



hope and homes  
for children



**Your impact**  
in 2018

# Always family. Never orphanages.

Orphanages do not protect children. They harm them. Which is why, with your support, we are working towards a day where every child can grow up in a loving family.

Over the past 25 years, Hope and Homes for Children has worked tirelessly to establish itself as a global expert in preventing family breakdown and supporting children to grow up with the love and support of families. With your help we are keeping families together; reuniting families; and creating new families, and in doing so building a global movement that will eliminate orphanages in our lifetime.

## Our mission

To be the catalyst for the global elimination of institutional care of children.

## Our vision

A world in which children no longer suffer institutional care.

## On the cover

Thanks to your support, baby Dragos is growing up with his Mum, Elena, to love and protect him. Your generosity enabled our team in Moldova to support his family through a crisis and stop Dragos and his siblings being sent to an orphanage. Instead, they are all still together and thriving as a family.

Photo: CCF Moldova

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# Transforming the world for children.



**Mark Waddington**  
Chief Executive

**It really is incredible what a small number of supporters can help an organisation like Hope and Homes for Children to achieve. And 2018 provides another great example of this.**

With your help we continued to progress the reform of child care and protection in Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Bosnia, Ukraine, Rwanda, Sudan, South Africa, India and Uganda, and we started a new pilot project in Nepal. We worked on the highest number of concurrent orphanage closures in our history: 39. This is the business end of the stick. It's where we work alongside local authorities to prevent children from being placed in institutions, and reunite many who are confined in them back with their families or in alternative forms of family care.

This work is so important because it enables us to operate successfully as a catalyst. By demonstrating that closures can be properly achieved we are able to develop practice and expertise at the cutting edge of reform, and amass the evidence needed to inform the planning of services and policies that will benefit many more children.

Governments are taking note.

During 2018 we worked with the Department for International Development toward a cross-government statement that was announced by the Secretary of State at the first Global Disability Summit. This statement clearly recognised the harm inflicted by orphanages and the importance of ensuring that children grow up with the love and protection of a family.

It was a landmark moment. In particular it served as a lightning rod that helped us to launch our Private Sector Task Force. This includes some of the largest and most influential UK-based international businesses, that have distilled a mandate from the official statement for their work to help drive reform at a global level.

Being able to connect our work with individual children and families, in a way that their voices and experiences can shape policy, is absolutely vital. It ensures that decisions made at the highest level not only deliver a meaningful impact in their lives, but remain relevant in the lives of the many children and families we are unable to work with directly.

In spite of the success you are helping us to deliver, there is a growing urgency, more so than ever before. For every three months that a child under the age of three spends in institutional care, they lose one month of physical growth. The neurological evidence shows that the kind of neglect typical in most orphanages also inhibits the development of brain architecture, and emotional and cognitive testing places children in this 0–3 age bracket far behind those living in typical families.

Our team of just 24 Bulgarian staff, led by our Country Director, Joro, have delivered the closure of 16 institutions for babies. That's half of all the institutions for babies in Bulgaria.

And it gets better. The remaining baby institutions house just 480 out of the 2,334 children under three who were being confined in them when we started this work several years ago. It doesn't end there! In delivering these closures we have cut off one of the primary routes into institutions for older children. We estimate that this alone has made a significant contribution to the closure of 43 of those institutions. This is what your sustained support is enabling us to achieve.

Thanks to you, Vasile, baby Atanas and Tatyana are growing up together with parents to love and protect them instead of alone in an orphanage. Your generosity meant our team in Bulgaria was able to support their family to stay together when poverty and ill health threatened to tear them apart.

In 2018 the Deputy Minister for Labour and Social policy confirmed to me that an Executive Order had been agreed that will prevent a typical child of any age being referred into a state orphanage.

But what of children living with disability? Well, at the beginning of the reform process the number of disabled children confined within the system was approximately 3,500. We now have that number down to 380. Soon enough, no child in Bulgaria, whether they are living with a disability or not, will be isolated from their community and family, locked up in austere buildings run by regiments of uniformed medical staff located miles outside of the towns they are from.

Our team is rightly proud of what they are achieving in Bulgaria, as they are in the other countries they operate in. I know how very grateful they are for the support you provide that enables them to do this.

During 2019, we will continue to make progress toward ending the institutionalisation of children at national level in Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova and Rwanda. We will also be further developing ways to ensure that children living with disabilities are included in the reform process—they are very often left behind. The Provincial and District pilots we have established in South Africa, Ukraine, Sudan, Bosnia, India and Uganda will be an important focus for us in 2019, to explore ways in which we can scale our impact in these locations nationally. And we will be harnessing all this experience and expertise in taking forward the new project in Nepal, where large numbers of children are being actively taken from their families and exploited in orphanages for fundraising, labour, and—in the worst cases—for trafficking.

From myself, and all our staff and partner organisations across the many countries like Bulgaria where we are successfully delivering reform, thank you. Thank you so very much for your help and support. ❤️



“  
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# At a glance.

# 42,846

**Children prevented** from being separated from their families and entering an institution in 2018.

# 780

**Children supported** to move out of institutions and into family and community-based care in 2018.

# 9,353

Social workers, child protection and other childcare **professionals and volunteers trained** in 2018.

