



Understanding child well-being and caregiver protective factor outcomes following reunification from residential care

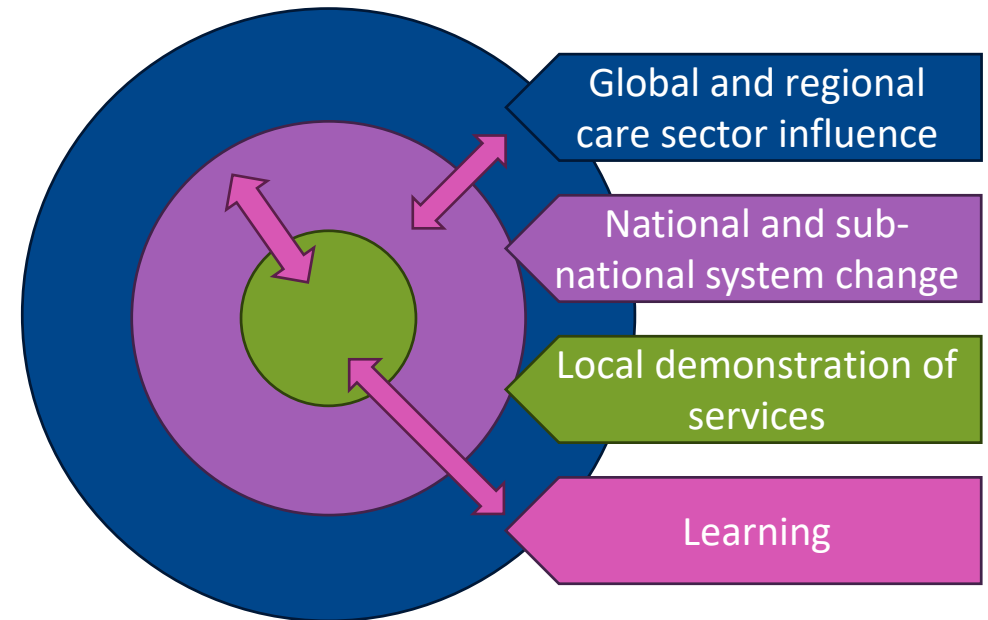
Three country caregivers and children survey

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Building evidence to impact the way we care

Changing the Way We Care is a global initiative to keep children in safe and nurturing care

- Through country **demonstration** and **systems change**
- Feeding regional and global care sector **influence**



Learning & evidence – contribute to the gap in evidence of outcomes for children and caregivers

- reintegrating or placed in family-based care from residential care
- being supported to prevent separation

Family survey method: research questions & sample

Household survey, linked to demonstration service delivery, to answer:

- What aspects of **CTWWC support** do caregivers think have affected their ability to care for their children?
- What proportion of **caregivers** report selected **protective factors** in their life?
- What proportion of **children** are experiencing **well-being**?

Sample size:

Country	Participants	Round 1 (Y3, 2021)	Round 2 (Y5, 2023)	Both rounds
Guatemala	Caregivers	59	47 +61 parenting schools	47
	Children aged 11+	50	30	30
Kenya	Caregivers	263	195 +83 prevention groups	156
	Children aged 11+	142	122 + 44 prevention groups	80
Moldova	Caregivers	-	42	-
	Children aged 11+	-	14	-

Family survey method: caregiver & child measures

Caregiver self-report

Household and caregiver demographics, caregiver disability (Washington Group Short Set)

Services received from CTWWC

Household economic stability, caregiver protective factors (PAPF), parenting practices (Alabama Parenting Q)

Caregiver report on child

Child demographics, family structure, care status

Care history (children who had reunified only)

If child aged 2-4yrs

Child disability (WG/UNICEF Child Functioning Module age 2–4)

If child aged 5-10yrs

Child disability (WG/UNICEF Child Functioning Module age 5+)

If child aged 11yrs+

Health and wellbeing (children aged 2–10)

Designed with input from children and young people with experience of residential care and reintegration

Child self-report

Health and wellbeing

Family and community acceptance

School belonging

Overall life satisfaction (OLS) at time of survey

OLS reflecting on residential care (children who had reunified only)



