Quarterly Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

January – March 2013

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Community Based Support for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, CUBS

Quarterly Report January 1 to March 31, 2013

CUBS and its partners celebrate the 2013 International Women's Day with a rally in Asaba, Delta State.

April 2013

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Project Title: Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria

Recipient: Management Sciences for Health

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Table of Contents

Acronyms 4
I. Summary 5
Ia. Executive Summary 5
Ib. Activity Financial Summary 8
II. About the Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (CUBS) Project 9
III. Quarterly Data Achievement on Intermediate Results 11
IV. Quarterly Progress 14
V. Problems and Opportunities 27
VI. Success Stories 28
VII. Next Quarter Results and Related Tasks 28

Acronyms

AIDSTAR	AIDS Support and Technical Resources
CHS	Center for Health Services
COP	Chief of Party
CSI	Child Status Index
CSO	civil society organization
CUBS	Community Based Support for OVC
DELSACA	Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS
DQA	Data Quality Assurance
FMWA&SD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
GHARF	Global Health Awareness Research Foundation
HCF	Health Care Foundation
HES	household economic strengthen
HSCDI	Healthy Society Care and Development Initiative
IAS	International AIDS Society
INCH	Innovation Challenge (fund)
IP	implementing partner
IWD	International Women's Day
LGA	local government area
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
NPA	National Priority Agenda
NGO	non-governmental organization
NOMIS	National OVC Management Information System
OVC	orphans and vulnerable children
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PESWAC	Perpetual Succour for Women and Children
PSS	psychosocial support services
PY	project year
RIMA	Rivers State Micro Finance Agency
SMWA&SD	State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
TWG	technical working group
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USG	United States Government
URC	University Research Company
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. Summary

I. a. Executive Summary

Management Sciences for Health (MSH), in collaboration with Africare and Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health, through the PEPFAR-funded, USAID Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (CUBS) project, continues to provide support and coordination for scaling up HIV activities in Nigeria using community-based responses to identify, areas are::

- An increased number of OVC served with 6+1 services,
-)Strengthened capacity of national and state governments to better protect and care for OVC,
- OVC-related gender issues addressed in focal states, and
- Increased local capacity to implement, monitor, and evaluate OVC programs.

The project continues to provide quality services to OVC through the 38 collaborating civil service organizations (CSOs). A review of project data from the quarter indicates that CUBS is making good progress towards meeting its project year (PY) 4 targets. The project provided 17,272 OVC with a minimum of one care service, 4,962 of whom were newly enrolled. This brings the total number of OVC served since PY 4 began in Oct 2012 to 27,972, accounting for 58 percent of the PY4 annual target. The project has also been able to retain a high percentage of the children enrolled in OVC care. Due to its rigorous community volunteer follow-up program, the project has lost only five percent of the children it has enrolled since the project commenced. Among OVC programs, this is one of the lowest drop-out rates in the country. In Gombe, the project is currently pilot testing a mobile platform for OVC referrals, tracking and reporting that has prospects of improving retention. Additionally, this quarter the project trained 1,005 caregivers in OVC care and economic strengthening skills, bringing the total number of caregivers trained to 1,263; 42 percent of the PY4 target. More caregivers, especially those caring for the newly enrolled OVC, will be trained in the upcoming quarter.

During the quarter under review, CUBS participated actively in several meetings hosted by USAID and the Government of Nigeria (GON) to discuss OVC programming in Nigeria and also supported the OVC guidelines dissemination meetings that PEPFAR held in Lafia, Owerri, and Lagos. The new guidance builds upon the solid foundation of past PEPFAR OVC programming and addresses some of the identified challenges to more effectively respond to children and achieve a generation free from AIDS and its devastating effects. All OVC implementing partners and CSOs are expected to share information learnt from these meetings with other CSOs in their states during upcoming CSO monthly meetings, and to integrate the strategies outlined in this document into their current and future interventions as best practices.

The CUBS project joined other stakeholders to commemorate the International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8, 2013. The theme for this year's IWD was **"The Gender Agenda Gaining Momentum".** As part of activities to mark the IWD, CUBS, in collaboration with stakeholders at the community level, organized a rally in Asaba Delta State and round table meetings in the other three Niger Delta states. The banners in Asaba called for an end to girl marriages and to female genital cutting. In the other three states, stakeholders made presentations at the round table meetings on the following topics:

- Women as agents of change and development in the community,
- Identifying harmful social norms and practices that increase women's vulnerability,
- Legal protection for women and girls, and
- An HIV/AIDS-free world for women.

The project, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD) and MEASURE Evaluation, commenced the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) step-down training for 25 staff from the state ministry, Local Government Area (LGA) and CUBS CSOs in Gombe. This quarter, CUBS also conducted a data quality assurance exercise at all 38 CSOs. Reports from the exercise indicate quality improvement in service provision and data reporting. The CUBS team advised the CSOs to populate and use the NOMIS database to reduce transcription errors.

As part of an ongoing MSH initiative to strengthen the capacity of its staff in leadership positions, CUBS' Chief of Party attended the Vietnam regional workshop which was held from March 22 to 29 in Hanoi. This highly interactive workshop addressed a broad range of topics including decision-making, delegation for results, and effective communication. The workshops also provided an opportunity for protracted interaction among participants with a focus on addressing real problems that participants regularly face. CUBS' Chief of Party (COP) reported that she felt empowered by the workshop and she is now working with MSH's home office staff to plan a training for her team on the workshop's content; this training is scheduled to be held during the next project performance review meeting in May of 2013.

The major challenge CUBS encountered this quarter was that one of the project-supported CSOs, Perpetual Succour for Women and Children (PESWAC), decided to stop its collaboration with the CUBS project. PESWAC has over 1,000 children enrolled in its OVC support program. This is in line with CUBS' sustainability plan, the object of which is to build the capacity of CSOs to continues caring for OVC long the end of the project. The director of this organization has informed CUBS that the Catholic Mission has taken over the care of the children. CUBS will monitor CSO closely to ensure quality care for the OVC is maintained. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Rehabilitation (MWA&R) in mediating between CUBS and PESWAC provided an opportunity for the (MWA&R) to demonstrate their ability to provide coordination and oversight function of CSOs working in OVC in the state.

