IFSWAfrica 2019
Kampala | 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
Introduction/Background

- For over two decades, the Northern Uganda war between the government and the Lord’s Resistant Army resulted into loss of lives of thousands of innocent people, displacements, disability, family friction and breakdown, community and cultural disintegration.

- Even long after the war, some community members still fight the war in their minds and bodies in forms of nightmares, intrusive thoughts of traumatic events, flashbacks, making them feel hopeless and unable to concentrate on day to day activities. Some of the victims have to live in the same community with the perpetrators and have constant fears and reminders of their traumatic experiences.

- Persons disabled during the war became dependents on family members and the community causing a strain not only on the economic status of the communities but the social aspects.
AVSI method

- Identification/Assessment of war victims
- Provision of mobility appliance
- Counseling
- Family mediation/community dialogues
- Follow up/home visits
Results

- 637 individuals received artificial legs and involved in productive activities.
- 1,271 individuals participated in community dialogues.
- 474 home visits conducted.
- 414 war victims psychologically rehabilitated.
- 350 war victims counselled are now socially included and a resource in the community.
A captive for years

- “... rebels forced me to smash my child against the wall or they would kill me”
  Eva stayed in rebel captivity, in the bushes of .... for five years when she witnessed horrific actions the Lord’s Resistance Rebels did to innocent civilians. Each day was anew, none of them got used to every unique act the rebels did, acts of torture and killing.

- Upon return rejected /discriminated by family + community.
Case story 1|2 Cont.....

- Presented with nightmares, intrusive thoughts and flash back of traumatic experience.
- Eva received individual and group counselling.
- At 8th session nightmare frequencies reduced.
- Eva today lives happily with her husband.
- Rearing pigs to support her & family.
Richard Komakech, 36, Councilor; Pader District; Northern Uganda.

Stepped on an object that blasted/shattered his leg on his way to the garden.

“I heard a loud sound and I saw my leg hang from my body.”

“I felt frustrated and thought I would never walk again”

The psychosocial sessions helped Richard recover from trauma.

Received artificial limb & living a happy life.
Raising hope:
“ I am more mobile, practicing carpentry & joinery; and doing business” ... James Abwono, Ongany village, Ongany sub-county
Challenges/Way forward

- Overwhelming need for MHPSS
- Integrate other interventions in MHPSS
THANK YOU