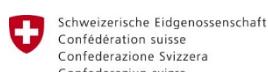




Center for Child Well-being and Development

Annual Report 2018

with the support of



Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC





Contents

Research Projects	3
Ongoing Projects in Partnership with UNICEF	3
Harmful Practices Against Girls and Teenagers in Malawi	3
Longitudinal Study on Child Development Based on Wearable Technologies	4
Parents' Future Orientation and Investments in Children	6
Marketing for Development	7
Female Genital Cutting in Sudan	8
Understanding Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Campaigns in Guatemala	9
Sex-selective Abortion in Armenia	10
Other Ongoing Projects	10
Are Parenting Interventions Transferable Across Settings? Assessing Key Constraints in Sub-Saharan Africa	10
Education in Brazil	12
The Growth Mindset Intervention in Brazil	13
Nudging Aspirations and Technology Adoption in Guatemala	13
Other Activities Undertaken in 2018	15
Strategic Plan 2018–2020	15
Anchoring with UNICEF HQ Thematic Section	15
Advisory Board and Steering Committee Meetings	15
Hiring an Associate Researcher	16
Other Human Resources	16
Annual Conference in Zurich	16
Research Symposium in Malawi	18
Workshop on Technologies Linked to Child and Youth Development	18
Partnerships	18
Website Improvement	19
Production of Knowledge Products & Training Session	19
Grant from SNSF	19
Grant from Jacobs Foundation	19
Grant from UNICEF Switzerland for National Survey in Malawi	20
Field Visits and Participation in Conferences	20



Research Projects

Ongoing Projects in Partnership with UNICEF

Harmful Practices Against Girls and Teenagers in Malawi

Malawian girls and teenagers are exposed to harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage and initiation rituals, that compromise their health status and development. The measurement of these practices is particularly difficult due to social desirability biases involved in traditional surveying techniques. For this reason, there is scarce data on their prevalence in Malawi. This research project aims to measure the prevalence of different harmful traditional practices and to shed light on their underlying behavioral mechanisms. Indeed, although data suggests that cultural, institutional, and social aspects play an important role, little is known on how social norms develop inside a group and hence on what interventions would be effective in addressing these issues.



Data collection was finalized in 2018 and the research team has been working on data analysis to produce preliminary results and release a report that will be publicly shared in 2019. Prof. Lichand and Dr. Hänni are also working on a scientific article that investigates how pro-sociability interacts with harmful traditional practices and to what extent these practices are associated to signaling effects.

OVERVIEW	
STATUS	Ongoing
COUNTRY	Malawi
PROGRAM AREA	Child protection
TOPICS	Initiation rituals, child marriage, social norms, pro-social behavior
PARTNERS	UNICEF Malawi, National Statistical Office, Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi
STUDY TYPE	Nationally representative survey accompanied by randomized evaluations and lab-in-the-field experiments
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch

RESEARCH TEAM	
Ernst Fehr	Professor of Economics
Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
Simon Hänni	Post Doc
Quigyang Lin	Master's student



Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Finalization of the project's concept note and desk review
- ▶ Signature of MOU between UNICEF, National Statistics Office (NSO), Centre for Social Research and UZH
- ▶ Adaptation of measurement techniques to the context of Malawi
- ▶ Country field visits including:
 - piloting of survey instrument and measurement tools
 - meetings with UNICEF
 - training of surveyors in collaboration with NSO
 - field test of the data collection interface (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing)
 - meetings with UNICEF and partners
- ▶ Presentation of the research project to the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics at the University of Zurich (UZH)
- ▶ Approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at UZH
- ▶ Finalization of survey instrument, sampling strategy, survey plan and consent forms
- ▶ Eight weeks of data collection in three regions of Malawi (north, center and south, +325 villages)
- ▶ Monitoring of data quality during data collection (remotely, using statistical software)
- ▶ Data cleaning and data analysis
- ▶ Report writing
- ▶ Presentation of the preliminary results of the project at various conferences (Research Symposium in Lilongwe, ETH, University of Zurich, Cattolica University in Milan, INSPER in São Paulo)

Longitudinal Study on Child Development Based on Wearable Technologies

The purpose of this research project is to build a longitudinal panel on child development. We plan to start gathering information at the prenatal phase and to follow the same cohort until the age of 18, to identify and characterize critical inflection points.

