

Child Protection In Post Conflict Development Using The ADAPT Model In Sierra Leone

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Abstract: *This study is an evaluation of the effectiveness of ADAPT in child protection development in the programme of World Vision Sierra Leone. It examines the work of the organization in terms of use of programming tools that fosters development. Firstly it looks at it from the perspective of WVSL itself through data collection from staff in the organization and looks at it from the perspective of other staff working in different development organizations through data collection on the use of the tool in Child Protection as compared to the use of other tools. World Vision's approach to programming aims to improve the well-being of children, especially the most vulnerable. This development approach focuses on children, and seeks to enable their families, local communities and partners to address the underlying causes of poverty.*

These root causes are not just lack of access to the basic necessities of life like water, food or health care, but also include inequities like gender or ethnic discrimination, or abusive practices like exploitation or domestic violence that affects a child's well-being. The study examines whether ADAPT is a suitable tool for child protection programming or whether other World Vision Sierra Leone programming with the usage of tools through community participation will need to make some changes to their development approach in order to address issues affecting the development of the children

The hope of the research is to enable World Vision either to mainstream ADAPT as a tool in its development programmes and to give a conclusion on its effectiveness and how best staff and communities have used the tool either in programme designing or implementation.

Keywords: *Child Protection, Development, World Vision, ADAPT, Area Development Programmes*

I. Introduction

It is a truism that when conflict hits any nation, among the most affected vulnerable groups like women and children will often form the bulk of the victims. The science of understanding this postulations can better be understood when we understand the conflict spectrum which actually outlines the causes, actors and consequences of the conflict. In Sierra Leone and after the eleven years RUF war of 1991-2002, the consequences were not just limited to the collapse of state institutions but it also eroded the country's socio-cultural and economic base. In this paper we seek to assess the effectiveness of the Analysis Design and Planning Tool (ADAPT) in Child protection development work undertaken by World Vision Sierra Leone in their various Area Development Programme (ADP). This tool is specifically designed to help with the identification, prioritization and root cause analysis of child protection issues, as well as with the identification and mapping of the formal and informal systems that are in place to protect children and to assist with carrying out detailed research to inform evidence-based decision-making. Development is shown by the qualitative improvement of circumstances, looking at a wider range of how people are affected in their actual living standards. This means that as something develops the quality of the whole improves. World Vision as an organization have been implementing programmes using various project models involving the communities to take ownership of their own development. Development without the consent and participation of the beneficiaries lacks sustainability. When community gains ownership of their development, this will go a long way. Marginalization of individuals or groups when it comes to development strives in communities will hinder their god given skills or their meaningful contributions. Against this backdrop, it can be seen that there is a link between a development mapping tool and development models in every society hence the need for the study. This study therefore intends to investigate assess, analyse ADAPT and offer constructive insights which will help World Vision Sierra Leone in use of ADAPT as a development tool in Child protection designing and its effectiveness in post war Sierra Leone.

Hypothetically, this study posits that notwithstanding the outstanding strengths in the use of ADAPT in Child Protection for development, there is actually a deficit approach at community level. Actualising implementation by the community themselves sometimes posed challenges. To help us understand plausible approaches to our hypothesis, the following objectives have been carefully carved out:

- To determine the socio economic characteristics of respondents in the study area

- To investigate the correlation between ADAPT and development
- To analyse, assess and offer constructive insights which will help World Vision Sierra Leone overcome its identified weaknesses/ strength in using the tool in child protection programme designing.
- How effectiveness is ADAPT in designing child protection programmes in post war Sierra Leone
- To Suggest possible recommendation to address the gap in using the tool

As a problem statement we note that irrespective of it development strides in communities and, areas the organization, transitioning from relief to longer-term development, implementing community-based area development programmes (ADP) have used different models and tools in implementing projects. The social Mapping Tool, Problem tree, Visioning, objective/solution tree etc have been used in project models. Project models require different levels of technical support and the accuracy of the ADAPT tool in data collection based on solid root-cause analysis of the child well-being priorities to inform programming and their effectiveness needs to be investigated.

