

# **“Sustainability through involvement of people at all levels”**

**Section: Individual/staff/volunteer capacity building**

**FINAL TRACK 1.0 ABY AND OVC PARTNERS MEETING  
SA 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010  
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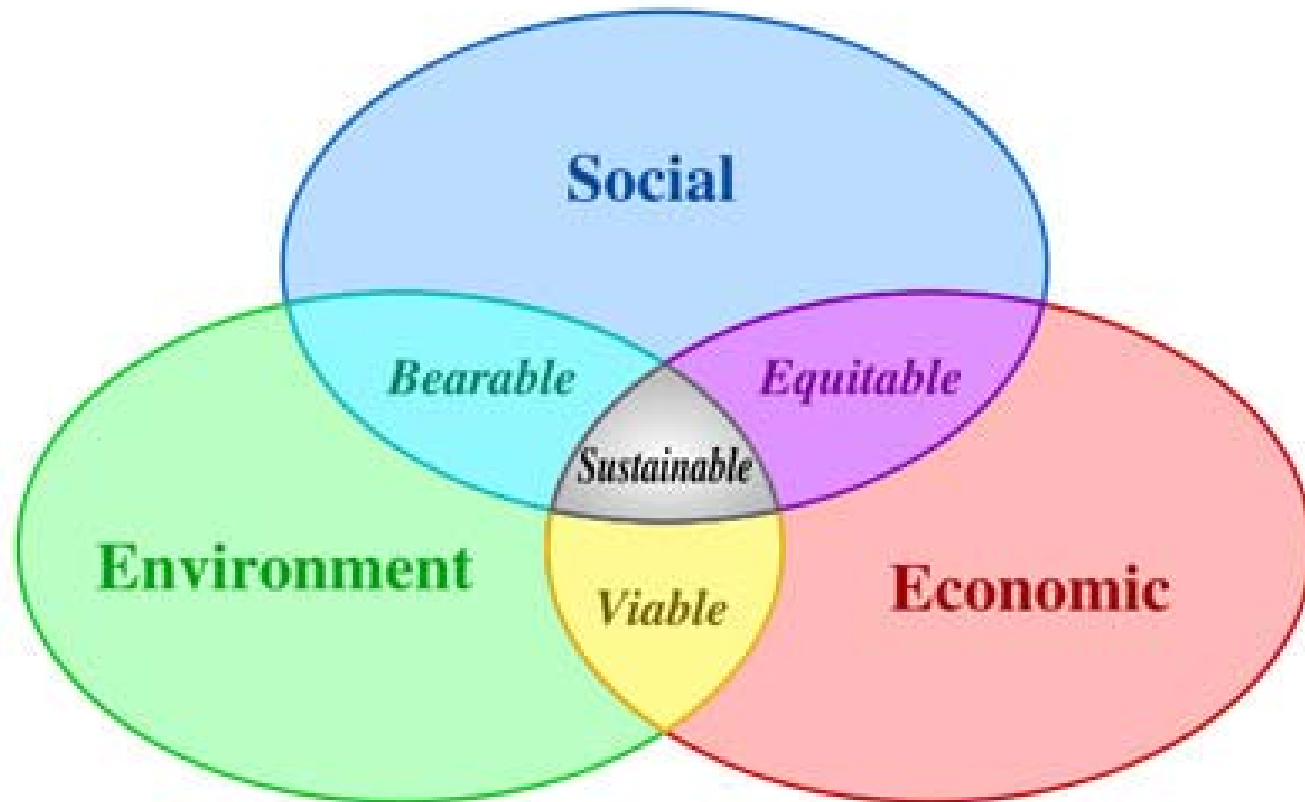


