This action is funded by the European Union

**ANNEX 2**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the annual action programme 2017 part 2 for the theme Human Development of the Global Public Goods and Challenges programme

**Action document for quality alternative care for children and de-institutionalisation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>INFORMATION FOR GRANT APPLICANTS</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012) in the following sections concerning calls for proposals where the implementation modality 5.3.1.1 &quot;Grants-call for proposals (direct management)&quot; has been used.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1. **Title/basic act/CRIS number** | Call for proposals: Quality alternative care for children and de-institutionalisation  
CRIS number: DCI-HUM/2017/39697  
Financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Zone benefiting from the action/location</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 4. **Sector of concentration/thematic area** | Human development — children’s well-being  
DEV. aid: YES |
| 5. **Amounts concerned** | Total estimated cost: EUR 14 400 000  
Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 13 000 000  
This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1 400 000 |
| 6. **Aid modality and implementation modality** | Project modality  
Direct management: grants — call for proposals |
| 7 a) **DAC code(s)** | 15160 Human rights  
15180 Ending violence against women and girls  
16010 Social/welfare services |
| b) **Main Delivery Channel** | International NGOs 21000 / official development aid (ODA) |
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General policy objective</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation development/good governance</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality (including Women In Development)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Development</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RIO Convention markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RIO Convention markers</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological diversity</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat desertification</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships

N/A

10. SDGs

Primary SDG: 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
Secondary SDG: 3. ‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’

SUMMARY

It is estimated that eight million children worldwide, around 90% of whom are not orphans, are living in institutions where they are at high risk of physical and psychological violence, abuse and neglect, undermining their ability to reach their full potential and exposing them to further risks of social exclusion. Many more millions of children are deprived of the care of their family and lack the proper alternative care (be it informal or formal) that they need to grow up safely and well in extended families - foster - or community based-care solutions.

Investing in the promotion of the protection of the rights of the child, including the best interest of the child (a right, a general principle and a procedure) is a priority for the European Union. Ensuring children’s transition from institutions to quality alternative care, in line with the UN's 2009 Guidelines for the alternative care of children, is an important objective within the Union\(^1\). However, very few specific actions have been supported through EU external cooperation and this has delayed the development of a body of knowledge and experience to act in this area. Specific orientations were proposed in a 2016 study\(^2\), Towards the right care for children, which highlighted the significant scale of the problem in many countries and the need to build stronger child protection systems in non-EU countries to provide quality care for children deprived of parental care.

\(^1\) Notably under IPA II, the European Structural Funds, the European Regional Development Fund, the Social Investment Package and the 2013 Recommendations for investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Common guidelines and a toolkit were also released in 2012 to guide this transition.

\(^2\) Towards the right care for children: orientations for reforming alternative care systems (Africa, Asia, Latin America, December 2016, SOS Children’s Villages International with the collaboration of CELCIS). The report was funded by the EU but its content is the sole responsibility of the author.
In the broader context of the implementation of the EU’s 2017 Guidelines for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, in particular the emphasis on promoting quality alternative care for children deprived of parental care and providing them with appropriate support to participate in community life and access mainstream services, the Commission intends to support initiatives to prevent family and child separation, take children out of harmful institutions and provide appropriate and quality alternative care for those deprived of parental care. These should be based on a careful assessment and determination of their best interests, in line with the UN’s 2009 Guidelines for the alternative care of children. The aim is to reach the most vulnerable children left behind and in need of such care.

The overall objective of this call for proposal is to ensure better outcomes for children by ensuring better implementation of the UN’s Guidelines for the alternative care of children in their entirety, so that children enjoy equal chances to reach their full potential in societies.

The specific objectives of the action are to prevent the separation of children from their families, to provide quality alternative care meeting the emotional and developmental needs of children who are deprived of parental care, and to support the transition from institutional to foster or community-based care. The action will help national authorities to reform their alternative care systems and implement existing legislation in order to build stronger child protection systems.

This action is relevant to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, in particular SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and Target 16.2 (ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children).