# 6

**Orphanages closed** in 2018 (totalling 109 since 1999).

**National partners;** carefully selected, specialist NGOs in our countries of operation and influence.

**Countries of influence,** where we are working closely with governments, civil society and NGOs to effect change.

**National programmes;** established, locally staffed programmes to reform and build national child protection systems.

**Strategic projects,** demonstrating how child protection systems can be successfully reformed.

**Orphanages** where we have provided advice and expertise to support a closure programme.

# 120

# 24

# 7

# 4

# 39



Thanks to your support, Aaron is growing up in a family, not an orphanage. Social workers trained by our team in Ukraine have given his parents the help they need to meet his special needs at home.

## Priority 1. 5,000 social workers, child protection and other childcare professionals and volunteers trained

**Outcome: In 2018, with your support, we trained 9,353 social workers, child protection and other childcare professionals and volunteers.**

Replacing damaging orphanages with child protection systems that ensure all children can grow up in a safe and loving family environment takes time, skill and understanding. That's why training the social workforce needed to deliver reform in the countries where we work is so essential.

### Highlights

#### Ukraine: Training the trainers

With your support we have developed and gained Government approval for Ukraine's first ever Deinstitutionalisation (DI)\* Training Programme. This vital work is equipping specialists involved in the countrywide reform process to train the social workforce that will deliver the closure of the remaining orphanages and develop the family and community-based services required for all children to grow up in a family, never orphanages.

"You have trained a 'landing party' capable of spreading the Deinstitutionalisation across Ukraine."

"When we have a critical mass of like-minded DI supporters, we will never allow this process to reverse. And our role as trainers is to increase the number of such people."

Participants in Hope and Homes for Children Ukraine's Deinstitutionalisation Training Programme 2018

\*Deinstitutionalisation (DI) is not only the process of closing orphanages and other institutions that are harmful for children. DI also entails the comprehensive transformation of child protection systems to support families to care for their children at home and to ensure high quality family and community-based care alternatives for children who cannot return to their birth families.

# Reporting back.

In 2018, we set ourselves eight priorities to maximise the impact of our work on the lives of children. Here's what your support has helped us to achieve.



#### Romania: Sharing skills, knowledge and experience

Iași is one of the largest and poorest counties in Romania with the highest rate of children confined to orphanages and families at risk of separation. In this one area alone, your generosity last year meant we were able to deliver training to over 400 professionals involved in reforming the child protection system.

With your support, in 2018, we successfully closed the Veniamin Costache Institution in Iași and supported 67 children to move to family or community-based care. We are in the process of closing a second large institution in the county.

The transformative work taking place in Iași county is part of a major three-year project, made possible thanks to the generous support of Medicor Foundation.

“  
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#### Bulgaria: Improving care for children with disabilities

With your help, we have delivered training to more than 100 specialists across Bulgaria who work in Family-Type Placement Centres for children with disabilities. This targeted programme supports care-givers to understand the special needs of children and young people with both physical and learning disabilities and identify innovative new ways to make sure their care has the greatest positive impact on children's lives.

“You made me believe that everything is possible!”

Participant in Hope and Homes for Children Bulgaria's training course on caring for children with disabilities

#### South Africa: Laying the foundations for better care

As part of our pilot project in South Africa, we have trained 248 social workers in family support and foster care across Gauteng Province. Those taking part learned about our flagship Active Family Support model, developed by Hope and Homes for Children to help social workers support vulnerable families to stay together. We also delivered Foster Care training as part of ongoing work to build the skilled child protection workforce needed to ensure orphanages are never an option.

#### Zambia: Sharing skills to improve children's lives

To help build momentum for child protection reform, we shared knowledge and expertise and provided training to key Government personnel who work directly with children and their families across three Provinces and five Districts in Zambia. In response to a Government request, we also provided hands-on support to District and Province Social Welfare Officers to close two orphanages identified as providing poor care including one for children under three. With your support we are helping to trace the families of the children who have suffered in silence and reunite them—essential work to ensure the closure of the orphanages for good.

Participants in a training course for social workers in Malawi.



#### Malawi: Reintegration training brings children home

Thanks to your support, 81 children from four districts in Malawi have returned to their families as a direct result of training carried out by Hope and Homes for Children for UNICEF. Together, we revised and adapted the case management tools used to meet recommended standards on reintegration and delivered a 192-hour training programme to 50 government child protection professionals.

#### Uganda: Working with orphanage managers for a new future

Your ongoing support means we have been able to increase the capacity and know-how of our partners in Uganda to be the catalyst for child protection reform in the country.

For example, 42 managers of orphanages that are part of the Catholic Care for Children in Uganda group attended a DI engagement session and most expressed interest in learning more about the reform process.

## Priority 2. 39,000 children benefitting from prevention services

**Outcome: In 2018, with your support, 42,846 children were prevented from being separated from their families and entering an institution.**

Even today, 80% of children who are confined to orphanages have at least one living parent or other close relative. It's not the lack of a family but the lack of support for families who are struggling with poverty, disability, discrimination and other pressures that drives children into orphanages. That's why developing services that make it possible for parents to care for their children at home and not have to resort to institutions is so important as we work together towards a world without orphanages.

### Highlights

#### Moldova: Supporting parents, protecting families

Keeping families suffering from poverty and other challenges together depends on services that enable parents to work, knowing their children are cared for. In January 2018, a new social crèche was opened in Balti specifically to provide free childcare for up to 13 children. These services can be vital in helping parents to have the confidence to take children back from institutions. Thanks to your support, our partners, CCF Moldova, were able to provide training for staff as well as support and guidance to parents to help them enrol their children in the crèche.