II. Existing Literature On Research Topic

ADAPT as Tool

This tool is specifically designed to help with the identification, prioritization and root cause analysis of child protection issues, as well as with the identification and mapping of the systems that are in place to protect children. The tool is broken into two major parts: the first guides the WV programme team through a national level child protection analysis, and the second guides WV programme staff, local partners and other key stakeholders through a local level child protection analysis. The tool is divided into two major parts: - National and community level child protection analysis.

National level child protection analysis: This is the starting point for child protection strategy and future programming decisions. The national level child protection analysis collects and analyses data on strengths and gaps in the child protection system. This includes general linkages between the formal and informal aspects of the system as well as critical child protection issues and identification of children in the most vulnerable situations. The national analysis provides the foundational understanding for a national child protection strategy and informs advocacy efforts at the national level. It is also the starting point for analysis at the community level because programme staff and local partners must understand the overall child protection system in the country and how it is meant to function at the community level. In some cases, a national level child protection analysis has already been conducted by other actors. In this case, programme staff will need to analyse and build upon the existing reports. If no such reports exist, programme staff will need to conduct a national level analysis.

Community level child protection analysis: The tool provides guidance for a local level child protection analysis. This tool is used by programme staff, local partners and key stakeholders. A child protection technical specialist is also needed for the analysis, interpretation of the findings and programming decisions. The purpose of this analysis is to provide guidance for working with children, adults and other key stakeholders to: identify and priorities child protection issues in the community; identify the most important root causes of those issues; map the existence and effectiveness of the elements of the child protection system in the community. The national level analysis provides a picture of the child protection system and the local level analysis provides a better understanding of how it is actually functioning and analyse the issues and systems and identify next steps for community actions and for project identification and design.

The ADAPT methodology is a participatory assessment, analysis and planning tool that seeks to understand the state of child protection in a given country. The tool is specifically designed to help with the identification, prioritization and root cause analysis of child protection issues, as well as with the identification and mapping of the systems that are in place to protect children¹ The ADAPT methodology focuses on children and adolescents as active participants in the assessment, seeking out their voices and perspectives in order to gain the most complete understanding of extant child protection services, as well as gaps and needs that are not being met. ADAPT also includes the voices of parents and family (principle actors in child protection) as well as community-level informal actors, international NGOs, and finally formal state actors. In addition to the participatory workshops, key informant interviews with informal and formal child protection actors serve to provide a robust understanding of child protection, lending a voice to the other mapping tools provided by the methodology. ADAPT is not only an assessment framework, but an analytical tool that aims to uncover new information that can be used to strengthen child protection systems. Additionally, it aims to gather information to assist in planning World Vision's programmatic offer and strategic plans for strengthening child protection systems together with the CPA group and through various advocacy actions (mobilization and campaigns, among others)

III. Child Protection

World Vision defines a child protection system as a set of coordinated formal element (for example, national legislation or social welfare services) and informal elements (for example families and churches) working together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and other forms of violence against children. It affirms the role of parents and caregivers as the first line of support responsible for care and protection of children, while also affirming the responsibility of states to guarantee the care and protection children.

UNICEF uses the term ‘child protection’ to refer to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage. UNICEF’s child protection programmes also target children who are uniquely vulnerable to these abuses; such as when living without parental care, in conflict with the law and in armed conflict. Violations of the child’s right to protection take place in every country and are massive, under-recognized and under-reported barriers to child survival and development, in addition to being human rights violations.

IV. System Approach To Child Protection

A systems approach to child protection requires a considerable conceptual shift from the traditional stand-alone programming focus on particular groups of children in need of protection, to the achievement of more sustainable, comprehensive and long-term responses to child protection issues. A systems approach addresses child protection more holistically, brings greater focus on prevention, and strengthens the critical roles and assets of the key actors responsible for child protection.

