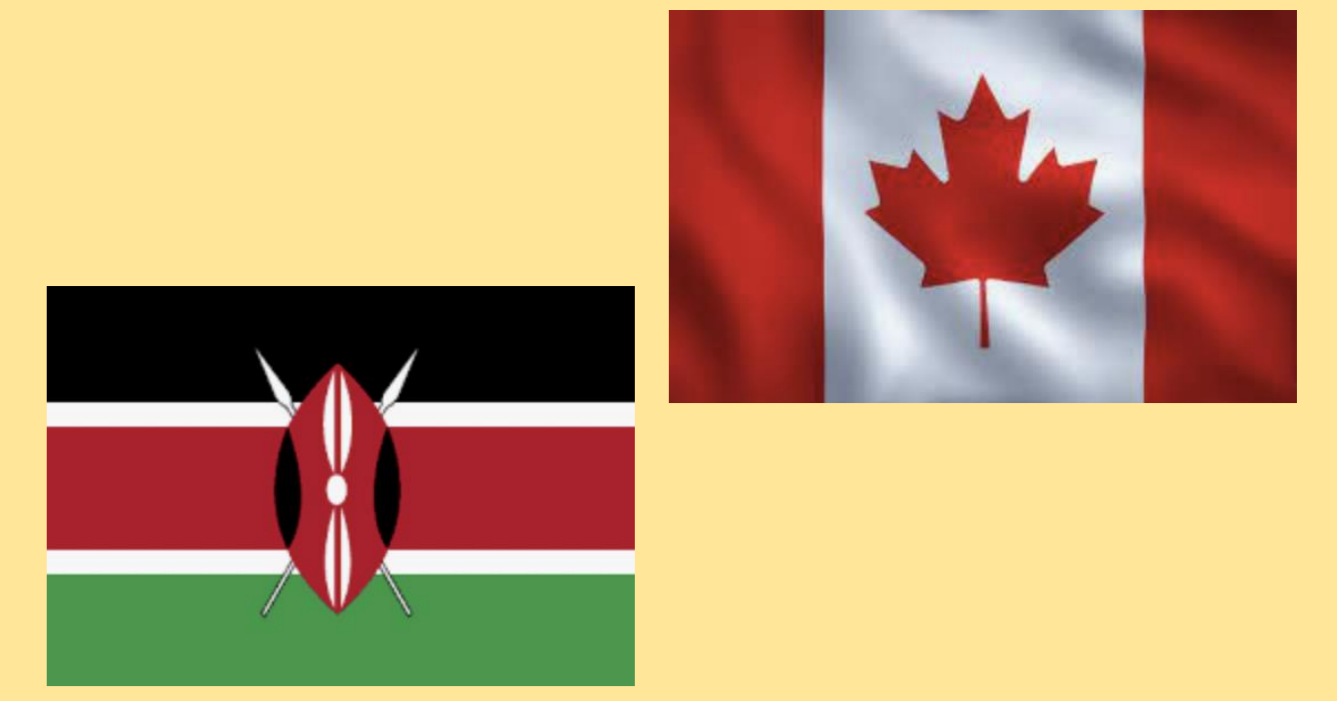




# Cross cultural parent-child attachment practices through the lens of poverty

Presenter  
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## Background

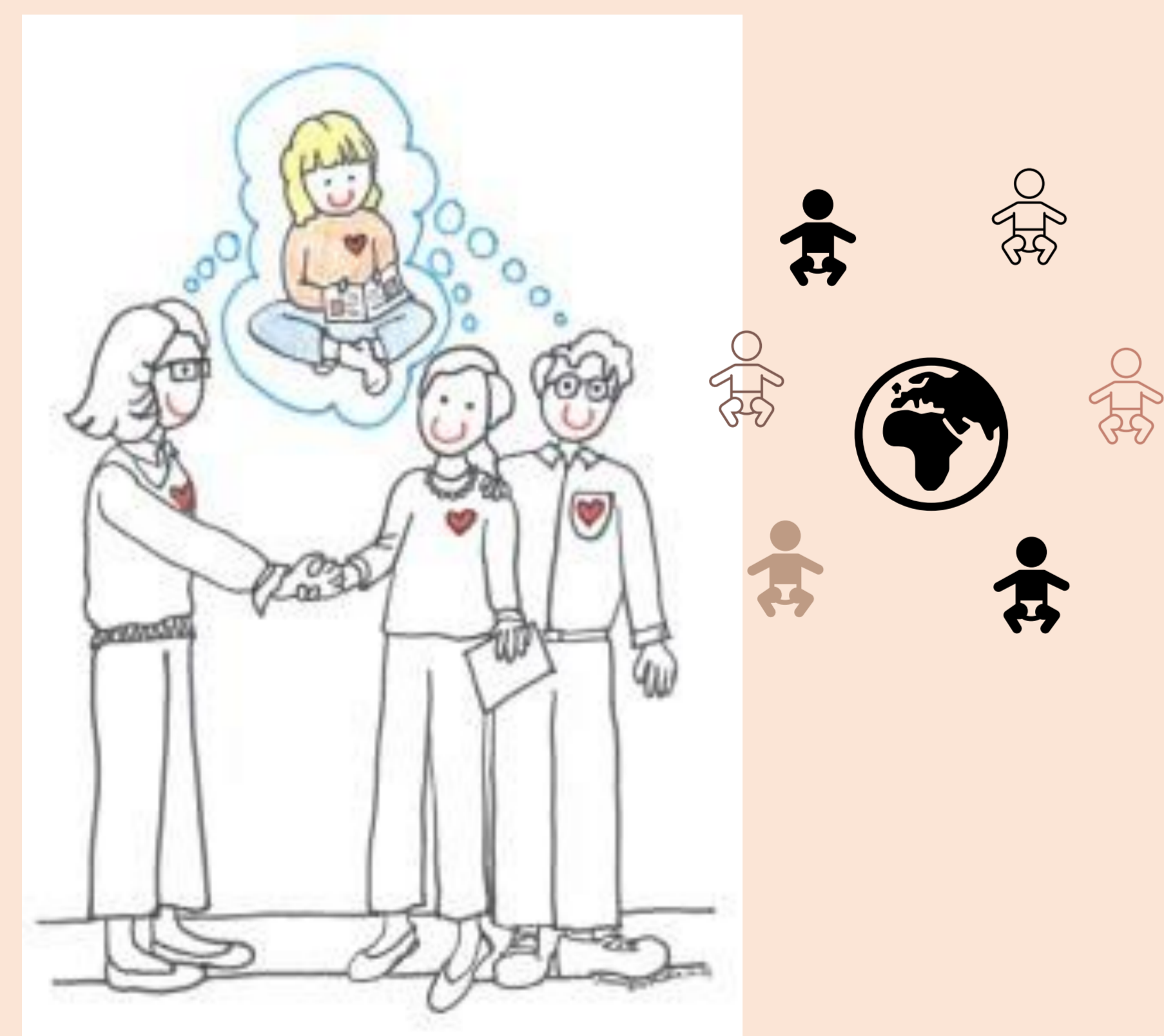
In Kenya, an estimated 36% of the population lives below the poverty line. Given the high urbanization rate of 28%, the problems of poverty are exacerbated for the 60% who reside in the urban slums (UNICEF, 2020; Oranga, 2022).

Adverse contextual factors of poverty predispose children to challenging determinants of health and wellbeing such as harsh exposure to domestic and/or community violence, parental substance abuse and/or mental illness, abuse and/or neglect towards a child, parental separation and divorce.

Maternal protection and sensitivity through appropriate interpretation of infant needs, alertness to infant signals and promptness of response are among the factors that can moderate the risks

Most of the research on attachment comes from WEIRD populations (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic) who make up only 12% of today's population (Bornstein & Esposito, 2020).

**But is there just one contextual / cultural standard of childcare in our complex world? Let's find out?**



## Research question?

- (i) is a mixed methods research design appropriate for assessing attachment-based sensitive parenting?
- (ii) are there differences in attachment-based sensitive parenting between the rural and urban settings and if so, what factors contribute to this?

## Research Design

A mixed methods research design drawing on qualitative and quantitative research approaches.



## Research tools

Day 1: filming of a day in the life of the mother.

Days 2: Maximum 1 hour of filming on mother-child interactions: a play activity / joint play, mealtime / feeding session and visit by a friend. Each activity will be video recorded for 15 minutes.

Maternal Behaviour Q-sort (Pederson, Moran, & Bento, 1999) will be used to code the sensitive attachment practice.

