

Annual Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

October 2012 – September 2013

This report was made possible through support provided by the US Agency for International Development, under the terms of Award No. GHH-I-00-07-00058-00. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Agency for International Development.

Nigeria Community-Based support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CUBS)
Management Sciences for Health
200 Rivers Edge Drive
Medford, MA 02155
Telephone: (617) 250-9500
www.msh.org



**Community Based Support for Orphans
and Vulnerable Children (CUBS)
Annual Report
October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013**



Contract No: GHH-I-00-07-00058-00

Submitted By: Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director

Project Title: Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria

Recipient: Management Sciences for Health

To: Mr. Olusola Onifade [OVC Manager]

Reporting Period: October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

Table of Contents

Acronyms.....	4
I. Activity Financial Summary.....	5
II. About the Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (CUBS) Project.....	6
Project Objectives	6
Project Components	6
III. Annual Data Achievement on Intermediate Results	8
Results #1: Increased Number of OVC Served with 6+1 Services	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Results #2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Results #3: Strengthened capacities of to better protect and care for OVC	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Results #4: Reduced Vulnerability status of girl child and women	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Results #5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices	Error! Bookmark not defined.
IV. Annual Progress Report.....	12
Intermediate Result 1: Increased Number of OVC served with 6+1 services	13
Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination.	14
Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened Community Support for OVC care	16
Intermediate Result 4: Reduced Vulnerability Status of Girl Child and Women.....	17
Intermediate Result 5: Support the systems for dissemination of evidence best practices.....	19
IV. Problems and Opportunities.....	20
V. Success Stories	21
VI. Year 5 Priority Areas, Results and Related Tasks	22
Intermediate Result: Increased Number of OVC served with 6+1 Services	23
Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination	23
Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened Community Support for OVC care	23
Intermediate Result 4: Reduced Vulnerability Status of Girl Child and Women.....	23
Intermediate Result 5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices	23

Acronyms

AIDSTAR	AIDS Support and Technical Resources
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPN	Child Protection Network
CSI	Child Status Index
CSO	civil society organization
CUBS	Community Based Support for OVC
HES	household economic strengthen
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
HTC	HIV/AIDS testing and counseling
IGA	income generation activities
IP	implementing partner
LGA	local government area
LOP	life of project
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
NGN	Nigerian naira
NOMIS	National OVC Management Information System
OVC	orphans and vulnerable children
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PSS	psychosocial support services
PY	project year
SACA	State Agencies for the Control of AIDS
SMWA	State Ministry of Women Affairs
STTA	short-term technical assistance
TWG	technical working group
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

USAID/Nigeria Quarterly Progress Report

CUBS Project

October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

I. Activity Financial Summary

CUBS' FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
Activity Name:	Community Based Support (CUBS) for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Nigeria Project
Activity Objective:	Support the Government of Nigeria in implementing its <i>National Plan of Action on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)</i> by developing and strengthening community-based service delivery for OVC, building community ownership of OVC interventions, reducing gender discrimination, and increasing OVC involvement and advocacy.
Implementing Partner:	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)
USAID/Nigeria Assistance Objective (AO):	AO 3 - Increased Nigerian Capacity for a Sustainable HIV/AIDS and TB Response
Life of Activity (start and end dates):	October 7, 2009 – October 6, 2014
Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount:	\$20,907,645
Obligations to Date:	\$15,976,104
Current Pipeline Amount:	\$868,680
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter:	\$614,088
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date:	\$15,107,424
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter:	\$1,132,656
Report Submitted by:	Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director
Submission Date:	October 31, 2013,

I. About the Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (CUBS) Project

The **Community-Based Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CUBS)** project in Nigeria provides support and coordination for scaling up of HIV activities using community-based responses to identify, locate and protect orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). Under the AIDSTAR indefinite quantity contract (IQC) mechanism, Management Sciences for Health (MSH) is joined by Africare in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD) to address these focus areas under a five-year contract.

Through the CUBS project, PEPFAR through USAID strengthens the capacity of federal and state government agencies to plan and implement OVC programs. The project supports the implementation of Nigeria's National Priority Agenda on OVC by developing and strengthening community based service delivery for orphans and vulnerable children.

Using a bottom-up approach to mobilize families and OVC care and support, CUBS integrates a currently fragmented OVC service delivery system, mobilizes community support, and raises awareness to reduce stigma, discrimination, and isolation. The CUBS project provides capacity building and on-the-job mentoring for state and community-based providers and institutions, implements targeted systems strengthening activities, and offers small grants to civil society organizations (CSOs). The partnership leverages existing resources and builds on already established federal, state, and community foundations to improve OVC services, and learn from promising practices for wider dissemination. By 2014, 50,000 OVCs in 11 focal states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Kebbi, Rivers, Sokoto and Taraba will be provided with comprehensive OVC services consistent with national OVC guidelines.