Further, interactions between different sensitive periods can be analyzed. For this purpose, we plan a combination of data collections and interventions at different stages of child development.

Data collection in developing countries often involves high time and monetary costs as it is hard to reach families living in remote areas under-connected by transportation and communication infrastructure. Faced with these challenges, new technologies such as wearable devices offer a leapfrogging opportunity for the collection of essential data in the developing world as they have the potential to provide cheap, reliable, and novel forms of information. Wearable devices can help us by providing higher frequency and higher quality data to help the world's most vulnerable populations, especially children.





In 2018, the partnership with UNICEF Malawi on this project intensified and the design of the research project improved, thanks to several interactions with partners and researchers working in the field. Given the complexity of the project, Prof. Lichand decided to hire a dedicated associate researcher specialized in technology, computer science, and epidemiology. During the last quarter of the year, the team finalized a first pilot phase of the project.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Ongoing	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
COUNTRY	Malawi	Simon Hänni	Post Doc
PROGRAM AREA	Health, child protection, nutrition	Onicio Leal	Post Doc
TOPICS	Child development, health, wearable technologies, early warning systems, program evaluation	Jiajing Feng	Master's Student
PARTNERS	UNICEF Malawi, National Statistical Office, Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi		
STUDY TYPE	Longitudinal study accompanied by randomized evaluations		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Scouting of potential tech-firms as project's partner
- ▶ Fundraising and proposal writing
- ▶ Development of a strategic partnership with UNICEF Malawi
- ▶ Presentation of the project to the Ministry of Health of Malawi
- ▶ Finalization of the project's concept note and summary
- ▶ Presentation of the project to the Faculty of Business, Economics and Informatics at the University of Zurich (UZH)
- ▶ Presentation of the project at a research symposium in Lilongwe, Malawi
- ▶ Recruitment of a dedicated associate researcher
- ▶ Preparation and implementation of a first pilot phase in Malawi
- ▶ Field visit in Malawi
 - field test of the data collection interface (e.g. wearable technologies)



- o meetings with UNICEF
 - Draft of the pilot report
-

Parents' Future Orientation and Investments in Children

The project aims to estimate whether one has different time-preferences concerning ones' own consumption relative to that of their children's and whether those differences matter when it comes to investments in children's human capital, focusing on nutrition. Researchers will then use these insights to estimate how to design interventions aiming at increasing patience to maximize their impact on investments in children. The project started in 2018 with few rounds of lab-in-the-field experiments and subsequent data collections. Our partners from Student Driven Solutions will conduct the intervention during 2019, before a last round of data collection could be implemented.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Ongoing	Ernst Fehr	Professor of Economics
COUNTRY	Malawi	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
PROGRAM AREA	Social inclusion, health	Juliette Thibaud	PhD candidate in Economics
TOPICS	Linkages, information, risk preferences, time preferences, parent bias	Maite Deambrosi	Student
PARTNERS	UNICEF Malawi, Student Driven Solutions		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation accompanied by lab-in-the-field experiments		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- Finalization of concept note and desk review
- Conception of a simple economic model describing the hypothesis to be tested
- Third country field visit
 - o Visit to rural villages
 - o Pilot of the survey instrument and focus groups
 - o Meetings with UNICEF



