



**Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial of the
Parenting for Respectability Programme to
Reduce Violence Against Children and Gender
Based Violence in Uganda**

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Sexual Violence Research Initiative

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Background



Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Violence against Children (VAC)

- Co-occurrence of IPV and VAC in Uganda
 - 36% of women experience physical IPV; 22% sexual violence
 - 59% girls and 68% boys experience physical violence
- Factors associated with both VAC and IPV:
 - Poor attachment and parental bonding
 - Inequitable gendered socialisation
 - Harsh parenting
 - Spousal conflict and disrespect
- Emerging evidence on the impact of parenting interventions on IPV
- Gender transformative approach to transform harmful gender roles, norms, and power imbalances





Parenting for Respectability (PfR)

Home-grown evidence-based parenting programme developed in Uganda with following goals:

1. Focus on **parents' desire for good child behaviour** and the family's respectability
2. Deliberate **engagement and inclusion of fathers** starting with father-only and mother-only sessions
3. Build **parents' confidence to parent positively** and identify solutions through discussion and reflection
4. Promote **healthy spousal relationships** through reflection on social norms and communication



Programme structure and delivery



- Community based mixed gender programme
 - 10-20 men and women per group
 - 2-3 hours per session
- 16 weekly group sessions
 - First 9 sessions single sex groups
 - Last 7 sessions mixed sex groups
 - Final session community graduation event
- Programme delivery
 - Peer facilitators nominated by community
 - 4 facilitators per group
 - 5 days training pre-programme plus top-up after Session 9





Uganda Parenting for Respectability Implementation Science Study (UPRISE)

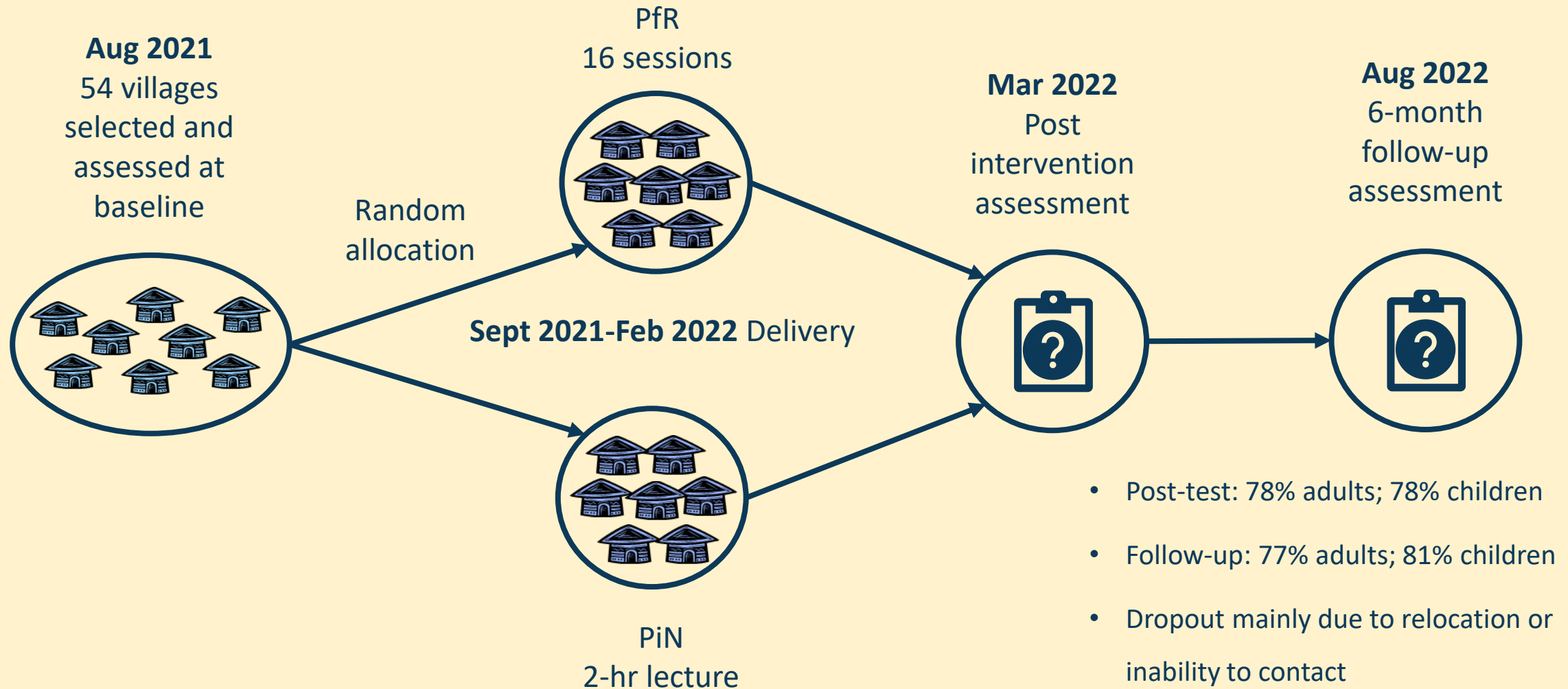
- Cluster randomised controlled trial
 - 54 village clusters, 1:1 comparison
 - 2,318 parents recruited through community meetings (46% male)
 - 844 children ages 10-14 randomly selected for child-report (46% boys)
- Comparison group: Parenting in a Nutshell (PiN)
 - 2-hour community lecture
 - Delivery by community facilitators
 - Same content as PfR



