Applying a standards-based improvement approach to vulnerable children programming in Nigeria: Yaro’s story

BEFORE applying the improvement approach...

THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE IN NGWAN NGAS COMMUNITY IDENTIFIES YARO, A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD VULNERABLE CHILD IDLING AWAY DURING SCHOOL HOURS. THAT BOY SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL.

THE CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE GAVE YARO BOOKS, TOOK HIM TO THE COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL, ENROLLED HIM AND PAID HIS SCHOOL FEES.

BUT YARO DID NOT CONCENTRATE DURING CLASS SESSIONS. HE HAD OTHER THINGS ON HIS MIND.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SUMMONED YARO TO HIS OFFICE. COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW WITH YOUR DEVELOPMENT LEVY, PTA LEVY AND CRAFT FEES.

YARO LEFT THE SCHOOL AGITATED.

LEVY LEVY LEVY!

YARO VISITED HIS FRIENDS AND ASKED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

OL' BOY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? COME TAKE A DRAG.

HELLO GUYS.

YARO'S FRIENDS INTRODUCED HIM TO HARMFUL AND CRIMINAL PRACTICES. YARO BEGAN STEALING.

THIEF! BARAWO! THIEF!

YARO USED MONEY FROM THE CRIMINAL PRACTICES TO PROVIDE FOR HIS AGED GRANDMOTHER AND TWO OTHER RELATIVES.

KAKA, I BOUGHT ENOUGH FOOD FOR THREE WEEKS.

WELL DONE MY SON.
AFTER applying the improvement approach...

A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM WAS SET UP IN YARO'S COMMUNITY.

THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM VISITED YARO'S HOUSE AND CONDUCTED A HOUSEHOLD VULNERABILITY INDEX ASSESSMENT (HVI).

THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN SCORED AS MOST VULNERABLE.

A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM IDENTIFIED THREE PROBLEMS.

CASE PLAN
Household Economic Strengthening
Education and Training
Psychosocial Support.

THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM HELD A CASE MANAGEMENT SESSION MEETING AND DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS.


THE TEAM LINKED YARO WITH A WELDER FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

ABC WELDING WORKS

YARO TRAINED AS AN APPRENTICE WELDER AFTER SCHOOL...

...AND RECEIVED STIPENDS...

... THAT HE USED TO CARE FOR HIMSELF AND HIS AGED DEPENDANTS.

THE TEAM RE-ENROLLED YARO IN THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND GOT THE PRINCIPAL TO WAIVE THE HIDDEN FEES.

PRINCIPAL

STORE
Yaro’s story continued

**THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM ALSO REGISTERED YARO INTO A YOUTH CLUB.**

**HE MADE NEW FRIENDS AND GAINED SELF-ESTEEM.**

**HE AVOIDED HIS OLD FRIENDS AND GOT COMMITTED TO HIS NEW LIFE.**

**IT WAS NOT ALL IN VAIN AS HE RECEIVED AN AWARD FROM THE SCHOOL AUTHORITY FOR BEING THE BEST STUDENT AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

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To learn more about improving the quality of life of vulnerable children in Nigeria, please see the following companion documents:

Guide for Applying Improvement Methods to Implement the National Standards for Improving the Quality of Life of Vulnerable Children in Nigeria: a companion document to the National Standards, the guide provides brief instructions for applying improvement methods to ensure that the standards are implemented consistently and appropriately for every child.

National Standards for Improving the Quality of Life of Vulnerable Children in Nigeria: guidelines for providing quality services in seven domains – health, nutrition and food security, psychosocial support, protection, education and training, shelter and care, and household economic strengthening.

Community Booklet National Standards for Improving the Quality of Life of Vulnerable Children in Nigeria: a booklet for frontline community workers on principles of quality service standards, seven core service areas, and roles and responsibilities of community volunteers in providing quality services.