



CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CHDC), MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Families, Parenting and Child Health Programme: Building Systems and Strengthening the evidence to improve child wellbeing.



The State Minister for Gender and Cultural Affairs Hon. Peace Mutuzo launches the National Parenting Standards, Uganda National Manual and Facilitators' Guide and the National Data Hub at Sheraton Hotel during the celebration of International Day of Families.



Message

from the Scale and Capacity Development Officer



Dear Readers

It gives me great pleasure to share with you highlights of our work at the Child Health and Development Center (CHDC) over the past quarter, from July to September. This has been a period marked by dedication, collaboration, and meaningful progress across our projects.

Key engagements during this quarter included:

- Launching a set of national parenting tools; the National Parenting Standards, the National Manual for Parenting Training in Uganda and Facilitators' guide and the National parenting Data Hub
- Participating and delivering a keynote address during the Mama Tendo Parenting Symposium where the First Lady was the Guest of Honour
- Training of cohort three practitioners in the Science of Designing, Adaptation, and Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions course
- End-line data collection for Parenting for Respectability (PfR) with 1,667 parents/caregivers in the five districts of implementation
- End-line and follow-up studies for PfR-ECD for Tororo and Busia and pilot studies in Kenya and Tanzania
- Monitoring and supervision of programme

implementation by MGLSD, Local government and Makerere University officials in the districts of implementation

- Implementation of the Digital PfR through radio, billboards and signpost messaging
- Scoping visits and baseline data collection of parents / caregivers for Refugees Early Learning and Playful Parenting Intervention (RELAP) in Palabek refugee settlement
- Advancing disability-inclusive parenting interventions through SMS and WhatsApp delivery model
- Participation in Global and National Seminars and webinars
- Regular staff meetings
- Advocacy and communication work

We are pleased to share these updates with you. As we close this quarter and look ahead, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, colleagues, central and local governments and the communities we serve for your unwavering support and teamwork. Together, we are turning our vision into tangible impact. Let us continue to work hand in hand to ensure healthier and more resilient futures for all.

Hosea Katende Sempa

National Launch of the National Parenting Standards, Uganda National Manual and Facilitators' guide and the National Data Hub



Members of Parenting Agenda take a photo moment during the celebration of International Day of Families at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala

On 30th July CHDC, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), UNICEF and other stakeholders, organised the International Day of Families under the theme “*The Impact of Urbanisation on Families in Uganda.*”

During the celebrations held at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala, State Minister for Gender and Culture Affairs, Hon. Peace Mutuuzo, officially launched a set of National Parenting Tools aimed at strengthening family systems and improving child development. These tools include the National Parenting Data Hub, National Standards for Parenting Programmes in Uganda, and the National Parenting Training Manual and Facilitators' Guide.

According to Hon. Mutuuzo, the tools are designed to measure parenting standards, coordinate stakeholders in the parenting sector, promote consistent follow-up, and ensure interventions are rooted in Uganda's cultural and social context. She described the launch as a milestone in promoting positive parenting, safeguarding children, and responding to evolving family challenges.

‘Parenting’, which was once passed down through word of mouth, is now documented. Even those without biological parents can use these guidelines to raise children in line with acceptable standards,” she highlighted.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Godfrey Siu,

a Senior Lecturer and Programme Lead for the Families, Parenting and Child Health Programme at CHDC, painted a vivid picture of the pressures facing families in Uganda, particularly in urban areas.

He noted that while cities provide opportunities such as better education, healthcare, and jobs,

they also impose heavy financial burdens. The high costs of rent, land, and school fees, combined with rising living expenses, are stretching families to breaking point.

Urban parents, Dr. Siu explained, often work long hours in competitive job markets or run small businesses in streets



and markets. Single parents, in particular, face exhaustion as they juggle income generation with caregiving responsibilities.

This environment, he warned, has led to increasing marital instability, family disintegration, domestic violence, deteriorating mental health, and heightened vulnerability—especially among women, children, and youth. Depression and hopelessness are becoming more common in urban

slum communities.

