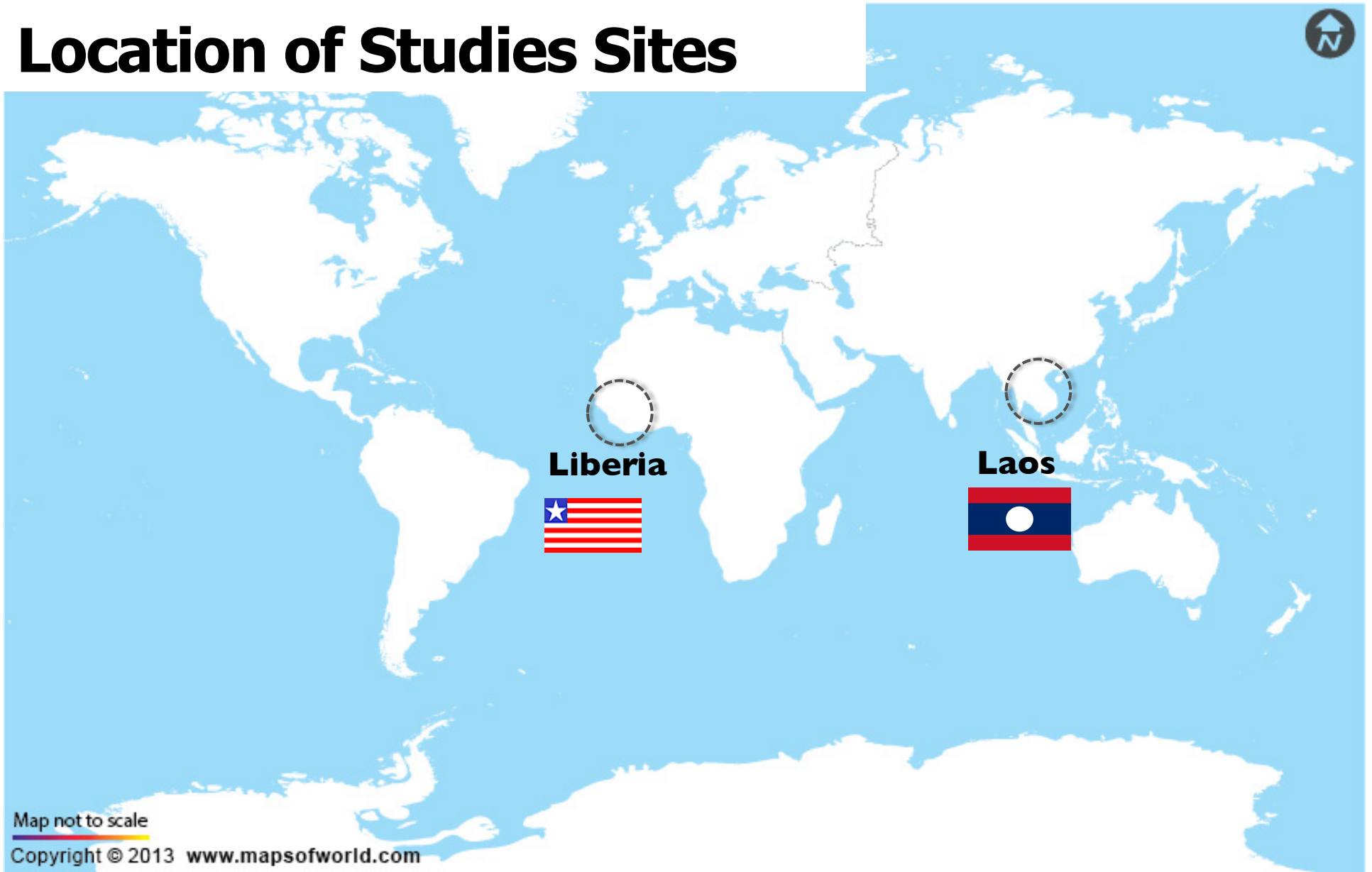




# **Exploring Child Care Arrangements & Reasons for Family Separation in Liberia & Laos**

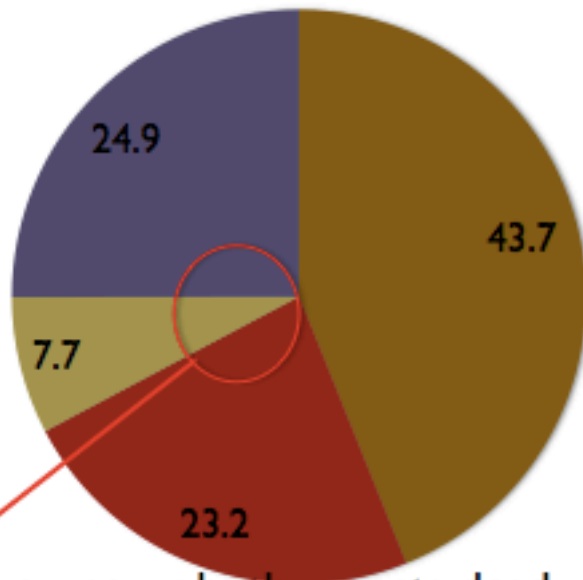
**Mónica Ruiz-Casares, Ph.D.**

# Location of Studies Sites



# Children Living Arrangements

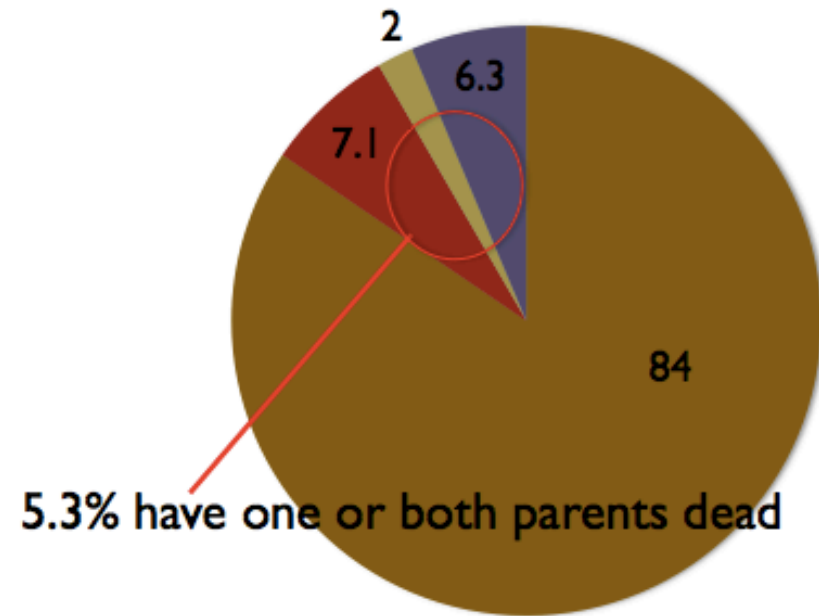
## Liberia



7.2% have one or both parents dead

- Live with both biological parents
- Live with mother only
- Live with father only
- Do not live with either biological parent

## Lao P.D.R.



5.3% have one or both parents dead



# CP-KAP Objectives



Liberia CP-KAP household survey

1. To establish a baseline of **community Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on child protection.**
2. To identify resources & barriers or enabling factors for **child protection & access & willingness to use prevention & response services.**

# CP-KAP Design



- 1 Desk review**
- 2 Key informant interviews (n = 55)**
  - Community leaders & service providers
  - Donors & public officials
- 3 Focus group discussions (n = 21)**
  - Parents/caregivers of children (n = 52)
  - Children 7-11 years (n = 59)
  - Children 12-17 years (n = 88)
- 4 Household survey (n = 1547)**
  - Parents/caregivers of children (n = 1160)
  - Children 12-17 years (n = 387)



# Laos Study Objectives



Ethnic Boarding School

1. To document family & community practices aimed at preventing parental separation & promoting care & reintegration.
2. To document alternative out-of-home care arrangements.

