



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

Annual Report 2021





Mission:

The AfriChild Centre exists to generate research that informs policy and practice for the wellbeing of children.

Vision:

We strive for an Africa where children's wellbeing is realized for sustainable development



2021 Annual Report

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Chairperson's Message

Developing strategies to address the multi-dimensional challenges faced by children requires well-coordinated efforts ground in research to prescribe the right solutions and target the right actors.

The COVID-pandemic has continued to ravage nations and compound the plight of children across the continent underscoring the need for urgent action to safeguard children from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

Developing strategies to address the multi-dimensional challenges faced by children requires well-coordinated efforts ground in research to prescribe the right solutions and target the right actors.

The AfriChild Centre is committed to generating solutions through targeted child-focused research, empowering local researchers to conduct child-focused research, and generating research that responds to the needs of children at the local, regional and national levels.

For example, this year, the Center launched two critical study reports (The effect of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children in Uganda and The State of Uganda's Fathers) focusing on generating evidence on key issues within the pandemic and how to support some of the vulnerable groups cope and support children better.

The two studies put a spotlight on the need for collaborated effort between different actors to build a secure and

safe world for children. The State of Uganda's Fathers report, the first of its kind in Uganda, highlights the significance of father's active involvement in the lives of children and its contribution to child wellbeing.



By building on the achievements of the old strategy and learning from the challenges past and present, AfriChild will be a Center of Excellence in Child-Focused Research as the founders envisaged.

Fathers have to be accountable for their parental obligations by primarily being actively present in the lives of their children and families. It is not enough to provide financially. Fathers must inspire and create minimum standards for a family to thrive. A good family produces a good state. Good families produce good statesmen, patriots, and servants of the Lord and the state.

Collaboration is key to AfriChild's approach and the Centre worked with different child-focused researchers to build capacity and mentor the next generation of child-focused researchers. The Inter-University and the PPURE programs have continued to bring together researchers/academicians, programme implementers, and policymakers together to increase research uptake for policy formulation.

This collaboration with different actors has put the Centre in a position within the child rights arena and helped AfriChild curve out a unique niche for herself.

As we move forward, the Board is proud to have given strategic direction in developing the new AfriChild Strategic Plan (2021-2026). I am confident the Centre is on a course of excellence. By building on the achievements of the old strategy and learning from the challenges past and present, AfriChild will be a Center of Excellence in Child-Focused Research as the founders envisaged.



Margaret Kakande
Board Chairperson



Executive Director's Message

The COVID-19 pandemic has put into sharp focus the vulnerability of children in Uganda and globally.

The pandemic has seen an unprecedented rise in cases of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse against children. The numbers of teenage pregnancies reported across the country has risen sharply in this period.

As we seek solutions to the hidden pandemic faced by children, the vital role of research in identifying the problem, generating statistics, developing solutions, and facilitating collaboration among actors to develop strategies to safeguard the wellbeing of children comes to the fore.

Therefore, throughout the year, AfriChild continued to be at the center of generating research to inform programme implementers and policy makers to make decisions that impact positively on the wellbeing of children. Our commitment to be a Centre of Excellence in Child-Focused Research has continued to push as forward

Generating research that informs policy and practice for the wellbeing of children

The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of the child need high-quality data to inform interventions, programmes, and policymakers.

Thus, during the year, AfriChild's role in generating and disseminating

impactful research became more critical than ever in these tumultuous times that have seen learners out of school for close to one and a half years. And, many of the gains made in child protection over the years have been eroded due to the pandemic. Collectively with our partners and supporters, AfriChild continued to work towards the vision of improved wellbeing of the African child by generating research, building capacity of child-focused researchers, and engaging policymakers at different fora to increase uptake of research and make decisions that impact the wellbeing of children based on grounded scientific evidence.

The Centre harnessed new technologies to engage, remain a voice for children, and carry the research agenda forward not only in Uganda but the region as a whole.

Building a culture of excellence in child-focused research

Throughout the year, AfriChild worked to establish a culture of excellence in child-focused research. We conducted interdisciplinary research and facilitated the access and application of high-quality research evidence to inform policy and practice in Uganda. We launched two key study report – The effect of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children in Uganda and The State of Uganda's Fathers.

The Centre continued to grow and

mentor an engaged pool of research associates from different disciplines to undertake child-focused studies. Building the next generation of child-focused researchers remains a key focus of the Centre and the Centre has continued to engage different stakeholders over the years to achieve this goal. Most notable are the child-focused researchers selected from the seven universities across the country under the Inter-University programme. AfriChild continues to identify and build relationships with research associates from various disciplines. This has enabled us expand the pool of associates and child-focused researchers in the country.