Project Objectives

1. Provide support for coordination and scale up of HIV activities
2. Mobilize and support community-based responses that identify, locate, and protect OVC
3. Deliver a holistic service package focusing on multifaceted needs of OVC
4. Address gender-related issues in OVC programming
5. Document and disseminate successful innovative approaches, sustainable models, and evidence-based best practices

Project Components

- **Capacity building and technical assistance:** CUBS builds capacity and provides technical support to national and state level agencies, CSOs, and FBOs
- **Community mobilization and coordination:** CUBS fosters coordination, ensures quality of OVC services, policy development and advocacy through establishing OVC forums
- **Systems strengthening:** The project strengthens OVC systems to enhance the effectiveness of the national OVC program
- **Expanding service outreach:** CUBS expands coverage and access to services

- **Leveraging and linking resources:** CUBS leverages and links resources, including clinical and community-based partners
- **Small innovation grants to CSOs:** Through grants, CUBS identifies new approaches to expand OVC services and build technical capacity of CBOs and FBOs

III. Annual Data Achievement on Intermediate Results
Results #1: Increased Number of OVC Served with 6+1 Services

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Total PY 4 Achievement	% of Target Achieved	Comment
	% of Children with improved wellbeing using CSI	70%	64%	91%	
C1.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) provided with a minimum of one care service	48,587	46,545	96%	Projected to surpass annual target
	- # newly enrolled	10,000	11,056	>100%	
	- # previously enrolled	38,587	35,489	92%	
	Education (male)		5,454		
	Education (female)		5,204		
	Health (male)		13,717		
	Health (female)		13,592		
	Psychosocial support (male)		21,847		
	Psychosocial support (female)		21,097		
	Shelter (male)		888		
	Shelter (female)		948		
	Protection (male)		2,294		
	Protection (female)		2,205		
	Nutrition (male)		8,278		
	Nutrition (female)		8,076		
	Economic strengthening (male)		200		

	Economic strengthening (female)		153		
C5.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) who received food and/or nutrition services	No target	16,354		
1.4	# of OVC caregivers who were trained in caring for OVC	3,000	3,843	>100%	Surpassed annual target
1.5	# of OVC who were referred for clinical services	No target	1316		

Results #2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Total PY 4 Achievement	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
2.1	# of AIDSTAR states with comprehensive OVC plans	4	2	50%	This is still 50% until the National Priority Agenda (NPA) is launched
2.2	# of functional state and LGA community coordination mechanisms (OVC forums) in place to monitor OVC programs	4 states (16 LGAs)	11 (36LGAs)	>100%	
2.3	# of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems	4	9	>100%	
2.4	# of persons from state ministries and LGAs trained in leadership and management	60	131	>100%	
2.5	# of persons who successfully completed an in-service training in strategic information including data collection, collation, analysis and use	50	54	>100%	CUBS conducted the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) training in Imo and Bayelsa States and will conduct additional trainings, if requested to do so by the state

					ministries of women's affairs and social development (SMWA&SDs)
--	--	--	--	--	---

Results #3: Strengthened capacities of to better protect and care for OVC

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
3.1	Number of Child protection Committee coordinating the protection of vulnerable children at the community level	0	116		
3.2	Number of Civil society organization that refers OVC using the existing states functional referral systems	38	38	100%	

Results #4: Reduced Vulnerability status of girl child and women

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
4	% of households with reduced vulnerability of female OVC and female heads of households	0	0		This is end of project performance indicator to be derived from OR research
4.1	# of OVC reached with individual and/or small group level preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required	6000	6790	>100%	Attention is also given to female adolescent
4.2	# of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program	No target	20		

4.3	# of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers	38	38	100%	
-----	--	----	----	------	--

Results #5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
5.1	# of persons trained in the use of the CSI	50	54	>100%	Completed training
5.2	# of service sites/delivery points that receive a DQA visit	38	37	97%	
5.3	# of CSOs that provide data that are complete on a timely basis based on the national M&E Plan for OVCs	38	38	100%	

