CHILD HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY TRUST
(CHEST)

presents

SAFETY PROGRAM

THEME:

SAFE BUILDINGS FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

3rd-5th June, 2023

featuring

- Building surveillance
- Training
- Risk communication and advocacy

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Program Theme: Safe Buildings for Healthy Children

Date: June 3rd-5th, 2023.

Venue: Oke Are Community, Beere, Ibadan, Oyo State.

INTRODUCTION

Child Health Environment and Safety Trust carried out her second programme for the year, the Safety programme tagged “Safe Buildings for Healthy Children.”

Childhood is the most precious time of life, a time of rapid development when experiences shape the adults we become. For all countries and communities, children represent the future; to be nurtured and protected. As governments address sustainability in the face of growing populations requiring food, water, housing and other basic needs, investing in the health of children by reducing their exposure to environmental risks must be an overriding priority. Only in healthy environments do children have the potential to become healthy adults, capable of addressing the challenges of the future. Hence, the program was to ensure that caregivers of children acquire substantial knowledge, get sensitized and become more aware about the importance of the physical factors that negatively influence their children’s health, the implications of such factors and remedial measures that must be put in place.

The program took place on May 31st, 3rd and 7th of June, 2023, at Oke Are community, Beere and Faculty of Public Health, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo state. The aim of the program was to sensitize children’s caregivers about the pattern, risk factors and remedies associated with unsafe building conditions and children’s health and its specific objectives were to:

1. document the nature and type of built settings.
2. assess environmental conditions of selected built settings.
3. determine hazards associated with the built settings’ conditions.
4. assess the impacts of built settings’ conditions on children’s health.
5. identify risk prevention measures in built settings.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for this program were caregivers of children mostly mothers of under-5 children as well as community leaders.

APPROACH ADOPTED FOR THE PROGRAMME

The following strategies were employed to achieve the objectives of the programme:

i. **Community entry:** This was done by approaching and meeting with the Chairman of the Ward Development Committee (WDC) who introduced us to other relevant stakeholders in the community and relating to them our intent as well as its purpose.

ii. **Surveillance:** A survey was carried out in 24 households with under-5 children via an interviewer administered questionnaire method where attitude of caregivers towards children's safety in the home, perception of children's safety, and knowledge of plastics waste management and plastics pollution were assessed. This was done out to reveal misconceptions that hinder good child safety practices. An observational checklist was used to appraise the environmental quality of communities and assessing risk level of the selected settlement.

iii. **Training:** A sensitization on the safety of children in residential buildings. was carried out by the Mrs Huswah Fakeye, Prof. G.R.E.E Ana, Mrs Ana and Dr Morakinyo via an advocacy and enlightenment session. Major topics covered were impact of housing on health, children safety in the home, hand hygiene, waste management, plastic pollution and food safety.

iv. **Intervention:** The survey participants were provided with a waste bin individually which serves as a means of incentive for taking part in the survey and as a form of palliative.

v. **Symposium:** In the commemoration of the World Environment Day, which is celebrated annually on June 5th, the Environmental Health Science Students Association of the University of Ibadan, held a symposium on the theme "Solutions to Plastics Pollution" in collaboration with other organisations which CHEST was part of.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

The program started with the surveillance part which took place on the 31st of May 2023, wherein mothers in selected household were interviewed in the local language; Yoruba using the prepared instrument. Prior to this, the community head had informed and mobilized the participants, hence it was quite easy to carry out the survey. Furthermore, the quality of the community's environment

was appraised by documenting the availability and non-availability of specific environmental parameters and amenities.

The training part of the program took place on the 3rd of June, 2023 at the Central Mosque in Oke Are community. The program started at 11:00am with a welcome address from the Program Manager of CHEST, Mrs Huswah Fakeye. She gave a brief profile of the organisation and a vivid explanation of the purpose of the day's event.

