



# Why Networks Work

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# What are/ is.....



- The UN Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of alternative care?
- Good selection criteria for alternative care?
- A good method of recruiting foster parents?
- Research saying about the results of alternative care?
- The budget streams of the government?
- How can I lobby as small group against a strong opposition?

# Cooperation is needed

- To find answers
- To join in lobby activities
- To share experiences
- To assist each other
- To.....



# The network in The Netherlands

- Network of Dutch based organizations that in The Netherlands and abroad, are involved in the care for children without parental care.

## Objective:

- Organization of the exchange of knowledge and experiences.



# Additional Objective

- To lobby policy makers, stakeholders and donors about the importance of family and community based alternative care.
  - Influence the thinking and policy making
  - Present results and research
  - Create opportunities to influence project development and input of funds



# Activities

- Network meetings
- Website with resources:  
[www.bettercarenetwork.nl](http://www.bettercarenetwork.nl)
- E-Newsletter: 250 receivers
- Email address for questions

# Working groups



- Alternative care:
  - research and good practice collection
  - continuum of care assessment
  - what works publications
- Child Trafficking
  - how to prevent this in project work
- Quality Care
  - what is good quality
  - tools to measure quality

# Success



- One voice, one power.....
- Lobby Parliament resulted in € 8.000.000 extra funding for social protection in foreign aid projects.
- Policy change in donor organisations
- Cooperation of donors and support organisations in other countries



# Steering group



- Cordaid
- Kinderpostzegels
- UNICEF
- International Foster Care Organisation
- Defence for Children International/ ECPAT
- Stop Aids Now!
- International Child Support
- Wereldkinderen
- Bernard van Leer Foundation
- FICE/ Vereniging Jeugd- en Kinderzorg
- Child Helpline International



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# Questions

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