



Road to Melbourne

Successful and Promising Approaches to Meeting the Holistic Needs of Young Children Born Into Families Affected by HIV and AIDS

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HANDOUT

Background

Many young children and their families living in informal settlements or disadvantaged communities face multiple forms of deprivation and an array of risks, primarily due to the undermining effects of extreme poverty and HIV/AIDS. At several HOPE *worldwide* implementation sites HIV prevalence rates are close to double the national prevalence (17.9% - UNAIDS, 2012). These factors, coupled with poor nutrition and a lack of access to quality ECD education, are having a profound impact on children's growth and development, as well as on their future productivity as adults.

Specifically,

1. Many young children do not have access to quality early learning opportunities and remain outside of any early childhood development programs;
2. Many young children and families do not have birth certificates or ID documents, and as a result, are not able to access the child support grant and other social security grants;
3. Many young children are exposed to abuse and neglect.

HOPE *worldwide* South Africa ECD objectives are;

- To increase access for children unreached by any formal ECD service, through caregiver strengthening approaches;
- To improve the quality of formal ECD education by facilitating ECD practitioner access to accredited ECD training and on-going mentoring and support;
- To assist ECD centres in their registration process through, information sharing, capacity building and direct infrastructure and material support.
- To increase child and household access to ECD services and grants.

Program Impact:

1. Center-Level

- Strong partnerships with government Departments of Social Development, Education and Health and Municipalities promoting comprehensive and integrated service delivery
- Supporting 59 ECD Centers in disadvantaged, high HIV prevalence communities
- Benefitting nearly 4,000 young Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) from 0-6 years
- Increased number of centres complying with government Norms & Standards

- Parenting Training Manual developed (5-day training)
- Play & Development Manual developed (1-day training)
- Accredited ECD Training: All ECD practitioners graduated as competent
- Nutrition: Improved BMI scores at all sites
- New School Readiness Assessment Tool Developed: Initial assessments indicate Grade R learners in the program have achieved (mastered) key developmental outcomes.
- Strong Corporate support for ECD projects and nutritional support.

2. Caregiver Level

- ECD Parenting Training:
 - Parenting Workshop Manual developed (1-day training)
 - ECD Poster with messages developed (Peer reviewed & field tested)
 - In the past year, 245 caregivers were trained through the 1 day workshops
 - Training focused on: Building caregiver self-esteem, Positive Parenting and the Basic of ECD.
 - Improved Workshop Pre/Post Knowledge scores by an average 20% (70% to 90%)
 - Major benefits of the workshop included;
 - Better parenting
 - Improved caregiver self esteem
 - Improved communication with child
- Parent Support Groups Main self-reported outcomes included :
 - Reduced stress
 - Increased self-esteem
 - Increased time spent with children
 - Increased access to grants
 - Reduced maltreatment of children
 - Increased immunizations

3. Community Level

- In 2013, through its partnership with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), HOPEww has been able to facilitate access to 265 welfare grants (230 of which were Child Support Grants). Monthly revenue from these grants amounts to nearly \$12,000 per month.

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