The training session started with a presentation on the topic "Housing and Health" by Mrs Huswah Fakeye where she gave an exposition on what housing is all about, what a healthy housing is, and what impacts healthy housing have on health of its occupants. She also talked about the occurrences of injury in the homes giving references from the international health agencies such as the WHO and UNICEF.

The second presentation was also given by Mrs Huswah Fakeye on the topic "Child Safety in the Home Environment". She also explained more about the concept of child's safety giving appropriate recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of children in the homes.

The training session continued with the third presentation on the topic "Solid Waste Management" which was delivered by Prof., G.R.E.E. Ana. He talked about how important the issues surrounding women and children's health are, how the improper means of managing wastes generated affect the environment as well as the health of all living things in the environment. He also gave some inputs about children safety emphasizing more about biological hazards in the homes that can expose children to various illnesses.

The Managing Director, Mrs Margaret Ana also contributed to the training by focusing mainly on food safety, and how important hygiene is necessary in every aspect of food preparation. Dr Morakinyo contributed by giving more additional points on the implication

The Chairman of the community, Pastor Taiwo Oshinaike also gave his contribution, stating the fact that some nursing mothers are not very cognizant about the environment in which their children are growing up. He focused mainly on the sanitation of the environment and its relation to vector-borne diseases such as malaria and elephantiasis. He also advised people not to self-treat whenever they fall sick but go to the health centre for appropriate care.

Another community member also advised people who fetch and store water in their apartment to always cover them up as water is a breeding site for various vectors of diseases.

Some of the community members asked questions to which answers were given accordingly. The closing remark was made and the programme came to an end by 1.00pm with group photograph and lunch.

IMPACT

At the ending of the program, the following impacts were made:

- Improved awareness on issues relating to healthy housing.
- An improvement in knowledge and decision-making ability of children's caregivers on child safety.
- Enhanced responsibilities of children's caregivers and other relevant stakeholders in the prevention of unsafe environment for children.

CHALLENGES

- **Partnership/Sponsorship:** Inability to secure adequate funding support and partner organizations for the programme.

RECOMMENDATION

1. It was recommended to the Development Committee of the community to work together to provide waste bins at strategic locations in the community where people can drop their wastes.
2. The chairman proposed that the program can be made a continuous one by incorporating it in the activities carried out on Children's Immunization days at the community health centre.

Survey Findings

Social-demographics characteristics

An exact number of twenty-four households were interviewed in this survey. The socio-demographic characteristics of the participants are presented in Table 1 below. The findings from this survey showed that the age of the participants ranged between 20 – 59 years with mothers in their 20s taking the highest percentage of the population 45.8%. Majority of the respondents practice Islam 62.5%, while 37.5% are Christians. About more than 80% of the respondents reported having secondary education, only about 16.7% received primary education while none of them had tertiary education.

All of the respondents are all Yoruba speaking, married and living with their husbands except one of them who had been widowed. All of the respondents have a means by which they earn their monthly incomes ranging between ₦5000 and ₦40,000 in occupations like hairdressing, tailoring, trading, shoe making and teaching with family size ranging from 3 to 7.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age (years)		
20-29	11	45.8
30-39	7	29.2
40-49	4	16.7
50-59	2	8.3
Religion		
Christianity	9	37.5
Islam	15	62.5
Level of Education		
Primary	4	16.7
Secondary	20	83.3
Marital Status		
Married	23	95.8
Widowed	1	4.2
Ethnicity		
Yoruba	24	100
Family size		
3	7	29.2
4	3	12.5
5	6	25
6	3	12.5
7	5	20.8
Occupation		
Hair dressing	7	29.2
Trader	6	25
Tailoring	9	37.5
Shoe making	1	4.2
Teaching	1	4.2
Income per month		
₦5,000	2	8.3
₦10,000	6	25
₦15,000	1	4.2
₦20,000	10	41.7
₦30,000	4	16.7
₦40,000	1	4.2

Housing characteristics and related environmental features

The survey findings showed that most of the respondents (58.3%) live in a single-family room, while others (37.5%) live in a room and parlour apartment. Only 4.2% of the respondent representing just a single person lives in a 2-bedroom apartment with modern facilities. All of these dwellings had walls made of cement brick with only 1 constructed with mud; all of them were roofed with corrugated iron sheets, their floors cemented with one being tiled and another made with mud, 75% had their ceiling made out of carton material while 25% as concrete-made.

