

iHELP

MMUST - KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY
JOINT IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF KENYAN iHELP CENTRES



MMUST RESEARCHER DR. ROSE OPIYO HOSTS IHELP PARTNERS FROM KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY AS THE TEAM GEARS UP FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

By Linet Owuor and Shiundu Masafu; lowuor@mmust.ac.ke

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Ag. Kakamega CEC for Education Science and Technology, Dr. George Lutomia (centre front row), Prof. Godfrey Ejuu and Dr. Rose Opiyo and staff from MMUST after a courtesy call to County offices.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) IHELP Principal Investigator Dr. Rose Opiyo and Ugandan counterpart Prof. Godfrey Ejuu have just concluded the impact assessment of IHELP centres in Ikolomani Sub-County-Kenya. The three-day impact assessment has revealed the great benefits and improvement of livelihoods in communities targeted by the Inclusive Home-Based Learning Project. The key objectives of the research were knowledge sharing, capacity building of parents and caregivers as well as system strengthening to promote early learning. Speaking during a courtesy call by the IHELP researchers to his office, the Ag. Kakamega County Executive Committee Member for Education Science and Technology, Dr. George Lutomia, noted that Inclusive Home-Based caregiving has been a missing link and that the IHELP project will help in bridging the gap. He further said that the County Government of Kakamega has positively received the project and is ready to support it to ensure that a Childcare Care Center is established in collaboration with MMUST. "Establishment of Childcare centres will be a great solution to the caregiving challenge, that is common especially to children below the age of four years.

We have incorporated the Children Ministries and set up a legal framework complete with policies accepted by the National government to ensure this project becomes a success. These centres will equip our children with both social and physical skills," stated Dr. Lutomia.

He was accompanied by Ms. Agnes Mukhuvi from the



Prof. Godfrey Ejuu embraces a child at one of the Ihelp centres in Kakamega County.

The professor of Early Childhood from Kyambogo University, Prof. Godfrey Ejuu, noted that IHELP research is a model that will certainly upscale early childhood learning and inclusive caregiving. He urged Dr. Rose Opiyo, the Co-Principal Investigator (PI) to develop a hierarchy of command, create a work plan for the centres, establish children assessment model and make use of the available local resources to make play materials for the children. "I would like to encourage my Co-PI Dr. Opiyo to continue with community mobilization and work on dependency of the project for the community. It may also be necessary to create a program for the children that is more of play than academic and work on inclusivity aspect of the research," encouraged Prof. Ejuu.

Additionally, the Coordinator, IHELP from Kyambogo University, Dr. Martin Omond, highlighted the areas that were well executed which included active leadership and involvement of the County administration, children safety, inclusion of postgraduate students to carry out their research within the project, improved sanitation as well integrated services and supervision. The centres have permanent and spacious structures which are favorable for the children as well as inclusion of nutrition in the children meals.



Prof. Godfrey Ejuu addressing the participants.

The visiting partners were impressed by the implementation of a number of aspects which they promised to effect back home. These aspects, which were pointed out by the project Focal Person-Dr. Miria Nandera, included: publicity of IHELP research up to national level, nutritional aspect, involvement of experts from diverse fields, the county administration inclusion in sustainability of the project, double meals for the children and creation of nap time for the babies to rest. The other members of the team from Uganda, Research Assistants, Mr. Lubanga Elvis and Mr. Emmanuel Emiau, termed the whole activity as a thrilling and learning experience that has impacted on their research experience. The IHELP impact assessment exercise will undoubtedly ensure that the challenges in the project are addressed at this early stage to ensure advancement and sustainability of IHELP centers across the three partnering countries; Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

"I appreciate the support that the University Management together with my funders have accorded me. I would like to change lives using this project,"

MMUST IHELP PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR DR. ROSE OPIYO AND UGANDAN COUNTERPART PROF. GODFREY EJUJU CARRY OUT IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF IHELP CENTRES IN KENYA

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Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology iHELP project Principal Investigator, Dr. Rose Opiyo, has today, 26th July 2022 hosted IHELP partners from Kyambogo University, as the team gears up for impact assessment. The team from Kyambogo University are around the entire week and will be visiting the established IHELP centers to assess and evaluate the advancement of the project. The IHELP partners from Kyambogo University included the Co-Principal Investigator, Prof. Godfrey Ejuu, project coordinator- Dr. Martin Omondung, project Focal Person-Dr. Miria Nandera; Research Assistants, Mr. Lubanga Elvis and Mr. Emmanuel Emiau. The visiting researchers paid a courtesy call to the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Planning Research and Innovation, Prof. Charles Mutai who commended them for the collaboration to ensure sustainability of the Inclusive Home-Based Early Learning project. “We are on the right track as a University and have ensured capacity building for our researchers as well as prudent leadership and financial management of research grants. I urge you to expand the collaboration to encompass staff exchange for purposes of increasing research capacities. As an avenue of resource mobilization, funds merging will be an ideal approach,” said Prof. Mutai. care, Child safety, nutrition and Enterprise Management.

