

PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN POST WAR NORTHERN UGANDA: RESULTS FROM THE WAR CHILD HOLLAND'S COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH.

Workshop on Community-Driven Approaches to Child Protection

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Introduction

Community-Based Child Protection (CBCP) Intervention

- ▣ Developed in 2009 by WCH; revised in 2011/2012.
- ▣ The intervention is process oriented, prioritizes community capacity and self-help, and stresses consensus & cooperation
- ▣ It is underpinned by an interactive approach: engaging the community structures in the analysis of problems and gaps, promoting dialogue and development and implementation of action plans with a long-term focus on the prevention of violence against children.

Phases

- The CBCP intervention comprises three sequential phases.
 1. **Community-Driven analysis** of VAC in the targeted communities.
 2. **Dialogue sessions** to identify priority action areas, identify community-based child protection (CBCP) structure
 3. **Development of and implementation** of interventions to prevent violence against children

Figure 1: Features of the CBCP intervention

Community-based engagement in understanding and identifying child protection issues in the community

CBCP structures are facilitated to identify activities to prevent and respond to child protection risks and threats

Development of action plans to implement the selected intervention activities

CBCP structures supported to implement measures to address child protection risks

Continuous dialogue, reflection and implementation

Theory of change underpinning the intervention

- ▣ Violence against children is a result of a complex interaction of risk and protective factors. Children experience more violence due to absence or weakened support systems or protective factors. Building a protective environment for children—at the community level reduces children’s exposure to violence

- ▣ The intervention theoretical framework draws on:

- ▣ Diffusion of innovations, community organizing, and peer influence.

- ▣ Social network theory: creating an environment of mutual reciprocity in which residents are collectively engaged in supporting each other and in protecting children.

- ▣ Ecological model and systems models

The problem

Community-based child protection mechanisms increasingly utilized as a strategy for preventing and responding to child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence ([Wessells, 2009](#); [Yiga, 2010](#)).

- A common programming response in emergencies, and are applicable to transitional and development contexts; particularly in areas affected by conflict (Wessells, 2009)
- However, there is a dearth of rigorous evaluations concerning the effectiveness of community-based child protection mechanisms.

The Evaluation

Evaluation aim and outcomes

- Aim:
 - ▣ To evaluate the impact of WCH's Community-Based Child Protection approach on elimination of violence against children in northern Uganda.

- Primary and secondary outcomes
 - ▣ Caregivers' knowledge, attitudes and practices related to abuse
 - ▣ Children self-reported violence
 - ▣ Children violence/abuse reporting attitudes and practices.

