



# **Stolen childhood: Every child has the right to grow up in a family**



State Audit Office  
of the Republic of Latvia

---

Riga 2019

---

Dear reader,

For many years, fundamental documents about the development of Latvia have declared that our country is based on strong and stable families. The state has committed to provide support to parents and strengthen the child's sense of security. So that a stable foundation for development is ensured to every child starting already from childhood, it is crucial to prevent domestic violence and violence in schools, to provide assistance in crisis situations, to provide a family-like environment for those who have not had any, to support opportunities for children to fit in school and the wider community. Psychological stability in childhood creates self-confidence, the ability to trust and cooperate with others.

However, information about forgotten, abandoned, unwanted, and neglected children appears in the mass media repeatedly not confirming the fact that the declared directions of sustainable development of Latvia are on the agenda of the institutions responsible for the protection of the rights and interests of children. Moreover, fellow people who can help to prevent the risks to the health or even lives of children choose not to interfere hoping that the institutions will sort everything out.

For example, in Dobele, there were three weakened children found next to the bodies of their parents who had died in the result of drug overdose. The children left without parental supervision have died in Rēzekne and Liepāja. Nevertheless, in the child care institutions of Jelgava City and Ventspils Region, where the children left without parental care should receive state-guaranteed care, children are emotionally humiliated.

This news literally "rock" the public asking for an explanation why such a situation has been allowed. However, the responsible authorities justify why it could not be prevented.

As the intolerance to the inaction of the institutions grows, and the society no longer intends to accept the usual practice of acting only when the child's health or even life is endangered, Orphan's courts, social services, law enforcement agencies are starting to take more active measures by emphasising the role of the society as well and calling to report about the families where disadvantages of children's development exist. The Ministry of Welfare also succeeds in finding political support for increasing state support for guardians, foster families, and adoptive parents, thus promoting that children are in the family-like environment rather than in a child care institution.

In this audit, we intended to find out whether not only the public has changed as a result of all those events mentioned above, but also the authorities responsible for the protection of children's rights are doing their utmost to ensure the children's right to grow up in a favourable environment in a family or in the family-like environment suitable for the interests of the child.

We extend our gratitude for their cooperation to major entities we have audited, that is, the Ministry of Welfare and the State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights, as well as local governments, especially municipal Orphan's courts, social services, and child care institutions that met with auditors in person or participated in the survey. We also thank the other institutions that provided the necessary support to the auditors - the Ombudsman's Office, the Association of Orphan's Court Employees, the Information Centre of the Ministry of Interior, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, and others.

Special thanks for the support provided and interchange of views to the professionals and community representatives, namely, Family Psychotherapist Andrija Likova, Association of Professional Foster Families Terēze, Association Zvannieku mājas and Ms Sandra Dzenīte-Cālīte, Foundation PLECS, foster family moms and all others who responded to the calling of the State Audit Office to inform us about the problems and to share their thoughts.

Respectfully yours,  
Ms Inga Vārava,  
Director of the Department



## Executive Summary

### Major Conclusions

**The Ministry of Welfare has set a goal for Children and Family Right Policy to ensure an opportunity for every child to grow up in a family. If the latter is not possible, the child must be provided with out-of-family care at a guardian at first, then in a substitute family with foster parents or to be adopted and only then at the child care institution as the third option. Such national policy complies with the principles enshrined in international law and international practice.**

This goal cannot be achieved without the support and development of alternative forms of care and the lacking active public support for policy implementation. Therefore, the State Audit Office appreciates the activities initiated by the Ministry of Welfare to increase the number of foster families and to support other host families, which have contributed to the fact that more and more children have received out-of-family care by their guardian or foster family rather than in child care institution in recent years.

The auditors believe that we will consider the stated policy outcomes achieved only when the best interests of every child left without parental care are respected. The best interests of the child include the obligation of the responsible institutions to provide such out-of-family care that creates a sense of protection for the child left without parental care, provides favourable conditions for the child's development, and supports the child's efforts to be independent. At the same time, the child must be enabled not to lose contact with his or her family and the usual environment. Besides, the rights and interests of the child should be a priority for all actions.

