Economic Strengthening for Vulnerable Children
Workshop objectives

• Equip participants to apply evidence to match economic-strengthening interventions to beneficiary profiles and contexts.

• Equip participants to design and plan economic-strengthening interventions that link with HIV/health and other interventions to maximize beneficiary well-being.

• Equip participants to integrate monitoring and evaluation activities into economic-strengthening project design to strengthen program implementation and build the evidence base.
ES interventions, target populations, economic well-being

Linkages, scalability & sustainability, organizational capacities, M&E

Pathways & graduation, evidence base, assessments

Evaluation, program design

Workshop Map
Getting to know each other

• What is your name?
• What is the name of your organization?
• Why are you interested in learning more about economic strengthening?
Economic strengthening is the portfolio of interventions that . . .

- Supply, protect and/or grow physical, natural, financial, human and social assets.
- Reduce the economic vulnerability of households and thereby improve their resiliency to future shocks.
- Reduce the economic vulnerability of families and empower them to provide for the essential needs of the children in their care.
Why do you want to conduct economic-strengthening activities?
Economic-strengthening pathway

- Recover assets and stabilize household consumption
- Build self-insurance mechanisms and protect key assets
- Smooth household income and promote asset growth
- Smooth household consumption and manage household cash flow
- Expand household income and consumption

Destitution, households and children in distress

Secure and resilient households, child well-being

Adapted from Jason Wolfe and Colleen Green (2012)
Vulnerabilities

Assets
Describe your child, adult or household

1. Give them a name
2. Draw them
3. List their vulnerabilities, assets, and other characteristics.

Natasha Hanova, Child Silhouette, Flickr
Levels of economic well-being

- In destitution
- Struggling to make ends meet
- Prepared to grow
### Economic Well-Being and ES Category

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Households that are...</th>
<th>Are ready for livelihood...</th>
<th>Which includes strategies to...</th>
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Adapted from LIFT and PEPFAR
Types of ES interventions
ES Interventions

- Savings and loan groups
- Individual savings
- Asset transfers (usually cash)
- Income-generating activities
- Skills training
- Job creation
- Food security/nutrition
- Microinsurance
- Legal services
- Business loans/microcredit
- Market linkages
ES Interventions

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The economic-strengthening continuum

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## Economic Well-Being and ES Category

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- **PROMOTION**
  - Enterprise development
    - Skills training/job creation
    - Income-generating activities
    - Business loans
    - Market linkages

- **PROTECTION**
  - Money management
    - Group and individual savings
    - Food security/nutrition
    - Insurance services
    - Legal services

- **PROVISION**
  - Consumption support
    - Asset and cash transfers
    - Food aid
    - (Social pensions)
    - (Public works)

Adapted from LIFT and PEPFAR
Pathways and Graduation
Economic strengthening pathway

- Recover assets and stabilize household consumption
- Build self-insurance mechanisms and protect key assets
- Smooth household income and promote asset growth
- Smooth household consumption and manage household cash flow
- Expand household income and consumption

Secure and resilient households, child well-being

Adapted from Jason Wolfe and Colleen Green (2012)
“Graduation” describes a comprehensive program that addresses all steps of the pathway, from bottom to top.
Fonkoze’s graduation model
Trickle Up / CGAP Graduation model

THE GRADUATION APPROACH

0 MONTHS  3 MONTHS  6 MONTHS  18 MONTHS  36 MONTHS

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

CONSUMPTION SUPPORT

SAVINGS

SKILLS TRAINING

ASSET TRANSFER

ACCESS TO CREDIT

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

MARKET ANALYSIS

REGULAR COACHING

POVERTY LINE

EXTREME POVERTY

ASPIRES  USAID  PEPFAR  FHI  GRAMEEN FOUNDATION
Models can be used to …

- Develop a program’s theory of change
  - Understand how HHs will grow through ES activities
  - Design ES activities that match vulnerabilities and assets of target populations
- Design linkages between steps on the pathway
  - Within a given program or with other programs
- Develop a program’s exit strategy
Discuss:

- Ways in which the models could be used to design an ES intervention
- Comprehensive graduation approach vs. focus on a limited number of "steps" on a given pathway
What’s the evidence?
Field experience / anecdotes

- Interviews, case studies
- Client surveys

Quasi-experimental with non-randomized comparison group

Randomized control trials (RCTs)

Source: *Savings Groups at the Frontier*, edited by Candace Nelson, 2013
Association

- Field experience / anecdotes
- Interviews, case studies
- Client surveys
- Quasi-experimental with non-randomized comparison group
- Randomized control trials (RCTs)

Causality

Source: *Savings Groups at the Frontier*, edited by Candace Nelson, 2013
“The preponderance of evidence to date validates a conceptual framework for the role of [economic strengthening] approaches in OVC programs.”