- ▶ Finalization of survey instrument, survey plan and consent forms
- ▶ Collaboration with partner Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- ▶ Collaboration with partner Student Driven Solutions (SDS)
- ▶ Submission and approval of the Research Review Committee proposal at IPA
- ▶ Training of surveyors and team leaders
- ▶ Programming and piloting the survey instrument on electronic devices (e.g. tablets)
- ▶ First round of lab-in-the-field experiment and data collection
- ▶ Second round of lab-in-the-field experiment and data collection
- ▶ Third round of data collection
- ▶ Preliminary data analysis

Marketing for Development

Despite important progress made in Malawi to reach the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the high prevalence of communicable diseases remains a major threat to children's development. This research project investigates what delivery platforms are most cost-effective in delivering sustainable take-up and usage of health services. In particular, the research project is aimed at determining the effects of different media channels and media contents on the communication campaigns that are developed by UNICEF.



OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Inception	Ernst Fehr	Professor of Economics
COUNTRY	Malawi	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
PROGRAM AREA	Nutrition, wash	Onicio Leal	Post Doc
TOPICS	Food groups, behavioral change communication (BCC) campaigns, linkages, social networks		
PARTNERS	UNICEF Malawi, Center for Social Research at the University of Malawi		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		



Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Draft of a preliminary economic model describing the functioning of health preventive media campaigns
- ▶ Draft of survey instrument, survey plan and consent forms
- ▶ Finalizing and submitting funding proposal to the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)
- ▶ SNF contract finalization
- ▶ Briefing with UNICEF Malawi

Female Genital Cutting in Sudan

Researchers tested whether female genital cutting (FGC) exhibits the characteristics of a social norm based on coordination. Their results document wide heterogeneity in cutting rates within communities and suggest the presence of other reasons underlying this norm, such as personal values concerning health, purity and religious obligations, and questions regarding future marriage prospects. In a companion study, researchers tested whether entertainment material on marriage and values could be used to influence attitudes towards this practice. For this study, the research team produced four versions of a telenovela-style movie about an extended family living in rural Sudan. The four movies shared the same primary plot, which was unrelated to cutting. The control movie included only the main plot, whereas the other three versions also portrayed disparate views on cutting that stemmed from individual values (such as whether FGC is healthier), marriageability (whether the practice enhances a girl's marriage prospects), or both, and ended with the family's decision to abandon cutting.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Completed	Ernst Fehr	Professor of Economics
COUNTRY	Sudan	Sonja Vogt	Professor
PROGRAM AREA	Child protection	Charles Efferson	Professor
TOPICS	Female genital cutting, social norms	Hilal El Fadil Ahmed	Professor
PARTNERS	UNICEF Sudan	Amy Elhadi	Researcher
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation	Nadia Ahmed Mohammed Zaid	Researcher
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ None, the project is completed



Understanding Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Campaigns in Guatemala

In Guatemala, as in many other developing countries, the take-up of preventive healthcare is low. Through behavior change communication (BCC) campaigns, it is possible to substantially increase the adoption of practices that are beneficial to maternal and child health, and to improve nutrition status.

Although BCC campaigns are well suited to boost preventive behavior, their intensity and length make them expensive when covering all households within a community. BCC therefore requires targeting. If targeting is well designed, facilitators not only change behaviors in the households under treatment, but also spread the word to other households. BCC interventions are thus potentially scalable and cost-effective.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Inception	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
COUNTRY	Guatemala	Jack Willis	Professor
PROGRAM AREA	Nutrition, wash	Krzysztof Zaremba	PhD Student
TOPICS	Behavioral change communication (BCC) campaigns, facilitators, social network, targeting, prior beliefs		
PARTNERS	UNICEF Guatemala		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Finalization and submission of funding proposal to SNF
- ▶ SNF contract finalization
- ▶ Briefing with UNICEF Guatemala



