International Conference On CHILD PROTECTION IN AFRICA

From Vulnerability to Resilience, Innovation and Evidence

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Nairobi Campus
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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”
The SCORE Child Friendly approach

• Child Friendly School (CFS) Model was implemented in 593 schools in 35 districts distributed across the five program regions – Central, East, East Central, North and West. Involved;
  – HIV awareness creation and promotion of HIV testing through outreaches and linkages for HIV care;
  – Promotion of positive preventive behavior through life skills trainings
  – directly responding to and handling the different forms of child abuse by teachers and among students,
  – following up cases of students that drop out due to child marriage, family break ups, domestic violence
  – Ensuring that girls are retained through handling menstrual hygiene related issues.
Innovative practices

- Children’s courts and clubs,
- CFS Sub-committees of parents, teachers and learners,
- Use of a wall of fame,
- Suggestion box,
- Talking compounds and
- Debating activities.
A study of the SCORE CFS Intervention

• Between July and September 2017, AVSI undertook a study to determine the changes in the intervention schools.

• The study sought to:
  – Determine the changes in the schools that benefitted from the SCORE CFS interventions between 2011 to 2017;
  – Identify the key achievements made by the schools that benefitted from the SCORE CFS interventions;
  – Examine the challenges faced by the schools that were targeted in the CFS interventions; and
  – Derive beneficiaries’ recommendations and solutions for improving the CFS approach in future
CFS Assessment Methodology

• A cross-sectional survey design was employed using semi-structured questionnaires and on-site observation for parameters like talking compounds.

• 1,170 teachers and 1,515 children (aged between 11 and 18) were interviewed in 158 school.

• Questionnaire responses were entered into MS Access database and analysed descriptively and using content analysis in line with the objectives of the assessment.
Findings of the assessment

• most of the schools (97%) were registered as confirmed by the teachers.

• 86% respondents confirmed that their schools had CFS subcommittees.

• 93% of the learners said that their schools had functional children’s clubs which included inter-alia clubs for debating, music, dance and drama (MDD), sanitation and health, sports, and agriculture or farming.

• 99% of learners added that girls were free to engage in school leadership as boys.

• 63% of the teachers declared that their schools had talking compounds.
Findings...

- 56% of the pupils said their schools had walls of fame.
- 80% of the teachers disclosed that their schools had abolished corporal punishment.
- 67.1% of the learners ranked their schools as generally having fair child friendly services,
- 70% of the teachers thought their schools had good child friendly services.
Key Challenges Faced in Implementing the CFS Approach

- limited comprehension of the CFS approach by some teachers;
- Cases of negative attitudes towards the CFS approach especially the concept of positive discipline;
- inadequate infrastructure or facilities;
- inadequate coordination between teachers, pupils and parents of the schools that undermined the initiatives on improving school governance.
Recommendations

• conducting more follow ups of the schools to track progress;
• grouping boys and girls separately while talking about certain issues and
• more training and sensitizations on the CFS approach, especially for the community, parents/caregivers, and pupils themselves.
Conclusions

• SCORE/CFS interventions greatly improved the status of the primary schools.

• The ranking of the schools also improved from bad to fair or good.

• In order to improve future CFS interventions, consider sensitizing the pupils, their care-givers and the community and making more regular and consistent follow-ups of the CFS intervention schools.