

ALTERNATIVE CARE PROGRAMS

REPORT
2023



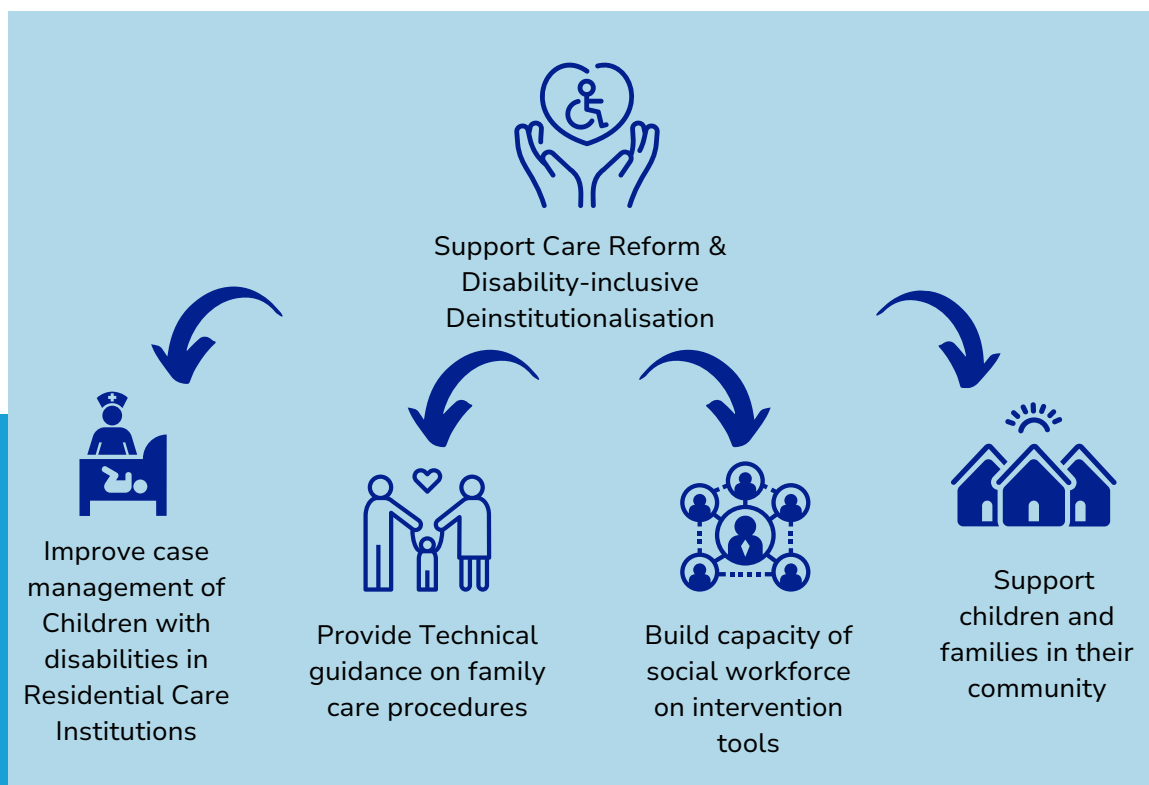
"A Better Future is Possible" Program: Building a Sustainable, Family-Based Care Model.

For a decade, the International Social Service (ISS) has been at the forefront championing the cause of quality care and family environment for children without parental care or those at risk of separation with a special focus on children with disabilities. ISS collaborates with governments to bring about a gradual shift from institutional care to family reintegration and family-based programs. Currently, the program is being implemented in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Vietnam, and Cambodia, with special focus on children with disabilities. The ISS team is also working tirelessly on alternative care projects in Chile and Haiti, striving to pave the way for a better future.



What do we concretely do in this area?

- Advocating for Inclusive Family Care in Government Reform Efforts to Support Children with Disabilities.
- Empowering social workers to provide effective case management for all children, including those with disabilities, through intervention tools.
- Collaborating with Child Welfare Authorities, Civil Society Organizations, Families, and Communities to Ensure Sustainable Systemic Changes.
- Preventing the separation of children with disabilities from their families by empowering Communities and Families.
- Promoting the return of children growing up in residential care back to their family whenever possible and if in the best interest of the child.
- Creating tailored procedures and Foster Care Programs for Children with Disabilities.