Sex-selective Abortion in Armenia

Due to sex-selective abortions, Armenia has highly different sex ratios at birth. Indeed, according to the official statistical data on civic status registration in the Republic of Armenia, the sex ratio at birth has been significantly higher than the average, with 110-120 boys per 100 girls. A research team from CCWD, in collaboration with UNICEF Armenia, is currently working on a project that aims to understand the social motives driving son preferences.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Ongoing	Ernst Fehr	Professor of Economics
COUNTRY	Armenia	Sonja Vogt	Professor
PROGRAM AREA	Child protection	Charles Efferson	Professor
TOPICS	Sex selective abortion, reproductive health s	Matthias Schief	Research Assistant
PARTNERS	UNICEF Armenia		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Working with the National Statistical Service on improving data collection outcomes
- ▶ Quality checks
- ▶ Finalization of the last round of data collection

Other Ongoing Projects

Are Parenting Interventions Transferable Across Settings? Assessing Key Constraints in Sub-Saharan Africa

Parenting or child rearing is the process of promoting and supporting physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. The government of Ivory Coast has made a commitment to expand educational access through universal basic education for all children aged 6 to 16. Yet, enrollment rates remain low: 43.9% in 2015 (World Bank, 2018). When children do enroll, attendance is estimated at 72% for boys and 64% for girls, with survival to the last primary grade at 61% (UNICEF). This research project tests Eduq+, a text-



message based intervention in primary schools aimed to increase student attendance and decrease grade retention. Specifically, we propose to examine two different delivery approaches to reach parents: text and audio messages. Results will inform the design and implementation of this program at scale.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Ongoing	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
COUNTRY	Ivory Coast	Sharon Wolf	Professor
PROGRAM AREA	Education		
TOPICS	Parenting, technology		
PARTNERS	Jacobs Foundation, Ministry of Education of Ivory Coast		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Finalization of the research protocols
- ▶ Draft of survey instrument, survey plan and consent forms
- ▶ Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval at UZH
- ▶ Submission of funding proposal to Jacobs Foundation
- ▶ Jacobs Foundation contracting
- ▶ Agreement with partners Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- ▶ Country field visit
 - Pilot of survey instrument
 - Coordination with partners IPA and MGov
 - Training of surveyors and team leaders
- ▶ Roll-out of data collection
- ▶ Monitoring and supervision
- ▶ Data quality insurance
- ▶ Data cleaning and preliminary data analysis



Education in Brazil

While there is increasing evidence that enhancing the communication between schools and parents significantly improves students' performance, less is known about what mechanisms drive those effects. In this study, researchers investigate whether informing parents about their children's attendance, lateness and assignment completion, improves students' outcomes above and beyond the effects of communication aimed at increasing awareness about those dimensions of children's effort.



OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Ongoing	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
COUNTRY	Brazil	Eric Bettinger	Professor
PROGRAM AREA	Education, social inclusion	Ricardo Madeira	Professor
TOPICS	Moral hazard, limited attention, psychology of poverty	Nina Cunha	Research Associate
PARTNERS	Stanford University, ITAÙ BBA, São Paulo State Secretariat of Education		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Data analysis



The Growth Mindset Intervention in Brazil

A growth mindset is the belief that intellectual abilities are not fixed, but can be developed. Evidence shows that students who are taught a growth mindset earn higher grades and have better test scores. This study investigates why such interventions work, unbundling mindsets into their underlying mechanisms. We do so by randomly assigning 43,350 Brazilian 9th-graders to different versions of the mindset intervention, varying whether the same message is sent just once (information) or repeatedly over the course of 40 weeks (salience), whether it emphasizes returns to effort or the costs of effort, and whether it highlights the value of risk-taking (risk preferences) or that of assigning higher weights to future outcomes (time preferences).

