



Gender Equality, Fathers Engagement, Violence and Early Childhood Care and Development: The Experience from Plan International



Promoting child rights
to end child poverty

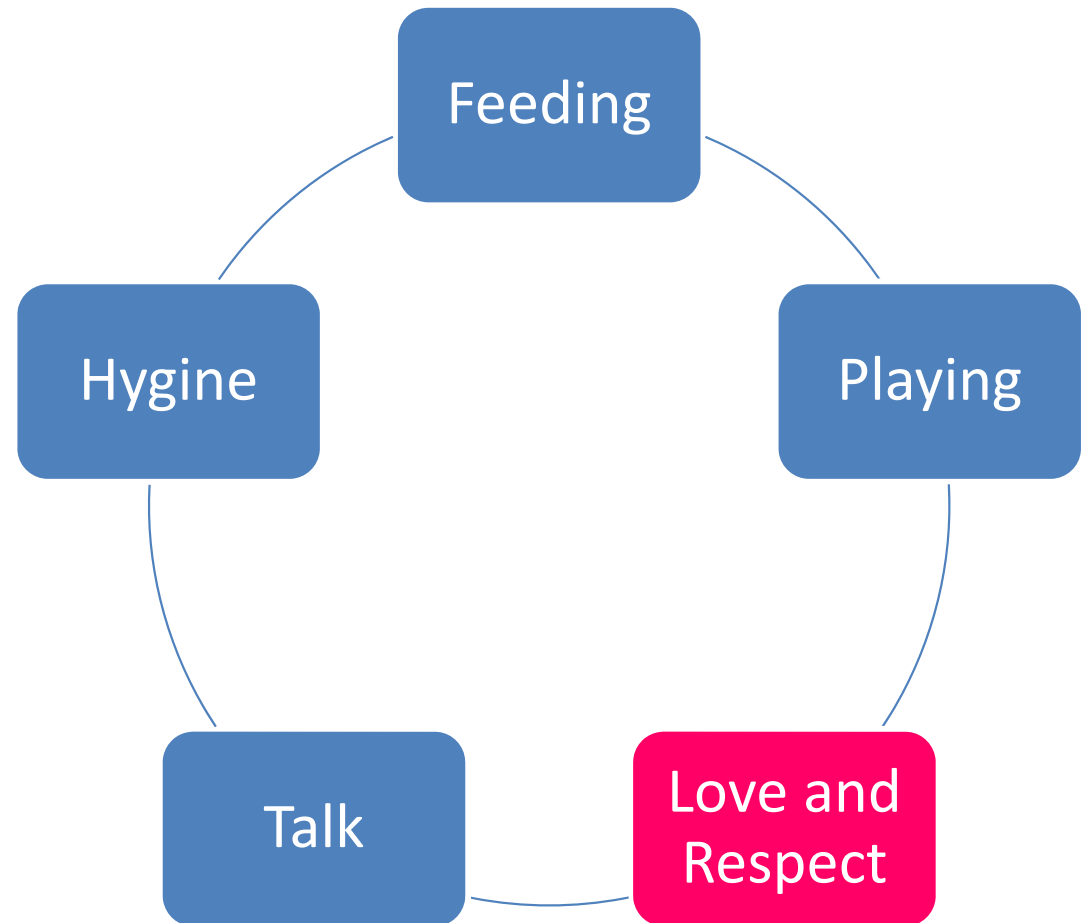
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Parenting situation in Lira, Northern Uganda

- **ECCD baseline 2012:**
 - Culturally caring for children considered as mother's role.
 - 82% of the fathers believed that they had no reason to have more than basic knowledge about child rearing.
 - In 22% of the households fathers are responsible for child while it is a shared responsibility in 11% of the households in 62% women's responsibility.
- **VAC baseline 2014:**
 - Most common VAC 0-8 yrs: physical abuse, child neglect (limited nutrition and late referral to health care) and child labour
 - Main reasons: alcoholism, domestic violence and poverty
 - major perpetrators: step mothers (52.7%), biological fathers (44.8%) and biological mothers (39.4%).

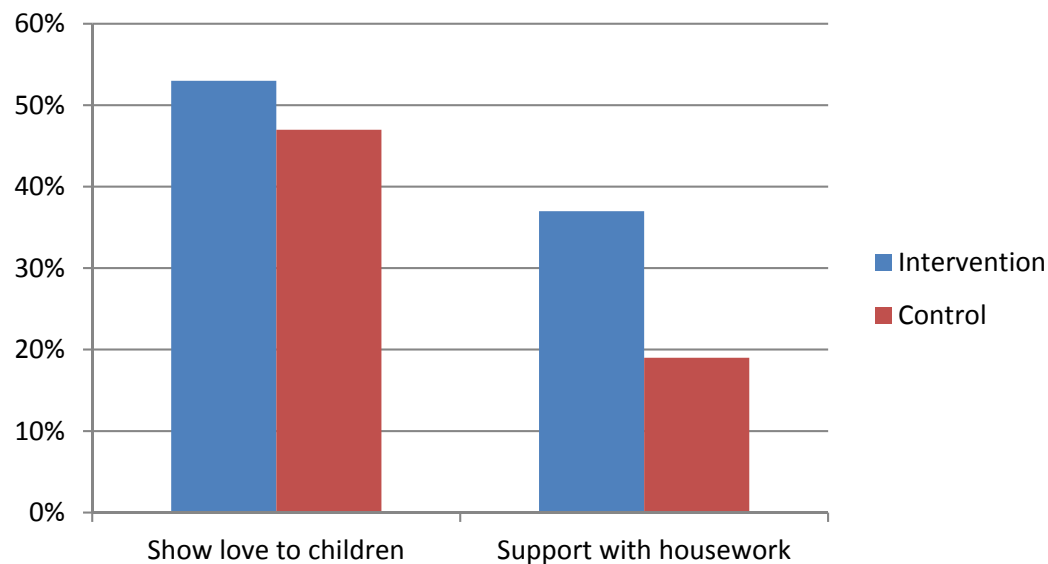
Community-Led Action for Children Parenting component

- Series of interactive activities including role playing, games, parent-child interactions, and group problem solving
- 6 sessions on child care and 6 sessions on mother's well-being (2 sessions fathers only and 2 combined)
- Home visits conducted



What is the evidence?

- Parenting programme evaluation 2013
 - Mothers who attended the parenting program reported more positive support from their spouse when compared to controls.



- Fathers and mothers reported improvement in involvement in child care, such as reduction of wife beating, participating in house chores such as cooking and washing plates, spending more time with children and a reduction in drinking.

Lessons and Challenges of engaging men



- Negotiating fathers' time to participate in sessions a challenge
- Fathers live in 'two worlds': one in the group sessions and another in the community.
- Gender self assessments are a strong tool to reflect and action on the linkage between early childhood and gender.
- Village saving and loans a good entry point to engage mothers and fathers.
- Research quality.

Scaling up

- Plan has successfully horizontally scale up the model in Uganda (reaching 20,000 people) and to other countries in the region.
- Community-based centers can allow to go to scale in a manner that is inclusive.



- Getting actors to work together is essential for scaling up.
- **The Pact** for ECCD in Uganda is a proposed division of roles and responsibilities among key stakeholders.
- Community mobilization (e.g. fathers engagement) is a n important task only a handful of NGOs can do this and this is a serious bottleneck.