

AFRICHILD NEWSLETTER

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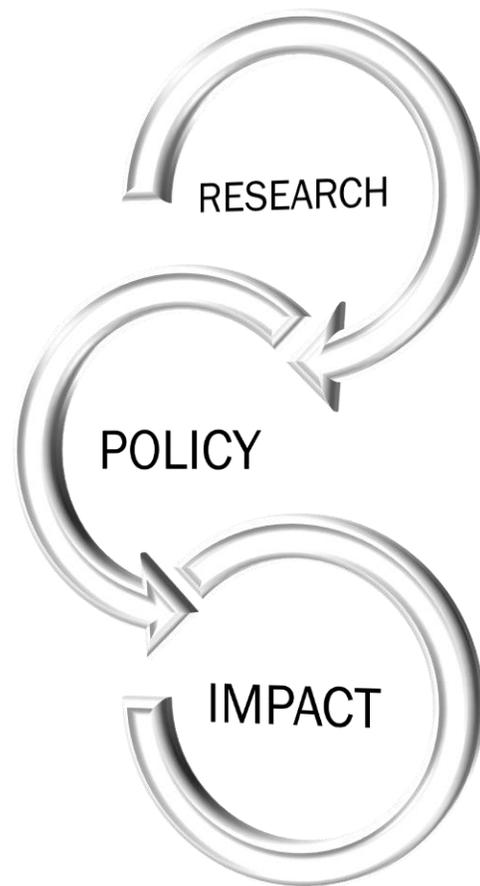
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VAC HOUSEHOLD SURVEY LAUNCHED



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EDITOR'S WORD

Dear AfriChild friends and family,

I welcome you to yet another issue of our quarterly newsletter. The past three months from July 2018 have been activity-packed for the Centre. We have had training of university researchers and the official launch of the Violence against Children survey. You will find all this and more in this newsletter bulletin. Enjoy your reading.

RACHEAL NINSIIMA.

INTER-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING.



Dr. Kenneth Olido of Gulu University conducts a session during the Inter-University research methods training.



Rev. Fr. Dr. Epiphany Picho (L), a trainer from Muni University leads a discussion with the participants from the same university.

AFRICHILD TRAINS STAFF OF SEVEN UNIVERSITIES TO CONDUCT CHILD-FOCUSED RESEARCH

From 18th to 29th June 2018, the AfriChild Centre trained 30 researchers from seven Ugandan universities in child focused research methods. Participants were drawn from the universities of: Muni; Makerere; Uganda Christian University; Uganda Martyrs University; Kyambogo and Nsamizi Institute of Social Development. This was the second of such a training, the first having been held in January 22 to February 2nd 2018.

For the second training, participants received knowledge and skills in data entry, analysis modules and grants writing from a team of expert trainers including Prof. Fred Wabwire-Mangen and Dr. Siu Godfrey of Makerere University and Prof. Rosalind Lubanga of Nsamizi Institute. The second training was mostly characterized by group works where participants refined their research proposals that are to be funded.

At the end of the two-weeks training, AfriChild awarded each university UGX 20M to conduct child-focused research. Among the studies to be undertaken by universities are: Examining household socio-economic status and parenting styles on adolescent development; Menstrual hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices in primary schools in Mukono district: A girl child's perspective and Rights based approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and service utilization by adolescents in Iganga district.

It is envisioned that research findings from the studies done are expected to shape national policies aimed at improving children's lives such as the National Children Policy which is being reviewed.

FINANCE TRAINING FOR NON-FINANCE PERSONNEL.



Abubaker Kakule, (L) a finance consultant teaches AfriChild staff the basics of filing financial documents.



AfriChild staff attend the finance training led by Kakule, a finance consultant.

Between July 16 and 20 2018, staff of the AfriChild Centre were engaged in a financial management training conducted by Abubaker Mayanja Kakule, an external consultant. The robust training provided a prime opportunity to expand staffs' knowledge base in best practices in financial management. Insights on several finance topics were shared and these include planning and budgeting; basic accounting systems; financial reporting; grant management and internal controls.

