

What do Faith Based Organisations "Do" and "Achieve" for Orphans and Vulnerable Children?

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Centre for International Health and Development, Institute of
Child Health, University College, London, UK

at Meeting on Children and AIDS,

Mexico August 2008

What are the features of Faith Based Organisations?

- 1. Beliefs, celebrations and expressions of faith**
- 2. Physical, environmental, economic, social, economic and spiritual aspects of life linked**
- 3. Strong positive feelings from belonging**
- 4. Passionate about and inspired by their beliefs**
- 5. Transformed by relationship with God**
- 6. High levels of compassion and volunteerism**

Concern and Action for Orphans is central to:-
Christianity, Islam, Judaism and many other faiths

James 1.27 Religion that God accepts ... is this;
to look after orphans

Sura 2.177 – It is righteousness ... To spend out
of your substance ...for orphans

Isaiah 1.17 Uphold the rights of the orphan

Framework for Analysis and Action by FBOs for the support of Orphans

- What do FBOs do?**
- What do FBOs achieve?**
- How can FBOs learn from their own and others experience and share?**

**12 Dimensions of
Child Well Being
– from a FBO
perspective**

1) Growth

2) Micronutrients

3) Health

4) Intelligence

5) Fitness

6) Knowledge

7) Skills

12) Hope

11) Spirituality

10) Personal
Peace

9) Emotional
Resilience

*8) Relationships

1) Growth





2) Micronutrient Status



3) Health



4) Intelligence



5) Fitness

Essential Provision of Needs

to achieve:-

- 1) Growth,
- 2) Micronutrient status,
- 3) Health,
- 4) IQ
- 5) Physical Fitness

