HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN



### OUR PERFORMANCE

Highlights of 2021

# YEAR OF CHALLENGE



#### 2021 GAVE US THE TINIEST TASTE OF WHAT THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN FACE EVERY DAY, LOCKED AWAY IN **INSTITUTIONS**



Richard Greenhalgh Chair of the Board of Trustees

021 was a tough year. The shock of the Covid-19 pandemic that struck in 2020 turned into a brutal ■ 'normality' that for many, felt like it would never end. The isolation felt unbearable. Fear became an everyday feeling. Mundane routine and restrictions were the norm. These 'struggles' were felt, even within our privileged lives, where we still had access to food, shelter and family, even if we were unable to see our nearest and dearest in person.

2021 gave us the tiniest taste of what thousands of children face every day, locked away in institutions. For those children, and the vulnerable children most at risk from separation, the reality of 2021 and the ongoing pandemic was devastating.

Their need was, and still is, greater than ever. This grim reality fuelled our team's grit and determination to press on with our mission. Despite ongoing restrictions and challenges, planned closures of institutions continued, and with your support we helped distressed families build up their resources so that they could remain with and in some cases be reunited with their children who would otherwise be at risk.

I'm proud of how the team, across the globe, continued to pivot and adjust operations to provide vital resources to families, local communities and social workers to help more children receive their right to family.

Our advocacy team had a really impactful year too, working together with others in the sector and taking the lead with several initiatives in different fora including the European Union, United Nations and the Commonwealth.

The Board is now far more diverse than it was, and with remote meetings we can easily work with Trustees who are based outside the UK. Diversity also includes celebrating different viewpoints and the Board benefits from this, leading to high quality group decisions.

Finally on behalf of the Board I would like to thank all our staff, partners, and you, our supporters for the great contributions you made in different ways throughout 2021. At a time of great challenge we are so fortunate to have your support, and we look forward to continuing the work you enabled this year and beyond.

Devi (centre), lost her mum on a crowded railway platform and spent seven years alone in India's orphanage system. Then she met Neepa, a social worker with our partner Child in Need Institute, who against all odds located her lost parents.



### OUR 2021 PERFORMANCE



Mark Waddington,

y the end of 2021, the number of deaths from the global pandemic exceeded 5 million people. The majority were adults: mums, dads, grandparents. The Lancet estimated that for every two adults who died, one child lost a parent or primary carer. This suggests that close to 2.5 million children lost someone who loved and protected them.

Indeed, the true impact of the pandemic came into sharp relief last year. Health services, especially in countries where full coverage was already a struggle, were stretched beyond breaking point. The World Health Organisation estimates that the consequence of these additional costs on poor families has pushed, or further

pushed, half a billion people into extreme poverty. Knock-on effects like this were fatal: for the first time in ten years deaths from TB and malaria increased.

The combination of adult mortality, extreme poverty and the struggle to access vital health services, created a toxic cocktail. It drove families beyond their capabilities to care for and protect their children, placing many at risk of confinement in harmful orphanages. And so, in 2021 we faced a global crisis of care.

Our team responded. We adapted our Active Family Support model in countries like Rwanda and South Africa to help strengthen the resilience of some of the most vulnerable families, reducing the impact of and even overcoming some of the challenges they faced. The Active Family Support programmes delivered practical help including income-generating initiatives; help with childcare and counselling; access to employment, health services and vital medicines; and advice when it was most needed. Our approach built upon the spirit and strength of local communities, mobilised local resources, channelled local expertise and strengthened the service infrastructure so that

the families who required help, received it. This prevented children from being taken from their families in the first place. During 2021, because of your support, our prevention work benefited 65,060 children and carers.

Running alongside this prevention work was the investment we made in reuniting children confined in orphanages with their families and where this wasn't possible, developing alternative forms of family care. Consequently, several countries which previously incarcerated children in these institutions made great progress with reform. Moldova has now reduced the number of children in its orphanage system by over 90% and Bulgaria only has four baby institutions left to close.

Because of your generosity, our partners and our teams on the ground have not only been able to keep hope alive during a year when it might otherwise have been abandoned, but they have helped to transform the lives of many children who might otherwise have died or never known the love and protection of a family.

For this, we cannot thank you enough.

- https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/
- https://www.who.int/news/item/12-12-2021-more-than-half-a-billion-people-pushed-orpushed-further-into-extreme-poverty-due-to-health-care-costs

### **UWASE**

wase\* was abandoned on the streets of Rwanda's capital, Kigali, when she was only 10 months old.

She was found by the police, and when they couldn't trace her parents, they took her to an orphanage. For three terrible years, Uwase was neglected and ignored. And because of a disability in her leg, no one bothered to help her learn to walk. Instead, she was left alone and ignored. Just existing. Day in, day out.

Uwase desperately needed individual love and attention. She needed a family.

Gatete\* and Uwimana\* are a couple who heard about our initiative of reintegrating children from orphanages into families and decided to adopt a child themselves. "The training from Hope and Homes for Children really helped me to care

for Uwase," Uwimana says. "I was advised to avoid harmful punishments, and instead show the child love every time, and protect her from anything that might traumatise her any further."

Before long, we were accompanying Uwase to her new home. "It was a huge celebration, a pure joy," Uwimana remembers. "I felt very happy, just like a mother who has given birth to a new child.

"With the love and encouragement of her adoptive parents and five siblings, Uwase is thriving. Within four months in her new home, Uwase took her first steps.

