

Quarterly Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

July – September 2013

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

Quarterly Report July 1 to September 30, 2013



Beneficiaries of CUBS Household Economic Strengthening intervention in Akwa Ibom showing some of the produce from their farms.

October, 2013

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Project Title: Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria

Recipient: Management Sciences for Health

To: Mr. Olusola Onifade [OVC Manager]

Reporting Period: July 1 to September 30, 2013

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Acronyms

| | |
|----------|--|
| AIDSTAR | AIDS Support and Technical Resources |
| CPC | Child Protection Committee |
| CPN | Child Protection Network |
| CSI | Child Status Index |
| CSO | civil society organization |
| CUBS | Community Based Support for OVC |
| HES | household economic strengthen |
| HIV/AIDS | human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome |
| LGA | local government area |
| M&E | monitoring and evaluation |
| MSH | Management Sciences for Health |
| NAPEP | National Poverty Eradication Program |
| NOMIS | National OVC Management Information System |
| NPA | National Priority Agenda |
| OVC | orphans and vulnerable children |
| PEPFAR | President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief |
| PSS | psychosocial support services |
| PY | project year |
| SACA | State Agencies for the Control of AIDS |
| SMWA | State Ministry of Women Affairs |
| STTA | short-term technical assistance |
| TWG | technical working group |
| VSLA | Voluntary Savings and Loan Associations |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |

I. Summary

A. Executive Summary

Management Sciences for Health (MSH), in collaboration with Africare and Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (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 6,528 OVC served with a minimum of one care service, 104 of who were newly enrolled in an OVC care program. This brings the total number of OVC served since October 2012 to 46,545 accounting for 96 percent of the PY4 annual target. The project also worked hard to empower household heads, especially the households headed by females to sustain the gains of the short term services as reported under intermediate result four. The state teams worked closely with the CSOs to conduct integrated and comprehensive caregiver training. The successes of the project derive from the knowledge and skills built in these caregivers to continue to care for the OVC. Within the quarter, 128 caregivers were trained in OVC psychosocial support (PSS), health, food and nutrition, and economic strengthening skills, bringing the total number of caregivers trained within the year to 3843, exceeding the annual target.

During the quarter under review, collaboration with the state and local government was priority for the project. For example, When the wife of the Executive Governor of Imo states Nneoma Nkechi Rochas Okorocho, publicly acknowledged Honorbirth, a CUBS supported CSO, CUBS was on hand to meet with her Senior Adviser to discuss issues of OVC in Imo state and advised on sustainable programming. Additionally, CUBS actively participated in several meetings hosted by USAID and the Government of Nigeria to discuss OVC programming in Nigeria.

Figure 1



Her Excellency, Nneoma Nkechi Rochas Okorocho, the Wife of the Executive Governor of Imo State, Nneoma Nkechi Rochas Okorocho (R), with Elizabeth Onyemachi, Program Officer of Honourbirth Foundation (L)

This quarter, CUBS expanded the Household Economic Strengthening (HES) approach, with the provision of seed grants to the caregivers in nine states. Five hundred and ninety three (593) female heads of households in these states were supported to develop simple business plans which were assessed for viability. Of these, 290 qualified to receive seed grants to a maximum of \$62.5 each to start or expand a small business. HES interventions and activities strengthened the capacity of care givers and other stakeholders to better protect orphans and vulnerable children. Services targeted at establishing and strengthening already existing Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), a structure which supports the caregivers of OVC to learn the culture of saving and have access to loan that will be used to meet the needs of OVC were prioritized. Within the quarter, 23 VSLAs were established in seven states bringing the total to 40, across CUBS supported communities.

One of the most successful activities for CUBS this quarter are the HES exchange visits, a peer review mechanism through experience sharing and exhibitions of products between and within communities implementing HES initiatives. The HES exchange visits are facilitated by the project in collaboration with states' ministries of women affairs and social development, and organized by CSO partners and project beneficiaries, stakeholders. The event held in Akwa Ibom in July and in Gombe in August, with over 50 beneficiaries in attendance. The USAID monitoring team was hosted at the Akwa Ibom event. Participants at the meetings included top government officials from the federal and states ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture,

Education and Information. These stakeholders made presentations outlining their efforts at reducing OVC vulnerability since 2009 when the CUBS project began other donor partners working in similar areas in those states were also present, as was the media.