The benefits and impact of the Research Fellowship in Uganda

One of the key highlights for the Centre this year has been the Research Fellowship implemented by the Centre in partnership with Together for Girls and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The fellowship aims at empowering local researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to take full ownership of the VACS data, and research will enable more publications from local in-country researchers. AfriChild hosting the fellowship will result in peer-review publications generated from within Uganda itself. A range of topics are under exploration, such as adverse childhood experiences and the increased risk for HIV infection

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I believe that the Centre has a competent team of staff and research associates to deliver on this new mandate. As our world evolves and we live through the new normal, AfriChild remains committed to striving for an Africa where children's wellbeing is realized for sustainable development.

among children; mental health consequences of childhood sexual violence; perpetration of intimate partner violence among adolescents. An additional goal is for all fellows to collaborate on a joint paper, potentially exploring the links between household economic status, sexual violence, and utilization of services among adolescents.

The rich data offered through the VACS will enable the fellows to focus on specific demographics, such as regions and age.

Beyond the research, this fellowship in Uganda promises long-term results. AfriChild's powerful advantage is our link between policymakers and practitioners, due to our involvement in different working groups at the country level.

Leveraging research and learning networks

The AfriChild Centre has continued to expand its footprint and this year, the Centre was selected as the country partner for The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). This gives the Centre access to the ISPCAN run Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect.

The Centre was also admitted to the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action as well as to the Assessment, Measurement, and Evidence (AME) Working Group of the alliance.

Timothy Opobo
Executive Director



A new strategy for a changing world

The Centre has a new Strategic Plan that runs from 2021-2026. It presents a more focused approach towards increased investment in child wellbeing.

I wish to thank all our partners and stakeholders who supported us and contributed to the development of the Strategy which equips us to adapt to new and evolving challenges and opportunities.

I believe that the Centre has a competent team of staff and research associates to deliver on this new mandate. As our world evolves and we live through the new normal, AfriChild remains committed to striving for an Africa where children's wellbeing is realized for sustainable development.



Child focused Research

AfriChild has continuously demonstrated strengthened capacity to implement complex child focused research studies. The studies are guided by the Uganda National Child Focused Policy Research Agenda.



Together for Girls research fellows and child-focused researchers selected from six universities pose for photo after attending a training at Makerere University.

Together for Girls research fellowship:

Empowering local researchers, policymakers and practitioners in VACS data analysis

The AfriChild Centre runs a Research Fellowship with Together For Girls and the Centre for Diseases Control (CDC) that focuses on strengthening individual and institutional in-country research capacity to generate and utilize evidence for policy and programming for prevention and improved response to violence against children.

The AfriChild Centre was selected to host the research fellowship due to

its formal commitment to strengthen the in-country research; generation of high quality evidence from data analysis; and provision of evidence for utilisation capacity.

The Fellowship aims at strengthening individual and institutional capacity for VACS data research, to yield additional evidence-based prevention and response strategies to address violence against children.

As a result, of this fellowship and the CDC training received during the course of the fellowship, AfriChild and the fellows under the cohort will continue feeding into ongoing or future policies and interventions and strategies.

A randomized control trial of enhanced Child Friendly Space interventions for girls and boys affected by conflict and displacement.

Data collection and analysis for this study were completed in January 2021 attesting to the Centre's capacity to deliver on research undertakings. Project close out activities were conducted. Report writing and manuscript development is ongoing.



Timothy Opobo, ED. AfriChild hands over a copy of the State of Uganda's Fathers Report to Honourable Nyirabashitsi Sarah Mateke, Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

The State of Uganda's Fathers

The Report on the state of Uganda's fathers was prepared as a result of a Scoping review to map the available evidence on the contribution of fathers to care work in the country. The scoping review was conducted to map the evidence on the role of

fathers in child care in Uganda. The goal of this research was to inform policymakers, researchers and practitioners regarding the extent and implications of men's involvement in direct childcare work, and to highlight opportunities for improving research knowledge with policy and programme recommendations in terms of fatherhood as entry point for improved social outcomes in Uganda.

This study was launched in a successful virtual event in June 2021. The report is the first of its kind in the country places Uganda with South Africa and Tanzania as the only other African countries that have so far released this report. AfriChild led all components of producing the report with wide stakeholder participation.



The AfriChild research team conducted additional data collection and held feedback sessions with Kitgum and Pader district officials and community members to validate the findings of the EVAC supported study.

Measuring Impact and Sustainability of a Community Based Child Protection Intervention in Post Conflict Settings in Northern Uganda

The AfriChild Centre is conducting an impact evaluation of the “empowering communities to protect children” intervention implemented by ChildFund for a period of three years in two sub counties, Matidi and Lagoro, in Kitgum District, Northern Uganda. The evaluation is funded by

the Evaluation Fund. The project goal was to promote violence-free communities by addressing protection needs of 3,000 children in two sub counties in Kitgum. The project utilised a community-based approach to preventing violence against children, promoting increased investment in the child protection sector and access to improved child protection services. AfriChild completed qualitative and quantitative data collection and held engagements with policy makers to support integration of research findings into government programmes targeting children. The Centre also held community feedback

sessions with community members to share the findings of study as part of the dissemination strategy. To support research uptake in government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), a reference group comprising of officials from Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Uganda Police Forces, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Child Fund International, National Children’s Authority and the National Child Protection Working Group was constituted and held meetings to participate in the research process.