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Ongoing	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
COUNTRY	Brazil	Eric Bettinger	Professor
PROGRAM AREA	Education, social inclusion	Mari Rege	Professor
TOPICS	Mindset, beliefs	Ana Trindade Ribeiro	PhD Student
PARTNERS	State Secretary of Education of Rio de Janeiro, MGov, Sincroniza	David Yeager	Professor
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ Piloting of computer-based intervention

Nudging Aspirations and Technology Adoption in Guatemala

Starting early in life, many girls and women in Guatemala are pressed to accept a subordinate status and comply with traditional norms. There is mounting evidence, however, that these roles are a result of not only external economic factors, but psychological ones as well. Through mobile phones, women and girls can access motivational videos designed to convey educational messages, promote effort, and address individual aspiration failures. This research project aims to



investigate the relationship between the psychological constraints and the economic status and well-being of female adolescents in Guatemala by teaching them how to use the technology at hand to move forward, both emotionally and economically. This research will open the way for policy-makers to understand the role that smartphones may play in future interventions aimed at female empowerment and education.

OVERVIEW		RESEARCH TEAM	
STATUS	Inception	Guilherme Lichand	Assistant Professor of Child Well-being and Development
COUNTRY	Guatemala	Claude Raisaro	PhD student
PROGRAM AREA	Education, social inclusion	Emilio Dal Re	PhD student
TOPICS	Digital literacy, psychology of poverty, women empowerment, technology, entrepreneurship		
PARTNERS	UNICEF Ethiopia		
STUDY TYPE	Randomized evaluation		
WEBSITE	www.ccwd.uzh.ch		

Activities undertaken in 2018

- ▶ Designing of research protocols, literature review and concept note
- ▶ Field visit in Guatemala
 - Piloting of survey instrument
 - Focus groups
 - Partners meeting
- ▶ Roll-out of pilot data collection
- ▶ Data cleaning and analysis
- ▶ Draft of the pilot report and submission of funding proposals



Other Activities Undertaken in 2018

Strategic Plan 2018–2020

Following the recommendations of the Light Review Report and the comments from the Advisory Board, the Center for Child Well-being and Development finalized a Strategic Plan for the period 2018–2020. This strategic document is accompanied by a document called 'Governance & Collaboration', which describes the *modus operandi* of the Center and its collaboration with UNICEF. Both documents were approved by the Steering Committee in June 2018.



To advance in CCWD's mission to produce relevant research outputs and supporting UNICEF and policy-makers in designing policies and programs based on scientific evidence, the Strategic Plan defines four priorities:

1. To develop a funding-origination strategy to support CCWD's managerial and research activities;
2. To generate rigorous scientific evidence on the behavioral mechanisms behind individual and group decisions affecting child well-being and development in developing countries;
3. To position CCWD in policy impact in the development sector;
4. To become a global reference with respect to research methods and measurement of child well-being and development.

The three-year plan is an ambitious yet realistic roadmap for the development of the Center for Child Well-being and Development at the University of Zurich. To achieve its mission, CCWD needs to leverage available resources, and secure other sources of funding.

Anchoring with UNICEF HQ Thematic Section

Following the recommendations of the Light Review Report, the Advisory Board of CCWD formalized the decision of anchoring the work of the Center to the UNICEF's section 'Communication for Development' (C4D)—with a focus on child protection and WASH (access to safe drinking water and sanitation). During the second quarter of 2018, the Center had fruitful discussions with the head of section and finalized an operational concept note.

The operational concept note invites UNICEF C4D section and CCWD to focus efforts on two countries each year, in order to maximize research opportunities. After a structured consultation with several UNICEF Country Programs, the choice for the year 2018 was to focus on Guatemala and Nepal. Both country offices showed interest in developing quantitative field research: the first on self-initiated child marriage (child protection) and the second on community-led total sanitation (CLTS; WASH). Conversations are ongoing and research projects will likely start in 2019.

Advisory Board and Steering Committee Meetings

In 2018, the Advisory Board of CCWD met on February 27th, while the Steering Committee met on June 28th.



Hiring an Associate Researcher

In 2018 the Center for Child Well-being and Development recruited a research associate, Dr. Onicio Leal, who is now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich. Dr. Leal holds a PhD in Public Health from Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil. Previously he earned a Master's Degree in Public Health and certifications in Collective Health, Social Entrepreneurship, Futurism and Exponential Technologies. His research mainly focuses on the application of digital disease detection, early warning systems for epidemics and disease outbreaks, and social epidemiology.