Methods

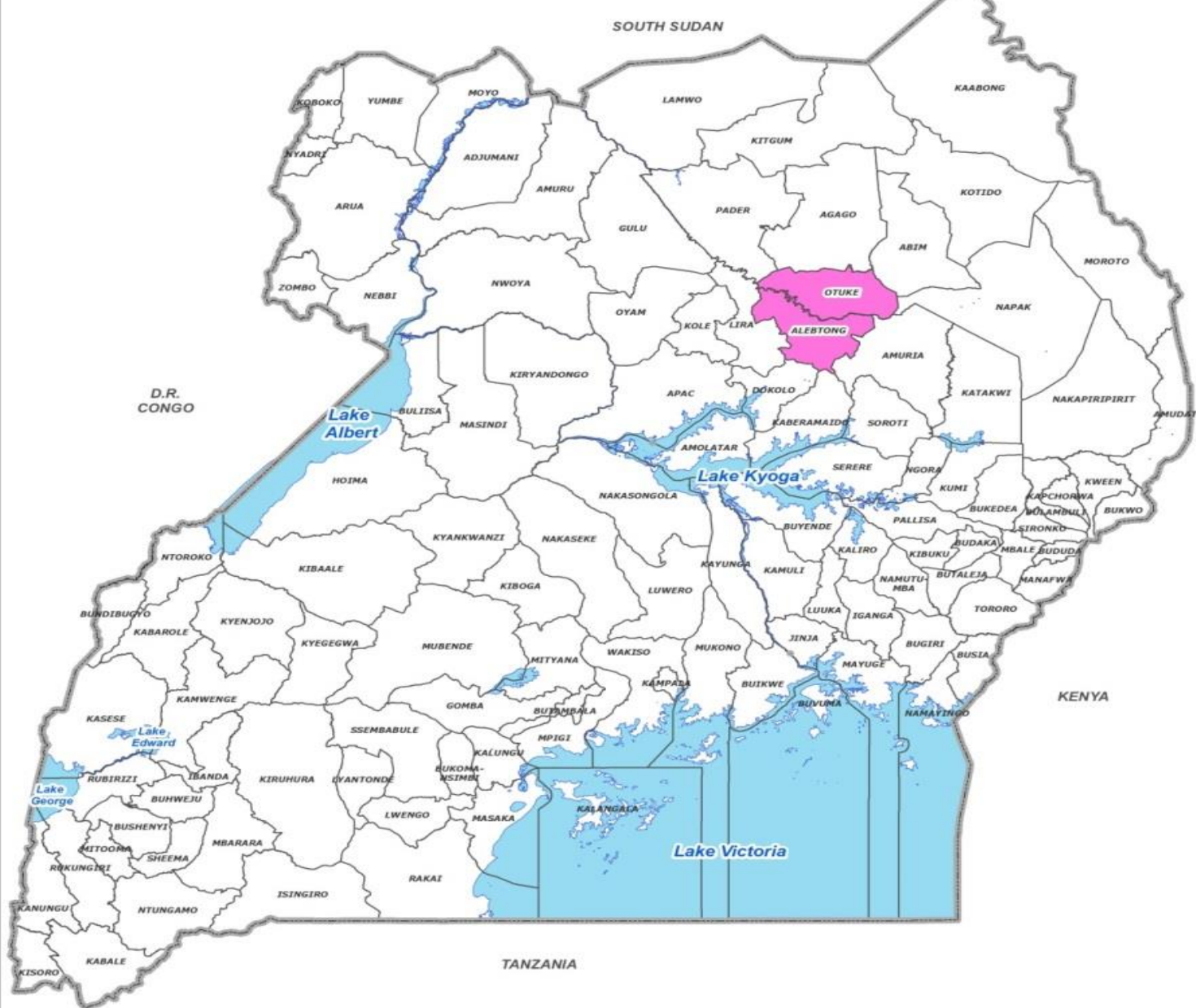
Study design and setting

Design:



- Quasi-experimental design with a matched control group at the baseline and endline
- Mixed methods approach (qualitative & quantitative).
- Pre-test data (baseline) were collected in June and July 2014, and post-test data (endline) were collected in August 2015

Study area:

- Ating Parish, Otuke District (Intervention Area)
- Anyanga Parish, Alebtong District (Control Area).

