

Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA) Newsletter

Teaming up for psycho-social support



JOINING FORCES
For All Children



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NEWSLETTER

Q5

Progress update:
Defeating challenges,
achieving impact

TeamUp:
Bringing children
psycho-social support

ChildFund
Alliance



Terre des Hommes
International Federation

World Vision

JOFA Q5 Newsletter

Despite challenges and restrictions related to COVID-19, the JOFA project has seen steady progress in Mali, Senegal, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia.

Join us to follow JOFA's progress and discover how the TeamUp approach is bringing children psycho-social support

Inside this number:

- JOFA progress Update
- TeamUp approach insights



About JOFA

Joining Forces is an alliance formed in 2017 of the six largest child-focused international NGOs – ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International. Together, they are working with and for children to secure their rights and end violence against children.



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Signalement des cas de violences, avis sur le projet ?



*Pour échanger dans la confidentialité, on vous rappellera dans les secondes qui suivent ...



Defeating challenges, achieving impact

JOFA PROGRESS UPDATE

Quarter five has seen steady progress made across the five countries, with some challenges and restrictions related to COVID-19 impacting implementation in Senegal and Uganda.

On a global level, the consolidated needs [assessment report](#) from year 1 was launched externally with a media campaign that **reached a significant audience via social media and traditional media**- particularly in our five target countries in Africa.

Several activities have been conducted in the last quarter to strengthen national and local protection and response systems. **Referral pathways have been reviewed or are in process of being reviewed currently.**

The trainings for the child protection workforce **are effective in increasing the knowledge of child protection risks associated with COVID-19.** Support to child protection service providers, child help lines and alternative care services was provided as planned. **Advocacy activities are being prepared to get started,** building on the evidence generated in year 1 of the project implementation. The progress was positive for all countries, but **in Senegal there are some delays.**

Improving protection in resilient families, communities and institutions is going well in particular due to an increase in implementation of **"Parenting without Violence"** positive parenting programs resulting in higher numbers of parents who participate in skills sessions.



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Trainings for members of community-based child protection mechanisms have been effective in increasing understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on child protection. A good number of **teachers and school support staff have been trained on child protection**, with further trainings planned for the next quarters, once schools re-open.

Progress regarding increased capacity and agency of children to prevent and respond to violence against them is starting to improve.

The team in **Mali has managed to exceed their target for children involved in a social accountability mechanism**, with successful implementation of the Child Friendly Accountability approach, and the team in **Uganda is progressing well on reaching children with life skills, peer support and other structured support programs.**

In Kenya, the team made great progress in reaching direct child beneficiaries facilitated by close engagement and support to teachers in schools, while in **Senegal, the project teams have started to engage with peer networks and children's clubs** in order to reach more direct child beneficiaries.

A major recommendation after year 1 was to review the approach to reaching direct child beneficiaries, which countries teams are currently acting on, developing their management responses to the recommendations and formulating action plans to increase their reach.

Feedback and complaints mechanisms have been established in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia, with some challenges in providing a timely response to complaints in Kenya and Uganda. The teams in Mali and Senegal are yet to fully establish their mechanisms. **A full review of all country feedback and complaints mechanisms will be undertaken in January/ February 2022 to ensure they meet minimum standards.** Finally, country teams have all held learning exchanges in country- including their technical workshops and annual review workshops.

TeamUp: Bringing children psycho-social support

TEAMUP APPROACH INSIGHTS

In response to the [JOFA Project child protection Needs Assessment](#), JOFA is implementing positive parenting programs and group-based activities for children's well-being. TeamUp is one of the methodologies that is used to support children's improved psycho-social and mental health wellbeing.

TeamUp provides children aged from 6 to 18 with a combination of structured sports-based games, play and movement-based activities.

These activities aim to support and help children navigate their different feelings. Each activity has a specific goal related to themes such as dealing with anger, stress and interacting with others.

