

CASE STORY OF TRANSITION

Majaoni Rescuers



MacArthur
Foundation

Changing
THE WAY WE
care

Changing the Way We CareSM (CTWWC) is a global initiative designed to promote safe, nurturing family care for children, including reforming national systems of care for children, strengthening families, family reunification and preventing child-family separation, which can have harmful, long-term consequences, development of alternative family-based care, and influencing others toward family care.

CTWWC is committed to supporting the transition of residential care facilities such as residential institutions, orphanages and children's homes by helping to safely reunify and sustain children with families or in family-based alternative care and helping organizations to divest or transform into

new family and community services. This case story is meant to illustrate transition, the actors involved, the challenges and the success factors; recognizing that each transition is an individual process with different starting points, different dynamics and different evolutions. This case story complements the *Transitioning Models of Care Assessment Tool* by illustrating one or more stages of change. The name and locations have been changed to maintain the anonymity of the organization. The Sky Ministries case story demonstrates the clash between policy and regulatory reforms and donor pressure, and how this clash impacts the transition.

Definition of transition

The process of changing the model of care or service provided by an organization from an institutional care service to a non-institutional service or model of care. Transition involves change at all levels of the organization and includes, but is not limited to, the safe reintegration of children.



Background

Majaoni Rescuers, a community-based organization (CBO), was founded in September 2005, situated in Marimani within Mwakirunge Location, Kisauni Sub-County, Mombasa County. The CBO's inception was a response to a surge in child rights violations in the area, such as child abuse, child prostitution, exploitation, forced early teenage girl marriages, school dropouts, child neglect, and discrimination. Its mission was clear: to address these social injustices and protect the well-being of local children.

Majaoni Care Reform Work

Majaoni Rescuers, in the process of transitioning into a Charitable Children's Institution (CCI), underwent significant changes. Mr. Joseph Offiro, the organization's director, learned about Changing The Way We Care's (CTWWC) initiatives in early 2020 through Baraka FM radio, a local station with listenership spanning Kilifi, Mombasa, and Lamu Counties. The station featured a talk show about CTWWC's partnership with the Directorate of Children Services (DCS), focusing on care reform and promoting family and community-based care for children. This message prompted Mr. Offiro to reach out to CTWWC through their local partner, Kesho Kenya.

Despite CTWWC's initial non-coverage of Mombasa County, Majaoni's case was seen as an opportunity to advance care reform in the region. In consultation with the Kilifi Department of Children's Services (DCS), CTWWC began supporting Majaoni Rescuers in February 2021, including training social workers in case management and positive parenting.

Through these engagements and training, Majaoni Rescuers successfully reintegrated all the children under their care into their families and communities. Continuous monitoring and follow-up by Majaoni social workers ensured a smooth transition.

Outcomes/ Transformational Change

Armed with insights from CTWWC's care reform training, Majaoni Rescuers reshaped their services and project approach, focusing on family- and community-based care. Initiatives included child reunification, ongoing monitoring, follow-up, and skillful parenting classes. To support families, CTWWC provided a reintegration fund to mitigate potential economic challenges. Gradually, Majaoni Rescuers shifted towards becoming a community service provider, working closely with CTWWC and the DCS.

Challenges Encountered During Implementation

The transition to family and community-based care posed challenges for Majaoni Rescuers, particularly regarding their donors. All their donors withdrew their funding, affecting the organization's ability to serve children in the community.

Current Approach

In response, Majaoni Rescuers developed a program to empower parents with positive parenting skills, provide psychosocial support through family mediation, identify potential foster parents, facilitate referrals, and raise awareness among Charitable Children's Institutions (CCIs) and gatekeepers about care reform in Mombasa County. Majaoni Rescuers played a crucial role in advancing care reform efforts, utilizing existing child protection structures in the county's sub-counties.



Changing The Way We CareSM (CTWWC) is a global initiative funded by USAID, the MacArthur Foundation and the GHR Foundation, and implemented by Catholic Relief Services and Maestral International, along with other global, national and local partners working together to change the way we care for children around the world. Our principal global partners are Better Care Network, Lumos Foundation, and Faith to Action. CTWWC's vision is to be a bold global initiative designed to promote safe, nurturing family care for children, including reforming national systems of care for children, strengthening families, family reunification and preventing child-family separation, which can have harmful, long-term consequences, development of alternative family-based care, and influencing others to build momentum towards a tipping point of change for children.

Need to know more?

Contact Changing the Way We Care at info@ctwwc.org
or visit changingthewaywecare.org

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