Amplifying Impact!

The TPO Uganda Newsletter

ISSUE FOCUS: CHILD PROTECTION

Introducing Amplifying Impact!

Amplifying Impact! is TPO Uganda’s quarterly Newsletter that showcases impact through our interventions in Northern, Central, Western, Karamoja and the West Nile regions of Uganda. The compilation covers a selection of one thematic area of TPO Uganda’s strategic focus each quarter with an exclusive insight into our learning and documentation activities. This first issue of Amplifying Impact! focuses on achievements under our child protection interventions in the period July through September 2017. Our specific engagements have been on strengthening family based care, supporting case management and building the capacities of community based and national level structures to respond to the needs of refugee children, orphans and other vulnerable children.

In July-September, we implemented child protection activities in 18 districts in Western, Central, Northern, North-Eastern, West Nile and the Karamoja regions of Uganda including active participation on international platforms like the Global Social Services Workforce Alliance. We invite you to read and share in our unwavering commitment towards rebuilding the lives of vulnerable children through the Editor’s pick of visualized data, impact stories and testimonies from our work, and follow our online engagements through the embedded links.

### Inside:

- **Introducing Amplifying Impact!**
- **Read inspiring stories and testimonies from our work**
- **Media Pick-Checkout our recent publications**
- **Team Spotlight: Meet our social media star and the dynamic author in this quarter**
- **Editor’s Note of Thanks**
- **The Hope-line: looking ahead**

### Key Statistics:

- **18**
  - No. of districts with ongoing child protection activities

- **3,700**
  - No. of households reached with child protection activities in the 18 districts

- **4000+**
  - No. of child protection cases managed in the different districts

- **6000+**
  - No. of children reached with a range of child protection activities in 3,700 households
Read inspiring stories and testimonies from our work

**Nurturing the potential of refugee children through child friendly spaces (CFS) in Ayilo 2 Settlement**

"TPO Uganda trained me in child protection to ably oversee activities at the Child Friendly Space. Most children in the CFS are orphans, unaccompanied children from South Sudan and children struggling with mental health needs. Our activities like guided play, storytelling and animation therapy sessions aim at rebuilding hope, and strengthening peer support for children who are otherwise locked in, and rejection."

Taban Isaac, CFS Caretaker-Ayilo

TPO Uganda constructed one child friendly space in Ayilo 2 Block 20 and also works with parent committees to manage an existing child friendly space in Ayilo 2 C Primary School. The two centers have over 750 children each from among settlements and host community households.

In 2015 when TPO Uganda when constructed the Child Friendly Space in Ayilo 2 Block 20, a lot of the center caretakers’ work included resolving conflicts and fights between Nuer and Dinka children. These cases are now very minimal as the children gradually come to appreciate working together, and are supported to heal through psychosocial activities.

According to Anyanjo Tom, 12 years (not real names), he did not know any other children when they moved to the settlement from South Sudan in 2014. However, the center helped him to connect and interact with other children. Anyanjo was also pleased his mother encouraged his participation at the center because she believed it improved his school performance relations with siblings.

TPO Uganda also uses its Community-based Child Protection and Psychosocial support model to integrate advanced mental health interventions in the child friendly space activities for children in school and those in neighboring communities. TPO Uganda currently operates 23 child friendly spaces across different districts with emergency and post conflict recovery needs. TPO Uganda conducts screening using standardized tools such as PHQ-9, SRQ-20, BDI, BAI, and the PCL-5 among other globally standardized tools for children.

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**Strengthening governance systems and advocacy for the improved wellbeing of children and youth**

In 15 districts in Western and Central Uganda, TPO is implementing child protection activities aimed at promoting alternative care, case management, addressing violence against children and strengthening governance systems for improved coordination of services. TPO Uganda works with the Ministry of Gender Child Protection Working Group at national level, Alternative Care Panels and the District and Sub-county OVC Committees (DOVCC and SOVCC) to sustain momentum and response to the challenges affecting children and youth.