These key actors include government, civil society, parents, caregivers, families and other community structures – which together provide formal, and informal child protection mechanisms and services. World Vision’s child protection programmes have been a part of strategic systems strengthening work with governments in some national offices through law reforms, institutional care reform, capacity enhancement, research, and community awareness raising and mobilization campaigns. The systems approach to child protection is, therefore, not necessarily a radical change in World Vision’s work practice, but it does provide a comprehensive framework across national offices and across the organization as a whole to strategically plan and consolidate work in child protection to achieve sustainable child well-being outcomes. Each nation’s child protection system is unique and made of formal and informal elements appropriate to its context. Formal elements are established or sanctioned by the government and guided by laws, regulations and policies. Informal elements do not have state/government mandates for protective functions. Instead, they are shaped by attitudes, values, behaviors, social norms and traditional practices in society. The boundaries between formal and informal elements will depend on the particular country context. For example, some of the formal elements of the system, such as services, may be provided or implemented by non-state/informal providers.

V. Study Methodology

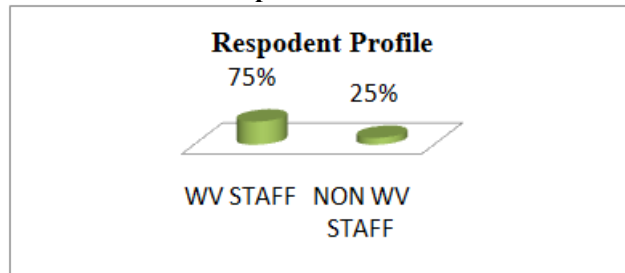
The study utilized a mixed design in which quantitative and qualitative approaches were used to arrive at the findings. Three techniques were used to collect data in this study and these were: questionnaire, Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Document Review. During the research, enumerators were carefully selected who had adequate experience in collecting data. Questionnaires were administered to staff and non-staff of World Vision to find out perception on the use of ADAPT. Initially the selection of staff interviewed was purposively done to include those who have used or interacted with the ADAPT tool. From each category, the participants were randomly selected. The respondents of the researcher were drawn from the staff of the organization am working for and Non staff of four (4) different organizations to solicit information from a wider coverage. For objectivity, they included WV SL staff (85%) and non WVSL staff (25%). The interviews were done in English, because English is the medium of communication in the work place and most of the people in the research area do understand and speak the language. Three (3) structured questionnaires were distributed to 75 WVSL staff and 25 to Non WVSL staff of which 78 respondent were male whilst 22 respondents were female.

The other set of questionnaire was administered to Non World Vision staff for the simple reason that they might have also interacted with the tool. The questionnaire was aimed at finding out the extent to which ADAPT as a tool is effective in the development process. key informant was purposively selected for interviews because of the role which he plays in World Vision Sierra Leone with regards the practical use of the ADAPT Tool in Health and Nutrition . The key informant interviewed was National Health Advisor in World Vision. Sampling method employed both probability and non-probability sampling methods were used.

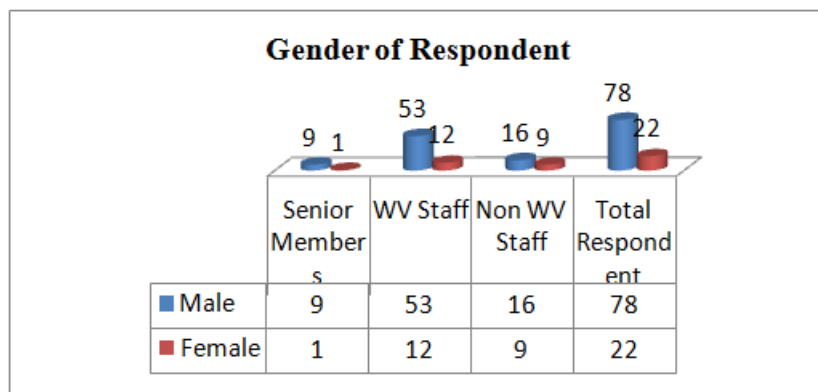
Data analysis was done when all the questionnaires were coded and entered into excel spreadsheet. Some questionnaires were sent as mail and some hand delivered to the respondents and collected after they have responded to the items in the questionnaires and each questionnaire was verified before been inputted into

excel for analysis using Scientific Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). This was done to minimize errors. There were two types of analysis done during the exercise because of the different types of data that were collected. Quantitative data was analyzed using the Scientific Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) computer software program. Content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data. The researcher analyzed the content of the responses from the discussions and the interviews and drew common categories and themes. The results were used to compliment the quantitative data.