# Outline

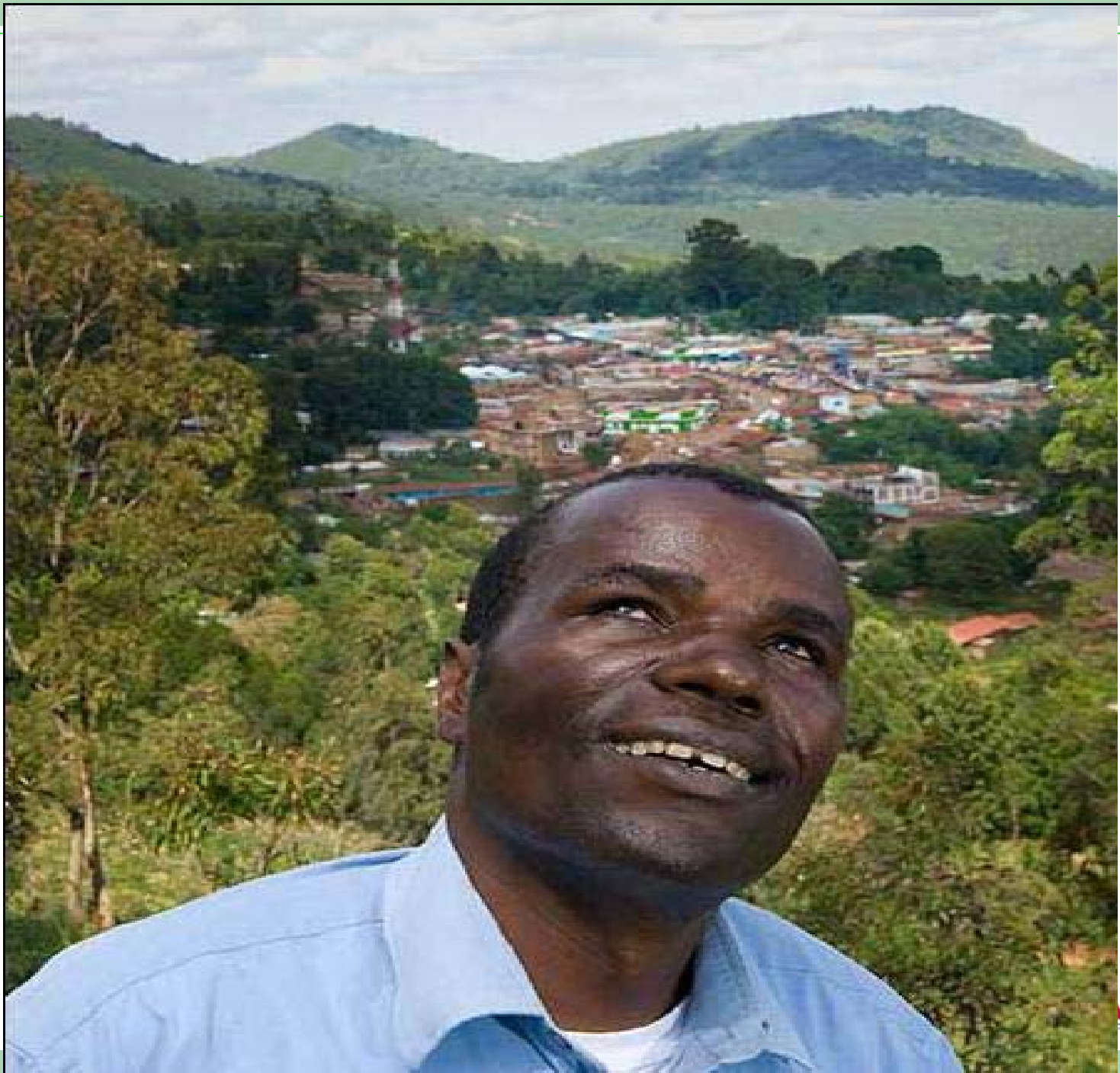
- Defining sustainability
- Exploring the involvement of people at different levels



# Defining sustainability



IUCN Renowned Thinkers Meeting, 2006  
Greifswald, 2003



# Relating vulnerability to sustainability

- Vulnerability is for AVSI an imbalance between needs and resources.
- AVSI believes that often this imbalance exists because of a lack of awareness, an absence of strong active and resilient spirit.
- Often, vulnerable persons tend to focus on the circumstances around them as being greater than them

# Relating vulnerability to sustainability

- Sustainability to be achieved means responding to these gaps and making a person aware of their value as being greater than any circumstances around.
- Therefore all AVSI approaches have been focused on making the person aware of themselves, and educating while accompanying them to self realization

# Defining sustainability

**Sustainability for AVSI means**

**enabling some one re-discover their value (who they really are, what they can do) through “an education” so that they can respond to their own needs**

**The protagonist of this sustainability therefore**

**becomes the person himself so that AVSI remains a companion to only complement and never replace his role.**

# Sustainability: sustinere (tenere to hold sus up)



The spider web

# Exploring Involvement of people at different levels

the guardian/parent

the school

friends, neighbors,  
community members

CBO local partner

the social worker

the child

the local leaders



**Exploring social networks of a child as an  
Invaluable resource**

# How we involve different people at different levels

- **Capacity building of our partners: Providing context specific and needs tailored training** (monitoring and evaluation, observation of the child, quality standards, decision making, financial management, HIV, The Risk of education, weekly social workers meetings, exchange visits etc)
- **Awareness Raising: Sensitization done by all** partners increase knowledge on different themes to care givers, children and community at large.
- **Socioeconomic Strengthening of OVC households** (allowing families/caregivers decide which IGA's to do, providing BST training, encouraging peer support and group monitoring through group/ association formation)
- **Mobilisation of communities as carers:** Solidarity groups following and caring for members children

# How we involve different people at different levels

- **Participation** (Parental contributions, Parents visiting their children at school, parents and children choosing schools,)
- **Working with the local authorities:** Asking police and local council chiefs to facilitate child protection sessions and other GBV topics, technical support to social centers
- **Involving children** in learning to make paper bags, beads, look after livestock etc as a recreational and yet educative activity
- **Involving parents and children** in developing intervention plans that they can own
- **Involving the social workers** personally-social workers sponsoring vulnerable children or fostering them
- **Encouraging and supporting referrals and networking** through exchange visits, sharing best practices at work shops and meetings

# Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Capacity building needs to be made starting with the pertinent question of reason- **WHY?**
- Capacity can be sustainably built when there is a **deliberate attention to the person** (e.g. Train a social worker on how to care for her own self first i.e. Involve them personally, and then the children next)
- **Social networks** (that represent people at different levels) are invaluable resources that contribute towards sustainability when harnessed
- Capacity building (technical support) is better done (i.e. in a tailored manner) when a partner is directly involved in project implementation
- There is a lot to learn from other stakeholders that can be harnessed and utilised in different contexts

# The story of Issyaka



*To promote sustainability is to promote and keep alive the gaze to the infinite and the desire of the heart*