Can be provided by Community,
Government and NGO/FBO

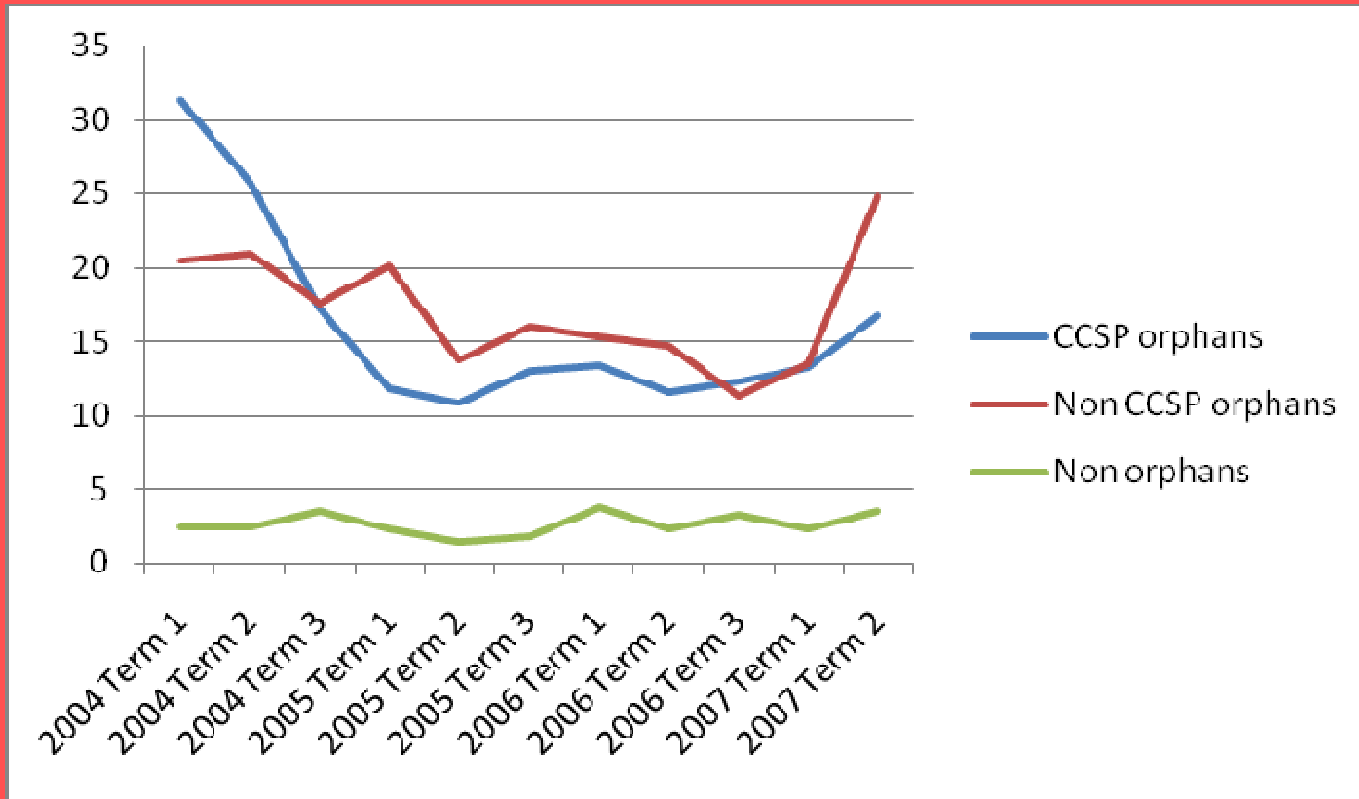
Example from Rural Kenya

FBOs - Individuals and Groups of Members :-

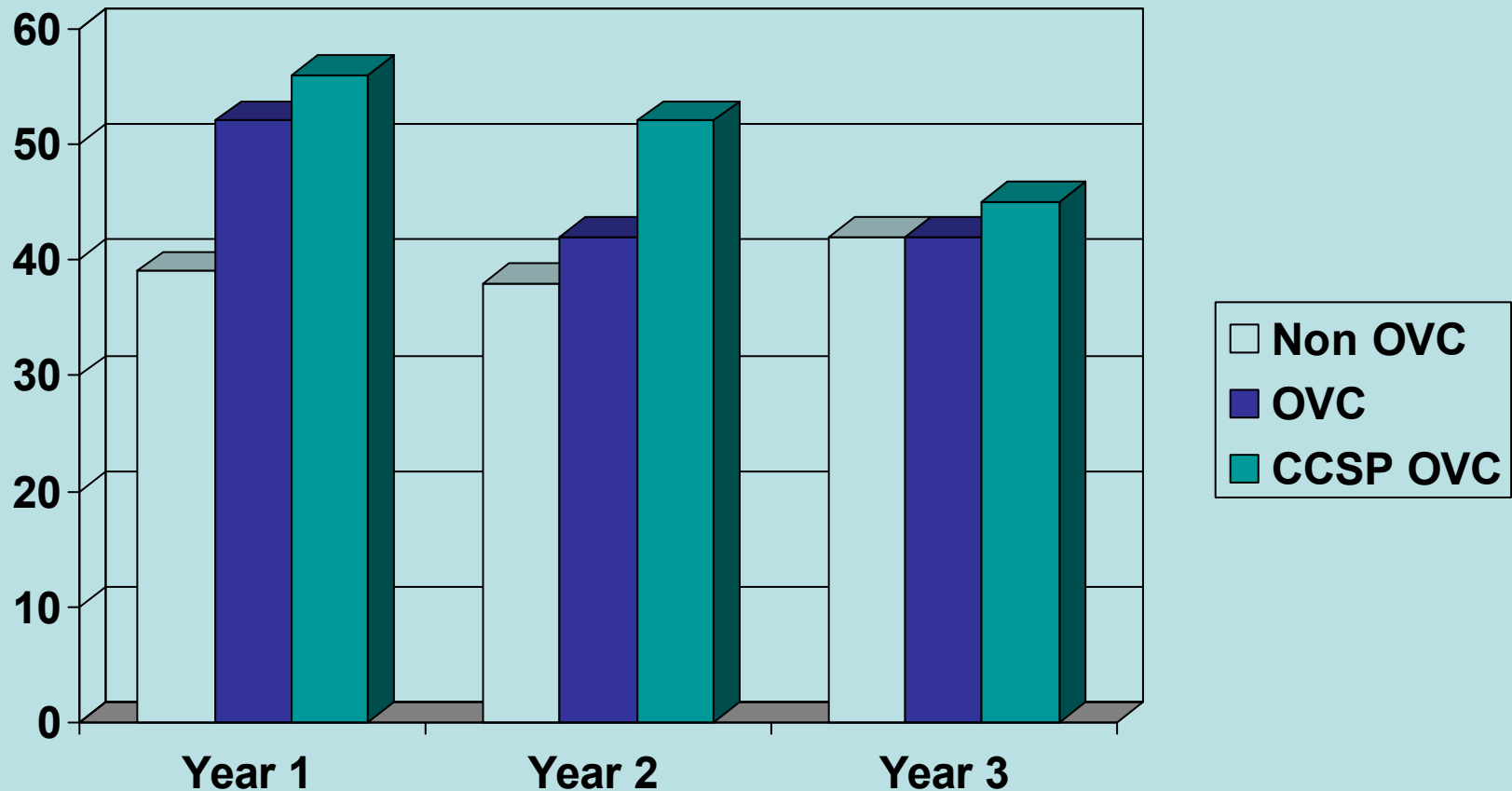
- 1. Became involved in community OVC assessment**
- 2. Shared own resources**
- 3. Worked on OVC committees**
- 4. Became advocates for especially needy cases – school attendance**
- 5. Accessed resources from outside the Community**

Example of Action

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN WITH HIGH ABSENTISM (> 12 days/term)



