

A photograph of a woman with dark hair and a bindi, wearing a patterned sari, holding a young child in a blue striped shirt. The woman is looking towards the camera with a gentle expression. The background is softly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

Changing
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careSM

Year Four

Annual Report Summary



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*Changing the Way We Care*SM (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").

In the initiative's fourth year, several residential care facilities successfully transitioned to family support centers; care leaver organizations were strengthened in Kenya and Guatemala; engagement in care reform by faith-based, academic and government bodies increased across all the demonstration countries; linkages between demonstration country learning and CTWWC's regional and global influence efforts were expanded; and the *Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform's* membership grew substantially. Additionally, CTWWC partnered on a collaborative media campaign targeting U.S. Christian audiences, reaching hundreds of thousands of viewers through various media channels.

Highlights from the demonstration countries in Year 4 included the launch of the Kenya National Care Reform Strategy with significant support from CTWWC; the implementation of the Moldovan government's National Child Protection Program, supported by CTWWC Moldova; and technical assistance and advisory support provided by the CTWWC Guatemala team to care reform efforts in Mexico and Peru. In addition, CTWWC expanded efforts with Catholic partners in India and Haiti to strengthen families and prevent separation.

These achievements came amidst numerous challenges, including high levels of global inflation, conflict, election-related insecurity, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Cover photo by Premananda Hessenkamp for CRS



CTWWC PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1:

Governments Promote Family Care

In Guatemala:

- CTWWC expanded to the Western Highlands and established formal family strengthening partnerships with the municipal governments of Malacatancito and Concepción Tutuapa
- CTWWC supported a [comprehensive study on alternative family care in Guatemala](#), providing valuable insights into alternative family-based care options in the country
- CTWWC provided technical assistance to the Guatemalan government's Social Welfare Secretariat, leading to the creation and launch of a nationally endorsed foster care strategy
- CTWWC and the Pan American University jointly created and launched a new university course on child rights and care for professionals in social work and psychology. The course was attended by 138 students during its first semester.

In Kenya:

- CTWWC collaborated with the Government of Kenya's National Council of Children's Services and the Directorate for Children's Services (DCS), to support the official launch of Kenya's ten-year [National Care Reform Strategy](#)
- CTWWC provided guidance to the Government of Kenya and to Muslim leaders and communities for the formalization of the traditional Islamic child care practice known as Kafaalah, leading to the launch of the [National Framework for the Implementation of Kafaalah Care for Children in Kenya](#)
- CTWWC provided financial and technical support to enhance the Alternative Family Care module within *Kenya's National Child Protection Information Management System*

In Moldova:

- CTWWC organized a learning exchange visit to Scotland for 14 officials from the Moldovan government, UNICEF, and other partners to learn about Scotland's experiences in policy development and public financing strategies for care reform, approaches for preventing family separation, and support for refugee children and families.
- CTWWC facilitated the establishment of a government-led working group on social service workforce enhancement; led a review and update of Moldova's case management regulations, tools, and guidance; and designed a new working group to strengthen foster care services, particularly for children with disabilities, children under three, and those with complex emotional needs.
- CTWWC hosted three forums with 208 representatives from 30 targeted counties in Moldova to review the assessments of residential care facilities in various counties and discuss priorities for care reform at the county level.



Photo by Anthony Nwankwue / CRS

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CTWWC PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2:

Children stay in or return to safe and nurturing families

In Guatemala

- CTWWC successfully closed 65% of its family reintegration cases, while an additional 21% of the cases were transferred to trained government case workers for follow-up with those families
- A total of 130 caregivers in Guatemala completed training in CTWWC positive parenting schools to prevent unnecessary family-child separation
- CTWWC supported the establishment of three *Community Commissions for Family Care* within the Zacapa municipality to identify children and families at risk of separation and raise awareness about protective factors to prevent separation.
- CTWWC supported the transition process of Hogar Esquipulas, a residential care facility run by Catholic Sisters. The facility has reintegrated all the children in its care with their families and has now become a family support center offering parenting classes, scholarships, and after school programs.

In Kenya

- CTWWC expanded support for the implementation of Kafaalah in Kilifi, Kisumu and Mombasa counties. Three county-level Kafaalah steering committees were formed and a mapping of 466 households which are caring for children under the traditional Kafaalah system was conducted.
- CTWWC held four forums to promote family care and care reform with 165 Catholic Church clergy nationally.
- CTWWC conducted a mapping exercise of adults and children with disabilities in Seme sub-county and Kisumu County to promote

disability-sensitive decision-making, resource allocation, and service provision, in collaboration with the National Council for Persons with Disability and DCS.

