

Quarterly Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

October – December 2012

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Community Based Support for Orphan and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria (CUBS)

Quarterly Report
October 1 to December 31, 2012



“CUBS- Empowering the older vulnerable children and fostering hope” – A CUBS-supported skills acquisition center for adolescent vulnerable children at Ohonuwerri community in Enugu State, Nigeria

January 2013

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Quarterly Report

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Project Title: Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria

Recipient: Management Sciences for Health

To: Mr. Olusola Onifade, [OVC Manager]

Reporting Period: October 1 to December 31, 2012

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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
FMWA&SD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
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
LIFT	Livelihood & Food Security Technical Assistance
LGA	local government area
LOP	life of project
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MOST	Management and Organizational Sustainability Tool.
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
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. Activity Financial Summary

CUBS Project

October 1 to December 31, 2012

Activity Summary	
Implementing Partner	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)
Activity Name	Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (CUBS)Project
Activity Objective	Support the Government of Nigeria in implementing its <i>National Priority Agenda on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)</i> by developing and strengthening community-based service delivery for OVC as well as building community ownership of project interventions, reducing gender discrimination, and increasing OVC involvement in programming and advocacy for increased support to the OVC interventions at State and LGA levels.
USAID/Nigeria Strategic Objective (SO)	SO 14: Reduce the Impact of HIV/AIDS in selected states of Nigeria
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	\$3,524,884
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter	\$915,825
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date	\$12,451,220
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter	\$1,170,428
Report Submitted By	Zipporah Kpamor (CUBS Project Director)
Submission Date	January 31, 2013

II. 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. Quarterly Data Achievement on Intermediate Results

Indicator	Year 4 Target	Achievement PY4				Total	% of Annual Target Achieved	Comment
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Results 1: Increased Number of OVC Served with 6+1 Services¹								
Number of eligible OVCs provided with a minimum of one care service (C1.1.D)	48,587	10,704	0	0	0	10,704	22%	The time it took to finalize grant documents and the holidays shortened the implementation period. The lost time will be made up for in the next quarter.
- Number who were newly enrolled	10,000	3,976	0	0	0	3,976	39.7%	
- Number who were previously enrolled	38,587	6,728	0	0	0	6,728	17%	
<i>Disaggregated by type of service received</i>								
Education Male	-	630	0	0	0	630	-	
Education Female	-	567	0	0	0	567	-	
Health Male	-	1,614	0	0	0	1,614	-	
Health Female	-	1,490	0	0	0	1,490	-	
Psychosocial Support Male	-	5,050	0	0	0	5,050	-	
Psychosocial Support Female	-	4,969	0	0	0	4,969	-	
Shelter Male	-	11	0	0	0	11	-	
Shelter Female	-	19	0	0	0	19	-	
Protection Male	-	734	0	0	0	734	-	
Protection Female	-	689	0	0	0	689	-	
Nutrition Male	-	1,051	0	0	0	1,051	-	
Nutrition Female	-	963	0	0	0	963	-	
Economic Strengthening Male		0	0	0	0	0		
Economic Strengthening Female		0	0	0	0	0		
Number of OVC who receive food and/or nutrition	No target	2,014	0	0	0	2,014		

¹ Standard services expected to be provided to vulnerable children are categorized into six program areas and one that targets caregivers. They are psychosocial care, food and nutrition, health care, shelter, education/vocational support, protection and legal support and economic strengthening.

Indicator	Year 4 Target	Achievement PY4				Total	% of Annual Target Achieved	Comment
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
services (C5.1.D)								
Number of Caregivers Trained in Caring for OVC	3,000	258	0	0	0	258	9%	Trainings have been scheduled for next quarter.
Number of OVC Referred for Clinical Services	No target	211	0	0	0	211		
Results 2: Strengthened Capacities of National and State Governments to better Protect and Care for OVC								
Number of AIDS Support and Technical Resources (AIDSTAR) states with comprehensive OVC plans	4	2	0	0	0	2	50%	
Number of functional state and local government area (LGA) community coordination (OVC forums) mechanisms in place to monitor OVC programs	4 states/(16 LGAs)	11 (13 LGAs)	0	0	0	11 (13 LGAs)	275%	
Number of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems	4	9	0	0	0	9	225%	
Number of persons from state ministries and LGA trained in leadership and management	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	Trainings have been scheduled for next quarter.
Number of persons who successfully completed an in-service training in strategic information including data collection, collation, analysis, and use	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	Trainings have been scheduled for next quarter.
Results 3: Gender-Related OVC Programming Issues Addressed in Focal States								
Number of female adolescent OVC reached with a comprehensive prevention package	3,000	54	0	0	0	54	2%	Planned collaborative activities with prevention partners did not take place due to the holidays. These activities have been rescheduled for the next quarter.
Number of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program	No target	20	0	0	0	20		
Number of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers	39	38	0	0	0	38	97%	

Indicator	Year 4 Target	Achievement PY4				Total	% of Annual Target Achieved	Comment
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Number of OVC reached with individual and/or small group level preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required	6,000	157	0	0	0	157	3%	Planned collaborative activities with prevention partners did not take place due to the holidays. These activities have been rescheduled for the next quarter.
Results 4: Increased Local Capacity to Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate OVC Programs								
Number of persons trained in the use of the Child Status Index (CSI)	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	Trainings have been scheduled for next quarter.
Percentage of new OVC who are screened at enrollment with the CSI	100%	100%	0	0	0	100%	100%	
Percentage of service sites/delivery points that received a data quality assurance visit	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	This activity has been planned for next quarter.
Percentage of service sites/delivery points that receive a quality assurance (QA) visit during the reporting period	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0	This activity has been planned for next quarter.

