



Hello Reach Up partners,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe during this pandemic. Covid-19 has caused disruptions to face-to-face interactions, leading to temporary suspension of home visits and group sessions. But our essential work with parents/caregivers and children must go on, and we are delighted that many of our partners have adapted Reach Up in some way, in response to this disruption. See below for a brief synopsis of what is being done in some countries.

With the aid of the Inter-American Development Bank, a new Parent Manual, with activities for children up to 3 years old, was created by Susan Chang-Lopez, Susan Walker, Sally Grantham-McGregor and Christine Powell. See overleaf for the introduction of the manual. A PDF version of it is available on our website (reachupandlearn.com). If you have any difficulties accessing this, please email me at jacqueline.coore@uwimona.edu.jm. Florencia Lopez-Boo and Marta Rubio led the production of Spanish and Portuguese versions and these are available on the IDB website.

COVID-19 has also provided an opportunity for us to take our training workshops online. As such, a team is in the process of developing an on-line training module, which should be piloted by the end of 2020.

Our work continues on the key priority documents and activities we had identified at our Knowledge Meeting in November 2019. Thank you to those who have been very helpful in drafting and providing feedback. We look forward to continued input from you all as we progress.

Jacqueline Coore-Hall

Jamaica Reach Up Team Members

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Adapting Reach Up in response to COVID-19

- ◆ Mexico: Toy and activity manual for parents with 10 selected activities from the curriculum and information on how to make the toys. Supported by short radio dramas.
- ◆ Ecuador: Printouts from the parent manual. Scripts developed from content for weekly phone call contacts. The calls will combine health screening and a play activity.
- ◆ IRC, Syrian refugee response: Scripts for calls with parents, virtual training, virtual learning circles, checklist for call quality.
- ◆ Jamaica: A copy of the Parent Manual to be given to parents, supported by text messages and calls to parents.
- ◆ Brazil: Pictures of activities and text messages via WhatsApp, with calls to parents.

Coming Soon!

We will be conducting a webinar during the last quarter of 2020, on adapting Reach Up in response to COVID-19, challenges and learnings. Join to hear from country representatives who have made adaptations.

We will also be conducting an online Reach Up workshop for program managers and senior trainers late 2020/early 2021. Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who would be interested.

Stay tuned for more details!

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Purpose of the new Parent Manual



The parent's manual provides content that can be shared with parents to support playful interactions for children 0-36 months. The manual was developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the suspension of many programs that involved home visiting or parent groups. It does not require parents to have previously participated in such programs, and could be used in other situations when traditional delivery of parenting programs is not possible.

The content comprises selected play and language activities from the Reach Up programme (www.reachupandlearn.com). We have chosen activities that require few materials and where materials are needed, they are simple to make and use items that parents often have in their homes. The content is provided in 3-month age groups. For each 3-month group we have chosen 6 play and 6 language activities. If a parent does not have the materials needed for one activity, they can choose another one. All of the play activities include talking about the actions and the language ones involve playful interaction. Many can be done as part of everyday routines such as eating, bathing and while doing household chores.. The manual can be printed and distributed to families (as a whole or using cards with content for different age groups). or the content can be adapted for delivery through SMS or WhatsApp or via radio and TV.

Reach Up at work:

IRC has produced a report “**Reach Up and Learn in the Syria Response: Adapting and Implementing an Evidence-Based Home Visiting Program for Refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria**” which documents the experiences and key lessons learned since the program was first piloted in Azraq camp in Jordan in 2016. As noted by Katelin “*There are two brief videos filmed in northern Jordan bring the program to life through the experience of Anas, a refugee home visitor. This [1 minute video](#) provides a window into Anas’ work and his own family and in [this 4 minute video](#), he speaks with the families he visits about their impressions of the program and how he applies his ECD skills in his own home.*” Read the report here: [Reach Up and Learn in the Syria Response](#)

Thanks Katelin and Ayat for sharing!

Keep in Touch

- ◆ Our website—www.reachupandlearn.com The content was upgraded and materials will be added as they become available. Please visit and we welcome your feedback.
- ◆ WhatsApp group was created comprising country representatives, implementers, funders and team members in Jamaica. Members can seek possible solutions for implementation challenges with active exchange of ideas.
- ◆ You can also reach out to Jacqueline Coore-Hall (jacqueline.coore@uwimona.edu.jm) if you require contact information for the Reach Up partners.