Dr. Siu urged policymakers to recognise caregiving as a core element of urban life. He called for fairer maternity and paternity policies, as well as support for proven parenting programmes such as Real Fathers, Parenting for Respectability (PFR), and the Care for Child Development model developed by UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

He further emphasised that the

Ministry of Gender's Uganda Parenting Agenda Initiative is already well-positioned to coordinate national strategies, set common standards, and promote scalable, evidence-based programmes that address the effects of rapid urbanisation on families. *"True progress is not measured by economic metrics alone, but by the strength of family bonds. Thriving families are the resilient core of society,"* Dr. Siu stressed.

Statistics

Uganda currently has 11 cities, 31 municipalities, and 533 town councils. The country's urbanisation rate stands at around 27%, with an annual growth rate of 4.5%. In 2024, the urban population was estimated between 10–13 million people, largely driven by rural-to-urban migration. While urbanisation presents opportunities, Dr. Siu warned that it also comes with deep social challenges that cannot be ignored.

UNICEF's Call to Action

Ms. Margarita Tileva, Deputy Representative for Programmes at UNICEF, underscored the need to integrate children's rights and needs into urban planning and policies. She called for collective efforts to create child-friendly cities that put children's wellbeing at the centre of development.

"This can be achieved through evidence-based planning that equitably responds to the priorities of children and their families, including those in slums and informal settlements," she said. *"We must also involve citizens and children themselves in urban planning initiatives."*



CHDC staff displaying Uganda National Manual and Facilitators' guide during the celebration of International Day of Families

Third Cohort of the Practitioners Parenting course in the Science of Designing, Adaptation, and Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions attracts 71 participants



Participants of the third cohort of the Science of Designing, Adaptation and Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions course attending a training at Makerere University.

On July 23rd, the third cohort of 71 participants embarked on a three-month training course titled The Science of Designing, Adaptation and Implementation of Evidence-Based Parenting Interventions.

The course, conducted by CHDC in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), is part of ongoing efforts to standardize parenting work in Uganda. It seeks to place scientific rigor and insights at the heart of designing and implementing evidence-based parenting interventions.

This initiative contributes to Uganda's commitment made in Bogotá in November 2024, where the Government pledged to end violence against children by strengthening parenting support.

The first face-to-face session for Cohort 3 registered strong participation, with 64 out of 71 admitted learners attending, representing a participation rate of over 90%. This demonstrated high engagement and commitment from participants' right from the onset.

The face-to-face session was followed by online sessions. These virtual engagements built on the initial discussions, allowing participants to explore topics in

depth and make progress on key agenda items.

The training is structured around seven modules, with the core aim of equipping practitioners and policymakers with skills to design interventions, adaptation, documentation and integrate evidence generation into their work.

During one of the first sessions in week one, Dr. Godfrey Siu, the Course Lead and facilitator, explored the meaning of parenting and childhood, posing reflective questions such as whether there is truly a "good" or "bad" parent. He emphasized that the course is not about teaching people about design and adaptations of interventions but also involves around self-reflection and sharing experiences to help participants recognize strengths and shared learning.

He also analysed how media narratives frame parenting, highlighting topics such as discipline, entitlement, culture, presence, and single parenting, illustrating the wide range of perspectives in public discourse. He further urged participants to look inward rather than labelling parenting as simply good or bad.

Lucy Otto Assistant Commissioner Family MGLSD, a facilitator at the

training, took participants through the history of Uganda's parenting landscape, recognizing that key initiatives to support parenting work in the country were fragmented, uncoordinated, and largely informal. She highlighted findings from the National VAC report showing high levels of violence against children, most of which occurs at home and is often perpetrated by parents or caregivers and other people known to the family.

Hosea Katende, the Course Administrator and facilitator, underscored the importance of grounding interventions in practice and context-specific realities rather than relying solely on theory. He cautioned against one-size-fits-all approaches, stressing the need for home-grown solutions that reflect the regions' diverse communities. While specific core programme principles such as PfR may remain consistent, Katende noted that their application must be adapted to cultural, social, and religious norms. He gave examples of how family dynamics differ across regions, noting that what works in Amuru may not necessarily apply in Nakapiripirit, Tororo, or Busia. Recognizing these differences, he explained, is critical to ensuring interventions remain relevant and effective.

Delivery of the National Parenting Symposium where the First Lady was the guest of honour



The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni (center) interacting with other guests during the launch of four reading books authored by Catherine Ruhweza at Kololo Independence Grounds.

