

# Child Protection

World Vision®

*Findings from a child protection assessment in the context of HIV and AIDS in six African countries*



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# Outline

- Objectives of the Assessment
- Findings and links to the Enhanced Protection Framework
- Lessons Learned and Next Steps

# Child Protection Assessment Objectives

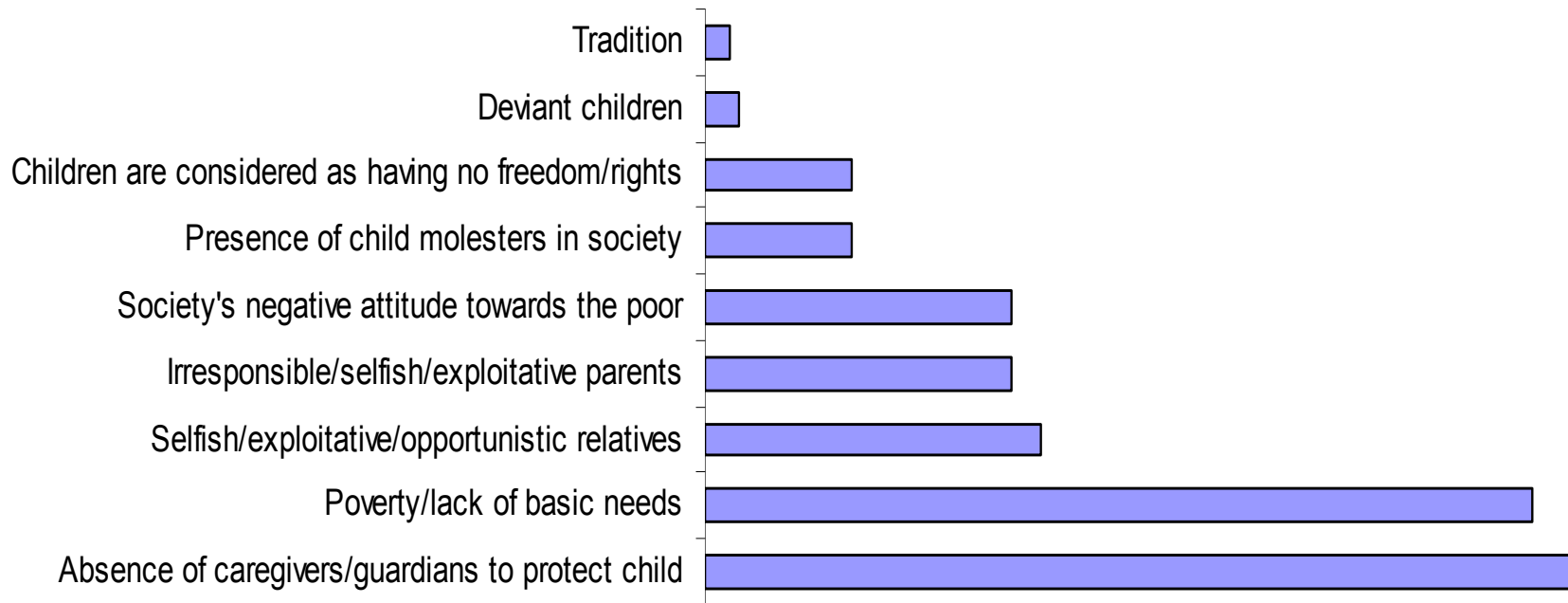
- **Overall Objective:** Review the current situation of child protection in HIV & AIDS programming in selected countries in order to develop recommendations and more robust child protection programs in Africa
- Examine community level protection
  - Determine current community level child protection interventions
  - Capacity and material requirements for strengthening community led child protection in the context of community care and support for OVC
- Examine legal protection
  - Assess existing national level legal protection frameworks and instruments for OVC care and support
  - Identify existing initiatives and gaps on legal protection
  - Determine key legal protection issues, capacity requirements and possible frameworks for legal protection in the context of HIV & AIDS.

