Quarterly Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

April – June 2013

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

Quarterly Report April 1 to June 30, 2013

CUBS' Chief of Party participating in a village savings and loans group meeting in Taraba State, Nigeria

July 2013

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Acronyms

AIDSTAR	AIDS Support and Technical Resources
CHS	Center for Health Services
COP	chief of party
CPC	child protection committee
CSI	Child Status Index
CSO	civil society organization
CUBS	Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (project)
DAC	Day of the African Child
DELSACA	Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS
FMWA&SD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
HES	household economic strengthen
HSCDI	Healthy Society Care and Development Initiative
IWD	International Women's Day
LGA	local government area
LCIF	Lifetime Caring International Foundation
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MIS	management information system
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
MWA&SD	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
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
PLAN Health	Program to build Leadership and Accountability in Nigeria's Health System
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PY	project year
Q	quarter
RIMA	Rivers State Micro Finance Agency
RULIN	Rural Linkage Network
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

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 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Nigeria (CUBS) Project, continues to provide support and coordination for scaling up HIV activities in Nigeria using community-based responses to:

- increase the number of OVC served with 6+1 services;
- strengthen the capacity of national and state governments to better protect and care for OVC;
- address OVC-related gender issues in focal states;
- increase local capacity to implement, monitor, and evaluate OVC programs; and
- document and disseminate lessons learnt.

The project provides quality services to OVC through 38 collaborating civil service organizations (CSOs) and continues to make progress towards meeting its project year (PY) 4 targets. A review of this quarter's data shows that the project provided 12,041OVC with a minimum of one care service, 2,014 of whom were newly enrolled in an OVC care program. This brings the total number of OVC served since October 2012 to 40,017, accounting for 82 percent of the PY4 annual target. Due to its rigorous community volunteer follow-up program, the project has retained 94 percent of the children enrolled in an OVC care program. The project is also building the capacity of caregivers to meet the needs of children placed in their care. This quarter, the project trained 2,452 caregivers in OVC psychosocial support, health, food and nutrition, and economic strengthening skills, bringing the total number of caregivers trained to 3,715 and surpassing the PY4 target.

During the quarter under review, CUBS actively participated in several meetings hosted by USAID and the Government of Nigeria to discuss OVC programming in Nigeria. For example, CUBS attended in a quality improvement (QI) sharing meeting in Akwa Ibom. The team also participated in pre-validation and validation meetings, which allowed them to finalize the national OVC standards of practice.

This quarter, CUBS also organized a performance review meeting with the theme, "Sustaining Current Gains through Effective Program Implementation." The meeting provided an opportunity for implementing staff and the CUBS team to review project achievements, key results, and challenges from the first half of PY4 and plan for the second half. Staff developed a better understanding of CUBS' Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and the project's

achievements and received clear instructions on what they need to do to help CUBS meet its PY4 targets.

After this performance review meeting, CUBS held a three-day CSO review meeting where all 38 implementing organizations presented their achievements, discussed the challenges they are facing, and identify strategies to address those challenges. CUBS emphasized the importance of networking and knowledge sharing and taught CSOs that many of the resources they need address challenges lie within themselves and their communities.

On June 16, the CUBS project team joined the Ministry of Women Affairs in Bayelsa State and other stakeholders to commemorate the Day of the African Child (DAC). The theme for this year's DAC was, "Eliminating Harmful Social and Cultural Practices Affecting Children: Our Collective Responsibility." During the celebration, children presented cultural dances and drama performances that demonstrated problems associated with child labor and drew attention laws prohibiting child labor. In the other states, children led activities advocating for parents and guardians to protect children from forced/early marriage, child labor/abuse, street hawking, lack of access to education, poor nutrition, lack of medical services, incest, boy-child preference, sexual abuse, and female genital mutilation.

CUBS also continued working with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD) and MEASURE Evaluation to train staff on the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS). This quarter, the collaborative team trained an additional 29 staff from the state ministry, local government areas (LGA), and project-supported CSOs in Bayelsa and Imo States.

In May and June, as part of the project's ongoing initiative to disseminate lessons learnt and best practices, CUBS' Associate Director of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and the Gender attended the Women Deliver Conference and the International AIDS Conference in Malaysia. During these conferences, the director presented papers on CUBS' accomplishments, fostered relationships within the global public health community, and joined networks that will allow them to continuously engage in experience sharing and problem solving with their colleagues.

The major challenge CUBS encountered this quarter was the Rivers State Minister of Health's decision to dismiss its LGA Chairmen and councilors. Although this has inhibited some of the project's work in Rivers State, CUBS has continued to provide services to children through the CSOs and child protection committees (CPCs).

This quarter, the project team worked closely with the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (SMWA&SD) and the Association of OVC Organizations in Nigeria to engage the Lifetime Caring International Foundation (LCIF) in replacing the Perpetual Succour

for Women and Children (PESWAC) as one of the project-supported CSOs. As part of this process, CUBS fully on-boarded LCIF and the organization began to provide children with OVC services.

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.

Activity Financial Summary

CUBS' FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Activity Name: Community Based Support (CUBS) for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Nigeria Project
Activity Objective: Support the Government of Nigeria in implementing its *National Plan of Action on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)* by developing and strengthening community-based service delivery for OVC, building community ownership of OVC interventions, reducing gender discrimination, and increasing OVC involvement and advocacy.
Implementing Partner: Management Sciences for Heath (MSH)
USAID/Nigeria Assistance Objective (AO): AO 3 - Increased Nigerian Capacity for a Sustainable HIV/AIDS and TB Response
Life of Activity (start and end dates): October 7, 2009 – October 6, 2014
Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount: $20,907,645
Obligations to Date: $15,976,104
Current Pipeline Amount: $1,639,159
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: $224,650
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: $14,336,945
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: $1,078,892
Report Submitted by: Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director
Submission Date: August 6, 2013, 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 and Technical Assistance Resources One (AIDSTAR I) 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 also supports the implementation of Nigeria's National Priority Agenda (NPA) on OVC by developing and strengthening community-based OVC service delivery.

Using a bottom-up approach to 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 and discrimination against OVC and OVC 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 help CSOs improve OVC service delivery. The project also leverages existing resources and builds on already established federal, state, and community foundations to improve OVC services and learn strategies to expand and sustain the project's work. By 2014, CUBS will have provided comprehensive OVC services to 50,000 children in 11 focal states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Kebbi, Rivers, Sokoto and Taraba States. The project's interventions are 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 and CSOs.
- **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 faith-based organizations.