By the end of 2018, CCWD had four senior researchers actively engaged.

Other Human Resources

During 2018, CCWD employed several students as research associates for the projects of the Center. At the end of the year, eight students were part of CCWD network, three of which were PhD candidates in Economics. Furthermore, the Center employed one intern for communication tasks. This student collaborated in the creation of content for the website and supported the researchers in drafting dissemination articles and presentations. More importantly, in the second part of the year the Center was able to hire a part-time Policy and Communications Manager, who implemented CCWD's strategy, strengthened the relationship with stakeholders by producing dissemination materials and improved the contents of the website.

Annual Conference in Zurich

CCWD's third annual conference took place at the University of Zurich on March 16, 2018. To maximize its impact, this conference's format was different from its predecessors: it was concentrated on a single day and was, for the first time, chaired by an external moderator. The new structure met our expectations.

About 70 attendees from Europe, Africa and the Americas, comprising scholars and university students, UNICEF representatives, development practitioners and government officials, gathered to hear world-class experts on child development discuss their work and major issues in the field.

To facilitate participation and feedback, the event was structured in four distinct but connected blocks. The first one focused on early childhood development investments and cutting edge research on childhood health. James Leckman, Professor of Child Psychiatry at Yale University, described the biological foundations for investments in children during their first 1,000 days and the potential of biomarkers in detecting stress.

Citing authorities such as Nobel Prize winning economist James Heckman and multi-award winning child development specialist Professor Sir Michael Meany, Dr. Leckman examined the importance of influences from as early as the fetal stage, and the effect these could have not only on a child's subsequent educational performance, but also their mental and physical health.

Drew Bailey, an Associate Professor at the School of Education at the University of California, Irvine, followed with his presentation 'Insights into Nature, Timing and Targeting of Early Childhood Interventions'. Bailey revealed evidence suggesting a more nuanced assessment of the value of early interventions, at least in terms of educational outcomes.



In the subsequent open discussion, Leckman and Bailey stressed the complementarity of their work in analyzing early intervention, in spite of the apparent differences. Both unsurprisingly concurred that early childhood development requires extensive further study, and how a child develops is a matter of nature and nurture.

CCWD's second panel, adopting a similar format, focused on prevention and mitigation, particularly through the use of incentives to modify behavior.

Günther Fink, a health economist and Associate Professor at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute in Basel, who was formerly at Harvard, presented 'Demand for Preventive Healthcare and Treatment'. He focused on the take up of malaria bed nets under different pricing and inducement structures in a wide ranging field study in Africa.

Guilherme Lichand, Assistant Professor at the University of Zurich and CCWD Director, presented 'Marketing for Development', a research project that acknowledges that poor households do spend resources on prevention although take-up of investments in children's human capital is still low. The research aims to optimally design marketing strategies so that families invest better in prevention, and in this context Dr. Lichand presented an experimental design for a research in Malawi.

In the third of the conference's four blocks, a roundtable on pathways from research to child health programming dominated afternoon discussion. This was a cornerstone of the CCWD's wish to emphasize ways to improve links between academic research and actual programs in the field instituted by aid organizations, NGOs and multilateral bodies.

Johannes Wedenig, UNICEF's Country Representative in Malawi, Mica Jenkins, Operations Research Coordinator at the World Food Program, Charles Nelson, a professor at Harvard, and José Cuesta from UNICEF's Innocenti research center in Florence, described briefly their work and backgrounds before honestly addressing some of their past successes and failures.

Discussion about failures was particularly appreciated by the audience, with almost all the roundtable participants admitting frankly to frustrations or serious setbacks at various times in their work. These ranged from difficulties in communicating and understanding in the field to an institutionalized inability in one case to recognize and accept failure. In arguably the highpoint of the session, panelists suggested ways in which setbacks could be more honestly addressed—and the experience more valuably incorporated into future programs. The linked Questions & Answers section was correspondingly lively.

