CHILD PROTECTION IN AFRICA

International Conference On

THEME
From Vulnerability to Resilience, Innovation and Evidence

VENUE
Daystar University, Nairobi Campus
Nairobi, Kenya

DATE
8th - 10th August 2018
Improving care for vulnerable children through the village savings and loans association (VSLA) Plus –OVC Fund

Lydia Murungi – Program Manager
AVSI Foundation: Origin, Vision and Mission

• **AVSI Foundation** is a non-governmental organization born in 1972.

• **AVSI** works for a world where every person, aware of her value and dignity, is the main protagonist of her own integral development and that of her community, even in crisis and emergency contexts.

• **AVSI** implements cooperation projects in various sectors with a preferential focus on education, meaning that the person is accompanied towards self-discovery and recognition that the other person is a good for me. Each project is conceived of as an instrument to promote this awareness in all persons involved, carries in itself a need for communicating and sharing, and creates an impact capable of generating positive change.
Sectors

- Education+ ECD
- Food security and Nutrition
- Agriculture
- Health
- Protection
- Psychosocial care
- Family strengthening
- Economic strengthening
- WASH
- Energy and environment
- Urban development
- Emergency
Better Outcomes goal, objectives and Approaches

**Goal:** Improved Wellbeing Of Children and Youth Orphaned and made Vulnerable by HIV and Other Adversities In Northern and East Uganda

- **Result 1:** OVC, Youth And Caregivers Better Economically Empowered To Access Core Services
- **Result 2:** Improved core services for OVC, youth and their caregivers by local governments, CSOs and informal community structures
- **Result 3:** Improved coordination of community-based clinical and socio-economic services for efficiency and effectiveness along the continuum of care

— **DREAMS:** Reducing HIV incidence among AGYW 10-17

**Approach**
- Multi-sectoral
- Family-centered approach
Introduction

• Uganda has the second youngest population in the world, with 55% aged below 18 years of age, and up to 3.7 million of these children representing of 57% Uganda’s greatest natural resource, suffering poverty and deprivation.

• In Uganda children living in poverty experience exclusion and increased vulnerability, resulting from multidimensional challenges that create lifelong difficulties in gaining access to their basic rights.

• This exposes them to denial of opportunities for physical, psychological and intellectual development resulting, in irreversible negative impacts reinforcing intergenerational cycle of poverty

• Poverty is one of the root causes of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect of children, such as child labor, trafficking, sexual exploitation and child marriage.
Introduction

• Currently less than 20 per cent of vulnerable children are currently reached with any form of assistance. To intervene in the current situation, the USAID Better Outcomes project is working with communities to develop sustainable way of OVC service provision that is spearheaded and owned by the communities themselves.

• AVSI Foundation is implementing the USAID Better Outcomes Project in Kotido, Kitgum, Agago and Mbale working with at least 3,571 House Holds reaching 24,368 beneficiaries.

• It’s aimed at improving the wellbeing of children and youth orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV and other adversities in Northern and Eastern Uganda.
Innovative Practices; OVC Fund

• The OVC Fund concept is integrated within the traditional Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) methodology.

• It’s a social fund designed to improve OVC outcomes for the community through provision of grants for health, Nutrition, education other services.

• It is a community driven mechanism to support vulnerable children with temporary consumption support.
Innovative Practices; OVC Fund

• VSLA group members contribute an agreed amount regularly to the OVC fund and Households in destitution are prioritized for assistance.

• The OVC Fund support is geared towards enabling the OVCs attain the basic needs and is given out as a grant by the members.
Significant Changes

• In Kitgum district from 86 VSLA groups in Jan-Mar 2018 quarter, 1,964 USD was collected for OVC Fund utilization
• 913 dollars was paid out to 721 OVCs (46.4% utilization rate).
• 69% of the children received the OVC Fund for Education support, 21% for Health, 10% for Nutrition and 0.4% for other needs all of which significantly reduce the protection risks.
• 6.7% of the children supported with OVC Fund were HIV positive.
Lessons Learnt

• AVSI has been able to offer a platform where the community can directly contribute towards protecting children whose needs are identified directly.

• Promotion of synergies between small-scale child protection initiatives like the Community driven OVC Fund with broader social protection and poverty reduction interventions which enhances the reach of child protection interventions to tackle more effectively child protection vulnerabilities.
CONCLUSION
The OVC Fund concept has restored hope for the OVCs in destitute households, encouraged enrolment, retention, progression and completion of educational level and significantly improved health.
Our contacts

Fondazione AVSI

20158 Milano – Via Legnone, 4 – Italy
Tel + 39 02 6749881
Fax +39 0267490056
milano@avsi.org

47521 Cesena (FC)
Via Padre Vicinio da Sarsina, 216 – Italy
Tel +39 0547360 811
Fax +39 0547611290
cesena@avsi.org

AVSI Foundation

P.O. Box 6785, Kampala, Uganda
Plot 1119 Ggaba Road
Tel. +256 312 501 604/5 | +256 393 501 605
communication.uganda@avsi.org
website: http://uganda.avsi.org
www.avsi.org