Change in % children with low academic scores - CCCT Kenya



Example of Impact



6) Knowledge



7) Skills

Essential Provision for

Skills for Life:-

6) Knowledge

7) Skills

Can be provided by Community,
Government and NGO/FBO

Example

Activities by FBOs:-

- 1. Mentoring with Schoolwork**
- 2. Use of faith facilities for community schools/homework**
- 3. Vocational Training**
- 4. Mentoring re Occupation – Farming, Repairs, Tailoring**
- 5. OVC support activities through Community Based Capital Cash Transfer (CCCT)**

Example Projects set up for support of OVC in
Community Based Capital Cash Transfer (CCCT)
programme, Rural Kenya:-

- Goats - 14
- Oxen/Ploughs - 13
- Seeds/Fertilisers - 8
- Bee Keeping - 7
- Cows - 4
- School Attendance Funds - 3
- Pigs - 3
- Poultry - 3
- Tree Nursery - 3

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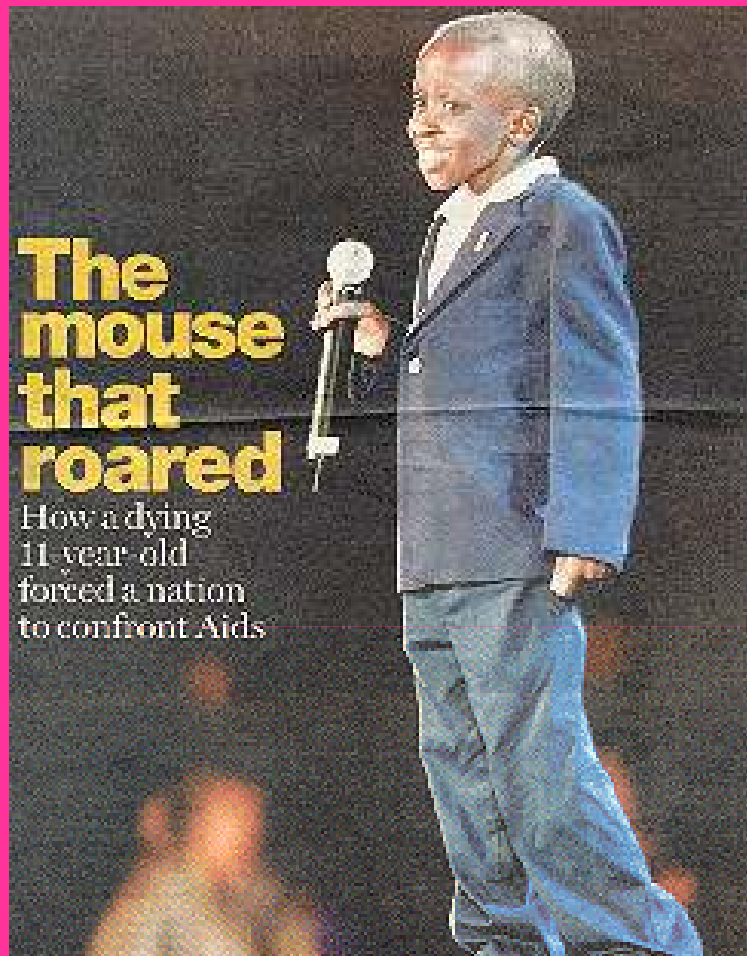
*8) Relationships

3) FBOs and Activities re Nurture

- Spiritual Activities for Groups – faith celebrations, choirs and clubs
- Group Activities – sport/art/music/camps
- Activities for Individuals – Drop in Centres. Home visits by trusted friend, prayer/care
- Child Protection – policies and programmes



