Digital Mental Health Innovations to Support Scaling Out a Family Strengthening Intervention for Afghan Refugee Families: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Presentation Overview

- Background
- ! Aim and goals of project
- ! Interdisciplinary approach
- ! Proposed methodology
- Expected outcome and deliverables
- ! Future research and directions





Boston College Research Program on Children and Adversity (RPCA): Goals

Identify processes contributing to risk and resilience

RPCA Current Project Portfolio

Children affected by armed violence Chechen IDPs, Ethiopia-Eritrea border, N Uganda, Sierra Leone (R01HD073349, U19MH109989, R01MH128928-01)

- Longitudinal study of war-affected youth (3 waves of data collected 2002-2008 (Child Development, 2010; JAACAP, 2010; Social Science & Medicine, 2009). Randomized controlled trial published in JAACAP in 2014
- 5th wave of data on the Intergenerational Impact and Social/Biological mechanisms driving the impact of War in Sierra Leone beginning in Summer of 2022
- Children Affected by HIV/AIDS, ECD home visiting for extreme poverty Rwanda (R34MH084679, World Bank/USAID/Elma/LEGO/Echidna/OAK)
 - Eva uation of an evidence based Family Strengthening Intervention for families affected by IV AIDS Care, Pediatrics Piot and current scale up of the Sugira Muryango early childhood development home visiting intervention and investigation of the ongitudina and spiover effects on siblings

Promoting resilience and healthy parent-child relationships in refugee families
 New England (NIMHD R24MD008057, R01MD010613), Application FSI Adaptation
 (BC ATIG, SIGECS) and Afghan Family Strengthening Initiative (W.K. Kellogg
 Foundation, USCRI)

CBPR study of a Family Strengthening Intervention for Refugees (Somali Bantu and Bhutanese refugees) and adaptation to Afghan families.

Application to develop and test FSI app for Somali Bantu/Bhutanese/Afghan refugees

Our Interdisciplinary Team



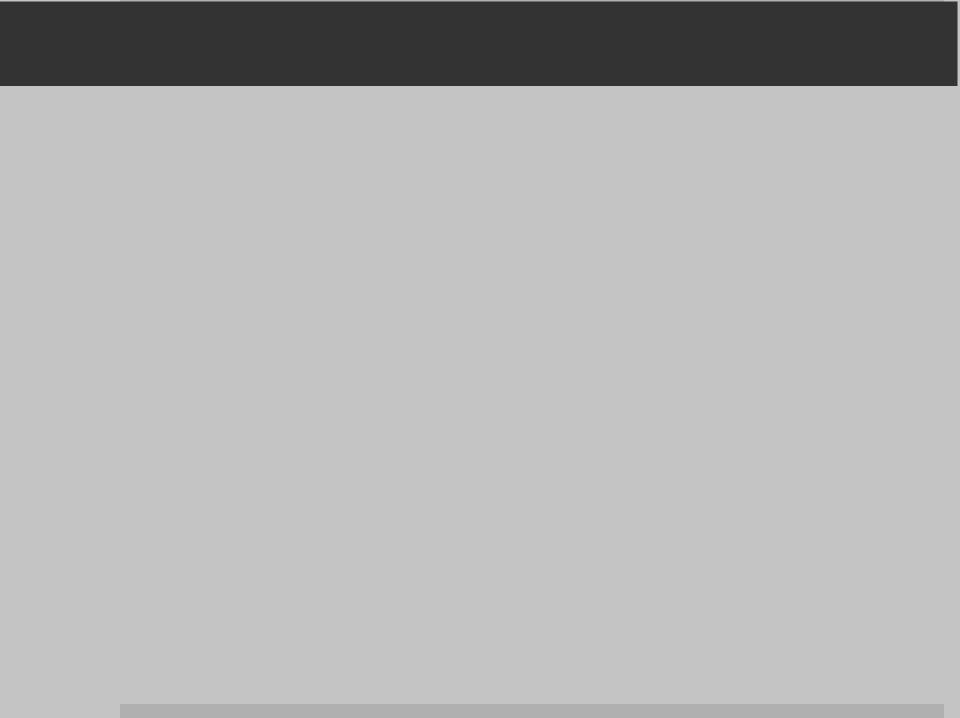
Avneet Hira, PhD, MS. Professor, Engineering, CO-Project Director

Her research focuses on affordances of technology, humanistic design, and engineering epistemology Nam Wook, Kim, PhD, MS. Professor,









The Family Strengthening Intervention:

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FSI-R Module Characteristics

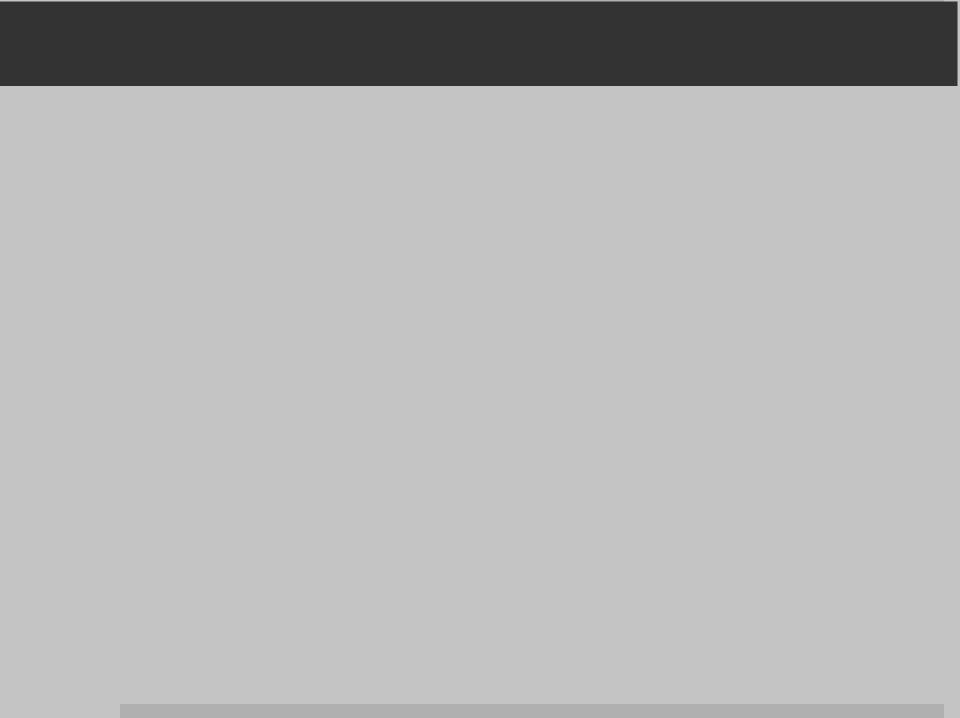
- Brief, strengths-based approach
- Recognize and build on existing family strengths to enhance resilience
 - Protective resources = "active ingredients" for preventing mental health problems
- Manualized protocol
 - Includes detailed set of materials



Project Phases

Adapt FSI-R Content for Afghan Families

Apply Community-



Thank you!