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ROLE OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN PROVIDING SOCIAL PROTECTION AND UPHOLDING THE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KENYA

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Annotation. **Introduction.** The Kenyan government faces a significant challenge in protecting the welfare and upholding the rights of vulnerable children whose number has increased significantly due to HIV pandemic. Even though the government through its constitution clearly outlines the right of every child to basic human rights, vulnerable children lack access to children rights such as education, good nutrition, shelter and health care access. Non state actors including non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, private entities, international organizations and community groups therefore play an increasingly important role in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable children. These organizations provide basic services such as shelter, education and health with the aim of filling the gap where the Kenyan government falls short, even though they constantly face challenges like poor governance and coordination. The purpose of the study is to interrogate the role that non state actors play in providing social protection and upholding citizenship rights of vulnerable children in Kenya.

Methods. The study used desktop research method to collect qualitative data on the role played by non-state actors in providing social protection to vulnerable children in Kenya. Focus was given to peer reviewed articles, demographic health surveys and government reports. Thematic analysis was carried out to establish patterns, trends and associations from the data collected through coding. Different themes were generated with the aim of capturing the original content of the data collected.

Results and their discussion. The results showed that non state actors are the backbone of social protection among vulnerable children in Kenya through addressing a wide range of child vulnerabilities which the government has been unable to address. The results from this article will help policy makers, non state actors and donors in coming up with practical approaches for improving social policy outcomes in Kenya.

Keywords: non-state actors, social protection, children's rights, livelihoods, vulnerability, governance, accountability.

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РОЛЬ НЕГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫХ СУБЪЕКТОВ В ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИИ СОЦИАЛЬНОЙ ЗАЩИТЫ И ОТСТАИВАНИИ ГРАЖДАНСКИХ ПРАВ УЯЗВИМЫХ ДЕТЕЙ В КЕНИИ

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Аннотация. **Введение.** Правительство Кении сталкивается с серьёзной проблемой в защите благосостояния и прав уязвимых детей, число которых значительно возросло из-за пандемии ВИЧ. Несмотря на то, что правительство в своей конституции чётко закрепляет право каждого ребенка на основные права человека, уязвимые дети не имеют доступа к таким правам ребенка, как образование, хорошее питание, жильё и медицинское обслуживание. Таким образом, негосударственные субъекты, включая неправительственные организации, религиозные объединения, частные структуры, международные организации и общественные группы, играют всё более важную роль в защите прав уязвимых детей. Эти организации предоставляют базовые услуги, такие как обеспечение жильём, образование и здравоохранение, с целью восполнения пробелов в деятельности правительства Кении, хотя они постоянно сталкиваются с такими проблемами, как плохое управление и координация. Цель этой статьи – проанализировать роль, которую негосударственные субъекты играют в обеспечении социальной защиты и отстаивании гражданских прав уязвимых детей в Кении.

Методы. В исследовании использовался метод настольных исследований для сбора качественных данных о роли негосударственных структур в обеспечении социальной защиты уязвимых детей в Кении. Основное внимание было уделено рецензируемым статьям, демографическим обзорам состояния здоровья и правительственным отчётам. Был проведён тематический анализ для установления закономерностей, тенденций и ассоциаций на основе данных, собранных с помощью кодирования. Были разработаны различные темы с целью обобщения исходного содержания собранных данных.

Результаты и их обсуждение. Результаты показали, что негосударственные субъекты являются основой социальной защиты уязвимых детей в Кении, поскольку они решают широкий спектр проблем, связанных с уязвимостью детей, с которыми правительство не смогло справиться. Результаты, изложенные в этой статье, помогут политикам, негосударственным субъектам и донорам разработать практические подходы к улучшению результатов социальной политики в Кении.

Ключевые слова: негосударственные субъекты, социальная защита, права детей, средства к существованию, уязвимость, управление, подотчётность.

