

**STRATEGIC FACTORS INFLUENCING EFFICIENCY IN CASH  
TRANSFER AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS: CASE OF ORPHANS  
PROGRAM IN IGEMBE SOUTH DISTRICT**

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## ABSTRACT

Kenya government provides Cash transfers to orphans and other vulnerable groups. Cash transfers is a form of monetary social assistance, are regular, non-contributory payments of money, provided by the state or non-governmental organizations to individuals or households, with the objective of decreasing long-term poverty, addressing social risk and reducing economic vulnerability by improving outcomes in health, education, and child labor as they aim to balance the goals of current and future poverty reduction. The mechanism through which these cash transfers are distributed may contain several inefficiencies that diminish the net-value obtained by the recipients. This study examined how operation, technical capacity and socio-politics factors strategically influence the efficiency of cash transfer Program among vulnerable groups by using Orphans and other vulnerable children cash transfer program in Njia and Antuiga locations of Igembe South sub-county as a case study. This study adopted descriptive research design with district children staff, children volunteers and program beneficiaries as the target population. Both drop and pick and administered questionnaires were used to as tools to collect data. The reliability test was conducted for the items designed for the same construct. Cronbach's Alpha which is a measure of reliability or internal consistency was used and found the data reliable and consistent. The relationships between the efficient OVC cash transfer program and other variables was measured using Pearson coefficient and Chi-square. Other measures used are statistical measures of mean, frequency and standard deviation. Report from the study revealed that there is a positive relationship between relevance capacities of implementers and efficient funds distribution mechanisms. This was evidenced after assessing the operational/administrative capacity in coordination system from the District children office to the location committee and subsequently to the beneficiaries. The study also indications recipients incur high transaction costs each time they collect their benefits from post office. More so, beneficiaries travel for long hours to funds collection centers. It was also revealed that the Socio-political values and interests of stakeholders influence the efficient program delivery. In general it is also evident that the Program is succeeding in providing regular cash transfers to thousands of households, with a payment system that works well and causes few complaints. However, there is a need to strengthen some other elements of operations, including communication, capacity building, case management and the operation of the program to make it more efficient. Such teething problems would be expected as a program starts up, develops systems and expands to cover increasing numbers of households.