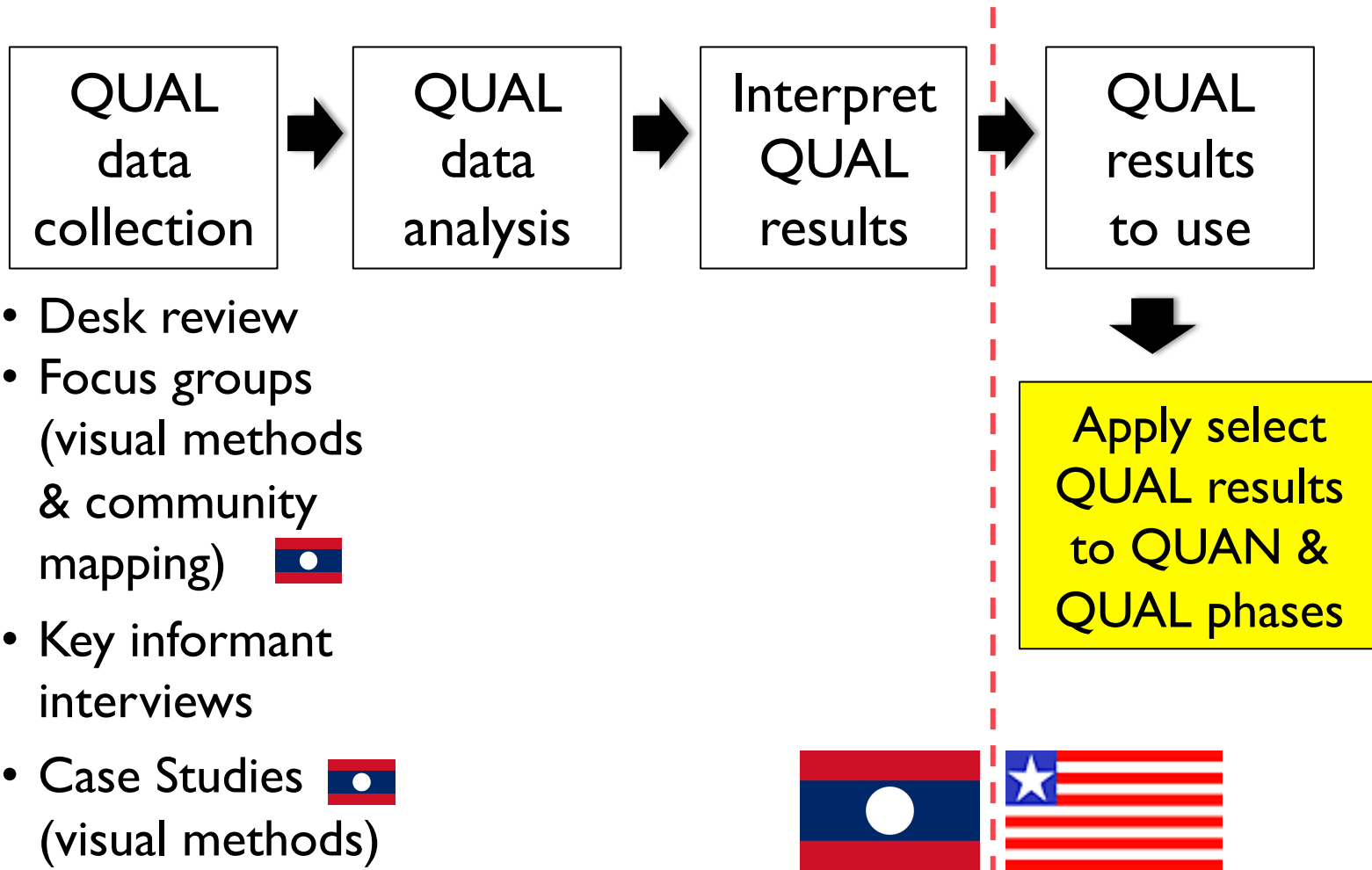
# Laos Design



- 1 Desk review\***
- 2 Key informant interviews (n = 26)\***
  - Community leaders & service providers
  - Policy makers & public officials
- 3 Focus group discussions\***
  - Parents/caregivers of children (n = 192)
  - Children 7-11 years (n = 103)
  - Children 12-17 years (n = 191)
- 4 Case studies (PEI) (n = 20) \***
- 5 Online survey (n = 8)**
  - INGOs & UN