Continuing with efforts to reduce vulnerability of adolescent girls to HIV and STIs, CUBS facilitated a girl group forum in Gombe State where 21 girls representing six project communities travelled to the state capital – Gombe for the purpose of networking and life skills building. Two role models led discussions in career guidance, reproductive health and legal protection. During this visit, it was announced that since the CUBS training for law enforcement agents and other stakeholders the previous year, Gombe State has recorded about 116 rape cases, and justice has prevailed in most of the cases.

Forty-five staff of the CUBS project convened in Obudu from 8 - 14 September for a project retreat. The meeting reviewed activities of PY 4 and planned for PY 5 with a focus on project close out. A series of team building exercises focused on getting the staff to finish the project ‘powerfully, strongly together!’. Project staff were energized and motivated to put in their best in supporting the smooth transition of project activities to the states, Local Government Areas (LGAs) and CSOs as well as the seamless close out of project activities.

The major challenge CUBS encountered this quarter was delay by the Government of Nigeria in launching the National Priority Agenda (NPA) for OVC. As a result, the project is not able to support the adaptation of the new NPA in the states.

The project continues to watch cautiously as the political situation in Rivers State unfolds. Although this has restricted 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).

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.

B. Activity Financial Summary

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

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

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

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

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

Project Objectives

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

Project Components

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

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

III. Quarterly Data Achievement on Intermediate Results

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 | | | |
| | % of Children with improved wellbeing using CSI | 70% | | | | | 64% | 91% | |
| C1.1.D | # of eligible clients (OVC) provided with a minimum of one care service | 48,587 | 10,704 | 17,272 | 12,041 | 6528 | 46,545 | 96% | Projected to surpass annual target |
| | - # newly enrolled | 10,000 | 3,976 | 4,962 | 2,014 | 104 | 11,056 | >100% | |
| | - # previously enrolled | 38,587 | 6,728 | 12,310 | 10,027 | 6424 | 35,489 | 92% | |
| | Education (male) | | 630 | 1,300 | 2,171 | 353 | 5,454 | | |
| | Education (female) | | 567 | 1,295 | 2,071 | 1271 | 5,204 | | |
| | Health (male) | | 1,614 | 4,294 | 7,135 | 674 | 13,717 | | |
| | Health (female) | | 1,490 | 4,285 | 7,088 | 729 | 13,592 | | |
| | Psychosocial support (male) | | 5,050 | 7,900 | 7,082 | 1774 | 21,847 | | |
| | Psychosocial support (female) | | 4,969 | 7,690 | 6,823 | 1564 | 21,097 | | |
| | Shelter (male) | | 11 | 113 | 438 | 326 | 888 | | |
| | Shelter (female) | | 19 | 254 | 383 | 292 | 948 | | |
| | Protection (male) | | 734 | 532 | 768 | 260 | 2,294 | | |
| | Protection (female) | | 689 | 544 | 691 | 281 | 2,205 | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| | Nutrition (male) | | 1,051 | 2,271 | 3,910 | 1046 | 8,278 | | |
| | Nutrition (female) | | 963 | 2,183 | 3,784 | 1146 | 8,076 | | |
| | Economic strengthening (male) | | 0 | 19 | 181 | 0 | 200 | | |
| | Economic strengthening (female) | | 0 | 20 | 133 | 0 | 153 | | |
| C5.1.D | # of eligible clients (OVC) who received food and/or nutrition services | No target | 2,014 | 4,454 | 7,694 | 2192 | 16,354 | | |
| 1.4 | # of OVC caregivers who were trained in caring for OVC | 3,000 | 58 | 1,205 | 2452 | 128 | 3,843 | >100% | Surpassed annual target |
| 1.5 | # of OVC who were referred for clinical services | No target | 211 | 256 | 841 | 8 | 1316 | | |

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

| 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 | 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(16 LGAs) | 11 (36LGAs) | >100% | |
| 2.3 | # of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems | 4 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | >100% | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|---|----|----|---|-----|-------|--|
| 2.4 | # of persons from state ministries and LGAs trained in leadership and management | 60 | 0 | 14 | 76 | 0 | 131 | >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 | 0 | 54 | >100% | CUBS conducted the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) training in Imo and Bayelsa States and will conduct additional trainings, if requested to do so by the state ministries of women's affairs and social development (SMWA&SDs) |

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

| Indicator | Indicator Description | PY 4 Target | Achievement | | | | Total | % of Target Achieved | Explanation |
|-----------|--|-------------|-------------|----|----|-----|-------|----------------------|-------------|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| 3.1 | Number of Child protection Committee coordinating the protection of vulnerable children at the community level | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 116 | 116 | | |
| 3.2 | Number of Civil society organization that refers OVC using the existing states functional referral systems | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 100% | |