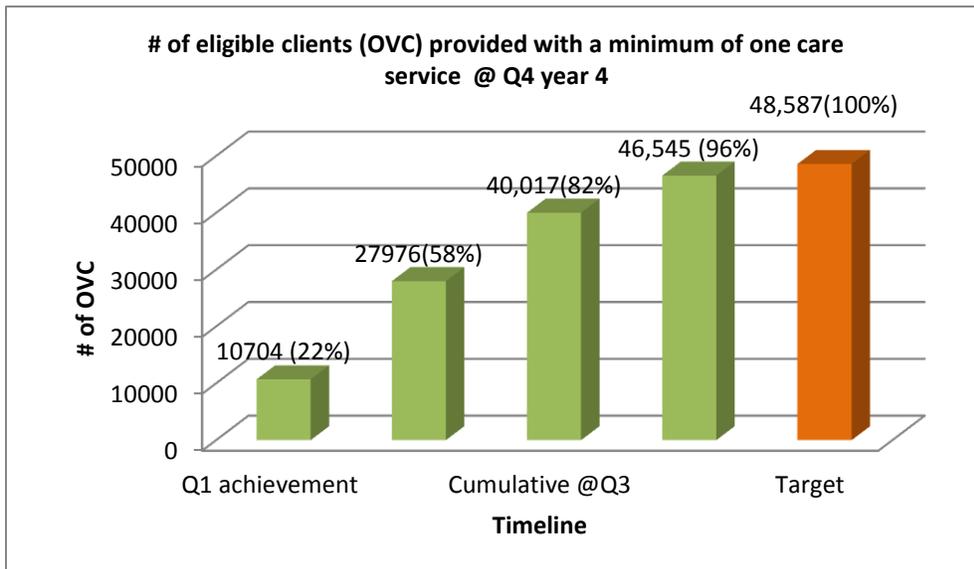
IV. Annual Progress Report

Project Results:

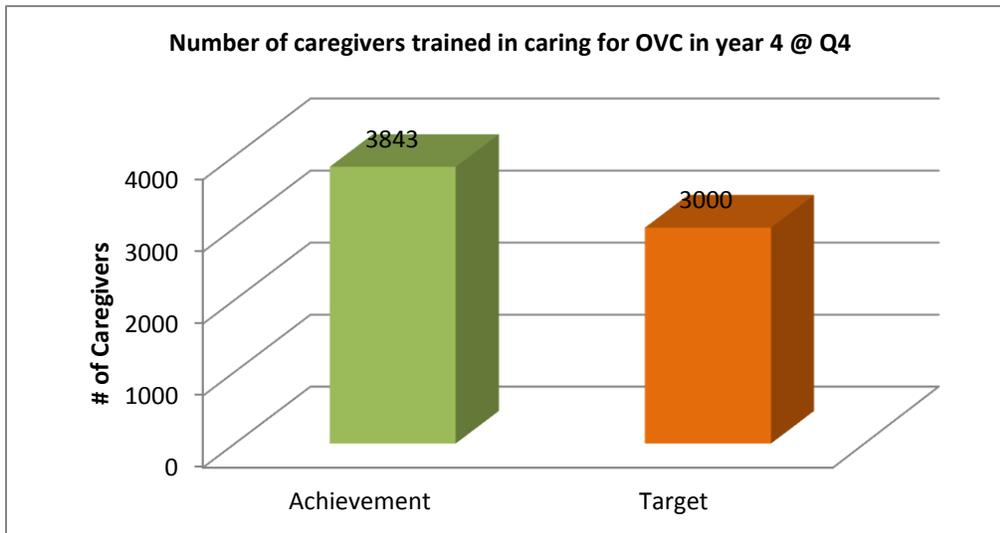
The CUBS project targeted at improving the quality of life of OVC in 11 states successfully improved the wellbeing of 31,096 children representing 64% of the number of children reached with OVC services.

The project was able to determine this from longitudinal assessments using the Child Status Index (CSI). The CSI enables assessment of a child's current needs, monitoring of changes in specific dimensions of child well-being, and identification of areas of concern that may be addressed through program intervention. In the past two and a half years, the community care workers have gathered information in the areas of food/nutrition, shelter and care, protection, health care, psychosocial and education.

To improve their wellbeing, children received multiple services that addressed their care needs in all the service areas within the reporting period. Holistic and comprehensive services targeting health (1403), education (1624), psychosocial support (3336), protection (541), nutrition (2192) and; shelter and care components (618) reaching a total of 6,528 OVC served with a minimum of one care service this quarter and to 46,545 the number served in year four of CUBS, which represents 96% of the annual target as shown in Figure 2. The project also worked hard to empower household heads, especially the households headed by females to sustain the gains of the short term services as reported under intermediate result four.



The state teams worked closely with the CSOs to conduct integrated and comprehensive caregiver training. It focused on building different skills ranging from counseling and communication, coping with stress and burnout, dealing with stigma and discrimination, growth monitoring, immunization services, ensuring household food security, infant and young child feeding counseling, practical section on complementary feeding, water, sanitation, hygiene and HIV prevention. The successes of the project derive from the knowledge and skills built in these caregivers to continue to care for the OVC. In PY 4, 3,843 caregivers were trained, exceeding the annual target by 28% as shown in Figure 3.



