



Ministry of Labour, Social  
Protection, and Family

# **Results and perspectives in the development of the child care system in the Republic of Moldova**

# The child care system before the reform

- Dependent on the residential system
- Lacking community prevention services
- Few alternative family-based services
- Social norms: institutions considered good solutions for children
- Fragmented activities: lack of coordination in the policy development and implementation
- Poverty and access to education – main factors that determined families to accept the institutionalization of their children

# Results of the residential child care system reform in figures

Year	Child population under 18	Child population under 18 in residential institutions
1995	1,458,454	approx. 17,000
2002	1,009,046	13,486
2007	918,892	11,544
2011	745,606	5,813
2012	784,000	4,843

[1] UNICEF: Growing big in the Republic of Moldova (2008)

[2] UNICEF: Children of Moldova, summary (2011) and population statistics, provided by the National Statistics Bureau

# Changes in the alternative care

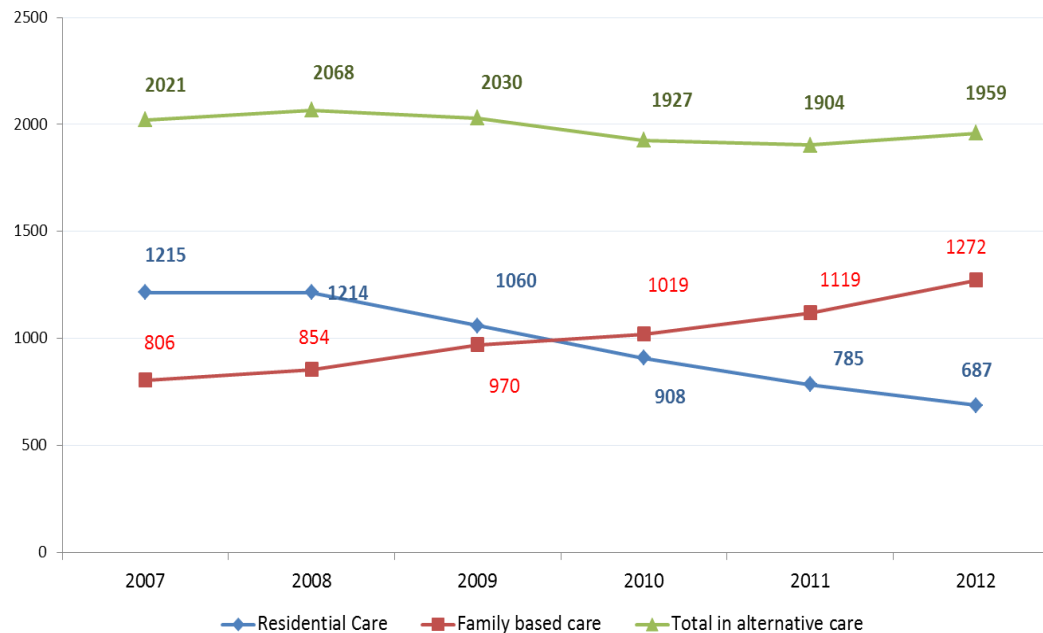
Ratios of children in alternative care (number of children per 100 000 child population)

