

A Review of World Vision's Experience: Food Aid in Support of Health and Nutrition

**WISHH Washington Workshop
Carol Jenkins
February 25, 2004**

Presentation Outline

- **Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments**
- **Key Lessons learned**
- **Some Considerations**

Assessments: Overview

- **FS / Vulnerability Assessments**
- **“Integrated” Assessments: Food access, availability, utilization**
- **Consider issues related to food as the resource – (Zimbabwe example – security, do-no-harm, and GMO issues)**

Nutrition and Health Assessment

- **General Food and Health Statistics** – food supply, causes of mortality and morbidity, access to health services, family size, etc.
- **Diet and Nutrition Items** – presence of malnutrition, presence of veg. gardens, food availability, micronutrients, diet quality and quantity, consumption data, staple foods
- **Practices and Behaviors** – intra-household food distrib., breastfeeding, food taboos, preparation methods, cultural traditions
- **Food Aid Specific** – estimation of requirements, appropriateness of food aid

HIV/AIDS in Assessment

- The entry point should be situated in nutrition and food security
- For HIV/AIDS, food aid has potential to reduce susceptibility to HIV and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS impacts by:
 - Increasing food and livelihood security via FFW and FFT
 - Supplementing dietary intake of vulnerable groups such as young children and pregnant/lactating mothers
 - Enabling human capital formation through school feeding and FFT
 - Encouraging participation in a certain activity such as health care
 - Providing relief during emergencies

Lessons Learned

- Many health, nutrition, and HIV/AIDS interventions require cash, not food aid
- How does a PVO reconcile the revealed “need” with the Donor requirements and policies where inconsistencies exist?
- Food aid provides “reach” to beneficiaries from which expanded support can occur
- Food aid is not just a nutritional supplement – it plays a far greater role in development

Lessons Learned for HIV/AIDS Programming

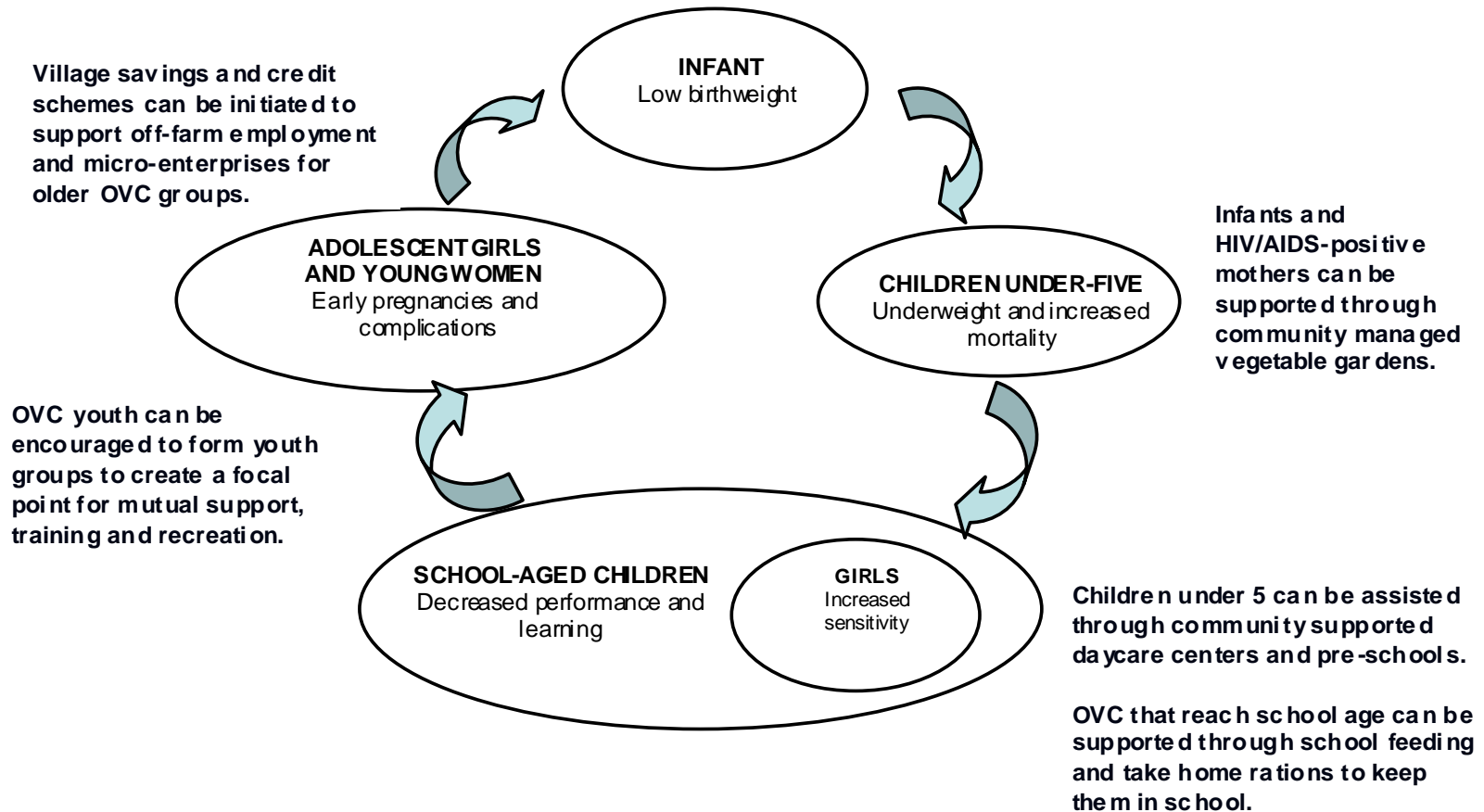
- Some programs target PLWHA households
 - Advantages: Helps ensure that aid reaches the intended beneficiaries
 - Disadvantages: Discriminates against the HIV- poor; can undermine community care for beneficiaries; can incentivize contracting HIV
- Linkages are a key strategy for maximizing coverage and efficiency in integration of HIV/AIDS and food security (Gov't, NGOs, FBOs, etc)
- Whenever possible, food aid should be complemented by more developmental approaches to building food security

Lessons Learned for HIV/AIDS Programming

- **Promote labor-saving, highly nutritious crops**
- **Provide labor-saving tools and technologies**
- **Train home-based care providers in preparation of more nutritious meals using available foods**
- **Train vulnerable children/adolescents in farming, marketing, and management skills**
- **Support school feeding and school gardens in heavily HIV/AIDS-affected communities**
- **Provide food aid (supplementary feeding, micronutrients, etc.) and agricultural inputs through existing community care structures where possible: local home-based care initiatives, community care coalitions, etc.**

Lifecycle Approach

Supplemental feeding for expectant mothers to ensure proper nutrition.



Adapted from 'Nutrition through the Life Cycle' by Nina Sines, ACC/SCN, 2000.

Some Considerations

- **Managing the distinction between “development” and “relief” to target vulnerability (what Donor mechanisms exist?)**
- **Providing more nutritious food**
- **Providing *smaller quantities* of food to *larger #s* of people (implications re tonnages/distribution mechanisms?)**
- **Integrating multiple resources**
- **Targeting beneficiaries (avoid external requirements)**

Some Considerations

- **Ensuring that the full menu of “activities” is available for programming (e.g. school feeding)**
- **Finding ways to use local FBOs, NGOs, CBOs, etc. for food distribution while also complying with Reg. II**
- **Offering long-term commitments – 5 year DAPs are a “must”**
- **Understanding “process” as program (how vs. what)**
- **Understanding Consortia: collaboration is good; but, from macro level is FFP considering “service” capacity of their partners?**