School headteachers and the AfriChild research team have had to adjust the planned research activities of the Good Schools Toolkit Study due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Good Schools Toolkit Study (GST-S)

AfriChild is conducting this study in partnership with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Raising Voices. This project was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic because all activities are planned to take place in schools which were closed in March 2020. The team was however able to adjust the methodology to conduct qualitative interviews with head teachers and stakeholders in the meantime as well as complete Referral Management Activities. With support

from London School of Hygiene, our team has embarked on data analysis for baseline data collected and hope to utilize the findings to inform process data collection.

The project has attracted additional funding for a baseline study to be conducted in 100 schools in four regions of Uganda.

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The team was able to adjust the methodology to conduct qualitative interviews with head teachers and stakeholders

Taking the Good Schools Toolkit to Scale

AfriChild successfully attracted additional funding from Raising Voices to conduct a baseline study on taking the Good Schools Toolkit to scale. The aim of the study is to determine the feasibility and acceptability of using Regional Resource Persons to deliver the Good Schools Toolkit in primary and secondary schools in Uganda. This study will be conducted in 4 major geographical regions of Uganda and data will be collected from teachers in the selected schools.



John Apota, a research officer at AfriChild and Agatha Kafuko, the lead principal investigator engage peer researchers in team building activities as part of the research process.

Mapping Child Protection and Honour Study

The AfriChild Centre is partnering with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to explore how global narratives of child protection and perspectives of honour affect child wellbeing. This is part of a multi-country study taking place in Uganda, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and South Africa. AfriChild is leading the Uganda study.

This study advances current scholarship on two topics related to honour: 1) honour as a factor in sustaining violence against children, and 2) honour as a factor contributing to child well-being through children's social relationships (with family, peers, and community). This research agenda is informed by both a systematic scoping review of the literature on honour-related violence and children, and by a meeting held in Washington DC in November 2019. In this meeting a group of academics, researchers, funders and activists

gathered to reflect on the links between honour and child protection, and how investigating these links can improve child protection programs and policies. In this study, AfriChild is using an innovative youth participatory approach to enhance children's meaningful participation in research. The youth are actively involved as peer researchers and the Centre uses other participatory methods to enhance the research experience.



Building Capacity: AfriChild staff receive training on cognitive testing and gender measurement methodologies at Grand Global hotel in Kampala.

Cognitive testing of gender measures in the Violence against Children Survey

AfriChild is conducting this study in partnership with Together for Girls and the University of California San Diego (UCSD). The aim of the study is to test new gender measures to be included in the violence against children surveys. AfriChild was identified as a partner for this study owing to the central

role the Centre played in the Uganda VACS process and the capacity to implement violence against children related research.

Testing Child Participation Tools during COVID-19

AfriChild in partnership with the Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network are testing out a tool that aims at enhancing child participation in research

and programming particularly in humanitarian settings. The tool was developed to respond to the emerging need to engage children as partners in Child Protection during Covid-19. AfriChild is piloting this tool with children in research in Uganda to generate more evidence on its efficacy in promoting meaningful child participation.



The child friendly index will assess governments' compliance with child rights obligations.

Child Friendly Index

The AfriChild Centre in collaboration with Uganda Bureau of Statistics are implementing the Child Friendliness Index in Uganda. The Child-friendliness Index (CFI) is an empirical and analytical framework for assessing governments' compliance with child rights obligations. This composite index provides an indication of how prioritized children's issues are in governments' policy agendas, and the extent to which those agendas are child-friendly.

The index will provide an opportunity for advocacy and monitoring of government commitments to children. The results can be used by parliament to hold government accountable and provide evidence of the extent to which it is meeting its treaty reporting obligations.

National Child Focused research and Policy Agenda (2021-2025)

In 2015, the National Council for Children (now National Children's Authority), working with the AfriChild Centre, UNICEF, Uganda Bureau of Statistics and several other child focused organizations and institutions coordinated by the MoGLSD developed a National Child Focused Policy Research Agenda (2015- 2020).

