



# Family-Based Care Learning Exchange of Sri Lankan Government to India

24 AUGUST – 28 AUGUST 2022

## REPORT

# Introduction

Since 1999, Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI) has impacted the lives of millions of children and their families around the world through foster care, systems reform, humanitarian response, and family strengthening.

**By partnering with governments, CERI helps change systems and develop laws that help children, families, and communities thrive.**

This report provides a summary of the learning exchange that took place in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India 24th – 28th August 2022.

**The learning exchange was the culmination of 6 years of advocacy in Sri Lanka for family care (family strengthening, foster care, specialized group care). Over the 6 years, political will for reform of the child protection system increased in addition to the legislative environment.**

Visits like this enable child protection experts and stakeholders from different regions to interact with and learn from each other, allowing them to view practical examples of successful integration of family-based care models and practices in situations like their own. They are integral to the knowledge base and empowerment of all in launching programs that are new for a country.

**This learning exchange sets into motion the reform of the child protection system in Sri Lanka thereby guaranteeing more children the right to grow in a family setting.**



**Ian Forber-Pratt, MSW** Deputy Executive Director  
Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI)



**In partnership with:**



# Purpose of the Visit

To expose top-level Sri Lanka child protection government leaders to innovative working models of family preservation, family-strengthening, reintegration, foster care, group foster care (specialized group homes) in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

Udaipur, Rajasthan, India was selected due to the robustness of the programs, the partners CERI has on the ground, and the evidence based around the family strengthening work and care reform. The smaller state setting and diversity within the state allow for comparable conversations rather than trying to look at India as a whole.



## Learning Outcomes

1. A greater exposure to and comfort level with the theories around child protection system reform.
2. A deep dive discussion on cross-governmental agency collaboration in child protection system reform.
3. In-depth learning and exchange surrounding the concepts of family preservation, family-strengthening, reintegration, foster care, group foster care (specialized group homes)
4. Examination of Rajasthan as a test case for legislative, practice, social work skill. and funding approaches to care reform from institutionalization to a wide range of family-based care.

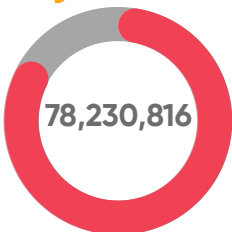
# Date in Sri Lanka, Rajasthan, and India

## Population

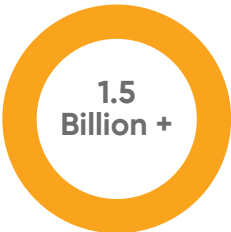
Sri Lanka



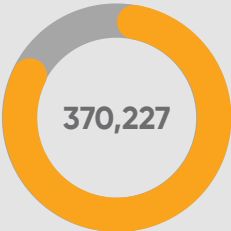
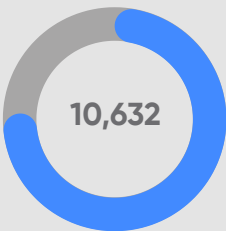
Rajasthan



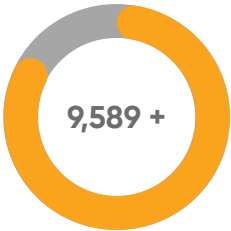
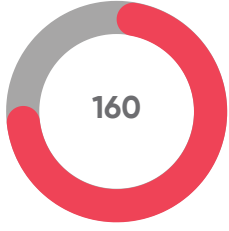
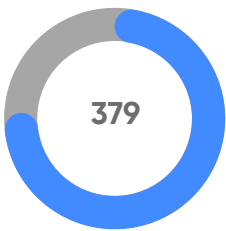
India



## Number of children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs)



## Number of Child Care Institutions (CCIs)



## Number of Children in Family Care in Rajasthan

After Care: 20



Individual Foster Care: 28



Group Foster Care: 130



Palanhar Yojana: 450,000





# Agenda

## Welcome

*Lamp lighting and welcome greeting from Rajasthan Government Officials and Sri Lankan Delegation*

