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4Children
Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS

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The Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children (4Children) project is a five-year, USAID-funded project to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) affected by HIV and other adversities. Initiated in September 2014, 4Children is led by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with partners IntraHealth International, Maestral International, Pact, Plan International USA, and Westat. 4Children aims to build:

- The evidence base for effective child welfare and protection interventions
- The ownership of country engagement in system strengthening
- The capacity of families, communities and governments to strongly link community and clinical services to better protect and provide for children

These objectives are being carried through 18 centrally-managed activities as well as work in 13 countries.

BUILDING EVIDENCE

4Children builds the evidence base for effective child welfare, care and protection interventions through operations research, evaluations and assessments of past programming and ongoing interventions. The following studies are examples of our work in these areas.

CASE PLAN ACHIEVEMENT IN OVC PROGRAMMING

An important part of case management in OVC programming is the process of preparing for and measuring the case plan achievement of children who have successfully met targets for wellbeing and safety, as well as monitoring the children's progress after exiting the program. 4Children is developing tools and guidance to promote ethical and successful benchmarks and strategies for case plan achievement of children and their caregivers from programming.

HIV TESTING AND SERVICES (HTS)

One programming priority is to improve identification

processes so that the health needs of the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including those who are HIV positive, are being met. 4Children is documenting identification and referral methods that work, including factors that prevent and promote access to HTS. This research will be the backbone of evidence-based technical guidance to improve OVC programs by linking and retaining children and adolescents to HIV care and treatment.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Capacity building and systems strengthening are at the core of 4Children. We build capacity across a wide spectrum of technical and organizational areas, such as strengthening case management and referral approaches, to enable governments and civil society organizations to better provide for and protect children.

STRENGTHENED CASE MANAGEMENT

Strengthened case management systems are critical for effectively preventing and responding to the challenges

faced by children and families affected by HIV and other adversities. 4Children has been engaged in a process of documenting the core components of the case management process to build a global case management package that can be contextually adapted for OVC programs.

STRENGTHENED REFERRAL SYSTEMS

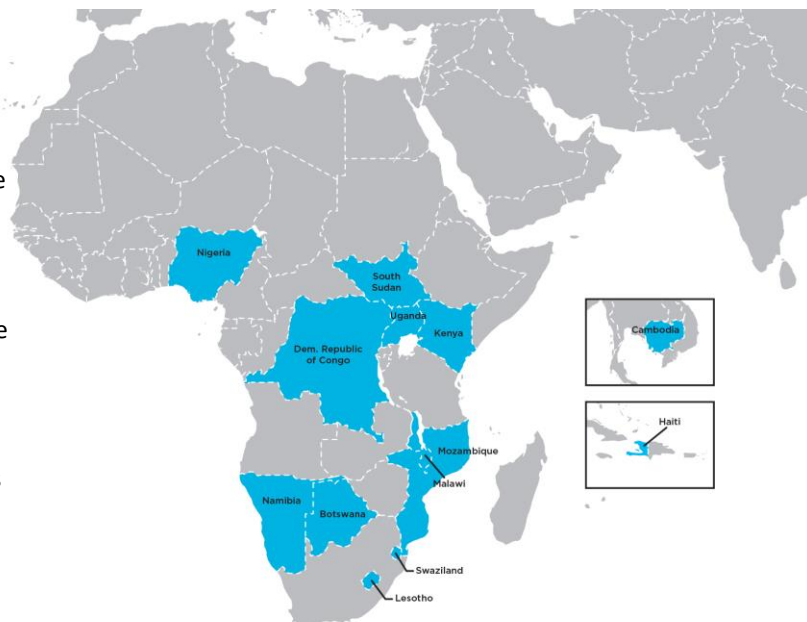
Strong referrals between the health clinic and social service systems is particularly relevant given that children and families affected by HIV and other adversities often have multiple vulnerabilities that require services provided by both sectors. 4Children builds the capacity of governments by providing strong models of how to improve referrals among and between sectors.

BUILDING OWNERSHIP

To cultivate sustainability and cohesion of national and subnational social service systems, 4Children is building country ownership through active engagement with stakeholders in national child welfare and protection systems. Through buy-ins from USAID country missions, 4Children is providing customized support to strengthen social systems in more than thirteen countries.

The overall goal of the national-level, five-year 4Children intervention in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** is to strengthen an HIV-sensitive social welfare system to provide a vital safety net for children and families made vulnerable by HIV and other adversities. 4Children is implementing a package of services which includes case management, mapping and strengthening health and social services referral systems for children affected by HIV and AIDS and their caregivers; strengthening caregivers' abilities to provide a nurturing and protective environment; and improving the household's financial stability to ensure that children and caregivers are enrolled and maintained in needed treatment and social services.

In **Nigeria**, 4Children is providing technical assistance to implementing partners in carrying out responsible transition of OVC, households, communities, local government areas and states as part of PEPFAR 3.0 priorities. To ensure responsible exit and transition, 4Children's activities are focused on developing strategies and tools for improved household economic strengthening and parenting. We are also focused on strengthening linkages between community-based and clinic-based OVC services for improved service delivery and inclusion of children living with HIV.



4CHILDREN IS BUILDING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP OF OVC PROGRAMS BY:

- Conducting an OVC Situational Analysis and Essential Indicators Survey in **BOTSWANA**
- Strengthening national HIV-sensitive social welfare system in **DRC** and OVC services in seven health zones of Kinshasa
- Strengthening systems for comprehensive HIV-sensitive services in **HAITI**
- Supporting PEPFAR pivot in **KENYA** in seven counties and expansion in Turkana through improved OVC services
- Empowering and reducing risk for adolescent girls through social asset building and family strengthening in **LESOTHO**
- Supporting comprehensive services for OVC in PEPFAR scale-up districts in **MALAWI**
- Providing technical assistance and training to strengthen the social welfare system in **MOZAMBIQUE**
- Assisting the government in HIV-sensitive case management, monitoring and reporting in **NAMIBIA**
- Providing technical assistance to PEPFAR implementing partners for transition of OVC in programs in **NIGERIA**
- Strengthening HIV-sensitive services for vulnerable children, youth and caregivers in **SOUTH SUDAN**
- Strengthening government national case management system and improving services for children exposed to violence and HIV in **SWAZILAND**
- Strengthening government capacity and the para-social worker cadre in **UGANDA**
- Keeping children in healthy and protective families in **UGANDA** and **CAMBODIA**

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