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Thematic area

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The promotion of the protection of the rights of the child is core EU values and reflected in its legal and political framework.

a) The EU’s 2017 Guidelines on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child reiterate its commitment to children through its external action. They are based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its four general principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and respect for children’s views. Through the Guidelines, the EU seeks to promote and protect equally all the rights that children have, focusing especially on the most marginalised children in an effort to leave no child behind. The Guidelines stress the need to pursue a system-strengthening approach, based on the ‘general measures of implementation’ in UNCRC General Comment 51, to ensure that partner countries’ systems are better able to protect and fulfil children’s rights. A system approach to child protection requires states to protect the rights of all children with appropriate measures, structures and resources (legislation and policies, budget allocations, service provision, coordinating and monitoring bodies, data collection, awareness-raising and training).
The action proposed in this document — providing quality alternative care for children deprived of parental care, better meeting their emotional, social and development needs, and promoting a transition from institutional to community-based care — is seen as contributing in governments’ efforts to reform their child protection systems. The EU Guidelines refer specifically to the importance of promoting alternative care for children and providing them with appropriate support to participate in community life and access mainstream services.

b) In its action plan on human rights and democracy 2015-2019, the EU commits itself to promoting, protecting and fulfilling children’s rights, prioritising support for partner countries’ efforts in this area, with a particular focus on:

- strengthening child protection systems so as to protect children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect; and
- children’s economic, social and cultural rights (education, health, nutrition, social protection, etc.).

c) In the EU, the promotion of quality alternative care for children (in line with the UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children) and the de-institutionalisation of children have been a priority and are considered as a case of social investment in the best interests of the child. The EU has supported several de-institutionalisation programmes in eastern European countries. The European Structural Funds, for instance, are being used to support action to pre-empt the need for institutional care and to promote alternative care for children and community-based care services. Under its PROGRESS programme, the Commission supported a number of social innovation projects which sought new ways of supporting young children living in care, e.g. mentoring. The successor European programme for employment and social innovation is supporting a joint action on de-institutionalisation, led by the European Social Network. The instrument for pre-accession (IPA I) also focused on this objective and IPA II links to the employment and social reform programmes, in which de-institutionalisation has been identified as a challenge for social reform. Under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, the EU has funded a number of transnational projects aiming at building child protection capacity in the area of alternative care.

The EU’s social investment package and 2013 Recommendations on investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage provide guidance on de-institutionalisation and call for a broad approach combining prevention and quality services. They emphasise the need to prevent children’s removal from their family where possible and require Member States to stop the expansion of institutional care-settings for children.

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3 The 2009 UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children define children without parental care as ‘all children not in the overnight care of at least one of their parents, for whatever reason and under whatever circumstances’ and therefore needing alternative care solutions. The Guidelines define two forms of alternative care: informal care (any private arrangement provided in a family environment) and formal care (all care provided in a family environment which has been ordered by a competent administrative body or judicial authority, and all care provided in a residential environment). In terms of the environment in which it is provided, alternative care may be kinship care, foster care, other forms of family-based or family-like care placements, residential care or supervised independent living arrangements for children.

underline that children without parental care should have access to quality services,
e.g. as regards health, education and social assistance, and that their voice should count in
the way these are run.

An expert group convened in 2009 by the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs
and Equal Opportunities delivered a report\(^5\) that identified common basic principles for
promoting the rights of people living in institutions and issued the Commission and
Member States with recommendations as to how to support the transition from
institutional to alternative care. The group released \textit{Common European guidelines on
the transition from institutional to community-based care}\(^6\) and an accompanying
‘toolkit’.

d) The adoption of the new \textbf{sustainable development goals} offers rare momentum for the
protection of children’s rights worldwide. For the first time, a specific target (no 16.2) is
dedicated to addressing all forms of violence against children.

e) The UN’s \textit{Guidelines for the alternative care of children} support the implementation of
the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They recognise children’s right to be cared for
by their parents and set out the parties’ obligations in providing suitable alternative care
when children are deprived of parental care. They provide an international child-rights
framework based on principles relating to the protection of children without, or at risk of
being without, appropriate care. They seek to:

\begin{itemize}
\item support efforts to keep children in, or return them to, the care of their family or,
where this has proved impossible, to find another appropriate permanent
solution;
\item ensure that, where permanent solutions are not available or not in the child’s best
interests, the most suitable forms of alternative care are identified and provided
in a way that promotes the child’s full and harmonious development;
\item encourage and help governments to meet their responsibilities and obligations to
protect children, bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural conditions
families are facing; and
\item guide policies, decisions and activities relating to social protection and child
welfare in both the public and the private sectors, including civil society.
\end{itemize}

f) The \textit{UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities} (CRPD) includes
specific provisions on the rights of children with disabilities, in particular as regards
independent living and inclusion in the community (Article 19), respect for the home and
the family (Article 23), education (Article 24) and health (Article 25).

