



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS

Changing the Way We Care

Year One Summary Report

*Changing the Way We Care*SM (CTWWC) promotes safe, nurturing family care for children reintegrating from residential institutions and prevents child-family separation by strengthening families, reforming national systems of care for children, and working with others to shift commitments and conversations in support of family care. Launched in October 1, 2018, CTWWC's first year is summarized in this report of progress, including global influence and demonstration country work in Guatemala, Kenya and Moldova. CTWWC's inaugural year focused on establishing and articulating core technical strategies and developing long-term plans to meet the three CTWWC strategic objectives: (1) **Governments promote family care;** (2) **Children stay in or are returned to families;** and (3) **Key stakeholder groups make meaningful commitments toward family care.**

Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) aims to be a key catalyst in preventing the institutionalization of children through the promotion of family care. CTWWC's advocacy and influencing strategy will focus on two key domains: a) behavior change, with a focus on people of faith, including philanthropy, reforming funding and volunteering practices; and b) systems reform, leveraging regional and global policy commitments toward systems reforms adoption by national governments.

CTWWC Strong Foundations

The intensive first year of implementation included a start-up workshop and the establishment of both headquarters and country program teams for Guatemala, Moldova and Kenya. Human resources activities included hiring more than 40 staff, developing 25+ consultants' scopes of work as well as five formal agreements with partners. Systems and procedures for ensuring partner collaboration and communication were solidified in an operation manual for guiding project processes. The project was set up for strong monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) through joint development of a theory of change, project monitoring plan, and full MEAL system including data flows, tools, and an activity and participant tracker.

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CTWWC Progress toward Governments Promoting Family Care (SO1)

CTWWC works to ensure that countries have capacity to care for their most vulnerable populations with strong protection, family and alternative care systems. Through customized support to government, and technical assistance in demonstration areas, CTWWC engages local, regional and national governments and their partners in promoting family care. This year, the CTWWC consortium provided technical assistance in areas such as national policy, national strategizing, child safeguarding, case management, disability inclusion, public financing and costing analysis, advocacy strategies, gatekeeping, child participation, care leaver engagement and more. Short-term technical assistance included trainings, site visits, assessments, and the joint development of tools and guidance. In the demonstration country work itself, technical advisors supported government and non-government actors with implementing care reform.

Changing the Way We Care Guatemala (CTWWC GT) made significant progress toward improving national coordination mechanisms by signing cooperation agreements with four Government of Guatemala agencies. These agreements will allow the project to support a

SO1 Outcomes

52
government meetings
on strategic planning
for care reform

368
government staff
involved in meetings
on care reform

113
government staff
trained on care reform

national care system assessment, national strategy and action plans. CTWWC GT also promoted discussion among government and civil society and religious actors who are involved in the care and protection of children and in care reform. Through these discussions, CTWWC GT widened the concept of care reform beyond deinstitutionalization and toward prevention, family strengthening and preservation, and alternative family-based care. CTWWC GT also introduced new aspects of case management, including the use of benchmarks for determining successful reintegration of children. These discussions have been welcomed by both government and civil society partners.

Changing the Way We Care Kenya (CTWWC KY) made significant progress on the program strategies and activities outlined in SO1 (systems strengthening) at both national and sub-national levels. Year one focused on understanding context, building relationships, and developing strategies for building momentum around large-scale care reform in Kenya. CTWWC KY established strong partnerships across the sector in Kenya, including with the Kenyan government, UNICEF, and the national and district-level Departments of Children Services in Kisumu, Nyamira, and Kilifi. Highlights include engagement of high-level government officials in care reform training and strategic planning, training in the Kenya Alternative Family Care Guidelines and on gatekeeping, as well as on advancing plans with the government and with UNICEF for a Care System Assessment, leading to national strategic care reform planning in year two.

Changing the Way We Care Moldova (CTWWC MD) has engaged in discussions with the U.S. Agency for International Development and in national dialogue with potential partners around care reform. CTWWC MD also participated in national level working groups to develop amendments to current laws that will help improve the functioning of child protection and care systems.

CTWWC Innovations

1. Research tools regarding the “Economics of Care” were developed by CTWWC which include a tool for private funding stream analysis, a tool for review of public financing of care, and tools to build investment cases around family care.
2. Outcome Harvesting could significantly contribute to the care reform sector. Outcome Harvesting is a method that gleans information from various information sources to document a connection between activities and outcomes and was developed for use in situations where the outcomes are defined as a change in the behavior, relationships, actions, activities, policies, or practices of an individual, group, community, organization, or institution. Unlike some evaluation methods, Outcome Harvesting does not measure progress towards predetermined outcomes or objectives, but rather collects evidence of what has been achieved, and works backward to determine whether and how the project or intervention contributed to the change.

The nature of the activities of CTWWC, namely influencing through awareness raising and advocacy at multiple levels, makes monitoring through Outcome Harvesting a wise choice because of its ability to monitor change in dynamic contexts, with many actors and where there is little control over the outcomes of activities. CTWWC seeks to set up and implement Outcome Harvesting in the initiative’s monitoring system, specifically to track the changes in behaviours of the key actors, at the regional (Central America, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe) and global level.

CTWWC Progress toward Children and Families Reunified and Supported (SO2)

A strategy for scale-up of CTWWC demonstration work and its link to regional and global influence was developed and used to guide year two planning.