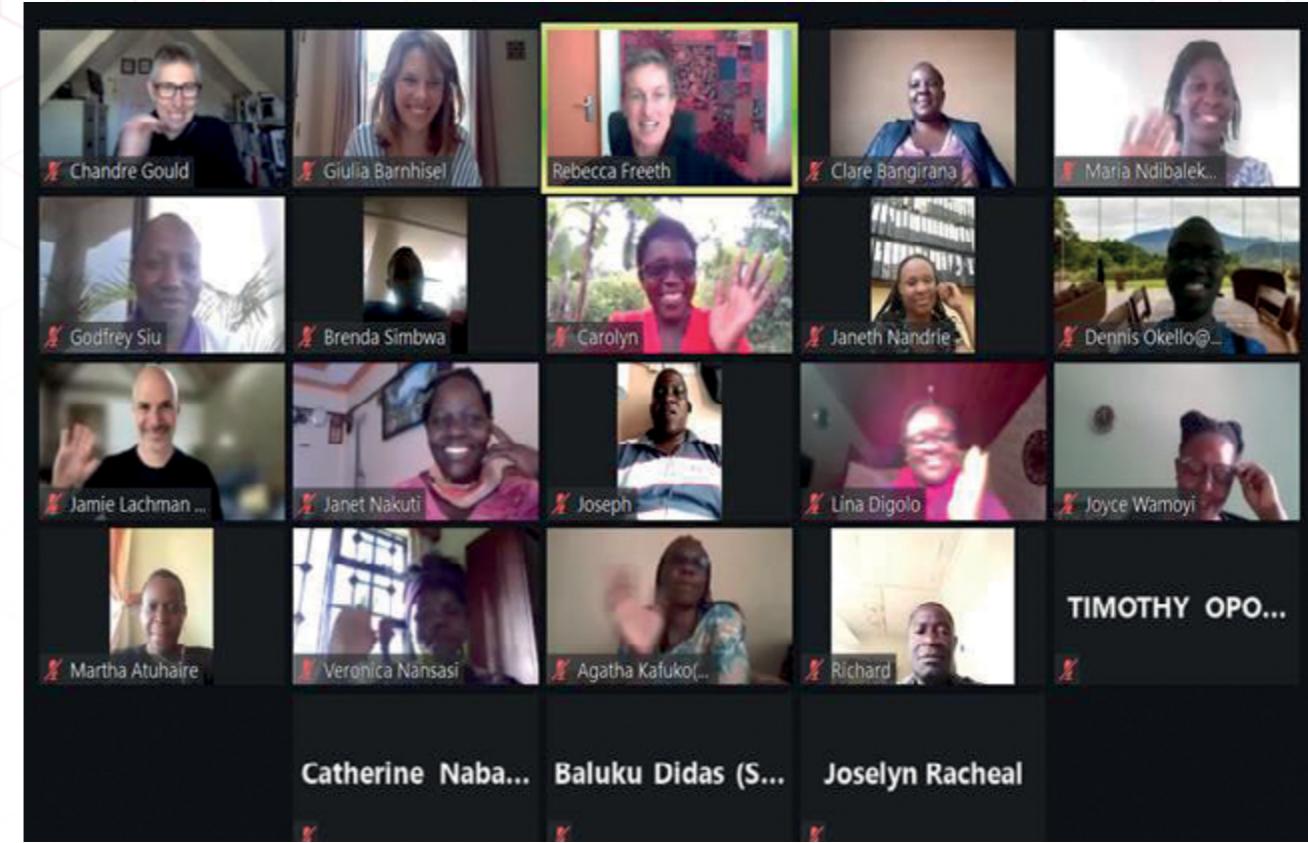
With new developments in the context of child wellbeing including the completion of the National Violence against Children Survey, launching of the National Child Policy, the COVID-19 context and the NDP III, there is an apparent need to undertake a review of the existing research agenda and engage in the development process a

new research Agenda.

The review of the current research agenda and the development of the new National Child focused policy research agenda is being coordinated by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development in collaboration with the AfriChild Centre, UNICEF, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the interministerial group and several other child focused organizations

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The new or updated research agenda will strongly hinge and be guided by the Government of Uganda National Child policy (2020) which seeks to provide a framework for addressing issues related to children's rights and well-being in a holistic and coordinated manner.



Participants attending a training via zoom.

Research Uptake Capacity Building

Courtesy of Evaluation Fund, AfriChild has since September 2020 benefited from superiority capacity building on research uptake. The Centre has had over 10 sessions which have enriched her appreciation of the need for research uptake. AfriChild has appreciated the need to start with

an end in mind in the design of all research projects. In these wondrous sessions, AfriChild's major take home has been; the need for early initiation of research uptake plans, building and maintaining relationships with the key stakeholders, developing and tailoring the right key message for the different stakeholders, budgeting for research uptake activities as a way to achieve the intended objectives of the research. Moreover, AfriChild

has adopted research uptake as a key component of all her projects. The learnings from these sessions fit well with her policy and Practitioners Utilizing Research Evidence Program – PPURE and are well aligned with the Core Program Area of Research Use in the new strategic plan 2021/26. With this training, AfriChild is better placed in her mission of generating evidence to inform policy and programming.



Partnerships and collaboration

AfriChild secured partnership with several organizations for purposes of Research and knowledge development, management and Utilisation. The Centre is partnering with Haven for African children, Child Restoration Outreach Jinja, Hope for Justice, TPO, ChildFund and Rahab Uganda on several ongoing and proposed research projects.

A partnership was initiated between AfriChild and Child's I Foundation to explore collaboration for evidence generation and utilization. During

the period under review, the Centre continued to nurture existing relationships with CSOs, partnering for dissemination of research findings, stakeholder engagement and policy advocacy.

These included UCRNN, developing a position paper on children and elections in Uganda, advocating for action on teenage pregnancies working with UCRNN, the Remnant Generation and Concern for the Girl Child among other child focused CSOs.

Photo at KCCA Meeting

Development and operationalization of MoUs with Ministries of Health, Education and Gender

AfriChild held several engagements with government Ministries to pursue the Memoranda of Understanding. The Ministries the Centre engaged include Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development and Ministry of Health. These ministries are critical to the work of AfriChild because they are responsible for the key priority areas

for AfriChild namely Child Protection, Health and Education.

