



Wereldkinderen family programme

Wereldkinderen (WK) is a Dutch non-profit organization founded in 1971. WK's vision is: *Every child a home*. Children must be able to grow up in a family that protects them. For many children this right is not fully achieved. WK promotes the rights and well-being of vulnerable children in developing countries.

WK's vision is aligned with the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ and with the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption². Moreover WK's family programme is guided by the United Nations Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children³. WK applies the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children through its four intervention strategies: 1) prevention of family disintegration; 2) family reintegration; 3) family replacement in country of origin; and 4) intercountry adoption. WK's family programme supports local partners in the first three steps⁴. Every WK partner is further presented in the Annex 1 below.

WK family programme at a glance

7 PARTNERS IN 5 COUNTRIES

(Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Philippines, Thailand and South Africa)

14,000+ CHILDREN

reached in 2020 through our interventions

¹<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>

²<https://assets.hcch.net/docs/77e12f23-d3dc-4851-8f0b-050f7a16947.pdf>

³<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/application-un-guidelines-alternative-care-children-guide-practitioners>

⁴WK also has an adoption programme. For more information please consult our website: <https://www.wereldkinderen.nl/adoptie>



1. *Prevention of family disintegration*



SIAM – Care Thailand: Keeping families together

In Thailand there is still a strong stigma around HIV/AIDS which makes the lives of infected people challenging. Infected people often lose their jobs or are expelled from school when their environment is made aware of their infection. In Thailand there is very limited knowledge about HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and sexuality in general. Consequently many infected people do not receive the protection and treatment necessary for their well-being. Many people are too weak to work. HIV-infected parents lack financial resources and cannot take adequate care of their children anymore. Consequently children drop off from school.

Together with WK, Siam Care supports vulnerable families affected by HIV/AIDS. The goal of Siam Care-WK's partnership is to prevent children to end up in orphanages. Siam Care provides physical, psychological and financial support to families where children and/or family members are affected by HIV/AIDS and to families who have lost family members due to HIV/AIDS. Siam Care ensures that children get care within their family, supports vulnerable families with basic necessities and with school sponsorships to ensure that the care of children does not mean extra financial burden.

In 2020 Siam Care has ensured that more than **200 children could remain in their families** and did not end up in orphanages.



Fundación Creciendo Unidos (FCU) Colombia – promoting children's rights in low socio-economic neighborhoods in Bogotá

A lot of children and families live in extreme poverty in Bogotá. This is especially the case in two neighborhoods in Bogotá: San Cristobal en Caracolí. In these areas children and families live in extremely precarious conditions. Informal and unstable livelihoods, unemployment, unwanted pregnancies among girls/young women, domestic violence, limited access to basic service delivery (water and sanitation) are few examples of the context where these people live. Together with WK FCU aims to improve the life conditions of children in these areas. Through psychological help, professional trainings, health care services, access to (online) education, and family mediation FCU aims to break the circle of poverty.



In 2020 FCU reached out to more than **140 children** through its interventions.



SA Cares South Africa – **Cluster care:** preventing family disintegration in informal settlements

Hammanskraal is an informal settlement in Pretoria where more than 500.000 people live. In this settlement people live in extreme poverty. Low socio-economic status, sexual violence and rape, lack of access to basic services, drug dealing and addictions, and a high level of HIV/AIDS infection are characteristic to this environment. Moreover many children have to take care of their siblings because their parents have died of HIV/AIDS. Due to a lack of knowledge of the system, these families are often not registered to the local government which do not give them access to family allowances. Together with WK SA Cares help vulnerable children and families in Hammanskraal. Through its holistic approach SA Cares offers psychosocial support through parental and life skills trainings, counseling and education. They provide administrative advices so families can access family allowances. Finally SA Cares organises professional trainings such as pottery and leather production development so youths and parents can generate some income.



