




INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ICDP) – 2022 REPORT

| ACTIVITY | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| <p>OVERVIEW</p> | <p>Ark and Mark Trust has been a beneficiary of the Department of Social Protection (DSP) through the funding received to reach out to more localities in Botswana as parenting continues to be a challenge across the country.</p> <p>Following the facilitators training in Ramotswa village in February 2022, new facilitators were trained in Gabane and Molepolole villages respectively, through funding from DSP. This brings the implementation of ICDP to a total of 4 villages in Botswana, inclusive of Thamaga.</p> |
| <p>TRAINING</p>  <p>Trained facilitators in Molepolole</p> | <p>Facilitators trainings were conducted in Gabane and Molepolole villages.</p> <p>Gabane village was trained on the 23rd – 31st May 2022, and Molepolole village was trained on the 02nd – 10th June 2022. Both villages are in Kweneng district, with Gabane being on the outskirts of Gaborone and Molepolole being 52kms from Gaborone.</p> <p>The trainings in the 2 villages were conducted by the 7 trainee trainers, in consultation with and supervision by the two international trainers, Patrick O’loughlin and Chiku Mkalu of Resource Centre on Violence, Trauma and Suicide Prevention (RVTS), West Norway. Six of the trainee trainers are community members from Thamaga village, and these were evenly divided to supervise a village each, as they all had to supervise Ramotswa village as well. One trainee trainer is from Ark and Mark Trust and played the role of supervising the trainee trainers and their implementing groups in all the villages.</p> |



Facilitators in Gabane village

Trainee facilitators in the 2 new villages included social workers, pastors, ward headmen, teachers, various community committee members, police officers (gender affairs unit), parents and a foster parent.

FACILITATORS STATISTICS

| LOCALITY | GABANE | | MOLEPOLOLE | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------|------------|--------|
| TRAINED FACILITATORS | 23 | | 27 | |
| | 20 Female | 3 Male | 20 Female | 7 Male |
| | Total: 50 (40 Female & 10 Male) | | | |

Facilitators appreciated ICDP during training as they experienced their own transformation and witnessed it in their fellow facilitators and families as well. One facilitator shared how she used to be strict and was known in the neighbourhood for such, and her children even named her “pit bull”. She has since been transformed, and the community and other facilitators attested to it, with some of her neighbours being in shock of such transformation. Her change made it easy for her to reach out to difficult children in her neighbourhood, and also to impart knowledge to parents.

The other facilitator shared how ICDP positively changed her and reconciled her with her father - she grew witnessing him severely abusing her late mother (gender-based violence). This created in her such hatred towards her own father to a point where she wished he would have an excruciating death. She shared how she was no longer on talking terms with her father and had cut him off completely from her life, though it pained her. She later realised (after ICDP) that she had been transferring her harboured hurt to her husband and their children. Through ICDP, she was able to



Role by trainee facilitators during training

appreciate her own pain and possibly that of her father, and was able to reach out to him. He was appreciative of the gesture and bitterly regretted all the hurt he caused, something she never thought could happen. She has since taken the initiative to care for his welfare as he is sickly and old. She witnessed positive changes in the way she related and treated her family, and this has brought great joy and unity in the family. She attributed all the positive changes to ICDP and was glad she allowed herself to enrol as a facilitator and was ready to impact other families in the community.

In addition, facilitators witnessed reconciliation not only with their own children, but also with their spouses or partners as well as with their own parents.

The facilitators' training was embraced by the village leadership, with the Social Welfare & Community Development office taking the lead.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION&GRADUATION



Graduation in Ramotswa

The programme was implemented in the 4 villages of Ramotswa, Gabane, Molepolole and Thamaga. Thamaga has been implementing ICDP since 2017. Implementation ran from March–November 2022. There were challenges experienced during the implementation which included;

1. Some of the facilitators, especially professionals, paused implementation due to work demands, leading to them not completing and graduating.
2. Some of the facilitators decided they were unable to implement ICDP as they realised the time required for the implementation was too demanding.
3. The weather and illness presented during implementation.
4. Writing logs, which most started late. However, facilitators were assisted by the trainee trainers (ToTs).

