



The Community Based Support (CUBS) for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project will be conducting Exchange Learning in Akwa Ibom State from July 22 – 25, 2013 to coincide with a visit from representatives of the project funder, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

INTRODUCTION

Exchange learning is a powerful mechanism for supporting and strengthening the capacity of community groups and organizations to participate in both rural and urban development.

In view of this, it has become pertinent to incorporate the process in the current Household Economic Strengthening (HES) Component of the USAID funded MSH/Africare CUBS OVC Project which is currently being implemented in five communities in Akwa Ibom State and which is improving lives among households and creating enormous health impacts in the lives of OVC.

PROGRAMME PURPOSE

Considering the crude methods employed by some trained HES caregivers involved in palm oil production in some participating communities, and the lack of knowledge among some participants on the availability and viability of modern equipment and methods currently used by some of their counterparts, the HES exchange visit is designed to enable participating caregivers and communities to:

- I. Share and explore ideas, knowledge and skills in modern palm oil production and how to acquire loans for business expansion.
- II. Learn from each other.
- III. Adjust their perspectives toward their business venture.
- IV. Encourage local fundraising and ownership among participating communities.

DESCRIPTION

The HES Exchange visit will be a four day activity aimed at sharing experiences and ideas among the 90 trained HES caregivers involved in palm oil production, Village Savings and Loans Association and group farming (VSLA) in five Communities. The exchange learning will employ a participatory approach, from which strong, sustained and mobilized community networks involved in Income Generating Activities will emerge. Ideas will be redefined, production will be scaled up, and replication and adaption of strategies will be reinforced.

The HES Exchange will adapt interactive strategies to explicitly create and articulate the knowledge developed through caregivers' livelihood struggles in improving the wellbeing of their households. The interaction between these communities will bring together vulnerable households through a common set of interventions, and it is this combination of learning and mobilization that makes community exchanges a powerful tool in HES.

Activities

- Exhibition of products by groups
- Information Sharing (telling our stories)
- Visit to Ikot Adang Mini Oil Palm Mill
- Visit to Village Savings and Loan Association in Ediene Atai and Minyan Ntak
- Group Meetings

Number of participants: 120

Itinerary

Date	Activity Description	Venue	Timeline	Anchor
Monday 22 nd July, 2013	Exhibition	Ventola Hotel Uyo	08.00-5.30	CUBS Team/CSOs
Tuesday 23 rd July,2013	Exchange Learning- Palm Oil Mill	Adang Itam	08:00-5.00	AWANDEC
Wednesday, 24 th July,2013	Village Savings and Loans Association/Palm oil production	Ediene Atai and Minyan Ntak	08.00-5.00	WUEE
Thursday 25 th July, 2013	Village Savings and Loans Association/Palm Oil Production	Ikot Abasi Nsit	08.00-5.00	WOCLIF