

# OTEN ITA FOUNDATION

4 MAYNE AVENUE CALABAR

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## PROGRAM PROFILE

**OTEN ITA FOUNDATION  
1/ 4 MAYNE AVENUE, CAL**

*1: BEFORE INTERVENTION ON TREASURE SUNDAY*



*2: SIX MONTHS AFTER OUR INTERVENTION*



15<sup>th</sup> Jan

2023

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## FORWARD

“We see a World where every child eats and goes to school, where women have access to opportunities and empowerment, where environmental and social justice is guaranteed. Together we can reach there.”

The years under review are a period for reflections. It offers an opportunity to look back at the progress made and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Much has been done over the past FIVE years by OTEN ITA FOUNDATION and LOPIN 3 Project/ Partner’s organizations to highlight the ongoing care, support and empowerment to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and their caregivers in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs of Cross River State.

Within OTEN ITA FOUNDATION we continue our efforts to provide and promote care, support, empower and advocate for orphans, vulnerable children, youths and women thus alleviating poverty in Nigeria. To this end, in the years under review we have undertaken a number of initiatives that will, among other things help us to better, measure our impact and further improve the way we work with partners and beneficiaries in our resolve to serve them.

Our works in these areas are described in the following pages. It clearly represents the results of the commitments of all those who have joined and supported us in our work. We would like to use this opportunity to thank ALMIGHTY GOD, the Board of Trustees of Oten Ita Foundation, partner Organizations, project coordinator, Staff and volunteers of OTEN ITA FOUNDATION. We thank our principal partner Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa (HIFASS) and other members of the LOPIN 3 Project Consortium; The People to People Foundation for the opportunity to work with them as a sub-grantee under the Local OVC Partners in Nigeria – Region 3 (LOPIN-3) funded by USAID. Indeed, the partnership relationship has strengthened our capacity in providing care and support to vulnerable children and other beneficiaries. Finally, a ‘BIG thank you’ to USAID for the funding opportunity which our Organization is was a beneficiary of.

Best wishes

Elder (Mrs.) Oten Eyo Ita

For Board of Trustees

## List of Abbreviation

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DiCs	Drop in Centres
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FSWs	Female Sex Workers
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HCW	Healthcare Workers
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ	Headquarters
IDI	In-depth Interview
LEA	Law Enforcement Agent
LOPIN 3	Local OVC Partners in Nigeria Region 3
MARPs	Most-at-Risk-Populations
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NRA	Nutrition and Referral Advisor
NRO	Nutrition and Referral Officer
OTF	Oten Ita Foundation
OSSs	One Stop Shops
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
SBF	Special Boyfriend
SHiPS	Strengthening HIV Prevention Services for MARPs
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence against Women

## **About OTEN ITA FOUNDATION**

Oten Ita Foundation was founded in 1993, registered with state and local government in 2004, and was incorporated in 2009 with Cooperate Affairs Commission, Abuja, Nigeria with registration number CAC/IT/NO 3122. This foundation was born out of an uncontrollable passion for less privileged women and children in both rural and urban communities; to see how these marginalized people can be socio- economically empowered and given a platform where they can participate in the socio-economic development and effective participation in the democratic process in Nigeria and beyond. Oten Ita foundation was passionately founded by Elder Mrs. Oten Eyo Ita

## **VISION**

We envision a world that cares for children and empowers women.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission is to improve, promote and empower the right and livelihood of the less privileged women and children notwithstanding their tribe or religion and facilitate their involvement in democratic and socio-economic development in Nigeria and beyond. It is based on this mission of empowering and promoting the Right of women and Children that Oten Ita Foundation was poised with innovation of planning and implementation this project titled Empowering and Promoting the rights of widows, girl child and vulnerable women in rural communities for self reliance so they can participate effectively in all phases of development in Nigeria.

Honesty, Transparency, Accountability, Integrity and Care

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (1) To build the capacities and develop the skills of underprivileged women, caregivers, orphans and vulnerable children.
- (2) To facilitate, mobilize and promote community and other stakeholder's involvement in the care, support and empowerment of underprivileged women, orphans and vulnerable children.
- (3) To provide primary healthcare and information to orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers.
- (4) To facilitate sustainable livelihood alternatives at the grassroots through micro-credit, enterprise development and mentoring.
- (5) To network and collaborate with other Organizations on sustainable development issues.

## Humanitarian Outreaches at Akampka, Kigol, Apie-Julie, Okpanzenge and Ogoja Refugee Camp



We Sensitized 430 refugees and 277 host communities on STI/HIV prevention,



WASH and condom promotion at kigol, Apie-Julie, Okpanzenge (Up Ranch) Obudu resort in Obanliku LGA. A total of 707 persons were reached and 10,500 pieces of condom were distributed.

✓ Conducted HIV testing services on 370 refugees, IDPs and 213 host communities which include HIV risk assessment, HIV

testing and counselling, and referrals. A total of 583 were risk assessed, 552 were tested and results received. 5 persons tested come out positive and were referred for confirmatory tests and further placed on treatment in Obanliku.

