



for every child

# Learning for Life

## Early Childhood Development and Education for Displaced Children

In 2018, Latter-day Saint Charities provided the seed funding for Learning for Life, a multi-country program designed to meet the early childhood development (ECD) and education needs of children who have been forced to flee their homes due to the conflict in South Sudan and the resulting regional refugee crisis. UNICEF is implementing this program alongside host governments and other partners in the four major South Sudanese refugee host countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

Learning for Life is providing children with a chance to attain the skills and life opportunities they need to break cycles of poverty and violence, empowering them to reach their full potential. Quality ECD is essential for equipping children with the nutrition, stimulation and protection they need for optimal brain development. ECD and education also have immediate benefits, providing children a sense of stability and normalcy, as well as safe spaces to learn and play.

In partnership, Latter-day Saint Charities and UNICEF are working toward four key outcomes: 1) Increased access to ECD and education services; 2) Improved quality of ECD and education for crisis-affected children; 3) Strengthened family and community participation; and 4) Progress toward reinforced sustainability of ECD and education delivery.

In each country, refugee and vulnerable host community children from the ages of 0-8 are being provided with ECD services, in newly constructed spaces, to meet their cognitive, physical and emotional health and developmental needs. Teachers are trained on



A girl plays a steel drum in an Early Childhood Development center in the Isingiro district of Uganda.

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child-centered learning and inclusive education using core curriculum, life skills, conflict sensitive education and psychosocial support. Engaging and empowering families is improving the quality and sustainability of the program. UNICEF is also working with governments to ensure that ECD and education services benefit all children – including refugees.

Truly sustainable development starts in early childhood and must include investments in the rights of the most vulnerable children. Thanks to Latter-day Saint Charities, this program, with its focus on establishing the critical foundations for children’s lifelong learning, will enable meaningful development progress with long-lasting returns for generations to come. ●

## Results to Date

- 109,480 children have been reached through Learning for Life, including:
  - 103,064 children have accessed quality ECD and education
  - 6,416 children have accessed Alternative Learning Programs, which provide out-of-school children catch-up education options and a pathway to enter formal education
- 40,113 parents have been trained on child development and caregiving best practices
- 2,243 ECD workers have been trained on child-centered learning and inclusive education

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