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

| Indicator | Indicator Description | PY 4 | Achievement | Total | % of | Explanation |
|-----------|-----------------------|------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|
|-----------|-----------------------|------|-------------|-------|------|-------------|

| | | Target | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | Target Achieved | |
|-----|--|-----------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----------------|---|
| 4 | % of households with reduced vulnerability of female OVC and female heads of households | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | This is end of project performance indicator to be derived from OR research |
| 4.1 | # of OVC reached with individual and/or small group level preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required | 6000 | 157 | 1749 | 3417 | 1467 | 6790 | >100% | Attention is also given to female adolescent |
| 4.2 | # of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program | No target | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | | |
| 4.3 | # of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers | 38 | 38 | 37 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 100% | |

Results #5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices

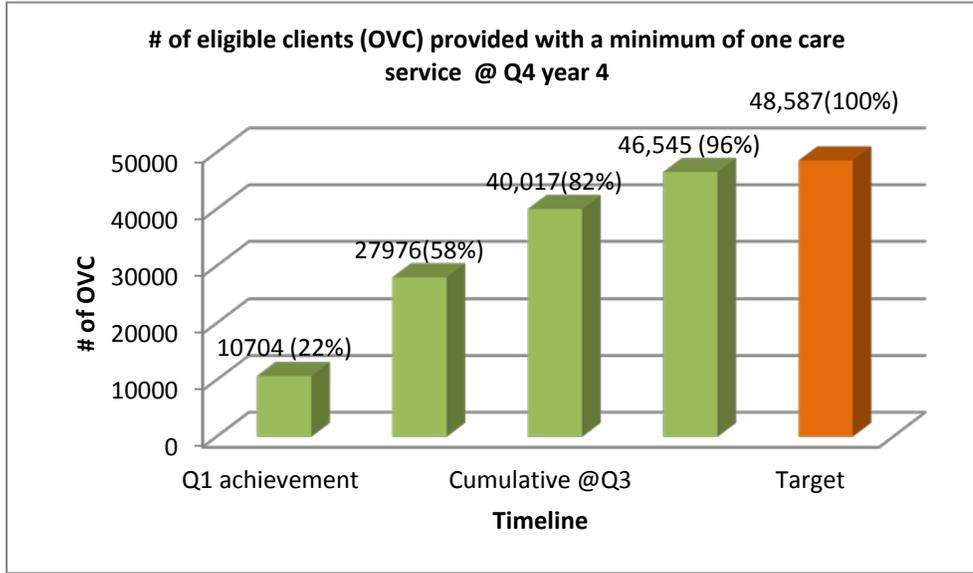
| Indicator | Indicator Description | PY 4 Target | Achievement | | | | Total | % of Target Achieved | Explanation |
|-----------|---|-------------|-------------|----|----|----|-------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | | | |
| 5.1 | # of persons trained in the use of the CSI | 50 | 0 | 25 | 29 | 0 | 54 | >100% | Completed training |
| 5.2 | # of service sites/delivery points that receive a DQA visit | 38 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 37 | 37 | 97% | |
| 5.3 | # of CSOs that provide data that are complete on a timely basis based on the national M&E Plan for OVCs | 38 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 38 | 38 | 100% | |

IV. Quarterly Progress

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

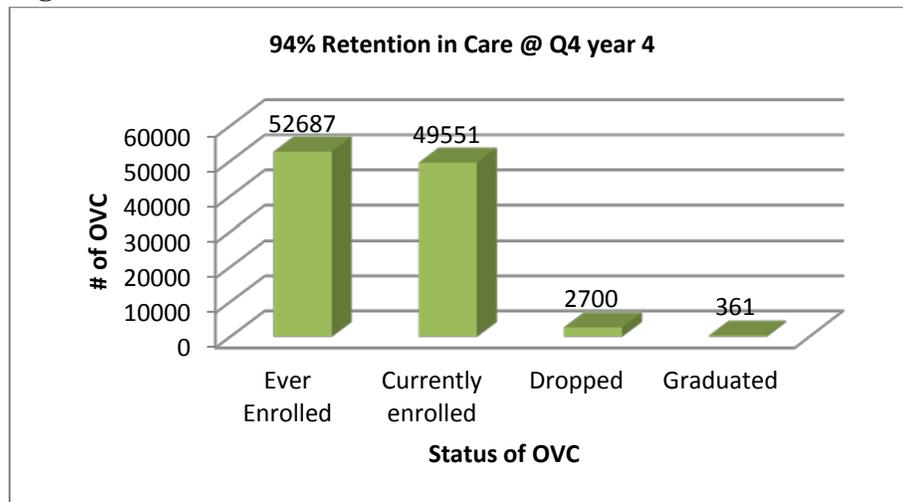
- Children received multiple services to address their care needs in all the service areas within the reporting period. Holistic and comprehensive services targeting health (1403), education (1624), psychosocial support (3336), protection (541), nutrition (2192) and; shelter and care components (618)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

