PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

EVALUATION OF 3-YEARS COMMUNITY BASED REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN RELEASED FROM ARMED FORCES AND ARMED GROUPS 2015-2018

KOEN SEVENANTS
OUTLINE

• Evaluation methodology

• Evaluation preliminary findings (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability, Human rights)

• Lessons learned

• Recommendations
METHODOLOGY & PROCESS

• Data collection in:
  • Juba
  • Pibor, including: Gumuruk, Bebuze, Lekanguole
  • Pochalla
• Visit to Boma did not take place, but mitigated

• Literature review/secondary data
• 10 FGDs
• 9 (former) Staff interview CP, EDU, WASH:
• 8 In-depth partner staff interviews
• 13 KII
• 5 Case Studies
• 14 Site visits
### SUMMARY

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<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Level of achievement</th>
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<td>Relevance</td>
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<td>Effectiveness</td>
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<td>Efficiency</td>
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<td>Impact</td>
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<td>Sustainability</td>
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FINDINGS: RELEVANCE (1)

HIGH

• The program meets the need of CAFAAGs, but:
  • Not all needs are met: Food insecurity, MHPSS, secondary education
  • Not all CAFAAGs are reached (see later)

• Is the program consistent with UNICEF and partner programs and South Sudan?
  • Yes, and pragmatism is necessary where there is no partner, but:
    • VSF is a livelihood partner (not ICC)
    • Partners are in several aspects first timers
Theory of Change is still valid, but:
- Different components have different weight (both macro and micro level)
- "water" should be expanded to "basic needs" (food security)
- mental health care should be strengthened
- Health provision needs strengthening, but not a factor for re-recruitment or integration. BUT health system can be channel through which mental health is strengthened.
FINDINGS: EFFECTIVENESS

• Strategy has one expected result:

Children associated with Cobra Faction have been released and returned to their families where they received appropriate social and economic services leading to their sustainable reintegration and causes of recruitment and youth involvement in violence reduced in GPAA Area.

• Strategy lists 5 outcomes

• Per outcome there are between 2 and 5 outputs

• Per output there are between and 7 key activities

-> in this presentation: outcome level

Remark: I made little use indicators used to report to Danida (problematic indicator ; unverifiable)
OUTCOME 1: UP TO 3000 CHILDREN PERMANENTLY TRANSFERRED FROM MILITARY LIVE TO CIVILIAN LIVE, FROM LIVING IN BARRACKS TO LIVING AND BEING PART OF THEIR EXTENDED FAMILIES

- Key activities: Largely realized
- Most relevant facts: very limited understanding of mental health (“mental health screening and PSS”)
- Level of achievement: High
OUTCOME 2: RELEASED BOYS AND COMMUNITY GIRLS ARE STUDYING IN FUNCTIONING SCHOOLS AND ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMMES IN THE PROXIMITY OF THEIR FAMILY HOMES

• Outputs: 2 of 3 realized (not realized is ‘ food security and education and livelihood provided).
• Key activities: Partly implemented
• Most relevant facts:
  • Many girls are not studying / regional disparities
  • Few school feeding programs. Although they are effective, these have the dilemma of sustainability and aid dependence.
  • Why proximity? No need for secondary. Outcome is not lined with expected result
• Level of achievement: Medium
OUTCOME 3: UP TO 6000 ADOLESCENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE ECONOMICALLY STRENGTHENED AND PRODUCE FOOD AND INCOME IN AGE-APPROPRIATE WORK.

- Outputs: 5 outputs, 3 realized
- Most relevant facts: not all market responsive sectors/business training is insufficient/ children express school is more important (low level of child participation/dialogue in program design)
- Level of achievement: Medium
OUTCOME 4: YOUTH ARE SOCIALLY ENGAGED AND CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Outputs: Partially realized
- Key activities: Only small part of key activities have been realized
- Most relevant facts:
  - + Only very small number of children are disruptive
  - + Children are social and many socially engaged.
  - + Peace building is football and games are appreciated and lead to results
  - - Centers are not Youth –LED, as in output (which is in general an issue in the program)
  - - Program is not very responsive to what children want (e.g. mobile cinema)
- Level of achievement: High
OUTCOME 5: LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITIES OF RETURN IMPROVED AND LIKELIHOOD FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN VIOLENCE AND ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN TO ARMED GROUPS AND FORCES REDUCED

• Outputs: Realized (or will be realized in the near future, e.g. access to water in Pochalla)

• Key activities: Partly

• Most relevant facts: - No handover of best qualified social workers to government,
+ Bore holes related activities are really clear cut (IAS)

• Level of achievement: High
FINDINGS: EFFICIENCY

HIGH

Points of attention:

• Vocation training in Juba is pricy/ time is insufficient. Can strong participants longer time?
• Pochalla: Humanitarian/development is needed, but should CAFAAGs programming still be priority (174, 4 years ago)
• Permanent structures ICC/ schools
• Resources can be saved with participatory program design and community ownership
• Issues with school supplies/knitting gear/generators – mal adaptation to rainy season
IMPACT (1)
POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE IMPACT BEYOND PROJECT GOAL

POSITIVE
• People say value of school is demonstrated
• Peace building/PSS clearly demonstrated community building
• Good examples are copied to more remote location (welding)
• Long term: boys want educated girls / not participate in age set