CHDC partnered with Maama Tendo Foundation to host the Parenting Symposium, which culminated in the launch of Mama Tendo books by the First Lady. The symposium provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of parenting work in the country, as emphasized by Dr. Siu Godfrey in his keynote address. He requested the First Lady, to continue supporting the family institution, especially now when there is a need to promote and encourage the implementation of evidence-based parenting approaches.

In his keynote address, Dr. Siu emphasized the need for increased investment in parenting, describing it as a national priority that deserves urgent attention. He further revealed that Makerere University is conducting research to explore how Parenting for Respectability (PfR) can be delivered digitally to meet the needs of today's busy parents who frequently rely on

mobile and online platforms.

The parenting app, currently being piloted with more than 300 parents in Wakiso and Amuru districts, contains 16 parenting sessions—each lasting 30 minutes—tailored to the Ugandan context.

“We are building a parenting app, and this research is ongoing,” Dr. Siu explained. He noted that similar work in Tanzania demonstrated that delivering parenting interventions digitally can cost as little as \$6 per person—an affordable approach that could be replicated in Uganda.



Dr Godfrey Siu a senior Lecturer and Programme Lead for Families, Parenting and Child Health Programme at CHDC delivering a keynote address during the launch of four reading books authored by Catherine Ruhweza.

Empowering Parents of Children with Disabilities and parents with disability in parenting skills through digital platforms in Wakiso

Over the past two months, 61 parents in Wakiso District received 2,196 short and practical parenting tips via SMS delivered in both English and Luganda. This simple yet powerful approach ensured that parents with disabilities, and those caring for children with disabilities, stayed connected and supported, even in areas with limited internet and smartphones. Relatedly, to the research is also reaching out to 60 parents with smartphones with PfR content on WhatsApp which is shared 3 times a week.

The staff (facilitators) use part of the time to engage with the online participants in discussions about the subject matter. Preliminary findings from both SMS and WhatsApp delivery indicated that there is a more active participation and reception of the WhatsApp content compared to the SMS summaries. Overall, the content is



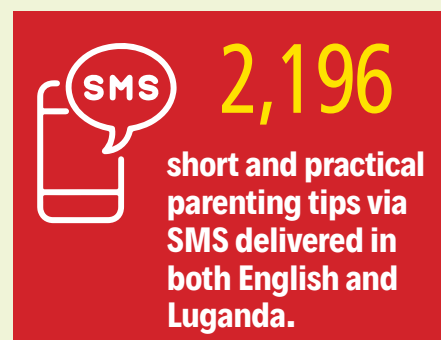
60
parents with
smartphones reached
with PfR content on
WhatsApp

been helpful to causing reflection on how parents raise their children with disabilities. *“I used to be stressed and I am glad to connect with other parents who have children with disabilities. Thank you so much for the content we get every week. This content has helped to love my children better and enjoy my parenting role”*, as highlighted by one of the caregivers on the WhatsApp group.

Racheal Birimuye, the project officer on this work, explains that the intervention has reached families using basic buttoned phones, breaking down technological and

geographic barriers and keeping guidance consistent. The SMS and WhatsApp model proved that low-cost technology can make a big difference, promoting inclusivity and helping parents strengthen their skills while improving the well-being of their children.

By combining accessibility, clarity, and regular engagement, the research team has set a new standard for reaching underserved families in rural communities.



SMS 2,196
short and practical
parenting tips via
SMS delivered in
both English and
Luganda.



CHDC staff delivering SMS and WhatsApp messages to parents with disabilities, and those caring for children with disabilities

PfR Endline Evaluation Shows Strong Gains in Parenting and Family Relationships



Scale and Capacity Development Officer, Mr. Hosea Katende Sempa, engages LC officials of Lwesubo Village in Wakiso District in a dialogue on the challenges of community mobilization and participation in parenting sessions.

During this reporting period, we conducted the End-line Evaluation for the scale-up of PfR project in five districts targeting 1667 parents and caregivers: Tororo, Nakasongola, Amuru, Busia, and Wakiso. This activity was jointly carried out by CHDC and the District Local Governments, with support from MGLSD.

The endline data will support the team to respond to study questions including; evaluating the scalability and impact of the PfR programme on child maltreatment, violence against children and spousal relationships in 5 districts of Uganda and examine the factors associated with implementation success during scaled-up implementation.