# Child Protection Assessment Sites and Methodology

- Assessment carried out in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Swaziland, Ethiopia, and Tanzania
- Methods
  - Desk review of secondary sources
  - Key informant interviews (103)
  - Community interviews with community facilitators, volunteers (277)
  - Focus group discussions with community members (23 FGDs)
  - Child participation Forums (9 forums, 100 est. kids)
  - Total interviewed = 710 participants
- Good examples of child protection but general lack of coordination and fall short of scope of need

# Why are children abused?

Why children are abused



## Who are the abusers?

- Abusers are people close to the child, including caregivers, other children especially in child headed households, relatives, and teachers particularly regarding physical and sexual abuse

# Child Protection Assessment Community level key findings

- Child Protection not well integrated into community HIV models and resources
- Community-based workers have limited practical skills to deal with child protection issues
- Counseling and communication skills with children is lacking at community level
- Simple resources and materials including guidelines on how to handle child protection scenarios are not in place



# Child Protection Assessment Community level key findings

- Community level legal support for children including information, networks, and referral systems are limited
- Training and resources to facilitate community led child protection are limited
- Communities need support to assess, monitor and report child rights issues
- Child rights issues are not well integrated within HIV&AIDS programs
- There is a lack of child rights indicators and measurement tools at program level.



# Child Protection Assessment Legal Protection Findings

- Weak coordination of legal protection especially at the local levels
- Limited government proactive support to child protection
- Inadequate knowledge of legal instruments at local levels
- Inadequate existence of child friendly materials
- Summaries of laws and child protection training materials are few and are adult focused.
- Child protection materials in local languages are few.
- Lack of a strategy to interrogate the persistent cultures and traditions which support child abuses

# Child Protection Assessment Legal Protection Findings

- Information on legal protection of children in communities is limited
- Community based workers lack skills to ensure the legal protection of children
- HIV&AIDS programs do not have strong linkages with networks or institutions that offer legal services for children
- Involvement of child rights advocacy work and systematic engagement with local and national legal protection is insufficient

# Child Protection Assessment Strategic Findings

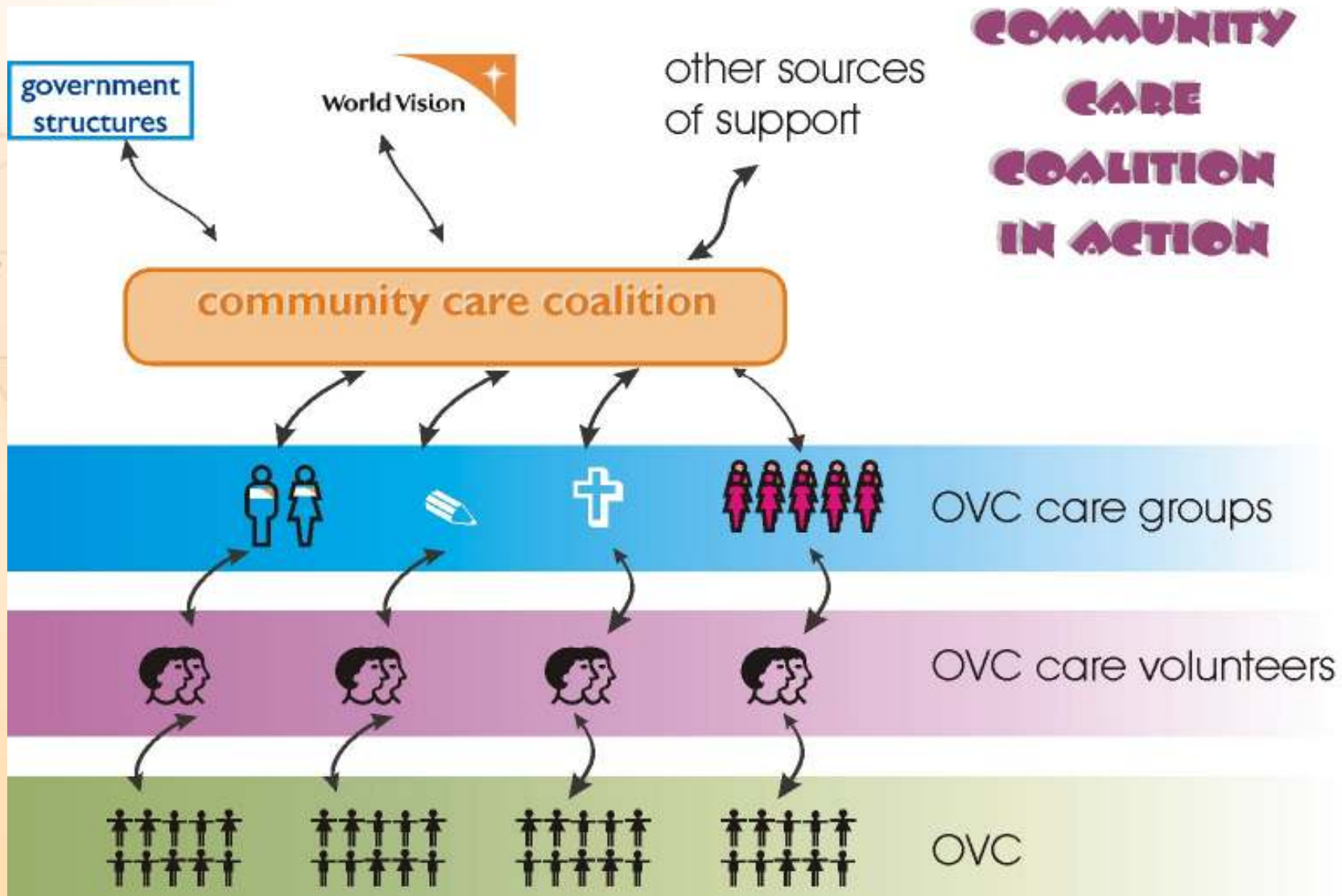
- There is lack of an integrated strategy at regional and national levels on child rights including protection
- Lack of a clear integrated strategy and support to community-based programs translates into a fragmented child rights and protection activities across countries
- A capacity building strategy on child rights and protection issues with guidelines on how countries can integrate child rights issues across all sectors is missing
- World Vision has a good child protection policy that outlines systems and procedures but is more orientated towards making the organization a safe environment for children
- Strengthened guidelines are needed to translate the existing policy into programming at community level