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	12,041		40,017	82%	Projected to surpass annual target
	- # newly enrolled	10,000	3,976	4,962	2,014		10,952	>100%	
	- # previously enrolled	38,587	6,728	12,310	10,027		29,065	75%	
	Education (male)		630	1,300	2,171		4,101		
	Education (female)		567	1,295	2,071		3,933		
	Health (male)		1,614	4,294	7,135		13,043		
	Health (female)		1,490	4,285	7,088		12,863		
	Psychosocial support (male)		5,050	7,900	7,082		20,032		
	Psychosocial support (female)		4,969	7,690	6,823		19,482		
	Shelter (male)		11	113	438		562		
	Shelter (female)		19	254	383		656		
	Protection (male)		734	532	768		2,034		
	Protection (female)		689	544	691		1,924		
	Nutrition (male)		1,051	2,271	3,910		7,232		
	Nutrition (female)		963	2,183	3,784		6,930		
	Economic strengthening (male)		0	19	181		200		
	Economic strengthening (female)		0	20	133		153		
C5.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) who received food and/or nutrition services	No target	2,014	4,454	7,694		14,162		

1.4	# of OVC caregivers who were trained in caring for OVC	3,000	58	1,205	2452		3,715	>100%	Surpassed annual target by end of Q3
1.5	# of OVC who were referred for clinical services	No target	211	256	841		1,308		

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		2	50%	This is still 50% until the National Priority Agenda (NPA) is launched
2.2	# of functional state and LGA community coordination mechanisms (OVC forums) in place to monitor OVC programs	4 states (16 LGAs)	11 states (12 LGAs)	11 states (12 LGAs)	11 states (16 LGAs)		11 states (16 LGAs)	>100%	
2.3	# of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems	4	9	9	9		9	>100%	
2.4	# of persons from state ministries and LGAs trained in leadership and management	60	0	14	76		90	>100%	
2.5	# of persons who successfully completed an in-service training in strategic information including data collection, collation, analysis and use	50	0	25	29		54	>100%	CUBS conducted the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) training in Imo and Bayelsa States and will conduct additional trainings, if requested to do so by the state ministries of women's affairs and social development (SMWA&SDs)

Results #3: 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	1,227		1,987	66%	More female adolescent prevention activities are planned for next quarter. The project team expects to reach this target.
3.2	# of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program	No target	20	20	20		20		
3.3	# of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers	39	38	37	38		37	97%	
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	3,417		5,323	89%	Collaborative activities with prevention partners will continue next quarter.

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

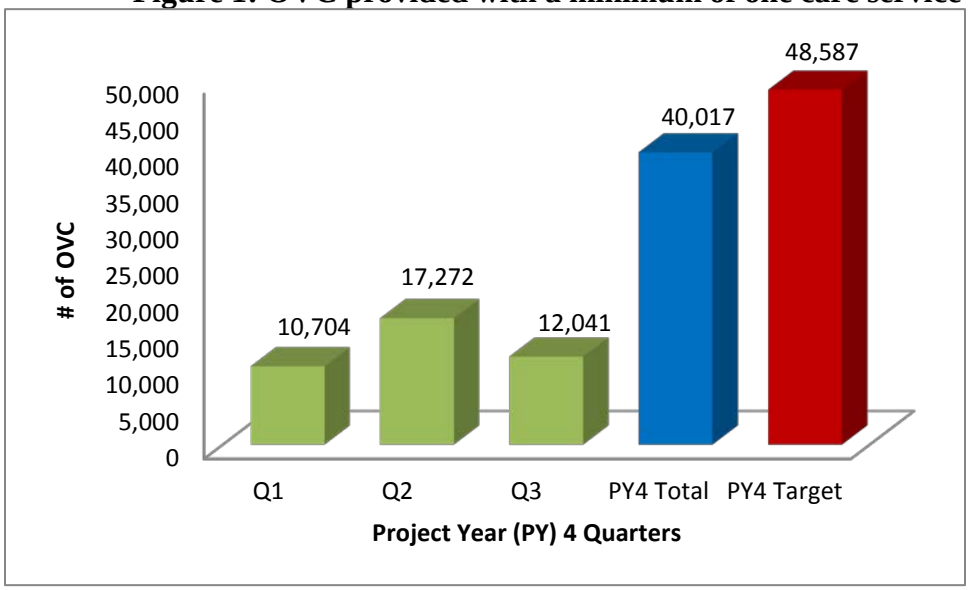
Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Achievement				Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
4.1	# of persons trained to use the Child Status Index (CSI)	50	0	25	29		54	>100%	Surpassed annual target by end of Q3.
4.2	% of new OVC screened at enrollment with the CSI	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%	
4.3	# of service sites/delivery points that received a data quality assurance visit	39	0	37	0		37	95%	
4.4	% of service sites/delivery points that received a quality assurance visit	100%	0%	95%	0%	0%	95%	95%	

IV. Quarterly Progress

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

- CUBS continues to serve OVC with comprehensive services based on their needs. This quarter, the project-supported CSOs provided 12,041 OVC with a minimum of one care service. This brings the total number of OVC served to 82 percent of the PY4 annual target, as shown in Figure 1. Many children received multiple services to address their needs. CUBS and the CSOs provided 100 percent of the children they reached with psychosocial support and health services, 64 percent with nutrition services, 35 percent with education services, 12 percent with protection services, and 7 percent with access to shelter and care services.

