

Journey of Life Psychosocial Support Intervention for Conflict-Affected Populations in Uganda

Presented by Flora Cohen, LMSW



Partnership introduction

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- Grace Obalim, MHPSS Supervisor, TPO Uganda
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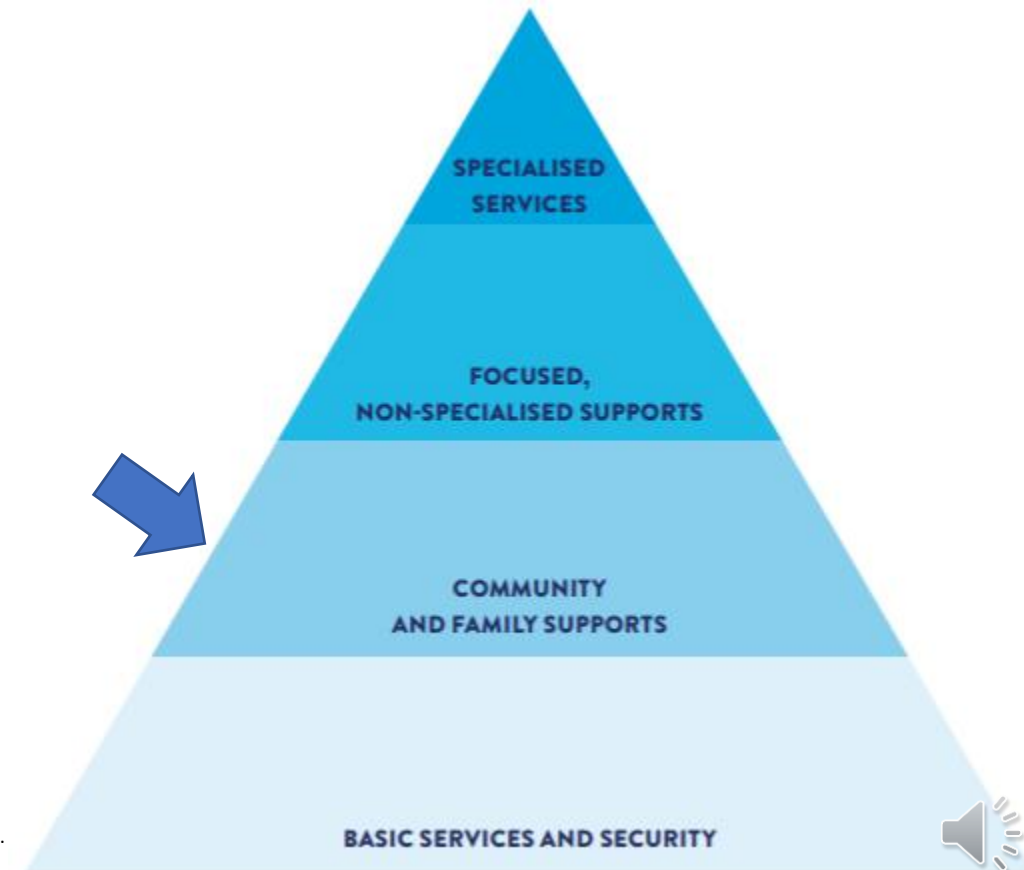
Setting and population description

- Describe the implementation and study setting(s)
 - Refugee settlement in Kiryandongo, Uganda
 - 99% from South Sudan
 - 62% of the population is under the age of 18
- Who are the target populations/communities?
 - Parents, teachers, and other relevant stakeholders