Figure 2



- The project continues to maintain majority of clients enrolled. This is as a result of the rigorous follow up of enrolled clients by volunteers and CPC members. This is show in Figure 3 below.

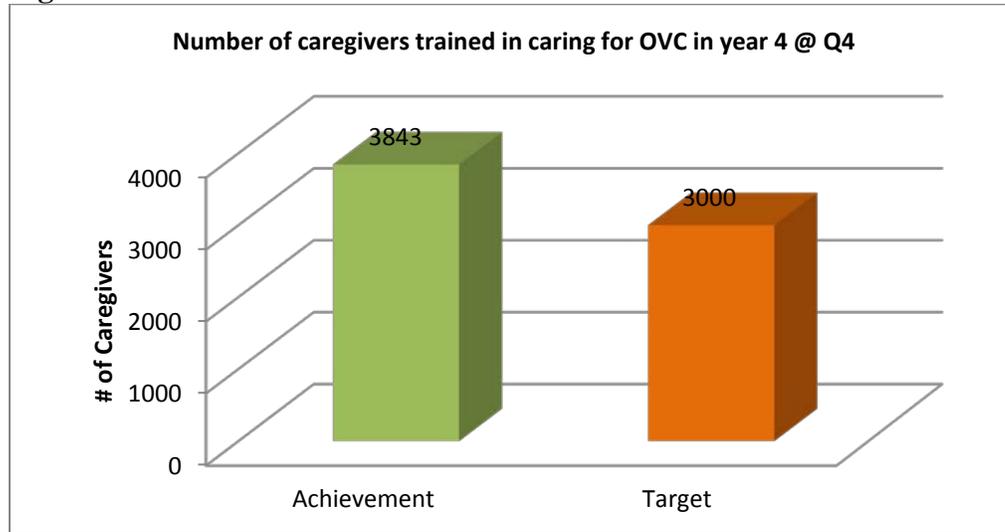
Figure 3



- As the year began to wind down, services within the quarter focused on HES interventions and activities that strengthened the capacity of care givers and other stakeholders to better protect orphans and vulnerable children. Services targeted at establishing and strengthening already existing VSLAs, a structure which supports the caregivers of OVC to learn the culture of saving and have access to loan that will be used to meet the needs of OVC when necessary. The VSLAs also provide platforms for integration of other services where caregivers support one another psychologically to prevent burnout, receive basic health and nutrition tips and continue to learn the basic skills needed for improved communication with OVC thereby improving the wellbeing of households. Within the quarter, **23** VSLAs were established in Enugu, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Bayelsa, Ekiti, Gombe and Kebbi states bringing the total to **40**, across CUBS supported communities. A member of the VSLA group in Delta who desired to expand her business has been linked to a microfinance bank where she was required to open a savings account to enable her access loan from the bank. While in Gombe, the CSOs have sent in proposal to Gombe State Agency for the Control of AIDS (GOMSACA) to support the establishment of the groups to procure saving boxes and record keeping books that will be required to make the new groups fully functional. Honourbirth Foundation, one of the CSOs supported by the project, received interest-free loans from Janet Dozie Foundation for 15 caregivers in a VSLA group in Imo state. Eleven women of the VSLA group in one of Widows Rehabilitation and Orphans Ministry’s community in Kebbi State received loans from the micro-finance bank to start businesses. Meanwhile, all the VSLA groups are working towards being registered as cooperatives to enable them have access to loans from the microfinance banks to grow their businesses.
- The state teams worked closely with the CSOs to conduct integrated and comprehensive caregiver training. It focused on building different skills ranging from counseling and

communication, coping with stress and burnout, dealing with stigma and discrimination, growth monitoring, immunization services, ensuring household food security, infant and young child feeding counseling, practical section on complementary feeding, water, sanitation, hygiene and HIV prevention. The successes of the project derive from the knowledge and skills built in these caregivers to continue to care for the OVC. Within the quarter, 128 caregivers were trained and this brings the total number of caregivers trained within the year to 3843, exceeding the annual target as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4