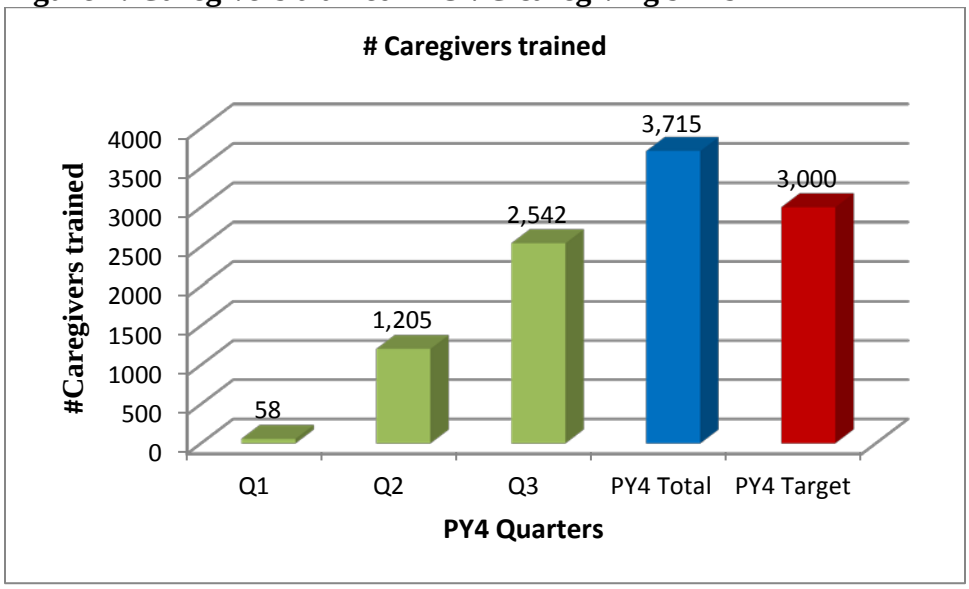
Figure 1: OVC provided with a minimum of one care service in PY4



- Within the reporting period, state teams worked closely with the CSOs to conduct caregiver trainings. These trainings were led by individuals the project had previously trained as facilitators. Participants learned a variety of caregiver skills including counseling, food security, environmental cleanliness, and nutritional sufficiency. The caregivers also learned strategies that will help them increase their assets and resources, improve their communication skills, interact socially with children, and help children improve their school performance. CUBS trained 2,542 caregivers this quarter, bringing the total number of caregivers trained in PY4 to 3,715, surpassing the PY 4 target (see Figure 2).

Facilitators conducting a caregiver training.

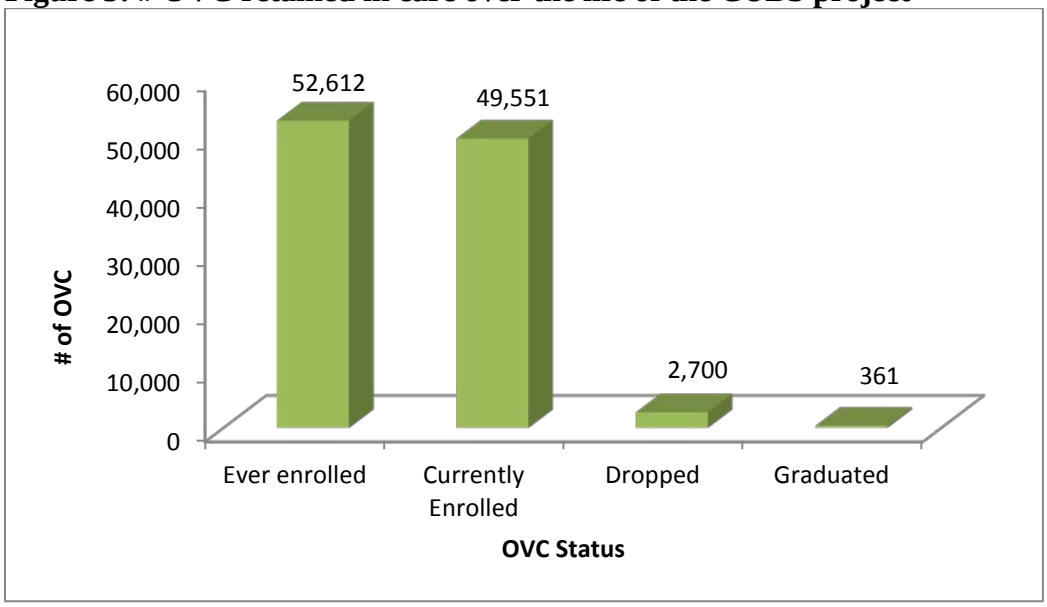
Figure 2: Caregivers trained in OVC caregiving skills in PY4



- CUBS' community-based, bottom-up approach involves helping CSOs mobilize community resources to identify and meet the needs of OVC in a sustainable manner. This community-based approach also includes regular CSO volunteer visits to caregivers. During these visits, volunteers support and mentor caregivers to help them provide continuous quality care to OVC. Home visits allow volunteers to closely monitor OVC clients, leading to a high retention rate (see Figure 3). Of the 52,612 children ever enrolled in the CUBS project, 49,551 (94%) have remained in the project; 361 (0.6%)

have graduated because they are able to meet their own needs and the needs of their siblings; and 2,700 (5.4%) have dropped out of the project.

Figure 3: # OVC retained in care over the life of the CUBS project



- A key approach to ensuring holistic and comprehensive OVC service delivery is networking and collaboration. This quarter, the Foundation for Sustainable Health Promotion and Development in Ekiti State collaborated with the Local Action Committee against AIDS to provide HIV counseling and testing services to 40 OVC. All of the children tested negative for HIV.

- CUBS continues to mentor and provide supportive supervision to CSOs and train caregivers in order to ensure quality OVC service delivery. CSOs facilitated the PSS, health and nutrition trainings in collaboration with community health workers and other relevant stakeholders across the 11 states. In addition the trainings, involving these stakeholders in program implementation through participation in CPC meetings, supports service integration, strengthens referrals and coordination, and improves service providers' knowledge about the special needs of OVC.

- In Gombe and Ekiti States, the project continued to support dissemination of the OVC PEPFAR guidelines to all relevant stakeholders. These guidelines will increase service providers' understanding of the current trends in OVC programming. This is also in line with the NPA that is currently being developed by the FMWA&SD and other OVC stakeholders.

- This quarter, CUBS significantly advanced the block grant initiative that began at the end of 2012 and increased the CSO recipients' funding. CUBS asked CSOs to revise their proposals and budgets so they are able to expand their interventions to three additional communities. The CSOs' interventions include providing schools with desks, benches, to schools and supply of cost-effective agro-processing machines VSLAs in communities.

Implementation will start with the 18 CSOs whose proposals met the minimum selection criteria. These CSOs will begin implementation next quarter. CUBS has found that the block grant initiative will sustain the project's achievements after it concludes. As a result, CUBS has made available more resources to expand coverage beyond a community per CSO.

