



KIDSS

KEY INTERVENTIONS TO DEVELOP SYSTEMS AND SERVICES FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

PROJECT SUMMARY

The KIDSS project is strengthening the capacity of the government of the Republic of Cameroon, civil society organizations (CSOs), communities, and households to care for and support Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).

KIDSS APPROACH

The problems of children infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS are complex, involving parents/caregivers, health facilities, schools, government policies, belief systems, and social behavior. The KIDSS project takes a systemic approach, addressing problems at all levels of the continuum of OVC care and treatment — undiagnosed and diagnosed HIV, HIV-affected children, antiretroviral access and utilization, and viral load suppression.

KIDSS supports the government and CSOs to develop the skills, structures, and systems to achieve the PEPFAR “90-90-90” targets for HIV treatment/prevention.¹ KIDSS seeks to:

1. Increase use of targeted services by OVC and their households at community and facility levels;
2. Improve capacity of communities, vulnerable households, and local facilities to provide HIV services; and
3. Strengthen government systems and policy environment for sustainable care and treatment of OVC affected by HIV.

QUICK FACTS	
Project Type	Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)
Funder/funding	USAID/\$7.6 million
Project location	13 health districts across Bamenda, Douala, Yaoundé in Cameroon
# of OVC or parents served	35,000
Timeframe	2014-2019
Partners	Archdioceses of Bamenda, Douala, & Yaoundé and National Episcopal Conference
Implementing Partners	10 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

STRENGTHS-BASED CASE MANAGEMENT AND INCREASED USE OF TARGETED SERVICES BY OVC AND THEIR HOUSEHOLDS

KIDSS facilitates access to direct services for OVC through case management, assessing families for their strengths and needs, creating case plans, and linking families and children to appropriate services to achieve their case plans. The project also ensures that all those identified as HIV-positive are linked to clinical care and treatment services and supports community-based activities to retain children and adolescents in care.

¹ By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of those diagnosed with HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 90% of those receiving such therapy will have viral suppression, including their parents/caregivers.

IMPROVED CAPACITY OF COMMUNITIES, VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS, AND LOCAL PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE HIV SERVICES

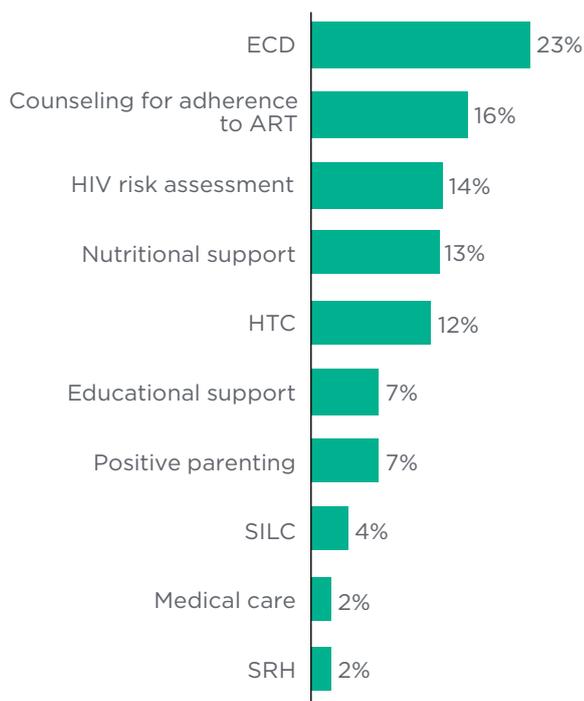
KIDSS supports CSOs to develop the skills and competencies to provide comprehensive care to children affected by HIV. Local implementing partners have been trained and are supported to provide quality case management, psychosocial support ECD services, and appropriate referrals and accompaniment to HIV testing, treatment, and adherence services. Through the KIDSS project, over 100 caseworkers provide services to families linking them to HIV care, treatment, and support.

IMPROVED GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEMS AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

CRS works with the Ministry of Social Affairs to deliver comprehensive and coordinated HIV services to OVC. This work includes support in drafting a national Early Childhood Development (ECD) policy document, launching a national ECD program to implement the policy, improving monitoring of OVC in institutions such as orphanages, crafting a development plan and in-service training program for personnel who care for OVC affected by HIV, and developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for social service stakeholders to support in understanding indicators and benchmarks for evaluating social service system components.

FIGURE 1

From January to March 2018, 17,513 services were provided to 7,541 beneficiaries, which averages to 2.3 services per beneficiary. The chart provides an overview of the services provided during this period, and the percentage of each compared to the total services provided. The most common service provided was ECD (23% of all services provided), ART adherence counseling (16%), HIV risk assessment (14%), nutritional support (13%), and HTC (12%).



Adolescents visiting the KIDSS stand at the international day for African child in Yaounde. Photo by Ernest Mbeng/CRS

KEY RESULTS

By the end of 2019, KIDSS will produce the following results:

- An effective model to improve HIV testing, counseling, care, and treatment and other continuum of care services in the targeted health districts
- At least 35,000 OVC know their HIV status; all positive HIV cases referred for clinical care and treatment.
- HIV negative children benefit from HIV prevention activities, including sexual and reproductive health education
- Beneficiaries receive positive parenting and early child stimulation training and household economic strengthening