\subsection*{1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis}

The \textbf{final beneficiaries} of the actions resulting from this call for proposals are children in, or
in need of, formal or informal quality alternative care or at risk of being deprived of parental
care, as well as their families and communities. Children will benefit from prevention and

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{5} \url{http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=614&furtherNews=yes}
\textsuperscript{6} \url{http://deinstitutionalisationguide.eu/wp-content/uploads/Common-European-Guidelines-on-the-Transition-
from-Institutional-to-Community-based-Care-English.pdf}}
reintegration activities under comprehensive quality care provided by local and national authorities and civil society organisations.

The **direct beneficiaries** and **stakeholders** are:

- civil society organisations, especially child protection organisations; and
- national and sub-national child protection authorities, any authority involved in social protection for children and their environment, and any related service involved in the implementation of local and national child protection systems and the transition from institutional to community-based care.

### 1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The plight of children without appropriate care is a global problem and a response is needed to uphold children’s rights to protection, development, health, education and well-being. According to the most recent estimates, eight million children worldwide are estimated to be living in institutions, around 90% of whom are not orphans. Research has repeatedly shown that institutional care is detrimental to children’s growth and development, regardless of their age, and thus undermines their well-being. According to Save the Children, long-term impacts, even after children move from institutions into permanent parental care, include the underdevelopment of critical areas of the brain associated with attention, activity, learning, memory, emotional regulation and behavioural problems. Institutional care has also been widely shown to be far more expensive than family-based care, diverting limited and vital resources away from family-based alternatives and from social services geared to preventing separation in vulnerable families.

The millions of children already living in informal and formal foster care do not always benefit from the comprehensive quality care to which they are entitled and which they need to develop their full potential. Millions more are at risk of being separated from their parents as a result *inter alia* of poverty, disease, natural disaster, armed conflict, disability and discrimination. While children who are informally cared for by relatives or unrelated families may be well cared for, generally they are at greater risk of discrimination, inadequate care, abuse and exploitation than those who live with their parents. Unlike the negative effects of institutional placement, those risks are often underestimated or even ignored – but they are nonetheless real. The situation is exacerbated by factors such as discrimination, armed conflict, economic migration, lack of access to services, etc. Children are often put into formal care (on the orders of a competent authority) unnecessarily or for longer than necessary. In the absence of appropriate prevention and reintegration mechanisms, children without any form of care are among those most at risk of abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Disabled children are even more exposed to the threats of violence, abandonment, neglect and segregation, and when deprived of parental care often do not receive the forms of care that they need.

Situations in different countries are complex and vary widely. The provision of the right care, from informal care to formal family-based alternative care and residential care, must take account of local specificities and realities, and reflect the best interests of the child. While there is a lack of data on the exact numbers of children concerned, informal care appears to be the most prevalent form of alternative care in many countries. The use of residential placement largely outstrips formal family-based placements such as foster care. Many countries in Africa and Asia have seen a striking rise in the number of residential facilities, a high proportion of which operate without registration and monitoring, are often financed by
private sources abroad and actively recruit children from their families (e.g. ‘business orphanages’ and ‘voluntourism’, whereby untrained foreigners are brought to work in such places for short periods to attract fees). To address this, support should be given to countries’ efforts to regulate and monitor the quality and quantity of foster care provision.

2 **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Risk level (H/M/L)</th>
<th>Mitigating measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low interest and involvement of national authorities in providing quality alternative care for children and supporting the transition from institutional to community-based care.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>According to <em>Towards the right care for children</em>, the legal framework is already in place in many countries. Civil society organisations will provide the authorities with expertise and capacity-building for implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sustainability of support services beyond the lifetime of the programme.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Development of a sustainability plan for each country, integrating alternative care fully in local and national child protection systems, encouraging ownership and accountability by the authorities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties in providing the comprehensive approach needed for the reintegration of children through quality community-based and alternative care solutions, and addressing root causes of the separation of children from their families.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Development of approaches taking account of local limitations, following a situation analysis, providing activities at multiple levels and engaging with stakeholders. The size of the grant will allow the implementation of comprehensive solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term need to de-institutionalise child protection systems and reform alternative care at national level.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>To be addressed in governments’ long-term child protection strategies. The projects will complement (not replace) the strategies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Assumptions***

Enabling conditions are in place that allow civil society organisations to register and deliver alternative care programmes.