- As part of CUBS' long term, in-country support to the Government of Nigeria, the project team has been collaborating with the University Research Company (URC) to pilot test Nigeria's national OVC service standards in Akwa Ibom State. This quarter, URC hosted a third meeting where they reviewed the pilot test outcomes. At this meeting, the CSOs' Community Quality Improvement teams shared what they had experienced when using the OVC guidelines during the period. URC and the CSOs also reviewed the essential actions under each service category for clarity, feasibility of implementation, relevance, and effectiveness. URC shared the ideas from this meeting with the national quality improvement technical working group (TWG) and used them to validate the guidelines. The FMWA&SD will launch the finalized national OVC service standards in August, 2013.

- This quarter, CUBS continued to implement the Innovative Challenge Fund project they won in March, 2013 through MSH's Center for Health Services. CUBS' Innovative Challenge Fund project aims to improve Nigeria's OVC services by using *Dimagi Commcare*, a simple mobile phone and web-based M&E application that facilitates accurate and timely data-gathering and efficient reporting at a low-cost. During the quarter, project team trained 25 community volunteers in Gombe State to use the application and created a unique identifier for each volunteer. The volunteers can now enter data on OVC program enrollment, services received, and health status into the application using Smart phones. Once entered, this data populates a web-based platform that feeds into databases run by MSH and other partners, including the United States and Nigerian governments. Partners then use this data for record-keeping and OVC program planning.

  Once trained, the volunteers began using the application to document their community OVC service activities. After one month of implementation, CUBS organized a review meeting for volunteers to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learnt using the application. The meeting also provided an opportunity for CUBS to plan for the project's close out and discuss sustaining the achievements beyond the pilot phase.

  One experience the community volunteers shared was that the phones they received improved their status in the community and many other residents now want to become project volunteers. Volunteers also reported that they had encountered several challenges, including an irregular power supply and intermittent internet access. This limited their ability to upload of data onto the phones. Some volunteers also password, making it difficult for them to access their accounts. Other volunteers reported that it was a challenge to regularly access the CSOs' offices to access children's folders they lacked transport fare. They did not have credit in their phones to make calls in order to ask questions. By the end of June, the volunteers had provided a minimum of one service to

469 children and uploaded the patients' data using the application. To address some of the challenges highlighted above, CUBS provided transportation and communication allowances to the volunteers.

As part of the project's efforts to build the capacity of SMWA&SD, CUBS invited staff from the Gombe SMWA&SD's OVC Division to attend a training where they learned to use of this mobile application. The community volunteers suggested that the SMWA&SD takes over the project to ensure continuity.

- Last quarter, community stakeholders held a seminar in Rivers State to commemorate the day of the African child (DAC) entitled, "Eliminating Harmful Social and Cultural Practices affecting Children: Our Collective Responsibility" to celebrate the Day of the African Child. Participants included staff from CUBS, the CSOs, the child protection networks, the Association Of OVC NGOs in Nigeria, and CPCs. The Deputy Superintendent of Police also attended along with community youths and traditional leaders. The event's objectives were as follows:
    - to raise awareness about harmful practices against children,
    - to highlight the negative consequences of these harmful practices on children,
    - to explain the impact of the international and regional human rights laws in relation to harmful practices against children,
    - to emphasize the urgent need to review Nigeria's legislative and policy frameworks and practices to ensure they effectively combat harmful practices against children;
    - to advocate for African governments, CSOs, faith based organizations, the media, and other key stakeholders to become more actively involved in promoting child rights and combating harmful practices against children;
    - to align with the African Children's Charter and the Call for Accelerated Action to identify key areas where governments should take action to improve child safety; and
    - to consider effective strategies for the prevention of harmful practices against children.

Children delivered these messages, calling for guardians and parents to protect children from forced/early marriage, child labor/abuse, street hawking, lack of access to education, poor nutrition, lack of medical services, incest, boy-child preference, sexual abuse and female genital mutilation.

CUBS, CSOs, and other stakeholders also participated in DAC activities in Bayelsa State. In this state, the SMWA&SD commemorated the day with presentations, cultural dances, and drama presentation that demonstrated the risks of child labor and highlighted the laws that are in place to fight child labor.

- Other states also organized DAC activities. In Enugu State, the Global Health Awareness Research Foundation, with technical assistance from CUBS, advocated for the support of

vulnerable households to the wife of the LGA Chairman in Udi State to provide support for vulnerable children and their caregivers. In Imo State, CUBS organized an event where children wrote essays about ways to address harmful traditional practices in their state. Finally, in Bayelsa State, CUBS supported the State Ministry of Women Affairs in collaborating with the Ministry of Health to test 2000 febrile children for malaria and distributed 200 long lasting insecticide treated nets to households with children under five years old.

- CUBS continues to work collaboratively with other implementing partners, building synergies and eliminating duplications while supporting the MWA&SD to implement the NPA. In Enugu State, for example, CUBS invited the Society for Family Health to provide technical assistance on the project's HIV/AIDS prevention strategy during the project performance review meeting. This approach has strengthened the relationships between implementing partners by providing an opportunity for joint planning and collaborative strategizing.

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

The CUBS project has continued to build capacities and mentor state and community stakeholders to ensure OVC and their caregivers receive quality, comprehensive services. This quarter, CUBS finished training 76 OVC desk officers and other staff from line departments in the 33 LGAs on OVC program leadership and coordination. This training and reports from the project's CSO partners indicated that CUBS has garnered significant community ownership and participation in the project's interventions. The following section summarizes the activities CUBS conducted this quarter to strengthen the capacity of national and state stakeholders to better protect, care for, and improve the well-being of OVC.

State-level System Strengthening Activities

- Some states have begun to lead and host OVC TWG meetings in partnership with state agencies for the control of AIDS and other implementing partners. During the Gombe MWA&SD's quarterly OVC TWG meeting, participants discussed issues affecting the well-being of OVC and the activities of the Child Protection Network in the state. The participants drafted an advocacy plan to earn support from religious and community leaders in domesticating the Child Rights Acts and enforcing the protection of child rights. Implementing partners and the MWA&SD will jointly fund implementation of this advocacy plan.

- The Gombe State team provided technical assistance to the Children's Parliament in drafting a motion for the state government to domesticate the 2003 Child's Right Act. This motion was presented to the state government during the Children's Day celebration. To strengthen the Children's Parliament's coordination, advocacy, and presentations skills, the SMWA&SD assigned it a coordinator who now helps to liaise between the parliament and government. The coordinator is will also help the children develop a capacity building plan and share it with the ministry to request implementation support.

