

Care for Children

VISION

A world of children in families.

MISSION

To serve governments of nations to pioneer a positive alternative to institutional care by placing children into local, loving families in the community (fostering and adoption).



Countries around the world are looking to introduce systemic changes to their child welfare system in favour of family-based care alternatives.

THE GLOBAL PROBLEM

8 million children worldwide live in institutions, and they are amongst the most vulnerable in the world. These are children who have likely experienced abuse and neglect, abandonment, parental incarceration, gender discrimination, physical or psychological difficulties, illness or death of parents, or relinquishment due to poverty.

80 years of research has highlighted the negative impact of institutionalisation on children's health, development and life chances. Studies show that these children face immense, often overwhelming, challenges in all areas of development. Furthermore, institutions are a significant financial and administrative burden for governments.

A POSITIVE ALTERNATIVE

Care for Children's pioneering work enables governments to place vulnerable children into local families as a positive alternative to institutional care.

Our team of social-work and international-development experts work alongside national and local government departments to train staff from government-run institutions and other relevant stakeholders to become family care workers. They are empowered to recruit, assess and train suitable families, as well as place, support and monitor children as they move from institutions into local families.

1,000,000+

vulnerable children now living in families in China

100%

of government institutions trained in Thailand

20+ years

of developing family-based care solutions

6,000+

child welfare staff trained

NATIONAL STRATEGY
Care for Children creates bespoke training materials and programmes to suit the unique political and cultural characteristics of each country that we work in. This enables nationwide, systemic developments to a child welfare system, therefore securing long-term sustainable change, and millions of vulnerable children placed into local, loving families.

HISTORY & IMPACT

From 1998, Care for Children supported the Chinese government to transition from an institutional care system to a family care model. The government took on the responsibility for implementing family care, while Care for Children provided consultation and training, empowering government staff to ensure the quality and sustainability of the project.

Care for Children also provided technical support and seed-funding in the way of government-matched family allowances (50%) to build models

of best practice and design and deliver a national family care training programme. This empowered the government to enact legislative support for family care in 2015, and by 2018 the Chinese bureau of statistics revealed that over one million vulnerable children were living in families instead of institutions.

Following invitations from a number of governments across Asia, Care for Children has also gone on to develop successful programmes with the governments of Thailand and Vietnam.



WHY IS CARE FOR CHILDREN UNIQUE?

We prioritise the success of governments.

We consider our success to be dependent on the success of the governments we work with to implement and manage good and sustainable family placement programmes.

Our strategy supports policy change at the top levels of government, as well as know-how for frontline staff.

As well as training 6,000+ orphanage staff, our work has led to major changes to legislation, policy and national guidelines for China, Thailand and Vietnam in favour of family-based care alternatives.

Rather than duplicating or replacing existing services, we bring about sustained and widespread change by building the capacity of existing government staff and institutions.

Care for Children's strategy works with existing buildings and staff, so does not require costly new building projects or staff recruitment. Instead, existing staff are re-trained, and the increased space within institutions can be re-purposed, to offer new services in the community.

Our projects are completely sustainable, culminating in the government taking full ownership.

We have developed an innovative four-stage model, allowing for steady, safe growth that also allows for the government's capacity to develop.

Our project model follows four key stages, each approximately 3 years long:

- 1) Pilot project;
- 2) National rollout;
- 3) Models of excellence; and
- 4) Legacy.

We help orphanages develop local foster care programmes alongside provision of institutional care.

Our aim is not to encourage the closure of institutions, but instead to increase the range of alternative care options available to children managed by the institution.



PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

Governments

Care for Children welcomes interest and invitations from governments to explore child welfare reform opportunities by implementing family-based care initiatives as a positive alternative to institutional care.

Enquiries can be sent to:

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Donors

Care for Children actively pursues fruitful and mutually effective partnerships with donors to meet exciting goals, and launch new projects around the world.

www.careforchildren.com

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