



Eastern and Southern Africa regional learning platform on care reform

Monthly update - March 2022

Introduction

Welcome to the monthly update from the regional learning platform on care reform in Eastern and Southern Africa. The platform is an opportunity for policy makers and practitioners in Government, UNICEF and NGOs to exchange learning on care. The platform was established by UNICEF and Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) and is supported by the consultancy firm Child Frontiers. Explore our past webinars and resources [here](#) and [here](#).

Announcements on the platform

better understand how people with lived experiences of care systems can engage with different aspects of care reform. Hear from a panel including youth, care leavers and caregivers. Following a brief presentation defining terms and principles of engagement, a moderated panel will cover these topics: how government and their partners can better understand the perspective of people with lived experience, best practices for participation and engagement, how to bring lived experience in national reform, and the importance of associations and networks. Time will be allowed for questions and discussion. Join the Zoom meeting using this [link](#) (Meeting ID: 831 0106 4217 Passcode: 406232)

- **Helpdesk:** As part of the platform, we have set up a Helpdesk for UNICEF country office staff and government counterparts. For guidance on any aspect of care reform, please contact Emily Delap of Child Frontiers (edelap@childfrontiers.com) or Mona Aika from the UNICEF regional office (maika@unicef.org).
 - **Paper on the linkages between social protection and care reform:** This paper explains the importance of social protection for care reform. It provides practical guidance on designing social protection programmes so that they improve children's care, with examples from Uganda, South Africa and Mozambique. The paper can be found [here](#).
 - **An opportunity to share learning on care reform and COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for vulnerable children and families and those working to support them. The pandemic has also been a period of rapid adaption and innovation. The next paper developed through the platform seeks to capture this learning as it relates to care reform in Eastern and Southern Africa. If you have examples of promising practice or valuable lessons learnt from the pandemic that you would like to showcase, or would like to learn from others' experiences during the pandemic please contact Emily Delap of Child Frontiers: edelap@childfrontiers.com.
 - **Small learning groups on *kafalah* and reintegration:** We are setting up a two small groups to meet virtually and share learning on supporting safe and effective *kafalah* and children's reintegration. These groups are primarily aimed at government and UNICEF staff, though we would also like to draw on learning from NGOs. If you are interested in the *kafalah* group, please contact Ismael Ddumba-Nyanzi: idnyanzi@childfrontiers.com. If you are interested in the reintegration group, please contact Emily Delap: edelap@childfrontiers.com.
-



A focus on system strengthening for care reform

Why:

- Systematic change at scale is needed to address the magnitude of the problem of inadequate care in the region.
- Care reform is under-resourced. A systems approach allows us to use limited resources effectively and advocate for enhanced provision.
- Successful care reform needs coordinated inputs across sectors and from a range of actors.

How:

- Develop an over-arching strategy and plan on care reform guided by evidence.
- Engage a range of actors and establish effective coordination mechanisms.
- Engage communities in care reform, raise awareness and change norms.
- Promote the participation of children, care leavers and caregivers.
- Develop policies, legislation and guidance on care.
- Strengthen social service workforce capacities on care.
- Ensure that there are gatekeeping mechanisms and prevention and response services in place (including family strengthening and alternative care provision).
- Finance reform.
- Establish accountability mechanisms, monitor the system, reflect and adjust.

Find out more by reading this [publication](#) or watching a [recording of our webinar](#).

Other news and resources

As well as the regional learning platform on care reform, there are two global platforms that you can join:

- **The transforming children's care global collaborative platform:** The overall vision for this platform is to establish strategic sector-wide collaboration on care. It aims to enable agreement on common principles and approaches, leverage and build on work on care reform, secure greater and more sustainable impact, contribute to a shared learning agenda and undertake joint advocacy. Find out more [here](#).
- **Changemakers for children:** This is a social network for frontline professionals working on children's care and protection across the world. It provides an opportunity for these professionals to learn from each other, discuss and solve problems collaboratively, access helpful resources and build new connections in the sector. Find out more [here](#).

Want to share resources or advertise a webinar or event on care reform in Eastern and Southern Africa? Please contact: edelap@childfrontiers.com

The learning platform was established by UNICEF Eastern and Southern African Regional Office (ESARO) in collaboration with Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) and has been made possible by funding from USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund through UNICEF ESARO.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

