cost effective** than condemning young people to a lifetime in institutions.

As global leaders, we **must turn the page**. And **turn away** from these systems – **even when well-intentioned** - which breed **isolation**, and a lifetime of **dependency and discrimination**.

Moreover, as **global donors** we have to face new challenges heads-on, including the risk of trafficking and abuse, notably for **migrant unaccompanied children**.

Today I want to reaffirm the **Commission's strong determination** to ensure that the **right legal frameworks** are in place in Europe and globally. And beyond laws, to continue to **provide political leadership and financial support** for this vital work to be made possible, and successful, on the ground.

I was particularly pleased that my colleague, Commissioner Stylianides, was able to join us for the opening session. Our **development and humanitarian actions must work hand-in-hand** - from protecting **all children** in situations of emergency, to addressing the **long-terms causes** of separation. Together we are determined to ensure that **no child is left behind, anywhere, any time**.

Every year, **almost 20 percent** of the European Union's funding – **1.7 billion euros** – directly benefits **children's rights**. Everywhere from Haiti to Russia, and Tajikistan to Zimbabwe, we are **supporting governments' reforms**. And helping to get some of the **most vulnerable and marginalised** children out of institutions and into **mainstream education**, and **safe, secure and stimulating** family environments.

And I am proud that just this week this Commission has proposed to promote initiatives that **build strong child protection systems**, including the **transition** from institutional to community-based care for children through our future funding for external action.

I would just like to **end by expressing huge thanks to all of the young people** for being here. The Dalai Lama once joked that if you think you are too small to make a difference, you should try sleeping in a room with a mosquito!

But in all seriousness, **never under-estimate the potential you have within you** to change your world and ours. Keep telling your stories, keep suggesting the solutions, keep on challenging us. Make sure your voices are heard and cannot be ignored. Above all, **keep on fighting for a better, more sustainable, inclusive and just future - a future where no child is left behind!**

Thank you very much.

## BACKGROUND

### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### The issue of institutionalisation

It is estimated that 8 million children are living in institutions globally but data are lacking to get an exact picture. Institutionalisation of children involves placing children in orphanages or similar residential care institutions. **Children in institutional care constitute one of the most marginalised, underserved, and vulnerable groups.**

While there is variability in both living conditions and caregiving environments across different alternative care settings, **placement in institutions is now widely recognised as harmful and inherently a human rights violation.** Research has provided strong and consistent evidence indicating that **nearly all domains of development are profoundly affected** when children experience institutional care. These impacts include severe impaired social, emotional, behavioral and interpersonal impairment, physical underdevelopment, delayed motor skills, and/or stunted cognitive and language development. All of this leads to **irreparable damage to the physical and psychological well-being of children.** Institutions may be overcrowded, clinical environments with highly regimented routines, unfavourable care-giver to child ratios, and unresponsive, usually underpaid, staff.

In the absence of a universally accepted definition, child rights organisations suggest **defining institutions for children as segregating residential care facilities for children without-parental care.** There is broad consensus that these facilities are not built around the needs either of the child or close to a family situation, and display the characteristics typical of institutional culture. The European Commission 2009 Report of the ad hoc expert group on the transition from institutional to community-based care defined an institutional culture as follows:

- Children are isolated from the wider community and obliged to live together;
- Children and their parents do not have sufficient control over their lives and over the decisions that affect them;
- The institution's requirements take precedence over a child's individual needs.

Institutions display a **grim record of neglect and violence.** Numerous reports have highlighted cases of **violence, physical and sexual abuse**, the use of cage beds and other physical restraints, the overuse of medication and violations of the right to privacy and family life. Reports have also exposed inhumane living conditions including lack of heating, malnutrition, unhygienic sanitation and otherwise poorly-maintained buildings. The **2006 UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children** found that children in institutions were at a higher risk of all forms of abuse than those raised in families. Human Rights Watch reported in 2017 that staff in institutions in India, Indonesia, Greece, Russia, and Serbia used physical and chemical restraints on. Contemporary evidence from different countries also demonstrates how orphanages are central participants in a web of modern slavery and trafficking of children.

It is also important to note that **many adults currently living in institutions entered institutions as children**. Studies have shown that the harmful effects of institutionalisation are likely to continue after the child reaches adulthood, triggering a range of problems and affecting adaptation to social and professional life. They are also **over-represented in negative circumstances as adults**, e.g. in conflict with the law/homeless, etc., underlining the need for early intervention and robust family support systems.