*Mr. Neel Bandara Hapuhinne, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Government of Sri Lanka*

*Mr. Tara Chandra Meena – Udaipur District Collector, Government of Rajasthan*

## Presentations

*Policy framework (India and Rajasthan), innovations and state context*

*Mr. Sanjay Nirala, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Rajasthan*

*Family Based Care in Udaipur – history and direct practice examples*

*Dr. Shilpa Metha, Founder & President, Foster Care Society*

*Sri Lanka Child Protection context and Delegation's trip goals*

*Ms. Nirmalee Dammika Perera, Bastiyanlage – Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Sr. Probation Officer*

*Rajasthan's current focus, policies and laws on family care*

*Dr. Shailendra Pandya – The Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR)*

*Sri Lanka's children's home assessment and electronic monitoring system (to use as a reference for how to build a family care assessment and monitoring system)*

*Mr. Sudath Rohana Ranasinghe Ranhawadi – National Child Protection Authority, Program Manager*



# Welcome

At 9am, the Sri Lankan delegation joined with Udaipur and Rajasthan Government Officials and civil society partners for a day of an in-depth learning exchange. The anchor, Ms. Anuradha set the tone for today by explaining the purpose of the learning exchange and conducting formal welcomes. She explained:

“A high-level Sri Lanka Government Delegation today joins Rajasthan Government Officials and Child Protection Stakeholders to view family-based care models (foster care, sponsorship, group foster care, palahar jogana) in a learning exchange on family-based care, the first-of-its-kind in India. This visit will inform Sri Lanka’s child protection system as the country transitions into an innovative approach that supports children in family settings. Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI), in partnership with UNICEF Sri Lanka and UNICEF India, is sponsoring the delegation’s visit to see innovative family-strengthening, sponsorship, foster care, and group foster care models implemented by the Department of Child Rights in Rajasthan. The Delegation will see working models implemented by Foster Care Society over the past 8 years. At a critical time for Sri Lanka, this Delegation are considering promising practices for their child protection system that must respond to the increased needs for children and families. Then the traditional Indian lighting of the lamp occurred.”



**Mr. Neel Bandara Hapuhinne – Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Secretary commented,**

*“Our main goal is to learn from your experience and to share our experience; this will be a great opportunity to implement the program back in Sri Lanka. All of us here wish to have a better future for children and families. We sacrifice our lives for this important work.”*



# Presentations

## Child Protection Innovations in the State of Rajasthan, India

Mr. Sanjay Nirala then gave a detailed explanation about Rajasthan State innovative child protection schemes – Vatsalaya Yojana – Foster Care (2021) – Group Foster Care (2021) – Samarth Yojana – Aftercare (2021) – Utkarsh Yojana – Sponsorship (2021) and Palanhar Yojana – Family Support (2015). He explained how Rajasthan established and messaged the public about each aspect of family-based care, shared the current numbers of children and families availing of the benefit, and the challenges faced within each care provision.

## Family Based Care in Udaipur

Dr. Shilpa Mehta then explained the 8-year journey of starting foster care in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. Starting in 2013, she explained the achievements as well as the challenges. She admitted that the numbers are often disheartening because the diffusion of any new idea into a society often takes time, resources and resolve. For example, although 300,000 people have been made aware of the concept of foster care (people who now have a working knowledge of the concept), only 24 foster homes and 1 group foster care facility are functioning. She reminded the group, however, that as the concept spreads in society, the number of families slowly but exponentially increases.

She explained that foster care is a legal child family protection measure, ordered by the local authority/ magistrate (Child Welfare Committee) so that a child can have a family environment for the temporary time. A foster family is a family within the community who open their own home to a child. They are licensed as a ‘fit family’. Up to 4 children in a family (including biological children) can live in a foster family. A group foster home is licensed as a ‘fit facility’ (but must be in the community in a home set up) and can have up to 8 children (including biological children). These concepts are often misunderstood in India and Dr. Metha cautioned the Sri Lankan government to take extra care in the public messaging campaigns and on the expectations on the program, especially in the first years.