The project is working closely with the SMWA&SD and the Association of OVC Organizations in Nigeria to engage another CSO to replace PESWAC.

The following sections provide a detailed report of the achievements and challenges that CUBS encountered this quarter, and the project's plans for next quarter.

USAID/Nigeria QUARTERLY REPORT

CUBS Project

Quarterly Progress Report

January – March 2013

I.b. Activity Financial Summary

CUBS' FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Implementing Partner: Management Sciences for Heath, Inc. (MSH)
Activity Name: Community Based Support (CUBS) for OVC in Nigeria Project
Activity Objective: Support the Government of Nigeria in implementing its National Plan of Action on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) by developing and strengthening community-based service delivery for OVC as well as building community ownership, reducing gender discrimination, and increasing OVC involvement and advocacy.
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: $3,202,778
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: $680,376
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: $12,773,226
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: $912,129
Report Submitted by: Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director
Submission Date: April 30, 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 HIV activities using community-based responses to identify, locate, and protect OVC. Under a five-year contract through the AIDS Support & Technical Assistance Resources One (AIDSTAR) indefinite quantity contract (IQC) mechanism, MSH works with Africare, the FMWA&SD, and the SMWA&SD to address these focus areas.

Through the CUBS project, PEPFAR and USAID support interventions to strengthen 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 (NPA) on OVC by developing and strengthening community-based service delivery for orphans and vulnerable children.

Using a bottom-up approach to mobilizing families and providing OVC care and support, CUBS is working to streamline a currently fragmented OVC service delivery system, mobilize community support, and raise awareness to reduce stigma, discrimination, and isolation of OVC. 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 CSOs. The project also 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, CUBS will have provided 50,000 OVCs in 11 focal states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Kebbi, Rivers, Sokoto and Taraba with comprehensive OVC services, consistent with Nigeria's 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

- **Building capacity and providing technical assistance**: CUBS builds capacity and provides technical support to national and state level agencies, CSOs, and faith-based organizations (FBOs)
- **Mobilizing and coordinating communities**: CUBS fosters coordination between the government of Nigeria and CSOs, ensures quality of OVC services, and develops and advocates for policies by establishing OVC forums
- **Strengthening systems**: CUBS 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
- **Supporting CSOs through small innovation grants:** Through grants, CUBS identifies new approaches to expand OVC services and build the technical capacity of CBOs and FBOs

III. Quarterly Data Achievement on Intermediate Results

Results #1: Increased Number of OVC Served with 6+1 Services

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Achievement				Total	% of Target Achieved	Comment
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
C1.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) provided with a minimum of one care service	48,587	10,704	17,272	0	0	27,976	58%	
	- Number who were newly enrolled	10,000	3,976	4,962	0	0	8,938	89%	
	- Number previously enrolled	38,587	6,728	12,310	0	0	19,038	49%	
	Education (male)		630	1,300	0	0	1,930		
	Education (female)		567	1,295	0	0	1,862		
	Health (male)		1,614	4,294	0	0	5,908		
	Health (female)		1,490	4,285	0	0	5,775		
	Psychosocial support (male)		5,050	7,900	0	0	12,950		
	Psychosocial support (female)		4,969	7,690	0	0	12,659		
	Shelter (male)		11	113	0	0	124		
	Shelter (female)		19	254	0	0	273		
	Protection (male)		734	532	0	0	1,266		
	Protection (female)		689	544	0	0	1,233		
	Nutrition (male)		1,051	2,271	0	0	3,322		
	Nutrition (female)		963	2,183	0	0	3,146		
	Economic Strengthening (male)		0	19	0	0	19		
	Economic Strengthening (female)		0	20	0	0	20		
C5.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) who receive food and/or nutrition services	No target	2014	4,454	0	0	6,468		

1.4	# of caregivers trained in caring for OVC	3000	58	1,205	0	0	1,263	42%	Trainings especially of caregivers of newly enrolled OVC have been scheduled to happen in the next quarter
1.5	# of OVC referred for clinical services	No target	211	256	0	0	467		

Results #2: Strengthened Capacities of National and State Governments to better Protect and Care for OVC

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Achievement				Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
2.1	# of AIDSTAR states with comprehensive OVC plans	4	2	2	0	0	2	50%	
2.2	# of functional state, and LGA community coordination (OVC Forums) mechanisms in place to monitor OVC programs	4 states/ (16 LGAs)	11 (12 LGAs)	11 (12 LGAs)	0	0	11 (12 LGAs)	275%	
2.3	# of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems	4	9	9	0	0	9	225%	
2.4	# of persons from state ministries and LGA trained in leadership and management	60	0	14	0	0	14	23%	Elections in some LGAs in some of CUBS states like Bayelsa have stalled trainings of LGA staff. These have been rescheduled for next quarter.
2.5	# of persons who successfully completed an in-service training in strategic information including data collection, collation, analysis and use	50	0	25	0	0	25	50%	NOMIS training has been conducted in Gombe. More are being planned for next quarter

Results #3: Gender Related OVC Programming Issues addressed in Focal States

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Achievement				Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
3.1	# of female adolescent OVC reached with a comprehensive prevention package	3,000	54	706	0	0	720	24%	Planned collaborative activities with prevention partners delayed as partners had prioritized other communities. Activities for CUBS communities have rescheduled for the next quarter.
3.2	# of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program	No target	20	20	0	0	20		
3.3	# of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers	39	38	37	0	0	37	95%	
3.4	# 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	1,749	0	0	1,906	32%	More collaborative activities with prevention partners have been rescheduled for the next quarter.

