Private sector financing to sustain health systems for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Lagos State through the ICHSSA 2 Project

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Background
Over the past three decades, the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria has resulted in a sizeable population of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), and the increase in vulnerable populations has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. International and domestic support for HIV/AIDS and OVC has been significant in supporting HIV programs. However, there remains a notable disparity between contributions by different actors and stakeholders.

Abstract
Until recently, the private sector has not made significant contributions to financing OVC interventions in Nigeria. To increase private sector financing, Project HOPE implemented a rapid private sector financing drive for in-kind and financial donations from private sector actors in Nigeria. Cash donations as well as in-kind donations summed to N52,162,743 Naira ($113,397USD) were leveraged from partnership with ACCESS Bank, Honeywell Foods, Nestle Foods, Airtel Nigeria, and LDS and directed at supporting vulnerable households to be resilient and to increase the wellbeing of OVC in Lagos State. The donations were used for nutrition support and household supplies, that have sustainably improved the economic status of OVC and their households.

Key Insights
Aligning OVC needs within the interest of previously untapped private sector actors is critical in building alliances towards achieving social impact investment in OVC households. Private sector organizations are critical sources of financing for the HIV/AIDS response. Therefore, health financing strategies should include tailored plans to engage these actors.

Methods
- Targeted multiple levels of influence.
- Developed a resource map for interested private sector actors.
- Advocacy and networking engagements.
- Leveraged from the Project HOPE HQ resource pool.

Results
- A total of N52,162,743 Naira ($113,397USD) from private sector actors was resourced to boost nutritional and household empowerment interventions.
- Project HOPE developed an implementation action plan to aid more private sector support.

Conclusions
Aligning OVC support within the interests of private sector actors is critical in building alliances towards achieving social impact investment in OVC households in Lagos State. The approach has shown that trust building, transparency, and accountability are key qualities in securing the support of private sector actors for OVC towards improved outcomes.

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