\* Includes institutional settings ↗

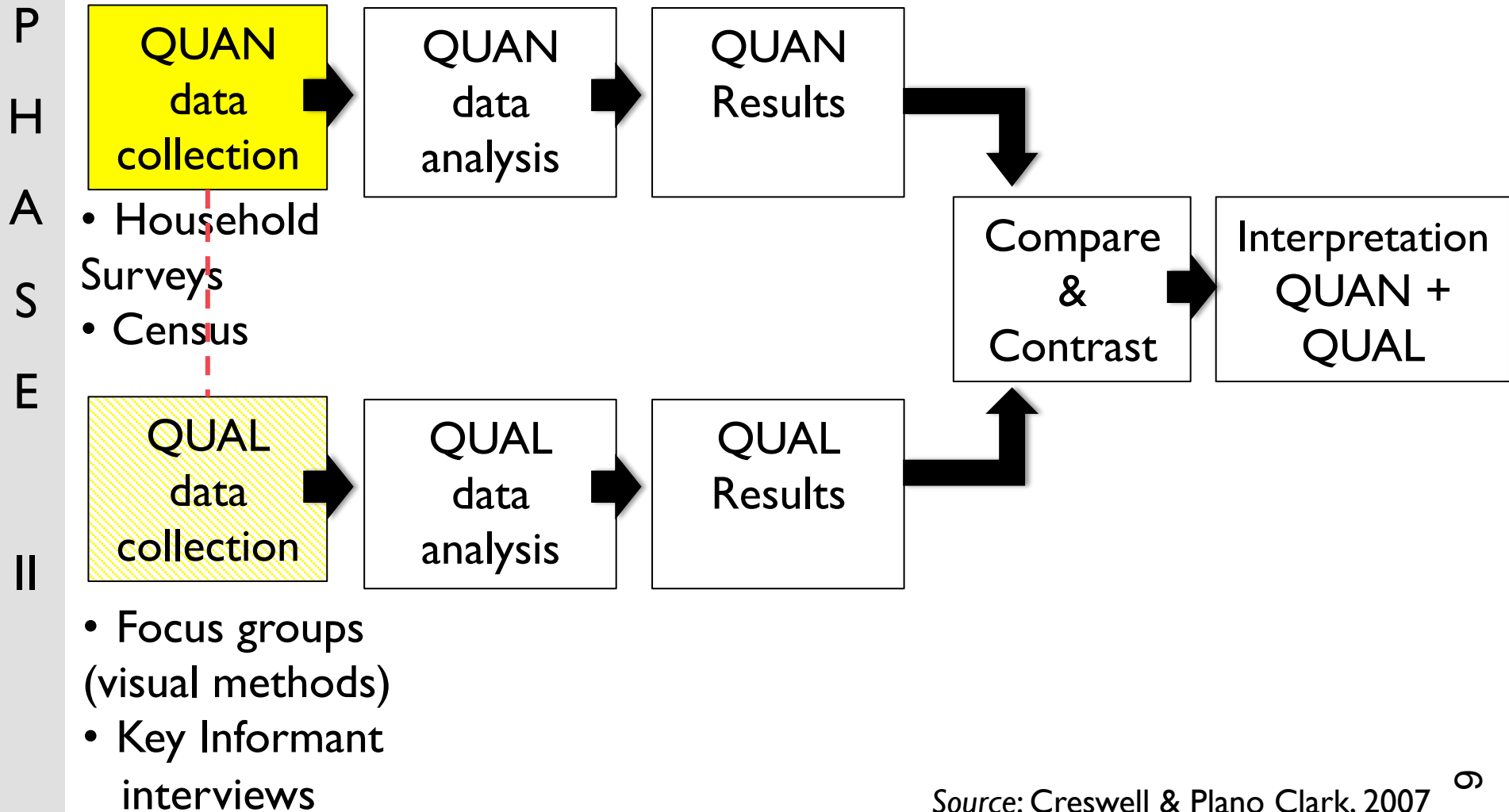
# Exploratory Sequential Design

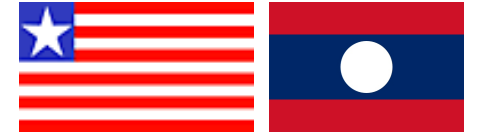






# Triangulation Concurrent Design





# Recruiting FGD Participants

- Identifying the critical characteristics of participants
- Establishing the no. of FGDs
- Developing FGD protocols
- Recruiting participants (nonprobability sampling)



See: Ruiz-Casares, Rousseau, Morlu & Brown, 2013

# Household Surveys

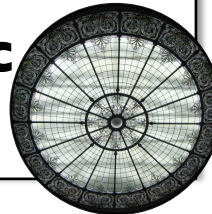


- **Stratified cluster survey**
  - Rural, Urban, and Metropolitan strata
  - 3-stages:
    1. EAs (PPS)
    2. Households (Modified EPI Method)
    3. Caregivers (Kish)
- **Sampling frame:** Liberia Population & Housing Census (2008)
- **Response rates:** 93% (caregivers) – 94% (child)
- **Sampling & post-stratification weights**

# CP-KAP

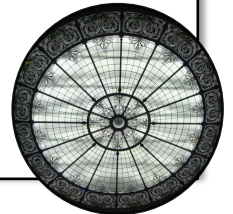
- SES
- Marital status
- Income source
- Housing
- HH composition
- Child basic needs

## Demographic & Household



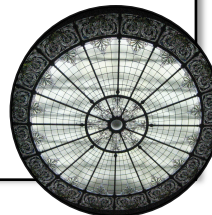
- Community risk factors
- Problems of child separation
- Adoption & alternative care
- CP laws & systems
- Community resources for abused children

## Knowledge



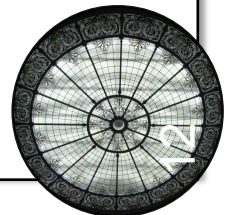
- Children w/o parents
- Different treatment
- Willingness to foster & send to alternative care
- Child reunification
- Physical discipline

