

What is the role of Economic Strengthening in OVC program sustainability?

IMPLEMENTER INSIGHTS AND RETROSPECTIVE RESEARCH FINDINGS

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ASPIRES and Graduation

- Considerable progress in defining what graduation means for OVC programs – but is it sustainable?
- Limited data on sustainability of household-level outcomes after graduation. In response:
 - We turned to implementing partners to learn from their experiences
 - We collaborated with 4Children to conduct a qualitative sub-study of a large tracer study assessing sustainability of an OVC program in Kenya

Implementer Insights

- Design
 - 7 KIIs with OVC implementers across Africa
 - What are the features of a program that make its outcomes sustainable?
 - What are household characteristics most associated with resilience or backsliding after graduation?

Better Outcomes (2015 – 2020) Uganda	Massimo Lowicki-Zucca Chief of Party WorldEducation/Bantwana
SCORE (2011 -2018) Uganda	Rita Larok , Chief of Party AVSI Foundation
STEER (2013 – 2018) Nigeria	Halima Dikko , Deputy Chief of Party Save the Children
Turengere Abana (2012 – 2020) Rwanda	Adeline Manikuzwe , Technical Director FXB International
Twiyubake (2015 – 2020) Rwanda	Juste Kayihura , Director of Economic Strengthening Tona Isibo , Director of Monitoring, Evaluation, Results, and Learning Global Communities
Yekokeb Berhan (2011 – 2016) Ethiopia	Michael Haddish , ES Officer Pact

Box 1. OVC Programs and Key Informants

Implementer Insights

- Findings
 - Many of the households at risk of backsliding are those in our target groups
 - Responsible graduation is important but not always practiced
 - ES is important – but not all participants receive interventions
 - **Suggestions for sustainability:** partnering with local institutions and pairing resilience-building and social support interventions

Retrospective Research

- Design
 - Qualitative follow-up to 4Children's tracer study in Kenya
 - 59 IDIs with backslider and sustainers and 4 KIIs with implementers
 - Thematic analysis and qualitative comparative analysis
- Findings
 - Backsliding was common
 - ES seen as important to sustainability, but no one intervention came out as key in QCA
 - Dependency and dosage issues
 - Social/intra-household issues
 - Can all households graduate?

Making Sense and Next Steps

- ES matters as part of comprehensive package, but it may be overshadowed by high clinical targets and budget constraints
- Sustainability is linked to addressing social/intra-household and economic issues
- Not everyone will graduate
- Building economic capacity takes time and investment