- Efforts towards increasing the number of OVC served with 6+1 services yielded quite positive results within the quarter. In Akwa Ibom State, the project elicited support from Akwa Ibom Agricultural Development Project to build the capacities of women farmers, provided improved seedlings and monitored the progress of their produce to maturity. The agency promised to continue to support these women in any way possible. The women learnt what crops to plant per season and the knowledge has helped to ensure household food security in each season. In like manner, the wife of Imo State Governor, Her Excellency Nneoma Nkechi Rochas Okorocho in recognition of the good work Honourbirth Foundation is doing supported over **800** children with food and clothing items.
- To address the multi-dimensional needs of OVC and in recognizing the various sectors required to meet these needs, the project partnered with several actors to organize education stakeholder meetings in Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom and Delta states. The aim of the stakeholder meetings were to get all stakeholders both in public and private sector to understand the challenges that OVC face in enrolling and remaining in school so they could discuss how best to intervene. They also aimed find ways to best support the government at the various states in achieving the free education campaign for primary

and junior secondary schools. The project used this as an opportunity to share with the stakeholders how the little resources from the project have been put to prudent use, supported by adequate monitoring and supportive supervision, this has achieved much in the educational development of vulnerable children. In Bayelsa state, the meeting got every stakeholder's commitment to the course of free and supportive education of children; especially for the vulnerable children, to enable them maximize their full potentials. Stakeholders at the meeting included staff of Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Education, State Universal Education Board, National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), National Orientation Agency, LGA OVC Desk Officers, and other implementing partners, representatives from private primary and secondary schools and CSO staff.

- With more resources made available to expand the coverage of the block grant initiative beyond a community per CSO, the project developed a memorandum of understanding with thirty-one (31) CSOs whose proposals met the minimum selection criteria and will be seeking approval from USAID for implementation in the final year of the project. CUBS' project is using block grant as a sustainable approach to work with the civil society organizations in select communities with higher percentages of vulnerable children to benefit from these interventions. Civil Society Organizations have submitted proposals which clearly identified needs and outlined strategies for intervention, including community counterpart contribution and stated desired outcome in the short and long term. CUBS will continue to work with the seven remaining CSOs to ensure they also come up with sustainable interventions that leave a strong support for vulnerable children at the exit of the project.
- While we wait for the launch of the Nigerian OVC service standards by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, the project is sustaining the gains of the quality improvement pilot phase in Akwa Ibom state by extending the quality improvement approach to other CSOs supported by CUBS in the state. To demonstrate the great capacities acquired by the pilot CSOs, staff and members of the Quality Improvement Team facilitated the quality improvement training for member from CSOs that were not involved in the pilot. CSOs that participated in the pilot will continue to mentor the other CSOs in this process through regular meetings.
- As the project begins to wind down, on-going mentorship and supportive supervision is one key approach the project has used to achieve its great results. The state teams, led by the Senior Program Officers and with support from the technical officers continued mentorship and supportive supervision to the state, LGA and CSO staffs to strengthen their capacities to coordinate, leverage and provide services to OVC.

- To fully maximize limited resources and make visits to the homes of OVC more meaningful, services were fully integrated to yield better results. In one visit to OVC household, CSO volunteers monitor school performance, provide nutrition education, hygiene and safe water education, counsel on HIV prevention and address issues that might arise. The continuous monitoring and supportive supervision from the state teams has reinforced the need for this integrative service delivery.
- CUBS in collaboration with other stakeholders to rescue children born in prisons in Delta state. Due to long awaiting trial time experienced in Nigerian prisons, women deliver babies in prisons and the children themselves become prisoners by virtue of their mothers' jail term, thereby increasing the vulnerability status of the children. In collaboration with the state Ministry of Women Affairs, Child protection Network and Koyenum Imallah Foundation (KIF), the Delta state team joins in the effort to rescue such children from the prisons. A letter requesting the release of the children was written by KIF with support from the project to State Police Command. The letter is awaiting approval and will continue to work with the state actors to secure their release and ensure subsequent care under the custody of the Government and further efforts will be made to transfer their care to grandparents or other kinsmen, pending the release of their mothers.

