

USAID AMPATH Uzima



Telephone: (+254)532033471/2 | Postal Address: P.O. Box 4606-30100, Eldoret, Kenya | Email: info@usaidampathuzima.or.ke

GUIDANCE FOR TRANSITIONING OLDER OVC FROM PROGRAM SUPPORT

(Revised - Version 2: May 19, 2022)

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Approach on Transition

USAID AMPATH Uzima is committed to ensuring that all OVC receiving services through the project continue to receive assistance until fully transitioned.

The PEPFAR guidance (July, 2012) defines OVC as, “Children who have lost a parent to HIV/AIDS, who are otherwise directly affected by the disease, or who live in areas of high HIV prevalence and may be vulnerable to the disease or its socioeconomic effects.”¹ The guidance further encourages programmers to be mindful that the period of transition from adolescence to adulthood is critical and should take care not to abruptly disqualify children from participating in any project activity when they turn 18.

Programming for a Range of Ages and Stages

A young person who turns 18 while receiving OVC assistance should not be terminated from receiving assistance; rather, from the outset, programs should plan for appropriate transition strategies and be prepared to cover a buffer period for seamless transition. Specific interventions should be employed to support children’s transition to adulthood and to monitor their progress. Programs should also recognize the valuable role of parents and other adult caregivers and mentors in the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

(Source: PEPFAR Guidance for OVC Programming, July 2012)

Currently, the program approach to sustainability is to foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders and interested parties while developing sustainable capacities at the household, community and Local Implementing Partner level in order that the;

- ✓ OVC actively participate in their own care and invest in their own future.
- ✓ OVC households and caregivers actively engage in OVC care and invest in their own future.
- ✓ Community members take leadership role in the care of OVC in their midst.
- ✓ Community based service providers deliver effective, high quality services to OVC and their families.
- ✓ Local authorities feel the sense of responsibility to care for OVC and provide services.

There are OVC who reach the age of 18 while still enrolled in the project and they fall in the categories below:

- a) OVC who are 18 years and above and still in school or vocation training institution;

As a result of the free primary education rolled out in 2003, compulsory school enrollment and 100% transition by the GoK, some children regained the opportunity to enroll and/or resume studies at primary level. For this reason it is possible to find mismatch in terms of age and class.

¹ - H.R. 5501; Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008

Any OVC who turns 18 years while still either in primary, secondary or vocational training institutions will be retained in the project until they complete their school or training period. The program should initiate the transition process in their final year of study especially those undertaking vocational courses; and depending on course duration commencement is advised no later than six months to scheduled completion date.

b) OVC below 18 and not in school

The program recommends that for this category, the transition process commences when they are 17 years and be completed when they turn 18.

c) OVC who are 18 years and above and are out of school;

The program recommends that this category undergo the transition process with the aim of discharging them from regular project support. Transition should follow due process and be completed in three months. The identified OVC must be engaged in the process so that their interests are also taken care of.

d) OVC who are 18 and above and have completed secondary school

The program recommends that this category undergo the transition process. The transition process for this category of older OVC should be started in their final year of study and not later than six months to examination period. The project should make efforts to prepare them for the life after school and job market through mentorship opportunities, human relations skills building and linkages for either internship or further education scholarships.