VI. Study Findings
Respondent Profile

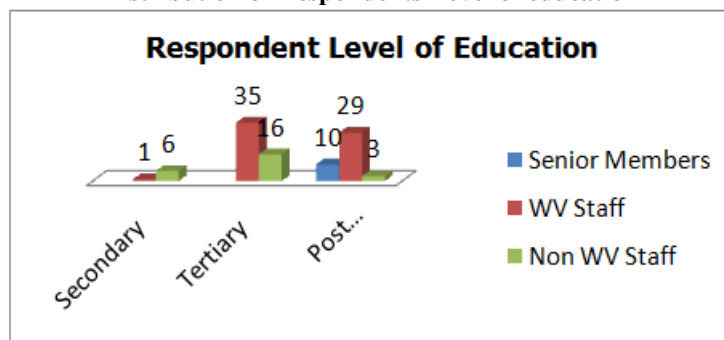


The research involved staff of WVSL and Non World Vision Staff. 75% of the total respondents were from World Vision Sierra Leone staff whilst 25% consisted of Non WV staff. Whilst it was important to understand from the staff what ADAPT meant and their participation in the use of the tool for development and implementation in delivering Child protection projects; it was more important to assess the extent and level of participation in the use of the tool from other staff in other organisations. It can therefore be stated that this distribution leans the findings more to WV SL staff than other Non-WV staff.



More men participated than women in terms of the total sample. The imbalance resulted mainly from the WVSL staff, where 22 of the 100 respondents were female. This is also as a result of the low female population in the organisation and even the field where projects are being implemented. It could be said therefore that the responses were generally in-balanced in terms of gender and one sex dominated contribution to the findings of the research.

Distribution of Respondents Level of education



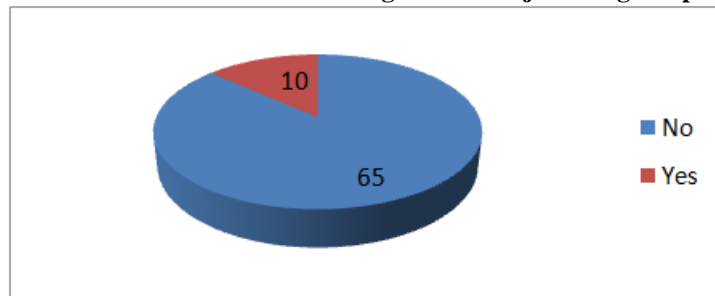
Respondents cut across a good range in terms of educational level. The respondents ranged from secondary to Postgraduate. Adults who made useful contributions were captured in the entire data collection.

Capacity And Knowledge Of Adapt

| | Yes | No | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| WVSL Staff | 58 | 17 | 75 |
| Non WVSL Staff | 0 | 25 | 25 |
| | 58 | 42 | 100 |

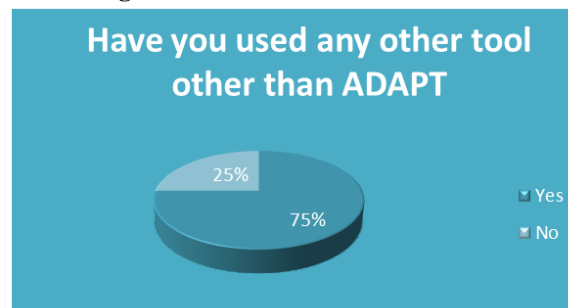
According to the table above, 58 WVSL staff responded that they have knowledge about ADAPT while 42 had no knowledge about the tool. Of those who say they had knowledge about the tool stated that, ADAPT means - Analysis, Design and Planning tool which they got the information from WVSL. The entire sampled Non WVSL staff respondent had no idea about ADAPT Tool.

