

# OVC Portfolio Brief



**M**EASURE Evaluation works to improve programs for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) by providing much-needed data about programs and populations. MEASURE Evaluation is building OVC monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity globally through indicator and tool development, program evaluation, data triangulation, and technical assistance (TA) and mentoring.

## OVC Survey Toolkit & PEPFAR MER Supplement

MEASURE Evaluation has developed OVC survey tools to 1) enable and standardize the production of population-level child and caregiver well-being data *beyond* what is available from routine surveys, 2) produce actionable data to inform programs and enable mid-course corrections, and 3) enable comparative assessments of child and caregiver well-being and household economic

status across a diverse set of interventions and geographical regions. In part, this toolkit was developed to support U.S. government missions and U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)-funded programs to fulfill aims presented in United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Evaluation Policy. The toolkit includes the following:

- Quantitative child outcomes and caregiver/ household outcomes measurement tools designed for use in a survey of children ages 0–17 years and their adult caregivers (English/ French).
- A minimum set of impact indicators for use in OVC programs globally.



- A protocol template.
- A data analysis guide.
- A data management guide.
- Data collector training materials.
- A psychosocial well-being measurement supplement.

We also developed a supplement for the PEPFAR MER indicators, describing how the essential survey questions should be collected and providing tools to ensure high quality in data collection.

Download materials: [www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/our-work/ovc/ovc-program-evaluation-tool-kit](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/our-work/ovc/ovc-program-evaluation-tool-kit)

### **Indicators**

MEASURE Evaluation is developing a PEPFAR-supported M&E framework to provide guidance to countries and PEPFAR partners on how to monitor and evaluate the outcome of social service system strengthening interventions. The M&E framework will provide the foundation for countries to better understand the status of social service systems and use information and data to strengthen these systems.

### **OVC Program M&E Case Studies**

Many community-based programs provide services intended to mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDS, including HIV prevention, HIV care and treatment, and services for OVC. These programs vary widely in terms of the M&E data, the job function and skills of people who collect the data, and how and by whom the data are managed, analyzed, used, and stored. MEASURE Evaluation, with support from USAID, conducted case studies to understand and document how program staff and governments design, implement, and use community-based information systems.

Case studies in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia provide an opportunity to identify lessons learned—including successes, challenges, and opportunities for improvement—that will inform community-based programs globally.

The case studies focus on OVC programs because such programs rely heavily on community workers and community-based organizations (CBOs) to implement activities and monitor program progress. However, case study findings are relevant to other community-based programs that support prevention efforts and ensure continuity of care through nutrition, home-based care (HBC), and general community health programs that are at the forefront of AIDS-free generation efforts. The case study overview and country specific case studies are available at: [www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications/sr-14-105](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications/sr-14-105).

### **Child Status Index**

In 2009, MEASURE Evaluation published the *Child Status Index: A Tool for Assessing the Well-Being of Orphans and Vulnerable Children*. The *Child Status Index* (CSI) was designed to capture vulnerable children's status across the six domains of PEPFAR's OVC programming. Based on anecdotal reports of widespread use and the need to understand the extent of its use, MEASURE Evaluation conducted the *Child Status Index Usage Assessment* in 2011–2012 to understand how large programs were using the CSI to meet a range of information needs. In 2012, MEASURE Evaluation conducted a follow-on study, *Decision Making Among Community-Based Volunteers Working in Vulnerable Children Programs*, to understand the perspectives of community-based workers who use the CSI on a routine basis.

Findings from both studies confirmed that programs worldwide have adopted the CSI, and in some countries the CSI is recommended as a national tool. The two MEASURE Evaluation studies documented the value of the CSI and suggested a need for guidance on the best uses of the CSI (i.e., primarily as a case management tool); guidelines for training and supportive supervision; and decision-support guidance for community-based workers using the CSI (e.g., to support referrals, resource availability). The studies also demonstrated opportunities to strengthen referral networks and information sharing among community groups and volunteers.