Majority of the households surveyed had more than 5 rooms in them 54.2% and 41.7% have 2 rooms per household. The average number of persons that slept in a single room was 3 and most of the rooms have at least 2 windows in them. Ventilation in most of households are through opening of windows to allow the in-flow of fresh air or the usage of ceiling and standing fans when there is a stable supply of power. None of these respondents have people who smoke in their households.

On waste management, most of the respondents reported that they tend to burn their wastes as they no longer have use for them and do not know other ways of disposing them, some reported dumping appropriately at the road-side for collection by designated waste management authority's trucks, a few reported dumping into water bodies and drains when there is a heavy downpour.

About 79.2% of the respondents reported cooking in the house, in a kitchen area attached to their residential building while 16.7% cook outside of the house and 4.2% cooks inside of their room, using mostly the Liquefied Petroleum Gas as their cooking fuel. About 29.2% reported using electrical cooker whenever there is adequate power supply, 37.5% use charcoal, 12.5% use wood and 16.7% use kerosene. A few of these people reported using more than one fuel means based on availability.

Table 2a: Housing characteristics and related environmental features

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Type of dwelling		
Single family room	14	58.3
Room and parlour	9	37.5
2-bedroom apartment	1	4.2
House wall material		
Bricks	23	95.8
Mud	1	4.2
House roof material		
Corrugated iron sheet	24	100
House ceiling material		
Carton	18	75
Concrete	6	25
House floor material		
Concrete	20	83.3
Mud	1	4.2
Tile	1	4.2
Others	2	8.3
No of rooms per household		
1	1	4.2
2	10	41.7
≥5	13	54.2
Average no of persons in a room		
2	7	29.2
3	13	54.2
5	2	8.3
6	1	4.2
7	1	4.2
No of windows per room		
1	7	29.2
2	9	37.5
3	3	12.5
4	5	20.8
Waste management		
Collected by waste authorities	7	29.2
Burning	12	50
Dumped into water bodies	4	16.7
Dumped into drains	1	4.2

Table 2b: Housing characteristics and related environmental features

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Smoking in the house		
Yes	24	100
No	0	0.0
Where do you cook?		
In the house	19	79.2
Outside the house	4	16.7
In the room	1	4.2
Type of cooking fuel used		
Electricity	7	29.2
Liquified Petroleum Gas	18	75
Charcoal	9	37.5
Wood	3	12.5
Kerosene	4	16.7

Attitude of Caregivers Towards Children Safety in the Home Environment

On the safety of children in the home, more than 90% of the respondent reported that they usually check wiring connections and plugs for wears and tears before use and turn off all electrical connections whenever they are leaving the home environment. All of the respondents reported that they keep household chemical products such as insecticides, pesticides, hygiene products, drugs etc., as well as sharp utensils such as knives, forks, and blades, safe and away from the reach of their children. They also claimed they try to keep the floor of their rooms free from slip and trip hazards.

Table 3: Attitude of Caregivers Towards Children Safety in the Home Environment

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Do you visually check wires and plugs for wears and tears before use?		
Yes	22	91.7
No	2	8.3
Has your home electrical system been checked by a competent electrician in the past 10 years?	24	100
Yes	0	0
No		
Do you turn off your electrical connections when they are not in use or when leaving the house?		
Yes	22	91.7
No	1	4.2
I don't know	1	4.2
Do you ensure that house cleaning products, drugs or garden chemicals are stored in safe containers, out of the reach of your children?		
Yes	24	100
No	0	0
Do you keep your floors free from slip and trip hazards such as water, books, toys etc., at all times?		
Yes	24	100
No	0	0

Knowledge of Plastic Waste Management

The respondents reported that the plastics products used majorly in their households are nylons which they use in packaging purchased items from the markets or shopping stores, PET water and soft drink bottles, kitchen utensils like spoons, plates, chopping boards, bowls, and storage utensils like buckets, large bowls/containers for storing water. about 16.7% of these people reported they burn these plastics when they become waste, 12.5% reuse them, 29.2% dropped

them with waste management authorities, 8.3% sell them and 33.3% dump of the wasted plastics in open dump sites.