Guatemala results

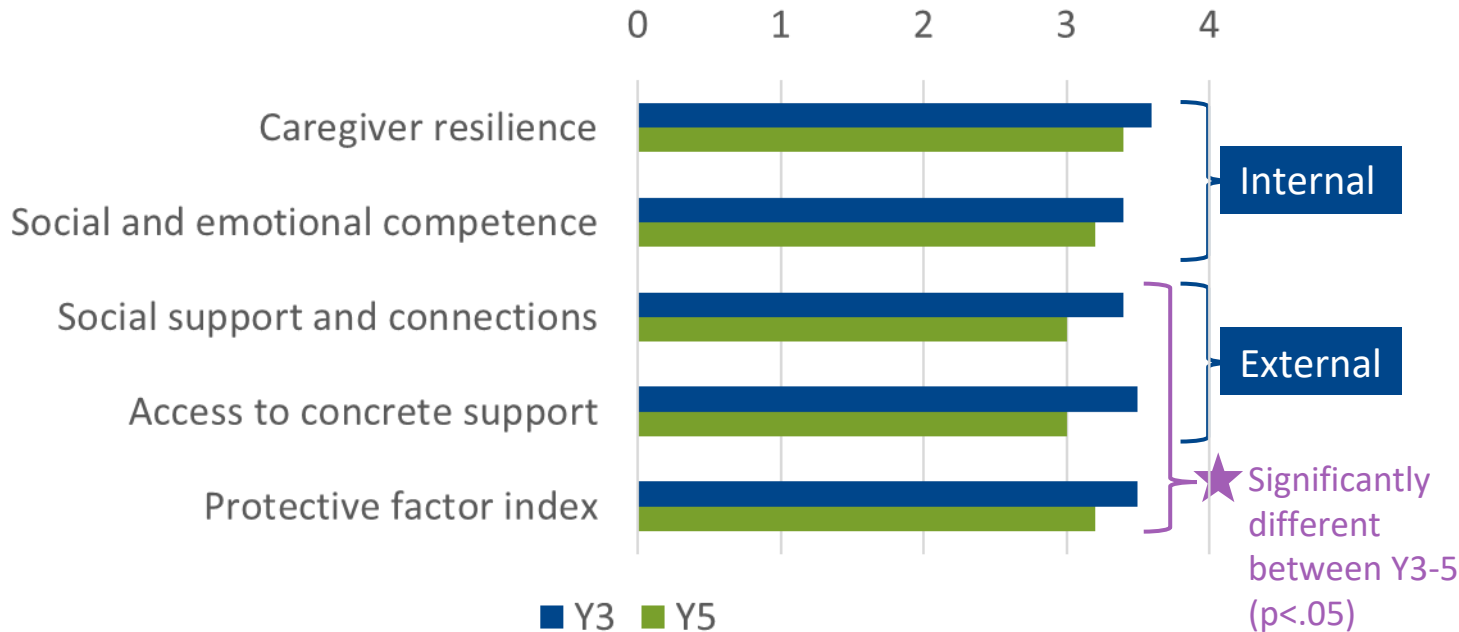
- Positive feedback on services provided by CTWWC, including case closure
 - 76% caregivers felt the home visits helped them a lot to care for their child
 - 78% caregivers felt completely prepared for case closure
- High level of caregiver protective factors and child well-being