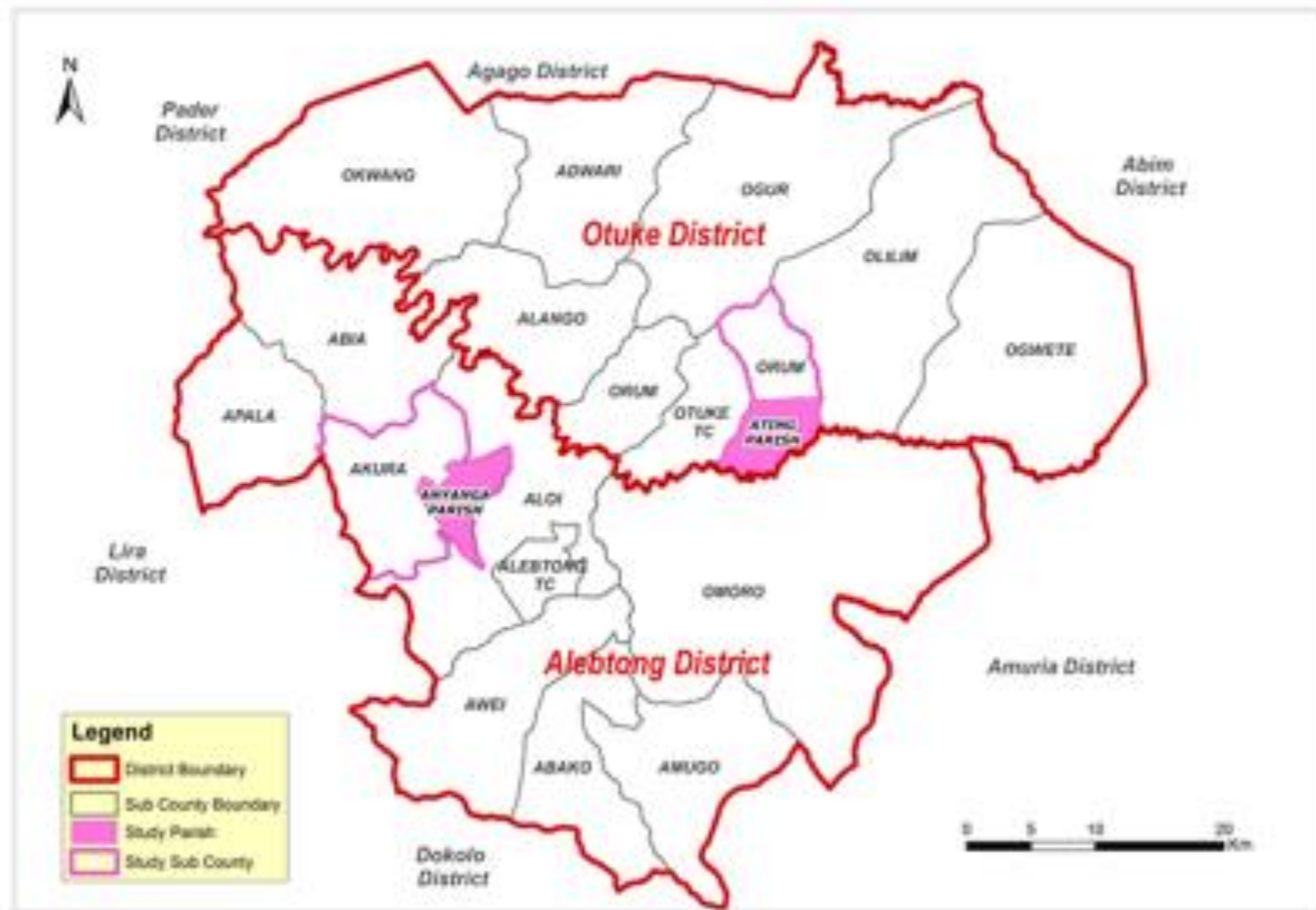


Legend

-  International Boundary
-  District Boundary
-  Study Districts
-  Water Body/ Lake



Map 2: A map of Alebtong and Otuke showing the two study parishes



Methods continued

Sampling plan and Participants:

- ▣ A random sample of 10 villages was taken from the intervention and control parish, at baseline.
- ▣ Randomly selected households with children 10-17 years in each village.
- ▣ Interviewed one primary caregiver and one child (10-17 years) from each selected household
- ▣ Caregivers and children who participated in the baseline survey were followed up for a second round of interviews.

Methods...

Data Collection: Baseline

- 427 primary care givers and 427 children interviewed (10-17 years) interviewed at baseline; representing a response rate of 92%.
- Caregivers
 - Female, 93% (Mean age: 39 years)
 - 40 % had never attended any formal education,
 - 80 % respondents were married or living together in a relationship.
 - 89 % identified as Christians.
- Children
 - Average age (mean \pm S D) was 13.3 ± 2.4 ; 54 percent were female; 17% were orphans

Table 1: Baseline Sample

Parish Name	Number of participants			
	Children		Primary Caregivers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Intervention Area	92	110	10	192
Control Area	106	119	20	205
Total	198	229	30	397

Methods...

Data Collection: Endline

- Successfully followed up:
 - 89% of the caregivers (185 in the intervention area and 195 in the control area); and
 - 81% of the children (171 in the intervention area and 176 in the control area).

Data Analysis

- Descriptive statistics, mainly frequencies and percentages, are used to summarize the data.
- The difference-in-difference estimator was used to estimate the impact of the intervention on the outcome indicators.

