

WITH THE FAMILIES

A participatory approach





VISION AND WORDS OF FAMILIES
about the Houses of Families
in West and Central Africa and Southeast Asia



with the
support of





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Graphic design and production
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PREFACE

In the Houses of Families, whether in Africa, Asia, North America or Europe, families become authors of their own lives. The empowerment of mothers, fathers and children is, for each House of Families, a point of reference and a lever for welcoming, supporting and encouraging experience sharing and meeting basic needs of families.

The African and Asian partners involved in the *Via Familiis* program have created their House of Families in a pandemic context with enthusiasm and commitment. Each House of Families responds to the needs of its community, whilst being anchored in shared principles and values. Each House of Families reflects the context in which it is implemented. It is impossible not to take into consideration such context, nor the obstacles families face in raising their children.

The *Via Familiis* program is the international expansion of the House of Families program launched in France in 2009. Like each of the House of Families in France, those in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Siem Reap (Cambodia), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Iloilo (The Philippines) aim to support parents in meeting their children's needs.

The photovoice project, as presented here, is intended to enable families to express what is important to them. It is a rare privilege to hear the voice of families who live so far apart, but who are united by the same kind of device. Dialogue between each family becomes possible. Their aspirations for their children are often the same: their well-being, their education, the quality of their relationships,

meeting their needs.

The photographs and texts, taken and written by the families, are an invitation for us to look through their eyes, to listen to their words, their challenges but also their hopes, their expectations but also their strengths, their wounds but also their resilience. With dignity, these mothers, fathers and children share with us the intimacy of their lives across borders. Without a doubt, these words are also those that allow one to be proud of oneself, in spite of the difficulties.

We are very grateful and respectful towards the families for what they have shared with us. We welcome it as a treasure which we must take care of. We are also very thankful to the teams who support these families with great sensitivity, passion and commitment. Many of the texts here bear witness to this.

Take the time to look and read, you will find something precious here.

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PRESENTATION OF THE *VIA FAMILIIS* PROGRAM

The *Via Famillis* program has been carried by **Apprentis d'Auteuil** since 2021. The program aims to strengthen the protection of vulnerable children in West and Central Africa and Southeast Asia through the implementation of an innovative prevention device, **the House of Families**, which places the family as a key player in the development and protection of children

As part of the *Via Familiis* program, **5 Houses of Families** have been created in partnership with local organizations: in Mali by **the Association Jeunesse et Développement au Mali** (AJDM), in Burkina Faso by **the Association Kogl Taaba** (AKT), in the Democratic Republic of Congo by **the Association Solidarité Batoto**, in Cambodia by **the Women's Resource Center** (WRC) and in the Philippines by **the Association Caméléon Philippines**.

The House of Family concept was initiated in Quebec in the 1980s upon the initiative of parents with the aim of improving the well-being of families. Since 2009, Apprentis d'Auteuil, in partnership with Secours Catholique France, has been developing Houses of Families in mainland and overseas France, and **currently operates 23 Houses of Families**.

Based on the French experience enriched by the expertise of two technical partners, **Planète Enfants et Développement** (PED) and the **Centre d'Etudes Interdisciplinaires sur le Développement de l'Enfant et de la Famille** (CEIDEF at the Université du Québec à Trois Rivières), and the local expertise of our operational partners, the program's Houses of Families have been successfully implemented, in multiple cultures and contexts, and empower families in vulnerable situations within their homes and communities.

The Houses of Families enable families facing difficult times or obstacles to **develop a support network, enrich their parenting experience and educate their children with confidence**. The principles of action within this device are to value the expertise and experience of families, to create spaces for dialogue without judgment nor discrimination, to think and take action collectively, and to provide collective and individual support in all dimensions and in partnership with other structures.

Families are at the heart of the collective activities of a House of Families. They are the ones who identify, propose, organize and take part in activities that meet their expectations and needs (e.g. shared meals, debates, creative workshops, parent-child bonding times, outings, games, financial management workshop, etc.). These activities along with any other informal moment experienced within a House of Family, **help to boost self-confidence, fight isolation, and foster exchanges between families** that enable **the emergence of solutions** to parental or socio-economic challenges faced by families.

In total, **over 600 vulnerable families and their children** will have received support by the end of the first phase of the program in April 2024.

In order to ensure that professionals working within the Houses of Families have access to the best practices and tools to empower families, **capacity building is also a key aspect of the program**. To this end, over the past three years, seminars have been organized with key players in the family support field, international meetings have been held for all program professionals, and there have been immersions in the program's various Houses of Families, including in France.

The program is an integral part of the Families and Parenthood Program of the International Department of Apprentis d'Auteuil, and receives public funding from the *French Development Agency* as well as private funding.

(1) Following the suspension of French public aid to Mali, the House of Family in Bamako is no longer part of the *Via Familiis* program since the end of 2022. However, the House of Families in Mali continues to welcome and support dozens of families every month thanks to private funding. It is for this reason that no photographs of the House of Families of Bamako are shown in this booklet or in the associated exhibition.

SOLIDARITÉ BATOTO CONGO is a non-profit organization established in 2010 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Its mission is to combat poverty and social exclusion. To this end, it works to protect the rights of the most vulnerable populations, in particular children living on the streets or in conflict with their families. The organization has a day center and accommodation facilities for young mothers and their children, and for pregnant girls living on the streets. The association strengthens their parenting skills and supports them in their socio-economic integration.

The House of Families (HOF) IMANI (meaning "Hope" in Swahili) is a structure of the Association Solidarité Batoto Congo which was established as part of the *Via*

Familiis program. The aim of the HOF is to guarantee the protection of children and their development through preventive work with parents and families.

Once the families have gotten to know each other during practical trainings, several types of activities are organized with them: coffee talks on family, health or education topics, outings, parent-children workshops, household finance workshops, soccer matches and cooking activities. The HOF also organizes individual follow-up for families through marital and spiritual counseling, legal advice, school support, home visits or individual interviews with a social worker, depending on their needs. The most important thing is to welcome, listen to and value each person's expertise, and to encourage families to speak out and support each other.

ASSOCIATION KOGL-TAABA (AKT) was established in 1999 in Koudougou, Burkina Faso, and aims to support the empowerment of women and girls who have dropped out of school or who have not had the chance to go to school or acquire professional skills. The association has a vocational training center that helps women in difficulty to flourish through vocational training in dyeing, embroidery, weaving, tailoring, cooking and the production of natural juices. The organization is also active in the fields of education and child protection, women's and children's rights, support for vulnerable families, and the fight against gender-based violence. It works in close collaboration with other local and international governmental and social actors in these areas.

The House of Families in Koudougou was established by AKT as part of the *Via Familiis* program in 2021. There, families can exchange and share their life and parenting experiences, and find support without discrimination. Professionals support families according to their needs, which may be in the realms of

psychology, health, administration, family, education or nutrition. The House of Families is also a place where families can come together to combat loneliness, develop their skills and discuss a range of issues relating to their children's education and development and family relationships. The House of Families helps to strengthen family ties, and forge professional and social relationships between families. Through active listening, exchanges and awareness-raising workshops, the potential of families is enhanced and their self-confidence boosted. At the House of Families, the core action values in the work with families are: solidarity, mutual aid, community living, love, sharing, the importance of social ties, hard work and the responsibility of raising children.

CAMELEON PHILIPPINES, Inc., is a non-governmental organization focusing on the rehabilitation of young girl survivors of sexual abuse in Western Visayas, Philippines. It offers comprehensive support to young people and families in vulnerable situations, particularly young girls who have been sexually abused, to help them achieve sustainable social and professional integration.

As part of the organization's continuous goal to empower families within their community, the CAMELEON Family Development Center (FDC) was established. It is located in the municipality of Passi, a rural environment one hour away from Iloilo city on the island of the same name. Anchored to the House of Families operational concept, the center has operated for more than two years and is run by professionals with the support of a group of volunteer Parent Champions. Primarily, this project aims to

foster a supportive and inviting environment that enables all family members to connect, form bonds, and reflect and exchange on their experiences as parents, children and more generally families.

