LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE YOUTHS (AGE 18-30yrs):
A STUDY OF ONE RURAL COMMUNITY AND A SEMI URBAN AREA OF LAGOS STATE SOUTH WEST NIGERIA

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DEDICATION

Thank You God, for being God.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ARV - Antiretroviral drug

ART- Anti -retroviral Therapy

BCSA- Bethesda Child Support Agency

CBO - Community Based Organisations

FBO - Faith Based Organisations

FMWA- Federal Ministry of Women Affairs Nigeria

GCAF-Girl Child Art Foundation

HIV- Human immunodeficiency virus

HEAP- HIV and AIDS Emergency Action Plan

HMI - Health Matters Inc.

HWW - Hope World Wide

HND – Higher National Diploma

LSO- Little Saints Orphanage

NGO – Non Governmental Organisation

OVC - Orphans and Vulnerable Children

OVY- Orphans and Vulnerable youths

PLWHA- People Living With HIV/AIDS

PEPFAR - US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

PMTCT- Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission

STI- Sexually Transmitted Infections

SWAAN - Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, Nigeria

UBE- Universal Basic Education

UNAIDS - Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNICEF -United Nations Children's Fund

USAID - US Agency for International Development

VCT - Voluntary counselling and Testing

WCH- Women and Children of Hope

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to contribute to Increase of sustainable livelihood options of orphans and vulnerable youths (OVY) of 18-30yrs in rural (Makoko in Yaba Local Government Area) and semi urban areas of Lagos state by analysing their coping strategies, current livelihood options and career interests and to formulate recommendations. UNICEF defines an "orphan" as a child under 18 who has lost one or both parents**.** A "vulnerable child" is a child who needs care and protection such as a child with a sick parent. Nigeria is facing an orphaning and child vulnerability crisis of potentially high proportions, with official figures estimated at 17.5 million OVCs, including 7.3 million orphans.

The investigation was done within 1st of July – 17th of August, 2010 both through a desk study, one to one interviews with guided questions for 22 persons (youths and the programs heads). This study worked with youths who have passed through OVC programs especially in underserved communities in Lagos state and the programs heads of those NGOs. Various respondents were sampled from these organisations namely Hope World-wide, Bethesda Child Support Agency, Women and Children of Hope, Little Saints Orphanage and Health Matters Inc.

OVCs have various needs from care and support, protection to their education. Despite the influx of programs to address this OVC crisis, very little evidence of their effectiveness is available. Also the level of infrastructure available for the masses in Nigeria is poor, making it difficult for even youths who are not orphans to survive on their own between the ages of 18-30yrs.

Girl Child Art Foundation (GCAF) and other NGOs interviewed affirms that there is a gap, which is that there are supports for the youths before 18yrs, at the end of the program there is no funding to sustain the youths. Being that the youths are already used to being supported, they are likely to be more vulnerable than youths who have not been getting such help or support. The current socioeconomic situations, livelihood survival strategies imbibed by these youths were also analysed. And the study found that a majority of the youths were still stranded, unemployed yet have great dreams to succeed in life, support their families and their community in future.

Bridging the gap for effective implementation of OVC programs may include long and short-term interventions and the study recommends that International donors allocates funding to implement programs for vulnerable youths above 17yrs, the government should become more transparent about the implementation of policies on OVCs and NGOs should map out diversified skill based program plans that are geared towards professionalism, whiles considering career interests of these youths.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The purpose of this project was to examine the livelihood options and the survival strategies of young people living in urban poor communities in Lagos state aged between 18-30years after they have passed through programs that support orphan and vulnerable children. This study was conducted for professional reasons as a development practitioner; it is my personal conviction that livelihood analysis will provide a basis for understanding the socioeconomic condition of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and their survival strategies after an OVC program. This includes factors that further exposes them to vulnerability and the role of the development practitioners in facilitating, promoting, and compelling shared responsibility for the change that need to happen in the socioeconomic circumstances of the OVC.

My choice to work on the livelihood options and survival strategies of young people after an OVC program was inspired by my inability to find answers from directors of some OVC programs on what actually happens to the youths after the programs. There were no clear records or responses on what the youths were doing to survive and programs to continue from where OVC programs stopped. The study sought to find out whether surviving on their own at their age (18-30yrs) will increase their susceptibility to HIV. The findings will be shared with GCAF, other NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, and funding organisations. There is an increase in the plight and number of OVCs in Nigeria. The estimated number is 17.5 million OVCs, were 7.3 million children out of them were orphaned by AIDS (Nigeria OVC Situation Analysis, 2008). One in every ten (1 in 10) children living in households are orphaned (mother, father or both).The proportion of orphans to non- orphans are varied by geo-political zones. Being that the population of Lagos state is high (18 million people), there is a possibility of a high proportion of orphans in Lagos state, but currently there is no accurate estimate (FMWA Nigeria, 2008). The alarming current situation is that the full impact of the disease is yet to be felt. Estimates suggests that by 2010, 25 million African children will be orphaned due to AIDS and that by 2020, an additional 55 million Africans will lose their lives to the epidemic. This could cause devastating long-term developmental impacts on children, their communities, and the future of these countries due to absence of adequate care and support.

Youth orphans require different kinds of assistance when compared to children orphans. In some ways their needs are more complex than the needs of younger orphans because of physical and psychological development during puberty and the steps needed to move toward independence and adulthood. The needs of OVC vary according to age, gender, socioeconomic status, and geography. Various studies and research tools have recently contributed to the development of more effective and targeted strategies for specific sub-sets of the OVC population. This study was essentially focused on youth orphans. This study was conducted via internet search for published literature and publications relevant to the subject matter under discourse, reading published materials, books and journals as well as via discussion with key informants (orphans that have previously passed through vocational skill training programs and project officers in NGOs providing vocational skills development services for OVC) in suburban poor communities in Lagos, Nigeria. Primarily articles were searched and retrieved, as these were accessible, and perceived to be more responsive to current ideas and learning.

1.2. HIV and AIDS in NIGERIA

The first two cases of HIV and AIDS in Nigeria were identified in 1985. The Nigerian health sector established the National AIDS Advisory Committee in 1987, which was followed by the establishment of the National Expert Advisory Committee on AIDS (NEACA). Initially, the Nigerian government was slow to respond to the increasing rates of HIV transmission. Subsequent surveillance reports revealed that during the 1990s HIV prevalence rose from 3.8% in 1993 to 4.5% in 1998 and now about 3.1% (avert, 2009). In 2001, the President's Committee on AIDS and the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) were created and the government set up a three-year HIV and AIDS Emergency Action Plan (HEAP). By 2006, it was estimated that just 10% of HIV infected women and men were receiving antiretroviral therapy and only 7% of HIV infected pregnant women were receiving treatment to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission of HIV (Erulkar and Bello, 2007).

"In 2010, NACA launched its comprehensive National Strategic Framework to run from 2010 to 2015, which requires an estimated N756 billion (60 Million US Dollars) to implement. Some of the aims included in the framework are to reach 80 percent of sexually active adults and 80 percent of most at-risk populations with HIV counseling and testing by 2015; ensure that 80 percent of eligible adults and 100 percent of eligible children are receiving ART by 2015; to improve access to quality care and support services to at least 50 percent of people living with HIV by 2015".

Figure 2 map of Nigeria- source www.flickweb.com

Despite being the largest oil producer in Africa and the 12th largest in the world, Nigeria is ranked 158 out of 177 on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Poverty Index. This poor economic position has meant that Nigeria is faced with huge challenges in fighting its HIV and AIDS epidemic.

1.2.1. HIV/AIDS PREVENTION EDUCATION

Sex is traditionally a very private subject in Nigeria and the discussion of sex with teenagers is often seen as inappropriate. Attempts at providing sex education for young people have been hampered by religious and cultural objections. In 2009, only 23 percent of schools were providing life skills-based HIV education, and just 25 percent of men and women between the ages of 15 and 24 correctly identified ways to prevent sexual transmission of HIV and rejected major misconceptions about HIV transmission.
In some regions of Nigeria, girls marry at a relatively young age and often to much older men. In North Western Nigeria around half of girls are married by age 15 and 80% of the girls are married by the time they are 18.

1.2.2. HIV TREATMENT, SUPPORT AND CARE IN NIGERIA

HIV prevalence in Nigeria is relatively low at 3.1%; however because of her large population (140 million) the number of adults and children living with HIV is one of the highest in the world, at 2,800,000. Official figures estimate that there are 17.5 million OVC, although practitioners in the field believe these figures could be underestimating the size and scope of the problem. Antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) were introduced in Nigeria in the early 1990s. They were only available to those who paid for them. Till date, it is still only available to those who can transport themselves to the distribution sites and on first come first serve bases. As the cost of the drugs was very high at this time and a majority of Nigerians were living on less than $2 a day, only the wealthy minority were able to afford the treatment.

Addressing the needs of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and mitigating negative outcomes of the growing OVC population worldwide is a high priority for national governments and international stakeholders across the globe. It has been recognized that there are issues with social, economic, and human rights of OVC.

Assembling the relevant available data on OVC and acknowledging the gaps that still exist in our knowledge, will assist policy makers and program implementers to make evidence-based decisions about how best to direct funding and program activities and maximize positive outcomes for children and their caregivers.