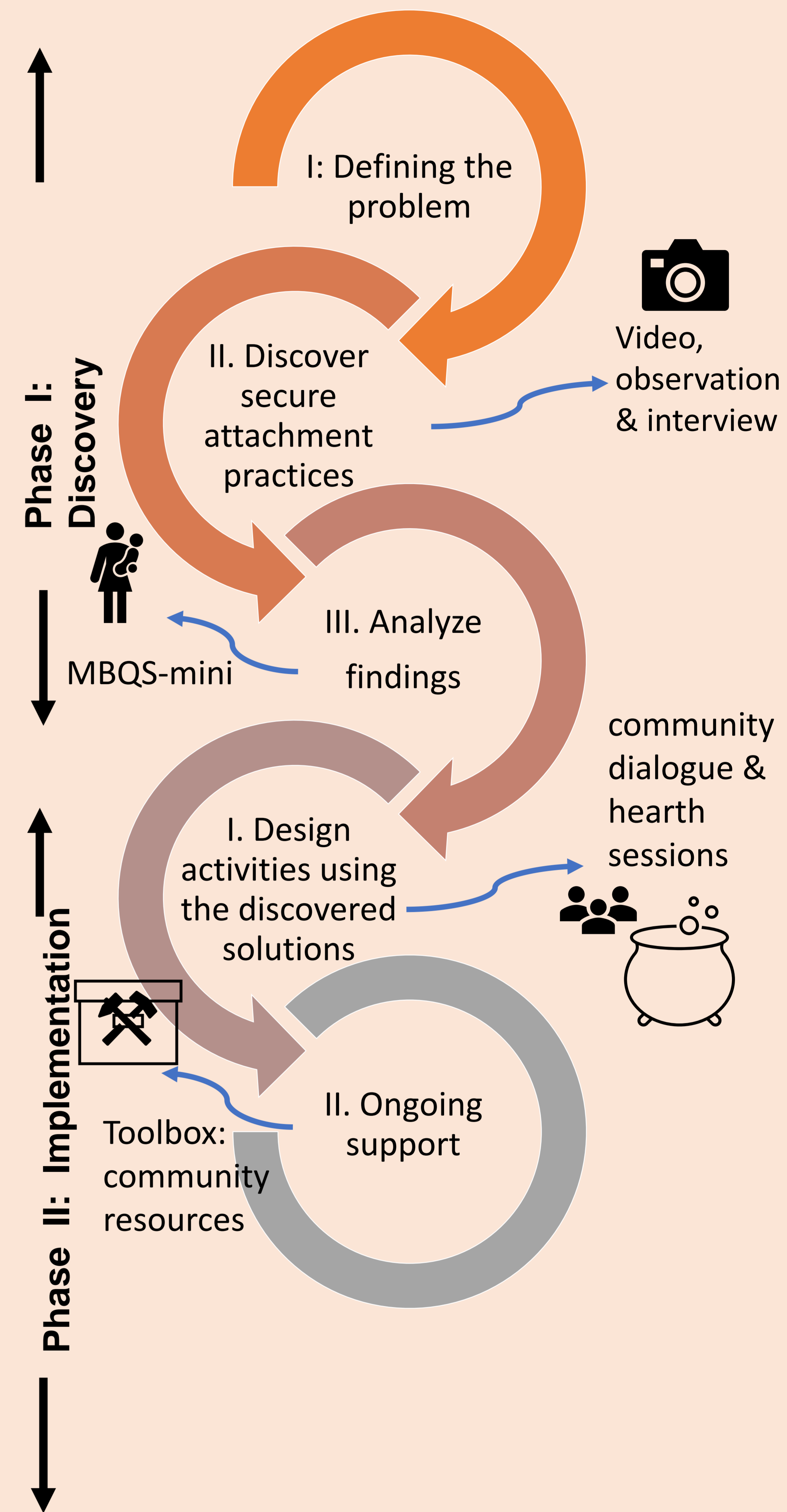
## Participants

30 indigenous mother-child dyads (15 rural and 15 urban slum) agreeable as study participation for 1 year.

Mothers: aged 20-35 years; main caretaker of child.

Children between eight to 14 months of age with equal distribution of boys and girls (normally developing)

## Procedure



## Future orientation

There is a need to characterize sensitive attachment practices in poor populations in western Kenya.

This research and intervention will seek to explore the following:

What parenting / caregiving strategies are employed and how do these link to sensitive attachment?

What are the determinants (such as poverty and social networks) of parenting practices in vulnerable environments? What factors (e.g., food, nurturance or responsiveness) determine successful attachment?