The impact of HIV/AIDS on lives of orphaned children and their guardians

Kenya
Joyce Sillah Jol...

Project Summary

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

About You

Location
- Project Street Address
- Project City
- Project Province/State
- Project Postal/Zip Code
- Project Country

Your idea

Country your work focuses on:
Kenya. There are so many vulnerable children in the Coast Region of Kenya. For a start, am focusing on Mombasa District, then Kwaile, Malindi, Tana-River, Kilifi and Taita Taveta will be brought on board.

Website URL

What stage is your project in?
Idea phase

YouTube Upload

What is the average monthly household income in your target community, in US Dollars?
<$100

Innovation

Describe your idea in fewer than 50 words.

Since a lot has been said about the poor Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV/AIDS practices in Kenya; The National AIDS Control Council has for example been loosing a lot of funds to fictions organizations that applied for financial support yet in reality they never did exist.

What makes your idea unique?

A number of programs principles and models have blossomed from cumulative experience of the National AIDS Control Council of Kenya and International groups working with children affected on infected of AIDS. The first consensus is that the first priority is to strengthen family and community capacity to support orphans. Institutional care has a lace where abandoned and desperate children are concerned, but it is costly and ineffective at ensuring a maturing environment. Having noted these loop-holes, my idea – program will reach all orphans and vulnerable children rather than singling out those affected by AIDS. By paying special attention to the vulnerabilities of girl orphans and to needs of older children for skills to support and protect themselves will be another milestone.

There is great need of reaching children early – as soon as their parents fall sick-rather than waiting until they become orphans. The idea must be guided by the fundamental rights of children to family, community and culture, to educate and lay, to health and safety, and – very important – to a voice in the issues that affect them. The immerse challenge that remains is to deliver protection and services to all children infected and affected by AIDS, and to do so for decades to come. However, the best thing that we can do for children is to keep their parents alive, not only with access sound medical care, but through a relentless effort toward ultimate goal prevention.

What is your area of work? (Please check as many as apply.)
- Children & Youth
- At risk youth
- Behavioral issues
- Child exploitation
- Child protection
- Early childhood development
- Scholarships and grants
- HIV/AIDS
- Substance abuse
- Vulnerable populations

What impact have you had?

As of the year 2000, over 15.6 million children (below 15yrs) had been orphaned by HIV/AIDS worldwide (Hunter and Williamson 2000). Of these, the vast majority are in the sub-Saharan Africa. The impact of adult illness on the children starts when a aren't is diagnosed as HIV-positive or become ill with HIV/AIDS. Baseline data from the current study demonstrate that children orphaned by AIDS suffer physical, educational and emotional setbacks.
Property grabbing is widespread, with women and children especially vulnerable. This phenomenon further undermines the livelihood of households that are already weakened by the death of adult breadwinners. Despite the valid concerns about property grabbing, only 10% of parents in this study have reared written wills.

Many guardians are in poor health and some are even infected with HIV/AIDS. Among parents who have not appointed a guardian, some report that the person they have in mind is HIV-positive, old, sick or ‘likely to die before I do’. With elderly relatives and others in poor health comprising the “safety net” it is likely that many children will loose not one or two, but a series of caregivers and relatives.

Study participants say that material support is what they need most.

Most older children want their parents to tell them the truth about being HIV positive. Most older orphans who know that a parent died of AIDS say that parents should disclose their own serostatus to their children.

Describe the primary problem(s) that your project is addressing.

In the context of HIV infection, both parents are likely to be infected and possibly ill or dying and the mother may be quite isolated and not have assistance from the father of the children; who may have died or is unavailable. Future planning for the children can create peace of mind for the parents by assuring that the children will be cared for according to the parents’ wishes concerning their future. Future planning is a difficulty and complex process that requires considerable time and effort and should be initiated in a sensitive manner early in the course of illness. Parents often are reluctant to initiate such planning because of a sense of guilt, denial of the seriousness of the illness, or fear that others may learn about the diagnosis.

This project is addressing six forms of problems in-order to make it a success.

