



HAPPY  
**Father's**  
FESTIVAL  
JUNE 2023

June

# Father's Festival

June

# 2023

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This is a month of activities that celebrate and honour the fathers and father figures among us.

“ my father,  
...my hero”

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## GLOSSARY

CSO – Civil Society Organisation

CBO – Community based Organisation

NFBAPC - National Fellowship of Born Again Pentecostal Churches

NGO – Non Governmental Organisation

SGBV – Sexual and Gender-Based Violence



*300+ fathers reached in*

*30 days with*

*3 objectives*





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kyenjojo Fathers' Festival (in June) is a season to **Appreciate, Build up, and Celebrate** the fathers of Kyenjojo District. It was inspired by the International Father's Day which is a holiday of honouring fatherhood, father figures (uncles, grandparents). Father's Month gives us [individuals and corporates] the opportunity to express our love to these special people; Fathers.

The Festival was **championed by Kyenjojo District Local Government** through the CBS Department (Community-based Services) and Mr Twooli Yafesi (District Community Development Officer, DCDO). DCDO mobilised the development partners from private sector to support this collective campaign in response to the rise in social and spiritual disorders like divorce, domestic violence, rape.

The **activities** that reached 305 fathers in 30 days with 3 objectives included: CARE/JESE (50 role model men from SFtW Project); Men's Week at God's Care Church (20+ men); District Pastors' Committee for NFBAPC (10+ executive reaching 400 churches); Nyaibanda Child Development Center (50+ guardians); DadCamp (3 conferences reaching 50+ fathers); Father's Sunday on 18 Jun (10+ Churches reaching 100+ fathers); Father's Summit - 25 Jun at Pulpit Church (15+ fathers); St Peter's Day for Wedded Couples in Church of Uganda (100+ fathers); Father and Child Dialogue on 27 Jun (60+ delegates).

There were 5 key **Recommendations** viz: **Gazette** June as a Father's Month through an Ordinance by the Kyenjojo District Council; **Invest** in building capacities and innovative solutions to tackle online harms to children; **Generate** new knowledge and evidence on what works across public and key actors; **Lobby** key stakeholders to prioritise online child safety in their budgets and practices; **Embrace** Child Safety online as religious leaders.

There were **Commitments** by the 5 estates of Community Governance:

E1. **Political Wing** pledge to support this noble cause including an Ordinance or Council resolution to gazette June as Father's Month in Kyenjojo..

E2. **Businesses** showed interest if engaged early.

E3. **Civil Society** vowed to use their pulpits as advocacy platforms

E4. **Research/Media**: Senior Male and Female Wardens vowed to support.

E5. **Households** showed up for events at places of worship, schools, and workplaces.





## 1. BACKGROUND

Kyenjojo Fathers' Festival (in June) is a season to **Appreciate**, **Build** up, and **Celebrate** the fathers of Kyenjojo District. It was inspired by the International Father's Day which is a holiday of honouring fatherhood, father figures and paternal bonds (uncles, grandparents). Since 1908. It happens to fall in the same week as the Day of the African Child - DAC (June 16<sup>th</sup>) championed by the African Union. The theme for DAC 2023 is "Promoting and Protecting Children's Rights in the Digital Era".

*You name the problem: divorce, addictions, crime, poverty, teenage pregnancy, behavioural disorders, rape, suicide. etc and there is only one common link: disengaged fathers. The evidence is clear: **disengaged fathers** are the single biggest cause of the social and spiritual issues unraveling our world.—DadCamp.org*

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This year, Kyenjojo District has organised a **Month of Festivities** (May 30 – June 30) to celebrate the gift of fathers and the gift of children. Oftentimes, Child support organizations play the role of alpha male when the father is absent from the family. Father's Month gives us (individuals and organisations) the opportunity to express our love to these special people: Fathers.