Guatemala results – sustainability of placements

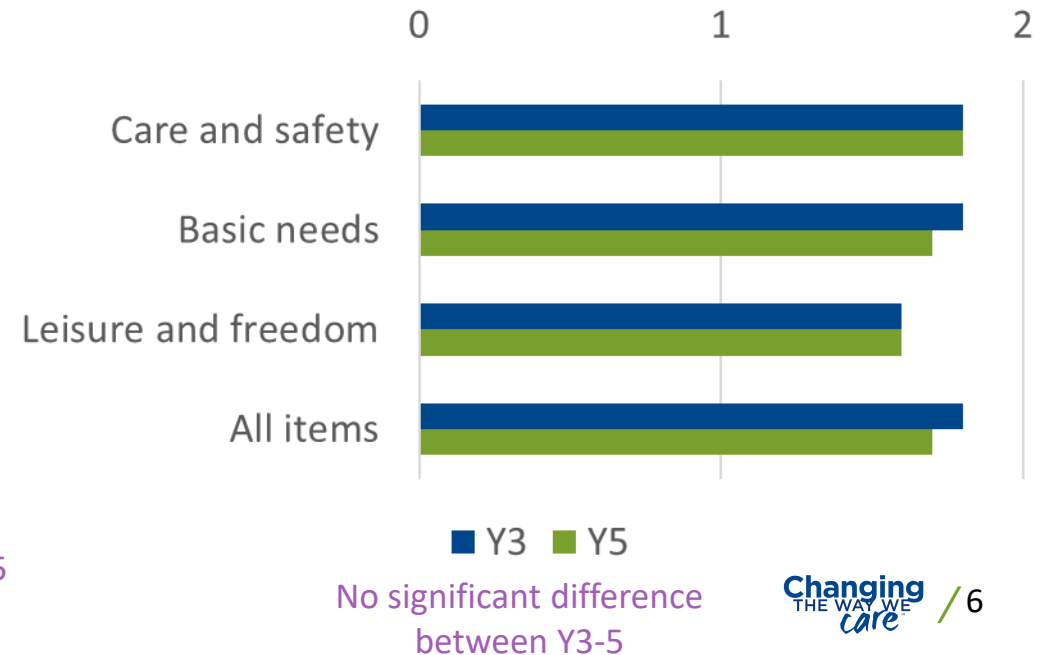
Caregiver protective factors and child well-being remained high after case closure

Y3 survey = 18mths after placement. Y5 survey = 18mths after cases closed.

Caregiver protective factors
(scale 0-4, with 4 = greater protective factors)



Child well-being - 11yrs+, self-reported
(scale 0-2, with 2 = greater well-being)



Guatemala results – family care is more positive

Children consider their life at home to be considerably more positive than when they were in residential care.

No significant change between Y3 and Y5 surveys

0=Not at all satisfied

10=Completely satisfied



4.3

Thinking back to residential care

8.9

At time of survey, at home



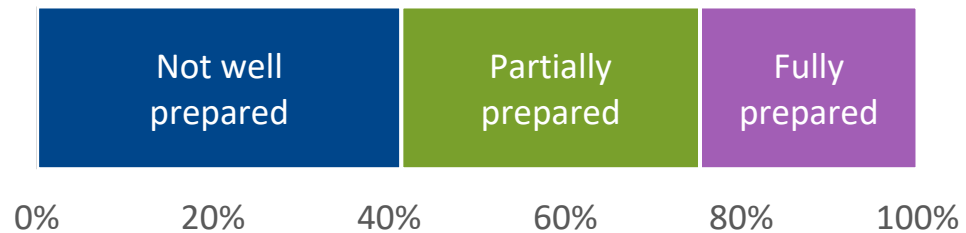
Kenya results

Positive feedback on services received from CTWWC

Over 75% of caregivers said homes visits, parenting training, cash transfer and financial training help them a lot to care for their children

Two-thirds of cases had recently been closed, with caregivers feeling mixed levels of preparation