- ✓ Provision of vitamin A supplement for children (6-59 months), Vitamins for Pregnant women and Deworming. A total number of 16000 children were reached with vitamin A, and 240 pregnant women were reached with multivitamin. Community outreach was conducted in 48 communities in 5 local Government Areas of Cross River State
- ✓ A street walk with refugees and other stakeholders was championed by UNHCR as part of the activities of the 16 days activism on SGBV and to mark the world Aids day in Ogoja, Cross River State. The street walk started from the refugee camp and terminated at Government Comprehensive Secondary School, Abakpa. Cards and banner carrying messages on SGBV prevention and STI/HIV prevention were on display. We sensitized a total of 394 persons including refugees, host community and others on STI/HIV prevention, GBV prevention, WASH and condom promotion at Ogoja refugee camp. A total of 12,500 pieces of condom were distributed on 1<sup>ST</sup> Dec 2018
- ✓ We conducted HIV testing services on 374 refugees and others at Ogoja refugee camp. The services include: HIV risk assessment, HIV testing and counseling, and referrals. A total of 374 persons were tested and received their results. 2 persons were reactive and referred to heartland Alliance for confirmatory test and further placement on treatment.
- ✓ Oten Ita Foundation donated clothes worth thousands of naira to SEMA for the refugees in Ogoja Camp. We also donated 12,960 doses of Vitamins enough for 72 pregnant women, 1000 vitamin A for children at the health post at Ogoja refugee camp through UNHCR. 4320 doses of vitamin for pregnant women and 1000 vitamin A for children were donated to the health post in kigol in Obanliku LGA.
- ✓ We Sensitized 450 refugees and 100 host communities on STI/HIV prevention, WASH and condom promotion at Mfaminyen community in Akampka LGA. A total of 550 persons were reached and 4500 pieces of condom were distributed on 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec, 2018

- ✓ We conducted HIV testing services on 170 refugees and 50 host communities which include HIV risk assessment, HIV testing and counselling, and referrals.
- ✓ Provision of vitamin A supplement for children (6-59 months), Vitamins for Pregnant women and Deworming.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF OVC PROJECT



Figure 3 COIT Meeting at Ikot Omin Calabar Municipality



Figure 2 Food Demonstration Session at OTF Office September

Oten Ita Foundation partnered with ICHSSA/ LOT 1, Local OVC Partners in Nigeria – Region 3 (LOPIN-3) of Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa “**HIFASS**” to scale up our community Comprehensive care, support and protection Services to Orphans and Vulnerable Children who are affected or infected with HIV in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs of Cross River. We enrolled 5212 Orphans and vulnerable children in 1250 household in Obudu and Obanliku LGAs of Cross River State under LOPIN 3 care and support services for vulnerable children. LOPIN 3 Project intervention started on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Obudu and Obanliku LGA were 4 technical staff and 45 volunteers were trained on how to provide care and support for vulnerable children in 10 wards of Obudu and Obanliku LGAs. The Names of the wards are; Begiading, Angiaba Beyaika, Ukpe, Ipong and Alege Uban in Obudu LGA . The names of wards in Obanliku were; Bishiri North, Bukumaya, Bendi 1, Bendi 2, and Becheve (Ranch). The Project closed out in 2017 with a caseload of 2489 in Obudu and Obanliku LGAs.

Oten Ita Foundation was awarded Calabar Municipality in 2016, presently carrying a caseload of 5466 with ever enrolled recorded of 8764. Oten Ita Foundation is working in three wards of Calabar municipality namely; ward 1,6 and 9 with 43 community volunteers. With the

present USAID project on SURGE, we have enrolled 153 (M=15, F=140) Positive caregivers with 131 (M=58, F=73) Positive OVCs in Calabar Municipality. From the period that we were awarded Calabar Municipality we have continue to provide care, protection and support to our enrolled OVC and their caregivers. We have provided six +1 services through our different cohorts platforms. These platforms include; 35 caregivers Forum, 35 Child Care Club, 7 AGYW CLUBS, 7 ABYP Clubs, 3 Support Groups, 14 SILC groups and 7 COIT for project sustainability.

## **SUMMARY OF PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE THROUGH CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Oten Ita Foundation in collaboration with Budget Transparency Accountability Network (BTAN) on anti-corruption radio program; working with Traditional Leaders on value re-orientation and building the capacity of community structures on election monitoring procurement monitoring, and corruption risk assessment. Oten Ita Foundation partner with Calabar municipality to train whistle blowers, and with the State House of Assembly to reenforce Whistle Blowers Protection Law in Cross River State. The Project act as a catalyst through **the** actions of anti-corruption vanguards, who themselves are members of civil society organisations, to evoke citizen interest, using existing anti-corruption laws in Cross River State, and building partnerships with existing anti-corruption institutions. Establishment and maintenance of procurement compliance and transparency ranking portal for MDAs to channel whistle blowing information and improve transparency in the procurement process, while social media was used to educate the citizens on value reorientation..