**However, the findings of the audit show that the actions of the responsible institutions, that is, Orphan's courts and social services, as well as the State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights (hereinafter referred to as SIPCR), and the Ministry of Welfare have not always been in the manner to meet the best interests of the children left without parental care and to prioritise them.**

The auditors realise that some of the problems currently affecting the activities of the responsible institutions are a consequence of the past. Most parents whose child custody right has been discontinued or removed had grown up at a time when the public and the responsible authorities had a different understanding of what unfavourable conditions for the child's development meant and how they might affect the future life of the child, and their own parenting in the future. One-tenth of the children currently living in child care institutions are teenagers who had been placed in out-of-family care at the time when a child care institution was considered a form of care relevant to the interests of the child.

However, those conditions do not justify the inaction of the responsible institutions, which watch helplessly at the occurred situation and are not searching for the solution most suitable for the best interests of the child. The auditors think that each employee involved in decision-making process must solve the problems of a child in difficulty by first asking oneself whether I am doing everything, I can

find the most appropriate solution for the child's interests while also thinking about the ways to ensure that the child becomes a full-fledged member of society.

During the audit when **evaluating the decisions of Orphan's courts to discontinue custody rights and to separate a child from the family**, the auditors conclude that Orphan's courts and social services have started family supervision most often only when the child's right to full care and even his or her health and life are already endangered.

During the survey, 2/3 of the local governments indicated to the auditors that they analysed how many families were at risk of inadequate childcare and parenting. However, 75% of the local governments admitted that they did not obtain information on the total number of families with children living in their municipality.

This means that the responsible authorities have not still identified all the families living in the municipality being at risk of inadequate childcare in order to provide these families with the necessary support proactively, for example, by raising awareness of the upbringing suitable for the interests of the child, providing support for the treatment of parental addictions, and so on.

In cases where the family is already within reach of the institutions, the responsible authorities are hesitant to act. The auditors found at least 15 cases when decisions on the discontinuation of custody rights were not taken in time. For example, the Orphan's court and the social service have been observing a family for more than eight years where children are growing up in unsuitable living conditions, alcohol is used regularly in the family home, mutual violence has occurred, but the Orphan's court decides to discontinue the custody rights only when one of the family children has suffered from sexual abuse in those circumstances, and the perpetrator was a person who had previously been convicted of sexual offences and was a regular guest in the family.

**Analysing the decisions made by the Orphan's courts on the type of out-of-family care chosen for the child, the auditors point to a positive trend, as the Orphan's courts have increasingly found a solution to provide out-of-family care to the child in a family-like environment, that is, at the guardian or foster family, in the last two years.**

However, in two of the 16 Orphan's courts visited during the audit, the auditors continued to identify the practice of providing care to children left without parental care in the child care institution without carrying out activities to find a potential guardian or a foster family.

In other Orphan's courts, targeted and child-friendly activities to provide care at a guardian or in a foster family were not performed for all the children left without parental care. Orphan's courts had failed to find a guardian for the child, as they had assigned the status of a potential guardian only to the close relatives of the child such as grandparents or siblings of parents without looking for more distant relatives, who might represent another social order. However, their activities had stopped concerning finding a foster family because there were no vacancies available in foster families of particular local government.

Presently, the insufficient number of foster families affects opportunities of Orphan's courts to provide care of the child in a foster family. However, auditors draw attention to the fact that, if the presence of the child in his or her family is impossible, the professionals of the area believe that caring by a guardian

is the most appropriate type of care for the child, which is a permanent solution for childcare, unlike foster families.

Therefore, to respect the best interests of the child, the Orphan's courts must make use of every opportunity to find a guardian using the powers vested by the laws and regulations. First, they must identify all the relatives of the child both the near and more distant and use the data of the Register of Population, which enables obtaining information about a very wide range of relatives.

Secondly, after identifying the relatives, targeted actions should be taken to address them by applying all available tools and instruments, for example, by requesting information from the State Revenue Service about the workplace of relatives and addressing them at their workplace, using the support of Orphan's courts and social services of other local governments to forge contacts with them. Thirdly, one must also consider the opportunity of appointing a person other than the child's relative as a guardian of the child.

