

Quarterly Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

October – December 2013

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



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

Quarterly Report October 1 to December 31, 2013



Girls from Udu LGA of Delta State during the Girls' Group Training

January, 2014

**This report was produced by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) for
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Submitted By: Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director

Project Title: Community Based Support for OVC in Nigeria

Recipient: Management Sciences for Health

To: Mr. Olusola Onifade [OVC Manager]

Reporting Period: October 1 to December 31, 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
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
HES	household economic strengthen
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
IPs	implementing partners
LGA	local government area
MoH	Ministry of Health
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
STIs	Sexually Transmissible Infections
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.

Through its 38 collaborating civil service organizations (CSOs), the project provides quality services to OVC and continues to make progress towards meeting its Project Year (PY) 5 and Life of Project targets. A review of this quarter's data shows that the project provided 17,990 OVC with a minimum of one care service, 1,537 of whom were newly enrolled in an OVC care program. The total number of OVC served in PY 5 remains 17,990 since this is the first quarter of the project year, accounting for 35.8% percent of the PY 5 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.

During the quarter under review, collaboration with the state and local government and IPs was priority for the project. We attended several meetings to buttress this collaboration. This quarter for instance, the participation of the CUBS project at the implementing partners (IPs) meeting organized by the Bayelsa State MoH and the three day meeting of the Federal Ministry

of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD) with the National Task Force on Girl Child Education and OVC Partners are points in case strengthened partner collaboration.

In a bid to encourage women to imbibe a savings culture, the project trained 293 women in the establishment and running of VSLAs in five states. The aim of these trainings was to encourage record keeping, savings, as well as to teach principles of: lending and borrowing, establishing joint enterprise and selection of VSLA management committees.

Through the Girls' Groups meetings that held d across the states, over 2,100 adolescent girls received information and participated in life skills development activities, all efforts aimed at reducing vulnerability of adolescent girls to HIV and STIs. The meetings also enabled the girls gain knowledge and experience in relating with their peers and family.

Major obstacles to implementation encountered this quarter by the CUBS project were the frequent changes of public servants that has resulted in the delay in the conduct of project activities.

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: \$17,976,104
Current Pipeline Amount: \$ 1,919,109
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: \$949, 571
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date \$16,056, 995
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter: \$1,120,343
Report Submitted by: Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director

Submission Date: January 31, 2014.

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 (FMWASD) and the State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development 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 Access to 6+1 services for OVC and Caregivers									
Indicator	Indicator Description	Yr 5 Target	Achievement				Total	% of Target Achieved	Comment
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
	§ % of Children with improved wellbeing using CSI	90%							
1.1 (C1.1.D)	# of eligible clients (OVC) provided with a minimum of one care service	50,000	17,990	0	0	0	17,990	35.8%	
	- Number who were newly enrolled	1,600	1537	0	0	0	1,537	96.1%	
	- Number previously enrolled	48,600	16,453	0	0	0	16,453	33.8%	
	Education Male		1094	0	0	0	1094		
	Education Female		1212	0	0	0	1212		
	Health Male		4041	0	0	0	4041		
	Health Female		4419	0	0	0	4419		
	Psychosocial support Male		7611	0	0	0	7611		
	Psychosocial support Female		8398	0	0	0	8398		
	Shelter Male		619	0	0	0	619		
	Shelter Female		620	0	0	0	620		
	Protection Male		720	0	0	0	720		
	Protection Female		781	0	0	0	781		

	Nutrition Male		2446	0	0	0	2446		
	Nutrition Female		2416	0	0	0	2416		
	Economic Strengthening Male		0	0	0	0	0		
	Economic Strengthening Female		0	0	0	0	0		
1.2 (C5.1.D)	# of eligible clients (OVC) who receive nutrition services	No target	4862	0	0	0	4862		
1.3	# of Caregivers trained in caring for OVC	0	0	0	0	0	0		
1.4	# of OVC referred for clinical services	No target	369	0	0	0	369		
Result #2: Strengthened capacities of national and state governments for coordination									
Indicator	Indicator Description	Yr 5 Target					Total		Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
2.1	# of AIDSTAR states with comprehensive OVC plans	11	2	0	0	0	2		This is at still awaiting final dissemination of NPA
2.2	Number of Technical Working Groups coordinating the delivery of social services for vulnerable children at the state and LGA levels (formerly # of functional	11 states/(33LGAs)	10/36LGAs	0	0	0	10/36 LGAs		