Additionally, it strives to support families by assisting parents in strengthening their capacities, guiding them as they carry out their roles and obligations toward their children, and offering interventions that foster the development of strong bonds and support systems within families. The FDC also provides opportunities to engage in various developmental activities, including parenting and family building, life skills training sessions, and alternative livelihood workshops. Its guiding philosophy is to value families' skills, knowledge, and abilities in order to enhance their capacities and confidence.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

(WRC) is a local Cambodian non-governmental organisation which aim is to empower women and girls in Cambodia. WRC envisions Cambodian women and girls as being able to make informed decisions about their lives, as well as being key actors in the promotion of social well-being and gender equity in Cambodia.

In Cambodia, since 2016, many child protection associations have changed their practices to include parents in the child protection process (family reunification, foster care arrangements, etc.), however, all practices focused on individual support. The House of Families in Siem Reap was set up in 2021 as part of the *Via Familiis* program and it follows a unique approach in the field of family support, combining collective and individual support practices. Before the program was implemented, there were no places where families could come to share their difficulties and receive peer support, or where community solidarity could emerge and develop

informally.

The House of Families in Siem Reap promotes the empowerment of families in vulnerable situations by implementing numerous support and training activities and exchanges. The families benefit from support to strengthen the bonds between them and their children, and to promote the best physical, cognitive, socio-affective and linguistic development of the children.

WHY DID WE PROPOSE AN ACTIVITY BASED ON THE "PHOTOVOICE" APPROACH?

As part of the *Via Familiis* program, we are committed to empowering families by supporting their ability to express themselves. Families facing poverty are often invisibilized and their voices are rarely heard nor taken into account. Our objective is to propose an approach that enables families to express themselves individually and collectively. We have chosen the action-research approach called Photovoice, used in Quebec in 2017 and in France in 2020. This approach was created in the 1990s by a sociologist and a photographer, Caroline C. Wang and her colleague Mary Ann Burris, to offer an accessible and powerful means of expression. The aim of this approach is therefore twofold: first, to provide a space for families to express themselves, and second, for decision-makers to become more familiar with the realities and challenges they face.

What is the photovoice approach?

Amongst the multiple methods of action research, "Photovoice" stands out by resorting to photography to give a voice to marginalized communities.

The main objective of the "Photovoice" activity is to enable participants to document their reality and highlight the problems they face, and to stimulate a dialogue and collective reflection, guided by a specific question. For *Via Familiis*, the question asked to families was: "What does the House of Families mean to you? This question has been reformulated differently for each House of Families, by referring to other notions like basic needs, support, relationship, social bonds, etc.

Steps of the method :

Several steps were followed :

Selection of participants: Participants were able to participate to the Photovoice activity voluntarily, after a collective or individual presentation of the activity. The only constraint was to be able to commit to all the steps of the activity.

- ❑ 1st sequence: participants are guided through the use of the camera/smartphone provided. A photographer introduces them to the basics of photography. They are then asked to take photos over a set period of time that represent their answer to the question: What does the House of Families mean to me? Before the 2nd sequence, participants are asked to choose 2 photos each that they will present to the group.
- ❑ 2nd sequence: Each person presents the two photos they chose to the rest of the group, and explains why they chose them. The facilitator moderates this exchange to enable everyone to express themselves, create links between the photos, enrich experiences and compare points of view. For the 3rd sequence, the participants were asked to produce a text (which can be very short) for one of the two photos presented. This text can be written by the participant him/herself, in his/her mother tongue, or by the facilitator following a discussion with the participant.
- ❑ 3rd sequence: each participant presents (read by him/herself or another person) his/her text to the other members of the group. The facilitator moderates the exchange between the participants. This is an opportunity to identify common themes and challenges, and to plan actions to address them.
- ❑ An exhibition is proposed to publicize what families have to say. Each partner will organize an exhibition in the coming weeks in their home country. In France, we are proposing an exhibition featuring approximately thirty photos and their associated texts from each partner involved in the *Via Familiis* program organized in four different themes.

Please note that some of the texts presented have been translated several times: from the person's mother tongue into English or French, and then again from English to French and vice versa. In addition, the implication of professionals in the writing process of certain texts - sometimes necessary due to the illiteracy of some participants - creates distance from the words of the families themselves. It is therefore important to read the texts with these different biases in mind.

VIA FAMILIIS : THE ADVENTURE OF SETTING UP “HOUSES OF FAMILIES” IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AND IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA THROUGH THE VOICES OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN

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INTRODUCTION

First and foremost, I have to admit that I am a privileged person. There are many levels to this privileged status.

Firstly, about three years ago, I was asked to accompany - from afar, it goes without saying - the protagonists in setting up Houses of Families (ndlr French literal translation to refer to “Maisons des Familles”) in West and Central Africa and South-East Asia as part of an initiative called *Via Familiis*. I met some wonderful people who, each in their own way, touched me with their humanity and dedication. And today, I've been invited to share my thoughts on the results of the "photovoice" (1) activity carried out by parents and children in each of the Houses of Families. As I haven't had the opportunity to be in direct contact with families as part of this project, this invitation adds a dimension that was missing from my experience.

Secondly, between 2016 and 2019, I was closely involved in carrying out a similar activity (2) on my side of the world (Quebec) with mothers, fathers and children, all members of a House of Families (3). This prior experience therefore constitutes a background to the reflections inspired by the *Via Familiis* photovoice activity. I therefore have the privilege of considering these two activities simultaneously and, in doing so, contributing to the anthropological reconciliation between different societies and cultures, different institutional configurations and, obviously, different forms of family life.

The third level of privilege I have renders the task entrusted to me more challenging. Indeed, I belong to that part of the world - the Western world - which is said to be privileged compared to the African and Asian continents. And within this world, I enjoy many privileges - that of being a male, white, cisgender (4), able-bodied (5), with an above-average level of education and annual income. This sociocultural position is not without consequences for the social relationship that connects me to the families who have testified about their experience in a House of Families as part of the *Via Familiis* program. As a result, there is a risk that my comments might be off track. Luckily, my professional experience reduces this risk. However, as

there is no such thing as zero risk, I apologize in advance for any misunderstanding, inconvenience or discomfort that may arise.

This text is divided into two parts. The first is intended to provide an overview of the House of Families concept and its objectives for parents and children. I alluded to this earlier: there is a common background against which the experience of families in West and Central Africa and Southeast Asia who go to a House of Families takes shape. My aim is to outline the main elements of this background. The other part will present the preliminary findings that emerge from a thematic analysis (6) of the visual and textual material of the photovoice activities. This type of analysis allows us to highlight common dimensions within a corpus of qualitative data

THE HOUSE OF FAMILIES CONCEPT (7)

What is a "House of Families" ? First of all, it's only in Quebec and France that the French expression "Maison des Familles" is commonly used. However, there are organizations throughout the Western world that are similar to these houses. Thus, the following content covers these family service organizations. First, I will describe the characteristics of Houses of Families. Secondly, I will examine what Quebec parents and children think about them.

Characteristics of Houses of Families

A collective identity. A House of Families does not exist on its own. It is part of a group that brings together a number of organizations and, as a result, is structured as a network. In this way, each of these initiatives is linked together so as to share a common framework of principles for action, a framework that could also be described as a collective identity. The universal and flexible nature of this framework, however, enables the organizations to develop their individual identities and adapt their actions to the specific needs of the families in their community and the contexts in which they evolve.

Parents as the main target. When a House of Families wants to promote children's development and improve family living conditions, it relies on parents as the main target of its actions. Nonetheless, the family remains at the heart of the action principles of these initiatives. Their range of activities and services is aimed at families, including parents, children and their immediate relatives.

Characteristics of families for whom activities and services are aimed. The families for whom the activities and services are intended differ from one House of Families network to another. In some networks (e.g., the Quebec network), organizations adopt an inclusive approach, welcoming all families without restriction based on the type of vulnerability they face. In other networks (e.g., the French network), organizations are designed from the outset to cater families in situations of economic, social or relational vulnerability. However, in the latter case, the approach to family vulnerability is based on the notion that these families are not actually void of any resources. It is important to note that within the House of Families a counter-discourse to the dominant view of vulnerability is adopted: throughout life, any family can be confronted by a variety of difficulties, independently of its socio-economic situation. Vulnerability is thus conceived here as a universal, even ordinary phenomenon, rather than one essentially attributed to particular groups of people, what we call a particular or problematic vulnerability (8)

The spaces within Houses of Families. Houses of Families organize their environment and relational climate so as to resemble a warm, friendly "home" and to encourage informal practices (e.g., welcoming people upon their arrival at the organization, a discussion in the "doorframe" or over a cup of coffee).