- CTWWC organized two county care leaver forums in Kilifi County, in collaboration with DCS, the Directorate of Social Development, and 44 care leavers, leading to the formation of the Kilifi County Care Leavers Network

In Moldova

- CTWWC continued transitioning children out of six residential care facilities in Moldova, including the Center for Children with Polio and Cerebral Palsy Hincești.
- CTWWC enrolled 139 new caregivers in programs to prepare them for family reunification and for providing alternative family care
- CTWWC facilitated 116 successful service referrals, linking 20 caregivers and 55 children to essential health, education, family, economic support and legal services.

In Haiti and India

- In India, CTWWC partnered with UNICEF to conduct a study on “Public Finance Provisioning for Alternative Care of Children in India.” CTWWC also reached more than 6,100 people through mass media messaging on family care and provided an orientation on positive parenting to 10,170 caregivers in Tamil Nadu.
- In Haiti, CTWWC provided child rights protection trainings to 200 community leaders to help prevent unnecessary separation of children and families. The team also established a strong working relationship with the Haitian government’s child welfare agency around care reform.

CTWWC PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:

Global Commitments Shifting to Family Care

Global exchange and collaboration on children's care expanded significantly through the [Transforming Children's Care Global Collaborative Platform](#), whose membership grew to 750 members, including more young people and adults with lived experience of care. CTWWC demonstration country teams shared learning about care reform via abstracts and presentations at regional and global conferences, events, and speaking opportunities.

In December 2021, the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and its COVID-19 Commission presented a guidance document on child protection during COVID-19, with input from CTWWC, which included a call-to-action for the Church to ensure that children grow up in families rather than residential care.

In Latin America, CTWWC Guatemala staff traveled to Peru and Mexico to provide training and support to residential care facilities and child care professionals on case management and transition of care services. In Mexico, the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd completed the transition of two of its residential care facilities to family support centers, with support from CTWWC.

As part of the East and Southern Africa Regional Learning Platform on Care Reform, CTWWC organized several webinars in collaboration with UNICEF. In May, CTWWC Kenya provided planning and implementation support for a two-day regional conference entitled [Indaba: The Theology and Practice of Child Protection in Africa in Times of Pandemics](#), sponsored by

the Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network of Africa and the Vatican COVID-19 Commission. The conference brought together Church leaders, child protection specialists and practitioners for a critical examination of the theology and practice of child protection in Africa in the context of COVID-19.

Following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, CTWWC partner Better Care Network (BCN) worked with other agencies to establish a global group to address children's care in the Ukraine humanitarian response. The group developed an inter-agency guidance document, [Responding to Children's Care in the Context of the Ukraine Crisis: Key Recommendations and Considerations](#). CTWWC Moldova also developed several trainings, including the [Psychological First Aid \(PFA\) for Frontline Workers](#), [PFA for Foster Families](#) and [Safe Responses During Emergency Situations](#) to support the response. Social media [parenting messages](#) were also produced for parents caring for children in the Ukraine crisis, which, according to Oxford University, have reached 9.3 million people.



Photo by Dineerah Lorenzana / CRS

By the numbers

Highlights from CTWWC's first four years of implementation include:



535
government



meetings on care
reform conducted

staff trained in care
reform in Guatemala,
Kenya and Moldova

255
government



700
social service



workforce trained in
case management

19,300
children at risk

of family separation
received support
services



7000
caregivers



enrolled in family
strengthening
support programs

27
residential care



facilities received support
to transition away from
residential care services

22
faith-based



organizations were
supported to engage
in care reform efforts



394,000
community members



participated in family care awareness raising activities

600,000

were influenced by



family care messaging
through the media



39



global forums

with participation
from CTWWC

28



faith-based

organizations received
support to engage in
care reform

227



regional
or global events

hosted by CTWWC
or in which CTWWC
presented learning



Success Story

Photo by Premananda Hassenkamp for CRS



SAURABH AND HIS GRANDMOTHER (PICTURED ABOVE) AT THEIR HOME IN ODISHA.

A Story of Hope from India

Saurabh Mishra* is an 18-year-old boy living in Odisha, India. He lost his mother when he was only one year old. After the loss of his mother, his maternal grandmother became his primary caregiver, and his father visited him once or twice a week at his grandmother's house. When he was fourteen years old, he lost his father to a chronic disease. His father was supporting him financially, so it was very difficult for Saurabh to continue his education after his father's death. To support himself and his grandmother, Saurabh found work as a daily labourer.

CTWWC's India's partner in Odisha – ARUNA – met the family through the CTWWC India initiative and started providing the family with

food support. The educational and mental health needs of Saurabh were then identified, and he was soon categorized as a “high-risk” case. He told his ARUNA case worker that he wanted to continue his studies to support himself and his grandmother financially, so ARUNA linked him to a state-based skill development training, and he developed an interest in the hospitality sector. In November 2021, ARUNA project staff enrolled him in hotel management training. Saurabh completed the course and is now gainfully employed at a hotel in Odisha. He is supporting himself and his grandmother. The ARUNA team continues to monitor Saurabh's progress virtually through ongoing case management.

**Name has been changed to protect privacy.*



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