



**Better  
Care  
Network**

**Zambia National Consultation  
4-6<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

# BETTER CARE NETWORK



BCN is an inter-agency network of organizations committed to supporting children without adequate family care around the world.

**Better  
Care  
Network**

**BCN Steering Committee:**



# What BCN does

- **Facilitates active information exchange and collaboration** on the issue of children without adequate family care
- **Advocates for technically sound policy and programmatic** action on global, regional, and national levels
- **Guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (UN GA 2009)**

# Knowledge Hub

## www.bettercarenetwork.org

### Library of Documents



#### Strengthening Family Care

Resources on social support programmes designed to maintain family...

+ Read more



#### Social Welfare Systems

Examples of child care legislation, protection policies, tools, and...

+ Read more



#### The Continuum of Care

Resources on promoting and developing family and community-based care...

+ Read more



#### Principles of Good Care Practices

Tools to adequately support and assess a child in care

+ Read more



#### Particular Threats to Children's Care and Protection

Literature on threats to children and families and relevant responses...

+ Read more



#### Separated Children in an Emergency

This section includes resources on the protection of vulnerable...

+ Read more

#### An Analysis of Child-Care Reform in Three African Countries: Summary of Key Findings

This report summarizes the care-reform process of three sub-Saharan African countries - Ghana, Liberia and Rwanda.

+ Learn more



#### Video

##### We All Need Families at the End of the Day - Maureen

This video is presented by Better Care Network and UNICEF. It tells the story of Maureen, a young girl in Kenya who was separated from her family and sent to live in a children's home. The video also features interviews with experts, including those who have lived in children's homes, explaining some of the negative impacts of institutionalization and highlights the efforts of care reform initiatives to deinstitutionalize children in Kenya.

+ Learn more

#### News

##### Why Eritrea's children are fleeing to Ethiopia

In this video from the BBC, Clive Myrie reports from Ethiopia, the first stop for many Eritrean migrants en-route to Europe. The video features a few of these child migrants who are waiting in Ethiopia to make their way to Europe in hopes of a better life.

+ Learn more

#### Job Posting

##### BCN Knowledge Management & Communications Specialist

The Better Care Network is recruiting a new Knowledge Management and Communications Specialist.

+ Learn more

- **Largest global clearing house** of research, program and policy guidance and tools

- **Monthly newsletter** over 4000 readers across 191 countries



## Zambia

### Regions & Countries

#### Africa

Central Africa >

**Eastern Africa** >

Burundi

Comoros

Djibouti

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Kenya

Madagascar

Malawi

Mauritius

Mozambique

Rwanda

Seychelles

Somalia

South Sudan

Tanzania

Uganda

**Zambia**

Zimbabwe

Southern Africa >

Western Africa >

Americas >

Asia >

Europe >

Middle East & North Africa >

### Demographic Data

- Total Population: 14,538,640
- Population under 15: 47%
- Life Expectancy at Birth: 58 years
- Human Development Index: 141 out of 187
- World Bank Status: Lower middle income
- HIV/AIDS Prevalence: 12.5%
- Mean Household Composition: 5.1 members
- Female-Headed Households: 27%
- Early Marriage (% of children married by 18 years): 42%

Sources: World Bank, UNDP, MICS, DHS 2013/2014

### Highlighted Documents

- Zambia Country Brief on Children's Living Arrangements
- Snapshot of Children's Living Arrangements

### Browse Documents by Category

- Any -

#### Zambia: Children's Care and Living Arrangements, DHS 2013-14

Better Care Network, 14 Sep 2015  
This country brief provides an overview of data on children's living arrangements in Zambia, extracted from the 2013-14 DHS survey.

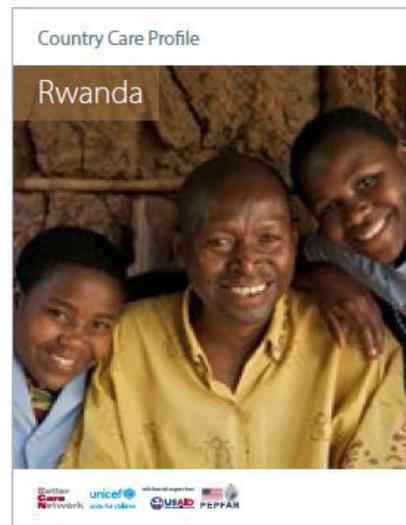
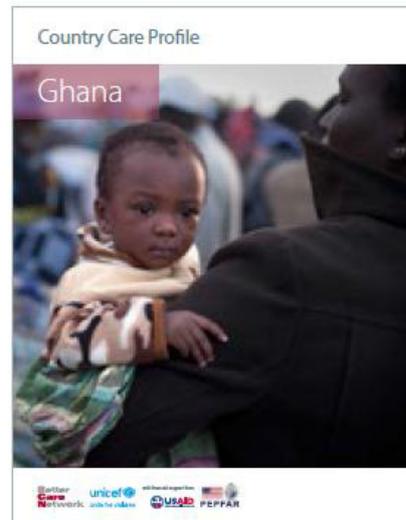
Zambia DHS 2013-2014 - Children's Care and Living Arrangements.pdf