Intermediate Result 1: Increased Number of OVC served with 6+1 services

The project focused on sustaining the gains from the previous year. Activities in this result area were thus geared towards scaling up of those areas of success.

The project bolstered the Household Economic Strengthening (HES) activities by integrating Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) interventions to help caregivers build household assets. The VSLA strengthened the capacities of care givers and duty bearers to better protect orphans and vulnerable children as the structure supports them to learn the culture of saving and have access to loan that will be used to meet the needs of OVC when necessary. The VSLA groups also provides a platform for integration of other services where caregivers support one another psychologically to prevent burnout, receive basic health and nutrition tips, exchange of entrepreneurial ideas and continue to learn the basic skills needed for improved communication with OVC thereby improving the wellbeing of households. The project has established **40** VSLAs groups across CUBS supported communities in Akwa Ibom, Ekiti, Kebbi, Sokoto, Enugu, Bayelsa, Taraba, Gombe and Delta states. The project will be working to support these groups to be registered as cooperatives to provide access to loans from micro-finance banks to enable them expand their businesses.

As part of the project's exit strategy, we initiated and concluded arrangements for the awards of blockgrants to support projects initiated by the communities in collaboration with the CSOs. This initiative is CUBS' sustainable approach to work with the civil society organizations in select communities with higher percentages of vulnerable children to benefit from these interventions at the exit of the project. Each CSO selected top three proposals from its communities to be supported with a matching grant from CUBS. Each community will be supported with a grant not exceeding \$5,000 for upto 114 communities.

In addition to the continuous mentorship and supportive supervision visits to the CSOs, CUBS conducted quality assurance visits to all CSOs sites to ensure sustainability and program quality. To ensure objectivity in the findings and reporting, CUBS' staff from one state conducted the quality assurance visit in another state. Compared with CUBS' site visit reports from previous years, findings from this exercise shows progressive improvement in the quality of services CUBS provides to vulnerable children and indicates that the project-supported CSOs continue to leverage existing community resources to meet the needs of the vulnerable households. CSOs also demonstrated that OVC households received better support when there is community involvement and ownership in community based programs.

Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination.

The results of activities under this result area show as increased collaboration between stakeholders in order to mobilize or leverage resources for the benefit of OVC.

In PY4, we saw increased collaboration between the GON, USAID and IPs that saw to the successful countrywide dissemination of the PEPFAR/USAID Guidelines on OVC Programming. CUBS supported the process in Ekiti, Imo and Lagos states in collaboration with other stakeholders like PACT, the Association of OVC Organizations in Nigeria, and the SMWA&SD. The guidelines are expected to guide the activities of civil society organizations and implementing partners in the country.

The partnership between CUBS CSOs and the UNICEF facilitated Child Protection Network across the 4 Niger Delta States of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers have continued to affect the lives of OVC positively. Specifically, the collaboration enabled access to legal services for two cases of defilement and rape of a five and 15 years old girls. The network also conducted training for Officers of the Nigeria Police Force in Bayelsa state to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to handle rape cases and set up CPN Desk Offices in their various divisions for easy access, collation of data and mitigation of rape in their domains.

The year under review also witnessed high points which included the inauguration of OVC Technical Working Groups at the state level bringing the number to ten while there was a scale up of the Local government OVC TWG to thirty six. The project also built the capacity of 131 staff at state and local government levels in the area of Leadership and Management for OVC Coordination ,this has contributed to the ability of government to take on the leadership challenge by taking responsibility for the welfare of vulnerable groups in their domains by prioritizing issues affecting OVC and their households as CUBS staff continue to build capacity of the state and local government staff of the ministries of women affairs and provide technical and financial assistance to the technical working groups. For example, the Etinan Local Government in Akwa Ibom state LGA chairman promised to support the OVC TWG members with a monthly stipend of N50, 000 (Fifty thousand naira),while in Delta State, the State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA) has allocated N100,000 every month for hosting of quarterly OVC TWG meetings. Additionally, Enugu State Agency for the Control of AIDS hosted the Enugu State OVC Steering Committee meeting for the second time during the year showcasing good collaboration. The Gombe State House of Assembly Joint Committee on Women Affairs, Youth, Sports, and Culture has asked that copies of the proposed Child Rights Act be widely circulated among stakeholders in preparation for a public hearing scheduled for a later date. This is aimed at creating awareness on the bill before it is passed. The Child Rights Act, once passed, will serve as a tool for the protection of children's rights in the state.