The history of Father's Day Engagements is as follows:

- 2023 June: Kyenjojo **Fathers' Month** 2023 is championed by Kyenjojo District in collaboration with civil society partners working with families.
- 2022 June: Kyenjojo **Father's Week** was celebrated with a week of activities as part of the completion events for *She Feeds the World Project (SFtW 2019-2022)* by CARE/JESE.
- 2017: Uganda Government launched **Male Engagement Strategy** against SGBV.
- 1972: **Father's Day** became a National Holiday in USA under Pres. Richard Nixon.
- 1910 Jun: Fathers Day as a Holiday in USA championed by Ms Sonora Smart Dodd.
- 1908 Jul: **Father's Sunday** first observed in USA by Rev. Robert Webb.

A number of supported the events: Care International (technical), ACCORD (breakfast), Bantwana World Education (refreshments), Eka Foundation (technical). The lead organizer for the Father's Month appointed by the District Local Government was Thomas Munghono (taataDaneilla).





## 2. ACTIVITIES

A number of activities were done in the Father's Month as in:

### 3.1 SFtW Project (CARE/ JESE): 50+ Role model men

The Father's Month has benefitted from the legacy of fifty (50) role model men trained under the project *She Feeds the World* (SFtW 2019 -2022) implemented by Care International and JESE – Joint Effort to Save Environment. CARE's current Project SUFFBS (Scaling Up Farmer Field Business Schools) is building on the gains in male engagement from the SFtW to amplify the lessons learnt.

*CARE in partnership with JESE sees gender equality as a fundamental requirement for social justice and poverty reduction.*

The CARE/JESE experience demonstrates that achieving real and lasting progress toward gender equality requires proactive work with men and boys alongside women and girls. **Engaging Men and Boys approach (EMB)** is a systematic empowerment process that mobilize men and boys to understand and support concepts of positive masculinity. Gender equality, improving women's access to productive resources and improving women's access to markets.

One of the high impact activities from SFtW that have persisted is **Men in the Kitchen**: a role reversal cookout event where the role model men manage the entire kitchen from buying food and firewood, lighting firewood, peeling, cooking, to serving the local community (starting with their wives) who were seated in the tent. These role model men also share experiences on radio talkshows.

*CARE joins the rest of the world in recognizing the contribution of men and boys to Sustainable Development. As promoters of EMB in address gender equality and SGBV, it is paramount that we join the District Local Governments of Kyenjojo in supporting fathers.*

Care International/JESE  
She Feeds the World  
(Jun 2019 – 2022):  
50+ role model men

Implemented by  
Care International & JESE

Sponsored by  
PepsiCo Foundation

SFtW Delivered:  
increase food security;  
build family resilience;  
increase incomes of  
vulnerable women

Scope of Work:  
vulnerable women in  
Kyegegwa and Kyenjojo  
Districts





### 3.2 Men's Week, God's Care Ministries: 20+ men

God's Care Church under God's Care Ministries (founded by Pastor Sande Victor Serunjogi) prepared a Men's Week where the men of the Church prayed and recommitted their lives to God. A number of men receive psycho-social support (counseling and comraderie) from the men's group at the local Church.

### 3.3 District Pastors' Committee for NFBAPC: 10+ members supporting 400 churches

There was a sensitization of Pastors during their District Overseers' Committee meeting at PAK Nursing School, Kyenjojo. The concept of Father's Sunday was shared with pastors under the National Fellowship of Born Again Pentecostal Churches (NFBAPC founded in early 1990s). In Kyenjojo alone, there are 400 Pentecostal churches out of 40000 churches in Uganda.

### 3.4 Nyaibanda Child Development Center - Compassion: 50+ guardians

The Compassion CDC - Child development Centre in Nyaibanda organized an event for their sponsored children to commemorate the Day of the African Child. Nyaibanda is one of the CDCs supported by Compassion International providing education sponsorship to children from the most vulnerable families in the community.