**Although under the Law on the Protection of the Children's Rights, child care in child care institution shall be provided only in exceptional cases, in the opinion of the auditors, the interests of the child are not respected even more if, when deciding on the placement of the child in the child care institution, nobody assesses whether the chosen child care institution is suitable for a particular child, that is, whether the child care institution is located in the place where the child has the opportunity to maintain personal relationships and direct contact with his or her family and other relatives or whether the child care institution can provide care for all the children of one family so that they would not be separated, etc.**

The audit has found that the child is most often placed in the child care institution of the respective local government, id est, a municipal institution or its structural unit. In its turn, in cases when the local government does not have its own child care institution or a number of places is insufficient, the local government concludes an agreement with the child care institution of another local government or a private service provider even in other regions of Latvia.

The audit also stated that local governments often choose to separate the children of one family and place them in different child care institutions even in different regions. Young children up to two years of age or disabled children are placed in a state child care institution because the children up to two years of age and disabled children are provided with child care institution services in four branches of state social care centres, while the other children receive that service in municipal child care institution or a child care institution with which the local government has signed an agreement.

The auditors understand that if the local government is unable to provide its population with the services they need in its institutions/ structural units, the local government must attract other service providers. Nevertheless, to respect the best interests of the child when choosing a provider of child care institution services, one must evaluate at least whether a particular child care institution is located in the place where it will be accessible to parents or other relatives of the children if they will be looking for opportunities for family reunification. One also requires assessing whether a particular child care institution will be able to take care of children of all ages so that the children of one family would not be separated there.

**After the decision to separate the child from his or her family is made, the Orphan's court must immediately inform the social service of corresponding local government, which is legally obliged**



**to carry out social work with the family and provide it with the social services necessary to restore the normal functioning of the family and reunite it.**

In its turn, the Orphan's court must monitor whether the parents fulfil the tasks of the social service for solving problems by assessing the opportunity for parents to renew their custody rights.

If parents cannot renew their custody rights within a year, the Orphan's court must decide on bringing an action on discontinuation of custody rights to court. If the latter complies with the best interests of the child, the Orphan's court can also bring the action to court earlier.

While evaluating the work of social services with families during the audit, it has been established that social services have not been able to provide support to the family in all the cases aiming to eliminate problems that had been the basis for separation of the child from the family and have not informed the Orphan's courts about that in a timely manner.

Although the auditors understand that both the lack of available services and the fact that the social service can start and work with the family only if it is motivated to overcome the problems in the family affect the ability of the social service to provide the necessary support, but the auditors emphasise that it cannot be an argument for "long waiting".

If the social service does not have the tools to motivate and help the family in solving problems to restore its functionality, the social service must immediately report it to the Orphan's court, which must assess after evaluating the information provided whether it is necessary to bring an action to court on discontinuation of parental custody rights.

However, the audit has established that even in cases when the social services have informed the Orphan's court that cooperation with the family is not taking place, the Orphan's courts have delayed bringing the action to court. In several cases, the Orphan's court has simply forgotten its duty to evaluate whether the reasons for discontinuation of custody rights have disappeared in the family at least once a year, while in several other cases the parents are given the opportunity to 'become better' without specifying particular actions and deadlines for solving problems and not assessing the situation as a whole, including how that long lasting uncertainty affects the child.

While the Orphan's courts and social services are waiting for the situations to resolve themselves, the child is permanently placed in out-of-family care without a permanent solution until he or she reaches the age of becoming "uninteresting" to a potential adoptive parent, as adoptive parents from Latvia mainly wish to adopt children under 10 years of age.

**Respecting the best interests of the child also means that the care provided for the child is regularly monitored and reviewed.** Therefore, the Orphan's court as the responsible institution for the protection of the child's personal and property interests and rights after placement of the child in out-of-family care is obliged to check the care provided to the child and respecting of his or her rights and interests at the guardian, in a foster family, and a child care institution at least once a year.

The most extensive information is available to the Orphan's courts for monitoring the interests of the child, including the right to obtain the necessary information from the child itself, as well as to request it from all the institutions and individuals involved in childcare (for instance, to receive a half-yearly report on the psychophysiological development of the child from the foster family, request information from educational establishments and medical practitioners).

Still, the audit resulted in a statement that the monitoring carried out by the Orphan's courts is formal in many cases, as it mainly covers only the examination of living conditions such as whether the place of residence is clean, the child has a bed, a closet, or food, etc. The child's opinion and other issues relevant to the full care and development of the child have not always clarified: whether and how the child's rights to health care, education, physical and emotional development, leisure time, property interests, as well as the right of communication with parents and other relatives are respected. The auditors draw attention to the fact that at least three cases were found during examination of the files of children when the Orphan's courts had not even reacted to the risks indicated by the educational establishments and other Orphan's courts in the annual examination that the chosen type of care or its provider did not correspond to the interests of the child.