### Achievements

1. For the first time, members of the Budget Transparency Accountability Network scrutinized the process of the Cross River State Appropriation Law. This made the SA to the Governor on Budgeting to come up with series of explanations in the course of the passage of the Law
2. Community had their capacities built on the procurement process and with the knowledge they learnt in the course of the training, engaged the procurement processes in some line ministries and agencies in Cross River State.
3. It gave the platform for duty bearers in the state to appear before the anti-corruption radio programme to throw more lightson what is happening in their ministries

## **De-worming and Provision of Vitamins Programme in rural communities and urban slum for Children support by Vitamin Angels**

Staff and volunteers of OTEN ITA FOUNDATION in collaboration with Vitamin Angel Nigeria embarked on de-worming and provision of vitamins to children at Obudu, Obanliku, Akamkpa Ogoja, Bakassi, Calabar Municipality LGA, and the Banga camp pamol estate Calabar. Two hundred and fifty nine (259) took vitamins during the exercise.

It was started with the introduction and registration, after which the resource person took the stage as she delivered a talk on the causes of worms. At the end of her talk participants asked several questions. This was followed by the deworming exercise, as one hundred and twenty (120) children were dewormed.



OTEN ITA FOUNDATION conducted a needs assessment in Calabar the capital of Cross River State of Nigeria. Our findings revealed that 80% of children around Ikot Effanga Mkpa communities, an urban slum in Calabar, did not have access to universal basic Education. This urban slum has an estimated population of two hundred thousand (200000) people, 80% of the dwellers are living in poverty, that is lives on less than \$1 per day. 60% of children in this community are single orphan born out of teenage pregnancy and rape. The fact was that these children had to trek a long distance to attend a public school because the private school around them was too costly.

The psalm school project was a project poised with the mission to provide universal basic education, dialectical education, care & support, nutrition and reproductive health education to orphans and vulnerable children especially the child girl. We also provide psychosocial support and livelihood empowerment to their care givers of these children

In attempt to proffer a sustainable intervention on girl child education and support for orphan and vulnerable children around the Ikot Effang aMkpa, the foundation started organizing the children into a playgroup in 2006 in collaboration with the peoples club of Nigeria Cross River State Chapter with the vision to establish affordable school for these children and also accommodate the teeming orphans and vulnerable children in their premises.

The school commenced on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007 with forty seven (47) pupils and ten (10) teachers. The entire pupils where place on either partial or full scholarship. There where twenty girl child and 17 male children who benefited from our scholarship programme

In 2008 the population of the school increased tremendously to ninety six and the number of teachers increased to fifteen (15), five (5) non-teaching and two administrative staff. The school was located at the premises of the Peoples club Calabar. In September, 2008 the foundation applied for the registration of the school through the commissioner of women affairs. Psalm schools had a track record of impacting up to two hundred children with universal basic education. Also offered one hundred and twenty girl child with reproductive health and nutrition education and psychosocial support to their caregivers.

OTEN ITA FOUNDATION and ONESKY a Canadian institute for sustainable living to train the staff, teachers and volunteers and also arranging for an exchange program for the children to visit schools in Canada.

The unique feature of the school was that it offered orphans and vulnerable children the opportunity to access comprehensive care and support services as they studied along side with privileged children. Despite othese numerous achievements there were challenges encountered by the foundation, especially payment of salaries, transportation and the acquisition of land for the permanent building of the school.

We hope that in future all these challenges will be surmounted as we look forward to raising leaders who can standout anywhere in the world to compete and contribute to the service of humanity.

## 2. Scope of work (a. major activities in accordance with approved workplace.)

### OVCs newly enrolled/currently enrolled (Case Management)

From the inception of our intervention the approach we have used for enrollment has been through administration of HIV risk assessment during home visits to vulnerable households and HHVA and then we enrolled based on level of vulnerability to HIV risk. During Surge intervention for positive cases that are lost to follow up, enrollment was done through the health facilities). In Obudu and Obanliku where the LOPIN 3 project was close out without any direction for closeout Transition plan, Oten Ita Foundation is still providing care and support specially to positive clients in our care (Total number of Positive Client enrolled into the program are 149 caregivers with 24 OVCs in Obudu and Obanliku)

We are still expecting to have the transition plan from HIFASS LOPIN 3 Team on the Transition plan for Calabar Municipality as at the time of this project close out report. The table below shows our caseload in the three LGAs of our interventions segregated by age and sex (Obudu = 3018, Obanliku = 1093, Calabar Municipality = 8764)

Community VC Services Data Element	Male								Female								Total
	<1year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years	18-24 years	25+ years	Male Total	<1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-17 years	18-24 years	25+ years	Female Total	
Total No. of VC currently enrolled Obudu (Transited)	0	175	169	194	142	0	0	680	0	211	228	203	144	0	0	786	1466
Total No. of VC ever Obudu enrolled	105	375	433	418	285	0	0	1616	78	304	428	351	241	0	0	1402	3018
Total No. of VC currently enrolled Obanliku (Transited)	0	121	148	136	147	0	0	552	0	91	130	99	151	0	0	471	1023
Total No. of VC ever Obanliku enrolled	57	227	284	309	168	0	0	1045	68	281	342	271	131	0	0	1093	2138
Total No. of VC currently enrolled Cal. Mun (active)	15	477	617	550	242	91	173	2165	15	427	558	571	212	109	1409	3301	5466