In 2020 SA Cares supported more than **4.900 children and 1.200 families**, especially in areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



2. Family reintegration



LYDIE Association Burkina Faso
– promoting socio-economic
reintegration of youths in conflict
with the law

Burkina Faso is more than ever confronted with youths in conflict with the law and higher levels of incarceration. When released these youths have little social and economic possibilities. The reintegration of these young people is challenging. In MACO prison, where LYDIE association works, there are currently more than 100 children incarcerated. Most of the youths lived on the street when they were arrested. To survive on the street these youths have been involved in begging, selling small products and services. They live in precarious situations and some of them are orphans.

Together with WK LYDIE's projects offer a chance to these young people. LYDIE gives youths (16–20 years old) the support they need on two levels: i) psychosocial support for them and their family through life skills training and family mediation; and ii) socio-professional trainings and placement, coaching and mentoring.



LYDIE's interventions have proven to be efficient:
70% of all participants were able to continue their
professional activities after the project, and **more than**
70% of these have started to work for themselves in
the profession they had learned during the project.



3. *Family replacement in country of origin*



Kaisahang Buhay Foundation (KBF) the Philippines and Give a Child a Family (GCF) South Africa – strengthening the foster care system as an alternative for orphanages

It is generally acknowledged that foster care is a better options for orphans and children in need of care than orphanages and institutions⁵. International organisations such as UNICEF are in agreement on that principle. However in many countries such as the Philippines and South Africa most of the orphans and children in need of care are placed in institutions. In 2020, KBF worked with 107 children in need of care. From this group 87% were placed in institutions. This shows that the Filipino child protection agencies prioritize institutions over foster care. In South Africa the situation is similar. UNICEF's data show that the 345 registered orphanages in the country have been in charge of more than 21.000 children. This is despite the different researches that show that children placed in orphanages are most likely to develop socio-affective issues than children placed in foster care families. Consequently KBF and GCF advocate to strengthen the national foster care system as an alternative for orphanages. In their respective country KBF and GCF work together with child protection agencies and foster care families to strengthen the foster care system.



In 2020 KBF and GCF supported respectively more than **770 and 2.600 children in need of care**, and ensured that they were not ending up in orphanages.

⁵[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(19\)30399-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(19)30399-2/fulltext)



Hillcrest Aids Center Trust (HACT) South Africa – Sibambisene (“We Are Together”): supporting grandmothers and grandfathers taking care of their grandchildren

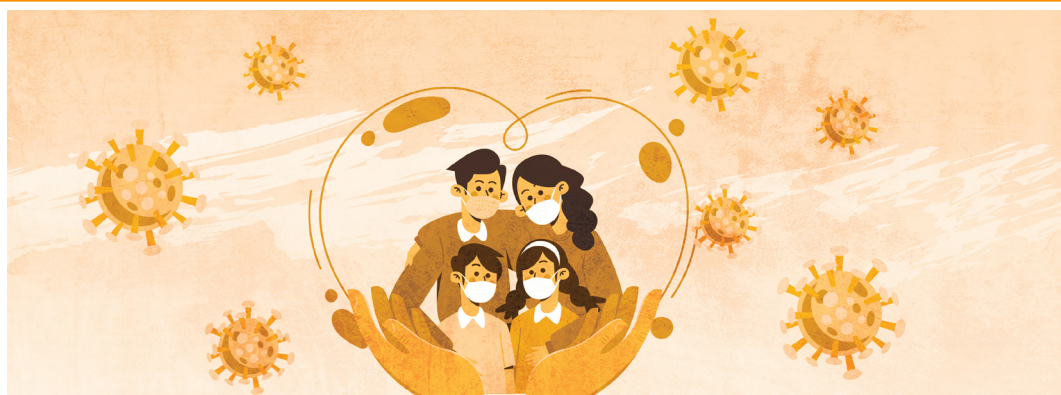
South Africa’s gogos (grandmothers in Zulu) have to carry the burden caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Currently there are 1.8 million orphans caused by AIDS in South Africa. The province of KwaZulu-Natal has the highest proportion. AIDS-orphans often suffer from psychological distress which has an impact on their education and on their future⁶. Thousands grandmothers in the region are currently the only caretaker of their grandchildren and use their meager pension to feed, dress and send them to school. In many cases the grandmothers take care of their grandchildren who are also HIV-positive. They often have limited knowledge about the disease, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS. They also find it difficult to communicate with their grandchildren about that specific topic. However these grandmothers have the responsibility to raise and educate the next generation.

