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ChildFund
Kenya

Formerly named Christian Children's Fund

Weaving the Safety Net for Orphans & Vulnerable Children.

Advancing the agenda of family-centered services for children affected by HIV and AIDS

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RATIONALE

- ✓ Dramatic escalation of the number of children affected by HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa
- ✓ By 2010 (next year) in Kenya, 15.4% of all children under age 15 will have lost both or one parent

Rationale cont.

- ✓ Loss of parents removes ***primary social structure protecting children and adolescents***. Other effects are: ***shifting familial roles and compositions, breakdown of social services, erosion of community structures that enable children's healthy development***.
- ✓ Consequently, children are faced with increased vulnerability to key threats.

Rationale cont.

- ✓ Threats that children and adolescents confront include:
 - lack of educational opportunities
 - lack of social and emotional support for healthy psychological and social dev't
 - Lack of adequate health care
 - increased hunger and malnutrition
 - Increased susceptibility to abuse and exploitation

Rationale cont.

- ✓ During ChildFund's far reaching investigation of poverty, one child from a village in Madhya Pradesh, India, put it:

“We are poor, but life in the village is good because we are friends”

- ✓ Families/communities have had greatest impact of HIV/AIDS, hence, responses in the area of prevention, care and treatment and mitigation should prioritize strengthening the family/extended family set up.

ChildFund's response

- ✓ A family centered approach dubbed “*Weaving the Safety Net*” (*WSN*) for OVC funded by President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID.
- ✓ Target area: Thika and Kiambu districts of Central Province – Kenya.
- ✓ Project duration – 5 years (March 2005 – June 2010).



Safety Net Project Goal & Objectives

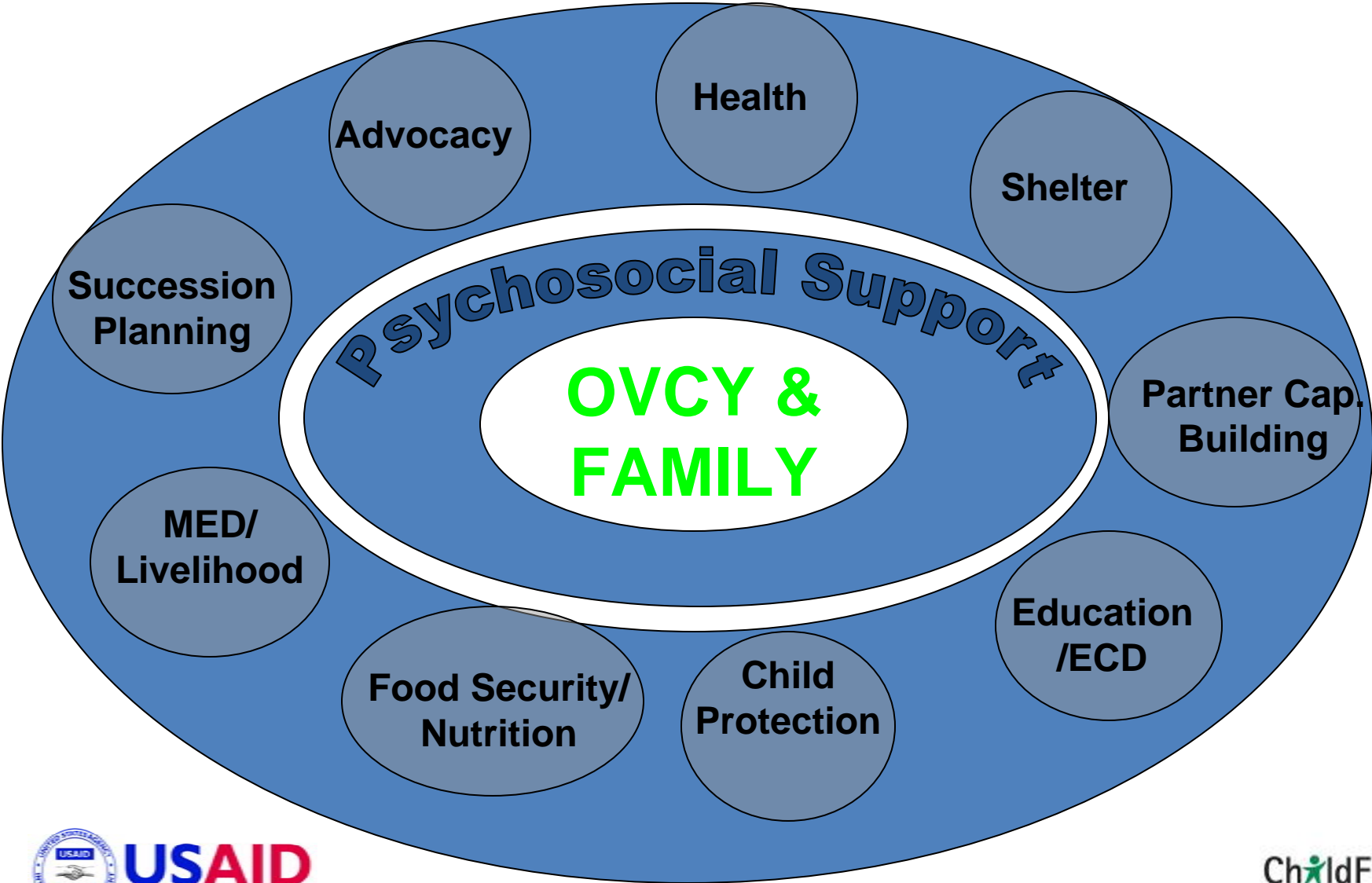
Goal; Reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on OVC in Kiambu and Thika districts.