► **BURKINA FASO (in collaboration with Child Welfare Authorities and ISS West Africa)**

- Kick off of the 3rd phase of the project aiming at capturing lessons learned and best practices from our pilot foster care program adapted to CWD, standardizing procedures and disseminating our approach at international level. Community based approach in the protection of CWD will also be explored in this 3rd phase.

► **CAMBODIA (in collaboration with ISS Australia, UNICEF Cambodia, National Institute of Social Affairs (NISA) and the Child Welfare Authorities (MoSVY))**

- Developed a CWD training curriculum (levels 1-4) for the Cambodian Government's training institute (NISA) and conducted in-country "train the trainer" training on level 1.
- Continued to target deinstitutionalisation for CWD in residential care institutions, including the development of a framework based on the outcomes of the 2022 workshop on Deinstitutionalisation of CWD, as well as relevant practice information from global contexts.

► **CÔTE D'IVOIRE (in collaboration with Child Welfare Authorities (MFFE), NGO Vie Saine, ISS France and ISS West Africa)**

- Study on Roots causes of CWD abandonment and placement in Residential Care, interviews led with families, Institutions, Local Authorities.
- Training of 650 community volunteers on Early Identification of children with disabilities in vulnerable families, Early Intervention and referrals to basic social services.
- Drafting of a Reference Document on Community-Based Care for Families of CWD (to be published in February 2024).
- ISS Field Assignment in November 2023: workshop on Disability-inclusive Deinstitutionalization with managing staff of 4 public residential care institutions, round tables on inclusive family reintegration and foster care procedures.
- Participation in IRC technical Assistance on Adoption to the CA with a specific focus on special needs children.

► **VIETNAM (in collaboration with MOLISA and SPOON)**

- ISS field assignment in March 2023 : training workshop with 25 Social Workers from 3 pilot provinces on Family Reintegration for CWD (training part 1).
- Study on roots causes of CWD placement in Residential Care and opportunities of family reintegration (families, children, institutions, local authorities, Parents' led associations, Civil Society Organisations have been interviewed by our team of Vietnamese experts). The Report will be released soon.



►► **CHILE** (in collaboration with Alianza FAE (*Alianza de Fundaciones por el acogimiento familiar*), Child Welfare Authorities (Servicio Mejor Nines), ISS/IRC and ISS France)

- Launch of a 2 years project (2023-2025): Supporting transition process of 3 Residential Care Institutions (public/private) to family and community based-care with a specific focus on children under 4 years old.
- Desk review “Towards strengthening foster care in the alternative care system in Chile”
- ISS Field Assignment in May 2023 (meeting with key stakeholders including Minister of Justice, national and regional Child Welfare Authorities, sensitization on DI and transition with interested RCI).

►► **HAITI** (in collaboration with Child Welfare Authorities (IBESR), Rapha International (ISS member a.i. in Haiti) and SPOON)

- 7 children out of 10 reintegrated into their families in 2023 thanks to the efforts of our national partner RAPHA (new ISS member a.i.) despite prevailing crisis in Haiti.
- Publication of a “Technical Guidance on Family Reintegration” (for all children): this new ISS tool has been presented at a conference end July 2023 in the USA, held by the Haitian Family Care Network. Available in [French](#) and in [English](#).

Since 2014, ISS has been piloting sustainable, innovative, and inclusive projects that are being standardized by policymakers and practitioners across the globe.





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Serviço Social Internacional África Ocidental
International Social Service West Africa



Côte d'Ivoire



Embassy of France in
Vietnam, Haiti and Côte
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SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, WAR INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS



Côte d'Ivoire



Haiti



Ministre de la Solidarité, de
l'Action humanitaire, de la
Réconciliation nationale, du
Genre et de la Famille au
Burkina Faso