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Introduction

Kenya has been facing a significant challenge in protecting the welfare and rights of vulnerable children. Approximately 3.6 million children which translates to a fifth of the total population of the children in Kenya are either orphans or vulnerable and this high number is associated with HIV/AIDS epidemic. These children do not have parental care; they live in extremely poor conditions and are also frequently abused and excluded hence lacking access to basic human needs and rights. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) clearly outlines the right of every child to basic rights including the right to education, good nutrition, shelter, access to health care and protection from any form of abuse and mistreatment. Despite this assurance by the government, vulnerable children strive to enjoy children's rights as a result of lower socioeconomic status of their households and the community. The existing gap between the promises made by the government and the reality of the lives lived by these vulnerable groups has made it necessary to adopt various social protection interventions. Whereas the Kenyan government has established strategies and regulations aimed at supporting children, different non-state actors such as non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, private entities and international organizations play a major role in service delivery and advocacy for children's rights. This group of non-state actors has constantly stepped in where government capacity is inadequate in order to provide essential needs including food supplies, education, healthcare services and monetary assistance to this vulnerable group of children [1, p. 15].

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In terms of development and social policy, non-state actors can be defined as independent organizations which operate without the support of the government. These organizations include non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, charity organizations, private entities and communal groups. Non-state actors differ in size and scope, ranging from huge international organizations with countrywide programs to relatively small self-help community groups. Their common goal is provision of essential goods, service delivery or advocacy for human rights without directly being controlled by the government. In the Kenyan setting, non-state actors have been supplementing the support systems in the community. Historically, it was the responsibility of the extended family and the clan to safeguard the wellbeing of orphans and vulnerable children. However, pandemics such as the HIV/AIDS outbreak in the year 1990 and chronic poverty have made it more challenging for these informal networks to offer protection. In response, various non-state actors emerged, inspired by humanitarian, religious or charitable values with the aim of protecting the wellbeing and rights of vulnerable children in Kenya [2, p. 12]. This article will discuss four major types of non-state actors which are common in Kenya including non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, the private sector and international bodies.

Social protection encompasses policies and programs adopted with the aim of reducing poverty and vulnerability through provision of essential services and improved income. This comprehensive mandate consists of interventions aimed at enhancing access to education, quality healthcare, good nutrition, shelter and income safety. Social protection strategies can either be protective hence providing relief from deprivations, preventive in order to avert unforeseen shocks, promotive aimed at enhancing capabilities, or transformative capable of addressing social inequalities and empowering marginalized populations including vulnerable children. Significantly, effective social protection reinforces the social contract that exists between the citizens and the government by upholding the fact that the government is responsible for guaranteeing safety and welfare for each and every citizen and most importantly children. Additionally, child-sensitive social protection strategies are majorly designed to cater for the unique vulnerabilities of children for instance eliminating stigma and exclusion as well as ensuring service delivery [3, p. 4].

In Kenya, citizenship rights are enshrined in the constitution adopted in the year 2010 and in statutes such as the Children Act. In addition, article 53 of the constitution of Kenya clearly outlines that "every child has the right to free and obligatory basic education, shelter and quality health care and protection from abuse, neglect, all forms of violence and child labor, among other children's rights". These provisions are in agreement with international treaties including the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Kenya in the year 1990. Therefore, citizenship rights advocate for support and protection of vulnerable children as a legal right and not charity. However, realization of these basic children's rights is a major challenge in practice since many households cannot afford and state services are not enough. It was established that poor households in Kenya caring for orphans often lacked enough food and access to health care as well as other necessities which are basic human rights. Therefore, non-state actors step in order to complement the government efforts through provision of direct assistance or advocating for the children to be able to access various government services. By so doing, these organizations have paved the way for a broad, rights-based approach to social protection capable of safeguarding the welfare and rights of vulnerable children in Kenya [4, p. 6].

Purpose of the study

The increased involvement of non-state actors in the field of social protection in Kenya raises significant questions on how these organizations contribute to social protection, the manner in which they uphold children's rights and ways in which they can effectively work in collaboration with the government. The current study examined the role played by non-state actors in providing social protection and upholding citizenship rights of vulnerable children in Kenya. Guided by this objective, the study will analyze the theoretical foundations of social protection and children's rights, examine the policy environment of Kenya and explore various non-state actors through reviewing existing literature and case studies. Findings from this study will be useful to policy makers and non-state actors as they will help in the adoption of better policies in order to enhance social outcomes in Kenya. Additionally, the key challenges that will be identified will inform recommendations in order to strengthen coordination, liability and efficiency of social protection interventions directed towards vulnerable children in Kenya.

Research methods

This study uses a desktop review method to gather qualitative data on the role of non-state actors in providing social protection and upholding the citizenship rights of vulnerable children in Kenya. The current study has adopted a consolidative literature review method allowing the researcher to use theoretical and empirical information acquired from academic journals, ethnography and government reports. This allowed the researcher to carry out a critical examination of the contribution made by non-state actors in enhancing social protection for orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya.