This Research Situation Analysis on OVC presents a livelihood - focused summary of available information on:

• Current policies, programs and interventions designed and implemented to assist them

• Gaps in these policies, programs and interventions

• Evidence based gaps in the OVC interventions.

1.3. PROBLEM DEFINITION

Children and Youths are part of all communities. There are and will always be children who have had the misfortune to lose parent(s). In many poor countries like Nigeria, extended family routinely took in children from wider family. But, in rich countries of the West, institutions were available to care for children. Today, the increasing rate of AIDS orphaning has reached as stage whereby former coping mechanism are collapsing in poorer countries. This has resulted to growing number of street children roaming the streets in major cities of poor countries like Nigeria. This is why many organizations are springing up to fill the gap by initiating and implementing various programs to address the problems of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), but many of these programs exclude youths (18-30 yrs.). The youth in this age group have more complex needs because of their physical and psychological development during puberty and the steps towards independence and adulthood.

Over the last two decades, there has been growing concern over the effectiveness and impact of many programs that are providing support services to OVC. These programs include the provision of support in the area of vocational skill training, formal education sponsorship, support for caregivers, feeding, clothing, housing, medical and psychosocial care. It is however expected that after passing through various support programs, the OVC will become less susceptible to HIV infection, poverty as well as be able to cope with life within their communities. This study is therefore an attempt to actually examine life skills programs for OVC in terms of their effectiveness, impact, ability to follow up the OVC after they have pass through support programs and sustainability of such programs.

There has been concern about what happens to the OVCs after they have passed through support programs put in place by government, non-governmental organizations, faith based organizations and others public spirited individuals. This project will therefore examine various programs that support the OVCs, as well as assess their ability to follow up the OVC even after they have passed through their programs. The project will also examine other sources of support and strategies adopted by the OVCs themselves to cope with life in their communities especially after passing through various support programs.

Government policy can impact positively in the life of orphans and other vulnerable children especially in resource constraints setting. However, there has been concern about the ability of the government especially in developing Sub-Saharan African countries to put in place comprehensive policy, regulations and laws that effectively protect the rights of the OVCs, safeguard their survival and future in their communities. This project will also examine government policies and laws with a view to determining their adequacy and effectiveness in offering protection and support to the OVC.

1.4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study sought to contribute to the global debate on young people's livelihoods and survival strategies. The study will identify relevant practices and resources that would deepen the knowledge of development practitioners and influence their ability to deliver quality services, enable them to follow up on youth orphans even after they have passed through their program by identifying:

- Examples of relevant OVC projects and "good" practice
- Other practice and research resources for the field
- Relevant theoretical models

1.5.   OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this research was to Contribute to increase of sustainable livelihood options of orphans and vulnerable youths of 18-30yrs in rural and semi urban areas of Lagos state by analysing their coping strategies, current livelihood options and career interests and to formulate recommendations.

1.6.   RESEARCH QUESTIONS
1.6.1. Main question:

What are the coping strategies, current livelihood options and career interests of orphans and vulnerable youths above 18 years of age in the rural /semi urban areas of Lagos state Nigeria after an OVC program?

1.6.2. Sub-questions:

- What are the livelihood assets available for orphans and vulnerable youths?

- What are the strategies developed by male and female youth orphans and vulnerable youths of 18-30yrs in rural parts of Lagos for a sustained livelihood?

- How has experiences and support from the OVC programs contributed to orphan and vulnerable youth's employment?

- What are the sources of support available for orphans and vulnerable youths?

- What are the career interest of orphans and vulnerable youths in Lagos state?

1.7.   SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The youths are the hope of future regeneration of any society. So, whatever threatens the hope of healthy development and future of the youths affects the hope of future regeneration of the human race. It is therefore important, to carryout in depth research to uncover how the youths especially the disadvantaged ones such as the orphans, are able to cope after they have passed through support programs and their survival strategies.

More so, the findings from this research would be of immense benefit to the Nigerian government and its policy makers in developing policy that will adequately address the problems of the adolescent orphans and vulnerable children that daily roam the streets of major cities in Nigeria. The findings from this survey will be useful to government agency implementing youth's welfare programs, non-governmental organizations, international development agencies and others who may want to use the findings from the research to improve on their OVC and youths programs. This study will be of immense benefit to the academicians, researchers and others who may want to conduct further research(s) on the subject matter.

1.8. GIRL CHILD ART FOUNDATION AND THE STUDY

This research is being conducted by a staff of Girl Child Art Foundation(GCAF), Nigeria. Girl Child Art Foundation, is a non-governmental organisation that works with underserved children and youths of 8 - 30yrs. The vision is to create a culture of professionalism, excellence, independence and social empowerment to over 10million youths especially the girl child using all forms of Arts as a basic communication strategy.

Currently GCAF is interested in implementing programs for children and youths in Lagos state. Being that there were already programs implemented for OVCs in Lagos state, GCAF will like to know what happens to Orphans and vulnerable youths in Lagos state after an OVC program. On this, the governing board of the organisation has picked interest in contributing to increase of sustainable livelihood options of orphans and vulnerable youths of 18-30yrs in rural and semi urban areas of Lagos state. From the findings of this research, GCAF will map out responses that will support already existing programs.

1.9. LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

Limitations during the field work
- More time was spent on trying to source out organisations that have implemented OVC programs, because the study could not find any contact list or websites of such NGOs.
- Contacting NGOs working with OVCs was difficult because most of the organisations did not readily accept external investigations of their programs, especially from outside Nigeria. Because they felt they could be indirectly investigated by their foreign donors and they may be found wanting .
- Due to the limited time period for the data collection, it was not possible to get respondents within organisations that required longer time for approval of such researches amongst their past beneficiaries e.g. some government funded Orphanages.
- Most NGOs were not in contact with their older OVCs except in situations where the older beneficiaries were serving as volunteers for the organisations thereby restricting the study to respondents that were readily available.
- All the organisations contacted, could not identify those youths orphaned by AIDS as they insisted that it was also a form of stigmatization amongst their beneficiaries. And so was not professional acceptable within their work policy.

2. REVIEW OF RELEVANT LITERATURE

2.1. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

2.1.1. DESK STUDIES

The desk study was part of both research proposal writing at Van Hall Larenstein University and case studies at the communities in Lagos state. These included studying OVC program documents, articles on livelihoods, gender and HIV specific literature.

The key terms used in this study are vulnerability, susceptibility, resilience, gender, youth, orphans and vulnerable children, caregiver and livelihood.

2.1.2. Vulnerability

Vulnerability refers to a tendency of people to be harmed, attacked, or damaged by the factors that disrupt their lives and that are beyond their immediate control. This include both shocks, trends and seasonality. "Vulnerability is both a condition and a determinant of poverty" (Soussan, J., Blaikie, P., Springate-Baginski, O., and Chadwick, M., 2003). In this study vulnerability context frames the external environment in which people exist', how people adapt to and cope with stresses and shocks. Example of sudden shocks are flooding, deaths in the family through AIDS and other health problems like Malaria, water borne diseases, violence and accidents. Trends include population growth, natural resources, and technology, and seasonality refers to fluctuation of prices, employment opportunities among others. All these can impact on livelihoods. According to Cahn; "Culture (including gender) and household dynamics can also cause risk and vulnerability (Cahn, 2002)".

2.1.3. Susceptibility

Susceptibility refers to the likelihood of an individual becoming infected by HIV. Susceptibility is influenced by many factors including physiology (differences between men and women's bodies make women more susceptible); individual behaviour (such as number of sexual partners, use of condom, getting STIs treated, drug use); and wider issues including poverty, HIV prevalence, illiteracy and balance of power particularly with regards to gender (Urdang, 2007). "In search of income for subsistence and survival, people living in poverty participate in labour migration which results in breakdown of male and female relations, increasing likelihood of multiple sexual partners or casual sexual partners and risk of HIV infection (Government of Malawi, 2002)". In this study, this definition is applied.

2.1.4..Resilience

Resilience is more or less the opposite of vulnerability and can be referred to as the ability of a person to resist or recover from an attack, damage or harm. It is the human capacity to face, overcome and be strengthened by or even transformed by the adversities of life, the ability to bounce back after stressful and potentially traumatizing events like loss of parents. A child or youth's ability to cope depends a lot on his/her resilience. Resilient children generally cope better with life's adversities. In this study, resilience will be seen as strengths the orphans and vulnerable youths have developed naturally or learned through life experiences.

2.1.5..Gender

Gender refers to the social attributes with being male or female and the relationships between women and men or girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes as they are context, time-specific and are changeable. Gender determines what is allowed, expected, and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies like Nigeria, there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken (roles), access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities.

"Gender refers to the socially constructed differences between males and females. This social construction reflects inequalities in power, decision making, control over events, and freedom of action, ownership of resources (Bruce, J. and Amy, J., 2006)". In this research, gender refers to as the above defined and explained.

2.1.6. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

UNICEF defines an "orphan" as a child under 18 who has lost one or both parents. A child whose mother (maternal orphans) or father (paternal orphans) or both are dead (double orphans)". A "vulnerable child" is a child who needs care and protection such as a child with a sick or very poor parent or guardian. "Orphaned children in general have less access to education and health care, have more indicators of psychosocial distress, and face greater degrees of child neglect, abandonment, and abuse when compared to non-orphan, (UNICEF, 2003)". OVC suffer poorer health and poorer psychosocial well-being than non-OVC among children living in households. In this study, OVC refers to orphans who have lost one or both parents as well as children who need care and protection.

