

Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children (4Children)

Who we are

Coordinating Comprehensive Care for Children (4Children) is a six-year (2014-2020), USAID-funded project to improve health and well-being outcomes for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) affected by HIV and AIDS and other adversities. The project aims to assist OVC by building technical and organizational capacity, strengthening essential components of the social service system, and improving linkages with health and other sectors.

Location: Global

Value of the project: \$72 million

Names of donors and consortium partners: USAID; CRS leads the project with consortium partners: IntraHealth International, Maestral International, Pact, Plan International USA, Westat

Scope of activities: 18 core activities to improve guidance and standards for vulnerable children programs and application of best practices through work in 12 countries.



Photo by Sara Pajardo/CRS

What we do

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SERVICE SYSTEMS

Capacity building and systems strengthening are at the core of 4Children's work. 4Children develops and promotes strong collaboration among actors across all sectors to support the cohesion and strengthening of national and sub-national social service systems. By defining a shared vision for capacity building, we ensure our assistance is demand-driven, context-specific and results-oriented. 4Children also engages children, families and communities to provide input throughout the project cycle, so that programs respond to respective needs. 4Children builds capacity across a wide spectrum of technical and organizational areas, such as strengthening case management and referral mechanisms, to enable governments and civil society organizations to better provide for and protect children.

PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

4Children uses a holistic approach to address the needs of vulnerable children and their families. 4Children provides integrated and comprehensive services through developing technical guidance on topic areas such as mental health, early childhood development, and preventing and responding to violence against children. In country projects that are providing direct services, 4Children draws on this guidance and to apply quality case management practices, which ensure that children and their families are able to access all they need to be healthy, safe, stable, and schooled before exiting the program.

BUILDING THE EVIDENCE

4Children builds the evidence base for effective care and protection interventions through rigorous operations research and evaluations of past and current interventions. From impact evaluations on the effect of parenting interventions, longitudinal research on social protection to case studies on case management, 4Children uses evidence to document 'what works'. This is then used to inform national policies for vulnerable children, and influence the design of future interventions.

SHARING WHAT WORKS

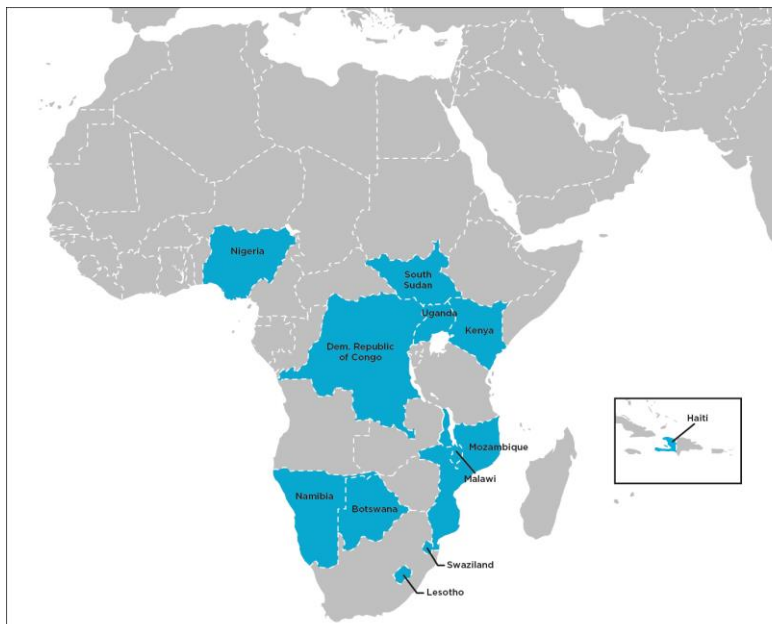
4Children is uniquely positioned to build evidence on what works, apply learning directly to program implementation and inform development of global guidance and policies for organizations and government working with children. The project is informing next-generation programming through managing platforms such as www.ovcsupport.org and collaborating with related global networks such as the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance, and the Better Care Network.

How we do it

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 twelve 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 builds 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 four health zones of Kinshasa
- Increasing services for OVC under five years and adolescent girls and young women in **HAITI**
- Supporting responsible transition of OVC in **KENYA** and technical assistance to OVC implementing partners for child protection and coordination
- 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 and reintegrating children into healthy and protective families in **UGANDA**

For country program details and 4Children publications and stories, please visit www.4-children.org

This fact sheet is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under cooperative agreement AID-OAA-A-14-00061. The contents are the responsibility of CRS and (relevant contributor) and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.