

# Improving the quality of child-care centres through supportive assessment and 'communities of practice' in informal settlements in Nairobi: Protocol of a feasibility study <sup>[1]</sup>

**Author:** Nampijja, M., Okelo, K., Wekulo, P. K., Kimani-Murage, E. W., & Elsey, H.

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## AVAILABILITY

Access online <sup>[2]</sup>

Access online [PDF] <sup>[3]</sup>

## Excerpted from Abstract

**Introduction** Investing in children during the critical period between birth and age 5 years can have longlasting benefits throughout their life. Children in Kenya's urban informal settlements, face significant challenges to healthy development, particularly when their families need to earn a daily wage and cannot care for them during the day. In response, informal and poor quality child-care centres with untrained caregivers have proliferated. We aim to co-design and test the feasibility of a supportive assessment and skills-building for child-care centre providers.

**Methods and analysis** A sequential mixed-methods approach will be used. We will map and profile childcare centres in two informal settlements in Nairobi, and complete a brief quality assessment of 50 childcare centres. We will test the feasibility of a supportive assessment skills-building system on 40 child-care centres, beginning with assessing centre-caregivers' knowledge and skills in these centres. This will inform the subsequent co-design process and provide baseline data. Following a policy review, we will use experience-based co-design to develop the supportive assessment process. This will include qualitative interviews with policymakers (n=15), focus groups with parents (n=4 focus group discussions (FGDs)), child-care providers (n=4 FGDs) and joint workshops. To assess feasibility and acceptability, we will observe, record and cost implementation for 6months. The knowledge/skills questionnaire will be repeated at the end of implementation and results will inform the purposive selection of 10 child-care providers and parents for qualitative interviews. Descriptive statistics and thematic framework approach will respectively be used to analyse quantitative and qualitative data and identify drivers of feasibility.

**Ethics and dissemination** The study has been approved by Amref Health Africa's Ethics and Scientific Review Committee (Ref: P7802020 on 20th April 2020) and the University of York (Ref: HSRGC 20th March 2020). Findings will be published and continual engagement with decisionmakers will embed findings into child-care policy and practice.

**Region:** Africa <sup>[4]</sup>

**Tags:** informal <sup>[5]</sup>

quality <sup>[6]</sup>

child care workforce <sup>[7]</sup>

**Source URL (modified on 22 Sep 2021):** <https://childcarecanada.org/documents/research-policy-practice/21/09/improving-quality-child-care-centres-through-supportive>

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