The Transition Process

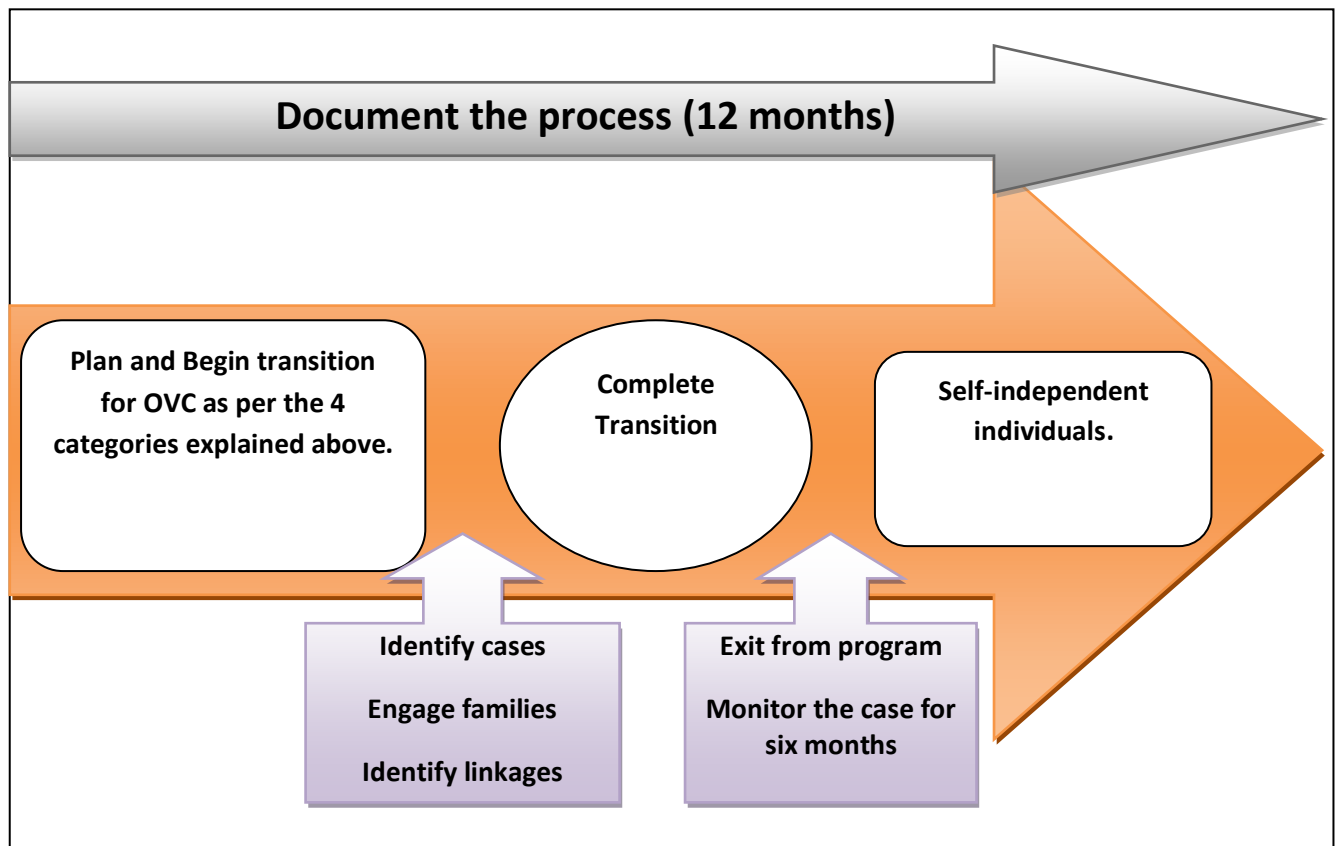
The vision of the program is to eventually build the capacities of the families and communities to a level where they can take up OVC care without further external direct support. The project envisions a stage in development where the supported OVC and their families gain control and are moving in the direction towards self-sufficiency. This requires a well planned and guided process that ultimately leaves the families empowered and ready for take-off.

In order to facilitate a smooth transition the following should be done:

- Efforts should be made to plan for the transition process early in advance. Projections should be made based on CPIMS reports and factored in Annual Work plans to ensure the process is monitored both at facility/site level and at program management level.
- Explain to the caregivers and community volunteers the exit criteria and explain the transition process. The active involvement of the Implementing Partners' staff and community volunteers is very important since they are best placed to explain and support the affected families through the transition process.

- Discuss with the caregivers and the case managers the transition requirements on a case by case basis. This is based on the premise that individuals have unique needs and are at different levels in terms of attachment to direct program support.
- Identify appropriate linkages for the identified cases based on individual discussions with the beneficiaries and their families. This should be done with the involvement and active participation of the individual being transitioned from the program.
- The case managers and case workers must assess the OVC to be transitioned on regular basis. Ideally, the transition process should never be handled like an emergency at any given time in the course of program implementation because doing so violates the principle of rights based approach.
- Partners should ensure adequate documentation is done for each and every child transitioned from the program. The documentation can be done in form of case management; a process that starts from the time the project commences the process of transition through to final disengagement as illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Transition Structure



Suggested Opportunities for Linkages during the transition process

Acquisition of vital civil registration documents: The national identity card is a crucial document for any person who is over 18 years in the country as it allows access to business transactions and services that require proof of identity. Linking the older beneficiaries from the OVC program who have not acquired a national identity card is very integral in fulfilling project mandate. Implementing partners should ensure they link eligible beneficiaries with the Registrar of Persons and other concerned government departments to facilitate the application and issuance of the document. In addition, if at the time the beneficiary is being considered for transition and has not acquired birth registration certificate, then the project should equally support them to link with the Registrar of Births and Deaths office for processing of the same.

Economic empowerment programs: Linkage with and enrolment in economic empowerment interventions can be an opportunity for those who transit from the project. Based on the discussions with the beneficiary and the caregiver, partners should explore appropriate economic interventions e.g. SILC, GISHE, Co-operative societies, Youth Enterprise Fund, and Microfinance institutions etc. as part of capital mobilization for the graduating beneficiary as appropriate.

