

[View this email in your browser](#)



Eastern and Southern Africa regional learning platform on care reform

Monthly update - December 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

- **Webinar - Preventing family separation in Eastern and Southern Africa:** In this webinar we will hear about promising practice examples on preventing family separation from across the region. **Date:** 26th of January. **Time:** 15.00-16.30 Nairobi time.
- **Webinar recording- Supporting the reintegration of children with disabilities in Rwanda:** With UNICEF support, the government of Rwanda are in the final phases of their care reform programme. Having returned the majority of children from residential care back to families and communities, they are now working on the reintegration of children with disabilities. In this webinar we heard from policy makers and practitioners on how this has been done and key lessons learnt. The recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).
- **Tell us what you have gained from the platform and how it can be improved.** Please fill out this [short form](#) to let us know what you learnt from the platform, how this has impacted on your work and how we can improve in the future. This will only take 5 minutes and will help us make the platform more relevant to your needs.
- **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).



Muslim communities supporting Kafalaah in Malindi, Kenya

By Erica Dahl-Bredine, Changing the Way We Care

Muslims around the world are encouraged to practice “Kafaalah,” which refers to the commitment established by the Quran to contribute to the care and protection of any child deprived of family care in the community, in the same way a parent would care for a biological child. The Quran emphasises the importance of taking care of orphans and children in need as a religious and moral duty of all who practice the Muslim faith.

In the towns of Malindi and Watamu in southeastern Kenya, the Muslim community has embraced this commitment by founding the Malindi Islamic Centre for Orphans (MICO), which currently cares for 200 orphans who have lost at least one parent. The children live with extended family members under a kafaalah arrangement, but each day go to the MICO facility to receive their schooling, as well as tea, lunch and bread to take home to the family.

Twenty mosques in Malindi and Watamu are members of MICO and contribute financially to keep MICO’s work going. During Ramadan, each mosque conducts a fundraising campaign with its members. The mosque which contributes the most funds to MICO receives an award. Some individual members of the mosques who have enough means occasionally donate houses for MICO to rent out and the money generated helps with expenses. These children belong to Allah,” says MICO Chairman Imam Abdulrahman, and “we must find a way to help them.”

Children who have lost a parent are reported to the local mosque, and then formally registered through the Mosque committee. This involves reviewing the child's birth certificate, as well as the parents’ death, marriage, and/or divorce certificates, and then filling out the proper forms which then officially establishes the child as an orphan under the Kafaalah system. In the event that the death, marriage or divorce certificates are not available, the *Khadi*, or the judge who presides over an Islamic Court, must substantiate the marriage or death. Chairman Abdulrahman, says “ at that point the Mosque committee members become parents to the child and must continue watching out for the child through his or her life.”

MICO funds the children's education until they finish primary school, or Standard 8, and then it seeks individual Muslim sponsors to continue funding the children's secondary and even tertiary education. Imam Abdulrahman says “we have managed to produce even doctors from among the orphans that we support.”

MICO is in the process of trying to set up an endowment in order to support more orphans, as the funds they are able to raise locally are not enough to support the number of children in need. The Changing the Way We Care initiative has provided trainings on safeguarding to MICO staff and has conducted a SWOT analysis of MICO’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, to determine how best to help the organisation remain strong and grow.

For more information about MICO’s work, please contact:

malindiorphans@gmail.com

Other news

- **Webinar series on kinship care.** The network Family for Every Child are running a six month learning series of webinars and resources around kinship care. The first webinar looked at definitions and forms of kinship care. The second webinar will examine how policies, guidance and the social workforce can be utilised to support kinship care. The webinar will

[kinship care here.](#)

Want to share resources or advertise a webinar or event on care reform in Eastern and Southern Africa? Please contact Bertha Lutome of Child Frontiers: blutome@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.



Copyright © 2022 UNICEF

Photo credit top image: © UNICEF/UN0306257/Soko
Photo credit second image:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to edelap@childfrontiers.com
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Child Frontiers · 7A Princes Rise · Lewisham · London, London SE13 7PW · United Kingdom

Grow your business with  mailchimp