Our team continued to support the family and ensure they had everything they needed, from money to cover Uwase's medical treatment and physiotherapy each month to counselling sessions.

THE TRAINING FROM

HOPE AND HOMES

FOR CHILDREN

REALLY HELPED ME

TO CARE FOR UWASE.

eight-year-old girl. She's doing well in school, loves to walk, run and play with her a family.

Uwimana\*, says, "I decided to adopt to give an orphan someone to call 'mum'

and 'dad'. If she'd stayed in the institution, maybe she'd never even have learned to walk. She was always alone in the dorm without anyone to take care of her. But now things are different. It's such a joy to see Uwase so happy and loved in my family.

team in Rwanda has now closed the orphanage and found family-based care for every child, so they can all grow up with the love of a family.

Today, Uwase is a bright, happy and independent siblings, and she feels a sense of love, belonging and safety from having

Uwase because I wanted

"Uwase is one of 26 children in the orphanage. Our

\*Names changed to protect identity.



**WE CREATE** 

**NEW FAMILIES** 

### OUR GLOBAL INFLUENCE



Michela Costa, Director of Global and EU Advocacy

he Covid-19 pandemic continued having a dramatic impact on the most vulnerable children and families throughout 2021.

With households under immense pressure, services overstretched, and government priorities focused on the response to - and recovery from - the pandemic, many families struggled to support their children. The harmful effects were not equally distributed, weighing heaviest on marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Through our advocacy efforts towards the UK Government, EU, Commonwealth, UN and global NGOs, we continued to apply pressure to ensure recovery plans focused on supporting vulnerable children and families to build stronger and more sustainable care systems, free from institutions.





### COUNTRIES OF INFLUENCE, 2021

Short-term strategic interventions in countries relevant to either established regional hubs or for the development of new regional hubs.

- Ghana, Kenya,
   Tanzania
- Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru



#### **European Union**

Our advocacy has helped strengthen the EU's commitment to care reform, notably with the approval of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, key regulations for the use of EU funds in the 2021-2027 period now include clear references to care reform. For the first time this also applies to development funding allocated outside of the EU.

#### Ukraine

We shed a light on care reform in Ukraine, reacting strongly against a Government decision to proceed with amendments to the care reform strategy which would leave behind thousands of children with disabilities. Alongside our civil society partners, we worked relentlessly to generate international pressure from the European Union and G7 embassies.

#### UN Geneva

We took a central role in a coalition of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) supporting preparations for the 2021 UN CRC Day of General Discussion on 'Children's Rights and Alternative Care'. Our joint work ensured that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Day of General Discussion on 'Children's Rights and Alternative Care' (DGD) was a great success, with over 200 submissions made and hundreds of participants at the event itself.

#### **Global Collaboration**

We played an active role in bringing the Global Collaborative Platform on Transforming Children's Care to life, participating in several initiatives and co-leading the Working Group on global advocacy. This community of organisations and actors engage in child protection and care reform, coming together to establish a more strategic sector-wide collaboration from a local to global level and undertake joint advocacy.

#### **BICON Conference in Asia**

We played a key role in organising the Biennial International Conference on Alternative care for Children in Asia (BICON), which took place on 8-9th December. The milestone conference influenced policy and practice for care reform across the region.

#### Transform Alliance Africa (TAA) Coalition

We continued working together with our partners towards our vision of an African continent free of orphanages and welcomed new member organisations.

#### **UK Government**

Working through the BOND Child Rights Group we continued influencing the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to prioritise care reform in its internal structures, policies and communication.

#### Commonwealth

We worked closely with the Government of Rwanda to ensure that care reform for children was on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting agenda, scheduled to take place in June 2022.

# OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Ștefan Dărăbuș, PhD MBA Director of Global Programmes

021 was history in the making. The year we got "used" to the pandemic. In my 24 years of frontline work in child protection I can't remember a time as uncertain and fast-changing. Yet, somehow, our teams in country programmes stayed on top of the challenges and kept thousands of children at home whilst also placing hundreds of other children into families and out of institutions.

Whilst covering new, unpredicted angles of action we didn't stop or stall our day-to-day job.
Be it in Eastern Europe, Africa, or Asia, we kept our projects on track. To gain even more traction, we diversified through online contact with colleagues in state

authorities, coordinated response with partners in other NGOs, and made it so that a growing number of children and families benefit from the life-changing actions we took for them.

Finally, in 2021, we took early decisions to respond to the financial constraints we anticipated.
Closing our operations in Sudan, Transnistria and Bosnia was an especially difficult decision, but we are proud that the impact of that work will live on in those countries.

As a growing number of partners back us up and come our way to collaborate on common projects – we must do right by them. We are honoured to continue doing this work with your support.



"In 2021 I was reminded, once again, why we should continue our work in child care reform and push to the eradication of residential institutions in the country and their replacement with family based, family type and community based services. In August 2021 we supported two siblings, aged 7 and 8 to move to a foster care family. They had spent their whole lives in an institution. They were in awe of the most mundane things – shops and streets and homes in their village. A fridge in their home filled with food they could eat any time they felt hungry and not only when lunch was on the schedule. I believe ALL children should have this freedom."



Anişoara, 11, and her four younger siblings didn't leave the house for weeks during quarantine. The only way they could keep in touch with the outside world was by using a simple mobile phone. Every week during lockdown our team made about 150 phone calls to talk with the families we work with, each remote intervention well thought-out and documented.