High-Level Sri Lankan Government Delegation  
Learning Exchange to India on Family Based Care  
24th - 28th August 2022  
Udaipur, Rajasthan, India  
Sponsoring & support : sponsor group aftercare





# Presentations

## Family Based Care in Udaipur

Dr. Mehta summarized a few main challenges in introducing a foster care program to a community:

1. The concept of foster care was brand new for people
2. Cultural traditions conflicted with the concept of foster care (the idea of taking a child of unknown or different background into one's home was not widely accepted)
3. The legal frameworks were not clear, and no guidelines/ procedures were in effect. Participants asked about the legal framework of foster care, about the difficulty of public awareness campaigns and about the slow acceleration of the work.

Participants asked about the legal framework of foster care, about the difficulty of public awareness campaigns and about the slow acceleration of the work. Later during the trip, the delegation visited foster families, group foster care and family strengthening families.



### Chetna Bhati – Udaipur Deputy Superintendent of Police

*“I am from a small village. My work is to defend and protect every woman and child. We care about each person, no matter their economic condition, history or differences. Just due to poverty, children and families should be able to stay together. Children should not go for child marriage, child labor or any suffering. My hope is that we can learn from each other and do quality work.”*

# Presentations

## Sri Lanka Child Protection

Ms. Nirmalee Dammika Perera, Bastiyanlage – Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Sr. Probation Officer then shared about the Sri Lanka child protection set up.

She gave an overview of the legislative framework and shared data from a 2019 comprehensive census of the child protection system in Sri Lanka. She shared about the country's Alternative Care Policy and about the intention of the current government to move forward with revised legislation/ policies on foster care, adoption and overall reform of the system.



## Rajasthan's Current Focus, Policies, and Laws on Family Care

Dr. Shailendra Pandya – The Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) then shared the Rajasthan child protection context from the state government's view. He explained that the financial investment in family-based care in Rajasthan has drastically increased as the State understood the importance of family both from a societal but also from a systematic point of view. Children just do better in safe and supported families.

Dr. Pandya mentioned that Rajasthan is actively implementing, monitoring and reevaluating the range of family-based care. The challenge the state is facing is that even though the children are beginning to be entered into databases, the coordination of the databases and centralization of information on each child is a work in progress.

# Presentations

## Sri Lanka's Children's Home Assessment and Electronic Monitoring System

Mr. Rohana Ranasinghe, National Child Protection Authority, Program Manager, continued on the importance of data by showing about Sri Lanka's children's home assessment and electronic monitoring system. This inspired attendees to think through how such as assessment process may be applicable for the range of family-based care.



**Udaipur Collector - Tara Chandra Meena - Udaipur District Collector**

*"I welcome you all the city of lakes Udaipur. As you know, the child protection program is running in Sri Lanka and throughout the world. We will present the program running by the govt of raj and the central govt. After the field visit, Udaipur district – tribal dominated where 60% belongs to the tribal community – various child protection programs. We will share all these programs. I hope that our work will benefit the Government of Sri Lanka and hope that we will learn also from their experience"*



# Government Office Visits



## Home Visits

Foster Care Society, UNICEF and CERI hosted home visits to a specialized small group home, three foster homes and one kinship care (sponsorship) home. The highest level of confidentiality was maintained and the children. Each visit was framed for the children and their caregivers as an opportunity for them to share with the Sri Lankan government about the power, heart and impact of family care on their lives. All were careful not to tokenize any child or family during the interactions.