AfriChild shared the ongoing studies and trainings conducted by the Centre and how they can enhance/inform government interventions. Potential areas for collaboration have also been mapped

Collaborations with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)

The AfriChild Centre, in line with its objective to facilitate access and application of high-quality data, undertook a series of engagements with government ministries, departments and agencies to facilitate access and utilization of high quality data. As a way of leveraging on the recently established partnerships with government Ministries with the principle aim of enhancing the utilization of research evidence, the AfriChild Centre organized meetings and engagements with the Ministry of Education and Sports resulting in the following:

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Technical Working Group Meetings

The Centre was admitted to the Ministry of Education's Early Childhood Care and Education

Technical working group. The aim of this working group is to expand and improve early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable disadvantaged children. The TWG consists of members from the World Bank, UNICEF, CECIL, and other partner organizations working with children in the Education sector. During the quarterly meetings, the AfriChild Centre advocated for increased investments in research undertaking and made a case of scaling-up the use of research findings in the Education sector (where there is a growing need). The Centre made a presentation of ongoing work and opportunities for collaboration. Out of this engagement, several partnerships emerged including follow-up meetings with a World Bank Early Years Fellow to explore opportunities for evidence generation within the World Bank. The Centre has continuously used such platforms to engage and network with stakeholders and promote uptake of research evidence to improve programming and policy for children's wellbeing.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Education and Sports:

The process of signing an MoU between AfriChild and the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) has continued with significant milestones achieved. The draft agreed upon by both parties is

currently under review by the Solicitor General's office which is in charge of reviewing all government MoU's.

Strategic Engagements with the Ministry of Health (MoH)

Ministry of Health is a key stakeholder in child wellbeing and therefore a core partner of the AfriChild Centre in terms of generating and utilizing research evidence to inform and improve child related policy, research and practice. To initiate discussions on pursuing a MoU with the Ministry, a consultative meeting was held with senior MOH officials to discuss and foment collaboration and partnership. An action plan was drawn with one of the key recommendations being that the two institutions would continue to work together to come up with a clear framework of engagement (with specific details on expectations and outcomes), building up to another meeting to be held with the Director General, a process required before an MoU will be signed. The Centre has secured a buy in of the Ministry for ongoing research projects. A representative of the Ministry of Health currently sits on an expert's committee put together by AfriChild to provide oversight and opportunities for uptake of evidence from research.



Mr. Otai Moses, Country Director, ChildFund Uganda, hands over a plaque to the AfriChild Board Chair, Margaret Kakande. She is flanked by James Kaboggoza (RIP) and Timothy Opobo, ED-AfriChild

AfriChild is now an independent organisation – appreciates ChildFund for nurturing the Centre

As the AfriChild Centre celebrated a key milestone of becoming an independent Organisation, the Centre hosted a luncheon to appreciate ChildFund Uganda and acknowledge the contribution and support they rendered to the Centre since its inception in 2013.

While addressing the staff of ChildFund and AfriChild Centre, Moses Otai, ChildFund Country Director, said the transition of AfriChild into an independent Organisation is an indicator that the transition plan

developed when the Centre was established in 2013 with the support of other partners had been successful.

“ChildFund Uganda commits to continue this relationship, to support AfriChild Centre, to engage as much as possible and bring opportunities to the table when there is a need to collaborate because this is like family.

In a family, there is collaboration and learning. We hope to advance together. The Center will support the aspirations for research and evidence building that ChildFund has,” Otai said.

He further challenged the AfriChild Centre team to continue documenting the journey of growth.

“Document both the successes and the challenges because this will be information that can be of great

learning for other organisations seeking to do the same,” Otai added.

Timothy Opobo, Executive Director, AfriChild Centre said that despite the growth of AfriChild, the Center will continue to rely on the guidance of ChildFund Uganda.

Established in January 2013, the AfriChild Centre undertakes multidisciplinary research, evidence-based knowledge building, skills development, and influences policy and practice for the wellbeing of the African child.

The Centre is promoted by ChildFund International – Uganda Office, the Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development, Makerere University, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Uganda, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and Columbia University.



AfriChild welcomed back by ISPCAN as Country Partner

The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) formally welcomed AFRICHLID back as a Country Partner. The AfriChild Center was appointed Country partner in 2020 and together, we have been striving to support one another's missions and goals in

protecting children against abuse and neglect. ISPCAN is a global membership organization for anyone working or interested in the protection of child rights.



AfriChild's impact: Research that informs policy and practice for the wellbeing of children.



Child Focused Research Symposium & commemoration of the Day of the African Child

The AfriChild Centre successfully rallied partners among whom included the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Department of Social Work and Social Administration at Makerere University to hold a symposium on Child Focused Research.

This was held on the 15th June, 2021, a day before the Day of the African Child. The theme for the symposium was "**What is the role of Child-Focused Research in accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2040?**" This was aligned to the official International Day of the African Child theme, which was "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children".

The symposium brought together child-focused researchers across the fields of education, health, child protection and other stakeholders from Government, Development Partners, Academia, Civil Society and the Media to highlight the importance of child-focused research in accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2040.

