



# THE AFRICHILD INSIGHT

## NEWSLETTER vol.3

AfriChild's third edition of newsletter is here! Be certain to find captivating articles of the various activities that the Centre has undertaken from October through to December 2017. It highlights national and international events that we have participated in captured in this edition. Nice indulgence.



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## AfriChild disseminates research on violence against children in nine regions

By Racheal Ninsiima

From November 6-22, 2017, the Centre for the study of the African Child (AfriChild) engaged district leaders countrywide in meetings where it disseminated findings from the national violence against children survey.

The survey, undertaken in 2015, set out to determine the magnitude of violence against children aged 13-17; health consequences of violence and to utilization of services by victims. A total of 5, 803 children were interviewed.



*Dr. Firminus Mugumya presents research findings*

These meetings were held in nine districts namely: Masaka, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Arua, Lira, Soroti, Mbale, Jinja and Mukono. They were officiated by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).

“Our role as the AfriChild Centre is to do research on everything that affects a child in order to inform policies and programs which improve the wellbeing of children. We welcome your partnership as district leaders to join the struggle to end violence against children,” said Joyce Wanican, the executive director of the AfriChild Centre.

The survey findings indicate that more than one in three females (35%) and one in six males (17%) have experienced sexual violence in childhood. The perpetrators of the first incident of sexual abuse as neighbors for girls and friends for boys.

This implies that homes and schools are unsafe environments for children. In terms of physical violence, nearly 70 per cent of females and males experienced physical violence in childhood.



*Some of the meeting participants in Jinja*

“Let us all involve children in decision making in the home instead of neglecting and abusing

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them,” said Mondo Kyateka, the Commissioner Youth and Children’s Affairs, MGLSD.

## **AfriChild folds parenting project in Lira**

By Racheal Ninsiima

On October 31 2017, the AfriChild Centre together with the Lango Child and Community Development Federation (LACCODEF) held a close out meeting for the positive parenting project in Lira. The project was piloted in Barr sub county-Lira district for one year, starting October 2016. Its main objective was to improve the wellbeing of children through promoting good parenting practices such as parents investing in their children’s education.

The project was birthed out of a research conducted by the AfriChild Centre in 2015 to identify community perceptions of protective and harmful parenting practices. It was conducted in Kampala, Ibanda and Lira districts.

“The positive parenting project employed the community engagement approach where communities sought and implemented solutions to their parenting problems,” Tom Musika, the manager of the project told participants.

Joyce Wanican, AfriChild’s executive director drew participants’ attention to the challenge of abuse of children’s rights by the people who are supposed to be protecting them such as parents and teachers. She urged participants to

consider their parenting roles seriously in order to have a generation of disciplined citizens.

The meeting ended on a high note with participants being rewarded with certificates of appreciation for their different roles during the implementation of the positive parenting project.



*Molly Alwedo (L) the Lira district Community Development Officer receives her certificate*

## **Documentary highlights project’s success**

With the closure of the positive parenting project in Lira, a documentary has been shot to this effect. The objective the documentary is to highlight AfriChild’s strategy of transforming research into action. The 14 minutes long documentary highlights different successes of the positive parenting project in Lira such as the formation of hygiene clubs in primary schools; establishment of village savings and loan associations (VSLAs) to enable parents save in order to invest in their children and

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formation of farmer field schools to teach parents modern methods of farming.

The documentary boosts of beneficiary testimonies and ends with several appeals from community members on how to spread the project's approach in other areas.



*session during the documentary shooting*

## **The Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum 2017, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

By Noah Nyende

Between September 18 and 22 2017, Noah Nyende, AfriChild's Research coordinator attended the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum held in Rio de Janeiro. The forum aims to increase awareness and promote research on sexual violence and its linkages to other forms of violence. The 2017 forum was SVRI's fifth bi-annual conference and the most attended since inception. It comprised 280 presentations, two networking events, 12 exhibition stands, nine pre-

conference capacity building workshops, a young researchers programme, graffiti and storytelling workshops.

The theme of this year's the Forum was 'Partnerships for Policy Action' and particular interest was laid on young people and participatory methods of researching child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking.

Ideas emerging from the forum emphasized benefits of doing research with children and young people; including the chance to obtain insider information-from the child him/herself; opportunity for children and young people to validate study tools through participatory processes; opportunity for the researcher to build a case based on children's views through responsive youth led participatory research, and that the platform promotes children's rights to express themselves.



***Participants of the 2017 SVRI meeting***

Barriers highlighted in conducting research with children and young people include: lack of trust of the researcher, challenges of ethical approvals and consent of caregivers and



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children as victims of ‘gate keeping’ by caregivers during the research process. Additionally, there is lack of referral systems for children in adversity.

Participatory research with children and youth therefore means entering their ‘world’ and learning from their perspective; seeing things through their eyes and finding ways of engaging children as young researchers, because young opinions matter.

## **AfriChild casts light upon violence against children in care homes**

Did you know that children living in residential care institutions (RCIs) in Uganda face multiple forms of violence? According to a qualitative research conducted by the AfriChild Centre in different care institutions, children experience sexual, physical and emotional forms of violence. The research dubbed ‘Risk and Protective factors for violence against children in residential care institutions in Uganda’ was conducted in nine RCIs.

In a meeting held on September 20 2017 in Kampala, the AfriChild Centre disseminated the research findings to the RCIs that participated in the study. Dr. Firminus Mugumya, the principal investigator of the study led the dissemination process. Among the violence he highlighted was: RCIs are hesitant to recruit children with HIV; exploitative child labor and child to child sexual engagement.



“As a result of these different forms of violence, children are prone to having un-planned pregnancies; health complications and injury of private parts,” Mugumya said.



***A participant makes a remark during the meeting.***

Florence Barigye, the Executive Director for Kids of Africa said that there was need of establishing a system of caregivers to handle children’s issues especially that of child to child sex. Additionally, Edward Opio, a social worker with the Home of Hope in Jinja urged AfriChild to conduct an independent study on children with disabilities in RCIs as the current report overlooked this.

**Find more information here:**

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