During 2018 our team also helped to establish a new Early Intervention Centre in the Balti Institution for Babies which is due to open in early 2019. This service, developed in partnership with the Voinicel Centre, will provide essential support to vulnerable families, helping to prevent parents from making the devastating choice to give their babies up to institutions when they fear they cannot adequately care for them.

#### Rwanda: Harnessing community support for reform

Rooted in the knowledge that "It takes a village to raise a child", we have pioneered the development of Community Development Networks (CDNs) across the country to bring together local leaders, community policing representatives, church leaders, and health and education professionals to support vulnerable children and families. In 2018, we established new CDNs and trained new Network members in five Districts in Rwanda. CDNs help to generate community support for initiatives to prevent children entering orphanages and find alternative solutions to the care needs of children at risk. One of their central roles is to act as gatekeepers to the care system and ensure that the right placement decision is made for each individual child.

"What my visit to Rwanda showed me is that, with Hope and Homes for Children, what's written on the page is also true on the ground."

Sanjay Singh, Senior Programmes Manager for People's Postcode Lottery who visited our work in Rwanda in 2018; work made possible by the generous support of the Players of the People's Postcode Lottery

#### Uganda: Changing hearts and minds

Because of your support, we have been able to move ahead with the pilot closure of an orphanage in Tororo and can continue to develop prevention and gatekeeping mechanisms to stop children entering orphanages in Makindye District. An important part of these programmes is working with our partners to engage more stakeholders in the reform process.

"Not even for the reason of the greatest poverty should any child be separated from their family. No amount of money can buy the warmth of a family."

Pastor Ruth, who ran an orphanage in Tororo, Uganda and is now working to help children return to their birth families or join new families instead with the support of Hope and Homes for Children and our partner, Child's i Foundation



The work we carry out through our implementing partner, Child's i Foundation, in Uganda is supported with UK aid from the UK Government.

## Keeping families together: Moldova

**The birth of their baby brother, Dragos, should have been a happy time for Nicolas, Paula and Maria. Instead, forces beyond their control meant their family was very nearly torn apart.**

Dragos was born very early and had to stay in intensive care. Their mother, Elena, needed to be with him but then, without warning, their Dad, Ivan, died.

Without an education and only able to find low-paid work, life had always been tough for Elena and Ivan. But they were hardworking and resourceful and did all they could to provide for their children. Now though, Elena found herself alone with a premature baby in the hospital, three other children to care for and no income. She was desperate to be with Dragos but knew that, with no one to look after them at home, her older children would be taken to an orphanage.

The idea of growing up in an institution was a terrifying prospect for Nicolas, Paula and Maria who had only every known the warmth and protection of a family.

At this critical moment in the family's life, your generosity meant we were able to give Elena and her children the support they needed to stay together. Expert social workers from our partners CCF Moldova arranged care at home for the older children, made sure the rent was paid and supplied the food, clothing, school equipment and other essentials to see the family through their immediate crisis.

Since then, we have continued to work with Elena to help her build a more secure future for her children. We have helped her access services that will make it easier for her to support her children. This includes providing day care for Dragos at a centre, established by Hope and Homes for Children, to make it easier for parents like Elena to be at work. Crucially, we are also helping her to obtain the official documents she needs to secure a permanent home for her family.



Nicolas, her oldest, is a promising athlete who has won many national and international competitions. His prize money is helping to boost the family's income. Nicolas says his ambition is to become a world-famous weightlifter and for his family to own a home of their own where he can have a room to display his medals and trophies.

For now though, although life remains challenging, Nicolas, Paula, Maria and Dragos are all still together with their Mum, Elena, to love and protect them.



**Above**  
In 2018 your commitment to the wellbeing of children meant we were able to support Dragos and his family to stay together and build a more secure future.

**Left**  
With a family to encourage him, Nicolas can still pursue his passion for sport.

## Priority 3. 250,000 children benefitting from alternative care arrangements

**Providing safe and loving family-based alternatives for children is a fundamental part of the change needed to create a world where no child grows up in institutional care.**

That's why our first priority when we close an institution is to work with families to make it possible for children to return home. In some cases though, this is not feasible or appropriate and so our skilled social work teams ally with the local child protection authorities to find safe and sustainable care alternatives for children. These include fostering and adoption as well as placements in Small Family Homes, all of which enable all children, whatever their needs, to grow up in family environments and not in institutions.

Demonstrating children successfully supported and placed out of institutional care is at the heart of achieving impact at scale, because it provides both the experience and evidence needed for this. During 2018 we successfully placed 780 children directly out of institutions and into families or community-based care and benefitted more than 42,000 children through the prevention services we helped to develop over the course of the year.

Where we were able to deliver the broadest impact was through the training of over 9,000 professionals, each of whom will go on to benefit some 50 children, yielding an estimated impact figure of over 400,000 children and young people.

### Highlights

#### Malawi: Developing foster care

Your generosity means that we have been able to support the establishment of a national foster care system in Malawi. We prepared 27 child protection professionals to deliver foster care training to their colleagues and, as a direct result, 50 new potential foster parents have been selected and trained to care for children from orphanages who need new families.