The conference concluded with a closing keynote speech by Michael Kremer, Gates Professor of Developing Societies at Harvard, on 'The Long Run Impacts of Improving Child Health: the Case of Deworming'.

The work of Prof. Kremer, a globally acknowledged expert on development issues, highlighted the sustained benefits for health and education of deworming programs. In his presentation, focused on fieldwork covering a number of villages in rural Kenya, he produced empirical evidence demonstrating the value of such initiatives. Admitting such findings had subsequently been questioned on technical grounds, he further argued that the evidence was sufficiently robust to withstand academic interrogation and had fully proved its worth in practice.



The conference concluded with Guilherme Lichand thanking his team, and expressing thanks to UNICEF, UNICEF Switzerland, the Swiss Development Corporation and the Excellence Foundation Zurich for supporting the Center's work.

The presentations of the event are available at CCWD's [website](#), along with a video of the keynote speech and a photo gallery.

Research Symposium in Malawi

Together with UNICEF Malawi, CCWD organized a research symposium in Lilongwe on August 30th and 31st, 2018. The two-day research symposium was the first of its kind to be organized in Malawi as part of this collaboration. The prime objective of the event was to share knowledge from research on child well-being and development, featuring rigorous research from randomized evaluations as well as longitudinal studies.

The symposium consisted of presentations of research papers on child development by scholars from Switzerland and African Universities, including a presentation of the preliminary findings of the nationally representative Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP) Survey conducted in Malawi in 2018 as well as the research project called 'Parents' Future-Orientation and Investments in Children'. Lectures by Professor Fehr on behavioral economics and Professor Lichand on technology and education were the highest moments of the symposium.

Some 60 delegates from UNICEF, the Government of Malawi, development partners, academia, civil society and international invitees attended the event. The fieldtrip to Malawi was also fruitful for CCWD's team members to pilot research projects in the Kasungu area. The presentations of the event are available at CCWD's [website](#).

Workshop on Technologies Linked to Child and Youth Development

Conversations with the Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development led to the organization of the second edition of the interdisciplinary workshop initiated in 2017. This year's event took place on November 5th, 2018. The one-day event focused on technologies for measuring and intervening on child and youth development.

The list of speakers included Adriana Weisleder (Northwestern University), Kristin Hadfield (Queen Mary), Sophie von Stumm (London School of Economics), Guilherme Lichand (University of Zurich), Candice Odgers (UC Irvine), Juan Saavedra (USC), Séverine Toussaert (University of Oxford), Henning Hermes (NHH Bergen) and Michael Kremer (Harvard University). The presentations of the event are available at CCWD's [website](#), along with the audio registration of the lectures.

Partnerships

In 2018, CCWD formalized three partnerships with renowned organizations. The table below indicates the instruments that have been discussed and signed:

Partner	Instrument
UNICEF Malawi	MOU
Center for Social Research of the University of Malawi	MOU
National Statistical Office of Malawi	MOU



Innovations for Poverty Action

Sub-award for research in Ivory Coast

Innovations for Poverty Action

Sub-award for research in Malawi

Website Improvement

CCWD's website was upgraded, showcasing information about ongoing projects and knowledge products (video interviews & podcasts). The website now features a 'News & Events' section ([link](#) to the 'Conference & Events' subsection and [link](#) to the 'News' subsection) that includes information on the annual conference, seminars, new projects, blog posts and other relevant activities developed by our research team. The website will be further improved during the year 2019, with a complete rebranding of the homepage.

Production of Knowledge Products & Training Session

In 2018, several knowledge products were finalized and made available in our [website](#). We have created podcast episodes, short videos and two-page summaries of the research projects discussed in the podcast episodes, to disseminate findings from top-level economists and development practitioners. These products are the result of our work with prominent scientists that participate in the events organized by the CCWD. Since the content of these materials is child and youth development in different contexts, UNICEF delegates and development practitioners are encouraged to use them for training and educational purposes. In 2019 CCWD will increase efforts to promote the use of these materials among a wider public.

