



ALL NATIONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

A Well Nurtured Child

REAL Fathers – ECD Newsletter

September, 2023.

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the “REAL FATHERS” newsletter! We are excited to bring you updates on our community and evidence – based mentoring program that focuses on empowering Young Fathers to raise healthy families.

IIDC together with Somero, All Nations Child Development Centre, Bantwana World Education and FAWE are in a consortium arrangement to implement REAL fathers scale up in Teso, Lango, Busoga, Bunyoro and Buganda regions. As ANCDC, the project is implemented in four (4) districts of Lango sub region i.e. Lira, Oyam, Dokolo and Kole districts.

REAL Fathers: Empowering Young Fathers to build Thriving Families.

Young Fathers is a community- based mentoring program that supports young fathers of 16-25 years of age, having a toddler 0-3 years or an expecting wife, living together. This intervention starts with the young father



Figure 1 A REAL father loves his family unconditionally.

Our Mission Statement

All Nations Child Development Centre exists to holistically nurture children and youth in the community through advocating for their rights so that they can develop into self-sustainable and responsible fulfilled Christian adults.

and extends to the wife in developing positive parenting and relationship skills. The program is delivered by mentors who are members of the community and are familiar with the challenges and opportunities that young fathers face. Its gender transformative, meaning that It challenges traditional gender roles and norms that can contribute to intimate partner violence (IPV) and inequality. The program is based on the understanding that men play a critical role in the health and well-being of their families, and that supporting young fathers early enough can help to break intergenerational cycles of poverty and violence.

REAL Fathers program has been viewed largely to be effective in improving parenting and spousal relationships, including violence prevention and reduction. A 2016 evaluation of the pilot program found that fathers who participated in the program were significantly less likely to perpetuate Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) after one year, they were more likely to practice positive parenting. A 2018 evaluation of the scale-up program found similar results.



Figure 2 REAL Fathers community celebration at the end of the project pilot in Lira District. Community

participation is immense and it is as inclusive as it should be!

Social Norms Exploration is another component that will inform the implementation of the REAL+ECD scale-up. Social Norms are what people in a group believe in and appropriate (What others expect them/me to do) and this is usually defined by the reference groups. The application of Social Norms in REAL Fathers, draws the importance of what fathers do and the influence of what other fathers do in relation to child care. The men behave the way they do because of the sanctions. This social Norms Exploration was done in June, 2023 in Oyam district, Ngai sub county.



Figure 3 This was during the Social Norms Exploration in Oyam, a group of young fathers carrying out Focus Group Discussion.

REAL Fathers TOTs' training took place from 4th and 9th September, 2023 at Akello Hotel in Soroti City. A total of 41 TOTs were trained. The TOTs shall conduct mentors' training to help Young Fathers learn:

- Effective communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Positive parenting techniques, such as how to set boundaries, discipline without violence, and encouraging positive behavior.

- How to build and maintain healthy relationships with intimate partners, children, and other family members.
- Gender- equitable attitudes about care giving and household chores.
- How to promote own well-being and avoid risky behaviors.
- The program also includes poster campaigns and community celebrations to enforce positive masculinity and fatherhood messages.



Figure 4 A group photo with officials from MoGLSD, TOT Trainers, ANCD staff and participants at Akello Hotel, Soroti City.



Figure 5 this is a play station that was created by the participants for Early Childhood Development (ECD)

During the TOTs training the participants were trained on concepts of Early Childhood Development where they participated on making play materials since they will train the mentors on how to make these play materials. Here we had even the stakeholders making these play materials during the training.



Figure 6 Participants creating play stations for ECD centers, They were all created from locally available materials in the community.

Up-coming Events:

Watch out for exciting community activities geared toward empowering young fathers to engage meaningfully with their families, but specifically connect and bond with their children.

Thank you for joining us on this journey to empowering young fathers and creating positive change in families and communities.

Contact us:

Connect with ANCDC and share your feedback. We value your input and are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

All Nations Child Development Centre, Lira.

Visit our Website: www.allnationcdc.org

Or you can contact our Social Behavioral Change Communication Officer- All Nations Child Development Center, Lira.

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