**STIGMA REDUCTION APPROACH**

**AIMS**

- To develop and rigorously evaluate an intervention that aims to reduce the stigmatisation of children - and thereby remove barriers to community participation and access to vital services.

- To bring together adaptable strategies to address stigma reduction - ensuring the intervention is suitable for diverse groups facing stigmatisation in differing contexts.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- In-depth background research has been conducted drawing on existing scientific literature - including two systematic reviews of intervention studies. This research has informed the development of the conceptual framework which will guide the approach.

- A practice run has been conducted in DR Congo to assess the feasibility and community acceptance of the intervention - with very promising results.

**PROGRESS**

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<tr>
<th>Formative (A)</th>
<th>Piloting (B)</th>
<th>Evaluation research (C)</th>
<th>Implementation research (D)</th>
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<td>75%</td>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>2021-2022</td>
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**FUNDING**

15%
Children and families worldwide face stigmatisation and discrimination on a daily basis. This stigmatisation - the social process of exclusion and discrimination arising from local norms - is manifest in both attitudes and actions. It reduces opportunities for participation in the community and access to vital services. And it can have a significant negative impact on an individual’s physical and psychosocial wellbeing.

Stigmatisation is rooted in local norms - and any attempt to address it must be customisable for use within different communities. The Stigma Reduction Approach encompasses three distinct phases. The first phase is data gathering to understand the drivers of stigmatisation against certain groups - and identify opportunities for change. The second phase identifies target groups and analyses the opportunities for change. The third phase implements customised stigma reduction strategies. Each phase is implemented with the support of trained community change advocates.

**PROCESS**

**A Formative**

- Conduct systematic literature review to identify the available evidence on stigma reduction interventions for children in low- and middle-income countries
- Develop conceptual framework for the intervention
- Conduct practice run of intervention strategies in DR Congo
- Conduct systematic literature review to evaluate common strategies used in stigma reduction interventions for children in low- and middle-income countries
- Develop zero-draft intervention manual outlining the three intervention phases
- Conduct feasibility study to assess the coherence and effectiveness of the three phases of the intervention

**B Pilot**

- Pilot test a version of the intervention in 2020-2021.

**C Evaluation**

- Formally evaluate the impact of the approach on targeted communities in 2021-2022.

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