The checks carried out by the auditors in 11 child care institutions are the most illustrative confirmation of the fact that after the placement of the child in out-of-family care, monitoring activities by the Orphan's courts is insufficient to ensure the protection of the child's personal and property interests and rights.

Despite the duty of the child care institution to develop individual social rehabilitation plans according to the Cabinet Regulation for the identification of the individual needs of the child and solution of the problems identified by setting out all the necessary support for the child, the auditors found out that the child care institutions have not always identified the needs of the child, inter alia, not obtaining information about the previous life of the child or taking into account the services already recommended by other specialists to the child. Therefore, prepared social rehabilitation plans are often formal and cover only everyday activities such as attending school, tidying up the room, pursuing personal hygiene, etc. The sections of the performance evaluation were not filled out as well, which indicates that the plan is not used when organising the child's daily life and providing the child with the necessary support.

The auditors agree that every child needs to acquire and strengthen their daily skills, but rehabilitation must cover a much wider range of services including the engagement of different professionals regarding whose availability and assurance the auditors have not obtained confirmation in all the cases.

In a number of cases, the auditors also found that other interests that are crucial for the development of the child are not respected in the child care institutions such as the right to the privacy and personal immunity of the child, the property right of the child, as well as the right to education appropriate to the child's abilities. In its turn, the education of three children was unreasonably organised at a boarding school with children living there as well. The children returned to the child care institution that is their home while they are separated from the family, only on weekends.

The auditors point out that 21% of children placed to child care institutions, 11% of children placed in guardian families, and 12% of children placed in foster families have lived in boarding schools, school service hotels, or twenty-four-hour groups of kindergartens in the academic year 2017/2018.

However, the most significant risks of violation of children's rights and interests have been identified in structural unit Mākoņkalns of Bērnu Oāze Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns), where children are not provided with adequate education, opportunities to spend their free and leisure time in full and meaningfully (for example, gym, recreation room, and training class were closed during the auditors' visit), communication of the children with their family and other



relatives is also restricted. When entering the child care institution, the child must hand over a mobile phone, which is the only means of daily communication with relatives taking into account the location of the child care institution, that is, even up to 400 km away from the child's place of residence.

The audit found that the child care institution does not provide the required services of professionals, although the Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns specialises in the care of children with behavioural disorders. Children's behaviour is supposed to be changed not by the support of professionals, who evaluate the causes of the child's behaviour and provide the necessary service for behavioural correction, but by a scoring system developed by the institution itself that is not coordinated with any competent institution. Children are awarded "+" points for completed tasks and "-" points for violations. In practice, it is difficult for a child to reach a positive score, which gives the right to use their mobile phone, go outside the child care institution, and use the computer and the Internet, because the children in the child care institution are placed directly due to behavioural disorders that other child care institutions failed to tackle. Therefore, it is not expected that children's behaviour will change without intensive professional support.

**Respecting the best interests of the child does not mean only that the actions taken by the responsible institutions are legitimate, sufficient, and timely regarding the child concerned, but also that the out-of-family care domain established by the state is regularly monitored and reviewed thus ensuring that the principle of good governance practice is met.**

Currently, the Ministry of Welfare as the leading authority ensures the supervision of the policy of children and family rights and supervises the work of the SIPCR as a subordinate institution. In its turn, the Ministry also ensures the examinations in child care institutions as the responsible institution for the control of compliance of social service providers and the services provided by them.

The SIPCR supervises the operation of the Orphan's courts, including their methodological management, as well as carries out inspections regarding the respect of the child's rights in any institution where the children reside, including the child care institution, educational establishment, prison, medical institution, children's camp, etc.

The assessment of the inspections of Orphan's courts and institutions carried out by the SIPCR resulted in a statement that the SIPCR does not carry out a risk analysis to identify potential risks to the functioning of the institutions prior to conducting those inspections, including the identification of the institutions where the inspection should be carried out. If the inspection is based on a complaint, only the issues stated in the complaint are inspected. In a planned inspection, the choice of files is carried out on the spot at the institution.

