

**macheo**

**January – April 2023**  
**Reintegrated children**  
**Liesbeth van der Laak**





# Reintegrated children

Report for Liesbeth van der Laak

## Introduction

At Macheo, we firmly believe that a safe and secure family environment is essential for children's care, nurturing, and overall development. Therefore, we are dedicated to ensuring that children leaving residential care are placed in caring and affectionate families that provide a solid foundation for their future. To prepare for the reintegration of these children, we have adopted a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of both the children and their families.

This approach has facilitated a smooth transition from our care to their new homes.

Additionally, we maintain regular follow-ups on these children to monitor their progress and identify any challenges they may face after placement into family-based care. We acknowledge that the journey has not been easy, especially amidst these trying economic conditions where the cost of living remains high. However, thanks to your invaluable support and partnership, Macheo has assisted families in standing firm in the face of hardships and continually improving their journey through life.

The report also provides a detailed overview of the support services provided to reintegrated children and their families during the period under review. Overall, the efforts made during this period have helped more children and promoted family-based care, demonstrating a commitment to achieving the best outcomes for these vulnerable children.

## Success

The reason the children came into Macheo's temporary care facility was the lack of proper care, of a stable, safe and loving environment at home.

While they stayed with us, we worked hard to find a suitable family for them to live with, for the children to deal with possible trauma and to prepare the families to receive the children warmly.

The fact that out of all the 203 reintegrated children only 96% of the children are in a caring and loving situation is our biggest achievement. We feel for the 4% who still lacks this, and we are working hard to create this for them.

## Challenges

However, we encountered some challenges while reintegrating some of the children. These challenges included cases involving children with continuing court cases, those with untraceable families, and children from reluctant and uncooperative guardians. We hope to address these challenges soon by recruiting foster parents to provide family-based care to such children while we work towards finding a permanent solution for such cases.



## Marvin's story

Marvin<sup>1</sup> felt that his life was unbearable.

The constant physical and emotional abuse from his alcoholic mother and violent stepfather had traumatized and broken him. So, when he ran away and went missing for 11 days, it seemed like there was no hope for him.

That was until a Good Samaritan found him and brought him to the attention of Macheo.

After consultation with the government's children officer and approval by the court, Marvin was placed in Macheo Children's Home, where he received the care, protection, and stimulation he desperately needed.

He was given mental health support to help him heal from the trauma of his situation and the love and encouragement of Macheo's caregivers and staff.

The transformation in Marvin was remarkable. He became a happy, confident boy who attended school, attended church, and even had the courage to testify in court.

However, the journey toward healing was not without its challenges. Despite efforts to reunite Marvin with his mother, she was uncooperative and never visited him at Macheo.

But we didn't give up.

Through our tracing efforts, we found Marvin's maternal grandparents, who cared for his younger twin sisters, and they expressed a desire to be reunited with Marvin.

After a successful family assessment, plans for reintegration began. Marvin's mother eventually visited him at Macheo and, with the help of the Macheo team, agreed to relocate to her rural home, where she could care for all her children as a family.

Macheo started an income generating project for the mother and after that Marvin was finally reunited with his family.

He received a warm welcome from all of his family members.

Today, Marvin is settled at home, attending a nearby primary school, and making significant progress in his studies. His success story is a testament to the power of love, care, and support and how it can change a child's life trajectory.

Thanks to your generosity, Marvin now has a brighter future ahead of him.



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<sup>1</sup> Marvin is not his real name, to protect his privacy

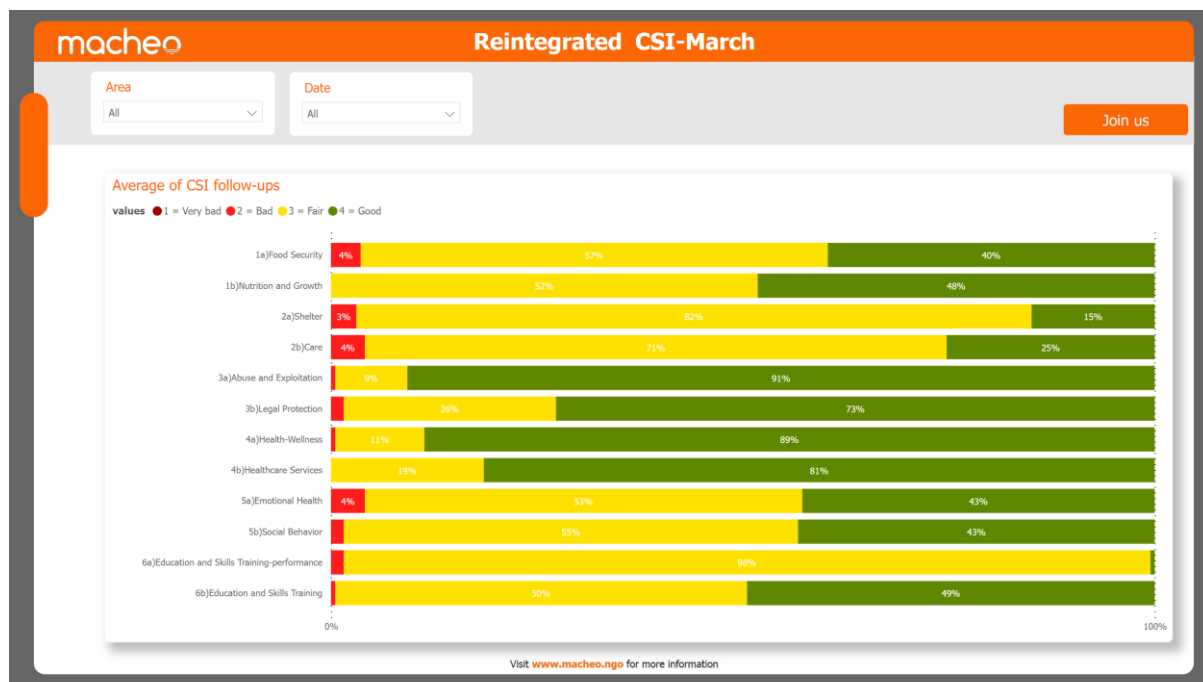




# The impact Macheo created

The children we reintegrated from our residential care facility, deserve our very best efforts, and with that intention, we monitor their progress