Categories of OVC

Vulnerable children are in the following categories:

Street Children

There are two main categories of street children: children with no real home to go to who are called children of the street and the second category are children who work and spend extensive time on the public either alone or with relatives, guardians or other children, but have some sort of home. First, in some urban slum settings a "home" can be relatively hard to define (what constitutes a home is roof, walls, and a casserole). Second, children who have chosen or been forced to leave home, sometimes continue visiting one or both parents or other relatives or caregivers. Children affected by HIV/AIDS include; children who live with parents infected with HIV/AIDS and are often neglected because of parental illness (chronically ill), children who are orphaned by HIV/AIDS and when their parents die the relatives of the parents grab all the properties they left behind and the children are left with nothing to inherit, children who are infected with HIV/AIDS and they often experience social stigma that may result in their being denied access to school, employment or other services and children who live away from home because of the way HIV/AIDS has affected their primary caregivers.

Children with disabilities

These are children that are physically, mentally impaired: - These are children with medical condition that limits their abilities to take part in normal life.

Child Labourers

These are children that are on the street daily to work instead of being in school.
There is a long list of vulnerability index such as
- Orphans, especially those whose parents died after a protracted illness
- Abandoned children
- Children in child-headed homes
- Child beggars, destitute children and scavengers
- Exploited "almajiris"
- Children, especially girls, who get married before maturity
- Child domestic workers
- Children in exploitative labour
- Child sex workers
- Trafficked children
- Children in conflict with the law
- Children of migrant workers e.g. fishermen, nomads.
- Internally displaced/ separated children
- Children living with terminally or chronically ill parent (s)
- Children living with old/ frail grandparent (s)

In this study, OVC will be referred to as children affected by HIV/AIDS, street children, abandoned children, children living with terminally or chronically ill parent (s),children living with old/ frail grandparent (s), orphans, especially those whose parents died after a protracted illness and Child Labourers as described above. This also includes those who passed through OVC support programs, and those who were not opportune to access one.

2.1.7. Caregiver

The individual who takes primary responsibility for the physical, mental, emotional needs and wellbeing of a child like mentors, sponsors, foster parents, guardian, relatives (grandparents), and sometimes NGO staff. In this study is referred to as defined.

2.1.8. Youths

This is a time of life between childhood and adulthood. Young men and young women distinguish themselves from adults and children, not only because of age, but also because of the specific marks of this phase in life. During this period, there are a lot of changes, not only physically, but also socially. They are no longer children, but they are not yet seen as adults. They are somewhere in between, as a distinctive group, with specific needs (Urdang, 2007). The physical, psychological and emotional changes that are intrinsic to the development of young people contribute in special and virtually unavoidable ways to their vulnerability to HIV infection (Masanjala, 2006).

Some theories of human development constructed youth as a period of problems, with their emphases on the difficulty, stress, conflict, and upheaval of the transition to adulthood. The experiences, knowledge and skills (physical and emotional) acquired in adolescence have important implications for an individual's prospects in adulthood. Moreover, positive experiences during adolescence can counter negative experiences or deficiencies during childhood. The reverse of the previous statement also underscores the importance of interventions during this stage of human development. A positive development during childhood can be eroded by negative experiences during adolescence.

Adolescents face a range of challenges that children are not generally required to deal with during their first decade of their life. These include such things as "sexuality, including early marriage, early childbearing and parenting; livelihoods and economic activity and the impact of work on social status and personal identity; managing to sustain education and enhance knowledge and skills; maintaining personal health and confronting new morbidities, such as HIV/AIDS, drugs, alcohol and tobacco, suicide and unintentional injuries; learning to cope with violence, from organized gangs to armed conflicts; and assuming civic responsibilities, from involvement in voluntary organizations to voting" (UNICEF 2003 P3-27).

Therefore, it is so important to differentiate between adolescents and children under the age of ten years. Adolescence is neither a homogenous stage of development nor it is experienced uniformly. The needs of older adolescents (15 – 19 years) differ from those of their younger counterparts (10 – 14 years). The experiences of rural adolescents and urban adolescents differ. Levels of education, overall socio-economic status of the family and psycho-social factors all influence how adolescence is experienced. And cutting across all of the above is gender: the needs and experiences of girls are very different from those of boys.

2.1.9. Livelihood

"Livelihood is defined as a means of living, and the capabilities, assets, and activities required for it. A livelihood encompasses income, as well as social institutions, gender relations, and property rights required to support and sustain a certain standard of living. It also includes access to and benefits derived from social and public services provided by the state, such as education, health services, and other infrastructure" (Masanjala, 2006, p. 1033). Sustainable livelihood programs seek to create long-lasting solutions to poverty by empowering their target population and addressing their overall well-being. The programs are varied in their focus, approach, and target audience, although many of them.

- Provide youth with salaried jobs and other opportunities to earn income;

- Provide financial services and related on-the-job training;

- Develop institutions, alliances, and networks for youth to advance their economic interests; and

- Promote policy and social changes that improve young people's livelihood prospects (Rosen, 2001).

2.2. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FRAMEWORK

2.2.1. INTRODUCTION

Theories generally help to establish causal relationships between the dependent and the independent variables. This chapter will be relating youth to various concepts earlier mentioned in the previous chapter and also introduce the sustainable livelihood framework as the theoretical framework that will form the core of the study. Various authors have different definitions on the age bracket of youths for instance, the UN convention data on youth are often merged in the data on children (were a child is defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as people up to age 18) and a youth is commonly defined as age 10 – 30 years.

Given that there are no clear definitions on who a youth is, in terms of age distinction, the study referred to a youth as someone between the age of 14- 30yrs. In the planning, policy making and implementation of development interventions, it is important to consider youth especially youth orphans or vulnerable youths as an entry point. In most economies youths constitute a large proportion of the national population. In Nigeria, youth were estimated to be 45 million. The youth, are often forgotten in the policy making process in Nigeria. There are also very little data available on youth orphans as a group. For clarity and logical coherence, the relevant literature available for review was considered under the following sub headings:

Sustainable Livelihood framework

- Youth's education and Livelihood Option, Poverty, its influence on Youths Reproductive Health and Survival Strategies.
- HIV/AIDS and its influence on Youths Socioeconomic status and Survival Options.
- Orphan and its impact on youths Livelihood Options and Gender and its influence on youths Livelihood and survival strategies.

The sustainable livelihoods framework (SLF) was used to aid the understanding of the complexities of poverty and livelihoods. If a program is targeting orphan and vulnerable youths and HIV and AIDS, it does not just look at the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic it has to look beyond and around the epidemic. The health condition or the medical solution through livelihoods analysis, taking into account other things going on now and in their past life, or the life of the household, community or region. A livelihood is comprised of the capabilities, assets and activities necessary for living. The different types of assets that may be affected are categorized under human capital, physical capital, natural capital, social capital and financial capital.

According to Chambers, "A sustainable livelihood is one that can deal with and recover from various stresses and shocks, can maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, can provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and can contribute to the net benefits of other livelihoods at the local and global levels in the short and long term (Chambers and Conway, 1992)". Further analysis was done on youth livelihoods using the sustainable livelihood framework to enable the study to understand the complexities of poverty.
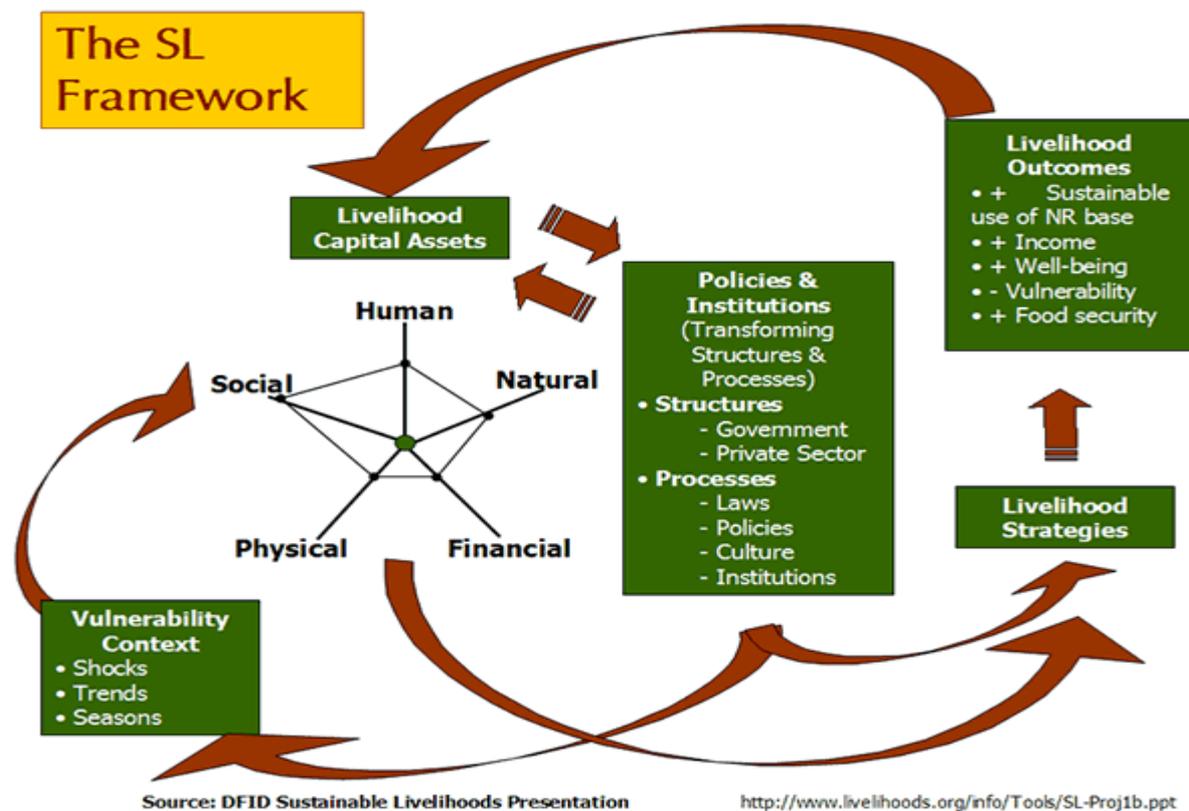
Figure 3: Sustainable livelihoods framework;DFID (2001)

