

THE INFLUENCE OF DONOR AID ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC
SUSTAINABILITY OF HOUSEHOLDS BY COMPASSION KENYA
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN NAKURU COUNTY

BY

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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other university.

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DEDICATION

This research project report is dedicated to my family who lovingly supported me both morally and financially in my study life. It is also dedicated to all those who inspired me to go for higher education level among them, my uncle, Mr. Paul Mugo and Mr. A. Leteipa; and to all my friends for their encouragement and support through my studies. It is further dedicated to Compassion Kenya organization and all Child Development Workers committed to empowering the households supported in the CKE Child Development Projects to release them from holistic poverty.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION / ACRONYMS

CDC	Child Development Centre
CDSP	Child Development Sponsorship Program
CKE	Compassion Kenya
CIV	Complementary Intervention
CSP	Child Survival Program
HVC	Highly Vulnerable Children
ICP	Implementing Church Partner
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KE	Kenya
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

ABSTRACT

Poverty has had a great impact on people's ability to sustain themselves, preventing development in education, health, environmental stewardship and social factors of human life. Compassion Kenya (CKE) is a Christian nonprofit making organization dedicated to holistic development of children in poverty. The purpose of this study was to assess the influence of donor aid socio-economic sustainability of households by Compassion Kenya children development projects in Nakuru County, Kenya. The objectives of this study were: to establish the extent to which education and training influence socio-economic sustainability of households, to assess the extent to which Income Generating Activities influence socio-economic sustainability of households, and to examine the extent to which social networks influence socio-economic sustainability of households by Compassion Kenya Child Development projects in Nakuru County. A descriptive survey design was used because it was simple to administer through questionnaire which was appropriate in collecting and analyzing data from a cross section of respondents selected in the study area. The target population of interest consisted of the Caregivers in the 12 Compassion assisted projects in Nakuru Cluster. The researcher used Purposive Sampling, a non probability sampling technique to select subjects on the basis of being in existence in the project for more than 10 years and their being informative. This constituted 10 caregivers in each of the 12 projects giving a total of 120 caregivers as the sample size. This study administered questionnaires to collect its primary data. Secondary data was gathered from the organization's statistics. The research instruments were checked for validity using construct validity which measures the degree to which data obtained meaningfully and accurately represents a theoretical concept or abstract. This research also used a Test-Retest Reliability method whereby the same instrument was administered twice to the same group of subjects with a time lapse to measure the degree to which the instrument yields consistent results. Data collected was analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences and Descriptive statistics were used to explain findings of the study by use of the frequency tables, percentages and statements. The study findings were able to review recommendations such as the need to establish strategies to support completion of primary, secondary and tertiary education levels as well as promote vocational trainings designed on the basis of needs assessment ensuring relevant and adequate education and training towards self-employment in IGAs; there was need for increased income generating activities to increase the income levels and last but not least, people need to be empowered to participate in social networks and promoting natural resources management for better agricultural production. The study suggested further research to identify the level of improvement on socio-economic sustainability as well as to establish the attitudes, views and challenges of financing institutions on income generating activities towards socio-economic development by low income earners.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Foreign aid plays a vital role in improving the lives of poor households across the developing world. However, its strategic contribution to poverty reduction and development is the subject of increasing debate. Uncertainty is also prompted by downward pressure on donor country aid budgets brought about by the fragile global economic environment. In September 2000, 149 heads of state and government endorsed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With this endorsement they set themselves eight goals to be reached by 2015 (from the 1990 base), foremost of which is to halve the proportion of the world's people who were absolutely poor. The MDGs provide a departure from past approaches in addressing poverty. The last decade or so has, however, seen a radical criticism of foreign aid. This has been driven by the perception that foreign aid has not produced the desired or expected results. This perception is based on two premises. The first is that foreign aid can only raise growth in a good policy environment. This premise is mainly based on evidence from cross-country regressions (Burnside and Dollar, 2000; World Bank, 1998). Hence foreign aid can be a double-edged sword. Where the economic and political environment is right, it can be very helpful in supporting economic and social progress (Lancaster, 1999). Where it is not, it will have no positive effect and will be wasted at best. At worst, it can set development back through the potential negative economic and political impacts it may have. The second premise is based on the finding that foreign aid cannot "buy" good policies through *ex ante* conditionality. This is because economic reforms induced by foreign aid are "time-inconsistent" and therefore lack credibility.

Moyo (2009) argues that the notion that aid can alleviate poverty is a myth since "aid has been and continues to be, an unmitigated political, economic and humanitarian disaster" for most developing countries. Aid to Africa has not delivered development, but has just created dependency. African countries should be looking to bonds markets, foreign investment and microenterprise as solutions to poverty and hardship. Browne

(2006) argues aid does not match development need because its “size and direction is subjectively determined by donors” – institutions and agencies which must serve the interests of their paymasters in the ministries involved, mostly non-developmental interests such as commercial, geopolitical, strategic and historical. Browne believes development is a domestic affair and that developing countries should be more committed to it, as donors also commit more funds to global public goods that will serve a greater purpose. Lancaster (1999) thinks Africa’s developmental problem is mainly due to “the failure of the region to grow,” including low rates of savings and investment, while Ayittey (2002) argues it resides in “bad leadership and the enabling role played by the West.”

The issue of foreign aid and sustainable development, as it usually applies to the developing countries, is full of the apparent dilemmas and contradictions. There are many roots for these contradictions i.e. the discrepant interest of sets of actors involved in the aid game. 'Aid' is appropriately referred to as 'involvement' of the more developed countries in the economic, political, military and social sectors of developing countries, either directly or through international agencies. (Katar Singh 1999:310) Aid generally serves three objectives: political, economic and humanitarian. These three objectives are not separable but are rather mutually interdependent. Whatever objectives a donor agency (country) would like to achieve, the general belief is that aid promotes development in the receiving countries. Development aid is expected to empower the socially and economically disadvantaged groups and lead to self-reliance but looking at commonly reported outcomes, it shows that often it leads to more powerlessness and dependency. Aid operated projects may help to curb short term human suffering but may be a factor in a long term for unfair distribution of benefits and even it may be a factor for future human suffering. The conditions of the poor have always been highlighted for justification to get more aid. But once the project is actualized, the major share of the benefits goes to the international consultants and donor-expatriate patronage, national and local elites with the poor receiving only marginal shares. An important precondition to bring about change is a new approach of Aid agencies to work on partnership. The foreign aided projects should focus on strengthening the internal capability of generating

resources, increasing investment in activities which complement the foreign aided projects in expanding the productive base of economy and ensuring effective utilization of aid.

Young people require opportunities to develop sustained, caring relationships with adults along with a culture of peer support, high expectations and challenging experiences. These opportunities need to be appropriate to local people and their communities in order to arrive at satisfactory solutions to community based issues, diverse and sufficiently intense for self-direction, participation and contribution within organisations and the wider community (Chambers 1994; Connell, Gambone et al. 2000; Zeldin and O'Connor 2005). Pittman et al. (2002) emphasises the need to improve the quality and availability of supports, services and opportunities offered within neighbourhoods so that they are effective, accessible to all and sustainable. This reflects the growing recognition in the literature that the neighbourhood in which one lives has important implications for the health and wellbeing of families and children (Caughey, O'Campo et al. 2001; Field, Witten et al. 2004).