## Kinship Care (sponsorship) Home

Delegates visited a family receiving the Rajasthan State Palanhar Yojana scheme support each month. This comes in the form of INR 2,500 (~USD 30) per month. Foster Care Society then adds on case management, counselling and support for the family. For this particular family of separated mothers and children (who include those living with a physical disability), the support is literally lifesaving, and the sponsored families shared their experiences and how life might be without this type of support.





Visiting family strengthening work via the Rajasthan Palanhar Yohana (Caregiver Scheme).



# Government Office Visits

## Foster Home Visit

The delegation visited 3 foster homes. One of those homes is led by a single mother who had adopted a child at birth. The mother-daughter decided that they wanted to have a “fuller” household and made the decision to foster, understanding the legal and temporary nature of the arrangement. However, because no biological family has been identified for the foster child, they are still together after 6 years.

Although foster care is not the right solution for every child, or every family – it is a perfect solution for some children and families. For example, if a couple or single parent is led to open their home as a mentor(s) and parent(s) to children, knowing the temporary nature of foster care, they could be ideal foster parents. It may be their way of contributing to the next generation of young people in the world.

## Group Foster Home Visit

In India, specialized small group homes are legally notified as group foster care. Though we do not believe this is a proper terminology due to international law/ standard, the idea of a specialized small group home (temporary in nature whenever possible) is one we believe is necessary in a best interest centered child protection system.

Rajasthan allows up to 8 children (including biological siblings) in a group foster home.

The Delegation visited the home in which the caretakers’ two biological children live and a sibling group of 4 and a sibling group of 2. The male caretaker explained that he was originally not ready to be a group foster home due to the worry of finances. Thanks to the investment of Rajasthan, each caregiver receives INR 20,000 per month and then INR 4,000 per child. However, this might not have been enough to convince him. The real change of heart came when his biological sons urged him to care for other children/ community members in this way. He now is grateful for every moment with the children. The interaction with the family was an emotional one for the delegation as they realized the profound difference a small group setting, within the community, can make for every child.

The home visited ended with each Delegation member remarking that these visits were the “most important part of the trip”. All were able to see that children thrive in safe and supported families.

*\*Photos are not shared in order to maintain respectful, equitable and legal confidentiality of the families.*



# Participants

## Sri Lanka

1. Neel Bandara Hapuhinne – Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Secretary
2. Gunarath Bandara Mapa Hamillage – Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Additional Secretary
3. Sulari Sandareka Gammana Liyanage – Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Assistant Commissioner
4. Nirmalee Dammika Perera, Bastiyanlage – Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Sr. Probation Officer
5. Sujatha Alahapperuma – National Child Protection Authority, Deputy Chairperson
6. Anoma Siriwardena – National Child Protection Authority, Director General
7. Sudath Rohana Ranasinghe Ranhawadi – National Child Protection Authority, Program Manager
8. Ebenezer Dharshan Vijayaretnam – CERI National Director
9. Sohani Fernando – CERI National Child Protection Consultant
10. Mary Vijitha Tisseverasinghe – CERI Lead Case Manager
11. Sarmili Sathes – UNICEF Child Protection Officer

## India

1. Tara Chandra Meena – Udaipur District Collector
2. Chetna Bhati – Udaipur Deputy Superintendent of Police
3. Dr. Shailendra Pandya – Member- The Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR)
4. Meena Sharma – Udaipur Department of Child Rights, Additional Director
5. Dhruv Kumar – Child Welfare Committee, Chairperson
6. Mr. Rajeev Meghwal – Child Welfare Committee, Member
7. Mr. Jignesh Dave – Child Welfare Committee, Member
8. Mr. Suresh Sharma – Child Welfare Committee, Member
9. Devashish Mishra – CERI, National Child Protection Consultant
10. Sanjay Nirala – UNICEF, Rajasthan Child Protection Specialist
11. Manna Biswas – UNICEF, Rajasthan Child Protection Officer
12. Sindhu Benujeeth – UNICEF, Udaipur Division Child Protection Consultant
13. BK Gupta – President of State Child Protection Network
14. Dr. Shilpa Mehta – Foster Care Society, Founder & President
15. Anuradha Rai – Executive Board Member
16. Anurag Mehta – Foster Care Society, Project Director
17. Kusum Paliwal – Foster Care Society, Project Associate
18. Mohan Lohar – Foster Care Society, Outreach Worker
19. Pranav Sharma – Foster Care Society, Outreach Worker
20. Nidhiraj Singh – Shri Hari Charan Seva Sansthan, Volunteer