2.2.2. EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS FOR THE YOUTH

Education is defined as activities that impart knowledge (intellectual or moral) or skill. Therefore education is needed to succeed in life. Basically education falls under the human capital in the livelihood framework. Education was considered to be an influential asset because it generally enhances one's; social, financial, human and also physical assets. This also provides a solid foundation which enhances other efforts to build human capital. It also contributes to enhancing self-esteem, life skills, i.e. self-confidence, how to behave, or become a good citizen. Education contributes directly to the development of marketable skills through formal education to include technical and vocational education. All these impart knowledge and skills which are valued as assets in a work environment were the financial capital also enhanced.

"The inclusion of enterprise and entrepreneurial training as key elements of the educational process holds great potential for empowerment. It is akin to life skills in some respects, but also imparts practical knowledge, such as business management, accounting etc. (Brown, 2001)".

Although the value of education cannot be questioned, there are concerns about its forms of service delivery and access to formal education in developing nations when related to youth livelihoods. Various authors have also said that in most countries in Africa, schooling programs are not structured to allow young people pursue livelihood strategies while in school. In Nigeria, the reality is that many children and youths must earn in order to get a formal of education. This has also triggered the influx of programs to support OVCs which include supply of school materials; books, uniforms, school bags, levies etc. as their family budgets do not stretch to include all those. This situation is common in many countries where austerity measures have led to decreased social spending and increased unemployment. In some cases the quality of education available

is of poor and their performance is hardly monitored by government monitoring agencies. Young people tend to drop out of school for work, especially when they see the few educated youths still unemployed.

"Education and livelihood strategies are sometimes forced into competition with each other. In some instances, adolescents are required to work in family enterprises during periods of high demand for the goods or services produced (Brown, 2005)".

According to S.Y. Quriashi, "youth empowerment is central to any youth development effort. In essence, it means helping young people with optimum opportunities to contribute to the economic, social and cultural advancement of their families, community and the country enabling them to reach their full potential (Quriashi,2006)". The Nigerian education system is not flexible enough to accommodate working adolescents/youths. For instance, children or youths who may need to trade or support their families on market days may have to skip school for the market days in order to eat. Factors that may disrupt an orphaned youth's education could also be the death of a prime age school adult or a caregiver in a household. This will reduce his or her attendance at school. An orphaned child may have to take on household or income earning work. This aids to a dramatic drop in school attendance on those days especially for public schools which are usually schools for children of average earners or poor families. But having a flexible school timetable would have them make up with Sunday or Saturday classes or better still through extra moral classes' as they are called in some parts of Nigeria. Therefore, poor education system hinders opportunities for young people to contribute to the economy or reach their full potential.

Many working youths leave school with a basic education at primary or secondary level if supported by external help. External help here may include NGOs, religious groups or philanthropists. A question may be asked on what extent do primary school curricula prepare adolescents to enter the labour force or to engage in non-formal skill labour? How can they have a sustainable livelihood with secondary level of education?

A question raised from the conference on youth livelihoods by 'Making Cents International 2007' was "where should youth livelihood development go from here? "and the first answer was that "as steps in the advancement of knowledge related to youth livelihood development and to further address many youths' growing and diverse needs and interests for assistance in generating income that improves their well-being there is a need: "To Raise awareness of growing youth employment gap within the development community. Stating that, it has taken awhile for the youth unemployment gap to become a recognized issue to those outside the immediate youth livelihood development arena".

Some concerns are echoed about literacy programs for adults and young people in non-formal settings, which often fail to respond to their practical needs and relate to their body of experience and knowledge. More so, Orphans and vulnerable children or youths are less likely to have proper schooling. How then can the employment gap be closed? This study concludes that they need proper marketable skills to earn a tangible living in the labour market which will in turn enhance their capitals.

2.2.3. POVERTY, ITS INFLUENCE ON YOUTHS VULNERABILITY AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

UNDP 2009 estimates that 54.4% of the Nigerian population lives below the national poverty line which is referred to as living below 1.25 US dollars per day. Demographics reports estimate that 45million persons in the Nigerian population are youth, this means that a about 23 million youths in Nigeria are living also below poverty line. According to UNDP, "Failure to respond to the education, health and employment needs of a large share of the population will further entrench poverty for generations (Curtain, 2004)".

For poor youths, vulnerability is both a condition and a determinant of poverty. This refers to young people's ability to avoid, withstand or recover from the harmful impacts of factors that disrupt their lives and that are beyond their immediate control. This includes both shocks (sudden changes such as Seasonal floods in Lagos state, deaths in the family through AIDS and other epidemics, violence , accidents or collapsing market prices) and trends (rapid population growth in Lagos state, Technology, Markets and trade, oppressive political systems – through demolition of communities and shanty towns without alternative shelters).

Poverty is one of the drivers of HIV epidemic. Poverty influences young people's vulnerability especially when there are inadequate health systems in a community. Its negative impact may compound adolescents vulnerability to sickness and early death. These youths are likely not to possess a good level of education making their chances of employment low in a competitive labour market. Survival in Lagos state is very competitive since it is an over populated state. The youth require recommendations by highly influential citizens for employment, contracts and business opportunities. In the bid to seek for a livelihood, poor youth may resort to cross-generational sex or transactional sex for little favours which also makes them vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation. Girls in many countries report having sex in exchange for money or gifts. Currently, in Nigeria young boys tend to have "sugar mummies". This makes the poor youth susceptible to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infection (STIs) as he or she lacks bargaining power for safe sex in the transaction. Youth from AIDS-affected homes or orphaned by the disease, are estimated to be 7.3 million in Nigeria. "They often have to forgo schooling and other opportunities which diminishes their livelihood prospects and pushes them deeper into poverty(Rosen.J,2004).". This may increase their chances of contracting HIV. Poverty is the root cause of unplanned pregnancies which resort to unsafe abortions. , Youths from wealthy homes are not likely to be exposed to transactional sex, however, a poor adolescent is more than three times as likely to give birth in an unplanned manner as a wealthy adolescent.

> *UN Definition of Poverty*
>
> *"Fundamentally, poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and cloth a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation" (UN Statement, June 1998 – signed by the heads of all UN agencies)*

There is a reduction in the human capital in the life of a youth with poor health, as it exacerbates poverty by disrupting, delaying and cutting short school opportunities. It

causes early death or weakening of young people in the prime of their working lives, thereby placing heavy financial and social burdens on families. This also weakens their social and financial capitals as a household and as individual youths. This makes the survival chances of such youth weaker. In order to break the poverty cycle in a community, investment in youth is very vital for any economy.

2.2.4. HIV/AIDS AND ITS INFLUENCE ON YOUTHS SOCIO - ECONOMIC STATUS AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

More than two decades after HIV and AIDS was first reported in US medical literature, it has become an epidemic with no signs of a decline in global incidence. Its consequences on developing countries are particularly harmful. In sub-Saharan Africa, it rivals poverty as the main scourge of the continent. The HIV and AIDS pandemic have important implications for national development as it generally affects people during their most productive years: investments in training and educating a cadre of workers are lost and the provision of services and rates of production suffer. Out of the number of HIV infected persons in Nigeria, it is also estimated that 60% of the cases occur among young people.

In terms of social capital; people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) are often terribly stigmatized. They are often referred to as sexually promiscuous thus they were infected. Being that Nigerians are very religious this also compounds the level of stigma against PLWHAs. PLWHAs are still a human; yet too often they are referred to as with labels like `AIDS victim' or `AIDS patient'. This show of stigma is also seen in the hospitals, as the health the condition of the person robs them off their status as a person'. The impact of AIDS increases the level of vulnerability in the life of a youth thereby reduces his or her social capital. This invariable effect, also affects other capitals like human, financial and physical assets. People affected by HIV/AIDS often experience discrimination in from their family (immediate, extended family members or even friends). They are sometimes discriminated against at workplace or when seeking employment opportunities.