	state, and LGA community coordination (OVC Forums) mechanisms in place to monitor OVC programs)								
2.3	# of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems	11	9	0	0	0	9		
2.4	# of persons from state ministries and LGA trained in leadership and management	30	28	0	0	0	28		
2.5	# of persons who successfully completed an in-service training in strategic information including data collection, collation, analysis and use	10	60	0	0	0	60		
Results #3: Strengthened capacity of communities to better protect and care for OVC									
Indicator	Indicator Description	Yr 5 Target	Achievement				Total		Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
3.1	Number of Child protection Committee coordinating the protection of vulnerable children at the community level	0	116	0	0	0	116		
3.2	Number of Civil society organizations that refer OVC using the existing states functional referral systems	38	38	0	0	0	38		

Results #4: : Reduced Vulnerability status of the girl child and women									
Indicator	Indicator Description	Yr 5 Target					Total		Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
4.0	% 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	600	1859	0	0	0	1859		Attention is also given to female adolescent
4.2	# of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program	No target	20	0	0	0	20		
4.3	# of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers	39	38	0	0	0	38		
Result # 5 : Strengthened systems for documenting & disseminating evidence best practice									
Indicator	Indicator Description	Yr 5 Target					Total		Explanation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
5.1	# of persons trained in the use of the CSI	50	60	0	0	0	60		

5.2	Number of service sites/delivery points that receive a DQA visit	38	0	0	0	0	0		DQA is planned for Q2
5.3	Number of CSOs that provide data that are complete on a timely basis based on the national M&E Plan for OVCs	38	38	0	0	0	38		On track
5.4	# of service sites/delivery points that received a DQA visit	38	0	0	0	0	0		DQA is planned for Q2
5.5	% of service sites/delivery points that receive a QA visit during the reporting period	100%	0	0	0	0	0		QA is planned for Q2

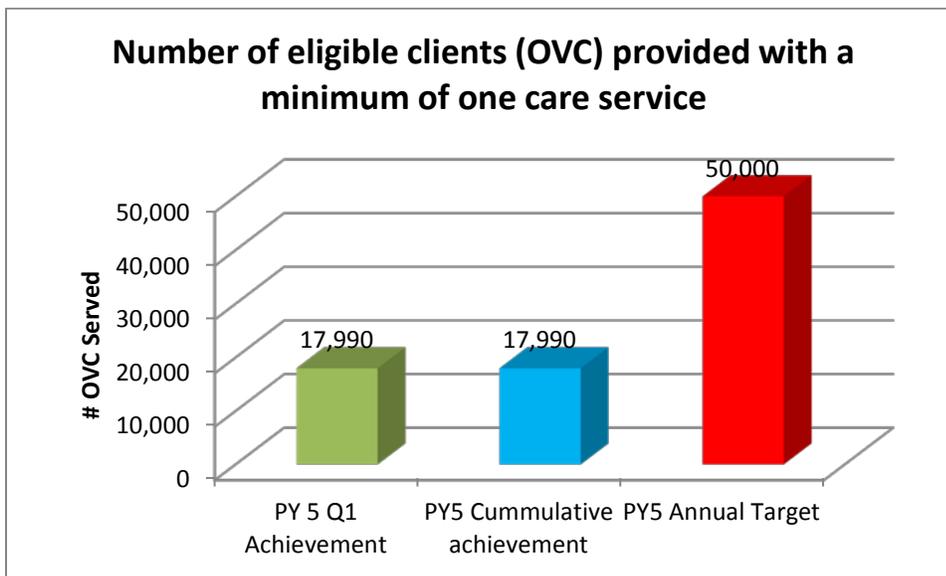
IV. Quarterly Progress

Intermediate Result 1: : Increased Access to 6+1 services for OVC and Caregivers

Progress towards the attainment of project goal

During the quarter, vulnerable families received multiple services to address their care needs in all the service areas. Holistic and comprehensive services targeting health (8460), education (2306), psychosocial support (16009), protection (1501), nutrition (4862) and; shelter and care components (1239) reaching a total of 17,990 OVC served with a minimum of one care service this quarter, which represents 35.8% of the annual target as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1