Total No. of VC ever Cal Mun. enrolled	65	738	1139	941	442	0	260	3585	55	685	1145	975	453	6	1860	5179	8764
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### Caregivers Trained to Improve Their Ability in Caring for OVCs and Their Households

#### Roll-Out Session on Step-down Training during Caregivers Forum by Community Volunteers



Caregiver’s forum was one of the cohorts to provide OVC case Management services during the period of our intervention in the LOPIN 3 Project. The Platform provided the avenue for Caregivers capacity to be built on better parenting Skills through the support of our trained Community Volunteers (CVs) and the program team in the 35 caregivers’ Forum which took place across the 3 wards in Calabar Municipality. The topics discussed during sessions were: Better Monitoring, Good role modelling, good listening skills, promoting adequate nutrition using local food, disclosure and discrimination. The total number of caregivers trained during caregivers forum on parenting skills, financial literacy, in Calabar Municipality were 538 (M= 264, F=1518), Obudu and Obanliku: 1250.

Figure 4 Caregivers Meeting at Ward 9

### Vulnerable Children Regularly Attending School

Strategic home and school visits were conducted to vulnerable children and their households to provide services by our community volunteers in Calabar Municipality. Services provided to households during these visits were psychosocial support, nutrition counseling, health Education, Protection and Care, Household Economic strengthening, orientation and livelihood support services. In the month of September our Community Volunteers and OTF program team conducted home visits in Calabar Municipality to monitor school performance but no record on school attendance because children were on holiday and just resume school. Children who were <5 year were monitored for school attendance and performance. Children that dropped out from school were reintegrated. Within the reporting period the total number of VCs reintegrated to schools was 85 in Calabar Municipality and 10 in Obudu and Obanliku LGAs. But Through our Public Private Partnership and community resource mobilization we have reintegrated more 200 children in primary and secondary school in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs



### Care, Protection, and Support Services for Orphans and Vulnerable Children and their care givers

Oten Ita Foundation continue to providing strategic care and support services to Vulnerable Children (VC), AGYW and their caregivers in CALABAR MUNICIPALITY, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs after enrollment. Within the reporting period the following services were provided to VC and their caregivers: psychosocial, HIV risk assessment, Escorted referral, HIV prevention messages to Older OVC, support, Referrals, Health Education, Nutrition Counseling, livelihood opportunities, Water sanitation, personal hygiene,

Education, school and Home visits. These services were provided during our Caregivers Forum (CGF) and Child Care Club (CCC) programs held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of every month by our community volunteers. The following are the manual used; (1). Peer Education Plus manual (2). Better parenting Manual (3). LOPIN 3 Counseling Card for OVC Service

### **Active beneficiaries who know their HIV status and have self-disclosed to LOPIN-3**

**Referrals, HTS and Escort Service:** In the course of our project intervention we have ensured that all our enrolled OVCs with Referral cases are provided with Escort for ARV refill and treatment of minor illness in Calabar municipality. We did a follow up to PLHIV that were referred for treatment of various illnesses and monitor PLHIV that received financial empowerment to start their business. Within the period of our intervention we have ensured that all enrolled VC are HIV risked assessed and at risked cases are referred for HIV Testing and result of the test received . We use our different cohort to conduct HIV risk assessment, provision of target testing in collaboration with heartland Alliance provided HIV test Kits and UNFPA who provided condoms for distributions

### **NUMBER OF OVC THAT HAVE BEEN ADMINISTERED WITH NUTRITION ASSESSMENT (MAUC TAPE)**

The community volunteers with support from OTF project team conducted nutrition assessment during their routine home visits. The total number of VCs assessed for nutrition using the muac tape to our enrolled VCs of age >5 of a total of 1543 in Calabar Municipality, (633) in Obanliku LGA and 862 in Obudu LGA at six months interval. The malnourished cases Identified were referred for nutrition support services which include; nutrition counselling, food demonstration and nutrition support. Severe Malnourish cases were referred to hospital for treatment and other nutrition support services. Presently we have 31 cases of malnutrition that we are still following up and monitoring their nutrition growth in Calabar municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs.

### **FOOD DEMONSTRATION TO PROMOTION NUTRITION USING LOCAL AVAILABLE FOOD**

#### **Objective of the food Demonstration**

Build capacity of caregivers on nutritious food with locally available food in the community

To build the capacity of caregivers on different kinds of food

To build the capacity of caregivers (pregnant and nursing mothers) on IYCF

To practically demonstrate the preparation of nutritious

Vegetable soup, Otor-Mboro

**Output of Intervention:** Built capacity of our enrolled caregivers on how to prepare nutritious food with locally available food ( Practical demonstration on how to prepare Otor-Mboro and Vegetable Soup)

1. Built the capacity of 1,560 enrolled PLHIV and malnourished households on the importance of proper nutrition with ARV Adherence in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs

2. Provided capacity information to our 230 pregnant and nursing mother caregivers on IYCF in Calabar Municipality Obudu, Obanliku LGA
3. Our enrolled PLHIV capacity were built on ARV Adherence

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH ON HIV/GBV PREVENTION AND STIGMA REDUCTION USING FOOTBALL VIEWING CENTERS and HOME VISIT

Figure 7: Cross Session of men and boys during Community Outreach on HIV prevention, GBV addressing at Ikot Eneobong Town Hall in Calabar Municipality



We conducted community engagement with boys and men in communities using the football viewing center and hot spots in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGA. The main objective of the engagement was to facilitate a discussion on HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and Stigma reduction. The first technical section was on HIV prevention, mode of transmission of HIV and how to prevent HIV. The session was on Cross River State anti-stigma Law. The Last session was on GBV and Violence against Children. The outcome of the meeting was the formation of Adolescent Boys Clubs. This activity is always conducted between 6th -28<sup>th</sup> of every month and facilitated by Dominion Bassey (OTF PM), OTF Team and HIFASS partners.

### COMMUNITY HIV RISK ASSESSMENT AND 10 HOURS GENDER NORMS AND OVC PROTECT

Oten Ita Foundation with support from Gender and HIV prevention Specialist of LOPIN 3 conducts risk assessment to all enrolled OVC, AGYW and ABYP in communities of Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs. This activity was facilitated by the Program Team and supported by Community Volunteers and Community Case Managers

- ✓ Risk assessment was administered to enrolled OVC, AGYW and ABYP and this session was facilitated by Community volunteers at their various communities (from 2 years to 17 years). All our enrolled OVCs, AGYW and ABYP have been risked assessed.
- ✓ Those that were indicated for HIV testing were referred to the PHC for HIV Testing Service. Positive cases were linked to treatment at various ART centers in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs.
- ✓ Between the month of July and September we identified 3 sexual violence cases that were linked to medical and legal service one of the cases (ODOH BLESSING EFFIOM ) is still undergoing medical treatment at General Hospital, Calabar. We have also linked the cases to CPN for legal action and other support services.

### ORIENTATION OF CVs/CAREGIVERS ON INDEX CASE TESTING/ PARTNER NOTIFICATION AND GBV PREVENTION SERVICES

Oten Ita foundation built the capacity of caregivers on partners notification, index testing and GBV prevention in Calabar municipality to Improve knowledge of the 43 CVs on index case testing and partner notification and GBV reporting in Calabar municipality. After the training of our community volunteers, Oten Ita Foundation with the support of the community volunteers conducted partner notification services and index case testing to caregivers and OVC in Calabar municipality. Partners who were identified to have Positive clients were followed up to their immediate constituency for testing

Clarification of misunderstood concept to the CVs

Better understanding of CVs on various ways of performing PNS/index case testing

CVs understood that through PNS they can know those exposed or newly infected with HIV clients.

CVs capacity was built on how to use the GBV Assessment Tool to report GBV cases in the community they offer services. The CVs were followed to use the tools on affected households on GBV

CVs capacity was built on the five Cs of PNS counselling Services viz:

- Confidentiality
- Counselling must be properly done
- Correct Testing and result
- Correct prevention services
- Connection to treatment

They should organize for referral of client undergoing counselling sessions to another professional counsellor when they realize that they cannot handle the situation

### **MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS WITH CAREGIVERS AND +CAREGIVERS TO DISCUSS PARTNER NOTIFICATION AND INDEX CASE TESTING AMONG OVCS OF KP, CSW, MSM AND AGYW**

Improved knowledge of the 88 KP Caregivers on index case testing and partner notification

Clarification of misunderstood concept to the Caregivers

Better understanding of Caregivers on various ways of performing PNS/index case testing

KPs Caregivers understood that through PNS they can know those exposed or newly infected OVCS which is their primary target

KPs Caregivers capacity was built on the 5 Cs of PNS counselling when there are inviting their partners for counselling

- Confidentiality
- Counselling must be properly done
- Correct Testing and result
- Correct prevention services
- Connection to treatment

KPs Caregivers that are test indicated were referred for HIV testing and their partners and those identify positive were linked to treatment after testing

### **LGA Reporting to the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS)**

We send NOMIS Exports and LOPIN 3 MSF report to Calabar Municipality LACA

### **Additional Resources Leveraged ( OVC ECONS)**

Additional resources leverage from the community and other partners include; halls for training are provided by community for free, chairs during outreaches and training of COIT are provided by community. The cost value of those halls is estimated at N350, 000. The COIT in Ikot Enebong ward 9 mobilized additional resources to provide food to most vulnerable households of about N2000 per households. The SILC groups have been a platform where caregivers leverage additional resources to meet their household needs.