- **Social participation** – informal conversation, relaxation and temporary diversion.
- **Feedback** – giving people information to and fro
- **Listening** – the feelings, personal concerns frustration for the framework.
- **Physical assistance** - that includes physical work.
- **Tangible Aid** – in form of money, food, shelter and other basic needs.
- **Acceptance**:

  - **Shock**: The universal first reaction to hearing the news was/is “No”.
  - **Denial**: This cant be happening to me/us.
  - **Anger**: This anger is directed to the family or an individual.
  - **Bargaining**: Patients typically hope that God would extend their life or curse them in exchange for promised behaviour change.
  - **Grieving**: This is the longest lasting period/stage of the circle and is marked by deep depression and mood shroings
  - **Acceptance**: Once this stage is reached, the patient uses whatever time remaining to put their houses/relationships/lives in order.

  Children orphaned by HIV/AIDS are vulnerable in almost all aspects of their lives. They witness the prolonged illness and death of one or more family members. They suffer mental distress as a result.

  Through proper feeding, love, counseling, medication and education, these vulnerable can extend their lives, living longer than when neglected.

There are many AIDS-affected households that lack adequate food, and the child nutrition suffers as a result. Routine immunizations and other preventive care can be overlooked by sick parents or new guardians, leaving AIDS-affected children prone to illness. In fostering households, poverty deepens with each orphan taken in. Thus, overwhelmed guardians may choose to feed their own children first leaving orphans hungry and malnourished. So I need to do what is good for the orphans that which a parent would have wished to do for their children.

Describe the steps that your organization is taking to make your project successful.

For this project too be a success, collaboration on a study to access the impact of an orphan support program is essential. This program will study on the physical, educational and the wellbeing of children. There is need to have a succession planning in which children are reached before the death of a parent. Intervention including helping parents to write wills and appoint guardians, creating family “memory book” and other activities that promote the long term well being of children.

With qualified personnel and counselors, problems that may need more attention are:-

- **Teaching social skills**
- **Building social support**
- **Equipping lay people**
- **Getting help from others**
- **Preventing problems**

  - **Changing the individuals, family and community.**
  - **Recognizing the special needs that the children may have, during the transition from intact to a separated family.**
  - **Prevent acting out-the development of a poor self-concept and academic failure among children of separated family.**
  - **Building practical, situationally relevant problem-solving skills (Cowen 1985)**

What will it take for your project to be successful over the next three years? Success in Year 1:

The main objective of this project is ‘child wellbeing’ which comprises school attendance and performance, physical health, nutrition, psychosocial status and exposure to negative events, such as abuse.

These needs proper planning-and so:- Success in year 1 will take Data collection

The study participants will consist of parents who are living with HIV/AIDS, current and standby guardians, children of people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans. The research team will follow the study participants over the course of three observations which will collect the data through semi-structured interviews which will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour. These interviews will be conducted in the participants house with as much privacy as possible. The project implementers will contact an in-depth interviews and focus group discussion within program clients.

Success in Year 2:

Selection and description of study participants

Researchers will recruit two types of households with HIV positives and households with an orphan. All the respondents will be recruited through re-existing services for the same.

The researchers will ask parents to identify a standby guardian-the person mostly likely to care for the children in future and children who will
participate in the study not excluding orphans from child-headed household. Description of the sample will be drawn in order to study the collected data. Data analysis:
Data will be analyzed using the samples of collection. To determine the significance in characteristics between different types of research participants, they will conduct cross tabulation and chi-square analyses.

Success in Year 3:
Baseline findings
Researchers will draw conclusions as to where most/least respondents are from and their media of communication. They (researchers) will draw sample of data on respondents after their socioeconomic status, widowhood and foster parenting, broaden of care for orphans by sex, wellbeing of parents and planning for the future. Psychological issues as concerns about children and other psychological issues among parents will be logically and psychologically analyzed.