## Global

1. Ian Forber-Pratt, MSW – Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI), Deputy Executive Director

# Media Coverage

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

### Sri Lankan delegation to see child protection model in Raj

TNN / Aug 27, 2022, 08:20 IST



Udaipur: In a first-of-its-kind learning exchange programme, a high-level Sri Lankan delegation will join Rajasthan officials and child protection stakeholders to view family-based care models which includes foster care, sponsorship, group foster care and palanhar yojana of the state government. The programme will be from August 26 to 28.

## NEWS MANTRA

### High Level Learning Exchange in Child Protection between Sri Lankan Government and Rajasthan Government in Udaipur



August, Udaipur: Rajasthan in a first-of-its-kind interaction on family-based child protection, the Secretary of the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Government of Sri Lanka joined the District Collector of Udaipur, Government of Rajasthan and their teams for a learning exchange on family strengthening, sponsorship, foster care, and group foster care.

## NEWS DEORIA

### परिवार आधारित बाल संरक्षण पर कार्यक्रम, श्रीलंका में भी अपनाई जाएगी परिवार आधारित देखभाल की अवधारणाएं: नील बन्डारा



Udaipur: In a first-of-its-kind interaction on family-based child protection, the Secretary of the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Government of Sri Lanka joined the District Collector of Udaipur, Government of Rajasthan and their teams for a learning exchange on family strengthening, sponsorship, foster care, and group foster care.

## MSN

### High level Learning Exchange in Child Protection between Sri Lankan and Rajasthan Governments

Daily News (via HT Media Ltd.) - Aug 29



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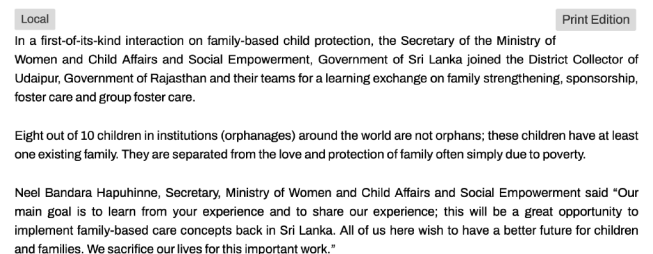
Eight out of 10 children in institutions (orphanages) around the world are not orphans; these children have at least one existing family. They are separated from the love and protection of family often simply due to poverty.

Neel Bandara Hapuhinne, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Social Empowerment said "Our main goal is to learn from your experience and to share our experience; this will be a great opportunity to implement family-based care concepts back in Sri Lanka. All of us here wish to have a better future for children and families. We sacrifice our lives for this important work."

## DAILY NEWS

### High level Learning Exchange in Child Protection between Sri Lankan and Rajasthan Governments

Tuesday, August 30, 2022 - 01:00



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## CHILD WOMEN MIN



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## ONLINE AND YOU

### High Level Learning Exchange in Child Protection between Sri Lankan Government and Rajasthan Government in Udaipur



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Neel Bandara Hapuhinne, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, cast the vision for the exchange, "Our main goal is to learn from your experience and to share our experience; this will be a great opportunity to implement family-based care concepts back in Sri Lanka. All of us here wish to have a better future for children and families. We sacrifice our lives for this important work."