Our approach to meeting families needs. Houses of Families offer a wide range of individuals as well as group activities for families. This combination of activities is seen as conducive to a comprehensive response to families' needs. In general, they will prioritize a collective approach in their response to families' needs. The activities are rather an excuse to encourage exchanges and the creation of links between parents, volunteers and professionals. Additionally, individual support for parents is based on their expression of needs and concerns, rather than on predetermined evaluation or intervention grids. These organizations focus on families' strengths, preventing difficulties, and encouraging their long-term involvement within the house, beyond the initial crisis that may have brought them to the House of Families in the first place.

People working in Houses of Families. The team of a House of Families is generally small (fewer than a dozen people). In addition, volunteer participation is essential to complement the team. Consequently, mechanisms to support and coordinate volunteer action are also set up.

Parent's participation in governance. Houses of Families explicitly encourage parent participation in governance. Parents are seen as their child's first educators, or as partners in the organization's mission. Popular education motivates the voluntary involvement of parents in the organization's democratic and associative life, including the possibility of sitting on the organization's board of directors. Collaboration and teamwork between professionals/employees and families to support the development of the latter's power to act is emphasized as one of the key components of a House of Families.

Collaboration with other family-related organizations. A House of Family is committed to creating links with local and regional partners (in health, education, etc.). This takes the form of reciprocal referrals of families, exchanges of services and information sharing. They can also carry out joint or concerted actions together.

Financing. Funding is a major issue for Houses of Families. It is a constant threat to their continued existence and service provision, and requires considerable effort on the part of their management teams. This issue is a priority for Houses of Families networks when they pursue actions with various national bodies - both governmental and non-governmental.

WHAT QUEBEC PARENTS AND CHILDREN THINK OF HOUSES OF FAMILIES⁽⁹⁾

As mentioned in the introduction, Quebec's *Optique Familles* initiative, based on the photovoice method, served as inspiration for the *Via Familiis* project. It is therefore of interest here to present a summary of the findings of this initiative, which aim is to support parents' and children's expression of their experience of a House of Families. The initiative was carried out in six Houses of Families, with the participation of their professional teams and parents identifies by them. Fifty-one parents (mainly mothers, with a few fathers) took part directly in the process. In most cases, however, their life partners and children took part indirectly (in particular, in taking the photos and determining their meaning).

One of the key findings of this approach is that families are not only targets of the actions carried out by Houses of Families, but they are also an essential resource in the construction of a collective discourse around what is such an organization. Recognizing, supporting and highlighting the voice of parents and children are major assets in promoting Houses of Families to the general public, professional training establishments, cross-sector partners and public decision-makers. It is therefore essential for a House of Families to offer a variety of spaces and moments for families to share amongst themselves and with the professionals.

The collective message that emerges from the Optique Familles approach highlights a set of characteristics - which can also be called success factors or conditions - of a House of Families. From the point of view of parents and children, inter-family relations and openness to the diversity of family life represent the core of such an organization. What are the ingredients? In their words, families evoke: family, listening, friendship, love, simplicity, sharing, welcoming, helping

each other and being "together". These nine themes form the architecture of a House of Families in their eyes.

At the end of the Optique Famille process, parents were asked to produce key messages for public decision-makers in their respective local communities, as well as for Quebec as a whole. Table 1 presents the six messages.

- **They want the importance of having places where parents and families can gather in communities to be recognized;**
- **They want the special hospitality offered in Houses of Families to be recognized as a great benefit to all parents and their child(ren);**
- **They want to make it known that they highly appreciate the support approach offered by House of Families, as it is this type of support and accompaniment that they are looking for;**
- **They wish to affirm that Houses of Families are beneficial for all stages in life and for families from all social backgrounds. It is this mix of people in the same place that makes them all grow;**
- **They want the personal qualities and team spirit of the people who work at a House of Families to be highlighted and recognized;**
- **For all these reasons, parents say it's important for Houses of Families to be better known in their community, and to have access to resources that enable them to continue their work and welcome all the families who knock on their door, be it for support ("to anchor themselves in stormy times") or to simply share the pleasures of being together.**

Table 1 - Key messages that parents wished to deliver to public decision-makers at the end of the Optique Familles approach (source: Lacharité et al., 2019, p. 51)

Carrying out a formal process to encourage families to participate and have their say, such as the one proposed in Optique Famille, has great repercussions for the organizations that have implemented it. This approach has generated various results for the parents themselves who took part in the initiative, for the professional/employee team who also participated and, collectively, for the Quebec network of Houses of Families.

THE VIA FAMILIIS PHOTOVOICE PROCESS

The thematic analysis was conducted on the basis of visual and textual productions from the photovoice activity carried out in the four Houses of Families that make up the *Via Familiis* programme: in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia and the

Philippines. Table 2 shows the number of participants in each organization/country. In all, 105 women, 15 men and 29 children took part in the process.

What is a House of Families for the people who go there? An answer to this question can be a set of characteristics expressed in writing and visually by participants as part of the *Via Familiis* photovoice activity. Figure 2 shows these characteristics.

ORGANIZATION/COUNTRY	PARTICIPANTS
Association Kogl-Taaba/Burkina Faso	4 groups; 42 people (34 women, 8 men)
Solidarité Batoto Congo/MDF Imani/Democratic Republic of Congo	3 groups; 30 people (28 women, 7 men, 1 boy)
CAMELEON Family Development Center/Philippines	2 groups; 20 people (women)
Women's Resource Center/Cambodia	2 groups; 51 people (23 women, 28 children)

Table 2 - Description of participants in the Via Familiis photovoice project

Four of these characteristics seem to constitute the core conditions of a House of Families, as several participants in each organization have mentioned them. The other 10 characteristics seem to complete these core conditions and thereby constitute complementary conditions that extend the practical application of the former.

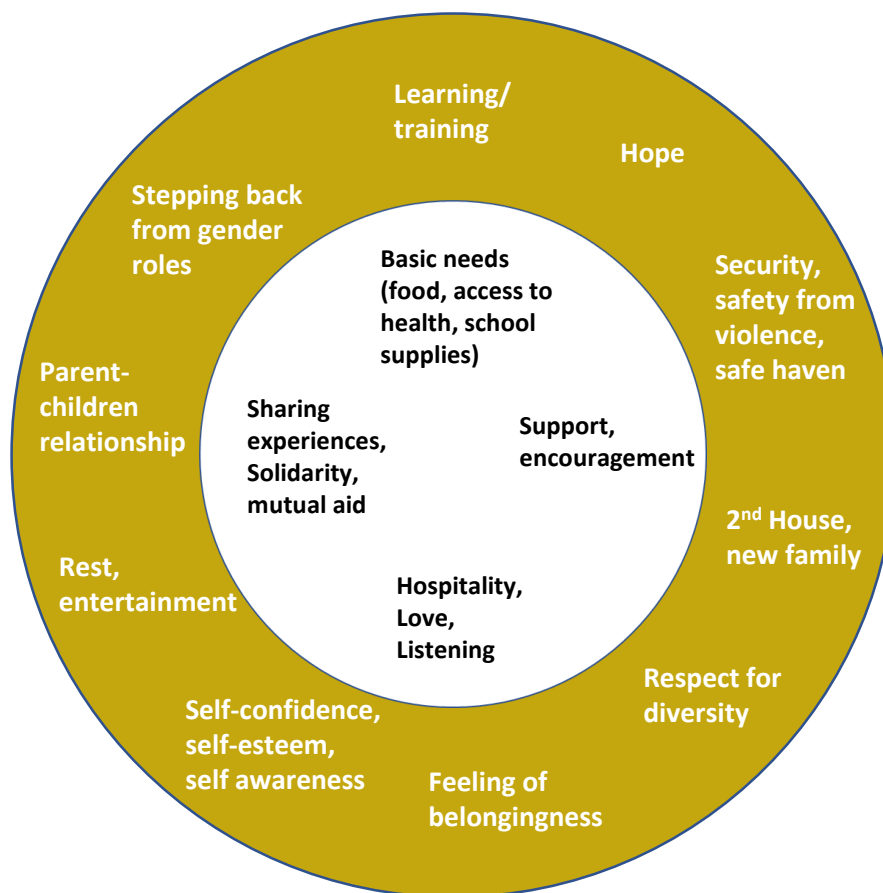


Figure 2 - What a House of Families means to the parents and children who go there

However, not all of these complementary conditions are present in every organization, and some are much more prominent in some countries than in others (e.g., the dimension of "security, safety from violence, and safe haven" is most prevalent amongst parents in Cambodia and in the Philippines).