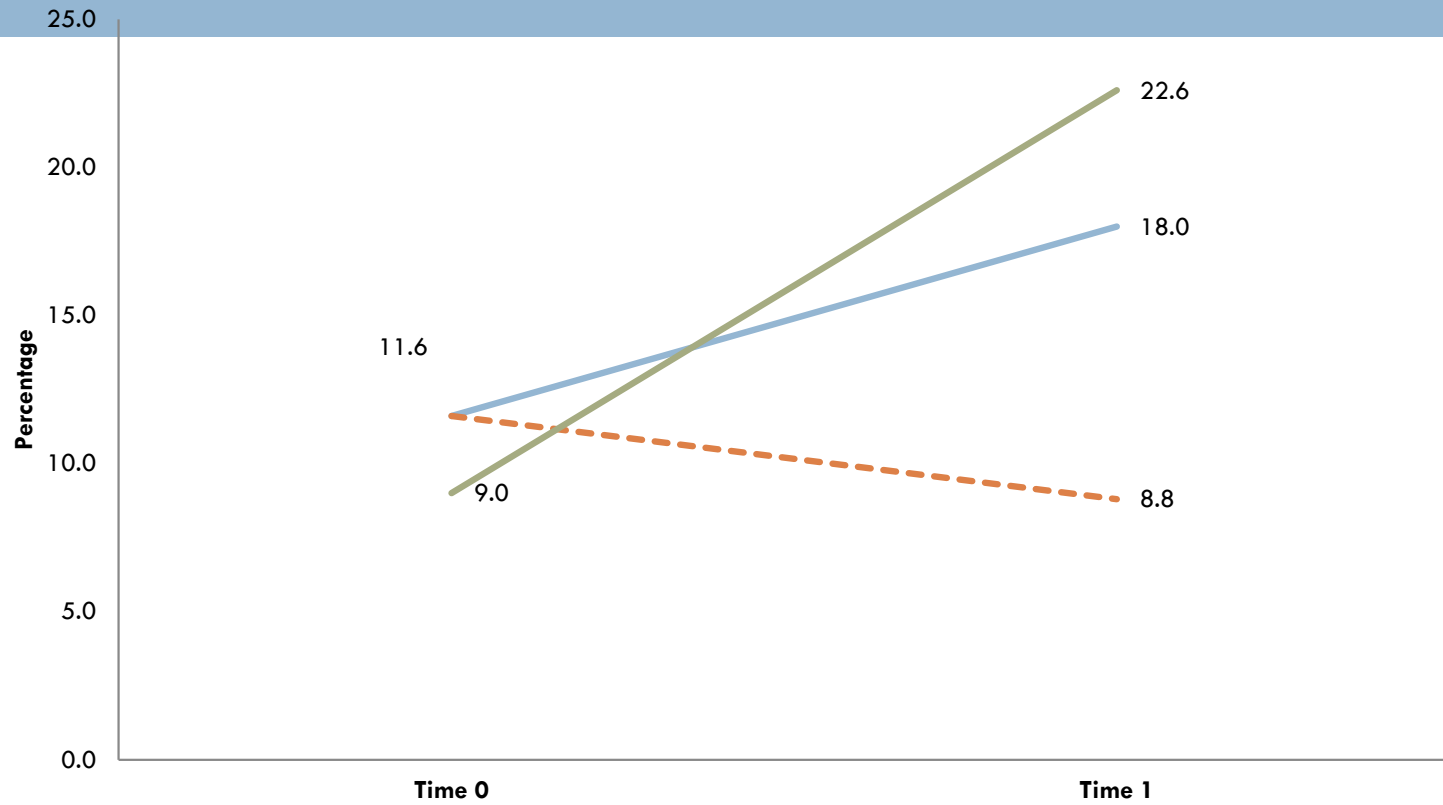
Ethical approval:

- Ethical approval and National Clearance for the study was obtained from the Mildmay IRB, and UNCST, respectively

Results

- The intervention was **effective** in improving caregivers' knowledge on child abuse, and **positively changing** caregivers' attitudes towards physical punishment and reporting child abuse
- Use of violent disciplinary practices by caregivers (as reported by caregivers) also **significantly declined**.
- The intervention did not have any significant effect on self-reported violent (physical, emotional and sexual) victimization among children.