Do you have a business plan or strategic plan? (yes/no)
not yet ready
What are the three most important actions needed to grow your initiative or organization? STEP 1:
Assessing the problems of HIV/AIDS orphans
The range and the scale of problems confronted by orphaned should/will be thoroughly understood before targeted interventions can succeed. The question ‘exactly how are the rights of the HIV/AIDS orphans being violated?’ Should be looked into beyond impersonal labor statistics to the human realities behind them.
The findings may be partly descriptive, partly analytical, partly anecdotal quoting the children’s own voices.

What are the three most important actions needed to grow your initiative or organization? STEP 2:
Selecting the project countries/districts
For practical reasons, the pilot project will be restricted to handful of districts in Kenya region. These selected districts will be on the basis of their existing government programmes for orphaned children, the potential for coordination with other child/orphan protection programming (such as education, early childhood care and advocacy efforts in general).

What are the three most important actions needed to grow your initiative or organization? STEP 3:
Building consensus with the project partners
Community leaders-both traditional/government chiefs should play an active part in project planning and discussions. The deliberations also will involve representatives from other community – based organizations. Women groups, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) ministries and particularly labor ministry, education ministry, education, cultural and environment ministry. These discussions will launch valuable debate on the perceived causes of HIV/AIDS orphans and how to collaboratively join efforts to curb more negative motives.
Listening to the children-the building consensus team will gather the NGO staff adolescents from the community and in some cases former/older rehabilitated HIV/AIDS orphans will interview the orphans in their own dilate and own local language to bring out their own core of experiences.

Describe the expected results of these actions.
Overall, the raid assessment will demonstrate both feasibility and the importance of children participation in assessing the harsh realities of child labor in Mombasa, Kilifi, Malindi, Kwale and Taita Taveta districts. It will be possible to carry out this raid assessments successfully to few individuals cases mostly because of the secrecy that continues to surround HIV/AIDS in most districts in the region. Indeed, the sick persons themselves may not know they are suffering from AIDS because testing and counseling services are so inaccessible. Even when parents die, it is not always known, admitted that the death is from AIDS.

What was the defining moment that led you to this innovation?
During a psychological study, I learnt about community psychology which opened my eyes in problems communities suffer without anyone reaching out to hel. Some of their challenges are just simple to deal with, but due to non-leadership, organizations or proper trainings – these people live in problems that they cant come out of.
Some of the problems the community experience are noise, crowding, architecture and weather. I learnt that these environmental influences affect the community and they (community) can be taught on how to manage these issues themselves, so that they can accept and improve on their living conditions.
The interest of helping out these communities started building u in me and I started helping within my living area on specific issue of ‘improving our living standards’. From this point I saw that I can do a better and greater improvement with assistance from qualified personnel.

Tell us about the social innovator behind this idea.
From the idea which influenced me into improving our environmental standards of living, I felt encouraged that the community was helpful. The society noticed the difference voluntary work has done within a short time, so the next community was interested to be included also in the exercise (simply cleaning the environment). With qualified personnel, and proper programming I was persuaded that communities need changes by using local material and inatives from within themselves.

How did you first hear about Changemakers?
First heard about them from the Daily Nation – where this advertisement was written.
What can make this idea phase or any real project not to succeed is:
Mismanagement of funds, poverty, discrimination among the staff, the orphans and community, civil rights, racism and missing founders.
During data collection and analysis is not properly drawn, then miscalculations bring out wrong figures which will fail the project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If yes, provide organization name.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How long has this organization been operating? (i.e. less than a year; 1-5 years; more than 5 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does your organization have a Board of Directors or an Advisory Board?
no

Does your organization have any non-monetary partnerships with NGOs? (yes/no)
no

Does your organization have any non-monetary partnerships with businesses? (yes/no)
no

---

**The Story**

Does your organization have any non-monetary partnerships with government? (yes/no)
no

Please tell us more about how these partnerships are critical to the success of your innovation.

How many people will your project serve annually?
For start it will serve fewer than 100 people

What is the total number of employees and total number of volunteers at your organization?
N/a - will need at least 10 to start

What is your organization's business classification?
Not registered

Have you received funding from any of the following groups? (Please check as many as apply.)
None of the above.

Source URL: https://www.changemakers.com/educationafrica/entries/impact-hivaids-lives-orphaned-children-and-their#comment-0