

Systematic monitoring and improvement for children in foster care

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Facts Malmö

- 320 000 inhabitants
- Close to the continent
- 400 children in foster care
- 30% unaccompanied refugee
- 2014 unaccompanied children were the most frequent reason for fostercare

To follow– To monitor To lead towards targets

- No data no problems
- No problem no action

- To take action without targets

- To set targets without facts
- To use facts without analysis

Unaccompanied refugee minor

- Monitor as any other child
- Develop methodology as in all socialwork with other children
- But Sometimes its necessary to ask other questions

Identify areas of improvement

Basic data

- Population, national, regional, local
- National comparisons, what works?
- Flows, how many?.....
- Finance, use of resources, how much?.....

Identify areas of improvement

Specific data

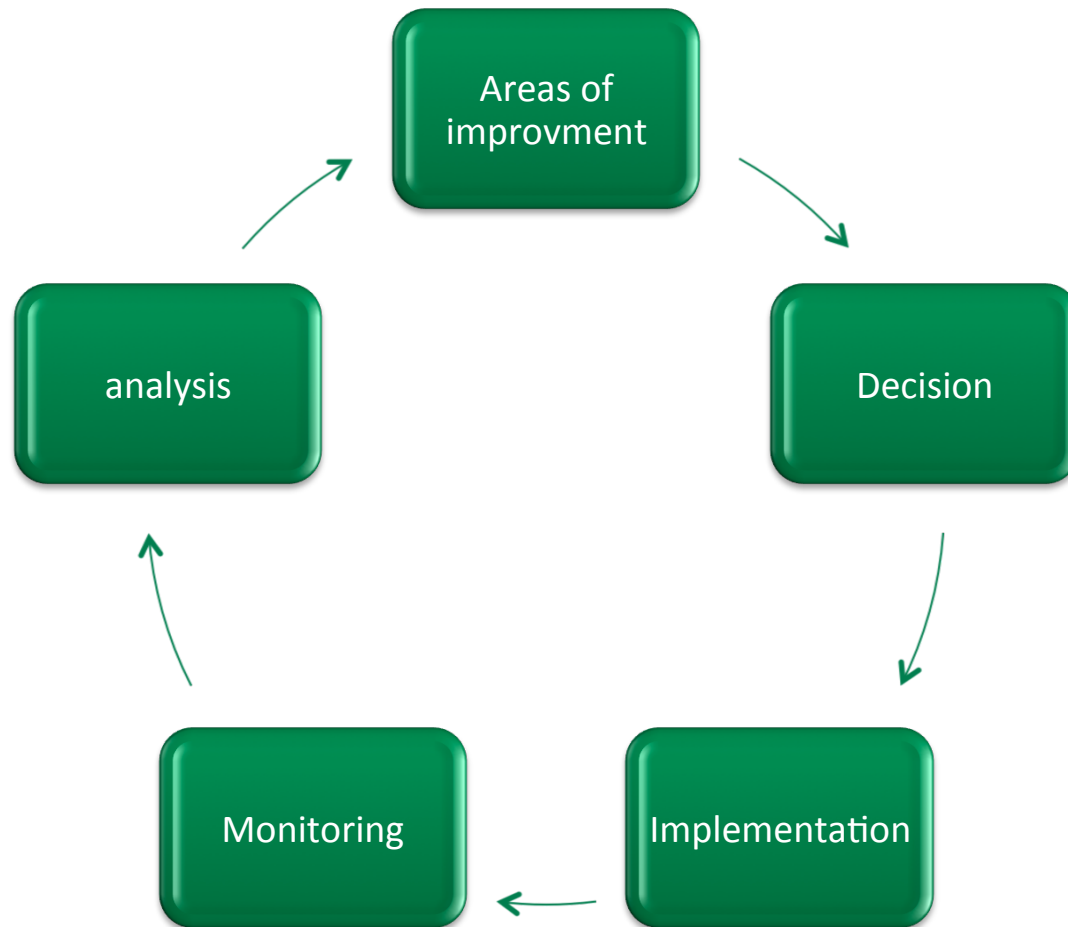
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Studies