Study findings have led to the following new and updated documents: [www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/tools/child-health/child-status-index](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/tools/child-health/child-status-index):

- *Clarification Regarding Usage of the Child Status Index* (2012)
- *Revised Child Status Index Manual* (revised 2013) with clarification on appropriate uses, suggestions for training, and recommendations on using CSI findings at the community level to make decisions about providing care and support to children.
- CSI Training Model (2014)

### For More Information

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# TANZANIA



MEASURE Evaluation is currently developing national M&E frameworks and information management systems for most-vulnerable children (MVC) programs with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Mainland and the Ministry of Empowerment, Social Welfare, Youth, Women and Children in Zanzibar.

Our support to DSW includes Information, Technology and Communication assessments that provided information on the technological, human, and infrastructural capacity required to build a functional electronic Management Information System for MVC.

Further participatory assessments applied an OVC M&E system assessment tool based on UNAID's *Framework for 12 Components of a Functional M&E System*. These systems assessments resulted in national Multi-Sectoral Costed MVC M&E System Strengthening Operational plans that the government, in collaboration with partners, is using to sustainably build the national MVC M&E systems.

MVC M&E technical working groups, for which MEASURE serves as secretariat, are the national multi-sectoral bodies supporting development of national MVC M&E frameworks, including harmonizing indicators and developing standard data collection tools and data flow processes.

Our data quality assessment (DQA) process strengthens the M&E capacity of PEPFAR MVC partners. MEASURE Evaluation Tanzania developed the *Community Trace and Verify Tool* which collects information on whether services reported in the registers are actually reaching the recipients. This tool is part of our strategy to conduct DQAs for MVC programs and to build M&E capacity of MVC partners through M&E capacity-building plans, on- and off-site M&E mentoring, and M&E trainings, all of which are customized for PEPFAR MVC partners based on the needs identified by DQA findings. ■

# KENYA



The national Child Protection Information Management System (CPMIS) in Kenya is a case management tool that supports effective responses for children in need of protection services and generates important aggregate data on maltreatment and protection of children that is reported to the national level. The system tracks cases of child abuse, neglect, or exploitation and provides aggregate information on both the effectiveness of the child protection system's response to cases and on patterns in identified cases and responses.

MEASURE Evaluation PIMA (MEval-PIMA) is supporting the Department of Children's Services (DCS) technical working group in upgrading and rolling out the CPMIS and building DCS' capacity to sustainably manage the system. Capacity to use the information—at all levels of the system—is a key objective of our program and will be achieved through deploying a national data use training that is integrated into CPIMS roll-out. As the CPIMS is upgraded and rolled out, regularly maintaining data quality and security is critical to ensuring effective use of the information that the system

generates. Use of standard data quality and data security guidelines, protocols, and tools helps ensure a basic level of data quality. Supportive supervision for M&E activities, routine data quality assessments, and external data quality audits are additional ways to improve and maintain the quality of data. MEval-PIMA will review existing CPIMS data quality procedures and tools and work with appropriate stakeholders to standardize and roll out systems-wide.

PEPFAR's OVC Longitudinal MIS is a donor-specific reporting system for OVC partners. MEval-PIMA is supporting PEPFAR OVC partners in upgrading and rolling out the OLMIS. MEval-PIMA will provide partner support for OLMIS training, troubleshooting, using data for program and case management, and supporting the national partners in working toward integration, interoperability, and indicator harmonization. ■

# UGANDA



In 2011–2012, Uganda’s Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development approved use of the Vulnerability Index (VI), a tool to identify vulnerable households and the extent of their vulnerability. Five U.S government-funded implementing partners started using the VI in 2012–2013. USAID/Uganda asked MEASURE Evaluation to conduct an assessment of the VI tool’s usefulness, feasibility, and data quality.

A full report of this mixed methods assessment, including conclusions and recommendations, can be found at: [www.measureevaluation.org/publications/sr-14-93](http://www.measureevaluation.org/publications/sr-14-93).

