

Household Livelihoods in Crisis Situations:

What Do We Know and Need to Learn about Economic Interventions for Child Protection and Well being?



USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF)

Academy for Educational Development (AED)
STRIVE Program (Supporting Transformation by Reducing
Insecurity and Vulnerability with Economic Strengthening –
A Program for Vulnerable Children)

Program on Forced Migration and Health (PFMH)
Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

A Program Learning Initiative

Meeting Summary

Setting the Stage

Introduction

USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund has been funding initiatives to support vulnerable children for the past 25 years. Two such initiatives are the Program on Forced Migration and Health's (PFMH) Care and Protection of Children in Crisis Affected Countries (CPC) initiative at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the STRIVE^a Program managed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED). Recognizing the need to explore livelihoods interventions and economic strengthening activities as they pertain to child protection and well-being in crisis settings, these programs worked to bring together experts from around the world in a workshop hosted in Kampala, Uganda in February 2008.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify key program learning needs in the area of livelihoods interventions and economic strengthening activities as they pertain to child protection and well-being in crisis settings. We sought to map out the different roles children play in household economies; identify how these roles are affected by crises; and agree what we need to learn and do to ensure livelihood and economic strengthening activities are better able to support children's security and well-being.

The workshop explored several key areas, starting with a focus on trying to understand children's roles in household livelihood strategies, exploring different forms of crises, moving into several types of economic strengthening interventions and associated monitoring, evaluation and impact assessments, while continually identifying key principles of practice and learning needs in each of these areas.

This is a field where current knowledge is severely limited. We were encouraged to approach our work together humbly — to create a “reflective space” in an effort to sort-out what we think from what we know. What follows is a summary of some of the key insights during our time together. Given the purposes of the meeting, as well as summarizing some of the learning that took place, we have identified issues that arose from discussions that will guide the development of an inter-agency program learning agenda to be pursued over the next several years.

Social Ecologies of Childhood

A relationship exists between social expectations, child rearing and economic-environmental contexts. In many parts of the world, children are expected to play significant economic roles as part of household livelihood systems. In some cases, children are responsible for managing critical household assets, generally with minimal parental supervision. When a crisis occurs, households implement short term coping strategies, which often differ depending on the nature of the crisis, such as natural disaster, conflict, or HIV&AIDS. It is thus important to consider how

^a DCOF's STRIVE Program (Supporting Transformation by Reducing Insecurity and Vulnerability with Economic Strengthening – A Program for Vulnerable Children) is managed by the Academy for Educational Development (AED). Consortium members include: ACDI VOCA, Action for Enterprise, CARE, DtS, University of Maryland's IRIS Center, MEDA, Save the Children US, and World Vision.

children will be affected, not only by a crisis itself, but by the altered economic environment impacting changed livelihood strategies at the household level.

Discussions focused on protection thresholds in three crisis contexts: disaster, conflict, and HIV&AIDS. Key issues and learning gaps were identified across crisis settings:

- Protracted crises can necessitate children and adolescents to take on economic roles and activities that pose serious risks to their security and well-being. These risks include the end of education, dangerous child labor, forced early marriage, living and working on the streets, transactional sex, and trafficking, among others.
 - Can protection and well-being risks be systematically identified? Can they be ameliorated through economic activities and livelihood interventions?
- Crises impact entire communities; however, programmatic activities often “target” vulnerable households and/or at-risk groups, such as orphans, victims of violence, or child soldiers. Is this counter-productive?
 - Does “targeting” erode a key protective factor: community cohesion?
- Child welfare committees were identified as a community mechanism that has (in some settings) helped to keep siblings together and prevent asset loss in acute and chronic crises.
 - What are the most promising practices related to community structures and actions to keep siblings together; prevent asset loss; and, promote competence and positive pathways for at-risk children and adolescents?

Terminology Talk: Common Definitions and Common Misunderstandings^b

We acknowledged that bringing together practitioners from fields as diverse as child protection, sustainable livelihoods and economic strengthening brought challenges in terms of communication. Every discipline or profession establishes its own “trade vocabulary” to ensure rapid and mutual understanding for its members. Using this narrowed vocabulary with people who are not part of the given discipline or profession, however, can be confusing. Collaboration is also complicated by the tendency to work exclusively within a specific sector, at both field and headquarter levels. Indeed, within the same agency, protection and economic strengthening activities may be separated by placement in different technical units (sectors), in emergency or development divisions, and through separate communication, policy, fundraising and advocacy channels.

Communicating across disciplines is essential for collaboration to take place, consequently, in our work it is important that we make clear what we mean when we use specialized terms and that we ask for clarification when we’re not sure what a colleague from another discipline means.

