



U.S. Government Evidence Summit on Protecting Children Outside of Family Care

Focal Question 3: Gaps and Recommendations

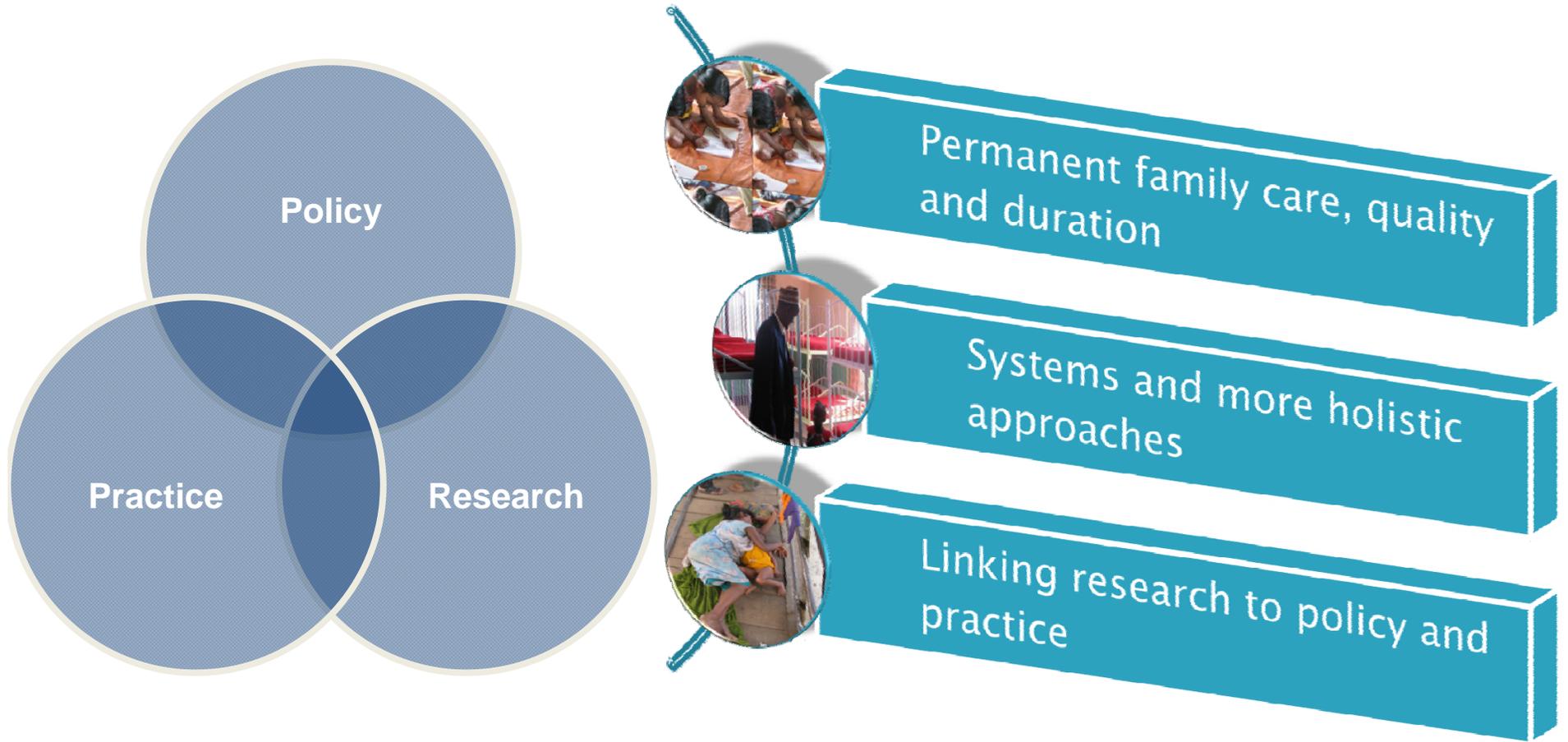
Systems, Strategies and Interventions for Sustainable Long Term Care and Protection for Children with a History of Living Outside of Family Care