## Attitudes



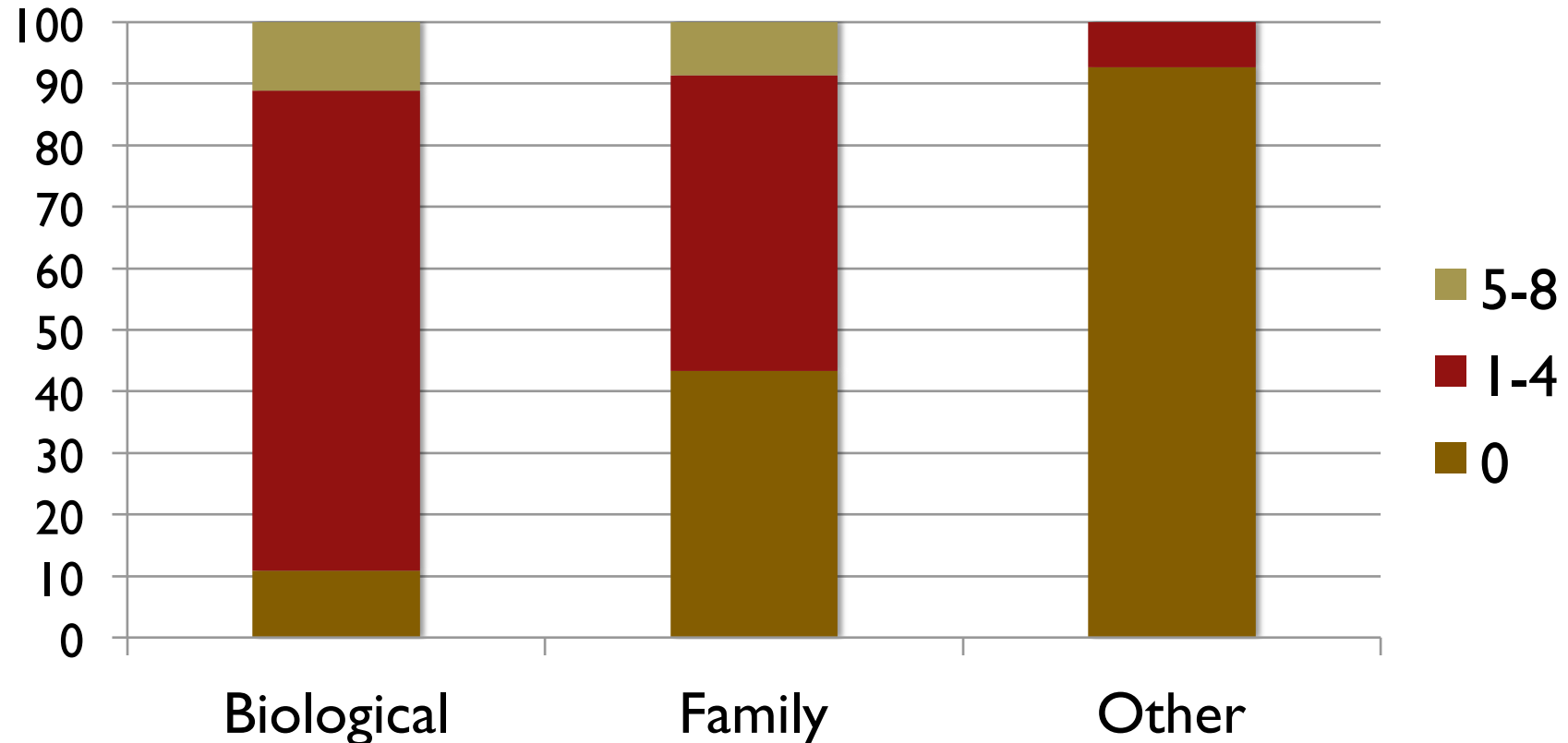
- Communication & supervision
- Social support
- Child work
- Access to health(care) & education
- Physical discipline
- Reporting abuse
- Sources of CP information

## Practices





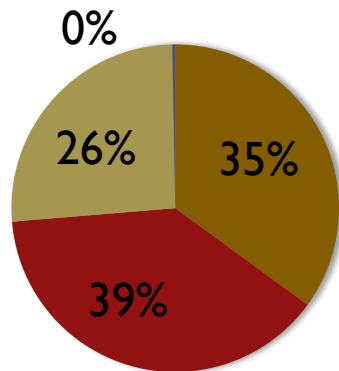
# Household Composition: Children



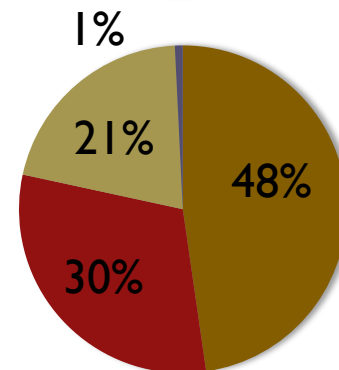
- 52% of HH with children living away, mostly for schooling (48%)
- Child-R: lived with both (42%), one (32%), or no parent (27%)  
17% were single or double orphans



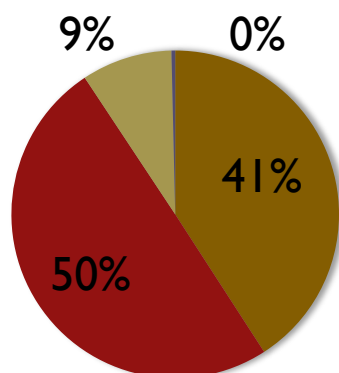
# Knowledge True or False?