#### Moldova: New families for children

With our partners CCF Moldova, we continued to extend, develop and diversify foster care services in the country. In 2018, working with the local authorities, we trained 85 potential foster parents, 60 of whom have now been approved and are ready to care for up to 180 children who need new families. Together with other NGOs, we have also successfully argued for an increase in the financial support available to foster parents, especially those caring for the youngest children, in order to make it possible for more families to welcome vulnerable children into their hearts and homes.

#### Romania: Family-like homes for children

In 2018, your support allowed us to open five Small Group Homes (SGHs) for children from two of our orphanage closure programmes in Romania. This means that 62 children are now growing up in a family-like environment where they are cared for and respected as individuals and not in loveless institutions. Construction and renovation work continued to establish five more SGHs in Iași, Neamt and Bucharest, building permits were secured for four SGHs in Bucharest, Neamt and Suceava and planning began for six more SGHs in Botosani, Sibiu, Neamt and Iași counties.

## Creating new families: Rwanda

**When Anna was born, her mother was alone and desperate. She left her new-born baby in a communal toilet and fled. Thankfully, people nearby heard Anna's cries and rescued her just in time. Dangerously ill, she was taken to the local hospital where she spent time in intensive care, fighting to recover from her terrible start in life.**

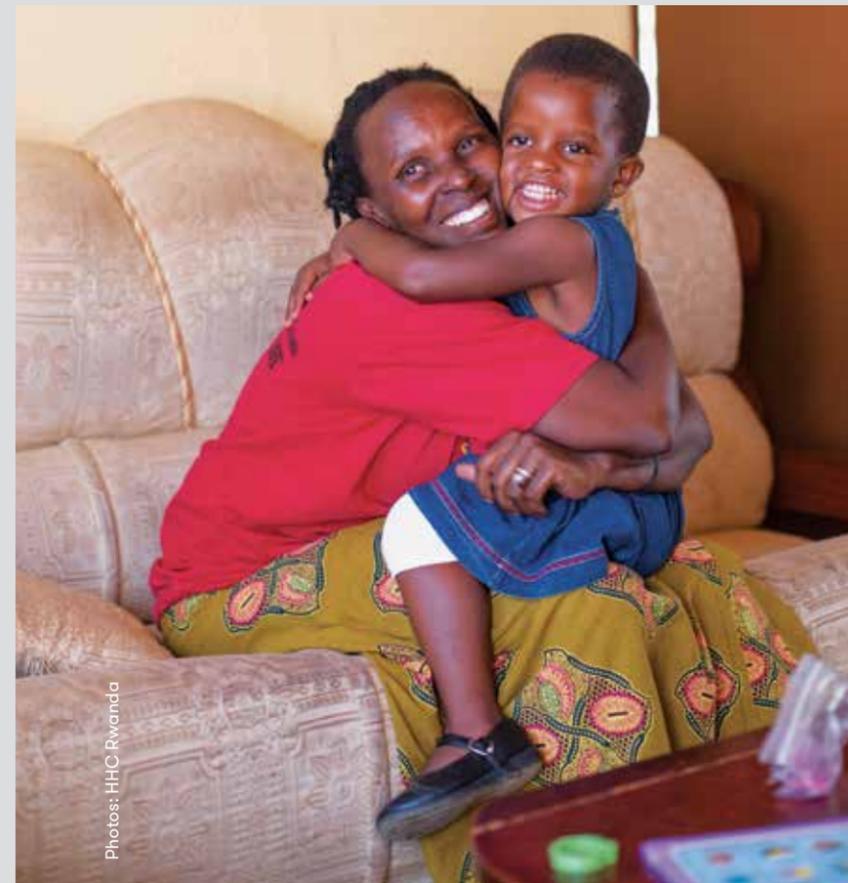
Amelia, a midwife at the hospital, who helped to care for Anna was moved by her story. As the weeks went by, she fell in love with the tiny baby girl who seemed so determined to survive and overcome the tough hand that fate had dealt her. Amelia wanted to give Anna the chance to grow up as part of a family, in a safe, loving home and not in an orphanage. And so Amelia asked if she could become Anna's foster Mum.

Anna and her foster mum, Amelia.



Our team in Rwanda, working with the local Child Protection authorities, helped enable Amelia to give Anna the family life she needed. We assessed her suitability to care for Anna and gave her extra training to make sure that she was ready to take on this special role. Once Amelia brought Anna home from the hospital, we kept in close touch with them both to make sure that all was well and Anna was safe and happy.

Today, Anna has blossomed into a confident, curious little girl who is the centre of attention in her family and her community. She is such a favourite at the local church that another mother even approached Amelia to ask if she would consider letting her foster Anna instead! But Amelia is adamant; she is Anna's forever mother. With our support, Amelia has now begun formal adoption procedures so that Anna has a loving home and a family of her own, for life.



Photos: HHC Rwanda

Your support meant our team in Rwanda was able to give Anna and Amelia the resources they needed to thrive as a family.



## Priority 4.

### Collection and analysis of the data

needed to calculate the necessary funding required to eliminate institutions in three regions, progressed with strategies to secure the funds also in development

**When we meet with government ministers and regional authorities to argue the case for reform, it's vital that we can clearly show what it will cost to replace orphanages with family and community-based child protection systems.**

For this reason, carrying out robust research to establish the funds needed to achieve effective and sustainable reform at national and regional level is essential.

#### Highlights

##### Romania: Costing reform

Considerable progress has been made in Romania, where we have undertaken a detailed analysis of the cost involved in completing the reform process.