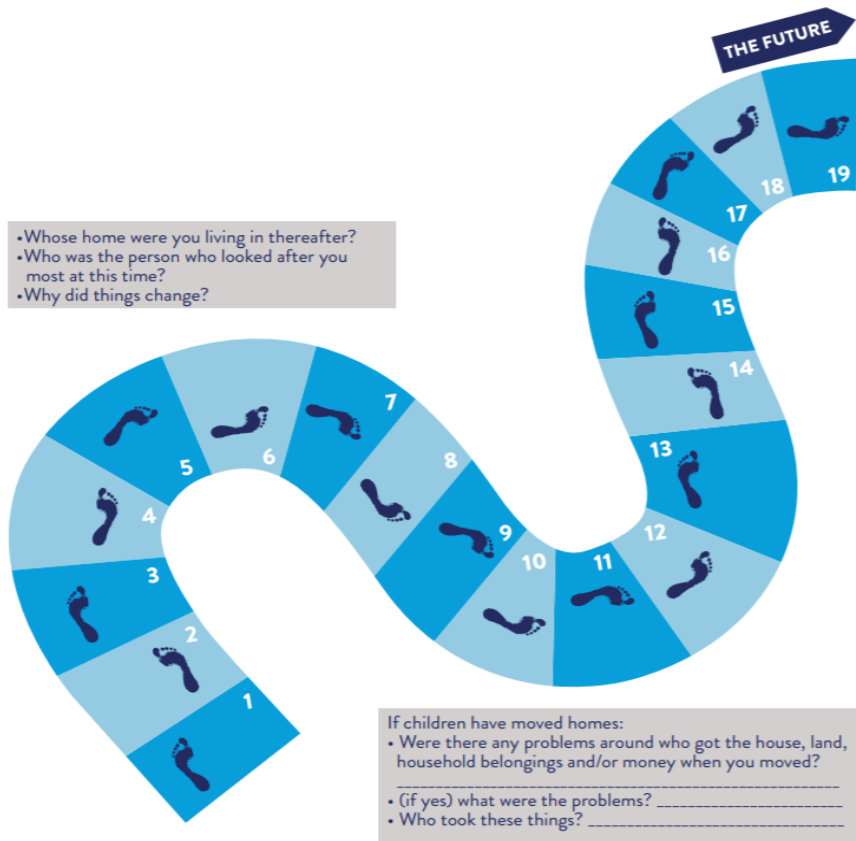
Journey of Life (JoL) description

- Community mobilization tool to enhance adult support to children. It uses drama, art, songs, and discussion to develop new skills.
- Core Components
 - Community parenting
 - Supporting grieving children
 - Lessons from life
 - Social connectedness
 - Making communities safer
 - Supporting children with disabilities
 - Ending child marriage
 - Ending human trafficking, and protecting children from abuse



Intervention implementation plan

MY JOURNEY OF LIFE



I was born on (date) _____
Where? _____
Whose home did I live in? _____
Who looked after me most? _____

- Quasi-experimental wait-list control design
 - Second ranch will receive intervention immediately following end line
- Delivered with three groups of stakeholders:
 - Community members (20 person groups over the course of 6 weeks, 2 hour sessions per week)
 - Teachers and school administrators (2 day workshops)
 - Local partners (2 day workshops)



