

International Alternative Care Conference

Geneva, 3 to October 2016



Evaluating and Accrediting
Institutions through a Mixed
Group of Government and
NGOs
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Hosts



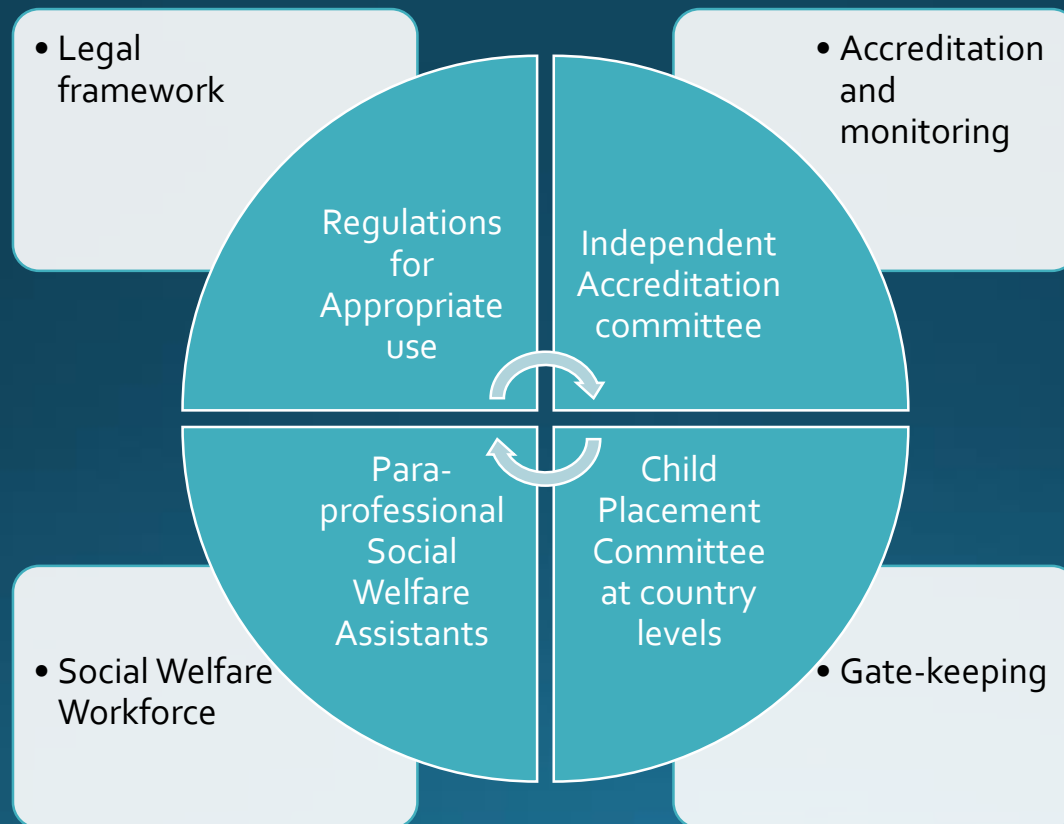
Partners



The Issue

- A 2006 assessment noted the rise in the number of “orphanages” in Liberia from 10 in 1989 to 108 in 2006 with over 5,000 children.
- An open door policy to recruitment of children into the “orphanages”.
- 88% of the children had one or both parents alive.
- The motivations for the recruitments were varied including making children available for international adoption.
- There was general lack of accreditation, deplorable living conditions for children and poor managerial child care practices.

The Response



The Response – Legal Framework

- Regulations for Appropriate use and Conditions of Alternative Care (2010)
 - Developed by inter-agency group
 - Care plans for each child
 - Framework for accreditation and monitoring
- Other policy frameworks included
 - De-institutionalization strategic plan
 - Essential package of social services
 - Liberia Children's Act

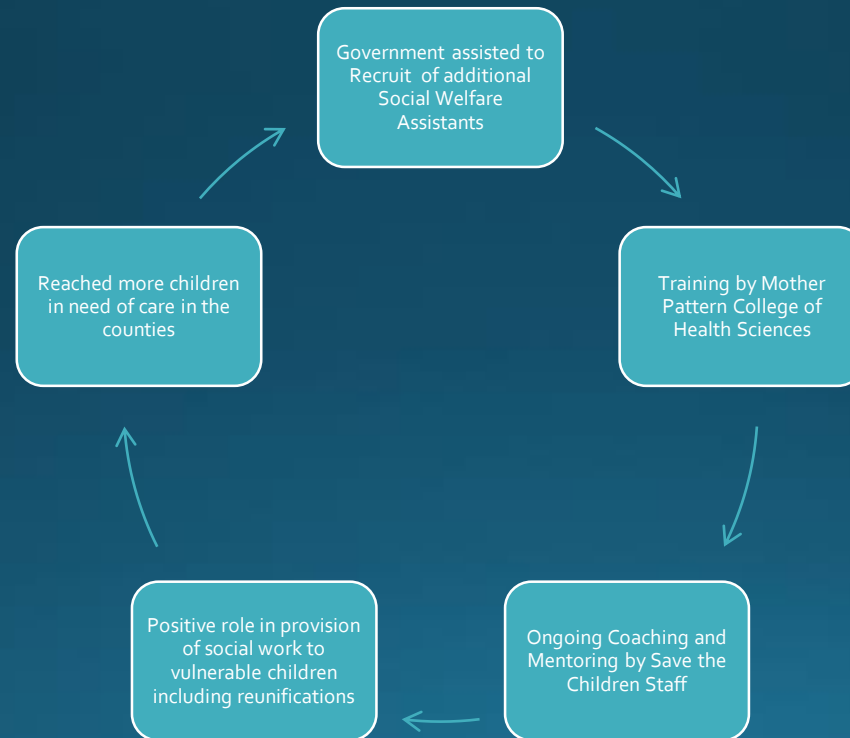
The Response – Accreditation

- Establishment of the Independent Accreditation Committee
 - Mixed group
 - Enforcement of the 2010 regulations
 - Monitoring through announced and unannounced visits
 - Developed assessment tools
 - Assessments led to closure of a number of institutions
 - Challenges faced - delays decision making and political interference

The Response – Gate-keeping

- Establishment of the Child Placement Committee at the country level with support from NGO partners
 - Chaired by the MOHSW
 - Reviewed cases
 - Shifted decisions away from Monrovia to the counties
 - Prevented unnecessary institutionalization

The Response-Social Welfare Workforce



Conclusion

- Government lead and joint efforts with NGOs and UN partners is important for care reform
- Need for coordination and collaboration amongst all actors
- Strengthening of the government social work force is central in care reform processes
- Appropriate legal policy framework inline with the Guidelines for Alternative care is important for direction

