



Baby  
Ubuntu

Newsletter

## Baby Ubuntu Newsletter February 2025

### Welcome to the first Baby Ubuntu Newsletter!

In these newsletters, we will share exciting news and events, highlight new and interesting papers, and you can get to know the core team and our partners in India, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and the UK.

This will be a community-led newsletter: we want to showcase and share the work you are doing within the Baby Ubuntu community. Please send your news, stories and updates to us at [babyubuntu@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:babyubuntu@lshtm.ac.uk)

### What's in February's newsletter

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## News

### ***Baby Ubuntu Facilitator Training - Nigeria, December 2024***

An update from Carol Nanyunja and Lucy Mbabazi

We visited the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex, Lagos, Nigeria in December 2024. It was great to meet the team at the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Center. We interacted with caregivers, expert mothers and healthcare workers while there. In terms of the Baby Ubuntu programme, we conducted an online facilitator training with the team in Nigeria for modules 0 to 6. We then travelled to Nigeria for in person training on modules 7 to 11 and recap modules the team felt they needed help with.



The positive energy from both the facilitators and mothers, and the involvement of fathers in the care of the children really stood out for us as a team. We observed many fathers coming in with mothers to attend the session. They loved and felt hopeful that the Baby Ubuntu programme was having a positive impact on them and their children. To minimise parents incurring lots of transport costs in coming to attend clinics they agreed to attend all the different clinics on the same day with the Baby Ubuntu groups. This sometimes resulted in delays to the groups but turnout was good.

The ECD team is now looking forward to expanding the groups to the communities, which will not only increase the program's reach but also help reduce transportation costs for caregivers. We

had a wonderful time there, and it's always such a pleasure to meet and work with our different teams in person!

Thank you - Carol and Lucy.



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## Events

### ***Ubuntu Webinar Recording***

Thank you to everyone that joined the webinar on Wednesday 12 February 2025. The webinar looked at *Program Adaptations Across Contexts* where we explored innovative adaptations of the Ubuntu programs.

The recording is now available, please click [here](#) to view.

Keep an eye out for details about our next webinar on Wednesday 9 April 2025.

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## Opportunities

Please take a look at this [new funding opportunity](#) from Grand Challenges Canada and The Lego Foundation.

*Play Learn Thrive's first funding call seeks solutions to strengthen children's development and education in crisis settings, focusing on unserved and underserved children and caregivers.*

Applications close on [April 24, 2025, at 2 PM ET](#).

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## Articles and information

### ***Breaking Barriers: A Global Call to Action for Children with Developmental Disabilities***

Children with developmental disabilities are too often overlooked in health systems, facing stigma, institutionalization, and barriers to essential care and education. Policies and programs frequently fail to address their needs, leaving them at a disadvantage. **The WHO-UNICEF Global Report on Children with Developmental Disabilities** sheds light on these critical gaps and offers a path forward. The report outlines key strategies to ensure children with developmental disabilities are intentionally included in policies, programs, and public health monitoring. Most importantly, it presents **10 priority actions** to drive real change—fostering inclusive environments and strengthening multisectoral support systems.

[Read the full report here](#) and join the movement toward a more inclusive future for all children.

### ***Disability Inclusive and Accessible Child Friendly Spaces in Humanitarian Action***

Children with disabilities face greater risks and vulnerabilities than other children, and even more so during emergencies. Removing these barriers and ensuring children with disabilities have the same opportunities as other children to access CFS programmes is vital for their well-being and protection. This guidance will support those involved in planning and implementing child-friendly spaces to achieve this. The guidance for the East Asia and Pacific Region provides practical ideas and tools to help make Child Friendly Spaces accessible to and inclusive of children with disabilities, and for parents or caregivers with disabilities. [Read more here](#).

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## Our Community

### ***60 seconds with - Professor Cally Tann***

#### ***What is your job?***

I am a Professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and also work at as a consultant on the newborn intensive care unit at University College London Hospital. My research is focused on improving survival and longer-term outcomes for newborns and young children in Africa.

#### ***What is your role at Baby Ubuntu and what does it involve?***

I am Co-Founder and Director of Baby Ubuntu and lead the research and strategic direction of the programme.

#### ***Where do you live/where are you from?***

I was born in Johannesburg and brought up mostly in the UK. I have spent time living and working in Uganda, Hong Kong and Australia and now lived with my family in London. I love to travel and feel lucky to have a job that has taken me to so many parts of the world.

#### ***What are you working on at the moment?***

Lot of things! I am currently working with the Baby Ubuntu team to make a short film about some of the research that we do which has been a lot of fun. A lot of my time is spent writing funding applications, in meetings, or on the NICU but my favourite thing about working with Baby Ubuntu is our incredible team and the inspiring people I get to meet, particularly the children and families that attend the Baby Ubuntu programme.

#### ***Why is Baby Ubuntu important to you?***

While I was living and working in Uganda leading research to understand childhood outcomes after birth asphyxia, I was so inspired by the incredible courage and commitment of the mothers caring for a young child with disabilities who were enrolled to our studies. I was born with a congenital condition myself which meant that I didn't walk until I was 4 years old and meeting those mothers made me think about my own mother's journey. It was those mothers that inspired me to co-develop the Baby Ubuntu program, and I feel very privileged to continue to work with some of those women still today.

#### ***What three words would you use to describe your role?***

Fun, creative, inspiring!



***“When I’m not working I am...”***

Watching films and walking my dog...but not at the same time!

***What would it surprise people to know about you?***

I have a bionic hip joint and once delivered a baby in the kitchen of a KLM aeroplane!



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