Results #4: Increased Local Capacity to Implement Monitor and Evaluate OVC Programs

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Achievement				Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
4.1	# of persons trained in the use of the Child Status Index(CSI)	50	0	25	0	0	25	50%	More training workshops have been scheduled for next quarter.
4.2	% of new OVC who are screened at enrollment with the CSI	100%	100%	100%	0	0	100%	100%	
4.3	# of service sites/delivery points that received a Data quality Assurance (DQA) visit	39	0	37	0	0	37	95%	The outstanding CSO is the newly engaged CSO and DQA will be conducted for them before the end of Quarter 4.
4.4	% of service sites/delivery points that receive a quality assurance visit during the reporting period	100%	0%	95%	0%	0%	95%	95%	

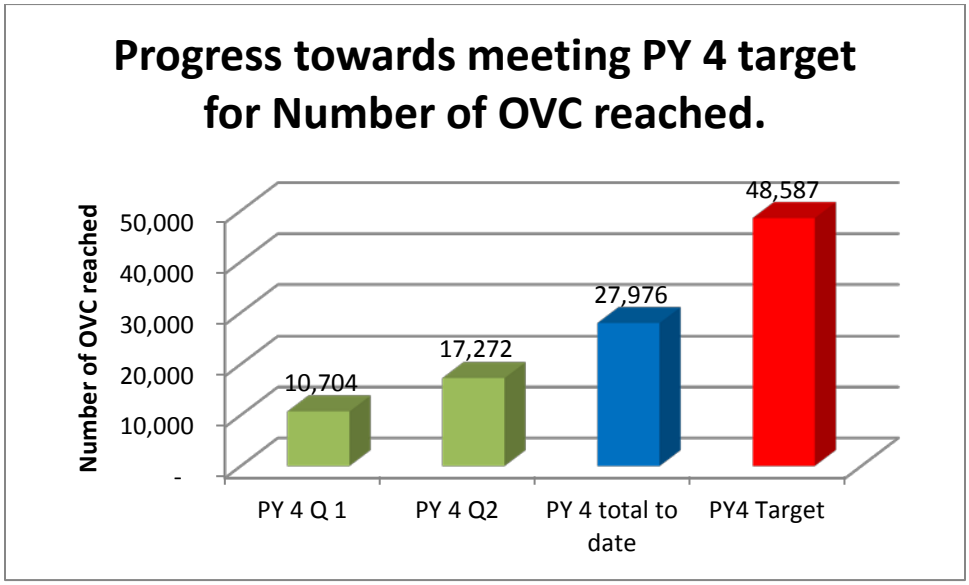
IV. Quarterly Progress

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

Progress towards Life of Project the achievements

- This quarter, CUBS provided more robust services to OVC and their households. CSOs were able to provide 17,272 OVC with a minimum of one care service. This brings the total number of OVC served to 58 percent of the PY4 annual target as indicated in Figure 1. This quarter, CUBS and the CSOs provided 90 percent of the children with psychosocial support (PSS), 50 percent with health services, 25 percent with nutrition services, 15 percent with education services, 6 percent with protection services, and 2 percent with access to shelter and care services. The project also trained 1,205 caregivers to provide OVC with psychosocial support and in household economic strengthening (HES) skills. Based on the OVCs' identified needs, CUBS provided many children with more than one service.

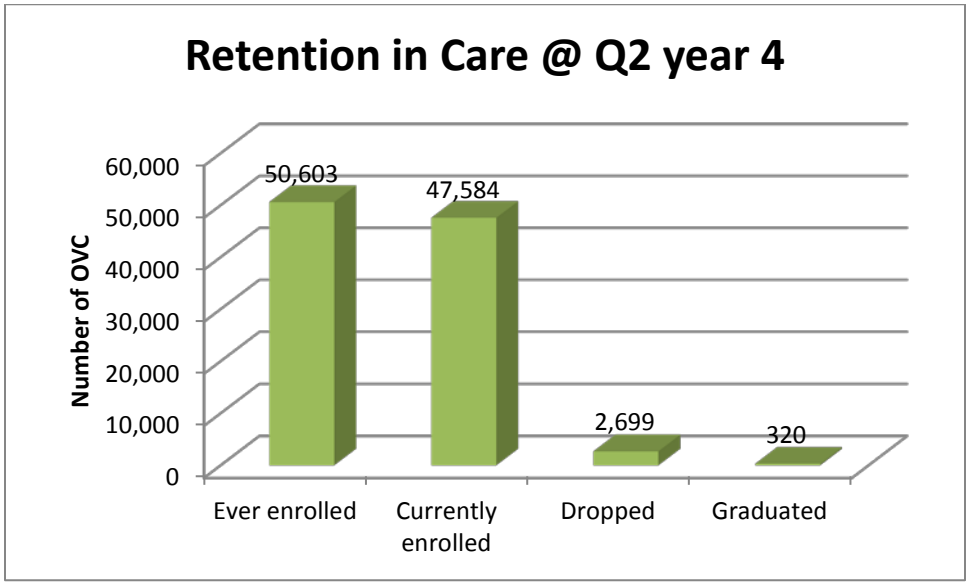
  While CUBS and the CSOs provide most of the children with PSS services at least per a quarter, preliminary findings from the CUBS Child Status Index (CSI) assessment show that PSS scores among the project's beneficiaries have had the least improvement, compared to the other health categories. Next quarter CUBS will review its current PSS strategies in order to develop and implement more effective strategies.
  Figure 1



- CUBS' community-based, bottom-up approach involves supporting CSOs to mobilize community resources to identify and meet the needs of OVC in a sustained manner. As part of this approach, CSO volunteers 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 50,603 children ever enrolled in the CUBS project, 47,584 (94%) have remained in the project; 320 (0.6%) have graduated because they turned 18 years old; and 2,699 (5.4%) have dropped out of the project. The sudden increase in the number of children who have dropped out of the project, from 3 percent last quarter to 5.4 percent this quarter, was due to the fact that PESWAC, a CSO in Rivers state, decided to discontinue its partnership with the CUBS project. PESWAC left with a total of 1,136 OVC in their care and assured CUBS of their commitment to continue supporting these OVC. The majority of those who dropped out of the CUBS project have continued to be cared for by the CSOs that enrolled them.

  CUBS' sustainability plan involves targeting older adolescents with HES initiatives to prepare them to be financially independent when they turn 18. The project has trained all graduates in HES and is now assessing some of these graduates to determine if they are eligible to receive seed grants for small businesses. The project will distribute these seed grants next quarter.