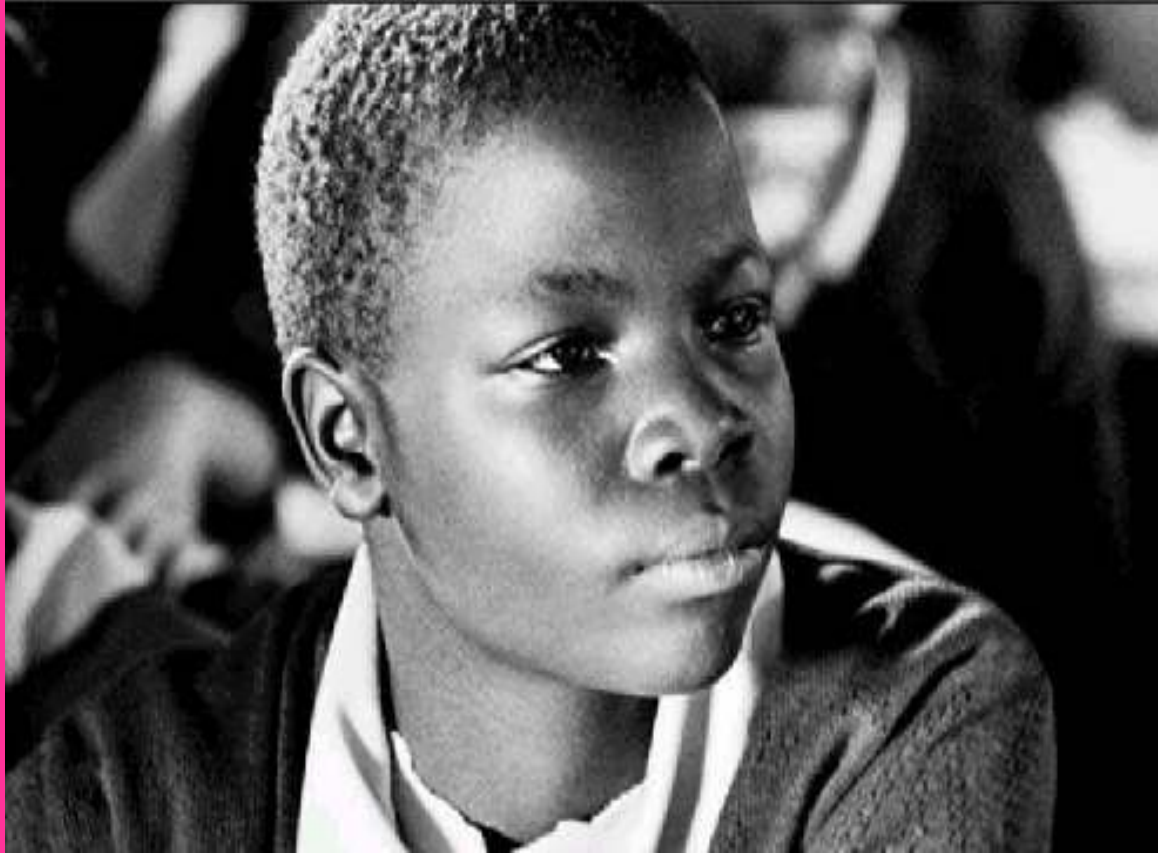
8) Relationships – Street theatre



Nkosi Johnson
addressing
politicians at
the AIDS2000
conference in
Durban.

He died in
2002

9) Emotional Resilience – compassionate care by inspired carer



**10) Personal Peace – peer support
from church youth group**



Orphans and children in a world of **AIDS**

The AIDS epidemic has orphaned millions of children. Even if prevention campaigns become hugely successful and HIV infections drop dramatically, most people already infected with HIV are expected to succumb to AIDS-related illnesses. Millions more children will lose one or both parents over the next ten years.

11) Spirituality – trusted adult answered children's questions



12) Hope – deep level of whole person care given by faith driven carers

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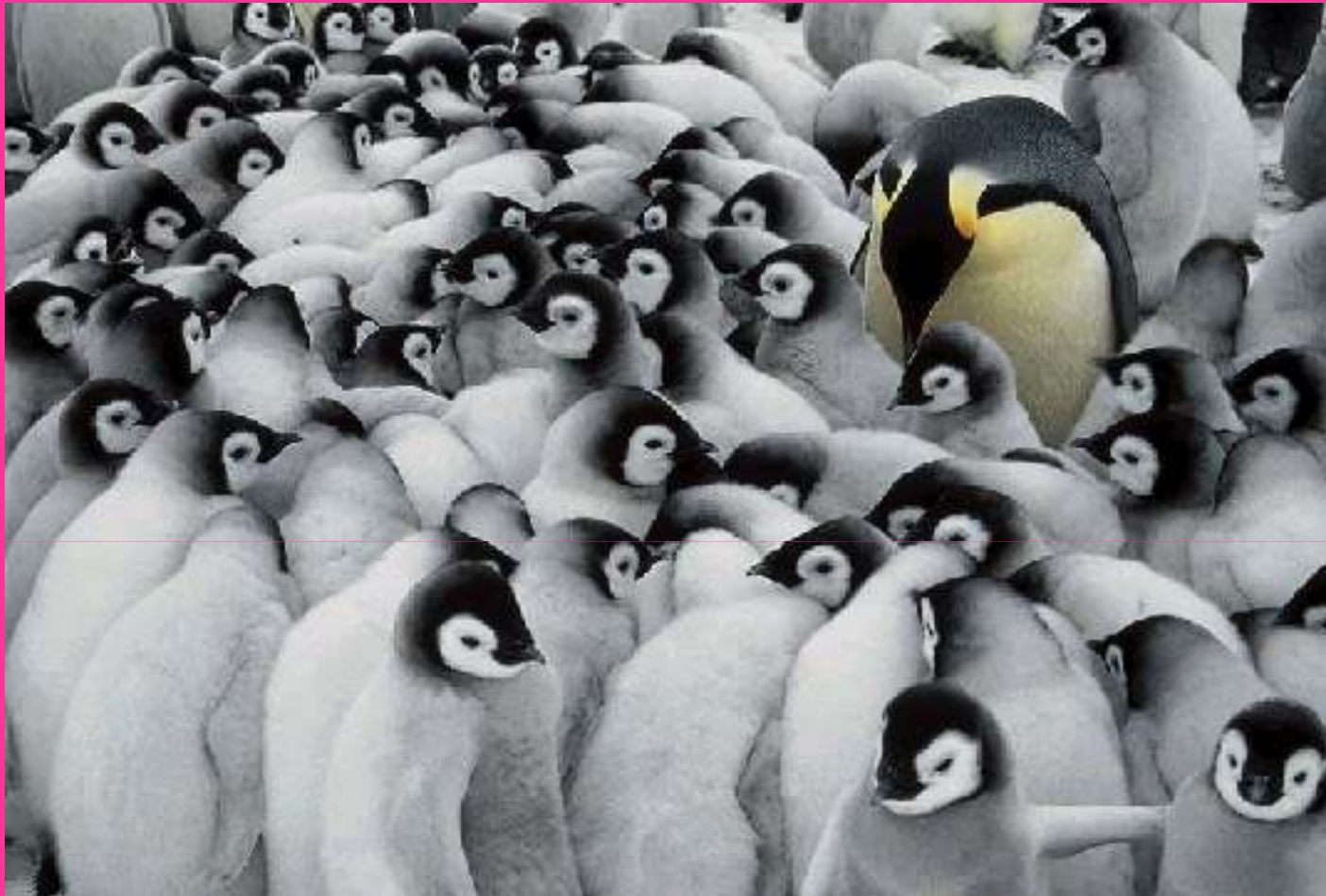
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How Many Orphans can one carer support?