CONCLUSION

What lessons can be drawn from the analysis of the *Via Familiis* and Quebec photovoice activities? Despite cultural, social and institutional differences, what families are looking for and what they are experiencing in a House of Families reflect fundamental similarities in terms of support and guidance. The needs of parents and children may vary from one social context to another, but the kind of response to these needs offered by a House of Families remains promising.

From the families' perspective, how does the House of Families initiative in West and Central Africa and Southeast Asia fit into the general model of this type of organization? Despite the implementation challenges faced by the project, families testify eloquently that the professionals/employees

responsible for implementing the project have understood several essential elements that characterize the general model of a House of Families.

Obviously, these questions deserve to be further examined beyond the perspective of the people who were involved in the Photovoice activity, and require a more in-depth analysis of the activity in each House of Families. Here, the perspective of the professionals/employees - their convictions, intentions, skills, resources, challenges - is also an important element to explore. Studying the effects and impacts of the Houses of Families on the lives of families and in local communities is yet another topic to deepen. Cooperation between national networks of Houses of Families is likely to provide leverage for such actions.

(1) There is a considerable body of scientific work describing the principles of this participatory research method. However, readers interested in familiarizing themselves with this method will probably find something to their liking in the following document: https://fqocf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Guide_Optique-Familles-FQOCF_9de%CC%81c2019-avec_tous-signets.pdf.

(2) This Quebec initiative, entitled *Optique Familles*, produced an exhibition and a provincial tour, itself called "Bienvenue chez vous!" (<https://fqocf.org/la-federation/demarche-optique-familles/>). Today, this title serves as the slogan for a vast awareness campaign by the *Famille au Québec* network of community organizations (<https://fqocf.org/nouvelles/campagne-bienvenue-chez-vous/>).

(3) In Quebec, the generic term "organisme communautaire Famille" and its acronym "OCF" are used to designate a House of Families. However, it is the latter expression that parents use to refer to these organizations. So, for the purposes of this text, I will stick to this expression.

(4) Refers to a person whose sex assigned at birth corresponds to the gender by which they define themselves (i.e. their gender identity). Using the word *cisgender* allows us to visibilise people who do not fall into this category (i.e. people whose gender identity does not correspond to the sex assigned to them at birth on the basis of their external genitalia (penis/vulva)).

(5) In an intersectional analysis of our privileges, the dimension of ability (whether a person carries any form of disability or not) should not be overlooked.

(6) I based myself on the thematic analysis approach proposed in the following reference: Braun, V., Clarke, V. (2013). *Successful Qualitative Research: A Practical Guide for Beginners*. SAGE Publications. To remain succinct, I will not describe the steps that characterize this method.

(7) In this section, I draw freely on the content of an unpublished research report, carried out under my direction in August 2020, on behalf of the *Fédération québécoise des organismes communautaires Famille*. The report is entitled: *Développement d'une programmation de recherche sur les impacts de l'action communautaire autonome Famille au Québec*. In particular, one of the sections of this report is based on a scoping review designed to answer the question: what do we know about the impact of community action on families?

(8) A description of these two forms of vulnerability - universal and particular - can be found in the following documents: Lacharité, C. et al. (2020). *Vulnerabilities and families: conceptual issues related to the development of a vocational training activity*. In M. Boutanquoi and C. Lacharité (sous la direction de), *Enfants et familles vulnérables en protection de l'enfance*. Besançon: Presses de l'Université de Franche-Comté, pp. 81-95. Or the English version : Lacharité, C. et al. (2020). *Vulnerabilities and Families: Conceptual*

Issues Associated with the Development of Vocational Training. In M. Boutanquoi and C. Lacharité (Eds), *Vulnerable Children and Families in Child Protection*. Besançon: Presses de l'Université de Franche-Comté, pp. 75-88. *Vulnerable Children and Families in Child Protection*. Besançon : Presses de l'Université de Franche-Comté, pp. 75-88.

(9) In this section, I draw freely on the content of two papers: Lacharité et al. (2019). *Faire communauté autour et avec les familles au Québec : Les organismes communautaires Famille, un réseau innovant et mobilisant* (the chapter entitled "L'action communautaire autonome famille sous le regard des familles"), https://www.mfa.gouv.qc.ca/fr/publication/Documents/16_Lacharite-et-coll-AGORA-et-FQOCF.pdf; Lafantaisie, V. et al. (2021). *L'expérience des parents avec les organismes communautaires Famille: constats et retombées d'une recherche-action participative*. In D. Lafortune, M.A. Poirier (under the direction of), *Les jeunes en difficulté, un défi collectif*. Éditions du CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal.

HOSPITALITY

LOVE LISTENING



RAZEL TAÑO

CAMELEON The Philippines

My testimony is a testament to the profound power of love within our families and its transformative impact on our lives and relationships. As a mother, I bear the heavy responsibilities of nurturing and strengthening the bonds within our family. Love is the cornerstone of this foundation, serving not only as an emotional chain but also as the foundation upon which each family member's personal growth and well-being are nurtured. In my journey as a parent, I have encountered moments when the demands of life and the challenges of parenthood leave me exhausted and emotionally drained. It's during these trying times that I find comfort with the embrace of the Family Development Center (FDC). The FDC, to me, is more than just a place; it's a second home. Here, I feel genuine love and feel understood and am surrounded by people who value and care for me. It's a source of comfort and relief, a refuge amidst life's overwhelming problems. It's a place where I am welcomed and cherished by a diverse group of families who have come

together to create unique and meaningful experiences. What sets the FDC apart is its unwavering commitment to equality and respect. Here, every individual, regardless of their background, is treated equally, and their views and opinions are given the respect they deserve. This environment ensures that I always feel valued and heard. Knowing that the FDC is a steadfast source of support in the face of life's challenges provides me with comfort and confidence. It's a pillar of strength that I can lean on, offering assistance I need as I navigate life's complex journey.



ROUAMBA ALIMATA

AKT Burkina Faso

Through this photo of the director's office, I want to express my gratitude to her and her team for their willingness to welcome us, listen to us and help us manage our families. I am very happy.

EXCEL PAMA

CAMELEON The Philippines

The white petals of the flower symbolize the pure, genuine, and sincere efforts of the FDC in accompanying the families. The same also describes my genuine love for my family and for the families who are part of the FDC. Like how a flower blooms, FDC sincerely helps me grow and shine where I am planted. With the help of my fellow mothers, I learned to appreciate the simple things that I have and use them to help my family and others. The FDC has shown sincerity in accompanying and welcoming me as if I were part of the family which allowed me to develop self-trust and confidence.





KHAT PHENG

WRC Cambodia

I want to share with you how grown and developed my children have become because of how much better I've become. Familial conflicts or disagreements have distressed my children's upbringing and development. Coming to the organization and the house, my parenting mindset has transformed through the educational workshops (parenting, budget management, etc.) that the house provided. From time to time, my husband and my children also participated, which resulted in their own transformation. For some times now,

my husband has been focusing more on seeking a stable employment which is a big transformation for him.

Personally, what I like most about the house beyond the generosity and support through material distribution for family is the opportunity to express my thoughts, feelings and opinions which are met with continuous encouragements and positive validation. From indoors activities to experience sharing, I have come to realize how important family – especially my children's development – really is.

