

The Poultry Project

Program Evaluation

Spring 2010



The AIDS Support Organization (TASO)

Mbale, Uganda

Gwynne Zodrow and Kate Hesel

George Washington University Fellow

List of Acronyms

GWU	<i>George Washington University</i>
HH	<i>Household</i>
HIV/AIDS	<i>Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</i>
IGA	<i>Income Generating Activities</i>
M&E	<i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>
NAADS	<i>National Agriculture Advisory Services</i>
OVC	<i>Orphans and Vulnerable Children</i>
PP	<i>The Poultry Project</i>
SLP	<i>Sustainable Livelihood Programs</i>
TASO	<i>The AIDS Support Organization</i>

Introduction

In 2006, Kelly Flamos, a fellow at The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) from George Washington University, started the Poultry Project (PP). The PP provides supported children, child-headed households, and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), with sustainable income generation activities (IGA) through the provision of four laying hens and a bicycle. Participants care for the hens, which ideally produce eggs and offspring, which are then eaten and/or sold, providing additional food and/or income for the household. As of 2010, the PP has 27 participants, of which 24 are currently active. The PP is one of TASO Mbale's sustainable livelihood programs (SLP) and ultimately TASO Mbale hopes to expand the PP to other TASO centers.

The Poultry Project has the following objectives:

- *To ameliorate the dire situation OVC find themselves in by empowering them to become self-sufficient through active participation in an income generating activity.*
- *To provide sustainable support for child-headed families and HIV+ children through income generating activity (smallholder poultry production – layers)*
- *To develop skills and confidence among participants through dedicated, responsible participation in this program, while fulfilling the mission of TASO - contribute to a process of restoring the quality of life of persons and communities infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.*

In the spring of 2010, two fellows from George Washington University undertook an evaluation of the PP to identify program strengths, weaknesses, impact, and recommendations for future work. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework was created inclusive of program goals, objectives, indicators, and survey instruments. Evaluations for the PP were carried out during two weeks in March of 2010, and included home visits to PP participants and a workshop held at TASO Mbale for all PP participants. Two surveys were conducted; one exclusively for the PP and the other one for TASO Mbale's SLP. These two forms were used to collect data from the participants; at the time of evaluation, 19 of the 27 participants had been surveyed.

TASO Mbale's Evaluation Plan uses the following goals and objectives to evaluate the SLPs:

Goal:

- *To promote long-term sustainability for SLP programs*
- *To create sustainable livelihoods for those individuals infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS*
- *To improve the quality of life of persons and communities infected and affected by HIV/AIDS*

Objectives:

1. *To increase sustainable economic activity for clients*
2. *To increase access to and knowledge of income generating activities*

3. *To increase access to and attainment of education*
4. *To increase food and nutritional availability*
5. *To ensure client counseling sessions*
6. *To ensure medical treatment and adherence to HIV drugs*

Data Collection for TASO Mbale’s SLP Evaluation

The following matrix shows the data that was collected for the relevant indicators for the TASO Mbale SLP Evaluation.

Indicator	Percentage	Data
General Monitoring Indicators		
<i>Number of participants registered in the Poultry Project</i>	70%	27 participants registered, 19 participants surveyed
<i>Number of animals distributed</i>	--	Each participant received 4 hens and 1 bicycle
<i>Specific types of animals Distributed</i>	--	Hens
<i>Specific types of animals that have died</i>	--	Chicks: 287 Mature Hens: 46 Cocks: 1 Goats: 3
<i>Number of animals that have died</i>	--	337
<i>Number of participants that dropped out of the program - (Reasons – death, sickness, disinterest, cannot attend trainings, lack of transportation, unknown, etc)</i>	14.8%	4 participants are inactive in the Poultry Project
Objective 1: To increase sustainable economic activity for clients		
<i>Number of participants that belong to a peer support group</i>	31.5%	6 participants out of 19 belong to a peer support group
<i>Number of participants who have increased the number of animals in household</i>	74%	14 participants out of 19 have increased the number of animals from the initial 4 hens they received
<i>Specific types of offspring generated</i>	--	Chicks: 154 Goats: 10 Heifers: 1
<i>Number of offspring generated</i>	--	165
<i>Number of participants using program animals for income generation</i>	73%	14 participants out of 19 use their animals to generate income