- This quarter, the Ministry of Health hosted a stakeholders' forum in Gombe State with support from MSH's Program to build Leadership and Accountability in Nigeria's Health System (PLAN Health) project. The CUBS team participated in this forum and disseminated a community-based health insurance manual to participants. CUBS hopes the SMWA&SD and CSOs will buy into community-based health insurance as a means to improve the health of vulnerable groups.

- CUBS helped the Delta SMWA&SD write a proposal to the Delta State Action Committee on AIDS (DELSACA) requesting support and funding for NOMIS training. Additionally, CUBS supported DELSACA in planning for the *National HIV/AIDS Prevention Plan Consultative Review Meeting for South- South and South East States*. This meeting is scheduled to take place in Port Harcourt from July 4-6, 2013. During the planning session, implementing partners reviewed the state HIV/AIDS prevention data that DELSACA will present at the regional meeting.

- Participants at Bayelsa State's TWG meeting included staff from line ministries, National Planning Commission, and other implementing partners. Attendees discussed a number of key issues including the roles of various service providers in the state, plans for OVC state mapping, and NOMIS training for the LGA staff. Additionally, the group discussed plans for a CSI training for community volunteers in their pidgin language and the status of efforts to pass the Child Rights Act.

- In Ekiti State, MSH collaborated with PACT, the Association of OVC Organizations in Nigeria, and the SMWA&SD to disseminate the *PEPFAR Guidelines on OVC Programming* to CSOs. The state team also helped the Ekiti State Agency for the Control of AIDS negotiate a contract for NGOs to be funded by the World Bank HIV/AIDS Fund II. Three of CUBS' CSOs were shortlist for the grant award.

LGA System Strengthening Activities

Implementing partners are scaling up OVC activity coordination across the 33 LGAs. Partners are also strengthening the capacity of LGA staff so they can take over the coordination and management of OVC-related issues at the LGA and community levels. The following section summarizes the activities CUBS conducted this quarter to improve LGA systems and staff capacity.

- CUBS conducted the following OVC trainings and orientations for LGA staff:
    - In Akwa Ibom State, CUBS conducted a two-day leadership and OVC coordination orientation session for the council secretary, the service head, health directors, women development officers, and other personnel from Uyo's line departments. Participants from Etinan, Mkpat Enin, Uyo, Itu, Nsit Ibom, Oruk Anam and Esit Eket LGAs pledged to work with their councils establish an OVC TWG.
    - In Bayelsa State, CUBS conducted a training for staff from Yenagoa, Sagbama, Ogbia and Kolokuma/Opokuma LGAs, including the Sagbama LGA's OVC

TWG chairman. The trainees are expected to strengthen OVC activities in their various LGAs.

- In Enugu State, CUBS' conducted an orientation session focused on building capacity of LGA staff from Enugu East, Igbo–Eze South, and Nsukka to coordinate OVC activities in their communities.
- In Taraba State, CUBS helped staff from the Jalingo and Zing LGAs develop six-month action plans. The LGAs will fund the work plan activities and the state team will provide technical assistance to support for implementation.

It is important to note that some LGA staff were not aware of OVC programs in their LGAs and had limited interaction with the ministry of gender affairs before the orientation. This orientation provided an opportunity for close interaction between the LGAs and state ministry staff. CUBS expects that the trained LGA staff will be better able to coordinate OVC activities in their councils and provide support to the CSOs and CPCs to increase OVC and caregivers' access to services.

- CUBS led a capacity assessment in Ogbia, Sagbama, Kolokuma/Opokuma, and Yenagoa LGAs. The assessment will help CUBS to identify OVC providers, services rendered, OVC service delivery challenges and needs, and gaps in staff capacity and knowledge. CUBS will use the assessment findings and recommendations to develop and implement mentoring plans to close identified gaps.

- CUBS organized a three-day TWG orientation exercise in Kebbi State to increase the knowledge of MWA&SD desk officers and other OVC stakeholders. Specifically, participants learned about dangers facing OVC and their roles in protecting these children. Participants also learned about different stakeholders' responsibilities in relation to OVC, as outlined in national protocols and guidelines.

- In Ekiti State, CUBS conducted a three-day capacity building program on roles and responsibilities in OVC programming for the wives of LGA chairmen, OVC desk officers, community development officers, and the state OVC desk officers. At the end of the program, staff from the four participating LGAs developed work plans to guide them in fulfilling their responsibilities. The LGAs will fund these work plans and will work with the state OVC desk officer to monitor the implementation of the activities.

- The Imo State, the OVC TWG held meetings the Owerri West, Ehime Mbano, and Oguta LGAs. In each meeting, participants resolved to fast track the formation of Community Care Committees in their respective LGAs. Owerri West LGA worked with government liaison officers and traditional rulers to agree on procedures for the formation of Community Care Committees and subsequent OVC mapping in the communities.

- The Gombe State team organized a three-day TWG orientation session for desk officers and social welfare officers from the five LGAs where CUBS' CSOs are working. Participants developed action plans to ensure that LGA OVC TWGs are established and strengthened.

Community Ownership and Coordination

A major contributing factor to CUBS' achievements is community ownership of and participation in the project activities. Many of the project-supported communities, led by their CPCs, are actively involved in mitigating OVC-related problems using their own resources. Below are some examples of community-led support for OVC.

- In Rivers State, the traditional ruler of Umuebulu and the CPC are collaborating with the State Universal Basic Education Board to provide desks for the only primary school in the community. CUBS helped the CPC draft a letter to the State Universal Basic Education Board requesting these commodities.

- The Bayelsa state team supported KAN Foundation, a CSO, to establish CPCs in Ikibiri, Sabageria, and Opume. The CSO trained the CPC members how to oversee and protect vulnerable children in their communities. The CSO's executive director encouraged the CPC members to call on him for assistance, as needed, and urged them to advocate for vulnerable children in their communities. CPC members agreed to create a supportive environment in which OVC and their caregivers could thrive and where problems facing vulnerable children could be quickly resolved. This is a major achievement, as these communities were formerly resistant to the idea of collectively supporting OVC and their caregivers.