After many years of colonial rule, most African countries achieved independence by the end of the 1970s. Today, many countries in Africa face major problems, from famine and drought to economic hardships to epidemics of AIDS, cholera and other diseases. Ongoing local conflicts have also killed thousands of people and hampered the economic progress of African countries. Africa is home to the mighty Sahara desert -- the world's largest desert -- which covers nearly one-quarter of the entire continent. Historically, Kenya enjoyed relative peace compared to other African nations. Arabs settled the area in the 10th century for trade and were violently taken over by the Portuguese in the 16th century. By the late 1800s Britain took the colonial lead, settling into the region and establishing railways into the interior under weak resistance from the native tribes. British rule lasted until 1963 and included the deaths of tens of thousands of Kenyans who resisted white settlement. During the post-colonial era, the country struggled with rampant political corruption, leading to the present situation where nearly 30 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day. Poverty has been steadily

increasing throughout Kenya since 1980, immobilizing development in education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS reduction, environmental stewardship, basic infrastructure, and maternal health. In 1994, 47 percent of Kenyans fell below the poverty line—\$17 per month in rural areas and \$36 per month in urban areas. As of 2003, 56 percent of the Kenyan population lives below the poverty line. (FSD, 2012) As a result, education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS reduction, environmental stewardship, and maternal health are all lacking positive movement forward. Free primary education came into effect in 2003, raising enrollment by 1.5 million children. However, these schools are vastly underfunded, resulting in very large class sizes, a lack of materials and activities, and a severely restricted number of educators to handle the growth. Severe flooding and shifting environmental conditions combined with a growing population, present a major threat to Kenya's natural habitats and its unique species of plants and animals. Millions of dollars of aid funds is not being put to efficient use, leading to the World Bank's withdrawal of funds in 2001 and the recent creation of an anti-corruption taskforce to battle the deeply rooted issue. Although Kenya is seen as an economic engine and anchor of stability in East Africa, due to a strong private sector, infrastructure, and financial services, it has experienced devastating internal instability due to the disputed 2007 elections. Current trends maintain that 65.9 percent of the population will live below the poverty line by 2015. (Human Development Index, HDI).

Compassion International Kenya (CIK) is a Christian nonprofit making organization dedicated to holistic development of children in poverty. Compassion has a comprehensive, long-term model that reflects the commitment to individual children, holism, partnership with the church, and facilitation. The model begins from before the birth of a child with prenatal care for mothers and extends until young people have successfully completed the activities of the programs up to the age of 22 years. During this period, the programs of Child Survival Program (CSP), Child Development Sponsorship Program (CDSP) and Leadership Development Program (LDP) progressively build upon each other and Complementary Interventions (CIV) are carried out to support each of these Core Programs (Compassion International Program Field Manual version 1.3 October, 2009).

Compassion's work in Kenya began in 1980. After a number of years working with 287 implementing Church Partners (ICPs), Compassion programs expanded to close the year with 312 ICPs with 1,590 mothers and babies in the CSP, 79,028 registered children and youth in the CDSP, and 242 students in the LDP and 199 LDP graduates since inception ten years ago (Compassion Kenya 2011 Annual Report). Compassion program provides tangible benefits such as education, health monitoring and food when necessary, as well as developmental opportunities that can include formal schooling, skills training, health education, presenting of the Gospel, and motivation to acquire meaningful social skills. Each project forms a local committee of parents, church members and community leaders to choose the children who will benefit most from the sponsorship. Donor funds are directed to these local projects, rather than directly to the children and their parents. Project workers, in conjunction with the local church partner, assess how to use these funds for the benefit of the sponsored child, based upon their first-hand knowledge of the child's situation. Compassion's goal is that, through sponsorship, individual children will start to realize their God-given potential. The long-term goal is for these children to become productive members and trained leaders in their communities, capable and willing to lend aid and bring hope to others. Compassion is, therefore, a community-building ministry working from the specific (transforming individual lives) to the general (transforming communities).

1.2 Problem Statement of the Study

The growing gap between the developed and developing countries has dominated international relations and diplomacy for a long time. This gap has led to constant capital inflow from the developed countries to those in the Third World including Africa; with the goal of helping them overcome their problems and reduce the gap. However, there is evidence that decades of foreign aid have done little in changing the destinies of many African states, most of which are currently experiencing low growth rates. This suggests to some extent that there is more to the African problem than just sending money there as this is not likely to turn things around. Estimates suggest the West has spent about \$600 billion on foreign aid to Africa so far (Akonor, 2008). Yet underdevelopment is widespread, while at same time some states are considered to have collapsed (eg.

Somalia). Underdevelopment is not the absence of development (Rodney, 1973). It results from the uneven nature of human social, political and economic development.

Compassion's commitment to working specifically with individual children is not motivated simply by the desire to bring its fund-raising ducks in line with its fieldwork. Rather, its overall child development strategy, including sponsorship, is informed by the conviction that "changed circumstances rarely change people's lives." Compassion values communities and societies, but believes that lasting change requires changed individuals (and who better to start with than children?). The program therefore, seeks to achieve four child development outcomes in the life of each child: Spiritual, Physical, Cognitive and Socio-Emotional Development Outcomes. Sponsors' monthly assistance to the local Churches and Caregivers' monthly contribution of an average of fifty shillings aims to enhance the children participation and ownership of the program. Project planning and management is an essential tool in facilitating donor aid towards the sustainability of development. The households supported by Compassion assisted projects have however, become dependent on the support for upkeep such as provision of basic needs, medical support, education for their children, child protection, income generating activities start-up capital among other needs. There was therefore need to assess the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households by Compassion Kenya child development projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Poverty has had a great impact on people's ability to sustain themselves, preventing development in education, health, environmental stewardship and social factors of human life. The purpose of this study was to assess the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households by Compassion Kenya children development projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the proposed study were:

1. To establish the extent to which education and training influence socio-economic sustainability of households in Nakuru County
2. To assess the extent to which Income Generating Activities influence socio-economic sustainability of households in Nakuru County
3. To examine the extent to which social networks influence socio-economic sustainability of households in Nakuru County

1.5 Research Questions

The study aimed at answering the following research questions:

1. To what extent do education and trainings influence socio-economic sustainability of households in Nakuru County?
2. How does Income Generating Activities influence socio-economic sustainability of households in Nakuru County?
3. Do social networks influence socio-economic sustainability of households in Nakuru County?

1.6 Significance of the Study

According to Transparency International (2007-2011), Kenya is one of the most corrupt nations in the world. It is difficult for the majority of the population to escape the poverty in Kenya, when government money is used improperly. There are several factors contributing to the ongoing problem of poverty in Kenya, though the issue of Kenya's economic state is far more complex than a simple list of causes. Another striking fact is that many Kenyans who are well off – there's a small very wealthy class in Kenya – do little to nothing to help their country forward. The idea is that if you're well off, you should consume it to the bottom. The prospects for development, and the potential for development assistance to be effective, heavily depend on the quality of governance—the way in which public power is exercised and public resources are managed and expended. Sustainability, in essence, is dependent on a long-term perspective that encourages local

ownership and expanded vision. Control and authority, rather than support and equality have been used to formulate and implement the development project. The findings of the study are likely to provide vital information for donors and support organizations to guide decisions towards socio-economic sustainability of households.

Given increased pressures on developing countries stemming from high food prices, climate change adaptation, and shrinking global trade, the need for foreign aid receipts has increased. A major factor that contributes to success is to find out a comprehensive investigation of the life and culture of the target groups. It is also very important to consult local people for inputs to the project design and implementation. Sustainability without involvement of local people throughout the project activities is not achievable. Sustainability without social justice and empowerment of socially and economically disadvantaged groups in all aspects of life is impossible. The program assumes that the sponsorship will transform the lives of the children with their families out of poverty. This study will help understand effective donor aid implementation towards socio-economic sustainability of households.

1.7 Delimitation of the Study

The study was confined to households that have been supported by Compassion Kenya Child Development Projects for a period of more than 10 years in Nakuru County. This ensured that the respondents involved had the required characteristics as well as their being accessible.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Given people's different backgrounds, education levels and attitudes it required a lot of skills and patience. Some common perceptions among the households that the child development workers seek information about their living standards will provide more support posed challenges to the researcher in regard to giving accurate information. In this regard, the researcher and assistants endeavored to instill understanding of the purpose and significance of this study in effort to generate rapport with the respondents.

1.9 Assumptions of the Study

In the study, basic assumptions made included the aspects that all respondents cooperated and provided reliable and honest responses. It is also assumed that the Project Directors had led the researcher to households that have been in the project for more than 10 years that bore the required information to effective socio-economic sustainability of households.