### **Surge Progress Report from April to December**

Oten Ita Foundation in collaboration with FHI 360 supported facility, conducted tracking on lost to follow up on ART of Children living with HIV and their caregivers. A total of 14 facilities supported by FHI 360 (USAID funded) were visited and lists of lost to follow up on ART were collected from 12 facilities. The facilities where Oten Ita Foundation was able to established collaboration were Ikot Ishie PHC, Diamond PHC, Ekorinim PHC, Ikot Eneobong PHC, Women And Children Hospital, General Hospital, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital Calabar, Poly-clinic Calabar, University of Calabar Medical Center Calabar, Kasuk PHC , Edim Otop PHC and Akim PHC. We had enrollment of 82 Positive OVC s and 102 Care givers

### **3. Monitoring and Evaluation (Narrative)**

#### **Supportive Supervision/ Performance Review Meeting to CVs on Program and Case Management Documentation**

The program team usually conducts supportive supervision to Community Volunteers and their households on program and case management documentation during home visit. We usually visit households and caregivers to ascertain the quality and achievement of our intervention, and to ensure that data's collated from our community volunteers are accurate according to OVC best practice. The methodologies applied for our supportive supervision are through focused group discussions and personal interview. Our supportive supervision program is also a process where we do on-the-job mentoring of our community volunteers..

Oten Ita Foundation conducted monthly performance evaluation meetings with CVs. During the meetings we review our program and strategies with the objective of achieve evidence based success.

#### **FEEDBACK ON PRORAMME PERFORMANCES AND DATA QUALITY CHECK**

During review meeting we give feedbacks to our Community Volunteer's on achievements, gaps, challenges and way forward of activities conducted. Community volunteers gave update of service provision at the community, challenges and prospective achievement and success stories. One of the challenges was inability to access the addresses of most of the clients at General Hospitals because of fake addresses and fake phone numbers

**3b. M&E Metric for Calabar Municipality on Service Provision (ACTIVE) 2016 to 2019**

S/N	INDICATOR	MALE		FEMALE		TARGET	Achievement
		<18	>18	<18	>18		
1	<b>OVC_SERV</b>	1875	290	2078	1223	5093	108% (5466)
2	<b>OVC_HIV STAT (Positive)</b>	58	N/A	73	N/A	131	3% (131)
	<b>OVC_HIV STAT (negative)</b>	1817	N/A	2005	N/A	N/A	3822
3	<b>OVC_NEW</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	<b>OVC_HTS LINK</b>	1817	N/A	2005	N/A	N/A	3822
5	<b>OVC_RISK ASS</b>	1817	N/A	2005	N/A	N/A	3822
6	<b>OVC ART_SUPP</b>	50	N/A	70	N/A	N/A	120
7	<b>OVC_BIRTH CERT</b>	1875	N/A	2078	N/A	N/A	3953
8	<b>OVC_PROTECT</b>	0	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	3
9	<b>OVC_ECONS</b>	772	N/A	847	N/A	N/A	1619
10	<b>OVC_EDU</b>	966	N/A	1036	N/A	N/A	2002
11	<b>OVC_HIV PREV</b>	772	N/A	847	N/A	N/A	1619
12	<b>OVC_NUT (severe and moderate)</b>	17	N/A	21	N/A	N/A	38



13	OVC_TXLINK	58	N/A	73	N/A	131	
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## UPDATE ON THE ANALYSED DATA OF VIRAL LOAD RESULT

VIRAL LOAD MONITORING & CASE CONFERENCING RESULTS IN Q3 OF FY19						
LGA / CSO Partner	Client Category		VL Results			
			<1,000 copies/ml		>1000 copies/ml	
	OVCs < 18	Caregivers	OVCs < 18	Caregivers	OVCs < 18	Caregivers
CALABAR MUN	131	153	100	140	31	13

## 4. Cross Cutting Intervention

### AGYW Peer Education Session on Reproduction Health, Family Planning and Sexual Infections in CALABAR MUNICIPALITY



Figure 8: PEER SESSION IN Edim Otop CAL MUN.

Peer Education sessions were held across different locations in CALABAR MUNICIPALITY namely; Akim, Nyangsang, Mechanic Village, Ikot Ishie, Ikot Omin, Edim Otop, Etak Ikot, Ikot Eneobong and Ikot Nkebre. The sessions held at different intervals at those locations. The activity was conducted across the 14 AGYW and ABYP in wards 1,6 and 9 of Calabar municipality with the support of the peers mentors. The topics handled during those sessions include; Family planning, goal setting, Gender and Gender norms etc. Our program team conducted supportive supervision to the session; the Program Team conducted a supportive supervision to the AGYW Clubs. Carrier Counseling for Older OVCs and AGYW held across the three wards of our OVC intervention in Calabar Municipality. Total AGYW and ABYP reached with GBV/HIV prevention messages was 1133. During the session with the AGYW at Akim 9 AGYW's were linked to skill through Mentor- Mentee Skill program. Six of them were linked Hair to Dressing while 3 were linked to Fashion designing.

## SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

LOPIN 3 project is strategically designed to be self-sustaining beyond funding by donors. Technically, we have established major linkage with Governmental and private institutions for sustainability. For community ownership we have established/ strengthened Community OVC Improvement Teams to act as community based supportive supervisors and also train community based volunteers on the project thematic areas. We have established SILC group and cooperative societies at the community level to sustain a reliable financial source of income

For financial sustainability, beyond the fact that Oten Ita Foundation has her organizational financial sustainability plan which include, income generated from our fish farm, continental crops farm, mushroom farm, there are donations from trustees and members of the public. We shall also established strategic public private partnership with international and private donors through submitting the project activity report on this project and proposal when there is a call for funding. We shall ensure that the project is visible to private donors by creating a blogger update, face-book update, twitter and on other social network.

