



# Prioritising families and communities



**Transform  
Alliance  
Africa**

**"... the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding"**

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**





# Transform Alliance Africa

Only families can provide the love, sense of belonging and identity that children need to grow. Only families can give children the space to play, learn and form trusting relationships – to feel part of a community.

Across the world 8 million children are spending their childhoods in orphanages. Worldwide, studies have shown that between 80% to 90% of children in the care of orphanages have at least one living parent. Families and communities have been broken apart by war, poverty, and disease. By HIV/AIDs, stigma and prejudice.

Over 80 years of evidence has shown that orphanages are damaging, unnecessary and a very poor investment for children, communities and the continent.

**Transform Alliance Africa has a vision of an Africa, free of orphanages, where all children belong and grow up in safe and loving families.**

Transform Alliance Africa is a growing collective of specialist national NGOs working across Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The Alliance brings together our collective voices, knowledge, practice, passion and experiences to strengthen families and communities to catalyse the end of institutional care of children in Africa.

**Children belong in families.**

# Building up communities

## **Replacing orphanages with a child protection system**

We work to provide communities and governments with suitable solutions to respond to children's needs and circumstances so that we can replace orphanages with sustainable child protection systems.

We help communities to prevent children from being separated unnecessarily from their parents, we support the safe return of children into families and communities, we help recruit and develop alternative families for those children who need them.

We support young people to make the transition into independent life a success. To ensure all this is a lasting system we train social workers and volunteers to keep improving the child protection system.

## **Transformation through partnerships**

We work in partnership with communities and governments to understand why children are separated from their parents and placed in orphanages. We support orphanages to safely transition children into families and communities and transform their services into support for children in families and communities.

## **Expertise from the ground up**

We demonstrate how families can be strengthened, how to develop alternative families for those children who are unable to return to their parents and how to support young people to live independently. We partner with local organisations and develop their capacity to provide such services. We work with governments to build a skilled social work force to provide oversight and protection to children in families.

## **No child left behind**

We base our approach on the evidence of what is best for children. Together we demonstrate how it is possible for every child, including those who cannot return home, and those children with disabilities or other challenges, to live in the care and protection of a family, in inclusive and safe communities.





# The Alliance approach

**We are building know how and an evidence base on how the change works – gathering proof of concept examples from across the countries in the alliance.**

In Rwanda, national efforts mean that now fewer than 900 children remain in orphanages.

In Uganda, we are building a child protection system in the district of Tororo.

In South Africa, the child protection system in Gauteng province is undergoing reform.

In Sudan, two states are now free of institutional care and over 3000 children have been placed with families.

In Tanzania, we are preparing to document the reasons why and the beliefs and attitudes which lead to children being placed in orphanages.

In Ghana, we are contributing to the development of foster care and domestic adoption.

**We are informing and supporting political leaders to ensure reform is secured and embedded in legislation, policies and regulation – prioritising children in families.**

In Uganda, the government is embedding and building on its National Action Plan on Alternative Care.

In Rwanda, the Government has committed to a family for every child and will soon commence working with children with special needs in orphanages.

In Tanzania, the National Action Plan to end violence against children has a focus on children who are in orphanages.

In Kenya, there are now guidelines for the Alternative Family Care of Children.

In Sudan, national legislation and policies prioritise family care and embed emergency and long term alternative families for children without parental care.

In Ghana we supported the government and its partners to review their progress in implementing the national strategy for children and plan the next steps.

We collectively supported the Pan-African consultations on violence against children and ensure children in orphanages are a priority group.

At global level we are working with over 250 organisations to ensure “All Children are Counted” in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.





**We're strengthening the capacity of civil society to pilot transformations, and supporting the development of national social work forces that are highly skilled and highly trained to protect and support children in families.**

In Sudan, there are now over 2500 professionals working in Alternative Care and prevention of family separation.

In Rwanda, we trained 75 government professionals, social workers and psychologists and hundreds of community volunteers, and developed a nationally recognised curriculum.

Kenya has formed an Alternative Care Alliance and in Uganda we are developing a practical social work curriculum.

**We develop sustainable funding models and help donors to make informed choices about backing care reform and transformation to family and community based care, instead of funding orphanages.**

In Kenya and Uganda we are giving a platform to care leavers to share their stories about why family matters, because the most powerful voice is that of experience.

We are developing a "how to" guide for donors to inform their decision to support children without parental care.

We are working collectively to gather the evidence necessary to develop the business case for investing in children and families.

We advocate at global level for resources to be allocated for the transition from orphanages to families and communities.