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

- The strengthening strategies employed by the project have continued to yield fruitful results that are not only affecting lives of OVC and their households positively but also supporting the growth of structures and systems. This is evident in the active collaboration of CUBS state partners and the UNICEF facilitated Child Protection Network across the 4 Niger Delta States of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers. Specifically, there were two cases of defilement, rape of a five and 15 years old girls are currently been addressed by law enforcement agencies in Delta and Rivers states respectively. The network also conducted training for Officers of the Nigeria Police Force in Bayelsa state to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to handle rape cases. The trained officers are expected to set up Child Protection Network (CPN) Desk Offices in their various divisions to allow for easy collation of data and litigation of rape in their domains.
- Additionally, a Nigeria Prison Service official in Rivers State pledged the support of his office in transferring detained children in prisons to remand homes in the state to prevent molestation and abuse by adults in the prisons.
- The Akwa Ibom state team was part of the Mid Term Review exercise of Akwa Ibom State Strategic Plan (SSP) on HIV/AIDS (2010-2013) held at the state capital to appraise

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

- In Sokoto State, the Ministry of Women Affairs met with all the Non-Governmental Organizations that are intervening in the area of OVC to assess progress made so far with regards to the welfare of OVC review the OVC work plan and challenges faced by NGOs. Lack of commitment of the LGAs and insufficient funding are examples of challenges faced by the organizations. In attendance were: Save the Child, Northern Education Initiative, CUBS/MSH, and State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA) and Network of People Living with AIDS in Nigeria.
- More OVC TWGs were activated in four, 10 and 15 LGAs of Rivers, Ekiti and Imo state respectively. This support to non-focal CUBS LGA is geared toward empowering LGAs to effectively develop work plans, advocate for release of funds in the LGA budgets for OVC activities and monitor implementation of activities that have direct benefit to OVC and their households

Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened Community Support for OVC care

- The CPC at Koroama community met with KAN Development Foundation of Bayelsa state to develop a strategy that will ensure continued community ownership and of CUBS interventions in Koroama community for the overall wellbeing of OVC and their households. The CPC members pledged their support to continue interventions of the CUBS project even after its end.
- While in Rivers state, NAPEP Loan Assessment team supported Hope and Care Foundation (HCF) to conduct assessments at Umuebulu and Ikwerre-ngwo communities of Etche LGA for female caregivers enrolled on the project. The loan, when disbursed will support the caregivers to startup businesses that will assist them in the upkeep of their children especially with issues around retention of OVC in schools. One hundred and forty six households from two communities were assessed for the loan.
- The 7th Akwa Ibom State Council on Health held with the theme “improving maternal and child health care through an improved primary healthcare approach”. The Akwa Ibom CUBS team and CSO partners were represented at this meeting, their contributions especially working at the community level added value to the body of knowledge generated and also provided opportunity for learning best practices in the area of maternal child health

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

- CUBS expanded the Household Economic Strengthening (HES) approach, with the provision of seed grants to the caregivers in nine states of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, Imo, Enugu, Taraba, Kebbi, Sokoto and Ekiti. Five hundred and ninety three (593) female heads of households in these states were supported to develop simple business

plans which were assessed for viability. Of these, 290 qualified to receive seed grants to a maximum of \$62.5 each to start or expand a small business. The disbursement process began in the reporting period and is expected to be concluded by November 2013.

- VSLA training for caregivers (20 females and 2 males) took place in Ikot Unya community in Mkpato Enin Akwa Ibom state. The training considered different types of VSLA, factors to consider when setting up one and how it works. It also introduced the concept of savings and borrowing; and emphasized the importance of record keeping. After the training, the group elected its executives and came up with guidelines to regulate group operations. The CSO partner donated a cash box and record book to the group and gave the members an orientation on how to operate the Cash Box.
- In Delta state, the team successfully facilitated the release of the certificates of incorporation for four cooperatives as well as successfully registered another three VSLAs with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- The Delta state team has provided technical assistance to support all four CSOs in the state to develop proposals in response to request for assistance released by the Delta State Action Committee on AIDS HAF-2 grant for prevention care and support. The result for this competitive bidding process is still being awaited.
- CUBS successfully facilitated access for two female caregivers to multi-skill acquisition entrepreneurship program sponsored by the Delta state ministry of commerce and industry in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program. This followed a rigorous selection process that took into consideration factors including lack of access to other funds and degree of vulnerability and has been made possible due to the ongoing collaborative efforts by the state team.
- One of the most successful activities for CUBS this year were the HES exchange visits, a peer review mechanism through experience sharing and exhibitions of products between and within communities implementing HES initiatives. The HES exchange visits were facilitated by the project in collaboration with states' ministries of women affairs and social development, and organized by CSO partners and project beneficiaries, stakeholders. The event held in Akwa Ibom in July and in Gombe in August, with over 50 beneficiaries in attendance. The USAID monitoring team was hosted at the Akwa Ibom event. Participants at the meetings included top government officials from the federal and states ministries of Women Affairs, Agriculture, Education and Information. These stakeholders made presentations outlining their efforts at reducing OVC vulnerability since 2009 when the CUBS project began other donor partners working in similar areas in those states were also present, as was the media. During feedback sessions in plenary following exhibitions, participants had the opportunity to request information on how government agencies have supported OVC households in the past and what plans they have to do so following the end of the CUBS project. Presentations by CUBS at these meetings with facts and figures about the cost effectiveness of its HES approach became an advocacy tool for participants to call for the replication of this