Some of the preliminary findings revealed notable improvements in spousal relationships, child discipline, and overall parenting practices, with

participants giving highly positive feedback about the intervention. Many participants expressed appreciation for the knowledge and skills they had gained, particularly in strengthening family relationships. Other notable changes include; improved family dynamics, mutual respect, and better parenting practices was consistent across all districts.

Participants also shared inspiring testimonies highlighting positive transformations. These included stronger household relationships, healthier spousal interactions, and improved child discipline. For instance, one participant from Wakiso shared:

“Ever since we joined this program, my husband’s relationship with me has completely changed. I feel happy and am enjoying my marriage now....” explained a female participant.

“I was planning to leave my family because my wife and children had turned against me. But when my friend told me to join the programme and we attended sessions with my wife, I actually ended paying school fees for this team and we now support each other in the garden....” Narrated a father during the conversations with our team.

Another parent noted *“If someone says they have not experienced any impact from this program, it is likely because they did not put into practice what they learned.”*

A participant reflected on personal growth: *“I used to think it was only my husband who should give me gifts, but I learned that I can also give him gifts and he really appreciated it.”*

The data manager, Martin Omello provides a snap shot into the data highlighting high attendance of participants for the activity as below:

Out of the 1,667 parents and caregivers targeted, 1,208 were present and interviewed. Of those, 1,052 attended parenting sessions, while 329 were recorded as lost to follow-up.

Despite these successes, challenges remain. Mobilization gaps, poor road infrastructure, and limited male involvement hindered full participation. In Busia, for example, some participants missed sessions because they had recently given birth, were admitted due to illness, or had relocated among bother reason, while in Nakasongola, parents missed sessions because their facilitators had given birth to twins!



A beneficiary parent shares a testimony with a Research Assistant.

Monitoring and supervision of the PfR Programme by MGLSD and University officials

During the week of 25th August, CHDC and MGLSD conducted monitoring activities in five districts where PfR is being implemented: These include Tororo, Amuru, Nakasongola, Wakiso and Busia

In Tororo, the officials began with a meeting at the District Headquarters. DCDO Officer credited PfR with reducing gender-based violence from 70% in 2014 to 48% in 2025, and teenage pregnancies from 25% in 2022 to 15% in 2025 as per the reports from his CDOs in the sub counties where PfR is delivered. “PfR is a key component of all government social programmes now in Tororo,” he said.

In Mella Sub County, a couple shared their story of change. The wife recalled years of violence and neglect, but said peace had returned to their home through PfR. Her husband described how he fetched water for his sick wife once mocked by peers, now a gesture of pride.

At Kaliat, which serves as a control group for ECD, the visitors observed the use of the MDAT tool to measure children’s milestones. Impressed, the Bursar said, “I have liked this activity and the tool so much; it is real and engaging,” and requested a copy for future use.

In Busia, the team inspected signposts and a billboard designed by CHDC to promote positive fatherhood. One

signpost, boldly declaring “Man and God share a title Father” drew admiration for its powerful and simple message.



Mr. Franklin Maloba, Principal Senior Development Officer at MGLSD (Right), and Mr. Tomvok Elwana, Bursar at Makerere University College of Health Sciences (3rd from right), interact with a DCDO officer as Dennis Ntende and Dr. Esther Kobel from CHDC look on during a meeting in Tororo.

Delivery of PfR through the radio, billboard and signpost messaging

To reach the 30,000 parents/caregivers of children aged 0-17 years with PfR. Of these 15,000 will be reached through platforms: radio, community poster messaging in the 5 districts. The programme manager worked with the media expert and lecturer at MUK, advocacy of communication specialist for an NGO, District Community Development Officers (DCDOs) in the 4 districts and local expertise to adapt some of the PfR content into messages. During the training of the RAs at CHDC, the messages were further analysed for consistency and ensuring that the local communities benefit from them.

Following the content development procedure for the radio content, the local government led the process of adaption and resolving issues around language and spots where the signposts and billboards were placed.

A baseline has been conducted for the districts of Busia, Amuru and Nakasongola. Initial findings indicate appreciation of the message and the team will later follow back to understand content use after a period of 1 – 2 months.

