

FIELD REALITIES IN IMPLEMENTING HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS: CRS KENYA EXPERIENCES

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ABOUT CRS- WHO ARE WE?

- INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
- STARTED IN 1943 BY AMERICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS
- CURRENT PROGRAMS IN 94 COUNTRIES
- MAIN PROGRAMMING AREAS: Agriculture, Education, Emergency response, Health Care, HIV/AIDS, Micro-finance/Small Enterprise & Peace building

CRS KENYA PROGRAM UNITS

- AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCE
- COMMUNITY HEALTH
- HIV/AIDS
- PEACE BUILDING & GLOBAL SOLIDARITY
- MONITORING & EVALUATION

CRS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

- PEPFAR FUNDED ART PROGRAM (AIDSRELIEF)
- PEPFAR FUNDED OVC PROGRAM
- PRIVATELY FUNDED OVC PROGRAM (THE CHILDREN BEHIND- TCB)
- TITLE II FOOD DISTRIBUTION
- WISHH SOY PILOT PROJECT

CRS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

- PEPFAR FUNDED ART PROGRAM (AIDSRELIEF)
 - ✓ 5 year intervention, started March 2004
 - ✓ Implemented in 9 countries
 - ✓ Undertaken by a consortium of 5 organizations
 - ✓ Objective is to increase ART access

CRS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

- PEPFAR FUNDED OVC PROGRAM
 - ✓ 5 year intervention, started in March 2004
 - ✓ Implemented in 5 countries
 - ✓ Objective is improving the quality of life of 56,700 orphans and Vulnerable Children affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Tanzania Rwanda, Zambia, and Haiti
 - ✓ In Kenya, we target 20,000 OVC

CRS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

- PRIVATELY FUNDED OVC PROGRAM (THE CHILDREN BEHIND- TCB)
 - ✓ Started in year 2000, currently in second phase
 - ✓ Work with 3 partners to improve quality of life for 6,000 OVC & their families and 2,000 care-givers
 - ✓ Provide education, nutrition, health, VCT and ART services

CRS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

- TITLE II FOOD DISTRIBUTION
 - ✓ Work with Archdiocese of Mombasa
 - ✓ Provide food to 3,500 households (10,000 people) affected by HIV/AIDS
 - ✓ Beneficiaries are part of VCT and HBC programs which are now creating linkages with ART services

CRS HIV/AIDS PROGRAMS

- WISHH SOY PILOT PROJECT
 - ✓ Started in May 2004
 - ✓ It's a 6 months pilot, ending February 2005
 - ✓ Working with 2 partners to test suitability of soy products (Textured Soy Protein & Soy flour) with OVC, PLWHA in rural and urban slum poor

LESSONS LEARNT

- INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING- synergistic interventions add value to quality of life
- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT- creates ownership, able to mobilize resources & attain sustainability
- NETWORKING & CREATION OF LINKAGES- share resources & lessons learnt, avoid duplication & promote best practices

LESSONS LEARNT cont...

Specific to the Soy Pilot.

1. Majority of PLWHA felt revitalized after using the products
2. Since no further cooking is required, the beneficiaries find soy less time and energy consuming
3. The beneficiaries prefer adding soy to the locally available foods as opposed to adapting new recipes
4. Since soy takes on the taste of the foods they are added to, they have not interfered with local preferences
5. The use of soy in schools has attracted more children to school as most are not assured of any other meal

CHALLENGES

- CULTURAL FACTORS- leading to stigma, unfavourable practices has fuelled HIV spread
- RESOURCES- insufficient for complementary services (Nutrition, HBC, VCT) & growing needs from OVC & PLWHA
- STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT & COORDINATION- many actors but not well involved and coordinated
- POLICY GUIDELINES- no clear policy guidelines on OVC, PLWHA

EFFORTS TO TACKLE CHALLENGES

- CULTURAL FACTORS- undertake education interventions through BCC strategies
- RESOURCES- solicit for funds from Donors and private contributions, also design programs with community contribution
- STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT & COORDINATION- participate in meetings and involve others in joint plans
- POLICY GUIDELINES- participate in some policy formulation meetings

CONCLUSION

NEED TO CREATE STRONGER
LINKAGES, LOCALLY &
INTERNATIONALLY, TO MOBILIZE
& SHARE RESOURCES, LEARN
FROM EACH OTHER, RESEARCH &
DOCUMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR
EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING