

Kinship Care Album

REGIONAL
(Ethiopia, Zanzibar and Kenya)



BREAKTHROUGH

“All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions”



Save the Children

WE ARE the world's leading independent organisation for children.

OUR VISION is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

OUR MISSION is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.



SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ZANZIBAR



Foreword

This Regional Kinship Care Album is a compilation of the 3 country albums (Kenya, Ethiopia and Zanzibar) bringing together information from children, young people and adults collected during the Kinship Care Research that took place in each of the three countries from late 2013 through 2014. The research was undertaken to improve the knowledge and understanding of Kinship Care as an endogenous practice so as to inform future programme and advocacy interventions on care reform, and in particular, to know how best to strengthen community based alternatives such as this.

As it is stated in each of the individual country albums,

Child Participation is an integral component of Save the Children's way of working with the core purpose being to empower the children and give them the opportunity to influence actions and decisions that affect their lives. The Research provided an opportunity for children and caregivers living in kinship care to express themselves and give first-hand information on their experiences - both negative and positive; analyse the trends and common factors that would strengthen or weaken the quality of care that children receive; and contribute towards making concrete recommendations on how Kinship Care can be strengthened.



Foreword (continued)

→ The research by design was participatory and allowed the children to be directly and actively involved in expressing themselves and give an unaltered picture of what they think, feel and experience in their daily lives with various caregivers. They affirmed the need and importance of receiving love, care and support alongside the provision of basic needs and shared the negative effects of discrimination, maltreatment and abuse that are common experiences among them living in kinship care. Their stories, drawings, poems and songs gave a refreshing insight to the research and the compilation of all three albums provides a platform for all these voices to be heard at both Regional and Global levels.

All the necessary child safeguarding measures were taken and respected in the process of compiling this album.

Supporting the children and caregivers in each of the three countries was a team of various child focused NGOs and Government actors whose participation and involvement enriched the information and findings collected and largely contributed towards a collective sense of ownership of the research, recommendations and follow up actions to follow. Building on the efforts that each of the three countries made, we look forward to collectively acting on the research findings and working with multiple actors on implementing existing laws and policies on care, and among other things strengthening national child protection systems so as to ensure that the caregivers and more importantly children have the support, resources and protection needed to live, thrive and enjoy their rights within a safe family environment.

Special thanks and appreciation go to all those who were involved in this research and as a complementary read to this album, you may refer to the Regional Report on the Kinship Care Research.

We gladly invite you to read through and enjoy every page that is full of honesty, hope and dreams for a world in which children are able to enjoy a safe and loving family environment.

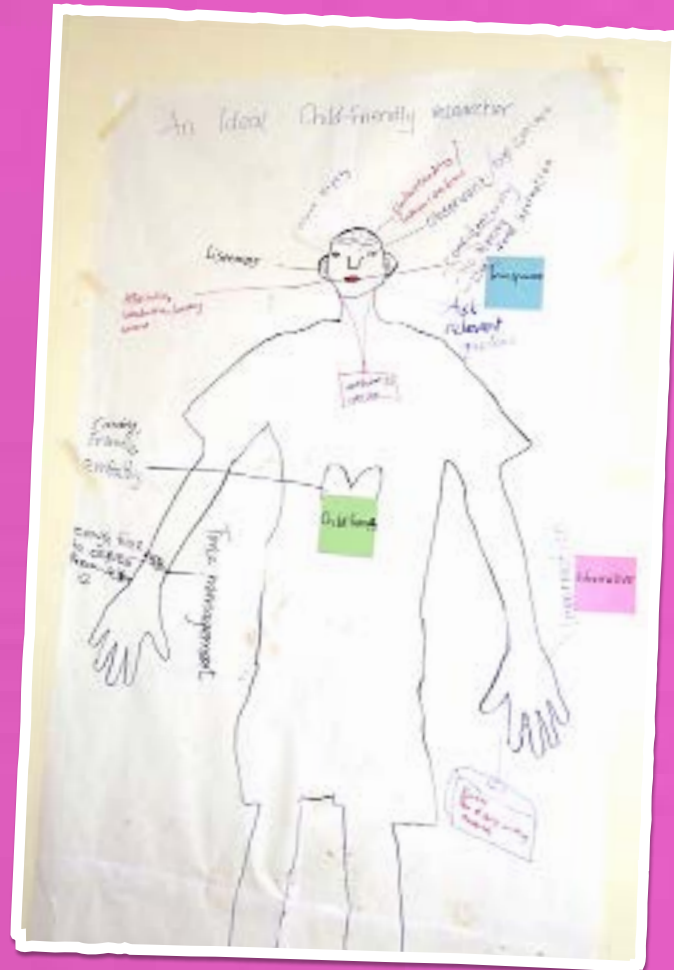
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AN IDEAL CHILD FRIENDLY RESEARCHER:

- Friendly and caring to children at heart
- Good listener
- Observant
- Doesn't blame
- Confident
- Is informed and knows what to ask and do



What is Kinship Care in our local languages?

Obulindi bwa abana
aende abekho.
Kinship care

Al DWE Lu lonyete ku
I piganitini
Children staying with the
relatives

in Talo
A puko kin sis
means giving child
to stay with the
relative rather than
to be taken and he
is his good

Obulindi bwa
bana bamanga na
bekho
- Children who live with
relatives (kinship care)

Akibai kipaunitini (Ateoi)
staying with relatives

ku mungu munda
bimungu (kwa)
children staying with
their relatives

Understanding what Kinship Care is in the Kenyan context



Timeline: Reflecting on the research process

Kinship care

Family-based care within the child's extended family or with close friends of the family known to the child, whether formal or informal in nature.



Children in Ethiopia developing a time-line for the research



Using body mapping to explore positive aspects and challenges of children and care givers in kinship care



Focus Group Discussion: children working together to develop a resource map



Young children are encouraged to participate and to share their experience through drawing.

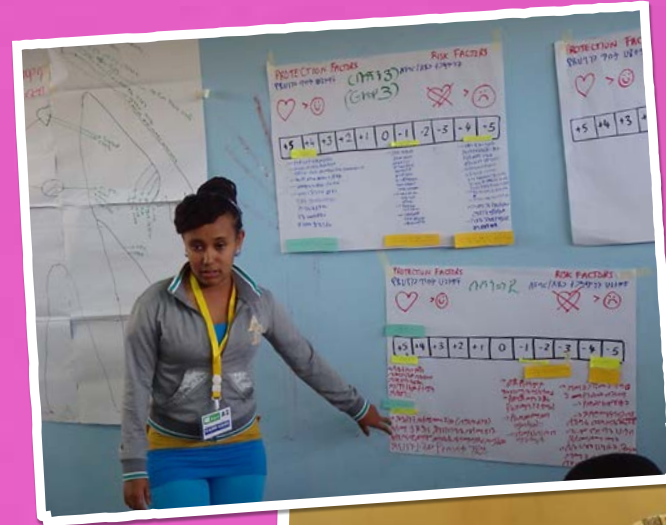


Focus Group Discussions with Caregivers





Child researchers from different districts in Zanzibar analyse all the material collected during the 2-month research and discuss their key findings at the reflection workshop



← Identifying protection and risk factors in Kinship alternative care



→ Care givers in Hawassa town – Ethiopia working on resource map

Community Meetings



Children and caregivers used participatory tools such as body mapping, trend analysis, service mapping and exploring care options and factors influencing kinship care during the data collection



Caregivers with the village chief in Kenya who was also a member of the local research team.