Objectives;

- Mobilize and strengthen family and community-based responses to provide care and support, with emphasis on psychosocial care to HIV-affected and other vulnerable children and adolescents.
- Increase the capacity of HIV-affected and other vulnerable children and adolescents to meet their own needs, through active participation in national and district-level programs and policy development and access to formal and non-formal education.



Weaving the Safety Net- OVC Model



Weaving the Safety Net Model

A Multi-sectoral Model that lays special emphasis on:

- ✓ Families as the Primary Unit of attention and a vehicle for overall family improvement.
- ✓ Partnerships, referrals & linkages integrated interventions.
- ✓ Children & families affected or/made vulnerable by HIV & AIDS.



Weaving the Safety Net Model

- ✓ Strengthens & supports family/community capacity for desired outcomes.
- ✓ Identifies and builds on existing resources - extended families act as Safety Nets for Vulnerable children.
- ✓ Instills “Do no harm principles” in every process (listen, respect, engage/involve, learn).
- ✓ Cognizance of immediate and long-term interventions for sustainability.



Service Delivery Model

- Identifications of Local Implementing Partners.
- Capacity building –Implem. M&E, sustainability, reporting etc.
- Actual Child identification and enrollment.
- Services/benefits provision to children & families.
- Follow-up of partners and beneficiaries.

Partnerships

- Community / Faith based organizations.
- Government ministries/departments.
- Pathfinder International.
- K-Rep Development Agency (KDA).
- Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI).

Service Areas



- Health care and Nutrition.
- Capacity building and Economic strengthening.

- Psychosocial Support.
- Child Protection and basic shelter.
- Educational support and Vocational opportunities.



Service delivery Processes – Example Youth Program.

- Market Analysis for Vocational training centers.
- Criteria for Youth Identification.
- Career Counseling/guidance.
- Youth enrollment
 - PSS, and basic business skills.
 - Life skills



Youth Program Continued

- Mentorship & attachment program.



- Start-up kits.

- Linkage to Micro-credit services (K- Rep) and other schemes (Village Saving & Loans).

Evaluations

Evaluations done on WSN Project include:

- Quality Review on Psychosocial Support Activities Nov. 2007.
- Evaluation on Kenya CCF- Micro-Enterprise Development Programs – April 2007.
- Mid-Term Project Evaluation - March 2008.
- Assessing the impact of Youth/Child Participation on Project design, implementation and outcomes – May 2008.



Achievements of the Safety Net Model

Outcome data collected through the evaluations indicate the model is realizing positive improvements:

Mid-Term Evaluation- Key Highlights-;

✓ Skills building for Youth - 777 youth supported to access Vocational training by Sept' 2007. Out of this, 342 had completed training of whom 323 (94%) were able to make an income.

✓ By end of Sept 2008, (1,048) youth supported to access entrepreneur skills, 661 completed. Out of whom **645** were able to generate income (232 self-employed and 413 casual/temporary/permanent).

Achievements Continued

- ❑ Education (100% enrolment rate from baseline - 92.9%-Kiambu and 80.4% -Thika).
- ❑ OVC accessing medical care when sick or injured; Kiambu baseline 60.6%, evaluation 91.7%; Thika baseline 63.0%, evaluation 86.2%.
- ❑ Stigma and discrimination of PLWHAs in the community has reduced compared to baseline.
- ❑ Increased capacity building for caregivers and children using cascading approach.

Achievements Continued

Additional Results:

Summary of the program's achievements with the micro credit activities (September 2008).

INDICATORS	TARGET	ACTUAL
	APRIL 05 – SEPT 08	APRIL 05 – SEPT 08
Number of groups recruited	37	29
Number of caregivers recruited	1,065	1,141
Number of drop outs	107	204
Number of loans disbursed	1,704	1,177
Amount of loans disbursed	\$287,714	\$ 309,214
Amount of savings mobilized	\$ 83,328	\$ 108,814
Number of caregivers trained in business management	1,090	783
Number of caregivers trained in group management & leadership	1,100	947

Source: The SEEP NETWORK, 2009 – www.seepnetwork.org



Achievements Continued

Under the Village Savings & Loans (VSL&A);

- ❑ A total of 28 groups with a population of 612 OVC caregivers have been mobilized and undergone training.
- ❑ Age categories of caregivers' ranges between 25-87 years. The membership is made of 90% women.
- ❑ Within the last two years of implementation USD 14,900 has been mobilized as savings with a loan value of USD 25,092.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned

❑ Partnership building with existing local structures (CBO/FBO) working with families enhances sustainability of OVC interventions.

❑ Mainstreaming Psychosocial support increases self confidence, self esteem, resilience and improves communication.

Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- ❑ Promoting livelihood initiatives in OVC households through evidence-based approaches ensures steady income and maintains integrity of the economic safety nets.

- ❑ Appropriate marketable and mentorship skills for youth is an effective strategy of realizing sustainability of OVC interventions in affected households.

Challenges

- Slow economic growth & high numbers of OVC continue to outstretch available resources.
- Food insecurity in OVC households (poverty, aged & ailing caregivers, prolonged drought).
- Dropout rate of volunteers supporting vulnerable OVC households especially the Youth.
- Stigma and discrimination of affected households.
- Limited Capacity of local structures (CBO/FBO) & partners to effectively support vulnerable households.

Thank You.