<i>Number of animals passed on</i>	5%	1 participant out of 19 passed on animals to other beneficiaries (Participant is also involved in the Heifer International project)
<i>Number of beneficiaries of pass on</i>	--	1 beneficiary who received 2 goats
<i>Number of participants who have increased their income as a result of SLP participation</i>	74%	14 participants out of 19 reported that they had increased their income as a result of the Poultry Project
<i>Number of participants that believe they have experienced benefits from SLP</i>	79%	15 participants out of 19 believe they have experienced benefits from the poultry project
Objective 2: To increase access to and knowledge of income generating activities		
<i>Number of participants who attended a training session</i>	89%	17 participants out of 19 surveyed attended a training session
Objective 3: To increase access to and attainment of education		
<i>Number of families that have paid school fees as a benefit from SLP</i>	58%	11 participants out of 19 have paid school fees from the benefits of the Poultry Project
Objective 5: To ensure client counseling sessions		
<i>Number of participants who had a follow-up visit</i>	70%	19 participants out of 27 were followed up during this evaluation
<i>Number of Clients adhering to counseling plan</i>	87.5%	7 clients out of 8 adhered to their counseling sessions
Objective 6: To ensure medical treatment and adherence to HIV drugs		
<i>Number of HIV prevention discussions held with participants</i>	79%	15 participants out of 19 discussed HIV prevention with surveyor
<i>Number of Clients adhering to treatment plan</i>	100%	8 out of 8 clients adhered to their treatment plan
<i>Number of clients adhering to drug regime</i>	100%	8 out of 8 clients adhered to their drug regime

Poultry Project Evaluation Indicators

The following indicators were augmented from TASO Mbale's SLP Evaluation Indicators (see above) and were specifically used for evaluation of the PP.

Indicator	Percentage	Data
<i>Number of participants whose flock has increased from 4 birds</i>	70.5%	12 participants out of 17* have more than 4 birds.
<i>Number of participants who have program animals living within their house</i>	73.3%	11 out of 15** participants reported that poultry lives within their house
<i>Number of participants whose birds have protection from weather and predators</i>	80%	12 out of 15** participants reported having protection from weather and predators for their birds
<i>Number of participants that vaccinate their birds</i>	80%	12 out of 15** participants have vaccinated their birds
<i>Number of families that eat eggs from the hens</i>	87%	13 out of 15** participants eat the eggs that their hens lay
<i>Number of participant that sell their hen's eggs</i>	87%	13 out of 15** participants sell their hen's eggs
<i>Number of participants that sell any chicks/hens for profit</i>	53%	8 out of 15** participants sell their chicks/hens for profit
<i>Number of participants that have bought additional animals</i>	73.6%	14 out of 19 participants have bought additional animals
<i>Number of participants that still have functional bicycle</i>	79%	15 out of 19 participants currently have their bicycle and using it.
<i>Number of participants that have a cell phone</i>	15.7%	3 out 19 participant's families had a cell phone.

* Two participants have sold or traded their poultry for goats and are not included in specific indicator analysis

** Two participants have sold or traded their poultry for goats, and two participant's birds have all died. These 4 participants

Key Findings

Increased Livelihood Activities

The Poultry Project has been successful in increasing and contributing to participant's livelihood. 74% of surveyed participants have increased the number of animals from the initial four hens they received, and 74% of participants reported that their income was improved due to their involvement in the Poultry Project. In addition, 36.8% of the surveyed participants rely on the Poultry Project to contribute to their main source of income.

Benefits

79% reported that they have benefited from the PP, while 58% of participants used the money from the PP to pay for school fees. 87% of participants both eat and sell their eggs for profit, and 73.6% of participants have purchased other animals ranging from hens and goats to heifers. These benefits show the opportunity for program expansion among the participants, as well as, the contribution that the hen's eggs could have on the nutrition of the family.

Disease and Illness Challenges

The biggest challenges reported by the PP participants were disease and illness of the birds, even though 80% of participants have their birds vaccinated. While it is encouraging that 154 new chicks have been born to project hens, 334 have died (inclusive of chicks, cocks, and hens). Interestingly, the majority of the participants reported that they had protection from predators and weather, however, predators and weather were the second and third most commonly cited challenges.

Shelter

Predators and weather are also very closely related to the issue of shelter, which was another challenge that was discussed by the majority of the participants. 73.3% of participants have the poultry living in their house, and 25% of the participants have lost birds due to inadequate shelter. Highlighting the challenges that participants are facing with the shelters they are providing their birds.

Program Bicycle

The majority of participants also still have and use the bicycle they received, 15 out of the 19 participants still have and use their bicycle for a variety of reasons including general transportation, collecting water and as income generation as a Boda-Boda. Two of the bicycles were sold, one is broken and one is not used/available for unknown reasons.

Program Sustainability

Overall, the PP is providing sustainable support to the participants as only two of the participants have lost all of their poultry. The majority of participants, 74%, have increased their flock, and many have been able to buy goats and heifers, indicating sustainability and overall program impact.

