DI/Care reform process:
Project-level lessons on measurement of complex systems

GHR/ZAMBIA ● CHILDREN IN FAMILIES(CIF)

Children in Families Initiative: Zambia

➢ Phase I (September, 2014) – Phase II (March, 2022)

➢ CIF partner work is organized and monitored according to 4 strategic pillars

Prevent: Primary & secondary separation

Respond: To children already living outside of family-based care

Governance: Systemic change through stronger pro-family child protection alliances, systems

and policies; and

◦ **Research & innovation:** Seek greater evidence and new solutions

➢ MCDSS continues to build capacity to lead, coordinate, and monitor the childcare system in Zambia, primarily through the operationalization of the Alternative Care and Reintegration Guidelines (ACRGs)

➢ Holistic, integrated approach to CM along the entire continuum of care.

Road map of the care reform process

➤ Political will & a shared mission

➤ Tools: Define vision & structure

➤ Policy into practice: Operationalization

➤ Fundamental shift in the way we work together: System level change

Political will & a shared mission

➢Ratification of the UNCRC, ACRWC and the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption

➢Local laws and policies aligned to international treaties

➢Shared, common vision and mission: All children should be in family-based care

➢Primary drivers of family-child separation: Poverty, access to education

➢Priority areas of care reform: Social workforce, capacity-building, coordination, evidence-building/research, strengthening of social protection programs

Tools used: Define vision & structure implementation

Regulatory
Framework

➢Juvenile Act

➢Adoption Act

➢Minimum Standards of Care

➢Alternative care and Reintegration Guidelines

➢Child Code Bill (still waiting for Parliament)

From theory to practice: Operationalization of Guidelines for more effective case management (CM)

CIF ongoing	CIF+
CM = static approach generally based on set parameters and single intervention/partner input	CM = continuous, collective feedback loop informing holistic, integrated multi-sectoral approach
Quantitative "counts" focused more on **outputs**	More **process-oriented** = ability to holistically track reintegration pathway, start to finish – with mid-road pivots
Single-need approach	Holistically address all well-being domains
Set steps based on policy level parameters (fewer opportunities for innovation)	Room for emergent learning for more effective operationalization of the ACRGs
More traditional top-down approach	Community engagement an integral part of effective CM

📍 Fundamental shift in the way we work

➢Intentional collaboration & coordination: Referrals

➢Clear and continuous communication

➢Collective planning

➢Increased knowledge and leverage of holistic, system-level resources

➢Alignment of data collection platforms

➢ Enhanced transparency and accountability

➢CM as an iterative, non-linear process that is tailored specifically to that unique child and family circumstances and needs