

What

AVSI Foundation in collaboration with Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation [TPO] Uganda is implementing a five year USAID's **Keeping Children Healthy and Safe (KCHS)** Activity in South Western Uganda.

Why

To prevent new HIV infections and reduce vulnerability among **orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)** and adolescent girls and young women.

Statistics

- **1.5 million** - People living with HIV in Uganda (UNAIDS 2020).
- **53,000** - New infections in Uganda (UNAIDS 2020).
- **65 percent** - Children on ARV treatment (UNAIDS 2020).
- **7.9 percent** - HIV prevalence - Kigezi region.

Factors

- Gender-Based Violence (GBV),
- Couple non-disclosure
- Low income levels, and others.

Approach

In response, AVSI strengthens and supports the community based services department through identification, response and follow up of GBV and violence against children (VAC) cases. The department is supported to mentor and train the Community Development Officers, para social workers, ensure existence of child well-being committees at district and sub county level to enhance capacity to identify, report, follow up and support GBV and VAC cases.

INSPIRE Adopted Strategies:

- Parent and Care-giver support
- Income and economic strengthening
- Education and Life Skills training

Results

- **1250 children** and **2112 adults** living with HIV supported on KCHS program in Kigezi region.
- **4929 Orphans and Vulnerable Children supported.**
- **210 referrals** initiated and completed for various services.
- **500+ cases reported** through various mechanisms

USAID's Keeping Children Healthy and Safe Activity (KCHS)

Strengthening prevention and response of violence against children to accelerated referral of children into HIV/AIDS Care:

The Story of Working with District Community-Based Services and Health Facilities



Conclusion

Due to the active role of child well-being committees and strengthened response of community-based services, there is increased reporting of cases, referrals and linkages into HIV care.