In Ekiti state, the government has continued to include OVC budget into the budgets of other ministry programs, such as the HIV/AIDS and gender programs, however, CUBS has advocated for the inclusion of a separate budget line for the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in addition to the HIV/AIDS and Gender budget lines. The State also conducted an OVC survey exercise while the Rivers state conducted an OVC survey in Gokhana .CUBS provide technical assistance in the development of tools, training of field workers, data analysis and report writing. CUBS also conducted capacity assessment exercises in the 11 focal states and have developed mentoring plans in partnership with state ministry counter parts for implementation.

The project continued to support quarterly OVC TWG with members deliberating on the issues of OVC and their households in their domains for example during one of Enugu state OVC TWG meetings, participants developed the 2013 work plan and assigned roles and responsibilities. This work plan will serve as a guide to help the group plan and prioritize activities that will improve the lives of OVC and those living in their households. A letterhead for use by the group's secretariat was also developed. Also at the Udi LGA OVC TWG meeting, participants discussed plans to initiate HIV counseling and testing for OVC and their households. The LGA Committee Officer provided HIV test kits to CUBS' CSO partner, the Global Health Awareness Research Foundation (GHARF).

The Akwa Ibom state team was part of the Mid Term Review (MTR) exercise of Akwa Ibom State Strategic Plan (SSP) on HIV/AIDS (2010-2013) held at the state capital to appraise the

level of implementation of the SSP, identify the gaps in the implementation process and also introduce some activities that are key to the response.

While in Sokoto State, the Ministry of Women Affairs met with all the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are intervening in the area of OVC to assess progress made so far with regards to the welfare of OVC review the OVC work plan and challenges faced by NGOs. Lack of commitment of the LGAs and insufficient funding are examples of challenges faced by the organizations. In attendance were; Save the Child, Northern Education Initiative (NEI), CUBS/MSH, and State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA) and Network of People Living with AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWAN).

Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened Community Support for OVC care

A major contributing factor to CUBS' achievements is community ownership of and participation by the 116 host communities who through their 116 Child Protection Committees have been in the project activities. Many of the project-supported communities, led by their CPCs, are actively involved in mitigating OVC-related problems using their own resources. Below are some examples of community-led support for OVC. Another success for the project was the donations made to CUBS partners by organizations such as the Niger Delta Development Commission's donation of N 5,000,000 to Perpetual Succour for Women and Children (PESWAC) (a former CSO partner in Rivers state) to send two children with heart defects to India for treatment. Both patients have returned from India and are recovering. Kan Development Foundation in Bayelsa received N 20,000 from Otuoke community to support their OVC work.

The Child Protection Committee (CPC) at Koroama community met with KAN Development Foundation of Bayelsa state held during the quarter, a key issue addressed was the strategy to ensure continued community ownership and of CUBS interventions in their community for the overall wellbeing of OVC and their households. The CPC members pledged their support for the continuation of the CUBS project.

In Rivers state, NAPEP Loan Assessment team supported Hope and Care Foundation (HCF) to conduct assessments at Umuebulu and Ikwerre-ngwo communities of Etche LGA for female caregivers enrolled on the project. The loan, when disbursed will support the caregivers to startup businesses that will assist them in the upkeep of their children especially retention in schools. One hundred and forty six households for the 2 communities were assessed for the loan, meanwhile, the traditional ruler of Umuebulu and the CPC are collaborating with the State Universal Basic Education Board to provide desks for the only primary school in the community. CUBS helped the CPC draft a letter to the State Universal Basic Education Board requesting these commodities.

To reduce the malaria epidemic among vulnerable children and their caregivers, the CUBS helped the National Malaria Control Programme conduct training on malaria case management

and rapid diagnostic testing for health center workers in all LGAs within Delta State. Over four hundred health workers attended the four-day training on the newly-approved national guidelines for the effective treatment of malaria. The Delta State team followed up with project's CSO partners to ensure their caregiver and OVC beneficiaries were accessing malaria services at the primary health centers.

In the same light, the project guided 11 implementing CSOs to attain full recognition, authenticity and legitimacy within its community and other legal authorities. The CSOs completion of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission re-enforces organizational structures.

Within the 4th year, the project worked with 25 CSOs to develop strategic plans. Guided by its objective to strengthen institutional capacity of these CSOs giving them strategic focus and direction, these strategic plans will guide the operations of these organization. This feeds into the projects goal of enhancing the capacity of its CSOs to have viable and sustainable organizations that will continue to serve the target beneficiaries even after the project is over

Utilizing the platform of mentoring and coaching, 18 CSOs were supported to develop organizational policies to guide establishment of acceptable standards within the organizations. Not just are these policies developed, implementation of the developed policies were closely monitored to enhance functional leadership and management structures. In this light, the project developed checklist to track implementation. Though results of the use of this tool has not yet been affirmed, it is believed that policy implementation will gratefully be improved in the next year.