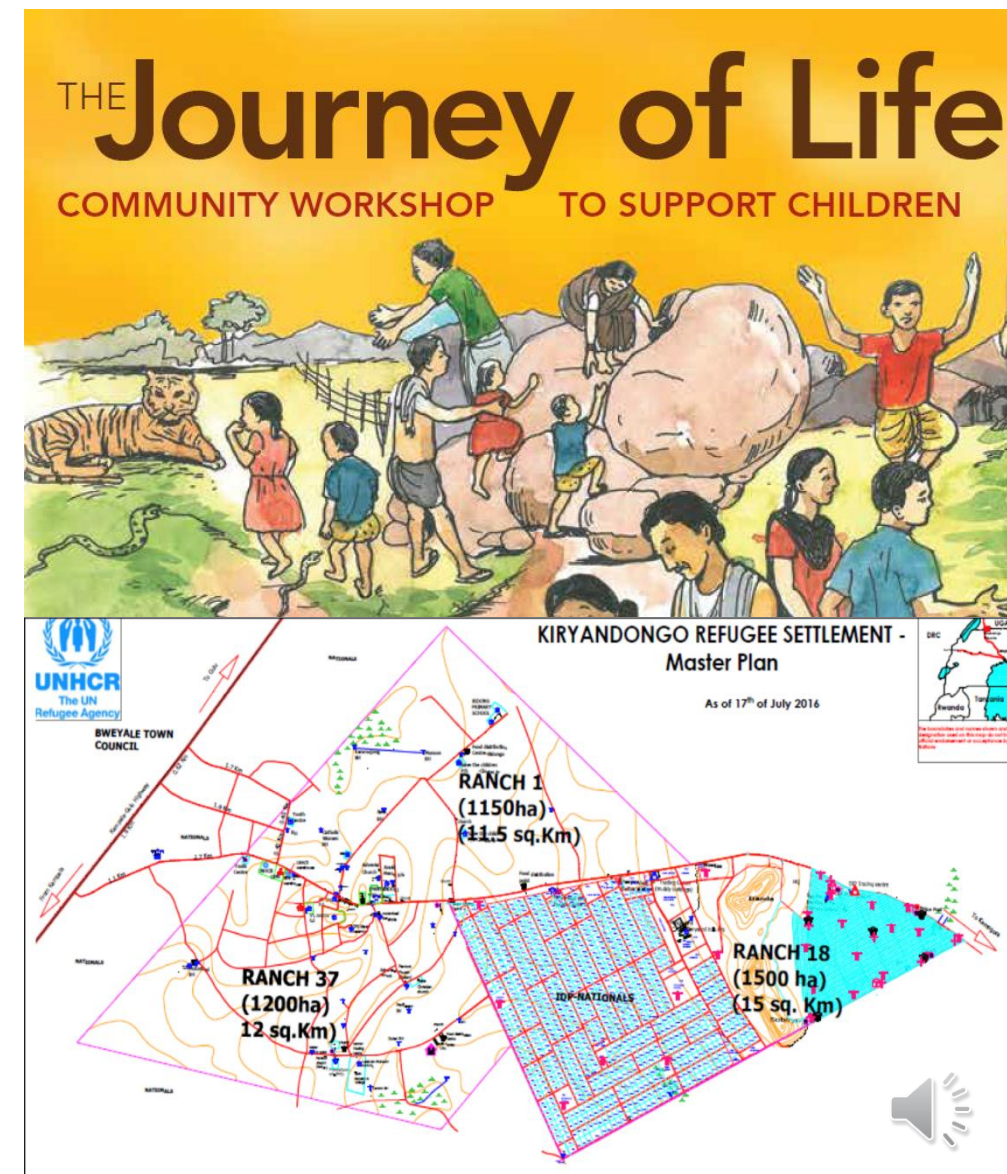
Study objectives

- Implement and evaluate the JoL intervention using a hybrid effectiveness-implementation design.
 - Effect: Examine effect sizes on primary and exploratory outcomes immediately post intervention: (1) skills and knowledge (2) emotional wellbeing, (3) social well-being;
 - Feasibility: evaluate intervention fidelity, adaptation, recruitment, and retention rates;
 - Acceptability: Assess participant satisfaction in addition to perceived barriers and facilitators, implementation staff satisfaction, and perceived contextual and cultural barriers and facilitators of intervention delivery.
 - Implementation: Use RE-AIM to guide assessment of implementation of the intervention, including process evaluations that feature in-depth interviews.
- Disseminate key findings



Study design

- Hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial
- Concurrent, convergent mixed methods
- Focus groups with staff, participants, and children pre- and post- implementation (implementation indicators)
- Ongoing monitoring and participant feedback (process indicators)
- Surveys with participants and controls pre- and post- intervention (effectiveness indicators)



Outcomes and methods

| Key Questions | Indicators | Data source |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| How do I reach those who need the intervention? | Number of people who participate in the intervention/total eligible | TPO records |
| How do I ensure this intervention is delivered properly (adoption)? | Number of sessions delivered with fidelity to design | JoL monitoring data |
| How can JoL be adapted for a humanitarian setting? | Recorded adaptations of protocol adjustments and implementation strategies. | FGDs and JoL monitoring data |
| What skills and knowledge are gained by participating adults? | % of adults demonstrating increase in knowledge about community safety, psychosocial support, and child protection. | Surveys and monitoring data |
| Does JoL improve adult emotional well-being? | % of adults who show higher levels of resilience and wellbeing from baseline to end line | Survey and qualitative data |
| Does JoL improve adult social wellbeing? | % of adults who show higher levels of social connectivity between baseline and end line. | Survey and qualitative data |