December 12-13, 2011

Pavilion II, Ronald Reagan Building

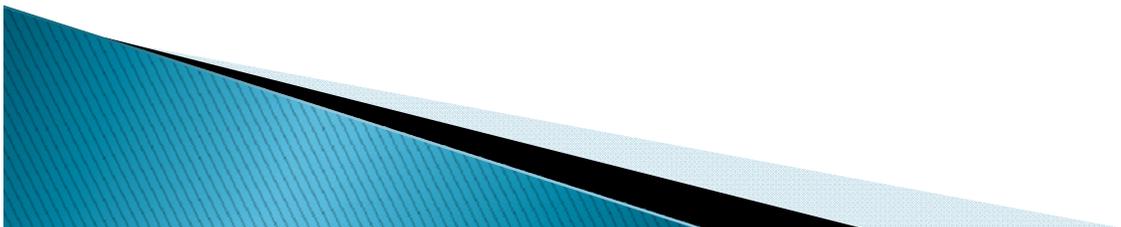
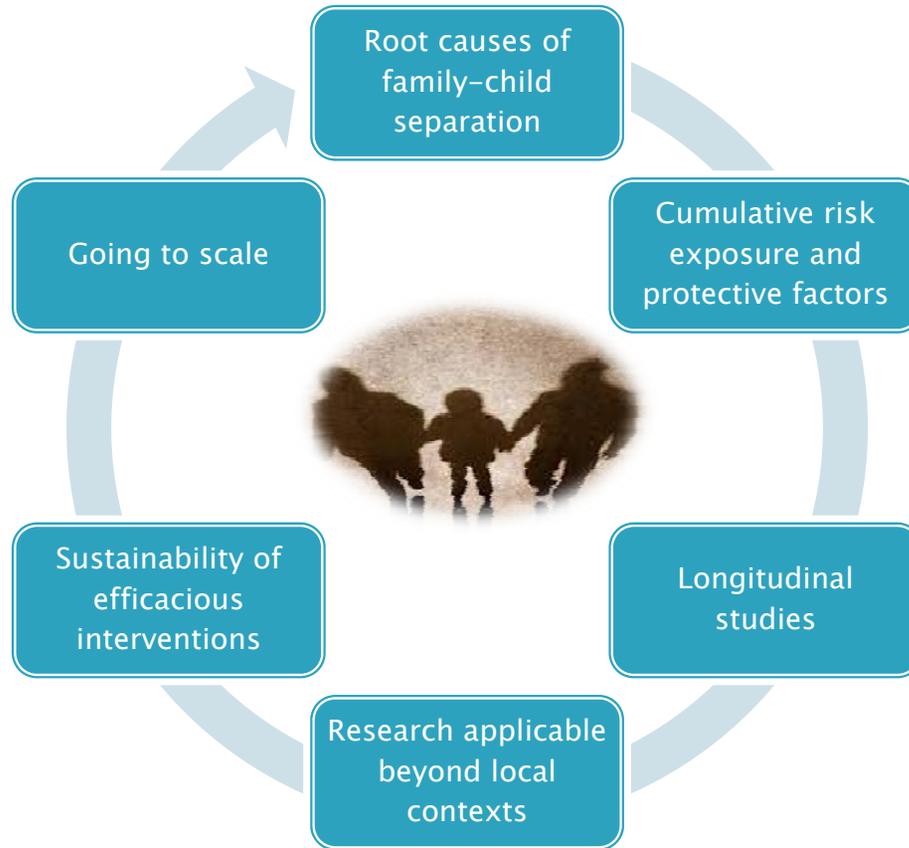
U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, DC

TODAY'S CONVERSATION: CHILDREN OUT OF FAMILY CARE



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RESEARCH AREAS



RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN LOWER/MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (1)



ROOT CAUSES

- Specific risk factors for separation and abandonment in different LMIC contexts
- Life cycle research linking early childhood experiences and interventions to longer term outcomes
- Data collection methodologies for hidden populations



RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Adverse childhood experiences and childhood family strengths/resilience indicators
- Age of exposure vs. cumulative deficits in institutions



DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS

- A variety of research to address older children, e.g., children entering institutions after 2
- Quality of care research across categories and ages
- Long term consequences of different types of care
- Issues pertaining to children with disabilities

RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN LOWER/MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES (2)



FROM LOCALE TO LARGER CONTEXTS

- Mechanisms for applied knowledge transfer and dissemination
- Role and effectiveness of social workforce (formal and informal)



SUSTAINABILITY OF INTERVENTIONS

- From “emergency” contexts to systems that provide care and protection over longer term
- The economics and ‘business’ of institutional care
- Linking resource mobilization and budgeting to effective models



GOING TO SCALE

- Generalizable approaches that can be adapted successfully given different local contexts

POLICY, LEGISLATION AND REGULATION: RECOMMENDATIONS



Permanent family care (PFC)

Promote, facilitate, and support strong sustainable PFC models + early interventions to address the spectrum of needs for at risk families

Linking formal and informal

Promote policies that facilitate linkages between formal governmental sectors and informal systems, and based in local and community contexts (urban, peri-urban, village, etc.)

Justice and children

Strengthen policies that promote rehabilitation over retribution for children involved in street life, trafficking, armed conflict

Conflict/disasters

Implement interventions at individual, family and community levels and address structural barriers to service access



Quality of care for *all* children

Promote quality of care across categories of care, and support interventions that address all children, including those in institutions

STRUCTURES AND FUNCTIONS: RECOMMENDATIONS



Cross cutting across sectors

Strengthen capacity of educational, health, justice, social protection and other systems to serve children and families

Social workforce

Provide ongoing training, supervision and support to a social workforce that is recognized by social and government structures



SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS: RECOMMENDATIONS



Family centered care

Promote strategies to facilitate reunification and kinship and to prevent out of family care, all preferred over institutional care

Institutional care (inc. disabled)

Promote comprehensive family-like behavioral interventions which improve caregiver-child interactions and restructure physical environment to be more family-like.

Street youth

Assure interventions include basic elements for success: 1) framing the problem; 2) information; 3) coping skills; 4) social support; 5) reduction of environmental barriers

Trafficked children

Ensure services are comprehensive, holistic and integrated and are guided by the best interests of the child, supported by monitoring /follow up



Conflict/disasters

Ground programs in understanding of social and cultural practices as well as changing contexts, multilayering holistic community and international approaches

DATA AND INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING: RECOMMENDATIONS



Periodic needs assessments

Evaluate the size of populations of institutionalized, street, trafficked, and disaster-affected (natural and armed conflict) (incidence and prevalence).

Organizational assessments

Overview of formal and informal organizations serving these populations



Disaggregation

Disaggregate by gender and age in all systems, and by income and risk factor wherever appropriate and feasible

Monitoring and Standards

Ensure accountable oversight of programs against standards



MOVING FORWARD?

Joint teams

Practitioners
and
researchers



Demonstration

Test countries in
each region

Dissemination and Implementation Science

Applying research to
problems

One system, multiple issues

Holistic approach,
inter-agency
coordination within
poverty agenda

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS