


INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – BOTSWANA, MAY 2021 UPDATE

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
<p data-bbox="165 360 293 384">TRAINING</p> 	<p data-bbox="996 360 2085 619">Following the success of the ICDP in our pilot village of Thamaga since 2017, the program went a step further in Botswana where the first Trainee of Trainers was kickstarted in March 2020. The Trainee of Trainers workshop was conducted for four days (10 – 13 March 2020) at Staywell Hotel in Mogoditshane. There were 12 participants involved, 6 from Ark and Mark Trust and 6 from Thamaga community, and all participants have been trained as facilitators. The training was facilitated by international trainers – Patrick O’Loughlin and Chiku Mkalu.</p> <p data-bbox="996 667 2085 895">The training was preparing for facilitators’ training in Ramotswa, a village about 40kms from Gaborone. However, all further preparations were halted due to the global covid 19 pandemic. It is only now that training preparations have been resumed. Consultation has been done with the local Social Welfare & Community Development office in Ramotswa, and they have continued to embrace ICDP and are ready to implement. Ramotswa training is scheduled for August 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="996 943 2085 1209">The number of Trainee Trainers has been affected from a total of 12 in 2020 to only 7 remaining, also due to the impact of covid 19. We still maintain 6 from Thamaga and 1 from Ark and Mark office. We had the first virtual meeting on the 19th May 2021 with the 2 international trainers, Patrick and Chiku. This was a preparatory meeting towards ICDP training in Ramotswa. The total number of facilitators targeted is 50 (40 from Ramotswa and 10 from Thamaga, so that a good number of ICDP facilitators is maintained in Thamaga).</p> <p data-bbox="996 1257 2085 1326">With consideration to the impact as experienced in Thamaga as a result of ICDP, we are at a stage where the government is showing great interest in implementing ICDP</p>

in their respective districts, thus, there is a possibility that the program will be rolled out in the country through the respective districts.

THAMAGA



ICDP implementation has been resumed in Thamaga village in the year 2021 following a year's break in 2020 due to covid -19 pandemic.

However, a mini research was done in 2020 to get feedback from the facilitators on the status of the village during the challenging times. We appreciated the experience our facilitators had in volunteering their services to the community or being called by community members to intervene with consideration made to the impact seen in the families reached in the previous years.

One of the police officers who is also a facilitator shared of the rise they experienced in child related cases in 2020 and wishing for ICDP to resume soon as they had begun to appreciate a decline in the years ICDP was implemented. The other issues shared were how family relations were being challenged due to the imposed quarantines as a result of having to share space with each other but not knowing how to accommodate each other in their spaces, something ICDP propels beautifully and effortlessly.

Implementation of ICDP in Thamaga was resumed and kick started in April 2021.

Ark and Mark Trust did mobilization of the facilitators and ended with 26 active and implementing facilitators from the 2 cohorts trained. The mobilization was mainly done through telephone conscious of covid 19 challenge. The challenge was some of the facilitators relocated in pursuit for various reasons and others especially teachers from secondary schools are not available as they are fully engaged at schools due to covid -19.

The 26 facilitators have been able to reach out to 110 caregivers and 364 children (biological, extended and grandchildren).



We still appreciate the support of the village leadership and Social Welfare office in ensuring the continuity of ICDP.

GABORONE

Ark and Mark Trust initiated implementation of ICDP at one of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) camps. The reason for this was realising that they are a community within the greater community of Gaborone and face unique challenges as members of the force often leave their families for long periods of time. This, has been reported as a plausible contributor to the significant and often complex family challenges within the army families. Thus, ICDP was introduced as a possible solution to this.

The reception by the Social Welfare office has been very positive. They see ICDP as a positive program to add value to the families at BDF especially as they are challenged with children who at most have absent parents due to the nature of their jobs in the military.

Feedback already received is that participants are ever happy and always leaving sessions ready to implement their home tasks and returning for their next sessions with feedback. There is noted improvement at participants' homes regarding their family interaction. In one incident, one couple participating has been identified in need of further marital counselling, something they did not believe could happen soon given the challenges they experienced.

	<p>However, the challenges experienced regard the times to run the groups due to participants being temporarily deployed, or due to the imposed covid 19 quarantines. This contributes to a delay in completion of the program. The open communication renders it possible for our facilitators to manage the sessions reschedule.</p> <p>We have 4 ICDP facilitators running sessions at BDF, for 24 participants at a ratio of 1:6 due to covid 19. We made provision of voice recorders to enable them to capture the sessions for their log books since they will be running the sessions by themselves.</p>
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