



AfriChild
Research. Policy. Impact.
The Centre for the study of the African Child

AFRICHILD INSIGHT NEWSLETTER



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Welcome to the first edition of the AfriChild Insight this 2019. Delighted to have you our esteemed readers back on course. It's good to remind ourselves why we do what we do so that we may reignite the energy of work this year. On AfriChild's part, we are ready to deliver quality services and research products this year. Onwards and upwards we go.....



AfriChild participates in the international VOICE Conference

The Viable and Operable Ideas for Child Equality (VOICE) conference was a three-day event convened from 12th-14th December at the Bali Convention Centre in Indonesia. It was organized by Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network and PUSKAPA, a child-focused NGO in Indonesia.

Officiated by the Pungky Sumadi, Indonesia's deputy minister for Population and Labour, the event drew participants from several entities counting Indonesia's central government representatives, local and international NGOs, the academia and research institutions. These came together to deliberate on 'finding scientific answers to the 21st century challenges for families, communities and public policy', the theme of the conference.

Some of the eye-catching episodes during the event included plenary parallel sessions on various topics such as: children, climate change and migration, social norms that underlie harms for children and children and technology. Similarly, local contextualization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) was reflected upon.

AfriChild Centre used this occasion to disseminate study findings for its research

studies on 'Utilizing ICT to prevent and respond to violence against children' and 'Understanding the role of social norms to prevent and respond to violence against children in Uganda.'

Joyce Wanican, AfriChild's Executive Director chaired one of the sessions on social norms in which Dr Richard Wamimbi, AfriChild's research associate presented findings on social norms that breed child marriages in Uganda. These include: the belief that parents who marry off their daughters early are honored by society; a girl should not menstruate in her parents' home because it brings misfortune and that a girl should not get pregnant in her father's home because it brings dishonor and shame to the family.

The VOICE conference was well attended with over 300 participants from about 20 countries. The next VOICE conference will be hosted in Uganda by the AfriChild Centre in 2020.



Dr. Richard Wamimbi (second left) during a panel discussion in a break away session.

Staff acquire fundamental monitoring and evaluation knowledge and skills

Between September 25 to October 25 2018, AfriChild conducted staff training in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. The training was facilitated by Ronald Kitanda-an M&E expert. The objective of the training was to develop and strengthen capacity of AfriChild staff to effectively monitor project implementation, outputs and outcomes. Topics discussed include the strategic role of M&E in project implementation; development and implementation of the logical frame matrix, monitoring plan and tools. AfriChild staff were guided to develop M&E framework for some of the ongoing projects. The training involved hands on experience to develop and analyze output, outcome and impact indicators of each of the projects.



Mr. Kitanda conducts a training session.

Program staff acquire core leadership skills

Between 3rd and 7th December 2018, three AfriChild staff attended a leadership training workshop organized by the Capacity Building Leadership Institute (CBLI) to hone their leadership skills and attain new ones. The three were: Dr Sheba Gitta-AfriChild's Director for Research; Mathew Amollo-Project Manager, Research and Racheal

Ninsiima, the communications officer. The training was held at Esella Hotel in Najjera. The programme aims to create a cadre of next generation leaders who are value driven, have the skills and tools to 'think out of the box', engage others effectively – creating trust and honest sense of urgency and agency, and developing a culture of focus and solution and result orientation. These leaders are expected to enhance the capacity, credibility and sustain the social transformative agenda of social justice and human rights organizations.

Specific learning objectives for the workshop training were: to enable participants to develop a common understanding of principles and values of leadership; enable participants appreciate the value of teamwork and apply it as leaders; enable participants appreciate the value to manage themselves before managing/leading others and the skills to do it and enhance participants' knowledge and skills in effective communication. To achieve these objectives, the workshop training was divided into modules that focused on equipping participants with knowledge on self-management; persuasion and influence; conflict management; risk and crisis management; thought leadership and financial management.