Birth registration in Nigeria is a requirement for enrolment in secondary school, for providing scholarships and for the issuance of travel documents. In order to provide identities for the children and thus facilitate integration into communal life, the project has gone into a partnership with the National Population Council (NPOPC) to facilitate the birth registration of children at community level. This partnership has led to the training of CSO staff to identify and mobilize children to be registered by NPOPC staff. In all of CUBS communities, this partnership has led to the birth registration of 1,501 children this quarter.

The end of year celebrations bring community members together and philanthropists return home with laudable community development programs. CUBS used the community meetings that usually hold during this period to share the projects exit strategy, creating awareness on the need to sustain these successful interventions, creating linkages with new development

programs and educating community members on how to sustain support for vulnerable families long after project close out and.

CUBS trains caregivers to scale up and deliver quality services to OVC. This also ensures that empowered caregivers continue to provide services to their wards even when the project comes to an end. Refresher trainings conducted in the 6+1 service areas ensure that the family centered services are based on need and are of high quality.

Block grants

The CUBS project continues to process block grants as part of its exit strategy. In order to create community ownership, the block grants proposals are developed between CSOs and the leadership of benefiting communities. They target a felt need within the community, one that when addressed will directly benefit OVC and their caregivers as well as other members of the community. The projects are funded jointly by CUBS through the CSO and community members. During this quarter, all the CSOs, with technical support from CUBS, carried out block grant baseline assessment across communities where block grant interventions are to be implemented. The assessments show the situation of the communities before the implementation of the block grants so we can measure the effect after the intervention. The block grants will be disbursed to the CSOs early in the next quarter.

The Government of the states in which CUBS works have declared free basic primary education for all children. However, the block grant baseline assessments show that many schools lack infrastructure such as desks for children to sit on, water to drink and toilets for sanitation. Children are tasked with the payment of levies in order to provide these infrastructure. The levies serve as a barrier to the access of education, as OVC cannot afford to pay the levies. The block grants that will support the communities to provide school desks, which will in turn, improve access to education for OVC and other children in the community. This intervention is additional to continuous advocacy to community leaders, LGA and state government on the need to provide desks and other infrastructure to children in the schools.

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

Support for Coordination at state and LGA levels

Functional State Technical Steering Committees (STSC) and the Local Management Committees on Vulnerable Children (LMC) formerly known as Technical Working Groups (TWGs) at state and LGA levels are legacies that this project will hand over to the Government of Nigeria. Additional to the 40 committees already functional in the project, two more were formed, in Esit Eket LGA in collaboration with the SMWA&SD of Akwa Ibom State and in Aniocha North LGA of --- state

with support from the LGA Chairman and the Head of Community Development Department. Regular meetings of committees held in all the states, with CUBS staff taking members of the committees through and explaining the project's exit plans. Committee members, with the support of CUBS staff, are developing action points on how they will work with CSOs to sustain support for OVC. As they become stronger, they are increasingly taking the lead and embarking on interventions that improve the wellbeing of OVC and care givers in their communities. For example, in the period under review, the Nkanu West LMC in Enugu State trained LGA Action Committees for the control of AIDS focal persons on HIV Counseling and Testing in collaboration with a CDC supported implementing partner and also deliberated on reports from trained Traditional Birth Attendants. The trained counsellors will provide easy access to HTC for OVC, caregivers and community members who, before now could not travel to the testing centers.

The CUBS project provides technical assistance to build capacity of staff of the SMWASD and of the social welfare unit at LGA level to coordinate OVC service delivery. In Gombe and Taraba states, the CUBS team supported the State Agencies for the Control of AIDS to conduct assessments of CSOs for HIV and AIDS Funds using the National Harmonized Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (NOCHAT). They also provided technical assistance for contract negotiation, signing for the HIV/AIDS Fund World Bank grants and the development of workplans for the successful CSOs. The successful CSOs will the grants to scale up prevention and care and support services for People Living with HIV (PLHIV), People Affected by HIV/AIDS (PABA) and OVC in their communities.