HIV and AIDS affect adolescents in two major ways. Adolescents can be affected directly through infection or indirectly through the infection and subsequent death of a parent or care-giver. When a parent dies in a family, children experience profound loss, grief, anxiety, fear, hopelessness with long term consequences such as chronic depression, psychosomatic disorders, low esteem, learning disabilities and disturbed social behavior (See figure 2 below).

AIDS disrupts social roles, rights and obligations. For the orphaned child, there is often a premature entrance to burdens of adulthood all without the rights and privileges or the strength associated with adult status. Barnett and Whiteside further explained that, becoming an orphan of AIDS is rarely a sudden switch in roles. It is a slow and painful, and the slowness and pain has to do with not only the loss of a parent but the long term care which that parent falling ill may require (Bruce and Chong 2006a). "A young adolescent may be responsible for many siblings, some of whom may be infants. Children who are the heads of households are in a difficult position not only because they must now support their siblings with little to no education and/or employable skills, but also because they most likely have limited resources (Salaam, 2005)". Young people with little to no education or employable skills can be found doing work such as car washing, shining shoes, street trading, begging for money in the streets and highways, bartending, selling food, and in the case of girls, becoming domestic- workers. Many studies believe that desperation of these young ones makes them more vulnerable to abuse, exploitive child labour and sexual exploitation, subsequently making them more susceptible to HIV infection.

Problems among children and families affected by HIV and AIDS
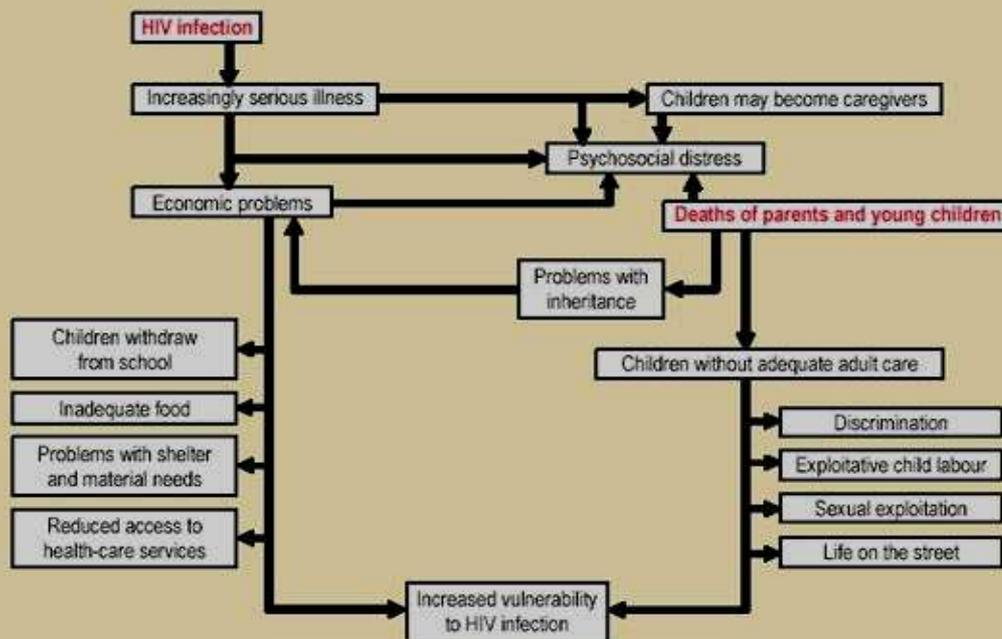
Source: Williamson, J. (2004) *A Family is for Life* (draft), USAID and the Synergy Project. Washington.

Figure 4 : Problems Among Children and Families in Africa-Sources Williamson J.(2004)

Economically most vulnerable youth and orphans find it difficult to access tertiary level of education. In Nigeria, education is free at the primary level in public schools. These schools are usually not equipped. Children from poor households may never gain an opportunity for a good education as their parents cannot afford one. Sometimes adolescents or children are required to work to support the family daily income leading to withdrawal from school. In Lagos for instance, there is high level of accommodation problems as over 600,000 people migrate to Lagos annually is search of greener pastures. Only a small proportion of the estimated 18million people living in Lagos state can afford a decent accommodation while the rest struggle in shanty town, neighboring rural communities or states. Life in these slums or shanty town in Lagos is frustrating; the people lack access health care services, no money to feed their usual large family as they may not also afford contraceptives. Young people who find themselves in such circumstances are likely to adopt survival strategies that can lead to an increase in their susceptibility to HIV infection. "Studies have found that girls living in poor households are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviours, such as transactional sex, non-consensual sex, and having sex with multiple partners, compared with those who are better off (Bruce 2006 & UNAIDS, 2004)".

A major economic challenge facing young people in Nigeria is unemployment. Twenty five percent of the youth in Nigeria are unemployed. Young people both male and female have various experiences and tales of fear, frustration and rejection especially for the vast majority of youth who live in rural communities in Nigeria. For most young people in Lagos and Nigeria informal, menial/ low-wage, insecure jobs has become also a norm.

Socio-economic vulnerability could lead to adoption of survival strategies that increase the risk of HIV transmission e.g. children orphaned through HIV often migrate from rural areas, or their homes in the slums to other parts of urban areas where they may join clusters of the so-called 'street children'. They sometimes exchange sex for food, sex to secure a space under a bridge to sleep at nights, money or protection. For instance, survival sex, where women are obliged to sell sex for food or money in order to keep

themselves and their families alive or at times where casual labour contracts have become abusive and women have been forced to have sex in order to have work (Bruce and Chong, 2006a).

These circumstances increase vulnerability of children to acquiring infection, unwanted pregnancies for the girls because they are relatively powerlessness. Sometimes, the complexity of local circumstances is illustrated where the reverse migration of HIV orphans occurs from urban areas back to the rural 'hometown' on the death of the parents.

2.2.5..ORPHANHOOD AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUTHS LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

The needs of AIDS orphans may differ from other orphan and vulnerable children, since stigma hunts them almost everywhere they go in search of livelihood or support. Sometimes they unconsciously stigmatize themselves. They experience social isolation and discrimination and are sometimes denied access to education, health services, their inheritance and property. Especially in parts of Nigeria where wife inheritance is still or indirectly practiced, where the man's brothers take the dead man's properties living the children and the wife homeless and vulnerable. "This is an issue when both mother and father dies or mother only dies, in societies where inheritance laws and practices are biased against women, the father predeceases the mother (UNICEF, 2009)".

Figure 5: Part of Vulnerable Children's Free School Built by BSCA

As earlier mentioned, challenges faced by Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) include getting money for school fees, food, clothing, and access to basic healthcare. For the girls, they need to maintain their hair and other monthly sanitary requirements. This condition forces them into desperation, which in turn makes them more susceptible to HIV infection. Youths who are orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS are a large and a growing population with unmet needs. More than half of all orphans are adolescents ages 12 to 17. Data from the Demographic and Health Surveys show that the prevalence of orphans increases with the age of youth (UNICEF 2003).

Adolescent orphans have different needs than children and require different kinds of assistance. Of particular importance are secondary education, livelihood training, sexual and reproductive health education and services, psychosocial and social support for the difficult transition to independence and adulthood and adult mentors as role models. Some studies state that 'Young people themselves, working with adults, can provide a useful resource in addressing many of these needs'. However, this study find the use of the word many' of the needs to be insufficient because these needs require funding.

According to a study on AIDS orphans in Ibadan Nigeria, "It appears that the extended family system is currently coping with the orphan situation. There is need for provision of social and economic support to caregivers of children orphaned by AIDS before the family system is overwhelmed (Oladokun, R., Brown, B., et al, 2008)". Basically, the question is -Where will the money for all the many needs come from in an economy were 54.4% of her population are living below poverty line? People have large families therefore they might not be willing to take in more mouths' as it said in Nigeria. Less than 10 percent of OVC population in Nigeria receives international support, the majority of the support they receive comes from their own communities for example philanthropists, religious groups and extended family. The weakness here is in the reduction of the social, human, physical and financial assets and this implies that their livelihood option as young people is not sustainable.

The following are effects of sickness and death of a parent upon children, who later grow into adolescent/youths with the same possible problems as follows:

• **Lack of love, attention and affection** – Children and youths of all ages need emotional support, love and stimulation. Orphans and vulnerable children are sometimes left without responsive care. This may harm the child's emotional, psychological development and sense of wellbeing. This often leads to a child being withdrawn out of self-pity and abuses.

• **Psychological distress** – In Nigeria, Children suffer from the fear of loss when a parent is diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or a chronic illness. This is because the stigma that accompanies the disease is overwhelming. There is also the fear of uncertainties like - No protection anymore", that their property might be grabbed, their mother might be chased out of the family or blamed for the death of the father, the fear of wicked relatives and so on. The list sometimes looks endless for children and this can be traumatizing.

• **Economic privation** - As parents succumb to poverty, sickness, impact of natural disasters they become unable to provide for their child financially. The little savings available goes towards health care costs or even daily meals at least. As a result, young people's economic needs, such as food, school fees, school bags, uniforms and clothing, are not able to be met. In most cases much of the family's possessions may have been sold to care for the sick. This makes youth orphans automatically providers in their homes as they have to do what they can to earn some form of income. Adolescent heads of households, as the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children pointed out in 2004, may not have rights to family lands and they often miss out on traditional opportunities to learn a trade, such as through apprenticeships and to develop a productive role in their community. "This situation can pose a dilemma for adolescents who, lacking opportunities for employment in their communities may turn to combat, prostitution or crime (Urdang, 2007)".