Table 4: Knowledge of Plastic Waste Management

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
How do you dispose-off your plastic wastes?		
Burning	4	16.7
Reuse	3	12.5
Collected by waste management authorities	7	29.2
Selling	2	8.3
Open dumping	8	33.3
Have you heard of plastic pollution?		
Yes	8	33.3
No	16	66.7
Do you think plastic wastes cause problem to the environment, human and animal health?		
Yes	15	62.5
No	5	20.8
I do not know	4	16.7

Perception of Children's Safety in the Home Environment

On the perception of caregivers towards children's safety in the home, it was observed that most of the respondents have an understanding of safety to a good extent. They quite agree with the fact that children are vulnerable to injuries in the home and that adequate supervision is necessary to reduce the risk of children sustaining injury. Also, they attested to the fact that injury to children at home can be avoided and this will cause them to avoid cost of medical treatment for injuries. They believe that they can prevent their children from sustaining injuries at home whenever they are available but are unable to do so when kids go out to play.

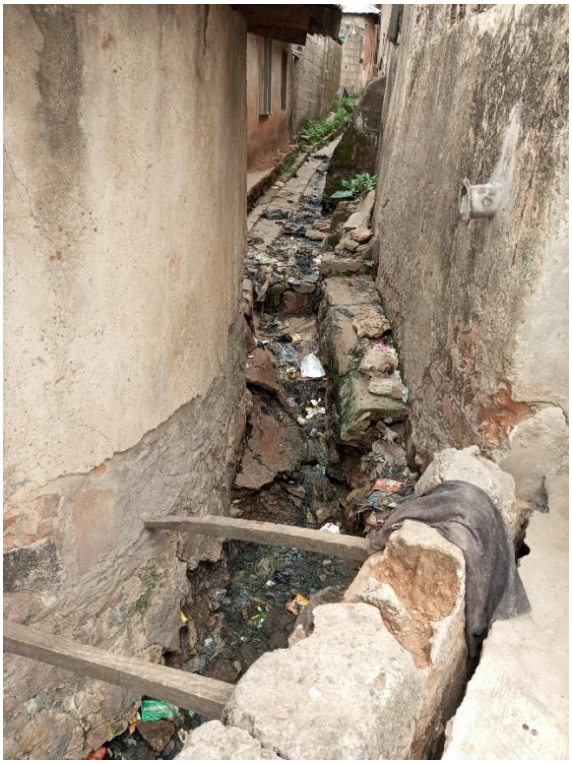
Environmental Quality Appraisal

The observation of sanitary condition of the environment shows that there is no stagnant water around, no water log nor sewage, however there is the presence of blue-green algae around gutters/drainages and a bit of smell. The source of water supply to the community was bore-hole and their sanitary facilities were both water closet and pit latrines.

It was observed that solid wastes were packed in plastics at road sides for waste trucks to cart them away. However, a lot of wastes were still found in drainages clogging them and others were randomly dumped in streets, hence allowing the presence of houseflies and mosquitoes.

Air pollution sources were from generator and traffic emissions and noise was mostly generated from religious centers, road traffic, generator and local grinders. Source of radio was minimally present in form of high-tension cables and a network mast.

PICTURE GALLERY

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2023
WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY (WED)
Theme:
SOLUTIONS TO
PLASTIC POLLUTION


2023
WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY
Theme:
TITO RENTALS