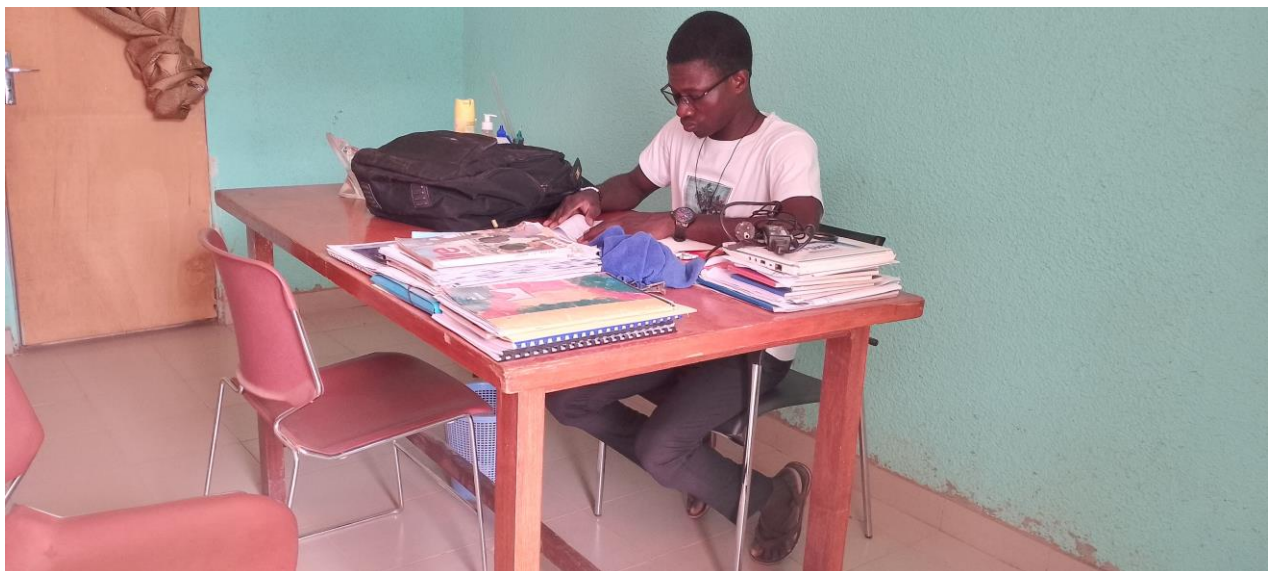


NAI NUON
WRC Cambodia

This photo wants to express that we can go anywhere without my husband because my children can be with me, especially we have a motorbike.

KIENON MARIE
AKT Burkina Faso

The social workers at the HOF are very welcoming and available. They listen to us and guide us. Thanks to them, I feel like part of a family and I have solutions to my problems.





For me, the HOF is a door. It means that I came in with nothing and left with something precious.

AURELIE
BATOTO DRC



IMANI means joy, love, a new family and new encounters.

BELVINE BIESE
BATOTO DRC



My family currently lives in harmony despite the fact that the household is polygamous. Before, it was a total mess. This joy of living together was achieved through listening, mediation, discussion groups, awareness-raising and talks at the HOF.

**NATHALIE
KADORE**

AKT Burkina Faso



HIN SOPHANETH

WRC Cambodia

Before, it was very difficult because I didn't have a stable job. Sometimes, I couldn't eat well and my husband didn't care for me too. He enjoyed drinking. Me and my children got food only from my mum.

Today, I am happy since I divorced. I can live peacefully with my children, I can encourage them to go to school, and I wish they graduate and can have a nice future.

I liked planting flowers and vegetable when I was child. Even though I am an adult I still like planting. I am always very happy when I join any activities in the House of Family (HoF). Besides, I have my own business as can collector and buyer.

I changed lot after I became member of the HoF and before I was a violent person but now I reduced some violence with my children. I want to say thank you to the Women's Resource Center for letting me participate in this project.



ANGIE NALANGAN
CAMELEON The Philippines

“Respect begets respect” – these words have always been the guiding principle of my life. It's a reflective reminder that the way we treat others often paves the path for how they, in turn, will treat us. This principle is the foundation of my approach to parenthood and has been instrumental in nurturing healthy family relationships while promoting harmony in both my personal and social interactions. In my persistent pursuit of these values, I have found these at the FDC. From the very first moment I crossed paths with other families within this community, I was left with a lasting impression. It was a meaningful encounter that immediately made me realize, “This is where I belong”. At the FDC, every individual is treated with special care and their value is acknowledged. Here, I have the freedom to openly share my thoughts and opinions without

fear, knowing that my feelings will be respected, and I can be my true self without judgment. The sense of acceptance and respect I experience at the FDC is what keeps me coming back over and over again. Together with other families, we have developed deeper connections, establishing collaborative and engaging relationships that continue to grow stronger with each passing day. The FDC has been a crucial companion in my journey to self-fulfillment and the joy of parenthood. I have found my home, and I am forever thankful for the impact it has made on my life.



ZONGO MARIE CLAIRE

AKT Burkina Faso

Before I met the HOF, when I had worries, I didn't know who to turn to to share them. Since then, whenever I have worries, I have people, the social workers, who listen to me and help me. I feel very much at home in my second family, which is the MDF.



The HOF's hospitality reflects love

JENOVIC KALONJI,
BATOTO DRC

IMANI is family, it's joy, no one feels left out.

MERCIL BODI
BATOTO DRC



SUPPORT

ENCOURAGEMENT



CHIV SENG OEUN
WRC Cambodia

Before coming here, I had many problems. I was socially traumatized and had a deteriorating mental health. My husband introduced me to the organization and the project because of his gig as the tuk-tuk driver. Talking and interacting with the social workers, the encouragements, advices, active listening, all this cultivated my self-esteem and confidence until I became more stable in my life. Through various workshops in the house, I

interacted with people of different backgrounds which helped reduce my social anxiety swiftly and greatly. The organization also supported me with setting up a small-sized business at home, through various training activities and material support. As of now, I am really proud of what I've accomplished, how much I've changed through the constant support of the organization, especially the social workers, for whom I have so much gratitude.

ZIDA PLACIDE

AKT Burkina Faso

At the HOF, the director is available to listen to us at any time. The picture is the door to her office. When I go in with a problem, I come out with solutions. She has enabled me to do a lot of training in weaving and dyeing.



MABELIZA PALOMO

CAMELEON The Philippines

Life's persistent trials and problems often cast a shadow over my perspective. Yet, the introduction of CAMELEON into my life ignited a profound shift in the way I perceive these challenges. This turning point paved the way for invaluable opportunities, providing me access to diverse learning sessions and fostering connections with families at the Family Development Center (FDC). In this nurturing environment, I gradually found the confidence to share my vulnerabilities and recognize my own capabilities. The FDC's staff and volunteers encouraged and supported me relentlessly, and nurtured an atmosphere in which I felt increasingly at ease and engaged with other

families. The FDC, in essence, became a bridge – a channel to my inner strength and which allowed me to become an inspiration to those around me. Motivated by my transformative experiences, I felt compelled to extend the same self-exploration journey to other mothers. Thus, I brought them into the FDC. Together, we are now embarking on a shared journey of self-discovery and transformation. We created connections, forming a strong support system, exemplifying that even in life's hardest moments, a nurturing community of families can be a source of hope and growth.



NAVY VEK
WRC Cambodia

I am not happy because I took a photo alone without my son and I can't read Khmer letters. I want to thank the Women's Resource Center that has given me a chance to study Khmer literacy, and I can teach my son. I commit myself that I will study hard such as reading, writing at home.



CLAIRE PALMEJAR
CAMELEON The Philippines

I can attest that the FDC is a safe and nurturing place for families and children. It is a perfect haven for me, where I can bring my children with me to relax and relieve myself from stress. The FDC, through its family members, allowed me to experience comfort and the feeling of being valued, which gave me the

courage to open up and share my stories with others. Through the different activities at the FDC, me and my children have an opportunity to participate and express freely our feelings and experiences which helped strengthen our relationship.



NANA CLAUDINE

AKT Burkina Faso

The HOF has given me hope in my life. My life had been turned upside down since the death of my husband. Since I started coming to the HOF, my life has changed. I feel welcome. My children go to school thanks to the HOF. We receive food and medical care. I feel part of a family and loved.