^b Definitions cited in this session are used differently by various organizations, even though common definitions are proposed here. It should be noted that this session emphasized the need to recognize that many of the terms we are accustomed to using are sometimes understood in different ways by other practitioners (particularly when they are from different technical areas.)

Rethinking how we communicate and organize ourselves is needed to better integrate child protection, livelihoods and economic strengthening programming.

Key Definitions

Child protection: *prevention of exploitation and abuse, and promotion of developmental well-being*

Livelihoods: *comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living.* (Includes terms such as Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA).)

Economic strengthening: *the portfolio of strategies and interventions that supply, protect, and/or grow physical, natural, financial, human and social assets*

Some of the terms identified as being often misused or misunderstood between the different fields of practice included:

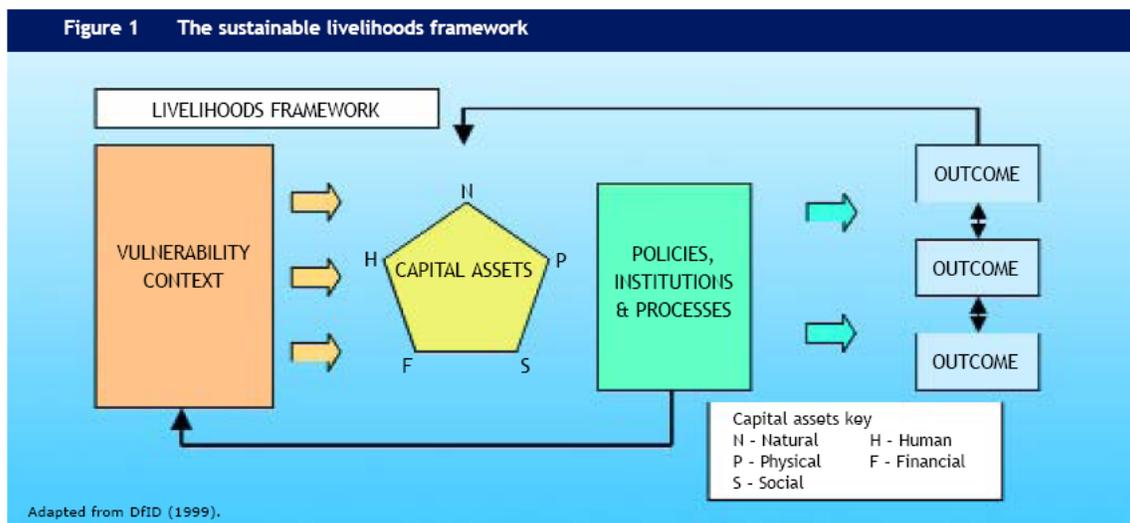
- OVC: This term was seen as being overused to often encompass all levels of youth and vulnerable children. It is most often associated specifically with HIV&AIDS orphans specifically.
- Livelihoods and/or Livelihoods Programming: This term is often perceived to refer to economic activities only, while it actually refers to a broader range of activities or programming, including health, etc. Furthermore, this term is seen to refer to business type activities only, but is far broader, often referring to cash transfers and other activities.
- Social Protection: This term is used by some to refer to cash transfers, by others to refer to child protection, while others to refer to services which include different types of services such as birth registration, etc.
- Microcredit: This term is often used to describe the entire Microenterprise Development field, without recognizing that Microcredit is simply one form of Microfinance, which forms a subset of Microenterprise in general.
- Microfinance: This term is often thought to represent Microcredit, without the recognition that there are several forms of Microfinance, including savings, credit, insurance, etc.

Understanding the Linkages between Livelihoods and Child Protection

There has been much effort in recent years to develop frameworks to help understand the factors shaping household livelihoods strategies. The model associated with the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) was not designed with situations of conflict and crisis specifically in mind, and there are critiques of its adequacy, but it was considered a good place to begin discussion of the impacts of crisis on household livelihoods.

Using the framework shown below, participants identified the manner in which crisis not only impacts the wider 'vulnerability context' of a household, but also the assets available to it, and the institutions and practices that shape household livelihoods. Differing forms of crisis have different effects (e.g. HIV/AIDS creates stigma which negatively impacts social networks that can be utilized; conflict resulting in reduced access to trading opportunities through markets

etc.). Overall, a framework such as this indicates that crises can be understood to have predictable impacts on key influences on household livelihoods whatever their form.



This framework can inform questions regarding ‘vulnerability context’, ‘assets’ and ‘policies, institutions and processes’, for example:

- How does the nature of a crisis (particularly one with cumulative impacts) affect livelihood strategies?
- How does the reduction of household labor and skills common in many crises affect livelihood strategies?
- Do changes in market conditions, erosion of institutions, etc. common in crisis settings have predictable impacts on livelihood strategies?