Figure 2



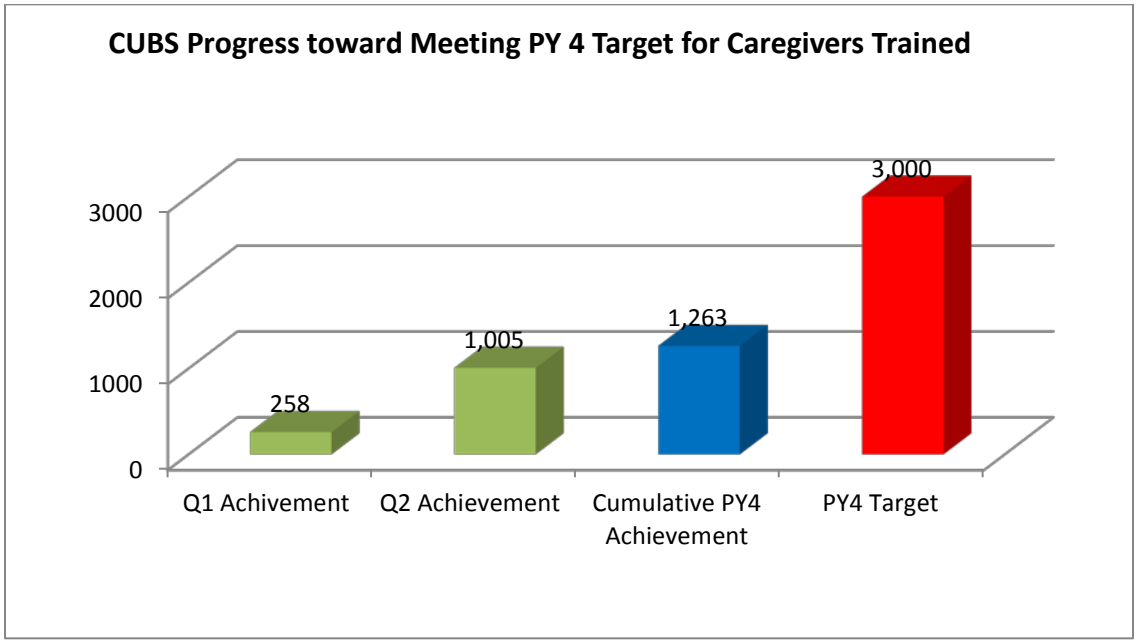
- In the November to December, 2012 quarter, CUBS began a block granting initiative, which significantly advanced this past quarter. CUBS reviewed 28 project proposals

from the CSOs and shortlisted 22 of these to be considered for funding in the coming quarter. The selection criteria for these grants includes the project's level of community involvement and ownership, the number of potential OVC and caregiver beneficiaries, and the project's potential to sustain after CUBS ends. These proposed projects include helping communities to improve their water sources, servicing equipment in skills acquisition centers, and minor repairs of school desks and tables. These proposed interventions will allow CSOs to reach a greater number of children and households.

- The project continues its efforts to improve the quality of services provided to OVC. To achieve this, CUBS facilitated refresher trainings for staff from the CSOs and SMWA&SD, as well as community health workers and other relevant stakeholders across 11 states. Trainings covered psychosocial support for OVC, reproductive health, household food security, and nutrition. These refresher trainings were meant to build the participants' capacity to support step-down trainings for OVC caregivers and to strengthen collaboration and linkages between OVC caregivers and community service providers.

- Within the reporting period, CUBS trained 1,005 caregivers, bringing the total caregivers trained for PY 4 to 1,263, which is 42% of PY 4 target as shown in Figure 3. Improved caregiver knowledge and skills will translate to quality care and support for OVC through counseling, food security, environmental cleanliness, nutritional sufficiency, and improved school performance.

Figure 3



- A critical component of CUBS' service delivery approach is to ensure sustainability and program quality through regular CSO site visits. This quarter, CUBS conducted these exercises in all 11 states to 37 CSOs. The team used a standard tool to assess each CSO in the following areas:
    - consistency in conducting planned activities,
    - quality of services rendered,
    - achievement of benchmark targets,
    - documentation of data and activities,
    - organizational growth,
    - staff strength and capacity, and
    - staff adherence to the use of standard tools for documentation.

  Using this assessment approach, CUBS evaluated all the areas of the CSOs including, programs, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and finance. To ensure objectivity in the findings and reporting, CUBS' staff from one state conducted the quality assurance visit in another state. This also allowed the staff to learn of best practices and share experiences about what types of program strategies works in different contexts. For example, during these site visits CUBS learned that one of the CSO's Health Care Foundation (HCF), is using a tracking tool for OVC school and home visits. This proved to be a best practice because it was helping HCF to track the date of their visit and the services they provided. The tool also includes a column for both the caregiver and volunteer to sign, indicating that the services had been provided. CUBS applied shared this tool and best practice with its other CSOs through meetings. Reports from other states recommended the standardization for use by all CSOs. Compared with CUBS' site visit data from previous quarters, findings from this exercise show progressive improvement in the quality of the services CUBS provides to vulnerable children and indicate 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 receive better support when there is community involvement and ownership in community based programs. CUBS also noted that high attrition amongst CSO staff and volunteers is still a big challenge that affects continuity of services to the vulnerable households. To address this, CUBS provides technical assistance to CSO project coordinators to provide refresher trainings and mentoring of new staff. The staff from both the FMWA&SD and SMWA&SD always participate in the CSO site visits in order to build their capacity to take up this task after CUBS closes.

- As part of CUBS' long term, in-country support to the GON, the project team has been collaborating with the University Research Company (URC)to pilot test the Nigeria OVC service standards in Akwa Ibom state. This quarter URC hosted the zonal meeting for Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Enugu, and Ebonyi states. During the meeting, staff of CSOs

participating in the pilot test shared change ideas from the work of the community quality improvement teams. Representatives from the four states also shared experiences of what has worked from the essential actions drawn for each service area. The results presented showed the much can be achieved to support and care for OVCs and caregivers when communities are involved. Other best practices shared included formation of community quality improvement teams to implement programs that are sensitive to the community's cultural context and positioning community stakeholders at the driver's seat of these interventions.

