

MODULE 2 SESSION 3.2 Activity 3 – HANDOUT – SECONDARY PREVENTION CASE STUDY – PARTICIPANT COPY

Case Study: Joshua and Phoebe

Background

You are a child protection manager overseeing case management and psychosocial support programmes in a rural area affected by an infectious disease outbreak (IDO), which left some children orphaned or with only one parent. Some families were already struggling prior to the IDO due to chronic food shortages in the area. Despite a strong tradition of kinship care, the numbers of children in residential care were beginning to rise. Since the IDO, a number of new residential care centres have opened up. Family-based care is supported by government policy but due to the impact of the IDO and staff shortages, government ministries are currently not able to effectively implement their policies. Government support to vulnerable families has also decreased since the IDO.

While national level structures and systems for child protection are currently weak, at a community level there are a number of local organisations and voluntary groups that are very active and supportive of family-based care. There has been a strong response from the international community to this emergency, both from organisations already in country working on longer term programmes, and organisations responding directly to the emergency.

The family

There are two children: Joshua is 16 years old and Phoebe is 10 years old, both living with their mother Julema. Both Julema and her husband became sick with the infectious disease several months ago and sadly Julema's husband passed away. Julema has not fully recovered, physically or emotionally. The family is struggling to survive on the small income from Julema's market stall and are getting into debt. Julema has refused offered financial support from her family as she does not get along well with them, and she thinks the solution is for Joshua to find work and Phoebe to enter the residential "school" where she will be better off. Since the death of their father, Phoebe's school grades have dropped, and Joshua has started hanging out with a gang who are known to use drugs.

The community has been active in supporting their most vulnerable members since the IDO through a newly formed community-based protection committee.

Prepare a response to the following questions:

1. Which risk factors could lead to family separation?
2. What protective factors can you identify?
3. What secondary prevention measures would you suggest to prevent family separation?