#### Prevent and Protect: Linking the HIV and Child Protection

Prevent And Protect



# Country and Regional Level Learning



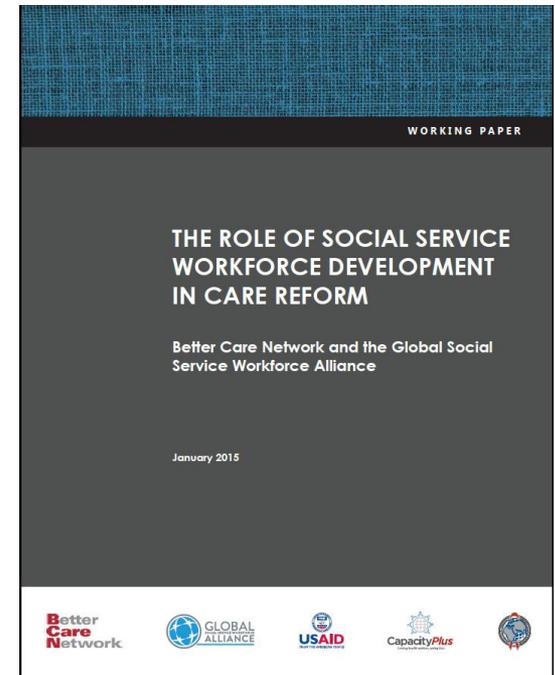
# Global Learning



**BCN and UNICEF: Gatekeeping Paper**  
The role of gatekeeping in strengthening family-based care and reforming alternative care systems: 5 country case studies  
(Brazil, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Moldova, Rwanda)

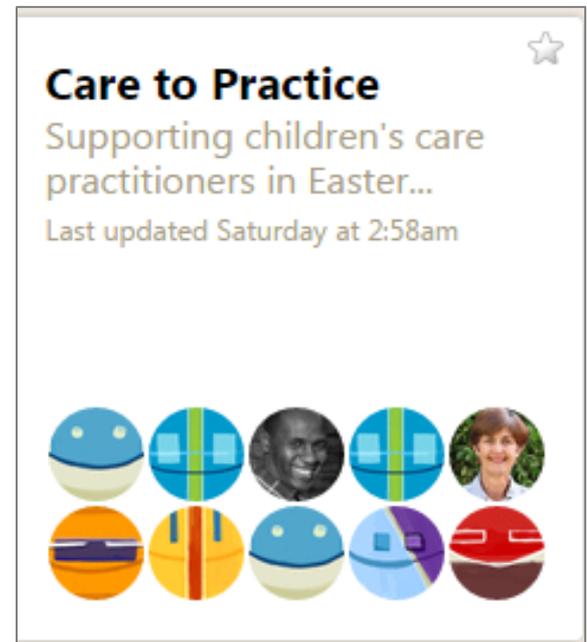
## WORKING PAPERS

**BCN and GSSWA: Implications of Care Reforms on the Social Service Workforce**  
3 country case studies:  
(Indonesia, Moldova, Rwanda)



# Convening, Facilitating, and Advocating

- ✓ **BCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Initiative** and Regional/ National Consultations (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia)
- ✓ **Care To Practice: online community of practice** for Eastern and Southern Africa
- ✓ **Better Volunteering, Better Care Initiative** (co-facilitator with SC)





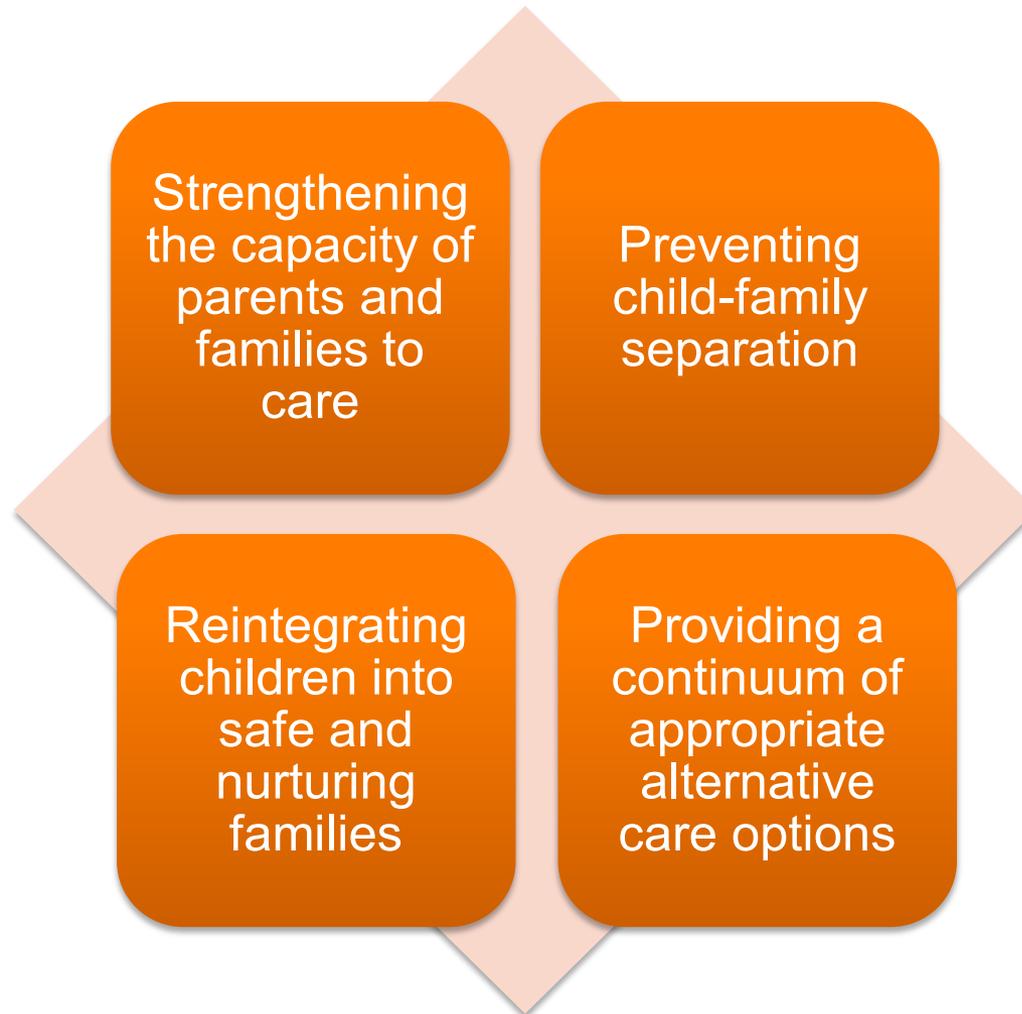
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## **Global Perspectives on Child Care Reforms**