PEPFAR, “Reassessing Care Priorities”
Assessing the “Orphan Effect,” based on DHS data from 11 countries in eastern and southern Africa, “Household wealth is the single most important correlate of better (child) outcomes.”

Penelope Campbell et al., *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 5: 1, April 2010, pp. 12-32
Household economic status and parental education level are the most consistent predictors of negative outcomes for children.

Priscilla Atwani Akwara et al, AIDS Care, 22: 9, September 2010, pp. 1066-1085
Economic vulnerability & risk of HIV infection

• **Weak/conflicting evidence**
  
  • HIV hits all socioeconomic classes. Some evidence that poverty may lead to riskier behavior (e.g., transactional/commercial sex). Other studies in sub-Saharan Africa have found higher HIV risk in less economically vulnerable households.
Economic vulnerability & ability to cope with HIV infection

- Stronger evidence that poverty limits
  - family’s capacity to protect children against the effects of HIV/AIDS and
  - uptake and impact of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment
Strong evidence for impact

- **Cash Transfers**
  - The most robust evidence base employing the most rigorous methodologies

- **Savings Groups**
  - Evidence for the important role of savings is solid and growing

- **Legal Services**
  - Evidence suggests that birth registration is critical to ensuring that children can access essential services
Weak evidence for impact

Interventions to promote income generation have the weakest evidence base for OVC programming. …Of all HES interventions, family income promotion has the most distant causal links with child well-being.
Mixed evidence for impact

• Individual savings
• Skills training
• Microinsurance
• Food security/nutrition
• Job creation
• Business loans
• Microcredit
• Market linkages
In general, evidence suggests that ES interventions

- produce more powerful results when part of a multi-sectoral approach;
- add value when added to noneconomic programs;
- produce better results when they target women, who are more likely than men to invest in their children; and
- require specialized expertise to design and implement successfully.
Road map from project activities to desired impact
Improved protection and well-being of children
Promote savings groups
Agricultural training
Dialogue on child rights

Project activities

Outputs

Outcomes

Impacts

4000 women participating in SG
3000 women trained in improved soil management
500 community groups participating in dialogues

Smother income and expenditure
Reduced intra-household tension
Higher income
Greater food security
More spending on children
Less violence and abuse

Improved protection and well-being of children
OVC programs have often lacked robust program evaluations and, at times, adequate monitoring and data-tracking systems, in part due to a lack of funds committed to this area.

To combat this deficit, programs are advised to allocate AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OF THEIR PROGRAM BUDGETS to ensure adequate funds for M&E activities.

PEPFAR OVC Guidance, 2012
Laying the foundation: Assessments
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Market analysis

Gender analysis

Household-livelihood assessment

Child/caregiver well-being
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Market analysis

Gender analysis

Household-livelihood assessment

Child/caregiver well-being
Why conduct a situation analysis?

- To mobilize financial resources and other forms of support for action
- To identify best strategies, entry points, partnerships
- To inform a targeting strategy that is inclusive but HIV-sensitive
  - When economic status of target households is understood, interventions can be designed to attract their involvement and meet their needs.
- To inform strategy for sustainability
- To create an M&E framework for continued assessment of the situation
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Market analysis

Gender analysis

Household-livelihood assessment

Child/caregiver well-being
Understand livelihoods holistically

Determine household and community needs

Examine intra-household poverty

Understand local opportunities and capabilities

Establish a baseline
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Household-livelihood assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver well-being

Gender analysis
Child and caregiver well-being assessments

- **Child Status Index (CSI)**
  - Widely used one-page tool to identify needs of children. Useful for case management, program planning, and monitoring, but not for targeting or evaluation.

- **OVC Well-being Tool (OWT)**
  - Two-page self-report measure for OVC ages 13-18. Results are used to monitor OVC programs over time.

- **Measure Evaluation OVC toolkit**
  - Includes surveys on well-being of children (ages 0–9 and 10–17) and caregivers
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Market analysis

Gender analysis

Household-livelihood assessment

Child/caregiver well-being
Gender assessment

1. How will the different roles and status of women and men in the community, political sphere, workplace and household affect the intervention?

2. How will the anticipated results of the intervention affect women and men differently?
Gender analysis is mandatory for USAID projects

USAID Tips for Conducting a Gender Analysis at the Activity or Project Level

Guide to Gender Integration and Analysis
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Market analysis

Household-livelihood assessment

Child/caregiver well-being

Gender analysis

Wild mushrooms, Kenya, Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project, Accessed via Flickr
Situation analysis

Cost assessment

Household-livelihood assessment

Market analysis

Child/caregiver well-being

Gender analysis
Assessment tools

1. What specific information will this tool tell us? What will it NOT tell us?

2. Complete the phrase: *This tool would be useful for an organization that _____.*

3. How might you be able to use what you learn from such an assessment?
Assessment costs

- Literature review: $10,000
- Situation analysis: $25,000
- Household-livelihood assessment: $20,000
- Gender analysis: $15,000
- Child vulnerability assessment: $15,000
- Market analysis: $65,000
- Cost assessment: $25,000
HES is a necessary but potentially insufficient intervention to achieve impacts for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

It is critical to integrate HES approaches with other complementary interventions to maximize scale and OVC-related outcomes.

PEPFAR OVC Guidance, 2012
Unified Model

Parallel Model

Linked Model
3 models of integration

Unified
- Same organization
- Same service-delivery staff
- Same end user

Parallel
- Same organization
- Different service-delivery staff
- Same end user

Linked
- Different organizations
- Different service-delivery staff
- Same end users
Evidence suggests that a multi-sectoral approach (i.e., ES that is integrated, complementary, or linked with health, nutrition, etc.) produces more powerful results.
Look at primary activities and the additional activities and think about the best approach—making it parallel, unified or linked? Why? Does the evidence base tell you anything about this?

You can also make other assumptions about the context for these activities. For example, you might say, “This region has a government-sponsored feeding program for OVC.”
Scalability
“Social protection offers an important systemic and country-owned approach that can ... scale up a family-centered response for children.”

PEPFAR OVC Guidance
Scalability starts with good market analysis

- Identify promising markets
- Increased business and technical skills
- Meet market demand

Market analysis

Intervention

Achieve scalability
Mapped are regions where you would like to offer agriculture services (improved seeds, training, and linkages to urban markets) to help increase HH incomes. Resources are limited, and your initial estimate shows it costs up to 5x more to serve the poorest HHs rather than the least poor…
Organizational capacity and partnerships
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**STRENGTHS**
What are we good at?

**WEAKNESSES**
What do we do poorly?

**INTERNAL FACTORS**
- Positive Influences
- Negative Influences

**EXTERNAL FACTORS**

**OPPORTUNITIES**
What are our best strategies for growth? What resources can we take advantage of?

**THREATS**
What can get in our way? Which dangers might we be able to prepare for?
Evaluation

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“Measuring project effectiveness, relevance, and efficiency, disclosing those findings to stakeholders, and using evaluation findings to inform resource allocation and other decisions is a core responsibility of a publicly financed entity.”

“Evaluations of projects that are well designed and executed can systematically generate knowledge about the magnitude and determinants of project performance, permitting those who design and implement projects, and who develop programs and strategies … to refine designs and introduce improvements into future efforts.”

Why is the evaluation being conducted, and why now? What information is needed? Who will use the information, and how?

What are the objectives of the evaluation?

Better to answer a few questions well than to answer more questions superficially.

Unit of analysis, time period to be evaluated, geographic coverage.
Evaluation criteria

- Standards against which the intervention will be assessed.

Relevance

- Is there a demand for the evaluation? Which future decisions will this evaluation inform?

Evaluation methods

- How will the evaluation collect and analyze data, interpret findings, and report results?

Indicators

- How will findings be measured?
Stakeholders for the evaluation


Gender aspects

- Will the evaluation assess intervention’s gender mainstreaming, equal access?

Capacity-building

- How does the evaluation contribute to capacity-building?
Accountability

Learning
Principles and Practices of Economic Strengthening

Program Design and Implementation
Why do you want to conduct economic-strengthening activities?
What changes can happen if your organization applies what you have learned during this workshop?
Acknowledgement

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