

Educating instructors



Who train foster parent groups



In quality care



SOS
BØRNEBYERNE

**FAIRSTART
FOUNDATION**
HELP CHILDREN SAVE THE WORLD

"Quality in Alternative Care" education:

Tanzania, Zanzibar, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia

**EDUCATING STAFF TO TRAIN PARENTS AND FOSTER PARENTS
- IMPROVING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH**

**PRESENTERS:
JOHN KAGAJU
RONALD SSENTUWA**

THE NEW STRATEGY FOR SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES: Local capacity building!

Empowering local care systems:

- Close cooperation and educations for local staff
- SOS Mothers move out as foster parents
- Family reunion programs
- Small business & health support for women
- Training local parents and foster families, refugee and urban high-risk children

139 SOSCV FAIRSTART INSTRUCTORS EDUCATED Rwanda, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya and Ethiopia

They train groups of foster, kinship, and local parents and social workers.
Covered: 15.000 children and youth.

Instructors and parents have formed strong mutual support groups.

Child development improved by 20 %

Governments approve and include the program.

Next step: A program for Somalia.



THE EDUCATION : A STARTUP SEMINAR FOLLOWED BY A 6 MONTH ONLINE CLASSROOM




Online classrooms save 80 % of education budgets
Student peer feedback, daily online support from Fairstart
Electronic registration of child and caregiver progress

Each instructor trains a group of foster/
kinship/ or parents 8 times three hours -
This creates a strong local support group



 UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD

 Faculty of Psychology
and Sports Science

 SOS
BØRNEBYERNE

IKG

Institut für interdisziplinäre
Konflikt- und Gewaltforschung

25
Jahre

**FAIRSTART
FOUNDATION**
HELP CHILDREN SAVE THE WORLD

Emmy
Noether-
Programm

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



Quality in Alternative Care

Scientific evaluation: Preliminary findings and next steps

Tobias Hecker

tobias.hecker@uni-bielefeld.de

Steps of the program evaluation

1. Feasibility: ✓

- Demand
- Applicability
- Acceptability

2. Effectiveness:

- Does the program increase parenting skills?
 - Does the program improve children's well-being?
- **Limited effectiveness from uncontrolled program evaluations**, e.g. child development improved by 20%.

Intermediate step: development of an instrument to measure the effectiveness

VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUTH STUDIES
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17450128.2022.2075068>



Testing the psychometric quality of screening tools for the well-being of children and caregivers in alternative care-settings: a multi-informant study with families in Tanzania

Tobias Hecker^a, Getrude Mkinga^b, Katharina Hach^a, Ronald Ssentuuwa^b, Maregesi Machumu^c, Niels Peter Rygaard^d, Lene Godiksen^e and Florian Scharpf^a

^aDepartment of Psychology & Institute for Interdisciplinary Conflict and Violence Research, Bielefeld University, Bielefeld, Germany; ^bSOS Children Villages International, East and Southern Africa Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; ^cDepartment of Educational Psychology and Curriculum Studies, Dar es Salaam University College of Education, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; ^dFairstart Foundation, Arhus, Denmark; ^eSOS Children Villages Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark

Sample:

- 124 caregivers
- 99 children (57 girls, *Mage* = 9.30, *SD* = 4.65, range 3–17)

- Scorecard A showed good **internal consistency** and **test-retest-reliability** across age groups. Significant associations with the SDQ indicate **convergent validity**.
 - The **internal consistency** of Scorecard B was acceptable in the questionnaire and good in the interviewer rating, while **re-test-reliability** and **inter-rater reliability** were moderate. Associations with established measures of well-being and resources provided evidence for **convergent validity**.
- ➔ The Scorecards hold promise as brief screening tools to identify children and caregivers with difficulties and evaluate intervention programs in low-resource contexts.

Next Steps of the program evaluation

Testing the effectiveness with a **multi-site cluster-randomized controlled trial**

- Does the program increase parenting skills?
- Does the program improve children's well-being?

Resources

Outcomes of the East African project:

and the progress of children and caregivers in the training:

https://www.academia.edu/35896225/660_African_children_made_20_progress_after_blended_learning_foster_caregiver_training

At www.fairstartfoundation.com:

20 language versions of training programs, developed with partners worldwide: scroll down, select "Choose language and training programme".

Research in :

Papers and presentations:

<https://independent.academia.edu/NielsRygaard>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Niels_Rygaard2