When parents cannot care for children, the law in Liberia says that children should be sent to orphanages



If parents give their child up for adoption out of the country, they may be able to go to the US



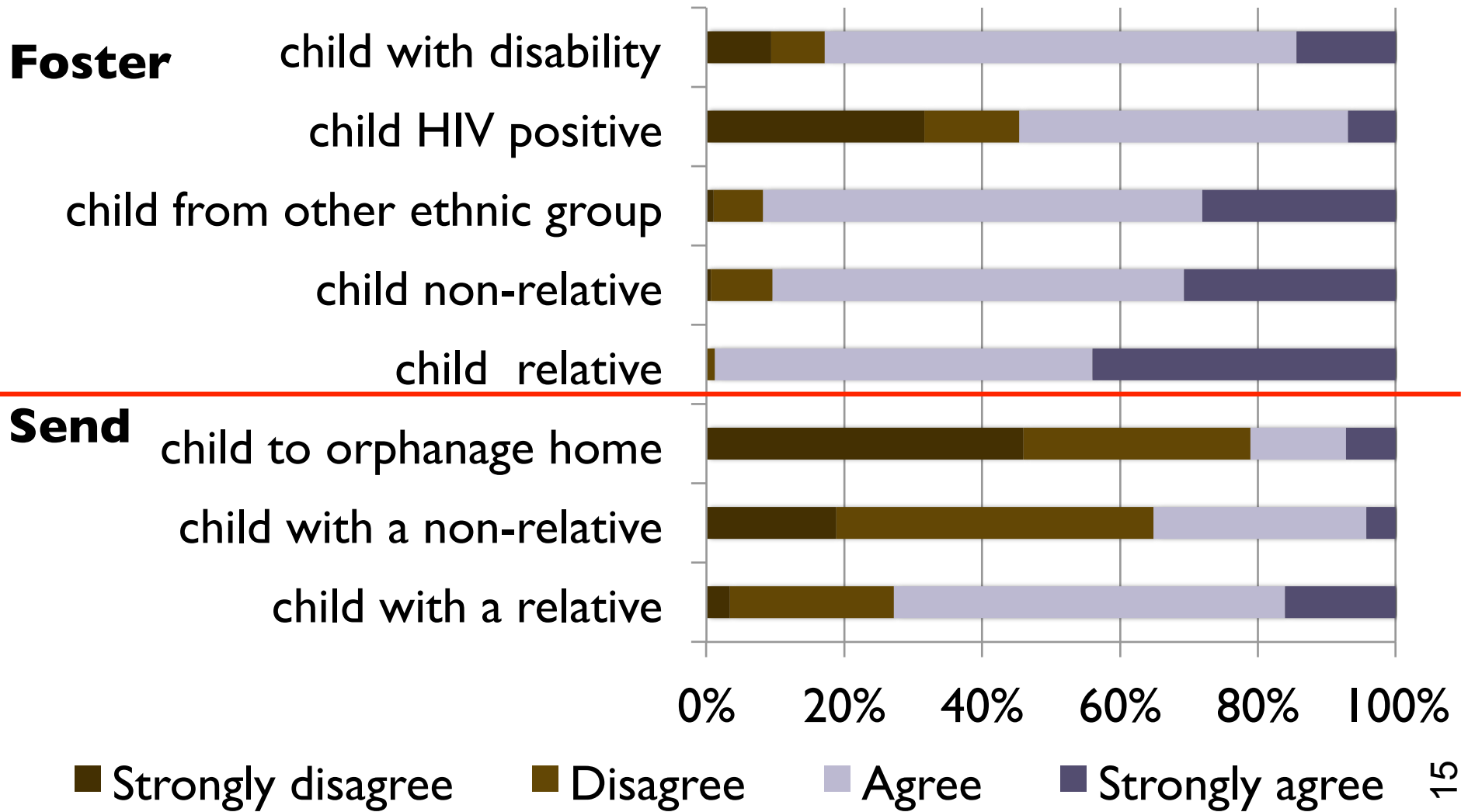
Most children in orphanage homes do not have living parents