Finally, our researcher Juliette Thibaud participated as trainer in the 'Global C4D Training' that was organized by UNICEF C4D in partnership with the University of Hyderabad in India. Since Ms. Thibaud could not attend the session in person, she made a training video that was broadcasted to the audience.

Grant from SNSF

Prof. Fehr and Prof. Lichand submitted a joint proposal to the Swiss National Foundation (SNF) for a 3-year project. The project is entitled 'Behavioral Economics of Preventive Health Care Campaigns'. SNF's positive decision was communicated in October 2018. The grant will finance two separate research projects that will examine different aspects of behavioral change campaigns. The projects are set to start in 2019: one of them will take place in Malawi, the other one in Guatemala.

Grant from Jacobs Foundation

The Center has formalized a partnership with the Jacobs Foundation for a research project on parenting and education in Ivory Coast. The project is being implemented with the Ministry of Education and with support from the Brazilian social enterprise MGov.

Prof. Lichand joined efforts with Prof. Sharon Wolf from the University of Pennsylvania, to submit a proposal to a funding instrument called 'Science of Learning' from the Jacobs Foundation. The project explores how to engage teachers and parents to improve the quality of education in Ivory Coast. Project activities have already started and the grant will last until the end of 2019.



Grant from UNICEF Switzerland for National Survey in Malawi

CCWD received a grant from UNICEF Switzerland to support researchers' and travel costs of the project 'Prevalence and Drivers of Harmful Traditional Practices and Child Well-Being in Malawi'. The research project has a three-year timeline and is led by Prof. Lichand and Dr. Hänni. The project's objective is to generate credible evidence on social norms—especially on how they affect girls and female teenagers—for planning, policy-making and advocacy efforts.

The study, whose fieldwork started in 2018, has the potential to understand the drivers of traditional practices that harm the development and well-being of children in Malawi, such as female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C), child marriage or sexual initiation rituals. The research team will produce a report and at least one working paper in 2019.

Field Visits and Participation in Conferences

The following table indicates the field trips carried out by CCWD staff during 2018:

Destination	Date	Objective	Participants
Malawi	March 5-23	Meeting with UNICEF Malawi, survey instrument piloting, research protocols finalization	Hänni
Malawi	April 17 to 30	Piloting, briefing sessions with National Statistical Office, training of supervisors	Hänni and Lin
Malawi	June 23-31	Training of enumerators, monitoring of field operations	Hänni and Lin
Malawi	August 29-31	Participation in research symposium and focus group in the field	Fehr, Lichand, Hänni, Leal, Tomaselli, Thibaud
Guatemala	August 23-30	Meeting with UNICEF Guatemala, Meeting with partners and field trip in rural areas	Raisaro, Del Re
Malawi	October 21-30	Training of surveyors and monitoring of field work	Thibaud
Ivory Coast	Nov-22-25	Steering Committee with the Ministry of Education, meetings with partners and monitoring of field work	Lichand
Brazil	December 17-31	Monitoring of field work, partners meeting, presentation of research results in academic circles	Lichand



The following table shows the Conferences that CCWD Research Director, Guilherme Lichand, attended in 2018:

Conference	Place	Date	Role
UZH Behavioral Economics Seminar	Zürich	February 24th	Speaker
Research Symposium UNICEF	Lilongwe	August 30th	Speaker
FGV Department Seminar	São Paulo	November 2nd	Speaker
ETH Development Lunch	Zürich	November 2nd	Speaker
Universitá Cattolica di Milano Department Seminar	Milan	November 8th	Speaker

The following table indicates the Conferences that Associate Researcher, Simon Hänni attended in 2018:

Conference	Place	Date	Role
Research Symposium	Lilongwe	August 30th	Speaker