After the inspection is carried out, the SIPCR also does not provide sufficient supervision of the recommendations made. Therefore, sometimes violations reoccur even in the institutions where they were previously detected. In addition, the SIPCR does not verify the elimination of previously identified deficiencies even in the event of the inspection being carried out based on a complaint in the same institution.

The violations found during the audit in the Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns confirm the fact that this kind of approach to the SIPCR inspections is not productive and does not allow detecting and preventing violations of children's rights. Within two years, the SIPCR has regularly received complaints about possible violations in the Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns and has carried out seven

inspections. However, the Inspectorate did not reveal any significant risk to the respect of the children's rights in the child care institution and did not carry out an in-depth examination of the merits to establish the reasons of so many complaints. The Ministry of Welfare also did not reveal any significant risk to the children's rights in the Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns during its examination, although it had found a number of circumstances that proved the opposite.

Only after the auditors informed the management of the Ministry of Welfare of the significant risks in respecting the children's rights in the Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns on 10 December 2018, the Ministry of Welfare carried out a comprehensive examination of the child care institution in co-operation with the SIPCR and the Ombudsman's Office on 18-19 December 2018, which confirmed all the risks indicated by the auditors, inter alia the fact that the institution does not know where all the children are located, who should be placed there, that the children are not provided with the social rehabilitation services necessary for the correction of their behaviour, as well as obtaining education, etc. Therefore, children from the child care institution were removed, and the activity of the Child Care Institution Mākoņkalns was terminated on 23 January 2019.

Having evaluated the methodological management of the Orphan's courts implemented by the SIPCR, the auditors conclude that it is insufficient and does not provide efficient support to the Orphan's courts in their daily work. Methodological materials are not systematised and selectable by topics or keywords. Most methodological materials are lacking the time they have been drafted or updated, and it is impossible to state whether they are at all relevant. Instead of overcoming these shortcomings, the SIPCR had posted a reservation on its website that *"Methodological recommendations for Orphan's courts have been prepared following the law in force at the time when the methodological recommendations were drafted. Given this, methodological recommendations apply to the operation of Orphan's courts insofar as they are by the applicable laws and regulations."*

The resources of the SIPCR are not and will never be sufficient to monitor every decision made by an Orphan's court, and that would not be productive either. Therefore, the methodological management of the SIPCR as a competent institution in the children's rights should be substantially improved by both elaborating instructions when the legal framework is amended and regularly summarising and analysing the errors detected during inspections, and complaints/questions received so that the errors detected in one Orphan's court are not allowed in other Orphan's courts. Besides, for the improvement of inspections and methodological assistance, the SIPCR should also analyse the data available in the national information systems, as well as the case law on the contested and annulled decisions of the Orphan's courts, etc.

Although the Ministry of Welfare is responsible for overseeing the operation of the SIPCR, the Ministry currently possesses only the data on the performance of quantitative indicators set out in the SIPCR's work plan, for example, on the number of inspections carried out. In the opinion of the auditors, such information is scarce for the Ministry to be able to assess the performance of the functions delegated to the SIPCR and the achievement of the sectoral objectives. The SIPCR has been operating without any operational strategy of the institution since 2017, which must define the goals, directions, and deliverables of the institution's activities by linking them with the sectoral objectives. In the opinion of the auditors, this indicates a lack of good governance practice both at the level of the SIPCR and the Ministry of Welfare.

The Ministry of Welfare has also not responded and taken targeted action to address the lack of human resources in the SIPCR, which may have a significant impact on the operation of the institution. In 2017 and 2018, the SIPCR worked without a permanent head of the institution for a long time, two Directors of Departments quitted, and 10 of the 19 inspector positions were vacant.

The lack of single, accurate, and up-to-date information on the children in out-of-family care and the decisions made on them also influence the supervision of the out-of-family child care. The Ministry of Welfare requires such information not only in assessing the performance of the indicators set out in the development planning documents but also for the productive supervision of Orphan's courts and child care institutions.

According to the auditors' assessment, the principal information systems which currently provide for the accumulation of information about all the children in out-of-family care and the decisions made about them together in one place are the Information System for Minors Support maintained by the Information Centre of the Ministry of Interior (hereinafter referred to as ISMS) and the Register of Population subordinate to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

However, the data collected in both information systems is not complete, as not all Orphan's courts fulfil the requirements stipulated by law on the input of information and none of the supervising institutions have also taken control of compliance with those requirements.

