

# How Can Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms Be Supported?

Mike Wessells

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# Need for Humility

- Weak evidence based regarding CBCPMs
- Corresponding paucity of evidence around the most effective approaches to supporting CBCPMs
- Who actually supports CBCPMs?
  - Formal workers
  - Nonformal workers

# Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms

- Formal or nonformal groups that work at grassroots level to monitor, respond to, and prevent child protection issues
- Examples
  - Child Welfare Committees
  - Traditional courts of justice
  - Faith-based groups
  - Women's groups
  - Youth groups
- Endogenous groups as mixed—assets and risks

# Seven Factors Contributed to the Effectiveness and Sustainability of Community-Based Child Focused Groups

- Community ownership and responsibility
- Incorporating and building on existing resources
- Leaders' support
- Genuine child participation
- Ongoing management of issues of power, diversity, inclusivity
- Resourcing—ongoing training/capacity building, material support
- Linkages—engagement with formal and nonformal, traditional systems

Limits of many current approaches

# Roles of Service Workers in Relation to CBCPMs

- Support the functionality of community mechanisms
- Identifying and supporting natural helpers
- Deep listening and learning about social problems and local assets or resources
- Accompanying and supporting the community
- Supporting prevention and resilience
- Educating and capacity building
- Linking without imposing: bottom-up approaches that complement top-down approaches
- Advocating for local supports & approaches
- Facilitating positive social change
- Example from action research in Sierra Leone

# Orientation, Skills, Attitudes, & Behaviors

## Current

- Expert
- More powerful
- Judging
- Case oriented
- Office centered, little emphasis on outreach
- Rapid facilitation, ‘facipulation’
- Impose outsider knowledge, rights, practices, laws

## Needed

- Co-learner, one of the people
- Power sharing
- Empathic, respectful
- Prevention oriented
- Community centered, outreach, supporting the nonformal
- Slow, patient facilitation
  - Understand power dynamics
  - Inclusive approach
  - Enabling social norms change
  - Reflective orientation