To enhance knowledge sharing, networks and strengthen alliances, monthly meetings of CSOs were instituted within each CUBS implementing State, in the year under review, 3 new platforms for networking and alliance strengthening were put in place. This brings the number of existing platforms to eight across the 11 States. (Gombe, Rivers, Imo, Kebbi, Sokoto, Enugu, Bayelsa). These States held meetings are used as platforms for advocacy to mobilize for resources and reinforce sustainability.

Intermediate Result 4: Reduced Vulnerability Status of Girl Child and Women

A key priority for gender mainstreaming in CUBS project this year was to provide evidence for successful approaches to reducing female vulnerability to HIV and STIs and to scale up those approaches. The following results were recorded:

CUBS expanded the Household Economic Strengthening (HES) approach, with the training of 593 female heads of household in nine states and provision of seed grants to trainees who were supported to develop simple business plans which were assessed for viability. Of these, 290 qualified to receive seed grants to a maximum of \$62.5 each to start or expand a small business. The disbursement process began towards the end of this reporting period and is expected to be concluded by November 2013. The CUBS team in Delta state supported four CSO partners in the state to develop proposals to access AIDS HAF-2 grants administered under the Delta State Action Committee for prevention, care and support. Two female caregivers were also fielded for multi-skill acquisition entrepreneurship program sponsored by the Delta state ministry of commerce and industry in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program.

Training of caregivers in Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations has led to the formation of 40 groups across eleven states that now pull together their resources through weekly and monthly savings and disburse cheap loans to members for business and consumption.

The HES exchange visits is clearly one of the most successful activities conducted by CUBS this year. This is a peer review mechanism through experience sharing and exhibitions of products between and within communities implementing HES initiatives. The HES exchange visits were facilitated by the project in collaboration with states' ministries of women affairs and social development, and organized by CSO partners and project beneficiaries. The event held in Delta, Akwa Ibom and Gombe states with over 70 beneficiaries in attendance. The USAID monitoring team joined in the Akwa Ibom event in August 2013. Participants at the meetings included top government officials from the federal and states ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Information. These stakeholders made presentations outlining their efforts at reducing OVC vulnerability since 2009 when the CUBS project began. Other donor partners working in similar areas in those states were also present, as was the media. During feedback participants request information on how government agencies have supported OVC households in the past and what plans they have to do so following the end of the CUBS project. Presentations at these meetings had facts and figures about the cost effectiveness CUBS HES approach and this became an advocacy tool for participants to call for the replication of this HES model by government ministries and agencies. Testimonies from beneficiaries at these sharing meetings suggest that they are rapidly moving towards the path of social and economic empowerment.

Reproductive health training reached 3,735 women, increasing their knowledge in family planning, safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS/STIs and parenting skills. Women have reported improved communication with their children and the positive effect that this has had in promoting family cohesion leading to declining episodes of child delinquency. About 7000 male and female adolescents received peer education and life skills training including HIV messages. With CUBS enhanced gender focused approach to create safe social spaces for female adolescents, over 33 girl groups have been established across project states, a forum where older girls meet monthly to network and further their life skills. During the year, CUBS supported the piloting of three such meetings, one each in Gombe, Ekiti and Bayelsa states where about 75 girls representing 30 communities held a one day meeting in each state capital incorporating, motivational talks, Reproductive health, career guidance, protection issues and excursion. These proved to be very

“I received N5, 000 from CUBS project, used it for short time farming and today I am better off. Also I mobilized other women to join me to form a savings group which we loan money to members and we are happy to generate our own income to take care of our children”.(Grace Essien-Akwa Ibom).

successful and will be replicated in the remaining eight states.

Continuing with efforts to reduce vulnerability of adolescent girls to HIV and STIs, fourteen adolescent out of school girls in Umuebulu community Rivers State were supported to make livelihood choices and to identify vocational skills for training. Five out of the six trainees in computer services graduated in July 2013 and two of them got automatic employment from their training centre. The sixth girl took time off to have her baby but has resumed classes. The trainee dressmakers and hairdressers are halfway through the program and monitoring reports in June 2013 showed significant progress. One of four trainee dressmakers has begun to earn an income making simple dresses for her peers and has been mentoring others on basic dressmaking skills.

Gender awareness trainings benefitted 260 participants made up of law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, judiciary and project staff in eleven states and Abuja. This has improved networking and referrals between CSO partners and relevant agencies in the reporting and prosecution of offenders in cases of sexual abuse, disinheritance and child custody. The project collaborated with various states and national offices of the National Population Council to facilitate registration of OVC births and issuance of birth certificates to registered OVC who did not have them. In most cases these documents were issued at no cost to the families.

