

REAL FATHERS INITIATIVE



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SCALE-UP LOCATIONS

Northern Region: Nwoya, Gulu, Amuru
Karamoja: Nakapiripirit

PARTICIPANTS

Fathers 16-25 years old who are parenting a child 1-3 years old

THE APPROACH

1. **Identify community groups** in Northern region supported by the *Youth Empowerment and Livelihoods Development (YIELD)* program and communities in Karamoja served by an *Early Child Care and Development (ECCD)* Center.
2. **Interview all eligible young fathers** (up to 1200) to learn about parenting practices, attitudes toward use of physical punishment of children and intimate partner violence, couple communication skills, and involvement with economic strengthening and child care and development programs.
3. **Purposely assign communities** to control and intervention groups.
4. **Select and train 120 mentors** from the community (each mentor supports up to 4 fathers) and establish 2 community-based training teams (one in each region) to implement the cascade training model.
5. **Mentors meet with participating fathers** 14 times (7 individual mentoring sessions, 3 couple-based sessions, and 7 group mentoring sessions) over 8 months.
6. **Display 7 community posters** sequentially with images and messages of positive parenting that correspond to mentoring session messages in order to catalyze community reflection on fatherhood and parenting.
7. **Hold community celebrations** in intervention communities to provide an opportunity for participating couples to acknowledge successes and challenges of participation in the program and to publicly commit to sustained change in parenting and relationship practices.
8. **Interview all fathers** 3 months after intervention.

REAL SCALE-UP OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the Responsible, Engaged and Loving (REAL) Fathers Initiative is to test a model for scale up of the successful pilot through economic strengthening, child care and development programming integration.

Specifically, the project will:

1. Adapt and pre-test intervention mentor curriculum and resource materials, and develop culturally-relevant posters
2. Develop and test the effectiveness and scalability of the integrated model through:
 - A rigorous pre-test/post-test quasi-experimental design
 - Focus groups with stakeholders, mentors, training teams
 - Focused Life History interview with 10 young fathers and their wives/partners
 - Process documentation through ethnographic data collection during advisory group meetings, trainings, and community celebrations

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