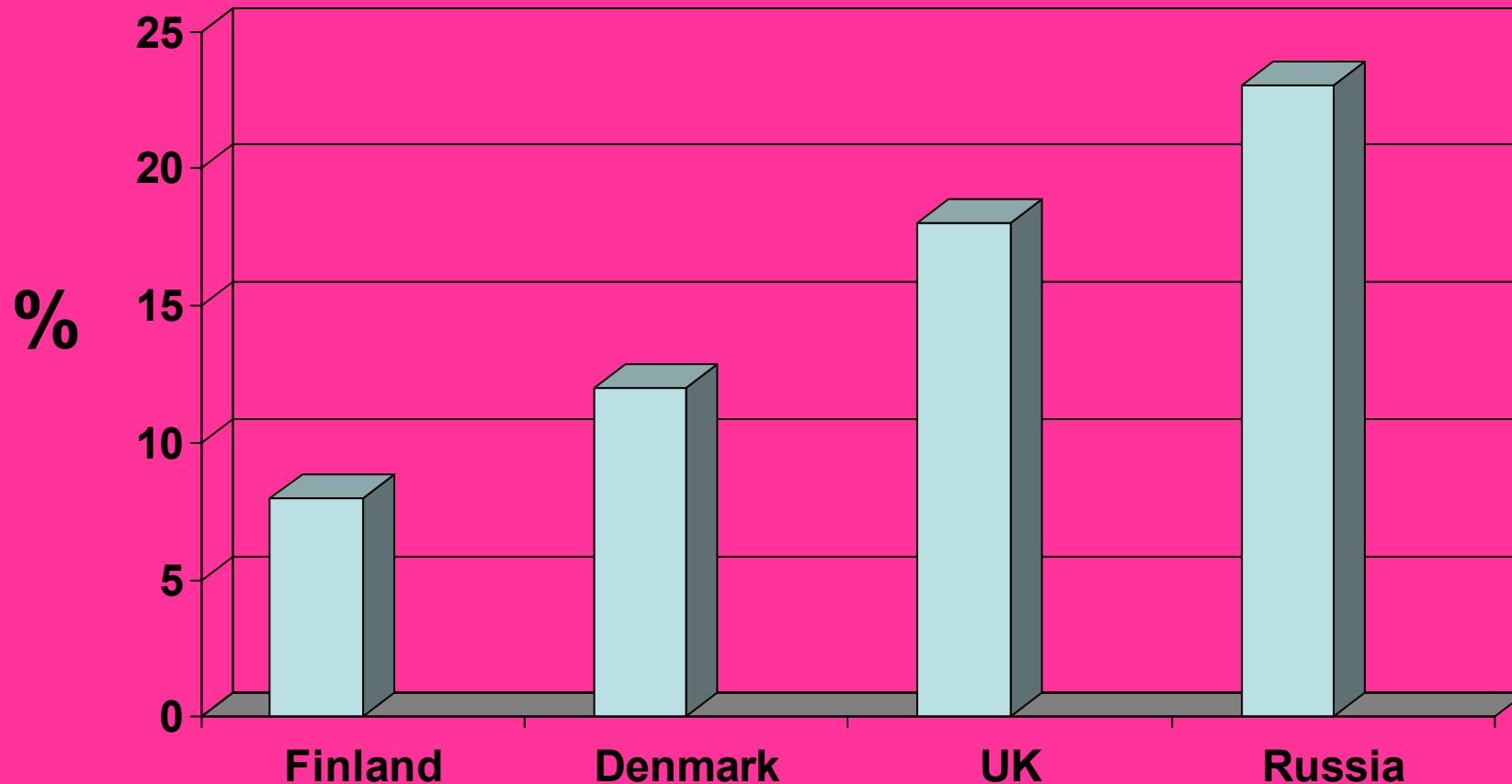
Example of Action



**Faith Based Volunteers –
visiting average of 8 OVC each**

% children age 11-15 years with Low Life Satisfaction Score

(using UNICEF Well Being 2007)



Example of Impact

