

Note: This training presentation is continually being evaluated and updated to reflect current needs and best practices. It should be viewed as work in progress.

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Learning to Work with Orphans and Vulnerable Children

**A Project of the Social Work HIV/AIDS Partnership
for Orphans Vulnerable Children in Tanzania**

Day 1

Required

Training Objectives

- Understand approaches to serve OVC affected and infected by HIV/AIDS and how to apply in providing care and support.
- Understand the psychosocial problems and solutions regarding orphans and vulnerable children including child development and psychosocial assessment and how to apply in providing care and support.

Required

Training Objectives (continued)

- Identify ways in which orphans are affected by the HIV epidemic in Tanzania, including
 - risk reduction for parents and orphans,
 - the health and social phases of HIV/AIDS as they affect children and families, and
 - understanding of HIV treatment including opportunistic infections and antiretroviral therapy.

Required

Training Objectives (continued)

- Identify and be able to address a range of psychosocial challenges related to HIV for orphans and vulnerable children including
 - obtaining social support,
 - providing counseling,
 - addressing stigma.

Required

Training Objectives (continued)

- Understand available resources and systems of care at the local, district and national level for orphans and vulnerable children, (including CMACs and MVC Committees) and develop skills in obtaining community services, and case management.
- Understand the Tanzanian specific policies related to HIV/OVC and international policy contexts related to these areas.

Required

Training Objectives (continued)

- Understand ethical issues that pertain to the provision of care and support to HIV/AIDS infected and affected orphans and vulnerable children
- Develop skills in documentation, monitoring and reporting

Required

Overview of the Main Concepts, Types and Responses to Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Optional– Title Page

Introduction

- The problem of orphanhood is escalating in Tanzania due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- The national census report 2002 indicated that 10 – 12% of all children below the age of 18 are orphans and vulnerable children

Who is a child?

- A child is every human being below the age of 18 years.

Who is an orphan?

- An orphan is a child who has lost one or both parents

Who is a social orphan?

- A social orphan is a child who has been abandoned or who has lost contact with his her biological parent(s).

Who is a vulnerable child?

A vulnerable child is any child, who is currently experiencing or likely to experience lack of adequate care and protection.

Three aspects that cause children to become vulnerable:

- Reduced capacity to cope with calamities
- Resilience weak points e.g. education, health, welfare, safety, play and participation.
- Inadequate care and services

Vulnerability

- Vulnerability is
 - a state of reduced capacity to withstand social, economic, cultural, environmental and political threats both acute and chronic;
 - the susceptibility of individuals, households, and communities to becoming poorer and poorer as a result of events or processes that occur around them.

Problems faced by orphans and vulnerable children

- HIV/AIDS has decreased the capacity to maintain traditional mechanism of care, support and protection to orphans and vulnerable children.

Problems faced by OVCs

- There has been multiple problems faced by orphans and vulnerable children which include:
 - Lack of psychosocial support
 - Inadequate and poor diet
 - Inaccessibility to basic social services (education, health care, clean and safe water and sanitation)
 - Lack of involvement in decision making about their lives
 - Misappropriation of inheritable properties by relatives or caretakers.

Categories of Vulnerable Children

- Abused and neglected children
- Children living in institutions such as children's homes, remand homes, approved schools and crisis/drop in centers
- Child mothers – due to early marriages and teen pregnancies
- Child domestic workers/child laborers
- Children with disabilities

Categories of Vulnerable Children (con't)

- Children living on the streets
- Children in prostitution
- Children in conflict with the law
- Displaced children – due to wars in neighbouring countries and natural calamities
- Children caring for terminally ill parents over a long span of time
- Children who are heads of household

The Government Response

- Development of national guidelines for community based care, support and protection of OVC/MVC
- A situation analysis of orphaned children to determine the magnitude of associated problems.
- The promulgation and approval of a National Policy on HIV and AIDS (November 2001).
- The establishment of Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) Through an Act of Parliament (2001) to lead the multi sectoral national response against HIV/AIDS under the Prime Minister's Office

The Government Response

- The establishment of Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) Through an Act of Parliament (2001) to lead the multi sectoral national response against HIV/AIDS under the Prime Minister's Office.
- Facilitate the process of community based identification and targeting of the most vulnerable children and households for support by different stakeholders

The Government Response

- Currently the programme for identification of the OVC/MVC has been implemented in 40 councils. The focus is to scale up the programme into the remaining districts. With Global fund support the programme will be implemented in 24 districts and JALI WATOTO program will cover 20 districts.
- Development of training manuals for parenting skills and community justice facilitation.

The Government Response

- Review of laws which safeguard the welfare, care, support and protection of children and drafting the Child Bill (in progress).
- Efforts to mainstream MVC/OVC issues in all planning and development activities at all levels.
- Development of community based plans of action for care, support and protection.

