

International Children and HIV/AIDS symposium-Mexico City,1st - 2nd August 2008

**PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE NATIONAL
PLAN OF ACTION (NPA) FOR ORPHANS
AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KENYA.**

PRESENTATION BY;

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- **First HIV/AIDS cases reported in 1984.**
- **High death rates due to opportunistic diseases.**
- **There was National and international concern over the increasing number of OVC**
- **HIV/AIDS was declared a National Disaster in 1999.**
- **United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001(UNGASS) to which Kenya is a signatory.**

HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE AND INCREASING NUMBER OF OVC

Kenya's HIV prevalence was estimated to be 14% in 2001 and 6.7% in 2003.

- **The Adults HIV prevalence rate in Kenya dropped from 6.1% in 2005 to 5.9 % in 2006.**
- **However this figure went up from 5.9 % in 2006 to 7.8% in 2007 and this implies a worrying trend for the number of OVC.**
- **The number of Orphans and Vulnerable Children increased from 1.8 Million in 2004 to 2.4Million in 2006.**

IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS

- **High expenditure on Medical services for National and House hold budgets.**
- **Increased Vulnerability of Children due to high HIV/AIDS prevalence.**
- **Mushrooming of Uncoordinated responses in Kenya.**

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (NPA) FOR OVC

- **In May 2004 a National Steering Committee (NSC) on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) was constituted to co-ordinate National responses to the OVC crisis in the country.**
- **A Rapid Assessment, Analysis and Action Planning Process (RAAAPP) was undertaken in 2004 to provide evidence-based information on the situation of OVC and the existing interventions.**
- **In 2005 The NSC commissioned a technical working group (TWG) to spearhead the process of mobilizing financial and technical resources required for the development of the NPA.**

PROCESS

- **Regional consultative meetings were organized to ensure that unique issues for specific regions were captured.**
- **Successive drafts were made and circulated to different stakeholders for their inputs.**
- **A reporting mechanism was developed in which the NSC was updated bimonthly.**
- **The final Draft was shared with the National Steering Committee on OVC.**

AREAS COVERED BY THE NPA FOR OVC IN KENYA.

**The NPA for OVC focuses on seven priority areas
namely:**

- 1. Strengthen the capacity of families to protect and care for OVC**
- 2. Mobilize and support community based responses**
- 3. Ensure access for OVC to essential services including but not limited to education, health care, birth registration, psychosocial support and legal protection.**

AREAS COVERED BY THE NPA CONT

- 4 Ensure improved policy and legislation are put in place to protect the most vulnerable children**
- 4 Create a supportive environment for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS**
- 5 Strengthen and support National coordination and institutional structures**
- 7. Strengthen national capacity to monitor and evaluate programme effectiveness and quality.**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE NPA

- To promote foster care and retention of OVC within families/ households
- To increase community response to OVC situation.
- To increase access of OVC to essential services including but not limited to education, health care, nutrition , birth registration, legal aid, and reproductive health.
- To ensure that appropriate policies and legislation for protection and care of OVC are in place and operational.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE NPA

- **To reduce stigma and discrimination against children and families affected by HIV/AIDS.**
- **To increase the capacity of government and other institutional structures to coordinate OVC interventions.**
- **To increase the capacity of the government to monitor and evaluate effectiveness of OVC structures and interventions.**

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPA

- **The traditional institutional care is used as a last resort.**
- **Enhanced collaboration and networking among stakeholders.**
- **Enhanced community awareness and participation on OVC issues.**

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPA

- **Increased funding by the Government and donors for instance, the government allocated Ksh 48million(US\$ 695,652) in 2005/6 which has increased to Ksh. 579 million (US\$ 8,391,304) in 2008/9.**
- **Scale-up in terms of National responses to OVC situation support i.e. households benefiting from Cash Transfer Program has increased from 500 in 2004 to 65,000 in 2008.**

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPA CONT

- **Efforts have been made to establish and strengthen National Structures facilitating OVC responses i.e. NSC on OVC and AAC.**
- **Provision of free ART (from 0 in 2004 to 15,000 children in 2008).**
- **Noticeable increase in numbers of adoptions.**
- **Funding provision for OVC is based on the NPA strategies**

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPA CONT

- **There are efforts to improve policies to ensure that OVC are supported to attain their full potential e.g. draft OVC Policy and National Children Policy.**
- **Programs are in place to address barriers of access to free primary education e.g. school feeding programs**
- **Free medical services for children under five years and there are efforts to extend the same to OVC**

CHALLENGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPA FOR OVC

- **It was difficulty to get Consensus on definition of OVC.**
- **It was difficulty to de-link responses for OVC from services for all children .**
- **Lack of a legal framework**

CHALLENGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NPA FOR OVC CONT

- **Lack of common funding mechanism for OVC interventions in the country.**
- **Lack of baseline data for OVC makes it difficult to set targets.**
- **Divergence in opinion on best approaches for OVC interventions**

KEY LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Advocacy strategies need to be developed in order to enhance political will and support.**
- **Need for a champion at national level to lead the NPA process.**
- **Embracing international agreements and integrating national strategies as a good practice.**
- **Strong networking and planning skills are required to coordinate the implementation of the strategies .**

WAYFORWARD

- **Strengthen coordination mechanisms**
- **Establish a comprehensive National M&E system**
- **Establish pool funding for OVC**
- **Review the NPA to capture emerging trends**
- **Strengthen the National data base on Vulnerable children.**

THANK YOU

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