

Key Achievements

1. Five child-focused studies including:
 - National survey on violence against children
 - Qualitative study on violence against children
 - Community-based child protection systems in fishing communities
 - Justice for children
 - Child Protection index in refugee settlements
2. Development of national child-focused research agenda



COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

**PRESENTATION BY JOYCE WANICAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Vision, Mission & Goal

Vision: A world where society invests well in children as a key element of sustainable development

Mission: The AfriChild Centre generates research that contributes to the evidence base to improve on the lives and wellbeing of the African child. It does this in collaboration with the public and private sectors, academia and civil society.

Goal: AfriChild will be a multidisciplinary research centre that contributes to evidence based knowledge building, skills development and influences policy, programming and practice concerning the wellbeing of the African child.

Core Program Areas

1. Interdisciplinary Research and Demonstration Projects
2. Policy and Practice Discourse
3. Training the Next Generation of Researchers and Practitioners
4. Knowledge Management and Expert Network

Collaborative Research

Five child-focused studies including:

1. National survey on violence against children
2. Qualitative study on violence against children
3. Community-based child protection systems in fishing communities
4. Justice for children
5. Child Protection index in refugee settlements
6. 2. Development of national child-focused research agenda

Collaborative Research Methods Training

- Built a network of multi-disciplinary US-based Senior Professors to undertake research, facilitate research trainings and mentorship
- Collaborating with seven Ugandan-based Universities to build research capacity
- Conducted consultative meeting to situate research methods trainings and mentorship within existing university programs

Research Methods Training

- Developed a shared research agenda with donors, academia, government and practitioners
- Advocated with Universities to implement the research agenda through existing programs
- Integrated capacity development of Universities and practitioners with implementation of research activities
- Embedded learning into programs (Implementation science) as key approach to combining doing and learning simultaneously

Research Methods Training

- Conducted training needs assessment of faculty members to inform trainings and mentorship
- Trained 58 faculty members from 7 Ugandan Universities in qualitative research methodology
- Teamed mid-level researchers with Senior Professors to collaboratively undertake research

Collaborative Research

- Linking collaborating universities to funding opportunities to strengthen capacity
- Creating opportunities for collaborating Universities to jointly undertake inter-disciplinary research
- Building on strength of collaborating Universities –eg Kyambogo University's niche is children with special needs.

Challenges

- Gap between senior professors and mid-level researchers stifle effective mentorship.
- Tension between research/consultancy and teaching requirements by Universities.

Looking a Head

- Develop collaboration with African-based Universities to strengthen inter-continental peer learning
- Support Universities to strengthen research pedagogy for systemic change
- Engage home-grown senior researchers to facilitate method trainings and mentorship.