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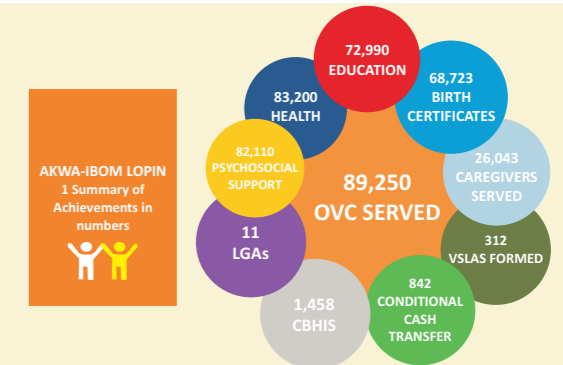
LOCAL PARTNERS FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN NIGERIA (LOPIN-REGION 1) PROJECT, AKWA-IBOM STATE

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Local Partners for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria (LOPIN-Region 1) Project designed to improve the wellbeing of 89,250 orphans and vulnerable children and 26,043 caregivers in Akwa-Ibom state was implemented through an accelerated, sustainable family focused approach. Services rendered were in accordance with Case Management Plans pre-prepared to address identified needs of children and their caregivers. The integrated services provided covered health, education, child protection, psychosocial support, food/nutrition and household economic strengthening while leveraging support for shelter related care from other sources.

LOPIN-REGION 1 APPROACH

ARFH modelled inclusiveness in programming for orphans and vulnerable children in Akwa-Ibom, State by



and their families. LOPIN 1 also facilitated productive engagements between CBOs, LGAs and the private sectors. The results of the project were enhanced through the establishment and support of community structures such as Child Protection Committees and Quality Improvement Teams for the promotion of children's welfare and rights. HIV stigma-reduction and resource mobilizations for community development and sustainability were essential value added components of the project.

HIV SERVICES: LOPIN REGION 1 Project continued to implement activities towards the achievement of the 90-90-90 UNAIDS goal by focusing on increasing the identification of index cases HIV testing, enrolment of HIV positives, linkage and retention to care and treatment.



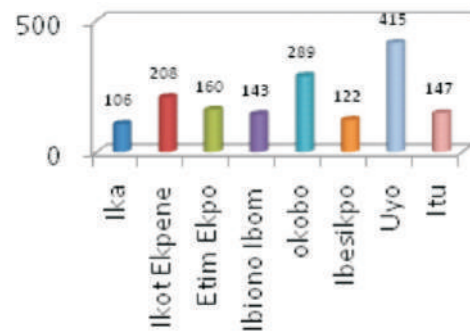
strengthening the organizational and technical capacities of the Community Based organisations (CBOs), the Social Welfare Departments of Local Government Areas (LGAs) and the State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development for the effective coordination of responses to OVC needs. LOPIN 1 provided 8 CBOs with equipment such as generators, computers, furniture, metal cabinets & accounting software (QuickBooks) as well as training on age appropriate service provision, financial management, programme management & monitoring including the use of the National OVC Management Information System NOMIS. In addition all the OVC Desk Officers in the 11 LGAs were trained on NOMIS & data management and were subsequently provided with desktop computers as part of organisational capacity strengthening. Moreover, the CBOs received institutional and activity funds every month to enable them to offer high quality services to OVC



Mrs. Gift Williams conducting HIV test for children in the creeks, Okobo LGA, Akwa-Ibom State. Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1

Other services included the monitoring of PLHIV and CLHIV treatment adherence and viralload suppression. LOPIN 1

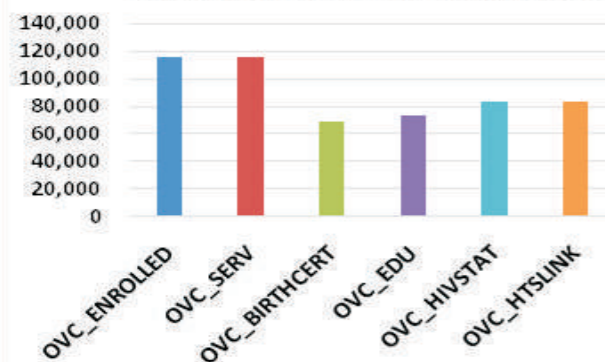
ART saturation coverage for children <18years



