Using a vulnerability assessment and coding system as a tool for effective identification, tracking and linking vulnerable children with protection needs to care - AVSI Uganda

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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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAD AGENCY</th>
<th>AVSI Foundation – CARE, FHI360 and TPO Uganda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>66 Local Implementers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DURATION</td>
<td>7 Years (Apr 2011 – Apr 2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TARGET</td>
<td>25,000 HHs, 125,000 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>REACH</td>
<td>*34,779 HHs and 208,674 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>COVERAGE</td>
<td>35 districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUDGET</td>
<td>$40,041,414 ($36,045,184 USAID and $3,996,230 cost share)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SCORE goal, objectives and Approaches

Goal: To decrease the vulnerability of moderately and critically vulnerable children (VC) and their households.

- Objective 1: Economic strengthening
- Objective 2: Food security and Nutrition
- Objective 3: Child protection and legal services
- Objective 4: Family strengthening & access to critical services

— DREAMS: Reducing HIV incidence among AGYW 10-24

Approach

- Multi-sectoral
- Family-centered approach.
- Commitment to “fit the project to the people”.
- Use of evidence and robust M&E System
- capacity building and “Graduation model”
Innovative Practices and Evidence: (Method)

• Each Beneficiary household is assigned a unique alpha numeric string code containing 8 characters at the point of enrollment-Vulnerability assessment (VAT) point.

• Each member of the enrolled households are assigned a unique alpha numeric string code containing 10 characters (HH code + 2 digit number)- at Needs assessment (NAT/HDP) point.

• Each project activity is assigned a unique activity code for easy identification. eg. 3.1.1-referral child protection, 3.1.2-referral for legal services, 3.1.3-referral for birth certificate.

• All program tools are labelled with either the Household code or Household member code depending on whether it is used to capture activity participation of either households or members.
Innovative Practices and Evidence: (Method)

Assignment of Household code at Enrolment

Assignment of Household Member code at Enrolment

Tracking of Household or Members participation in activities using the unique codes
Innovative Practices and Evidence: (Results)

• Through use of the coding system, the project identified children who had protection concerns, mapped their codes against activity participation logs and based on the analysis of participation continuously developed tailored plans:

• As a result, tailored activities and referrals for protection were made for at least 35,000 children spanning:
  ▪ birth registration (34,912 children)
  ▪ legal and protection support (25,335)
  ▪ counselling and psychosocial support, and life skills

• This resulted into marked outcomes including:
  ▪ Child labor reduction (26% to 4%)
  ▪ Child abuse reduction (38% to 6%)
  ▪ Substance abuse reduction (7% to 2%)
  ▪ Increment in knowledge on where to seek legal assistance (77.7% to 98.8%)

AVSI People for development
Innovative Practices and Evidence: (Results)

- **Child labor reduction** (26% to 4%)
- **Substance abuse reduction** (7% to 2%)
- **Child abuse reduction** (38% to 6%)
- **Legal knowledge increased** (77.7% to 98.8%)
Replicability

- Embedded within the AVSI M&E policy as one of the requirements for all new or upcoming project.
- AVSI projects both within the development and humanitarian settings uses unique identifiers to track participation of targeted beneficiaries in the different project interventions.
- Trained all the M&E focal persons of all AVSI project on the use of the coding system and how it can be embedded within the M&E activities of the project.
- Supported other NGOs and even some Donors on how they can embed and use the coding system within their interventions and projects.
Scalability

- The system was already used in a project (SCORE) with over 208,000 target individuals, and each of them was assigned a unique code that was used to track their participation throughout the life of the project.
- Most of the projects that replicated or are replicating the system had/have fewer beneficiaries than the SCORE project.
- AVSI is planning to expand the coding system and use it for tracking on over 4 million people it is currently reaching with interventions in Uganda.
Lessons Learnt

- The Coding system can provide a simple platform for multi-sectoral project to uniquely identify all project beneficiaries, their needs, the services received or not received, and enhance planning for service provision to those yet to receive a particular services.

- The coding system as well provide ground for an objective project budgeting process for each targeted beneficiary household.
Area for Further Research

- Currently implementation teams always carry along the list of beneficiaries with their codes for reference when compiling the Activity monitoring tools.
- This is cumbersome especially when dealing with a huge number of beneficiaries.
- Further research can be done on exploring the possible ways of making the reference to the codes less cumbersome during activity implementation.
Our contacts

**SCORE PROJECT**

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Sustainable, COMprehensive REsponses (SCORE) for Vulnerable children and their families

Click on the Enter System button below

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