Task sharing through Community Assistance Welfare Committees

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About the MCDSS Zambia

- Implements programmes to enhance quality of life for poor and vulnerable persons
  - Public Welfare Assistance Scheme (PWAS)
  - Social Cash Transfer Schemes (SCTS)
  - Food Security Pack (FSP)
  - Women empowerment
  - Enhancement of vulnerable people’s justice system
  - Disability
  - Culture
  - Care for the Aged and Prison Welfare
  - Child Protection Programme.
Social Welfare Assistance

- Currently Social Cash Transfer scheme implemented in 5 rural districts and expanding (5 in 2011 and by 2015 another 5)
- In 2009 (PWAS) 24,232 persons benefited from the Scheme, nationwide
- Food Security Pack implemented in 6 of 9 provinces for poor but viable households
- Child Protection implemented through 23 District Child Protection Committees
- Child Protection Unit managed by the Zambia Police for child victims of abuse
About the Social Welfare Workforce

- Department of Social Welfare headed by Director with leadership of Permanent Secretary
- Provincial Social Welfare Officers
- District Social Welfare Officers
- Community Development Assistants (at sub centres)
- District Welfare Assistance and Area Coordinating Committees (non-paid, volunteer structures)
- Community Welfare Assistance and Area Coordinating Committees (non-paid, volunteer structures)
Role of the Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACs)

- Identification of target households
- Collaborate with other community structures for development including MOH Community Health Workers or Caregivers
- To ensure compliance of criteria and regulations
- Assist in disbursement of funds and other support
- Reporting to DWACs (District Social Welfare Office)
Challenges faced

- 60% staffing levels at district and community levels
- Donor conditionalities – down sizing, restructuring leading to retrenchments
- Funds not enough to meet the staffing demands of the ministries
- Volunteerism (DWACs and CWACs) undermining program implementation
- Living conditions (access to services) in rural areas not attractive for social workers
- Sustainability of interventions supported by cooperating partners
Community engagement

- CWACs assisting in bridging human resource gap
- Opportunity for task shifting and expanding human resource of the ministry
- Community participation and responsiveness
- Building their capacity to provide support efficiently and effectively
- Engaging with beneficiary households and putting a face to the programs contributing towards sustainability
Way forward

- Continue to lobby for increased staffing levels in social welfare structure
- Continuing engagement with community structures
- Coordinate community structures for collaborative support by various ministries
- Work with other ministries to consider task shifting and incentives as tools for work
- Infrastructure development in rural areas to increase
- Lobby with Ministry of Finance to increase funding for social welfare in national budget
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!