Discussion focused on the range of potential strategies adopted by households in crisis settings. These included:

- adopting short-term survival strategies
- adopting a broader range of diverse strategies
- adopting riskier strategies
- changing household roles and family expectations
- migration/geographical relocation

The group identified a range of risks and vulnerabilities (and some benefits) for children associated with these different strategies:

Short-Term Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic needs addressed rather than long-term needs (e.g. education) • More focused decisions to support particular children
Diversified Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children expected to be resourceful • Increased resilience / new skill sets
Riskier Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sex work and exploitation • Less supervision of children
Changed Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values re: children changed (e.g. commoditization, reduced value of disabled)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intergenerational schisms • Established child protection mechanisms disrupted
Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sibling support disrupted • Separation from parents

Livelihoods Strategies and Interventions that Prevent or Reinforce Child Neglect, Abuse and Exploitation in Different Crisis

Building on the above, discussion then examined three child protection and well-being questions:

(1) Are there livelihoods strategies and activities that enable households to ‘bounce back’ from crisis or prevent the decline of household livelihoods?

There is insufficient knowledge about how households “bounce-back” from adversities and which interventions enable recovery and prevent asset loss. Operational research needs to move away from analyses of specific economic interventions in favor of analyses of alternative strategies to promote interventions for households and communities. These interventions need to take into consideration the diverse strategies that households deploy in seeking to recover economic livelihoods.

- Are established categories of strategy (such as “diversify, intensify, extensify, migrate”) useful in mapping the impact of alternative strategies in crisis settings?

(2) Are there examples of strategies and activities that inadvertently add to child neglect, abuse and/or exploitation in different crisis situations?

We have little knowledge of the consequences of different household child protection strategies in the face of crisis.

- Can we predict the specific child protection risks associated with alternative strategies? In a particular context, will ‘diversifying’ be a better or worse strategy than ‘migration’, for instance, in terms of risks (or benefits) to children?

Additionally, negative unintended consequences of interventions were identified across crisis contexts:

- Narrow targeting of economic activities can undermine community cohesion, create stigma, can lead to “stove-piped” programming, and can victimize children by labeling them as orphans, former child soldiers, victims of violence, among other potentially stigmatizing labels.
- Economic interventions that are not market-based are ineffective and unsustainable.
- Introduction of new livelihoods options may lead to positive and negative outcomes; and some livelihoods options, such as alcohol brewing and transactional sex, are unhealthy.
- Microfinance programs can be beneficial, but they may also have the potential to undermine child care within the household, increase child labor and decrease school enrollment and attendance. Poor delivery of microfinance programs can also increase household debt.

Operational research and program evaluations could usefully focus on **unintended consequences** as rigorously as they focus on intended results and outcomes.

(3) Is it possible to make child protection and well-being a more explicit component of livelihood strategies and activities, and vice versa?

While important to include child protection and well-being indicators in economic strengthening programs, this integration only rarely takes place. The “divorce” between child protection and economic strengthening activities appear to exist even within agencies that implement both types of programming. Consequently, it is important to:

- Create cross-cutting teams during the assessment and program design phases of crisis programming.
- Advocate policy changes so that donors prioritize child protection within their economic strengthening strategies, and vice versa.
- Establish agency and inter-agency performance indicators and report on results.

Getting to Best Practice

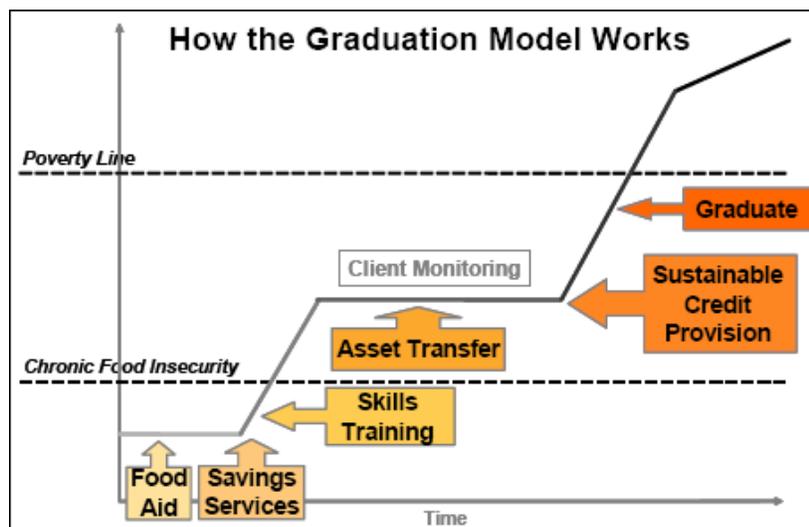
The Economic Strengthening Continuum in the Context of Child Protection and Well-Being

A variety of economic strengthening interventions can be implemented in different crisis contexts. When looking at what, where and when to implement, agencies should consider what financial pressures households experience and when these occur. Also to be considered is the implications for the kind of intervention needed.