1.10 Definition of Significant Terms

Donor aid: This refers to the foreign assistance to children and their families towards Spiritual, Physical, Cognitive and Socio-emotional development (holistic development)

Socio-Economic sustainability of households: This involves meeting present human needs without compromising the ability to meet future needs by considering social, economic and environmental factors

Compassion Kenya: This is a Christian nonprofit organization with a mission to release children from poverty in a holistic manner by partnering with local evangelical Churches in different regions in Kenya. These Churches then recruit the vulnerable children from their community in a 5Km radius from the ages 3-9 years to benefit from the sponsorship program which involves spiritual, physical, economic and socio-emotional development.

Child Development Projects: These are child development centres established in Compassion partnering Churches to support needy children with their families from the surrounding community up to an average of 300 children per centre.

Education and Training – This refers to teachings, seminars and vocational learning to acquire knowledge and ability to run income generating activities towards financial stability.

Income Generating Activities: Any activity or a small enterprise carried out with the aim to earn income.

Social Networks: These are groups of people formed with a common goal i.e. empowerment, savings and credit facilities, socialize, etc towards self or community development.

1.11 Organization of the Study

This study has been organized into five chapters. Chapter One focused on the introduction of the study discussing the background of the study, the problem statement, purpose and objectives of the study, the research questions, significance of the study, delimitation and limitations of the study, assumptions of the study, as well as definition of significant terms. Chapter Two addressed the literature review of what had been published relevant to this study and concluded by developing a diagrammatical illustration of the conceptual framework for the study. Chapter Three gave a detailed outline of how the study was carried out describing the research design, target population, sampling procedures, methods of data collection, validity and reliability of the research instruments, data analysis techniques and ethical considerations. Chapter Four presented the findings of the study through analysis, presentation, and interpretation of data to search for a meaning of the research results. Chapter Five summarized and concluded the research findings as carried out providing some useful recommendations and suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the reviewed literature relevant to the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households. The chapter focuses on three key factors identified as having significant influences on the socio-economic sustainability of households. These include relevant training, running IGA, and formed social groups.

2.2 Influence of Donor aid on Socio-Economic Sustainability of Households

The last quarter of the twentieth century witnessed the greatest expansion of democracy in the history of the world. Overall in Latin America and the Caribbean, about nine of every ten states are democratic, but only about half are liberal democracies. Among the other sub-regions of Asia, half of the six Northeast Asian states (Japan, Korea, and Taiwan) are liberal democracies, but none of the states in Southeast or South Asia are. In the 48 states of Sub-Saharan Africa, democracies, or at least popular aspirations for and appreciation of the democratic form of government, are more prevalent than at any time since decolonization. Only two African states have been continuously democratic since independence, Mauritius and Botswana. Both have small populations (around two million or under), and both have achieved a pace of economic development that has eluded most other countries in the region. Africa remains an arena of highly contested forms of governance, where both democratic and authoritarian institutions are weak and open to change. After a decade of arrested and inverted political openings, it can no longer be said that countries like Kenya, Cameroon, Cambodia, Haiti, Morocco, Egypt, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are “in transition” to democracy. Economic reforms—in so far as they have even been implemented—have not yet generated rapid, sustainable economic growth in most of the developing and post-communist states. A few states have experienced rapid growth, and some others are at least growing modestly. (Diamond, 2002)

In most of Latin America, in some parts of Africa (such as South Africa), and in some Asian countries (Pakistan, the Philippines), the problem is compounded by extreme levels of inequality in income and wealth (especially, in rural areas, land). Very little progress has been made in these countries in reducing poverty and tempering massive inequalities of income and wealth. It is inconceivable that democracy can be consolidated in these countries unless substantial progress is made toward reduction of poverty and inequality. Good, democratic governance is the key to development, and to aid effectiveness. Unless states can be made more responsible, competent, efficient, participatory, open, transparent, accountable, lawful, and legitimate in the way they govern, stagnating and poorly performing countries will not experience the kind of vigorous, sustained development that transforms levels of human development and permanently lifts large segments of the population out of poverty. However, most African countries are thought to require high rates of economic growth in order to outpace population growth and make progress in alleviating poverty. Despite positive trends, economic growth has failed to raise incomes sufficiently to trigger significant progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other antipoverty benchmarks. On almost all measures of infrastructure coverage, African countries lag behind other countries in the developing world (Yepes, Pierce, and Foster 2008). The gap is particularly large for coverage of paved roads, telephone main lines, and power generation. Recently, the focus of government policies on meeting the MDGs has increased attention on better provision of services (UNDP; 2006).

Africa is the world's most aided major region. Yet economic growth has been disappointingly low there. A number of factors explain the poor outcomes and limited sustainability of aid in Africa. But the organization and management of the aid relationship is a particularly important one, including the dependence of Africans on that aid. The currently popular nostrums for solving the problem of the effectiveness in Africa - selectivity, ownership, sector investment programme and more aid - are as yet inadequate and often contradictory. Much more work and honest debate needs to occur before the problem of aid effectiveness can be tackled in Africa (Oxford University Press, 2010). The idea of sustainable development emerged in 1972 out of deep concern over

the threat to the natural environment posed by economic growth and industrial pollution at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden. It was noted that solving environmental problems required resources which only economic growth could provide. But economic growth will falter if human health and natural resources are damaged by environmental degradation. The developments in Africa, both political and economic, in the course of this decade have been far-reaching in the ongoing transformation of the continent. These have, to a large extent, assisted in the shaping of the character and direction of sustainable development (R. Omotayo Olaniyan, 2007).

Long-term poverty reduction requires sustained economic growth, which in turn depends on technological advance and capital accumulation. Over the years, the definition of sustainability in development literature has varied widely and broadened in scope. The concept arose in response to economic growth models that characterized development approaches over the last half century. It was eventually recognized that such models did not adequately address social inequalities and led to environmental degradation. The concept gained wider use after the World Commission on Environment and Development published "*Our common future*" (Brundtland 1987). In addition to promoting interventions that increase household income and assets, it is important to create a situation in which households and communities are able to handle dynamic and unexpected changes without collapsing (Cascio 2007).

2.3 Influence of Education and Training on Socio-Economic Sustainability

Education and training should contribute to all three axes of sustainable development, namely the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Knowledge and skills are the key drivers of the knowledge economy. Knowledge and skills oil the wheels of industry and commerce. Every day, new ways of doing things, new technologies, and new products find their way onto the global market. At the core of this mutation of society is the dynamic interaction between technical knowledge and skills and the market economy. A critical mass of knowledge and skills is therefore necessary for the effective participation of any country in the global knowledge economy and

marketplace. Countries with skills shortages and human capital deficits face a bleak future with little prospect for economic growth, employment creation and social progress (Commission on Growth and Development, 2008; Kok, 2004; OECD, 2004). Indeed strengthening the national stock of skills is increasingly recognized as a vital growth strategy for both rich and poor countries (DfID, 2007, 2008; AfDB, 2011).

The education system plays a key role for the accumulation of human and social capital, and for sustaining economic growth. At the level of individuals, beyond the economic pay-off in terms of higher earnings, education also delivers benefits in the form of greater personal health and subjective well-being, better parenting practices, lower crime and lower probability of receiving social assistance (OECD, 2001*b*). To ease the transition into the world of work, some countries have instituted a range of measures targeting new graduates, job-seekers and candidates willing to become self-employed. These measures range from providing access to information on jobs availability to business start-up credit facilities. Its main mandate is to facilitate the access of young people to gainful employment through a process that integrates training into the local community development and business environment (Yao Gnabeli et al. 2011).

The obstacles in the school to- work transition are often concentrated on youths who have not continued to further education and training upon completion of compulsory education, and whose experience during this period of their life risks permanently reducing their future labour market opportunities. This is often the group that causes the greatest social costs for society, and that benefits the least from its support (Krueger, 2002).

