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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Nigeria and the United States partner to improve the quality of life for nearly 50,000 orphans and vulnerable children**

**Abuja, Nigeria:** Today, Mission Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Nigeria Michael T. Harvey joined Minister of Women's Affairs Hajia Zainab Maina to mark the end of USAID's Community-based Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CUBS) activity. The beneficiaries and partners of CUBS highlighted the achievements and the way forward for Nigeria's orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). Speaking at the event, Mr. Harvey said USAID would continue to facilitate lasting partnerships and systems to promote tangible policies for OVCs in Nigeria. He said that "the work for disadvantaged children in Nigeria is far from over. We know this because the 2013 Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey indicates that nine percent of children in Nigeria are orphans or are vulnerable due to illnesses of adult household members." Mr. Harvey added that USAID would continue to work with the government of Nigeria on successor programs.

The dissemination meeting highlighted how partnerships with the government of Nigeria and civil society organizations (CSOs) can strengthen social welfare systems for OVCs in Nigeria.

CUBS, through a variety of community-based, family-centered approaches, successfully reached close to 50,000 children in 12,500 households, providing food/nutrition, health, education, shelter, psychosocial care, protection, and skills. Sixteen thousand OVC caregivers received similar services. In addition, vulnerable families received access to small-scale businesses that ensured sustainability of these effort far beyond the official end of CUBS activity. At the policy level, CUBS supported the implementation of Nigeria's National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children.

CUBS was a five-year activity funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID. It has been implemented by Management Sciences for Health in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development, Africare, 11 state ministries of women's affairs and social development, and 38 CSOs.

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