# Alliance Partners



## Alternative Care Initiatives (ACI)

A registered national NGO in Uganda, established in 2013 to support the Government of Uganda and other partners to implement the National Alternative Care Framework. ACI partners with the Ugandan Government to co-ordinate the national Alternative Care Implementation Unit that monitors and regulates child care service providers across the country.



## People for development

### AVSI Foundation

A non-profit NGO working in 30 countries throughout the world. AVSI Rwanda involves families and communities to empower themselves and become protagonists of their own destiny by working to improve the capacities of the communities, schools, educators and families who help children discover their inherent potential.



## beautifulgate

Together Bringing Hope to Children & Families

### Beautiful Gate South Africa (BGSA)

An interdenominational Christian organisation providing care and support to vulnerable children and families. BGSA empowers and strengthens families and mobilises our community to do the same. We aim to restore the capacity of communities and families to care for their children or, where this is not possible, to find alternative families.



### Community for Children's Rights (CCR)

Is a social enterprise in Tanzania that addresses violence by enabling people to do the right thing. CCR builds a critical mass of individuals, supporting them with the resources to take action to protect children. We support Local Government Authorities to engage in citizen-led planning and monitoring of services for children.



### Child's i Foundation (CiF)

Supports change at all levels in Uganda, advocating and supporting family and community based care for all children. CiF creates successful, scalable programs that inform government and other agencies. We help develop child protection systems in rural and urban communities to demonstrate how orphanages can be replaced by family and community care, and build social work force capacity and capability across the country.



### Child in Family Focus, Kenya (CFF)

Is a registered NGO championing family based care for orphaned and vulnerable children. CFF works with like-minded stakeholders and Government to reduce reliance on institutional care by leading coherent care reform that prioritises prevention of separation of children from their families and strengthening alternative family care for children.



### Give a Child a Family (GCF)

Is a Child Protection Organization working in countries across Africa. GCF take a holistic approach, making the child the center of the programs. We provide services to children and families at risk: temporary safe care, child protection services and development and training that builds capacity in other organizations.



### Hope and Homes for Children

Is an international organisation working in partnership with governments and partner NGOs, across 4 continents, to catalyse the eradication of institutional care of children. We work to consolidate political will for reform, to develop the know-how on the transition from institutional care to family and community based care. We build the capacity of the social workforce to support families and children and we help governments to secure funding for transition.

Children in orphanages and those at risk of separation are at the heart of everything we do. Their transition into families and alternative family care is helping us to assist partner

Governments to design robust child protection and care systems, effective in preventing children's separation and providing suitable alternative care for children who need that. Our national teams from Rwanda, Sudan and South Africa are part of the Transform Alliance.



### OAfrica

Is a non-profit NGO and an implementing partner of the Government of Ghana's National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. OAfrica works in partnership with the government to provide awareness and training on issues surrounding institutionalisation of children; co-founding and supporting the Care Reform Initiative.



### Shamaa

Is a non-profit NGO Community Based Organization based in Sudan. The organization cares for abandoned, and unaccompanied children. We are working to end institutional

care by providing family based care solutions to children without parental care.



### The Ubumwe Community Center

Is a local organization based in Rwanda, set up to help persons with disability find their abilities, we are now becoming an inclusive community through our pre-school and primary school, and Community Based Living program for children and young adults with severe disability who used to live in Noel orphanage, now closed.



### Vision Africa

Is a UK Christian charity, supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children throughout Kenya. We partner with communities to develop systems that will facilitate de-institutionalisation and empower vulnerable families to take care of children at risk of being placed in orphanages. These might include social work intervention or education sponsorships depending on the family situation.

Transform Alliance Africa brings together like-minded organizations to demonstrate at a grass-roots level that by building social work capacity, supporting political leaders to reform child protection systems and informing donors about the transformative benefits of family care, we can achieve our vision – that one day, in an Africa free of orphanages, every child will grow up in a safe and loving family.

If you would like to learn more, join the Alliance or support our work, please contact Stephen Ucembe for more information.

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**Together we  
are stronger.**

Alternative Care Initiatives, Uganda

AVSI Foundation, Rwanda

Beautiful Gate, South Africa

Community for Children's  
Rights, Tanzania

Children in Family Focus, Kenya

Child's i Foundation, Uganda

Give a Child a Family, South Africa

Hope and Homes for Children,  
Rwanda, Sudan, South Africa

O Africa, Ghana

Shamaa, Sudan

Ubumwe Community Center, Rwanda

Vision Africa, Kenya



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