International Conference On

CHILD PROTECTION IN AFRICA

THEME
From Vulnerability to Resilience, Innovation and Evidence

VENUE
Daystar University, Nairobi Campus
Nairobi, Kenya

DATE
8th - 10th August 2018
The Role of Community Legal Volunteers in supporting vulnerable children and their families protect their property rights

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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
SCORE Brief: USAID/PEPFAR Funding

LEAD AGENCY  AVSI Foundation – CARE, FHI360 and TPO Uganda

PARTNERS  66 Local Implementers

DURATION  7 Years (Apr 2011 – Apr 2018)

TARGET  25,000 HHs, 125,000 people

REACH  *34,779 HHs and 208,674 people

COVERAGE  35 districts

BUDGET  $40,041,414 ($36,045,184 USAID and $3,996,230 cost share)
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”
Introduction

• AVSI implemented a USAID/PEPFAR funded activity reaching 34,779 vulnerable households and 208,674 individuals and their children in 35 districts

• The goal was to reduce vulnerability of critically and moderately vulnerable children.
Innovative Practices; Community legal volunteers

• AVSI innovated on a community legal volunteer model.

• 229 Community resource persons of high repute in society were identified by the community and trained on basic legal knowledge and skills.

• The community legal volunteers (CLVs) serve as first line community-based legal service providers for the day-to-day legal disputes, especially among vulnerable children and their households.

• CLV roles included; handling cases related to child abuse and exploitation, property and land rights, laws on inheritance, succession planning and will-making, drafting simple agreements, cases of DV & GBV and interpreted and simplified national laws.
Significant Changes

- CLVs assisted 458 children and widows reclaim their property
- Referred 1,018 child abuse cases to appropriate authorities for redress
- CLVs raised awareness on protection concerns reaching at least 33,426 people
- Assisted over 33% of the 34,912 children acquire birth certificates during the project
- The training and support to CLVs has raised community consciousness to support the most vulnerable children against abuse and exploitation.
- CLVs are a cost effective means to providing basic legal advice and support for communities
- They have deepened community knowledge on existing national laws and institutions (courts)
Lessons Learnt

• The use of the CLVs simplifies laws and enables the vulnerable access legal redress without the rigors of the formal court system.

• 97% of respondents in the SCORE assessment of CLV effectiveness were satisfied with their work.

• The CLV model is feasible and acceptable in local communities.

• CLVs are accessible to the community, which in the long term will help improve coverage of child protection services for the most vulnerable especially those affected by HIV/AIDS

• Improved attitude of communities’ towards care for the vulnerable people
CONCLUSION

The CLV intervention has contributed to building an effective, accountable and inclusive system at community level and it increases access to justice in a sustainable manner. The CLV model is cost effective, sustainable and replicable.
Our contacts

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