CSOs’ capacities are sufficient for them to provide quality alternative care and ensure a transition from institutional to community-based care.

3 **LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

3.1 **Lessons learnt**

The UN's *Guidelines for the alternative care of children* endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2009 are the key reference document but are not well and fully implemented. Five principles (in line with the *Guidelines*) should guide any action for a quality alternative care for children:
− necessity (is the placement in alternative care or the intervention necessary for the healthy development of the child?);
− appropriateness (determining which form of alternative care is suitable for the individual child);
− the child’s best interests (assessing each child’s individual needs);
− a preference for family-based care based on each child’s context analysis rather than institutionalised care, and
− the state’s responsibility to protect the rights of the child and ensure appropriate alternative care.

It is recognised that isolated actions are not sustainable if alternative care approaches are not situated firmly within the child protection framework of a country. It is therefore necessary to engage and support all actors and services involved in local and national child protection systems.

Keeping children as close as possible to their community of origin should be a priority, along with keeping siblings together. Removing a child from his or her family is to be regarded as a temporary measure of last resort.

It is well recognised that placing children in institutions has a long-term impact on their health, development and emotional well-being, starting from a very early age (it has a negative impact on brain development for children under three).

Towards the right care for children highlights the push factors driving the placement of children in alternative care. While poverty may not in itself be a reason for this, it is closely linked to many other factors, including a wide range of family problems and child protection issues. Education is both a push and a pull factor when it comes to placing children in facilities. Being orphaned is not a major cause and there is little evidence of children being put in care because they are affected by HIV/AIDS. Parents going to work abroad seem overwhelmingly to rely on informal kinship care for their children. Children born out of wedlock are particularly likely to be placed in care, as are children from ethnic minorities and indigenous communities. The proportion of children placed in formal alternative care because of violence, abuse or neglect varies according to the degree to which the state (law enforcement, social workers) intervenes to require this.

Another finding of the study is that there is virtually no country where alternative care is provided and financed directly by the state. Non-state actors provide the bulk of residential care and several developing countries have seen a spread of residential care facilities operating without registration and monitoring, actively recruiting children from families with support from private sources (businesses, religious organisations, etc.).

### 3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

This action is completely new in EU development cooperation. However, the IPA experience has been used to identify best practice and complementarity will be sought with actions implemented under the 2013 call for proposals on violence against children under the ‘investing in people’ instrument, several of which focused on strengthening local and national child protection systems, as well as those under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme.
Complementarity could also be sought with humanitarian programmes, establishing connections to address the need for proper quality care for children displaced by conflict (refugee and internally displaced children), separated from their families or suffering from protracted crisis situations. This action will not cover children migrating with their families or unaccompanied (unless they are in the state alternative care system), as a future action document may focus on protecting migrant children. Lastly, complementarity may be found with social protection programmes where relevant.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

A rights-based approach is ensured by prioritising the best interests of the child (as the rights-holder) and recognising the national authorities as the duty-bearer who should guarantee his/her psycho-physical well-being. The projects will generally work to strengthen local and national child protection systems, so that children’s rights are fully protected and promoted, in line with the EU’s 2017 Guidelines on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the 2009 UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children. Action will be geared to building the capacity of state institutions to fulfil their responsibilities as regards the protection of vulnerable children.

Gender equality and girls’ empowerment: particular attention will be paid to the needs of girls and boys who have been deprived of parental care, have suffered or are at risk of sexual or gender-based violence, and are exposed to physical and psychological violence in residential institutions or other forms of formal and informal care that have proved to be harmful. Projects will take account of local contexts, in particular in societies where low values in put on girls and boys. Where actions contribute to the strengthening of child protection systems, interventions should be designed using a specific ‘gender lens’.

‘Leave no child behind’ and addressing all forms of discrimination: the push factors leading to the separation of children from their families (tackling discrimination, poverty, lack of access to services, disability, natural disaster, armed conflict, etc.) will be analysed thoroughly to ensure that they are addressed through quality care intervention. Attention will be paid to the various forms of discrimination that lead to boys and girls from specific ethnic or minority backgrounds being put into alternative care (see above).

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives

The overall objective of this call for proposals is to ensure better outcomes for children by ensuring better implementation of the UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children in their entirety, so that children enjoy equal chances to reach their full potential in societies.

The specific objectives of the action are to:

- prevent the separation of children from their families;
- provide quality alternative care for children who are deprived of parental care; and
- support the transition from institutional to community-based, family and family-like care.
The action will help national authorities to reform their alternative care systems and implement existing legislation in order to build stronger child protection systems.