MOLDOVA

3

Orphanage closure programmes progressed

98

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

**507** 

Children supported to remain safely in families

3

Total number of orphanages worked with

32

Foster Families Recruited

358

Childcare and protection professionals trained



"2021 was a very intensive and dynamic year, full of political instability and various changes. We courageously followed our mission and vision and highlighted the importance of the closure of the four remaining baby institutions. Through the influence of the Coalition Childhood 2025 (a group comprising civil society organisations and networks and representing more than 150 NGOs from all over the country and others who work in the field of deinstitutionalisation) and its Child Participation Programme, deinstitutionalisation and care reform remained on track. No matter the situation, our field work with children and families

Elitsa Ivanova is a member of Hope and Homes for Children's specialist social work team in Bulgaria. She has worked tirelessly to help reunite children and parents so that we can close the last orphanages in Bulgaria.

### BULGARIA

2

Orphanage closure programmes completed

6

Total number of orphanages worked with

4

Orphanage closure programmes progressed

99

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

438

Children supported to remain safely in families



Ajla is now in a loving and caring environment with her new foster family, including her foster mum, Maja, grandparents and cousins. She can feel the love and care of her new family after spending most of her childhood in an orphanage.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

2

Orphanage closure programmes progressed

Foster Familie Recruited

2

Total number of orphanages worked with

**47** 

Children supported to remain safely in families

2

New family-type services established

44

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

**12**1

Childcare and protection professionals trained

1

New family support services established



"During a year marked by uncertainty and difficulties, we still found a way to help 1,779 children remain with their families, close 3 institutions and support 128 children to leave institutional care. We reunited 65 children with their families and provided support for 137 youngsters to start independent lives. We had a significant impact on national advocacy, by providing input on the Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights and to the Child Guarantee consultations."

"Ma'am, I'll do whatever it takes, just don't let them take our kids away." Ion sits with his children Gabrial and Alin in their home near Voluntari, Romania. When he couldn't find work as a day labourer, the family were at risk of separation. But with the Child Protection Department on board, we improved their living conditions and enrolled the children in school, so they could stay together.

# ROMANIA

3

Orphanage closure programmes completed

17

Total number of orphanages worked with

668

Children supported to remain safely in families

10

Orphanage closure programmes progressed

98

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

3

New family-type services established

4

Orphanages where we reduced the number of children confined or provided expertise

60

Orphanage care leavers supported to build independent lives

128

Childcare and protection professionals trained



"You have given to me birth five times" Valerie explained, meaning our Rwanda team has saved her life in five different ways: By giving three of her children places at the Community Hub to receive day care and extra food it became possible for Valerie to train as a tailor and earn money for her family. During this time ongoing visits from our social workers gave her courage and hope. Finally, further emergency support from Hope and Homes for Children, not only kept her family together but literally saved their lives.

"Last year was a key turning point in our engagement with government and other decision-makers on disability-inclusive childcare reform. Through a government collaboration we guaranteed equal opportunities for children with disabilities to access family-based care, including supportive community-based prevention and care services. This strong foundation will keep advancing childcare reform in our country."

### RWANDA

1

Orphanage closure programmes progressed

1

Total number of orphanages worked with

3

Orphanage care leavers supported to build independent lives

**1237** 

Childcare and protection professionals trained

6

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

57,803
Children supported to remai

safely in families

lew family supp

New family support services established

## MIHĂESCU FAMILY

efore the pandemic, the Mihāescu\* family were already struggling to support their five young children, so when Covid hit, things went from bad to worse.

lon\*, the children's father used to work in construction, but after lockdown he couldn't find work. And the mother, Cristina\*, was on a break from her drycleaning job to look after their new-born baby, Gina\*, with minimum pay.

When we met them, in March 2021, none of the children were in school. The entire family was living in just one nine-square-metre room, without electricity, heat or gas. And they got water from a nearby well.

Ion and Cristina urgently needed some support. But instead, the authorities threatened to take their precious children. "If the children are not enrolled in

school and your living conditions don't improve, we have no other option but to put all the children in an institution," the representative from the Child Protection Department (CPD) told them.

Appalled, and determined to prevent this from happening – Andreea, one of our expert social workers in Romania, stepped in to help. "I had to propose a plan to the CPD. 'We'll help with improving the living conditions and enrolling the kids in school,' I said. 'Will that work as a rapid intervention?' Luckily, they were on board."

The CPD and the local City Hall helped with enrolling all the children in school. And we supplied the family with basic staples like food, clothing and hygiene items.

Next, we focused on bringing electricity in, and getting a fridge, washing machine and woodburning stove. For the first time, there was heat inside the home. We bought construction supplies like bricks, cement —everything that was needed to build a permanent, second room for the family."



MA'AM, I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES, JUST DON'T LET THEM TAKE OUR KIDS AWAY.



Ion did everything. He was a brick mason, a carpenter, a roofer, depending on what was needed," says Andreea. "He kept repeating, 'Ma'am, I'll do whatever it takes, just don't let them take our kids away.'

"Thankfully, construction sites were soon allowed to re-open, so lon was out working every day to provide income for the

family. And Cristina will return to her job as soon as Gina turns two.

"We wouldn't have made it without you," says Cristina. "I would never let go of my children."

Our work with the Mihăescus is ongoing, but with our help, and Andreea's dedication, the children will continue to receive the love and care of their family.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



21





Despite severe shortages, our team in Ukraine have helped to supply essential hygiene equipment to The Emergency Reception Centre in Dniproa pioneering short-term care service for children whose families are in crisis. This helps keep vulnerable families together and children safe from orphanages.



