

Supporting the Rollout of a Longitudinal Management Information System for Programs Serving Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Background

Programs for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) aim to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on children, adolescents, and their families through organizations that assess and provide services.

Data are crucial for planning and decision making and to ensure that OVC programs provide targeted support. U.S. Government (USG)-funded OVC programs collect and assess data on services delivered to individual children over time. These OVC case data used to be collected by community health volunteers, who often relied on memory and who manually recorded the data in exercise books. This process resulted in the loss of critical information and led to the production of delayed or inaccurate reports, which made it difficult to provide targeted services and assess their performance.

To address this challenge, MEASURE Evaluation PIMA (MEval-PIMA)—funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)—was tasked to support the rollout in Kenya of an electronic OVC longitudinal management information system (OLMIS). The system helps USG-funded OVC programs to capture, report on, and track accurate data and, subsequently, to use the data for decision making.

The OLMIS design is based on standard data collection tools that comply with the [OVC minimum service standards for quality](#)

[improvement in Kenya](#) (July 2012) and with [PEPFAR guidance](#) (July 2012). The system helps to identify OVC needs and to prioritize and track services provided to OVC and their caregivers. The robust system maintains enormous volumes of data on each child, thus promoting the generation and use of high-quality reports for decision making for OVC programming at different levels.

As part of its mandate, MEval-PIMA will strengthen data management practices; build staff capacity; perform upgrades of the system; and distribute standard data collection tools, guidelines, and operating procedures to OVC organizations.

Salient Features of Kenya’s OLMIS

1. Adapts to different organizational needs
2. Operates in a resource-limited setting
3. Has dynamic Excel pivot reports and dashboards
4. Disaggregates data by age, sex, and other categories
5. Has inbuilt data validation and quality-assurance mechanisms
6. Provides security, privacy, and confidentiality in the following ways:
 - i. Controlling access
 - ii. Encrypting data for online transmission
7. Provides online system updates to users

MEval-PIMA’s Key Activities

- Conduct baseline assessments to identify organizational needs that will inform targeted support
- Build the capacity of organizations to generate and use high-quality data for decision making
- Roll out the OLMIS and improve it to meet stakeholder needs
- Provide ongoing technical support to users
- Coordinate timely reporting from partners to USAID through a central repository portal



- Distribute standard OVC data-collection tools, guidelines, and operating procedures to support the uniform collection of data
- Coordinate an OLMIS stakeholder technical working group in collaboration with USAID to drive the OLMIS agenda

To ensure that the OLMIS responds to specific organizational and USAID requirements, MEval-PIMA uses a participatory process to harvest information about the needs of the community of users and connects users through a web portal for cross-pollination and sharing of experiences.

Benefits of Using an OLMIS

- Supports timely, accurate, and uniform reporting by all USG-funded organizations
- Allows the tracking of individual children over time and the tracking of service provision based on each child's needs and level of vulnerability
- Facilitates the tracking of performance of key program and monitoring, evaluation, and reporting indicators to spur action and decision making

- Promotes evidence-informed interaction between the program and monitoring and evaluation teams
- Informs procurement, budgeting, and leveraging of resources
- Mitigates double-dipping by beneficiaries

Key Stakeholders

To strengthen the OLMIS, MEval-PIMA works with the following:

- USG-funded OVC partners working in all of Kenya's 47 counties
- The Department of Children's Services under the Kenyan Ministry of East African Community (EAC), Labour and Social Protection
- USAID/Kenya

For more information, see

www.measureevaluation.org or
<http://www.measureevaluation.org/pima>



Samuel Njiraini, OLMIS Programmer, MEval-PIMA (second left), providing technical support to APHIAplus Kamili project staff in Machakos County. Photo: MEASURE Evaluation PIMA