This programme is relevant to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. It contributes primarily to the gradual achievement of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and Target 16.2 (eliminating violence against children).

4.2 Main activities and results

The main activities that could be financed include:

1/ Encouraging and enabling government to take control of alternative care provision in line with UN's Guidelines on alternative care of children:

- advocacy for reform and implementation of child protection laws and support for quality care service; identifying gaps in policies and service provision;
- engaging with governments on the proper regulation, inspection and supervision of alternative care provision;
- supporting governments to identify systems of informal and unregistered care prevalent in their countries; improving knowledge of the country, the collection of disaggregated data and the management of sustainable strategies for reform;
- building the workforce (direct informal carers, care professionals and those in related social services) at national and subnational levels, in terms of training (conducting child and family assessments, case management systems, follow-up monitoring after reintegration, forms of alternative care, training of trainers, special care for children with disabilities), status and working conditions;
- training key decision-makers, such as the judiciary and the police, on formal alternative placements;
- establishing functional ‘gatekeeping’ mechanisms vetting all potential admissions to the most suitable formal alternative care provision in the light of the situation, and ‘opening the gate’ by supporting and helping children who become too old for alternative care or leave when it is no longer necessary;
- situating alternative care firmly within the local and national child protection systems, encouraging ownership and accountability by the authorities; and
- in all strategies, assessing the specific circumstances and needs of girls and boys suffering or at risk of violence and discrimination due to their ethnic or minority background, disabilities, geographical location (remote and isolated areas), etc., in order to provide them with the right care.

2/ Preventing the separation of children from their families:

- analysing and addressing the push factors leading to the separation of children from their families, with a focus on combating violence and all forms of discrimination against children and ensuring that all children have inclusive access to basic services;
- raising awareness among families and communities on the rights of the child and the importance of protecting boys and girls, and providing them with a stable nurturing environment; countering perceptions that institutional placement is necessary and raising awareness of the risks of unnecessary separation; reducing communities’ stigmatisation
of, and discrimination against, children on the grounds of disability or ethnic or minority background;
- strengthening inclusive local and national child protection systems to address children’s needs, by establishing effective ‘gatekeeping’ mechanisms and preventing separation;
- helping to make vulnerable families more resilient so that they can care for their children better (e.g. social protection, conditional cash transfer, income-generating activities, etc.); and
- training medical professionals in antenatal and maternity services to prevent infants being abandoned or placed in institutions (particularly in the case of disabled children).

3/ Providing quality alternative care for children who are deprived of parental care
- identifying and proposing the best alternative care for children (informal, formal, family-based, residential) depending on the child's individual needs, the cultural contexts and the circumstances, and to the highest possible standards;
- assessing individual children’s needs; providing comprehensive quality care catering as far as possible to their needs, characteristics, situations and wishes until they can be reunited with their families and communities;
- promoting children’s and adults’ participation in the care decision and service delivery review, and making sure the children’s voices are heard; and
- preventing unnecessary or unsuitable care placements and proposing quality improvements in existing care settings.

4/ Supporting the transition from institutional to community-based care
- identifying and supporting strategies for closing the most unsuitable institutions and residential care facilities;
- identifying and supporting long-term integrated strategies for the gradual de-institutionalisation of entire alternative care systems;
- raising awareness at all levels (among citizens, authorities, civil society organisations, faith-based groups, fundraisers, etc.) of harmful and unsuitable forms of alternative care and associated practices; and
- preparing and implementing family- and community-based solutions for the reintegration and rehabilitation of children taken out of institutions; providing access to essential services, with special attention to deprived and remote areas and to children facing discrimination (on grounds of disability, ethnic or minority background, etc.).

Results

- Governments act as agents of change by providing and monitoring the quality care that children need, backed with adequate human resources, greater knowledge and national implementing strategies in line with the highest possible standards.
- Children benefit from quality alternative care, with ‘gatekeeping’ mechanisms to ensure the right provision of care, follow-up and post-care preparation.
Fewer children are separated from their families, as families understand the need to let children grow up safely in their home communities so that they can reach their full potential, and benefit from support to provide care where needed.

Strong local and national child protection systems are put in place as families are better supported in their role as primary carers.

Fewer children are placed in institutions that prove detrimental to their personal well-being and development, and governments are engaged in the gradual de-institutionalisation of alternative care systems and closure of the most harmful residential care facilities, promoting the inclusive reintegration of children into local communities.