Despite all the turmoil of the past year, through sheer resilience, innovation and courage we have achieved a moratorium on 0 – 3 year olds entering institutions, an expansion of our projects, and we are forging ahead for National Care Reform by 2024!

### UKRAINE

2

Orphanages where we reduced the number of children confined or provided expertise

2

Total number of orphanages worked with

95

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

hildren supported to remo

1,366
Childcare and protection professionals trained

### SOUTH AFRICA

19

Orphanages where we reduced the number of children confined or provided expertise

10

Total number of orphanages worked with

**75** 

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

**202** 

Children supported to remain safely in families

79

Foster Families Recruited

Childcare and protection professionals trained

"In collaboration with UNICEF and India Alternative Care Network (IACN) we developed a national 'FAQ' document on 'Care Reform' in India. We supported a number of states to develop care reform strategies including training over 500 officials from 10 Districts in Odisha State. In Jharkhand we prevented 448 children from being separated from their families, reintegrated 28 children to their families, strengthened 902 families and trained over 2700 professionals. We reduced the length of time children stay in one orphanage we're working with from over two years (2018) to less than three months (2021)."



In May 2021, Sonia's father died from Covid; without the income he provided, she was at risk of being trafficked for child marriage, child labour or prostitution. Our expert local partners, Children In Need Institute (CINI), provided Sonia's mother Radha with the support she needed to keep her family together.





For seven long years Buddhi Maya had not seen her daughter, Maya, while she was in the orphanage. "Every night when I tucked my three daughters to sleep, I missed Maya and imagined her sleeping peacefully next to her sisters but the emptiness always made me cry."

NEPAL

5

Orphanages where we reduced the number of children confined or provided expertise

**23** 

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care 448

Children supported to remain safely in families

Total number of orphanages worked with

7

Foster Families Recruited

104

Childcare and protection professionals trained

5

Orphanages where we reduced the number of children confined or provided expertise

dren transitione

Children transitioned from orphanages into family or community care

5

Total number of orphanages worked with

Children supported to remain safely in families

132

Childcare and protection professionals trained

### OUR PROJECTS IN DEPTH

Rwanda's Covid lockdown put Shema and his mum, Keza's future together in danger – until Hope and Homes for Children stepped in to help, with food and essentials.





Angharad McKenzie Director of Global Marketing, Communications and Fundraisina

021 saw the world begin to adjust on its axis, as individuals, families, businesses and whole countries moved from an emergency response to a global pandemic, to the new 'Covid-19 adjusted' normal.

As the world reflected on what had been learned through 2020, thinking emerged to shape new strategies for living, working and social change in an environment that had, and would continue to, radically transform human interaction, travel, delivery of services and commerce.

And it is in that context that our work took on even greater significance – because not only did vulnerability of children and families increase in response to rising poverty, but for every Covid-19 related adult death, one child lost a primary care-giver.

Over the following pages, our colleagues share updates on the progress made across the globe, together with the support of our partners, during a year of radical transformation.

In Rwanda, we maintained our commitment to leaving no child behind, closing out our project with UK Aid, to demonstrate that disability inclusive, family-based solutions are possible for all children, whilst in Moldova

we worked with children with hearing impairments to integrate them with community life, attend mainstream schools and enjoy their life and family.

Across our programmes in Europe, we made meaningful progress on the elimination of orphanages, ending 2021, with only four orphanages remaining in Bulgaria and less that 3,700 children in orphanages in Romania. And, in support of this goal, our team rallied in response to a U-turn in the national strategy for child-care and protection reform in Ukraine, that would have put progress back significantly – of course, this work has since been super-ceded in 2022.

And across our programmes in South Africa and in India and Nepal, where we worked with our partners CINI and Forget me Not, we shifted district and national level reform forward. Of particular note is the successful our colleagues in South Africa saw with a moratorium secured in Gauteng province to stop children aged 0 – 3 years entering government institutions. This was a key step forward to achieving roll-out of the moratorium to include 175 NGOmanaged institutions in Gauteng Province, from January 2022.

Underpinning all of this, we increased our commitment to hearing from and responding to the voices of children as we developed a programme called Our Voices Matter through which we are increasing our accountability to the children we are here to serve.

Whilst Covid-19 changed many things in 2021, it did not change the commitment of our colleagues and partners to ensuring children grow up where they belong: in safe, loving families. And thankfully, it only served to increase that same commitment for everyone who supports this work. Thank you.



gainst a backdrop of political instability, we successfully implemented our **Active Family Support** model to address the complex needs of children and families at risk. With the support of the Velux Foundations and Medicor we continued to improve the welfare of the families and children and work hard for the elimination of the institutional care in the country. We're so proud that following this work, there are now only four institutions left in Bulgaria.

By finding new and creative ways of working with children and families in need, the team continued to be seen as a reliable and trusted partner by Child Protection Departments (CPD) and other local authorities. The relationship meant the team were able to be in constant communication with the CPD to provide quick turnaround, yet personalised solutions to children and families in crisis.

We continued lobbying of the Ministry of Health and Agency for Social Assistance was also of critical importance to the development of the de-institutionalisation process and closure of the final four Homes for Medical and Social Care for Children (HMSCC).

Putting a new focus on the work of the Childhood Coalition 2025, we offered support to the Ministry by directing resources and knowhow to ensure a child's right to family remained at the heart of the process of removing children from HMSCC. The team also continued to rally regional and local players to successfully support the transition of children and young people from small group homes, showcasing the benefits of this type of collaboration. This intensive work with the new Government was done through the coordination and communication of Coalition Childhood 2025, led by our team here in Bulgaria.