The study used peer reviewed articles published from the year 2020 to date from international bodies such as UNICEF, Ministry

of Labor and Social Protection of Kenya and qualitative research carried out from different parts of Kenya. The keywords used include 'Social protection', 'Children's rights', 'Livelihoods', 'Non-state actors', 'Vulnerability', 'Governance, 'Non-governmental organizations', 'Accountability'. Thematic synthesis design was used in analyzing the data. Different themes were generated with the aim of capturing the original content of the data collected. Since this was a desktop research study, the limitation faced by the researcher was having to rely only on the existing secondary sources of information. The next section which is research results and their discussion is guided by the themes generated during data analysis while the final part of the article outlines the key conclusions and recommendations that came up after reviewing the literature in detail.

Research results

The social policy environment in Kenya for child protection has been evolving constantly for the last 20 years which reflects both international commitment to different treaties and internal pressure. The first policy adopted in 1960; the Children and Young Persons Act was significantly limited in scope and area of focus and the Kenyan government offered minimal direct social support for children in general. Vulnerable children including orphans, street children and the disabled only received support from charity organizations due to lack of a comprehensive social protection policy framework. The ratification of the UN Convention on the Right of the Child in the year 1990 by the Kenyan government paved way for several legal reforms which culminated in the Children Act 2001 and subsequently led to the establishment of structures such as the National Council for Children's Services responsible for child protection. The Constitution of Kenya 2010 then elevated various children's rights to be part of the Bill of Rights which gave them the topmost legal priority. Alongside legal reform, Kenya developed strategic plans to address child vulnerability. Most importantly, in the year 2008 the government launched a cash transfer program for orphans and vulnerable children. This became a nationwide strategy aimed at addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis and extreme poverty [5, p. 7].

The cash transfer program for the orphans and vulnerable children has been implemented through a combined effort from the government and non-state actors. The increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children from the year 2005 spurred collaborations between international organizations and the government of Kenya. It is worth noting that even though the cash transfer for the orphans and vulnerable children program is state-led, non-state actors such as the World Bank and UNICEF play a major role in financing the program and service delivery is done in partnership with non-governmental organizations. The hybrid model evident here signifies the social protection landscape in Kenya which is a blend of state policies implemented by and non-state actors. It was established that non-governmental organizations support approximately 1.5 million children in Kenya through different programs, a scale that can only be compared to state efforts [6, p. 11].

Apart from cash transfer programs, the social policy of Kenya also includes other strategies that non-state actors are involved in. One of these policies is the Free Primary Education which was adopted in the year 2003 with the aim of enhancing access to education and subsidizing secondary education. Additionally, missionary hospitals play a major role in complementing government efforts in the health sector. The current National Social Protection Policy of Kenya (2023) clearly acknowledged the significant role played by non-state actors and advocates for an improved coordination between non-state actors and the state in order to avoid implementation gaps and overlapping. Even though the policies have been progressive, there exists significant gaps in terms of implementation. Despite progressive policies, serious gaps remain in practice. Studies show that majority of orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya do not have access to any form of assistance from the government and non-state actors. This implies that even though the efforts by the state and no-state actors have had an impact to the beneficiaries, comprehensive coverage is yet to be achieved. There has been notable improvement in terms of program expansion but reaching approximately 6 million vulnerable children in Kenya remains a challenge [6, p. 14]. This makes it imperative to closely examine the role played by various non-state actors in enhancing social protection and upholding children's rights.

Role of various non-state actors.

Non-governmental organizations whether local or international have had a great impact in the field of social protection in Kenya. These organizations are flexible, work closely with the community and have a mission to accomplish. Therefore, they address wide range of child vulnerabilities including health, shelter, nutrition programs, vaccination campaigns, education programs and child protection from any form of abuse. For instance, non-governmental organizations including Save the Children and Plan International in Kenya have been running programs aimed at supporting children's education whereas local non-governmental organizations including Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children advocate for the rights of children. Most importantly, non-governmental organizations have contributed to the delivery of cash transfer programs to the grassroot level through identifying beneficiaries, disbursing and monitoring the use of resources, particularly in the rural parts of Kenya, where access to state resources is minimal. One of the local non-governmental organizations which is also community- based is the Kilifi orphans

and vulnerable children project operating in the coastal area of Kenya. This organization supports approximately 20,000 orphans and vulnerable children from 7,480 families through collaboration with the local community [7, p. 18; 14, p. 12].