The event that was organized both physically (with a maximum of 20 people due to COVID-19 SOP restrictions) and virtually, had an attendance to full capacity. YouTube and Face book live channels were also used to increase national and global attendance/viewership.

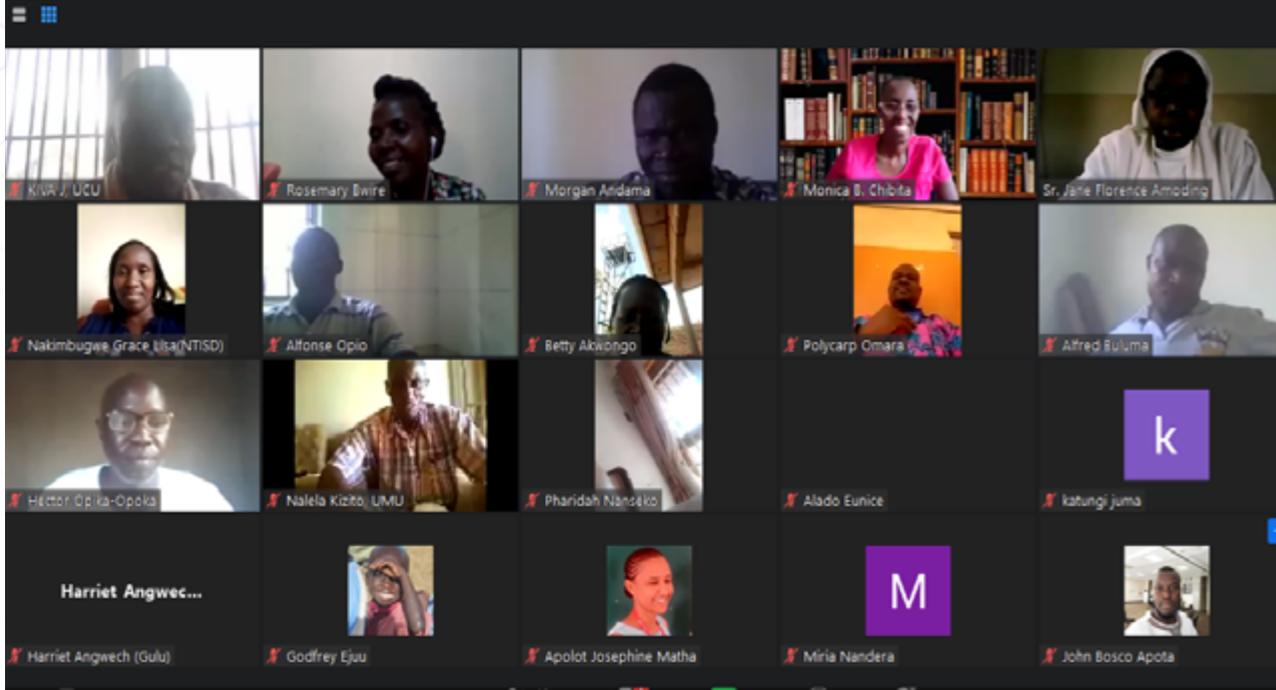
The event was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Makerere University, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe (as Guest of Honor) and had key-note speakers who included Dr. Robert Doya Nanim (ACERWC Member), Stella Ayo Odongo (APEVAC), Prof. Eddie Walakira (Makerere University) and Kyatekka Mondo, the Assistant Commissioner (Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development), who was the moderator of the day.

This was a great opportunity for the AfriChild Centre to showcase its work to the local and international audience and continue to justify the relevance of research in day-to-day planning, programming and practice.

The effect of COVID-19 on wellbeing of children in Uganda - Report Launch

The AfriChild Centre also launched "The effect of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of children in Uganda" study report. The research was conducted during the first wave of the pandemic (2020) and the findings were/will be used by policy makers and development practitioners for advocacy and to inform practice.

This is one way the AfriChild Centre uses to call actors into action, by providing the necessary information required to design actions aimed at improving the well-being of children who have borne the severe brunt of the pandemic. The report can be found on the AfriChild website www.africhild.or.ug



Participants attending a training via zoom.

The State of Uganda's Fathers (SOUF) Report

On 22nd June 2021, The AfriChild Centre launched the first ever report on the State of Uganda's Fathers, as one of the activities to commemorate this year's Fathers' day. The theme of the report launch was, "Highlighting the significance of Fathers' active contribution to child wellbeing".

The report was a product of a scoping review conducted over a period of one year, by the AfriChild Centre. The launch, that was hybrid in nature (both physical and virtual), due to the country's lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, brought together

a variety of stakeholders who included officials from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (Department of Family and Culture Affairs; Youth and Children Affairs and Equity and Rights), the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health and other Non- Governmental Organizations that work with Children and Families.

