BEST PRACTICES ON PARENTING INTERVENTIONS IN TANZANIA

AND PARENTING POLICIES IN TANZANIA

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The Government of Tanzania (GOT) ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991. In 2009, the GOT enacted the Law of the Child Act No. 21, a landmark national legislation that spelled out standards for protecting and providing for children and set the framework for a child protection system to prevent and respond to abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect. However, in the context of parenting, the Law does not provide a conducive environment for implementation given that corporal punishment is lawful in the home in Tanzania. The Law Of the Child Act states that parents should protect children from all forms of violence (section 9), including beatings which cause harm in the definition of child abuse (section 3) and prohibits "torture, or other cruel, inhuman punishment or degrading treatment" (section 13). However, it allows for "justifiable" correction and does not exclude all forms Of corporal punishment from such correction. Nonetheless, a substantial number of policies and strategies exist in Tanzania that are relevant to strengthening national support to parents and caregivers.

In June 2023, the National Institute for Medical Research conducted a systematic policy review on "parenting to improve child well-being and prevent violence against children in Tanzania" and identified 32 documents in Kiswahili & English. After screening, 13 documents were included in the detailed review, namely: three laws, two policies, three guidelines and five national plans. Documents that are of significant interest include those below. 96 National Agenda for Responsible Parenting and Family Care, which was launched by the Government in 2019, with support from partners and UNICEF. Under the three pillars of Care, Protect and Communicate, parents and caregivers were targeted with various messages using interpersonal approaches, multi-media communication materials and parenting handbooks.

The 2023 second Five-year National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children 2023/2024 -2028/29, launched following the second includes the "promotion of positive parent-child relationships and reduction of violent parenting practices" as one of its eight strategies. which includes goal 3 on: "providing an environment which ensures that all children have a right to basic services including education, food, shelter, and legal protection; and holding parents, teachers, and law enforcers accountable for abuse of children's rights.

The 2008 Child Development Policy developed by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children (MCDGC) to protect children from abuse, exploitation and neglect which includes a first goal: "To have families that have prepared themselves to have and look after children in accordance with the childcare, growth and early development of a child procedure. Strategies include /starting a formal program to educate parents and the society in general on childcare, growth and early development of a child (CCGEDC)," and "improve integrated services

of the CCGEDC at the community level, to start and promote income-raising programmes in the community."

The Tanzanian Ministry of Health uses the following policies and strategic plans to support parenting:

1) The National Road Map Strategic Plan to Accelerate Reduction of Maternal, New born Child and Adolescent Health in Tanzania (2021/2026)

2) Social behavior change and communication strategy (target is 1,000 days of home visits)

3) the Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) strategy. Safari ya Malezi, is a radio programme sponsored by BBC Media.

The programme aims to educate parent and caregivers on positive parenting and early childhood development. The programme airs experiences concerning achievements and challenges from various stakeholders and practitioners on positive parenting and family care

Tanzania builds national capacity to strengthen responsible parenting and family care

The Government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups (MoCDGWSG), is spearheading the

PARENTING PROGRAMS IN TANZANIA since 2015, UNICEF Tanzania commissioned a country-wide mapping study on parenting support policies and interventions. The mapping analyzed 29 parenting interventions from the following stakeholders: Aga Khan Foundation; Tanzania ECD Network; KIWAKKUKI; C-Sema, Catholic Relief Services; International Rescue Committee; Pamoja Tuwalee (pact, FH1360, Africare); Plan International; Save the Children; Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI); T-Marc; Parenting Africa Network; International Child Support; Monduli Development Pastoralist Initiative; Children In Crossfire; Caucus for Children's Rights; Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups; Ministry of Health; TASAF; UNICEF; USAID; CDC; WHO. The full mapping can be made available upon request to UNICEF Tanzania Country Office.

The mapping indicated that the majority of interventions (21 out of 29), aimed to inform and improve caregivers' skills, knowledge, and practices for child rearing globally and 16 out of 29 had a focus on child protection or violence prevention. The remaining programs focused on nutrition interventions, health practices, school readiness, HIV, and parenting Of adolescents. Today, 10 years later, as to the authors knowledge cutoff in September 2026, four evidence-based programs are being implemented in Tanzania aimed at supporting and educating parents to prevent violence against children and two additional programs are being implemented but have not yet published impact results for Tanzania.

We still have a long way to build on general best practices to Improve Parenting Intervention needing them to be involving, inclusive, engaging Ing and empowering of all key stakeholders

who are in deep parenting interventions in the country while are not coordinated lets harness each other programs and learn from each other to support the children.