#### Events:

Men's Week, God's Care Church

District Pastors' Committee for NFBAPC: 400 churches

DadCamp targetting fathers.

Parent Engagement with Nyaibanda CDC

Father's Sunday, 18 Jun.

Father's Summit 2023, 25 Jun, Pulpit Church

St Peter's Day for Wedded Couples (Anglican Church of Uganda)

Father and Child Dialogue, 27 Jun. 60+ delegates





### 3.5 DadCamps. 2 events, 50+ fathers

DadCamp is a father support initiative started by Americans 18 years ago in USA. You name the problem: divorce, addictions, crime, poverty, teenage pregnancy, behavioural disorders, rape, suicide. etc and there is **only one common link**: disengaged fathers. Their philosophy is: *disengaged fathers are the single biggest cause of the social and spiritual issues unraveling our world.*

DadCamp is NOT just a campout; not just another Father/Child activity (there are plenty of those out there too).

DadCamp IS an experience where dads are inspired to become the best Dad they can be; it is an experience that kids consistently describe as their favourite event of the year; it is an experience that 98% of dads rate as 5/5!

In Uganda, Dad Camp is led by Emma Kusemererwa of Pulpit Church and has been operating since 2018 with Annual Conferences ranging from 100 to 300 fathers. Each father is required to bring one child to attend the trainings together. The games are specifically designed to be played by the Father and Child pair as a bonding experience. One wife reported a marked behaviour change in her husband's demeanour from being barking (like a dog) to caring (like a nurse).

### 3.6 Father's Sunday, 18 Jun. 10+ Churches, 100+ fathers

Over 10 churches organized a Father's Sunday on Sunday 18 June in their different capacities eg Wesleyan Church, Pulpit Church, promise Faith Centre Church. Members of the Unity of Faith belief (bisaka) and SDA Church – Kasiina also participated in the arrangements.

There was overwhelming support for this Father's Day service though the resources were meager. Most churches decided to integrate it into their normal schedule of Sunday programming. We did not get much inroad into the mosques (Friday) but that can be arranged better next year.



#### DADCAMP

**Why?** disengaged fathers are the single biggest cause of the social and spiritual issues unraveling our world.

#### **What?**

DadCamp is NOT

+ just a campout;

+ just another Father/Child activity (there are plenty of those out there too).

DadCamp IS

+ an experience where dads are inspired to become the best Dad they can be;

+ an experience that kids consistently describe as their favourite event of the year;

+ it is an experience that 98% of dads rate as 5/5!

**How?** Learn, Games,

**Who?** Each father comes with one child.

**When?** Annually







### 3.7 Father's Summit, 25 Jun, Pulpit Church. 15+ fathers

The Fathers' Summit was organized by Pulpit Church, Rugumayo Road, Kyenjojo-Nyakabara, Kyenjojo District on Sunday 27-Jun, 3 – 5pm. The Theme: "Fatherhood as a Job". Pulpit Church (Kyenjojo) organized a Father's MeetUp in the evening with the Theme: "Fatherhood as a job". 15 fathers showed up to discuss their most important role of being present fathers and treating Fatherhood as a critical job on their societal resume.

The **Agenda** was: Self introductions, Keynote address, Games (Pass the baton, Pick up the sweet), Vision Casting. The event targeted the 50+ fathers of children in Children's Ministry called Kingdom Kids.

Recommendations:

- ✚ **Monthly** Fathers' Engagements.
- ✚ **Family Vision:** As per Habakkuk 2:2 Every family was tasked to have a Vision Journal where they: Write the vision; Engrave; Plainly; Easily read; and Quickly read

Script	Sculpt	Simplify	Sharpen	Short
•write down the vision	•engrave it	•plainly/clearly upon tablets	•that everyone who passes by may read it easily	•read quickly as he hastens by •Short

*A vision journey shared at the Father's Summit 2023*

### 3.8 St Peter's Day for Wedded Couples in Church of Uganda: 100+ fathers

Jun 27<sup>th</sup> is the day when the Anglican Church of Uganda celebrates St Peter's Day for Wedded Couples; this is commemorated on the nearest Sunday, 25-June on this case. There are a number of Churches that use this day to celebrate the gift of marriage and how it consolidates the family around the father.