A vicious circle has been created which sees:

- **Children trafficked into orphanages**, often by unscrupulous orphanage directors who financially profit from the orphanage. Parents are tricked or coerced to give up their children, deceived into thinking their child will have a better life, education and food.<sup>1</sup> Vast sums of money flow into orphanages, from often well-intentioned donors, but little of this money goes to supporting the children. It acts as an incentive, creating a demand for children to fill up orphanages.<sup>2</sup>
- **Children trafficked from orphanages to other forms of exploitation**. Evidence shows that children in institutions are vulnerable to being trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation, compounding the harm they already experience in 'care'.<sup>3</sup> Unaccompanied children are trafficked with the hope of being reunited with their families in other countries but suffer abuse and exploitation on their journey.
- **Children who have been trafficked are placed back into orphanages**. A common response when children are rescued from being trafficked is to place them into an orphanage. An orphanage cannot meet their basic needs, it cannot address the additional support they will need, and it places them at risk of being trafficked again, reinforcing the vicious circle

## International framework for de-institutionalisation

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) affirms that all children have a right to live with their families, unless it goes against their best interests.
- UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children call on States to ensure families have access to services, which support them in their care-giving role; also declare institutions not suitable care options for children and call for DI strategy (legislation, budget allocations, monitoring bodies, data collection, and training) where institutions still exist.
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) explicitly affirms these rights equally apply to children with disabilities as well.

<sup>1</sup> For example, the Programme Cooperation Agreement (2011-2012), which forms the basis of international organisations Terre des Hommes and UNICEF's joint action in Nepal, states that vulnerable families who are seeking better opportunities for their children are routinely deceived by "a **network of traffickers** who strategically convince parents to turn over relatively large sums of money or exchange of precious goods or land in return for taking their children to Kathmandu or India". Terre des Hommes (2010) *Programme Cooperation Agreement*. TdH and UNICEF <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/sites/default/files/documents/5251.pdf> [Accessed 11 April 2017]; and John Williamson, 'Families, not Orphanages: A Review and Recent Developments' (Paper presented at the USAID 38th Child Welfare Symposium, San Francisco, USA, 2014). See also Lumos (2016) *Orphanage Entrepreneurs: The Trafficking of Haiti's Invisible Children*

<sup>2</sup> Lumos (2016) *Orphanage Entrepreneurs: The Trafficking of Haiti's Invisible Children*

<sup>3</sup> Information collected by FRANET: Hungarian Central Statistical Office. (2013). Yearbook of welfare and statistics, 2011 [Szociális Statisztikai Évkönyv], Budapest: KSH, see table 5.24. See also: Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. (2012). Report No. AJB-2731/2012, p.2. [www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/143247/201202731.rtf/06c12e69-536a-4b7a-a09b-b3847334ee18](http://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/143247/201202731.rtf/06c12e69-536a-4b7a-a09b-b3847334ee18). See also: House of Commons, Home Affairs Committee. (2009). The Trade in Human Beings: Human Trafficking in the UK Sixth Report of Session 2008–09. London: House of Commons

## EU legislation, policies and funding instruments

### *Inside the EU*

- The EU's social investment package and 2013 Recommendation on investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage<sup>4</sup> provide guidance on de-institutionalisation and call for a broad approach combining prevention and quality services. They emphasise the need to prevent family separation unless so required in the best interests of the child and recommend to Member States to stop the expansion of institutional care settings for children.
- On 7 December 2017, the Council adopted Conclusions on "Enhancing Community-Based Support and Care for Independent Living". The Conclusions show the commitment of all Member States to continue investment in 21<sup>st</sup> century community-based social support services, and stop the segregation of people with support needs in large-scale residential institutions.
- The European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-Based Care (EEG) convened in 2009 delivered a report that identified common basic principles for promoting the rights of people living in institutions and issued the Commission and Member States with recommendations as to how to support the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care. The group released Common European guidelines on the transition from institutional to community-based care and an accompanying 'Toolkit on the use of European Union Funds for the development of community care.
- EU introduction of ex-ante conditionality on social inclusion for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) supporting the 'transition from institutional to community-based services' in 2013.
- European Structural Funds (ESIF) regulation 2014–2020 includes specific protections to ensure that funds are used to support deinstitutionalisation. This built on an earlier policy commitment in the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020<sup>5</sup> to "promote the transition from institutional to community-based care by using ESIF to support the development of community-based services".
- Under its PROGRESS programme the Commission supported a number of social innovation projects which sought new ways of supporting young children living in care. The successor European programme for employment and social innovation is supporting a joint action on de-institutionalisation, led by the European Social Network.
- Under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, the EU has also funded a number of transnational projects aiming at building integrated child protection system capacity, and also specifically in the sub-sector of alternative care.

