Research Project Description: Source of the Nile Grandmothers and Orphans Support Project
Impact Evaluation
Site: Jinja, Uganda
Research Topic: Microfinance
Partner Organization: St. Francis Health Care Services

Description of FSD: Foundation for Sustainable Development is an international development organization that seeks to support communities in achieving their goals through asset-based development and international exchange in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. FSD provides opportunities for students and professionals to engage in real community development work—instead of a typical study abroad or drop-in service project program. FSD’s program sites are in six countries and eight cities, where for more than two decades it has supported more than 300 community partner organizations and trained more than 3,000 volunteers. Its community development efforts have maintained an ongoing project sustainability rate of nearly 80 percent, addressing health, social, environmental, and economic issues by responding to community priorities and offering training, grants, and volunteer support to community partner

Description of community partner: St. Francis Health Care Services is a non Governmental Organization which started in 1998. It is registered with the NGO Board registration No. S-5914/3033. St. Francis Health Care Services is accredited health centre III to Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau through Lugazi Catholic Diocese since 2003. It is also a Ministry of Health accredited antiretroviral treatment therapy (ART) centre. St. Francis’ scope of work is not limited to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment but encompasses interventions that directly mitigate the challenges that come with AIDS pandemic. St. Francis has a community social welfare arm that addresses the psychosocial issues affecting the households we serve. Through this arm, St. Francis in partnership with AVSI project has been implementing a SCORE (Comprehensive Response for vulnerable children and their families) project aimed at empowering poor households with a knowledge/skills based approach

Social Issue: The project that is intended to undertake a research evaluation is the grandmothers and orphans project which since 2006 has aimed to improve the livelihoods of grandmothers and their orphaned grandchildren who have been affected and infected by HIV/AIDS and have been severely stricken by poverty. Grandmothers are noted to be a major burden bearer when their children pass away and leave behind orphans due to HIV/AIDS, some suffer cases of child neglect by their children who left home and disappeared.

This project is segmented into four thematic areas/objectives that included; Provision of medical care to the grannies and their orphaned grandchildren, To improve the socio-economic status of the grannies households, To improve the food security and nutrition status of the grannies households and Educational support to their orphaned grandchildren.

Rationale for the project evaluation: This evaluation will be very key generating data that will inform St. Francis team in taking on innovations/best project practices used in this project for better project activity implementation in future. The evaluation will recommend best practices which can be replicated in new projects at the organization, hence enabling sustainability and continuity of innovations used during this project. The grannies projects staff and all stakeholders shall be able to understand the impact of the project to the organization, staff and to the community members in all the sub counties basing on achieved targets of some of the key indicators which this nine year project planned to achieve during its tenure.
General objective of the project evaluation
The overall purpose of this project evaluation is to assess the technical progress of activities state of the project versus implementation targets.

Specific Evaluation Objectives
1) To assess the impact of economic empowerment, food security, medical care and educational support to the grannies households in all the sub counties it being implemented.
2) To evaluate and assess technical progress of activities of the project in the period of nine years of implementation.
3) To assess the impact of the project and contribution of St. Francis on the reduction of vulnerability with in the 300 grannies households.
4) To assess the impact of the project on system strengthening and M& E coordination among service providers and stakeholders in the district.
5) To generate a report to be disseminated for major stakeholders showing them the overall outputs from the project.

Approach and Methodology:

Approach
St Francis proposes to employ a participatory approach that will involve a host of key stakeholders. These are expected to be information-rich respondents. They will include among others; project team, selected stakeholders, projects officers, community volunteers, household members as well as community members. The purpose is to ensure that stakeholders own up the processes and the project results.

Evaluation Methods
This evaluation will use both qualitative methods with quantitative aspects. The methods will include desk review (Data review), technical audits; key informant interviews for selected stakeholders and Focus Group Discussions with community members including the project implementation team. Below is a methodology matrix to guide data collection.

Methodology matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Data required</th>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To assess the impact of economic empowerment, food security, child protection and family strengthening activities in the two sub counties in Buikwe district</td>
<td>Knowledge, attitude and behavioral practices (KAP) regarding the four key project interventions</td>
<td>Project reports (M&amp;E), community</td>
<td>Document review, FGDS and KII</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assess technical progress of activities of the project in the period of four years of implementation</td>
<td>Project outputs measured against set targets as per the workplan. Quality of outputs</td>
<td>Project reports, M&amp;E reports</td>
<td>Document review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To assess the impact of the project and contribution of St. Francis on the reduction of vulnerability within the households in the two sub counties.</td>
<td>Testimonies, success stories, Vulnerability assessments, home visits to community, stakeholders)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Document review FGDs, interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assess the impact of the project on system strengthening and M&amp; E coordination among service providers and stakeholders in the</td>
<td>Functionality of the reporting system, coordination mechanisms in place, structures both at district and</td>
<td>Project team</td>
<td>Key informant interviews</td>
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Expected outputs

The research team will deliver the following key outputs:
   a) A technical concept for this assignment including tools
   b) A Draft Evaluation report
   c) A Final comprehensive Evaluation report

Key Evaluation Questions

Key Informant Guide for Project Staff and other key stakeholders

The final evaluation will seek to answer but not limited to the following questions:

1. To what extent has the project been delivered as originally planned?
2. How did the project impact on the lives of the beneficiaries especially the grandmothers’ households and the target communities?
3. What has worked well, what hasn’t? and why?
4. What were the unexpected challenges and obstacles (internal and external) that were identified in the implementation process? How have the challenges affected the program and what changes are expected in future project implementations as a result of lessons learned?
5. Which activities, strategies, processes are leading to the desired outcomes and outputs (effectiveness)?
6. What was the stakeholders’ involvement in the development and delivery of the services, how representative are they, and what have been the benefits of their involvement?
7. How sustainable are the outcomes being achieved? What are the potential threats to sustainability of project interventions?
8. What new learning as a result of this project has been identified, and what are the recommendations that can lead to the improvement on other projects?