ChildFund Uganda

CAPACITY STATEMENT



Early Childhood Development

www.childfund.org

About ChildFund

ChildFund is a child-focused international development organization that works through local organizations in 24 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas to connect children with the people, resources, and institutions they need to grow up safe, healthy, educated, and skilled, no matter where they are. In Africa, ChildFund operates in nine countries: Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Guinea, and Mozambique. In the new strategic plan, ChildFund aims at expanding from an annual reach of 13.6 million children in 2020 to 100 million children annually by 2030

ChildFund has run programs in Uganda since 1980 in central, eastern, and northern Uganda and projects in all parts of the country. At present, ChildFund's program covers 36 districts (a quarter of the districts) in Uganda. The programs focus on Child Protection; Education, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Advocacy, Emergency Response, Health and Nutrition, Food Security, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Household Economic Strengthening, and Youth Development. These programs are implemented through nine Local Partners in these regions ChildFund implements community-wide programs in the communities where these children's families are located. ChildFund also implements actions that strengthen systems for service delivery at the district and national level as well as engagements in advocacy activities. The organization uses the Life stage program approach to design interventions targeting children of age 0-5, 6-14, and 15-2

TECHNICAL STRATEGY *(Briefly state coherently how a set of program activities have been designed to achieve a specified goal and or set of objectives).*

In line with the strategic plan objectives, ChildFund is building on past experiences while adapting to today's needs to ensure children aged 0 to 5 years access nurturing care at home and quality early learning outside the home. This is in addition to working to increase access to quality healthcare and nutrition by supporting households to be economically resilient. We are focusing on increasing child survival by promoting access to essential health and nutrition services and supporting male and female caregivers to provide responsive and protective parenting at home, improve access to quality learning outside the home and promote household food security and income. To this effect, the CO produced a guide (Responsive and Protective Parenting guide (RPP)) being used by community facilitators to support caregivers in developing positive parenting practices. Consequently, this will contribute to the physical, intellectual, and social development of the children 0-5 years as well as having them become more resilient to the damaging effects of poverty, and violence.

Capacity to identify and implement interventions that increase efficient use of key resources *(outline only relevant interventions for the last five years and For each intervention explain briefly how management of these interventions has been done to achieve intended results).)*

To date, ChildFund Uganda supports 80 ECD centers spread across eastern, northern, north eastern, central, and mid-western Uganda with an enrolment of over 7920 children under the care of 231 well-trained caregivers.

We support both home-based ECD activities through parenting education, center based care and stimulation , transition, and broader components of the Uganda National integrated ECD policy.

Home-based care and stimulation:

The aim is to increase access to quality home-based care and stimulation program for children of 0-3 years. ChildFund uses the Responsive and Protective Parenting Program model (RPP-PM) that is designed to support infants and young children (IYC) 0-5 years of age to realize age-appropriate holistic development milestones and well-being across the components of the Nurturing Care Framework. Specifically, the model fosters caregivers who:

1. Support infants and young children (IYC) to realize age-appropriate holistic development milestones and well-being.
2. Support IYC to be protected in home and community environments; and
3. Engage in their own adequate self-care, referred to as caregiver well-being.



It entails systematic steps involving a contextualized curriculum, engagements with stakeholders in the community, and identification of existing groups of parents who regularly meet to a specific cause. The model supports establishment of community based ECD facilitators who regularly interface with the caregivers to deliver the parenting sessions. The caregivers of children 0 to 5 year are regularly met (once or twice a month) and taken through the parenting curriculum.

The key components of the curriculum include: the importance of brain development, health, nutrition, early stimulation/learning, safety and security, child protection, responsive caregiving, and caregiver well-being. Parents noted to be having very specific challenges are followed up through home visits and are necessary referred or linked to the appropriate service providers.

Knowledge acquisition and use is assessed through a baseline and endline assessment of the caregivers' knowledge and behaviors

Centre based care and stimulation:

The objective is to increase access to quality early learning programs for children of 3-5 years of age. Under this approach, ChildFund supports the establishment of early learning centers, through construction, renovations, and equipping of the ECD centers with age-appropriate outdoor and indoor play materials. It also facilitates the training of parents on how to make play materials from locally available resources. Important in this support is the capacity building of caregivers at the ECD center on how to support children learning through play and the Learning Framework. Center Coordinating Tutors are supported to provide coaching and mentorship to the center based ECD caregivers. To ensure a smooth transition, ChildFund Local Partners and staff continually engage with teachers of lower primary classes in the schools within the catchment communities.

The organization works with parents/ caregivers to ensure that children have a midday meal while at school. Parents contribute maize floor towards the feeding of children in the centers. This enhances their capacity to engage in center activities and acts as a pull factor for children to attend ECD programs.

Transition of children to primary schools

The objective is to facilitate the smooth transition of children from ECD centers to primary by creating child-friendly schools to receive and retain children of 6-8 years This is achieved through:

· Designing training packages for teachers of lower primary to manage the transition of ECD children to primary.

· Working with schools to Create child-friendly schools/classes for the smooth transition of ECD children to primary schools

· Organizing exchange visits for ECD caregivers and teachers of lower primary for shared learning & participatory approaches

· Facilitate joint meetings with ECD facilitators and teachers of lower primary to support a smooth transition.



Coordination and Collaboration *(Briefly explain Coordination in collaborative partnerships that you have had in various interventions)*

1. ChildFund works with National Curriculum Development center in developing learning materials for children in the ECD centers.

2. We also work with the ministry of Education and Sports specifically the district Education department to build capacity of caregivers / ECD teachers to manage center interventions. The CCTs and the DIS mentor and coach the ECD teachers on the use of the Learning framework and the guide to the learning framework and overall preparation of daily routine for children. Overall, the organization is using the ECD policy for ministry of Education and Sports to guide implementation of ECD interventions at the ECD centers.

3. The Ministry of Health also provided input in the development of the responsive and protective parenting curriculum that largely covers components of the nurturing care framework. This is besides other health related support.

4. The organization also works with the MoGLSD in implementation and dissemination of the National Integrated ECD policy. This is through building capacities of IECD structures to be able to perform their roles besides direct implementation of the policy guidelines.

5. We work with Madarasa Early Childhood development center to train caregivers in development of play and learning materials using locally available resources.

6. For some years, ChildFund has been working with East African Playgrounds to install outdoor play and learning materials that are child friendly. The organization also builds capacities of caregivers on the use of the play and learning materials for children.

ChildFund®

Because we need each other.

Plot71/72 Namirembe Road, Kampala
PO Box 3341, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256(0)414270544, +256(0)312260069/70
Fax: +256(0)414345353
www.childfund.org

@ChildFund Uganda