Weaving the Safety Net for Orphans & Vulnerable Children.

Advancing the agenda of family-centered services for children affected by HIV and AIDS

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Presenter: Daniel Kinoti
ChildFund - Kenya
✓ Dramatic escalation of the number of children affected by HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa

✓ By 2010 (next year) in Kenya, 15.4% of all children under age 15 will have lost both or one parent
Loss of parents removes primary social structure protecting children and adolescents. Other effects are: shifting familial roles and compositions, breakdown of social services, erosion of community structures that enable children’s healthy development.

Consequently, children are faced with increased vulnerability to key threats.
✓ Threats that children and adolescents confront include:

- lack of educational opportunities
- lack of social and emotional support for healthy psychological and social development
- Lack of adequate health care
- increased hunger and malnutrition
- Increased susceptibility to abuse and exploitation
During ChildFund’s far reaching investigation of poverty, one child from a village in Madhya Pradesh, India, put it:

“We are poor, but life in the village is good because we are friends”

Families /communities have had greatest impact of HIV/AIDS, hence, responses in the area of prevention, care and treatment and mitigation should prioritize strengthening the family/extended family set up.
ChildFund’s response

✓ A family centered approach dubbed “Weaving the Safety Net” (WSN) for OVC funded by President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID.

✓ Target area: Thika and Kiambu districts of Central Province - Kenya.

✓ Project duration - 5 years (March 2005 - June 2010).
Safety Net Project Goal & Objectives

Goal: Reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on OVC in Kiambu and Thika districts.

Objectives:
• Mobilize and strengthen family and community-based responses to provide care and support, with emphasis on psychosocial care to HIV-affected and other vulnerable children and adolescents.
• Increase the capacity of HIV-affected and other vulnerable children and adolescents to meet their own needs, through active participation in national and district-level programs and policy development and access to formal and non-formal education.
Weaving the Safety Net - OVC Model

Psychosocial Support

OVCY & FAMILY

- Advocacy
- Health
- Shelter
- Succession Planning
- MED/Livelihood
- Partner Cap. Building
- Education /ECD
- Food Security/Nutrition
- Child Protection
Weaving the Safety Net Model

A Multi-sectoral Model that lays special emphasis on:

✓ Families as the Primary Unit of attention and a vehicle for overall family improvement.

✓ Partnerships, referrals & linkages integrated interventions.

✓ Children & families affected or/made vulnerable by HIV & AIDS.
Weaving the Safety Net Model

✓ Strengthens & supports family/community capacity for desired outcomes.

✓ Identifies and builds on existing resources - extended families act as Safety Nets for Vulnerable children.

✓ Instills “Do no harm principles” in every process (listen, respect, engage/involve, learn).

✓ Cognizance of immediate and long-term interventions for sustainability.
Service Delivery Model

- Identifications of Local Implementing Partners.
- Capacity building – Implement. M&E, sustainability, reporting etc.
- Actual Child identification and enrollment.
- Services/benefits provision to children & families.
- Follow-up of partners and beneficiaries.
Community / Faith based organizations.

Government ministries/departments.

Pathfinder International.

K-Rep Development Agency (KDA).

Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI).
Service Areas

- Health care and Nutrition.
- Capacity building and Economic strengthening.

- Psychosocial Support.
- Child Protection and basic shelter.
- Educational support and Vocational opportunities.
Service delivery Processes – Example Youth Program.

- Market Analysis for Vocational training centers.
- Criteria for Youth Identification.
- Career Counseling/guidance.
- Youth enrollment
  - PSS, and basic business skills.
  - Life skills
Youth Program Continued

- Mentorship & attachment program.
- Start-up kits.
- Linkage to Micro-credit services (K- Rep) and other schemes (Village Saving & Loans).
Evaluations done on WSN Project include:

Achievements of the Safety Net Model

Outcome data collected through the evaluations indicate the model is realizing positive improvements:

**Mid-Term Evaluation - Key Highlights:**

- Skills building for Youth - 777 youth supported to access Vocational training by Sept’ 2007. Out of this, 342 had completed training of whom 323 (94%) were able to make an income.

- By end of Sept 2008, (1,048) youth supported to access entrepreneur skills, 661 completed. Out of whom **645** were able to generate income (232 self-employed and 413 casual/temporary/permanent).
Achievements Continued

- Education (100% enrolment rate from baseline - 92.9% - Kiambu and 80.4% - Thika).

- OVC accessing medical care when sick or injured; Kiambu baseline 60.6%, evaluation 91.7%; Thika baseline 63.0%, evaluation 86.2%.

- Stigma and discrimination of PLWHAs in the community has reduced compared to baseline.

- Increased capacity building for caregivers and children using cascading approach.
Additional Results:

Summary of the program’s achievements with the micro credit activities (September 2008).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>TARGET APRIL 05 - SEPT 08</th>
<th>ACTUAL APRIL 05 - SEPT 08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of groups recruited</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers recruited</td>
<td>1,065</td>
<td>1,141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of drop outs</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of loans disbursed</td>
<td>1,704</td>
<td>1,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of loans disbursed</td>
<td>$287,714</td>
<td>$309,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount of savings mobilized</td>
<td>$83,328</td>
<td>$108,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers trained in business management</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of caregivers trained in group management &amp; leadership</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>947</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The SEEP NETWORK, 2009 - www.seepnetwork.org
Under the Village Savings & Loans (VSL&A);

- A total of 28 groups with a population of 612 OVC caregivers have been mobilized and undergone training.

- Age categories of caregivers’ ranges between 25-87 years. The membership is made of 90% women.

- Within the last two years of implementation USD 14,900 has been mobilized as savings with a loan value of USD 25,092.
Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Partnership building with existing local structures (CBO/FBO) working with families enhances sustainability of OVC interventions.

- Mainstreaming Psychosocial support increases self confidence, self esteem, resilience and improves communication.
Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Promoting livelihood initiatives in OVC households through evidence-based approaches ensures steady income and maintains integrity of the economic safety nets.

- Appropriate marketable and mentorship skills for youth is an effective strategy of realizing sustainability of OVC interventions in affected households.
Challenges

- Slow economic growth & high numbers of OVC continue to outstretch available resources.

- Food insecurity in OVC households (poverty, aged & ailing caregivers, prolonged drought).

- Dropout rate of volunteers supporting vulnerable OVC households especially the Youth.

- Stigma and discrimination of affected households.

- Limited Capacity of local structures (CBO/FBO) & partners to effectively support vulnerable households.
Thank You.