

**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION:  
Collaborating to Optimize the  
Potentials of Orphans and  
Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the  
Provision of Formal Education and  
Skill Acquisition**

- From 2014 statistics, Nigeria has over 17.5 million children who are orphans and it is estimated that 2.5 million of these children became orphans because their Parents died due to HIV& AIDS. This figure keeps increasing given the deepening level of poverty, insecurity and other risk factors in Nigeria.

- Federal Ministry of Education has consistently played a vital role in all national interventions related to issues of Orphans and Vulnerable Children and collaborates with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs as they take the lead in driving the process. This is not surprising since the main target audience is children.

- Recall that the Federal Ministry of Education collaborated with the Ministry of Women Affairs and other Key stakeholders in a number of interventions aimed at addressing the overall needs of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria. Notable among these interventions are:
  - The Rapid Assessment, Analysis and Action Planning (RAAAP) process in 2004 which gave rise to the internationally approved Nigeria OVC Action plan in 2005 and 2006 – 2010 with a Guideline of Implementation ; OVC Costing and Resource Mobilization Model and Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for OVC interventions in Nigeria
  - Child Care Trust HIV/AIDS Orphans Scholarship Programme
  - Development of the National Guidelines and Standards of Practice (SOPS) for OVC Programmes in Nigeria.
  - Constitution of OVC Funds Disbursement Committee for selected OVC in dire need of Education ,Health Care and Support Services
  - In recent times, the Ministry had embarked on a number of Interventions targeted at ensuring education for Vulnerable Nigerians within school age. This includes strategies to reduce the number of Out-of-school children, Conditional Cash Transfer among others.

- In all the Interventions, the strategic objectives of the Federal Ministry of Education amongst others include:
  - Increased access to education for OVC by providing school fees, uniforms and bags etc.
  - Strengthen the capacity of caregivers (Desk officers, teachers, counselors) to meet the psychological needs of orphans and vulnerable children.
  - Increase availability and access to food through school feeding ;
  - Improved access to health and nutrition services in schools.

- It is worthy to note that, much has been done to address the issue of OVC in Nigeria, synergizing to institutionalize the established national strategies is key to the sustainability of OVC interventions.
- To increase the magnitude of OVC work requires collaborative efforts of the 3 tiers of government, the CBO, the FBO and Donors. Our collective challenge should be how best to ensure that orphans and all vulnerable children are taken care of in fulfillment of their fundamental human right- the right to life, quality education, well being, protection and all so as to contribute to national development .

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**