Our data shows the cost of an institutionalised care system versus the cost of supporting families to stay together. Twenty-one children could be supported to stay in their families for the cost of keeping one child in an orphanage. Evidence like this helps us to make a powerful case to secure the funds needed to carry out reform.

We will be using learning from this to estimate the full cost of reform in other locations, so we can petition for the funding needed to eliminate orphanages with a credible evidence base to support this.

##### Ukraine: Building the evidence base for change

In 2018, research began to establish the cost of reform in the Dnipro Oblast (region).

In 2017, Hope and Homes for Children completed the first comprehensive audit of Ukraine's child protection system. The findings were stark. Ukraine's orphanage system is made up of 663 institutions, housing 100,000 children and employing 68,000 staff.

Reforming Ukraine's child protection system is a vast challenge, which is why, with your support, we will continue to work to assemble the detailed evidence needed to make the case for funding real and lasting change for children.

“  
Twenty-one children could be supported to stay in their families for the cost of keeping one child in an orphanage.  
”

## Priority 5.

### Piloting reform in India

India has the largest child population in the world at 400 million. Poverty, illness, disability, displacement and trafficking are among the factors that lead to high numbers of children being separated from their families. The absence of support services to help families stay together and appropriate alternative family-based care in the community, mean that these children are at high risk of being placed in damaging orphanages.

In 2018, new work continued in Jharkhand State with children at risk of being placed into institutional care or at risk of violence because they are already confined to institutional care. Working in collaboration with the Government structures and existing child protection mechanisms, our pilot project seeks to demonstrate that all children can flourish in a safe, family environment. Specifically, through this work our partners want to help end stigmatisation of and discrimination towards children with disabilities.



Peer educator's training with our Indian partner organisation, CINI.

With high levels of intergenerational poverty in the targeted areas together with long-term dependence on state care created by institutionalisation, our team is bringing together child protection professionals, civil society actors and government representatives to encourage the exchange of good practice, increase capacity for reform and help to catalyse change across the country.

This project was possible thanks to the generous support of Oak Foundation.

#### Highlights

- **Significant start-up activities** carried out including developing partner agreements, reporting structures, hiring staff, awareness raising and training with our local partner, CINI.
- **Community structures established** including child protection committees, adolescent groups and women's groups, all of which are essential to establish a gatekeeping system that keeps children out of orphanages, and allows communities to access advice and support services.
- **Successful learning exchange** visit carried out to our programme in Rwanda where colleagues from CINI, and representatives from Miracle Foundation, were able to learn about DI in Africa.
- **Adolescent and women's groups** integrated with the Child Protection Committees that we have helped to establish across the project area to support families and prevent children from entering orphanages.



## Priority 6.

# Opening Doors for Europe's Children and Transform Alliance Africa progress international and national level commitments to eliminating institutions across Europe and Africa

**Working through and with partners at all levels is at the heart of the global change we are striving to achieve: building a movement to advocate and drive reform worldwide so that all children can grow up in safe and loving families and not in orphanages.**

Our support of Transform Alliance Africa (TAA), a coalition of organisations working for care reform across Africa, is resulting in coordinated efforts to advocate for systemic change across the continent.



**Transform Alliance Africa**

### Highlights

In November, the coalition held its Annual Assembly in Kampala, Uganda with 40 participants representing organisations from seven African countries, and drafted a shared policy statement—the TAA Kampala Declaration—to be used in our advocacy efforts with various stakeholders including governments.

**“We believe that no child in Africa should grow up without a family. As care practitioners, we know what works and that reform is possible. In Africa we have traditionally cared for children in families and communities. Orphanages have destroyed this. We need to reclaim our children, our responsibilities to nurture and protect children in families and communities, not orphanages. Africa can lead the world in care reform.”**

The full text of the Declaration is available here: <http://transformallianceafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TAA-Kampala-Declaration-2018.pdf>

### Care leavers' call on Commonwealth to close orphanages

In April, we heard the voices of young care leavers resonate at a critical moment when TAA representatives, Ntombi Qoyi and Stephen Ucembe, took part in a Youth Forum during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in London.

**“I have made good connections with young people that said they were totally unaware of the issue of putting young people in orphanages and now realise how important it is for a child to grow up in a safe and loving family! It has been a humbling journey for me.”**

Ntombi Qoyi, Care Leaver and TAA Representative at the Commonwealth Youth Forum, London, 2018

Their participation led directly to the Forum calling on all member states:

**“To renew their commitment to ‘Leave No One Behind’, recognising that many millions of children and young people still live in institutions, denied the love of a family and as a result are at increased risk of harm, neglect and violence.”**

### Africa must back family and community-based care for children

In August, Otto Sestak, Head of Learning and Engagement for Hope and Homes for Children, gave a keynote speech on care reform at the first International Conference on Child Protection in Africa. Held in Nairobi, more than 266 participants from over 25 countries took part. Otto spoke to delegates about the need for Africa to reinforce family and community-based care and move away from orphanages. As a result, at the end of the conference, two out of seven conference resolutions and a call to action were related to ending the institutional care of children.

### Holding South Africa to account

At the United Nations in Geneva, we contributed evidence to the UN's Disability Committee as it investigated the compliance of South Africa with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Our recommendations were upheld in their entirety and the Committee made strong recommendations for South Africa to do more to close its orphanages for children with disabilities and support the families of children with disabilities. This strong statement will help us hold South Africa to account in 2019.