The specific needs of boys and girls exposed to gender-based violence and discrimination based on ethnic or minority background, disabilities, etc. are met through the organisation of quality care and the prevention of institutionalisation.

4.3 Intervention logic

Projects under this call will focus on comprehensive approaches to alternative care for children and the transition from institutional to community-based care, rather than isolated activities. Situating alternative care firmly within the local and national child protection systems will have a greater impact and lead to sustainable change, encouraging ownership and accountability by the authorities beyond the implementation of the action itself. Projects will be informed by a ‘theory of change’ explaining the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts, with sound monitoring and evaluation of the action taken.

Projects could involve partnership with research institutions with a view to:

- gathering evidence;
- sharing and enhancing knowledge (e.g. country profiles, overviews of the care situation, attitudes and perceptions, current human and financial resources, state supervision, specific needs of boys and girls suffering or at risk of discrimination);
- improving data collection and management; and
- linking up with existing platforms or networks.

Projects should follow the UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children and Moving forward: implementing the guidelines for the alternative care of children. Proposals will be assessed (under the relevance criterion) for consistency with these two documents.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

It is not envisaged that implementation of this action will involve a financing agreement with the partner country under Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements
implemented, is 80 months from the date on which the Commission adopts this action document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation Modality

5.3.1.1 Grants – call for proposals: Quality alternative care for children and de-institutionalisation (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overall objective of this call for proposals is to ensure better outcomes for children by ensuring better implementation of the UN's Guidelines for the alternative care of children in their entirety, so that children enjoy equal chances to reach their full potential in societies.

The specific objectives of the action are to:

- prevent the separation of children from their families;
- provide inclusive quality alternative care for children who are deprived of parental care; and
- support the transition from institutional to community-based care.

The action will help national authorities to reform their alternative care systems and implement existing legislation in order to build stronger child protection systems.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In application of Article 8(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, eligible applicants and co-applicant(s) must be:

- a legal person;
- non-profit making;
- a civil society organisation (this includes non-governmental non-profit organisations, community-based organisations, private-sector non-profit agencies, institutions and organisations and networks thereof at local, national, regional and international level); co-applicants may also be a public or local authority;
- established in an EU Member State or a developing country; and
- directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

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International public-sector organisations set up under international agreements, specialised agencies set up by such organisations, and other organisations that form part of such international organisations (e.g. the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) are not eligible.

At least one public or local authority from each country in which the action takes place must be involved in the project as co-applicant or associate and the rationale for the choice of authority must be set out in the project description. If the authority is an associate, it must provide a letter expressing its support for the application. The public authority can be a ministry and/or agency responsible for children (e.g. child protection agency or service, national guardianship institution, ministry for children, child protection, education, health, social affairs or justice, children’s ombudsperson and/or national human rights institute for children, responsible regional authority, etc.). Local authorities are defined in Annex IIB to Regulation (EU) No 233/2014.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant will be EUR 3 000 000 and grants may be awarded to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (implementation period) is 48 months.

Child protection/safeguarding policy: as underlined in the EU’s Guidelines on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, every organisation working directly with children should adopt a child safeguarding policy. Given the subject matter of this call, child safeguarding should be central to project design and implementation. The applicant should submit a copy of its child protection/safeguarding policy, which should include standards on:

- policy;
- people;
- procedures; and
- accountability.

More information can be found in Child safeguarding standards and how to implement them issued by Keeping Children Safe.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the applicant’s financial and operational capacity.

The essential award criteria are the proposed action’s relevance to the objectives of the call and its design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible costs of the action.


In accordance with Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum rate may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) **Indicative timing for launch of the call**

Last quarter of 2017.

### 5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

### 5.5 Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EU contribution (EUR)</th>
<th>Indicative third-party contribution, (EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.3.1.1. Call for proposals <em>Quality alternative care for children and de-institutionalisation</em> (direct management)</td>
<td>13 000 000</td>
<td>1 400 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>13 000 000</td>
<td>1 400 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The call for proposals will be managed in Brussels. The grant contracts will be managed by the Commission at HQ or by the EU Delegation in the case of projects targeting one country only.

### 5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from a call for proposals will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner’s responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the
action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action (Call for Proposals) a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components 10.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 60 days in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or

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10 Each project will have to foresee final evaluation but the Call for Proposals in itself will not be evaluated.
entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.