Some of the messages for the sign posts and billboard include: ‘Did you know-Fathers, Mothers and Caregivers who spend time and work together, improve their roles and skills in caring for children.



One of the PfR messages displayed on a Billboard designed by CHDC.



Mr. Franklin Maloba (Right) and Mr. Tomvok Elwana (left), pose for a photo in front of a signpost designed by CHDC.

CHDC Highlights Parenting and Fatherhood Expertise at ICPAU 30th Annual Seminar

At the 30th annual seminar of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU), Dr. Godfrey Siu painted a vivid picture of a family crisis sweeping across Uganda disintegration, domestic violence, and absent fathers. He highlighted that many men today are grappling with depression, substance abuse, and fractured identities, challenges that directly weaken the very foundation of families.

Dr. Siu, delivered these remarks during the seminar held from 3rd to 5th September at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe, and virtually via Zoom.

Speaking on the topic “Fatherhood Reimagined: Strengthening Families through Involved Parenting,” he urged men to embrace a redefined vision of fatherhood one anchored in responsibility, emotional support, protection, and compassionate leadership.

He stressed that children without engaged fathers face higher risks of school dropouts, abuse, anxiety, and self-esteem struggles. “Girls with supportive fathers thrive academically and emotionally, while boys without father figures often turn to gangs, violence, or destructive behaviours,” he cautioned.

Dr. Siu reminded participants that “true manhood is not about power, but about responsibility, nurturing, and meaningful engagement in family life.”

The seminar, held under the theme “Positioning Professionals for Sustainable Impact,” attracted approximately 1,000 participants in person and 800 virtually.



Dr Godfrey Siu delivering a session during the 30th Annual Seminar for the Institute of Certified public Accountants of Uganda at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel Entebbe.

Parenting Program Boosts Child Growth and Family Unity in Tororo; ECD endline and follow up activities

During this period, the ECD team of researchers led by Dr. Esther Kobel, conducted the end-line and follow up studies with 900 parents / care and their children in the sub counties of Mella and Kalait Tororo District. The follow-up was 12 months after baseline. The ECD trial had a robust tracking and communication strategies to ensure retention of parents/ caregivers and their children over the 12 months. At end-line, the design was to omit children and have them at the follow-up stage as it has been implemented. Of the 600 parent-child dyads, 510 were successfully followed up, giving an 85 percent retention rate.

The initial impressions show a visible and lasting impact, especially in Mella where the PfR programme was delivered. Children there were more confident, expressive, and

socially engaged, while nutritional outcomes were better with no cases of malnutrition, compared to three severe cases in Kalait. Caregivers in Mella reported improved spousal communication,

shared parenting roles, and reduced reliance on harsh discipline, with fathers becoming more involved in children’s education and care.

Although partner separation was noted in both sub-counties, it was



A man packs millet in a sack in Tororo.

less frequent in Mella and often linked to cases where only one partner attended the sessions. Migration accounted for some loss to follow-up, but the overall follow-up remained strong. Both communities expressed demand for more support: Mella parents requested refresher and continuous sessions, while Kalait communities called for a more detailed engagement.

Experience with the use of MDAT

Children were assessed using the Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool (MDAT), which tracks motor skills, language, and social interaction. In Mella, children eagerly took on tasks. In Kalait, many struggled to engage. Caregivers confirmed the difference. *“My child can now talk to visitors; before, she would just hide,”* one mother said.

Nutrition results showed that there was no malnutrition in Mella, but setbacks in Kalait.