PART 2

Living in Kinship Care

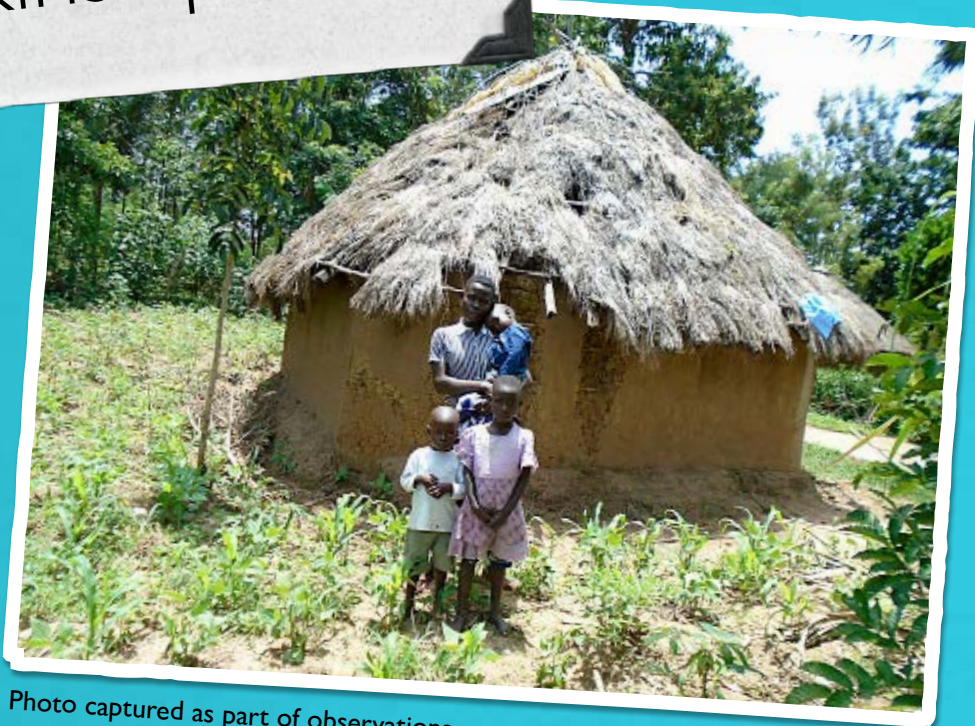


Photo captured as part of observations



I am a 13 year old girl who lives with my aunt and her two daughters. My aunt loves me and give me proper care as she do for my cousins (her biological daughters)"

Handwritten text in a small box at the top right of the page, containing several lines of text in a non-Latin script, possibly Swahili or another African language.

A 12 years boy living with his uncle said:

"I live with my uncle and his children, and he provides a good care for us. He is a very kind and caring person; he is known for supporting poor people and those living in distress. My uncle sometimes works late in the evening, and he does not let us go outside to play because he is afraid that something bad will happen to us. My uncle is a coach to a local football club, and I love playing football with him"

Love, care and basic needs



Children share positive feelings of children living in kinship care having their basic needs catered for and sharing meals together as a family.

"I am happy to see the children in that family being treated well, when they are provided with the same food, shelter, etc"

"I like sitting with my family and eating with them"



Living in kinship care is a preferred option for children. Some children, though are not provided well with their basic needs, they feel happy and prefer to live with their kinship-family

A story as told by a 13 year old boy and his sister

He used to live with his two brothers and sister and their parents, in a place called Wolayita Sodo. When he was 10 years old, he and his younger sister came to Hawassa town to spend summer with their aunt (sister of their father). Unfortunately, they lost their mother and two brothers due to an accident happened at home. Their father has health complication and cannot take care of the children. For that reason the father decided for them to stay with their aunt whom they went to spend summer with. Their aunt is a single mother, and has very little income to care for their needs. For that reason the child had to work to bring income; and he goes to school only for three days out of the five school days of the week, because he has to go to the market for the two days to sell plastic bags to support the family, that range from 25 cents to 3 Ethiopian Birr.



"I work hard to support the family. But I am happy to live with my aunt because she is my family and loves me and my sister".

አደራ ጥብቅ ስማይ ፋቅ

A promise is firm
as the limitless sky
(a traditional saying)



Children in kinship care told their stories using drawings, poems, writings ...



A 16 year old boy from Addis Ababa wrote:

“Since the death of my Mom, I am living with my aunt. I do not have any emotional distress as other children who are separated from their parents. I know children who always feel sad because, for example, they are discriminated in the family. But such things has never happened to me. One of the advantages I got living with my aunt is that I am attending my school properly. But there are no disadvantages for me living with my aunt”.