It is worth restating that many innovative interventions are being implemented by African countries with the support of donor-agencies to promote skills development for socio-economic growth. Most of these initiatives are relatively recent. At the moment, very few of them have been evaluated as to their impact on individual livelihoods, productivity and economic growth. However, it is important for policy makers, government agencies and training providers to be aware of the key challenges, policy choices, and practical interventions that are more likely to promote a more robust and

effective delivery of technical and vocational skills in Africa. In order to facilitate the creation of enterprises and businesses by young people, governments need to do a lot more with regard to easing administrative procedures for starting businesses, providing an enabling environment for SMEs to thrive, and encouraging micro-finance interventions. Africa faces a huge deficit of socio-economic infrastructure in terms of adequate roads, housing, power supply, water and sanitation systems, telecommunications, and transportation among others. A skilled workforce is required to build and maintain this type of infrastructure as well as operate, service and repair national production and manufacturing systems. The people exist but the skills are lacking. According to the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI 2011), Africa's working age population (of 15 – 64 years) which currently stands at about 500 million people is projected to exceed 1.1 billion by 2040. The challenge is how to provide this large potential workforce with the education and skills necessary for sustainable socio-economic growth.

2.4 Influence of IGAs on Socio-Economic Sustainability

“A livelihood system is sustainable when it is capable of facing and recovering from tensions and convulsions, of maintaining or increasing its capacity and goods and offering opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for the next generation” (Chambers & Cornwall, 1992). The composition and the income level, either cash or in kind, of an individual or a household, are the most direct and measurable results of livelihood strategies in a determined moment (Ellis, 2000). Therefore, even though these two concepts are not synonymous, they are closely related. When food is available in the market, the recuperation of income generation capacity is one possible alternative for the phasing out of food assistance. The increased incomes can increase the access not only to foodstuffs, but also to other locally available products and services. IGA can improve the family food security when there is sufficient availability of food in local markets, but the impact will vary depending on the distribution of income within the household and the use of that income. In the developing world, women use almost all of their income to cover the family's needs, while men spend at least 25% on other uses (FAO, 2005). The increase in women's incomes has a significantly higher impact on household food

security compared to a similar increase in men's incomes. In more stable contexts where the population faces a chronic problem of food insecurity and in situations where livelihood mechanisms are weak and structural difficulties are significant, IGA can be supported and promoted with the aim of improving the food security and living conditions of the chronically vulnerable population in a sustainable manner.

According to Ellis, (2000) a household moving into more than one income generation activity is defined as diversification and the significant shift towards diversification has led to consider improving household income through diversification as an imperative solution to the problem, poverty.

2.5 Influence of Social Networks on Socio-Economic Sustainability

It is the decisions and actions of poor people themselves that will bring about sustainable improvements in their lives and livelihoods. Inequitable power relations exclude poor people from decision-making and prevent them from taking action. Poor women and men need to gain and exert influence over the political, economic and social processes that determine and, all too often, constrain their livelihood opportunities. Sustainable poverty reduction needs poor people to be both the agents and beneficiaries of economic growth - to directly participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes. Strengthening poor people's organizations, providing them with more control over assets and promoting their influence in economic governance will improve the terms on which they engage in markets. This economic empowerment combined with political and social empowerment will make growth much more effective in reducing poverty. (OECD, 2012)

In the community-led model, the formation of self-help groups (SHGs) is emphasized as a means of promoting sustainability through community empowerment. This approach is more appropriate in areas that are isolated from commercial centres, lack access to agricultural and other markets, and are characterized by distinct ethnic majorities, weak institutions and strong community cohesiveness. Integration is essential: the sustainability of any given project will depend on its overall impact on participating households and communities, rather than simply on the sum of the outcomes of individual activities. Clusters of SHGs allow producers to obtain better prices through

trade in commercial volumes and constitute associations that can register officially with the Government. As a result, these groups are better able to protect the interests of members, lobby for policies that benefit their constituents, and function as a source or conduit of services and credit to the individual groups (TANGO International 2008b).

Evidence also suggests that the use of participatory methods and techniques with children and young people can produce outcomes that are more consistent with policy intentions. This methodology addresses issues of sustainable development within communities, fostering positive youth development and creating an awareness around whole of government and whole-child approaches (Baldwin 2001; Bhatt and Tandon 2001; Brydon-Miller 2002). Involvement of multiple stakeholders also increases opportunities for 'bridging connections' to be formed between the community and external social and political institutions which have the potential to influence external policy developments on communities (Scott and Conway 2005). This recognises that sustainability is achieved through coordination, integration and implementation of a wide range of policies at local, regional and national levels (Blowers 2002). Although there is no single way to develop and sustain a partnership, gaining clarity and consensus among partners regarding the meaning, purpose and operating principles of the partnership is fundamental (Scott and Thurston 2004). The main objective is to improve community support for young people by increasing the number of safe and stimulating places for young people to go, things to do and people to talk to in the neighbourhoods. Action research can play a significant part in building capacity for sustainable development. It can help give a common language to many of the cross-sectoral initiatives that include people from different cultural and economic realms, and further, by using publication channels or through facilitating forums for public conversation (Bhatt and Tandon 2001; Brydon-Miller 2002). Organisational development-orientated action research can contribute to the fostering of sustainable development by facilitating forums that allow for a multiplicity of perspectives that can be used to inform policy and produce outcomes that are more in line with policy intentions (Baldwin 2001; Bhatt and Tandon 2001; Brydon-Miller 2002).

According to Ucbasaran et al., (2000) biophysical and socio cultural environment in which an entrepreneur operates and the entrepreneurial skills possessed determine the ability of spotting opportunities and capitalizing upon the same. Success of entrepreneurs depends on how they have adapted to the changes in the environment (Bryant, 1989) and/or how they have changed the conditions in the environment (Schumpeter, 1934). Therefore it may be argued that entrepreneurial process cannot be taken in isolation from the environment of the entrepreneur (Beckford, 1993). According to him, the process of extracting values through social network enables entrepreneurs to overcome resource constraints, product market constraints, factor market constraints and the local environment constraint. Black (1986) contend that entrepreneurs utilize the social network as a method of sharing information, learning from other peoples' experience and obtaining investment funds.

Land, water and forests are the primary resources of agricultural production, and are the resources essential to maintain human life and well-being. The use of these resources must be balanced with conservation to support sustained national development, and to avoid environmental degradation and losses in agricultural productivity. The natural resource base provides many benefits to different groups of people in both urban and rural areas. The environment that sustains human populations is used by people in many ways. Farms and forests supply nations with a wide range of important raw materials: timber, wood, pulp, minerals, leather, and foodstuffs, which are further processed into manufactured goods such as lumber, paper, pharmaceuticals, footwear and flour. These raw materials and finished products are important to the economic security of the country, and to the food security of its citizens. Water resources are essential for life, and are harnessed as a critical input for economic growth, including agriculture and industry. Natural resources also provide rural people with food, medicines, game, honey, gums and resins, condiments and other goods that are exchanged or used for secondary processing, and contribute greatly to rural subsistence economies. Yet many countries are experiencing a decline in the availability and condition of their resource base. The causes of environmental change and degradation are very complex, and stem from different

levels - from global and national, to individual farms and households (Commonwealth Secretariat 1992).

Recent demographic pressures have changed the way that people use land, water and forests, and have contributed to a widespread deterioration in the condition and productivity of these resources. In developing countries, population growth, migration, and resettlement are changing how people use land, and where they settle. Past economic development policies, international lending, and development assistance programs have contributed in some cases to environmental mismanagement. In addition, destructive land use practices of the past are resulting in present-day reduced productivity of croplands, forests, pastures, and fisheries, and in increased poverty and hunger (Brown et al., 1993). At the local level, farmers are linked through mutual reciprocity and cost sharing, demonstrating that rural communities are highly interdependent economically. However, social and economic relations at the local level can be disrupted by imposed or non-adapted "modern" technologies for food production or for natural resource management.