IV. Quarterly Progress

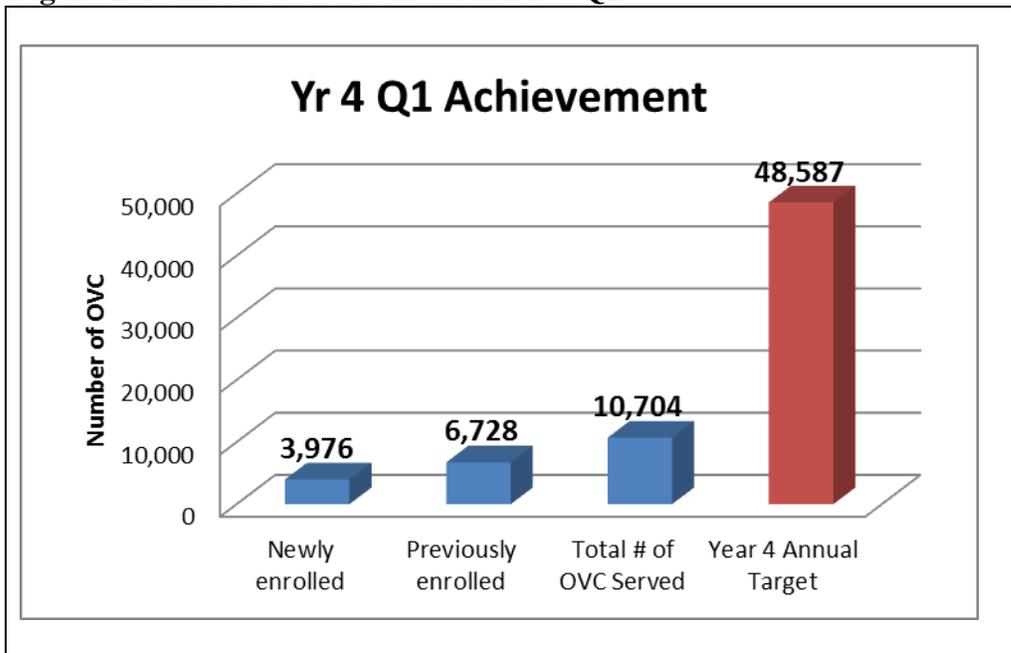
Some of key achievements from this quarter include:

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

Progress towards Life of Project (LOP) achievement

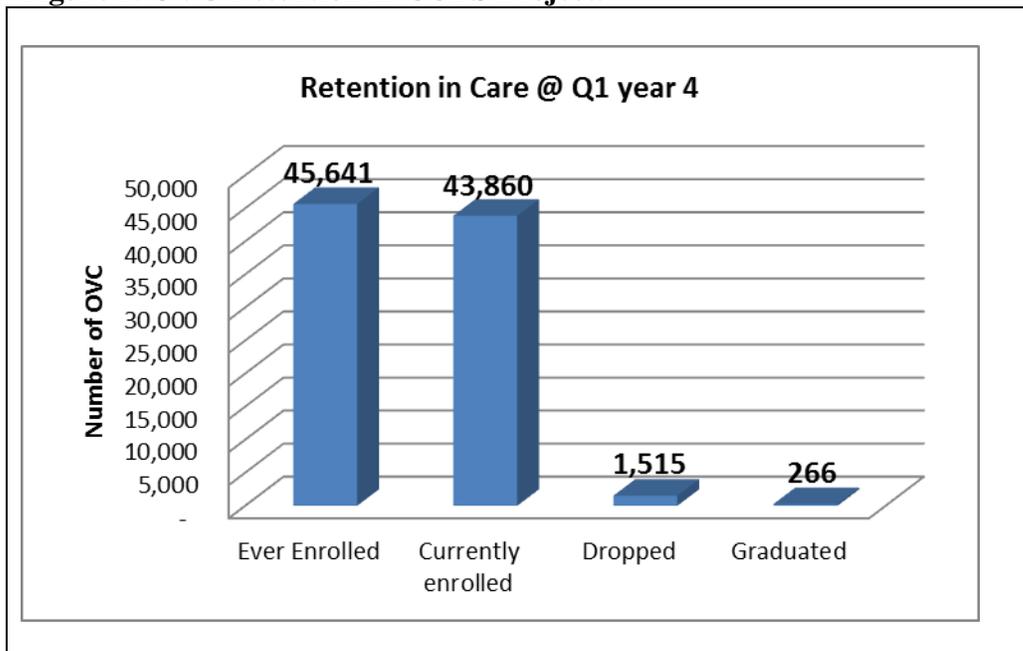
- CSOs concluded all contract and scope of work negotiations and started programming for project year (PY) 4 with advocacy visits to communities to mobilize support for OVC interventions. CSOs also conducted other community engagement activities that include initiating the block granting process, enrollment of OVC, resource mobilization, advocacy for education support. CUBS finalized the USAID contract modification and approval process in PY 3, which expedited the CSOs' contract agreements. CUBS has improved its contract processes since last year when the CSOs' subcontract agreements were not finalized until halfway into PY3.
- This was a short quarter, taking into account the one month it took to finalize subcontractor agreements and the end-of-year holidays when all offices nationwide shut down. In spite of this, CSOs were able to provide 10,704 OVC with a minimum of one care service. This accounts for 22% of the PY4 annual target as shown in **Figure 1**. As the project matures and CSOs become comfortable with the strategies, they have been able to design and implement initiatives that will take the program strategies to scale. At this rate, CSOs are expected to surpass the PY 4 annual targets.