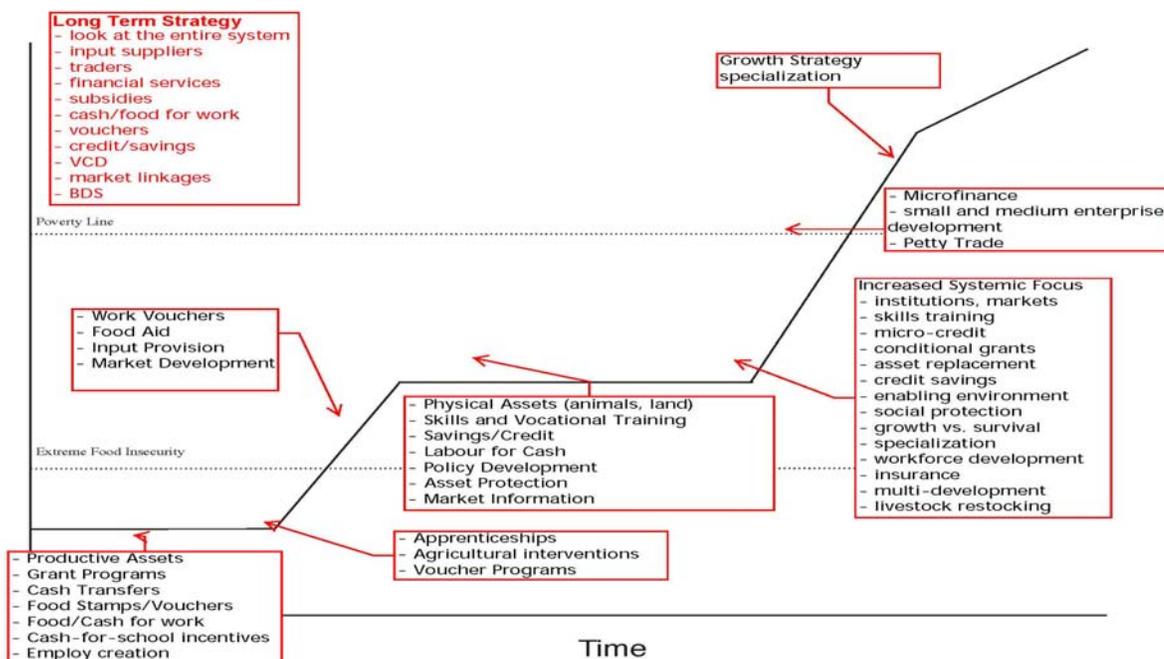
We examined two frameworks for thinking about economic strengthening and the well-being and protection of children in the situations of post-conflict, natural disaster and HIV&AIDS. A simple Relief-to-Development continuum was presented as follows:

Short term	Time frame	Long term
<i>Relief</i> (Livelihood provisioning)	 <i>Rehabilitation</i> (Livelihood protection)	Development (Livelihood promotion)
Examples of programme	Examples of programme	Examples of programme
Safety and protection Food and non-food distribution Emergency health	Provision of food until harvest Distribution of seeds and tools Restocking of livestock herds Restoration of services Restoration of infrastructure	Small enterprise development/credit Agricultural/natural resource development Development of rural services

In addition, the Microfinance Graduation model was offered for discussion. The model highlights how households are often moving up and down a spectrum that includes being above and below chronic food security levels, and being above and below poverty lines. Different interventions are more appropriate at different levels to slowly move “graduate” households to positions of less vulnerability.



Several examples of economic strengthening were offered in relation to the two models. Groups worked together to plot additional activities and critique the frameworks as useful tools for thinking about child protection programming in the three contexts. The chart below shows how the above framework was used to generate ideas about potential livelihood interventions:



Questions arising from this discussion included:

- These frameworks simplify complex processes; which are most useful for framing livelihoods interventions in crises and the potential impacts on child protection?
- How do we consider interventions when we are aware that households do not follow a straight trajectory, but frequently pass in and out of crisis?
- How relevant is the relief-to-development continuum for situations such as conflict and HIV & AIDS, where the assumptions of straight line recovery from natural disaster may not be valid?
- Why are people in this vulnerable situation in the first place? Understanding the basis of the vulnerability of households and the strategies they are adopting for recovery could help focus programming more effectively.