# Global Perspectives on Child Care Reforms

- Reforms of child care and protection systems ongoing in virtually all regions of the world
- **Decades of research** on critical importance of family and a family environment for child development and well-being
- Shift away from the use of residential care towards **strengthening the capacity of parents and families to care for children**
- Key reference points are the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC)** and the **Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children**

# International Framework for Children's Care



# A Robust Legal and Policy Framework

1. **Overall vision for national care system** and a **strategic plan** to get there: must be articulated in agreed documents with framework for care reform
2. **A leading government body: commitment and leadership** to move the care reform process forward.
3. Policies and strategies must be **funded, operationalized, enforced and overseen**: Need regulatory system.
4. Need for **multi-sectoral involvement**: Government as duty bearer; civil society as implementers and partners; service providers;

# Evidence to inform policy and advocacy

- 1. Research, data collection and information management systems:** essential for developing effective policies and services;
- 2. Research is major opportunity for advocacy:** Raise awareness, gain support and buy-in;
- 3. Research is major opportunity for strengthening capacity of workforce:** lead in the implementation of reform process; champions
- 4. Data is central to accountability at different levels:** Means different levels of data needed. Tracking progress on the reform, accountability for individual services provided to children and families;

# A Realistic Progressive Timebound Approach

- 1. Reform doesn't happen immediately.** It requires time, appropriate planning, resources and reasonable goals.
- 2. Child care reforms must be linked to broader reform processes** (i.e. child protection system, social protection system, social workforce system) **but that does not mean it must wait for those.**
- 3. Child Care reforms are rarely linear:** (i.e. A. law and policy reforms, B. workforce reforms, C. Services reforms, D... It will need constant back and forth.)
- 4. There are real-life obstacles to reform: resource limitations but also “vested interests”** (A stake in the status quo)

# Need a shift of policy and resources towards preventive and family support services

- 1. Resources supporting residential care must be redirected** towards prevention and family and child centered services at community level;
- 2. Doing a cost analysis:** reforming may mean investing into a new system, that has a cost but means significant longer term savings
- 3. Gatekeeping mechanism:** Key to ensuring appropriate decisions; supporting range of options; close the 'revolving door'.
- 4. What is impairing access to support?** Addressing push/pull factors of separation, social exclusion, legal documentation.

# A range of family based alternative care services must be available

1. **Identify endogenous care practices** that are positive and can be supported to promote and expand family-based care
2. **Legal guardianship**
3. **Emergency and specialized foster care**
4. **Short and long-term foster care**
5. **Independent and community living arrangements**
6. **Respite care**
7. **Mother and child facilities**
8. **Adoption**
9. **Small group homes**    **Others?**

# Social services workforce skilled, mandated, resourced where it matters

- 1. Develop standardised training curriculum, recognised competencies, and code of conduct for front line workers focused on care;**
- 2. Strengthen the capacity of government workers at national and decentralised levels on care:**  
Awareness of policies and standards, knowledge of good practices training and qualifications;
- 3. Parents and other caregivers are the largest workforce!** Include and target them in capacity building efforts, including through peer support and self advocacy.

# Need to understand and address beliefs, attitudes but also 'vested interests'

1. **Advocacy and public awareness** campaigns on the importance of family care, including men as caregivers.
2. Addressing what may be a **'culture of institutionalization'**
3. **Engaging diverse set of actors:** Role of faith based communities, service providers, parents and **caregivers** (kins), children, practitioners.
4. **The impact of voluntourism/volunteering** and Donations/ Funding. The lack of regulations.