Figure 1. Number of OVC served in PY 4 Q1



- The community-based, bottom-up approach of the CUBS project supports CSOs to mobilize community resources to identify and meet the needs of OVC in a sustained manner. CSO volunteers also repeatedly visit caregivers to support and mentor them so their children continue to receive quality care. This community-based approach allows volunteers to closely monitor OVC clients, leading to a low loss to follow up rate, as shown in **Figure 2**. Of the 45,641 children ever enrolled in the CUBS project, 43,860 (96%) have remained in the project; 266 (1%) have graduated because they turned 18 years old; and 1,515 (3%) have dropped out of the project. The majority of those who dropped out of the CUBS project have continued to be cared for by the CSOs that enrolled them. For example, last year, a CSO in Gombe who withdrew from the CUBS project in 2011 resulted in 800 OVC dropping out of the project. When contacted, the CSO reported that they continue to provide care for children in Gombe. Regarding the beneficiaries who have graduated, CUBS sustainability plan involves targeting these older adolescents with household economic strengthening (HES) initiatives to prepare them to be financially independent when they turn 18.

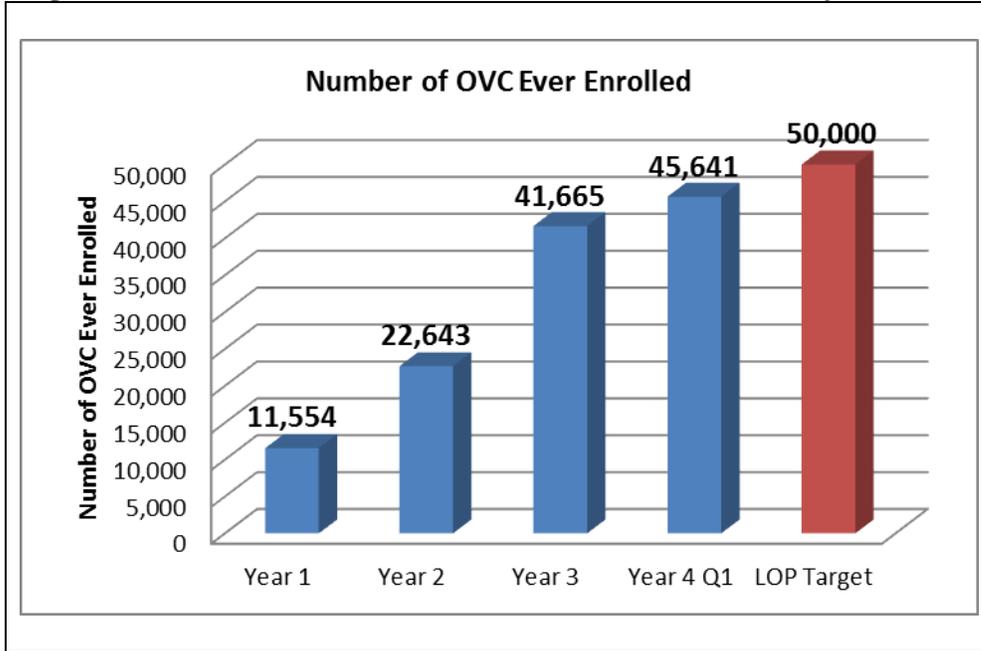
Figure 2. OVC Retention in CUBS Project.



- In line with the PEPFAR II OVC guidelines, CUBS supports CSOs to be ready to provide any of the core OVC services to each client, but whether one or more services are provided is based on each client's assessed needs. During the quarter under review, 10,019 OVC received psychosocial support services (PSS) services; 1,423 received protection services; 2,014 received nutrition services; 3,103 received health services; 1,197 received education services; 30 received shelter and care services; and 258 caregivers received HES services. Because this quarter's programming period was less than two months, CSOs focused on new enrollment and successfully enrolled 3,976 new OVC from 11 states and provided each of them with a minimum of one care service. The CSOs also provided a minimum of one care service to 6,728 previously-enrolled clients.