Care



Me and my grandparents, drawing by one of the boys in the Zanzibar local research team

Education and Health



“I live with my aunt because the school I am attending is far from my parents’ home. I get good education, enough time to study, time to rest and also good food. I love my aunt so much. My parents come and visit me and I am grateful for this”

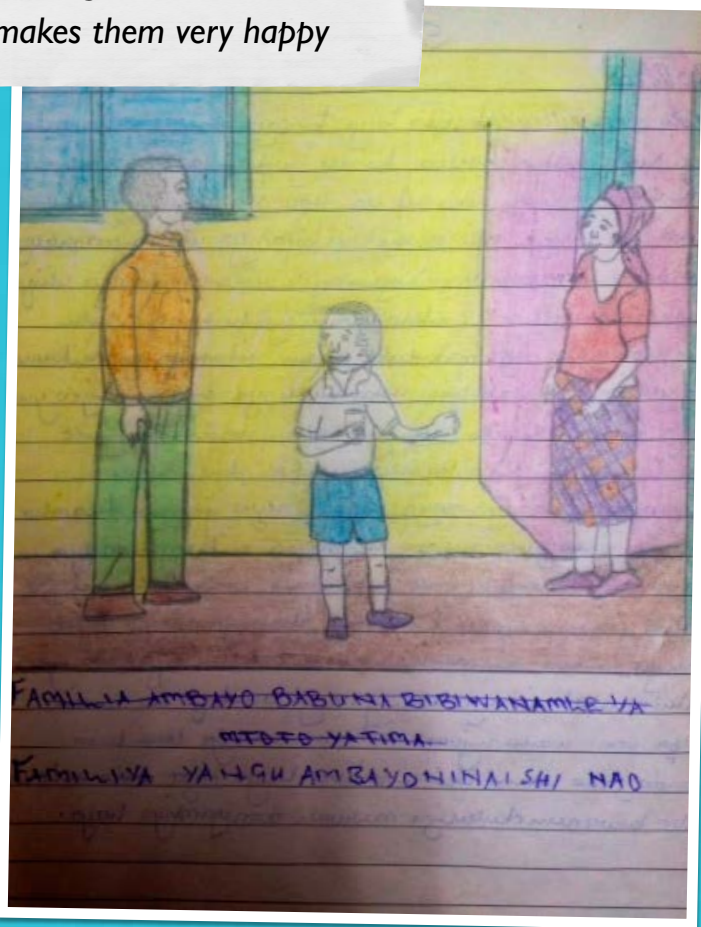
12 year old girl who lives with her aunt

“We should get enough time to go to school.”
Child participant

Children feel that grandparents give them a lot of love and affection, which makes them very happy

"I am really grateful for my parents sending me to live with my grandparents for they really love and take good care of me. (...) They love me so much."

A boy living in kinship care



Kinship care providers, though life is not easy for them, they take responsibility of caring for the children, to keep them safe when their parents are away



This is my grandmother. I am 14 years old, and I live with her. She also cares for other grand children of hers in the house (who are my cousins). We all go to school and help her in domestic work during our spare time.

Children's needs

Being hungry is one of the most common problems for children who took part in this research.

Poem on Hunger, child

For all the battles fought if you really think deeply
 Even you can talk about this
 Hunger is the worst battle
 Let's all stand firm to fight it to be a priority.

Hunger is the worst battle if we do not start farming
 When we are hungry our mind do not function
 We are not even respected and become lowly people
 Hunger is a disaster, you cannot even sleep
 Hunger is the worst battle if we do not start farming.

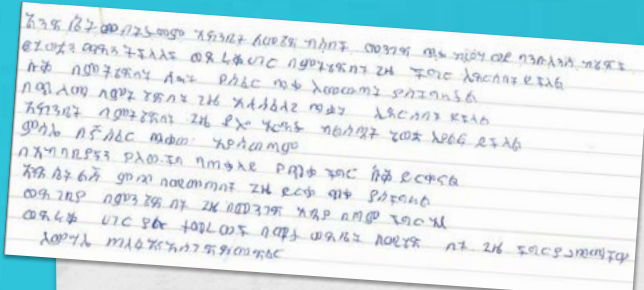
All men should now stand up, and the respected women alike
 Let's take our hoes and start farming like our forefathers started this
 Let's all harry up and do this and be strong in our farming
 Hunger is the worst battle if we do not start farming

Let's all go to our farms it's in the land that there are riches
 Let's all stand up firmly and give land a first priority
 Let's not turn back so as not to miss eating rice
 Hunger is the worst battle if we do not start farming.