The Ministry of Women Affairs in Imo State, with technical assistance from the CUBS team, organized a CSO coordination meeting. The aim of the well-attended meeting was to create effective collaboration among major stakeholders in OVC programming to create ownership and sustainability. A total of 24 participating organizations, including CPNs, Associations of OVC Networks in Nigeria (AONN), CSOs, SMWASD, State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), the Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN) attended the meeting and participated in the development of actions plans.

Leadership Training

CUBS has prioritized leadership training as key to strengthening the social welfare system in Nigeria. Refresher trainings on Leadership for LGA OVC desk officers held in Kebbi and Ekiti states during the quarter; 28 were trained. Trained state and LGA staff facilitate the establishment of structures such as the STSCs and LMCs which are vital for the sustainability of OVC service delivery.

Intermediate Result 3: Strengthened capacity of communities to better protect and care for OVC

Commemorating World AIDS Day

Every year, CUBS joins millions of organizations to commemorate the WAD – to celebrate the battles that have been won in the fight against HIV/AIDS while calling attention to areas that, as a collective, we need to put more effort. In celebration of the 2013 World AIDS Day that had the theme "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths". CUBS teamed up with CSOs, the SMWASD and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to advocate for the reduction of HIV related stigma and improved access to HIV prevention services specifically for young girls and boys. In Bayelsa State the CUBS team and CSO partners celebrated WAD day on 2nd of December by mobilizing communities to access HIV prevention information and HTC. The Federal Medical Centre Yenagoa, provided the CUBS team with 200 test kits. An additional 80 test kits were provided by the CUBS CSO Partner I-Care-Save-A-Soul, and so 280 persons were tested. Two people were tested positive and referred to the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa for enrollment into care and support and treatment. All tested beneficiaries were re-educated on HIV/AIDS, modes of transmission and methods of prevention.

In Delta state, the CUBS team in collaboration with the Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS also commemorated the World AIDS Day and tested 54 persons (39 female, 15 males). One person who tested positive was referred to the clinic for medical attention thereby strengthening referral services between key state stakeholders and health clinics for better services delivery. The CUBS team will follow up with the clinic to ensure that the referral is completed and the client receives counseling and treatment.

Updating Referral Directories

The referral directory is developed to serve as a guide to available services and other resources within the community. This is to assure access to comprehensive services that address the needs of vulnerable families. As new CSOs start work in communities, they become a source of a particular service, while others close out and the service they provide becomes unavailable. On a regular basis, the directory is updated to include such new CSOs and remove from the list, those that are no longer functional. CUBS partner CSOs worked on updating the referral directory for their respective communities with information gleaned from line ministries in the state, CSOs, faith based organizations (FBOs) and all implementing partners. The updated referral directories have been submitted to the SMWASD, who will disseminate it to all stakeholders in the state.

The Kaltungo CPC Training

The CUBS project in collaboration with the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare (SMWASW), Gombe conducted a three day training workshop in November 5 – 7, for the 25 CPC members of Kaltungo LGA. CPC members were trained on advocacy technics and how to use these for mobilizing community support. The training also elucidated on community and resource mobilization strategies and focused on creating an understanding among the participants, of the importance of, and the use of various community engagement strategies. Resource persons were drawn from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development; UNICEF, the SMWASW, CPN and AONN in Gombe state.

The trained CPC members immediately put their newly acquired skills into practice by paying an advocacy visit to the Chairman of Kaltungo LGA. They were well received during the visit and he promised support for CSOs in response to their plea.

The project will provide similar support to other CPCs to get them started on the implementation of the action plans that they developed in response to the new of the impending end of the CUBS project.

Intermediate Result 4: Reduced Vulnerability status of girl child and women

Disbursement of Seed Grants for Household Economic Strengthening beneficiaries to start up or expand micro-businesses

Altogether in this reporting period, an additional 326 business plans have been approved out of those received from 590 female heads of households who received household economic strengthening training. This is in addition to the 491 female heads of households who had received IGA training in Delta and Gombe states reported in 2011-12 of whom 159 had received seed grants/start up equipment. Seed grants were disbursed to the CSO partners for onward disbursement to the beneficiaries who are expected to establish or expand their small businesses early in the next quarter. The first monitoring visit for the new and expanded businesses will also take place next quarter.

Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations

To further support households to improve the wellbeing of OVC, the project established and/or strengthened forty (40) Voluntary Saving and Loans Associations (VSLA) in nine project states. As result of their participation in VSLA, care givers in Akwa Ibom and Taraba states are already attesting to their enhanced capacity to meet the needs of OVC adequately at the exit of the project. In order to enhance the functionality of the VSLAs in the states, CUBS participates in their monthly meetings providing technical assistance and trainings to ensure the associations

stick to the ideals of savings, that members attend meetings and meet their contribution obligations consistently. In a bid to encourage women to imbibe a savings culture, the project trained 293 women in the establishment and running of VSLAs in Enugu, Bayelsa, Kebbi, Delta and Akwa Ibom states. The aim of these trainings was to encourage record keeping, savings, as well as to teach principles of: lending and borrowing, establishing joint enterprise and selection of VSLA management committees. In Delta State, resource persons were drawn from State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as Diamond Bank Plc. The beneficiaries were encouraged to open bank accounts for their associations as this will also give them a chance to acquire loans from those banks to establish a joint enterprise.

Support for Girl Group forums on Life skills building, HIV Prevention and Protection initiatives

Adolescence is a time of increased risk taking and poor decision making. The CUBS project specifically addresses reducing the vulnerability of adolescent girls to behaviors that increase the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and STIs through establishing kids'/youth/girls' groups or clubs. The Girls' Groups were formed to promote networking among the girls, encourage interaction with their peers, share information, build life skills and provide career guidance. The Girls' Groups forum brings together girls from girl groups in various communities to a central location to foster learning through experience sharing and interaction. These girls go back to their communities to form more girl groups and share information with other girls through peer education.



Girls group meeting at Oshimili North in Delta State

During the quarter under review, Girls' Groups meetings held in Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Gombe, Sokoto and Rivers States, and over 2,100 adolescent girls participated across the states. The meetings were aimed at enabling the girls gain knowledge and experience in relating with their peers and family, and in acquiring skills. Discussions at these meetings centered on life skills building, goal setting, legal protection and adolescent reproductive health. Discussions were also held on career choices, self-esteem and how to develop and maintain healthy relationships. The girls were encouraged to remain in school, and in addition to avail themselves of additional opportunities to acquire skills in dress making, baking, computer use, hair dressing, and language classes among others. Basic age appropriate adolescent reproductive health information on prevention of STIs, HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, was provided. The girls also engaged in other activities such as bead making and knitting displaying their handcrafts at the end of the meetings.



Members of the girls group from Oshimili North LGA in Delta State displaying their products

A girl in Bayelsa said “I never believed that I can (sic) stand before more than 2 persons and speak, but now this project has made me to speak before thousands of honorable men and women, and has given me the opportunity to be known in Opokuma as a queen and a role model”;

“I am very grateful for being part of this girl group meeting today because I have (sic) already decided that if my family refuses me to go for what I desire, I will not go to school again and I will marry any man that comes to marry me” said another girl. She is now going to focus on completing her education and acquiring other skills in order to not to become dependent or view marriage as an escape route.

This activity will be replicated in the remaining 9 states this quarter and is planned to reach over 5,000 girls.

Reproductive Health Impact Assessment

A reproductive health impact assessment is being undertaken in 9 of the eleven CUBS states. Focus group discussions among female caregivers and in depth interviews with project beneficiaries between the ages of 11 – 18 years have been carried out in Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa, Imo, Ekiti and Enugu states to date, with 119 female caregivers and 310 adolescent assessed to date. The remaining three states will be assessed in next quarter.

Update on Operations Research (OR)

The Gender component of the CUBS project was conceived as a framework for piloting the most impactful approaches to OVC service delivery for female OVC and female heads of households. Based on the CUBS Enhanced Gender Focused Strategy which outlines effective approaches for reducing HIV vulnerability of female OVC and female caregivers, the Operations Research component of the project primarily evaluates and documents innovative best practices for reducing risk taking behavior among female adolescents in order to fine tune the implementation of the project for maximal impact. Two states are the focus of study, chosen for large numbers of female adolescent OVC as well as to ensure ability to study across specific variables to account for Nigeria's diversity.