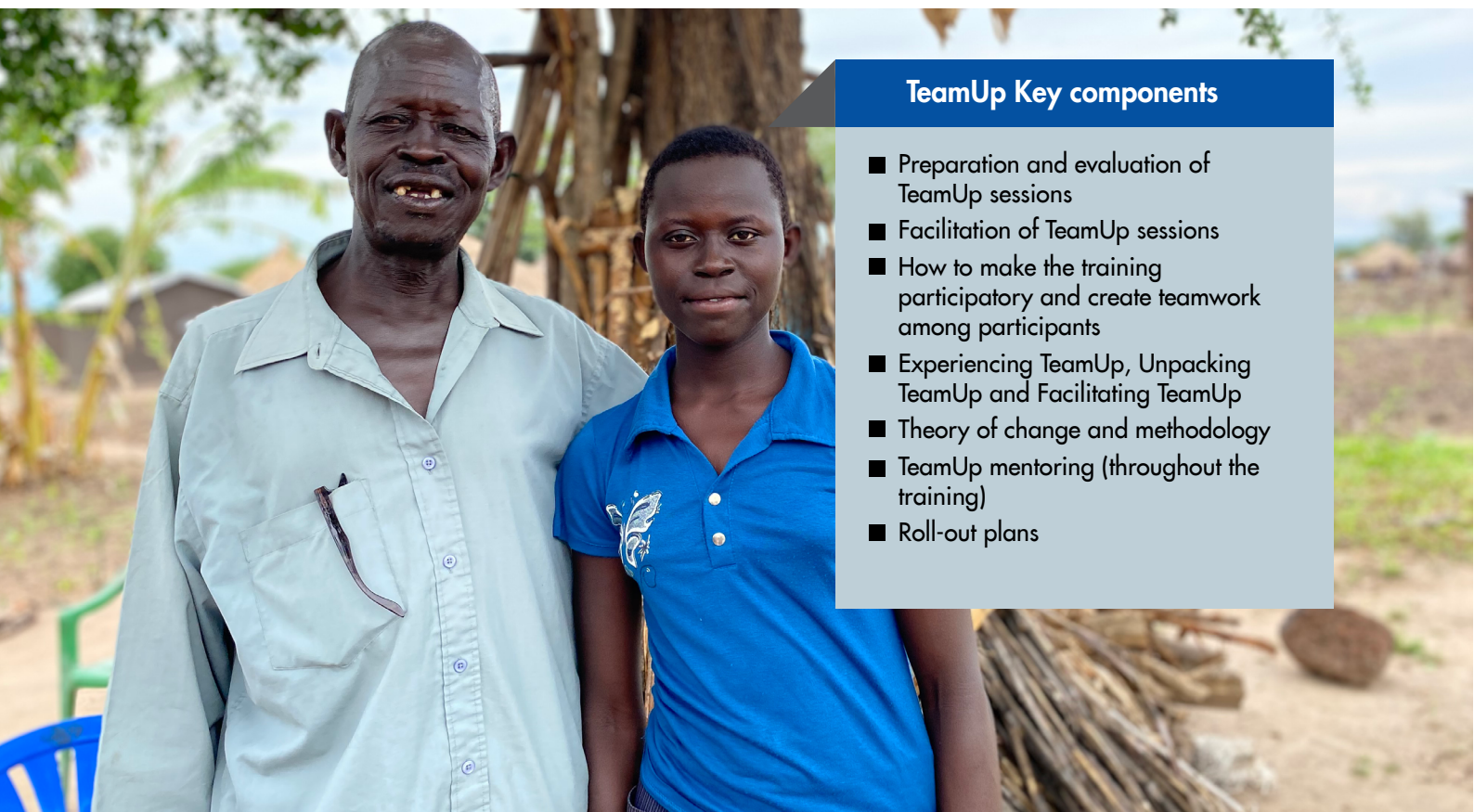
The TeamUp intervention ultimately helps to provide children with emotional support and a much-needed sense of stability.

The intervention will be implemented in different settings and countries as part of the JOFA project. As a first step in rolling out TeamUp, a training of trainers was provided, aiming at introducing participants to TeamUp and its methodology so they can roll it out and train community facilitators in their settings.

In Ethiopia the five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on TeamUp was conducted for sixteen participants from Plan International, SoS Children's Villages and Save the Children. The key components of the training included:

TeamUp Key components

- Preparation and evaluation of TeamUp sessions
- Facilitation of TeamUp sessions
- How to make the training participatory and create teamwork among participants
- Experiencing TeamUp, Unpacking TeamUp and Facilitating TeamUp
- Theory of change and methodology
- TeamUp mentoring (throughout the training)
- Roll-out plans



An important component to the training is that participants play the role of the child, the trainer and the facilitator throughout the training.