• **Withdrawal from school** - Oftentimes, female children become the caretakers of a sick parent and are unable to attend school. They may have to leave school for the boys to continue based on the assumption that she may find a husband early enough and begin to support her family. In the presence of poverty in a family, young males are often supported by both female parents and extended family. In some cases boys are sent to learn a trade and the girls go to school. In weakness of the family's financial assets, families may no longer be able to afford school fees, supplies and uniforms as sickness devours the family's finances. A Large numbers of orphaned children or youths find themselves in homes that cannot afford to pay school expenses and drop out to work in the household, fields, or on the street. "In the United Republic of Tanzania, the

school attendance rate for children living with at least one parent is 71 percent; for double orphans it is only 52 percent(UNICEF, 2004)".

• **Loss of inheritance** – In Nigeria property and inheritance laws exists, but do not protect the rights of orphans, vulnerable children/youths and widows. Sometimes traditionally they are prohibited from claiming what is rightfully theirs. Even if these inheritance laws are on the books, they are often not enforced because people are ignorant and the customs of a people often in reality supersede the laws.

• **Increased abuse and risk of HIV infection** – In the course of developing alternative livelihood options, young people who are now expected to take up adult roles with less protection from their parents may fall prey to sexual exploitation, commercial sex work -which is rated high in Lagos state, and child labor in order to provide for their needs or support the family. These high-risk behaviors in which the youth are forced to engage in, orphaned and vulnerable children are at an elevated risk for contracting HIV. The rate of child trafficking in Nigeria is also high as children are forced into modern day slaving in Europe and other western worlds (Olujuwon. T, 2008).

• **Malnutrition and illness -** Orphans and vulnerable children are at a high risk for malnutrition, illness and they lack access to health care. Some communities/ slums in Lagos state have no health facilities for example Makoko in Yaba local government area. The living conditions of poor households in some parts Lagos is dehumanizing, giving room for out breaks of epidemics, water borne diseases, malaria etc. The families may not be able to pay hospital bills even when they succeed in getting to a hospital.

• **Stigma, discrimination and isolation -** When young people are orphaned by HIV/AIDS, children are often forced to leave their familiar surroundings and may not be as readily accepted by extended family members. Even when children remain in familiar surroundings, they may become victims of discrimination or isolation due to common misunderstandings of the disease, how it is spread and they often humiliated. Sometimes when these children are accepted, they could be reminded of the death of their parents and what killed them'. For instance they are often cautioned with statements like "it looks like you have forgotten your parents dead of AIDS" especially when they try to make friends in school or associate with classmates of opposite sex.

• **Loss of inter-generational skill and knowledge: -** Orphans often suffer from loss of intergenerational transfer of knowledge or skill especially when their parents dead before they could transfer many important lessons on life skills mostly because the parent(s) is too ill to transfer the knowledge. After one parent dies, most children often slide more deeply into poverty as they continue to live with the surviving parent or a relative. In all, orphan hood is one experience young people dread as it disarms and renders young people totally dependent and vulnerable.

2.2.6..GENDER AND IT'S INFLUENCE ON LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES OF THE YOUTH

'Gender' refers to the socially constructed roles or relations between men and women. 'Gender relations' are characterized by unequal power. A situation where specific entitlements and responsibilities are assigned to men and women is referred to as 'Gender norms' - for example, women are sometimes expected to take domestic duties or caring for family members and remain close to home, while men may be expected to be the main the breadwinner, get involved with chores that require much strength, working outside the home, and with greater freedom to move around in public places.

A vast majority of children participate in unpaid household labour, and the workload of girls within the home tends to be greater. Girls perform a wider range of chores and dedicate more time to their overall multiple tasks. Whereas, boys may only be expected (or asked) to cut down trees, sweep the compound, run errands and go to play, girls perform a wide range of activities regularly including washing dishes, cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, sewing, minding younger siblings, fetching water and so on. This gender disparity stems mainly from the fact that domestic labour is seen fundamentally or traditionally as 'women's work' in accordance with the ideal that in adulthood women should be the 'homemakers' in the household. According to the ILO, more boys than girls work for wages, but more girls than boys perform full-time unpaid work in the home. Such labour supplements adult household work or makes it possible for their parents to go out to work. When children are orphaned or have chronically ill parent(s), young girls become over burdened with responsibilities as a female and also as the head of the household (Brown N, 2001).

Young women are nurtured with dual load of responsibilities which includes their responsibility for housework and childcare and the notion that young women should also contribute economically as show of care to their siblings or parents. Gender inequality exists in various societies especially in so called third world countries like Nigeria. This may imply that women loose the opportunities to benefit fully in human rights as individuals. In all countries of the world, women continue to exist in roles and relationships that often make them subordinate to men, although this is changing rapidly with time. Sometimes, women are paid less than men for the same work this subordination exist because their movements are restricted, or because they are not permitted to take on higher status work e.g. higher degrees.

Acceptable 'gender roles' are often translated into economic policies and activities for example many governments have ratified international gender instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women(CEDAW), yet gender inequality persists in countries like Nigeria. Implementation of these policies addresses the challenges of gender division of labour and other strategic needs which arise as a result of subordination of women in the society such as issues like legal rights, domestic violence, and women's control over their bodies and equal wages. Some countries have no specific policies for adolescent girls, with the exception of mandatory, but un-enforced primary education like in Nigeria. "Failure to domesticate CEDAW remains a major obstacle to the full achievement and enjoyment of rights enshrined in CEDAW by Nigerian women (WACOL,2008)". The policy and institutional context sets the enabling or restraining environment within which the household acts to maintain or improve its livelihood, and may also cause a gender biased access to resources.

Poverty and HIV and AIDS negatively affect various households on their varied levels of access to their livelihood "assets". Young people appear to long for academic

qualifications beyond basic literacy in English just to advance their employment or earning opportunities. With respect to the way in which education interplays with other resources ('human', 'social', 'financial' and sometimes physical capital) "one factor over and above existing divisions of labour between men and women in explaining uneven workloads between boys and girls is that parents place more emphasis on educating sons". (Chanta,S., and Jonesa, G.,2005). Poverty reduces the chances of a 'good career' in the life of young female as she may likely drop out of school for a brother. This in turn weakens her human, financial capitals and possibilities for a well-paying job.

The income-generating activities done by young people are commonly unskilled and poorly remunerated. They are, mainly comprising assistance to relatives on market stalls (done by male and females) in small family businesses/trading, or engagement in own-account informal services and commerce like sales of recharge cards, running errands or street-vending/ hawking (by mostly males). Hours and times of remunerated and non-remunerated work vary, but frequently involve 1-2 hours of activity before and/or after the school day, as well as at weekends. According to Chanta and Jonesa, "girls not only play a greater role in unpaid household labour, but, they are also more likely to engage in paid work . They are also more likely than boys to hand over their earnings directly to parents". Whiles some other young males take to internet fraud (yahoo -zee), stealing, gangster/street life, and dancing for musicians, the young females resort to prostitution, clubbing, multiple sexual partners, cross–generational relationships and so on.

Natural capital; Orphans are generally prone to losing their inheritance , this situation is worse for young female headed households as they are expected to get married outside their family and access to common property or resources are denied. A young female culturally may not be able to fight for her inheritance or even the inheritance of her male siblings. On the other hand, the young males have chances of coming back in the near future if their natural resources were grabbed.

 Early marriage is akin to employment for some girls, where they join families in which they are expected to make contributions, but are not given the opportunity to develop basic skills. In some countries early marriage is actively promoted as part of a strategy for family income and social security. Few adolescent girls in the Southern Nigeria continue with their education after marriage (Population Council and ICRW 2000). It should be noted that in some countries, however, work delays marriage for girls. Previous researches has also shown that "poor women in developing countries are more interested in skills training that meets their own 'practical gender needs' as opposed to longer term 'strategic gender needs" (Bennell 2007:p 22-30). In this regard, girls are found to be attracted to catering, bead making, tie and dye (Batik) making programs organised by NGOs .

Factors that determine the level of vulnerability of households to the impact of AIDS will include, amongst others: their wealth; the type and amounts of assets they possess or have access to; household composition; and the diversity and robustness of their livelihood strategies. The gender of the head of the household also influences the level of vulnerability of a household. The ways in which households try to respond to the shock will ultimately determine its outcome, including factors such as changes in assets, income, level of food security, and social values. The needs of orphans vary by gender, for instance, girls may require a regular change clothing, hair do, other accessories and they long to belong to class of girls from average earners or wealthier homes. These cannot be excluded bearing in mind the effect of peer pressure and desire to make it 'in life as it often said by youths in Nigeria. In order to achieve these desires, they may adopt coping strategies and risky behaviours that might lead to susceptibility to HIV, vulnerability to early death through unsafe abortion etc. This also explained the fact that in poor societies/communities, the rate of survival sex practiced is very high. Women are

keeping multiple sex partners as a way of getting money and resources to survive (USAID, 2009).