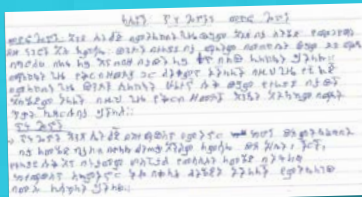
Same group of girls living in rural communities of the Amhara Region of Ethiopia indicated

In our community girls has to go for a long distance to buy something or for other work.

In our areas girls usually face harassment by young men sitting around on the street or at local bars. We girls are thus afraid of going out by own.



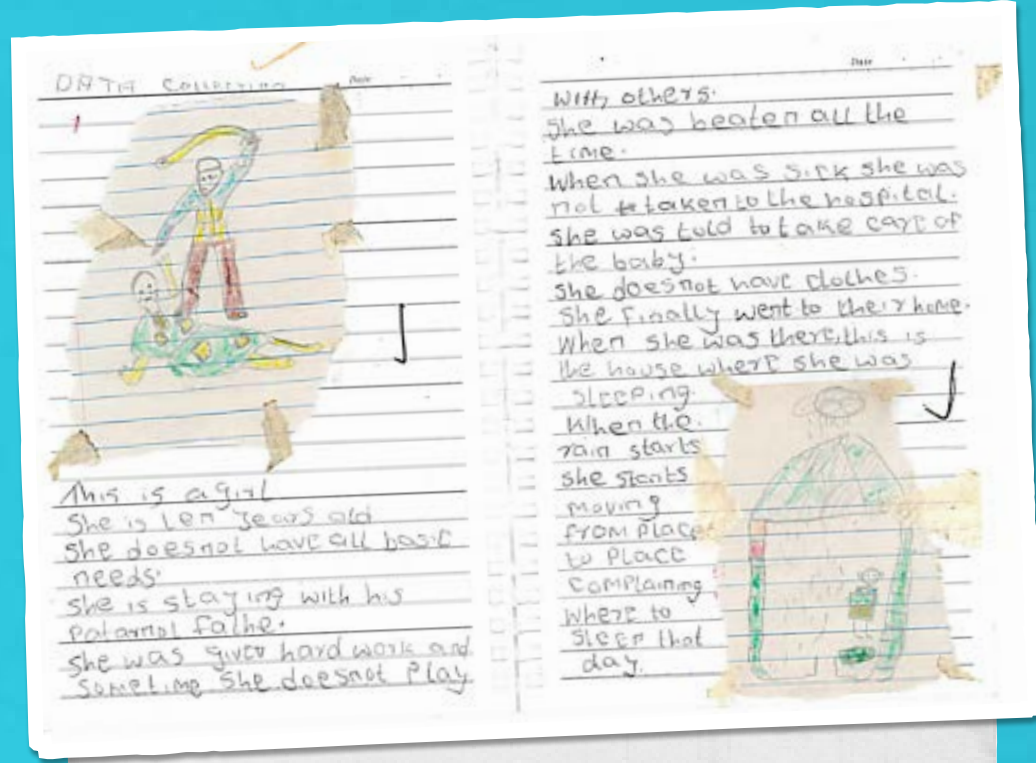
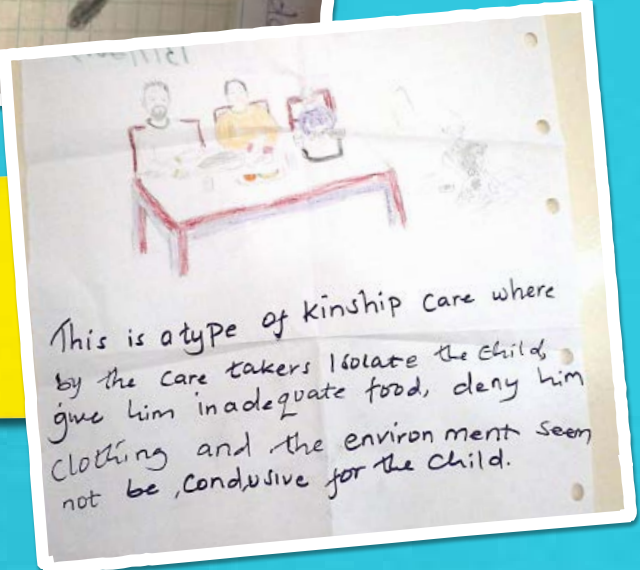
For us living in a town is a preferred option because girls can easily move around to go to school, churches, hospitals and the like, since there is easy transportation system or are nearby distance.