- CUBS' collaboration and partnership efforts continue to yield positive results for vulnerable children. One of the project-supported CSOs in Ekiti State, Environmental Development and Family Health Organization, leveraged N19,200 from Ekiti West LGA to keep four vulnerable children in school. Similarly, the Foundation for Sustainable Health Promotion and Development accessed school materials such as exercise books, pens, pencils, and N50,000.00 from Ado LGA to keep 129 vulnerable children in school. The wife of the chairman of Nkanu West LGA convinced the wives of the other Enugu state LGA chairmen to jointly host a party for 300 children enrolled in the OVC care program at the Healthy Society Care and Development Initiative (HSCDI). The LGAs also funded food packages for the 300 children. During his speech at the party, HSCDI's Director advocated for stakeholders to further support economic empowerment initiatives for OVC caregivers, rather than giving them handouts.

- The project participated and won the Innovation Challenge (INCH) fund organized by MSH's Center for Health Services (CHS). The CUBS' INCH project is entitled, "Strengthening quality OVC service delivery and the accuracy, and timeliness of reporting data using a mobile phone application." The project team selected Gombe as the pilot state for this innovation and will train volunteers from the CSOs in this state on how to use the COMCARE[1] application to support quality service delivery and facilitate accurate and timely reporting. The project goals are for this innovative strategy to increase the speed of decision making at community level by volunteers and reduce the cost and time spent on reporting OVC program data.

- This quarter, CUBS provided financial supportto enable the United States Government's (USG) OVC PEPFAR guidance dissemination meetings hold. Meetings held in Lafia, Owerri and Lagos on January 30 – 31; February 7-8 and 14 – 15 respectively. participants included all USG-funded OVC implementing partners (IPs) as well as CSOs, the Association of OVC NGOs in Nigeria, and ministries of women affairs and social

[1] COMCARE is a mobile phone application that enables access to and the recording of essential client data in real time, no matter where they were. Volunteers will use this application to record the details of every visit and activity as they happen and have instant access to information such as client details, referrals, diagnosis, alerts, contacts and services the clients are receiving.

development across the nation. CUBS sent CSO representatives from each of the 11 states to the dissemination meetings. The meetings were held to facilitate dissemination of the new PEPFAR OVC guidance document that provides guidelines to OVC program implementers. Representatives from the USG made presentations highlighting the guiding principles and key points for OVC programming. They also emphasized the importance of providing services based on need, strengthening caregivers to provide services, and strengthening systems to support country ownership. Presenters encouraged each IP to support further dissemination of the guidelines in their respective domains. The CSO representatives will share information learnt from these meetings with other CSOs in their states during the upcoming CSO monthly meetings.

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

State-Level OVC Technical Working Group Meetings (OVC TWG)
The TWGs comprise staff from the SMWA&SD, IPs, CSOs working in the OVC program area. The group provides guidance on how the OVC program in the state should run by developing and integrating strategy regarding orphans and vulnerable children into state development plans; adapting the national priority agenda to state strategic plan and develop work plan annually; Facilitating the mobilization and allocation of resources for OVC programming and coordinating, supervising and monitoring the dissemination of programs for orphans and vulnerable children in accordance with national guidelines at state and local government levels. CUBS has facilitated the formation of TWGs in each state and supports two quarterly meetings per state per year.

Enugu

- During the Enugu state OVC TWG meeting, 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. Participants also designed a letterhead for use by the group's secretariat.

Gombe

- In Gombe state, the OVC TWG meeting provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the new PEPFAR OVC programming guidance. In his closing remarks, Mr. Jenis Maiyamba the Director of the Children's department of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, implored the TWG to stand firm and work towards actualization of the group's set objectives and goals.

Delta

- CUBS visited the Delta State Action Committee on AIDS (DELSACA) Program Manager to seek his support in releasing the OVC TWG meeting funds to ensure that the TWG is able to hold their meetings. During the TWG meetings, participants discuss issues concerning the welfare of OVC and their households and make decisions and plans with the goal of increasing OVC access to quality services. Last year, the DELSACA

promised to fund the Delta State OVC TWG meetings.

Local Government Area Level

Enugu

- During the Udi LGA OVC TWG meeting, participants discussed plans to initiate HIV counseling and testing for OVC and those living in their households. The LGA Committee Officer promised to provide HIV test kits to CUBS' CSO partner, the Global Health Awareness Research Foundation (GHARF). . The officer also promised to visit one of the communities while GHARF was conducting OVC HIV counseling and testing to show his support for the CUBS project.. During the meeting, the wife of the LGA Chairman thanked members for their participation and also requested that participants work to establish sustainable projects that will empower OVC households, rather than providing handouts.

Imo

- CUBS conducted a *Leadership and Management Orientation for OVC Programming* workshop for 14 LGA staff**.** Participants are expected to use the knowledge they gained in this workshop to ensure that OVC TWGs in their LGAs are functional.

Other System Strengthening Activities

Bayelsa

- CUBS attended a joint state implementation meeting at the state ministry of health in Bayelsa. Participants discussed the need for synergy among all partners for an efficient and complete health and social services referral and reporting system to improve the wellbeing of OVC.

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

- The CUBS project continues to address the vulnerability of older, female OVC to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections through vocational skills training and other behavior change initiatives. In Rivers state, CUBS counseled 14 adolescent girls to determine their vocational interests and abilities. In January of 2013, the project team then commenced vocational skills training for these girls in computer services, dress making, and hairdressing. Reports indicate over 90 percent attendance at these trainings. The few cases of absenteeism were due to trainees' needing to care for ill family members;. The computer trainees have already graduated from typing lessons to

designing Microsoft word documents. Those learning dress making can now confidently use the sewing machines. At the hairdressing center, the girls demonstrated visible commitment and zeal for their work during practical sessions. A few of the girls appear to be slow in catching up with the speed of training but the trainers are paying extra attention to these girls to bring them up to speed. One of the trainees will be replaced based on the CSO's recommendation because she relocated to another community after a dispute with her caregiver. The commitment of community members to this initiative will help to sustain the intervention. For example, the Child Protection Committee Secretary has personally been visiting sites where the 14 adolescent girls are being trained. The Secretary encourage the girls to be focused on their vocational training. …

- Last quarter one of the project-supported CSOs in Ekiti state provided business training and start up seed grant to four out-of-school OVC. Working in collaboration with the SMWA&SD, the four OVC (two male, two female) benefitted from a three-days training in phone repairs and in making low energy stoves, snacks, and wire works.