approach by relevant government ministries and agencies. Testimonies from beneficiaries at these sharing meetings suggest that they are rapidly moving towards the path of social and economic empowerment:

- *“As old as I am, I have never come to Gombe town until now that CUBS sponsored me to come for this meeting. We didn’t know that ministry of women affairs has been supporting women like us until today. We appeal to them to extend that support to rural areas also”* (Beneficiary from Kaltungo-Gombe state).
 - *“I received N5, 000 from CUBS project, used it for short time farming and today I am better off. Also I mobilized other women to join me to form a savings group which we loan money to members and we are happy to generate our own income to take care of our children”.* (Grace Essien- Akwa Ibom).
 - *“I was a borrower but today, I am a lender to many following the household economic strengthening training I received from CUBS project. In our group, we are very happy with CUBS project”* (Mrs. Ime Marshal- Akwa Ibom).
 - *“It is better to do dirty jobs like palm oil production than to go begging. People are envying our group and want to join us. Thank to CUBS”* (Mrs Udeme Okon-Akwa Ibom).
 - *“I started with N500 before CUBS supported me, today I have built two rooms, I have two cows and I am taking care of my siblings and grandmother”* (Sheba Joshua- Gombe)
 - *“Now, I have a motorcycle ‘Okada’ which I use for commercial business”* (Grandmother in Bolari community Gombe).
 - *“I have expanded to rearing chicks; I have also started building a house”* (From petty trader in Bolari-Gombe)
- Continuing with efforts to reduce vulnerability of adolescent girls to HIV and STIs, in September CUBS facilitated a girl group forum in Gombe State where 21 girls representing six project communities travelled to the state capital – Gombe for the purpose of networking and life skills building. Two role models led discussions in career guidance, reproductive health and legal protection. Barrister Birma, a resource person during the gender awareness training in Gombe last year facilitated the session on child rights, physical and sexual abuse. She announced that since the CUBS training for law enforcement agents and other stakeholders, Gombe State has recorded about 116 rape cases, and justice has prevailed in most of the cases. She assured the girls that the judicial system will not rest in the pursuit of justice for the girl child. Sheba Joshua, one of the adolescent heads of households who is excelling in HES was invited to share her story with her peers at this meeting as resource person. These adolescents also went on an excursion to a tertiary institution – The Federal College of Education in Gombe State - where they were welcomed by the Coordinator of the Guidance and Counseling unit. At the School of vocational education, the Dean gave a brief talk on what activities take place there including the benefits vocational education has in preparing learners for self

and other employments in areas such as poultry farming, catering, hair dressing, and event planning and tailoring. At the school of science the girls again met with another dean who advised them on how to go about choosing their careers in life, something most adolescents did not have the opportunity for. She added that their present circumstances and being females should not deter them from pursuing an education and achieving their goals in life. She encouraged them to embrace the virtues of strong character and hard work as keys to achieving success. Most of the principal officers who spoke with the girls at this tertiary institution were females.

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

Intermediate Result 5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices

- CUBS provided technical support to finalize Ekiti state OVC survey reports. The report is awaiting approval of the state government for wider dissemination and use.
- Eight (8) CSOs in Rivers and Akwa Ibom States were supported to develop organizational strategic plans to guide their operations for the next five years, bringing the total to 25. This is part of the projects drive to ensure strong, functional and sustainable systems in the organizations we partner with.
- Also in support of strengthened systems, two CSO policies developed through structured guidance were reviewed and the same have been accepted and approved for adaptation and use by the Boards of the organizations. Two others in Akwa Ibom already adopted were reviewed for improved functionality and efficiency. This brings the total number of partner organizations with organizational policies to thirty-six.

