

Can young children provide meaningful input into their wellbeing? Exploring the utility of a self-report measure for child wellbeing in Kenya and Rwanda

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Background

- Why do we implement OVC programs?
- How to measure wellbeing?
 - Measuring the quantity and quality of services rendered?
 - Areas that tend to be less service-focused have a significant role in the wellbeing of the child
- Why is child participation in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) important?



CRS OVC Wellbeing Tool (OWT)

- Self-report measure of OVC wellbeing for ages 13-18 years
- 30 statements across 10 domains e.g., food & nutrition, social cohesion, protection, family, etc.
- Standardized measure, validated in five countries
- Used by program managers in collaboration with community members

Senefeld, S., Strasser, S., Campbell, J., & Perrin, P. (2011). Measuring adolescent wellbeing: The development of a standardized measure for adolescents participating in orphan and vulnerable children programming. *Journal of Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 6:4, 346-359.



Participatory M&E tools for young children...

- Expressed need for an age-appropriate self-report tool for younger children
- Literature mixed on ability of younger children to provide can understand and provide meaningful input on standardized questionnaires
- Determine if children age 6 -12 years can respond to a self-report measure



Methods

- Administered an adapted OWT tool to children age 6 -12 years in Kenya (n=288) and Rwanda (n=305)
- Created pictorial response scale due to concerns children would not understand Likert scale





**Never
True**



**Rarely
True**



**Sometimes
True**



**Often
True**



**Always
True**



**Never
True**



**Rarely
True**



**Sometimes
True**



**Often
True**



**Always
True**

Methods

- Developed standardized enumerator instructions
- Enumerators piloted:
 - Standardized instructions
 - Tool
 - Response categories e.g., never true, sometimes true, etc.
- Enumerators reported:
 - Own experiences using a self-report measure
 - Areas where children required additional explanation or support
- Pictorial and non-pictorial tools administered in Kenya



Results: Pilot test

- Average length of time to complete scale was 45 minutes in Kenya for two questionnaires and 25 minutes for Rwanda
- Pictures did not appear necessary for ensuring self-report reliability



Results: Tool

- 87.5% of enumerators in Kenya reported **overall experience** with the tool for this age group as either “great” or “good” compared to 89.1% of enumerators in Rwanda
- 88.2% of enumerators in Kenya reported that their experience with the **pictorial representations** was “great” or “good” compared to 80.1% of enumerators in Rwanda
- **All items** were reported as **easily understood** by at least **70% of surveyed children**
- The **majority of items (~80%)** required **no additional explanations** beyond the initial instructions



Conclusions

- Younger children in the 6 - 12 year age range in Kenya and Rwanda OVC programs can respond to standardized scales of wellbeing
- Pictorial representation of responses may assist responses
- Triangulation of child reports with feedback from caregivers, teachers and other relevant caretakers is important for validation



Questions

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