University of Huddersfield Repository

Seruwagi, Gloria K.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health of Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/5908/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

• The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
• A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
• The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
The Sexual and Reproductive Health of Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Gloria Kimuli Seruwagi
PhD Candidate

Centre for Applied Childhood Studies
School of Human and Health Sciences
The University of Huddersfield (UK)
Presentation Outline

- Introduction to OVC
- OVC sexual and reproductive health
- Key issues
- What role for healthcare systems?
Introduction to Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC)

- ‘OVC’ origin
- Definition of ‘Orphan’ and ‘Vulnerable child’ (UNICEF/UNAIDS, 1999)
- Age limit subject of debate

\[\text{Does definition detract attention from the RSH needs of older adolescents?}\]
OVC in Uganda

- 56% of Uganda’s population are children
- In 2007 OVC number was 2.3 million (15% of the total children in the country), which rose to 7.5 million (the equivalent of 46% of all children) in 2008
- An estimated 45.6% of all Ugandan orphans HIV/AIDS-related
- Number projected to increase to 2,500,000 by 2010

OVC Sexual & Reproductive Health

- Sexual vulnerability
- Early sex and cross-generational sex
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Maternal & Infant morbidity/morbidity
- Early marriages

“...If I stay here, I might be tempted to give in to these village men but when I get married to a hardworking man I shall be safe from getting AIDS and also live a better life in my own home...”
(Orphan girl, aged 16)

- HIV/AIDS and other STI
- ABC message?
Key Issues

- Model of Childhood/Adolescence?
- Service planning and delivery, specifically relating to OVC needs
- Policy-research-practice gap
- OVC context
- Gender aspect (sexual abuse 1.5-3 times higher among girls)
- Power issues
What role for health systems?

- Responsive health services
- Consultation with children & young people
- Training and practice
- Child protection?
- Information, advice and guidance
References

- Foster, G. (1998). Today's children - challenges to child health promotion in countries with severe AIDS epidemics. *AIDS Care, 10* (Suppl. 1), S17-S23