WK and HACT collaborate to support the gogos in South Africa. We do so through three interventions: i) set up and maintenance of 30 big community-based vegetable gardens, to ensure a certain level of food security; ii) parental skills trainings for grandmothers and grandfathers to improve their communications and relationships with their grandchildren; iii) trainings for grandmothers, grandfathers and children on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and adaptation.



In 2020 HACT supported more than **5.300 children and 1.300 families** through its programme.

⁶Source of statistics: South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey, 2012



COVID19 emergency response – helping families in need of basic resources

In the countries where we work, the consequences of the corona pandemic and the social measures are catastrophic. Many vulnerable families were depending on minimal incomes that have now disappeared. People have lost their job or cannot go to work as a result of the social measures. In 2020 our partners had to adapt rapidly and offered emergency help to families and children, in addition to their usual programme. Below is a brief overview of what our partners have achieved as a result of our partnership:

Distribution of food packages: in South Africa, India and Thailand WK and its partners reached more than 10.000 people through the distribution of food packages, food allowances and baby products (formula and diapers).

Online education support: in Colombia and South Africa our partnerships have reached hundreds of children through online education and distribution of electronic devices.

Hand washing stations were built and distributed by our partners in areas where basic services, such as water and sanitation, were lacking.



Annex 1 – WK's partners



Burkina Faso

LYDIE-Association is a non-profit organisation founded in 2012 and based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Its mission is to contribute to the well-being of marginalized people. The organization's main thematic areas are education, health, child protection and economic empowerment.



Colombia

Fundación Creciendo Unidos (FCU) is a non profit organisation based in Bogotá, Colombia. FCU promotes child and youth participation so they can stand up for their rights. It supports children, youths, families and communities to support and defend the rights of children. Through trainings, psychosocial assistance and education FCU creates more opportunities for vulnerable families and children.



Thailand

Siam Care is a Thai non-profit organization. Siam Care is involved with children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. It fights for equal rights, opportunities and access to treatment for children and families. It helps children and families in need and provide support on medical, psychological and financial level until families are able to stand on their own feet.



The Philippines

Kaisahang Buhay Foundation (KBF) is non-profit child and family welfare organisation based in Manila in the Philippines. KBF's vision is: every child deserves a loving and permanent family. It works toward family preservation, family reunification and permanent family placement.



South Africa

Hillcrest Aids Center Trust (HACT) is a non-profit organisation founded in 1990 and based in Hillcrest, South Africa. Its vision is a South Africa without HIV/AIDS. It adopts a holistic, family-centric and asset-based approach to tackling HIV/AIDS and strives at all times to deliver practical, sustainable and community-led projects and services.

Give a Child a Family (GCF) is a child protection organization founded 25 years ago. GCF promotes safe temporary care for orphans and vulnerable children with a focus on foster care as an alternative for orphanages. GCF supports communities and organisations so children can have a safe and nurturing environment for children. The interest of the child is at the center of GCF interventions.

SA Cares is based in Pretoria, South Africa. SA Cares' intervention pillars are : i) prevention programme to give parents and caretakers parental skills; ii) intervention programme to protect the rights of children and to take care of children in need and orphans; iii) community programme to build capacities of rural communities to take care of their vulnerable children; and iv) specialized care programme to provide children in need of care a safe and caring environment.