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PEPFAR

U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

PEPFAR supports Objective 4 (Strengthen Child Welfare and Protection Systems) of the [Action Plan for Children in Adversity](#) (APCA) by partnering with countries to develop systems that reduce vulnerability, offer children protection from abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and promote loving permanent families.

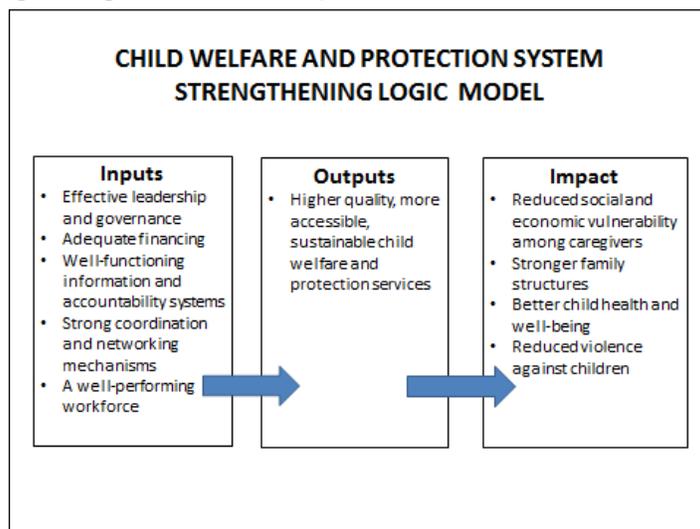
PEPFAR Orphans and Vulnerable Children: Strengthen Child Welfare and Protection Systems

PEPFAR has been instrumental in facilitating partner country consideration and adoption of policies, laws, and guidelines on behalf of children and adolescents ... and efforts to strengthen legislation and enforcement for child protection. – Evaluation of PEPFAR, Institute of Medicine, 2013

Strengthening child welfare and protection systems is a central focus of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief's (PEPFAR) [orphans and vulnerable children \(OVC\) programming](#). PEPFAR supports Objective 4 of the *Action Plan for Children in Adversity* (APCA) through various activities that strengthen the protection of children living with and affected by AIDS, including by working with governments to promote robust child welfare systems strengthening, and enhanced workforce capacity to prevent and respond to child abuse. PEPFAR partners work together to deliver high-quality child welfare and protection services that reduce vulnerability, ensure access to essential services – including those for health and HIV– prevent and respond to violence against children, and preserve family structures in AIDS-affected communities. Examples of PEPFAR's efforts to strengthen and support effective child welfare and protection systems include:

PEPFAR's Systems Strengthening Investments for OVC

- ✓ With PEPFAR support, 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa have formulated national plans of action for vulnerable children, including those affected by AIDS.
- ✓ PEPFAR-supported targeted organizational capacity building for both government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 20 countries has enabled many of these partners to increase their own financial commitments and expand programming for children living with and affected by AIDS.
- ✓ PEPFAR supported the development of national information management systems to support child welfare and protection programming in Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.



Strengthening the Child Welfare and Protection Workforce through PEPFAR OVC Programs

The workforce responsible for the protection and care of children are critical to ensuring a strong child welfare system. PEPFAR works with relevant ministries and NGOs to increase the reach and enhance the capacity of the social welfare workforce in more than 18 countries. PEPFAR also co-founded the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance, which advocates for and supports social service workforce strengthening efforts worldwide.

In **Swaziland**, PEPFAR partners are expanding the policy environment for children living with and affected by AIDS through support for the new child protection and welfare law as well as strengthening of the Department of Social Welfare and the social protection system.



In **Uganda**, PEPFAR support has allowed more than 1,100 Community Development Officers and probation officers to complete training and attain university accreditation in child protection, and, in turn, provide services to 66,000 children.

In **Tanzania**, a PEPFAR-supported Twinning Center partnership has trained 2,408 Para-social workers (PSWs) and 329 PSW supervisors in 25 districts. A new two-year degree in social work will help fill critical vacancies in child welfare posts countrywide.

In **South Africa**, PEPFAR support has enabled more than 2,000 para-professional social workers to receive child welfare skills training and modest stipends to support their work. A new partnership with the Ministry of Social Development will support 10,000 new Child & Youth Care Worker positions by 2017, allowing more than 1.4 million vulnerable children to be served.

In **Mozambique**, PEPFAR technical support has helped increase the number of social worker positions in the Ministry of Women and Social Action from 500 to 828 in the last year alone.

Through its investments in supporting child welfare and protection system strengthening, PEPFAR has helped to improve the quality, accessibility, and the sustainability of child programming and contributed to improved outcomes for thousands of children and families in adversity around the globe. These efforts remain vital to addressing the needs of children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. By supporting a more enabling environment for children and their parents to access a broad range of services in their communities, including safe deinstitutionalization and family placement, as well as HIV and other health services, these programs are transforming and saving lives, and contributing to better welfare and protection for all vulnerable children and their families both today and into the future.