Focal Question 3: Evidence Synthesis

Systems, Strategies and Interventions for Sustainable Long Term Care and Protection for Children with a History of Living Outside of Family Care

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Overview of the Evidence Synthesis


1. **Objective**
   - Assess evidence availability and quality
   - Review in relation to efficacy, effectiveness, sustainability of systems of care and protection in Low and Middle Income Countries
   - Policy, practice, and research recommendations

2. **Evidence**
   - Four categories:
     - Residing in institutions
     - In and of the streets
     - Conflict and natural disasters
     - Labor and sex trafficking
   - Infants through ages 21-24
   - Low and Middle Income Country focus

3. **Quality**
   - Most poor to weak
   - Stronger studies focused on a single population, region or sector
   - The quality criteria established for this paper are not always appropriate in the domain we are covering
Structuring the Evidence Review

Child Protection System

Policies, Legislation and Regulations

Structures and Functions

Continuum of Care and Services

Data and Information for Decision-Making
LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL STATEMENT
• Systemic approach
• Consistent with global and regional instruments
• Best interests principles
• Prevention, promotion and response mechanisms
• Alternative care
• Financial and other incentives for continuum of services
• Adequate resourcing

Permanant Family Care
Reunification, adoption, kafala, kinship are best options; duration and quality of care are critical

In and of the Street
• Registries
• Reintegration and independent living
• HIV risk

Trafficked Children
• Effective and sustainable national responses needed

Conflict/Disasters
• Complementary tactics on community and int’l approaches
• Ethics and stigma
• Community mobilization

Cross cutting and generalizable themes across groups!

Social Workforce

Cost-effectiveness
SYSTEM STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS (FORMAL/INFORMAL)

Social Workforce
Key to sustainable formal and informal systems, but often highly limited capacity in Low and Middle Income Countries

GENERAL STATEMENT
- Global rights aligned with local contexts
- Oriented to family care
- Organization and coordination
- Human and financial resources
- Best interests of child
- Spectrum of services across sectors that promote strong families and child well being
- Knowledge, attitudes and practices
- Standards, monitoring and evaluation

In and of the Street
- Educational system capacity
- Vocational training
- Fee elimination may not retain street youth in school

Trafficked Children
- Coordinated national response and consultation
- Cross sectoral approach is needed
- Monitoring and surveillance systems appear to support the provision of support and services to children, over the long-run

Conflict/Disasters
- Reintegration of youth challenged by limited employment, stigma, lack of service access
- Girls, young mothers less likely to return to formal education
- Forced wives at higher rates for sexual violence

Cross cutting and generalizable themes across groups!
SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS

**Culture and Shifting Contexts**
Cultural and contextual features should guide specific intervention approaches

**GENERAL STATEMENT**

- Protective environment is supported by positive attitudes and practices, services for families, knowledge and capacity of communities, research, oversight and monitoring.

- Effectiveness of continuum of care, whether formal or informal, can in part be measured by levels of abandonment or separation.

**In and of the Street**
- Reintegration with families or family like structures
- Flexible and holistic programming
- 5 components of efficacy: (i) framing problem; (ii) information; (iii) coping skills; (iv) social support; (v) environmental barriers

**Trafficked Children**
- Comprehensive and victim centered approach
- Ranges of services needed from medical screening to psychosocial counseling.

**In Institutions**
- Development effects on infants and young children can be serious and permanent
- Often highly deficient environments
- Caregiver-child relationships critical
- Improving quality of care can help

**Cross cutting and generalizable themes across groups!**
DATA AND INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

**GENERAL STATEMENT**
- Situational analysis, M & E needed to support effective and sustainable national responses
- Need to enumerate vulnerable populations
- Data should be transparent, support accountability, and facilitate continuous improvement
- Need community and national mechanisms that work

**In and of the Street**
- Need to tailor programs to local needs through better data
- Respondent driven, time location sampling and similar methods

** Trafficked Children**
- Data yields important indicators, such as higher risk of HIV for girls trafficked at age 14 or older
- There is a need for longer term impact evaluation and tracer studies to determine which intervention(s) work

**Former Child Combatants**
- Observable measurable indicators of needs found useful in designing effective interventions and in preventing child recruitment into armed groups

*Cross cutting and generalizable themes across groups!*
Q and A