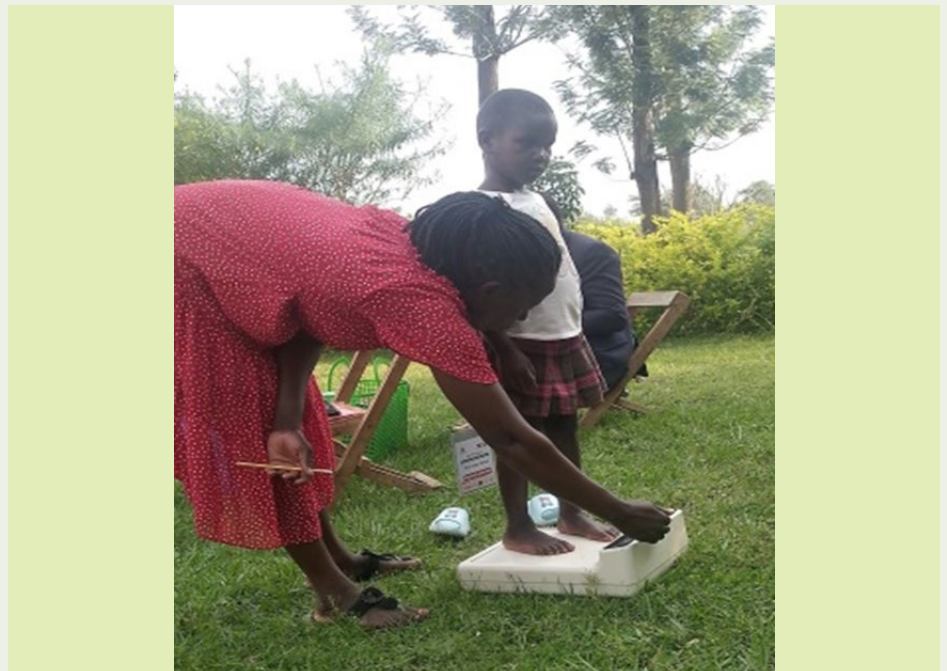
Success Stories

Families in Mella described big changes. Fathers now checked schoolbooks, helped with homework, cooked, fetched water, and bathed children. Couples said they communicate better. *“Before the sessions, I didn’t know how to talk to my wife. Now we plan*

together,” one father explained.

Challenges

Separation was reported in both areas. In Mella, it mostly happened where only one partner attended sessions. Migration also disrupted follow-up as families moved for work or reunification.



A Researcher from CHDC taking weight measurements of the child.



A father playing with his daughter in Tororo.

RELAP Study



Overwhelming community response to RELAP at Worldview Primary School.

We are thrilled to announce that Refugees Early Learning and Playful Parenting (RELAP) has made remarkable strides this quarter. The baseline data collection commenced with a training of Research Assistants in Kitgum, led by Dr. Betty Okot and Paul Okimat the statistician to ensure consistency in the use of tools and research gadgets before engaging with early grade learners, parents, school leaders, teachers and community members

in Palabek refugee settlement and neighbouring host communities.

The first stage of field activity involved parents' surveys, assessment of primary pupils and pre-schoolers in an exercise that reached 339 parents and children in foundational literacy, numeracy and school readiness. Other 22 stakeholders were engaged through focus group discussions and key informant interviews to get their views about the project.

In August our team at CHDC conducted an interview with one settlement official attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, and it emerged that, parenting is a major challenge in the refugee community due to the stress and strain of life in displacement. In their view, *“the project has come at the right time because we have had many partners coming here with initiatives that target schools and children, but not school, parents and children at once like RELAP is doing. So, we welcome it as promising.”* officials from Palabek, Paluda reception centre noted.



Parents FGD in Paluda

Pilot intervention to scale up PFR for ECD in Kenya and Tanzania



An adolescent mother presenting during parenting training in Kenya.

In collaboration with the Centre for Transformative Parenting (CTP), we have delivered the training for the staff Children Right and

Violence Prevention Fund, cluster organization staff and mentor into the implementation of PFR for ECD. The trainings have been conducted

in Nairobi, Siaya, Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

Interesting findings indicate the need for training of adolescent



Programme manager Mrs. Carolyn Byekwaso for the Families, Parenting and Child Health Programme at CHDC share a photo moment with adolescents in Tanzania during a recent parenting training

mother in parenting. During one of the activities, it was observed that children of adolescent mothers did not bond and attach with their biological adolescent mothers but instead bonded with other members of family including, grandparents and in-laws. This was cross cutting in all the regions as adolescent mother kept testifying that key lessons included;

I will spend time with my child and request the child to call me mother instead of calling me by name and grandmother being called mother.

I will spend more time with my child and play with her/him instead of pushing them to be cared for and nurtured by another person.

I will try and forget the past and love my child, instead of being rude and staying focused in the mistrust I received their dad. etc

The PfR for ECD is being adapted to work in the region with funds from CRVP F and technical training support of CTP as CHDC provides the backstopping and learning component to ensure consistency.



Programme Manager Mrs. Carolyn Byekwaso shares a photo moment with adolescents in Kenya during a recent training.