# A Strategic and Shared Learning Agenda

- What are the **MISSING PIECES** of the puzzle in Zambia?
- What do we **NEED TO KNOW** to inform change? Evidence To Action
- What approaches have **WORKED AND FAILED** IN OTHER countries?
- How do you build a **SHARED LEARNING** platform?
- How do you **FAIL SAFELY** and learn from it?
- **WHO** needs to do the learning and **HOW** do we learn?
  - Impact Assessment
  - Shared baselines
  - A range of methodologies (Not just RCTs or case studies)
  - Practice based learning for practitioners



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**Thank you!**  
**Sign up to our Newsletter:**  
[www.bettercarenetwork.org](http://www.bettercarenetwork.org)

Zambia DHS 2013-14:  
Children's Care and Living Arrangements

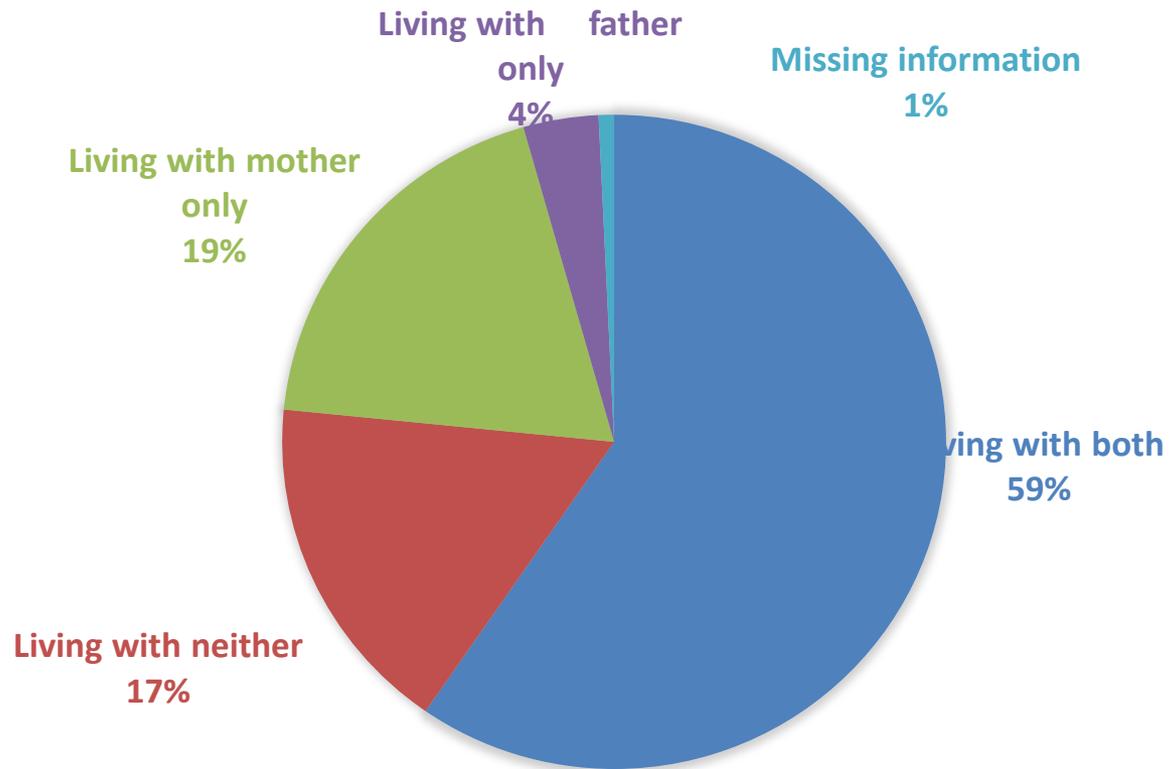


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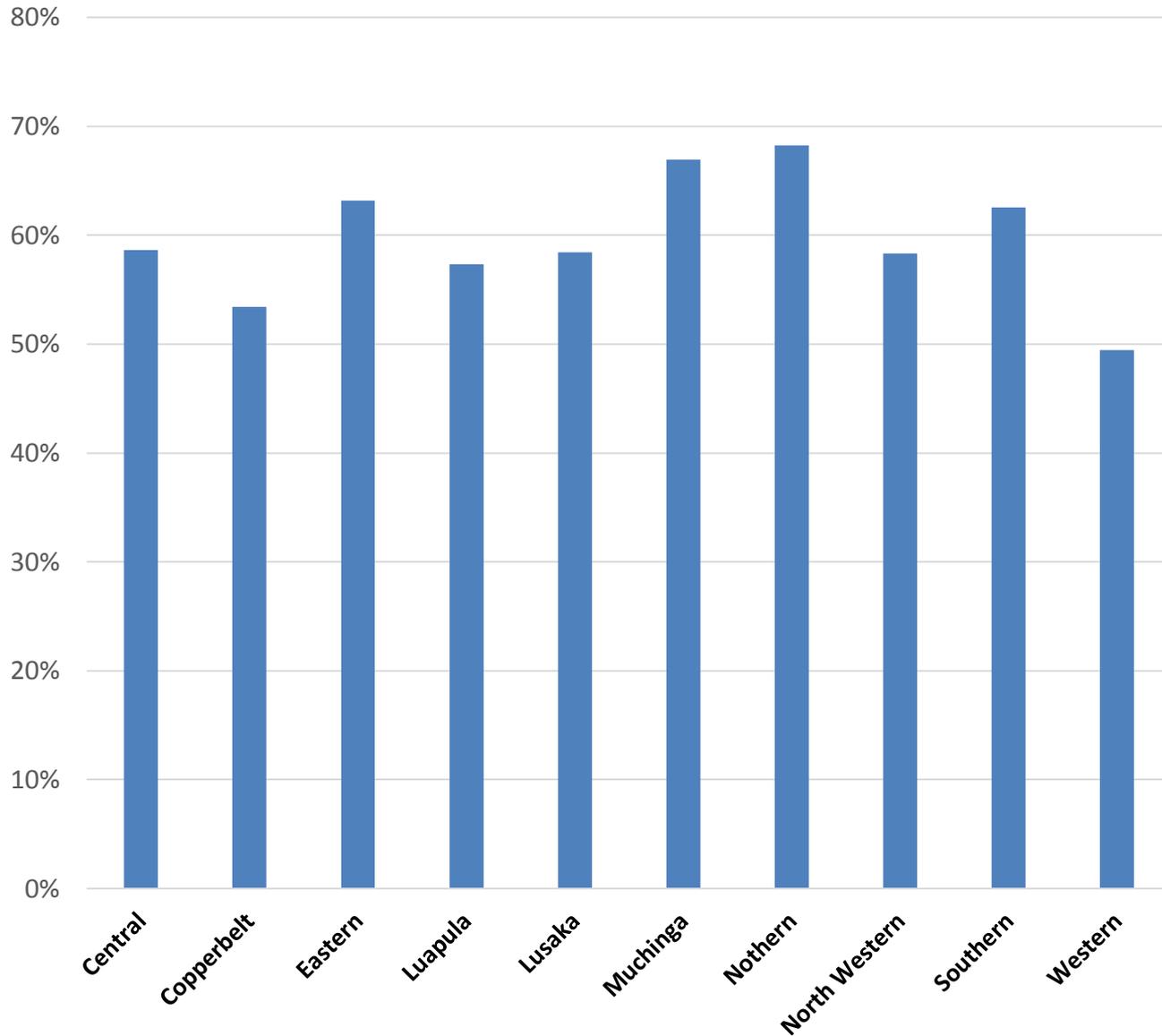