CHIM CHANTY

WRC Cambodia

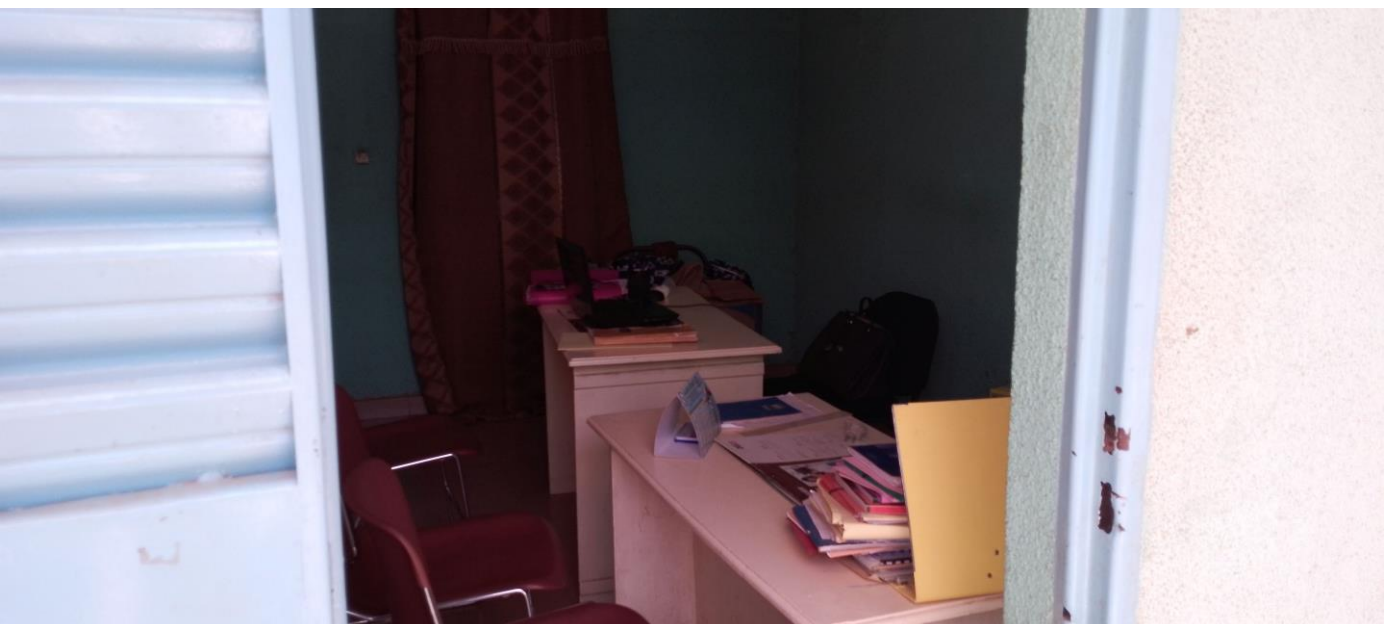
After interacting with the organizations, my emotional and mental health has improved, especially my self-confidence and self-esteem. Photovoice activity, like this, also contributed to building my self-confidence by helping me express my opinions and ideas better. Through the house of families, I cultivate a new dream for the future by opening my own business, a food stall. I want to thank CWCC and WRC that helps my family.



For me, this office represents the solution to my problems, with the help of the HOF team. Once inside, with so many difficulties and discontents, I come out all satisfied and happy with the hospitality, the listening, the mediation that resolves my family conflicts and my vital needs.

KIEMDREBEOGO CHRISTINE

AKT Burkina Faso





OUNG SEB

WRC Cambodia

I want to show you my happiness when my children and I are together. I got married but my family in law doesn't perceive me well and continually discriminates me. Eventhough, I'm a cleaner by profession, due to my low education, I still continue to work hard every day for my children. Before coming here, I never shared any information about my struggles to anyone, even my close circle.

When I came to the house, I receive such a warm embrace from the social workers and other mothers. In the house, they encouraged me; they valued my experience, as a parent; they shared about their experience, as parents, which, in turn, brought me to reflect how I can

be a better a parent to my children (one that doesn't use violence). Before coming here, my husband also used violence against me. Coming here, I talked to other parents, especially in our meal sharing and cooking time, to find other solutions about my husband. Now, my husband understands me a little bit better and manages to control his anger as well. Now, I smile more often and try to get to know new people that come to the house every day. I find that the connection I've built in the house, with the families and social workers, relaxes me while the experience they share, as a parent, as a wife, continues to help transforming my little family as well.



IMANI HOF is an ally for families, where we feel at home, where we are loved, accompanied and considered at our fair value. In the DRC, life is not easy, but we see the volunteers and staff surpassing themselves, forgetting themselves, forgetting their own worries to bring support and comfort to families.

EMMANUEL MVEMBA
BATOTO DRC



This photo is of my family, we used to be alone. But thanks to the HOF IMANI, we've discovered a new family. IMANI means everything to us!

CHANNEL PANGALA
BATOTO DRC

KIEMDE NADÈGE

AKT Burkina Faso

I dropped out of school in 3rd grade because of lack of means. I was looking for a way to learn sewing. Since I came to the HOF, they've helped me pursue my choice by enrolling me in the women's sewing center, which will last 3 years.



CHARLENE MBUDI

BATOTO DRC

The HOF IMANI watches out for us and accompanies us.



ARLYN PACIFICO

CAMELEON The Philippines

The smile that we can see on the faces of innocent children is priceless. Their happiness comes in simple ways, like playing with their friends, where they can comfortably act like children. Like how the FDC brings happiness into my life through spending time with other families and sharing and talking about our

experiences, hopes, and problems. Material things cannot guarantee that they will make us happy, but the time and attention we get from the people who value us really matters. My fellow mothers at the FDC valued my presence which allowed me to experience the true meaning of happiness.



LEA MONCAL

CAMELEON The Philippines

Amidst poverty and injustices, each Filipino parent recognizes the importance of education for their children to achieve their dreams. The children in this picture walk back and forth to school every day. Even though such day-to-day experiences can be exhausting, you can see smiles on their faces as they persevere to become winners in life. As a mother, I tend to do exhausting tasks at home, but I always

allocate time to be with other families and participate to the FDC activities. I am grateful that the FDC is always by my side, providing me with the opportunities and skills I need to manage my responsibilities towards my family and in helping my children achieve their goals.



It's the love the HOF IMANI has given me and my household.

PATRICIA MUJINGA
BATOTO DRC



GINALYN PABILONA
CAMELEON The Philippines

My life's journey has truly been a challenging one, like navigating a complex chain of roads, each leading in a different direction, often leaving me feeling helpless. This complexity mirrors the dynamics within my family, where each family member seems to be pursuing their individual paths, resulting in a sense of division among us. As a mother, this has posed a significant challenge, and I've often grappled with the feeling of not knowing how to bring us together and effectively handle our daily issues at home. Then, a turning point in my journey came when I discovered the Family Development Center (FDC). It was like a breath of fresh air, a haven of hope amidst the challenges I faced. For the first time, I felt like I had found a family beyond my own, a place where I could lean on others and openly discuss my troubles. In the company of the kind, empathetic people I met at the FDC, I began to view things from a different perspective, which in turn, helped me gain a deeper understanding of myself and how to deal with my family issues. Over time, the path I aspired to pursue became clearer, and my experiences at the FDC provided me with renewed hope and a profound sense of purpose. I am confident that my continued involvement with the FDC will serve as a guiding light, that can provide me with the courage to lead my family towards the common goal that we all aspire.



ELMA DEVIZA
CAMELEON The Philippines

I strongly believe that parenting is a lifelong commitment, coupled with responsibilities and challenges. As shown in this photo, it validates the saying "it takes two to tango". It is very challenging to raise a family without someone you can rely on in times of difficulty and hardship. Thankfully, I have the chance to know the FDC who accompanied me in my journey as a parent. I have made a lot of sacrifices for the welfare of my family and children, but I still felt that my efforts were not enough. This was until I engaged with the FDC, which provided several opportunities for me to know in depth my strengths and weaknesses as a person and a mother. The FDC continues to inspire me to learn and further equip myself with parental competence to nurture my children and family relationships.