### MOLDOVA

n 2021 we lived through a second year of pandemics, energy and economic crisis and political instability. This was in addition to what the families we work with were already facing including the extreme poverty which so often leads to separation from their children. Throughout the pandemic, We even turned the crisis into the efforts to reunite families, prevent child separation and support the expansion of fostercarers were met with barriers: travel and meeting restrictions, quarantines, lockdowns and also the fragility of health and social protection systems.

Despite these obstacles we were able to support 745 children and their families - to remain together, to enjoy the love and protection of a family and community, or to leave the isolation of residential institutions forever.

opportunity, providing online training and information sessions to over 21,000 social and education professionals and local authorities.

With RELX's support, we worked with children with hearing disabilities and their families. We provided them with professional help to integrate them with

community life, attend mainstream schools and enjoy their life and family. A beautiful moment the team will always remember is when an 8-year old boy was able to say, for the first time, 'Mama'.

Finally, we were involved in the shaping of Moldova's five year policy framework: the 2022-2026 National Child Protection Programme. We continued our advocacy on a national and regional level (via EU-Moldova Human Rights Dialogue) and alliance and coalition building with partner organisations, media and businesses.





Preethi, a local community volunteer trained by CINI, has been using a new app, KoboCollect, to identify and support families in crisis quickly and efficiently - meaning fewer vulnerable children at risk in Jharkhand state, India.

n partnership with UNICEF and the India Alternative Care Network (IACN), we developed a 'FAQ' document on 'Care Reform' in India, which will help states with their actions to reform care systems. This FAQ will be distributed in 2022 and will be a significant resource in continuing to build momentum for care reform support programs, disseminate in India.

As a part of our 'Knowledge Partnership' with UNICEF India we trained and supported over 500 officials across 10 districts in Odisha State and started to work with new states including Tamil Nadhu, Kerala and Karnataka. This partnership is a critical part of advancing care reform at a national level as well as providing states with a practical strategy for care reform development and implementation.

Four Safe Spaces (community hubs) in Jharkhand were handed over to the community to run, creating sustainability and community ownership. We continue to monitor the Safe Spaces and provide support and guidance. The Safe Spaces continue to provide catch-up education for out-of-school children, link vulnerable families to welfare health and child protection information and also host a wide range of community functions and activities such as the Child Protection Communities (CPC's), Women's groups, Adolescent groups and Parental classes.

We have been able to further reduce the length of time children stay in one of the orphanages we are working with from over two years (2018) to less than three months (2021), as we strengthened the social work, case management and reintegration practices. The Premashray orphanage for girls in Ranchi, Jharkhand is now an

'emergency centre' where children can be supported to be safely reintegrated with their families in a timely manner as to reduce their exposure to institutionalisation.

Emergency Covid-19 funding was received from the OAK Foundation to support the communities we work in. We developed and rolledout a mobile phone 'app' that helped community and health workers identify children at risk of separation and link them to support services, preventing over 60 children from being separated from their families.

Momentum for care reform has exceeded our expectations and we have seen a significant demand for training and support. We are extremely grateful to the OAK Foundation, Allen and Overy and other partners for their essential support in helping build this momentum.

#### NEPAL

ur ongoing work to reintegrate children with their families contributed to the closure of a further nine institutions in 2021 and supported 40 children to go home to their families.

Together with our project partners, Forget Me Not and The Himalayan Innovative Society we've now trained 247 local and national government and NGO professionals on family reintegration and case management. This included providing training to 25 orphanage operators on best practices for reintegration. In addition, National Child Protection agencies have now officially recognised the need for a minimum of three years monitoring and follow-up for children who've been reunited with their families.

We provided food, health and educational support to 1,230

families and their children who were identified as extremely vulnerable to separation due to the devastating effects of the pandemic such as loss of livelihoods or health issues. Without this basic support they were struggling to survive with their children at risk of separation through trafficking, child labour etc.

We therefore also intensified our efforts to prevent trafficking in a province known to be a key location for children trafficked to institutions, by educating local government officials on the harm of institutionalisation and key child protection laws and policies. In addition, community outreach workers have reached 20,437 adults and children in vulnerable communities to raise awareness on harms of family separation and how to access support. Our pilot of gatekeeping and alternative care services within two

municipalities gained traction and local authorities have now agreed to transition two institutions, housing 74 children. Funds that were supporting these institutions will now support children in their families

Together with our partners we've strengthened Nepal's representation in regional and global events, including BICON and the UNCRC Day of General Discussion on Alternative Care.

> Tika, Prani, Deepa and Sonika are finally reunited with their families by reintegration officers from our local partners Forget me Not and The Himalayan Innovative Society. They'd spent years alone, in orphanages funded by the tourist trade.



Our projects in depth

Our projects in depth



The history of Hope and Homes for Children began in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Ever since 1994, we've been working there to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children, trapped in orphanages or at risk of being separated from their families. However, we have made the difficult decision to cease operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We closed our office there at the end of 2021, with our final work in the country being the pilot closure of the Bjelave institution, which the government can learn from and use to continue childcare reform at a national scale.

ike all our other country programmes, we faced many challenges in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)

during 2021. In addition to lockdowns we were also met with the challenge of the government's priorities during the pandemic not always aligning with our own goals and ambitions for the year.

Yet, we still had many reasons to celebrate. In our day-to-day

work, we directly helped prevent 34 children from 11 families from family separation and supported the transition of 38 children from the Bjelave institution to better, long-term solutions for their care and development.