- CUBS has begun to hold girl group meetings within the states to promote networking among adolescent girls, improve their self-esteem, and help them to develop life skills. This quarter, CUBS invited 21 girls to an IWD commemoration in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa state capital. The project team invited participants from 16 communities where CUBS CSO partners are working so that these girls, in turn, will lead their local girl group meetings when they return home.

- The half-day meeting was inaugurated by the Director of the children's department of the SMWA&SD and then included presentations from resource persons (who were also role models) on a number of topics including girls in need of special protection; HIV/AIDS; staying healthy; nutrition; reproductive health; livelihoods options; and career guidance. Resource persons were drawn from ministries of women affairs, educational institutions, and NGOs working in health and human rights sectors (e.g., the Federation of Women Lawyers in Nigeria).The girls shared their personal experiences and challenges. Gombe and Bayelsa states will host a similar meetings supported by CUBS next quarter. In line with this, one of CUBS' CSO partners in Ekiti state has counseled 83 adolescent girls in Aramoko, Ekiti West LGA. The CSO's counseling includes information on HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, education, and assertiveness skills.

- CUBS facilitated an HES training for 21 female caregivers from Ubima in Ikwere LGA in Rivers state. After the training, these caregivers formed a corporative group and CUBS referred them to Rivers State Micro Finance Agency (RIMA) to be assessed for small business loans. RIMA invited the CUBS state team in Rivers to make a formal proposal requesting collaboration and support for the 21 female caregivers. CUBS is

closely monitoring the development of this budding partnership to ensure that RIMA's terms and conditions for assistance are favorable to the beneficiaries.

- In Ekiti state, one of CUBS' CSO partners, in collaboration with the SMWA&SD and gender empowerment, provided economic strengthening support to 17 female caregivers in Oye, Ekiti East LGA. This support included skills training, business counseling, and provision of business start-up funds (N19,200) for each caregiver. So far, 12 of the caregivers have commenced their business operations and the rest are making effort to start soon. The project has been sharing lessons learnt in this programming area and is documenting its successes from the Delta, Rivers, Ekiti, Imo, and Gombe states..

- In January, CUBS held a one-day work shop for senior program officers and M&E specialists from 11 states on how to integrate Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) with on-going HES initiatives. Workshop participants also learned how to work with CSO partners to generate baseline data on caregivers who will benefit from small business seed grants. While CUBS is still developing its strategy for the seed grant disbursement process, the workshop participants from Enugu state have already conducted the VSLA orientation for staff from four CSOs. Prior to this quarter, caregivers in Amokwe, Obioma and Mbogodo had already formed their VSLAs and have been making monetary contributions to these associations. In Ohunowere, caregivers have formed a caregivers' association, which the CSO partner sees as a good platform through which to present the VSLA. CUBS hopes that local VSLA operations will be standardized and become more attractive to caregivers as a forum through which they can access ready capital for business development and for paying other bills.
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- The CUBS project encouraged states to participate in this year's IWD celebration as a platform to further the campaign to end violence and discrimination against women and girls. Four state teams mobilized CSO partners, female beneficiaries, communities, and ministries of women affairs to actively participate in the IWD activities in the Delta, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers states. During a rally in Delta state, campaigners raised banners and slates with the following messages:
    - "Stop all forms of violence against women",
    - "Give women a chance",
    - "Stop female genital mutilation",
    - "Promote girl child education",
    - "Say no to wife battering",
    - "Stop girl child early marriage",
    - "Educate the girl child", and
    - "Empower women".

  In the other three states, presentations were made on different topics including:

- "Women as Agents of Change and Development in the Community"
- "Identifying harmful social norms and practices that increase vulnerability of women"
- "Legal protection for women and girls" and
- "Having a HIV/AIDS free world for women".

- As an offshoot of the gender orientation workshop that CUBS facilitated last quarter in Bayelsa state, the project team called a follow-up stakeholder meeting alongside United Nations Children's Fund, the Child Protection Network, Federation of Women Lawyers, the Judiciary and the governor's wife's 'pet' project. Other stakeholder participants included the police, the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, and representatives from schools, line ministries, churches, and markets. The meet was desgined with three purposes:
    - To tackle the challenges stakeholders encounter in the fight against sexual and physical abuse of children,
    - To address the inappropriate procedures followed while hearing cases of abuse, and
    - To identify the support stakeholders need to prosecute abusers

  Participants resolved to provide computers to the juvenile welfare units to ease the challenge of documentation and proper reporting of abuse cases. They also agreed to reduce the verdict period for child abuse cases and create a database for sharing case information and following up on cases of sexual and physical abuse. This will be done alongside efforts to strengthen community-based child protection committee activities.

- The gender training CUBS held last years continued to influence community-level stakeholders. This quarter, for example, the chairman of a Child Development Committee in Bayelsa state showed a personal interest in a case of suspected rape of a girl by her father. He reported the case to the Governor's office and it has been taken over by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Girl Child Education who attended CUBS' gender training last year.

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

- This quarter CUBS commenced a training for SMWA&SD and LGA staff on NOMIS. The training began in Gombe State with support from the FMWA&SD and MEASURE Evaluation. Participants included 25 staff from the SMWA&SD, LGA, and CUBS-supported CSOs. Following the training, CUBS will support the SMWA&SD in Gombe to mentor the rest of the region's CSOs not supported by CUBS. Together CUBS and the

SMWA will build the capacity of these CSOs' in NOMIS and OVC M&E for improved care, monitoring, and reporting to the ministry.