In partnership with the Guatemalan government, CTWWC GT selected Zacapa Department as the demonstration area to begin the work of care reform. The reintegration work is being carried out initially with one home. An inter-institutional mechanism was established for the reunification of children, which includes periodic meetings for case discussion. This constitutes the first local effort in Guatemala to standardize a process for case decisions and inter-agency coordination. CTWWC GT supported the inter-agency care reform group with tools, methodology and self-care approach. As a result, in July, CTWWC GT reunited five children. The program is now providing follow-up monitoring and support, including linkages to social services.

CTWWC KY, conducted a situational analysis in four demonstration areas and laid the groundwork, through sensitization meetings with local stakeholders, for the demonstration site activities in Kilifi County. Further, CTWWC KY undertook a number of activities to strengthen children and families, which will be incorporated into the care reform activities in the demonstration site in Kilifi. First, they revised, validated and piloted training for care leavers about life skills. Second, the team conducted a thorough review and selected a parenting curriculum that is specifically adapted to the



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reintegration context. A similar process was undertaken in selecting child participation materials, which will be used by child protection workers to increase sensitization around family and community-based alternative care. Next, CTWWC KY drew from extensive CRS experience with household economic strengthening to choose tools and approaches that can be applied to the reintegration process to strengthen families in the demonstration. Finally, along with the Department of Children's Services, CTWWC KY formed a working group to develop standard operating procedures for identifying, recruiting, assessing and registering alternative care families for Kisumu.

CTWWC Progress toward Global Commitments Shifting in Favor of Family Care (SO3)

The CTWWC advocacy framework was developed and solidified in year one through the crafting of a CTWWC Advocacy and Influencing Strategy, the Detailed Implementation Plan, and an associated Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) plan with performance monitoring indicators and innovative approaches to measuring outcomes. Beyond strategic planning, CTWWC had significant engagement with a number of care reform, faith-based and donor partners (see table 1).

With support from CTWWC, BCN facilitated the landmark adoption by a

global coalition of Key Recommendations to the UN General Assembly on the Rights of the Child (ROC) Resolution regarding children without parental care. This was endorsed by 240 organizations, networks and agencies working at national (143), regional (16) and global (81) levels. Coordinated advocacy planning and tools were developed to support a broader effort at country level as well at regional (EU) and UN General Assembly levels, including an Advocacy Toolkit and the translation of the Key Recommendations in all five UN official languages. The UNGA Resolution on the

2600

people participated in community-level awareness raising activities in demonstration sites

30

stakeholders trained on gatekeeping mechanisms

2

invitations to global forums

8

presentations in external events

30

government leaders identified as champions for care reform

42

inter-religious leaders pledged support for community and family-care first

Rights of the Child recently passed by unanimous vote on December 18, 2019.

CTWWC became an active member of a Hope and Homes for Children-led working group aiming to place care reform on the agenda for the 53-nation Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be hosted by Rwanda in June 2020. CTWWC is leading the faith-based engagement

group for CHOGM and is working with partners to develop a strategy.

CTWWC had some early success in country-to-regional work in Kenya and Guatemala. CTWWC GT participated in the regional Latin America Foster Care Network (RELAF) conference in Brazil, as well as an Organization of American States event related to care reform. In Kenya, the numerous sensitization

meetings, capacity building, and advocacy activities led to positioning Kenya via the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), hosted by Rwanda in 2020, to generate care reform momentum in Africa and beyond.

Key Relationships in the Care Reform Movement Developed by CTWWC in Year One

STAKEHOLDER	CTWWC COLLABORATION
<i>Care Reform Partners</i>	
BETTER CARE NETWORK	Jointly facilitated a 240+ member global coalition to adopt Key Recommendations to the UN General Assembly on the Rights of the Child Resolution. Actively partnering on knowledge dissemination including newsletters and videos and other activities. CTWWC participated in a first meeting of the sector collaboration, Better Collaboration for Children's Care group. The meeting was coordinated by UNICEF and BCN. CTWWC participated on the UNGA working groups mentioned above.
HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN	Active member of the Hope and Homes for Children-led working group. Jointly getting care reform on the agenda for the 53-nation Commonwealth Heads of Government event in Rwanda, in June 2020. CTWWC has regular conversations with Hope and Homes for Children on coordination and collaboration.
1MILLIONHOME	Led training event in Kenya which led to accompaniment of U.S. evangelical leader in activating his high-level networks and Influencers, in which CTWWC participated.
RETHINK ORPHANAGES	Joint strategic planning in development of new global strategy which focused on shifting support in the global north for funding and orphanage tourism.
UNICEF	Participated in meetings on sector coordination and on global indicators for children care.
<i>Faith-based Engagement</i>	
CAFO SUMMIT	Sponsored a Kenya Society of Care Leavers representative to attend, provided table coaching during the pre-summit family care intensive.
CRS CHURCH ENGAGEMENT	Provided two training sessions to promote care reform.
FAITH TO ACTION (F2A)	Invited to join F2A Leadership Council with plans to develop a faith-based statement and engagement in year two.
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL	Presented at a global meeting to explore new approaches of care reform consistent with Sisters' charism.
RISING TIDES	Presented on mission trips and orphanage volunteering at a conference organized by Helping Children Worldwide.
<i>Philanthropist Organizations</i>	
ELEVATE CHILDREN	Presented to their Children's Care working group and ongoing collaboration on a Children's Care Event Calendar.
UBS OPTIMUS FOUNDATION	Discussion and engagement in social innovation meeting, attended a global meeting on measuring impact of care reform hosted and organized by UBS.

Need to know more? Contact Changing the Way We Care, info@ctwwc.org