

From children's homes to family based

Wilde Ganzen principles for small-scale childcare



WILDE 
GANZEN 

/ Reason

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

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, recognised by 196 countries

Every day, far too many children worldwide are still living in orphanages or other institutions. Lack of love and ever-changing parental figures cause children to have health problems and they are hindered in their mental, social and emotional development.

Every child should grow up in a loving family. Preferably in their own family, or else by staying with other family members, a foster family or in a small-scale home with permanent care takers. **Wilde Ganzen** is committed to this vision.

Wilde Ganzen supports **go-getters**: enterprising people who create progress in their own neighbourhood through small development projects. Because we believe in the power of projects that are conceived, supported and largely implemented by the local community.

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/ The practice is changing

In more and more countries, large-scale childcare is decreasing. Experts recognise the psychological damage caused when children grow up in a home. Governments around the world are closing orphanages and organisations are setting up alternative community-based care programmes.

"The institutionalisation movement is one that Kenya can not be left behind and the government of Kenya is committed to ensure that children grow up in an enabling environment." Noah Sanganyi, Director Children's Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Kenya

"We endorse the need to move away from institutional care to care for children that is community based, or care within their own community."

Kees de Jong, Managing Director



Alternative forms of care are on the rise:

Reunification
with own family

Placement in the
extended family

Placement in
a foster family

Placement in a small-scale residential
facility with permanent caretakers



Six good reasons why children do not belong in a home

Wilde Ganzen is a member of the [Better Care Network](#). We see six reasons why children do not belong in a children's home, but need a real family:

- 1 Separating children from their families and communities damages their health and development.
- 2 Poverty should not be a reason for removing children from their families and putting them in a children's home.
- 3 Only about 20% of the children in orphanages are actually orphan.
- 4 Children who grow up in an institution often find it difficult to find their way (back) into society.
- 5 Irreversible psychological damage occurs in children who are cared for by alternating staff or volunteers in an institution.
- 6 Community-based shelter is less expensive than large-scale shelter. Various studies show that the cost per child in institutional care is six times higher than in foster care and 12 times higher than community or family care.



A background image featuring three young African children. On the left, a boy in a white shirt smiles. In the center, a girl in a brown and white checkered shirt leans forward, also smiling. On the right, another boy in a red and white checkered shirt is partially visible. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a wooden structure.

These are some alternatives for childcare

To take care of children within the own community you can think of:

- The return to family after screening and coaching the family.
- Providing (financial) assistance to the family.
- Searching for and screening potential foster parents.
- The training (parenting support) and coaching of (foster) parents.
- Providing (financial) assistance to foster families.
- Involving the community.

What Wilde Ganzen can do for you

Transferring children from a children's home to small-scale care takes time, knowledge, effort and money. Wilde Ganzen supports organisations that:

- need help in the process of transition from institutional to community-based care and/or:
- need help in the process of reunification with the family and/or:
- need help in creating small-scale care (maximum of eight children with permanent carers);
- want to place the care of babies in the hands of a permanent caregiver, who has a maximum of three babies under his or her care.

How Wilde Ganzen can help you:

Knowledge

Network

Financial contribution



Write your own child protection policy

If you and your partner(s) are committed to the welfare of children, it is good to have a child protection policy. This policy is designed to protect children and staff alike. It is of great importance that all aid and development organisations recruit and supervise good staff. But also tackle bad practices and act correctly when there are problems. We have therefore designed a toolkit for our partner organisations that provides practical guidance on how to write their own child protection policy.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark skin and short black hair, looking off to the side with a gentle expression. She is holding a baby who is wearing a white cap with the word 'baby' on it. The image is partially obscured by a blue diagonal graphic element.

A little more concrete

If necessary, we support projects for a longer period than the standard year.

Where necessary, Wilde Ganzen has connections with several local consultants to check whether the proposal fits within the framework of local legislation and local government policy. The consultant also checks the capacity of the local organisation and can guide your organisation in the process of transition.

Project funding is possible for necessary activities to realise the placement of a child in a family. These include:

- Tracing the biological parents.
- Identifying, screening and training families who want to take in a foster child.
- Creating a transitional place where children can stay safely and temporarily creating a safe place where infants are placed with permanent carers.
- Placing children with a family that suits them best.
- Preparing children and biological families for reintegration.
- Mobilising foster families into 'self help groups' (post placement).
- Establishing committees to monitor the welfare of children in foster care (all stakeholders work together).
- Cooperating with authorities (including police) to protect the welfare of children.
- Supporting (foster) families (Skillful Parenting).
- Economic support for (foster) parents by setting up income-generating activities.
- Trajectory guidance by a local consultant, who can guide the Local Partner Organisation in the transition to family care.

Organisations we work with

To see as many children as possible grow up happy, we cooperate with organisations such as:

▶ Better Care Network

Network of organisations and individuals actively involved with children without parental care.

▶ YCDA

Non-profit organisation in India that works for children and young people from poor families and minorities.

▶ NorSA

South African NGO that invests in children and promotes the care of children in their own communities.

▶ Give a Child a Family

Organisation in South Africa that advocates for the rights and health of children.

▶ ICS-SP

NGO that works with families and communities in rural Africa to help children develop in the best possible way.

▶ Danielle Childrens Fund

Dutch organisation working for children in Ecuador and Nepal.

▶ IMBA

Non-profit organisation in Zimbabwe that cares for children.

▶ Children in Families

NGO in Cambodia for caring for children in families.



Successful project

By supporting small, smart projects, we make a big difference for children growing up worldwide. Take a look at this project:

The introduction of home care in Kenya

KidsCare Kenya Foundation is dedicated to orphans and children who need help in the Lunga Lunga region of Kenya. They call their approach 'homecare': guidance in the home situation. In this region, people were used to taking care of children in orphanages when there were problems or poverty at home. Home care was a new concept.

With the support of **Wilde Ganzen**, poor families receive social counselling and are assisted to find work. There is close cooperation with the government. Problems are thus tackled 'at the root'. The result: with limited resources, thousands of children grow up in their own communities. Thanks to the social workers, problems that were invisible until now are being addressed and people have gained a lot of respect for them. Work is currently underway to make the local partner in Kenya financially independent from foreign aid.

[Read more \(Dutch\)](#)





Want to know more?

Do you want to know more about our vision and how we can support your organisation or project?
Please contact us:

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