## **IMPACT /SUCCESS STORY IN PROGRESS/ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **Program team mobilized resource up to N100, 700 during their meeting, to assist a caregiver with VCs that were totally down in health without food to meet important family needs and pay school fees at Ikot Omin.**
- **We have built the capacity of our enrolled caregiver on better Parenting Plus through 45 caregiver forums in Calabar Municipality, Obudu and Obanliku LGAs**
- **Total number of HIV Positive Caregivers enrolled into the program 149 with 24 OVCs in Obudu and Obanliku LGAs**
- **Total number of HIV Positive Caregivers e enrolled into the program 153 (M=15, F=140) with 131 (M=58, F=73) OVCs in Calabar Municipality**
- **We empowered 233 HIV Positive and Most vulnerable Households in Obudu and Obanliku LGA and empowered 158 Positive Households in Calabar Municipality**
- **OTF has Built the capacity of 300 adolescent girls, boys, young men and young women on maternal and child health, family planning and family Education**
- **We have empowered (Household Economic Strengthening) 125 caregivers in Obudu and Obanliku LGAs with startup capital to start small business.**
- **We have established 23 SILC groups in Obudu and Obanliku LGAs and 13 SILC in Calabar Municipality**
- **We have constituted 25 Community OVC Improvement Teams (COIT) in Obudu and Obanliku and 7 COIT in Calabar Municipality to provide supportive and oversight functions to our OVC program**
- **We have empowered 250 AGYW in Calabar, Obudu and Obanliku with livelihood skills and they are using the skills acquired to make income to assist their families**
- **As part of our sustainability plan and community based system strengthening and resource mobilization efforts, we have built the capacity of COIT in Bedia, Bukumaya and Kakum to mobilize resources to pay school fees for 33 enrolled OVC in our program**
- **9 AGYWs are linked to skill acquisition in Akim Calabar Municipality by a philanthropist in Cross River State**
- **Uduak Esuk: she was empowered by LOPIN 3 now she has expanded her business and is able to meet household needs**

- **Josephine Ekeng:** Josephine was linked to a Poultry trade by Oten Ita Foundation to be a poultry keeper. Presently she has expended and now selling eggs in crates this has helped her to meet her family needs
- **Lilian Bassey:** When she was enrolled her medical condition was also at Full Aids condition because of lack of Adherence to ARV, Oten Ita Foundation built her capacity on Adherence counselling and nutrition support service Lilian has pick up very well in health and now she is adhering to her ARV and she has achieved 100% viral load suppression
- **Eno Duke:** she had GBV case where the husband and the in-laws use to mal-treat her and her children because she didn't have anything. By the intervention of Oten Ita foundation on GBV prevention and Household economic strengthening by LOPIN 3 she has been able to over low self-esteem and she is able to meet her family needs and send her children to school

During the course of the training there was the need to bring in innovations to spice the training and also make it more rewarding for the rural women. The following are the innovations we introduced and achievements recorded in the course of the six weeks training;

1. We established partnership with clan heads of communities and heads of schools and Health Care Centers to use their facilities for free, for all our training and outreach programs and weekly meetings of our support groups
2. 25 households per CV as help improve the quality of our service delivery to enroll VC and care givers and evidence based impact on caregiver's forums.
3. Integrating specific complementary activities to meet our indicators, like outreach of gender norm with HTC

## SUCCESS STORY

**1. Treasure Sunday (from Dead to a good Life):** Treasure Sunday was 2years and six months old when she was enrolled into LOPIN 3 Project, with severe case of Malnutrition. At baseline she weighed 9kg and her mac reading at 8cm RED as at two years six months. She could not walk or talk and was left in the care of an aged grandmother. Oten Ita Foundation through the support of LOPIN 3 Nutrition and Referral Advisor provided Nutrition support by financing the cost of admission to Pediatric Unit of UCTH Calabar. Treatment and nutrition support was administered to Treasure Sunday from UTCH and daily food provision was holistically financed by OTF. Different test were conducted on her. The update from the hospital showed that the child is not infected with HIV or TB. So her case was that of acute poverty and hunger. Treasure Sunday was under admission in the hospital for 8 weeks and was discharge healthy and strongly. After six months of nutrition and growth monitoring she was able to walk and live healthily.

## **2. Title: RISE AGAIN FOR ADOLESCENTS IN OHONG COMMUNITY**

**Situation:** Depressed and loss of all hope was the state of Blessing Akomaye a single young mother of three (3) children; a set of twin's age 3yrs and a 9 months old baby. She hails from Ohong community in Obudu LGA of Cross River State. Ohong community is a rural community located in Begiading ward which is one of the wards with a high number of people living with HIV and are predominantly farmers. She had two (2) malnourished children and lived with a chronically ill and aged grandmother. They had no source of livelihood and depended on alms to feed and survive. Blessing was also ill and suffered self-stigmatization as she wasn't enrolled on treatment.