Cash Transfers in the Context of Child Protection and Well-Being

Significant cash transfer programs to address the impacts of HIV&AIDS exist in South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and Ethiopia, and smaller ones are being piloted in Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, and Mozambique. Increasingly, cash transfers are also being employed in conflict and disaster settings as a flexible alternative to food aid.

Research from Latin America suggests that cash transfers can help to reduce poverty and develop human capital. Cash transfer programs are being implemented at scale in many Latin American countries and some Southern African countries. However, even in the world's wealthiest countries, cash transfer programs (social welfare schemes) require ongoing financial support (taxation). There is debate as to whether poorer African countries can afford to manage and sustain national cash transfer programs.

There is considerable evidence that cash transfers can result in significant nutritional improvements in children affected by crises. However, program learning has not focused on whether or not cash transfers can promote social protection or directly address key child protection and well-being concerns.

- Can cash transfers be employed as key measures for child protection?
- Can they be used to prevent exploitation and/or abuse?

Microfinance in the Context of Child Protection and Well-Being

This discussion focused on an introduction to microfinance (credit, savings, insurance and transmitting remittances) and the potential of financial services to assist in post-conflict, natural disaster and HIV& AIDS-affected communities. The types of services that could be provided and the issues to consider in beginning microfinance-related activities were highlighted. A case study of the issues related to the dynamic nature of vulnerability in the context of HIV& AIDS was presented. The session emphasized the need to look at the levels of vulnerability, and the options for building safety nets to prevent households becoming destitute. Groups worked together to discuss successful and less successful projects and their impact on children.

Market Development and Value Chain Development in the Context of Child Protection and Well-Being^c

Based on several mini scenarios, participants discussed some of the more common strategies introduced by development programs and the corresponding market-based challenges that these could introduce. Issues identified by participants included: Lack of community buy-in; Lack of adequate local skills transfer; Lack of adequate market analysis; A “top-down” orientation; Limited sustainability; No market player identified or their capacity built to continue provision after the life of the project. Discussions focused on how development challenges can be addressed with more sustainable, market-based solutions. In order to avoid these problems, a market-based approach emphasizes **sustainability** (of both outcome/impact and the means to deliver those results); **outreach/down-reach** (expanding impact to more targeted beneficiaries); and **exit strategy** (developing sustainable market-based solutions/relationships for target beneficiaries while phasing out direct project interventions over time to ensure that provision of services or expertise continues after the life of the project).

This approach combines a value chain focus and market-based orientation to economic strengthening and development. A value chain lens can help develop an understanding of the broader economic context for household and enterprise activities. A market-based orientation implies a shift in the conventional structure of economic development interventions – from **direct provision** to **facilitated delivery** of support to targeted enterprises/households by NGOs, development agencies, or projects. Key questions brought about from this session included:

- Since group development is so time consuming, how can the project’s anticipated short-term results be managed?
- How do we cultivate relationships with large firms, since it is understood that they operate as businesses?
- How can producer groups formed to support caregiver microenterprises be a platform to support other social needs?
- How can we address the needs of orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers without causing stigmatization from other non-project beneficiaries?

Economic Strengthening Strategies for Child Protection and Well-Being

Discussion focused on implications of cash transfers, microfinance, and value chain development for strengthening child protection and well being. Priority questions identified for each strategy of the three approaches comprised:

Cash Transfers:

- How do we design cash transfer programs to include child participation so that the child benefits, and how do we measure the impact of these benefits?
- What is the comparative advantage of cash transfers in relation to other economic interventions in terms of outcomes at multiple levels (income, youth roles and empowerment, combating non-discrimination)?

^c The term “market-based” was used to avoid possible confusion that market development was limited to the marketing or buying/selling aspects only.

- How do we ensure the cash transfer links between the community and the national child protection system?