“I appreciate the support that the University Management together with my funders have accorded me. I would like to change lives using this project,” said Dr. Opiyo. The Registrar, Planning Research and Innovation, Prof. Alice Ndiema pointed out that this is a special project focusing on a forgotten area that is important to families and community and that a day care for the University would be a very good idea. Additionally, the Dean School of Education (SEDU), Prof. Moses Poipoi noted that as a School, they have been working closely with Dr. Opiyo especially through the Department of Psychology. This is a timely project which they have used to sensitize the community on Child Speaking during the meeting, the Director Research and Postgraduate Support, Prof. Peter Bukhala, noted that the IHELP project is among the many projects that are doing well in the University.

“Dr. Opiyo has held a number of workshops and has been involved in the research office at MMUST. This is research that can easily be translated into a bigger multi-disciplinary project,” he said.

The Director, Income Generating Unit (IGU), Prof. Charles Tibbs said that the unit is ready to support the project in financial literacy and financial inclusion as well as the strengthening of the sustainability component.

Commenting on the value of the IHELP project towards the image and visibility of the University, the Director, Corporate Communications and Marketing, Dr. Lydia Anyonje, stated that the University is proud to be part of this highly transformative project that is enhancing livelihoods.



The DCV-PRI explains a point during the meeting

“The project has the potential to spill over into numerous disciplines and associated projects. It is desirable that the project be replicated in all the forty-seven counties with communication as a key component,” advised Dr. Anyonje. Echoing the sentiments of the Dean SEDU, the Chairperson of the Department of Educational Psychology, Dr. Edward Okaya reiterated that the Department is privileged to house this great project.

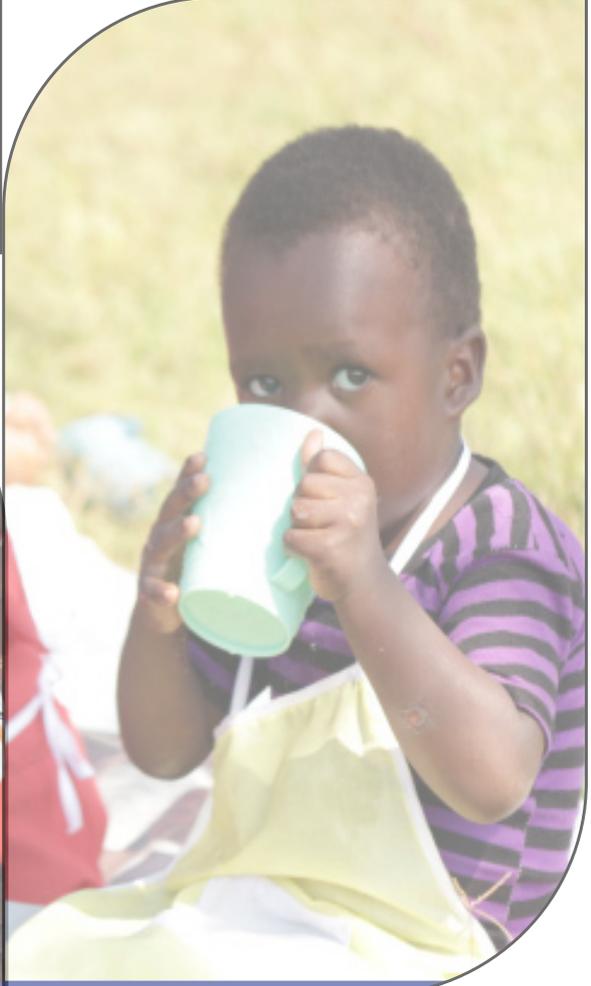
The other notable members present at the meeting included the Grants Officer, Ms. Winnie Chebii, Chairperson, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Raphael Ongunya, Ms. Joanne Nabwire (IHELP Researcher) and Ms. Dorine Ambetsa from the Directorate of International Relations and Academic Linkages (DIAL).

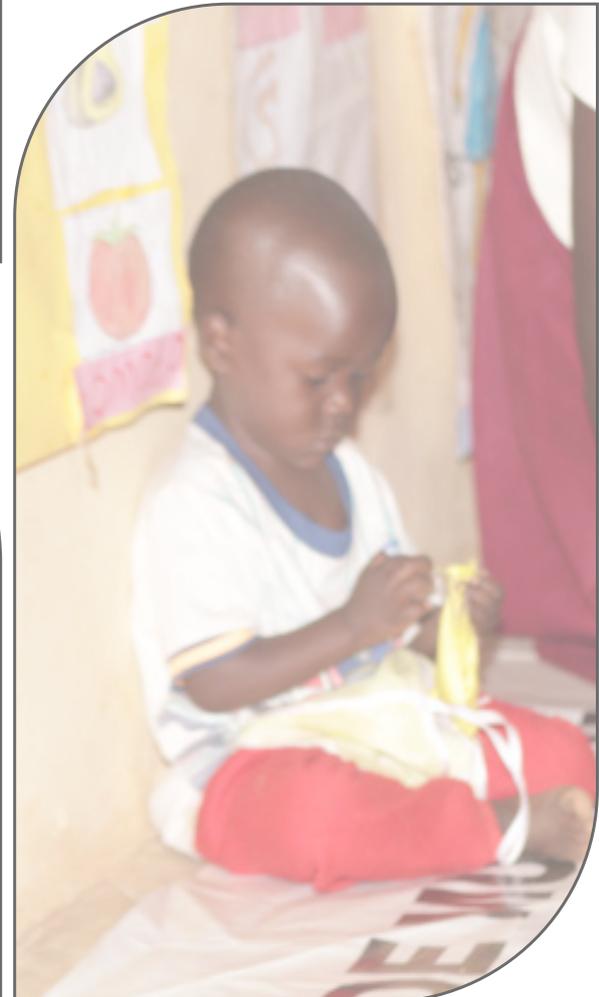
IHELP project PI's Dr. Rose Opiyo and Prof. Godfrey Ejuu together with the Dean SEDU- Prof. Moses Poipoi at the meeting.

