

# Changing The Way We Care<sup>SM</sup>

## About Us:

Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) is a global initiative dedicated to promoting safe and nurturing family care for children. The initiative actively works to reform national children's care systems, prevent child-family separation, and redirect donor and volunteer support away from residential care institutions (sometimes referred to as "orphanages").

A finalist in the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition to fund solutions for the most significant problems of our time, CTWWC is working to prevent child-family separation, improve care for children in families, and find safe and nurturing families for children placed in residential care.

Launched in 2018, CTWWC is being implemented by two highly committed organizations recognized for their experience in working with children and families - Catholic Relief Services and Maestral International - and their partners around the world. They are working with the MacArthur Foundation, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the GHR Foundation to support this important initiative.

CTWWC aims to create transformational systems change to ensure families and children are thriving, and families are strengthened with increased community supports and available services. CTWWC's strategy is to scale the initiative from five demonstration countries, namely Haiti, India, Kenya, Moldova and Guatemala, while continuing to expand regionally and globally.

"Changing the Way We Care is showing the way on how we need to be working together and leveraging each other's work and learning. They have taken a fantastic role to document and share their stuff." -Key informant, Global Influence



photo by Schimbator Studios for CRS

## Did You Know?

- Families matter! Evidence shows children thrive in safe and nurturing families, which play a critical role in improving their health and education outcomes and in reducing intergenerational poverty.
- Tragically, 7.5 million children have been stripped of family and placed into residential care, often referred to as "orphanages." 80-90% of the children in them are not orphans and have a living parent or relatives who could care for them with the proper supports.
- Research shows that children in residential care suffer profoundly negative impacts on their physiological and psychological development and are at extremely high risk of physical abuse and trafficking.
- A recent survey revealed that US faith-based organizations provided over \$2 billion per year to overseas orphanages. Meanwhile, research demonstrates that family care is more affordable than supporting orphanages. Changing the Way We Care can serve 6-10 children in a nurturing family for the cost of every 1 child living in a potentially harmful residential care setting.
- Children with disabilities, very young children, adolescent girls and children who are already separated from families are most at risk of being institutionalized. Attitudes towards care reform are changing, and many faith-based groups, donors and volunteers are beginning to redirect their resources from residential care to family care.

CTWWC envisions a world where all children thrive in safe, nurturing families in three ways:



### Children stay in or return to families

- Family strengthening
- Engagement of community in family care
- Transition or closures of orphanages



### Governments promote family care

- Policies
- Workforce investment
- National and community systems



### Family care is prioritized by a global movement

- Global, regional/national advocacy
- Policies and best practices
- Redirection of resources

# CTWWC's IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS



## Highlights from CTWWC's first five years include:

**19,500**

children at risk have received support services.



**749**

government meetings on care reform were conducted.



**37**

residential care facilities received support to transition away from residential care services.



**7,000+** caregivers have been enrolled for family strengthening support.

**2.6 million**



community members have participated in awareness raising.



Audiences have downloaded, viewed and opened CTWWC's 322 learning products about care reform over

**75,000** times.

"Changing the Way We Care has taken an important role in leading or supporting some of the conversations and discussions, which has been important. Whether convening or participating, it's been a positive thing...people are seeing Changing the Way We Care as a leader in the sector and as a collaborator."

- Key informant, Global Influence

photo by Premananda Hessenkamp for CRS

**1,043**

caregivers and children with disabilities at risk of family separation have been enrolled in support services.



Contact: David Orth-Moore at [david.orth-moore@crs.org](mailto:david.orth-moore@crs.org) & follow @ChangeCare4Kids on Twitter and Facebook



MacArthur Foundation

Changing THE WAY WE care

Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) is implemented by Catholic Relief Services and Maestral International.

This product is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Changing the Way We Care and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

©2023 Catholic Relief Services. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be reproduced, displayed, modified, or distributed without the express prior written permission of copyright holder. For permission, write to [info@ctwwc.org](mailto:info@ctwwc.org). The photographs in this publication are used for illustrative purposes only; they do not imply any health, orphanhood, or residential care status on the part of any person who appears in the photographs.