Identify areas of improvement

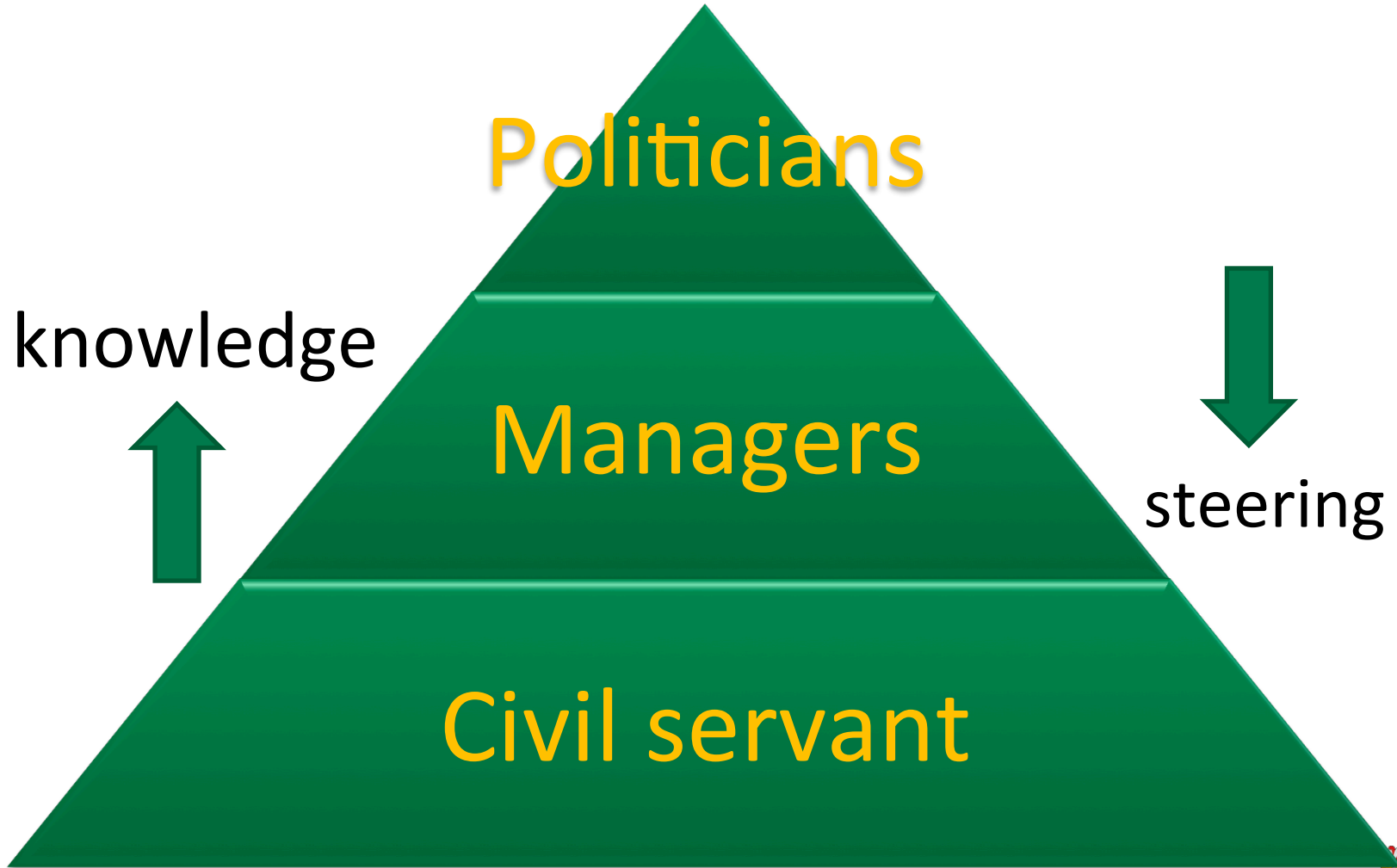
Analysis

- Trends
- Protective factors
- Risk factors
- Areas of improvement

The process of development



Who's benefit?



Who's benefit?

The child

The family home

The network

How does it work?

- Annual surveys
- All new placements
- All breakdowns
 - Two studies
 - Analysis
- Board of the city council
- Areas of development
 - Monitoring
- Again and again and again.....

