



# **MUTUAL LEARNING**

for **family and community** based care

## **SYLLABUS MUTUAL LEARNING PROGRAM**



## **Welcome!**

Dear participant of the Mutual Learning Program on Family and Community Based Care.

We give you a very warm welcome! We are happy you are with us and excited about the possibility to reflect together and learn from each other.

Mutual Learning believes in connecting care practitioners worldwide to inspire each other and mutually transform towards high quality family and community-based care. We facilitate collaboration, dialogue and the exchange of experiences with an international community, through a digital platform and Zoom sessions.

We know about your professional and personal commitment in the search for the rights of children and adolescents and their families to be fulfilled. We invite you, with great joy and hope, to share your dreams, questions and good ideas with the participants of this course. We really hope you will enjoy this journey!

The Mutual Learning Coordination Team

## Introduction

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child states that for the full and harmonious development of personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Unfortunately, many children grow up in less favorable circumstances. Worldwide, more than 5.4 million children live in institutions such as orphanages and many more are at risk of losing their family.

Of 80-90% children in institutions, one or both parents are still alive. The institutional care offered represents a violation of children's rights, as it does not allow children to live within family and community. We believe there are good alternatives to institutional care; however, change towards family and community-based care is not easy.

With Mutual Learning, while respecting everyone's different situation and pace, we hope to take steps together towards an ideal situation of children growing up in a loving family. Together we review different aspects of care provision and overcome day-to-day challenges.

Within the program, we focus on the question 'HOW do we mutually grow during everyone's journey towards high quality family and community-based care?' Our aim is to inspire change through sharing of know-how, practical experiences and challenges. Instead of a top-down approach, telling people what to do and how to do, we invite you to think together to shape ideas. The program works according to the philosophy of collaboration and dialogue. An important element of the program is the joint analysis of submitted cases by all participants.

## Our consortium

The Mutual Learning Program is run by the following consortium: Wilde Ganzen, Transform Alliance Africa, KidsCare Kenya, Instituto Kanankil, Hope and Homes for Children and Danielle Children's Fund Ecuador. Thanks to your participation the program will be enriched and transformed continuously!

## Philosophy

**"I have learned not to try to convince anyone. Efforts to convince embody a lack of respect; an attempt to colonise the other." José Saramago (n/d)**

The philosophy behind the Mutual Learning Program is based on Collaborative and Dialogic Practices (Social Constructionism). We would like to emphasize the following premises, inspired by Harlene Anderson, who will join us during one of the sessions of the program.

- Transforming from experts that investigate about and know "how", towards professionals that do not know and that want to be informed by others, from a position of genuine curiosity towards the other and to what is different.
- Transforming from professionals that are convinced by what they know or think to know, towards professionals that are co-constructing knowledge.



- Transforming from professionals that want to produce changes in other people, towards professionals that want to be changed.
- From having experts that tell us what to do or not to do, towards an invitation to a collaborative relationship, that allows us to reflect and think together, sharing best practice.
- Co-create a space of dialogue and collaboration to inspire and to get inspired

## **Objective of the Mutual Learning Program**

Our objective is to co-construct a Mutual Learning Program, based on dialogue and collaboration that connect care providers worldwide to move together into high quality family and community-based care.

## **Specific Objectives**

- Create and maintain an international network of care practitioners, together forming a safe and trusted mutual learning environment and international movement towards high quality family and community-based care.
- Co-construct a digital platform – with active forums that invite dialogue and reflection – facilitating the participants to connect, exchange and prepare the sessions.
- Co-construct tools and content for professionals and volunteers, useful in day-to-day practices, connecting to relevant tools and content that already exist.
- Facilitate sessions for dialogue and collaboration that generate new ideas and mutual learning.