SHARING

OF EXPERIENCES



MELINDA ANIVERSARIO

CAMELEON The Philippines

Life is full of hardships, sorrows, and sufferings, yet there is still hope. Hands, for me, are the symbol of hope and assurance that we are not alone in our battles in life. My experience at the FDC gives me a lot of joy and hope. At times, I feel down and exhausted from the different problems with my family, but there are a lot of helping hands ready and willing to listen and spend time with me. Although we have different stories and experiences, yet it is

comforting to know that there are people with whom you can talk whenever you need them. Truly, I believe that no man is an island. With my participation in the FDC, I learned to value people regardless of their experiences and status in life. I believe that each one of us has something to share, and let's continue to take our part in helping and inspiring others while we are building a community that we dream for our children.

BEREWIDOUYOU ELISE,
AKT Burkina Faso

Since I joined the HOF, I've had the opportunity to take part in several weaving and dyeing training courses. This has enabled me to strengthen my skills, which I in turn use to train other girls and women.



PATH CHANDA
WRC Cambodia

After knowing Noun, she introduced us – my husband and I – to WRC and the House of Families. The family and I ended up coming here for various activities regularly, including the workshop, community meals, gardening, meditations, yoga and salon activities. Despite having no food at home, our family can come in, cook with others and eat together without thinking about all the things we do not have. Material distributions of food and children's education material also helped my family. The encouragements and interactions with other mothers and social workers helped me and my husband. Through workshops and peer-to-peer interactions, he changed into this caring, non-violent, and stable individual that my children and I can rely on. He applied and got a security guard position. Personally, I also became more vocal and more expressive about my opinions and my feelings because of interactions and experience exchanges with other people in the House of Families.





JOSEPHINE PABORADA

CAMELEON The Philippines

This photo symbolizes the FDC, which serves as the light in my journey towards self-fulfillment and guides me to discover my self-worth as a mother. The FDC has provided me the opportunities to nurture me to become a better mother and community helper. At the FDC, I was given the chance to share my knowledge, which can be instruments of enlightenment and inspiration for other

families like leading and facilitating group activities. I believe my simple act of service may inspire other families in my community, especially those in hopeless situations. Like the lamp, I continue to commit myself to being a light and an instrument in creating a home environment that is safe and free from violence.

ZONGO IRÈNE

AKT Burkina Faso

I'm very happy with what the HOF does. It brings us together every time and thanks to that we can share our worries. I took this photo to express my deep joy at the way the HOF brings us together every time.



YAMEOGO CHANTALE

AKT Burkina Faso

This photo of the inside of the HOF represents the gratitude and joy I feel towards it. Me and my family have learned a lot in this room through exchanges, awareness-raising activities, community meals and training. The HOF has brought about a positive change in my family's behavior.





SOR SAKANG

WRC Cambodia

In this picture, I want to express my joyous feeling since knowing the organization and participating in the house's activities. My life, since coming here, is like living in nature and greenery due to constant companionship with other families and the social workers team. I want to, especially thank Sister "Kong" and "Lai" for their introduction to the HOF and constant companionship. Their hospitality, without judgement and discrimination, is like an embrace of sisterhood, the vocabulary I would use to describe our companionship. It wasn't just them, however. Each individual sharing, contributing, sharing meals, participating in our activities make me very happy despite all the life struggles and tiresome.

I want to thank sister Lai, Kong and the social worker team that put a smile on my face daily, help me understanding myself and the love and companionship they selflessly provide. The material support (food distribution) is also another highlight of my experience here.



LONG SOMBATH

WRC Cambodia

My name is Sambath Long. I was born in 1995 into a poor, working-class family. However, I never complained about our livelihood even until I got married despite constant discrimination based on my livelihood. In my marriage, I experienced violence in all forms and my in-laws and husband constantly discourage me. Because of this, I always define myself by my bad experience: a wife that is constantly beaten up by her own husband and a woman who is discriminated by others because of her livelihood. As I am processing this experience, it is similar to the different flavors of mango (bitterness to sweetness to, I don't know, sourness). However, I'm constantly living every day because of my children. With WRC and the house, I participated in activities. I was encouraged to continue. I was given different advices on myself and parenting that helps me strive, learn and continue in life despite all the obstacles I've experienced.



Under the IMANI HOF trees,
knowledge awakens

DIVINE ZENO BATOTO DRC

This photo of the interior of our HOF reminds me of the many meetings we held at the HOF. This setting enables us to share our experiences and learn through awareness-raising. It's another family after our families.

YAMEOGO PASCAL AKT Burkina Faso





VIVIAN PAYAR
CAMELEON The Philippines

I have always believed in the profound significance of cooperation when it comes to nurturing healthy and thriving family relationships. Cooperation serves as the unifying force, acting as the adhesive that holds a family together and fostering bonds that can endure the tests of time. My journey and engagement with the Family Development Center (FDC) have illuminated for me the essential role that this fundamental family value plays in establishing harmonious family relationships. My involvement with the FDC has been instrumental in helping me comprehend how this critical value can be instilled and nurtured within a family. It all began with a personal commitment to embody cooperation in my interactions with other families, consciously making it an integral part of my approach to parenthood. Through my experiences at the FDC, I've come to realize that remarkable outcomes can emerge from the

simplest individual actions when cooperation is at their core. I'm thrilled to share that my dedicated efforts to cultivate the spirit of cooperation within our family have yielded positive results. We've learned to truly listen, offer support, and collaborate, thereby creating an environment where love, trust, and understanding thrive. The impact of cooperation has not only enriched our family bonds but has also had a ripple effect, positively influencing our relationships with others in our community. At the FDC, there's a saying we hold: "Together we can make a lasting difference to the lives of each family." This testimony serves as a testament to the transformative power of cooperation in building strong, resilient, and harmonious families.

MATT SAMRI

WRC Cambodia

The House of Families is my second home that embraces me without discriminating my beliefs or my religion, as a Cambodian-Muslim. Coming here, I learned more about myself which allows for a transformation within myself and a change in how I protect and develop my child. This comes from the contact that I've developed in the house with other mothers and what they have shared, be it their worst or best stories. The relationships I've developed in the house help me transform my own little family and fill it with love and happiness.



There is no discrimination in the household.

**BLANDINE
NZALALEMBA**
BATOTO DRC



LIZEL PULMONES

CAMELEON The Philippines

This photo symbolizes my personal journey towards empowerment and resilience. My life can be associated to the tree in the image, which stood strong and continued to flourish despite being devastated by a storm. There were moments when the strong winds struck my family life and would leave me feeling stuck and hopeless. However, I made the conscious choice to rise again and gained the strength to confront the battles life threw at me. But my life took a transformative turn when I crossed paths with the amazing families at the FDC. It was there that significant changes began to unfold. Every time I found comfort within the walls of the FDC, I could perceive a noticeable difference in myself compared to the person I used to be. I was nurtured to become a better version of myself, emphasizing the exploration of my strengths rather than dwelling on my weaknesses and past defeats. The FDC provided me with invaluable opportunities to

openly share my challenging life experiences in a safe and transparent space. As I narrated my stories of survival and hope, I witnessed how they resonated with others, inspiring many along the way. This journey also allowed me to regain trust in myself and rebuild my self-confidence. It became evident that everything in life happens for a reason. My experience at the FDC motivated me to continue being a role model, a source of hope, and inspiration, particularly for other mothers who, like me, find themselves in seemingly hopeless and vulnerable situations. My desire is to keep nurturing my personal and parental competencies by actively participating in group learning sessions with fellow mothers at the FDC.





KIEMTORE EVELYNE

AKT Burkina Faso

The HOF plays a big role in my children's education. It is at the center of changes in the behaviors of my children, their father and myself, by creating a bond of confidentiality between us. We talk to each other every weekend. It has also empowered us through the many activities carried out within the HOF (fun games, educational talks, outings, etc.).