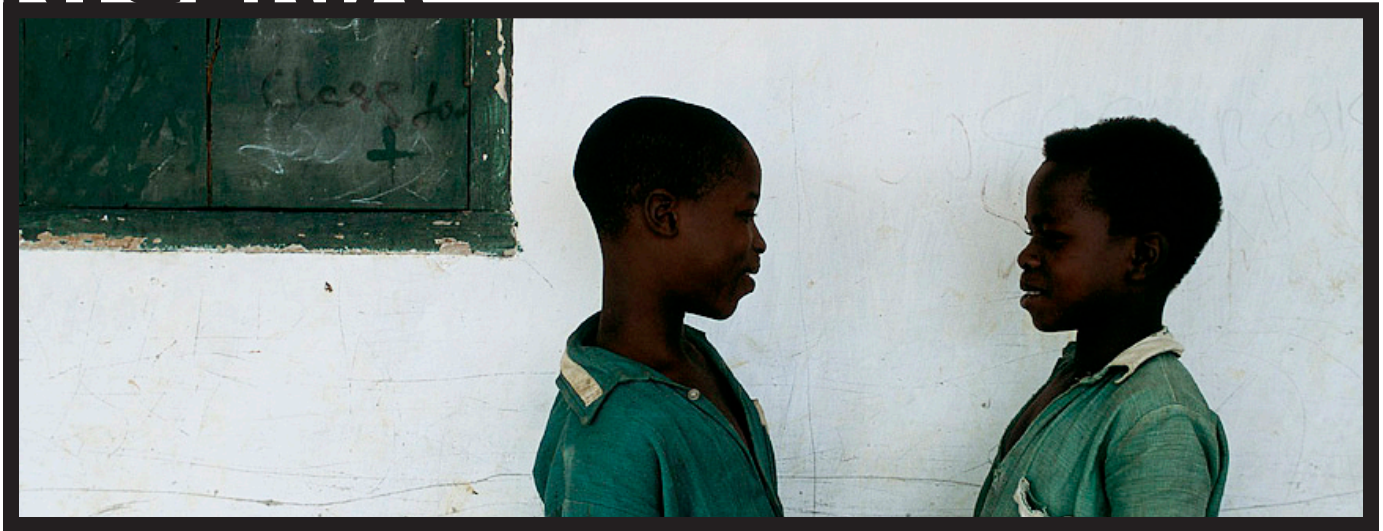
The primary USAID-funded OVC program in Uganda—Sustainable, Comprehensive Responses for vulnerable children and their families (SCORE)—developed its own tool, the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT). In 2013– 2014 USAID/Uganda requested MEASURE Evaluation to assess the quality of VAT data to determine which VAT indicators would be most appropriate to use in an assessment of the program’s outcomes.

The research team conducted three activities to assess data quality:

- A routine data quality assessment;
- A reliability assessment; and
- An inter-rater reliability assessment.

Based on findings from these assessments, MEASURE Evaluation developed an evaluation protocol for the SCORE program. ■

# NIGERIA



MEASURE Evaluation provided TA to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) and its Department for Planning, Research & Statistics to 1) collect and use OVC information in decision making and 2) to develop a functional M&E system for the national OVC response.

MEASURE Evaluation provided TA to the FMWASD to conduct the National Situation Analysis and Assessment (SAA) of OVC in Nigeria in 2008. MEASURE Evaluation also conducted secondary analyses of the OVC SAA dataset to address stakeholders' priority information gaps and to inform commitments for the new National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children in Nigeria (2013–2020).

MEASURE Evaluation provided TA to the M&E subcommittee of the National Technical Coordinating Group to ensure proper implementation of the *National Priority Agenda M&E Framework*. Task included: co-facilitating meetings, reviewing reports, and updating the subcommittee on best practices in M&E.

MEASURE Evaluation supported the FMWASD to develop an OVC M&E plan based on the original *National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children in Nigeria*. The M&E plan was developed in collaboration with OVC stakeholders and service providers—UNICEF, PEPFAR OVC implementing partners, and government officers at federal, state, and local levels. This participatory process ensured consistent indicators, data collection and reporting tools, and reporting schedules.

