

## CONTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS ON CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA: A CASE STUDY OF WORLD VISION/NGENDA AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN BUGESERA DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT

**T**he purpose of this research was to examine the contribution of community projects on children development in Rwanda. Community project has been proposed as an ultimate solution that can propel developmental and especially children development. The prevalence of malnutrition among the children admitted in hospitals in Rwanda was estimated at 27.2% in 2004. In this regard there are many projects aimed at addressing children development in the country. This study used descriptive survey research based on qualitative and quantitative approaches. The population of the study was 359 respondents. Random sampling technique was used to select 189 respondents who formed the study sample size. The study findings showed that World Vision economic support (.972\*\* and  $p < 0.01$ ), social support (.898\*\* and  $p < 0.01$ ) and technical support (.915\*\* and  $p < 0.01$ ) correlates significantly with children development.

**Keywords: Economic support, Social support, Technical support**

## 1. Introduction

The need for a holistic development of children is valued all over the world. Consistently, United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989), African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child (OAU, 1990) and the Government of Rwanda 1998 recognize the right of every child to a standard of living, adequate physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. This implies that care givers should provide adequate and appropriate care to children, since developmental deficiencies that occur during this stage are difficult to reverse. Unfortunately, increased urbanization, introduction of formal education, the universal use of the money economy and the multiplicity of the roles of mothers, pose challenges in the use of the traditionally effective childcare systems.

Consequently, Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres have been accepted by contemporary societies worldwide as an alternative child care system in Rwanda but still their effects are not felt as expected (Brennan, 2002). According to the 2012 comprehensive Food security and Vulnerability analysis and Nutrition Survey (CFSVA), the national prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) among children under five years is high (43 percent), but in northern and western areas bordering Lake Kivu and along the Congo Nile where the peak rates are over 60 percent. The households headed by women or orphans account for 36 percent of the population. The Demographic Health Survey (DHS) 2010 reported that stunting children were 215,604 (14 per cent of the malnourished children) in the country.

Ten to twelve percent of the population faced chronic food insecurity due to inadequate production, insufficient arable land, high population density, weak agricultural support services, and adverse weather conditions where by 45% of children suffered from chronic malnutrition, 43% of under five child mortality was due to malnutrition (RDHS, 2008). At 343 people per square kilometre, The prevalence of malnutrition among the children admitted in hospitals in Rwanda was estimated at 27.2% in 2004 (Shebeza, 2007) and yet there many projects aimed at addressing children development in the country.

## 2. Study Objectives

The study was guided by the following objectives

- i. To analyze the contribution of World Vision economic support on children development in Bugesera District
- ii. To establish the contribution of World Vision social support on children development in Bugesera District
- iii. To examine the contribution of World Vision technical support on children development in Bugesera District

## 3. Research design

This research used descriptive survey design. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) noted that a survey research attempts to collect data from members of a population and describe existing phenomena by asking individuals about their perception, attitudes, behavior or values

## 4. Target Population

The study population was 359 consisting of 22 staffs of World Vision project and 337 beneficiaries of World Vision Project in Bugesera District.

## 5. Sample Size Determination

The researcher used two methods to determine the sample size. This was census method for world Vision staffs and Slovin's formula was used to calculate the sample size project beneficiaries.

**Table 1: Sample size determination**

Different Strata	Population	Sample	Sampling technique
World Vision Projects employees in Bugesera district	22	22	Census sampling method which allowed everybody in the project to be interviewed
Project beneficiaries in 3 sectors which Ngenda ADP operates	337	167	Random sampling method allowed the researcher to choose the respondents from the list of project beneficiaries in order to avoid bias and reduce the chances of error
<b>Total</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>189</b>	

## 6. Sampling Techniques

A list of beneficiaries was obtained from World Vision Project Bugesera District and it is these lists that was used to simple randomly sample the beneficiaries.

## 7. Data Collection Method

This researcher employed quantitative methods of data collection that included questionnaires. The respondents were issued with questionnaires and were asked to fill and return immediately

## 8. Data Analysis Procedure

The data was collected was edited, coded and analysed using SPSS. Descriptive statistics including percentages and frequency distribution and inferential statistics specifically correlation analysis was used to taste the relationship between the study variable.

## 9. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 9.1 Profile of the Respondents

Profile of the respondents analyses gender, age, educational background and experience of the respondents.

**Table 2: Profile of the Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentages
Male	63	33.3
Female	126	66.7
Age	Frequency	Percentages
21 - 30	11	5.8
31 - 40	50	26.5
41 - 50	63	33.3
51 and above	65	34.4
Educational level	Frequency	Percentages
Informal	44	23.3
Primary	96	50.8
Secondary	49	25.9

Table 2 shows that 66.7% of the respondents are female and 33.3% are male. This implies that both male and female were represented in the research hence there is no biasness in the findings. Also, 34.4% of the respondents aged 51 years and above, 33.3% aged between 41-50 years, 26.5% of the respondents aged between 31 – 40 years and 5.8% aged between 21 – 30 years. Further, the table shows that 50% of the respondents had attained primary level of education 25.9% had secondary level of education while 23.3% were having informal education.