We also supported the creation and opening of a Day Centre for Children at Risk of Separation, a second Shared Family Home and the first family type apartment (FTA), all in Sarajevo. Alongside our work with families, we provided training on different topics to 245 (204 of which were new) social services managers, foster carers, child care professionals, social work students and journalists.

In September, the Law on Parent Caregiver was adopted at the House of Peoples of the Federation of BiH and will be enforced, granting the parent of a child with disabilities a monthly allowance of 406KM (£175). In addition, they will receive contributions for pension and disability insurance and employability insurance. If there are 2 children in the family, both parents receive the benefits.

Finally, we wrote and published a Best Practice Manual on Fostering was, representing a collective effort between ourselves and the Sarajevo University to bring together theoretical and practical aspects of foster care. During a meeting with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in November 2021, a representative described Hope and Homes for Children as a "leader in the DI process and a pioneer in child protection system reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Despite these successes, we ultimately had to make the very

sad decision to close our Bosnia Programme at the end of the year, to respond to financial constraints. We are so incredibly proud of our team and the positive impact they have had for so many children and families now and in the future as a result of their work and dedication.

 $^{32}$ 



When Carrol was three-years old, he was separated from his twin sister and eft to fend for himself in an orphanage. His parents made the heart-breaking decision to admit their son to an orphanage when they could see no other way to meet his additional needs. Our specialist team in Rwanda gave Carrol's parents the confidence to believe that they could care for their son themselves and tailored support to make this possible. Now that Carrol has been reunited with his family, he has parents to love him and siblings to play with and so he's growing stronger and more mobile every day.

021 was a year full of milestones. We increased the number of children now secure with the protection, care and love of a family by supporting a total of 51,446 vulnerable children, including 6 children with disabilities to transition from the from Centre Inchuti Zacu (CIZ) to family based care. We also prevented 51,120 children from family separation through Active Family Support and Community Development Network groups. This included preventing 20 children from being institutionalized and enduring the harm these inflict in

With the end of No Child Left Behind, a three-year UK Aid Match project implemented in Rwanda and Uganda, evidence was collected to further inform deinstitutionalization initiatives in both countries and a national roadmap to close remaining institutions in Rwanda.

During the 4th EAC regional conference on disability (organised in collaboration with the National Council of Persons with Disability), we ensured family based care for children with disabilities became a priority by engaging 100 people from Rwandan government bodies, local and international NGOs, media, and representatives from

EAC countries including Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, and South Sudan.

The team didn't stop there though. We also transformed former orphanages for persons with disabilities into community hubs and trained 207 Community Volunteers from 9 districts to support in the identification and prevention of children including children with disabilities at risk of family separation.

Finally, in 2021 we trained and approved 99 foster carers, including 55 special foster carers for children with disabilities.

#### ROMANIA

ur team worked countrywide to transform the child protection system and to provide the best alternative for every child, in an uncertain and difficult environment. We managed to progress with the closure of institutions and, thanks to the contribution of The Melbreak Trust, we opened a Small Group Home (SGH) in Bucharest and closed down the last institution, making this district institution-free.

We would like to acknowledge the important contribution of The Seneca Trust, Dave and Maria Allard, Sands Wealth Management and Wellesley Wealth Advisory, who funded a project to close down one of the last two remaining institutions in Bistrita-Nasaud County, for children with severe special needs. By the end of 2021, two SGHs were close to completion, with another one for young adults being planned.

Despite Covid-19 having a significant impact on the way we work, we were still able to create and support a sustainable child protection system through our preventative programmes, resulting in 1,779 children remaining with their families.

Advocacy is also at the core of our activity, both internally and externally. In Romania, we provided input to the central government and authorities regarding the new National Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights, adding value by sharing important handson experience and insights. We also provided input during the consultations organised for the implementation of the Child Guarantee and of the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Romania.

"If you have ever experienced the fear of loss or abandonment, you know what children in orphanages have to live with, day after day. Say #IAmHere for the children in orphanages". This was the voice we gave the most vulnerable children in Romania with our 2021 communication and fundraising campaign. This TV and a radio commercial, along with an offline activation engaging hundreds of people talked about being alone, abandoned, terrified. A feeling we have all experienced at least once in our lives.





the first place.

### KALOYAN AND MARIA

I CRIED CONSTANTLY

WHEN I SIGNED

TO GIVE THEM UP

**BECAUSE I GREW UP** 

WITHOUT A MOTHER

OR A FATHER.

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wins Kaloyan\* and Maria\* spent the first Back home, she could not bear it. "I neither five months of their lives in a Romanian orphanage, after ill-health threatened to tear their family apart.

Their mother, Tanya\*, became pregnant when she was abroad earning money for

the family. Her husband, Ivan\*, agreed to stand by her, even though the babies were not his, and Kaloyan and Maria were born soon after Tanya returned home.

It was a traumatic birth that left Tanya suffering from post-natal depression. At the same time, Ivan was admitted to hospital with a heart condition.

Tanya felt completely alone. "I listened to the nurses in the hospital who behaved very badly," she remembers. "They said, 'How can you even want to look at your black children? Better you give them up, right?'

"With no one to support her, Tanya felt she had no choice and made the heartbreaking decision to leave Kaloyan and Maria in an orphanage."

"I cried constantly when I signed to give them up because I grew up without a mother or a father. They left me in a home very young, and I just didn't want my children to be the way I was." ate nor slept peacefully, just wondering how my kids were in this orphanage without me?".