- To reduce the malaria epidemic among vulnerable children and their caregivers, the CUBS helped the National Malaria Control Programme conduct a training on malaria case management and rapid diagnostic testing for health center workers in all LGAs within Delta State. Over 400 health workers attended the four-day training and learned to follow the newly-approved national guidelines for the effective treatment of malaria. The Delta State team followed up with project's CSO partners to ensure their caregiver and OVC beneficiaries were accessing malaria services at the primary health centers.

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

- CUBS trained 160 female household heads from Bayelsa, Ekiti, and Sokoto States in household economic strengthening (HES), microenterprise integration, homestead farming, and household nutrition. After the training, the beneficiaries submitted business plans and assessment forms to the facilitators. Facilitators used the assessment forms to determine the women's level of vulnerability so they could assess the feasibility of their business plans. Business plans include the proposed business type and the capital and/or goods the woman would need to start her business. Next quarter, CUBS will support up to half of these beneficiaries with in-kind donations, including labor-saving farm equipment, goods to sell and cash crops. These donations will allow the women to either start or expand an existing small businesses.

- In January of 2013, the project-supported CSOs enrolled 14 adolescent girls from Rivers

State into various vocational skills training centers to learn tailoring, basic computer skills, and hair dressing. The dressmaker and hairdresser trainees are now halfway through their programs and CUBS monitoring reports from May and June show they have made significant progress. Happiness Sunday, one of four dressmaker trainees, has begun to earn an income making dresses for her peers and is also teaching others dressmaking skills. Girls in the computer skills program completed their training at the end of July, 2013. The computer center facilitating this training has already offered the girls employment and all have accepted, except one, who has decided to complete her formal education before beginning to work.

- CUBS conducted pre-assessments for HES grants Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Imo, Taraba, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Bayelsa States. In Akwa Ibom, most of the project's HES beneficiaries have successfully initiated commercial palm oil production and vegetable farming and may not need the seed grants. In Rivers, Bayelsa, Imo, Kebbi, and Sokoto States, beneficiaries have submitted fundable proposals to engage in food processing and petty trading. The CUBS team has reviewed these proposals and CUBS plans to disburse seed grants to several beneficiaries next quarter.

- On June 25 and 26, CUBS facilitated exchange visits, experience sharing, and exhibitions between and within communities implementing HES initiatives in Delta State. These activities were designed to foster learning between communities and to support scale-up of the intervention. Twenty-eight HES beneficiaries from four communities participated in a one-day exhibition to showcase their achievements. After the exhibition, the beneficiaries visited several business sites where they learned about food processing and other business ventures. In addition to the beneficiaries, stakeholder participants included representatives from micro-finance institutions, staff from Ministries of Women Affairs and Commerce, the Millennium Development Goals Directorate, and LGA and CPC members. The state media covered these proceedings at nearly zero cost to the project. CUBS Exchange Learning Visit for its Delta State HES stakeholders on June 25 & 26, 2013. A full report of these activities can be found here: http://africare.org/documents/REPORTOFTHEHOUSEHOLDECONOMICSTRENGTHENINGEXCHANGEVISITSINDELTASTATE.pdf

  Below are several testimonies from HES beneficiaries who participated in this event. Their stories have been developed and will be attached to subsequent reports.

  - Bridget Egesi, a beneficiary from the Nigeria AIDS Counseling Organization, started a business selling non-alcoholic beverages. After participating in CUBS' enterprise development training for OVC caregivers, she obtained a loan, which she used to open a pharmaceutical shop. Within months of opening the business, Bridget had made enough of a profit to repay the loan and enroll her five children in school.
  - Friday Favour, a caregiver with six children, received a loan from the Rural Linkage Network (RULIN) obtained a loan to establish an oil mill. She has since repaid this loan and now has a small staff of eight that helps her run the mill. Friday has used the oil profits to enroll her children in school.

- At the age of 15, Elizabeth Osesi was registered by the RULIN as an adolescent household head. The RULIN staff then enrolled Elizabeth in a training program where she developed tailoring skills and CUBS gave her a sewing machine and a generator so she could continue to use the machine during power outages. Elizabeth is now better able to provide for herself and her younger brother.
- CUBS recently helped Love Joshua establish a small convenient store. As the business grew, Love attempted to expand the store but was unable to obtain a loan. In response, the CUBS team partnered with a microfinance bank to earn a low-interest loan for Love and several over beneficiaries.

Next quarter, CUBS will hold HES exchange visits for beneficiaries in Gombe and Akwa Ibom States.

- CUBS helps stakeholders establish Girl Groups so that adolescent girls have a safe space to socialize and network with one another. This quarter, CUBS facilitated one Girl Group meeting in Ekiti State. Participants included 21 girls from Oye, Omuo, and Ekiti West and sessions covered life skills, HIV prevention, and protection. Girls learned through experience-sharing and sessions on life skills and reproductive health, facilitated by role models. Participants not only benefited personally, but also gained knowledge and skills they can share with peers and groups in their communities. After this meeting, CUBS partner, Foundation for Sustainable Health Promotion & Development, engaged 30 more adolescent girls in interactive sessions where they discussed reproductive health issues, sexuality transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, family planning, and career choices. These sessions also included opportunities for girls to share their personal concerns and learn from one another. Bayelsa and Gombe States will conduct this activity next quarter.

- This quarter, CUBS organized a meeting Enugu State to discuss challenges boys face completing their schooling and ways to overcome these challenges. In Enugu State and other parts of eastern Nigeria, many boys are pressured to earn an income early in life so they can support their families. This pressure causes many boys to drop out of school so they can work. In response to these conditions, stakeholders agreed on the following actions:

    - The Ministry of Education will hand over to the police for prosecution any official reports they receive from caregivers and/or the public about malpractices that stop children from coming to school;
    - Stakeholders will explore science and technical schools as a way to retain boys in school while building their economic capacity so they can support their families; and
    - Regional stakeholders will develop a boys' educational policy framework for the southeastern states.

- CUBS is exploring different service delivery strategies to more effectively reach female OVC and female heads of OVC households. The team began conducting operational research this quarter in Gombe and Akwa Ibom State and data collection will continue through March of 2014. The research will document and evaluate innovative best practices for reducing the risks and burden of HIV/AIDS and other sexuality transmitted

infections among the target groups. The two questions guiding this research are as follows:

- Have CUBS' educational activities, income-generating interventions, and reproductive health trainings led to any changes in the lives of female OVC?
- Which of these three interventions has most significantly reduced risk-taking behavior in female OVC?

