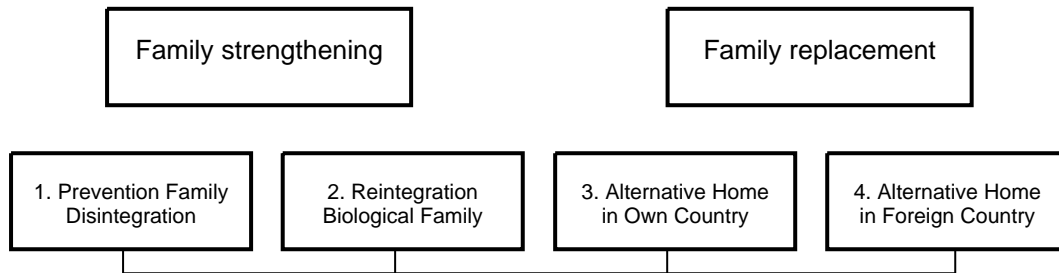




Child Welfare Programme

Wereldkinderen is of the opinion that to grow up in a loving and respectful family is one of the most fundamental rights of the child. Wereldkinderen focuses on vulnerable children and their families or caretakers in developing countries. These are children who live in extreme poverty, are HIV/AIDS infected or affected, are physically or mentally challenged, orphaned, abandoned, abused or neglected. The programmatic principals of Wereldkinderen are aimed at family strengthening and family replacement based on four intervention strategies:



1. Prevention family disintegration

Wereldkinderen is committed to programmes that focus on the prevention of family disintegration through strengthening the biological families of the child. Support is being given to programmes focussed on education, livelihood, food security and day care of children. In addition, counselling and capacity building are components of the home based care or outreach programmes that take place at community level.

2. Reintegration biological family

The second sub-programme is focussed on the reintegration of children into their biological families or communities. This applies to children who live on the streets, in institutions or otherwise were separated from their families. The programme includes efforts of finding the biological families or community members willing to take care of the children and giving them support during the reintegration process, among others through education, livelihood, temporal care and counselling.

3. Alternative home in own country

In case there is no opportunity for the children to grow up with their own families because their parents are diseased or untraceable and no other family members can take care of them, Wereldkinderen supports programmes of family replacement. Wereldkinderen supports programmes that promote permanent care in foster families, family-like situations or national adoption.

4. International adoption

When there are no opportunities for a child to grow up in a family or family-like situation in their own country, Wereldkinderen as a last option intermediates to find a loving home for the children in the Netherlands. These are increasingly children with complex backgrounds, such as children with a medical record, older children and siblings.

HIV/AIDS programme

Several of Wereldkinderen's southern partners focus their programmes on supporting children and families affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. These programmes fit mostly within the first and third block of our intervention strategy. Since 2006 Wereldkinderen has been implementing a programme with funding from the Dutch Government of Foreign Affairs, focussed on capacity strengthening of 12 of these partner organizations, aimed at improving the quality of care for HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children. This programme is implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Haiti, India, Thailand and Brazil. In 2008, almost 10,000 children have been supported by these organizations.