Participation in the use of ADAPT for Programme/Project design/implementation



WVSL frontline staff ensures community participation in every projects through projects models and the use of specific tools. From the analysis above 10 out of the 75 staff interviewed have participated in the use of the tool for programme design and implementation whilst the 65 staff have neither participated nor implemented using the tool in the organisation.

Usage of other tool other than ADAPT



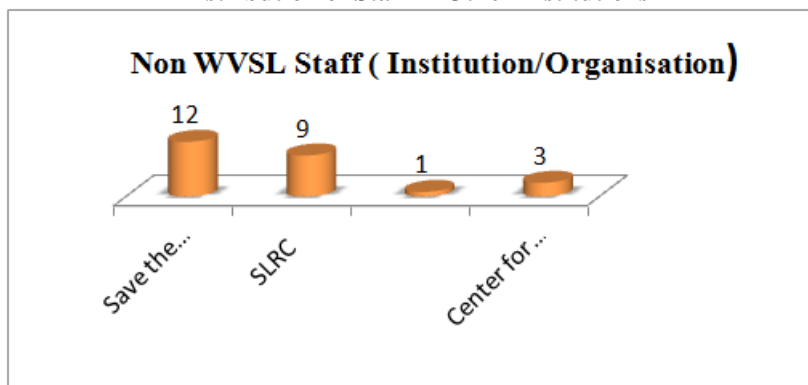
From the above analysis only 25% of the respondents have used ADAPT and 75% responded for the use of other tools. The Gap in the usage of ADAPT by the staff is great if as a Child focussed organisation we want to identify root cause of issues in our communities for child protection intervention, then the usage of the tool should be scale up in the organisation as it has happened for the response of the usage of other tools by the organisation.

List of tools being used by respondents, Problem tree, Objective/solution tree, Onion tool, Umbrella of care, Spider diagram and Visioning

| How can you compare ADAPT and other programming tools used by World Vision Sierra Leone |
|---|
| The tool takes into account the participation of children |
| So many tools crisscrossing the programming landscape, some of these are intertwined with the others and so it is very difficult to compare their effectiveness |
| It caters for a wide range of information and provides insight to relevant and logical result of the findings. |
| Details are well spelled out and a logical conclusion is derived from a glance |
| Seeks to identify issues/problems |
| Assist in the prioritization of these issues/problems |
| Seeks solutions to the problems |
| Visioning is a tool used to help design project, according to community expectation and desire were as ADAPT is to bridge the gap that exist between the projects and community desire or expectation |

| WHAT ARE THE SOLUTION(S) TO THESE CHALLENGES |
|---|
| Not all questions in the tool are relevant based on the context and project. It is therefore necessary to be creative so that the tool is adopted to the context |
| Establish strong systems with a huge capacity to continue interventions afterwards. Strengthen community monitoring systems. Establish effective funding streams to ADAPT generated interventions |
| Effective training of staff (the would be users) of the tool. To make the tool user friendly and flexible known to people |
| One of the challenges identified in the implementation of the project was parents compromising with perpetrators so as to maintain the relationship that previously exists between them. The solution that was put in place was the development of community byelaws with prescribed punishment for parents that do compromise the protection issues. |

Distribution of Staff in Other Institutions



A total of 25 staff in other institutions were interviewed in Bo and Pujehun. Of these, twelve (12) from Save the Children, Nine (9) from Sierra Leone Red Cross (SLRC) , one (1) from Peace Reconciliation Movement and three (3) from Centre for Human Rights Governance and Development. These are also institutions in the field of development but their responses indicated they have not heard about the tool neither participated in the use of the tool. Clear indication the only World Vision Sierra Leone has tried to use the tool though not on a full scale.