Rapid appraisal assessments were done in Akwa Ibom and Gombe states in November to determine how well the CSOs have been able to use the findings discussed from the baseline assessment to improve their service delivery and work on gaps that have been identified.

Dissemination meetings to discuss the findings of these assessments are scheduled to hold with the CSO partners next quarter. A report of the baseline is attached to this report for more information.

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

Behavior change of relevant authorities on issues regarding rape, child abuse, and harmful cultural practices against women and girls continues to be reported, attributed to the gender and social protection training that has been carried out among the law enforcement and their support personnel in the social welfare system. In the quarter under review, a 13 year old girl in Delta state was moved to a safe location (relocated with her parents) after the uncle with whom she was sent to live was found to be repeatedly having sexual relations with her. He is now wanted by the police and is on the run. The incident was brought to light by a CUBS beneficiary, a female adolescent herself who had been confided in by the victim and who immediately told the story to CUBS staff who took the girls to the police station to report the story. The response of law enforcement was swift and remarkable, unlike in the past-

statements were obtained and the police launched a manhunt. The support from the members of the residence as well as the victim's family is remarkably different from the past when family members would have covered up the story, and instead have berated the child for "trying to disgrace the family". The victim has received initial medical attention, and is being followed up.

The Ekiti State Gender summit

CUBS participated in the 3rd Ekiti State Gender Summit that held from 3-4 December at Adetiloye Hall, Trade Fair Complex, Iyin Road, Ado-Ekiti. This summit was organized by the State Ministry of women Affairs, Social Development and Gender Empowerment in conjunction with Ekiti Development Foundation. With the theme "Gender Equality, Women's Health & Safety: Towards a Healthy, Violence Free-Society", this year's summit raised awareness on the Gender and Development Policy, Gender Audit and Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prohibition Law which had been translated into Yoruba language to meet indigenous people's needs.

Intermediate Result 5: Strengthened systems for documenting & disseminating evidence best practice

CSO review meeting

CUBS uses the bi-annual CSO review meeting as a platform for partner CSOs to showcase their achievements, challenges and share strategies used in solving these challenges. The 2013 edition held in Abuja from 22 – 23 October at the Top Rank Galaxy Hotel in Utako. Unlike other editions, all 38 CSOs from the 11 states participated in the workshop.

Like in order editions, CSOs presented posters on their achievements, lessons learnt and plans for the remaining life of project. The poster presentations, which were directed at a prospective donor audience, provided a good platform and opportunity for the CSOs to showcase their work with great zeal, passion, creativity and enthusiasm. The presentations had a heavy tilt towards showcasing CSO sustainability strategies that aligned with CUBS project exit plans. Much effort was directed at networking and collaboration, all with the aim to identify and mobilize resources to sustain the gains of the CUBS project.

A high point of the this edition of the review meeting was an award ceremony during which CUBS' highly active partner CSOs from 11 states got awards and certificates of partnership. The award criteria included innovation and creativity, empowerment of OVC households, organizational capacity enhancement and sustainability, and active stakeholder engagement.

CSO Technical Session

CSOs concluded all contract and scope of work negotiations and started programming for project year PY 5 with advocacy visits to communities to mobilize support for OVC

interventions. CSOs also conducted other community engagement activities that baseline assessments for the block granting process, enrollment of OVC, resource mobilization, advocacy for education support.

National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) Trainings

To facilitate the enhancement of its coordination and leadership capacity, the project continued to step down trainings on NOMIS for the states ministry of women affairs and LGA staff. Sixty staff were trained across 2 States – Rivers and Ekiti within the quarter under review.

The Ekiti OVC Survey Report

CUBS participated in the finalization of OVC survey reports for Ekiti state during the quarter. The project also participated in the dissemination meeting which recorded a huge success. Support to Rivers state is still ongoing and requests for support for similar activities have also been received from two (2) other States and plans are on to support them before the end of the project. As part of our presentation during the OVC survey report dissemination, CUBS presented again to stakeholders present the lessons we are learning from CSI data and as opportunity present itself, CUBS will continue to utilize such to present CUBS CSI data experience with USAID, Ministry, Other IPs and CSOs partner.