# Study Recommendations

## Alternative Care

- **Find appropriate ways of supporting and monitoring informal care arrangements**
- **Develop government and community-based protection and monitoring mechanisms**
  - Integrate child protection into core community care/OVC training materials
  - Provide materials and trainings on child counselling and communication for volunteers & community facilitators
  - Develop simple guidelines to facilitate child protection initiatives at community level
  - Develop simple tools and indicators that communities can use to assess, monitor and report child rights and protection issues
  - Support development of integrated child rights strategy for all OVC/HIV & AIDS related programs
- **WV Response** - Developed a Child Protection Guide for Communities – aims to enhance community capacities for child protection (draft being tested)

# Care Community Care Coalitions



# Study Recommendations

## Legal Protection and Justice

- **Combat disinheritance**
- **Support community based monitoring mechanisms**
  - Support establishment of networks, registers and referral systems on legal protection at community level
  - Develop simple tools and indicators that communities can use to assess, monitor and report child rights and protection issues
  - Provide simple information and materials on legal protection in local languages
  - Train development facilitators and other community workers on basic legal protection issues to support children in communities
  - Establish linkages and network with local institutions that offer legal protection services. (including government)
  - Come up with clear strategies and activities on child rights advocacy at both national and program levels
- **Example of Moz – Birth Registration** – Work at community level linking into a Nat'l govt program enabled vulnerable children to improve their access to essential services and improve their protection

## Next Steps World Vision Level

- Kenya Pilot Project on Enhancing Capacities for Legal Protection – WVK works with a specialised partner in legal Protection to develop staff capacity in legal protection.
- Integration of child protection into World Vision's HIV & AIDS core models by including a training component on child protection into curricular on HIV Prevention, Channels of Hope, Advocacy, IPTG and Community Care for OVC.
- Expanded Child rights advocacy work in HIV & AIDS contexts to include issues on legal protection and community level child protection

# Enhancing Protection within OVC/CABA Programs

## Broader Implications

- Scale up Legal Protection work for OVC linking civil society with government
- Integrate existing child protection work into the Global Social Protection Agenda
- Expand child rights advocacy work by partnering with other institutions
- Document and disseminate key interventions on child protection including special case studies on integrating improved child protection within community-based care and legal protection for advocacy and learning

Thank you!