## 9.2 World Vision Economic Support and Children Development in Bugesera District

Table 3 shows respondents views on World Vision Economic Support and Children Development in Bugesera District

World Vision Economic Support	Mean	Std. Deviation
World Vision provided a cow per poor family	4.7196	.45040
World Vision provided funds community projects	4.4656	.61465
World Vision provided loans through Vision Finance	4.4233	.64469
World Vision encouraged community savings through VSLA	4.6296	.55579
World Vision provided materials for project activities	4.8254	.38064

Analysis on World Vision Economic Support in Bugesera District revealed that World Vision provided a cow per family per poor family as reflected by a very strong mean of 4.7196. World Vision provided funds to community projects as reflected by a very strong mean of 4.4656. Additionally, World Vision provides loans through Vision Finance and this was reflected by a strong mean of 4.4233. Also the findings indicated that World Vision provided materials for project activities, this was shown by a very strong mean of 4.8254.

### Table 3: Contribution of World Vision Economic Support on Children Development

Economic Support and Children Development	Mean	Std. Deviation
World Vision economic support has improved on children emotional development	4.4444	.55862
World Vision economic support has improved on children physical development	4.6455	.47963
World Vision economic support has improved on children moral development	4.4444	.58649
World Vision economic support has improved on children intellectual development	4.7037	.45784

Table 4 shows that World Vision economic support has improved on children emotional development as reflected by a strong mean of 4.4. Also, the table shows that World Vision economic support has improved on children physical development as reflected by a strong mean of 4.6. Further, the findings shows that World Vision economic support has improved children moral development as reflected by a strong mean of 4.4. Additionally the table shows that World Vision economic support has improved on children intellectual development indicated by a strong mean of 4.7

**Table 5: Correlations between Economic support and Children Development**

Variables		Economic Support	Children development
Economic Support	Correlation Coefficient	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	189	
Children development	Correlation Coefficient	.972**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	189	189

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 5 shows that World Vision economic support correlated significantly with children development (.972\*\* and  $p < 0.01$ ). This means that children development will increase with increase in World Vision economic support.

**Table 6 World Vision Social Support and Children Development in Bugesera District**

World Vision Social Support	Mean	Std. Deviation
World Vision has introduced group savings for poor family	3.9947	.82834
World Vision has introduced cow rotations for the family	4.7831	.41325
World Vision conducts children monitoring among families	4.7196	.45040
World Vision provides advocacy on child rights and protection	4.5714	.58476

Table 6 shows that World Vision has introduced group savings for poor family as reflected by a strong mean of 3.9. Also the table shows that World Vision has introduced cow rotations for the poor families as indicated by a very strong mean of 4.7. Further, the findings indicates that World Vision conducts children monitoring among families and this evidenced by a strong mean of 4.7 Also results shows that World Vision provides advocacy for child rights and protection, this was showed by a strong mean of 4.5.

**Table 7: Social Support and Children Development**

Social Support and Children Development	Mean	Std. Deviation
World Vision social support has improved on children emotional development	4.2328	.50401
World Vision social support has improved on children physical development	4.3175	.46672
World Vision social support has improved on children moral development	4.2487	.56169
World Vision social support has improved on children intellectual development	4.4656	.56974

Table 7 shows that World Vision social support has improved children emotional development as reflected by a strong mean of 4.2328. Also the findings show that World Vision social support has improved on children physical development as reflected by a strong mean of 4.3. Further, the table shows that World Vision social support has improved children moral development and this was reflected by a strong mean of 4.2. The table also shows that World Vision social support has improved on children intellectual development, this was showed by a strong mean of 4.9

**Table 8: Correlations between Social support and children development**

Variables		Social Support	Children development
Social Support	Correlation Coefficient	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	189	
Children Development	Correlation Coefficient	.898**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	189	189

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 7 shows that World Vision social support correlated significantly with children development (.898\*\* and  $p < 0.01$ ). This means that children development will increase with increase in World Vision social support.

### 9.3 World Vision Technical Support and Children Development in Bugesera District

**Table 8 World Vision Technical Support**

World Vision Technical Support	Mean	Std. Deviation
World Vision provides training to mothers on nutrition	4.4392	.57681
World Vision provides veterinary training and advisory services	3.6296	.88147
World Vision provides projects material support	4.3069	.54676
World Vision participates in the constructions of schools and health centers	4.7090	.45543

Table 8 shows that World Vision provides training to mothers on nutrition as reflected by a strong mean of 4.4. Also the result shows that World Vision provides veterinary training and advisory services as reflected by a strong mean of 3.6. Further, the table shows that World Vision provides projects material support and this was reflected by a strong mean of 4.3. The table also shows that World Vision participates in the constructions of schools and health centers; this was showed by a strong mean of 4.7.

**Table 9: Correlations between Technical support and children development**

Variables		Technical Support	Children development
Technical Support	Correlation Coefficient	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	189	
Children development	Correlation Coefficient	.915**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	189	189

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 9 shows that World Vision technical support correlated significantly with children development (.915\*\* and  $p < 0.01$ ). This means that children development will increase with increase in World Vision technical support.

## **10. Conclusion**

In conclusion it was established that community projects contributes to children development in Rwanda. Economic supports, Social Support and Technical Support have significant effect on child development.

## **11. Recommendations:**

The researcher has come up with the following recommendations in order to promote children development in Rwanda;

- i. World Vision should establish a monitoring system in order to evaluate the performance of the project especially funds provides for the project activities.
- ii. World Vision should increase economic support for the beneficiaries in order for the project become more successful.
- iii. World Vision should encourage group savings among all project members in order to enhance project sustainability.
- iv. World Vision should introduce more social activities like cow rotations in order to make beneficiaries share ideas on project survival.
- v. World Vision should train community members on technical services, so that the services are available to beneficiaries at any one's time.
- vi. World Vision should engage community members to encourage their strong participation in monitoring, safe guarding of project activities and out puts to ensure sustainable development.

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