The Government Response

- Development of data management system
- The data management system will be used to capture the OVC/MVC service providers and the number of OVC/MVC receiving support and quality of service provided to the MVC.
- Development of national costed plan of action for OVC/MVC to facilitate scaling up the national response to OVC/MVC.

Services Provided to OVC/MVC

❖ Shelter

❖ School support

❖ Clothes & beddings

❖ Psychosocial support

❖ Food

❖ Health care

Roles and responsibilities of the MOH&SW (DSW)

- Coordination of OVC/MVC plans and activities.
- ❖ Development of guidelines, monitoring framework, indicators and tools for data collection and reporting system.
- ❖ Development of tools and guidelines for the identification and targeting of the OVC/MVC and households.

Roles and responsibilities of the MOH&SW (DSW)

- To provide technical advice and guidance to the national steering and technical committees on OVC/MVC issues
- To ensure that OVC/MVC plans and activities are implemented in accordance to the national guidelines

Roles and responsibilities of the MOH&SW (DSW)

- To develop and facilitate training skills on the identification process of the MVC and households to all stakeholders implementing the community based approach for the care, support and protection of OVC/MVC
- ❖ To receive, update, compile, maintain and share data and information regarding OVC.
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation

Conclusion

- ❖ The community based programme for protection of orphans and vulnerable children has proven to be the most ideal approach in addressing the problems that face orphans and vulnerable children.
- ❖ Enhance community awareness, participation, commitment and ownership.

Conclusion

- ❖ It ensures that more orphans and vulnerable children are reached and enjoy the support provided to them.
- ❖ It provides an opportunity for the community members to identify associated problems, their causes and available resources and opportunities to solve them.

National Guidelines for Community based Care, Support and Protection of OVCs

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL COSTED PLAN OF
ACTION FOR CARE,SUPPORT AND PROTECTION
OF OVC IN TANZANIA 2006-2010

*Note: this is not the same is the
more recently updated Kiswahili
version*

Background

- As outcomes of various International and National instruments.
 - UNGASS goal (by 2005 every country to have strategies to support.) with five pillars
 - A costed National MVC action plan.
 - A National OVC/MVC coordinating and management structure
 - Policy and regulatory framework
 - National Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation.
 - National Participatory Situation Analysis.

Background

- CRC 1989
 - MDGs(1,2,3,4,&6-poverty,education,equality child motality,and communicable diseases)
 - Vision 2025
 - MKUKUTA/NSGRP
-
- Started in 2004 ,supported by USAID under technical support of FHI

Why the NCPA

- To provide a road map for mobilizing different efforts in the response of mitigating the needs of OVC in the country
- To map out current national coverage of the specified technical category ,indicating what, and how much is being done; by whom; intensity and extent .

Why the NCPA

- Resource mobilization inside and outside.
- Determine the critical elements of the specified technical category which can be addressed by different players and suggest specific intervention on which country effort should focus with details of approach/strategy; showing what, where, by whom, when and how many beneficiaries and the costing of each.

Technical areas of NCPA

- Policy and Service delivery environment
- Household level care
- Education
- Health care
- Security and protection
- Psychosocial support
- Community economic capacity building and resource mobilization.
- Measuring the process (M&E)

POLICY & SERVICE DELIVERY ENVIRONMENT

- Generating political will
- Coordination, supervision and management of service provision (National, regional, district, and community levels)

POLICY & SERVICE DELIVERY ENVIRONMENT

- Roles of DSW, other line ministries and institutions.
- Policy ,guidelines and regulatory framework
- Advocacy and social mobilization.

HOUSEHOLD LEVEL CARE

- Food security and nutrition
- Shelter (availability and quality)
- Bedding and clothing
- Personal hygiene
- Child rearing and upbringing
- Foster care ,adoption, and availability of care providers

EDUCATION

- Pre–school programmes (early childhood education, day care centres, pre-primary school, kindergarten and nursery school)
- Primary and secondary school education
- Vocational training

HEALTH CARE

- IMCI, Growth monitoring and PMTCT
- Health services (including care and treatment, home based care for children with HIV/AIDS)
- Access to clean and safe water
- Sanitation and hygiene

Psychosocial support

- Loved
- Recognized and accepted
- A valued member of the family and community
- Respected
- Comforted
- Involved, to participate in activities
- Protected from all sort of harm
- Given opportunity to play
- Listened to and guided.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

- Safety nets
- Child participation
- Social protection
- Child rights and community based justice
- Life skills.

MEASURING THE PROCESS (M&E)

- Developing the M&E framework.
- Community capacity development
- Resource mobilization (develop a framework for resource mobilization)

Collaborators

- Regional Administration and Local Government
- Sector ministries responsible with children issues
- Civil society organization
- Development partners e.g UNICEF, USAID, FHI, DFID

Coordination

- National Steering Committee for OVC
- National Technical Committee for OVC
- Implementing partners group for OVC

Icebreaker: Network Search

Look at the list below and find someone who fits each of these categories. Write the person's first name down next to the question.