# Zambia: Children's Care and Living Arrangements

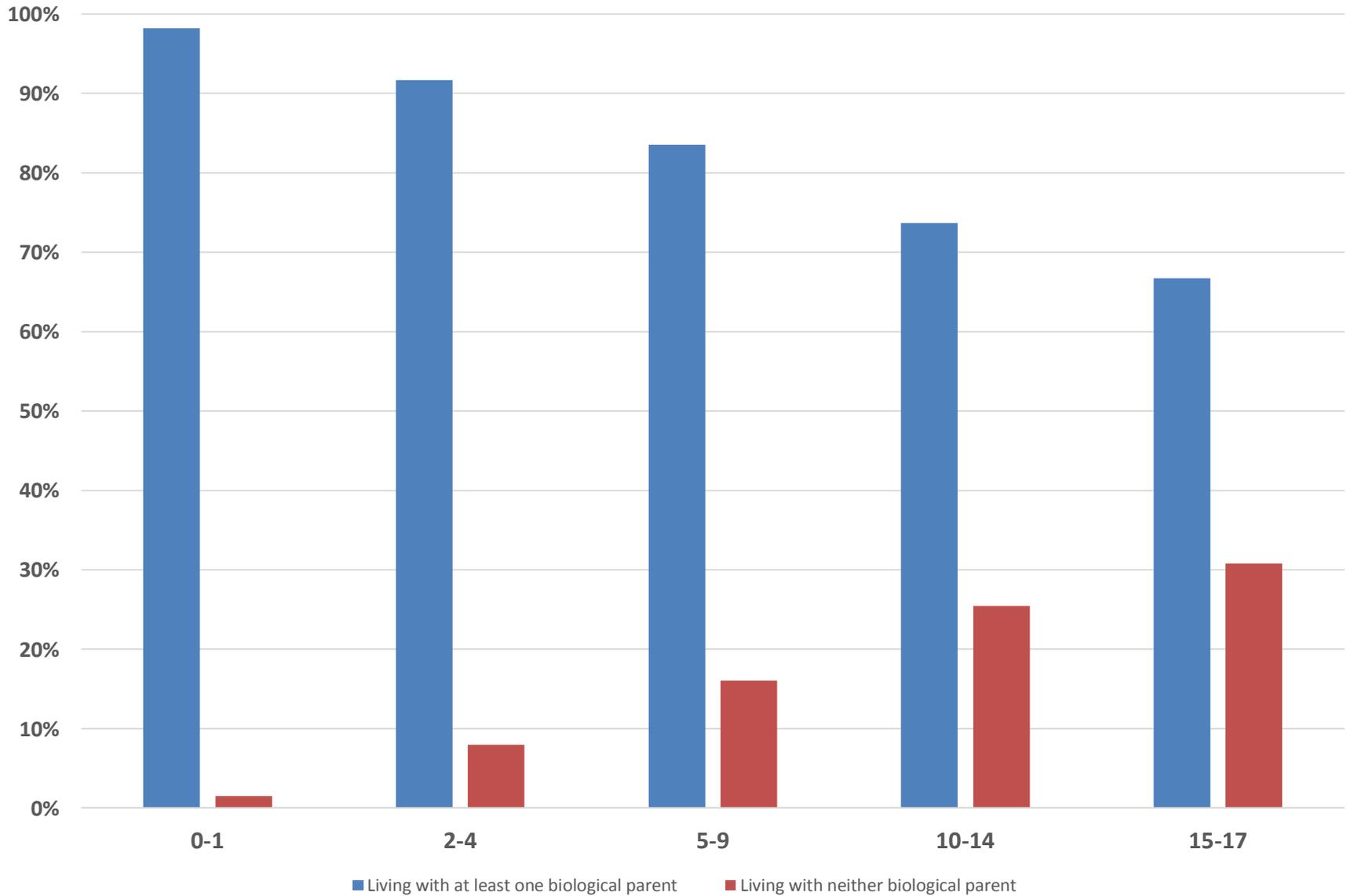
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AMONG CHILDREN 0-17; ZAMBIA, 2013-14