**Effectiveness of the Tool in Child Protection
Capacity And Knowledge Of Adapt**

| Which area (s) has WVSL used ADAPT | What do you know about CP ADAPT WV | How effective was the tool |
|--|---|---|
| Child Protection & Partnership downloads | ADAPT is used to identify priorities and analyse causes especially root causes at CP issues affecting children in communities. | The tool is very effective as it help WV to collect enough evidence that would inform future programme designs and implementation. ADAPT was able to improve our community structures for the implementation of the health project. |
| Child Protection & Health and Nutrition | This tool is specifically designed to help with the identification, prioritisation and root cause analysis of child protection issues, as well as with the identification and mapping of the formal and informal systems that are in place to protect children. | The tool is effective because it gives opportunity to community members to identify some of the child protection issues in their communities, analysis some of the root causes and the system that are in place for the protection. The tool is effective because it is highly participatory with a high potential of generating relevant information from beneficiaries themselves. Can be clearly demonstrated and understood by beneficiary communities. The tool is able to identify and establish protection mechanism structures. Strong community engagement with involvement of beneficiaries in the initial planning. |

VII. Conclusion

A systems approach addresses child protection more holistically, brings greater focus on prevention, and strengthens the critical roles and assets of the key factors responsible for child protection. These key factors include government, civil society, parents, caregivers, families, children and youth and other community structures – which together provide formal, and non - formal child protection mechanisms and services.

ADAPT already meaningfully engages adults and children in discussion on child protection and this could be extended to enrich the data validation of the baseline process. Also, increased engagement with and ongoing monitoring of most vulnerable children, using their own narratives and participant observation to elevate our understanding of their situation.

The ADAPT process provided a rich foundation for engaging community in first exploring child protection issues and reflecting on gaps in government and community protective mechanisms. Each country's ADAPT findings were useful in gathering data and supporting adults and children in discussing the findings.

World Vision Sierra Leone has a long history in development interventions using different tools for project model designing and implementation. ADAPT as a child protection development tool and the 7-11 Analysis, Design And Planning Tool (ADAPT) guides field partners in analysis, design and planning of health and nutrition and Child protection programming. Even though the data collected was on the effectiveness of the tool in child protection those who have used the tool have emphasized the usefulness of the tool as participatory for development approach. The gap which is evident from the responses need to be close by introducing program staff to the tool.

In spite of all the low percentage of staff who have really use the tool for either designing or implementation, the researcher is of the conviction that indeed if the Organisation bring in more effort in mainstreaming the tool, it will be user friendly as the check list for both National and community level engagement is straight and forward for any staff to comprehend and adapt.

Countries that have used the tool extensively have clearly manifested the outcome of the tool. The ADAPT for Child Protection has been designed to help with the identification, prioritization and root cause analysis of child protection issues. It also helps with the identification and mapping of systems that are in place to protect children a deeper understanding and analysis of the child protection issues and mapping of local child protection systems which is evident.

VIII. Recommendations

The researcher seeks to propose that Community empowerment issue are very vital. There is a mind set that communities do not have the capacity to overcome their problems, but this tool being participatory will improve on their capacity being that they have a lot of potential to overcome their problems. We have a lot of things to learn from each other. I would like to recommend that local stakeholders be encouraged to lead the process of the local level ADAPT processes. This will help to increase local ownership of the process.

Secondly, ADAPT already meaningfully engages adults and children in discussion on child protection and this could be extended to enrich the data validation of the baseline process. Also, increased engagement with and ongoing monitoring of MVC, using their own narratives and participant observation to elevate our understanding of their situation.

The other recommendation is that increase the capacity and reduce the gap on staff knowledge on the tool of staff using the tool. Secondly, the tool should not be limited to just one project, therefore should be used for other projects in the organisation for quality assessment of contextual issue in Education, Health. Livelihood and sponsorship

Use ADAPT alongside other community participatory tools to enhance community contribution to programming Since it is more apt and can be made use of in a readable available manner all efforts should be made to enhance every staff for its usage.

The use of ADAPT as a development tool requires an open mind, allow the people to actively participate while you only guide the process. Be intentional to ensure that participants within the same group are targeted. Use ADAPT in a focus group.

CP ADAPT will be useful for all WVSL programming as it will help ADP's to know the actual root causes of issues affecting children thereby plan adequate interventions that would mitigate against such issues on children.

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