## NEWS SCALE LIVE



CERI) के कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए नील बन्डारा, सचिव, महिला एवं बाल मामले और सामाजिक अधिकारिता मंत्रालय श्रीलंका सरकार, कहा हमारा मुख्य लक्ष्य भारत के अनुभवों से सीखना और अपने अनुभव को साझा करना

# Why Family Care?

## Key Concepts

- 8 out of 10 children in residential care facilities, such as orphanages and children's homes, have at least one living parent, many of whom could care for their child if given support to do so.
- Children who don't have parents who can care for them often have relatives, extended family, or members of their community who can.  
A safe, loving family is the most essential source of belonging, emotional support, and physical and mental development for children. Any type of residential care should be a temporary last resort.
- Decades of research have proven that residential care negatively affects kids' developing brains, while family care positively affects kids' development. Poverty—not the loss of parents—is the leading reason why children are placed in orphanages.
- The best way to meet the needs of vulnerable children is to strengthen the capacity of their families and communities to care for their well-being.

## Statistics



Globally, more than 5 million children live in orphanages.

8 out of 10 children living in orphanages have at least one living parent.

The cost of supporting a child in an orphanage is 5–10x higher than in a family.

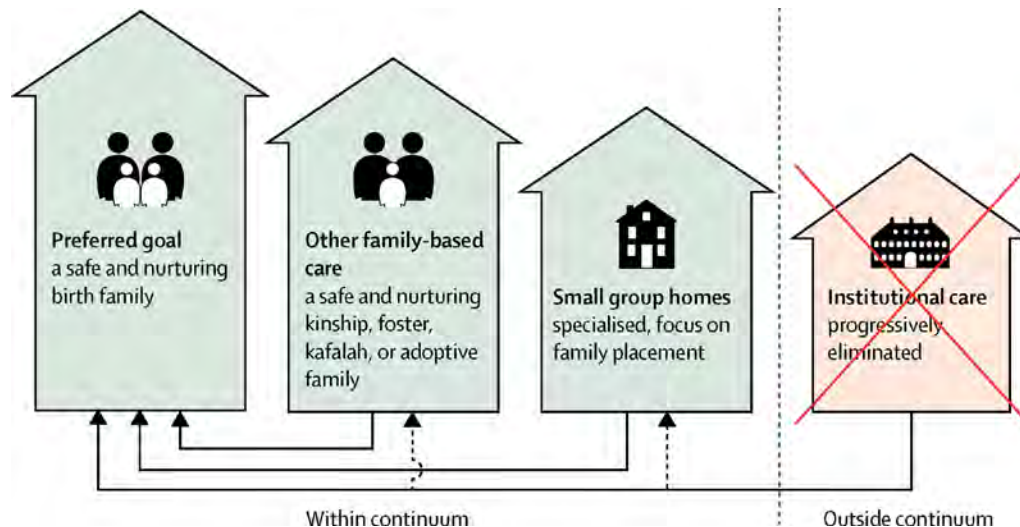
Source: Faith to Action Initiative



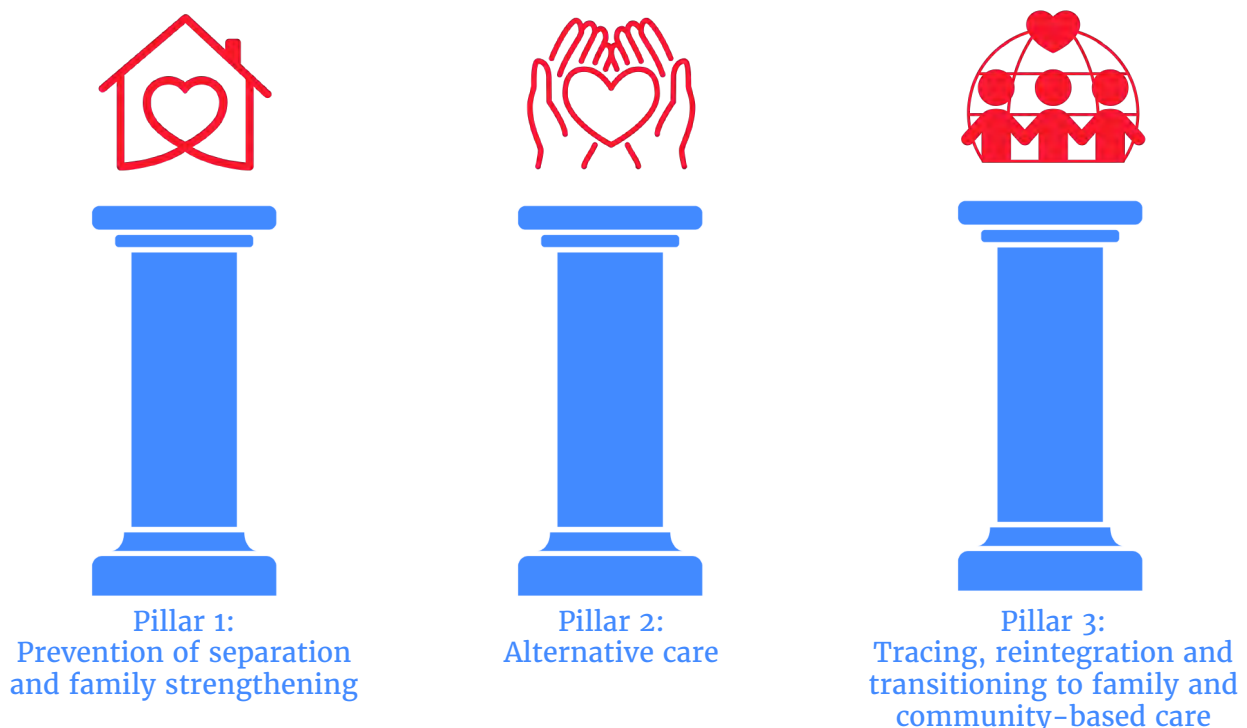
# Taking it Forward

## Key Concepts

This trip culminated in a recommendation to reform the child protection system to the below graphic with the preferred goal of a safe a nurturing family, followed by other family care and lastly with small group homes. The need for seamless collaboration and coordination between and within government and civil society was a highlight of the trip. Many agreed that without an effort made in concert, this work would likely not succeed.