Some of the strengths of non-governmental organizations include community-centeredness and their ability to innovate. This has been achieved through ensuring active involvement of the members of the community through employment or serving as volunteers as this helps in building trust with beneficiary households. Additionally, several non-governmental organizations adopt child-centered approaches, allowing for the involvement of both children and their caregivers in order to design programs that are suitable for the communities. A study done in the Western part of Kenya showed that non-governmental organizations programs were extremely responsive due to their ability to tailor their interventions according to the priorities identified by the beneficiaries such as provision of learning materials and to enhance access to education. It is also worth noting that non-governmental organizations are less bureaucratic as compared to government agencies making it possible for them to respond urgently to community needs or be able to pilot various projects without following tedious bureaucratic processes [8, p. 11]

However, non-governmental organizations also face challenges in implementing their programs. One of the major challenges is sustainability whereby various non-governmental organizations depend on funding from donors to sustain the projects which implies that failure to receive the funds leads to collapsing of these projects. Another challenge is associated with lack of coordination between non-governmental organizations and the state, often resulting in duplication of projects and existence of implementation gaps in other instances. Non-governmental organizations also face a challenge in terms of accountability. For instance, international organizations must be accountable to both the donors and the beneficiaries. Studies have shown that most non-governmental organizations are only accountable to the donors hence failing to incorporate feedback from the beneficiaries which undermines their efficiency. This is because such an approach results in the importation of external programs that cannot align with the requirements of the local communities [8, p. 14; 15, p. 7].

Faith-based organizations are also part of non-state actors and they play a significant role in the field of child welfare in Kenya. Historically, religious organizations have been at the center of social protection since some of the earliest learning institutions and orphanages in Kenya were established by missionaries. Currently, Faith-based organizations are diverse, ranging from large organizations to small charity organizations established by religious leaders. A study by UNICEF revealed that many faith-based organizations are involved in providing care to the orphans which is aligned to the religious teaching of caring for the orphans and the widowed. Even though these organizations helped in addressing the increased number of orphans due to HIV/AIDS crisis, they were criticized for the possible isolation of the children from their families. In response, the organizations resulted in provision of cash assistance to the widows without necessarily taking the children away from their homes except for the children who are total orphans. One of the remarkable faith-based organization is the Nyumbani village in Kenya. As the name suggests, "Nyumbani" loosely translates to a home. This organization was established in the year 1992 by a catholic priest in response to the HIV/AIDS orphan crisis. Currently, the organization hosts approximately 1000 children and 100 elders and has its own learning institutions, a health clinic, a farming area and income-generating activities making it self-sustainable without necessarily depending on donations [9, p. 20].

One of the strengths of faith-based organizations is that they have cultivated trust from the beneficiaries and moral authority in the society where they operate. Therefore, these organizations which are mainly present even in rural areas are capable of easily identifying the beneficiaries and mobilizing donations from the congregants with the aim of supporting or adopting orphans and vulnerable children. Another strength is that apart from faith-based organizations providing material aid, they also provide psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children who maybe traumatized as a result of losing their parents. Most importantly, various faith-based organizations help in addressing retrogressive cultural practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation through campaigning against these practices hence upholding children's rights. However, one of the major challenges facing faith-based organizations is over-dependence on institutional care. Since these organizations depend on religious institutions for financial support, it may sometimes be difficult to keep up with the resource-intensive nature of managing the orphanages. Another challenge faced by faith-based organizations the programs may be run on the basis of denominational lines. The support given by these organizations may be biased in such as a way that learning institutions may give priority to learners of a particular denomination or orphanages may nature children based on a single denomination regardless of their background hence conflicting with right to religious identity of these children [10, p. 26].