**Response:** The HIFASS (Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa) LOPIN 3 (Local OVC Partners in Nigeria Region 3) is a PEPFAR funded five (5) year project which is focused on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) but is family centered. They support Oten Ita Foundation to work in Obudu and Obanliku LGA's of Cross River state. The Services provided to Blessing within six (6) months after her enrollment were; Better Parenting Skills, Psychosocial Support (PSS), Nutrition Counseling and Food Demonstration, Financial Literacy Education, referrals for HIV testing and enrollment to treatment and Household Economic strengthening. Blessing was enrolled to learn Catering and confectionaries for six (6) months as part of Household economic Strengthening. After nine (9) months, a re-assessment was conducted on Blessing's household to measure the progress in her vulnerability status, her children were referred to the PHC (Primary Health Center) for growth monitoring and Vitamin A supplementation and deworming. She was also given relief materials by the Executive Director (ED) of Oten Ita Foundation.

**Results:** Due to this on time intervention, today, Blessing has started out-door catering services. The profit made from the business is used to cater for her needs, that of her children and her aged grandmother; her children are looking healthy. Blessing is now a Peer Educator, mentoring other young mothers and adolescent girls on Peer Education Plus. She is enrolled to treatment and is adhering strictly. During our session with Blessing she expressed her joy with the following words "I can bake cake, buns, egg roll and cook different kinds of food. I have started my own business and I am taking care of myself, my children and grandma. I see myself becoming the lawyer I have always wanted to be all thanks to the help of all of you".

**Learning/ Big Picture:** Blessing has been an inspiration to other Adolescent girls and young women in her community, encouraging them to take their skills acquisition training seriously and today many other lives in Ohong community have been touched and empowered with skills for better living. Empowerment goes beyond monetary handouts but valid information changes lives and its impact is continuous.

## **3. Hope Rekindled: the Next CEO Racheal Bassey**

HAFASS LOPIN 3 under the office of OVC Advisor (OVCA) and Gender and HIV Prevention Advisor (GHPA) provided technical Assistance to Oten Ita Foundation to support out of school Adolescent girl Racheal Bassey who was linked to Fashion and Designing Skill acquisition program. Racheal Bassey was enrolled into LOPIN 3 project in 2015. She is a Christian, maternal orphan, 16 years old, hail from Calabar Municipality. She resides at Akim Community with a relative.

Oten Ita Foundation identified this community and enrolled Rachael Bassey into LOPIN 3 through the support of an indigenous Community Volunteer and the Community OVC Improvement Team. She was later introduced into AGYW Club where her capacity was built on : goal setting, Decision making, life skills, sexuality, knowledge of sexually transmitted infection and HIV, personal Risk perception, multiple partnering, HIV status, stigma and Discrimination the acquired Skill in fashion, Design, interior decoration and cake making.

Today Rachael is one of our Peer Models. She is a trainer at **SLIAIS FASHION AND DESIGNS SKILL ACQUIZATION CENTRE** that will be training other adolescent girls who will be linked to the center for Skills acquisition. Presently Rachael makes income from the skills she acquired and she is having a big plan to further her Education to study Linguistic, and to establish a fashion and design company with different subsidiaries in Nigeria and abroad

## **CHALLENGES**

The major challenge we faced in the course of this programme are as follow

1. More than thirty children are yet to be integrated to school based on the list submitted for LOPIN 3 school integration
2. Difficulty in Transferring Navy hospital clients on ARV to FHI supported Sites because of lack of incentives
3. We don't have laptops for NOMIS
4. Low performance because of delay in program funds
5. NOMIS is giving us serious challenge
6. Lack of cameras or camera phones for our community volunteers to capture pictorial evidence of activities
7. Insufficient test kids for all enrolled children and their household during HTS and graduation

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. We recommend that our funder should consider the project having peer models for each of the peer Clubs.
2. The program should consider re-integration of VCs that were shortlisted for reintegration to school.
3. A better collaboration with FHI to improve on their Facility usage protocol and improve incentive for their clients
4. We recommend a restructuring OF NOMIS software for proper documentation and update
5. The LOPIN 3 team should provide adequate information on the way forward for the project

## **Materials / Products (List of materials received from HIFASS).**

1. Better Parenting Skills Manual
2. LOPIN 3 OVC Counselling Card
3. Peer Education Manual on HIV Prevention
4. Financial Literacy Manual
5. OVC Case Management Guide
6. Standard OVC Practice in Nigeria
7. Gender and Gender Norm Guide for Cohort
8. Cross River Anti-Stigma Laws
9. Referral Directory
10. Parenting Skills Manual
11. OVC Referral Booklet
12. Saving Group Manual

## CONCLUSION

The flexibility and the practical approaches adopted in the program were very unique. At the same time the project team's experience in OVC matters, and having members of the communities in the project team who are fluent in speaking the language of the Local Community of the beneficiaries, was of a great advantage to the success of this phase of the project.



Signed:

Dominion Bassey

Head of Program and Research