2.6 The Conceptual Framework

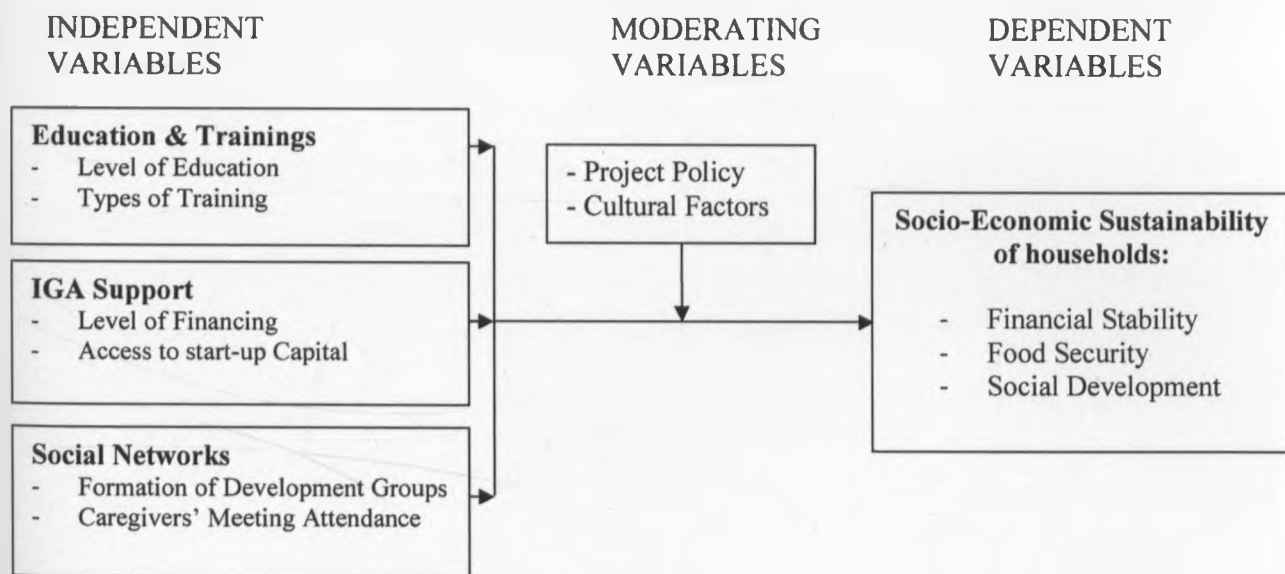


Fig.1: The relationship between Donor aid and socio-economic sustainability of households

This framework outlines the possible course of action by establishing a relationship of the independent and dependent variables. In this case, the conceptual

framework attempted to illustrate the various factors that influence donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households in the Compassion Kenya child development projects in Nakuru County. Thus, enabling the researcher reveal the existing interconnection. The dependent variable is the socio-economic sustainability of households and the independent variables include project training, IGA support, and social groups. The moderating factors included the project policy and cultural factors.

2.7 Chapter Summary

The chapter involved a detailed analysis of the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households. The literature review looked at initiatives that have been made in this regard ranging from global perspective to developing countries and then to Kenyan situation. The chapter concluded by developing a diagrammatical illustration of the conceptual framework for the study.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter gives a detailed outline of how the study was carried out. It describes the research design, target population, sampling procedures, methods of data collection, validity and reliability of the research instruments, data analysis techniques and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Design

A descriptive survey design was used because it is simple to administer through questionnaire which was appropriate in collecting and analyzing data from a cross section of respondents selected in the study area. The study was both qualitative and quantitative in nature. This was necessary in order to generate both numerical and non-numerical data that became useful in analyzing the relationship between variables through descriptive statistics.

3.3 Target Population

The target population of interest consisted of the Caregivers of the sponsored children in the 12 Compassion child development projects in Nakuru Cluster as shown in Table 3.1 with a total of 3,418 children who are under care of the same number of caregivers; where each child is sponsored in one family/household.

Table 3.1 Compassion Kenya Child Development Projects in the greater Nakuru County

NO.	PROJECT CODE	PROJECT NAME	COUNTY (Zone)	SPONSORED CHILDREN
1.	KE 322	KAG Free Area CDC	MCN	356
2.	KE 348	FPFK Solai CDC	Rongai	210
3.	KE 357	Deliverance Nakuru CDC	MCN	309
4.	KE 386	FPFK Kabazi CDC	Nakuru North	236
5.	KE 507	Baptist Solai CDC	Rongai	263
6.	KE 605	FGCK Ndungiri CDC	Nakuru North	284
7.	KE 610	ACK Rongai CDC	Rongai	289
8.	KE 725	AIC Lolchorai CDC	Molo	284
9.	KE 726	AIC Njoro Town CDC	Molo	285
10.	KE 906	PCEA Elburgon CDC	Molo	287
11.	KE 918	PCEA Kieni CDC	Nakuru North	319
12.	KE 922	PCEA Kagoto CDC	Nakuru North	296
			TOTAL	3,418

Source: Support and Gifts for April 2012

3.4 Sample Size and Sample Selection

The researcher used Purposive Sampling, a non probability sampling technique to identify the subjects with desired characteristics. This allows a researcher to use cases that have required information with respect to the objectives of a study (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). The cases of identified subjects were selected on the basis of being in existence in the project for more than 10 years and their being informative. This constituted 10 caregivers in each of the 12 projects giving a total of 120 caregivers as the sample size.

3.5 Research Instrument

This study administered questionnaires to collect its primary data. The questionnaire comprised the closed and open ended questions developed to address specific objectives of the study. These were filled by respondents who can read and write while the interviews were an oral administration of the questionnaires on a face-to-face encounter with the respondents as well as to acquire data from respondents that do not know how to read and write. Secondary data was gathered from the organization's statistics.

3.6 Validity of Instrument

The research instruments were checked for validity using construct validity which measures the degree to which data obtained meaningfully and accurately represents a theoretical concept or abstract. The researcher tried to strike a balance between internal and external validities to obtain accurate and generalizable results.

3.7 Reliability of Instrument

This research also used a Test-Retest Reliability method whereby the same instrument was administered twice to the same group of subjects with a time lapse to measure the degree to which the instrument yields consistent results.

3.8 Data Analysis Techniques

Data collected was analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Descriptive statistics were used to explain findings of the study by use of the frequency tables, percentages and statements.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

The researcher obtained permission from relevant bodies prior to conducting the study with letters to that effect and necessary caution was taken to ensure that data collected was used for academic purpose with no confidential information used against the respondents. The respondents were assured that their names were not to be disclosed.

3.10 Operational Definition of Variables

Table 3.2 describes how various characteristics in the study were measured.

Table 3.2 Operational definition of Variables

Research Objective	Variable	Indicators	Measures	Measuring Scale	Data Collection Tools	Data Analysis Tools
1. To establish the extent to which trainings influence socio-economic sustainability of households	Independent Variable - Education & Training	- Education Level - Types of Training	- Highest Education level - Relevant Training	Nominal	Questionnaires	Descriptive Statistics
	Dependent Variable - Socio-Economic Sustainability	- Financial Stability - Food Security - Social Devt	Percentage of perceived financial stability, Food security & social devt			Frequency tables
2. To assess the extent to which Income Generating Activities support influence socio-economic sustainability of households	Independent Variable - IGA support	- Financial Level - Access to start-up Capital	- Access to finance - Running IGAs	Nominal	Questionnaires	Descriptive Statistics
	Dependent Variable - Socio-Economic Sustainability	- Financial Stability - Food Security - Social Devt	Percentage of perceived financial stability, Food security & social devt			Frequency tables
3. To examine the extent to which social groups influence socio-economic sustainability of households	Independent Variable - Social networks	- Devt Groups Formed - Caregivers meeting attendance	-Devt activities - Regular meeting attendance	Nominal	Questionnaires	Descriptive Statistics
	Dependent Variable - Socio-Economic Sustainability	- Financial Stability - Food Security - Social Devt	Percentage of perceived financial stability, Food security & social devt			Frequency tables

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents findings of the study. The study established the extent to which trainings influence socio-economic sustainability of households; assessed the extent to which income generating activities support influence socio-economic sustainability of households; and examined the extent to which social groups influence socio-economic sustainability of households.

4.2 Response Rate

The questionnaire return rate was 100%. That is, all the 120 questionnaires administered were returned. The respondents were based on above 10 years of stay in the project and general experience.

4.3 General Characteristics of the respondents

This section contains the presentation of findings arising from data analysis which analyses the general characteristics of the respondents and the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households by Compassion Kenya child development projects in Nakuru County.

