



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

# **Improving the coordination of NGOs and Government run services**

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# Outline

- Background
- Uganda's OVC response
- OVC coordination and linkages
- Coordination hallmarks in Uganda
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Lessons learnt



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## Statistics

- 56% of Uganda's population (28.6 million) are children
- 7.5 million children are OVC (46% of total children population)
- 2.3 million children are orphans (15% of total children population)
- 63% of orphans live with a caregiver other than a natural parent
- More than 3 million children are living below poverty line
- Approximately 105,000 children aged 0-14 are HIV positive





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## Definitions

- **A Child** – as a person below the age of 18 years  
(*Uganda Children Act, 1995*)
- **An Orphan** – as a child below the age of 18 years who has lost one or both parents
- **A Vulnerable Child** – one who, based on a set of criteria when compared to other children, bears a substantive risk of suffering significant physical, emotional or mental harm  
(*Uganda National OVC Policy , 2004*)



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## Categories of Vulnerable Children in Uganda

- o Orphans
- o Children Heading Households
- o Street children
- o Children living in institutions
- o Children with HIV/AIDS
- o Children of chronically ill parents
- o Children affected by conflict, war or natural disaster
- o Children with psychosocial or physical vulnerability
- o Unsupervised children and child labourers





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# Uganda's National OVC response

- The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) is mandated to provide overall direction and guidance on OVC in Uganda.
- The Ministry is responsible for policy development, decisions, technical support, setting standards, guidelines, supervision, quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation of all activities related to children