Strengthening Partner Organizations for Sustainability

To ensure sustainability of project gains, the organizational development and system strengthening efforts of the project focused on improvement and functionality of governing boards among its CBOs. Thirteen (13) CBOs across four (4) States have benefited from this exercise. It is hoped that the rest will receive the same support in the second quarter.

The team also focused on facilitating the development of strategic plans for its remaining 16 CSOs. Nine (9) of them were supported during the quarter under review to develop their strategic plans. The project will work hard to support the remaining seven (7) CBOs benefit from this process in the second quarter.

Monitoring and mentoring was intensified to improve policy implementation among the CSOs. Though the results are coming in slow, but it is yielding desired results. The project hopes to continue on this through the remaining months.

As part of effort to monitor the implementation of organizational development plans put together after the CSO organizational capacity assessments and assessing the strength of its organizational development strategy, the project undertook assessment across its CSOs and facilities where these were deployed. The assessment was initiated and completed in the 1st quarter and the report is ready.

USAID monitoring visit to Imo

The project's contracting officer's representatives, was accompanied by the CUBS' project advisor on a monitoring visit to Imo state. The visit gave both the manager and the advisor a better understanding of CUBS' operations and an opportunity to review the project's progress in Imo state. They visited various communities engaging in dialogue and group discussion at the LGAs with the chairman, Sole Administrators and *Ezes* (traditional rulers) which are the critical structure needed to ensure oversight and coordination of all child related matters. The aim of the visit was to find out the sustainability strategies designed by the various stakeholders for continuity after the close out of the project. The visiting team found the following:

- Good relationships exist between the project and the state and local government areas.
- Involvement of the *Ezes* as member of the CPC adds credibility to the group
- It was concerning that CPC members requested for identification cards that will authorize them to carry out their functions more effectively. The *Ezes* also wanted official Letters from Abuja to authenticate the establishment of the CPC structure in their communities.
- CPC members were not well equipped to execute their responsibilities.
- VSLA approach is different in Imo as it tends more towards the traditional ***Esusu*** (which differs slightly from VSLA in structure) and cooperatives.

The COR recommended that CUBS complete the following to improve its program quality:

- Establish and scale up VSLA in Imo as the cooperative and traditional ***esusu*** approach being used differs slightly from VSLA.
- Conduct refresher training on Leadership, Management and Coordination for CPC members with considerations to the culture and values of the Imo communities.

Home office consultation

Home office visits by field staff are opportunities for learning, skills building and strengthening of capacity for the visiting staff. The CUBS' Chief of Party (COP) visited Arlington and Cambridge from November 30 to Dec 14, 2013. The COP went through training on technical and operations close processes and procedures for the CUBS projects with the Project Operations and Management Support team. The COP also used the opportunity to fine tune the project's transition and close out plans. Attached is the trip report for additional information.

V. Problems and Opportunities

Collaborations:

Collaborations with government, CSOs and other implementing partners is one of the pillars of the CUBS' project exit plans. In order to build on this pillar, staff of the CUBS project attended

an implementing partners (IPs) meeting organized by the Bayelsa State MOH in Port Harcourt from 4th – 7th December 2013. This meeting had in attendance FHI 360, PACT Nigeria, SACA and MoH. The purpose of this meeting was to foster good working relationship among implementing partners in the state. Strategy harmonization and building synergies in IPs activities and common challenges to project implementation in the state took center stage of the discussions. To foster stronger collaboration among IPs, the group instituted quarterly meetings that have the added advantage of making coordination of partners easier for the ministries.

In line with this recommendation, MSH CUBS and PACT REACH collaborated to hold this quarter's TWG meeting in Ekiti State. PACT provided a Venue for meeting while MSH provided refreshment.

