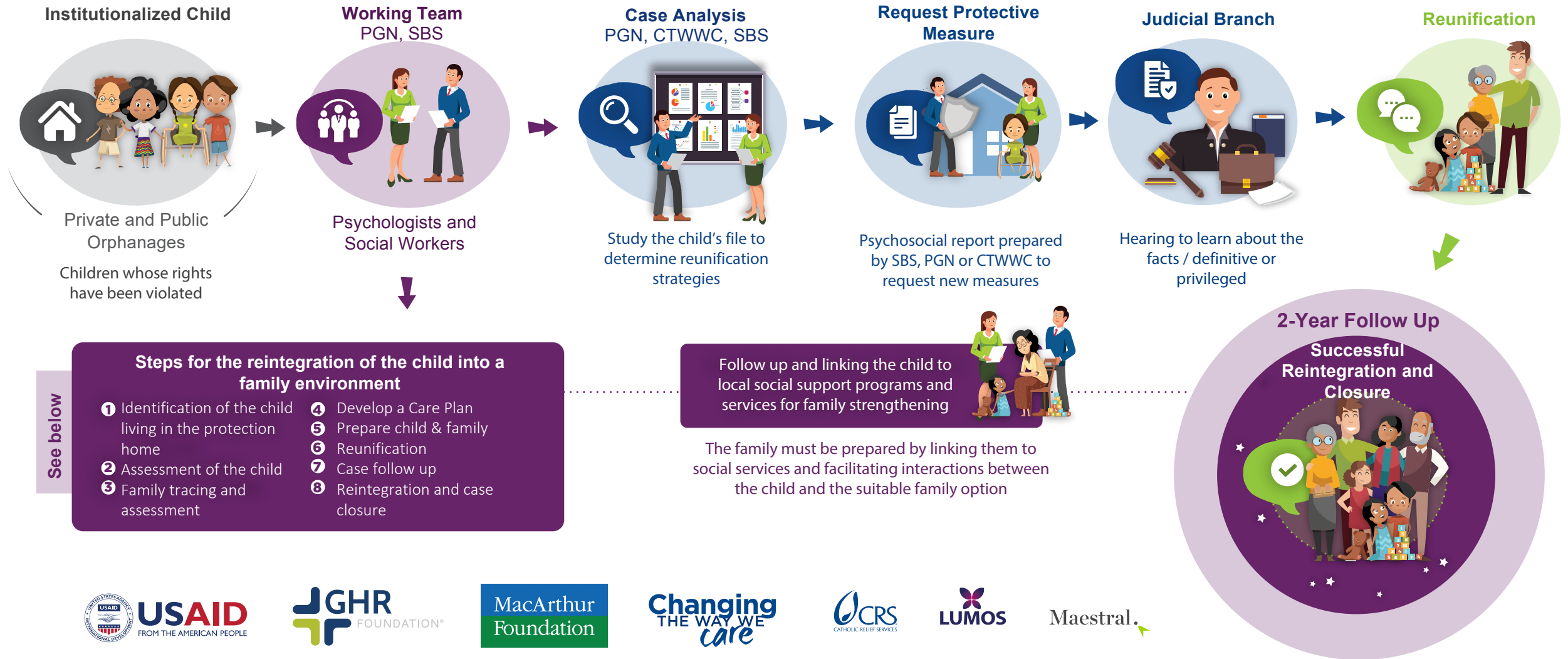


REUNIFICATION PROCESS of a child to a family environment

Interinstitutional coordination roadmap



Case Management for Reunification Process of a Child to a Family Environment

STEP 1 IDENTIFICATION: First phase of the case management process and consists of identifying children and adolescents who will be referred for an evaluation and eligibility process for reintegration. The identification is made based on a profile and the best interests of the child, who must meet specific criteria of age, reason for entry into the protection home and family situation. .

STEP 2 CHILD ASSESSMENT: Process for identifying the specific needs and strengths/resources of a child and/ or family. Assessments (or profiles) explore issues related to socioeconomic status, health, nutrition, psychosocial well-being, emotional state, and education. It is important to evaluate children individually, as well as the conditions that affect the family, this process is carried out by social worker and psychologist, who evidence and document that the child and the family are candidates for reintegration, based on the best interests and opinion of the child. Then we continue to step 4, where a family is sought and then evaluated.

STEP 3 FAMILY RESEARCH AND EVALUATION: It is the research carried out by a social worker to find or locate a relative of the child or adolescent institutionalized or at risk, who meets the criteria to take responsibility for the child, this means that he has complied with the pertinent evaluations to be able to shelter and protect the child and that the reconstruction or construction of the affective bond or relationship between the child and family is possible.

STEP 4 CASE OR CARE PLAN: The process for developing a written plan that details how to improve the well-being, safety, and increase the resilience of the child and family to risks and vulnerabilities. It is based on the best interests of the child, the opinion of the child, family and other people close to the child and the family.

STEP 5 PREPARATION OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY: Procedure of preparation of the child for the reintegration into the family of origin and / or extended, said preparation includes emotional, physical, social, affective aspects in which it is must work together with the child for the subsequent reunification in family and community. It includes actions to disassociate the child from the protection home and link him to the family where he will be integrated; in the family is the orientation procedure to receive a child, the preparation includes social, emotional and parental education aspects, approach visits with the child prior to the hearing, development of economic opportunity plan, link to social services.

STEP 6 REUNIFICATION: It is the physical reunion of a separated child or adolescent and his family or previous caregiver, reunification refers only to the physical return of the child with a family, with the aim of making the family permanent.

STEP 7 FOLLOW-UP: These are regular visits to the child or adolescent and the family to ensure that the reintegration process is in accordance with the best interests of the child. The care plan is reviewed in conjunction with the family and the child, psychosocial services are identified as necessary, as well as the link with service providers.

STEP 8 REINTEGRATION AND CLOSURE: Reintegration is the process of transition and permanent return of a child with a family where the construction of a strengthened emotional bond is evident, closure occurs when professionals are convinced by evidence that the safety and well-being of the child are effective. Case closure should only be considered when the goals agreed upon in the most recent version of the care plan have been met.

★ ADOLESCENT PREPARATION FOR TRANSITION: These are the efforts made by social work and psychology to facilitate the adolescent's transition to independent living, including emotional preparation, independent living plan and economic transition.



Changing The Way We Care (CTWWC) is 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 the Better Care Network and Faith to Action. CTWWC is funded in part by a Global Development Alliance of USAID, the MacArthur Foundation and the GHR Foundation.

This product is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Changing the Way We Care (CTWWC) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

©2022 Catholic Relief Services. This document is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.