MEASURE Evaluation took the lead role in helping partners implement the M&E plan and develop an training curriculum package. The plan was successfully delivered at 1) a federal-level training-of-trainers workshop and 2) state-level step-down trainings which led to a more coordinated OVC response in Nigeria. Key tools have allowed for rapid identification of children in need of urgent care and support. MEASURE Evaluation has finalized CSI adaptations and translations in Hausa, Yoruba, Pidgin English, and Igbo. ■

# CAMEROON



MEASURE Evaluation has worked with key stakeholders to develop a multi-year operational OVC M&E system strengthening plan to guide the implementation of a unified system in Cameroon. As a part of this system strengthening plan, MEASURE Evaluation has conducted a participatory needs assessment with key stakeholders and a review of existing data on OVC.

One of the major findings of this assessment was that the *OVC National Strategic Plan 2011–2015*—the guiding document for OVC programs in Cameroon—did not provide the necessary operational details and indicators for monitoring OVC programs to operationalize a program monitoring system. As a result, MEASURE Evaluation conducted three participatory workshops with the government of Cameroon and donor stakeholders to develop a clear and straightforward results framework to guide the implementation of the National Strategic Plan. The illustrative indicators included in the National Strategic Plan were further operationalized with clear definitions, targets, and strategies for data collection and management.

All indicators were evaluated using the UNAIDS indicator assessment tool, with 15 priority national indicators selected. Key stakeholders finalized the indicator reference sheets for each of the 15 priority indicators and discussed data collection and reporting tool needs. Stakeholders conducted an exercise mapping how information currently flows and ways to improve this flow within the National OVC M&E system.

Finally, MEASURE Evaluation worked with the stakeholders to produce the OVC M&E Framework Recommendations Report, which included recommendations for the M&E system as a whole and proposed 10 data collection tools based on a comprehensive review of data collection tools already validated in Cameroon as well as best practices in data collection learned from MEASURE Evaluation work globally. ■

# MOZAMBIQUE



MEASURE Evaluation conducted a study entitled *Mozambique Program Assessment: Community Care for Vulnerable Children in an Integrated Vulnerable Children and Home-based Care Program*. In Mozambique, community-based organizations (CBOs) traditionally deployed single-purpose community home visitors, with some serving only OVC and others serving only HBC clients. The USAID-funded Community Care Project (PCC) changed their care model by training dual-purpose community home visitors who serve both OVC and HBC clients. This mixed methods study took place in two provinces and aimed to understand what this programmatic change means for service provision to vulnerable children. This report is available in both English and Portuguese.

MEASURE Evaluation also conducted a study, *Assessment of an mHealth Initiative for Patient Retention*. In Mozambique, *busca activa*—meaning active search—deploys community health workers to locate, counsel, and assist patients who have defaulted in returning to the health facility to recommence treatment, a service complements

facility care for people living with HIV. USAID-funded partners implemented a pilot project where home visitors received information related to patients by mobile phone. This study included three components:

### 1. Qualitative Time Series Study

Study with mHealth stakeholders to document the roll-out of the pilot.

### 2. Secondary Data Analysis

Analysis of mHealth *busca activa* variables such as the time between when a patient defaults, when a patient is searched for, and when he/she returns to the health facility.

### 3. Expenditure Analysis

Analysis of the mHealth intervention based on eight months of start-up and implementation.



# RWANDA



MEASURE Evaluation has significant experience in supporting the monitoring and evaluation of OVC programs in Rwanda and successfully transitioned the M&E capacity building role to the government's National Commission for Children (NCC) in 2013. MEASURE Evaluation staff supported NCC to develop a national M&E framework for the OVC National Strategic Plan (NSP) and the corresponding data collection tools.

In addition, we assisted OVC programs in implementing the *Child Status Index (CSI)*, which involved 1) translating the tool into Kinyarwanda and 2) conducting trainings on the CSI. At the cornerstone of strengthening the national M&E system, we supported NCC to use an OVC M&E System Assessment tool that is based on UNAID's *Framework for 12 Components of a Functional M&E System*.

The systems assessments resulted in a government-approved Multi-Sectoral Costed Child Protection M&E System Strengthening Operational plan that the government is using, in collaboration with partners, to sustainably build the national M&E systems. The OVC M&E Technical Working Group established to conduct this assessment continues to be the functional body coordinating and implementing M&E system strengthening activities in the operational plan. ■