Figure 5



KIF team developing their strategic plan

- The project through its State Offices continued mentoring support and supervision to the CSO partners on the project to ensure the implementation of the developed organizational capacity improvement plans to bring the organizations to a desired level of capacity. In the quarter being reviewed, emphasis was placed on improving documentation and organizational resource base.

- Building and strengthening linkages and collaborations have continued across the project. Specifically CSOs in Bayelsa and Gombe benefited from these efforts and opportunities. CSOs in Bayelsa were linked to funding opportunities in FHI 360 while in Gombe State, the girl Group activities of the CSOs enjoyed a tremendous boost from the collaborations and support of the management of the State University..
- Routine monitoring and supervision activities were carried out across the 38 CSO using existing databases like NOMIS to strengthen documentation, data collection and quality for improved decision making.
- Within the quarter under review also, the analyzed CSI data was shared with the project State officers to help them deepen understanding of implications of project results and enable them and all concerned program for greater impact.

Intermediate Result 6: Project Management

- Forty-five staff of the CUBS project convened in Obudu from 8 - 14 September for a project retreat. The meeting reviewed activities of PY 4 and planned for PY 5 with a focus on project close out. A series of team building exercises focused on getting the staff to finish the project ‘powerfully, strongly together!’. Project staff were energized and motivated to put in their best in supporting the smooth transition of project activities to the states, LGAs and CSOs as well as the seamless close out of project activities.

Figure 6



CUBS staff during a team building exercise at the 2013 team retreat

- Project senior staff – the chief of party, technical advisors and senior program officers - benefited from a capacity building workshop that aimed at strengthening supervisory skills. At the end of the two-day workshop staff gained useful insights and improved skills on how to give effective feedback and to create an enabling work environment that will empower supervisees and other colleagues at work. The new knowledge and skills will be applied to enable us finish the CUBS project powerfully!
- The CUBS project director supervisor visited the project to support with the finalization of the work plan for PY5. A trip report will be attached to next quarter’s report.

V. Problems and Opportunities

- The political instability in Rivers state has continued to stall effective OVC program coordination at the State and LGA level.
- The Government of Nigeria is yet to launch the National Priority Agenda (NPA) for OVC. As a result, the project is not able to support the adaptation of the new NPA in the states.

VI. Success Stories

- A story from Akwa Ibom State was released on August 8 on the MSH website on HES <http://www.msh.org/news-events/stories/caregivers-establish-palm-oil-processing-mill-to-raise-money-for-vulnerable>
- MSH's current renewed zeal in mainstreaming gender within its country operations is not unconnected with the visible benefits and achievements of this approach within the CUBS project. The champions of this move are MSH staff on the CUBS project.
- The Gombe State Broadcasting Cooperation Services has commissioned a full documentary on Sheba Joshua, one of the adolescent HES beneficiaries who are doing very well with the support from the project.
- Her Excellency, Mrs Nneoma Nkechi Rochas Okorochoa – the wife of the Executive Governor of Imo state recognized Honourbirth Foundation; one of CUBS supported CSOs and offers support to its beneficiaries.

VII. Next Quarter Results and Related Tasks

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

- Coordinate refresher training for CSO staff to improve capacity in psychosocial support services across the eleven states
- Support Foundation for God's Love (FFGL) to address harmful practices that affect the wellbeing of women and girls in Uhuowerre community, Igbo-Eze South LGA, Enugu state
- Hold technical session to develop fresh scope of work and renew grants agreement with CSOs
- Provide supportive supervision and ongoing mentorship to state teams in program implementation

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

- Hold CSO review meeting
- Facilitate the inauguration of OVC LGA TWGs in Akwa Ibom state.

Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened Community Support for OVC care

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

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

- Disburse seed grants to 340 women in the nine states and monitor grants implementation to ensure compliance.
- Scale up girl group meetings to eight more states.
- Follow up on the girl group fora in Gombe, Bayelsa and Ekiti to evaluate the outcome of the central meeting they participated in, in the last quarter.
- Coordinate the development of OVC gender training manual incorporating legal protection issues for women and girls.

Intermediate Result 5: Strengthened systems for disseminating evidence best practices

- Step down training on NOMIS for states ministry of women affairs and LGA staff.
- Facilitate the improvement and functionality of governing boards across the 38 CSOs and encourage board development activities for good leadership and sustained project benefits.
- Facilitate the development of strategic plans for 8 CSOs
- Facilitate the development of policy documents for CSOs and monitor the implementation of these policies across all CSOs.
- Begin processes for a phased project close out of the project
- Produce a project video as well as state and project technical briefs
- Facilitate STTAs