# Attitudes

## Willingness to...





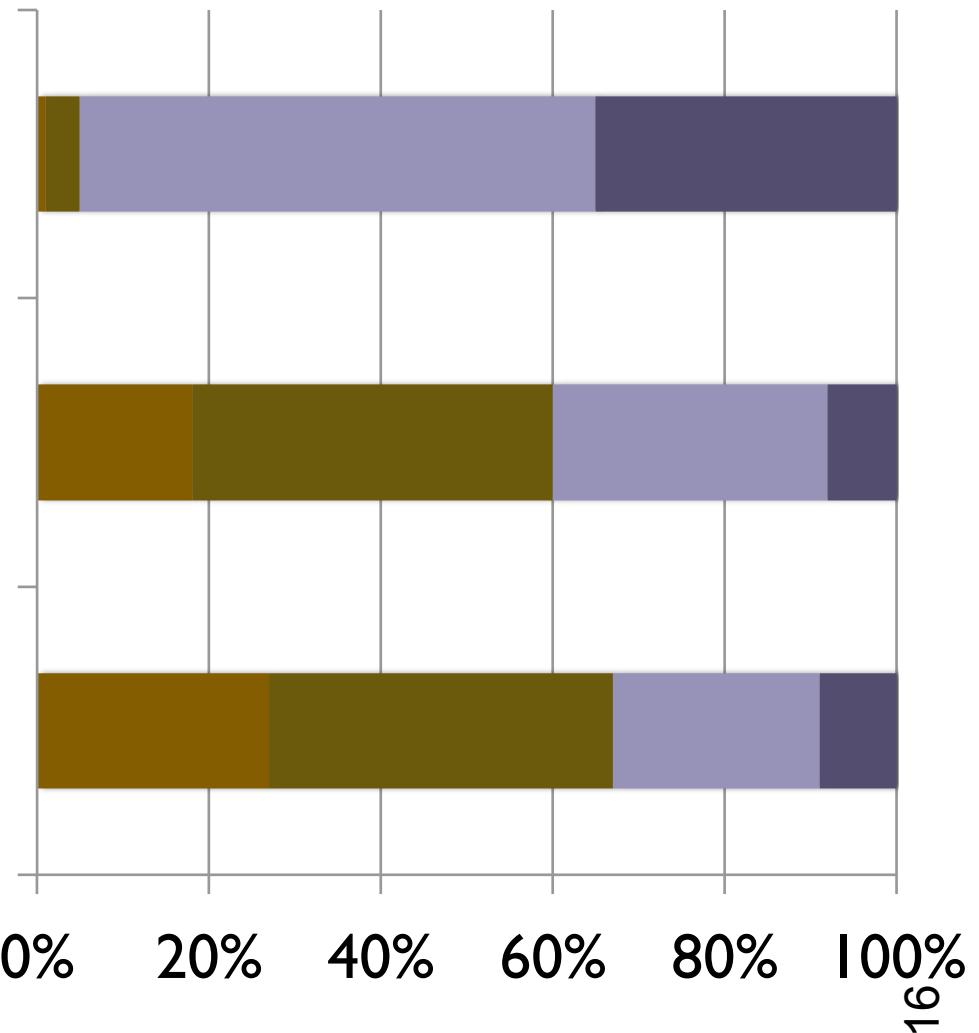
# Attitudes

## Children Not Living With Their Parents...

Should only be sent to orphanage homes if there is no family to care for them

Should be sent to orphanage homes if they have disabilities or special learning needs