## Results:

**1. Residential care in decline (Number of children dropped by 50%)**

**2. Family based alternative services overcome residential**

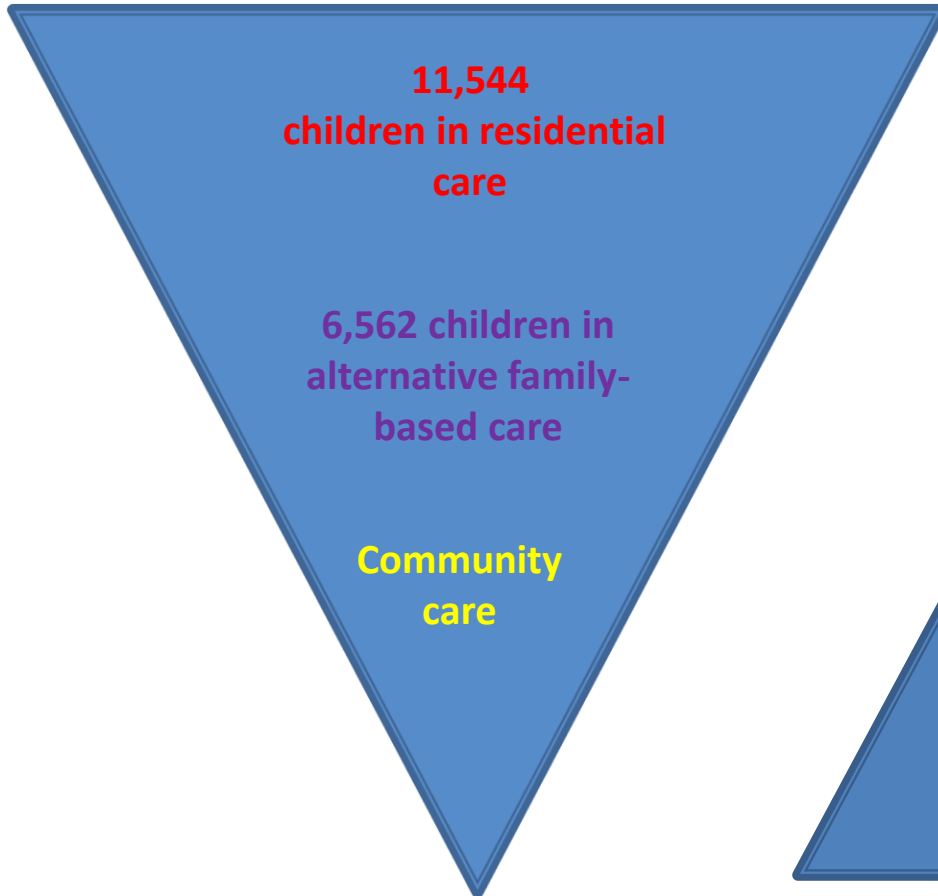
**3. Overall situation: Fewer children placed in residential care**



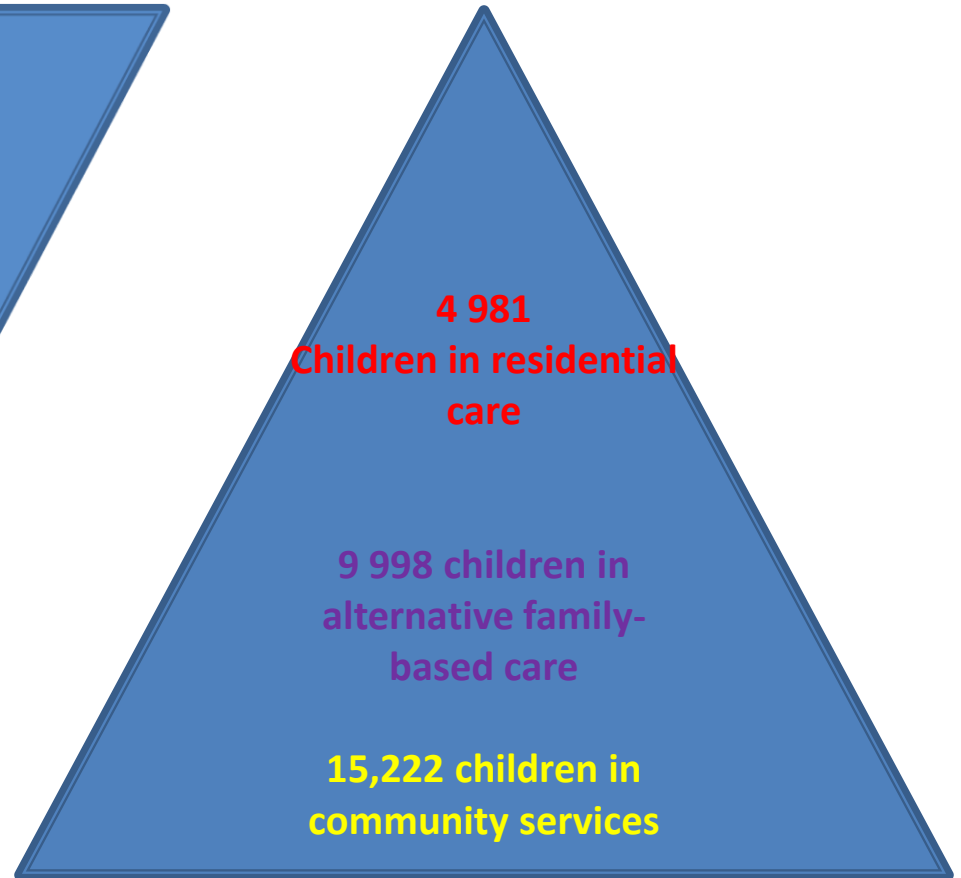
# Child care system on 01 January 2014

Type of alternative services	No. Of services/institutions	No. of children	No. of children per residential/family based/community based services
Residential institutions	41	3808	4981
Placement centre (temporary)	28	1173	
Foster Care	261	392	9998
Kinship Care		9263	
Family-type homes	86	343	
Specialized day care centres (children at risk and children with disabilities)	45	904	7393
Community centres	72	6489	

