

## COMMUNICATING WITH HOME BASED CARE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH OVC

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### Background

The Integrated Primary Health Care (IPHC) Project, under TASCII, is a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and charged with providing technical assistance to strengthen the district health system in five provinces of South Africa. IPHC is a consortium led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in partnership with Health Systems Trust and the University Research Corporation. Part of this technical support is under the OVC project that gives grants to 23 HBC organizations in 8 districts located in 5 provinces of South Africa. The provinces are North West (Bojanala district ), Limpopo (Capricorn and Sekhukhune districts), KwaZulu-Natal (Uthungulu and Sisonke districts), Eastern Cape (Chris Hani and Alfred Nzo districts) and Mpumalanga (Gert Sibande district).

The OVC project started in 2004 with 6 grantees and increased to 23 grantees by the end of 2006. Currently the project support to HBC organizations is assisting about 11,000 orphans and vulnerable children. Examples of the types of services provided include psychosocial support, child protection and health care. It is expected that by end of the OVC project phase in March 2008 a total of 15,000 OVC would have been reached.

### Issues

Although the HBC organizations have carried out tremendous work in helping OVC the level and quality of reporting has been low. This has been due to several factors that include inadequate reporting tools, lack of report writing skills and poor categorizing of the services provided. MSH has made an effort to reduce this problem by designing new data reporting tools. This has been followed by training of the HBC organisations on using the tools and reporting. A gap still remains, in that information in the eleven service categories is being mis-allocated, resulting in under-reporting and inaccuracies.

### Method

MSH has developed information materials to educate the HBC organizations on how to categorize the services they provide. The poster method has proved to be more effective and popular with organizations. It is simpler to understand, has continued exposure as it is displayed on the walls and reaches a broader audience.

### Emerging lessons

Information, education and communication materials targeted at grassroots level organizations are more effective and understandable in media such as posters. The target groups develop the capacity to question and contribute to improvement of the quality of such materials.

1. *OVC Technical Advisor, Management Sciences for Health*

7. *Management Sciences for Health, Semi Annual Report 2007*