

Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA) Newsletter

Walking the path of positive parenting



JOINING FORCES
For All Children



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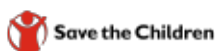
June 2022

NEWSLETTER

Q7

Progress update:
Reaching and engaging children
Learning series: Child Participation

ChildFund
Alliance



JOFA Q7 Newsletter

JOFA has conducted several activities during the last quarter. Follow us to learn how the Learning Series on Child Participation have been evolving, engaging children, parents, and tutors to experience positive parenting techniques and learn how love and respect can defeat child abuse and neglect.

Join us and discover how child participation can really make an impact to defend children's rights.

Inside this edition:

- JOFA progress Update
- Learning Series on Child Participation



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.

On track!

JOFA PROGRESS UPDATE

There was good progress against output indicators across all four result areas and in all five countries, with the majority of output targets either met or on track.



In this quarter the results of outcome and impact indicator measurement highlighted some key areas to work on to ensure that progress is made on our project outcomes at mid-term and by the end of the project.

Strengthening of National and Local protection and response systems progressed well in this quarter. The review of referral pathways is going well, with some delays in Uganda that are expected to be resolved in the next quarter. **Child protection stakeholders have been strengthened to cope with COVID-19 and related child protection issues across all countries.** Support to child protection service providers, child help lines, and alternative care services are provided as planned.



Advocacy activities have been increasing during this quarter and will continue to be implemented in the upcoming quarters. **In Mali, it is challenging to conduct advocacy with the government due to the unstable, transitional nature of the current military government.** The team in Kenya is reviewing their plans for engaging local governments to include child protection considerations in COVID-19 response plans, given the frequently changing nature of government planning and response to the pandemic.

The progress on improving protection in resilient families, communities and institutions



was good across all countries. **Country teams are currently increasing implementation of Parenting Without Violence (PwV) in Uganda, Ethiopia, Mali and Kenya and Celebrating Families in Senegal, whilst also preparing to conduct learning sessions and exchanges on implementation of these approaches** as part of the technical approaches learning series.

Large numbers of parents and caregivers, and teachers were reached in this quarter and the previous one. Importantly, **country teams will endeavour to ensure that there is a component of parent-child interaction** (i.e. parallel children's groups who meet with parent groups, inter-generational dialogue sessions etc.) within their PwV or Celebrating Families programs, to focus on parent-child communication.

Trainings for members of community-based child protection mechanisms have been effective in increasing understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on child protection.

The progress on increased capacity and agency of children to prevent and respond to violence against them was moderate this quarter. **All country teams will continue and expand implementation of the "Child Friendly Accountability" approach**, and the Senegal team will review how they are supporting children's groups to define their contribution to ending violence against children. Good progress was made in this quarter in reaching children with life skills and engaging them on social accountability mechanisms.

All country teams have established monitoring mechanisms, although there remain some issues in ensuring that all data is adequately disaggregated by sex, age and disability. All countries except Mali are now measuring the % of feedback and complaints which receive a timely response and are achieving close to the target of 80%. **All country teams recently completed an internal review of feedback and complaint mechanisms** and are taking relevant actions to improve their functioning.

Learning from children

CHILD PARTICIPATION

The Joining Forces for Africa project team has conducted a series of meetings, workshops and webinars on the impact of child participation on the effectiveness of child protection programming.

The purpose of this learning series is to contribute towards the improvement of the quality of child participation and the range of engagement methods for direct child beneficiaries in the JOFA project and in the global child protection sector.

Objectives of the learning series

- Share the experience and the learning gained by JOFA country teams in engaging direct child beneficiaries in project activities.
- Explore challenges faced and innovative approaches & adaptations to activities made by JOFA country teams to ensure meaningful child participation





The learning events were conducted on different levels:



JOFA internal learning workshop

Following the country workshops, a two-day JOFA internal learning was organized on 1st and 2nd of February 2022. The online event was attended by more than 30 participants from all implementing countries.

Each of the five country lessons learned documents were discussed and analysed between the five country teams, with similarities and interesting, innovative practices identified. At the end of this workshop, **each country team identified key follow up actions to continue to improve the quality of child participation** in JOFA project implementation.

After an introduction the participants were put in break-out group sessions to reflect on and analyse the similarities with their own context and the interesting, new insights of lessons learned from another country.

Afterwards each group presented its results in the forum and there was room for questions and comments.

Final step- Global exchange workshop

Following the **JOFA internal learning, global exchange workshops were organised**. There was one on the 22nd of February 2022 with participants from Latin America and West Africa and another one the 23rd of February 2022 with participants from Asia, Europe and East Africa.

Lessons learned were further discussed, risks and assumptions were analysed, and concrete actions and commitments identified.

After an introduction the participants were put randomly in break-out group sessions to reflect on and analyse the similarities with their own context, the risks that may occur in the future, potential actions and commitments. Afterwards each group presented its results in the forum and there was room for questions and comments.

The feedback for all learning events was very good. Participants were content with the way the workshops were organised and considered it a valuable learning experience.



The learning series on child participation has generated many useful insights and associated actions, which the JOFA project teams are currently applying to their ongoing project activities. Lessons learned and important insights have been well documented in this report, and in the **Learning Brief**, which has been circulated widely to child protection stakeholders both within the Joining Forces Alliance and to an external audience.

More information about the results of the learning series on child participation can be found in the [Learning brief](#).

In the next quarter another learning series on technical approaches will start. **Country teams will identify the technical approaches that they wish to discuss and analyse in their countries, and particular learning questions related to these approaches.**

A combination of common learning questions (across multiple country teams) and country specific learning questions will be developed. These learning questions will form the basis of a qualitative research/ monitoring process conducted by implementing agencies in country. **In the next newsletter we will share more information about what we have learnt from the process to date, and exciting plans for global sharing and exchange workshops on our key technical approaches- Parenting without Violence, Child Friendly Accountability and TeamUp. Stay tuned and Join forces with us!**



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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.

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