4.3.1 Location of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of location of the respondents is given in Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Location of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Molo	8	6.7
Njoro	17	14.2
Nakuru Town	13	10.8
Nakuru North	46	38.8
Rongai	10	8.3
Others	26	21.7
Total	120	100

The findings show that majority (46%) of the respondents live in Nakuru North, 26% from other areas, 17% from Njoro, 13% from Nakuru Town, 10% from Rongai, and 8% from Molo. The interpretation here was that more households dominated the agricultural areas.

4.3.2 Gender of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of gender of the respondents is given in Table 4.2

Table 4.2: Gender of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Female	94	78.3
Male	26	21.7
Total	120	100

The findings show that majority (78.3%) of the respondents were females and 21.7% were males implying that more females are the caregivers of the children.

4.3.3 Age of the respondents

The study sought to establish the age of the respondents and the result is given in Table 4.3

Table 4.3: Age of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
15-24	2	1.7
25-34	26	21.7
35-44	34	28.3
45-54	41	34.2
Above 55	17	14.2
Total	120	100

According to the findings, most of the respondents (34.2%) were aged between 45 and 54 years, 28.3% aged between 35 and 44 years, 21.7% aged between 25 and 34 years, 14% aged above 55 years, and 1.7% aged between 15 and 24 years. This implied that most respondents were elderly caregivers of the children.

4.3.4 Caregivers' relationship with child

The study sought to establish the relationship of the respondent-caregiver with the project child and the finding is given in Table 4.4

Table 4.4: Caregivers' relationship to the child

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Mother	64	53.3
Father	22	18.4
Guardian	33	27.5
Foster Parent	1	0.8
Total	120	100

The findings show that the respondents' relationship with the child was 53.3% were mothers, 27.5% were guardians, 18.4% were fathers, and 0.8% the foster parents. This implied that most of the children are taken care of by their mothers.

4.3.5 Marital Status of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of marital status of the respondents is given in Table 4.5

Table 4.5: Marital status of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Married	69	57.5
Single	23	19.2
Widowed	19	15.8
Separated	6	5
Divorced	3	2.5
Total	120	100

The findings established that most respondents were married (57.5%), single were 19.2%, widowed were 15.8%, separated were 5%, and divorced were 2.5%. The interpretation here was that most respondents were married.

4.4 Influence of Education and Training on Socio-economic Sustainability of Households

4.4.1 Education level of the respondents

The study sought to establish the level of education of the respondents and the result is given in Table 4.6

Table 4.6: Education level of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	71	59.2
Secondary	36	30
College	1	0.8
Not gone to school	12	10
Total	120	100

The findings revealed that most (59.2%) of the respondents had attained primary level education, 30% indicated secondary level education, 10% had not gone to school, whereas 0.8% had gone up to college level. This implied that most of the respondents have not attained the compulsory education level.

4.4.2 Children formal education by the respondents

The study sought to establish whether or not the respondents' children get formal education and the finding is given in Table 4.7

Table 4.7: Children formal education by respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	110	91.7
No	10	8.3
Total	120	100

According to the findings, majority (91.7%) the children are getting formal education while the minority (8.3%) is not. This implied that there are children who still do not get formal education.

4.4.3 Reason for no children formal education by the respondents

The study sought to establish the reasons why respondents' children do not get formal education and the finding is given in Table 4.8

Table 4.8: Reason for no children formal education by respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No school fees	9	90
Other	1	10
Total	10	100

According to the findings, majority (90%) the children are not getting formal education because of school fees while the minority (8.3%) is due to other reasons. This implied that households are still experiencing shortage of financial stability.

4.4.4 Training acquired

The result of the study in respect of trainings acquired is given in Table 4.9

Table 4.9: Trainings acquired

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Parental Guidance	10	8.3
Entrepreneurship	36	30
Food Security	32	26.7
Health Issues	33	27.5
Others	9	7.5
Total	120	100

According to the findings, majority (30%) of the caregivers have been trained on entrepreneurship, 27.5% have acquired health trainings, 26.7% on food security, 8.3% on parental guidance, and 7.5% on other areas. This implied that most projects are focused on training about enterprises towards income generating activities.

4.5 Influence of Income Generating Activities on Socio-economic Sustainability of Households

4.5.1 Source of income of the respondents

The study established the source of income of the respondents and the finding is given in Table 4.10

Table 4.10: Source of income of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Casual	44	36.7
Farming	48	40
Business	28	23.3
Total	120	100

The findings revealed that most (40%) of the respondents were into farming, 36.7% indicated casual laborers, and 23.3% indicated the persons into business. This implied that most people earn from farming and casual labor.

4.5.2 Average Income of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of average income per month is given in Table 4.11

Table 4.11: Average income of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
0-2000	64	53.3
2001-4000	39	32.5
4001-6000	11	9.2
6001-8000	3	2.5
Above 8001	3	2.5
Total	120	100

According to the findings, most (53.3%) of the respondents earn between Ksh.0 and Ksh.2000 income per month, 32.5% earn between Ksh.2001 and Ksh.4000, 9.2% earn between Ksh.4001 and Ksh.6000, 2.5% earn between Ksh.6001 and Ksh.8000 and also 2.5% earn above 8001. This implied that most of the respondents have not attained financial stability.

4.5.3 Number of households of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of number of households of the respondents is given in Table 4.12

Table 4.12: Number of households of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1-3	12	10
4-6	65	54.2
7-9	32	26.7
Above 10	11	9.2
Total	120	100

The findings revealed that most (54.2%) of the respondents had between 4 and 6 household occupants, 26.7% had between 7 and 9 household occupants, 10% had between 1 and 3 occupants, and 9.2% had above 10 occupants. This implied that most people had fairly large families.

4.5.4 Household average income of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of household average income per month is given in Table 4.13

Table 4.13: Household average income of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
0	76	63.3
1-4000	35	29.2
4001-8000	8	6.7
Above 8001	1	0.8
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that most (63.3%) of the respondents' household were earning nothing, 29.2% between Ksh.1 and Ksh.4000, 6.7% between Ksh.4001 and Ksh.8000, and 0.8% earned above Ksh.8001. This implied that most of the household depended on one of the household to provide for the family up keep.

4.5.5 Income generating activities by the respondents

The study sought to establish whether or not the respondents are involved with income generating activities and the finding is given in Table 4.14

Table 4.14: Income generating activities practiced by respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	45	37.5
No	75	62.5
Total	120	100

The findings revealed that most (62.5%) of the respondents were not involved with any income generating activities while 37.5% were involved with income generating activities. This implied that most people were depending on either one source of income or none.

4.5.6 Income generating activities average income of the respondents

The result of the study in respect of income generating activities average income per month is given in Table 4.15

Table 4.15: Income generating activities average income of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1-4000	44	97.8
4001-8000	1	2.2
Above 8001	0	0
Total	45	100

The findings revealed that most (97.8%) of the respondents who were involved with income generating activities were earning between Ksh.1 and Ksh.4000, 2.2% had between Ksh.4001 and Ksh.8000 and 0% had above Ksh.8001. This implied that most respondents were earning low incomes from the income generating activities.

4.5.7 Children supplement household income

The study sought to establish whether or not children are involved in supplementing household income and the finding is given in Table 4.16

Table 4.16: Children supplement household income

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	27	22.5
No	93	77.5
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that most (77.5%) of the respondents' children were not involved in any supplementary work to boost household income while 27% were involved with supplementary work. This implied that most children were into formal education.

4.5.8 Children average supplementary income

The result of the study in respect of children average supplementary income per month is given in Table 4.17

Table 4.17: Children average supplementary income

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1-2000	27	96.3
2001-4000	1	3.7
Above 4001	0	0
Total	27	100

The findings revealed that most (96.3%) of the respondents' children were earning below Ksh.2000 per month while 3.7% children were earning between Ksh.2001 and Ksh.4000 to supplement household income. This implied that most children were low income earners.