Amuru

Wakiso

Cluster randomisation



Summary of results



- Positive results for PfR across almost all outcomes
 - Effects of PfR were stronger at 6-months follow-up
 - Impact of 2-hour lecture faded after 6-months
 - Child assessments supported parents at 6-months (not at post-test)
- Reduced overall child maltreatment
 - Reduced physical and emotional abuse
 - Reduced acceptability of corporal punishment
- Reduced overall intimate partner violence
 - Physical and emotional abuse victimisation and perpetration
 - Sexual violence victimisation and perpetration
 - Improved partner-initiated negotiation reported by children



Summary of results



- Positive effects on key secondary outcomes linked to violence
 - Increased equitable gender socialisation
 - Improved positive parenting, monitoring
 - Increased support of education and child educational aspirations
 - Increased investment in basic child necessities
 - Reduced household food insecurity
 - Reduced parenting stress and parent depression
 - Improved child behaviour and mental health
- Higher attendance showed a greater intervention effect on primary outcomes



Moderator analysis



- Tested a large number of sociodemographic, behavioural, experiential, and health-related moderators, **measured at baseline**, for PfR effectiveness on:
 - Female parent/caregiver reports of intimate partner violence experience
 - Male parent/caregiver reports of intimate partner violence perpetration
 - Child reports of male treatment from female and from male parent/caregivers
- Multilevel mixed models using 3-way interactions [PfR allocation; time point; and moderator] to test for heterogeneity in intervention effects
 - Moderators were assessed one at a time



Summary of results



- Women self-reports of experiencing IPV
 - higher educational attainment
- Men's self-reports of perpetrating IPV
 - Not biological father; higher support for children's education
 - Higher child misbehaviour and depression scores
- Child self-reports of physical and emotional abuse by caregiver gender
 - Similar findings for the female and the male caregiver
 - Greater school attendance; caregiver support for education; caregiver able to provide fewer child necessities; caregiver showing less respect



Concluding thoughts



- Overwhelmingly positive results across multiple outcomes linked to VAC and GBV
- Increased effectiveness at follow-up suggests potential benefits of more intensive interventions to sustain impact
- PfRs effectiveness was not generally patterned by any key caregiver-reported baseline characteristic which is important for equity
- Next steps...scaling through hybrid and digital modalities (but what will be the trade-off in terms of impact?)



THANK YOU!



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