

# Improving Emotional Care and Attachment for Institutionalized Children aged 0-36 months at Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala-Uganda

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UGANDA

## Introduction

- Children raised under institutionalised care are associated with maladaptive outcomes which may affect their competence and future productivity (Smyke, A. T., Dumitrescu, A., & Zeanah, C. H., 2002). This is due to deficiencies in social emotional relationships that impede the formulation of secure attachments and consequently the proper stimulation of the developing infant (McCall, et al 2013).
- Although foreign to the Ugandan culture, institutionalised care is steadily taking root in Uganda with over 50,000 children between 0 -17 years living in the 450 institutions across the country (Walakira E., Ddumba I., and Bukenya B., 2015). Wars, HIV/AIDS and an infant foster care and adoption system are contributing factors (Riley, 2012).
- Research demonstrates that interventions that target improving the quality of care in such environments tremendously alter the developmental trajectories of the developing infants (Bakerman-Kranenburg et al, 2009). This Intervention seeks to test the above hypothesis through training and making structural adjustments at Sanyu Babies Home in Kampala, Uganda.



## Goal

The goal of the Intervention is to promote warm, caring and socially responsive interactions and attachment relationships between children with stable and emotionally available caregivers at the home.

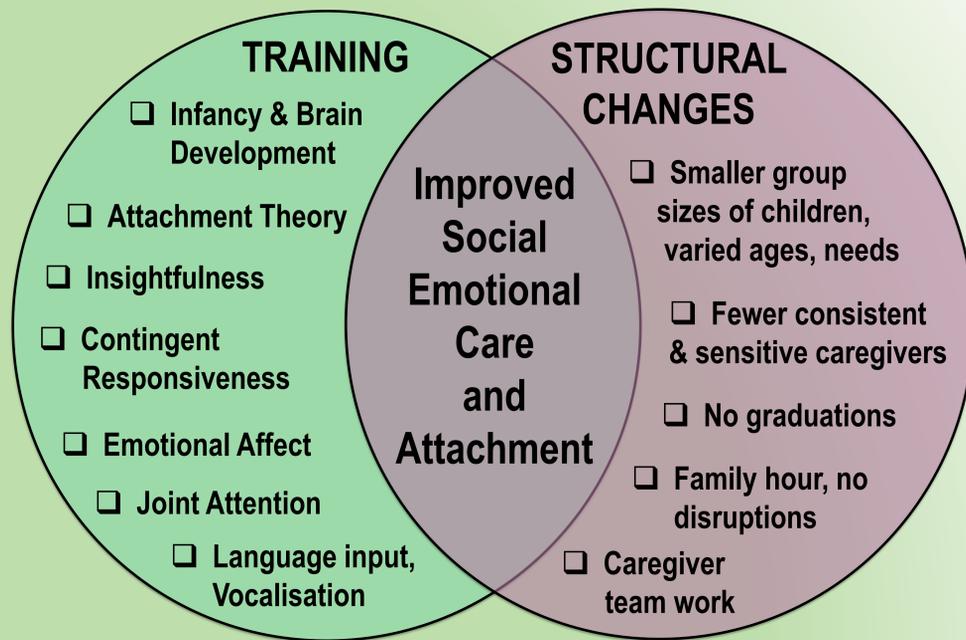
## Participants

55 participants; 41 Caregivers, Home Director, 10 Board Members and 4 government officials from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD).

## Measures

- Caregiver-Child Social / Emotional and Relationship Rating Scale (CCSERRS)** was specifically developed and studied in the context of orphanages for young children, but can also be used in non-residential early care and education settings.
- Emotional Availability Scales** assesses both the Caregiver and the child's emotional availability. The Caregiver has four scales, while the child has two. The Strength of the EA Scales is their universality and cultural specificity.

## The Intervention



Caregiver emotional availability is a pre-requisite to secure attachment

## Strengths and Limitations

- Strengths:** This Intervention is the first of its kind in Uganda. It will go a long way in improving the quality of care in children's institutional care arrangements as it is replicated in other institutions across the country.
- Limitations:** (1) Ethical considerations as a result of other infants in other babies homes who need the intervention, but cannot be reached in time, (2) Refusal to cooperate specifically on effecting the structural changes, (3) Sustainability of the Intervention ideas and changes.

## References

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