ROSALIE NAMOC, CAMELEON The Philippines

Family makes us feel loved, valued, and appreciated. It is fulfilling for parents to see their children grow responsibly, with respect and good values. This is a picture of a family to which I aspired and worked hard for several years. I may say that me and my husband have eventually seen the results of our collaborative efforts in working toward the type of family that we had wished for before. It is not the perfect

family that everybody wants, but we have our unique practices at home that could add meaning and value to other families while they are building their "ideal family." I am thankful for the opportunity given by the FDC, which gave me a venue to share my different practices and experiences with other families. It was satisfying for me to know other families are learning from and adapting some of our insightful ideas to build and strengthen their family.



IMANI is a place to learn, meet people and share. Where we've learned a lot. In short, IMANI is our home !

**DON DE DIEU
BKLM**

BATOTO DRC



NANA AWA

AKT Burkina Faso

Thanks to the HOF, we took part in a training course on medicinal plants run by the Jardin du Monde association. Upon my return home, I decided to plant certain species such as Aloe Vera, in case of need.



The HOF is a light that enables us to enrich and assert our knowledge.

CHRISTIAN LIKUNDE
BATOTO DRC



Like the playstation, the HOF is a place to rest, have fun and meet people.

CHRIST MANA
BATOTO DRC

BASIC NEEDS



EAM LAI

WRC Cambodia

My life has always been difficult. With my husband, I received all forms of violence, including physical, emotional and economic violence. I need to ask for the monetary income for my day-to-day's housing stipend. For the past ten years, this has been my life; however, as a mother, I keep persisting for my children's future, similar to this giant taro (in the picture) that continues to grow despite scorching hot sun and pouring rain. On one day, in particular, my husband was invited to the café talk by WRC for a discussion around domestic violence. Through the workshop and interactions, he stopped doing physical violence against me, although economic and emotional violence still exist. Nevertheless, I

still continue to persist by selling vegetables (in picture) for my children and the family.

By joining the House of Families, I share my experience as a wife to other women in the house that creates peace and hope within me. The social workers and the families continue to encourage me while distributing material and food support for my family. Parenting sessions, educational workshops, budget management sessions were also helpful, especially from other parents with similar experience. Photovoice, like this, also helped me reflect upon my experience and share it without any mental reservation.

NAV SE

WRC Cambodia

Family's experience is more difficult and challenging especially if violence occurs every day within your household. The family experience is as though living in hell, especially if you're not valued as a wife or an immediate family member by your in-laws, your husband. Nevertheless, my children are the reasons why I'm smiling every day. When WRC came for an outreach activity at the house, I was very interested about the educational components, especially the parenting workshop and other topics. My husband ended up participating in the house by attending various workshops, especially the parenting workshop. This educational training changed him gradually as he reduced the use of violence against me and my children.

In one individual follow-up session about my health, the social workers and I realized that I

needed immediate medical support. Through the organization's support, I was able to access the healthcare that I needed. Throughout various indoor activities (community meals, yoga, gardening, etc...), I continued to learn new lessons and life experiences. The material support for my children education was also provided by the organization. All of these, including the photovoice activities, helped me communicate my feelings better, especially the hidden feelings, and built my self-confidence in the process. I thank WRC that supports me continuously.



NACOULMA ROSALIE

AKT Burkina Faso

I came to the HOF when I was ill. After I joined the Via Familiis project, I benefited from the HOF's health assistance. Now I feel better and I'm very happy.



YAMEOGO SYLVIE

AKT Burkina Faso

The examination and prescription papers show that I was seriously ill, but the HOF helped me. With money, I was able to treat myself. Thanks to God, I'm much better now. I thank God again because it's thanks to the immersion of 2021 (HOF of Le Havre and Montdidier) at the HOF of Koudougou that I met my friend Justine.



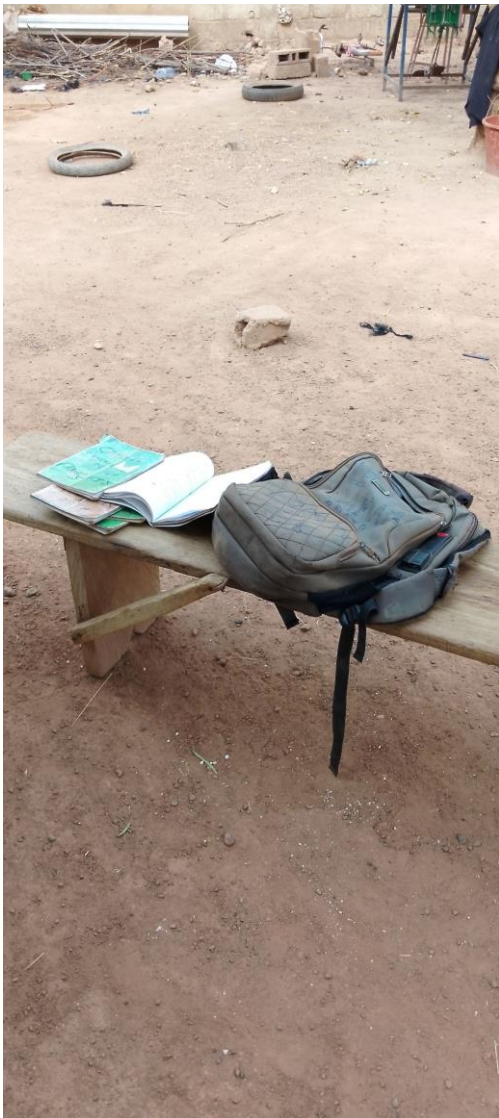
Imani never leaves anyone hungry.

**LYLY
DYWANTESA
BATOTO DRC**

CHAN SAVAI

WRC Cambodia

Fortunately, the organization supports the family via educational material distribution that helps with my children's education. Indoor activities, community meals and exchanges that happen within the house also support and motivate me, as a parent, to reduce violence against my children and to lessen my emotional burden. The photovoice activity, in addition, also created a unique space where I was able to express my feelings, problems and resolutions. I thank the organization for their continuous support.



ZONGO THÉRÈSE

AKT Burkina Faso

Thanks to the HOF, my children are able to attend school because every year they receive school kits and advice on how to succeed.



VILMA DAPAT

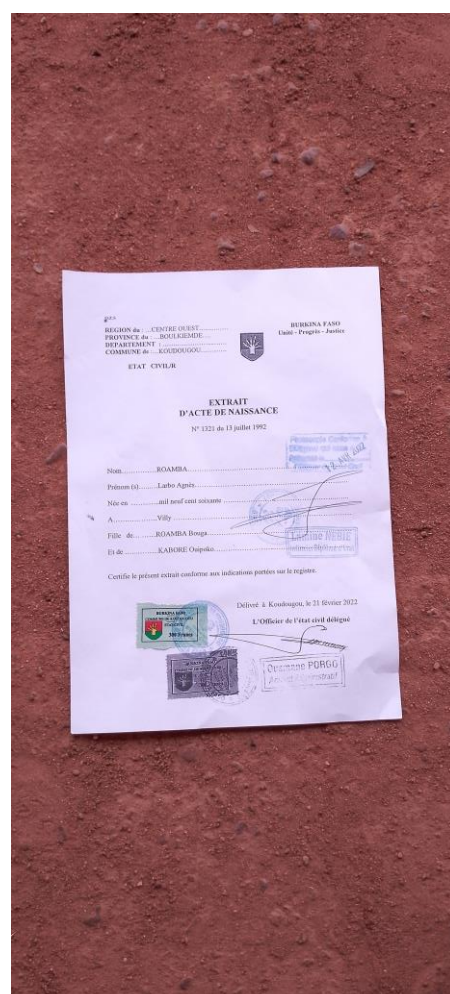
CAMELEON The Philippines

As reflected in this photo, the mother's expression of care allows her child to feel loved and valued. This relates to my personal experiences at the FDC, where I sincerely offer my time and services to the families in need of my support and care. As a mother who has gone through difficult experiences, I have been able to learn how to provide necessary care for my children, and this is something I would like to share with other families at the FDC. Personally, I can testify that the FDC activities meaningfully support my family and other families, by giving them a delightful feeling that makes them want to keep coming back and continue learning.

ROUAMBA AGNÈS

AKT Burkina Faso

I can't express the immense joy I feel when I see this birth certificate acquired with the help of the HOF. It will make it easier to obtain nationality certificates for my children. I was also able to obtain my identity card. I can go anywhere now.





REMERCIEMENTS

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