Are better cared in orphanage homes than in a family



Strongly disagree

Disagree

0%

20%

40%

60%

80%

100%

Agree

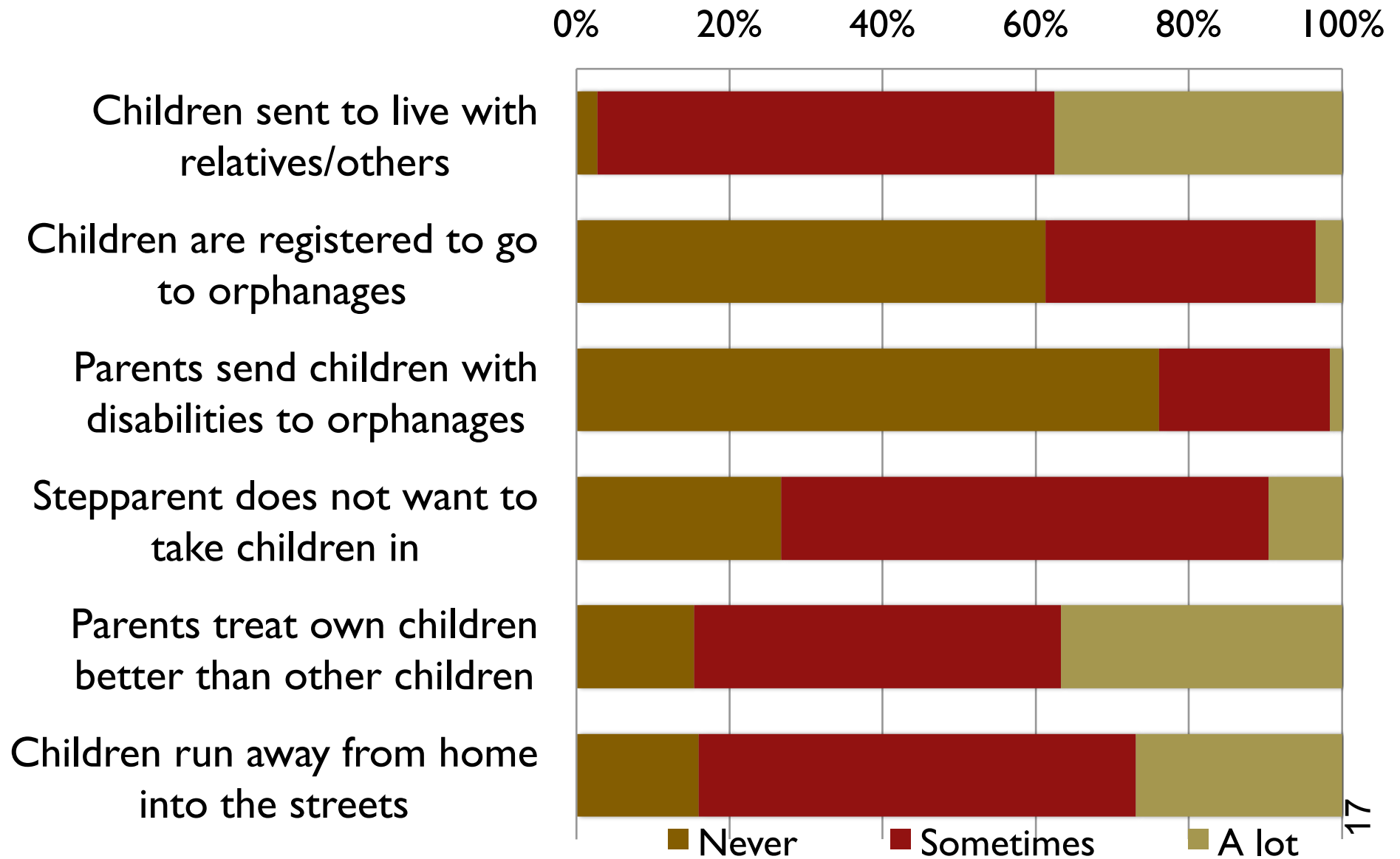
Strongly agree

16





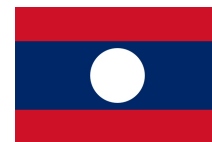
# Practices





# Differential Treatment

- Clothes** Some parents (...) will buy expensive clothes for their own children and **used clothes** for the other children.
- Food** A few parents are still letting children especially those of family members and other people cook their own food with **less ingredients**; they and their own children eat the good food.
- School** [Some parents] only send the ones that are clever to school, or send their children to private school and the family or other children to **government school**.
- Play** Some caretakers will give you, the child, **more work to do** so that you, the child, will have no time to go to your friends to play.



# Child Separation in Laos

## REASONS

- Parental death
- Parental divorce/  
permanent separation
- Parental remarriage
- Access to education
- Parental work/farming
- Material poverty

## PROCESS

- Relatives “adopt” children & care to continue schooling
- Neighbors care for children while parents are away
- Decision made by parent(s), grandparents, uncles/aunts, children &/or village authorities
- Village/district recruit EBS/SOS (quotas)
- Home visits

Source: Ruiz-Casares, 2013

# Limitations

## **Scope & sampling**

Excluded populations

Inaccuracy/out of date LISGIS data & indicators

Trade-offs

Non-probability (Laos)

## **Survey development & implementation**

Questionnaire length (HH roster)

Community access & call-backs

Staff supervision

Self-report

# Take Away



## CP-KAP

## TTT (Triangulate, Test, Train)

- QUAN, QUAL, & Mixed-methods
- Multi-voice

## INDICATORS

- Parental marital history/death
- Differential & mal-treatment (disabilities)
- Access to education
- Living conditions
- HH Composition (children)

## CONTEXT

- Cultural & ethical norms
- Critical reflection

# Gratitude to Participants & ...

CSSS de la Montagne

Dept. Social Welfare, Liberia Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Dept. Social Welfare, Lao Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

Don Bosco Homes

GIS/LIGIS

Lao Women's Union

McGill University

Mother Pattern College of Health Sciences

National Traditional Council of Liberia

National Union of orphanages of Liberia

National University of Laos

Save the Children

SOS Children's Villages

UNICEF

USAID

World Learning

**For further information:**

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