Community support supervision visits in Kiruhura district revealed rampant cases of defilement and early marriages although without comprehensive data on the status of these issues across the district. This challenge was raised during the District OVC Committee meetings which were revived in the district with support from TPO Uganda. It was also established that the high costs levied during medical examination for community members who seek to report sexual violence cases further affected redress. From the meetings, the Executive Council tasked its chairperson to lead the intervention to address defilement and child marriage issues in the district. The Council issued a circular waiving medical examination fees for defilement cases which was shared with the district health team and disseminated across religious leaders and community leaders for awareness. It is hoped that this circular will help increase protection of children seeking redress from sexual abuse and child marriages.

**Promoting parenting to strengthen family based care for children**

TPO Uganda continues to champion specialized parenting models that deliver group and individualized parenting sessions to strengthen caregivers' knowledge and practices on positive parenting. Our parenting programs are delivered in selected districts in central and North-Eastern Uganda targeting households with vulnerable children such as reunified children from child care institutions, children suffering child abuse in households and street children. Testimonies from children in these households reveal the positive effects of parenting programs on strengthening families as the safest point of residence for children.

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**Advancing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Comprehensive Child Protection in Emergency Settings**

*By Richard Ochaka and Crescent Mwebaze*

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[Read the Full Abstract here](#) to see how our specialized psychosocial support interventions strengthen child protection for South Sudanese refugee children.
Team Spotlight: Get inspired by our teams’ stories

Meet Monica Alip, the infectious social media star

I became active on twitter and Facebook in 2015. At first, I had not cared so much but started getting very curious after seeing the impact created by some online campaigns and activities. It was very visible that more people gradually related to online life. Today I have over 1,500 followers on twitter with over 30,000 tweets. It is now a part of me and I deliberately infect it across my interaction spaces. Within the three months of my joining the TPO social media team, we registered an additional 225 likes on Facebook and 53 followers on twitter. Mainly through getting more team members to join these platforms, identifying field focal persons and increasing content upload in real time. I am hopeful our sites will continue to inspire more traffic and visibility of our work to drive change.

Sharing my passion for content writing, Crescent Mwebaze

Creative writing is an effortless part of my life. Given the kind of work I do that involves coordinating emergency response in Yumbe, several experiences emerge that you have to find ways of sharing. That is why I always try to ensure that my voice is heard through articles, published interviews, abstracts and on social media. As a Manager, writing requires commitment and a level of passion. Otherwise, one may never get the time. You have to purpose to voice the experiences around you to inform and inspire others. There are many opportunities today so we do not have to lock ourselves to print media alone – the world today is very connected. You can put your article out there and even people you do not know will learn from it. Creative writing has strengthened my writing skills through continuous practice and reading other people’s works.

Editor’s Note of thanks

By Dinnah Nabwire, Learning Advisor

Thank you for sparing time to read our quarterly Newsletter exclusively focusing on promoting child protection. Amplifying Impact! seeks to evolve into a dynamic compilation to highlight achievements across TPO Uganda’s interventions and we value your readership as core to this growth.

We also recognize your continued contribution towards our Mission to promote a society where vulnerable and marginalized people enjoy mental health, social and economic wellbeing and lead harmonious, mutually supportive, and productive lives. It is my hope that you were inspired by the stories, numerical evidence, voices and pictures from this great work you are a part of.

Please lookout for our second issue of Amplifying Impact! in December 2017 to share in our end of year milestones. Do you have a comment or a story for us to pick up? Please email dnabwire@tpoug.org and we will get in touch with you.

“The while we were very excited to receive Nakanwagi from the Child Care Institution, we noticed immediately that she had completely lost cultural values such as the privacy of a growing young woman. At 12 years she would undress before everyone for a bath, hug everyone instead of kneeling while greating, and could not express well in Luganda. It worried me a lot because she was very different from the other children. The parenting training has equipped me with skills to continue nurturing a strong bond between us. I believe that I will help her feel accepted and gradually recover her lost identity with support from the rest of her family members....”

Caregiver and beneficiary of parenting sessions in Wakiso District