**FIGURE 4: PERCENT OF CHILDREN 0-17 LIVING WITH BOTH BIOLOGICAL PARENTS BY REGION**



**FIGURE 3: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH AT LEAST ONE BIOLOGICAL PARENT VS NEITHER BIOLOGICAL PARENT AMONG CHILDREN 0-17 IN ZAMBIA, ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP**

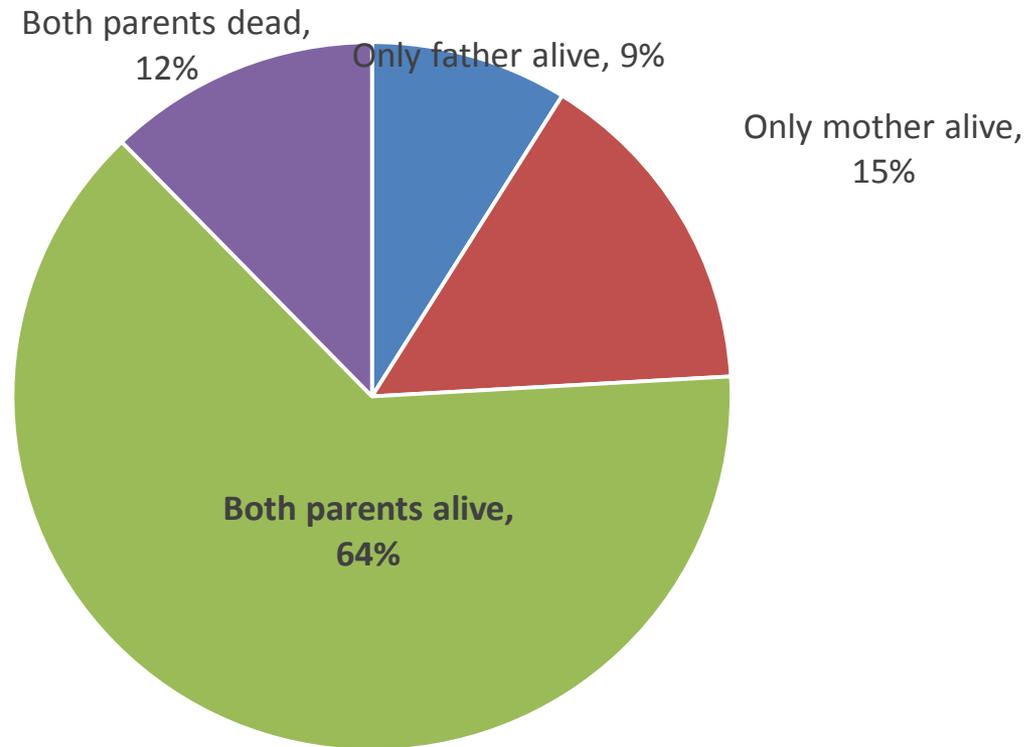


# Children not living with a biological parent

- In the East Africa regional context, **Zambia has one of the highest rates of children living with neither biological parent** at 15% for children ages 0-14, only Zimbabwe (24%) and Malawi (17%) have higher rates.

# Who are the children not living with a biological parent?

FIGURE 10: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN 0-17 NOT LIVING WITH A BIOLOGICAL PARENT, ACCORDING TO SURVIVAL STATUS OF PARENT



# Who do they live with?

FIGURE 13: PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSEHOLD HEAD AMONG CHILDREN LIVING WITH NEITHER BIOLOGICAL PARENT 0-17 IN ZAMBIA