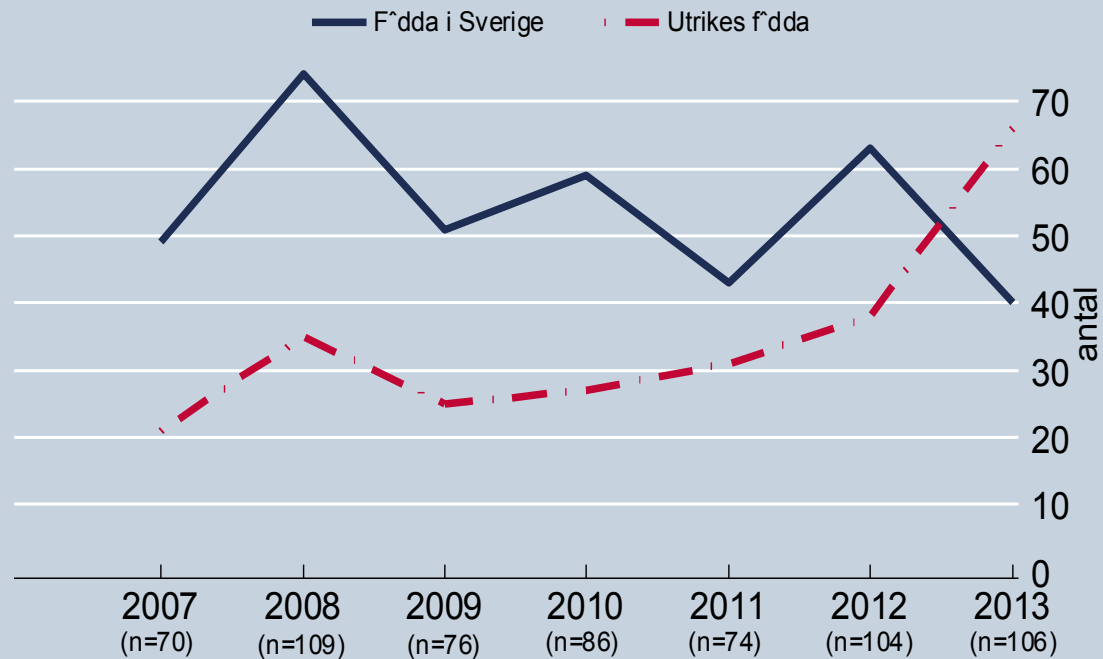
**Children in foster care and
unaccompanied refugee
minors in foster care**