Source: Goldman PS, Bakermans-Kranenburg MJ, Bradford B, Christopoulos A, Ken PLA, Cuthbert C, Duchinsky R, Fox NA, Grigoras S, Gunnar MR, Ibrahim RW, Johnson D, Kusumaningrum S, Agastya NLPM, Mwangangi FM, Nelson CA, Ott EM, Reijman S, van IJzen-doorn MH, Zeanah CH, Zhang Y, Sonuga-Barke EJS. Institutionalisation and deinstitutionalisation of children 2: policy and practice recommendations for global, national, and local actors. *Lancet Child Adolesc Health*. 2020 Aug;4(8):606-633. doi: 10.1016/S2352-4642(20)30060-2. Epub 2020 Jun 24. PMID: 32589873; PMCID: PMC7311356.



Source: National Care Reform Strategy for Children in Kenya 2022 – 2032

# Taking it Forward

The following suggested action steps for reform are outcomes from the learning exchange and include, but are not limited to:

- Draft, release for public comment and finalize Country Child Protection System Reform Strategy (modeled from Kenya Care Reform Strategy recently released)
- **Monitoring, evaluation and revision support for sponsorship (family strengthening), foster care (individual and emergency), aftercare, specialized group homes, adoption legislation and practice**
- Technical advisory and support for wide scale public awareness, communication surrounding family care
- **Supervise students and technical advisors to conduct a country care systems assessment of the current child protection system status and what is achieved in 1, 2 and 3 years. Example: # of children in CCIs, # of children in sponsorship, # of CCIs, # of children adopted, # of policies for family care at year 1, year 2 and year 3.**
- Work with the finance ministry and other related ministries to pass an umbrella child protection scheme that is attached with funding (example is Mission Vatsalya from India)
- **Support to create a Sri Lankan Alternative Care Network – SLACN (online depository of all information on Alternative Care that will be recognized globally (modelled after IACN – Indian Alternative Care Network)**
- Create and enact a strategy for wide scale upskilling programs of ground workers in child protection and related fields
- Reduce the numbers of children in CCIs slowly, carefully and with their best interest and safety a priority.