#### FATHERS' SUMMIT.

**Where?** Pulpit Church,

**Why?** Fatherhood as a Job.

**Who?** 15 fathers.

**A Good Father...**

+ lives pure

+ Speaks the truth.

+ corrects the wrong

+ follows King Jesus





### 3.9 Father and Child Dialogue, 27 Jun. 60+ delegates

Kyenjojo Fathers' Dialogue was organized to commemorate International Father's Day (IFD on Jun 18) and International Day of the African Child (DAC on Jun 16) at Kyenjojo District Council Chambers on Tuesday 27-Jun, 10am – 2pm.

The International DAC2023 Theme is "Protecting Children Rights in the Digital Era" and the Theme adopted by Kyenjojo is: "Father as Protector of Children in the Digital Era".

The **agenda** was as follows:

- **Self Introduction** at this meeting of Kyenjojo Family
- **Keynote Address:** "Father as Protector of Children in the Digital Era",
- **2 Breakout Sessions:**  
A – Good Side (Alex Kyanku),  
B –Evil Side (Lawrence – IJM)
- **Plenary:** Group Presentations
- **Panel Discussion** with 5 FBO delegates by Rev Moses Atuhaire – WUFBON with  
Sheikh Abdul – UMSC/ WUFBON;  
Sr Jacinta – Roman Catholic/WUFBON;  
Emma Kusemererwa – Dad Camp/ Pulpit Church;  
Leader from Unity of Faith religion (Biasaka)  
Gertrude – Koogere Foundation

In attendance were Councillors from the District and Kyenjojo Town Council who expressed interest in supporting the noble cause. There were various Religious Leaders including a leader from Unity of Faith religion (*Bisaka*) who lamented that they are usually not invited to such rich conversations about family and children and yet they are willing to participate.



## FATHER & CHILD DIALOGUE 2023

**Introduction** "family meeting"

**Keynote Address:**  
"Father as Protector of Children in the Digital Era",

**2 Breakout Sessions:**  
A – Good Side (Alex Kyanku)  
B –Evil Side (Lawrence – IJM)

**Plenary: Group Presentations**  
A by Beth – Kyenjojo SS  
B by Ronnet – Asante Foundation

**Panel Discussion**  
with 5 FBO delegates  
by Rev Moses Atuhaire – WUFBON

Sheikh Abdul – UMSC,  
Uganda Muslim Supreme Council

Sr Jacinta –  
Roman Catholic Church

Emma Kusemererwa –  
Dad Camp/ Pulpit Church

Leader from Unity of Faith  
religion (*Bisaka*)

Gertrude –  
Koogere Foundation

**Recommendations & Commitments**



## A. Good Side of Digital Technology

Presented by Beth Kyomukama (Kyenjojo SS),  
led by Kyanku Alex (Tooro Kingdom).

Technology is useful in...

1. Research in education, health, political.
2. Connects us to the world (info).
3. Communication eg phone call.
4. Quicker access to places.
5. Improved security eg tracking maps.
6. Marketing and advertisement.
7. Widens social capital: friends.
8. Better banking services: no queue.
9. Apps for mentoring and counselling.
10. Language enhancement & interpretation.
11. Online shows: artists & entertainers.
12. Discovery of new resources eg oil.
13. Source of leisure & reduces stress.

## B. Bad/Evil Side of Digital Technology

Presented by Ronnet Natumanya (Asante  
Foundation), led by Lawrence (IJM).

Technology is destructive in...