Inactive Participants

Out of 27 total participants, there are 23 currently active, and the evaluation team was able to survey 19. The evaluation team was unable to survey four of the active participants because of access issues. One participant moved to an area that is not reachable during the rainy season, the second participant moved to an undisclosed location (TASO is in the process of finding this participant), the third was unable to attend the workshop (where the surveys were completed), and the fourth was displaced and recovering from the Bududa landslide. There are also four participants that are inactive. Two of the participants got married, one is "too mobile" to find for evaluation, and one is inactive for unknown reasons.

19 active participants

4 inactive participants

4 participants unavailable for evaluation

Recommendations

Recommendation for Shelter:

Many participants responded that their poultry is free-range during the day and then is brought inside at night. This is troubling, as the animals therefore have limited protection during the day, specifically from adverse weather and extreme temperatures. Keeping animals within the house creates a problem of sanitation for both the birds and the family members. Keeping the animals in the house might also hinder their growth due to limited space. In addition, general conditions, for example, temperature and bedding, can interfere with the hen's environment for nesting, laying eggs, and overall health.

For future implementation of the PP it is recommended that participants be required to build a suitable shelter for the poultry before the birds are dispersed. This would ensure protection from outside influences, as well as, eliminate the issues of sanitation that come with allowing the birds to live in their homes.

Recommendations for Vaccinations:

Most of the participants seem to be vaccinating their animals. However, even still, there are high rates of disease and death, with a large number reporting losing birds to disease. A potential remedy for this is to ensure that a trained veterinarian or a comparable authority does vaccination. It would also be important to train participants on how to deal with animal sickness (particularly coccidiosis), stressing the identification of symptoms and treatment, as well as, sanitation issues and exposure to bird droppings.

Recommendations for Support Services

Only, 31.5% of participants belong to a support group. Support groups help with the sharing and education of others, especially new participants, to help them become successful in rearing poultry. The PP has provided 89% of the participants with some kind of training; however helping to create or sustain support groups could provide an opportunity for continued education, sharing and support. This could aid in supporting the PP's objective of developing skills and confidence in the participants.

Several participants have been involved with the National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS). Their involvement has proved very beneficial for increasing their knowledge of animal care and having a supportive community of other people rearing animals. It is recommended that each participant be given information about joining the NAADS and the benefits they might obtain by being a member.

Recommendation for Passing It On – Sustainability and Expansion:

In this evaluation, it was found that only one of the participants passed on any animals; 2 goats to another family due to the participant's involvement with Heifer Project International. If PP were to adopt the "passing on" practice, this would help them reach and affect many more families and communities, while increasing participant responsibility and program sustainability. Current and future participants should be encouraged to pass on offspring of program animals to other community members.

Recommendation for Further Data Collection:

One of the program's objectives is empowering children and teaching self-sufficiency, and as such, more data should be collected and analyzed looking at the children's involvement in the PP. The evaluation indicated that it is the children's guardians that are usually the primary care takers of the poultry, and therefore it is hard to determine the participation of the children. Qualitative data could be gathered to further understand how the PP has increased children's confidence and their quality of life.

Limitations of Data

As with any survey there are biases of and limitations to the information collected. Recall bias in any survey instrument is a cause for concern. Specifically, asking participants to recall the exact number of program animals that have been born or died has the potential for recall bias. Also, relying solely on their opinions with levels of "benefits" or income "increases: can also fluctuate from person as definitions of these questions and answers differ.

Another limitation is having a variety of people conducting the surveys, and limited time to train them in data collection methods. Many surveys were returned with questions unmarked or illegible handwriting. This creates a challenge in trying to analyze the data. Due to the fact that we do not speak the same language as the participants, we were reliant on the correct translation and understanding.

Conclusion

To date, the Poultry Project has shown to be very successful with particular participants and the hope is that this number will increase. Standardization with education, training and support would be suggested to add to the opportunity for all participants to be successful, specially focusing on their challenges of shelter and disease. In addition to this, the practice of "passing on" should be added to the program, to ensure the growth, and increase overall impact and community involvement.

Since the evaluation of the PP was conducted after the start up of the program, baseline data was not collected. However, the hope is that as new participants join the program the *Baseline Assessment form* will be administered and continually monitored. Continued data collection and evaluation should be conducted to help determine the success and overall impact of the program.