### Opening Doors for Europe's Children

Hope and Homes for Children is a founding member of Opening Doors for Europe's Children, a campaign which brings together five international organisations\* and civil society across 16 European countries.

By leveraging EU funding and policy and building capacity in civil society, Opening Doors supports national efforts to develop child protection systems that strengthen families and ensure high-quality family and community-based alternative care for children.

### Breakthrough as EU commits to future funding for DI

In 2018, the European Commission included specific commitments to fund programmes that prioritised DI, care reform and support for family and community-based systems of care in its initial proposal for the EU Budget over the next seven years. This was a major breakthrough for our work with the Opening Doors campaign and our own advocacy efforts. Our work in this area will be ongoing as the proposal makes its way through the EU's legislative process.

“  
The European Commission included specific commitments to fund programmes that prioritised Deinstitutionalisation...  
This was a major breakthrough  
”

\*Eurochild, FICE Europe, IFCO, SOS Children's Villages International

## Priority 7.

# Help form a representative group of experts to develop joint plans to eliminate institutional care at a global level

Ending the institutional care of children worldwide is a complex process and we cannot hope to achieve our mission alone. To succeed, we must work closely with other like-minded organisations. Crucially, this means genuine collaboration, sharing and learning in addition to building a global network of experts to support and accelerate the transition of all children out of orphanages and back into families and communities.

### Highlights

#### Connections and collaboration drive reform

Framed by the tenth anniversary of the UN Guidelines on Alternative Care, Hope and Homes for Children played an important role in establishing a network of 25 organisations, all working on the transition from institutional to family and community-based care. In August, at a meeting co-hosted by Miracle Foundation and the London Business School, the group collectively considered pathways to systems change and models for collaboration.

Participants hailed the event as a great success, having since formed a group called 'Belong' and launched an online platform where members can request and share learning on the implementation of DI programmes.

#### Contributing to UN Research and Resolutions

Hope and Homes for Children is also actively involved in coalitions to develop the new UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and to influence the 2019 UN Resolution on the Rights of the Child which will focus on Children without Parental Care.

## Priority 8.

# Private Sector Task Force established to begin harnessing the capacity of multi-national companies to make orphanages an unacceptable way of looking after children

It's vital that we redirect the resources of big business to support families, not orphanages. Leading companies are some of the most generous donors in the UK, but significant amounts of the funding they provide unwittingly supports an overseas orphanage economy that harms and exploits children instead of protecting them. With your help we have established 'The Task Force for Families not Orphanages', made up of senior politicians and representatives from the UK's leading businesses, to support a change of direction.

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt.



Michael Hughes/DFID

### Highlights

#### Supporting and driving UK leadership

At the Global Disability Summit in London in July, the International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, made the landmark announcement that:

“The UK Government recognises that institutionalisation harms children’s physical, emotional and psychological development...we are committed to ensuring all children realise their right to family care and that no child is left behind.”

Since then, Hope and Homes for Children has deployed its Task Force to support the Government to live up to this ground-breaking commitment to DI. By December 2018, we had already seen DI and inclusive family and community-based services for all children included in the UK's first Global Disability Strategy.

The Task Force has also created best practice guidelines for businesses on how to support the most vulnerable children overseas and secured a meeting with the Department for International Development’s Permanent Representative, Matthew Rycroft CBE, early in 2019. They will use this opportunity to call for the Government’s statement to be turned into formal policy and for the Commonwealth to make the elimination of orphanages a priority.

#### CSO Compact: Working together for change

In addition to working with politicians and business leaders to hold the Government to its word on DI, Hope and Homes for Children has co-ordinated action with other leading charities. Together with Lumos, we led an alliance of NGOs, including Save the Children, Plan and World Vision, in launching a Civil Society Compact that calls on signatories to echo the UK’s commitment and support global change for children trapped in overseas orphanages.



Ivan was at risk of being sent to an orphanage, but thanks to the pioneering family support services we've established in Ukraine he's able to grow up with the love and protection of his Mum, Galina.

HHC Ukraine

## Reuniting families: Uganda



Proportion of children in orphanages who have a living parent



### “Now I’m back home, I’ve found my smile again.” Tom’s story

**When Tom was eight he fell seriously ill and had to undergo emergency surgery. His family was already struggling to earn a living from the small piece of land they farmed in a rural part of Uganda. They could not afford the medical care he needed.**

One day, a relative visited the family and convinced them that the only hope for Tom was to take him to the orphanage in the main town. Tom would be given the treatment he needed and free schooling there, the man reassured them.

And so Tom’s family made the heart-breaking decision to take him to the institution and leave him there.

“I felt confused, angry and alone,” Tom remembers, “but I realise now they had no choice.”

Tom’s grandmother, Beatrice, now 80, says, “It broke our hearts to put Tom in the orphanage, but it was also a relief to see him get the care he needed to live.”

Always a shy boy, the first few months in the orphanage were terribly lonely for Tom who did not speak the same language as the other children. Over time his health did

improve but the price he paid was to spend ten precious years of his childhood alone, without a family to love or guide him.

Last year, thanks to your support, we were able to continue working with the manager of the orphanage who had come to see that the children in her care needed more than food, shelter and schooling; they needed families. Together with our partner, Child’s i Foundation, we are helping her to reunite children with their relatives and support vulnerable families to stay together so that no new children are brought to her gates.