Market Development / Value Chain Development:

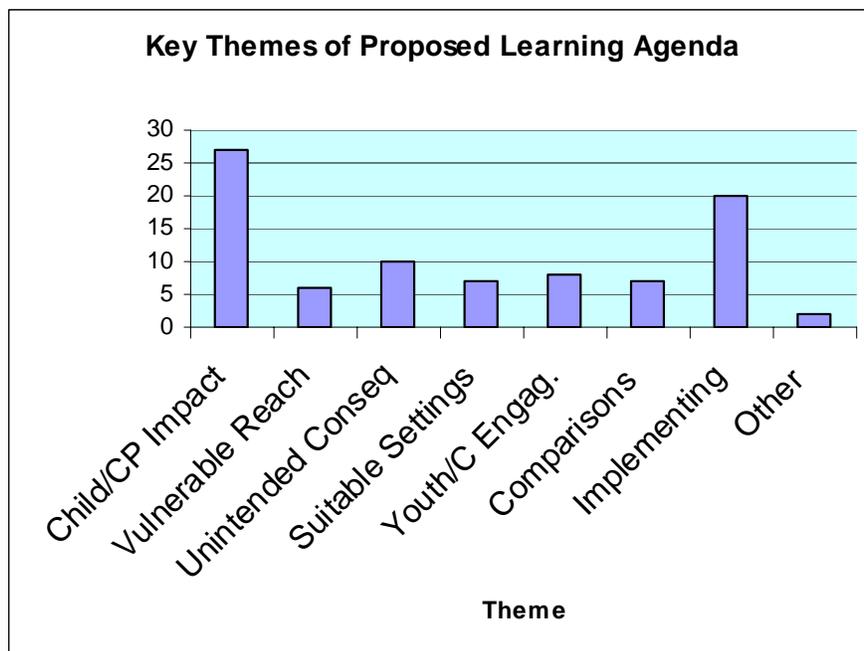
- How do we better document and articulate the impact of market and value chain development programs on child protection and well-being? How do we make a better case of what is beneficial beyond financial, nutritional, socio-cultural capital, etc.?
- How can we better consider outstanding process issues, such as socio-cultural issues, which may become exacerbated in conflict and post-conflict settings?
- How do we integrate additional areas of impact to include in a comprehensive understanding of a household’s status (i.e., relationships, empowerment, well-being, reduced expenditure, and improved productivity of households)?

Microfinance

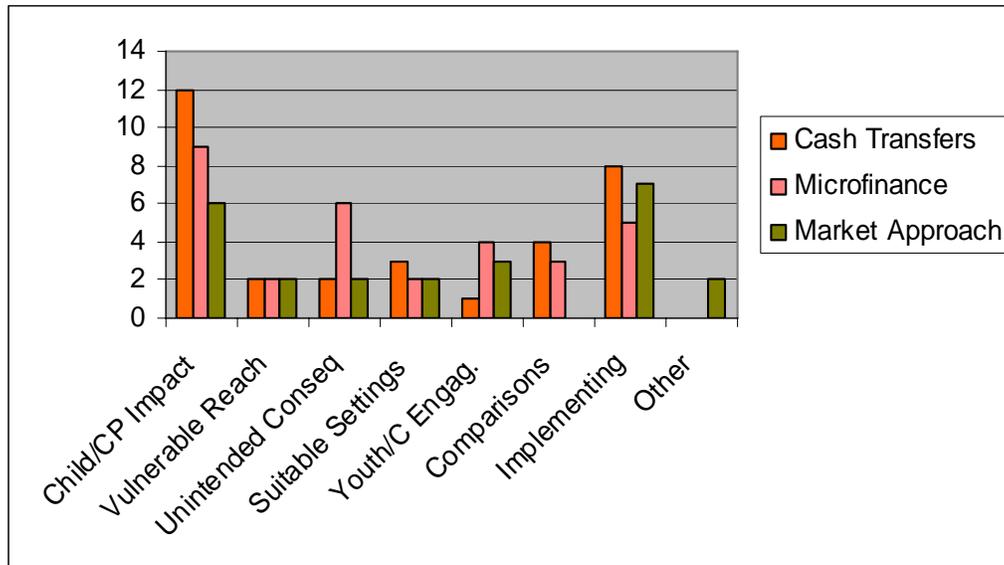
- What programs can reach the poorest of the poor, including youth, and what do we know about them?
- What impact do remittances have on vulnerable children?
- How can we build cost-effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that focus on the benefits, impacts, and effects on children (i.e., health, nutrition, education, etc.)?

Moving Towards an Evidence Base

Participants were asked to identify what they considered were key questions that needed to be addressed in developing a better evidence-base for intervention. The chart below indicates that documenting the impact of livelihoods interventions on child protection and improving our understanding of effective means of implementation were viewed as the two key areas of work, though a number of other areas of work were identified.



The second chart indicates that the agendas were not seen to be that different for work in the different areas of cash transfers, microfinance and market-based intervention.



Sample questions brought forth in the discussion included:

- What clear indicators can be built into microfinance services to determine their protective impact on children?
- How do we ensure that the benefits of cash transfers accrue not only at the household level, but to individual children?
- How do we ensure market development and value chain development activities include community participation and child participation?
- What are the respective advantages of cash transfers and microfinance services regarding child well-being in emergencies?
- How do we adjust approaches to value chain development to emphasize economic benefits to vulnerable children (and their households)?