Under planning and budgeting, Kakule told staff that there is need to align the strategic plan with the chart of accounts, a list of accounts that an organization has. This is to ensure that the organization leverages resources for the different core program areas listed in its strategy that aim to achieve the organization's mission and vision. He also said that to get the best out of planning and budgeting, there is need to solicit for participation of finance and program staff in preparing budgets for all costs of the organization and budget worksheets have to have accompanying notes. Additionally, all budgets have to be approved by the Board of Trustees and the organization ought to have monthly cash flow forecasts. Under the subject of basic accounting systems, Kakule enlightened staff on different supporting documents needed for payments. These include: bid documents, salary schedules, goods received note, vouchers, activity reports and local purchase orders (LPOs) among others.

To crown the week-long meeting, Kakule ran a financial health check of the Centre dubbed, 'The Mango Health Check.' This check is a self-assessment tool designed to help organizations gauge how healthy their financial management system is. AfriChild was assessed on all the key financial areas such as planning and budgeting; grant management and financial reporting and was found to be at a low risk.

VAC SURVEY REPORT LAUNCH

REPORT LAUNCH EVENT

On August 9 2018, AfriChild in collaboration with other stakeholders launched the first ever national report on the state of violence against children (VAC). The survey was a multi-sectoral effort led by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) with partnership with other organizations including AfriChild, ChildFund International and UN agencies. It was funded by PEPFAR-Uganda and UNICEF-Uganda.

The report follows a call in 2006 by Kofi Annan, the then U.N. Secretary General, for countries to collect data on child abuse in order to inform national policies. It describes the magnitude and nature of physical, sexual and emotional VAC; examines the health consequences of violence; identifies potential risk factors that predispose children to violence and assesses utilization of health services by survivors. Over 5000 respondents aged 13-17 and 18-24 were considered for the study.

The findings are grim. For example, one in three girls in Uganda will be sexually abused before reaching the age 18 and 85% of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some way. Sexual violence conforms to different forms such as unwanted sexual touching, attempted forced sex and pressured sex. In regard to physical violence, more than half of Ugandan children experience physical violence between 6 -11 years. Physical violence in this case is described as punching, strangling, burning and whipping a child with an object. Hon. Janet Mukwya, Uganda's minister for Gender officially launched the report and called on all stakeholders to effectively utilize youth and local councils in our governance structures to address child abuse. To highlight the event, she officially recognized Joyce Wanican, AfriChild's Executive Director for the role she played in contributing to the research. AfriChild was the lead institution in data collection for the VAC study.



Joyce Wanican – AfriChild’s Executive Director appends her name to the dummy VAC report.



Children entertain guests during the report launch.



“Putting Ugandan children at the heart of sustainable development.”

AFRICHILD TO LAUNCH STUDIES.

On October 26th 2018, AfriChild is planning a national dissemination of its research reports. This conference aims to facilitate the sharing of scientific evidence among members of academia, government, cultural institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It will be held under the theme: ‘**Putting Ugandan children at the heart of sustainable development- what is the evidence?**’ One hundred participants are expected to attend the conference which will be officiated by Hon. Janat Mukwaya, the Minister for Gender.

Among the studies to be launched and presented are: ‘Understanding social norms to prevent and respond to violence against children’ which examined the existing social norms that underpin and perpetuate violence in and around schools; Resilient Households: Perspectives of parents and children on parenting in Uganda which identified community perceptions of protective and harmful parenting practices in three Ugandan districts of Kampala, Ibanda and Lira and A qualitative study of risks and protective factors for violence against children living in residential care institutions in Uganda, among others.



AFRICHILD TO TRAIN POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS IN UTILIZATION OF RESEARCH EVIDENCE

From 22 to 25 October 2018, the AfriChild Centre will hold a training workshop for 30 practitioners and policy makers from government and NGOs to use evidence-based interventions to address violence against children. The training will focus on issues of child abuse and sexual exploitation (CSAE). This training will provide a direct linkage between the academia and policy makers and practitioners thus facilitating increased utilization of research in policy design and programming.

According to Joyce Wanican, AfriChild’s Executive Director, at least 60 per cent of participants in the workshop will begin to use research to inform their work in relation to addressing violence against children with focus on CSAE.

This training is part of AfriChild’s project, ‘Building the next generation of researchers’ which aims to build capacity of academics, policy makers and practitioners to conduct rigorous child-focused research.