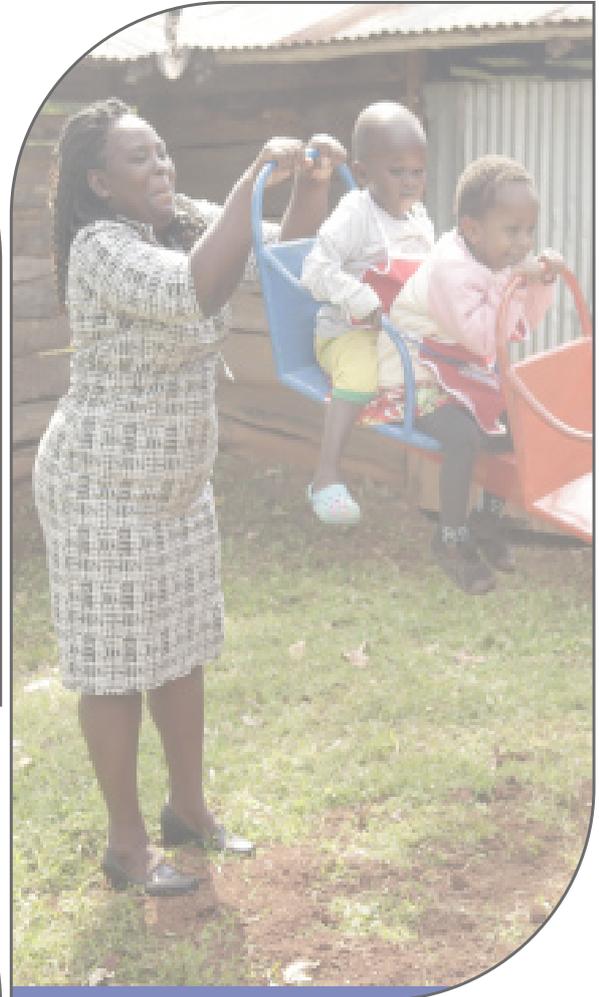


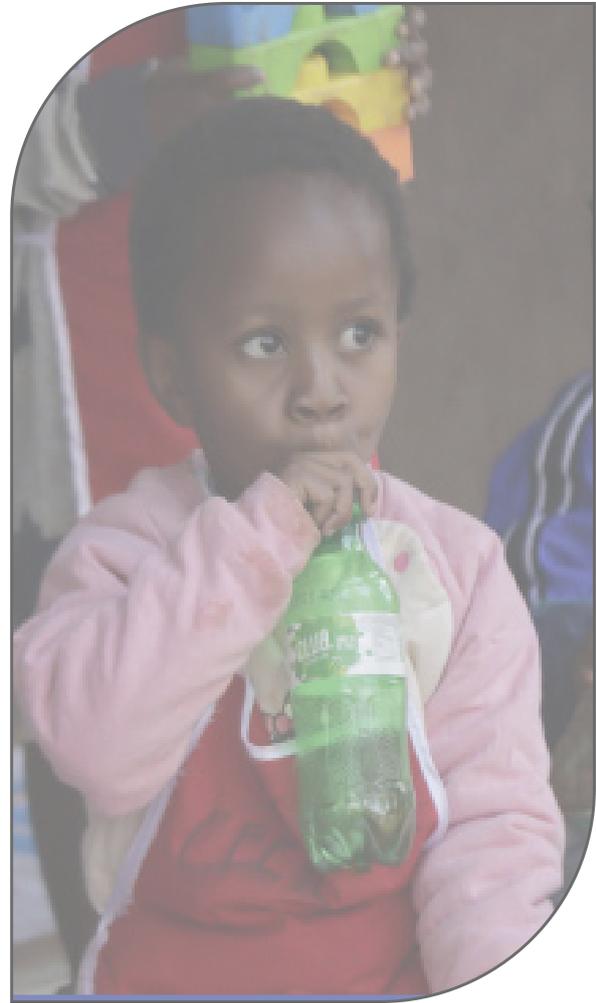








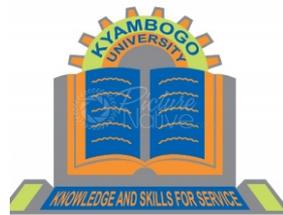




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