As part of the closure programme, we contacted Tom’s family who told us they were desperate to bring him home. We reassured them that this time they would have the support they needed to provide for their son. After a full assessment, Tom was slowly reintroduced to family life and has now returned home.

Today, Tom has completely come out of his shell. He loves taking care of his younger siblings who all look up to their new-found older brother. He is thriving at school and his ambition is to become a broadcast journalist.

The orphanage where Tom lived will close for good in 2019 when all the remaining children are living safely in families. The facility will become a Community Hub, providing family support services so no more children in Tom’s situation have to spend their childhood in an orphanage just to survive.



The Vratsa orphanage in Bulgaria was one of six institutions closed with your support by Hope and Homes for Children in 2018.

## Closing orphanages to drive reform

**In 2018, Hope and Homes for Children directly closed six orphanages** by finding the right safe and loving family or community-based alternative care for 780 children. But each of these closures will also deliver an impact far greater even than the transformation of individual children’s lives.

This is because every successful closure programme we complete acts as a powerful model and catalyst for reform, driving change not just within the local area but regionally and nationally too.

Ill health and poverty meant twins Kalyon and Maria spent five months in the orphanage but have now been reunited with their parents and older brother. Our work in Bulgaria in 2018 was made possible thanks to the generous support of Oak Foundation and THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS. We are continuing to work alongside the Government to close a further ten baby institutions in Bulgaria.



Our work in Uganda, through our implementing partner, Child’s i Foundation, is supported with UK aid from the UK Government.

# Together we are making children's voices heard.



**Richard Greenhalgh**  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

As you can see from the stories we have shared in this report, 2018 was a very successful year in which many children's lives have been improved and in ways that they might never have dreamed of.

To grow up with the love and protection of a family has not merely been shown by science to be in the best interests of children, it is what children are telling us they want more than anything else. With your support we are not only listening, we are acting on this.

I was able to visit a number of the countries we work in during 2018, which is important in ensuring that our money is being spent in the most effective way, and that we are delivering on the plans we have set for ourselves.

In Rwanda I visited the home of Habimana and Ghaji, two young boys put into an orphanage when their father lost his job and the family became homeless. With our help he has a job and the family has a home. The boys are happy and doing well at school. What a delight!

It is for children like Habimana and Ghaji that your support is so incredibly important. Looking forward to 2019, Hope and Homes for Children is strongly positioned to continue progressing reform in the countries we work in, and to amplify the impact of it by influencing decision-makers at the highest level so that many more children will benefit from our efforts.

In particular we are continuing to work with the private sector, the UK Government and other influencers in the run up to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2020, when we hope to secure a commitment that will drive reform across all Commonwealth countries. We will of course report back on our progress with this.

Whether we are working with a family or community, or with government officials or senior social workers, we never lose sight of the individual children's lives whose wellbeing is at the core of our purpose. For us, this is the basis of the partnership we have with all our supporters. It is what draws us together in a common concern. And for that, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and kindness. ❤️

“  
We never lose sight of the individual children's lives whose wellbeing is at the core of our purpose. For us, this is the basis of the partnership we have with all our supporters.  
”

# Our priorities for 2019.

- 1. Continue reducing the number of children confined in orphanages** nationally in Bulgaria, Moldova, Rwanda and Romania, and at District and Provincial levels in Ukraine, Bosnia, Sudan, South Africa and Uganda
- 2. Progress our pioneering closures of orphanages** for children living with disabilities in Rwanda and Romania
- 3. Launch a new strategic pilot project** in Nepal while progressing our existing strategic pilot project in India
- 4. Secure draft EU commitments** for childcare reform across its member states and in its support of countries through its various aid funding, and support the agreement of a UN resolution on children without parental care
- 5. Work through our Private Sector Task Force** to strengthen the UK Government's commitment to promoting reform internationally and especially across the Commonwealth

# Thank you.

Because of your support, the lives of some of the most vulnerable children and families in the world changed for the better in 2018. We would like to thank the following supporters who made especially significant contributions to the work of Hope and Homes for Children last year.

## Individuals

Bosnia Trek 2018 trekkers  
Ride Rwanda 2018 cyclists  
Marcus and Paula Alexander  
James Amos  
David Ball  
Alex Bennett  
Louise Brassey  
Joan Bryant  
Rukhiya Budden  
Phil and Carole Buksh  
Babak Dastmaltschi  
Michelle Dove-Clark and Russell Clark  
Maurice and Katie Gale  
Alison Graham  
Joan Green  
Elissa Greenwood  
Andreea and Patrick Grob  
Kate Hobhouse  
Richard Hughes  
Ian Jamieson  
Michael and Gail Jopling  
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Tiina Lee  
Garry MacKay  
MacKenzie family  
Matt Maer  
Keith and Julia Masdin  
David and Terry McMurtry  
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Ian Melia  
Dominik Mitsch  
David and Patricia Moran  
Jozef Mycielski  
Adrian and Amanda Newey  
William and Margaret Parr  
Lucy Pereira  
Nick Perry  
Martin Rashdi

Penny Reeve  
Jim and Tessa Rice  
Stephen and Georgie Roberts  
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Andy Sharp  
Paul and Penny Smee  
Chris Stanbury  
Dorothy Strickland  
Tony Warner  
David J. Wightman  
Andrew and Sarah Wilkinson  
Michael and Claire Wright  
Nicholas H. Wrigley

