



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS

4Children

Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children

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, Maestral, Pact, Plan International, 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 20 centrally-managed activities as well as work in twelve 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.

GRADUATION IN OVC PROGRAMMING

An important part of case management in OVC programming is the process of preparing for and measuring the graduation of children who have successfully met targets for well-being and safety, as well as monitoring the children's progress after graduation. 4Children is developing tools and guidance to promote ethical and successful graduation of children and their caregivers from OVC 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 assist program implementers in 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, including referral mechanisms and graduation, as a first step in building understanding and improving the implementation of case management in OVC programming.

STRENGTHENED REFERRAL SYSTEMS

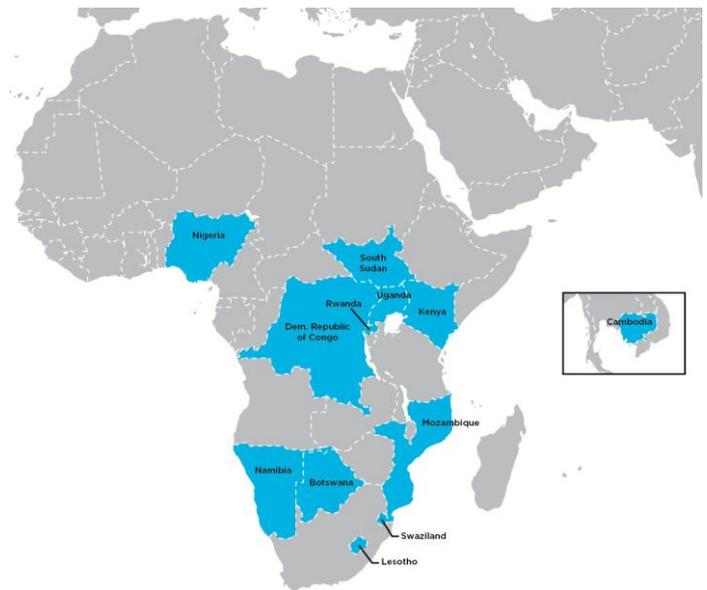
Strong referrals between the health clinic and social service systems is particularly relevant given that children and families affected by HIV and other adversities often have multiple vulnerabilities that require services provided by both sectors. 4Children builds the capacity of governments by providing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

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 nine 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 households 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 graduation and transition of OVC, households, communities, local government areas and states as part of PEPFAR 3.0 priorities. To ensure responsible graduation, 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 an HIV-sensitive social welfare system for vulnerable children in **DRC**
- Supporting PEPFAR implementing partners and government to identify, provide services and monitor OVC programming in **KENYA**
- Empowering and reducing risk for adolescent girls through social asset building in **LESOTHO**
- Providing technical assistance and training for stronger social welfare systems in **MOZAMBIQUE**
- Assisting the government with their OVC programming strategy in **NAMIBIA**
- Providing technical assistance to PEPFAR implementing partners for graduation and transition of OVC in programs in **NIGERIA**
- Supporting children and their caregivers through services in **SOUTH SUDAN**
- Strengthening violence prevention and response in **SWAZILAND**
- Strengthening national, district and community social welfare systems in **UGANDA**
- Keeping Children in healthy and protective families in **UGANDA, RWANDA and CAMBODIA**

CONTACT

For further information, please write contact@4-children.org

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