In the auditors' opinion, ISMS is a tool that could be used to monitor the area concerned because it provides the possibility of collecting data on all processes of out-of-family care and other issues related to the child's rights, as well as exchanging information with other state and municipal information systems.

Nevertheless, the authority subordinate to the Ministry of Interior, the Information Centre of the Ministry of Interior is the manager and holder of this system instead of the Ministry of Welfare as the leading authority in the area of children and family rights. As the Information Centre is not familiar with the area of children and family rights in detail, it only takes care of the technical performance of the system. In its turn, the Ministry of Welfare refrains from engaging in the creation and control of the content of ISMS, because the Ministry is not stipulated such a function according to the law.

The auditors consider that the Ministry of Welfare as the responsible institution for the area of out-of-family child care in particular must undertake responsibility for the content of ISMS, as well as to take steps to ensure that the institutions input all the information provided for in the laws and regulations into ISMS, thus ensuring that ISMS would be a support tool both in everyday work and in sectoral policy making and monitoring.

**The findings of the audit unfortunately also lead to the conclusion that the responsible institutions, namely, Orphan's courts, social services, and child care institutions, have not always taken care that the child left without parental care would receive support for starting independent life after reaching the age of majority.**

Orphan's courts and child care institutions believe that after the child reaches the age of majority, they are no longer obliged to take care of the child aimed at receiving all the guarantees provided for in regulatory enactments such as financial support, living space, as well as psychosocial support for

integration into society. Nevertheless, the social services that must provide this support indicate that the necessary support can only be provided if the child is addressing them himself or herself. However, children, especially those who received out-of-family care in a child care institution, often lack the skills and knowledge to fight for their rights and receive that support.

Therefore, the support stipulated by the laws and regulations is mainly provided by paying out the one-off benefits outlined in the Cabinet Regulation. However, such important forms of support as the right to the living space ensured by the local government and psychosocial support for starting an independent life are often missing. Hence, the child often returns to the social environment from which he or she was separated due to lack of support.

The auditors regard that psychosocial support for starting an independent life be provided to the child left without parental care requires introducing a mentoring service in all local governments that is already provided in some local governments and includes practical and emotional assistance in solving various household situations and receiving the services necessary for the young person.

This will also ensure that the child's right to psychosocial support for integration into society, as provided for in the Cabinet Regulation, is implemented through not only social work or social worker consultations but also with practical support for starting an independent life.

## Major recommendations

Following the conclusions made during the audit, there are 22 recommendations made to the Ministry of Welfare as the leading public authority in the area of children and family rights for improving the out-of-family child care by facilitating that the activities of the responsible institutions are sufficient and timely and enable the child to grow up in a family or in a family-like environment suitable for the interests of the child.

The State Audit Office expects that implementation of the recommendations shall:

- ✓ Improve cooperation among the institutions in the analysis of the social situation of the local government to identify families in due time where are risks of insufficient childcare so that the provision of necessary support to them would be started proactively;
- ✓ Enhance the operation of the Orphan's courts in decision-making on the discontinuation/ removal of custody rights of the parents of the child and the type of out-of-family child care most suitable for the child's interests;
- ✓ Also improve the expertise of the Orphan's courts in supervising childcare at the guardian, in a foster family or child care institution by eliminating the risks of disrespecting the interests of children. Orphan's courts will also be provided with high-quality methodological support suitable for everyday use;
- ✓ Improve the operation of the social services of local governments when providing families with the necessary support for full care of their children and exchanging information with the Orphan's courts on restoring functionality of the family;
- ✓ Enable the SIPCR to draft an operational strategy by assuring that its directions of operation are linked to sectoral objectives;
- ✓ Improve the quality of inspections carried out by the SIPCR and the Ministry of Welfare by assuring that they are meaningful and reveal the risks of disregarding children's rights and interests in all the cases;
- ✓ Enhance supervision of the area of children and family rights by providing that the Ministry of Welfare will possess up-to-date information on all the processes of out-of-family child care and other issues related to children's rights.



The audit includes 22 recommendations to the Ministry of Welfare