Caregivers' knowledge of child abuse, in the intervention and control area, at baseline and endline

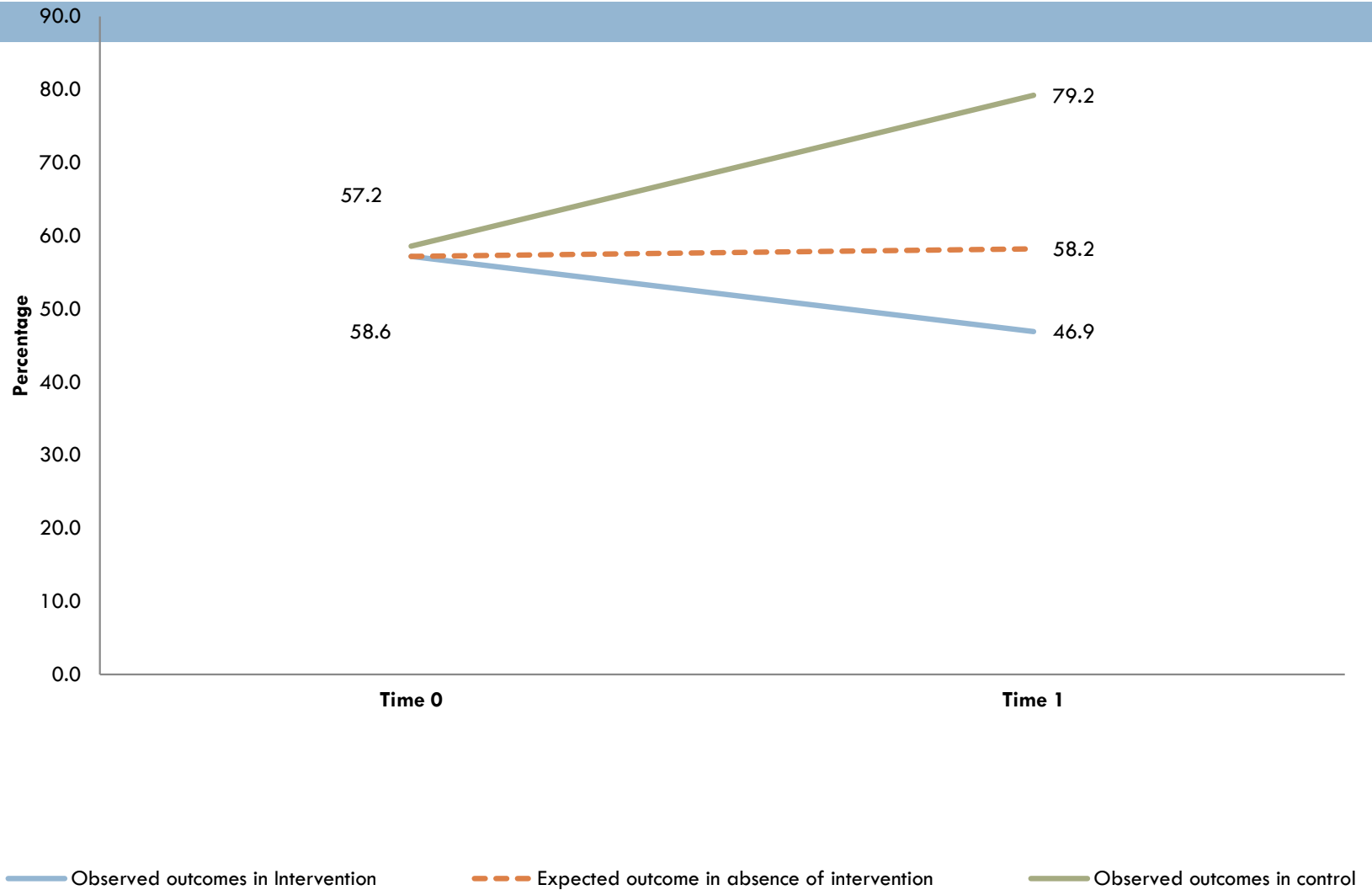


— Observed outcomes in Intervention

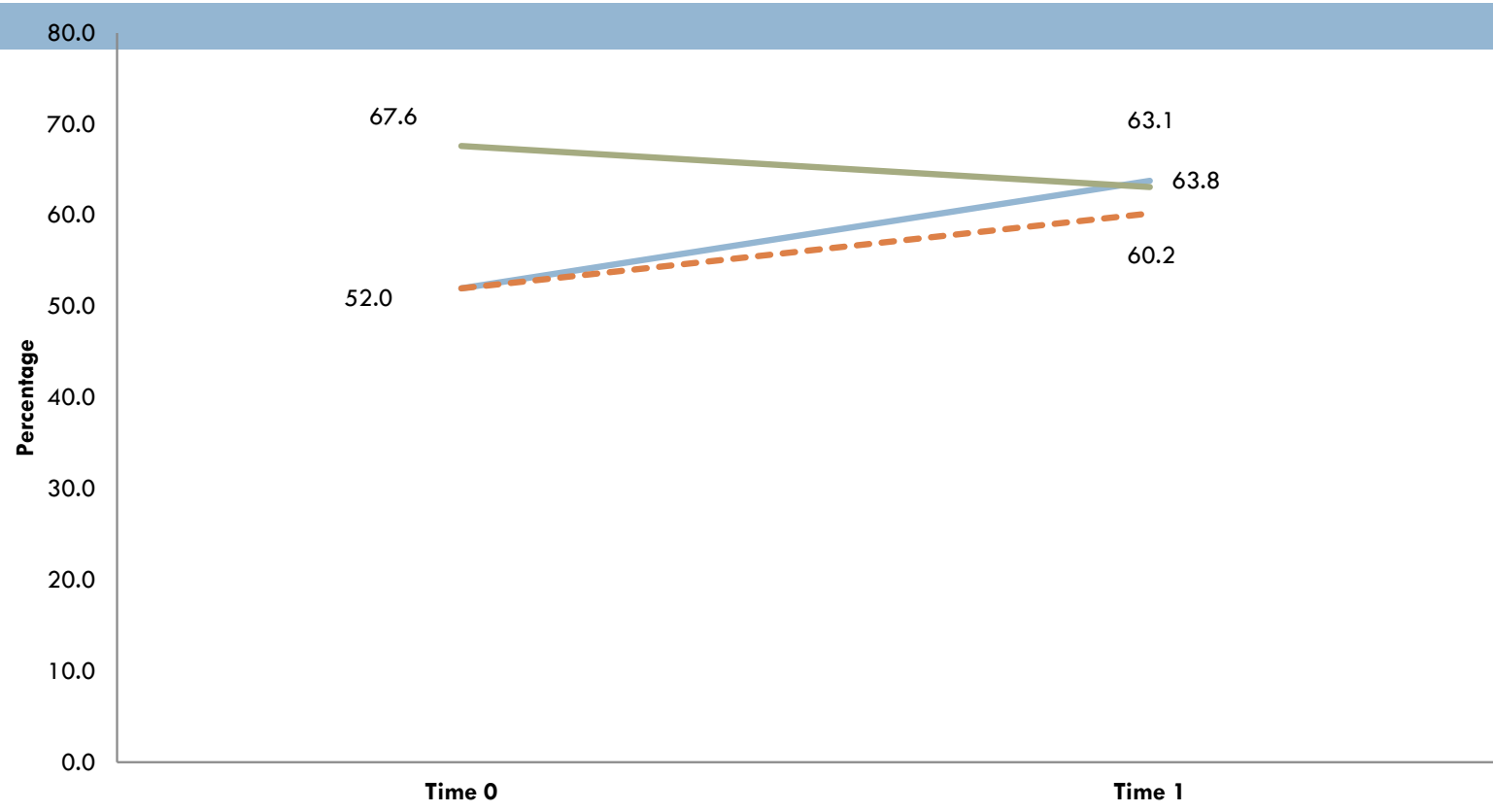
- - - Expected outcome in absence of intervention

— Observed outcomes in control

Caregiver's attitude towards physical punishment: % of caregivers who believe a child should be physically punished for better upbringing