Parents appreciated ICDP very much, wishing they could have been introduced to ICDP earlier in their lives, as it would have made a positive difference in the upbringing of



One of the parents' groups giving testimony of their ICDP experience



Facilitators and parents during graduation in Molepolole

their children. One single parent, who is a teacher by profession, also a pastor and a mentor shared that, "I feel had I interacted with ICDP earlier, I would not have lost my 26 year old son to suicide. I had high expectations of him and his 21 year old younger sister, because I am an honourable and respectable woman in society, and I expected them to live as per my standards. ICDP has worked for me, as I learnt to appreciate that children are not objects, that they have their own interests, thoughts and ways of looking at life. I am now implementing ICDP in my relation to my daughter and as a result we now have a positive relationship."

The above sentiments were echoed throughout the 4 villages in parents' testimonies during their graduation. Families have been restored, thanks to the fact that parents spent time on being introspective and realizing how culture, their upbringing and a stressful work schedule had impacted their children's upbringing. They enjoyed the homework they were given each week and started enjoying spending time with their children and noting the developments of new positive communication in their families.

One of the graduations was attended by the Head of Family Welfare Division from the Department of Social Protection, including the Board Chairperson from Ark and Mark Trust. Village leadership also attended the graduations, including the honourable Council Chairpersons and some of the Councillors taking the role of guest speaker, including chiefs. They appreciated ICDP, seeing it as a robust program to address the many challenges of parenting as experienced in their localities.



ICDP Graduation in Thamaga

GRADUATION CEREMONY DATES

| LOCALITY | DATES | VENUE |
|------------|--|--|
| Ramotswa | 27 th – 28 th September 2022 | Phronesis hall |
| Thamaga | 02 nd November 2022 | Indepence Assemblies of Botswana (Church Hall) |
| Gabane | 8 th – 9 th November 2022 | Main Kgotla |
| Molepolole | 15 th – 16 th November 2022 | Lemepe Lodge Conference |

STATISTICS OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM

| | Parents | | Total | Children | | Total |
|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | Female | Male | | Female | Male | |
| Ramotswa | 150 | 14 | 164 | 269 | 255 | 524 |
| Thamaga | 55 | 14 | 69 | 144 | 135 | 279 |
| Gabane | 115 | 6 | 121 | 308 | 299 | 607 |
| Molepolole | 150 | 7 | 157 | 311 | 291 | 602 |
| | 470 | 41 | 511 | 1032 | 980 | 2012 |

WAY FORWARD & CONCLUSION

ICDP has proved to be a powerful community programme that addresses parenting challenges as experienced by diverse localities. The village leadership shared their thrill and wish to witness more of their community members benefiting from ICDP. They emphasised the importance of ICDP in the light of the rampant issues of substance abuse as experienced by youth; also having absent or working parents makes communication and building relations in the families a challenge.



Trainee trainers with Bord chairperson at Ark and Mark and Head of Family Welfare Division from DSP

Local authorities (Councils) continue to show much interest in implementing ICDP in their communities. Molepolole (Kweneng District) would like to sponsor more facilitators outside DSP funding to be trained for implementation in their respective area of coverage.

Lobatse Town Council has made a request for facilitator level training, which was initially scheduled for February 2023, however it has since been postponed to 12th – 20th April 2023. The Council is in communication with Ark and Mark Trust to ensure successful implementation.

Trainee Trainers worked closely with the facilitators from all the implementing villages and focused on completing the training and supervision of their teams of facilitators - which is a requirement for their qualification as ICDP trainers. They had physical meetings with facilitators in group and supported them through follow up by telephone. The challenge was having to pause their work due to the ploughing season, in November 2022 and some had to relocate to the fields. In view of this, it was agreed to continue the work in 2023 to conclude all required steps.

Report Prepared By:

Ark and Mark Trust