### *Outside the EU*

- 2017 European Consensus on Development does not specifically commit to de-institutionalisation but **does commit to implementing a rights-based approach** to development cooperation and to '**provide a safe and nurturing environment for children**', especially the most vulnerable and marginalised.
- **2017 EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child** identify institutionalisation as a key risk factor for children. They state that the EU

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<sup>4</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013H0112&from=EN>

<sup>5</sup> European Commission (2010), *European Disability Strategy 2010–2020: A renewed commitment to a barrier-free Europe*, COM(2010) 636 final, Brussels, 15 November 2010, p. 6.

'reaffirms its commitment to comprehensively protect and promote the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and other relevant international standards and treaties.

## How to address the issue of de-institutionalisation

The **Common European Guidelines on the Transition from Institutional to Community Based Care** refer to de-institutionalisation as the process of closing institutions and developing services in the community in order to eliminate the need for institutional care.

These Guidelines provide **practical advice** about how to make a sustained transition from institutional care to family-based and community-based alternatives. In order to accelerate progress towards ending institutional care for children, the following conditions are necessary: political commitment, funding, capacity to implement reforms, and cooperation with civil society. The **Guidelines call for:**

- Making the case for developing community-based alternatives to institutions
- Assessment of the situation
- Developing a strategy and an action plan
- Establishing the legal framework for community-based services
- Developing a range of services in the community
- Allocating financial, material and human resources
- Developing individual plans
- Supporting the individuals and communities during transition
- Defining, monitoring and evaluating the quality of services
- Developing the workforce.

The 2010 **UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children** outline key principles that should be adhered to in all care and protection options for children. These stipulate that:

- Efforts should primarily be directed at enabling children to remain in, or return to, the care of their parents or, where necessary, of other close family members;
- The removal of a child from his or her family should be considered an option of the last resort and for the shortest possible duration;
- The State is responsible for ensuring alternative care only where the family is unable, even with appropriate support, to provide adequate care for the child;
- Any alternative care placement should be decided and provided on a case-by-case basis, by qualified professionals, and should respond to the best interests of the child;
- Alternative care for all children, especially those under three, should be provided in family-type settings within the child's community, rather than in residential institutions.

More specifically, to implement the transition from a system of long-stay residential institutions to a system of family- and community-based services—deinstitutionalisation—successfully requires that **governments create sustainable strategies and action plans**. This transition is a complex, medium to long-term process. It requires careful planning with a wide range of cooperating organisations and individuals to ensure a coordinated approach.

A key challenge is ensuring that deinstitutionalisation is carried out in a way that respects the rights of the user groups, minimises risk of harm and ensures positive outcomes for all individuals involved. **Closing institutions hastily and without developing high-quality alternatives can be very dangerous for children**, and even subject them to worse violations

of their rights. The decision to move a child from an institution to a new placement requires individual needs assessment, careful planning and support.

Contrary to what is likely to have been the child's prior experience, **the child must be included in a meaningful way in any decisions and actions that concern him or her.** One of the worst failures has been the requirement for a child to slot into an available place in an institution irrespective of what that was, and the failure to meet the child's individual needs is a delicate transition that needs careful planning and support.

Many governments believe that providing care and protection through institutions is the most cost-effective option. However, evidence clearly show that systems that rely on **institutions are more expensive to run than those which provide community-based services.** An analysis of care provision in Romania, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia concluded that the cost-per-user for institutional care is six times more expensive than providing social services to vulnerable families or voluntary kinship carers.