Survey Instruments

The Poultry Project - Monitoring Form
TASO Mbale

Date: (dd/mm/yy) _____ Officer Code: _____ Center _____

Participant Name: _____ Client ID Number: _____ Family Number: _____

Sex (F/ M) _____ Age _____ Location: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Relationship to Participant _____

When did participant become involved in the Poultry Project? (mm/yy) _____

Who cares for the poultry? _____

Current flock size:

Laying Hens _____ Pullets _____ Cocks _____ Chicks _____ Growers _____ Total _____

Poultry Housing (tick all that apply)

Bamboo Basket _____ Baked Mud _____ Brick and Cement _____ Mud and Stone _____ Other _____

Location: Inside House _____ Inside compound _____ With other livestock _____ Other _____

Is there protection from weather and predators? Yes No If Yes: Describe _____

Feed: Type of Cereal _____ Frequency _____ Quantity _____

Are the birds vaccinated? Yes No Who vaccinates them? _____

How many eggs are laid every day? _____ How long does it take to fill a tray? _____

Are eggs eaten by family? Yes No

Are eggs sold? Yes No If Yes: Where do you sell them? _____ How often? _____

Do you sell any of the chicks or mature birds? Yes No

If Yes: Have you purchased additional animals with money from egg or chick sales? Yes No

If Yes: What type and how many animals were purchased? _____

What is the bicycle used for? _____

What challenges have you encountered with the Poultry Project? (Tick all that apply)

Predators ___ Disease ___ Weather ___ Food Availability ___ Food Cost ___ Medical Care ___

Other/Describe _____

What benefits have you experienced from the Poultry Project?

Describe _____

Issues to follow-up on during next visit _____

SLP Monitoring Form

The AIDS Support Organization (TASO)

Date: (dd/mm/yy) _____ Officer Code: _____ Center _____

Participant Name: _____ Client ID Number: _____ Family Number: _____

Sex (F/ M) ___ Age ___ Location: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Relationship to Participant _____

SLP Partner Organization: _____ SLP Active, describe: _____

General Questions

What is participant's main source of income? (*Circle all that apply*)

- 1. Paid employee 2. Peasant 3. Casual laborer 4. Self-employed 5. SLP 6. Other _____

Did participant receive training? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes: Length and provider of training _____

Does participant belong to a peer support group? 1. Yes 2. No If yes, which one? _____

Poultry/Livestock SLP Participants

How many **program** animals (including offspring and purchased animals) does the household currently have?

- Hens _____ Cocks _____ Chicks _____ Goats _____ Heifers _____ Other _____

What type and how many program animals have died? _____

Reason for death _____

Have program animals produced offspring? 1. Yes 2. No

If yes, what type and number of animals (list all): _____

What type of structure do the program animals stay in? _____

Do program animals produce any sellable products? 1. Yes 2. No

If Yes: What types of products? _____

Does participant sell these products? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes: Where: _____

Has participant 'passed on' any offspring? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes: How many and type: _____

Who has received the 'pass-on' offspring? _____ When? _____

Loan SLP Participants

Is loan: 1. Group 2. Individual Amount of Loan: _____

Date Received: _____ Amount Repaid: _____ Balance: _____

Does participant have a business plan? 1. Yes 2. No Describe: _____

Does participant have a business report? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes: was the report seen? 1. Yes 2. No

Are activities carried out as proposed in original business plan? 1. Yes 2. No If No: Why? _____

How have start-up funds been used? 1. Yes 2. No Describe: _____

Impact Questions (all SLP Participants)

Has participant's income increased as a result of SLP? 1. Yes 2. No Describe: _____

Has business expanded? 1. Yes 2. No Describe: _____

Has participant reinvested in savings, buying tools/equipment, buying raw material/inventory? 1. Yes 2. No

Are family members supportive of SLP? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes: which family members _____

Have there been any benefits from SLP? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes: In what way(s) do family members benefit?

1. School fees 2. Food 3. Medicine 4. Housing 5. Clothing 6. Other _____

Medical Questions (all SLP participants)

HIV Prevention Discussed: 1. Yes 2. No Describe: _____

Plans made (to be followed-up in next visit): _____

Medical Questions

Is participant a TASO client? 1. Yes 2. No If Yes, continue onto next question. If No, skip to *Discussion Questions*

Is client attending all scheduled medical appointments? 1. Yes 2. No

Is client attending all scheduled counseling appointments? 1. Yes 2. No

If client is on drugs, are they adhering to drug regime? 1. Yes 2. No

Issues or concerns discussed: _____

Discussion Questions (all SLP participants)

What overall challenges has the participant/household faced? _____

Topics/Issues to be followed up on during next visit _____

For questions and comments on this document please contact:

Gwynne Zodrow: gzodrow@gmail.com

or

Kate Hesel: katehesel@gmail.com