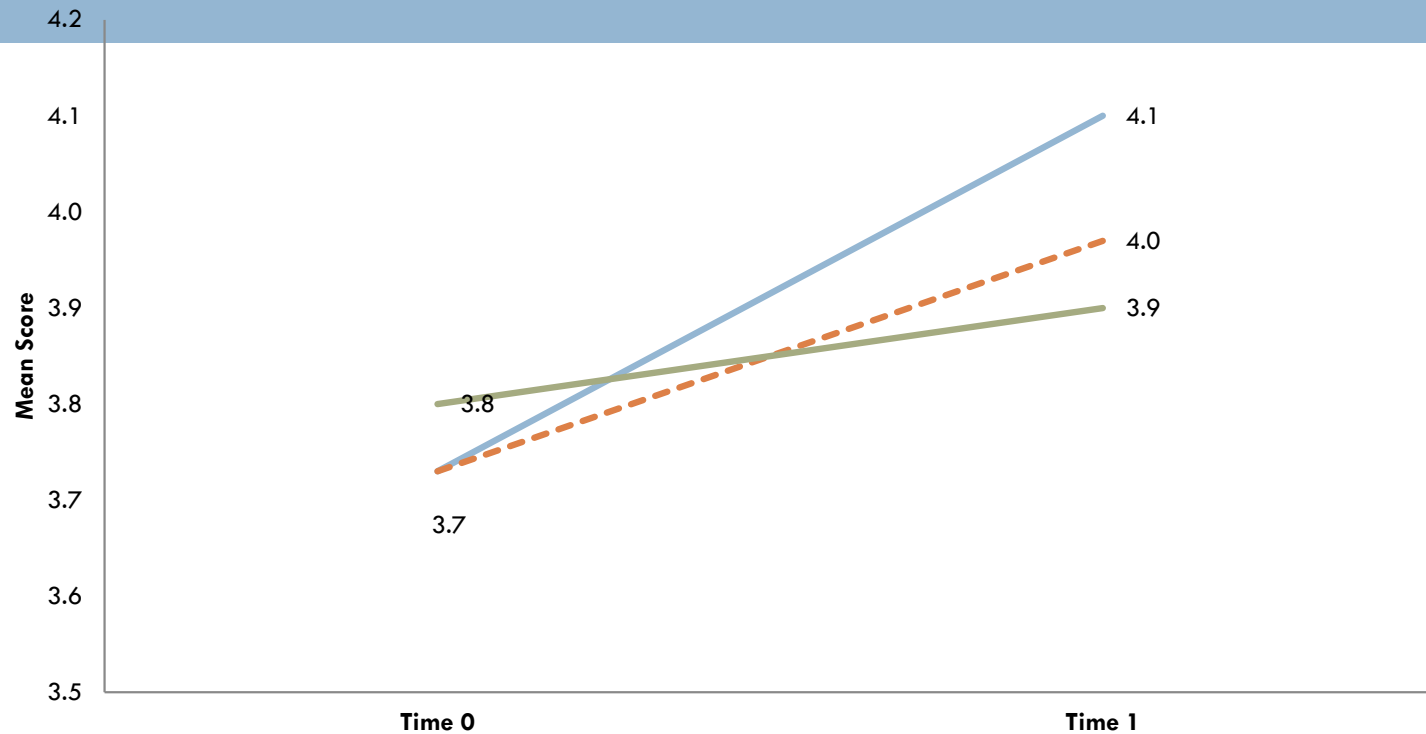


Caregiver's attitude towards physical punishment: % of caregivers who believe teachers should be allowed to use physical punishment as a discipline measure



— Observed outcomes in Intervention - - - Expected outcome in absence of intervention — Observed outcomes in control