Private sector is also a significant part of non-state actors whereby most private organizations have been channeling their profits to various social programs. This has

been achieved through the corporate social responsibility through which companies direct their support towards education, health sector or youth empowerment programs while targeting orphans and vulnerable. Some of the major private entities in Kenya the Safaricom Foundation, an entity that has supported the construction of learning institutions while sponsoring vulnerable children throughout their education. In a similar way, banks like the Equity Bank of Kenya have made an effort to sponsor orphans and vulnerable children to be able to complete education. Equity bank through its "Wings to fly" program has up to date supported over 60,000 scholars through high school and university education. One of the strengths of these organizations is that they have enough access to capital which makes it possible to meet their goals. Additionally, these entities are capable of filling gaps that are often overlooked like empowering the youth to become leaders. The major challenge facing these entities is that corporate social responsibility budgets entirely rely on the profits made by these companies which implies that failure to make profit may result in the programs collapsing [11, p. 13].

Lastly, international bodies such as the United Nations, global financial institutions and international non-governmental organizations have been at the center of social protection in Kenya with the aim of supporting orphans and vulnerable children. These non-state actors come with external resources, skills and in other cases international political pressure with the aim of addressing children's rights when they are violated. These organizations operate both at national and local level with the most common one being the "The United Nations Children's Fund" (UNICEF), which is significantly present in Kenya. UNICEF has been helping the Kenyan government to come up with child protection policies and also helped to pilot programs such as the orphans and vulnerable children cash transfer program. Similarly, global financial institutions such as the World Bank, have been on the forefront in terms of financing several social protection programs including cash transfers for vulnerable children, the elderly and people living with disabilities. In addition, international non-governmental organizations including World Vision and Save the Children have also significantly contributed to social protection for vulnerable children in Kenya. For instance, programs by World Vision in Kenya are currently supporting over 1.7 million orphans and vulnerable children [12, p. 18; 19, p. 16].One of the major strengths of international bodies is their financial capability and expertise. These organizations are capable of filling the financial gap that cannot be met by the domestic resources. For instance, the school feeding scheme by World Food Program was initiated at a period when the Kenyan government could not afford to implement this program on a nationwide scale. However, implementation of these programs is a challenge especially when international bodies are involved since it is difficult to ensure local ownership of the programs and sustainability. For instance, in cases where the programs entirely depend on donors for financial support, they are bound to collapse if funding stops or priority shifts to other areas. Another challenge is associated with duplication of the programs whereby more than one international body fund the same program without coordination hence poor performance of these programs [13, p. 21].

Discussion

The efforts of various non-state actors have significantly impacted on the welfare of a huge number of orphans and vulnerable children in Kenya. However, there has been persistent challenges preventing the success of these interventions in enhancing social protection for the vulnerable children in Kenya. Literature analyzed showed that some of the existing challenges include; Fragmentation and deficit in terms of coordination. It was established that there is lack of coordination of various programs by non-state actors which has led to duplicated programs while leaving some areas without any access of these crucial programs. Basically, this fragmentation has constantly undermined the effectiveness and equity in terms of resource allocation in the field of social protection for vulnerable children. Literature analyzed also showed there is a challenge in terms of sustainability and over reliance on donors. It is evident that various non-state actors entirely depend on donor either from foreign bodies or religious institutions. As outlined earlier, over-dependence on donors makes it difficult to sustain these programs when the funding is halted. Eventually, these programs collapse leaving the vulnerable groups stranded.

It was also established the programs by non-state actors are characterized by limited coverage in terms of reaching the vulnerable groups and exclusion. Even though there are several non-state actors in Kenya, a considerable number of vulnerable children does not have access to social protection. This is because some of the programs adopted by non-state actors have strict criteria of selecting beneficiaries which leads to exclusion of some of the households that do not meet these criteria and this has caused perceptions of inequity and stigma. Another gap exists in terms of accountability to the beneficiaries and rights perspective. In most cases, it is difficult to ensure that the efforts by non-state actors are rights-based as well accountable to the beneficiaries. This is because these actors do not have effective feedback mechanisms in order to gather opinion of the vulnerable populations. Lack of accountability may lead to poor quality services or abuse of the rights of the vulnerable children. Literature also shows that there exists uneasy form of relationship and lack of trust between the Kenyan government and non-state actors. The non-state actors have always

complained about the bureaucratic procedures and lengthy regulations they have to follow in an attempt to collaborate with the government of Kenya. On the other hand, government officials are always worried that non-governmental organizations will reveal the services delivery flaws in the public sector.