Apprenticeship: Apprenticeship can help support exited individuals acquire livelihoods skills and secure linkages to the job market. Partners should explore, based on the discussions and the needs of the identified cases on the appropriate apprenticeship opportunities available in their localities and link them as and where applicable.

Support mentorship and training on job market skills: The program should endeavor to support mentorship and skills building sessions for older OVC to strategically prepare them for the job market. The rationale behind this is based on the fact that soft skills such as interpersonal relations, team work, communicating with confidence e.t.c are considered equally important by recruiters as they do hard (technical) skills.

Post-primary education scholarship programs and GoK subsidy opportunities: Support linkages with USG and Non-USG funded scholarship programs available in the country. To this end efforts should be made to secure linkages with Equity Bank's Wings to Fly program, FUNZO Scholarships, ZAWADI Scholarships, KCB Foundation, e.t.c. The GoK also provides bursaries and loans either through devolved funds like CDF which should be explored.

Group membership: Relevant groups in the community can help the transited beneficiaries to acquire more life-skills and mobilize the much needed social and financial support to be self-reliant. Partners should explore and link these beneficiaries to such groups for social and economic empowerment. The implementing partners should also explore linking such groups/beneficiaries to devolved funds like youth empowerment funds, government line ministries like Agriculture, and other stakeholders who support young people.

Monitoring and Documentation

Partners should monitor the beneficiaries who have been transitioned from the program during the first 6 months to ensure that they are settled. Case Managers can work with Case workers and other community structures e.g. AACs to monitor, guide and counsel them until they successfully negotiate the transition phase.

Monitoring the OVC who are under transition is key so that as they get to the next phase of life all the necessary details with regard to the transition process are documented for social audit and future referencing.

The following could be observed as part of this process;

- The identified OVC for transition will remain as ACTIVE in CPIMS until the exit form is filled three months after the beginning of transition.
- The older OVC under transition should be monitored for at least three months after the exit is done. The monitoring efforts will be conducted both by Case Managers and Case workers to track the progress the individuals are making towards self independence.
- The monitoring visits will be done both to the individual person involved and his/her family so that at any one time the program is updated on progress made on both fronts in terms of adjustments.
- Documentation is key. Case managers should ensure all interventions, processes including challenges encountered during the transition process is adequately documented. The documentation should be done in either form filled or brief and concise reports and photographs where possible. It is recommended that such documents be filed in each individual's file and that such files will be stored separately from the active OVC files.

Notes

The transition process as envisioned in this document presumes that every case will end successfully. Ideally this is the program's desire. However, from a pragmatic perspective this may not always be the case due to various reasons such as relocation, lost to follow up, death or voluntary withdrawal. Whenever it is not possible to conduct the transition process for any individual in this manner then the exit form should be filled within three months upon identification of the case.

Timelines for exiting OVC from the Program

Reason for Exit	Timeline	Comment
Relocation	Should be exited within 3 months	If confirmed that the child has permanently relocated child should be exited within the same month
Death	Should be exited in the same month	
Voluntary withdrawal	Should be exited in the same month	
Family reintegration	Should be exited in the same month	
Ineligibility (child does not meet the criteria for enrollment in the program)	Should be exited in the same month	
Duplication	Should be exited in the same day	
Adoption/fostering	Should be exited in the same month	

NB: Permissions for exit of the OVC from the CPIMS to limited only to USAID AMPATH Uzima OVC data manager after consulting the OVC Program Team Lead

Definition of Terms

Apprenticeship: This is the process through which a person learning a craft or trade is attached to a competent practitioner for knowledge and skills transfer within a set period of time and under set conditions

Asset: Any physical, financial, human, or social item of economic value owned by an individual or group, especially those that could be converted to cash. Assets can be categorized as human, physical, natural, financial, and social

Asset Transfer : One of the many tools that government or donors can use to create a social safety net by providing assets or cash directly to the poor to lessen the severity of poverty, prevent households from falling into poverty, or helping them emerge from poverty.

Child: Any human being under the age of 18 years.

Exit: The action of OVC leaving the project due to various reasons e.g relocation, death, voluntary withdrawal, transition, family reintegration, ineligibility, duplication, adoption/fostering

Income-generating activity (IGA): Any legal economic activity that produces income for the household and that exhibits low risk and equally low returns from engaging in the activity.

Orphan: A child whose mother (maternal orphan) or father (paternal orphan) or both (double orphan) are dead.

Transition: This is a process of supporting the movement of an OVC above 18 years from active participation in the project to being independent a responsible member of the society.

Vulnerable child: A child who is living in circumstances of high risk whose prospects for continued growth and development are seriously threatened.

Wrap-Around Services: multi-faceted support and services to ensure a safe, stable and nurturing environment. The objectives are to provide varying levels of support until the target group reaches an adequate level of self-sufficiency, achieves/maintains economic stability; and remedies circumstances of vulnerability