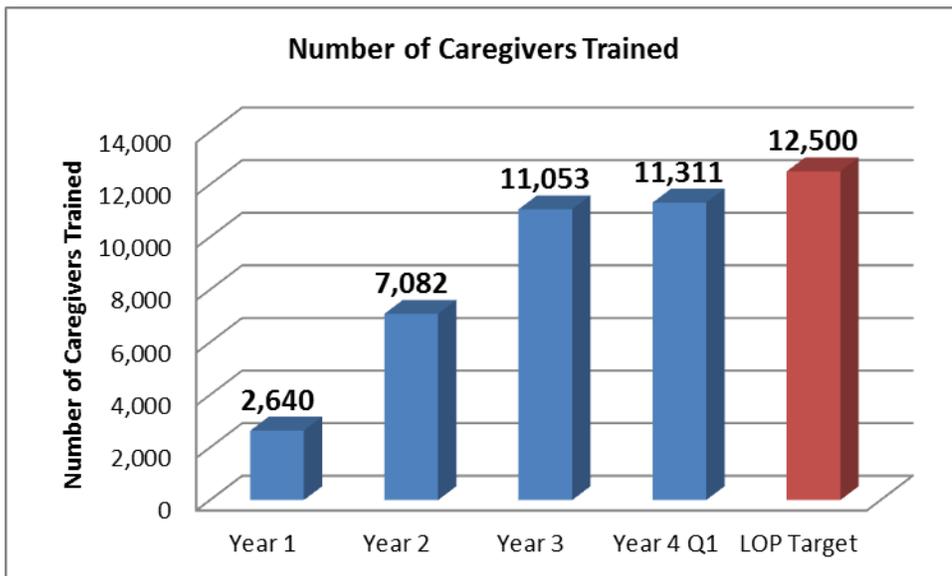
As shown in **Figure 3**, the number of new clients served this quarter takes the total of OVC ever enrolled in the CUBS project to 45,641 (91% of the LOP target).

Figure 3. Number of OVC ever enrolled in CUBS OVC Project



- In the quarter under review, 258 caregivers were trained in HES. The project has prioritized HES in PY4 as part of its sustainability plan and in response to the new President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) OVC guidance. **Figure 4** shows that CUBS has already trained a total of 11,311 caregivers (representing 90% of the LOP target) who continue to provide quality care to OVC.

Figure 4: Number of Caregivers Trained in CUBS Project



- Knowing that vulnerable children are a key population at risk for HIV infection, CUBS has integrated a number of prevention interventions into its health services portfolio. One of these interventions is the project's wide network of organizations that provide HIV/AIDS testing and counseling (HTC) services to OVC. CUBS collaborates with CSOs that are funded by implementing partners (IPs) to provide these HTC services. The aim of this partnership is to increase access to HTC for all OVC enrolled in the CUBS project. Through such partnerships, CUBS tested 211 OVC in the quarter under review. Clients who tested positive were promptly referred to project partners for treatment and CUBS volunteers continued to track these clients at home to ensure antiretroviral (ARV) adherence and retention in the project.
- One of the project-supported CSOs, Honourbeth Foundation, wrote a letter to Imo Foundation requesting medical support for six vulnerable children from their intervention community. The children were referred to Imo Foundation's teaching hospital to receive treatment for two hernias, three fractures and one eye problem. The hospital staff successfully conducted surgery on the two OVC with hernias and the child with the eye condition also received treatment. Only one OVC with a fracture did not complete the referral cycle due to lack of transportation fare.
- Two of the project-supported CSOs provided protection services to 1,423 OVC across the 11 states and issued birth registration cards to 136 children in Bayelsa state
- The CUBS team in Akwa Ibom participated in the second learning session of the quality improvement program that the University Research Company is implementing in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs, the CSOs, and quality improvement team. During the sessions, CSOs used storytelling and group work to communicate how they provided services to OVC following national service standards.
- The USAID OVC manager, who is also the project's contracting officer's representatives, was accompanied by the UBS project advisor on a monitoring visit to Enugu and Ebonyi states. The visit gave both the manger and the advisor a better understanding of CUBS' operations and an opportunity to review the project's progress in Enugu state. The visiting team found the following:
 - In Economic and Social Empowerment of Rural Communities (ESERC) and Spring of Life Support Group (SLSG), the community Child Protection Committee (CPC) is a subset of the entire community forum. This CPC structure is well-integrated into the communities, thus fostering local ownership of the CPC objectives. USAID has asked that CUBS replicate this CPC structure in other project-supported communities and write a success story about CPCs.
 - Good relationships exist between the project and the state and local government structures.
 - Beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the impact of the project and testified to what they had gained from the interventions. They reported the benefits of the PSS training, the education intervention, the distribution of basic care kits, and the CPC intervention.
- The USAID OVC manager recommended the that CUBS complete the following to improve its program quality:

- Make OVC enrollment household-centered instead of continuing to use the current child-centered approach. The vulnerability of one child in a household makes every member of the household vulnerable.
 - CUBS will request a contract modification in order to reflect this change. This request will be submitted in the next quarter.
 - Integrate VSLA into the HES interventions to build caregivers' saving skills. This will empower households to meet the needs of their children in the long term.
 - CUBS has begun plans to mentor state teams on VSLA so they can step it down to CSOs. The CSOs will mentor caregivers. These have been scheduled for the next quarter.
 - Follow up with the planned block granting intervention to ensure that each CSO has something in place around this intervention.
 - CSO have submitted proposals for block granting and CUBS is currently reviewing these proposals. CSOs will begin implementation in the next quarter
 - Support CSOs to include community volunteer stipends in their budgets
 - Some CSOs have already done this. CUBS will support all CSOs to include volunteer stipend in their budgets in the next granting cycle.
- The CUBS team successfully advocated for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Bauchi zonal office to include 60 community volunteers from Gombe state in birth registration training. They were trained on how to complete the birth registration forms. This has accelerated the birth registration process for 171 OVC enrolled in the CUBS project.

Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened Capacities of National and State Governments to Better Protect and Care for OVC

OVC Technical Working Group (TWG) Activities

- Heavy rains in July and August 2012 resulted in flooding that submerged several communities in Bayelsa. The floods displaced communities and made communities that were not displaced, inaccessible. This affected the level of community support visits and retention rates due to displacement of families and children. The UNICEF/Child Protection Network (CPN), the Bayelsa state OVC TWG, conducted a rapid assessment of interagency emergency situation on child protection in flooded communities across the state. The assessment involved two CUBS CSO partners (Kan Development Foundation and Global Health Awareness Research Foundation (GREP)) who were invited to participate in the assessments which were conducted in two CUBS communities. CUBS submitted a report of the findings to UNICEF/CPN. The assessment found that:
 - The flood was overwhelming and destroyed all farmland and crops, and led to the 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. The number of medical personnel in the few available health centers was inadequate to meet the needs of those affected by the flood.

- The flood destroyed property and buildings, including schools, which made residents, flee to camps and children stop attending school.

The assessment report stated that priority needs were as follows:

- Immediate provision of portable drinking water, health care personnel, drugs, sanitary facilities, and educational materials and facilities for school children.
- Provision of cassava stems, plantain suckers, and seedlings to replace the farmland crops that were destroyed.

CUBS follow-up actions have included:

- Kan Development Foundation and GREP are using the finding from the assessment to advocate for the provision of portable drinking water, drugs, sanitary and educational materials by the Government and philanthropists to the flood affect communities,
 - The Kan Development Foundation has supported in getting more farming inputs (cassava stems and plantain suckers) for displaced families.
- An OVC TWG was inaugurated by the Etinan Local Government in Akwa Ibom state. The LGA chairman made a speech wherein he expressed his appreciation for CUBS work to support OVC in the state and in Etinan, in particular. He also admonished the newly inaugurated members to take their responsibilities seriously and perform them well. He promised to support the committee members with a monthly stipend of N50, 000 (Fifty Thousand Naira).
 - In Gombe, the CUBS supported the State Ministry of Women Affairs (SMWA) in coordinating a state TWG meeting on OVC. The TWG assigned roles to IPs, line ministries, and CSOs in the 6+1 thematic groups and asked each group to report on its activities at subsequent quarterly TWG meetings.
 - Enugu State Agency for the Control of AIDS hosted the Enugu State OVC Steering Committee meeting for the second time. The CUBS team provided technical support during this meeting.
 - 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 in January of 2013. This is a necessary step in order to create awareness of the bill and receive feedback on the bill before it is passed. CUBS is providing TA to the Gombe SMWA to develop a submission to be made during the public hearing. The Child Rights Act, once passed, will serve as a tool for the protection of children's rights in Gombe state.

Other System Strengthening Activities:

- CUBS' system strengthening efforts are beginning to yield positive results across the project-supported states as, over the year, state governments have prioritized issues affecting OVC and their households. For example,

- Ekiti state government, for about four years, has embedded an OVC budget into the budgets of other ministry programs, such as the HIV/AIDs and gender programs. CUBS is currently advocating for the ministry to have a budget line for OVC interventions separate from the HIV/AIDS and gender budget lines.
- For the next two years, Delta State’s Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA) has allocated N100, 000 every month for hosting of OVC TWG meetings. The SMWA will facilitate the meetings and CUBS will provide technical assistance to SMWA to ensure the meetings are conducted efficiently.
- The OVC mapping exercise is sponsored by the state through Rivers State Agency for the Control of AIDS (RIVSACA) and costs N2, 500,000. RIVSACA in collaboration with the Rivers SMWA will conduct the OVC mapping. CUBS will provide Technical assistance in the development of tools, training of field workers, data analysis and report writing.
- The Niger Delta Development Commission donated N 5,000,000 to Perpetual Succour for Women and Children (PESWAC) (a CSO 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 received N 20,000 from Otuoke community to support their OVC work.
- In Akwa Ibom, CUBS was part of the delegation comprised of representatives from the UN, Enhancing Nigeria's Response to HIV and AIDS (ENR), UNDP, SACA, and other implementing partners. This group visited the Governor of Akwa Ibom State after the World AIDS Day celebration to advocate for turning SACA to an agency to make them financially independent and more sustainable. The meeting was fruitful, as the Governor promised to turn State Action Committee on AIDS into an agency.

Intermediate Result 3: Gender Related OVC Programming Issues Addressed in Focal States

- A review of the four cooperatives formed following the Household Economic Strengthening training using the USAID MARKETS model in Akwa Ibom state revealed significant growth in the Ikot Adang cooperative with diversification into garri and corn processing in addition to oil milling. The immediate next steps for this cooperative are to further provide mentoring and organizational development support around management and governance, as well as possible expansion through either retention of net income or increased membership for capital generation. The Akwa Ibom State Agricultural Department Project (AKADEP) M and E office will follow up with the provision of extension officers who will support caregivers in the various communities"
- CUBS trained 24 people to analyze gender-related issues and incorporate corresponding plans into their OVC interventions. Those trained include country office staff, affiliate staff from grants unit of MSH, law enforcement agents, and staff from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD). Participants discussed policy and programming issues and developed clear action plans for addressing

these concerns at different levels.

