



Sustained Impact: The Power of Communities as Change Agents

Creating Nurturing Ecosystems for Children to THRIVE – Faith Leaders as Change Agents



**Moments
That Matter[®]**



Who We Are

PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES

Episcopal Relief & Development partners with locally led organizations around the world to advance lasting change in communities impacted by injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change. We focus on four interconnected priorities.



Early Childhood Development

Equipping parents and caregivers so young children can reach their full potential.



Women and Girls

Forging partnerships to reduce violence and advance equality.



Climate Resilience

Investing in communities to strengthen resilience to climate change.



Disaster Response

Providing emergency relief and long-term support in disasters.

Moments That Matter®






- Partnership for Early Childhood Development
- Based on the Nurturing Care Framework
- Utilizes the power of change agents including faith leaders
- Operational in 6 African Countries



**Moments
That Matter.**



MTM Pathways of Change

Agents of Change	Strategies for Nurturing Care Social & Behavior Change	Results	
Community			 Young Children Thrive
 ECD Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local ECD Action Planning & Sustainability• Oversight of ECD Promoters• Develop & Strengthen Linkages to Service Providers	Mobilized Communities for Nurturing Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enduring ECD Leadership & Volunteers• ECD Knowledge & Skills Permanently Embedded & Spreading Neighbor-to-Neighbor• Transformed Social Norms That Promote ECD and Nurturing Care• Families Accessing Vital Services	
 Faith Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote Nurturing Care Parenting• Encourage Social Norm Change• Provide Specific Support to Families		
 ECD Promoters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate Caregiver Groups, ECD Home Visits, and Referrals		
Families with Children 0-3			
 Parents & Caregivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caregiver Support & Learning Groups• Home Visits• Savings with Education Groups	Empowered Parents/Caregivers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empowered Parents and Caregivers• Strengthened Father-Child Engagement• Increased Responsive Care & Early Learning• Increased Child Safety and Reduced Use of Harsh Punishment• Improved Child Nutrition & Health• Strengthened Family Livelihoods	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutrition Activities and Health Actions• Connection to Services		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fathers/Male Caregiver Activities• Other Locally-Determined Activities		

Change Agents Trained, Equipped, Promoting and Sustaining Impact in Communities



564

ECD Committees

7,757

ECD Promoters

2,506

Faith Leaders – Clergy and
Lay,
Interfaith/Interdenominational

Essential Element of the Approach: Deliver Programs While Investing in Community Leadership & Ownership



- Strengthen partner **institutional capacity**, and local stakeholder engagement, leading to community ownership while **expanding reach**
- Increase percentage of **multi-faith** leaders committed to ECD
- Increase the number of multi-faith networks implementing partners



Why Faith Leaders?



- **Key Community Stakeholders**
- **Leadership Influence**
- **Networking and Coordination**
- **Wide Reach**
- **Outreach to vulnerable populations**
- **Emotional and spiritual support**
- **Conduits of social change**



Faith Leader Influence on Fathers



“I have heard the MTM faith leaders talking about how parents should . . . not use anger to discipline. It has affected me so that I have stopped beating my children.”

MTM Participant Father

Approximately 60% of homes we visit during pastoral care now indicate males and females equally performing household tasks. . . In the past, a husband would wait for his wife to prepare meals for the child no matter if the child would stay hungry for a long time...”

MTM Pastor



Deepening the Role of Faith Leaders

- Faith Leaders are equipped to share the religious and scriptural basis for nurturing care of young children
 - 93% of those trained used the MTM Sermon Guides & Bible Studies
- Faith Leaders are committed to and skilled in facilitating the social and behavioral changes necessary for nurturing care:
 - Positive discipline instead of harsh punishment
 - Gender-equitable roles in parenting
- Interfaith coalitions are advocating for ECD

Sustained Impact - Faith Leaders as Champions and Stewards of Change



"As leaders in the church, we recognize our responsibility to nurture and protect our children, guiding them on their spiritual journey. We are called to create a haven where they can grow, learn, and thrive so that they grow in Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Love, and Faith".

Archbishop Albert Chama during World Malaria day

**"Men are now more involved in activities traditionally considered women's responsibilities, such as bathing children, helping with household chores, and accompanying mothers to health centers."
(Primary Caregiver)**

*"When you always hear about a servant of God you relax. The bible even says, bring all your burdens to me and I will make you rest. We also believe that faith leaders are people that bring good things. If I am sick and the faith leader prays for me, I believe that I will be healed and it happens so. Or if there is a family issue/conflict they unite us and offer guidance and counselling, so that made us feel comfortable because we know that they are carrying blessings."
(Primary caregiver)*

There is a big change because we would tell them [couples] about their bad behaviours many times and they definitely get to change. We encourage couples to love each other because a couple that is happy has happy children, their family is well united. He has given an example of when Jesus got lost and they went looking for him together, Joseph did not tell Mary to look for Jesus alone but they went together to look for him." - Faith leader

*"Faith leaders in the program also helped me a lot with my personal and family problems; today I am more patient and tolerant because they teach us ways of coexistence, respect for others, they teach us to have faith and put everything in God's hands, and my relationship has improved a lot...
(Primary Caregiver)*

Key Takeaways

- Faith Leaders are **TRUSTED EFFECTIVE CHANGE AGENTS**
- Faith Leaders **SUPPORT SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE** and changing harmful cultural norms
- Faith leaders are **POWERFUL** and **ESSENTIAL** in **ADVOCATING/INFLUENCING** Policy and policy amendments/changes
- Faith Leaders **TRANSFORM** themselves and lead **TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITIES**
- Interfaith Networks are unified platforms to **REINFORCE KEY LEARNING AND MESSAGES** and **SUSTAIN IMPACT** of interventions in communities





THANK YOU