Despite the gaps identified, there are prospects for non-state actors to become more effective in their social protection efforts for orphans and vulnerable children. Some of these opportunities include; Policy support for integration. The government of Kenya is adopting policies aimed at promoting integration and enhancing coordination with all non-state actors in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of programs. The other opportunity is related to the use of modern technology and innovation. Non-state actors can use new technology in monitoring and managing various programs to ensure that they are effectively coordinated.

Another opportunity lies on resource mobilization and human capital development. This can be achieved through encouraging local donations as a way of complementing foreign aid. By so doing, the programs will be more sustainable since local donors are capable of maintaining long term donations if the impact is visible. Since, a bigger percentage of the Kenyan population is made of the youth, the non-state actors can take this opportunity and train more social workers who will offer better services in the field of social protection. Finally, advocacy and social change could enhance the social protection efforts by non-state actors. Non-state actors are capable of addressing the main causes of child vulnerabilities by advocating for a change in social norms. For instance, in the recent past non-state actors have successfully advocated for reforms in the Children Act and an increase in budget allocation for various social protection programs.

Conclusion

The experience of Kenya with non-state actors and their role in providing social protection and upholding the rights of vulnerable is characterized by both success and challenges in the case of a developing nation. The non-state actors discussed above have played a significant role in promoting the welfare and basic rights of many vulnerable children in Kenya. These actors have effectively complemented government efforts through their innovations, resource allocation and compassion way of implementing their programs. Their efforts have made it possible for millions of children to have access to education, quality health care, better nutrition and protection. Case studies such as the cash transfer program for the orphans and vulnerable children, "Wings to Fly" scholarship program and the Nyumbani Village discussed earlier have constantly demonstrates coordination between government and non-state actors can yield better results and eventually offer countless opportunities to vulnerable children.

However, it was established that over-reliance on charity and donations makes it difficult to sustain these programs. For the success of the social protection efforts, the government must be actively involved in order to fulfill the rights of its citizens. As a way of dealing with the existing challenges, there is need to enhance cohesion and integration between the non-state actors and the government so as to enhance social protection coverage. This requires collective effort in addressing the existing challenges related to coordination of the programs, their funding and accountability mechanisms. The approach by the government of Kenya to embrace non-state actors shows that child welfare and social protection is a collective effort from different sectors. For instance, the private sector is capable of bringing innovation while international organizations offer resources and global expertise. The government on the other hand offers legitimacy and with these collective efforts, better outcomes are guaranteed. The continued refinement of this partnership helps Kenya move closer to a nation where all children have an opportunity for survival and thriving to be able to take part in the development of their nation.

Based on the analysis on the contribution of non-state actors on social protection for vulnerable children in Kenya, the current section offers key recommendations aimed at enhancing efficiency and coordination of these entities. The recommendations given target both non-state actors and policy makers while suggesting a practical approach that can be used to improve the outcome of the social policies adopted:

Establishing robust coordination mechanisms as a way of addressing fragmentation and strengthening coordination both at national level and county level. This can be achieved through establishing a forum for social protection stakeholders where they can work in coordination and plan before implementing the programs. By so doing, there will be reduced duplication of the programs and enhanced transparency which contributes to a broad and equitable coverage of the beneficiaries.

Integrating non-state actors into the national social protection framework. There is need for the government to formally partner with non-governmental organizations through allowing them to deliver some public services while at the same time adhering to the existing rules and regulations. Additionally, the government should play the role of funding these programs majorly and eventually assume full control. This is one way to ensures that the programs are sustainable and can continue functioning even without donor support.

Enhancing sustainability through diversifying the sources of funding and capacity building as this will help in reducing financial

vulnerability of the programs run by non-state actors. This can be achieved through increasing local resource mobilization, increasing corporate social responsibility allocation for child welfare programs and encouraging communal. This will eventually reduce over dependence on foreign aid, making the programs more sustainable.

Strengthening governing standards and accountability: It is important to enhance governance of non-state actors to ensure that they provide quality services and uphold the rights of the beneficiaries. The Kenyan government should establish minimum standards that must be met by any institution working with children in order to guarantee protection. For instance, all the staff working with these organizations should be trained on the protection policies and complaint mechanisms of reporting abuse.

Lastly, there is need to advocate for an increase in public investment and political will. The stakeholders ought to continuously advocate for the Kenyan government to improve on the budget allocation on social protection programs for vulnerable children. There is need to shift from the tendency of entirely depending on donors to domestic funding since this will guarantee sustainability of the programs and eventually improve social protection in Kenya.

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