- CUBS conducted an orientation for state program officers on the HES monthly reporting tool and how to integrate this tool into the on-going reporting process. As a result, states implementing HES have already begun to submit data to the state program officers. Data from Gombe and Delta states has helped CUBS to analyze the impact of HES on female caregivers and their OVC. The analysis showed improvement in caregiver income levels and OVC well-being.
- As part of its sustainability plan, CUBS supports adolescent OVC to become financially independent. In this quarter, CUBS concluded plans to enable fourteen adolescent girls in Umuebulu ward of Etchie LGA of Rivers state to commence vocational skills training in hairdressing, information technology, and tailoring. There is strong commitment from the CPC, implementing CSO partner, trainers, and families of these girls to ensure the full success of this project.
- CUBS has scaled up HES activities to Kebbi, Rivers, Imo, and Enugu states. The project trained 258 caregivers in enterprise development, homestead gardening, and nutrition. Next quarter, the project plans to follow up with those trained by assessing their needs and aims to support 10 percent of the trainees with seed grants to start a new small business or expand an existing one. Immediate next steps would be to integrate village savings and loans associations with the HES initiative to further ensure access to cheap capital" or something along those lines.

Intermediate Result 4: Increased Local Capacity to Implement, Monitor and Evaluate OVC Programs

- CUBS monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officers from Abuja and the project-supported states participated in the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) training of trainer's workshop for OVC implementers from the southern and northern regions. The project is also planning to conduct step-down training on NOMIS for state and LGA stakeholders in the 11 states supported by CUBS.
- To increase the capacity of CSO staff to implement, monitor, and evaluate OVC program, CUBS installed NOMIS at the 38 CSOs. The project also provided hands-on training on the NOMIS database for CSO staff and staff have now begun to enter data in the system. CUBS continues to conduct routine supportive supervision, mentoring, and monitoring to ensure that all data are entered into the database.
- To increase informed decision making, the three levels CSI data was analyzed for Cohort A OVC (OVC enrolled by CSOs in 2010). The result showed improvement across all service areas. The cumulative OVC health status had improved by 15 percent after six months and 23 percent after twelve months. Beneficiaries' nutritional status had improved by 10 percent and 25 percent after six and twelve months, respectively. The area with the lowest improvement percentage was psychosocial, which had improved by just 6.6 percent 7 percent and at six and twelve months, respectively. At the individual level, there was at least one score change between baseline and after 12 months of care. CUBS is working to build the capacity of CSOs so staff can use the data for decision

making, for monitoring each child's status, and for advocating for community, private, and government organizations' ownership of OVC programming. CUBS will share the CSI report with USAID, FMWA&SD, and SMWA and will seek out opportunities to share the results with other OVC implementers. The project has also started a preliminary Cohort B OVC (OVC enrolled by CSOs in 2011) analysis and has also started with only two level data.

- CUBS continued to provide technical support to those conducting the OVC survey in Ekiti State, which was at the data analysis and report writing stage. The report is intended to guide the state in resource allocation towards reducing the vulnerability of OVC and their caregivers.
- To enhance sustainability, the project continued to help its CSOs establish and strengthen their governing boards and leadership and management structures. This quarter, one CSO inaugurated its board and three others held quarterly board meetings wherein they produced and documented far reaching organizational decisions. The project provided technical support and guidance to help one CSO register with the Corporate Affairs Commission. To date, 30 out of the 38 project-supported CSOs have governing boards and 31 have been registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Through mentoring and coaching, CUBS helped three CSOs develop organizational policies to guide establishment of acceptable standards of organizational management. The project also closely monitored policy implementation at the CSOs to enhance functional leadership and management structures. The three CSOs held monthly staff and project management meetings in accordance with the provision of their policies. Since the start of the project, CUBS has been able to support 27 out of its 38 CSOs to develop organizational policies.
- To enhance knowledge-sharing, improve networks, and strengthen alliances, CUBS instituted monthly CSO meetings within each implementing State. Thus far, the CSOs take turns hosting these meetings without financial support from the project. In the quarter under review, CSOs in five states (i.e., Gombe, Rivers, Imo, Kebbi, and Sokoto) held their meetings and used these sessions to advocate to resource mobilization and building platforms for sustainability.
- The project has continued to provide mentoring support to the 38 CSOs and ministries/agencies in the 11 implementing states with regards to monitoring, data collection, collation, quality assurance, and documentation of services to OVCs for accountability. This quarter, the CUBS M&E specialists ascertained and verified the quality of the project's data through a routine data verification exercise. This enabled CUBS to continue to contribute quality data to the national OVC database.

Intermediate Result 5: Document and disseminate successful innovative approaches, sustainable models, evidence-based best practices, and lessons learned.

- The HES forum for IPs in Nigeria held a meeting following its launch in June 2012.

Attendees included representatives from USAID, National Women Development Centre (NWDC), Livelihood & Food Security Technical Assistance (LIFT) project, PACT, Partners for Development (PFD), Opportunities Industrialization Centers International (OICI), Save the Children; Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria (IHVN) and MSH.