**Extracts from LUMOS unofficial research on EU's role through external action (expected for release end-2018)**

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## 2. USEFUL KEY FACTS & FIGURES

The European Union is one of the **main donors to ensure children's survival and development**, protection and participation. Over the period 2007-2013, the European Union supported 4,001 actions for children in 142 countries for a spending of € 8,492 million. Sub-Saharan Africa is the largest recipient region, absorbing 45% of EU funds for children, followed by Asia and Latin America. This support addresses all categories of child rights and needs, but the dominant themes are associated with children's survival and development rights, particularly education, health, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. The EU is also fully committed to the protection of children from all forms of violence, including harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and child early and forced marriage. In line with the UN Guidelines on alternative care for children, **a call for proposals was launched in 2018 on quality alternative care and de-institutionalisation (€ 13 million).**

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### **EU 2018 Call for Proposals on quality alternative care for children and de-institutionalisation**

#### *Objectives and priorities*

The European Commission intends to support initiatives to prevent family and child separation, take children out of harmful institutions and provide appropriate and quality alternative care for those deprived of parental care. These initiatives should be based on a careful assessment and determination of their best interests, according to the UN's 2009

Guidelines for the alternative care of children. The aim, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions; and Target 16.2: Ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children) is to reach the most vulnerable children left behind and in need of such care.

The **global objective** of the call for proposals is to ensure better outcomes for children by ensuring better implementation of the UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children in their entirety, so that children enjoy equal chances to reach their full potential in societies.

The **specific objective** of this call for proposals is to provide quality care for children through the following priorities:

- Enabling governments to provide and take control of quality alternative care provision to children who are deprived of parental care, in line with UN's Guidelines on alternative care of children and/or
- Regulating and monitoring the quality of the alternative care solutions provided to children who are deprived of parental care and/or
- Supporting the transition from institutional to community-based care and
- Preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families.

The action will help public national and local authorities to reform their alternative care systems and implement existing legislation in order to build stronger child protection systems

### Examples of projects supported by the EU

Title		Budget	Country	Implementing partner
Support to the state reform of orphanages in Russian regions	Overall objective – to strengthen CSO's contribution to Federal reform of orphan institutions in Russia to promote deinstitutionalization (DI) and ensure inclusive and targeted community-based services	€ 750.000	Russia	CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION TRUST
Taking Action to Improve the Lives of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Morrumbala and Mopeia Districts, Zambézia, Mozambique	Overall Objective: to empower community groups and local authorities to respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable children and their families Specific Objectives: 1. To support Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Committee (OVCC) in the targeted communities to coordinate and provide a comprehensive package of care and support to vulnerable children and their families 2. To support community activities to deliver child-focused quality HBC services to chronically ill individuals and their families through the provision of training, mentoring and material support. 3. To implement a community grants scheme 4. To strengthen coordination and delivery	€ 697.498	Mozambique	THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND LBG

	of services provided by District Directorate of Health Women and Social action (SDSMAS) in Morrumbala and Mopeia Districts.			
Community Based Response for Rehabilitating Disabled Children in five Kebeles of Chilga Woreda of North Gondar Zone	Support to 240 children with disabilities, economic empowerment of 200 mothers/guardians through active engagement of community core groups, inclusive education access for 500 children with disabilities and orphans and vulnerable children, addressing environmental and health issues in the context of persons with disabilities and orphans and vulnerable children	€ 18.499	Ethiopia	HANDICAP NATIONAL NON PORFIT ORGANISATION
Programme of Support (POS) to the National Action Plan 2 (NAP 2) for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (OVC)- Zimbabwe ( Child Protection Fund) (CPF)	Community Based Response for Rehabilitating Disabled Children in five Kebeles of Chilga Woreda of North Gondar Zone	€ 6.000.000	Zimbabwe	UNICEF
'All children have right to family" - promoting sustainable change in Georgian Orthodox Church practice of providing child care and advancing child welfare reform through dialogue, advocacy and				
	Support Georgian Orthodox Church senior leadership to make a long-term commitment to building family-based alternative care services instead of large-scale institutions, so that children grow in a safe and caring family environment	€ 141.728	Georgia	GEORGIAN FOSTER CARE ORGANIZATION*