- During the period under review, CUBS conducted a DQA exercise at all of the project-supported CSOs. The exercise revealed that all 37 CSOs (PESWAC dropped) had improved their service provision and data reporting quality, when compared to the last DQA in in March 2012. CUBS observed a few challenges such as under-reporting, incomplete documentation, and inappropriate filing. CSOs staff are already implementing CUBS' recommendations for strategies to improve their data quality. Recommendations include internal DQAs, capacity building, supportive supervision, hands-on mentoring and monitoring. Additionally, CSOs are encouraged CSOs to populate and use of the NOMIS database to reduce some of the transcription errors. This has started paying off. It was noted during the last DQA exercise that two of the CSOs in Delta State (i.e., the Riverine Community Health Organization and the National AIDS Counseling Organization had finished uploading of all backlog of data with minimal errors. Since then, they have continued to input information into the database while waiting for the GON to finalize the operationalization of NOMIS.

- During the quarter, Ekiti State completed their OVC survey. CUBS has been providing technical support to the survey implementers since they began conducting the OVC survey at the end of PY3. CUBS' support has included developing data collection tools and training field staff in data collection, collation, and analysis, as well as report writing. Survey participants included 4,390 OVC from 1,783 households in 47 wards of the 16 LGAs of the Ekiti state. Results showed that majority of the children have poor access to health care and a number of other services. More than half of the children (59 percent) do not have hospital cards and receive most of their treatment from community pharmacists. However, almost half (48.5 percent) of the children sampled reported to have had malaria at least once in the last six months. The survey showed that more HIV orphans (3.5 percent) are HIV positive than non-orphans (2.7 percent) and 55 percent of children interviewed had poor shelter. Over sixty percent of children interviewed did not have a toilet homes or to pipe-borne water in their homes. The Ekiti SMWA&SD has been using this information in planning and budgeting. Results from the Ekiti State OVC survey have motivated other States to conduct the same survey with technical support from CUBS. Rivers SMWA&SD is already conducting a pilot survey in Gokana LGA, while Imo SMWA&SD made plans to conduct a similar survey.

- CUBS' interventions have helped to ensure that the project-supported CSO have put in place sustainable leadership and management structures to guarantee the wellbeing of its target beneficiaries. Within the quarter under review, the project supported the inauguration of four governing boards and has helped to reactive two governing boards among its CSOs, bringing the number of project-supported CSOs with functional governing boards to 36 across 11 states. To focus and strategically guide its CSOs' boards, the project facilitated a training of trainers workshop for 38 CSOs on strategic plan development. CUBS is now helping all 37 CSOs to develop their strategic plan documents and expects that these plans will be fully developed by the end of the third project quarter. CUBS also helped one CSO to obtain a Corporate Affairs Commission

(CAC) registration, bringing the total number of CSOs with the CAC registrations to 32. Worthy of note is the fact that CUBS is conducting these interventions at minimal financial cost to the project by using a mentoring and closer supervision rather than a classroom teaching approach.

- CUBS conducted mentoring, coaching, and close supervision to help two CSOs develop organizational policies and establish acceptable standards within the organizations, bringing the number of CSOs with acceptable organizational policies to 32. Because the DQA revealed policy implementation challenges, CUBS has established and applied modalities for continuous improvement of policy implementation among the CSOs.

- The project has continued to encourage, facilitate and guide knowledge sharing, alliance building, networking among the CSO by organizing and facilitating monthly CSO meetings within the 11 implementing states. CUBS is also promoting wider forums like this across the 11 states to increase resource mobilization and advocacy platforms for the CSOs.

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

The project had two abstracts accepted for poster presentations at the 2013 IAS conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The abstracts are titled "Economic strengthening of female households' heads: An integrated approach to improving OVC care and wellbeing in Nigeria" and "Bridging the resource gap for sustainable response in Nigeria: Results from a collaborative effort."

- The project continues to serve as the secretariat of the HES Community of Practice forum for all OVC implementing partners' in-country. CUBS worked in collaboration with the Livelihood & Food Security Technical Assistance Project, to successfully launch the start the on-line discussion forum. At this site, members of the forum discuss and share best practices about HES strategies.

Intermediate Result 6: Cost Effective Project Management to Meet Deliverables

Figure 4

Participants at the Maximize Efficiency and Impact Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam

- For the past two years, MSH has conducted a series of workshops to build the capacity of its staff who are in project leadership positions. This year, CUBS'COP attended MSH's regional workshop from March 22 to 29 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The workshop provided an opportunity for senior staff from seven countries (i.e., Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Vietnam, US) to have protracted interaction that focused on real problems that each faces regularly. It was an interactive workshop that addressed a broad range of topics including decision-making, delegation for results, and effective communication. Staff connected, spent time with one another after the sessions, and gained insight into the situations that they face through the experiences of their colleagues. The workshop helped staff to understand ways to make more effective use of their home office support teams and systems in order to achieve faster results for their respective projects. Additionally, the COP felt empowered by the workshop and is now working with the home office staff to train the CUBS field staff on some of the workshop content. This staff training will take place at the next project performance review meeting in May, 2013. The attached trip report provides additional information (see Annex 1).
- CUBS' monitoring and mentoring activities remain a pillar in the project's efforts to build staff capacity within the SMWA&SD and CSOs. This quarter, the COP visited Imo state and the SMWA&SD Commissioner from February 11 to 14. The Commissioner and the COP discussed pertinent issues including the need to activate the family court in the state and the need to conduct a state OVC mapping exercise. To follow up on the issue of mapping and the Commissioner's other requests, the COP made an advocacy visit to the Director General of the State Agency for the Control of AIDS in Imo. At this meeting, the Director General promised to use funds from a World Bank loan for HIV/AIDS to fund the SMWA&SD OVC work plan. Additionally, the COP held meetings with CSOs, community leaders, and traditional rulers as well as OVC and caregivers in various communities within the state. During these meetings, CUBS focused on gauging the stakeholders' satisfaction with the quality of services being provided by the project and solicited their involvement and community buy-in.
- Field visits from MSH's home office staff always provide opportunities for strengthening capacity at the project level. John Pollock, the acting Vice President of MSH's CHS, visited Nigeria April 1 – 3. He reviewed the project's

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis with the country leadership team and provided insights on how to verify data when using a mobile platform for service delivery and reporting. A brief meeting with CUBS' USAID Contract Officer Representative gave Mr. Pollock an understanding of CUBS' important place in the national program.