- Find someone who -----
- Works with orphans and vulnerable children
- Has the same favorite food as you
- Serves on an OVCC committee
- Has the same birthday month as you
- Works in an NGO serving orphans.
- Has the same number of children as you do
- Has been working at their present job for at least 5 years
- Has the same number of siblings as you do
- Has recently moved their place of residence
- Has read a book that you have recently read
- Has traveled farther than you to come to this training
- Has worked with children and families longer than you have

Required

Overview of the Social Work Process for
Working with Orphans and Vulnerable Children
Affected by HIV

Required

Social Work Process for Working with Orphans and Vulnerable Children Affected by HIV

- 1. Outreach and Identification**
- 2. Engagement of Orphans and Families**
- 3. Assessing Needs and Strengths**

Required

Social Work Process for Working with Orphans and Vulnerable Children Affected by HIV

- 4. Developing a Plan of Care: Networking and Identifying and Referral to Other Resources**
- 5. Providing Support and Services within the context of your organization**
 - **Helping HIV Affected Orphans and Vulnerable Children**
 - **Counseling OVC and Their Families**
 - **Developing Support Structures for OVC and their Families**
- 6. Ongoing case management, Advocacy and Follow-up**

Required

Identifying OVC

Required

Background

- More than 13 million children under the age of fifteen, most of them in the sub-Saharan Africa, have lost one or both parents to AIDS.
- This number is expected to increase to more than 25 million by the year 2010

Required

Background

- HIV and AIDS makes the task of protecting children both more difficult and more urgent.
- Because of the threat of AIDS, children subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation not only face severe psychosocial damage and physical injury; their very lives are endangered.

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

Definition of Orphan:

- children below 18 years who have lost either a mother, a father, or both parents to any cause of death.

Required

Vulnerable children are:

- Children whose parents are chronically ill.
 - These children may be more vulnerable than orphans due to:
 - the psychosocial burden of watching a parent wither,
 - the economic burdens of reduced household productivity,
 - reduced income and increased health care expenses

Required

Vulnerable children are:

- Children living in households that have taken in orphans.
 - When a household absorbs orphans, existing household resources must be spread more thinly among all children in the household.

Source: World Vision Ethiopia/WVE

Required

Labeling

- The term 'AIDS orphans' should not be used because:
 - Parents rarely know their HIV status.
 - The term may lead to stigmatization and discrimination against orphans.

Source: WVE

Required

Why focus on OVC?

- OVC are among those most severely affected by AIDS and most neglected in AIDS programming.
- Investing in OVC is investing in the future strength and security of communities and countries.
- Care for OVC is a powerful common ground for initiating AIDS responses in communities

Source: WVE

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

1. Initial Mobilization Planning

- Community members, local authorities, FBO and other actors in the community.
- Mobilize actors at district and village levels.

2. OVC Identification and Registration

- Household surveys in each village

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

3. Identify priorities for the vulnerable groups

- Examine the current situation of OVC in the community (situation analysis)
- Identify critical community strengths and weaknesses affecting development and support to OVC.

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

3. Identify priorities for the vulnerable groups,
(con't)

- Identify strategies, activities and actions that will address needs of OVC and assist development in the community.
- Stakeholder analysis:
 - Develop community plans indicating what the community itself can do and
 - identify other possible partners to meet the gaps.

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

4. Ensure participation by all stakeholders,

- Needs of children
- Strengths within the community that can be built on
- Opportunities that exist in the community.
- Existence of OVC registers

Source: WVE

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

- Community level information which is relevant in OVC identification and programming include:
 - Household characteristics:
 - Existing social services:
 - Summary of Key OVC needs:

Source: WVE

Required

Process Steps in OVC Identification...

OVC Identification and Registration Format

Required

Guiding principles for OVC programming

- Strengthen the caring and economic coping capacities of families and secondary caregivers (guardian angels) through community based approaches
- Enhance the capacity of families and communities to respond to the psychosocial needs of orphans, vulnerable children, and their caregivers

Guiding principles for OVC programming

- Strengthen the protection and care of orphans and vulnerable children within their extended families and communities
- Encourage approaches that allow children to remain in communities rather than being institutionalized
- Foster linkages between HIV and AIDS prevention activities, home based care, and efforts to support orphans and vulnerable children

Guiding principles for OVC programming

- Target the most vulnerable children, not only orphans
- Ensure gender awareness in all the interventions
- Encourage children and adolescents to participate in identifying solutions and making decisions that affect them
- Support schools and ensure access to education

Guiding principles for OVC programming

- Reduce stigma and discrimination
- Accelerate learning and information sharing
- Strengthen partners and partnerships at all levels and build coalitions among key Stakeholders
- Ensure that external support strengthens and does not undermine community initiative and motivation

Source: WVE

Panel Presentation

Community caregivers and programs:

Real life examples