QUICK FACTS

Project Type	Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)
Funder	USAID
Project Location	Akwa-Ibom, Lagos and Rivers States (transferred to CDC in April, 2019)
# of people served	210,751 OVC and 53,337 caregivers
Time frame	2014-2019

ACHIEVEMENTS ON SELECTED OVC INDICATORS



LOPIN1 SPC, Akwa-Ibom State moderating a session during CBO retreat



LOPIN Chief of Party presenting HES business material to a caregiver in Akwa-Ibom state



Members of LOPIN1 Udoak Abasi Village Savings and Loan Association empowered with palm oil communal business, Akwa-Ibom state



Kids club activity in Akwa-Ibom state



Creek Intervention team in Akwa-Ibom state



Share-out session at Nka Ima VSLA group in Akwa-Ibom state

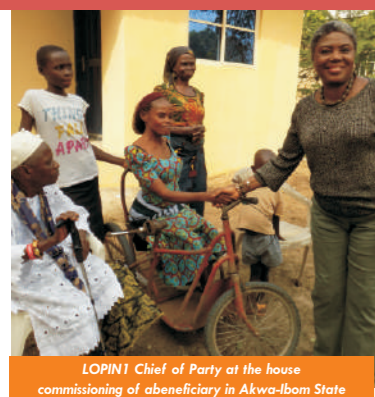


LOPIN1 PMT with Ukana Health facility staff and management of CBHI in Akwa-Ibom state

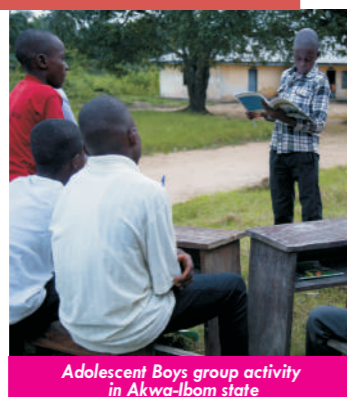


HTS being conducted in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom state

ARFH-LOPIN1 PHOTOS OF IMPACT



LOPIN1 Chief of Party at the house commissioning of an beneficiary in Akwa-Ibom State



Adolescent Boys group activity in Akwa-Ibom state

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PASS ACHIEVEMENTS: Project innovated the use of incentivized enrolment strategy which continued to increase the yield of PLHIV through active referrals from the facility focal persons and support groups of PLHIV. Partnership with the support groups of Persons living with HIV (PLHIV) has also increased the yield through targeted testing based on local epidemics. The project worked with health facilities in the communities to enhance facility-community interphase, in order to reach more newly diagnosed PLHIV with services, including economic empowerment at the community level.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

LOPIN-Region 1 project increased the access of eligible care givers to money and strengthened their economic resilience to enable them meet their needs and that of their wards in a sustainable manner. In line with the PEPFAR guideline for OVC programming, ARFH-LOPIN 1 project



LOPIN1 Chief of Party- Dr Iyabode Olusanmi presenting Cash to a caregiver in Akwa-Ibom State. Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1

also implemented Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) for the 'Most Vulnerable Households' to enable them meet their consumption needs, increase access of their children to education and health services while linking their care givers to VLSA in the community to increase their ability for asset building through access to savings & financial literacy training.. The sum of N30,000.00 was given to 842 beneficiaries in three equal instalments of N10,000 per tranche.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES: The ARFH-LOPIN 1 project provided enabling environment for increased uptake of health services through facilitated referrals and logistic support for indigent enrollees. A total of 83,200 children received the required health support services with improved treatment outcome. To further strengthen health

seeking behaviours of vulnerable households and increase uptake of services, the ARFH-LOPIN 1 project pioneered the pilot implementation of Community Based Health Insurance Scheme (CBHIS) in Akwa-Ibom state, with support from USAID. A total of 1,458 beneficiaries are currently accessing free health services through the elimination of user fees. Services covered under the CBHIS include the