The launch was graced by key-note speakers from Men Engage, Family Life Network, the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Sonke Justice and Reproductive

Health Uganda, who partly funded the scoping review. After this launch, AfriChild shared the report widely across its different communication networks and will work with interested parties to further unpack the report findings in view of using them to inform family strengthening initiatives. The State of Uganda's Fathers Report can be found on the AfriChild website. www.afric peace.org



Mr. Fred Ngabirano, The Commissioner MGLSD, and Prof. Fred Wabwire lead trainer of the AfriChild PPURE program hand over a certificate to Mr. Sydney Sproul from the Uganda National Academy of Sciences for successfully completing cohort one

PPURE Programme: Increasing the uptake of research evidence

In order to increase the application of research evidence, the Centre set out to recruit a second cohort of Policy Makers and Practitioners for a Training on the Use of Research Evidence. Following the success of the first PPURE cohort, the Centre kick started plans to roll out a second cohort of this training. A total of 30 participants

from government (Health, Education and Social Development) and Child focused Civil Society Organizations were trained in the first cohort. They were equipped with skills to utilize research evidence including grading the quality of research, commissioning different evaluation studies and supervising research to enhance

utilization. In its plans to roll out the second training, AfriChild, through a strategy re-think, resolved to reshape the program and make it more impactful by broadening it and looking beyond the areas of Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation.



We work with researchers from seven universities in Uganda to build the next generation of child-focused researchers

Building The next generation of child-focused researchers

This year, AfriChild continued on with its flagship programme which aims at building the next generation of researchers and policy makers to utilize research evidence in designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and policies.

The AfriChild Centre has been implementing “Building the Next Generation of Researchers” Program that “Supports the Linkages between Child-Focused Research, Practice and Policy in Uganda” since January 2017.

Through this program, the Centre conducts rigorous child focused research and on the other hand, is strengthening the capacity of in-country researchers to conduct child focused research as well as policy makers and practitioners to utilize the research generated by the academia.

Inter-University Programme
The Inter-University Programme aims at strengthening inter-university collaboration and training in child-focused research skills. The seven universities are: Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Christian

University, Uganda Martyrs University, Muni University, Gulu University and Nsamizi Institute of Social Work and Development.

The main objective of the Inter-University program is to strengthen interuniversity collaboration and training in child focused research methods. This year, 30 mid-level researchers from seven universities in Uganda were trained and equipped with skills in child-focused research methods, grant acquisition, and publication. AfriChild also provided research grants to the trainees to undertake child-focused research on issues affecting children. The trainees have continued to utilize the skills acquired to undertake child-focused research. They have also integrated the knowledge and skills acquired into their lectures and guided university students to write research projects and dissertations.

In 2017, Africhild, with the support of Oak Foundation initiated the inter-university programme with a goal of building the next generation of child-focused researchers.

A NEW STRATEGY FOR A CHANGING WORLD: AfricChild develops a new Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026



We developed a new Strategic Plan 2021-2026 that will steer us forward in the coming years.

A new strategic plan for the Centre was developed through a highly consultative process that involved all stakeholders. This new plan covers a period of five years 2021 – 2026 presents a more focused approach

towards contributing to increased investment in child wellbeing through utilization of evidence to inform policies and programmes. While there are no major shifts in direction, there is a sharper focus on the intentions

of the centre and a reflection of the lessons learnt over the past five years of implementing the first AfricChild Strategic Plan. It is a living document that is currently providing a framework for the Centre's work.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT TRAINING: Equipping staff with skills to take on new AfricChild mandate



AfricChild Staff pose for a photo with Doly, lead trainer from CBLI after the two-day change management training held in Kampala.

In a bid to prepare the staff for transition into the next strategic plan, the Centre, with support from CBLI, organized a Change management training, which was attended by all the staff members. The focus for this training was management of change

in a working environment, focusing mainly on what causes change, how change could be managed and what it would mean to an institution. Staff were able to reflect on various complex situations that mark the journey of the Centre, to look at the bigger context

in which the Centre operates to adapt programming to the context. Capacity was strengthened both at individual level and at institutional level to effectively manage change.

Challenges

Operating during the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be the major challenge to program implementation. As a result of the stringent national lockdown measures instituted by the Government in 2020 and again in 2021, educational institutions were closed at short notice, movements were limited due to travel restrictions and the ability to conduct business as planned was greatly jeopardized with only 10% of staff permitted in an office setting at a time.

Lessons Learned

Amidst the disruptions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre instituted a host of measures (mainly through program reviews) resulting in re-shaping and realigning implementation plans/strategies to align to current state of affairs.

With the continued uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 pandemic (how long it will persist in causing disruptions/destruction and other unknowns), and the recent experiences with national lockdown, the AfriChild Centre continued to embrace the use of technology to facilitate its operations.

The Centre continues to take stock of the impact on the pandemic to the organization, draw lessons and best practices so that it is not overburdened by the current state of affairs.

It is essential that AfriChild focuses its attention on opportunities to take advantage of, finds smarter and safer ways of working and create roadmaps for new realistic future patterns of work.

The Centre worked towards strengthening relationships with both individuals and institutions to partner on areas of mutual interest.