1. **Violence.** Leads to SGBV in families.
2. **Addiction.** Time wastage online.
3. Cyber **bullying.** Hate speech.
4. **Porn.** Nudes go viral in 10 mins.
5. Limits **imagination** & creativity.
6. **Immorality** increased.
7. **Communication** stalls.
8. **Laziness.** Want quick results.
9. Health **issues** eg headache, eye strain, hearing loss (earphones), mental health issues (when you withdraw the phone), cancers (waves fire the nervous system and brain).
10. Less **sleeping/** resting time for kids.
11. Weak **social skills.** No interaction.
12. Reduced parental **love.**
13. Unrealistic **expectations.**  
Exaggerations on photo filters.
14. **Crime** rate eg robbery and theft (you have won the lottery).
15. **Accidents.** Walking while texting.
16. Promotes **LGBTQ/Homosexuality** agenda to the youths



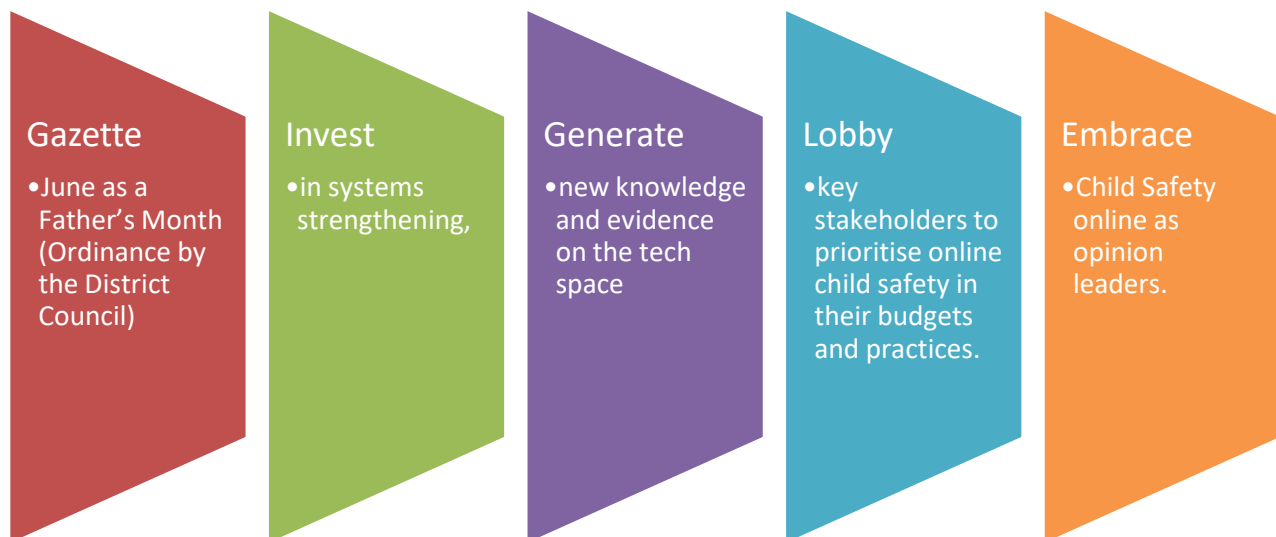
Restrictions	Blockers	Train	Games
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Parental Guidance Restrictions available on smartphones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Block bad content on TV like what DSTV does, can Startimes also do that.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach proper parenting and how-to use these gadgets as a dotcom parent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage children in secondary schools during game competitions.</li> </ul>

*What Can We do?*

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of recommendations were forwarded in the different engagements as follows:

- ✚ **Gazette** June as a Father's Month through an Ordinance by the Kyenjojo District Council.
- ✚ **Invest** in building capacities of local partners to create innovative solutions.
- ✚ **Generate** new knowledge and evidence on what works across public and key actors.
- ✚ **Lobby** key stakeholders to prioritise online child safety in their budgets and practices.
- ✚ **Embrace** Child Safety online as religious leaders.



