



INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ICDP), BOTSWANA – 2023 REPORT

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
OVERVIEW	<p>Since parenting is still crucial in Botswana, Ark and Mark Trust has benefited from financing from the Department of Social Protection (DSP) to reach additional communities in the nation.</p> <p>In 2023, the International Child Development Program (ICDP) made significant strides in promoting child development in various villages in Botswana. The program was implemented in Thamaga, Molepolole, Ramotswa, Gabane, and for the first time, Lobatse. Lobatse notably became the first town to self-sponsor its participation in the ICDP.</p>
TRAINING	<p>The Social Welfare & Community Development (S&CD) office of Lobatse Town Council identified the need for a follow-up intervention program to address the issue of negligent or absent parents affecting street children in Lobatse. They requested the International Child Development Program (ICDP) for this purpose. Consequently, the town council sponsored the training of 42</p>



Facilitators listening attentively to a presentation.



The S&CD personnel with Assistant District Commissioner as part of audience.

facilitators to implement the ICDP in their community.

The facilitators' theory training was conducted at the Botswana Geoscience Institute from June 5-14, 2023. This training focused on creating a supportive and inclusive atmosphere to address the special developmental demands of children. Facilitators learned about the stages of child development and their long-term impacts, which would help them understand and cater to the needs of children more effectively. The training also provided facilitators an opportunity to reflect on their own upbringing and unresolved childhood traumas, allowing them to make positive changes in their relationships with their children and families.

Inspired by the success of the ICDP in other villages, Lobatse Town Council took this proactive step in June 2023. By leveraging the trained facilitators, the council aimed to drive local development and improve community well-being. These facilitators are expected to play a crucial role in ensuring the successful roll-out and sustainability of the ICDP in Lobatse, addressing local needs, fostering community engagement, and contributing to the overall development of the town.

LOCALITY	LOBATSE	
TRAINED	41	
FACILITATORS	Female	Male

SUPERVISION MEETINGS



Ramotswa facilitator as she shared some of the success stories and challenges faced in her group

HIGHLIGHT STORIES

- One participant shared that she has 9 children and all of them are working. She has a son who is a teacher in a junior school at Molepolole and since her son started working, he has never done anything for her, and she can go for 3 to 4 months without hearing from him. Since she attended the ICDP meetings she gained more confidence to confront him. After talking to him on the phone her son decided to come home having bought groceries. He felt bad for mistreating his mother and even apologized. She was very happy and thanked ICDP for giving her confidence and for building her family.



Gabane facilitators as they were attentive to the report being shared by one of them



Lobatse facilitators supervision meeting as one of the groups shared their experiences

- One male participant shared that there was no peace at home as his parents were not working well together. As the only child he did not know what to do. When he was home, he preferred locking himself in his room but since he joined ICDP he took it upon himself to try bringing his parents together. Now they are happy and have reconciled. Additionally, the mother wants to meet the ICDP facilitators who helped build her home.
- A mother once nicknamed after her fierceness and temper, was feared by children in her home and neighborhood. Through ICDP, she realized that her temper stemmed from lack of communication skills. Right now her demeanour changed evidently to a point where she is no longer referred too by the same nickname.



Molepolole also met and carried out their supervision meeting



Thamaga also showed up during the supervision meetings to breakdown their implementation insights

- One participant shared that she had moved out of home and was not on good terms with her sister but as she was attending meetings she started reaching out to her sister. She told her about ICDP, and they reconciled. Now she is back at home, and they are both happy. The sister also wants to attend the meetings.

- They call ICDP their 'powerful medicine,' one parent said. Since they started the meetings, she has been introspecting and now she feels very bad for how she has been treating her children. She said she was a "bad mother" because she believed that a good way to raise her children is by beating them but since she took the "medicine" she has since stopped beating them. They now sit down to talk and agree. She has a good and happy family now.

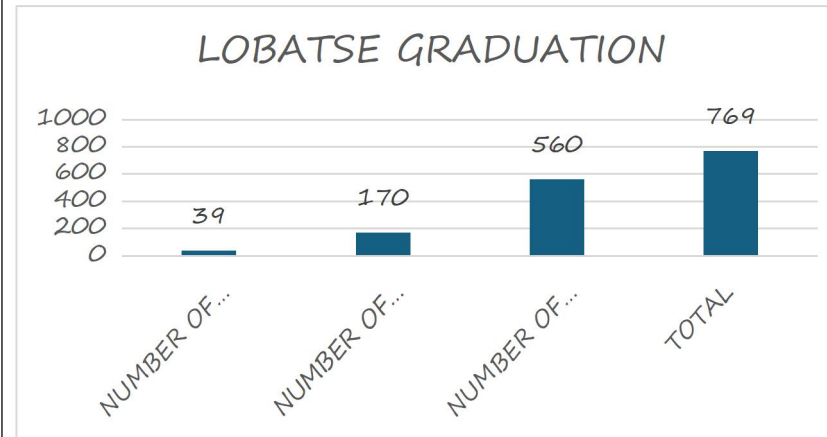
GRADUATION CEREMONIES



Lobatse as they conducted the graduation ceremony with over 200 people witnessing the very first of its kind.

Molepolole had their 3rd graduation. The event was graced by members of parliament, councilors and social workers from all corners of Molepolole. More than 300 people in attendance.

STATISTICS OF THOSE DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY ICDP



Facilitators		Parents		Children		TOTAL
F	M	F	M	F	M	
15	8	76	7	83	68	257
23		83		151		



Some of the parents in Ramotswa as they celebrated their graduation. Putting on traditional celebratory attires.

Facilitators		Parents		Children		TOTAL
F	M	F	M	F	M	291
19	2	71	3	105	91	
21		74		196		



Some of the parents in Ramotswa as they celebrated their graduation. Putting on traditional celebratory attires.



A group of parents in Thamaga as they celebrated their achievement of completing ICDP program during their graduation

Facilitators		Parents		Children		TOTAL
F	M	F	M	F	M	
17	2	76	4	134	104	337
Facilitators		Parents		Children		TOTAL
F	M	F	M	F	M	
17	2	35	20	20	21	1000
82		292		626		
19		80		238		



CONCLUSION

The International Child Development Programme (ICDP) has made a profound impact on positive parenting in Botswana in 2023, directly engaging over 2500 individuals and indirectly benefiting an estimated 10,000 more through its ripple effect on families and communities. By promoting empathy, communication, and understanding, the ICDP has empowered parents with essential skills to create nurturing environments, thereby enhancing the well-being and development of children. This program's success underscores the importance of investing in parental support as a cornerstone for fostering healthy, resilient, and thriving communities. The sustained progress achieved through the ICDP's initiatives promises a brighter future for generations to come in Botswana.