Statement of income and expenditure

	Notes	2021 Ushs'000	2020 Ushs'000
INCOME			
Grant income	2.1	2,480,189	1,261,524
Other income	2.2	240,730	80,572
Total income		2,720,919	1,342,096
EXPENDITURE			
Travel Costs	3	19,803	96,880
Research and Training Costs	4	968,699	443,431
Advocacy	5	34,900	14,945
Communication and media costs	6	236,961	55,726
Workshops/Seminars-Conferences	7	25,408	4,635
Personnel Costs	8	595,509	378,232
Administrative Expense	9	437,129	211,788
Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR)	10	213,811	80,422
Total expenditure		2,532,220	1,286,059
Surplus for the year		188,699	56,037

Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 Ushs'000	2020 Ushs'000
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Receivables	11	106,992	258,631
Investment	12	339,997	-
Cash and bank balances	13	2,106,271	801,522
TOTAL ASSETS		2,553,260	1,060,153
FUNDS & LIABILITIES			
Accumulated Fund		358,066	169,367
Liabilities			
Payables & Accruals	14	45,980	61,846
Grants payable	15	2,149,214	828,940
TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES		2,195,194	890,786
		2,553,260	1,060,153

The AfriChild Centre Team



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Executive Director



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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The AfriChild Centre in a special way would like to acknowledge the unwavering support and guidance from two of our outstanding external partners:



PROFESSOR FRED SSEWAMALA

*William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor
Director, SMART Africa Center
Director, ICHAD*

Prof. Fred Ssewamala is one of the founding members of AfriChild and played a pivotal role in the conceptualization and set up of the Mentorship and Research Methods Training Programme at the Centre.

Fred Ssewamala leads innovative, interdisciplinary research that informs, develops and tests economic empowerment and social protection interventions aimed at improving life chances and long-term developmental impacts for children and adolescent youth impacted by poverty and health disparities in low resource communities. He holds a joint appointment in the Washington University School of Medicine, and directs the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD) and SMART Africa Center.



MARK CANAVERA

*Co-Director, Care and Protection of Children (CPC)
Learning Network | Columbia University, NY | CU |*

Mark Canavera is the co-director of the Care and Protection of Children (CPC) Learning Network, an entity housed at the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health that convenes academics, policymakers, and practitioners to promote innovative research, nurture communities of learning, and build the next generation of researchers and advocates for children and families worldwide. In this role, he coordinates research and advocacy efforts on children's protection, care, health, and development in complex settings around the world. He serves as the co-chair, with the World Health Organization, of the INSPIRE Working Group to promote evidence-based strategies to prevent and reduce violence against children and as the co-lead of the Assessment, Measurement, and Evidence Working Group of the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Settings.

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FOUNDATION

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VILLAGES
INTERNATIONAL

Celebrating the life of James Kaboggoza Africhild Board Member



Mr. James Kaboggoza, among his peers, was an 'Encyclopedia on Children's issues in Uganda. A man with vast knowledge and working experience, he made an immense contribution in uplifting the well-being of children in the country. At Africhild, he was not just a Board Member. He was a father, an adviser, a mentor. We will forever miss his counsel, tips on career development & managing life in an increasingly dynamic space. He spoke with conviction & firmness. He will forever be missed.

Kaboggoza was a child-rights activist and a former Assistant Commissioner of Children's Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development. He held a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Makerere University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Youth and Children studies

from Victoria University in Canada. He had over 35 years of experience in child protection programming, social sector planning, and management, child rights training, project planning and management, social policy analysis, and orphans and other vulnerable children programming. Mr. Kaboggoza was also involved in various research projects related to child protection child poverty analysis and violence against children. Over his long career, Kaboggoza inspired a generation in the child protection fraternity. He contributed to the body on knowledge about the OVC sector and remained passionate about the rights of children.

**What people remember about James
David Onen**

Mzee Kaboggoza was not only a board member of Africhild but a personal friend to many of us who are associated with the center. It's sad to learn of his death at this trying time.

I send my sincere condolences to his family, Africhild, and all those who work tirelessly for the wellbeing of the African child. May my friend's soul rest in eternal peace till we meet again!!!

John Bosco Olum Okello

I remember him for always saying 'social work' was a calling and as a probation officer you cannot perform if you 'don't love children.' Our condolences to the bereaved family and fraternity. May his soul rest in eternal peace

Harriet Jessica Mudondo

Fare thee well James. You made your mark as a social worker and your contribution to the body of knowledge on children's issues is unmatched. My heartfelt condolences to James' family.

Innocent Bidong Ogaba

He was indeed one of his kind in the OVC sector. Rest in peace

Okeng Alfred Awio

RIP James Kaboggoza. The Child Protection fraternity will miss you.

Photo Gallery



Inter-ministerial committee for the implementation of the national children's policy



Bidding farewell to Patrick Onyango, outgoing ED. TPO



Bidding farewell to Patrick Onyango, outgoing ED. TPO



Engagement with Ministry of Health officials on collaboration with Africhild



Bidding farewell to Blain Teketel - Oak Foundation



Partnership meeting between Africhild Team and Uganda Christian University (UCU) Administration.





AfriChild

Research. Policy. Impact.

The Centre for the study of the African Child

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