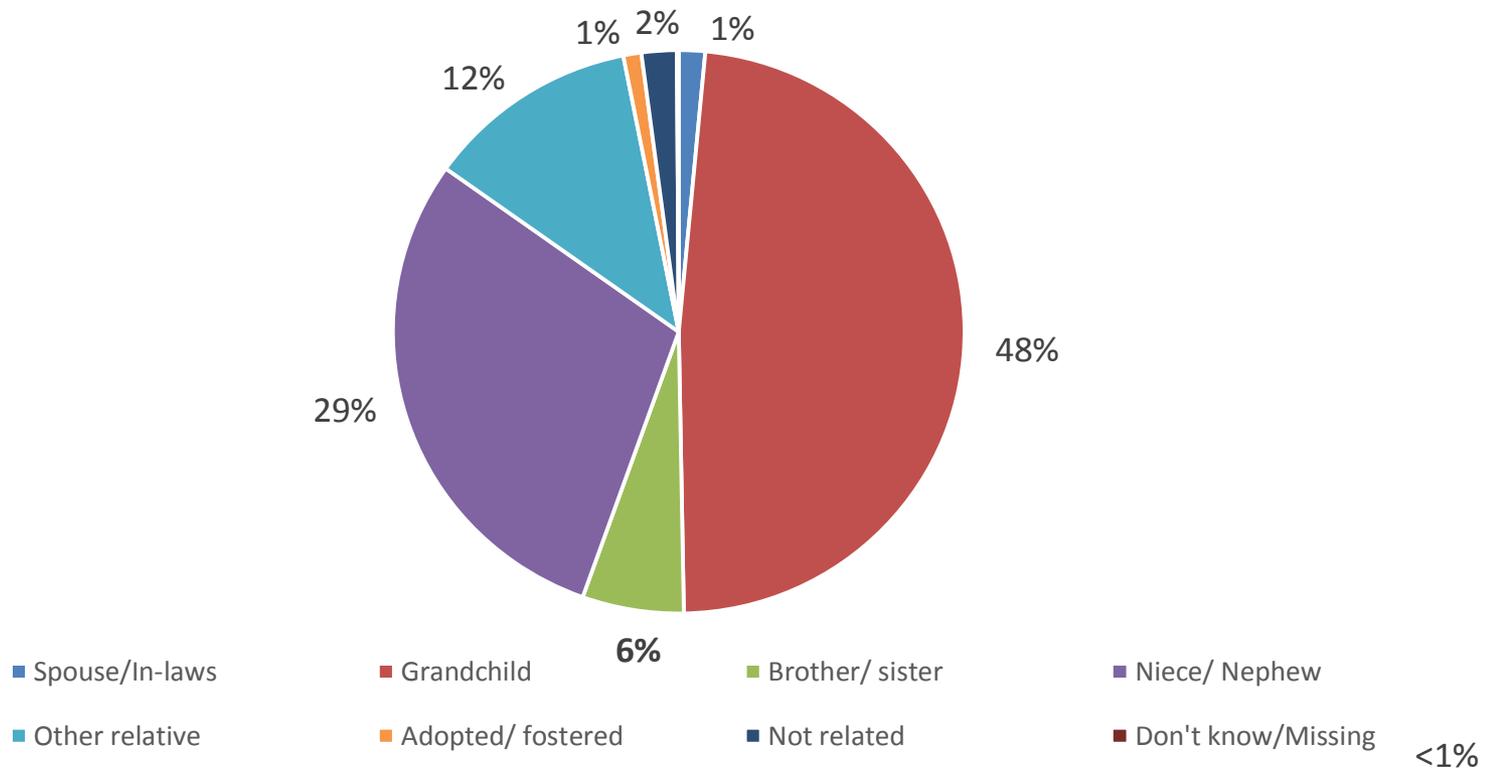
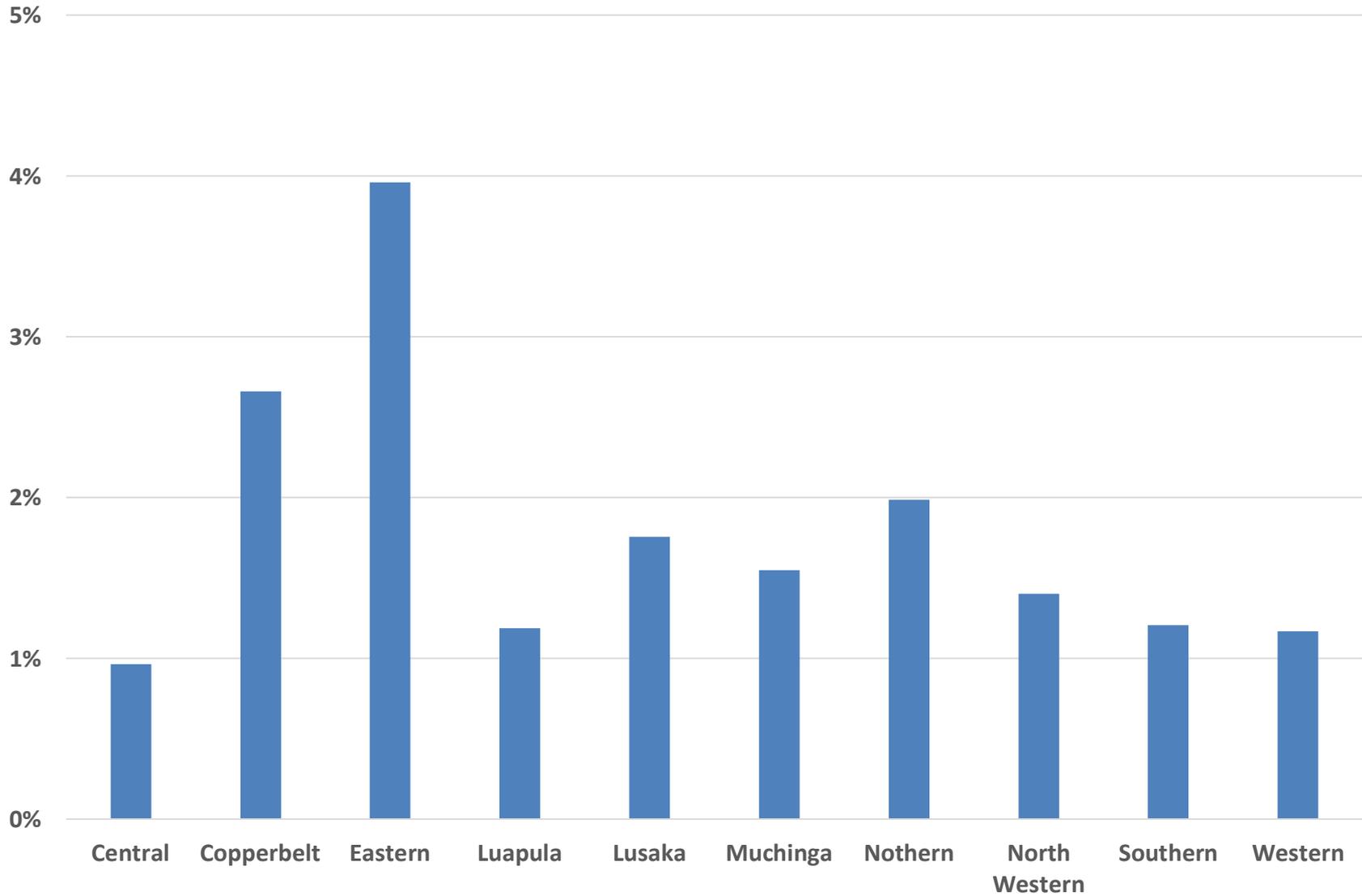
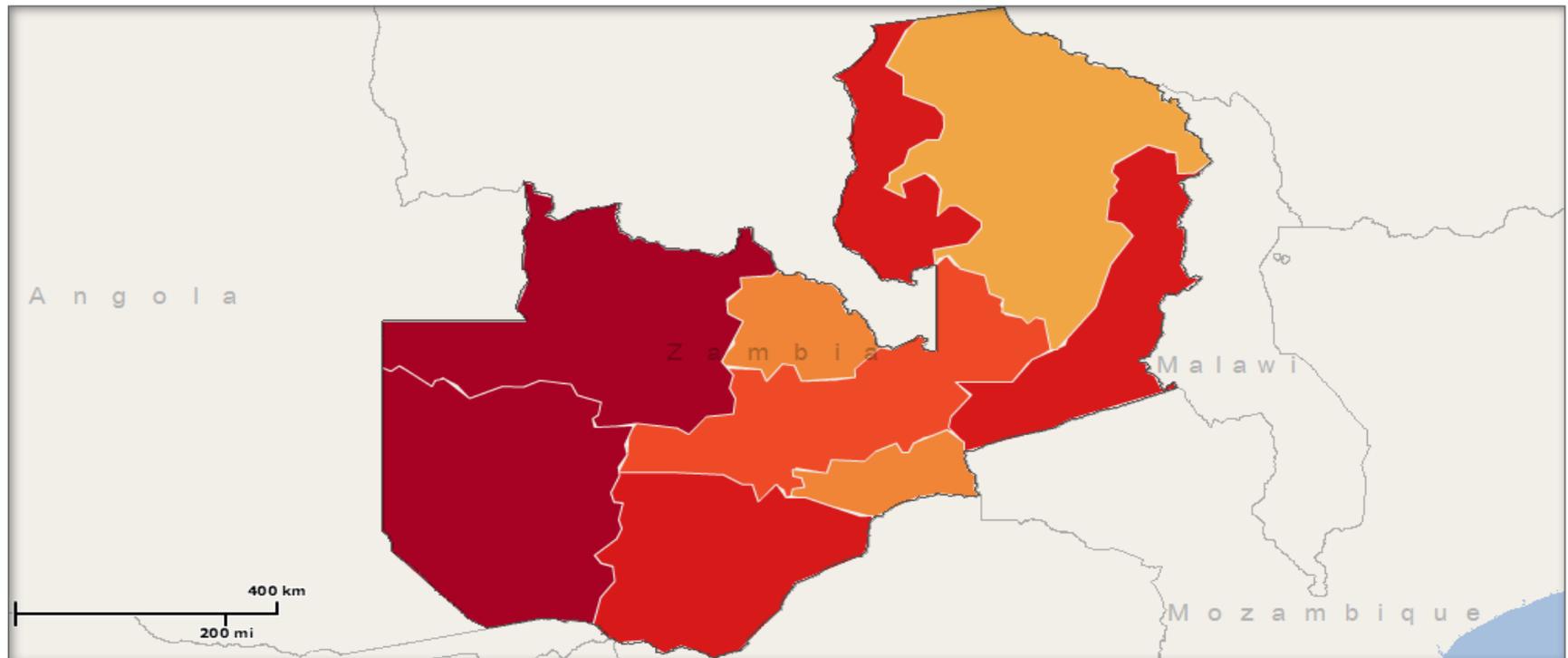


FIGURE 11: PERCENT OF CHILDREN 0-17 LIVING IN UNRELATED HOUSEHOLDS, ACCORDING TO REGION



# Children under 15 living with mother, father alive by subnational regions- Zambia



Legend Surveys

- Up to 10.9
- 11.0 to 12.2
- 12.3 to 13.4
- 13.5 to 15.4
- 15.5 and higher

- Western Zambia: 29%
- North Western Zambia: 16%
- Northern Zambia: 10%

# Children's Care and Living Arrangements: Key Findings

- **High rate of children living with neither biological parent** at 15% for children ages 0-14.
- **98% of children** (0-17) not living with parents live in related care (**Kinship care**)
- **Large variations in living arrangements** according to age group, wealth quintile, rural-urban, and regional background characteristics whilst slight variations are seen according to gender.
- **Western province stands as an outlier in the country.** Rates of children living with only one parent (other parent alive) **nearly double** the rates found in other regions of Zambia.

**>>> IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR CARE REFORMS**



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**Thank you!**  
[www.bettercarenetwork.org](http://www.bettercarenetwork.org)