During this meeting, participants agreed on the following items:

- A secretariat was formed
 - CUBS was selected to coordinate affairs of the forum for another year
 - Four technical subcommittees will be formed on small grants, capacity building, system strengthening, and agricultural livelihoods
 - LIFT will help the HES Forum to establish a Google group discussion page where the technical subcommittees will facilitate discussions
 - A meeting calendar and the host for each meeting will be established
 - A plan to expand the forum will be developed.
- LIFT elucidated on their plan to engage forum members in the process of developing a toolkit /guidance document that will assist in decision making when planning HES activities. LIFT will also build the capacity of the secretariat to develop a work plan and terms of reference in preparation for the next meeting, which they will host in collaboration with Save the Children.

Intermediate Result 6: Cost Effective Project Management to Meet Deliverables

- Project staff attended a Speed of Trust workshop organized by MSH. The workshop aimed to build trust among staff and thus improve the CUBS work climate, which will, in turn, motivate staff to be more productive.
- The COP participated in the MSH Nigeria launch of the award-winning film titled *"INSIDE STORY: The Science of HIV/AIDS"* in Lagos, Nigeria as part of activities to mark the World AIDS Day 2012. This was done in collaboration with the Discovery Channel, Chevron, and Access Bank Plc. Among dignitaries that graced the launch was the US Consul-General Mr. Jeffrey Hawkins Jr., who presented the keynote address. INSIDE STORY is a 90-minute documentary produced in South Africa by Discovery Communications with PEPFAR funding and support from other key partners.
- The project received two short-term technical assistance (STTA) visits. The M&E STTA, Navindra Persaud, enabled the project to complete a longitudinal analysis of the CSI data and prepare a CSI report. The CSI report includes baseline data, data after 6 and 12 months of the CUBS intervention, and recommendations for OVC programming. The STTA also supported the analysis of the OVC survey data from Ekiti State and finalization of the performance measurement plan review. Seeing that the project has accumulated a rich body of data on both services provided as well as changes in status of individual OVCs. Navindra, recommended that the project team should start using this data to guide project management decisions on project strategies and priorities. As a first step that data should be regularly analyzed to show patterns and trends that go beyond the requirements for routine reporting to USAID. In addition, the technical staff and M&E staff should set aside time on a periodic basis to review the data so as to identify areas in which the project is performing well and those in which achievements

are lagging so that appropriate interventions can be developed. This should be linked to strengthening of data management at the state level. See annex I for Navindra’s trip report. The revised PMP has been attached as annex II for approval.

- The Project Director Supervisor, Dan Nelson facilitated a project self-assessment using MSH’s Management and Organizational Sustainability Tool (MOST). In general, the CUBS’ assessment revealed that, ‘Collaboration and Partner Relations’ ranked high, with ‘Home office support’ and ‘Internal partner collaboration’ at the top of the list. This surely indicates progress in efforts made to create a unified team since the arrival of a new COP earlier in the year. Also ranking highly was ‘Indicators and targets’ and ‘Work planning and budgeting’. However, relative weaknesses were spotted in ‘Staff development and performance’ and ‘Team communication and delegation’ and ‘Information management and communication’. Recommendations include an initial exercise that will provide crucial data for estimating costs and provide insights on tailoring future projects to allow a more accurate capturing of costs assessment report CUBS will work with the communications team at MSH to develop a concrete list of objectives with clear outputs to improve documentation of project activities and successes, lessons learned and best practices. See Annex 3 for the full trip report and the project self-assessment report.
- The CUBS mid-term evaluation was conducted in August by a team of two consultants with support from the project staff. This evaluation team visited three CUBS-supported states and, using a participatory methodology, interacted with the SMWA, CSOs, caregivers, and vulnerable children who are benefitting from the project. The evaluation team found that the project is unclear on which definition of “reached” to use when counting beneficiaries; the first definition that was used in the project’s task order states that a client is “reached” if they have received three or more services, however, the more recent PEPFAR agreement states that a client is “reached” if they have received one or more services. Despite the generally positive reports from both OVC and caregivers, it was apparent that caregivers wanted and needed increased activity around HES. CUBS will prioritize the commendations and develop an action plan to address them. See Annex 4 for a full report of the mid-term evaluation.

V. Problems and Opportunities

- There is commitment from the governments in most CUBS-supported states to address children’s issues; however, there is still room for improvement. CUBS is utilizing all opportunities to educate SMWA and key stakeholders on the need to provide funds for OVC programming.
- The floods have brought untold hardship and suffering upon people in affected communities, increasing their vulnerability and calling attention to the weak social welfare systems that exist in these communities. CUBS is partnering with CSOs and other donors in sourcing relief and resettlement materials for flood victims, including CUBS-supported OVC and members of their households.

