

Scaling responsive caregiving through parenting programmes: What have we learnt?



About Thrive programme

Thrive is a large-scale, multi-country research programme which aims to build understanding of early childhood development (ECD) service delivery models at scale, and how they can transform to significantly improve childhood health, nutrition, education and well-being in low- and middle-income countries. Thrive seeks comprehensive, practical answers about how ECD systems innovate, improve, and better serve children and communities. The programme is funded by FCDO and managed by Oxford Policy Management (OPM) in collaboration with the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), and Yale University. It is implemented in five countries – **Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Kiribati.**

Thrive Tanzania

Thrive Tanzania is managed by Thrive in collaboration with Ifakara Health Institute (Tanzania), IIES/Stockholm University (Sweden), FAIR/Norwegian School of Economics and Chr. Michelsen Institute (Norway) and aims to:

- Serve the national ECD agenda by producing research that can help to improve ECD outcomes in Tanzania at scale;
- Contribute to the global evidence base through novel research that aligns with Thrive's Conceptual Framework.

Scaling responsive caregiving through parenting programs: What have we learnt?

The Thrive consortium is pleased to host a **2-hour learning event** at the 2024 EAR Early Childhood Conference, entitled “**Scaling responsive caregiving through parenting programmes: What have we learnt?**”. The session will start with an **introduction by Thrive Tanzania PI, Dr. Honorati Masanja** (Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania), giving a brief **overview of Thrive** research in Tanzania, with a particular focus on Thrive’s parenting work. This introductory presentation will be followed by a **lecture by the internationally renowned Professor Orazio Attanasio**, Professor in Economics at Yale University and Thrive Work Stream Lead on “Piloting innovative ECD approaches”. Attanasio has been **awarded several prestigious grants and prizes**, including the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize **for his use of economic models and field experiments to assess and shape early child development programmes and policies in low-income countries**. In this state-of-the-art lecture, Attanasio will give a historical overview of parenting programmes and share valuable insights from his work designing and testing innovative approaches to improve responsive caregiving worldwide. The lecture will be followed by a **panel discussion** focused on how the lessons learnt in the preceding lecture apply to the East African region. The panel will include a diverse selection of high-profile representatives of NGOs, government ministries, and international organisations leading the parenting debate in the Tanzania. The panel discussion will be followed by a **group discussion** and **concluding remarks** by Dr. Honorati Masanja.

Bio Prof. Orazio Attanasio

Orazio Attanasio is the Cowles Professor of Economics at Yale University, a Research Associate at the NBER and a Research Fellow at BREAD. In 2020 he was president of the Econometric Society. He has worked on the evaluation of various policy interventions in lower income countries: in Mexico, he served on the advisory board of “Progres-Oportunidades”, and assessed the impact of a school scholarship programme for the Ministry of Education; in Colombia, he worked on the evaluation of several welfare programs (including a large training programme and a conditional cash transfer) and of several early years interventions, both centre and home-based; in India, he worked on a large responsive caregiving home visit and centre-based care intervention; in Ghana, he participated in the evaluation of Lively Minds, a centre based intervention currently being scaled up.

Bio Dr. Honorati Masanja

Dr. Honorati Masanja is the Ifakara Health Institute sitting Chief Executive Director. His professional background is statistics and epidemiology. He holds a PhD in Epidemiology and has extensive experience in data management, clinical trials, design, and evaluation of large maternal and child health programmes. Dr. Masanja has led the successful acquisition and implementation of national and regional projects whose direct impact on strengthening Tanzania’s health system is still seen today. Dr. Masanja’s scientific engagement spans across borders. Having published extensively in international journals and books, he is also an editorial reviewer for the MRC Joint Health Systems Research Initiative, and member of Tanzania’s National eHealth Steering Committee and the Steering Committee for Monitoring and Evaluation.

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Thrive Learning Event – 2024 EAR EC Conference

Venue:

Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre

Time:

Wednesday 13 March 2024, 16:30 – 18:30

Primary Objective:

- Provide overview of Thrive Tanzania research on scaling ECD delivery models, with particular focus on the design and evaluation of scalable parenting programmes.
- Give overview of history of parenting programmes + share state-of-the-art insights on how best to bring these programmes to scale in Low- and Middle-Income Country (LMIC) settings.
- Host high profile panel discussion on challenges and opportunities related to scaling parenting programmes in the Eastern Africa region.
- Facilitate group discussion on lessons learnt, relevance to and implications for ECD service design in the Eastern African region.

Programme:

Time	Session	Presenter/moderator
16:30 – 16:35	Opening	Presenter: Dr. Honorati Masanja
16:35 – 16:50	Introduction to Thrive Tanzania research	Presenter: Dr. Honorati Masanja
16:50 – 17:30	Lecture by Prof. Orazio Attanasio (Yale University): Scaling Responsive Caregiving through Parenting Programmes – Lessons Learnt	Presenter: Prof. Orazio Attanasio
17:30 – 17:40	Q & A	Moderator
17:40 – 18:10	Panel discussion: Challenges and opportunities related to scaling parenting programmes in the Eastern Africa region	Moderator
18:10 – 18:25	Q & A	Moderator
18:25 – 18:30	Closing remarks	Presenter: Dr. Honorati Masanja