Caregiver' perception on case closure



Kenya results – care and safety vs economic strain

Resilience and ability to care remained strong and is felt by children

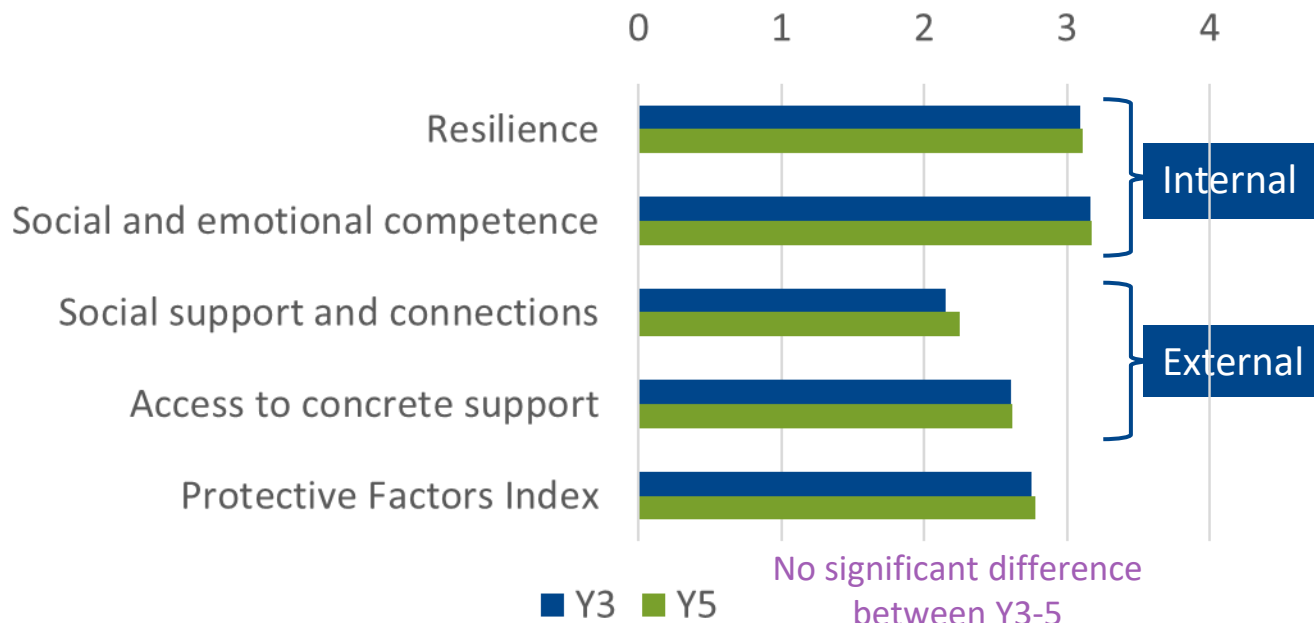
Protective Factors Index and overall well-being positively correlated ($r=.33, p<.001$)

All families impacted by economic strain.

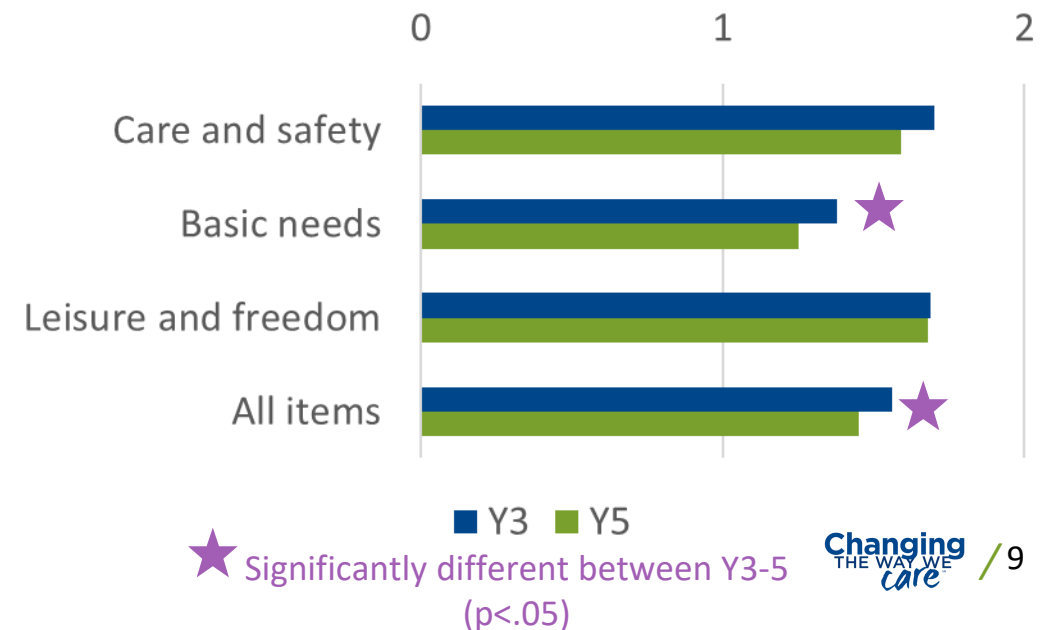
Y3: 18mths after placements, mostly not planned and supported. Period up to Y5: case reviews, follow-up, group interventions and initial steps to closure/transfer.