4.5.9 Property owned by the respondents

The result of the study in respect of property owned by the respondents is given in Table 4.18

Table 4.18: Property owned by the respondents

Response	Frequency		Total	Percentage		Total
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Land use	52	68	120	43.3	56.7	100
Livestock	79	41	120	65.8	34.2	100
Motor Bike	6	114	120	5	95	100
Bicycle	35	85	120	29.2	70.8	100
Television	33	87	120	27.5	72.5	100
Radio	92	28	120	76.7	23.3	100
Mobile Phone	100	20	120	83.3	16.7	100

The findings revealed that most of the respondents owned livestock, radio, and mobile phones while majority did not own land use, motor bike, bicycle, and television. This implied that most people did not have much luxury.

4.5.10 Household source of food for consumption

The result of the study in respect of household source of food for consumption is given in Table 4.19

Table 4.19: Household source of food for consumption

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Grown in my farm	49	40.8
Bought	69	57.5
Relief	2	1.7
Total	120	100

The findings revealed that most (69%) of the respondents buy their food for consumption, 49% grow in their farms and 2% depend on relief. This implied that most people are not independent on food security.

4.5.11 Need for relief food

The result of the study in respect of the need for relief food is given in Table 4.20
Table 4.20: Need for relief food

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	63	52.5
No	57	47.5
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that the highest number of respondents (63%) needed relief food while 57% needed not the relief food. This implied that most people are dependent on the projects' support for food.

4.6 The extent to which Social network influence Socio-Economic Sustainability of Households

4.6.1 Caregivers' Development Groups

The result of the study in respect of development groups joined by caregivers is given in Table 4.21

Table 4.21: Caregivers' development groups

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Empowerment Groups	45	37.5
Agricultural Groups	3	2.5
Community Health workers	3	2.5
Community-based Organization	11	9.2
Self-Help Groups	4	3.3
None	54	45
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that most respondents (54%) were into no social networks, 45% were in empowerment groups, 11% in CBO, 4% into Self-Help groups, and 3% were both in agricultural and community health workers groups. This implied that most people were not into any social groups.

4.6.2 Benefits of the caregivers' development groups

The result of the study in respect of benefits of caregivers' development groups is given in Table 4.22

Table 4.22: Benefits of the caregivers' development groups

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Savings and Credit	41	34.2
Basic needs provision	14	11.7
IGA start-up	4	3.3
Social support	6	5
Other	1	0.8
Total	66	100

The findings showed that 41% of the 66 respondents who were in social networks, were benefiting from savings and credit, 14% were benefiting from basic needs provision, 4% from IGA start-up, 6% from social support, while 1% was getting other benefits. This implied that social networks are important in socio-economic development.

4.6.3 Natural Resource Management

The result of the study in respect of natural resource management is given in Table 4.23

Table 4.23: Natural Resource Management

Response	Frequency		Total	Percentage		Total
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Soil conservation	50	70	120	41.7	58.3	100
Digging dams	16	104	120	13.3	86.7	100
Rain water Harvest	64	56	120	53.3	46.7	100
Tree planting	63	57	120	52.5	47.5	100

The findings indicated that a greater number of respondents manage the natural resources by harvesting rain water and planting trees, while another greater number does not conserve soil nor dig dams.

4.6.4 Caregivers' meeting attendance

The result of the study in respect of caregivers' meeting attendance is given in Table 4.24

Table 4.24: Caregivers' meeting attendance

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Monthly	72	60
After 2 months	40	33.3
Quarterly	2	1.7
None	6	5
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that 72% of the respondents were regular meeting attendants, 40% attended after 2 months, 6% did not attend, while 2% attended quarterly. This implied that the most number was regular attendants.

4.6.5 Level of Caregivers' satisfaction

The result of the study in respect of level of caregivers' satisfaction is given in Table 4.25

Table 4.25: Level of caregivers' satisfaction

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very Unsatisfied	10	8.3
Unsatisfied	4	3.3
I don't know	2	1.7
Satisfied	51	42.5
Very Satisfied	53	44.2
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that a greater number of respondents (53%) were very satisfied with the project performance, 51% satisfied, 10% very unsatisfied, 4% unsatisfied, and 2% did not know what to expect. This implied that project support to most respondents was satisfactory.

4.6.6 Project future improvements

The result of the study in respect of project future improvements is given in Table 4.26

Table 4.26: Project Future Improvements

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfied	23	19.1
IGA Support	11	9.2
Basic needs provision	23	19.2
Skills Trainings	2	1.7
Other	61	50.8
Total	120	100

The findings indicated that 61% of the respondents expect the project to improve on other things, 23% expect the project to improve on the provision of basic needs, another 23% was satisfied with current support, 11% expect the project to improve on IGA support, while 2% expect the project to improve on skills trainings. This implied that most respondents expect the project to do other more activities.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the findings, discussion, conclusions, and recommendations of the research study carried out. At the end of the chapter, some useful recommendations are proposed by the researcher to the Child Development Projects as well as suggestions for further research. The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households by Compassion Kenya Child Development Projects in Nakuru County.

5.2 Summary of Findings

5.2.1 Education and Training

In regard to Education and Training the findings indicated that most of the respondents had not completed the compulsory education level, some of their children do not get the formal education, and some households had below average income thus challenging financial stability. It also indicated that most projects are focused on training about enterprises towards income generating activities. The findings also indicated that most respondents were elderly caregivers between the ages 25 – 54 years. This confirmed the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI 2011), statement that Africa's working age population (of 15 – 64 years) which currently stands at about 500 million people is projected to exceed 1.1 billion by 2040. The challenge is how to provide this large potential workforce with the education and skills necessary for sustainable socio-economic growth.

The findings also confirmed Krueger, (2002), statement that the obstacles in the school to- work transition are often concentrated on youths who have not continued to further education and training upon completion of compulsory education, and whose experience during this period of their life risks permanently reducing their future labor

market opportunities. This is often the group that causes the greatest social costs for society, and that benefits the least from its support.

5.2.2 IGAs

The study findings established that most people earn from farming and casual labor and their incomes were below average considering that most people had fairly large families. It also found out that most of the household depended on one of the household to provide for the family up keep, most depended on just one source of income and most of those who earned extra income from IGAs were earning low incomes and the children on supplementary work earned very low incomes. The study also identified that most respondents owned livestock i.e. cows, goats, sheep, chicken, etc. which provided food to the household. However, the findings indicated that still a large number of respondents felt they needed relief food implying that there is food insecurity.

The study finding revealed that the composition and the income level, either cash or in kind, of an individual or a household, are the most direct and measurable results of livelihood strategies in a determined moment (Ellis, 2000). The increased incomes can increase the access not only to foodstuffs, but also to other locally available products and services. IGA can improve the family food security when there is sufficient availability of food in local markets, but the impact will vary depending on the distribution of income within the household and the use of that income. In the developing world, women use almost all of their income to cover the family's needs, while men spend at least 25% on other uses (FAO, 2005).

5.2.3 Social Networks

In regard to social networks, the study found out that most respondents had not joined or formed any social networks. However, those who were in social networks had such benefits as savings and credit, provision of basic needs, IGA start-up support, social support, and other benefits. The study findings also indicated that a larger group of the respondents were regular meeting attendants.

The study findings further established that a greater number of respondents manage the natural resources by harvesting rain water and planting trees as opposed to conserving soil and digging of dams. It also revealed that a greater number of respondents either very satisfied or just satisfied with the project performance. However, in terms of improving future project activities the great percent expected the project to improve on other things as opposed to provision of basic needs, IGA support, and skills trainings.

OECD, (2012) had reported that strengthening poor people's organizations, providing them with more control over assets and promoting their influence in economic governance will improve the terms on which they engage in markets. This economic empowerment combined with political and social empowerment will make growth much more effective in reducing poverty.

Success of entrepreneurs depends on how they have adapted to the changes in the environment (Bryant, 1989) and/or how they have changed the conditions in the environment (Schumpeter, 1934). Land, water and forests are the primary resources of agricultural production, and are the resources essential to maintain human life and well-being. The use of these resources must be balanced with conservation to support sustained national development, and to avoid environmental degradation and losses in agricultural productivity. Yet many countries are experiencing a decline in the availability and condition of their resource base. The causes of environmental change and degradation are very complex, and stem from different levels - from global and national, to individual farms and households (Commonwealth Secretariat 1992).

