WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE WITH CARE REFORM?

THE GLOBAL PICTURE

Africa-Wide Children Without Appropriate care program learning event

April 2015
Where Are We?

• Care issues have increasing visibility and attention e.g. with governments, donors, the media, human rights bodies, etc
• We have a scientific basis for the belief that good quality family-based care is essential to children’s well-being – as well as being their right
• We have a core global policy framework in place – the 2009 Alternative Care Guidelines
• The care and protection of children is finally becoming a global priority at the highest level
Care Reform Is Underway

• Legal and policy initiatives such as national child care policies and standards, the regulation of international adoption, etc
• Good practice is developing and being shared e.g. around deinstitutionalisation, positive parenting, foster care, social work training, etc
• Data collection and other research is improving our understanding e.g. of kinship care and children’s living arrangements
But……

• Unregistered, unregulated residential care facilities continue to proliferate
• Business and other – often more well-meaning - motives too often undermine children’s best interests and hold back reform efforts
• Prioritising the removal of children from residential care can create its own risks
Accelerating the Momentum – what do we need?

• More strategic and realistic approaches to care reform with the right sequencing & mix of interventions

• Family preservation and preventive services developed and targeted at the drivers of unnecessary separation

• The development of contextually appropriate alternative care services, including building on traditional positive care practices
• Better evidence and data e.g. on the outcomes of different kinds of informal and formal alternative care; how to change social norms; on tracking the funding; on costings, etc
• Building a trained workforce across the spectrum from volunteers to professional social workers
• Integrating care reform into wider systems reform and coordination with other systems
• Combatting discrimination in the treatment of groups such as children with disabilities