

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE-DRIVEN POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO IMPROVE REFUGEE CHILD WELL-BEING IN AFRICA



ETHIOPIA AND UGANDA

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Project Period:
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Project Background

- 43% of children in LMIC risk missing their development potential
- Children in refugee settings are at a heightened risk
- Experience deprivation, past traumatic events, and stressors
- Hopelessness and depression impact caregivers' responses
- Ethiopia and Uganda host 48.5% of the refugee population
- 47% are children. 26% are <5 years
- Refugee ECD programmes narrow on survival
- ECD experts highlight the need to increase the capacity and motivation for the implementation of research.
- This points to the need for strengthening the skills of researchers and research organisations in LMIC.

Research Questions

Does co-designing implementation research lead to improved ECD outcomes in refugee settings?

Can specialized training and networking for researchers and practitioners in LMIC result in increased knowledge products that impact policy and practice?

Aims

AIM 1: To co-design, implement and evaluate a community-led ECD model that will result in improved nurturing care and developmental outcomes for refugee children in Ethiopia and Uganda.

AIM 2: To mobilise a network of scholars in Ethiopia and Uganda to develop capacity for child-focused research, evaluation, and advocacy for ECD in refugee settings.

AIM 3: To build a regional centre of excellence for child-focused research and evaluation, to improve child wellbeing in Africa.

Justification and Significance of the Research

To generate culturally relevant evidence to improve the implementation of ECD programmes for better outcomes for refugee children in Ethiopia and Uganda. It aims to co-design, develop, implement, and evaluate a community led ECD model in Ethiopia and Uganda

Methodological Design

Applied research: Empowering research seeking to give voice to refugees through a high degree of collaboration.

Multi-country implementation study using mixed methods.

Integration of formative and evaluative research into iterative improvement cycles.

A flexible, innovative, and participatory research process with relevant actors in the nurturing care framework.

A conceptual framework for ECD implementation research in humanitarian settings and RE-AIM (Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation, and Maintenance) theoretical framework for the development and evaluation of an ECD model for refugees