**2007**



**2013**

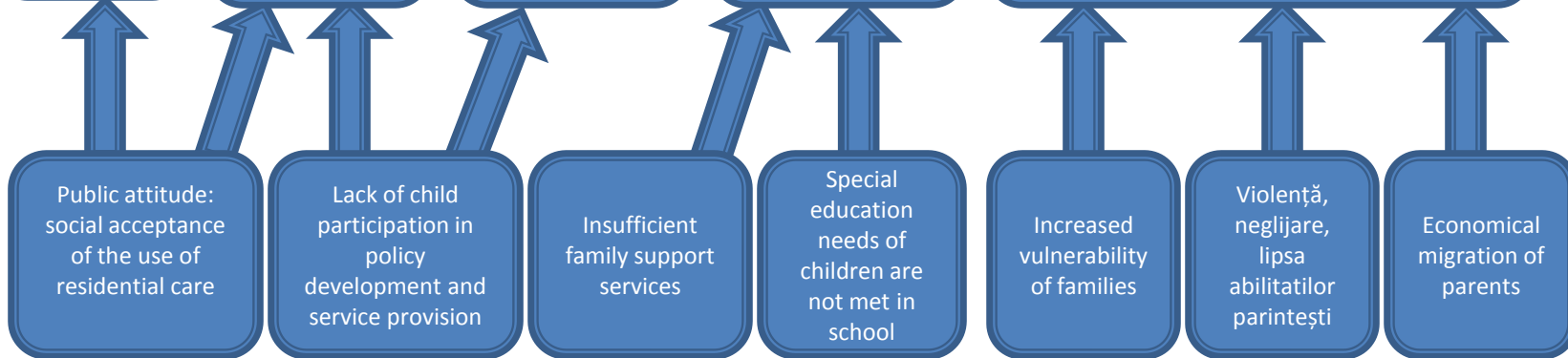


# Copii separați de familii plasați în instituții rezidențiale

## Immediate causes



## Underlying causes



## Political, economical, and historical factors

Lack of ownership for the residential child care system reform in all regions of Moldova

Economical deprivation

Historical use of residential forms in child care

Lack of family support in many LPA

Lack of awareness of the effects of residential services on the child's development among the general public and many professionals and decision-makers

Professionals and the general public support residential care

# Theory of social transformations

A world in which every child has the right to a childhood in a secure and caring family, without poverty, violence, and exploitation

The system develops policies, mechanisms, procedures, structures, services, standards of practices that better suit for the prevention of violence and neglect and can offer improved protection to abused children.

Changing the context – which means that immediate changes in the lives of children are sustainable and that other child generations will not face these problems or will be able to solve them more efficiently

Children, bearing rights and active citizens, are agents of change - together with their families, communities, service providers, and authorities – obtain positive and sustainable changes in their lives.

The society reforms its way of understanding and responding to causes and effects of violence and neglect, and loss of family care.



# Concept of child deinstitutionalization

- Early intervention and response to the risk of child separation from family
- Development of family support services
- Retargeting cash benefits to the most vulnerable families with children
- Consolidation of the system preventing child separation from families
- Development of alternative family-type services
- Continuing the child deinstitutionalization process
- Closure/transformation of residential institutions
- Promotion of case management
- Multi-disciplinary approach to meeting the children's needs
- On-going monitoring of children's assistants in families, institutions, and other alternative services
- Development of inclusive education
- Early identification and intervention in cases of children with disabilities

# **Child protection strategy**

**General objective: Ensure necessary conditions for the up-bringing and education of children in family environment**

- Prevent child separation from family;
- Gradually stop institutionalization of children under 3 years of age;
- Continue to reduce the number of children in residential care;
- Reduce negative effects of parents' migration over the children who remain in the country;
- Develop and implement the National Program of parental skills development.

Thank You