NEGATIVE
• Advantage for CAFAAGSs and OVC is conflictive
• Aid dependency
• NNDDR is not visible compared to UNICEF
• Great expectations are created for future schooling/ advanced training -> critical time ahead
FINDINGS: IMPACT (2)
COMMUNITY LEVEL IMPACT

• Community building
• Access to water is improving, (including water management)
• Access to school improved
• Home construction is improving (bricks)
• Animal health service is improving
• Peace (many children forgive): although project contributed (not attributed)
FINDINGS: SUSTAINABILITY  MEDIUM-HIGH

• Chance that children re-join is very low for most children
• Bore holes give sustainable results

BUT:
• **Critical time ahead**: many finish primary school, limited secondary school -> risk factor
• There is increase in school aged population going to school. Hard to reach children do go to school with SFPs. SFPs come to an end-> children with drop-out
• Only part of vocational training can generate sustainable income
• Lack of teacher salaries and formal teaching training reduce sustainability, combined with lack of structures (Pochalla)
• Security issues may render project unsustainable
HUMAN RIGHTS (INCLUDING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS) AND GENDER EQUALITY

- Nearly no girls were released, but there are indications that they left informally
- Substantial efforts are done for inclusion of girls in OVC population
- Peace agreement: no new adult recruitment, but in Gumuruk there is recruitment

• GBV is still deeply rooted in culture (dream is “a man who does not cane me too much”), cows define welfare being and inequality
• Gender landscape fundamentally different in Pibor versus Pochalla
OVERALL : I. HAVE INTERVENTIONS UNDER THIS INITIATIVE LED TO ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES AND FOR WHOM?

• For most children, but not all. Exclusions
  • CAAFAG Children in remote settlement
  • Part of informal releases and escapes
  • Mental health issues (severe PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, violence)
  • OVCs: we missed very severely disadvantaged children:
    • especially orphaned girls
    • Girls who are arranged for marriage
    • Kids in protective custody
  • But for how long? After 18 recruitment? Secondary school?
### OVERALL: 2. Facilitating and Inhibiting Factors for Achievement of Results (Outputs and Outcomes)?

#### Facilitating
- Religious institutions promoting factor (condemn age-sets, promote education, community ownership, forgiveness), though imperfect
- Not all livelihood is linked to UNICEF (trading, etc.)
- Cobra faction was not a nice place
- Strong community life
- Peace and Peace agreement

#### Inhibiting
- Food insecurity
- Access to education, especially secondary
- Remoteness of settlements (budgets, etc.)
- Lack of specialized higher levels of MHPSS Services
- Age-sets/cattle raiding culture/instability
- Gender (cows for girls)
- Communities have become aid dependent, little ownership
- Dry/wet season? (education and accessibility)
OVERALL : 3. WHAT KEY LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED AND REPLICATED FROM THE PROJECT?

- School education is at the center (simple vocational training does not substitute education, in the best case vocation training is complementary)
- Being idle is the biggest danger for re-recruitment/disruptive activities
- High investment in livelihood give high returns/simple training low return. There is no quick fix.
- Remoteness is a problem (outreach work combined with boarding school?) that needs to be addressed.
- PSS on the level of recreational activity and peace building is very useful, but insufficient.
- “A lot for the few” is conflictive in the community
- Not all livelihood depends on UNICEF.
- Promote family and community ownership, as opposed to direct service provision to children
RECOMMENDATIONS: OVERALL (1)

- Let go of “one CAFAAG + one OVC” principle, focus more on community:
  - Not Paris Principles
  - # of OVCs do not depend on # of CAFAAGs
  - Egalitarian approach is needed (currently conflictive “happy few”), stronger focus on general community services is needed
- Capacity building of partners (as opposed to training)
- Community based development planning (Incl. School Development Planning)
- Longer contracts with implementing partners
- Program activities in Pochalla is needed, but would Pochalla be a priority for CAFAAG work?
- In the eyes of the community and children, all is UNICEF and implementing partners. No NDDRC...
RECOMMENDATIONS: OVERALL (2)

- Advocacy for non-recruitemet into armed forces for +18YO youth
- Consider third party monitoring in remote areas (Pochalla, etc.) (self-reported perception indicators, PSEA)
- Monitor Petroleum drills and movements to new capital
- Bite in the Governmental Pibor development planning, adding a participatory perspective.
- Start up in longitudinal research with control groups
RECOMMENDATIONS: PSS

• Give MHPSS a place in programs
• Invest in higher level MHPSS and MHPSS capacity building
• Address child and adolescent development issues
• Get more out of CFSs

Case Management
• Do not close case of 6 months and 3 consecutive visits
• Enhance privacy and access to data
RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

- Multiply secondary education access
- Strengthen local coordination (education tasks forces etc.)
- Build in real structures

WASH

- Link WASH PSS-like training activities with CM system (not with military).
RECOMMENDATIONS: LIVELIHOOD

• Create youth centers in other locations that are not central
• High investment in livelihood give high returns/simple training low return. There is no quick fix.
• Vocational training in Juba:
  • Re-explore (possibly partly) localization in program areas
  • 3 months for construction/wood work/ car mechanic is too short -> Huge amount of money, but with slightly more much better results
• Dependency of children from NNGO is not emancipation (Knitting gear stays with NNGO, produces products are sold by NNGO, salary for vaccination - incentives are paid by NNGO): stress to communication to community that NNGO contribution is time limited
• Business start-up guidance
• Capitalize on initiatives and willingness from mothers to work for generating income for paying for education