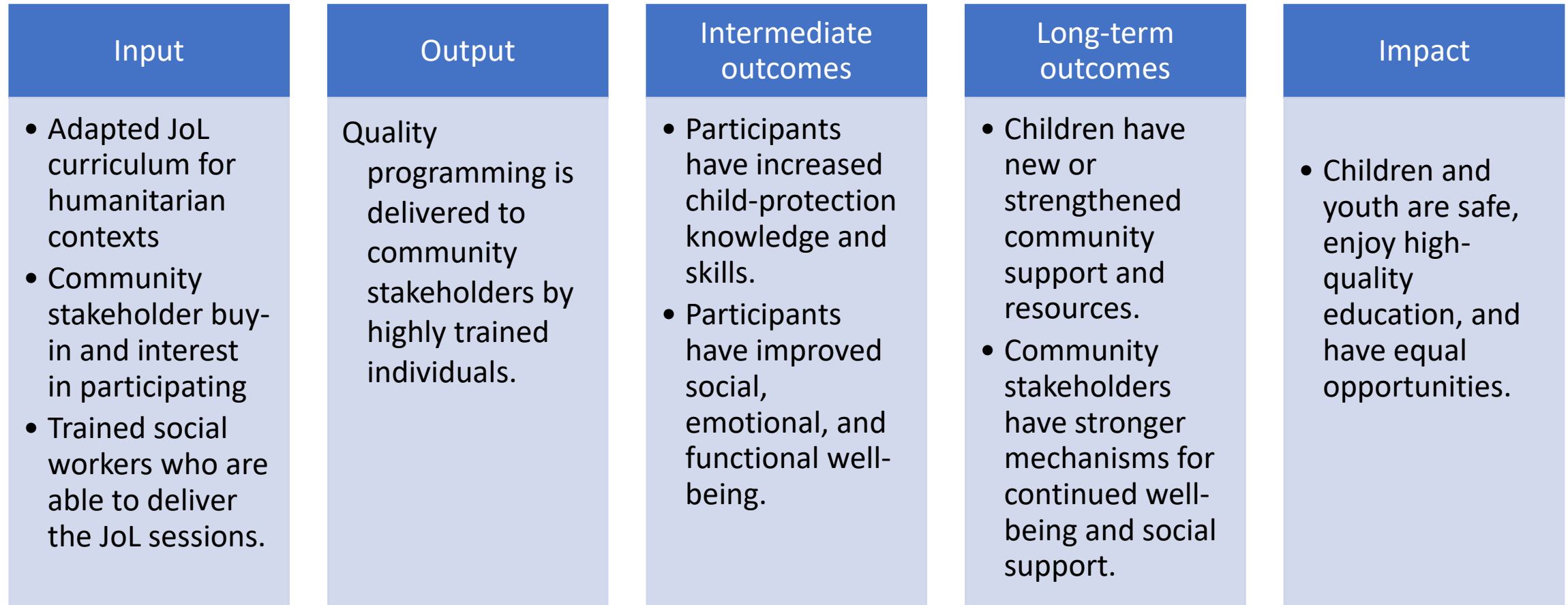
Involvement of stakeholders and linkages to in-country processes

- TPO currently operates in over 32 districts, with a long-standing program in Kiryandongo. Current collaborations include: Save the Children, Danish Refugee Council, Give Directly, Real Medicine Foundation, ACCORD, and Self Help Africa
- Washington University in St. Louis hosts SMART Africa, ICHAD, and DIRC with comprehensive programs throughout the African continent that utilize rigorous research methods.
- Dissemination of evidence through awareness raising sessions with community members, field level meetings in Kiryandongo and 4 other regions, & a national level meeting.



Theory of change

Issue: Children are vulnerable to the impacts of strained resources and support in the Kiryandongo refugee settlement.



Thank you!

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