

Sustaining the Impact: Orphans and Vulnerable Children

PEPFAR OVC programs

Through programming for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) aims to mitigate the multidimensional and acute impacts of HIV and AIDS on children, by providing holistic, community-based care and support services.

Strengthening the systems that support vulnerable children and families ensures that children living with HIV receive the services they need and that children who are affected do not acquire the virus.

MEASURE Evaluation's strategic approach

MEASURE Evaluation improves programs for OVC by improving the quality and accessibility of data on programs and target populations. MEASURE Evaluation is building OVC monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity globally by developing indicators and tools, evaluating programs, triangulating data, and providing technical assistance and mentoring.

Our recent work includes a suite of activities covering routine monitoring, costing, size estimation, social service system strengthening, outcomes monitoring, and national OVC M&E system strengthening.

Building capacity for routine monitoring

MEASURE Evaluation has assessed M&E systems for collecting routine data on HIV testing and treatment for OVC. We used those findings to revise the PEPFAR monitoring, evaluating, and reporting (MER) indicator OVC_HIVSTAT and develop an HIV risk assessment prototype.

MEASURE Evaluation has developed a set of resources to support the collection of Version 2.3 of PEPFAR's MER OVC routine monitoring indicators (OVC_SERV and OVC_HIVSTAT) and conducted trainings in six countries and for headquarters-based staff.

We developed an indicator framework that outlines the path to better outcomes for HIV-positive and -affected children, called the OVC Indicator Matrix. Countries can use the matrix to develop custom indicators to fill information gaps.

Building capacity for outcome monitoring

MEASURE Evaluation has provided technical support for collecting the PEPFAR OVC MER Essential Survey Indicators (ESIs) through guidance on design, implementation, and data analysis in eight countries.

We have developed an assessment tool to determine a household's readiness to graduate (based on the PEPFAR global minimum set of graduation benchmarks) as well as supplementary indicator reference sheets and data quality guidance.

Contributing to global goods

MEASURE Evaluation developed a Household Vulnerability Prioritization Tool that has been adapted in multiple countries.

We conducted data quality assessments of OVC indicators to identify where data collection and reporting can be enhanced and data can be used to sustain program improvement.

We developed a strategic planning tool that estimates key OVC populations at the national and subnational levels.

We have studied the cost of current approaches to OVC case management delivery across six countries.

What's needed now

Strengthen the M&E systems of OVC programs through the following efforts:

- Activities to improve the collection and quality of data from MER indicators, custom indicators, and graduation benchmarks, to track the data better
- Activities to strengthen the application of HIV risk assessments, by using the MEASURE Evaluation HIV risk-assessment prototype
- Rapid and innovative evaluations of OVC programs, using routine and nonroutine data and incorporating the ESI in these evaluations

Impact

Programs have improved their data quality and are able to track the HIV testing cascade for OVC more effectively.

Results from MER ESI studies and evaluations have been used to revise program strategies so they align more closely with beneficiary needs.

Programs now have the tools to monitor the pathway to better outcomes for children affected by HIV.

Tools and resources

Developed a set of resources to support the collection of the PEPFAR Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MER) V2.3 OVC routine monitoring indicators (OVC_SERV and OVC_HIVSTAT) (www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/ovc/routine-monitoring-of-pepfar-orphans-and-vulnerable-children-programs)

Assessed M&E systems of projects collecting routine data on HIV testing and treatment for OVC (www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/tr-18-313/) and developed an HIV Risk Assessment Prototype (www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/ti-18-19/)

Developed an indicator framework that outlines the path to better outcomes for HIV-positive and -affected children: the OVC Indicator Matrix (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/ovc/indicator-matrix-and-guidance-for-monitoring-and-evaluating-programs-serving-orphans-and-vulnerable-children>).

Developed indicators for planning, monitoring, and evaluating social service system strengthening for OVC, including indicator definitions, and drafted a guidance document (www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/ms-17-118) that will help countries and PEPFAR partners improve M&E of system strengthening

Conducted a secondary analysis of DHS data (www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/tr-17-154) and developed a strategic planning tool that estimates the number of children at national and subnational levels who live in a household with an HIV-positive adult and children who are orphans or co-resident children living in a household with an HIV-positive adult

Developed a Household Vulnerability Prioritization Tool (HVPT) (www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/tr-17-166) for Uganda that multiple countries are adapting to identify households that should be enrolled in an OVC program

Developed an assessment tool to determine a household's readiness to graduate based on the PEPFAR global minimum set of graduation benchmarks as well as supplementary indicator reference sheets and data quality guidance (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/ovc/routine-monitoring-of-pepfar-orphans-and-vulnerable-children-programs>)

Research and evaluation

Provided technical support for the collection of the PEPFAR Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (MER) Essential Survey Indicators through guidance (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/sr-16-133>) on study design, implementation, and data interpretation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

Developed a Frequently Asked Questions document and a community of practice—www.OVCimpact.org—for stakeholders designing and implementing surveys to collect the PEPFAR MER ESIs, to enable the sharing of lessons learned

Conducted a mixed-methods program evaluation of the Uganda Comprehensive Responses for Vulnerable Children and Their Families (SCORE) project (www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/tre-17-002), which found improvements in school enrollment and HIV testing and a decrease in food failure, child abuse, and child labor

Assessed the cost of case management as the platform upon which other OVC services are delivered (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/resources/publications/tr-19-327/>)

Developed outcome indicators and data collection tools for PEPFAR-funded OVC programs supporting children of female sex workers, street children, and children working in mines (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/ovc/children-in-adverse-situations-survey-tools/children-in-adverse-situations-survey-tools?searchterm=street+children>)

Conducted a scale-up assessment of the OVC Special Initiative health and early childhood development integrated intervention in Eswatini, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe (<https://www.measureevaluation.org/our-work/ovc/pepfar-orphans-and-vulnerable-children-special-initiative/pepfar-orphans-and-vulnerable-children-special-initiative-interventions-and-study-designs-and-an-introduction-to-key-regional-platform-partners>)

OVC national M&E system strengthening

Helped develop the Government of Kenya's Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), which includes case record data and has integrated data from the PEPFAR orphan longitudinal management information system (OLMIS)

Provided technical oversight for the development of OVC national M&E tools and the Nigeria OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development

Scalability

MEASURE Evaluation's tools and resources are widely applicable and can be easily adapted and scaled to specific country circumstances.

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