The Child Protection Network (CPN) is a platform at the state and LGA levels, where all organizations that play a part in the protection of children meet to deliberate issues to do with ensuring that children are safe. CUBS is a member of this network in all 11 states. At the quarterly meetings in Akwa Ibom and Bayelsa states, reports of child assaults including sexual abuse and child trafficking were discussed and solutions to these problems proffered. The case of the child stolen from Akwa Ibom State and was eventually found in Abia State buttressed the need for CPN members to collaborate even across state borders. CPN members resolved to advocate to the Police to speedily handle cases of child abduction and to promptly report to the National Agency for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and other related offences (NAPTIP) all issues related to the abduction of children on **07080601804**. CPN plans wide scale orientations on measures to prevent the abduction of children in schools and communities in order to stop future occurrences.

During the quarter, three key staff resigned their appointment from the project. The Gender Advisor, the Community care advisor and the OVC services advisor. The positions have been advertised and suitable replacements identified. Their engagement will be contingent on USAID approval.

Challenges

The frequent change of Permanent secretary and director child, non-appointment of commissioner in the Imo State is affecting activities as their consent is required before activities can be carried out. In the same vein the incessant change of LGA chairmen has become an obstacle to the inclusion of and OVC budget line in the appropriation at the LGA level. Whenever, we agree on the inclusion of the OVC budget line in the LGA appropriation with one chairman, he is changed before he had had time to implement the agreement. We then have to start from scratch with the new chairman.

Flood in Bayelsa displaced beneficiaries making them difficult to trace in order to provide services.

VI. Success Stories

CUBS-supported Civil Society Organizations Reach 48,000 Children and Inspire Stakeholders' Praise and Support (see Annex)

The arrangement of embedding the CUBS project office in has been most beneficial as it has provided easy access to staff of the SMWASD. The proximity has fostered stronger supportive mentoring and coaching relationships and opportuned the sharing of resources. As the capacity of our state partners has grown, their need for support from the CUBS project has reduced. Now are strong and are requesting CUBS move out of their offices, because they need the space, as is the case in Imo. In the short time left, CUBS will move out of the secretariat and continue to support the SMWASD from outside while at the same time assessing how well staff of the SMWASD have imbibed the capacity strengthening lessons.

VII. Next Quarter's Expected Results and Related Tasks

IR 1: Increased number of OVC served with 6+1 services

- Conduct state level education data tracking and analysis in Gombe, Akwa Ibom and Delta states
- Strengthen and scale up the VSLA in communities
- Disburse and execute block grant intervention in the states
- Monitor block implementation in communities
- Support the safeguarding of children and women in Ohunowerre community, Enugu State
- Update directory, review the process, develop tool to harvest results on frontline sms
- Review and standardize service delivery strategy and CPP documents

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

- Mentor and build capacity of state ministries of Women affairs to respond to and utilize the national OVC M&E system for monitoring and planning purposes
- Mentor and support SMWASD with the conduct of annual DQA exercise for CSOs in their states.

- Mentor and build capacity of State and LGA OVC staff on the use of OVC assessment tools
- Support SMWASD and LGA to implement action plans drawn from results of capacity assessments
- Train state OVC STSC Members on advocacy, collaboration and resource mobilization for sustainability.
- Conduct refresher training of SMWA and LGA staff on Leadership, Management and Coordination for OVC programming in 11 states
- Support SMWASD to adapt National OVC Priority Agenda at State levels

IR 3: Strengthened capacity of communities to better protect and care for OVC

- Train CSO and CPC on Advocacy ,Stakeholder Engagement & Resource Mobilization for sustainability

IR 4: Reduced Vulnerability status of girl child and women

- Standardize OVC Gender training manual incorporating legal protection issues for women and girls
- Launch the OVC Gender training manual and give CSO Partners 2 Days Orientation on use of manual
- Write Position Paper on Gender in the CUBS Project and Project End report
- Continue the conduct of Operations Research in two states from year one.
- Organise OR dissemination meeting

IR 5: Strengthened systems for documenting & disseminating evidence best practices

- Organize national roundtable on promising practices in HES
- Conduct Analysis of OVC CSI tracking data to identify trends and change indices that affect life of OVC
- Conduct Annual DQA exercises to 38 CSOs
- Organize End of project experience Sharing session
- Conduct a phased project close out
- Produce Project video
- Facilitate active participation in end of project evaluation