Operations Research concluded the baseline assessment to identify key issues to inform programming by attempting to answer the two research questions, and shared preliminary reports with the team.

Intermediate Result 5: Support the systems for dissemination of evidence best practices
States and CSO staff capacities were built on M&E and NOMIS with a total of 54 trained on strategic information of OVC. Hands on mentoring had continued

CUBS provided technical support to finalize Ekiti state OVC survey reports. The report is awaiting approval of the state government for wider dissemination and use.

One of the pillars of the CUBS sustainability plan is to build the capacity of all our CSOs to receive funding from other donors. Ensuring that our CSOs have appropriate policies and strategic plans that signify strong, functional and sustainable systems in the organizations forms a big part of the deliverable for this result area. In PY 4, 25 CSOs were supported to develop organizational strategic plans to guide their operations for the next five years, bringing the total to. Also in support of strengthened systems, 36 CSOs developed their policies through structured guidance, which were reviewed and the same have been accepted and approved for adaptation and use by the Boards of the organizations. Two others in Akwa Ibom already adopted were reviewed for improved functionality and efficiency. This brings the total number of partner organizations with organizational policies to thirty-six.

- The project through its State Offices continued mentoring support and supervision to the CSO partners on the project to ensure the implementation of the developed organizational

capacity improvement plans to bring the organizations to a desired level of capacity. In the quarter being reviewed, emphases were placed on improving documentation and organizational resource base.

- Building and strengthening linkages and collaborations have continued across the project. Specifically CSOs in Bayelsa and Gombe benefited from these efforts and opportunities. CSOs in Bayelsa were linked to funding opportunities in FHI 360 while in Gombe State, the girl Group activities of the CSOs enjoyed a tremendous boost from the collaborations and support of the management of the State University..
- Routine monitoring and supervision activities were carried out across the 38 CSOs using existing databases like NOMIS to strengthen documentation, data collection and quality for improved decision making.
- Within the quarter under review also, the analyzed CSI data was shared with the project State officers to help them deepen understanding of implications of project results and enable them and all concerned program for greater impact.
- The project contracted 38 CSOs in the last year, built their capacities in service delivery, data management and organizational development. These CSOs delivered on the assigned targets and demonstrated capacities to do even more. Due to enhanced capacities, the CSOs were able to attract further funding from other implementing partners and the services they are funded for are supplementary to CUBS interventions, thereby enhancing the wellbeing of OVC and their households. The project will be renewing the small grants contract for the 38 CSOs to continue to provide comprehensive and quality services to OVC households.

IV. Problems and Opportunities

- The political instability in Rivers state has continued to stall effective OVC program coordination at the State and LGA level.
- The Government of Nigeria is yet to launch the National Priority Agenda (NPA) for OVC. As a result, the project is not able to support the adaptation of the new NPA in the states.
- CUBS learned lessons from piloting its HES approach with seed grants in two states and subsequently scaled this up in more states. The need for financial intermediation for business start-up and expansion by the women far surpassed the provision. To deal with this challenge, CUBS state teams intensified advocacy with stakeholders and this has resulted in substantial support to caregivers in Ekiti, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Imo and Gombe states. Some of the innovative approaches to drawing attention to women's needs for support includes the HES exchange visits and product exhibitions in the three states.

- The inability of Kebbi state government to own the process of strengthening the OVC social welfare system in the state.

V. Success Stories

There are over a dozen publishes gender-related success stories:

- The CUBS state team liaised with a microfinance bank who has given Love Joshua and other interested beneficiaries access to low-interest loans. A full report on the Delta state exchange visits is available at <http://africare.org/our-work/where-we-work/nigeria/resources.php>.
- A story from Akwa Ibom State was released on August 8 on the MSH website on HES <http://www.msh.org/news-events/stories/caregivers-establish-palm-oil-processing-mill-to-raise-money-for-vulnerable>
- MSH's current renewed zeal in mainstreaming gender within its country operations is not unconnected with the visible benefits and achievements of this approach within the CUBS project. The champions of this move are MSH staff on the CUBS project.
- The Gombe State Broadcasting Cooperation Services has commissioned a full documentary on Sheba Joshua, one of the adolescent HES beneficiaries who are doing very well with the support from the project.
- In Enugu state, Foundation for God's Love (FFGL) has fought hard to combat discriminatory and stigmatizing practices against females in Umuahia. A caregiver who was alleged to have been dedicated to an idol at birth by her family, on account of which she was dispossessed of her place in the family house, received protection services from International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) who also facilitated our gender and protection training for stakeholders in Enugu late last year. This support was facilitated by FFGL. The family of the caregiver was charged to court for molestation and abuse and the offending brother remanded in prison custody. In Taraba State, CUBS is collaborating with International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) to secure pro bono legal services for two widows and their children, whose late husbands' wills are being ignored.
- The Gender Advisor wrote abstracts which were accepted for poster presentations at the IAS conference which took place in Malaysia June, 2013 titled: *“Economic Strengthening for Female Household Heads; An Integrated Approach to Improving OVC Care and Wellbeing in Nigeria”* and *“Bridging the Resource Gap for Sustainable OVC Response in Nigeria: Results of Collaborative Efforts”*