In conclusion, the higher the vulnerability circumstances surrounding these young men and women the more extremely reduced "livelihood pentagon". Unequal gender relations and power relations between men and women in particular increase the vulnerability of poor adolescent girls which often results to poor livelihood outcomes.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. INTRODUCTION

A research design represents a particular kind of framework that guides a researcher in his/her study. This research design guides the researcher in the process of selection of subjects that is regarding the best sampling method to use for his/her study. It also defines the relevance of specific research instrument and methods, how the research instrument is to be used, the pattern of data analysis and logic of influence.

The major objective of this study was to take a cursory look at sources of support and strategies adopted by the OVC themselves to cope with life in their communities especially after passing through various support programs. To successfully do this, the study has to systematically apply some variables that will allow for proper understanding of the intentions. In this context, the study is concerned with both independent and dependent variables.

The study focused on OVC livelihood options and survival strategies after an intervention program in Lagos, Nigeria. The study took a closer look at some relevant issues such as adolescent education, Livelihood Option, Poverty, its influence on Adolescent Reproductive Health and livelihood Strategies, HIV/AIDS and Orphaning, and gender using the sustainable livelihood framework for the analysis.

3.2. OVERVIEW OF STUDY AREA

3.1.1. *WHY LAGOS STATE?*

This study was conducted in Lagos because, Girl Child Art Foundation, (GCAF) will like to make an impactful entry into reducing some of the problems that concerns youths in Lagos through their interventions. As earlier mentioned, GCAF wanted to find answers to the questions asked through this research. This also implies that the outcome of this research contributes to the organization's decision on the types of programs they may offer to young people in Lagos and how they will be prioritized.

Being that Lagos is seen as Africa's second most populous city has grown explosively, from 300,000 in 1950 to an expected 18 million in 2010. Lagos State is bounded in the East and North by Ogun State of Nigeria, in the West by the Republic of Benin, in the South by the Atlantic Ocean and located on the south-western part of Nigeria on the narrow coastal flood plain of Bight of Benin. Although Lagos state by land mass is the smallest state in Nigeria, with an area of 356,861 hectares of which 75,755 hectares are wetlands. The rate of population growth is about 600,000 per annum with a population density of about 4,193 persons per sq. km. "The UN estimates that at its present growth rate, Lagos state will be third largest mega city the world by Year 2015 after Tokyo in Japan and Bombay in India". This growth rate happened so quickly that the city had no effective institutions, engineering, planning, or traditions to guide the hyper growth. This was also fueled by the Nigeria's booming oil industry and taking Lagos along and drawing even more immigrants from rural areas, as well as from neighboring countries. Overcrowding (averaging six people per room), attracting the increase of shanty towns or slums, solid-waste contamination, poor sanitation, air and

water pollution, clogged sewers, and traffic jam as efforts are being made also to improve the national and city infrastructures in a time of political turmoil and more. Trading is a major survival trend, as residents survive all those conditions and have kept the food supply moving through the efforts of individual vendors who sell their wares in vast outdoor markets and on the highway traffic jam by youths.

The study considered the vulnerability context around Lagos and decided to study the livelihood strategies of vulnerable and orphaned youths in Lagos state.

3.1.2. WHY MAKOKO?

Makoko was considered in this study because the study was looking for underserved communities in Lagos state where possible OVC programs are being implemented to give room for comparison with respondents from other parts of Lagos state. Makoko when compared to other parts of Lagos is a community at the outskirt of Lagos in Yaba local government area. Most of the residents of this area live in make-shift houses built with wood and zinc (sometimes nylon coverings) on top of water (See Figure, 6). As a result their most common disasters are fire outbreaks and water flooding from the ocean. Makoko is an 18th century coastal settlement is situated off the mainland in Lagos, Nigeria (usually a view from the popular third mainland bridge-the longest bridge in Africa). The first inhabitants of Makoko were mostly fishermen and they chose to live there because they could tell when tides were good for fishing. The population is estimated at 85,840 people. However, the population estimates from the 2007 census excludes data for this part of Lagos. Possibly this could be due to the nature of the site the population census officials could not gain access to them.

The south of Makoko is surrounded by the Oko Baba sawmills and to the West and North by other inland slums. The area can be accessed from the west by foot or by car, from the 3rd mainland bridge or via Lagos lagoon to the east. They are mostly fisher men, teachers, sex workers, traders etc. In recent times, the occupants of Makoko were either from diverse cultures in Nigeria, Migrants from neighboring countries like Togo, and Benin republic. They have all come to find greener pasture in Lagos. As most of them could not afford the high cost of accommodation inside Lagos mainland or island they resorted to settling in Makoko till they save enough money to relocate to better parts of Lagos state. It is made of three main ethnic groups, Eguns, Ilajes, and Igbos. Most of them come from the coastal communities of the Benin Republic, Togo and Ghana.

Figure 6: Makoko a rural community mostly on water in Lagos. Source www.flickr.com).

Some of the houses and canoes are as old as 40 -150years (which is almost as old as the community itself). Every house has a canoe and the large ones go out to sea with nets while smaller ones are used for inshore work. Occasionally there is power supply to some of the residents of the community while others 'tap' electricity illegally from main sources. More than 80% rent their rooms from slum landlords and one dwelling can house as many as 20 people. Communal latrines are shared by about 15 households and waste water, excreta, kitchen waste and polythene bags go straight into the water (there in the same water some children also play). In this study, the vulnerability context of individual Orphan and vulnerable child or youth will be subsequently analyzed as it relates to their assets and livelihood strategies in Makoko community.

3.3. STUDY STRATEGY

This study started with a brief introduction of the subject matter under discourse and explanation of how the literature search was conducted. The aim and objectives of the study were also highlighted followed by definition and clarification of meaning of key concepts used in the study. The method used to generate information in this research was explained. Key findings from the review of literature highlighted efforts of past researchers, relevant theoretical models and examples of related research work and good practices. This was followed by the report on the finding from discussion with orphans that have previously passed through vocational skill training programs and project officers in NGOs providing vocational skills development services for OVC. Subsequently, this was followed by conclusion and some recommended actions that can address the perceived disparities in OVC in poor communities.

In order to restrict the data in the course of this study, the respondents were from OVC programs that were existing and that were willing to be part of the study. Therefore, no fixed plan was made on the exact number to be interviewed as the study was not sure if they were OVC programs in underserved communities in Lagos. If they were, how will they be reached or located? Some of the organisations did not have neither a website, could not approve being part of the research until they discussed with the researcher in person. There was also no data base on NGOs working on OVCs or existing online contacts details.

During the field work,18 young people aged 17+- 30yrs. (ex OVCs) and 4 program heads were interviewed directly. These include 9 male and 9 females youths, to create a gender balance in the analysis. The organisations linked the researcher to the respondents. In order not to get fixated or induced answers during the interviews, more than 18 respondents were interviewed from organisation's recommendations. During data analysis, responses from 2 youths dropped off since they had same answers from the same source. An interview guide was used during the interviews. Some questions related to HIV and AIDS were made to be less personal to avoid bias and resistance from the male or female respondents from giving genuine answers.

The interview generated information on the survival experiences of the youth from when they lost their parents or their parents' occupations, through to the OVC support programs, their current experiences and future career interests. It was not easy to reach as many youths since most of them were not in contact with the organisations after the programs. Given that the researcher had contacted a former network of NGOs working for OVCs in Lagos state, it was easier to reach the respondents within a limited time frame.

Other respondents include 4 program coordinators of the NGOs, 2 were from faith organisation (Hope World Wide and Bethesda Child Support Agency), 1 was from an orphanage (Little Saints Orphanage), and the other 1 was from a non - governmental organisation (Health Matters Inc.). Only one organisation out of the 4 organisations had orphan and vulnerable youths above 17yrs from Makoko community. The interviews were carried out based on an interview guide, *See Appendix1*.

About 5 organisations were willing to be part of the research. All Interviews were one to one, privately in English and Pidgin English (which were our national languages. During the research, further decisions were made in order to successfully carry out and complete the research which includes;

- To work with organisations that was willing to be part of the research,
- To increase the number of respondents to 18 since the youths were available,
- To re-phrase the questions in such a way that the youth respondents understood,
- To conduct some interviews on the telephone, when they are not physically available,
- Not to concentrate on youth orphaned by HIV and AIDS as was seen as stigmatization by the NGOs. The organisations requested that the study should not specifically ask for youths orphaned by HIV and AIDS as that was seen as stigmatization by the NGOs. This implies that the findings from this study should not be seen as to report basically describing the conditions of children orphaned by AIDS who passed through an OVC program, but for those orphaned by AIDS and other vulnerable children using the definition of vulnerability as described for this study.

Table 1: Number of respondents per category

Category	Method	Number of Respondents	Total
Youths	Interviews	9 males and 9 females	18
Program coordinators of NGOs	Interviews	2 males 1 female	3
Program coordinators of FBOs	Interviews	1 female	1
Total			22

This table shows the number of respondents who were readily available from NGOs working on OVC programs as at when the interviews were conducted... Source: Author

3.3.1. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

These are the methods we employed in trying to find out the survival strategies and livelihood option of youths above 17yrs in rural areas of Lagos state which includes the following:

3.3.2. STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE – (ONE TO ONE)

Before the interviews, the researcher requested to stay in a secluded room to reduce distractions and give room for openness while discussing (*See figure 7).* The objectives of the study were explained to the youths to include the benefit of the research to their future. The various questions were also being explained to the youths if they did not understand when asked.