- CUBS continues to support the SMWA to set up TWG at LGA levels to guide and provide leadership for OVC activities in those LGA. However, security has been an issue in some communities, mostly in the northern part of the country but in some of the southern parts as well. An example is the political crisis in the Isialla Mbanjo LGA in Imo state that has made it difficult to form the LGA TWG. These crises and insecurities often slow down work and make monitoring and supervision difficult, although CUBS has found creative ways to ensure quality service delivery. Apart from working with community-based CSOs and volunteers, CUBS also uses technology to provide needed support to these communities.
- There has been an overwhelming demand for IGA support from OVC caregivers in all of the project-supported states. CUBS recognizes that a key sustainability strategy for OVC support hinges on providing this service. Because resources for HES are limited, this situation has provided an opportunity for CUBS to exercise creative problem-solving to bridge this resource gap. The staff conducted a needs assessment prior to initiating the IGA intervention, which helped them to prioritize beneficiaries based on pre-established criteria. CUBS also leveraged and linked local resources for HES training, microcredit, and grants.
- The midterm evaluation has provided an opportunity to review some of the project strategies that were based on the PEPFAR I OVC guidelines. The PEPFAR I guidelines focused on providing ‘hand outs’ to beneficiaries so as to mitigate the immediate impact of HIV. These only provide short term relief and are not sustainable. The PEPFAR guidelines have been revised since the project was awarded. The revised version has modified some of the condition upon which the CUBS project was awarded like the need to provide a minimum package of services to OVC, etc., In responding to the recommendations from the midterm evaluation, CUBS is updating its strategies in order to align them with the PEPFAR II guidelines. This will enable CUBS be provide family centered services, prioritize services to meet the needs of the family and a keep a firm focus on HES all of which are pillars of the project’s sustainability plan.

VI. Success Stories

See attached the story of Stella Nwosu, the abandoned mother of four who found succor through the SMOWA’s success in convincing her husband to take up his duties as a father.

VII. Next Quarter Results and Related Tasks

During the next quarter, CUBS expects to make the following progress in each intermediate result.

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

- Continue to enroll new OVC in the project and provide OVC services all of the project-supported states.

- Continue to conduct regular mentoring visits and meetings with CSOs and community quality improvement teams
- Ensure all caregiver trainings are conducted by CSOs as planned.

Intermediate Result 2: Strengthened Capacities of National and State Governments to Better Protect and Care for OVC

- Conduct the inauguration of the OVC TWG in Esit Eket and Kolga LGAs in Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa states, respectively.
- Continue to provide mentoring support to SMWA and line departments as they conduct periodic OVC TWG meetings and implement the next steps in their action plans.
- Provide support to CSOs in strengthening safety nets for children, such as the CPCs.

Intermediate Result 3: Gender-Related OVC Programming Issues Addressed in Focal States

- Follow-up on progress being made on vocational skills training for the 14 adolescent girls in Rivers state and mentoring plans by the CSO implementing partner.
- Support three forums for adolescent OVC girls on life skills building, HIV prevention, and protection in Bayelsa, Ekiti, and Gombe states.
- Complete the scale-up of the HES Training for female heads of households in Bayelsa, Ekiti, and Sokoto states.
- Give senior program officers from 11 states an orientation on VSLA and how to work with CSOs to integrate VSLA into the ongoing HES activities in 11 states. Also facilitate an orientation on how to administer a pre-seed grant assessment tool in order to collect baseline data on the grantees.
- Provide seed grants to female heads of households with promising small businesses who have already been trained in HES. Subject to the availability of funds, the plan is for each CSO to identify 10 caregivers to receive a maximum of N10, 000 each for IGA.
- Include information on strategies to reduce the challenges faced by male children in OVC sensitization meetings held with educational stakeholders in Akwa Ibom, Enugu, and Kebbi states.
- Facilitate exchange visits and experience sharing/exhibition between and within communities implementing HES initiatives in Akwa Ibom, Delta and Gombe states

- Document success stories arising from gender orientation trainings in 11 states and, specifically, on behavior change to reduce stigma and discrimination against females.

Intermediate Result 4: Increased Local Capacity to Implement, Monitor, and Evaluate OVC Programs

- Conduct the step-down training on NOMIS for SMWA and LGA staff.
- Organize meetings in order to present CUBS CSI data and findings to USAID, the Ministry of Health, and other IPs and CSO partners.
- Continue to support the establishment of governing boards at CSOs and board development activities for strengthened leadership, focused/guided achievements, and project sustainability.
- Facilitate the development of CSOs' strategic plans
- Continue to facilitate policy development at CSOs and mentor CSO staff on implementing the new or revised policies in order to strengthen systems and management/operational capacity
- Intensify mentoring support and supervision to help the CSOs attain the organizational development plans they created after CUBS completed the CSO organizational capacity assessments in quarter 2 of 2012.
- Continue to facilitate the creation of linkages between CSOs and communities and opportunities for networking; build alliances and advocate for enhanced resource mobilization/organizational income opportunities and, in turn, sustainability.
- Continue monitoring and supervisory visits at project-supported CSOs to strengthen documentation and engender improved accountability and service quality.

Intermediate Result 5: Document and Disseminate Successful Innovative Approaches, Sustainable Models, Evidence-based Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Analyze OVC CSI tracking data to identify trends and change indicators that do not significantly improve the lives of OVC.
- Disseminate information, education, and communication materials to CUBS project stakeholders.
- Analyze education tracking data and reporting of the impact of CUBS education interventions on OVC lives

Intermediate Result 6: Cost Effective Project Management to Meet Deliverables

- Develop actions plans to prioritize and address recommendations from the midterm evaluation and the project self-assessment.

- Request an M&E STTA to strengthen ICT applications in the CUBS project.
- Attend the Maximizing country impact capacity building workshop organized by MSH
- Continue working with FMWA&SD to plan the Governors' Wives Forum.