

**“If I Take One Thing from This Program, It Is How I Give Love to My Children”:
Engaging Fathers in Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting**

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Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP) is an innovative program aimed at helping parents to replace rewards and punishments with communication, problem-solving and relationship-building. Founded on children’s rights to dignity, protection from violence, and participation in their learning, PDEP is a primary prevention program aimed at reducing physical and psychological punishment of children. Beginning as a book for parents published in 2007, PDEP evolved organically in response to community demand into an 8-week parent program that is being delivered in more than 30 countries. Like most of those offering parent support programs, we have found it challenging to engage fathers. However, we have had substantial success in two locations. The first is Manitoba, where we have engaged newcomer fathers through Mosaic Newcomer Family Resource network. In some cases, PDEP has been delivered there by newcomer fathers who were trained as program facilitators and can deliver PDEP in their first languages. In other cases, the program has been delivered one-on-one to isolated and vulnerable fathers in their homes. The second location where we have had success is Palestine, where fathers are raising children in a conflict zone. There, many PDEP programs have been delivered by male facilitators through three partner organizations; the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); Juzoor for Health and Social Development in Jerusalem, Gaza and Ramallah; and the Palestinian Counseling Center (PCC). In this region, many of the programs have been implemented in the refugee camps, supporting fathers and their families in this challenging context.

In this workshop, we will provide an introduction to PDEP and describe our approach to engaging fathers in Manitoba and Palestine. We also will present outcome data to assess changes in fathers’ attitudes toward physical and other punishments.