Caregiver protective factors

(scale 0-4, with 4 = greater protective factors)



Child well-being - 11yrs+, self-reported
(scale 0-2, with 2 = greater well-being)



Kenya results – the impact of economic pressure

Children's overall satisfaction with life has declined, likely due to economic and education pressure

Children who has been reunified from residential care rated their life more satisfactory in residential care in Y5, with a significant drop in the current satisfaction since Y3

How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?
(children 11yrs+, self-reported)

0=Not at all satisfied

10=Completely satisfied



6.0

Y5: At time of survey,
at home

7.9

Thinking back to
residential care



Moldova results

Positive feedback on services received from CTWWC

Two-thirds of caregivers found home visits and referrals helped a them a lot to care for their children

72% felt cash transfers helped a lot

Foster care is playing an important role for children with disability

Over 50% of children covered by the survey have a disability

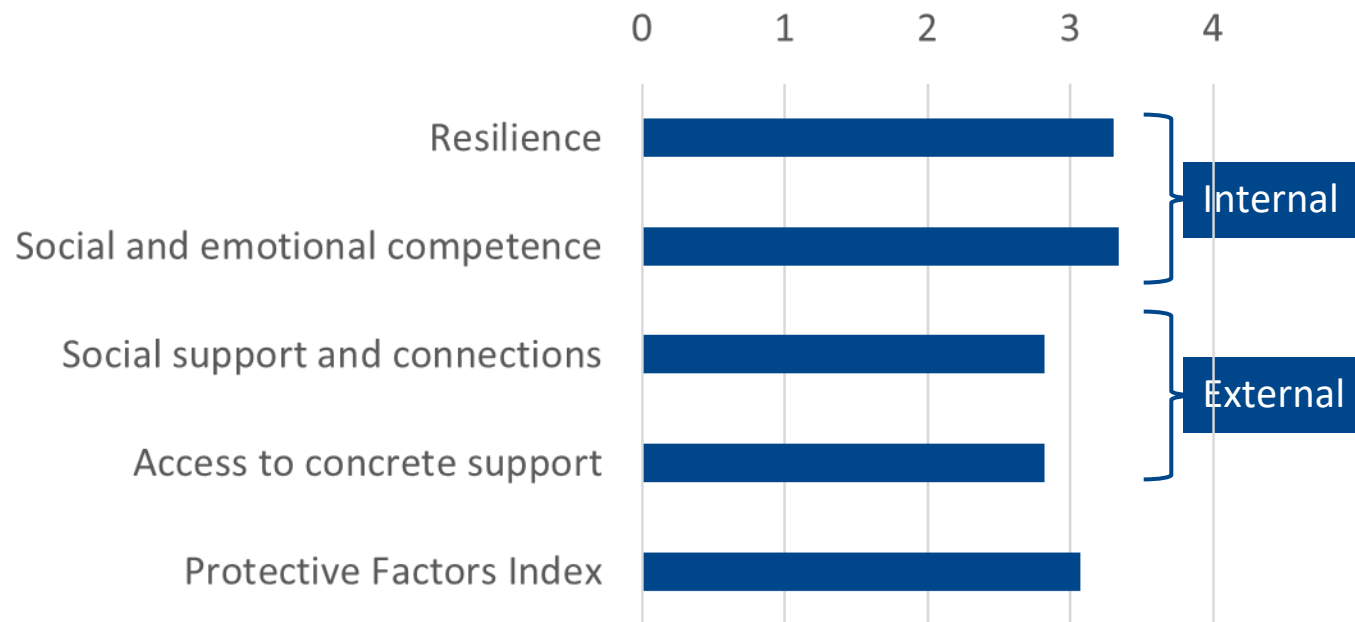
37% of children in foster care

Moldova results – families are thriving internally

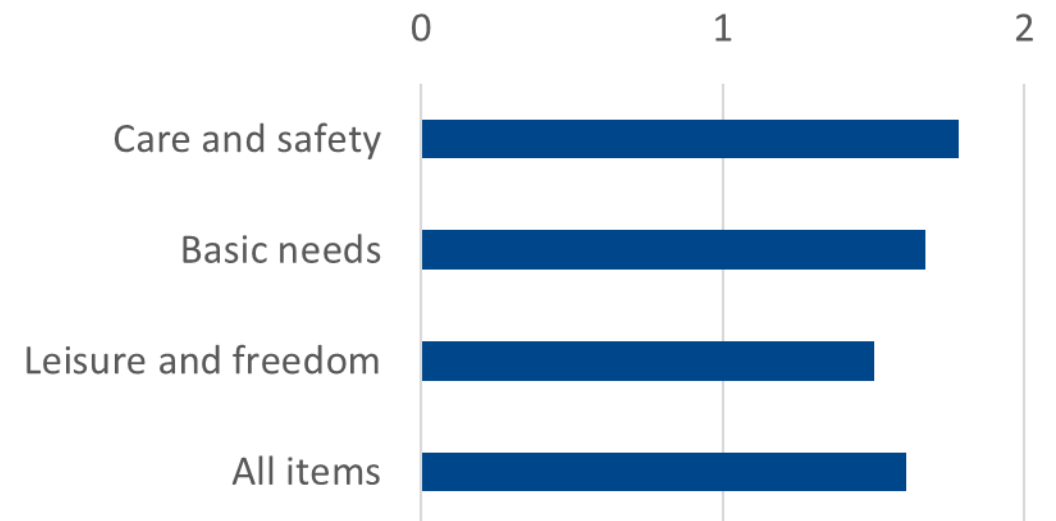
Caregivers have high levels of protective factors and children's well-being is generally positive.

But leisure, freedom and community acceptance must be improved.

Caregiver protective factors
(scale 0-4, with 4 = greater protective factors)



Child well-being - 11yrs+, self-reported
(scale 0-2, with 2 = greater well-being)



Moldova results – disability is an important factor

Overall well-being and life satisfaction is positive, but:

For children aged 2-5yrs, health and well-being (reported by caregivers) was significantly worse for children with disabilities.

Children aged 11yrs+ without a disability all responded 10 “completely satisfied” when asked about their life as a whole, whilst children with disabilities varied in their response from 4 to 9.