## Organisations

Alice Ellen Cooper Dean Charitable Foundation  
Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
Allen & Overy  
The Ashla Charitable Trust  
Bath Support Group  
Bathford Support Group  
BGC Brokers L.P.  
Boodles  
The Breadsticks Foundation  
Buxted Construction Ltd  
Childs i Foundation  
Clifford Chance LLP  
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The Finborough Foundation  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
GHR Foundation  
Google UK Limited and YouTube  
Hawkesdown House School

Hertfordshire Support Group  
The Hick Charitable Trust  
International School of Milan  
The James Tudor Foundation  
L'ailOlive  
The Leach Fourteenth Trust  
Liberty Media  
London Ball Committee  
Medicor Foundation  
The Melbreak Trust  
Midlands Ball Committee  
Mishcon de Reya  
Norfolk Support Group  
Oak Foundation  
The Persula Foundation  
Penelope Martin Charitable Trust  
Philip Smith's Charitable Trust  
Postcode Equality Trust  
The Ranworth Trust  
Riviera Travel Ltd  
St. James's Place Charitable Foundation  
Sonia Rykiel  
Sincura Group  
South Wales Support Group  
South Wiltshire Support Group  
The Sumner Wilson Charitable Trusts  
Thomson Reuters Foundation  
Transform Alliance Africa (and members)  
UBS Optimus Foundation  
UK Aid from the Department for International Development  
UNICEF  
Vale of Pewsey Support Group  
Vale of York Support Group  
THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS  
Vitol Foundation  
Winsley Village Project

We would like to thank our Trustees and Patrons for their tireless work over the last year.

## Patrons

Kate Adie OBE  
The Rt Hon The Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon GCMG CH KBE PC—deceased December 2018  
Martin Bell OBE  
Matt Bell  
The Rt Hon The Lord Carrington KG GCMG CH MC PC DL—deceased July 2018  
General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL  
Rick Foulsham CMG  
David Furnish  
Nick Hower  
Alastair Humphreys  
The Lady Jopling MBE  
Jay Jopling  
Gordon McNally  
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

One of our early Patrons, Lord Carrington passed away in July 2018 at the age of 99. Over the years he had hosted numerous fundraising events, attended meetings and conferences, wrote countless letters and arranged for Mark and Caroline Cook to meet many influential people. Lord Carrington was a great source of strength, encouragement and inspiration to the charity, particularly in the early years, and we doubt the charity would be where it is today without him.

## Trustees

Prof Andy Bilson  
Mark Grinonneau (Treasurer)  
Carol Haslam  
Dean Williams—retired July 2018  
Richard Greenhalgh (Chair)  
Vicky Bruce  
Matthew Banks  
Malcolm Sweeting  
Alexander Matheou—appointed April 2018  
Camilla Otto—appointed April 2018  
Anna Segall—appointed April 2018  
Mark Shadrack—appointed April 2018

## Chief Executive

Mark Waddington CBE

## Directors

Dr Delia Pop, Programmes and Global Advocacy  
Sue Rooke, Resources  
Sarah Whiting, Global Marketing, Communication and Fundraising

## Founders

Caroline Cook OBE  
Mark Cook OBE

We were deeply saddened by the death of our Patron, Lord Paddy Ashdown in December 2018. Lord Ashdown was the first Patron of Hope and Homes for Children and had worked tirelessly for our cause since our story began in the mid 1990s. He used his influence to support our work because he believed, to the very end, that children should grow up in the love and protection of a family.

## Finally, we would like to give special mention to the following individuals and groups:

Our loyal supporters who have hosted quizzes, dinner parties and cake sales; run marathons, trekked and cycled up mountains and taken on personal challenges; pledged their birthdays and anniversaries and committed their time in many different ways to raise money for Hope and Homes for Children.

Our tireless volunteer speakers who continue to spread awareness of our work at talks and presentations across the country.

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 2018 and wish to remain anonymous.



Chris Leslie

**In November 2018, our founder Mark Cook was reunited with Muhamed, a young man who spent his childhood in the notorious Bjelave orphanage in Sarajevo during the Bosnian War of the mid-1990s.**

This is where the story of Hope and Homes for Children began, 25 years ago when Mark and his wife Caroline visited the orphanage and witnessed the suffering of Muhamed and his friends first-hand. They promised the children that they would do all they could to help them.

Since then, Hope and Homes for Children has grown into a respected international organisation, at the forefront of the global movement to end the institutional care of children. With your support, our team in Bosnia has worked tirelessly to drive reform there and ensure that children can grow up in families, never orphanages.

Last year, Mark and Caroline returned to Bosnia to celebrate all that has been achieved. But despite progress on many fronts, it was not until 2015 that we were finally able to secure the agreement of the authorities to close the Bjelave orphanage.

Now, that closure programme is well under way and with the generous and committed support of Medicor Foundation and the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, we are strengthening existing child protection services in the area and repurposing the Bjelave orphanage to provide additional family support services.

With your continued support, the last child will leave Bjelave and the orphanage will close for good in 2019.



All photos are by Hope and Homes for Children, unless otherwise stated.

To ensure the safety and privacy of our beneficiaries, all the names of the children, relatives and carers featured in this publication have been changed.

Hope and Homes for Children is a company limited by guarantee (registered in England, number 4193179) and a Registered Charity (1089490).

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