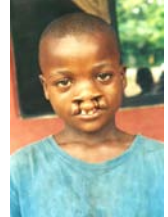


# CHILDREN OF HOPE PROJECT SUCCESS STORY

## OGBONNAYA IFEANYI NEW LIFE

Ogbonnaya Ifeanyi John is a 9year old paternal orphan born with mouth cleft lip. His mother is mentally unbalanced while the father died as a result of asthmatic attack in the search for solution to Ifeanyi's cleft lip. Ifeanyi was stigmatized by his community at various occasions to the extent that he stopped attending school and did not like associating with his peer group. He cried a lot and always engaged in fights. His mentally ill mother was accused by community members as being the cause of her problems. As a result of this ostracizing she used to take Ifeanyi around to nearby communities and beg for money.

**Ifeanyi Ogbonnaya**  
Before the Operation



Photograph by: Januarius  
Uchenna Ajomiwe

Their situation did not change until one of CH Indigenous Service Provider (ISP) working in Umuawa-ibu community in Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo state identified and enrolled Ifeanyi in the CH project. Due to his high vulnerability index score, he was provided with education, food and nutrition, psychosocial and protection services.

Since surgery and medical expenses are not covered by the CH project, this ISP collaborated with Smile Train; an international organization that specialized in treating cleft lips. Ifeanyi was referred to the National Orthopedic Hospital, Enugu for corrective surgery. Smile train covered the cost of the operation while the ISP covered the cost of his upkeep at the hospital. Ifeanyi had a successful operation and is now living a normal life like all the other children. He has gone back to school and he is very happy and playing well with other children.

**Ifeanyi Ogbonnaya**  
After the Operation



Photograph by: Januarius  
Uchenna Ajomiwe

Praise God: God Has Remembered Me Today.  
Umuowa Ibu Come and See Oh!  
Alaleuhah These People Are From God.  
They only Come To Bless Me And My People.  
God Has Touched My Son Ifeanyi.  
Now I Have A Real Son!  
Who Would Have Done  
This For Me If Not You.

Quote from Ifeanyi's Mother

## Saki West Local Government's Support To (Twenty Four) Children of Hope Caregivers

The Children of Hope project is designed to reach children who are orphaned by HIV, widows, single mothers, Vulnerable women and men caregivers by providing a core of five services: Food and Nutrition, Education, Psychosocial support, Protection and Health for the OVC along with livelihood assistance to enhance the 'coping mechanism' of caregivers. The livelihood assistance aimed to strengthen economic security and reduce vulnerability to poverty faced by many households with vulnerable children.

Otun and Ajegunle communities are in Saki West Local Government area which is a high risk zone for HIV/AIDS. This is attributed to its being a border community between Benin Republic & Nigeria, an environment for transactional sex and high incidence of multiple concurrent partnerships that increase the risk of HIV infection and number of OVC. People in the communities are mostly small scale farmers or petty traders who hardly make enough profit to sustain themselves and their households. In order to ensure that caregivers in the two communities are economically empowered to provide for the basic needs for OVC that are under their care, 24 caregivers were trained on "Bee Keeping" in July 2010 by a facilitator provided by the Farmer to Farmer project, a USAID agricultural funded project. Participants were taught how to make beehives and how to collect honey from bee keeping. After the training, one of the challenges that confronted the caregivers was how to get start-up capital to start bee keeping businesses. Consequently, a letter was written to the Local Government Chairman of Saki West Local Government to assist the caregivers with "start-up capital" for bee keeping business.

This effort paid off as the Chairman of Saki West Local Government supported the 24 caregivers who participated in the bee keeping training with a start-up capital of (Ten Thousand Naira) ₦10, 000 each.

Chairman Saki West LGA giving out N10,000 start-up capital to a beneficiary



Photograph by: Seye Omiyefa

*"This is a very interesting training, it is important to us and the Saki communities generally; the Local Government will do her best to support these widows with start-up capital for the just concluded bee keeping training"*

*(Director of Personnel Management Saki West Local Government)*

Two of the beneficiaries are already constructing beehives to start bee keeping. Mrs. Adeleke Isiwat one of the beneficiaries shows her appreciation through this quote:

Mrs. Adeleke Isiwat  
a beneficiary



Photograph by: Seye Omiyefa

*Iranlowo ti e se fun mi yii, o se Pataki gan ni, yi o mu ounje jije di irorun fun emi ati awon omo mi ese o! "This assistance will make feeding easier for me and my children"*

*Mrs. Adeleke Isiwat*

*(A beneficiary who is already constructing beehive)*

## Male Out of School Youths (MOSY) Receiving Prevention Message First Time Ever

HIV prevalence rate in Oyo state, South Western part of Nigeria is 2.2% with the highest prevalence rate of 2.7% found in Saki West Local Government Area (LGA) which is located in the northern part of the state (FMOH, 2008). Saki West Local Government area is a high risk zone for HIV/AIDS because of its closeness to Benin Republic and Togo borders which increases, risky sexual practices like transactional sex and high incidence of multiple concurrent partnerships that put people at risk of HIV infection. Results of a survey conducted to measure Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behavior (KAPB) of beneficiaries before the commencement of Children of Hope (CH) project prevention program in the area, shows that 84 out of the 99 respondents stated that HIV/AIDS is a serious problem in their community, 10% said HIV/AIDS information is not available to them while 33% of the respondents stated that they had never been tested for HIV but they were willing to go for HIV test.

Based on the above situation in the community, the CH prevention program was designed with community members to provide correct messages on HIV/AIDS to adolescents, youths and the adult population in the community. The strategies employed included focus group discussion sessions, followed with peer education sessions for 5 weeks through which beneficiaries have room to interact, ask questions and discuss amongst themselves. After these, beneficiaries then have the opportunity of participating in drama, sport etc activities through which HIV/AIDS messages are reinforced to participants. Also community outreach activities which include condom demonstration are also provided.

During one of such sessions for Male Out of School Youths in Agegunle Area of Saki West Local Government area, the participants were asked if they have ever heard any message on HIV prevention to which they all, chorus **“NO”**.

A personal risk assessment questionnaire was then administered on participants in this group to discover if they are at risk of HIV, 80% of the participants were at **“High Risk”** of HIV after the overall score of the personal risk assessment.

*“A ti e ti gbo ri”*

*Meaning “they have not heard of it before”*

*Quote from One of the participants*

*Male Out of School Youths during one of their Peer sessions*



*Photo by: Seye Omiyefa*

Thereafter participants were taken through the different prevention strategies to provide them with correct knowledge of HIV prevention.

After the completion of the different sessions, one of the peer group members whose nick name is **“Pastor”** said this message has transformed his life specifically. He said he was shocked to know that he is also at very high risk of HIV after administering the personal risk assessment; he is now living a new life and encouraging other members of the peer group to participate in the peer sessions and other activities by Children of Hope.

*“Igba otun ti de ba wa”*  
*“Meaning newness has come to them.”*  
*Quote from another Participant*