How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?
(children 11yrs+, self-reported)





Conclusions

Building local evidence and encouraging reflective practice helps inform local change.

- **Guatemala:** Case management is an important process for reintegration of children from residential care.
- **Kenya:** Case management is an important process but must be accompanied by economic family strengthening and education system strengthening.
- **Moldova:** disability inclusion and foster care is essential for final leg of care reform, along with community engagement.



Please download
< the **full survey report** (Better Care Network)
and the article on the **child well-being tool** >
(Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal)





Using survey results in Guatemala and beyond

Strengthening families and sensitizing local and
national government

Roberto Tejada and Sully Santos



The reality of children and adolescents in Guatemala

Family separation is a challenge as a result of poverty, exclusion, and lack of social services.

Using the survey results





Informing practice in Guatemala

- Strengthening **parenting skills**
- Identifying **protective factors** to increase socioemotional support
- Promote **community networks**
- Supporting family reintegration
 - **Promote** the safe reunification of children and adolescents into a family environment.
 - **Strengthen** reintegration processes with the national government..
 - **Prevent** unnecessary family separation.



Influencing in the region

- In **Mexico**, at the National Congress of Child Protection Attorneys
- In **Peru**, at a local and regional (county) level



Results: a better future

In 2024, CTWWC Guatemala used the results to influence:

- The Social Welfare Secretariat
- Articulate key messages.
- Provide evidence to support the case management methodology.

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