Malmö

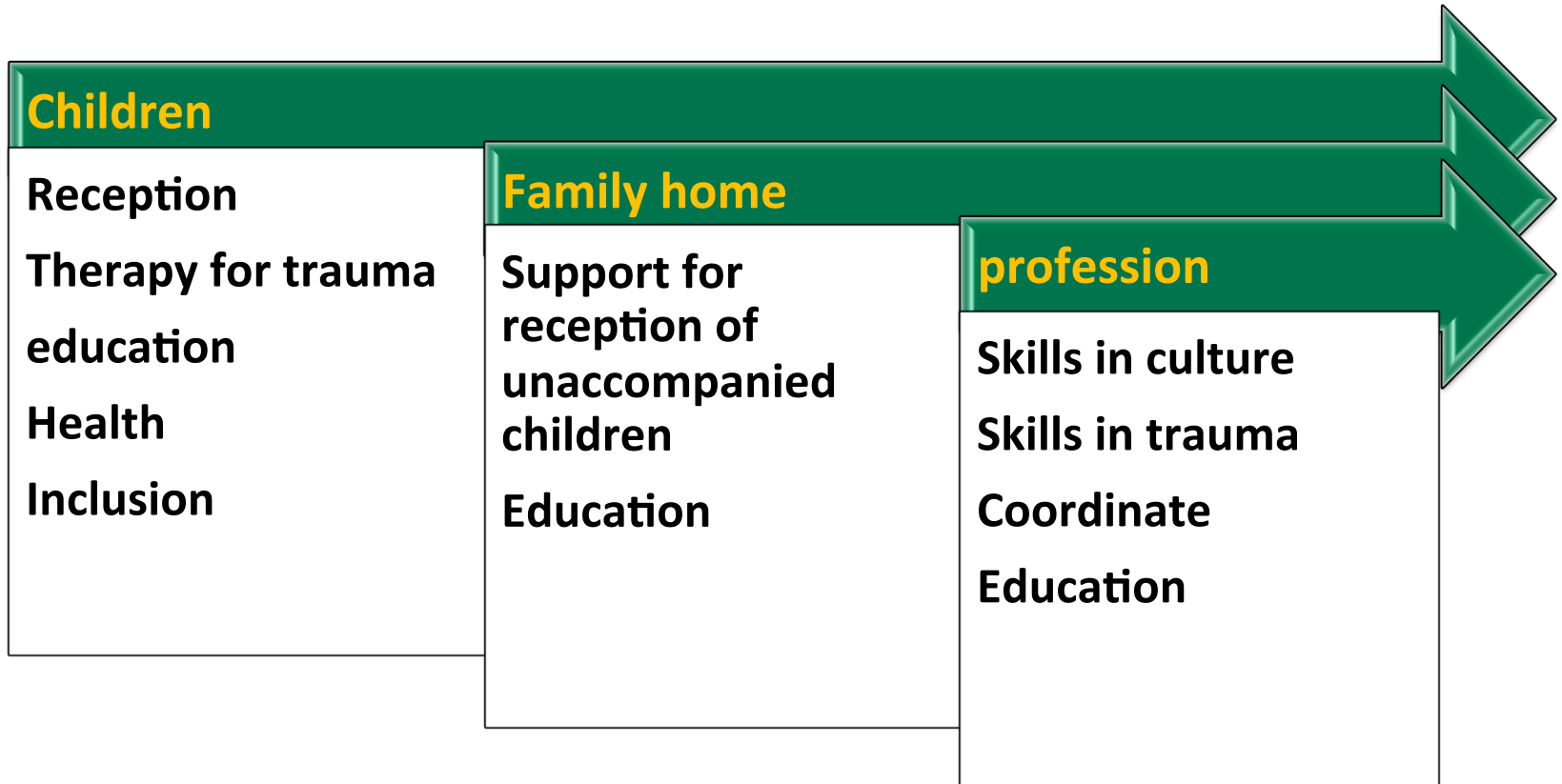
Results 2006 - 2013

Antal nyplacerade barn efter födelseland

Nyplaceringar i familjehem 2007-2013

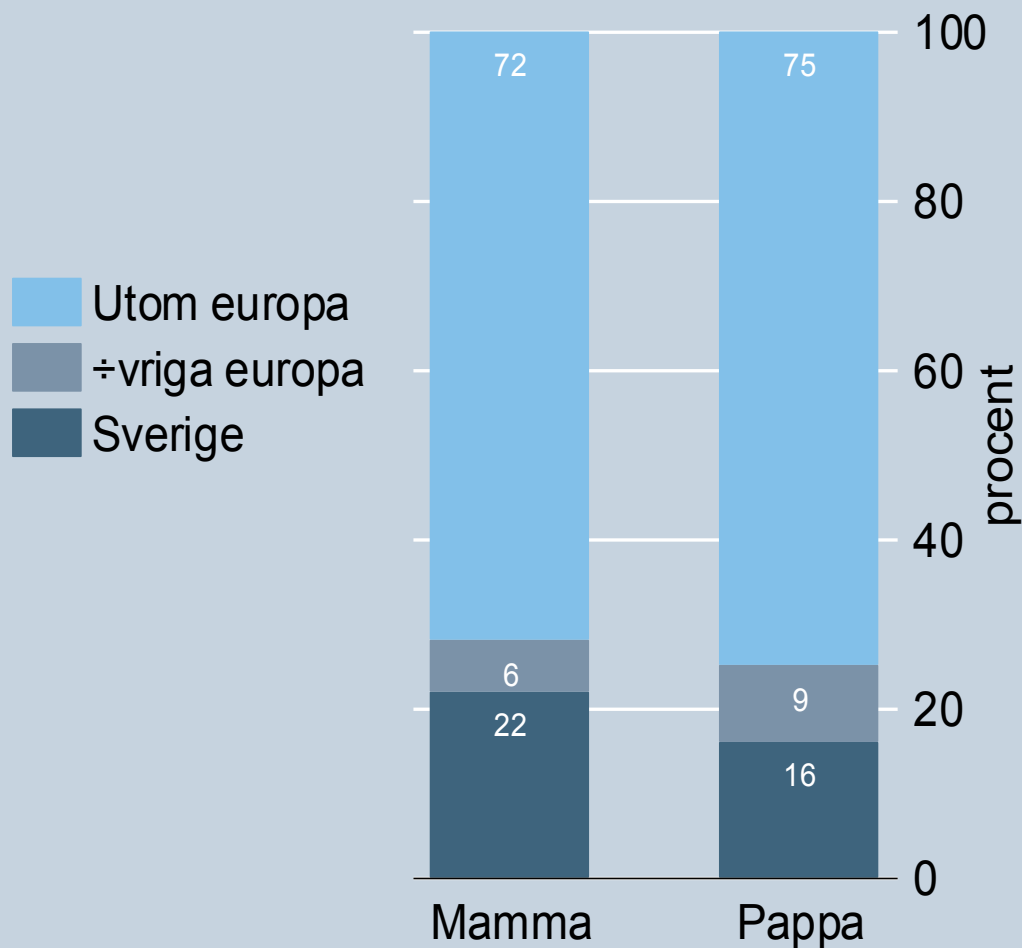


Areas of improvement



Föräldrarnas ursprung

Nyplaceringar, andelar i procent (n=102/99)



Always education and health for children in foster care

Organization for unaccompanied children

Sükran Sönmez, case manager

- Structures
- Organization
- Skills

Find and work with differences

Common denominators

Complications

Responsibilities

Routines

Risk factors

- Loss of parents
- Exposed to abuse and violence
- Trauma
- Difficulties in communication with guardians
- Experience of institutional care

Protective factors

- Thoroughly investigating homes
- Collect the professional network
- A careful introduction for the child to the home
- Close supervision
- Good training and education for the family home
- Collaboration with the guardians
- Clear routines for the organization
- Recruiting all types of families

Protective factors, education

- Preparing before meetings
- Mentor for the child, special in school
- Translator
- Help the school to understand the child's needs
- "go slow"

What do the children think?

- Results from a survey with the unaccompanied children who was placed in traditional foster care during 2013 (the home were not relatives)
- The results show that most of the children are content
- The survey was with two boys and six girls. The children were 6 to 14 years old.
- Most of them in the ages of 8 – 14.

Children's precipitins

Could they freely ask questions?

- The majority thought that they could ask questions to the family home
- One child could not

Could they speak their mind?

- Four answered always and four said often.

Children's precipitins

Did they get information?

- Half of the children said that they got good information
- The rest of the children said that they sometimes didn't understand the information
- One child revealed that there have been no information at all.

Those children who experienced that it was easy to ask questions thought that it was easy to understand the information. From this we learned that it's important to give information to all children even those who don't ask for it.