The experience and practical knowledge of participants in child protection and child safeguarding; and their knowledge of the specific contexts contributed to a successful training. The fact that all participants came from different organisations led to a fruitful exchange, but also made it sometimes challenging to balance different needs and expectations.

Key learnings of the ToT

- Facilitating TeamUp sessions with children is highly recommended and useful prior to becoming a trainer.
- Recommendation for TeamUp trainers to facilitate sessions in their context for a minimum of one cycle (8 sessions) to gain experience
- After a ToT, participants require on-going support and guidance for rolling out the implementation plan
- Preparation and coordination are key for the implementation of TeamUp
- Direct experience with children and facilitation of groups is needed for TeamUp
- Clarification of Roll-out and implementation plan is needed by each partner



Next Steps for the implementation of TeamUp in Ethiopia include:

- Prepare a pilot roll-out plan to start TeamUp
- Select suitable locations (mapping) and recruit potential facilitators or mobilise existing community volunteers or staff
- Organise and prepare start-up trainings for facilitators
 - Translate and adapt TeamUp resources to local context. e.g. integrate local games and songs to TeamUp methodology
- Make a TeamUp session cycle planning (when, where and who) and decide how many cycles and sessions
- Put in place a mentoring system with regular visits by trainers in place
- Offer additional child safeguarding and child protection training to new facilitators and assure referral system is in place and connected to TeamUp
- After a first cycle, offer a refresher training to facilitators

Apart from Ethiopia, preparations to use the TeamUp intervention are ongoing in Uganda. Unfortunately, the closure of schools and subsequent ban on public gatherings due to COVID-19 measures affected the TeamUp ToT, which was supposed to be conducted.

However, with the partial easing of COVID-19 restrictions it is intended to conduct a ToT with teachers before the reopening of schools planned for January 2021. Furthermore, the JOFA Team in Kenya is planning to implement TeamUp in 2022. In total, we plan to reach 17,420 children with the TeamUp intervention in Uganda and 4,100 children in Ethiopia once ToTs take place and detailed planning is finalized.

We are looking forward to sharing experiences and learning on the implementation of the TeamUp approach in different countries and settings.

TEAMUP

Save the Children | UNICEF the Netherlands | War Child

TeamUp provides children affected by conflict with structured movement-based activities to support their social-emotional development.

The focus is on a programme of structured movement-based activities - designed to strengthen both their inner strength and peace of mind for children between the ages of six and 18 worldwide with.

It was developed and first implemented in 2015, by War Child Holland together with Save the Children and UNICEF Netherlands.

Today, the TeamUp intervention is being used worldwide.

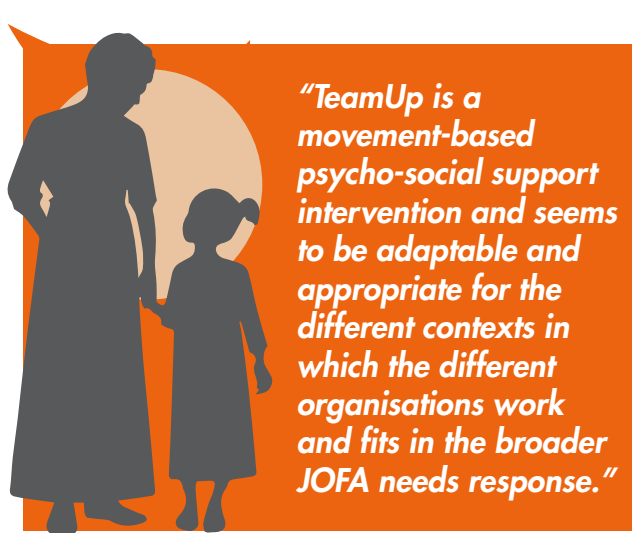
 warchildholland.org/intervention-teamup



"This training is a good example of scaling and collaborating with other organisations/projects for TeamUp Global"



"I am confident that TeamUp is an adaptable and suitable intervention for the diverse communities and populations where the JOFA project is implemented."



"TeamUp is a movement-based psycho-social support intervention and seems to be adaptable and appropriate for the different contexts in which the different organisations work and fits in the broader JOFA needs response."



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Opportunities for engagement

If you have interest in exploring opportunities for collaboration with the JOFA project on academic studies, on complimentary programming or on learning and sharing, [contact Andy Hill](#).

Send us your stories, inspiring practices, thoughts, and comments.