capacity building				
Sector Reform Contract: Social Protection Kyrgyzstan	<p>General Objectives: to sustain poverty alleviation and promote social justice through supporting the development of an efficient social protection system in line with the country's sector policies and strategies. Specific objectives: The programme seeks to improve access and quality of community social services as well as the effectiveness of social assistance to the most vulnerable parts of the population.</p> <p>Among results: improved access to and availability of quality community social services for the most vulnerable parts of the population, including children; strengthened management capacity of the government at central, regional and local level to implement social and child protection reforms.</p>	€ 26.000.000	Kyrgyzstan	KYRGYZ RESPUBLIKASY*REPUBLIQUE DU
<p>PLATEFORME CDE : Projet de création d'une Plateforme Nationale pour le développement, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des politiques publiques en matière d'enfance, dans le respect de la CDE</p>	<p>L'objectif général du projet est de promouvoir l'amélioration de l'accès à des services sociaux de base de qualité qui puissent garantir la protection et l'inclusion de l'enfance en situation d'abandon et d'exclusion sociale au Maroc. L'objectif spécifique du présent projet est de renforcer le rôle et la coordination en réseau d'une Plateforme Nationale pour la Convention sur les Droits de l'Enfance (CDE), afin de la rendre un sujet proactif de la Société Civile dans le développement, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des politiques publiques en matière de l'enfance, pour qu'elles puissent répondre aux recommandations du rapport du Comité des Droits de l'Enfant de Genève pour le Maroc (octobre 2014). Parmi les actions: action 2 recherche et conférence nationale sur la kafala comme seul modèle de dé-institutionnalisation possible, élaboration de propositions de modification de la loi nationale en matière de kafala. Action 3 mise en place de services territoriaux nationaux pour la protection de l'enfance privée de milieu familial (finalité: DI et réintégration familiale par de sprojets et plans de vie individualisés).</p>	€ 339.108	Morocco	ASSOCIAZIONE AMICI DEI BAMBINI*

Putting Families First: Safe, Sustainable Families in Urban and Rural Communities in Tajikistan	Development of community-based social services to reduce social exclusion of young vulnerable children and their families and to reduce child institutionalisation.	€ 837.393	Tajikistan	HEALTH PROM LBG*
Parenting enrichment training for families of children with intellectual and developmental disability	The project aims at building the capacity of parents to foster children's holistic development and providing psycho-social and emotional support to families. The main expected results are: - Enhanced awareness in dealing with IDD related stigma and discrimination - Improved understanding and skill to care for children with IDD - Enhanced networking among parents, association and social service providing agencies - Enhanced capacity of Association, membership, and scope	€ 168.300	Eritrea	NATIONAL AUTISM AND DOWN SYNDROME N
Integrated temporary shelter and family reunification to protect the rights of unaccompanied and separated children.	The programme's overall objective is to contribute to diminishing the impact of the Syrian crisis on child rights (both girls and boys) by enhancing the protection and reintegration of UASC in Tartous coastal area". In light of SOS' expertise and the security situation in Syria, the programme has the following specific objective: "to protect the provision, protection and participation rights stated in the CRC and its additional protocol for 450 UASC and reintegrate them according to their best interests in strengthened families of origin, long-term family-based settings (e.g. extended relatives) or quality alternative care-facilities". These objectives will equip children and families from our target group with skills and capacities not only to survive the crisis, but also to rebuild social cohesion at their household and community level.	€ 1.264.827	Syria	SOS VILLAGE D'ENFANTS BELGIQUE POUR
Inclusion of people with disabilities	The overall objective of this action is Building the capacity for cooperation between NSA and local authorities in implementing community services for people with disabilities as a part of poverty reduction and eliminate the permanent exclusion/institutionalization of handicapped and replace it with their inclusion and independent living in local communities.	€ 128.262	Belarus	FORENINGEN DET EUROPAEISKE HUS*TEH

### **3. YOUTH SUMMIT, 13-14 JUNE 2018**

Lumos is organizing 13-14 June 2018 in Brussels the *Emerging Global Leaders Youth Summit*. The aim of this summit is to bring together 17 young people from Bulgaria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Haiti, Kenya and United Kingdom, with direct experience of living in institutions or state care in different contexts. They will work together to develop the recommendations that will be presented at the conference 15 June. The summit is also an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills of youth participants in advocacy. There will be a panel discussion with the Deputy CEO of Lumos and other policy makers, representing opportunities for youth to ask questions on de-institutionalisation, the role of policy or youth career development.

During the Conference 15 June, youth representatives will also have an opportunity to be involved in research focus group to feed the important global study for the United Nations in children deprived of liberty, led by Pr. Manfred Nowak.

#### **OTHER DOCUMENTS**

1. CVs: included in the agenda