The Reintegrated Children Dashboard (below) provides an overview of the status of 200 children who have been reintegrated back into their communities after being separated from their families due to various reasons. The dashboard tracks their progress using the Child Status Index (CSI), which measures 12 factors related to the children's wellbeing. The CSI scores range from 1 to 4, with a score of 3 indicating good status.



The dashboard shows that well over 90% of the children have scored well in most of the factors.

However, the dashboard also highlights areas of need, with several children scoring bad in food security,, shelter, care and emotional health. These issues mainly stem from changes in the children's home situations, such as a decrease in income or changes in the caregiver-child relationship.

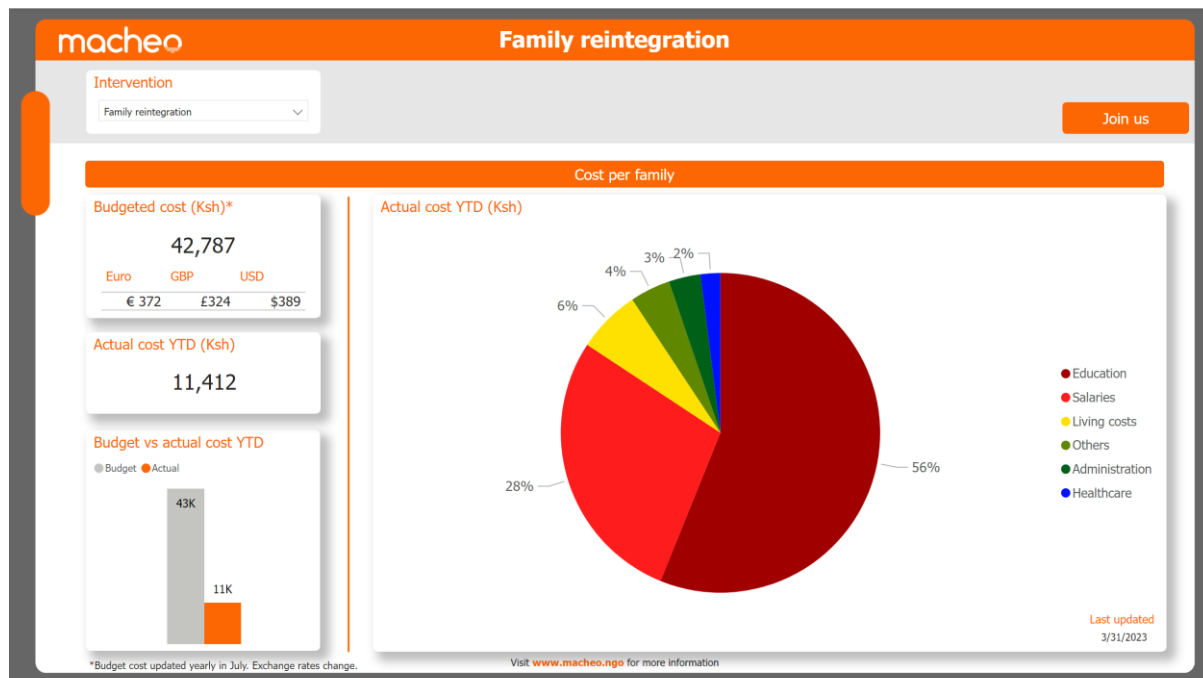
These children have our extra attention and we are fully committed to also letting them grow up in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.



# Financial report of the work we do for the reintegrated children

## Financials about the whole intervention

We aim to maximize impact with available funds, and because of that we work with unit costs. In this intervention that means the average amount spent per family.



In the above graph, you can see that the actual cost have been lower than budgeted. But since many costs will still be made for these families, it is not realistic to assume we will actually remain at 11,412 Ksh per child, we expect this to get closer to the budgeted amount. During the year this prediction will become more accurate.

Most of the funds go to education costs for the children. The salary costs include the social workers who do the follow-ups and step in when there are situations that need extra attention.



## Your specific contribution

The average exchange rate in 2023 was 138 Kenyan Shilling (Ksh) per euro. This means that your donation of 150 euro became 20700 Kenyan Shilling.

The specific impact you have made with your contribution is based on averages, if you want to get more details about your exact donation, please reach out to [finance@macheo.org](mailto:finance@macheo.org).

## The number of children helped

By the end of December, we were following up on a total of 192 reintegrated children. Between January and March, we did not exit any children from the intervention, but we took in **2** children who had been previously exited because the home situation needed improvement and close monitoring. We also placed **9** children in families, bringing our total number of reintegrated children to **203**.

## Contact details

We have tried to be as comprehensive as possible, if you nevertheless have any questions about this report, or about Macheo's work in general, please reach out to us.

You can always reach Macheo via e-mail ([marnix@macheo.org](mailto:marnix@macheo.org)) or via phone/WhatsApp (+254723580717).

## Thank you!

We are thrilled to report on the significant progress made possible through your generous support and partnership with Macheo.

Together, we have been able to make a positive impact on the lives of families and children in need.

Through your donations, we provided safe, secure, and stimulating family environments for vulnerable children.

This achievement would not have been possible without your continued support.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to these children.