- An article titled “*Gender Interventions in Nigeria Empower Vulnerable Children and Female Caregivers through Education, Economic Strengthening and Advocacy*” written by the Gender Advisor was also published as commemoration of the 2013 International Women’s Day which CUBS and her partners took part in 4 Niger Delta States; this article included using advocacy, reproductive health education as well as economic strengthening to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls. <http://www.msh.org/news-events/stories/gender-interventions-in-nigeria-empower-vulnerable-children-and-female>
- Year four witnessed some low moments for OVC and duty bearers in the sector, specifically, the floods of July and August 2012 that submerged several communities in some states across the country, including Bayelsa and Rivers. The floods displaced communities and made several others inaccessible. This affected community level activities and retention rates due to displacement of families and children. This unfortunate incident provided a platform for collaboration between partners in the affected states for example, UNICEF/Child Protection Network (CPN), the Bayelsa state OVC TWG, conducted a rapid assessment of the flooded areas especially the status of children in affected communities across the state. The assessment team had of two CUBS CSO partners (Kan Development Foundation and Girl Child Empowerment and Reproductive Health Initiative (GREP) as members who conducted the exercise in two CUBS focal communities. The assessment report was shared with Bayelsa State government and UNICEF/CPN. The findings indicated that all farmlands and crops were destroyed, there was an outbreak of water borne diseases, as there were no bore holes and both children and adults drank from polluted water. A number of deaths were recorded among children as the number of medical personnel in the few available health centers was inadequate, the flood also destroyed properties.
- The report stated the immediate needs of the affected people to include provision of portable drinking water, health care personnel, drugs, sanitary facilities, and educational materials and facilities for school children and provision of cassava stems, plantain suckers, and seedlings to replace the farmland crops that were destroyed. In a bid to alleviate the sufferings of the flood victims, CUBS through her partners KAN and GREP advocated for the provision of portable drinking water, drugs, sanitary and educational materials and also provided farming inputs (cassava stems and plantain suckers) to displaced families. As at now, some of the victims have gone back to their homes but most have relocated to other communities in the state.

VI. Year 5 Priority Areas, Results and Related Tasks

During year five, the following key activities are expected in each of the intermediate results as winding down interventions:

Intermediate Result: Increased Number of OVC served with 6+1 Services

- Hold technical session to develop fresh scope of work and renew contracts for CSOs
- Conduct refresher training for service providers in PSS
- Support the implementation of the block grant initiatives
- Support NPA adaptation in CUBS supported states
- Support Foundation for God's Love in mobilizing community action against traditional practices that are harmful to women and girls in Igbo-Eze South LGA.
- Provide continuous mentorship and technical guidance
- Write end of project report

Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination

- Hold CSO review meeting
- Inauguration of OVC LGA TWGs in Akwa Ibom state.

Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened Community Support for OVC care

- Capacity building of Child Protection Committee Members in Kaltungo, Gombe state.
- Training of CSOs, CPC members on advocacy, resource mobilization for sustainability.

Intermediate Result 4: Reduced Vulnerability Status of Girl Child and Women

- Continue with seed grant disbursement to 340 women in the nine states and monitoring of implementation to ensure compliance.
- Scale up girl group meetings to eight more states.
- Follow up on the girl group fora in Gombe, Bayelsa and Ekiti to evaluate the outcome of the central meeting they participated in, in the last quarter.
- Start work on Gender component of project end report.
- Coordinate development of OVC gender training manual incorporating legal protection issues for women and girls.

Intermediate Result 5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices

- Continue the step down training on NOMIS for states ministry of women affairs and LGA staff.
- Continue facilitating the improvement and functionality of governing boards across the 38 CSOs and encourage board development activities for good leadership and sustained project benefits.

- Continue facilitation of strategic plans development in the remaining 8 CSOs
- Continue facilitation of policy development and monitoring of implementation across the remaining CSOs.
- Routine monitoring, mentoring and supervision to enhance organizational institutional and technical capacity will continue in the quarter