Tanya was desperate to be reunited with her babies. And Ivan supported her, despite the prejudice he knew they would face -as everyone

> in their community would know the twins were not his biological children.

It has been a tough practical, bureaucratic and legal hurdles that have stood in their way, has been beside them all the way.

Our social worker, Margarita Andreevksa,

and emotional support they needed to bring the twins home and care for them for good. And when the twins were five months, Margarita went with Tanya to fetch them and continued supporting them in the months that followed.

of attention in their happy home. They love their toys, especially picture books that make sounds. Because of his health issues, Ivan does most of the

"Everything was just wall after wall, after wall, after wall", Ivan says, "But here we are and we

fight to overcome all the but our team in Bulgaria

ensured that Tanya and Ivan had all the practical

Today Kaloyan and Maria are four and the centre childcare while Tanya works as a street cleaner.

are still one.

\*Names changed to protect identity.





hroughout 2021, we strove for changes in child care legislation, meetings, a set of amendments to the basic regulatory act – the Family Code of Ukraine – were

child care legislation, with a particular focus on younger children and babies. This resulted in meaningful progress toward a moratorium on the entry of children under 3 into institutions. We then prepared and submitted a draft amendment to the law on the development of the support system for children and families. Our team also started an introductory ban on the placement of young children in institutions.

Following a series of meetings with the Working Group on the development of a draft amendment to Ukrainian law, we made significant strides forward to ensure the rights of infants and create positive conditions for early childhood development. The group included representatives of the Ministries of Social Policy, Education, Health Care, and the Office of the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as employees of services providers and NGOs. As a result of the

Finally, and in cooperation with our partners, we used our advocacy efforts to resist the approval of a harmful and unacceptable draft Order "On Amendments to the National Strategy of Reforming the System of Institutional Care and Upbringing of Children for 2017–2026", which aimed to roll back de-institutionalisation reform. Our advocacy efforts stopped the draft

discussed and developed.

This work didn't stop the day-to-day efforts to support the most vulnerable children and families though. We worked with families facing difficult life circumstances to prevent their babies being taken away from them; reunited children with families or moved them into family-based care and rolled out new and improved social support services across several regions of the country.

document from being approved.

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

espite the impact of Covid-19 lockdowns, violent riots and looting in the latter part of the year, the first initial Care Reform Roundtable event was hosted in Pretoria with 11 organisations participating in the event. We also hosted and conducted six care reform workshops across the Eastern Cape, Free State, North-West and Western provinces and received an invitation from the Northern Cape Province to join in the Care Reform coalition

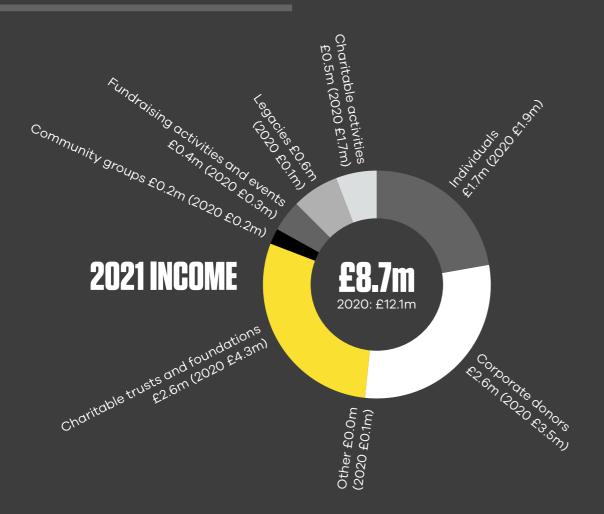
The team also led on the development of a care leavers programme, targeting children

and young people aged 11 to 24 years old with the National Department of Social Development formally requesting an evaluation on the implementation of the programme. Through interdepartmental collaboration, including the Department of Infrastructure Development we re-purposed the three closed institutions in Gauteng Province to provide the infrastructure for the 'step-down' and student-type accommodation for Care-leavers engaged in tertiary training and studies.

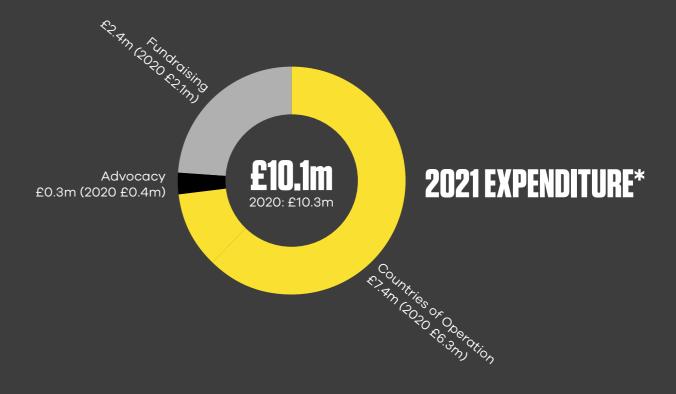
We also succeeded in unlocking previously unspent government budget to support Temporary Safety Parents. This was supported by the legal precedent set in our successful application to the Daveyton Children's Court for an emergency sitting in the case of a trafficked child, where we applied for a Court Order placing the child into the care of Temporary Safety Parents while investigative and reunification work took place.

By the end of 2021, our South African team celebrated that there were no children aged 0-3 years remaining in government institutions in Gauteng Province.





\*Note: Expenditure includes Support Costs of £0.8m (2020 £0.8m) allocated between the categories below.



### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



Mark Shadrack Chief Operating Officer

fter record income and a significant surplus in 2020, 2021 was much more challenging financially. Crucially, our planning processes enabled us to anticipate this, and we were able to adapt our expenditure plans so that, with the continued generosity of our supporters, we could navigate successfully through this scenario.

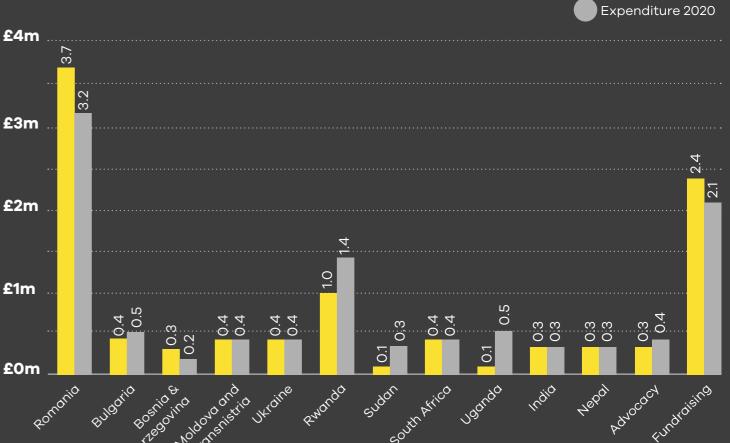
Total income in 2021 was £8.7 million, a decrease of £3.4m versus 2020. Key project and grant

agreements reached a conclusion during 2021, we were lapping our highly successful emergency appeal, and the continued impact of Covid-19 delayed a return to major fundraising events

Investment levels were broadly maintained at levels similar to those in 2020, and we spent £10m delivering the impact set out in this report. The resulting operational deficit of £1.3m was predominantly (£1.0m) in restricted funds as we spent restricted income in line with our plan.

#### **2021 EXPENDITURE - IN DETAIL:**





# THANK YOU!

#### **INDIVIDUALS**

- All our Volunteer Speakers
- All our Friends of Hope and Homes for Children
- Mauricio Arditti
- The Finborough Foundation
- James and Laura Amos
- David and Maria Allard
- Marcus and Paula Alexander
- Nicholas and Venetia Wrigley
- Terry and David McMurtry
- Malcolm and Jo Rolfe
- David Briggs
- Keith & Julia Masdin
- The Hope 50 Cycle Team
- Michael and Claire Wright
- David and Amanda Leathers

"We were deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of David Leathers, and are so grateful for his support over the past 25 years"

#### **ORGANISATIONS**

- The Ashla Charitable Trust
- Deutsche Bank
- St James's Place Charitable Foundation
- Allen and Overy
- The Seneca Trust
- The Fairness Foundation
- Butt Family through The Cavella Foundation
- Clifford Chance
- Buxted Construction
- All our Support Groups
- Midlands Ball Committee
- Swapping Seats Committee
- The Persula Foundation
- Boodles
- Riviera Travel
- BGC Brokers LP
- RELX
- FLM

- Corton Hill Trust
- The Frank & Phillis Scotto Trust Fund
- Martin James Foundation
- MedicorFoundation Lichtenstein
- The Melbreak Charitable Trust
- Oak Foundation
- Ocorian Trustees
- Postcode Justice Trust
- The Ranworth Trust 1985
- The Reuben Foundation
- The Schroder Foundation
- The Seneca Trust
- ShareGift
- Souter Charitable Trusts
- Thomas J Horne Memorial Trust
- UBS Optimus Foundation
- Van Mesdag Fund
- THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS
- UK aid from the UK Government

#### **TRUSTEES**

- Richard Greenhalgh (Chair)
- Mark Grinonneau (Treasurer until June 2021)
- Ramesh Parmar (Treasurer from July 2021)
- Vicky Bruce
- Matthew Banks
- Malcolm Sweeting

- Camilla Otto
- Anna Segall
- Mike Thiedke
- Dr Chikondi Mpokosa
- Girish Menon
- Dr Maria Herczog
- Ruchira Neotia

#### **PATRONS**

- Kate Adie OBE DL
- Martin Bell OBE
- Matt Bell
- General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL
- Rick Foulsham CMG
- David Furnish
- Nick Hewer
- Alastair Humphreys
- The Lady Jopling MBE
- Jay Jopling

- Gordon McInally
- The Rt Hon Sir
- Donald McKinnon ONZ GCVO
- Natalie Pinkham
- Lily Safra
- Dame Kristin Scott Thomas DBE
- The Rt Hon The Lord Selkirk of Douglas PC QC
- Sam Taylor-Johnson OBE
- James Whiting
- Claire Wright

"We were deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of our longterm patron, Lily Safra, and are so grateful for her support over the past 20 years"

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

• Mark Waddington CBE

#### **SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM**

- Mark Shadrack, Chief Operating
- Michela Costa, Director of Global and EU Advocacy
- Ștefan Dărăbuș PhD MBA, Director of Global Programmes
- Angharad McKenzie, Director of Global Marketing, Communications and Fundraising

#### **FOUNDERS**

- Caroline Cook OBE
- Mark Cook OBE

#### WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SPECIAL MENTION TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

Our loyal supporters who have hosted online and in-person events; taken on personal challenges; pledged their special occasions; donated the money they would have spent on days out during lockdown; and committed their time in many different ways — all to raise money for Hope and Homes for Children.

Everyone in our generous giving community who continue to make regular donations and who have pledged a gift in their Will.

All those who have made significant contributions to our work in 2021 and wish to remain anonymous.



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