CUBS' operational research activities commenced when the team conducted a baseline assessment in Akwa Ibom and Gombe States. CUBS collected data by conducting key informant interviews, facilitating focus group discussions, and distributing questionnaires in 24 intervention and 6 control communities in Akwa Ibom and 8 intervention and 6 control communities in Gombe. This data will allow the team to assess the CUBS' project gaps, challenges, benefits, and impact on OVC and caregiver beneficiaries, CSOs, and communities. CUBS will share the preliminary report of findings in next quarter's report.

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

- To continue strengthening local capacity to implement, monitor, and evaluate OVC programs, CUBS trained 29 staff from Imo State's SMWA&SD and LGAs in NOMIS. Furthermore, the project worked with FHI 360, MEASURE Evaluation, and the FMWA&SD to provide M&E skills training for 25 ministry staff from Bayelsa State in NOMIS.

- CUBS helped the Ekiti SMWA&SD conduct an OVC survey and submitted the survey report state government for approval and dissemination.

- CUBS continued to help CSO establish and maintain fully-functional governing boards to help guide and focus the organizations' efforts. After helping two more CSOs establish governing boards this quarter, the project now has 38 governing board across its CSOs. CUBS will now help the CSOs improve and maintain the functionality of these board for optimal benefit to the organizations.

- This quarter, the project helped 11 CSO develop strategic plans. CUBS now has a total of 16 CSOs with strategic plans to guide their operations. These plans support the project's goal of enhancing CSOs' viability and sustainability so the organizations will continue to serve the target beneficiaries, even after the project is over. CUBS plans that, by the end of next quarter, the remaining CSOs will have their strategic plans in place.

- To strengthen and aid the functionality of its partner organizations' structures and systems, CUBS worked with two CSOs (i.e., Silverline Development Initiative in Akwa Ibom State and Health Care Foundation in Rivers State) to develop staff policy handbooks.

- CUBS facilitated several linkages, networks, and leveraging opportunities to support system strengthening and sustainability of project gains. These opportunities have yielded and are yielding great dividends. In Bayelsa, Gombe, Taraba, Sokoto, Ekiti, Enugu, Imo, and Rivers States, CUBS worked with communities, the federal ministry of health, SMWA&SD, the Ministry of Agriculture, FADAMA, the Lift Above Poverty Organization, media organizations, private philanthropists, etc. These efforts yielded many benefits, including the following:
    - Caregiver training and empowerment,
    - Establishment of food banks to collect donations for OVC and caregivers,
    - HES trainings for caregivers, and
    - Increased advocacy and awareness of child protection issues.

  These activities indicate increased community involvement and ownership of OVC and caregiver support activities.

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

Analyze CSI Tracking Data

- This quarter, the project shared its CSI data with MSH's global staff. MSH provided feedback that CUBS is now incorporating to improve the CSI system and processes. CUBS will continue to share its CSI data and experiences in order to solicit input from other stakeholders and further refine its processes.

Disseminate Information, Education, and Communication Materials

- CUBS finished developing the information, communication, and education materials it had begun in 2010. These posters and table-top flipcharts help service providers and community members better understand OVC programming. CSO staff and volunteers will also use these materials to educate OVC, caregivers, and community members and advocate with relevant stakeholders. The materials will be distributed to the state teams who will train CUBS' CSO partners to use them during community-level activities and stakeholder engagements.

Intermediate Result 6: Cost-effective Project Management to Meet Deliverables

Organize Household Economic Strengthening Community of Practice (HESCoP) Meeting

- HESCoP was launched in June 2012 to provide a forum for learning and knowledge exchange among HES stakeholders in Nigeria. CUBS hosts the secretariat and coordinates the activities on the forum. The meeting, which held May 23, 2013 had 15 participants from 11 organizations including two Government agencies. The 2013 workplan was reviewed and partners were assigned activities that they would coordinate. Membership of the thematic working groups was updated.

Organize a Project Performance Review Meeting

- CUBS held a project performance review meeting from May 14 - 15 at the Dannic Hotel Enugu State. The meeting's theme was: "Sustaining Current Gains through Effective Program Implementation." Twenty-five project staff attended the session and CUBS announced the following meeting objectives:
    - Review achievements, key results, and challenges from the first half of PY4
    - Plan for the second half of PY4 and PY5
    - Facilitate team bonding

  Staff reviewed the project's PMP and compared achievement against targets in the January to March quarter. Using a "fish bone analysis" strategy, participants reviewed several indicators to determine the root causes of poor performance and developed an action plan to address these root cause. Most discussions focused on the project's prevention indicator. CUBS asked a staff member from one of the prevention implementing partners, the Society for Family Health, to share some of their more successful prevention strategies. Other meeting activities included knowledge and skills-building sessions on:
    - prevention,
    - decision-making and delegating for faster results,
    - how to write winning abstracts,
    - how to tell our story, and
    - communicating our results effectively.

  At the end of the review meeting, all staff had a better understanding of CUBS' PMP, the results achieved so far, and actions needed to meet the remaining targets. Staff developed their elevator pitches that will tell the CUBS story in a way that will create an impact.

Organize a CSO Review Meeting

- CUBS organized a three-day CSO review meeting to showcase the organizations' achievements, discuss their challenges, and identify procedures for addressing those challenges to ensure the project gains are fully sustainable. All 38 CSOs participated in the workshop. CSOs from Ekiti, Gombe, Taraba, Kebbi, and Sokoto States met from June 4 - 6 at Nugget Hotel in Abuja. CSOs from Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, Delta, Enugu, and Imo States met from June 15 – 17 at the Dannic Hotel in Enugu.

  The CSOs presented posters on their achievements, lessons learnt, and plans for the remaining half of the year. These poster presentations provided an opportunity for the CSOs to showcase their work creatively and enthusiastically. Each CSO demonstrated their commitment to the project and capacity to effectively provide service to their communities.

  During the meeting, CUBS encouraged CSOs to pursue networking and knowledge sharing as strategies to address the challenges. Some CSOs started networking with other organizations by establishing internship opportunities and mentoring arrangements. The

weak CSOs asked the stronger CSOs to mentor them. In the coming months, CUBS will further support these collaborative efforts by deepening and strengthening CSO networks and shared learning platforms.

