

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

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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



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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



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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



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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



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- 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



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