Economic Strengthening Strategies and Interventions that Impact Children in Different Crisis Situations

Workshop participants were asked to identify the implications of economic strengthening strategies and interventions for securing children’s safety and well-being through the lenses of child protection, economic strengthening, and livelihoods.

Child Protection:

- There is a need for a common understanding of child protection, an understanding which is holistic and not too narrow and which takes into account the whole child.
- A **team-based approach** is extremely important, and we need to educate each other about our respective skills. This collaborative approach also must be sustainable.
- We must overcome fears of integrating “each others” perspectives (i.e., child protection, economic strengthening, and livelihoods).

- Donors have an important role in creating incentives for cooperation among sectors.

Economic Strengthening:

- We should avoid the term “provision” and focus on **promoting** opportunity.
- Vocabulary within all sectors (i.e., business, human rights, development, public health) is especially important.
- We need to distinguish between **outcome** and **impact**.

Livelihoods:

- We shouldn’t equate livelihoods with economic strengthening, nor should we combine the two when designing programs.
- Livelihoods is not a sector, in and of itself; rather, it is a construct to analyze power relations.
- We need to explore the potential of livelihoods frameworks and approaches while also having livelihoods “experts” engage and take responsibility for advocacy, education, utilization, demonstration of impact, etc.
- We must analyze and understand **opportunities** (i.e., rights-based approaches and livelihoods, “livelihood chains”, etc.), as well as **barriers** (i.e., agency structure, training, sectoral specializations, trends), which create an enabling environment for system approaches and solutions.

Issues in Establishing an Evidence Base

There is consensus among practitioners that economic strengthening and livelihoods interventions can effectively address the physical survival and the developmental well-being of children and youth, but many questions remain. In addition to the need to establish evidence that particular approaches work, there is a need to better understand which interventions work best, for whom, and why.

The rationale for a more nuanced understanding of program outcomes and impacts was observed throughout the workshop. For instance, a consensus emerged from an earlier session that one size does not fit all; an intervention that is appropriate for an acute disaster setting may not be the appropriate for post-conflict recovery setting. In fact, a particular intervention might have a *negative* effect. Therefore, in addition to a practical need to know if programs work, there is an ethical obligation to know whether programs have any negative unintended consequences.

A planned impact evaluation of a micro-enterprise development program for youth in Northern Uganda was presented as an example of how evaluations can be rigorous, practical, ethical, and impact-oriented. One aspect that was agreed upon during the workshop was the need for evaluators and practitioners to work together from the beginning stages of program development.

Further questions distilled from this discussion included:

- Are there common indicators of “successful” livelihoods interventions with respect to child protection concerns?

- Are some indicators of effective interventions (e.g. level of economic sustainability) potentially at odds with others (e.g. effective reach to most vulnerable groups)?

Emerging Guidelines for Economic Strengthening for OVC

Draft “Guidelines for Economic Strengthening for Vulnerable Children”^d were presented and their wider implications for child protection were considered. It includes a section on principles of program design that presents seven key principles of success:

1. Take a multi-sectoral approach and ensure open dialogue throughout the program.
2. Base program design on sound market analysis.
3. Weigh the benefits and risks of targeting.
4. Identify best practices in ES and adapt them to the specific vulnerabilities of children and households affected by HIV&AIDS.
5. Know what you can do by yourself and build partnerships to implement the rest.
6. Develop interventions for sustainability and scalability.
7. Identify robust indicators to effectively track performance and outcomes.

The Guidelines also offer a section with technical recommendations for the implementation of economic strengthening interventions for vulnerable children.

Questions identified included:

- The Guidelines call for a multi-sectoral approach; but how do you determine which sectors to include? At some point the sectors may become unwieldy and it is difficult to reach consensus.
- What are some of possible ways of reaching vulnerable groups without explicitly targeting them?
- How can we include children as stakeholders in project design? Can we also involve others in the community as stakeholders and local or area specialists?
- What are situations when cost-effective strategies and programs are not the top priority?
- Can we define indicators within households that demonstrate child care and protection (i.e., increased number of meals per day, content of those meals, increased school attendance, increased frequency of healthy visits, new clothing)?
- How do we go beyond measuring high income as the only good outcome of econ strengthening, making sure to consider other relevant outcomes like high assets, decreased financial economic risk, etc.?
- How can practitioners from different fields of practice agree on a vision for success, assumptions for what might lead to this success and common concepts/ vocabulary throughout the different project phases?
- How can we integrate consideration of the type of market and how that relates to children’s protection?