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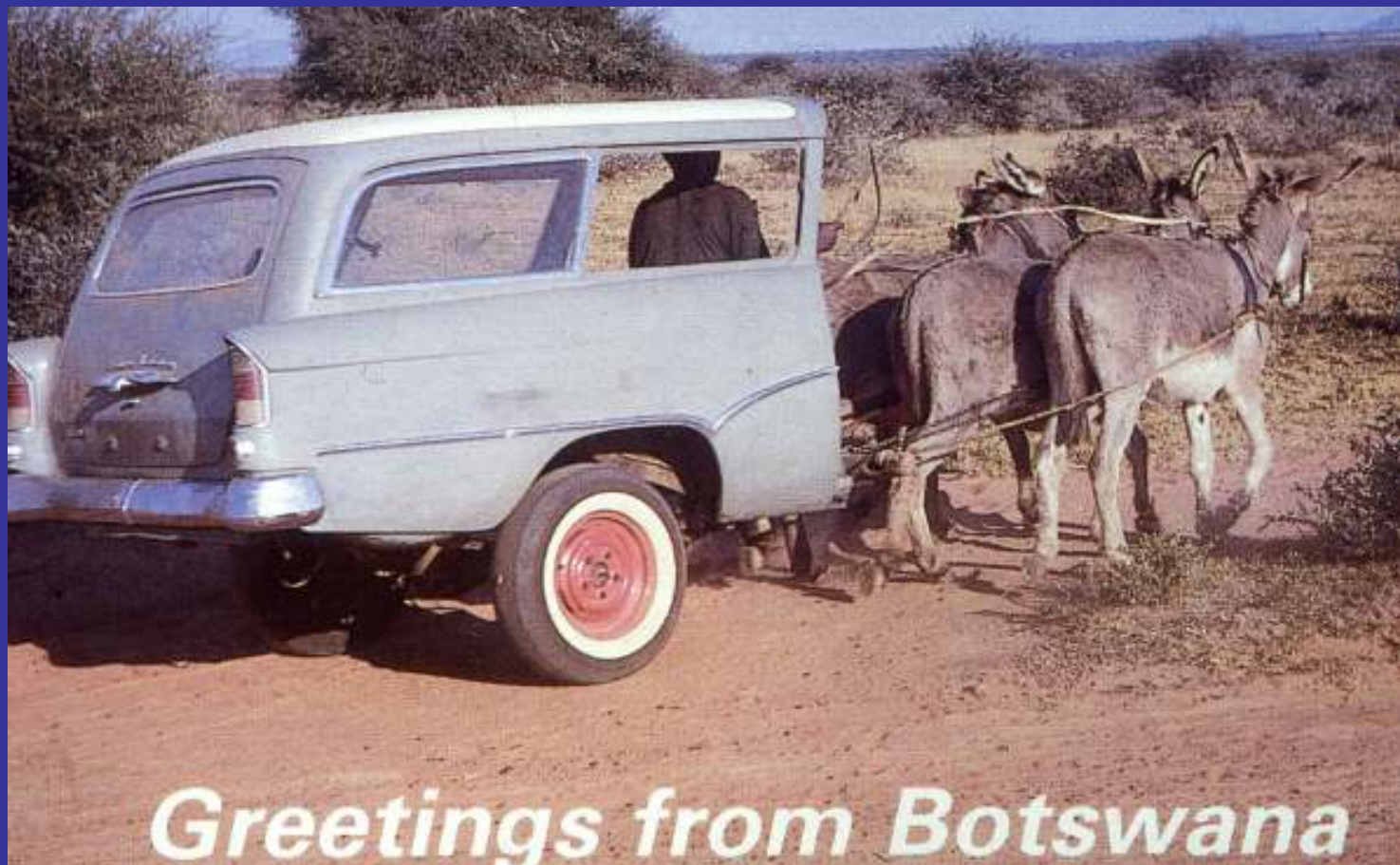
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Support for OVC by FBOs in a sustainable way



Greetings from Botswana

Summary

Children, especially OVC, require:-

(1) Basic Needs,

(2) Skills for Life

(3) Nurture.