- With the increasing security challenge and the magnitude of children who are either orphaned and/or vulnerable in Nigeria, an electronic management information system (MIS) is needed to bolster the national data management and reporting system. The project hired a consultant from March 3 to 16 to develop a simple online/mobile platform and database interface, based on DHIS2. This MIS will be used by CUBS and CSO staff and community volunteers for data reporting and storage; CUBS and CSO staff and community volunteers will be able to quickly retrieve data for management decision-making and stakeholder feedback. The consultant designed an MIS for CUBS that leverages online and mobile phone technologies for routine data collection and reporting from CSOs. He also developed a data dictionary, a user manual, staff training plans and curriculum for the new MIS. Next quarter CUBS will use these materials to train staff, the CSOs, and other partners to use the MIS.

  The consultant was unable to create an interface that allows data to be exported from NOMIS into DHIS2 because the applications use different backend platforms. Whereas NOMIS uses JavaDB as its backend, DHIS2 uses PostgreSQL as its backend. The consultant and the MSH Information Technology team met with the chief developer of NOMIS at FHI360 to discuss the issue. It turned out that the NOMIS developers were already working on the interoperability (import/export) between NOMIS and DHIS2 because they had received a request earlier from the developers of the DHIS2 application. NOMIS developers told the consultant they planned to begin testing the NOMIS & DHIS2 interoperability after one month. CUBS is still waiting for feedback from FHI360 in order to complete this consultancy. The consultant's trip report is attached for more details (see Annex 2).

V. Problems and Opportunities

- PESWAC's decision to stop collaborating with CUBS has affected the project's target delivery for the quarter. PESWAC has over 1,000 children enrolled in its OVC support program. However, PESWAC's director informed CUBS that the Catholic Mission has taken over the care of these children. CUBS is now working to engage another CSO in the project to replace PESWAC. The Ministry of Women and Social Rehabilitation in mediating between CUBS and PESWAC to provide coordination and oversight for the transition.
- Increasing insecurity, particularly in the north regions of Nigeria, has led the project to think of strategies that will reduce risk to CSO and project staff, while ensuring continuous, quality service delivery and accurate, timely reporting. CUBS will be piloting

the use of a mobile platform to support community volunteers in decision-making during home and community visits of OVC and caregivers and in reporting. Results from the pilot will determine if CUBS can scale up the intervention.

VI. Success Stories

- Community Support Brings Relief to Vulnerable Children in Sokoto State, Nigeria (see Annex 3)

VII. Next Quarter's Expected Results and Related Tasks

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

- Support the efficient and effective quality service delivery to OVC across the project states through staff mentoring and supervision, as well as program monitoring and evaluation
- Ensure that CSOs conducts quality and targeted caregiver trainings in the states
- Finalize the selection process and support the CSOs in implementing their block grant initiatives through the state teams.
- Support FMWA&SD and URC in successfully completing the Nigerian OVC service standard pilot phase by regularly monitoring and mentoring CSOs in Akwa Ibom State
- Provide technical guidance to the project-supported CSOs for quality service delivery
- Lead implementation of CUBS' INCH project; successfully complete the project and report on successes and lessons learned from implementation of the innovation
- Commemorate the Day of the African Child in collaboration with the CSO partners and other stakeholders

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

- Conduct leadership and management training for the LGAs' OVC coordination in the Gombe, Kebbi/Sokoto, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Rivers, and Akwa Ibom states
- Support inauguration of the OVC TWG at the LGAs in the Akwa Ibom and Kebbi states
- Mentor the SMWA&SD and LGA staff as they strengthen OVC programming in their domains
- Strengthen social and community systems for OVC and their households
- Support OVC TWG meetings at state and LGA levels
- Engage another CSO to replace PESWAC

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

- Conduct HES training for female heads of households in the three remaining states (Bayelsa, Ekiti and Sokoto)

- Collate results from CUBS' baseline assessment for seed grants that it is currently conducting in six states to pave way for disbursement to commence the following quarter

- Facilitate exchange visits and experience sharing/exhibition between and within communities implementing HES initiatives in the Akwa Ibom, Delta, and Gombe states(*Note: This activity was originally planned for this quarter but had to be shifted to next quarter; it will be prioritized next quarter*)

- Document success stories related to women's empowerment and behavior change at the system and service delivery levels

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

- Conduct step down training on NOMIS for SMWA&SD and LGA staff

- Finalize the CSI data analysis and Ekiti state OVC survey reports; disseminate to CUBS' stakeholders

- Facilitate the establishment of governing boards at the two remaining CSOs without boards; encourage board development activities for strong leadership and focused and guided achievement of outlined strategic goals and project sustainability

- Facilitate the development of CSOs' strategic plans

- Facilitate policy development and mentor and closely guide policy implementation to strengthen systems and operational capacities

- Provide mentoring support and supervision to help the project-supported CSOs attain the organizational development plans they developed after the CSO organizational capacity assessments that CUBS conducted in quarter 2 of PY3

- Conduct monitoring and supervisory visits at the project-supported CSOs to strengthen documentation and engender accountability and quality assurance.

Intermediate Result 5: 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 reports of the impact of CUBS' education interventions on OVC lives

Intermediate Result 6: Cost Effective Project Management to Meet Deliverables

- Organize a project performance review meeting
- Organize a review meeting for the project-supported CSOs
- Attend the Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on June 27 – July 6 2013
- Send CUBS' Associate Director M&E to the home office to complete the CSI and Ekiti survey reports
- Make two poster presentations at the IAS conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Continue working with FMWA&SD to plan the Governors' Wives Forum