CHDC Participates in Global Conversation on Parenting in Africa

On 26th August, CHDC participated in a high-level Global Parenting Initiative online webinar focusing on “Parenting in Africa: Challenges, Innovations and Opportunities.”

The webinar brought together child development experts, policy makers, and practitioners across the continent to reflect on the realities of raising children in today’s Africa. Discussions highlighted some of the pressing challenges parents face.

Speakers also showcased innovative approaches that are making a difference in strengthening positive parenting.

CHDC’s participation underscored its commitment to advancing child health and development through evidence-based interventions and advocacy. By joining this conversation, CHDC reaffirmed its role as a key voice in shaping programs that empower parents and caregivers.

Global Parenting Initiative
Online webinar
Parenting in Africa: Challenges, Innovations & Opportunities
26 August 2025
15:00 – 16:30 SAST | 14:00 – 15:30 BST | 16:00 – 17:30 EAT
An initiative of **Global Initiative to Support Parents**

Join us for a webinar on 'Parenting in Africa: Challenges, Innovations, and Opportunities.'

We're excited to invite you to an engaging and thought-provoking panel discussion hosted by the Global Parenting Initiative (GPI) on parenting across the African continent.

This dynamic webinar will bring together leading voices in research, policy, and practice to explore how families are being supported in diverse African contexts. From cutting-edge parenting programmes to the everyday realities of caregivers, the conversation will unpack emerging trends, cultural insights, and innovative solutions shaping the future of parenting in Africa.

Meet our speakers:

- Karamege Emmanuel**
Project Coordinator
Harvard Health
International Centre
(IRH/AAPEE)
- Oluwalayin Ogunlana**
Family Psychologist
Specializing in support
systems
- Saulete Nyakwisa Ojeda**
Executive Director
Instituting in Children &
their Societies (ICS SPS)
- Geoffrey Sita**
Facilitator Lead at the Global
Parenting Initiative & Senior
Lecturer in the Department of
Child Health & Development at
Makerere University
- Shingini Anon Pasangwa**
Deputy Director for Child
Protection Services at Zimbabwe's
Ministry of Public Service, Labour &
Social Welfare

Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025
Time: 15:00 - 16:15 SAST | 14:00 - 16:00 BST | 16:00 - 17:15 EAT
Click [here](#) for further details and registration.

Advocacy communication and networking

During the period, GPI has visited the programme sites and documented key learning from the work done over the past 5 years. The activity was led by Maggie Marx from GPI supported by the Programme manager Carolyn Byekwaso and the programme administrator, Martha. Key interviews were done from the commissioner, family and culture, MGLSD highlighted the benefits of collaborating with CHDC at to strengthen the parenting field and narrative. She experienced the need to

continue growing the field of parenting in the country as use of evidence based interventions is relatively new.

The DCDO, Nakasongola in his interview, explained that the PfR programme in the district had made tremendous support to the currently implemented Parish Development Model (PDM) government programme. *“It makes it easy for family to make good use of the money government gives them after getting the soft social skills on relationship.*

CHDC has supported government on the mind-set component of government programming, he explained.

Local facilitators and families expressed high level of interest in the programme and the team was able to document some of the impact stories happening as a result of the programme work.



Maggie Marx from GPI, Juliana Naumo Commissioner Culture and Family Affairs MGLSD, Malcom Mпамизо and Martha Atuhirwe posing for a picture after a meeting

Staff Meeting

This quarter, we have managed to hold our weekly staff meetings to strengthen coordination and sustain programme momentum.

These sessions provide a platform for team leaders to share critical updates, map out plans to achieve targets, and address emerging challenges. Additionally,

these meetings enable us to align our participation in national and international forums that promote advocacy and support efforts for family strengthening and the prevention of violence.

Beyond operational priorities, our weekly team meetings offer a valuable space for staff to encourage one another,

celebrate individual and team contributions, encourage each other socially, and reaffirm our shared commitment to the programme’s goals.



CHDC staff in a weekly meeting.

CHDC Reports Progress on Bogota Commitments

Makerere University's Child Health and Development Centre (CHDC) has highlighted its contribution to the Bogota Global Ministerial Commitments on ending violence, with impressive results from its parenting interventions.

