



Save the Children

REPORT ON THE ICDP PARENTING WORK FOR CHILD SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

REPORT ON THE ICDP PARENTING WORK FOR CHILD SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROJECT IN ZAMBIA.

Every caregiver wishes their children to develop in the best possible way, but mostly they do not know their role in this process. The International Child Development Program (ICDP) parenting works comes in to strengthen caregivers' confidence in their role and not only encourage them to follow their own inherent capacity for empathy but also nurturing the feelings of togetherness with their children. The main thrust of this paper is to highlight the ICDP parenting works the Child Sensitive Social Protection project has accomplished in the year 2023. The outline of the report is organized in themes namely introduction, capacity building (training), conduct ICDP parenting sessions, home visits, refresher boost ICDP parenting sessions, challenges, and conclusions. The paper will also include a short case study based on the ICDP

INTRODUCTION

Save the Children Zambia has continued to supplement Government efforts on the social cash transfer program through its Child sensitive social protection project. The CSSP project promotes child-sensitive social protection through the "cash plus" parenting model to help improve parenting practices and prioritize the rights of children to education, nutrition, and protection. The CSSP project adopted and contextualized the "cash plus" ICDP parenting model where the project aimed to strengthen Community Welfare Assistant Committees (CWACs) to improve parenting practices and mobilize parents/caregivers to prioritize children's rights to education, nutrition and protection. The parenting package module otherwise known as Child Sensitivity Package consists of ICDP sessions and thematic sessions that include nutrition, gender, family budgeting to mention but a selection. The ICDP parenting sessions are now being rolled out to caregivers in both Kalulushi and Lufwanyama districts on the Copperbelt province of Zambia.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF ANIMATORS

Community Welfare Assistant Committee (CWACs) members like any other community volunteers are recognized as the main players/stakeholders in ensuring different government programs are implemented successfully. The committee is appointed by community members with the guidance from the ministry of community development and social services. CWACs are trained on their roles and responsibilities by the department of Social welfare once voted into office as well as prepared to work with other organizations with the agenda of development and contributing to the sustainable development goals. To ensure the effective and efficient realization of the CSSP project goal and outcomes, SCI recognized the committee as the main local structure to engage in the project implementation.

Therefore, in 2022 the project with the support of community members selected some CWACs members in both Kalulushi and Lufwanyama districts for the purpose of training them as animators. To this effect, 20 CWAC members (8 males, 12 females) were trained to run the ICDP parenting sessions bit on ground. Last year 2023, the project had continued to train the same animators in additional / thematic sessions of the Child Sensitivity package (Importance of education, gender, family budgeting, Risk of Child Labour and Nutrition modules).

The first training was conducted from 9th to 12th May 2023 in Lufwanyama District drawing participants from both Kalulushi and Lufwanyama in all the project implementation sites. A total of 20 (12 females and 8 males) parenting animators were trained in Family budgeting and Gender transformation. Furthermore, the second training was conducted from 19th July 2023 to 21st July, 2023 and a total of 20 animators (8 males, 12 females) were trained in three of the additional sessions of the Child Sensitivity package (Importance of Education, Risk of Child Labour and Nutrition modules). The purpose of these trainings was to fully equip animators with the necessary skills to be able to roll out the entire parenting package to the target population of 1000 households on Social Cash Transfer.

CONDUCT ICDP PARENTING SESSIONS.

In March 2023, the CSSP project commenced with the roll out of parenting sessions targeting 1000 number of SCT beneficiary households with children from 0-14 years. Suffice to indicate that, by 30th June, 2023, 914 caregivers (815 females and 99 males), representing 914 households were trained on the parenting bit of the child sensitivity package. The CSSP project had continued with the roll out of parenting sessions in the second half of the year and as of 20th September, 2023, the project had rolled out the full Child Sensitivity Package to a total of 1066 caregivers (916 females and 150 males), representing 1056 households across Kalulushi and Lufwanyama. The parenting sessions are now yielding results as evidenced by the high quality, positive interactions between caregivers and children as reported during the home task submissions, and their own testimonies (See attached case study)

The sessions are being conducted using a recommended hybrid approach as opposed to the back-to-back approach which was deployed in the first phase (2017-2021) due to Covid-19. The hybrid approach allows caregivers to have enough time to internalize, reflect and apply the lessons they are learning.

Under this package, trained parenting animators working together with CSSP project officers are responsible for conducting parenting sessions for households in Kalulushi and Lufwanyama district. parenting works.

HOME VISITS

The is an on-going activity which is being conducted by animators to mediate competence to the caregiver and make positive comments about the child. They are also using this opportunity to give alternative explanations and demonstrations and to clear up any misunderstandings regarding what they have learnt. The animator invites the caregiver to share her experiences in a friendly, interested way, avoiding the more general instructive voice. To this effect, two households are visited per month for each animator and by 30th April 2024, a total of 350 households had been visited.

REFRESHER BOOST ICDP PARENTING SESSIONS

The project team embarked on conducting refresher boost parenting sessions considering that the actual roll out had finished way before the end of 2023. As a result, the CSSP team conducted refresher boost for the parenting session in both Lufwanyama and Kalulushi for the rest of the year. This helped caregivers not to forget the lessons easily but also encouraged them to learn and practice more with their children. At the end of the refresher boost for parenting sessions, coordinators among participating caregivers were chosen to head ICDP parenting session clubs across the two districts. One of the tasks for coordinators was be to organize future meetings, which are currently taking place every two months. The ICDP parenting session clubs provide a platform for caregivers to meet and share experiences in addition to organizing some activities together. These clubs are now being joined by new parents from the community.

NEXT STEPS

In 2024, the project officers working together with animators are strengthening the 59 ICDP clubs and ensure meetings are consistent. This will enable more people join the clubs and grow the groups . The group coordinators are working hand in hand with group animators to ensure that these groups are meeting and sustained for a long period of time. Apart from that, the project team is in the process of conducting graduation ceremonies for caregivers who completed the parenting sessions.

CHALLENGE

There were more women than men who attended the sessions across the two districts (916 females and 150 males). However, Project officer and animators are taking advantage of bi-monthly meetings to share information and to encourage men to attend these meetings.

CONCLUSION

Save the Children's Child Sensitive Social Protection project (CSSP) parenting program is part of the cash plus approach that is layered onto the government social protection cash transfer programme. The CSSP project adopted and contextualized the "cash plus" ICDP parenting model where the project aimed to strengthen Community Welfare Assistant Committees (CWACs) to improve parenting practices and mobilize parents/caregivers to prioritize children's rights to education, nutrition, and protection. So far, the ICDP works in Zambia has been great. The project officers built the capacity of animators, conducted home visits, conducted parenting sessions, conducted the refresher boost parenting sessions, formed ICDP clubs, and now in the process of awarding the 1066 caregivers with certificates.