*Actions Points for the community*



#### 4. KYENJOJO DECLARATION: 5 COMMITMENTS MADE

There were 5 commitments from the key stakeholders clustered by governance estate as in:

**E1. Public Sector:** Kyenjojo has 31 administrative Units who will benefit from an Ordinance or Council resolution to gazette June as Father's Month in Kyenjojo. This is in line with the pledge made by the Political Wing to support and own this noble cause of meaningful father engagement.

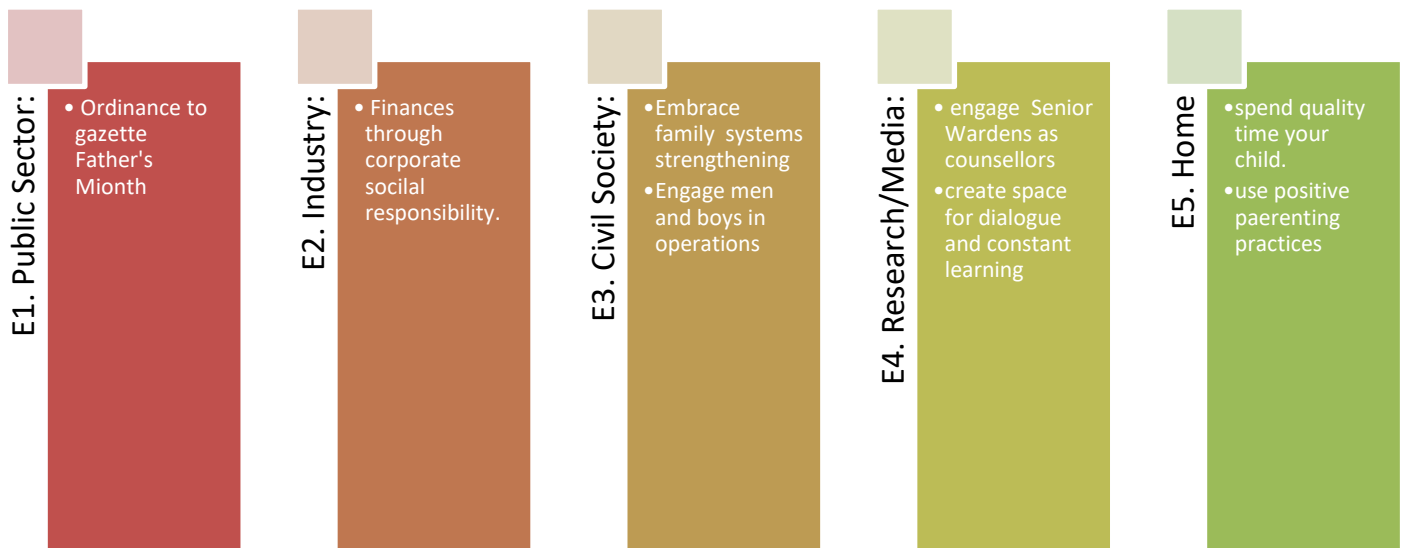
**E2. Industry:** Of the 100+ businesses in Kyenjojo, none showed up for the activities but they showed interest if engaged early.

**E3. Civil Society:** Of the 200 NGO/CBOs and 600 FBOs in Kyenjojo, we engaged the

- Religious leaders through WUFBON, Western Uganda Faith-based Organisation Network.
- Born Agains through NFBAPC, National Fellowship of Born Again Pentecostal Churches.

**E4. Research/Media:** There are 500+ schools in Kyenjojo and among these we engaged were Kyenjojo Secondary School and Katoosa Primary School. District Education Office was very supportive in engaging schools and school authorities.

**E5. Homes:** There are 100k households in Kyenjojo alone and these expressed their support at the different level of engagement from places of worship, schools, and workplaces.



*Commitments and Engagement by Estate*

## 5. PHOTO GALLERY



*Father and Child Dialogue in session at Council Chambers - Kyenjojo*