^d This document has been issued as, *Economic Strengthening for Vulnerable Children: Principles of Program Design and Technical Recommendations for Effective Field Interventions*, Field Report No. 2, Save the Children with the Academy for Educational Development, Field Support LWA for the US Agency for International Development., 2008. http://www.microlinks.org/ev_en.php?ID=21730_201&ID2=DO_TOPIC

- How can an analysis include both a market analysis and a vulnerability analysis (focusing on the likely impact of the various economic activities on child well-being)?
- At which stage and how can children most effectively and ethically be included in project design?
- How do projects focus on sustainability of impact and not simply sustainability of project activities?

Operational Challenges: Implementing Livelihood Programs to Enhance Child Protection

This session focused on challenges both in implementing livelihood projects and in the integration of child protection into those projects. It also touched briefly on the relationship between implementation constraints and the impact of such on the integration of child protection into project design, monitoring and evaluation.

The presentation highlighted that the design, monitoring, and evaluation of most livelihood projects do not give attention to their impact either at household level or on children's safety and well-being. Program goals tend to focus almost exclusively on increased income - assuming that increases in income alone result in a variety of improvements at the household level and result in enhanced child protection. Projects seldom assess if women's increased income actually results in their being more or less vulnerable to domestic violence within the household. Further, projects seldom assess how participation in a specific NGO-implemented livelihood project impacts a family's previously existing economic activities. The diversification of livelihood activities at the household level was pointed out as a means of reducing risks and vulnerability to such shocks as crop failures as well as compensate for the seasonality of income.

- The inclusion of child protection indicators is not, in and of itself, problematic; although some items are harder to measure than others, such as the safety of the child within the household and a child's relative happiness within the family.
- Designing and implementing livelihoods projects through a child protection lens could greatly enhance children's well-being and would not necessarily require significant amounts of additional work or time.

Linking, Learning and Leading the Way

Monitoring & Evaluation / Impact Assessment

During the workshop, there were numerous suggestions of indicators for impact and outcomes and little on outputs, and there are enormous expectations of evaluation. This session focused on an exercise, revisiting a project presented earlier in the workshop, which uses a randomized control trial (RCT) to evaluate over a period of two years. Each group addressed one of three project activities: grant size, business skills training, or group vs. individual assignment to services. The groups were asked to discuss the causal model of the particular activity they were addressing and then to generate appropriate indicators at the output, outcome, and impact level.

Output and outcome indicators were clearly very specific to particular interventions and contexts, but discussion of potential impact indicators showed some common areas of focus.

Examples of impact indicators addressing both livelihoods and child protection:

- Increased household income spent on children
- Increased number of people employed by business
- Increased amount of savings/investments
- Decreased risky behavior
- Increased feeling of safety from abuse at household and community level
- Increased enrollment of the children in school and continued education
- Increased access to basic services (health, education, nutrition)
- Increased social cohesion, community participation, self-confidence and social status, and positive changes in social capital
- Reduced levels of conflict and stigma at HH & community levels

Next Steps

The workshop brought together people from diverse professional and disciplinary backgrounds who share in a common goal: to better understand how livelihoods and economic strengthening activities can support child protection in crisis settings. There was much learning shared at the workshop, both through the presentations (which are available on an accompanying CD) and the many formal and informal discussions held. Although this summary captures a small part of the richness of those interactions, the relationships established and strengthened through the meeting will be the key mechanism to drive further work in this area forward.

This summary document contains the seeds of an ongoing learning agenda that participants at the workshop and, more widely, the disciplines and professions from which they were drawn, now need to actively collaborate upon.

Columbia University, four international NGOs, and several local organizations have established an Agency Learning Network on the Care and Protection of Children in Emergencies (CPC Learning Network), which will strengthen and systematize child care and protection in emergency settings through the collaborative action of humanitarian organizations, local institutions, and academic partners. One of the global learning agendas of the CPC Learning Network will be livelihoods and protection. DCOF's STRIVE Program, managed through AED, will be hosting the *Children & Youth Economic Strengthening (CYES) Network*, which will bring together projects, professionals and learning in this area. A website and various learning forums, such as listserves, will be set up to support this.

The establishment of the initiatives such as the CPC Learning Network and STRIVE-managed CYES Network provide structures to foster such collaboration. Development of the ideas outlined here will be critical to the success of these programs. A commitment was made by participants to seek opportunities to meet together again in two years to share additional learning and identify areas for future focus.

For more information about this meeting summary or any of the initiatives described above, please contact CPC Program Manager, Bree Akesson, via email at baa15@columbia.edu or via phone at +1 212 342 5158.

Annex: Workshop Participant List

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