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Midline and outcome evaluation of Lwala Community Alliance early childhood development (ECD) program in Rongo Sub County, Kenya



Introduction: Lwala Community Alliance (LCA) conducts a family-centered early childhood development (ECD) pilot program in Rongo Sub County, Migori County, Kenya to foster nurturing care environments that support the achievement of developmental milestones in children under 5 years. This goal is accomplished through engagement with community groups, trained and deployed Community Health Workers (CHWs), support of health facilities, and through building enabling environments. Implemented in 2021 in North Kamagambo and expanded in 2023 (Central Kamagambo, East Kamagambo, South Kamagambo), the program combines outcome and midline assessment to identify changes amongst caregivers, government ministries, and other stakeholders in ECD-related services and nurturing care since intervention.

Methods: Evaluation of the pilot program uses a pretest-posttest (midline and outcome assessment) study design. Data collection utilizes a mixed methods approach, including both quantitative and qualitative data sources.

Results: Preliminary analysis of caregiver survey responses suggests consistent changes with findings from baseline and midline assessments. For example, caregiver awareness of exclusive breastfeeding increased from 86% at the baseline to 99% at midline and remains high at 97%. Households generally report access to more ECD-related services, largely learned from CHWs, and increased rates of birth registration since baseline.

Conclusions: Lwala's family-centered early childhood development program highlights the importance of healthy environments for young children to reach developmental milestones. The expansion from a population of 20,000 to 125,000 created delivery challenges but has improved awareness of ECD services and nurturing care across Rongo Sub County.