

Child Protection in Crisis Uganda: March 2012 Learning Retreat

*Presentation and Discussion of National Child Protection Training
Manual and Plans to roll it out nationally*

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Child Protection in Crisis

Network for Research, Learning & Action

Outline of Presentation

- Background to the Child Protection (CP) Training initiative in Uganda.
- Brief on how this CP training curriculum was developed.
- Adoption of the CP course by participating Universities.
- Plans to roll out the CP training curriculum countrywide.
- Lessons learnt from this process.
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements

Background to the child protection (CP) training initiative in Uganda

- The foundation for this CP training curriculum was built around the work of humanitarian agencies and key government departments through years of innovative CP programming and lessons learnt.
- The idea was also motivated by the realization that specialized CP related training programs were largely missing among universities that were sampled and later approached to participate in this initiative.
- What existed before this initiative were fragmented training materials developed by various agencies mostly for internal use; and not with a view of integrating them into academic training programs.



Background cont..

- Besides, the issue of continuing capacity gaps remains one of the challenges undermining the functionality of a comprehensive child protection system in Uganda (OAK Foundation, 2010).
- In response to this and other challenges, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development in collaboration with its partners is spearheading the initiative on “**Strengthening National Child Protection System**” in Uganda.
- Therefore, the development of this child protection training curriculum reflects a strategic choice and is timely.

How this child protection curriculum was developed

- The line Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development provided leadership and commitment that gave this initiative the much needed momentum & the legitimacy required.
- TPO Uganda provided leadership and technical oversight in the development of this curriculum (on behalf of the NCPWG).
- Nationwide consultations were done with key actors in the sector including Government, UN agencies (UNICEF), International & Local child focused NGOs, District Technocrats, both formal and informal community-based actors –collect ideas and experiences in child protection work.

Curriculum development process cont...

- A child protection issues paper was then developed from the countrywide rapid survey.
- A national validation workshop was convened to discuss the issues paper, build consensus on CP concerns, competencies and skills gaps within the social workforce that the proposed curriculum should address.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising academia and practitioners was formed and worked over a period of 18 months to develop this curriculum through a series of residential workshops.
- Involvement of the Academics in the TWG added rigor to this process, ensured that all materials developed were deeply grounded in pedagogy and compatible with University academic programs.

Process Cont...

- An extensive review of existing local and international CP training curricula and training programs was undertaken.
- All this work was guided and supported by an International Child Protection Materials Expert that helped us to tap widely into global literature and discourse.
- The final draft curriculum was subjected to a Global Academic Review Panel consisting of Academics from the Columbia University Group of Children in Adversity and another from South Africa.
- This ensured that the final product is universally relevant, easily replicable and fitted well within current global discourse on child protection.

Process cont...

- Through the guidance of the Academics, one comprehensive curriculum was developed from which 3 course levels were developed tailored to the specific needs and competencies of the target audience as below:
- A 9 month Child Protection Certificate course for ordinary level secondary school leavers working with children including community volunteers and child carers.
- A course unit on Child Protection to be integrated into an existing social work and/ or related university degree program for beginners.
- A 3-month staggered Post Graduate Certificate in Child Protection Theory & Practice for in-service trainees and related professionals already working in the field of child protection.

Highlights of course content

The curriculum content highlights a number of broad critical themes, including:

- **Introduction to child protection** (conceptual clarity),
- **Legal, Policy and Planning framework,**
- **Child Protection Systems,**
- **Prevention and Response strategies, and**
- **Programme planning, monitoring and evaluation.**

Adoption of Child Protection Curriculum

- Each participating university conducted an in-house workshop to integrate the child protection curriculum into some of their academic programs by end of 2011.
- Makerere University has already adopted and is teaching the Masters (MA SSPM –Child Protection Theory and Practice) and undergraduate (BA SWASA –Introduction to Child Protection) modules,
- Kyambogo University is in final stages of adopting the undergraduate course to commence 2012/13 academic year,
- Nsamizi Institute of Social Development has already advertized the 9 -month certificate course in CP for the March 2012 intake.

Plans to roll out the Child Protection Training Curriculum Countrywide.

- A team of 25 Course Facilitators from different professional backgrounds and experience levels exists that participated in a 3-day residential workshop organized to adopt common pedagogical approaches in training.
- Each participating University to include the child protection course into their prospectus and advertize it with regular academic programs of the University.
- Universities to integrate course units/ papers on “Child Protection” within their existing related academic programs.

Plan cont...

- Through the MoGLSD, this CP training curriculum is being shared with a diverse range of child protection stakeholders such as UNICEF, USAID, SUNRISE, SCORE, CSF, etc to ensure multi-stakeholder buy-in, coherence and alignment of CP capacity development within other CP programmes with this curriculum.
- Plans are also underway with Makerere University to run the first intake for the practice oriented professional certificate course targeting practitioners who are already in-service.
- The medium term goal is to reach out to other Universities in the coming years across the country with a view of integrating the CP curriculum into their academic programs.

Lessons Learnt

Meaningful lessons emerged from both good and difficult experiences that we want to share. E.g.

- The years of inter-agency collaboration through innovative CP programming coordinated by the Ugandan Ministry of Gender provided the firm foundation and ground for success to this initiative.
- The participatory and consultative nature of the process was critical and has drawn on significantly a rich array of insights, inputs, experiences and expertise that helped to shape the CP training curriculum into concrete product.

Lessons cont...

- In order to successfully integrate child protection training program into university curricula, it is important to work with university faculty who in turn act to advocate within their departments for integration of the developed modules.
- Working with university lecturers and practitioners in the development and rolling out of the course is crucial as part of mentoring university lecturers into teaching the modules in a manner that is practice oriented.

Lessons cont...

- It is very crucial to have a lead organization to provide technical oversight in terms of systematic planning, mobilization, implementation and follow up on critical actions and tasks required to be done.
- Linking this local initiative to global networks ensured coherence in content, helped to avoid wasteful duplication, provided meaningful input of tested CP approaches and practices that meet global standards in CP work.

Conclusion

- While this is a major step forward towards a set of effective professional practices in child protection work, much remains to be explored and achieved in terms of rolling out the course.
- Yes, the journey continues, and as before, we will travel in close collaboration with others.

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