- **FBOs have many Members with Compassion and Commitment.**
- **FBOs have been extremely active but not yet widely recognised.**
- **The effectiveness of FBO interventions has not yet been well documented. It can be readily. It needs to be.**
- **The challenge is to recognise and support the most effective interventions by FBOs for the support of Children**

**Thank you
for listening!!**

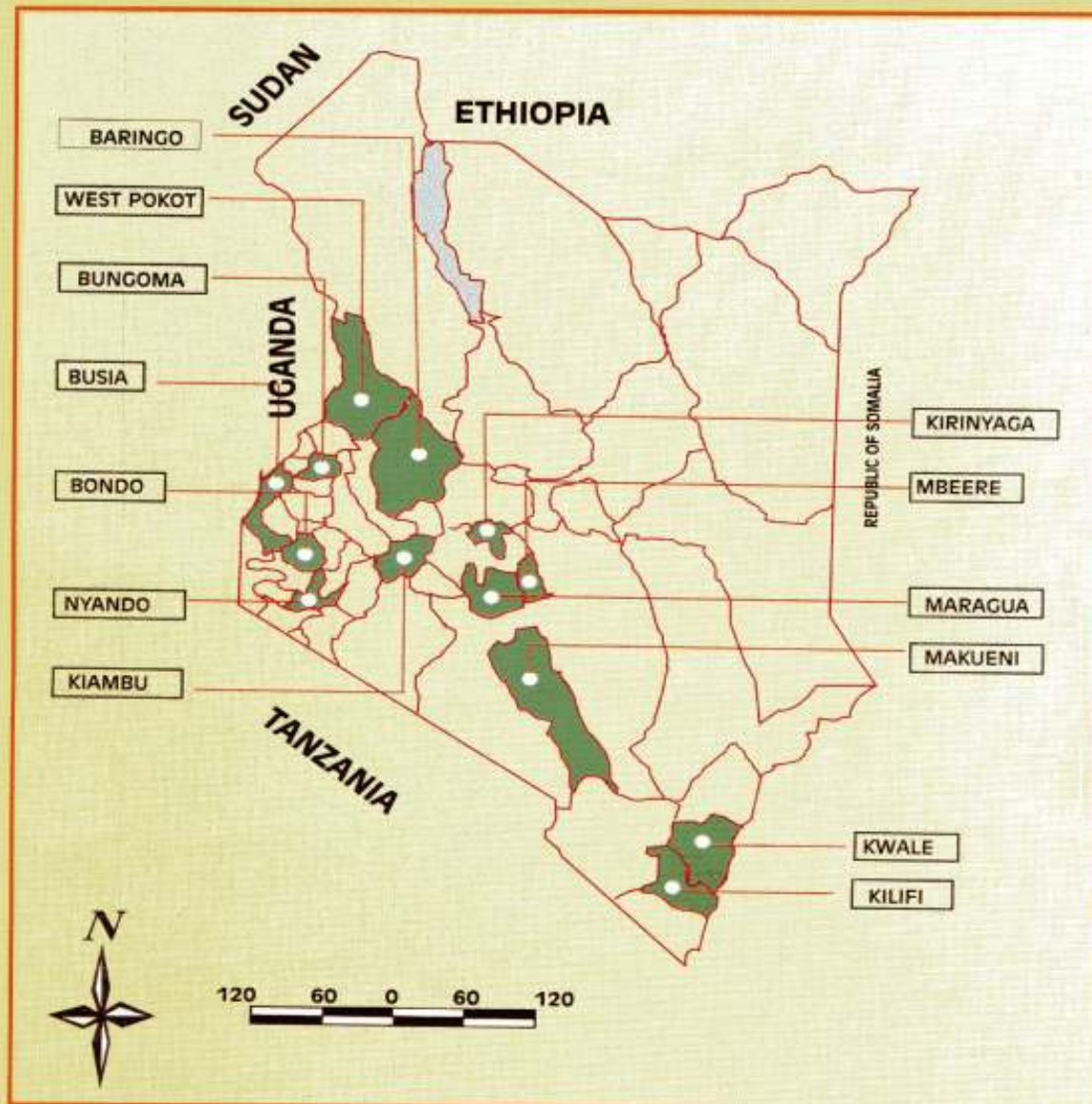


**Psycho- social
Status
of Children
often ignored**

Case Study –

Community Based Capital Cash Transfers in Rural Kenya

- **Based on Government Social Development Programme with strong involvement of faith groups in 10 rural districts**
- **Previous experience of Community Action for Improving Food Security following grant of \$5,000 for communities of 3,000 people**
- **OVC committees set up and Action Plans established**
- **Further \$5,000 for OVC Community Action**
- **Activities and impact assessed 3 years after Capital Cash Transfer**



