Sustainable, COmprehensive REsponses (SCORE) for vulnerable children and their families

Socio-economic strengthening efforts to stabilize vulnerable families in Uganda

Presentation for the symposium: Keeping Families and Children Together through Economic Strengthening
Washington, DC, March 6, 2015
The Context

- 8.6m children in Uganda are moderately or critically vulnerable.
- 27.8% of vulnerable children aged 5-17 are estimated to experience cases of abuse every year.
- 105k children living with HIV/AIDS. Only 41% of eligible under-15 are in care and treatment.
- >50k children in institutional care in Uganda.
- ~16% of vulnerable Ugandan children receive support.
- Wide range of factors (poverty, orphanhood, HIV, conflict).
SCORE at a glance

- **Lead Agency:** AVSI Foundation (www.avsi.org)
- **Partners:** FHI360, CARE, TPO.
- **Duration:** May 2011-Apr 2016
- **Location:** 35 districts in Uganda.
- **Goal:** To decrease the vulnerability of moderately and critically vulnerable children (VC) and their households.

**Objective 1:** Improved socio-economic status of OVC families.

**Objective 2:** Improved food security and nutrition.

**Objective 3:** Improved access to protection and legal services.

**Objective 4:** Increased capacity to access, acquire or provide critical services.
SCORE beneficiaries at enrolment

- Mean monthly Income: 16.7 USD
- Median monthly Income: 10 USD
- % eating a balanced diet: 47.9%
- % eating <2 meals/day: 28.7%
- % reporting child labor: 26.3%
- % reporting child abuse: 38%
- % access to latrine: 78.7%
- % access to safe water: 54.1%
- School enrolment: 79.9%
- School absenteeism: 35.5%
- Vulnerability bracket: 34.3% moderate, 65.5% critical
SCORE intervention design

• **Multi-sectoral, family-centered approach.** Interventions across four technical areas target various household members.

• Commitment to “**fit the project to the people**”. Family-specific household development plans.

• **Economic interventions:**
  – Increase savings
  – Market Skills (financial literacy, business skills, apprenticeship)
  – Apprenticeship
  – Farming/horticulture

• **Other interventions:**
  – Life skills for youth
  – Parenting skills trainings for parents
  – Nutrition education, cooking demonstrations
  – Community dialogues on child protection, hygiene, health issues.
SCORE Beneficiary Flow

Community → CSOs → OVC Committees

1. Identification
2. Assessment
3. Vulnerable? (Y/N)
   - Yes → Needs Mapping
     - Project Contribution
     - HH Contribution
     - Link to other services
   - No → Vulnerable? (Y/N)
     - No → 6/12month follow-up & “Graduation”
     - Yes → Implementation
4. Implementation
5. Vulnerable? (Y/N)
   - Yes → Household Plan
   - No → Needs Mapping

Household Development Plans

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Selected SCORE Outputs:

- **121,017** direct beneficiaries served by at least one activity
- **85,734** direct beneficiaries served by three or more activities
- **1,099** VSLAs, **31,271** members
  - **1.2m USD** cumulative savings, **1.5m USD** cumulative loans
- **15,054** families provided with market-oriented skills.
- **1,882** youth entering apprenticeship, **1,094** completed training
- **563** Farmer Field Schools, **12,000** members
- **10,637** households trained on horticulture (year 3 alone)
- **16,691** households trained on nutrition (year 3 alone)
- **241** referrals for malnutrition (year 3 alone)
- **343** schools with capacity building and child protection initiatives
- **31,834** households reached by learning sessions on protection
- **470** children received referrals for protection and legal support
- **34,549** households reached by community dialogues
SCORE Impact: vulnerability status changes

Enrolment level

- VAT1
- VAT2
- VAT3

Slight: 19.8%
Moderate: 34.3% 50.9% 47.0%
Critical: 29.2% 65.5% 12.0%
Selected indicators by Gender

**Child Abuse**
- VAT1: 45% (Male), 30% (Female)
- VAT2: 30% (Male), 20% (Female)
- VAT3: 15% (Male), 10% (Female)

**School Enrolment**
- VAT1: 85%
- VAT2: 80%
- VAT3: 75%

**Child Labour**
- VAT1: 35%
- VAT2: 30%
- VAT3: 20%

**Absenteeism**
- VAT1: 35%
- VAT2: 30%
- VAT3: 25%
Changes in selected parameters for 12,639* beneficiaries of socio-economic strengthening

- Average Income (,000 UGX): VAT1 41.8, VAT3 87.2
- Median Income (,000 UGX): VAT1 25.0, VAT3 50.0
- Child Labour (%): VAT1 26.9, VAT3 8.1
- Child Abuse (%): VAT1 38.1, VAT3 13.4
- Schooling (%): VAT1 75.0, VAT3 85.2
- Absenteeism (%): VAT1 33.1, VAT3 14.0
Lessons Learnt:

- **Multisectoral, family centered** approaches focused on family resilience are very **effective** at addressing vulnerability.
- **Efficiency** is dependent on **economies of scale** and **critical program mass**.
- **Socio-economic strengthening activities markedly reduce known drivers of child-family separation.**
- High intensity of activity seems to only slightly improve impact (**a problem for “the more, the merrier” approaches**)
- Impact of the SCORE project does not seem to critically depend on starting level of vulnerability (**even the most critically vulnerable can benefit**).
- Improvements across different areas of life of beneficiaries are observed to be linked (**for instance, nutrition and education**)
- Economic and non-economic activities are reported to be interlinked, but precise measurement is not available yet.
Sustainability:

• “Sustainability” requires changes in the life of SCORE to be observed to persist over a period of at least one year.

• By the end of year 3, **71% households** have moved from a vulnerability bracket to a lower one. (critical ➔ moderate, critical ➔ slight, moderate ➔ slight)

• **7,604 (42%) households** are currently below enrolment level.

• **2,211 households** have reached the point of graduation (been below enrolment level for two consecutive measurements)
SCORE Graduation Model

1- Enrolment
2- Follow up
3- Pre-graduation
4- Rebound
5- Graduation
Thank You

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