The workshop was heavily practical oriented with participants being divided into groups and given tasks to accomplish within record time. Other participating organizations included: FAWE-Uganda, TPO-Uganda and Raising Voices.

AfriChild welcomes Vivian Letasi – the new finance and administration officer

On 3rd December 2018, Vivian Letasi joined the AfriChild team as the Finance and Administration Officer. The flamboyant and energetic is a certified Public Accountant (CPA) with extensive experience spanning over 5 years in Audit, Assurance, Finance and Administration in both private sector and the Development world. She is a very organized and results oriented professional capable of identifying opportunities for improving business functionality while upholding the fundamental accounting principles. AfriChild wishes you the very best in your stay with it.



Vivian Letasi

Program staff acquire core leadership skills



Between 3rd and 7th December 2018, three AfriChild staff attended a leadership training workshop organized by the Capacity Building Leadership Institute (CBLI) to hone their leadership skills and attain new ones. The three were: Dr Sheba Gitta-AfriChild's Director for Research; Mathew Amollo-Project Manager, Research and Racheal Ninsiima, the communications officer. The training was held at Esella Hotel in Najjera.

The programme aims to create a cadre of next generation leaders who are value driven, have the skills and tools to 'think out of the box', engage others effectively – creating trust and honest sense of urgency and agency, and developing a culture of focus and solution and result orientation. These leaders are expected to enhance the capacity, credibility and sustain the social transformative agenda of social justice and human rights organizations.

Specific learning objectives for the workshop training were: to enable participants to develop a common understanding of principles and values of leadership; enable participants appreciate the value of teamwork and apply it as leaders; enable participants appreciate the value to manage themselves before managing/leading others and the skills to do it and enhance participants' knowledge and skills in effective communication. To achieve these objectives, the workshop training was divided into modules that focused on equipping participants with knowledge on self-management; persuasion and influence; conflict management; risk and crisis management; thought leadership and financial management.

The workshop was heavily practical oriented with participants being divided into groups and given tasks to accomplish within record time. Other participating organizations included: FAWE-Uganda, TPO-Uganda and Raising Voices.

AfriChild successfully completes the interuniversity research methods training.



February 1 2019 saw AfriChild roll a massive success up its sleeve in the name of thirty trained university lecturers in child-focused research methods. That day marked the end of a journey that begun in January 2018. The trainings dubbed 'Interuniversity research methods trainings' were serialized into three with the first occurring in January 2018, the second in June 2018 and the third in January 2019. They aimed at skilling researchers to conduct rigorous child-focused research and to effectively disseminate research findings to inform policy and programs to enhance child wellbeing. Participating universities were: Makerere; Kyambogo; Gulu; Muni; Uganda Christian University; Uganda Martyrs University and Nsamizi Training Institute.

Through the trainings, participants have been equipped with dynamic research skills such as data analysis and management; ethical considerations in child focused research; grants writing and methods of involving children in data collection. After the second training held in June 2018, AfriChild awarded all the universities with UGX 20M each to undertake research in children's issues. The researches are currently being conducted and will be disseminated in April this year.

"Research is a fundamental investment to help us answer some of the questions on what is affecting Ugandan children. It is prudent that the universities are going to gather the perspectives of the child to really tell the world what children have to say," says Joyce Wanican, the Executive Director of AfriChild. The trainings were led by top academicians from Ugandan universities including: Prof. Fred Wabwire-Mangen from the Makerere University School of Public Health; Prof. Peter Ubomba-Jaswa, head of research and associate dean, School of Research and Graduate Studies at UCU and Prof. Grace Lubanga, a seasoned social work academic. The third and last training was graced by Dr. Glynis Clacherty, a research associate at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. She trained participants in on how to disseminate research on children for different audiences and ethical issues surrounding the use of children to present research.

AfriChild will put forth data and information arising from the universities' research studies, program evaluations and reviews to stimulate informed discussions and dialogue on policy and practice pertaining to children.