

Care Reform in Ghana: Timeline of System Achievements

Ghana Core Country Team



The **Government of Ghana**, with support from nongovernmental partners, commissioned an assessment of children's homes in Ghana, owing to the rapid increase in the number of residential care facilities established between **1996** and **2006**.



The government, with support from **UNICEF** and key nongovernmental stakeholders, held a series of technical workshops to discuss the drafting of foster care and adoption guidelines.

The government, in collaboration with partners, developed draft foster care and adoption guidelines—now draft regulations that are enforceable. At the time of writing, these regulations were under review by the **Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection**.

DSW, with support from **UNICEF** and nongovernmental partners, deinstitutionalized more than 1,500 children via reintegration efforts.

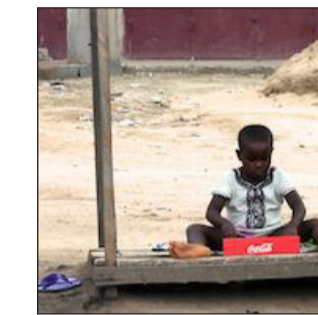
DSW, with support from key stakeholders, closed 47 residential care facilities.

As of May 2013, **Bethany Christian Services** had registered 82 foster parents and had placed 10 or 11 children in foster care since October 2011. As of September 2013, **OrphanAid Africa** had registered 33 children in foster care and had also registered 64 children under the age of 18 in formal kinship care arrangements (Country Care Profile).



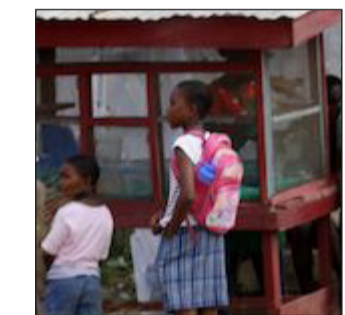
The **Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection** announced the closure of unlicensed residential homes in **2014**.

In April 2013, **DSW**, with support from **CRI** partners, facilitated the reintegration of 1,577 children with their parents and extended families.



A public-private "**Better Care Committee**" was created to replace the National OVC Committee, to promote exchange of information between and among metropolitan, municipal, and district assemblies; nongovernmental organizations and RHCs; and the media.

The **Better Care Network**, **UNICEF**, **USAID**, and the **United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief** created the Ghana Country Care Profile Report.



The **Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption** went into effect in Ghana on **1 January 2017**.

Residential homes were mapped to identify flows and drivers of children in residential childcare institutions

A baseline report on the status of the **DCOF**-funded childcare reforms was published



2006

2007

The **Government of Ghana**, with support from the **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** and **OrphanAid Africa**, initiated the **Care Reform Initiative (CRI)** within the **Department of Social Welfare (DSW)** to strengthen the legal framework for alternative care and push forward deinstitutionalization.

The **Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)** program was introduced.



2010–2013

2010

The **National Standard Operational Procedure Manual for Residential Homes for Children (RHCs)** was developed.

The **National Plan of Action for Residential Homes for Orphans and Vulnerable Children** in Ghana was approved.

The **National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children**, with provisions for child and family welfare, was approved.



2014

2013

The **Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection** made public statements calling for reform of the national adoption system and ratification of the **Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (1993)**.

The **Government of Ghana** issued a moratorium on all domestic and intercountry adoptions on **20 May 2013** and began taking major steps to reform the national adoption system in Ghana.

In April 2013, **DSW**, with support from the **CRI** partners, facilitated the reintegration of **1,577** children back to their parents and extended families.



2016

2015

The **Justice for Children Policy** was developed in November 2015.

The **National Social Protection Policy** was developed in 2015.

The **Child and Family Welfare Policy** was launched in 2015.

USAID/DCOF provided funding to accelerate national childcare reform in December 2015.



2017