Another group of girls:

In our community there is a muddy and difficult road, we have no transpiration system, and we have to go for a long distance. Because of that it is for example, difficult to go to hospital in time of sickness, or if a pregnant woman is in labor it is difficult to take her for clinic and she is then in danger. When a girl goes our for shopping or to school, she is in danger of sexual violence and abduction; so girls should not be sent alone, especially during nights.

Children expressing negative experiences of living in kinship care

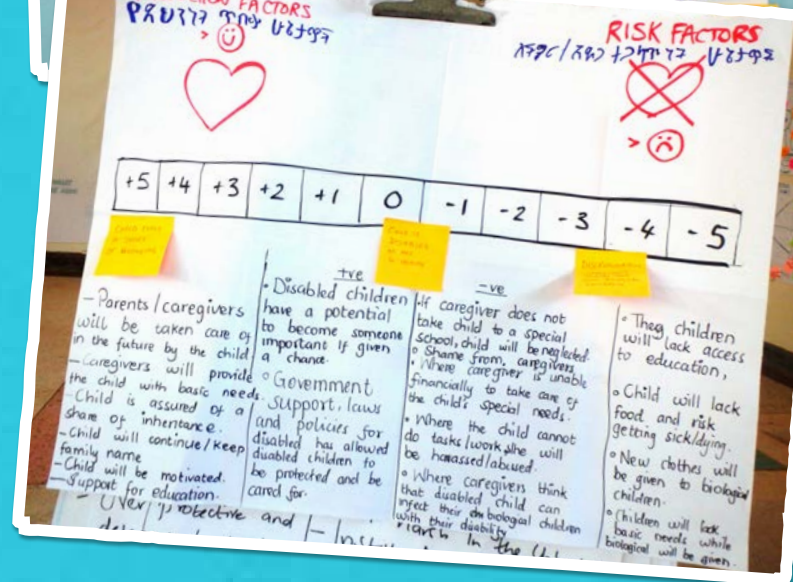
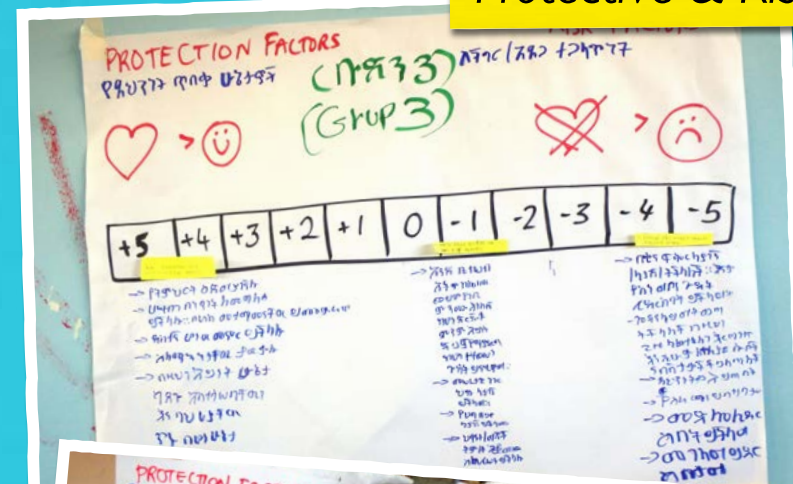


This is a girl who is 10 years old; she does not have all the basic needs. She is staying with her paternal father and is made to do hard work and sometimes she does not play with others. She is usually beaten all the time and when she gets sick she is not taken to the hospital. This is a picture of the house where she sleeps and when the rain starts, she has to move from place to place looking for somewhere to sleep that day

Handwritten text in Amharic script, likely a transcription of the child's story.