Map of Kenya showing the districts in which the project is operating

Sites of
Community
Based
Capital
Cash
Transfer
Project
Kenya



Community mapping helped by trained facilitator during assessment phase of project

1) FBOs and Provision of Basic Needs:-

Individuals and Groups of FBO Members who:-

- Became involved in community OVC assessment
- Shared own resources
- Worked on OVC committees
- Became advocates for especially needy cases – school attendance
- Accessed resources from outside the FBO

2) FBOs and Skills for Life –

Mentoring with Schoolwork

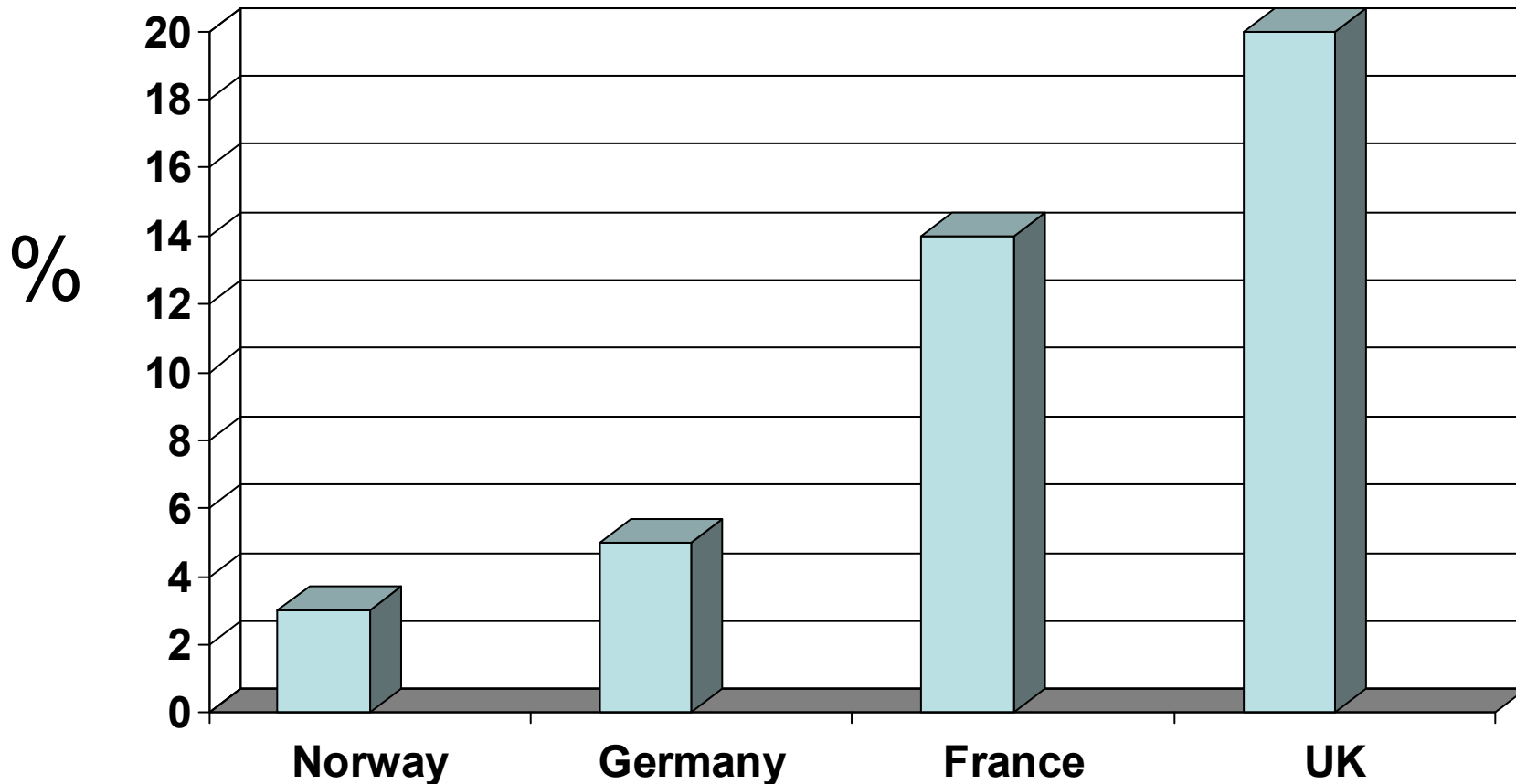
Use of faith facilities for community schools/homework

Vocational Training

Mentoring re Occupation – Farming, Repairs, Tailoring

OVC support activities through CCCT

Percentage NEET 15-19 year olds (Not in Employment, Education or Training)



Example of Impact