CHILD WELL-BEING AMIDST THE COVID-19 CRISIS

In response to the current Covid-19 global crisis; The AfriChild Centre developed a response strategy aimed at supporting child well-being amidst the pandemic. The sudden outbreak of this pandemic triggered several socioeconomic challenges in Uganda and the world over including; limited, inaccurate, inappropriate and non-inclusive information on COVID-19, and escalation of Violence against Children.

Cognizant of the likely adverse effects to children including; mental stress caused by loss or separation from primary caregivers, lack of adequate access to protection mechanisms and services, disruption in livelihoods and family connections, fear and anxiety as well as increased domestic violence in the home. It was imperative for us at AfriChild to contribute to on-going efforts to address these emerging challenges given our unique position as a child focused multidisciplinary research Centre.

Since April, the AfriChild Centre has undertaken a national media campaign on both electronic and print media i.e. (Television, Radio, News Paper and Social Media) targeting children, care givers, duty bearers and policy makers. The campaign has focused on empowering children with child protection information that is helpful at this time, best parenting practices for prevention of violence against children, and through dissemination of messages to support families to address the emerging mental health challenges.

AfriChild is in the process of finalizing a study on the effects of COVID 19 on the wellbeing of children. We hope that this study will inform not only the government of Uganda but also other African governments on how to better prepare for future pandemics as relates to the well-being of children and families.

AfriChild Executive Director in one of the talk shows meant to amplify the need child protection
Shared messages urging children to continue with their aspirations despite COVID 19