## Content

Unit	Module			
	1.	2.	3.	4.
	Collaborative and Dialogic Practices	How to work with families & communities	How to transform?	Mutual take care of the caretaker
1	Philosophy and premises The position of not knowing	Impact of institutionalisation Legal Framework	Gatekeeping Practices Preventive Care Alternative FCBC	Sessions where we will think together about cases/situations that you would like to share with others in order to create more possibilities and alternatives
2	How to generate dialogue?	Family engagement Case Management Needs assessment Intervention planning Reporting and follow up Support networks and reintegration	Transitioning Process from institutional care to FCBC - Experiences of local organisations	
3	Conversations that generate possibilities Reflective teams	How to work with families in specific situations like abuse/incest and disability	Community -Based Care Networking and Advocacy	

Each module will last six weeks and consists of three units. Each unit includes a virtual session via Zoom. Regarding module 4, there will be 3 virtual meetings in total, at the end of module 1,2 and 3. Page 8 of this document provides an overview of the program schedule. The course will run from September 2024 till the beginning of February 2025

## Methodology

The methodology contains three main elements:

1. Online platform for learning and sharing of materials.
2. Participation in written forums to share our reflections and thoughts
3. Regular and frequent Zoom gatherings in order to discuss and reflect on the online materials.

All participants are asked to review reading materials and videos, available on the online platform



During each module, the participants are invited to actively participate in a forum by responding to questions related to the content of each module in order to share reflections. There will be the possibility to share other materials participants regard as useful.

The objective of the Zoom sessions is to facilitate dialogue between the participants about the revised materials and videos. No formal presentations will be held.

### **Online Platform**

This is the link to the online platform: <http://platform.mutuallearningprogram.org/>

Each participant receives a personal username and password.

### **Online material and videos**

On the Mutual Learning platform, you will find available materials for the online study. The materials include:

- Existing publications
- Existing audiovisual material
- Presentations

### **Forums**

The objectives of the forums are the following

- Establish a relationship between all participants and the facilitators
- Share reflections and thoughts between participants
- Create the opportunity to share other useful materials or events that might be interesting.

### **Zoom sessions**

At the end of each unit a zoom session takes place. You can find the link to the Zoom session on the Mutual Learning Platform. The duration of each virtual session will be two hours.



## **Introduction session**

The introduction session will take place September 12, 13.00-14.30pm GMT. Please convert to your own time zone!

The agenda will be the following:

- Welcome: all organisations related to the Mutual Learning Program and all participants get to know each other and share expectations
- Explanation of the syllabus
- Explanation of the platform
- Questions and Answers

## Schedule

Asynchronous tasks (found on the virtual platform) will be carried out according to the availability of each person. It is estimated that it will be necessary to allocate approximately 3 hours per unit. All virtual sessions, including the introduction session, are the following time:

13.00-15.00pm GMT. Please convert to your own time-zone!

	<b>Introduction session</b>	<b>Module 1 PCD</b>	<b>Module 2 How to work with children and families</b>	<b>Module 3 Transformation towards Family and Community Based Care</b>	<b>Module 4 Take Care of the Caretaker</b>	<b>Evaluation session</b>
Unit 1	September 12	<b>Period: September 13 – September 19</b> Zoom: September 19 Philosophy and premises	<b>Period: October 25 – October 31</b> Zoom: October 31 Impact institutionalisation and legal framework	<b>Period: December 6 - December 12</b> Zoom: December 12 Gatekeeping, preventive and alternative care	October 24 Session 1	
Unit 2		<b>Period: September 20 – October 3</b> Zoom: October 3 Generating Dialogue	<b>Period: November 1 – November 14</b> Zoom: November 14 Family Engagement, Case management & Reintegration processes	<b>Period: December 13 – January 16</b> Zoom: January 16 Transitioning process	December 5 Session 2	
Unit 3		<b>Period: October 4- October 17</b> Zoom: October 17 Reflecting teams & Dialogues that generate possibilities	<b>Period: November 15 – November 28</b> Zoom: November 28 Situations like abuse/incest and disability	<b>Period: January 17 – January 30</b> Zoom: January 30 Community-based care Advocacy and networking	February 6 Session 3	



## Requirements

Subscription	<p>The subscriptions are open until the maximum number of participants has been reached.</p> <p>You will get a username and password.</p>
Participation	<p>Revision of the materials and videos</p> <p>Active and continuous participation in the forums and zoom sessions</p> <p>Punctuality</p>
Certificate	<p>A certificate will be received by those participants that have an 80% attendance rate during the zoom sessions and a minimum participation in the forums of 70%.</p> <p>The certificate will be issued by the consortium members in February 2025</p>
Costs	<p>A voluntary fee applies to the Mutual Learning Program. Please feel free to support in order to continue this program for more participants in the future.</p>

## Contact

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