Overall caregiver's attitude towards reporting abuse

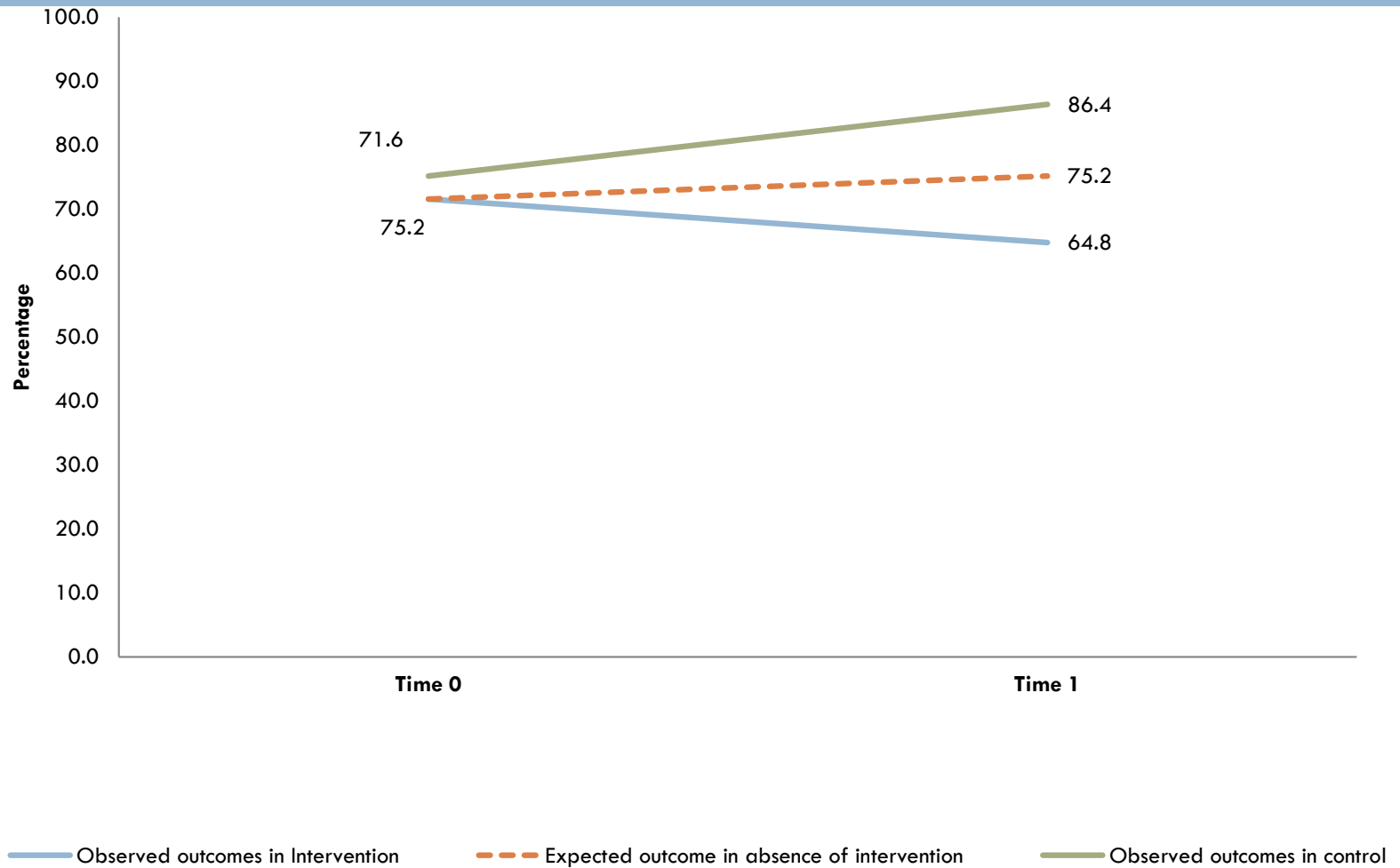


— Observed outcomes in Intervention

- - - Expected outcome in absence of intervention

— Observed outcomes in control

Reported use of violent discipline practices by the caregivers



Perception about the intervention process, relevance and effectiveness:

- The CBCP interventions demonstrate an effort to build a collective commitment to protect children. This is consistent with literature which underlines the need to embed responsibility for child protection within the fabric of community life and creating a system of shared responsibility and mutual support (UNICEF, 2010).

- The Intervention was described by stakeholders as, ‘empowering’:
 - Community members were engaged identifying child protection issues and developing community-based solutions

 - Members of the community based child protection structure were facilitated to design and implement intervention activities

Limitations

- The intervention did not foster effective linkage between the CBCP structures and formal child protection structures.
- Effectiveness of the intervention appears to have been affected by inadequate monitoring and supervision of the CBCP structure
- Failure to understand cultural ideology and explore the use of cultural institutions and/actors in fostering behavior change

Programming implications

- The promising results pave the way for broader and larger-scale adaptations of the community-based child protection intervention to prevent violence against children.
- The CBCP intervention can be modified to:
 - Include behavioral family interventions designed to improve parenting skills and behaviors by changing how parents view and react to their children
 - Ensure the linkages with the formal system are intentionally cultivated and promoted
 - Include a systematized monitoring and supervision process of the CBCP structure
 - Reconceptualise the concept of community, role of community and making it a government led initiative



□ End