Presentations at the Women Deliver and the International AIDS Society Conferences

- CUBS' Associate Director of M&E represented the project at the Women Deliver Conference, while CUBS' Gender Advisor participated in the International AIDS Society Conference. The conferences were held in Malaysia in May and June, respectively. Conference reports are attached as Annexes 1 and 2.
  - CUBS' Gender Advisor wrote an article commemorating the 2013 International Women's Day celebration in Nigeria. This article was entitled "Gender Interventions in Nigeria Empower Vulnerable Children and Female Caregivers through Education, Economic Strengthening and Advocacy." The piece describes the International Women's Day activities that CUBS and the project partners participated in four Niger Delta states. Specifically, the piece describes the project team's advocacy efforts, reproductive health education sessions, and economic strengthening initiatives, which are all reducing the vulnerability of women and girls in Nigeria. This story is included in Annex 3 and has been published on the MSH website at: http://www.msh.org/news-events/stories/gender-interventions-in-nigeria-empower-vulnerable-children-and-female

V. Problems and Opportunities

- Through a competitive process, CUBS selected the CSO, LCIF, to replace PESWAC in Rivers State. The Ministry of Women and Social Rehabilitation in collaboration with CUBS is supervising the transition between LCIF and PESWAC to ensure that children enrolled in PESWAC's care program receive consistent care during this process.

- The political situation in Rivers State has made it difficult to conduct planned activities at the state- and LGA-levels, especially the TWG meetings. One problem the CUBS encountered this quarter was the dismissal of LGA chairmen and councilors from the project-supported communities. Furthermore, the Rivers State Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation is on strike and the few activities they conduct are done so privately, without CUBS involvement. The Ministry has informed CUBS that all project activities will be on hold until their problems are resolved. CUBS is continuing to work with CPCs in Rivers State to ensure OVC and their caregivers receive services.

VI. Success Stories

- Annex 3 includes a success story about 100 caregivers who are no longer living in poverty, thanks to CUBS' HES training.

- The project-supported CSO have reported successful behavior change among relevant authorities regarding issues of rape, child abuse, and harmful cultural practices against women and girls. In Enugu State, for instance, CUBS is helping the CSO, Foundation for God's Love, to eliminate stigma and discrimination against female. In one case, the CSO staff learned that a family had dedicated a girl to a religious idol and then forced her to leave the family home. The CSO referred this girl to the International Federation of Women Lawyers, which sued her family for molestation and abuse. The offending family member is now in prison for these crimes. In Taraba State, CUBS is collaborating with International Federation of Women Lawyers and Nigerian Bar Association to secure pro-bono legal services for two widows and their children, who are unable to access funds and assets left to them in their late husbands' wills.

- The project has also written a story on successful women's empowerment activities. This story, "Pressing Palms into Pride: CUBS Economically Empowers Communities to Care for Vulnerable Children" is in Annex 3, and has also been published on the Africare website at http://africare.org/our-stories/stories/PressingPalmsIntoPride.php .

- CUBS also trained several female caregivers in short-term farming and these beneficiaries have initiated agro-related cooperative businesses. The women report that their collective efforts have allowed them to save time and energy on income-generating tasks and they now have more time to look after their children and engage in other profitable activities.

VII. Next Quarter's Expected Results and Related Tasks

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

- Complete caregiver trainings across the project sites

- Conduct the Leadership and Development Plus Program to enable Ohunowerre CPC members in Enugu State to mitigate the impact of the harmful cultural practices against women

- Help the Ekiti, Imo, and Bayelsa State teams to adapt and apply the new NPA on OVC.

- Develop CUBS' PY5 work plan

- Provide technical and managerial support to help state teams better coordinate the project activities.

- Provide technical support to enable state teams to effectively implement the block grant initiatives.

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

- Mentor SMWA&SD and LGA staff to strengthen OVC programming in their domains

- Conduct and facilitate OVC TWG meetings at state and LGA levels

- Distribute OVC-related information, education, and communication materials to CSOs and state teams

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

- Disburse seed grants for HES activities in states that have completed their grant proposals.

- Facilitate exchange visits and experience-sharing between and within communities implementing HES initiatives in Akwa Ibom and Gombe States.

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

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

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

- Finalize the CSI data analysis and Ekiti State OVC survey reports

- Present CUBS CSI data to USAID, the Ministry of Health, other implementing partners, and the project-supported CSOs.

- Facilitate the improvement and functionality of the 38 CSOs' governing boards

- Help the 16 CSOs who have not yet developed strategic plans to complete these plans

- Conduct mentoring visits to CSOs to enhance policy implementation

- Mentor CSOs to help them implement their organizational development plans

- Create linkages and opportunities for networking, build alliances, and advocate for enhanced resource mobilization, organizational income opportunities, and project sustainability

- Conduct monitoring and supervisory visits to CSOs to strengthen documentation and engender accountability and quality assurance

- Work on reporting and documenting project achievements, gains, and successes

Intermediate Result 5: Documentation and Dissemination of Successful and Innovative Approaches, Sustainable Models, Evidence-based Best Practices, and Lessons Learned

- Document and disseminate information on female caregivers and heads of households, including adolescent girls, who have benefitted from specific interventions to reduce their vulnerability

- Document and publish success stories showing beneficiaries' positive behavior change as a result of CUBS' gender orientation trainings in 11 states

- Organize and facilitate the second national roundtable meeting on promising practices in HES, educational support, and best practice dissemination

- Publish and disseminate the CUBS' educational approach and the positive impact of this intervention on the lives of OVC

- Disseminate OVC-related information, education, and communication materials at various national, LGA, and state coordination forums

- Organize state-level planning meetings for CUBS' end-of-project experience sharing session

Intermediate Result 6: Cost-effective Project Management to Meet Deliverables

- Organize STTAs:
    - Dana Bos for decision-making and delegation skills building
    - Dan Nelson for PY 5 work planning

- Conduct annual staff retreat

- Organize PY 5 work planning meetings

- Convene a governors' wives forum

CUBS Project

Quarterly Progress Report

1st January to 31st March 2011

Annex 1: Women Deliver Conference 2013 Report

CUBS Project

Quarterly Progress Report

1st January to 31st March 2011

Annex 2: International AIDS Society Conference 2013 Report

Annex 3: CUBS Success Stories