Presenting at the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee workshop on Child Wellbeing at Adams Hotel, Entebbe, Dr. Godfrey Siu a Senior Lecturer and Programme Lead for the Families, Parenting and child Health Programme at CHDC said, CHDC's initiatives have significantly reduced violence against children and improved family relationships.

Through the Parenting for Respectability (PfR) programme, a 16-session gender-transformative parenting model evaluated using a cluster controlled trial, CHDC has recorded: 49% less violence against children, 51% less perpetration of intimate partner violence, and 53% less victimisation of intimate partner violence.

The intervention has also demonstrated effectiveness across other outcomes, in particular it has boosted positive parenting, strengthened parental monitoring,

promoted equitable gender socialisation, and encouraged respectful partner relationships. It has also enhanced food security, communication about sexual behaviour, and provision of child necessities. Results also indicate that the PfR program has reduced physical punishment, mental health problems, parenting stress, adult depression, and intimate partner coercion.

The presentation highlighted current efforts to scale-up the PfR program in 5 districts – Busia, Tororo, Nakasongola, Wakiso, and Amuru – using facilitator led delivery, radio and signpost and billboard messaging. CHDC has reached over 30,000 caregivers and through them, about 80,000 children. These efforts are undertaken with the support of the district community development services and the Gender Ministry who provide supervision and other technical assistance.

CHDC has also piloted disability-inclusive parenting in Wakiso District, an area not usually addressed, reaching 160 caregivers with disabilities or caring for

children. The results answer questions regarding feasibility of using three delivery approaches – in-person, WhatsApp and SMS.

In addition, CHDC has built the capacity of parenting practitioners in the Science of Designing and Implementing Evidence-based Parenting Programmes. To date, 142 participants, including government officials, NGO staff, and faith-based leaders, have been trained. Women comprised a slight majority at 54.9%, compared to 45.1% men.

Dr. Siu emphasized that these milestones demonstrate CHDC's efforts to contribute to building systems and capacity to support delivery of evidence based parenting interventions to make a country's global commitments a reality.

The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and drew a total of 48 participants representing key government ministries, development partners, academia and researchers, and selected NGOs.



Members of the inter-ministerial steering committee on child well being enjoying a photo moment after a workshop at Adams Hotel, Entebbe.

CHDC-MAK in Media

Over the past three months, our advocacy efforts have attracted wide national visibility. The New Vision, Uganda's leading daily, featured our work both online and in print under the following headlines:

- Emorimor Calls for Active



Parenting of Children – July 23, 2025

- Government Launches Parenting to Strengthen Family Systems – July 31, 2025

https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/family/govt-launches-parenting-tools-to-strengthen-f-NV_215544

- First Lady Decries Rising Cases of Mental Health Among Youth

– August 1, 2025

- Digital App to Support Uganda's Parents – August 6, 2025

In addition, our work was highlighted on UBC TV and CBS radio news bulletins, further amplifying our reach and strengthening national awareness of our initiatives.

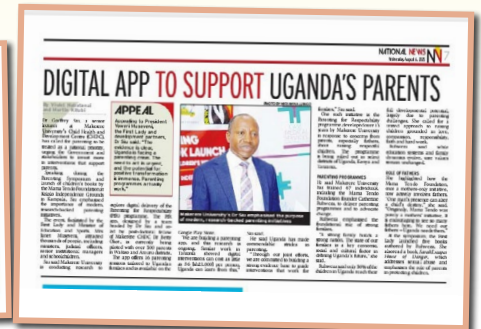


Photo Gallery



Mr. Hosea Katende Sempa interacts with Agnes Sebowa (RIP) and Rebecca Natenza Teddy after the first session of the course.



CHDC staff pose for a share a light moment with State Minister for Gender and Culture affairs, Hon. Peace Mutuzo (center, second row) during the International Day for Families.



Dr. Godfrey Siu (centre), Racheal Nakayemba (CHDC accountant), Rebecca Nanteza Teddy and Audit Team Visit OPM, Palabek.



Programme Manager Mrs. Carolyn N. Byekwaso share a photo moment with adolescents in Kenya during a recent training.



CHDC staff Dr Godfrey Siu (centre), Mrs Carolyn N. Bykwaso (fourth) and Mr. Onesmus Kamacooko (light pink shirt) share a picture moment with Partners from Child Fund.

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