5.3 Discussion of Findings

The first objective of the study was to establish the extent to which education and training influence socio-economic sustainability of households. The conclusion drawn from the findings of this study is that most people had not completed the compulsory education which is a challenge in providing this potential workforce with the education and skills necessary for sustainable socio-economic growth. To effectively address the

factor on education and training, efforts need to be made to reduce obstacles that sustain this situation of the education levels and training among caregivers and children.

The second objective was to assess the extent to which Income Generating Activities support influence socio-economic sustainability of households. Conclusion drawn from the findings was that most people earn very low incomes to support their fairly large families and most depended on just one source of income most of which also earned low incomes. However, increased income generating activities can increase the access to foodstuffs as well as other family needs but the impact will vary depending on the distribution of income within the household and the use of that income.

The third objective of the study was to examine the extent to which social networks influence socio-economic sustainability of households. The conclusions drawn in regard to this objective was that most people had not joined or formed any social networks and a great number of people manage the natural resources by harvesting rain water and planting trees. To address this factor on social networks and socio-economic development, people need to be empowered more to join social networks providing them with more control over assets and promoting their influence in economic governance as well as promoting a balanced use of the natural resources to avoid environmental degradation and losses in agricultural productivity – the resources essential to maintain human life and well-being.

5.4 Conclusions

The study concluded that most of the caregivers did not complete the compulsory education level thus limiting them from getting better paying jobs and settling for farming and casual labor as the major source of income. It concluded that most of the caregivers were in their mid-age meaning they have great working potential however, enslaved in illiteracy posing a threat towards socio-economic sustainability. The study also concluded that a good number of caregivers grow food from their farms and most of them own livestock i.e. cows, goats, sheep, chicken, etc. as a source of food for consumption; the caregivers manage natural resources by harvesting rain water and planting trees as well. This is a positive move towards food security and conserving the

environment that supports agricultural production respectively. Last but not least, the study concluded that social networks are a benefit to the people and if caregivers would see the need of joining or forming these development groups it would support socio-economic sustainability.

5.5 Recommendations

In view of the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are given for improving on the influence of donor aid on socio-economic sustainability of households:

There is need for Compassion Kenya and its partners to establish strategies to support completion of primary, secondary and tertiary education levels as well as promote vocational trainings designed on the basis of needs assessment ensuring relevant and adequate education and training towards self-employment in IGAs.

The study also established that there is need for increased income generating activities with increased income levels. There is need to identify adequate business funding towards self-employment through IGAs based on sound needs assessment and in line with business plans. The business sector should be encouraged to participate in such funding initiatives since most people live in poverty.

People need to be empowered to participate in social networks and in promoting natural resources management for better agricultural production thus sustainability in socio-economic development.

5.6 Suggestions for Further Research

The study was carried out in consideration of the current status of the households of the sponsored children. It is important to gather accurate statistics on the poverty status of the households before sponsorship and after sponsorship to identify the level of improvement.

Research also needs to be carried out to establish the attitudes, views and challenges of financing institutions on income generating activities towards socio-economic development by the low income earners.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: A REQUEST LETTER

Dorcas N. Wainaina
P.O. Box 1610,
Nakuru, Kenya

The Partnership Facilitator
Compassion Kenya
Nakuru Cluster

May 15, 2012

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: REQUEST TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH

I wish to request to be allowed to carry out the above research within Nakuru Compassion Assisted projects.

I am a post graduate student in the University of Nairobi, currently taking a course in Project Planning and Management at the Nakuru Extra Mural Centre. I am doing a research on the influence of donor aid on sustainability of child development projects by Compassion Kenya projects in Nakuru County, Kenya.

This research is purely for academic purposes only; however, evaluation results may be made public after the completion of the study for future researchers and other relevant stakeholders to guide them in their work. Every care will be taken in the data collection procedure to ensure that it is within ethical limits.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Dorcas N. Wainaina
L50/66186/2010

APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CAREGIVERS

Dear Respondent, my name is Dorcas Wainaina; I am a student at the University of Nairobi pursuing research study as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of degree of Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management. This study endeavors to establish the influence of donor aid on sustainability of child development projects by Compassion Kenya in Nakuru County.

You have been randomly selected as one of the respondents among the caregivers of the sponsored project children. Kindly respond by filling the blank spaces and ticking where appropriate. Let me assure you that all your responses shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and only for the purpose of this research study.

Section 1: Background Information

1. Project Number: _____

2. Name of respondent (optional): _____

3. Location:

1. Molo [] 2. Njoro [] 3. Nakuru Town [] 4. Nakuru North [] 5. Rongai []

6. Other _____

4. Respondent's gender: 1. Female [] 2. Male []

5. What is your age? _____ Years

6. Relationship with the child: 1. Mother [] 2. Father [] 3. Guardian [] 4. Foster Parent []

7. Marital status: 1. Married [] 2. Single [] 3. Windowed [] 4. Separated []
5. Divorced []

8. Level of education:

1. Primary [] 2. Secondary [] 3. College [] 4. University [] 5. Not gone to school []

Section 2: (Education & Training, IGA, and Social Networks)

9. What is your regular source of income? _____

10. How much is your average income per month? Ksh. _____

11. How many people live in this household? _____

12. What is the average household monthly income? Ksh. _____

13. Apart from regular income, do you have any income generating activity (IGA)?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

14. If Yes, how much does the IGA generate per month? _____

15. Are all the children under your care getting formal education? 1. Yes [] 2. No []

16. If No, why? 1. Not of age [] 2. No school fees [] 3. Does house chores [] 4. I don't see importance [] 5. Other _____

17. Have any of your children been involved in any work to supplement household incomes? 1. Yes [] 2. No []

18. If Yes, how much is the income? Ksh. _____

19. Please indicate the number of property you own (eg. 0, 1, 2, ..)

PROPERTY OWNED	1. YES	2. NO
Land use		
Livestock (chicken, cow, goat, etc)		
Motor Bike		
Bicycle		
Television Set		
Radio		
Mobile Phone		

20. Where do the foodstuffs you commonly consume come from?

1. Grown in my farm [] 2. Bought [] 3. Donation [] 4. Other _____

21. Do you feel like you need relief food? 1. Yes [] 2. No []

22. Describe any new skills, knowledge, or other abilities that the project has helped you acquire:

23. What kind of development groups are you involved with in the community?

24. How are the development groups helping you improve your family standards?

1. Savings & Credit [] 2. Basic Needs Provision [] 3. IGA Start-up [] 4. Social Devt [] 5. Other _____

25. Have you participated in any of the following quality improvements of Natural Resources Management?

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	1. YES	2. NO
Soil Conservation i.e. Terraces		
Digging Dams		
Rain Water Harvest		
Tree Planting		

26. Do you attend any caregivers' meetings at the project? 1. Yes [] 2. No []

27. If Yes, how regular do you attend? _____

28. On the scale below, what is your level of satisfaction on the progress of the project performance? 1. Very Unsatisfied [] 2. Unsatisfied [] 3. Don't Know [] 4. Satisfied [] 5. Very Satisfied []

29. Briefly describe some improvements you would like to see the project do:

THANK YOU



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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NCST/RCD/14/012/1002

Our Ref:

Dorcas Njoki Wainaina
University of Nairobi
P.O.Box 30197-00100
Nairobi.

18th July 2012

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
LIBRARY
P.O. BOX 30197
NAIROBI

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on "*The influence of donor aid on sustainability of child development projects by compassion Kenya in Nakuru District, Kenya,*" I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in Nakuru District for a period ending 31st August, 2012.

You are advised to report to the **District Commissioner and the District Education Officer, Nakuru District** before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit **two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf** of the research report/thesis to our office.


DR. M. K. RUGUTT, PhD, HSC.
DEPUTY COUNCIL SECRETARY

Copy to:

The District Commissioner
The District Education Officer
Nakuru District.