**The result is the following order that sets into motion a Core Team co-chaired by the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka, CERi and UNICEF.**

**The Core Team will engage a group of change makers (including those with care experience) to rethink how children, families, communities and systems function and serve. The future is bright.**



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Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment

Mr. Ian ForberPratt,MSW  
Deputy Executive Director  
Children's Emergency Relief International (CERI)

Ms. Miranda Armstrong  
Chief of Child Protection  
UNICEF – Sri Lanka

Sub: Tasking to create and co-chair a multisectoral Care Reform Core Team (under the leadership of this Ministry)to guide national steps towards Prevention and Family Strengthening, robust alternative family care, and Tracing, reintegration and transitioning from institutional care to Family and Community Based Care for all children in need of care and protection.

Dear Mr. Forber-Pratt and Ms. Armstrong.

Our Ministry acknowledges that global evidence shows child protection systems have, for far too long, focused on large institutionalization of children as the primary way of caring and protecting children. In alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, we ask for your help to align Sri Lanka's child protection system in the best interest of every child and with the most suitable and appropriate care option for each and every child and with institutionalization as last resort.

This vision was further solidified during the exposure visit to Udaipur, Rajasthan,India from 24<sup>th</sup> August to 28<sup>th</sup> where eleven officials from several government institutions working directly with Sri Lankan children participated. During the visit, we were able to gain new knowledge about family- based care and exchange experiences in India.

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It is because of the global evidence and our Ministry's focus, that we ask you to join us to found the Care Reform Core Team whose mandate should include but not be limited to:

- Draft, release for public comment and finalize County Child Protection System Reform Strategy (modeled from Kenya Care Reform Strategy recently released)
- Monitoring, evaluation and revision support for sponsorship (family strengthening), foster care (individual and emergency), aftercare, specialized group homes, adoption legislation and practice
- Technical advisory and support for wide scale public awareness, communication surrounding family care
- Supervise students and technical advisors to conduct a county care systems assessment of the current child protection system status and what is achieved in next three years .( Example: No of children in Child Care Institutions, No. of children in sponsorship, No. of children adopted, No. of children placed under fit person's orders and other alternative care options , No. of children in conflict with the law referred to community based rehabilitation and diversions and using sentencing options available in Juvenile Justice Law in Sri Lanka, and No. of policies for family care at year 1, year 2 and year 3.
- Work with the finance ministry and other related ministries to pass an umbrella child protection scheme that is attached with funding (example is Mission Vatsalya from India)
- Support to create an Sri Lankan Alternative Care Network- SLACN (online depository of all information on Alternative Care that will be recognized globally (modeled after IACN - Indian Alternative Care)
- Create and enact a strategy for wide scale up skilling programs of ground workers in child protection and related fields
- Reduce the numbers of children in CCIs slowly, carefully and with their best interest and safety a priority.

However, you may be aware that Sri Lanka is going through a very challenging period at present. Due to the prevailing economic recession, there is a possibility for emerging various social problems in the future, where children are especially vulnerable. There are chances for family separation of children as well.

Above programs have been identified as immediate solutions for this, and Care form is a priority identified by the Ministry, as thus we call upon CERI and UNICEF to join us in leading this core team and provide your valuable technical and financial support to make the implementation of the project successful.

I appreciate your prompt and favorable response to ensure the right of the children of our country to grow-up a family-based care.



**Neel Bandara Hapuhinne**  
Secretary