Some children face discrimination within the kinship family

The 12 years old boy lives in a rural Kebele, in one of the study areas. The child always gets stress and wonders about whom his mother was, and why his father abandoned him when he was a little baby. He is currently living with his aunt (sister of his father) and her son. He feels that he is discriminated and maltreated by his aunt and her son. He is not allowed to mix with the family and spend nights in a small room located within the family farm field, exposed for danger. It is a scary place for him. He said he does not get timely meal with enough amounts, and his aunt does not buy him shoes and school materials such as note books and pen. He feels that his cousin (son of his aunt) does not like him because he thinks that he is going to share his inheritance. He heard his neighbors talking that his mother has died due to HIV/AIDS. He hates living with his aunt.



Choice or obligation to care for a child

Motivation to care and how "close" the caregiver is

Child's behavior – being polite and hardworking or undisciplined

Child's situation (e.g. child born out of wedlock, child with disability) and community reactions
 Families' financial situation

PART 3

Safe Family Environment

"I am 10 years old. I, my two sisters and brother live with our grandmother. My mom has passed away and my father is sick and is in bed, and does not live with us. Even though it is summer time now, I am going to school, taking summer classes.



I help my grandmother with the house work and with our small farm.



"I also get time to play with other children in the neighbor, and I am happy"



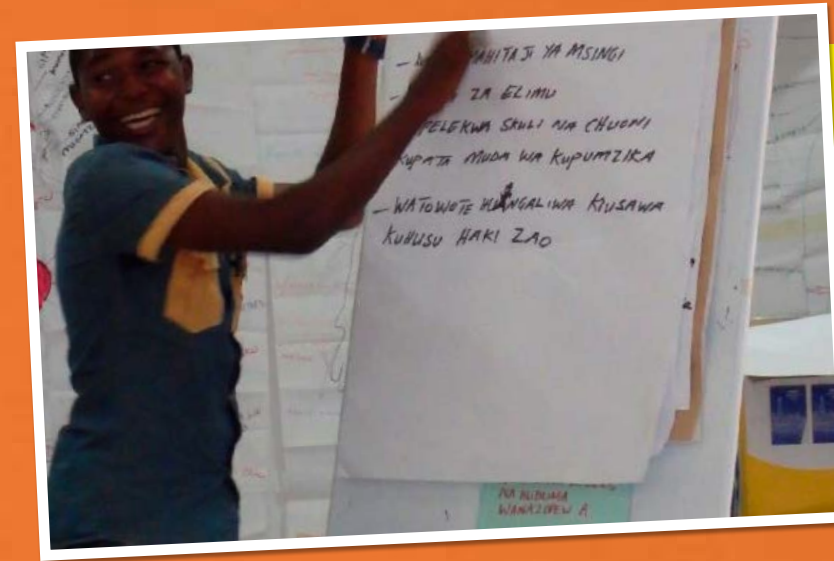
Our Vision

Children's vision for a good future:

- Children receive love and care from their parents or caregivers
- Family unity, no discrimination among children and no child feels isolated.
- Access to basic services – good schools, health facilities, water and sanitation.
- Family members have good livelihood, and can meet children's basic needs.
- Children can express their views and to participate in decisions concerning them.
- Children receive guidance and advice.
- Children are protected from all forms of violence against children.
- Children have opportunities to play.
- There is peace and prosperity in the country.

When the child researchers (aged 10-17 years) were asked what were some of the things that they have learnt and will purpose to do, this is what they said:

- To encourage each other to be respectful to our elders and to each other
- To help each other especially those who are needy, and also those who are facing challenges
- To be obedient and responsible children who abide by the laws of the family
- To love their parents/ caregivers and be happy with them



Happy communities

A young researcher shares his vision during the reflection workshop

"One of my fondest childhood memories relates to the loving environment I grew up in. I grew up with my grandmother as we were a large family. There were always good smells in the house. To me, this was the essence of happiness and goodness"

An adult researcher sharing his positive childhood memories at the capacity building workshop in April 2014



A child researcher from shares what constitutes a safe environment for her, with the family house in the centre.

Sense of Belonging



Save the Children