Introduction

- Most of the children were content with the preparation and introduction to the family home, one child made a comment that they wanted the social worker to better describe the home before the placement
- Six children had experienced a proper introduction and two partly
- 75 % were very content with the introduction
- One child had no introduction whatsoever

Comments

- - Too fast
- - Nobody asked me if I wanted to live in the family home
- Eight children described a good support from there case manager during the introduction and two wanted more support.
- Most of the children wanted to have more contact with their case manager

What support do the children get from the socialworker?

- Only two children were discontent with the support from the social worker
- The children wanted the social worker to be easier to contact when needed

Comments:

- "I want them to come to my school, talk to teachers about how it goes for me, am I bad or good in school? ",
- "I wish my social worker to help me more than she does now "

How children experience the care in the family home

- The children's experience of family home care have a good result
- Only one child experienced that the care was inefficient

The children´s comments on the care

- " They should take care of me as they take care of their own children"
- "I just wish that my family home could to be for real, because they are really kind"
- "My family is very nice"
- "I just want to say that it is good if the family and the mother and the father does not give bad comments. That in the family home their own children also helps with clean up. It feels unfair in family home if only family home says to the guy or girl, to wash the dishes, clean the house. That's all I want to say."

More comments from the children

The children had the opportunity to give free comments on the questionnaire. These were about their longing for their parents, according to the following quote:

- "I think my mom and dad should be here "
- "I have only one desire, that everyone will help me so that I will be with my family again, I miss them very much. Yes it was the wish I had. Please please please help me, I miss my family very much "

QUESTIONS

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