CBHIS beneficiary accessing Health services at Ukana Health center, Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1

management of childhood malnutrition, malaria, enteric fevers, pneumonia, uncomplicated peptic and duodenal ulcers, respiratory infections, ear infections; immunizations, minor surgical procedures catheterization; appendectomy and treatment of minor ailments.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION: Community Volunteers (CVs) visited enrolled OVC in their respective schools at east once in a quarter to assess children's school attendance and education performance. CVs worked with school



Dr. Mrs Valerie Obot commissioning 150 metal desks at Qua Iboe primary school, Uyo. Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1

Headmasters and Principals to ensure that there was no stigmatization of the enrolled children. The Block Grant interventions implemented in Fy18 by

LOPIN 1 across the 3 states, in collaboration with SUBEB whereby seven schools which were provided with desks, chairs and tables, wax boards, books and libraries, recreational facilities ensured exemption of enrolled OVC in these schools from direct payment of any fees or levies, thereby facilitating the seamless progression, particularly of the girl child from primary to secondary school level.



Adolescent Girls group activity at Ikot Enyiene LGA, Akwa-Ibom state. Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1 project Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1

CHILD PROTECTION AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

ARFH LOPIN1 Project has trained all project and CBOs' staff, Community Volunteers (CVs) and assistant Case Managers on Child Protection and Safeguarding Practices. All the CBOs have adopted Child

Safeguarding Policies signed on by all their staff.

SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

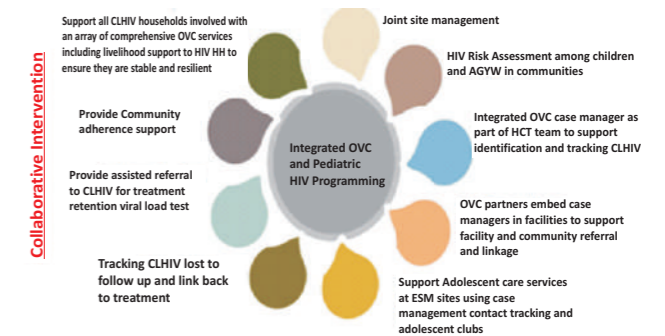
ARFH conducted baseline capacity assessment, to ascertain areas of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), which informed targeted interventions to fill identified gaps and build technical and organizational capacity of government and CBOs. As a result, focal staff of CBOs and government were trained on project management and sustainability, M&E, service provision, gender norms within the context of HIV/AIDS and NOMIS.



LOPIN1 SM&E- Gbenga Asaolu during household visit in Akwa-Ibom state. Photo: ARFH-LOPIN1

They were provided with appropriate equipment, skills, mentorship & handholding to facilitate programme implementation, data capturing, collation, reporting feeding into planning, decision making as an integral part of the national response.

PEDIATRIC ART SURGE SATURATION (PASS) STRATEGY



KEY RESULTS

As at October 2019, LOPIN-Region 1 achieved the followings among others:

- Served 89,250 OVC and 26,043 care givers with need based services out of which 2,710 households graduated having met the benchmarks
- Supported 89,250 children to access HIV testing services. Identified 2,504 HIV positive children and linked all of them to antiretroviral treatment
- Trained 3,013 adolescents and care givers on financial literacy and were all given start up business materials costing between N30,000.00 to N60,000.00 per person.
- Provided 398 most vulnerable care givers with pro-vitamin A cassava stems; of this, 45 were trained on cassava processing & marketing
- Formed 312 adult VSLA groups with 146 share outs. The groups saved N74,864,985 (USD207,382) between 2015-2019
- Provided conditional cash transfer to 842 most-vulnerable beneficiaries, each of whom received N30,000 (\$83) in three equal instalments of N10,000 (\$27) per tranche
- Secured birth certificates for 68,723 OVC, through strong collaboration between CBO partners and the National Population Commission
- Provided education block grant to one school in Akwa Ibom state and improved regular attendance of vulnerable children in the school.
- Supported 1,458 beneficiaries enrolled on the CBHIS in accessing free health services through the elimination of user fees