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Title: STRENGTHENING REFERRALS IN ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN PROGRAM: DEVELOPMENT OF LAGOS STATE 2021 REFERRAL DIRECTORY TO AID HEALTH ACCESS.

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Background:

The needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) are multi-dimensional and dynamic across sectors and wide range of stakeholders with no single service provider entity providing all the required services to OVC and their caregivers. The existing 2018 OVC Referral Directory for Lagos State upon its review has the following identified gaps due to the current realities and trend in OVC programming which include; 1) Inconsistent service provision to the beneficiaries due to inactive status of many of the organizations in the directory and emergence of new ones not included. 2) The paradigm shift in OVC program to the case management model and lack of Standard Operating Procedures to guide its usage. 3) No stakeholders input in the development of the old directory. This necessitated the development of the of the new one with current OVC program realities to aid close relationship between service providers at all levels with beneficiaries receiving the best possible care closest to home. **Objective:**

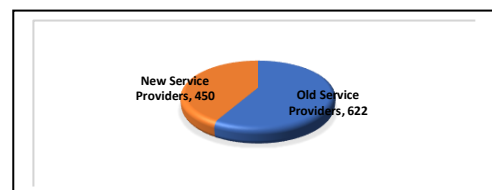
The new OVC case management model guided the development of the new directory to ensure coordination/standardization in the provision of referral services, continuity of care/support across the different levels of care required by OVC and their households towards access to comprehensive health services.

Method:

Mapping of service providers, stakeholders services/resource analyzed, referral services aligned through a meeting, documented in a service referral template and published.

Results:

All actors recognize that to reduce child vulnerability, improve access to coordinated Health & social services for OVC, a service referral directory is necessary to promote sustainability of health services. Old and inactive actors 622(58%), new active actors 450(42%).



Conclusion:

The document ensured that all stakeholders providing services that are relevant/active to the OVC intervention were captured in the new 2021 OVC service referral directory.

Keywords: OVC, Service Referral Directory, Project HOPE, ICHSSA