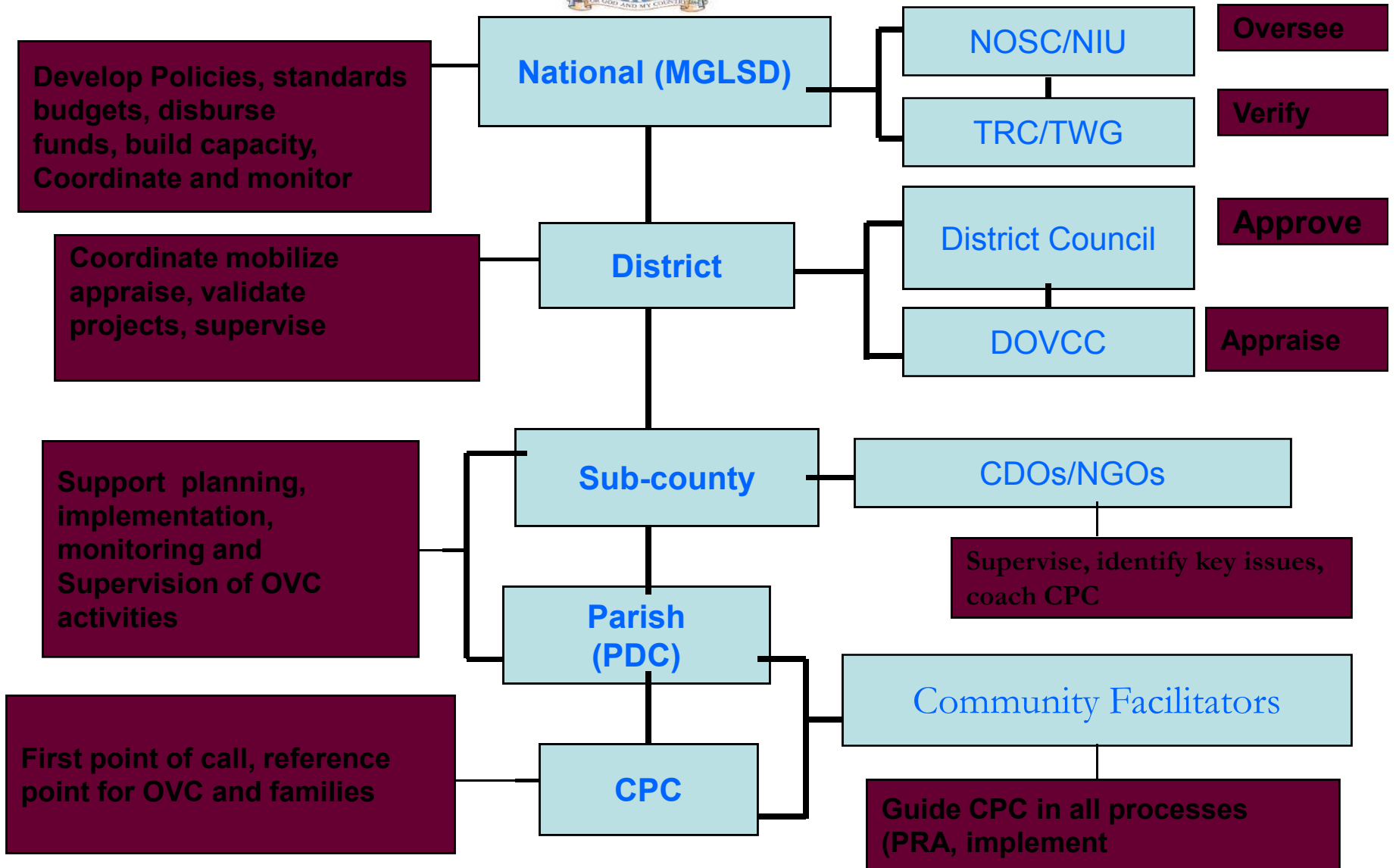


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# Uganda's OVC response

- MGLSD with partners developed an OVC Policy (NOP) and program Plan (NSPPI) and approved by cabinet in 2004.
- The NOP/NSPPI provide a framework for implementing and coordinating the national OVC response
- Various tools, guidelines, standards and systems are in place to guide service providers at all levels
- National and international partners mobilized and leveraging resources (e.g. Gov't, bilateral agencies, PEPFAR, Global Fund, NGOs, communities)









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## Coordination Hallmarks to date (Upstream)

- Established a National OVC Implementation Unit (NIU) to spearhead MGLSD mandate to coordinate the multisectoral OVC duty bearers.
- Established a multisectoral National OVC Steering Committee (NOSC) and Technical Resource Committee (TRC)
- Various thematic Technical Working Groups with representation of multiple sectors and actors
- Comprehensive national OVC operational plan that is costed
- OVC Resource tracking tools





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## Coordination Hallmarks (Upstream cont.)

- Civil Society Fund by current and potential donors (USG, DfID, Irish AID, DANIDA, GF funds) to
  - Support delivery of a well coordinated and integrated OVC interventions with emphasis on strengthening public and private partnerships, coordination and linkages
  - Ensure equitable distribution of OVC resources (geographical, type and minimize duplication)
  - Promote the global 3-1's HIV approach



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## Coordination Hallmarks at service delivery level (down stream)

- Decentralisation – cover smaller geographical areas with aim of bringing services closer to OVC families
- Zonal Technical Services Organizations (TSOs) contracted to
  - Closely work with local governments and CBOs to build capacity to improve OVC Service delivery
  - Provide technical support to local governments to develop strategic plans, coordinate, monitor, supervision, collect data and report progress
- Child protection committees at community levels
- NGO forum, to moderate OVC activities



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## Challenges to effective coordination- National

- The social-economic cost of protection, care and support of OVC far exceeds the current capacity of government and NGO partners
- “Over” reliance on the complementary efforts of donors - especially in supporting the role of NGOs in service delivery
- Capacity of the MGLSD and other ministries to coordinate the various stake holders (public and private)



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## Challenges to effective coordination- National (2)

- Harmonizing the needs of various funding sources for OVC (guidelines, comprehensive services requirements, time frame for work plans) to allow comprehensive implementation of activities
- Different NGOs sources of funds, lifespan, financial years to document and report progress made at national level



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## Challenges to effective coordination-District

- Coordination without synergies for effective collaboration at all levels (to maximise effectiveness, comparative strengths, minimising duplication and inequities) in resource and service distribution.
- Continuous partitioning of districts (presently 80+ and 13 municipalities) affects structures, capacities and programs put in place
- Shift from child centred to family centred approach
- Paradigm shifted from receivers of care to partners in the provision of care



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# Opportunities

- Current development partners that are advocating, lobbying others to leverage resources to strengthen OVC coordination interventions.
- The realization by duty bearers at various levels that the multifaceted needs of OVC require strong partnerships, collaborations and referrals that must be well coordinated



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## Lessons learnt

- Systematic coordination by and between ministries and NGOs is essential for establishing the magnitude and complex OVC situation, designing sustainable, replicable and scalable interventions
- There is need to build appropriate coordination capacities for all duty bearers (from national to local governments and NGO levels) in order to improve technical oversight and guidance, strengthen systems for OVC programming





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## Conclusion

Scaling up access to, coverage and quality of OVC interventions, while minimizing duplication and building capacities is a challenging process that requires systematic and consistent coordination strategies that should involve active participation and commitment, at the same time benefiting all the duty bearers both in the public and private sector at all levels, including OVC



Hope Never Runs Dry