Transcription: All interviews were audio taped, which was replayed several times during transcription. The interview time lasted between 1-2hrs 30mins per respondent. We were able to group possible responses in form of options to enable us group the answers for easier analysis and save time. The answers were transcribed, grouped and interpreted as structured in the interview guided questions by the researcher.

Right to anonymity; The respondents rights to anonymity was respected prior and during the interviews. Questions were formulated to encourage in-depth discussion by the respondents.

Attitude of interviewer; While asking the questions, the study ensured that the questions are not closed questions in order not to get closed answers so that the answers are not limited. Eye contact was employed to gain attention and this made the interviews interactive. The interviewer was also very friendly and few personal experiences was shared where necessary to gain some level of trust with the respondents and to encourage more honest answers to the questions asked.

Figure 7: interviewing a youth inside a food store at COYATHAN-source Author

There were cases were the respondents felt psychologically relieved talking with the researcher during the interviews, which implied that they were not embarrassed by the numerous questions. Some of the respondents said "it was good that they were asked what they are passing through".

4. ANALYSIS and DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

.4.1. Vulnerability Context Of Orphans And Vulnerable Youths

HIV and AIDS- According to literature a major route of transmission of the virus in Lagos state is through unprotected sexual intercourse (85 per cent) with identified factors influencing the spread of the virus to include poverty, unprotected sex and inadequate prevention, diagnosis and management of Sexually Transmitted infections-STIs (FHI, 2001).

In this study, some of the orphans and vulnerable youths interviewed were orphaned by AIDS. All the respondents confirmed that they aware of how to prevent the spread of HIV. Respondents from HWW and HMI seem to be very conversant with HIV prevention, and said that there is lot of programs on HIV awareness in the country but the question is how many people believe that there is really HIV and AIDS? One respondent said that "He has never seen any infected persons why should he believe it". Study observed that 9 out of 18 respondents had sexual relationships. Three males have protected sex while 1 respondent have unprotected sexual relationships, unlike the females they had 4 out of the 5 females who had sexual relationship had unprotected. The study observed that they believed that the men will marry them in future so they gave they bodies while the men supported them financially. Amongst the both sexes some saw no reason to keep a sexual relationship and this was mainly because it was against their faith and will be seen as act of disrespect to their sponsors or mentors. In Nigeria, men are seen as providers in a sexual relationship. 2 Females had a relationship but no sex (waiting till after marriage), 4 had sex without condom sometimes with one partner. This group of girls were older 20yrs and above, they were also very dependent and had no sponsors, their boyfriends gave them money from time to time. "It is difficult for women to insist on safe sex. This is because the relationship turns on inequality: a woman who is forced to sell sex to a man better off, who is prepared to buy. In a situation where the young men (male respondents) did not have enough to fend to themselves or their families, having a sexual relationship at their age was the least on their priority list. This also brings up the issue of cross generational sex amongst the females as the men who might be able to take care of the financial needs are likely to be much older than them living them in risky situations as they cannot negotiate safe sex. "Studies have found that girls living in poor households are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviours, such as transactional sex, non-consensual sex, and having sex with multiple partners, compared with those who are better off (Bruce 2006 & UNAIDS, 2004)".

Migration was also noted as a major driver of the HIV epidemic. "Migration takes place a lot in Makoko new people come into Makoko community and also leave after a while" says some of the respondents. There are high chances of these youths being susceptible to HIV infection due to migration and other drivers.

Table 2:Male Condom use: Source Author
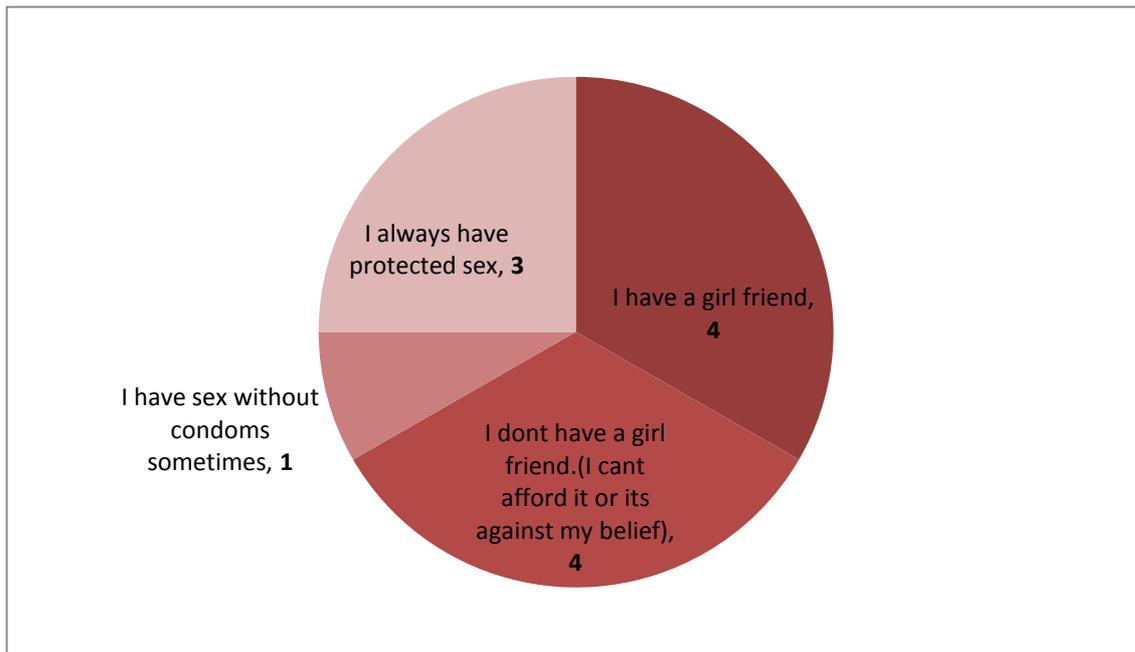
Condom use by male respondents: From the above figures; 9 respondents said Yes' to boy/girlfriend. Three males have had protected sex, 1 respondent had unprotected sexual relationships, while 1 respondent said he had unprotected sex once but stopped having sex since then (5 years ago) because of his faith. Four of the male respondents said that they do not have girl friends as some said it was not necessary, they could not bear the cost, the fear of infections or the implication of such behaviours to their faith. In a situation where the young men (male respondents) did not have enough to fend for themselves or their families, having a sexual relationship at their age was the least on their priority list. This also brings up the issue of cross generational sex amongst the females as the men who might be able to take care of the financial needs are likely to be much older than them living them in risky situations as they cannot negotiate safe sex. "Studies have found that poor vulnerable girls are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviours, such as transactional sex, non-consensual sex, and having sex with multiple partners, compared with those who are better off (Bruce 2006 & UNAIDS, 2004)".

Table 3: Female Condom Use, Source: Author
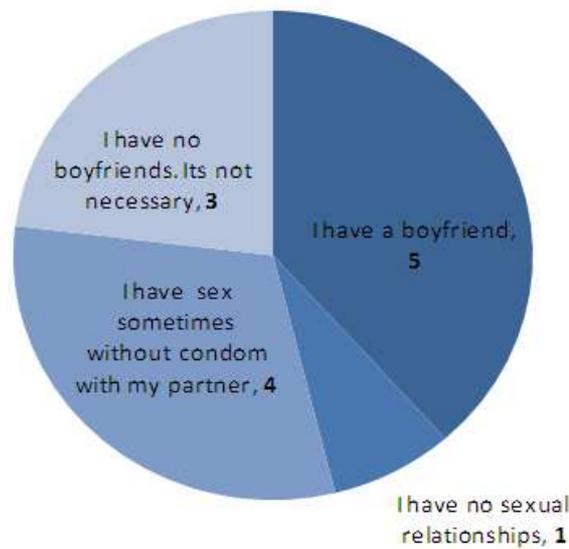
Condom use by female respondents: Similarly, 2 Females had a relationship but no sex (waiting till after marriage), 4 had sex without condom sometimes but maintained one partner. This group of girls were 20yrs and above. They were also very dependent and had no sponsors, their boyfriends gave them money from time to time. "It is difficult for women to insist on safe sex. This is because the relationship turns on inequality: a woman is forced to sell sex to a man better off, who is prepared to buy. Literature has it that poor women were more likely to have sold sex and to have agreed not to use condoms than those who had enough to eat. The link was much less pronounced in men (Krantz 2001).

Two girls from HWW were also very conscious of getting infected with HIV; therefore they opted to not keeping sexual relations. The study discovered that they were also counselled regularly by PLWHA in their OVC programs. Although 2 other females from Bethesda Child support agency, who had no boyfriends suggests that they are adequately sponsored financially as being away from their caregivers would have resulted to them falling for peer pressures of having boyfriends. The reasons these girls gave was that they had no reason to have sex before marriage and it was against their faith, there was also the fear of HIV infection, and that they had enough financial resources to sustain them while in school. Again, having adequate financial support helped them become more resilient. The fear of disappointing their sponsors or loosing sponsorship or their opportunity to have a good life would be jeopardised to early pregnancy, or STIs.

The impact of HIV and AIDS to the livelihood assets of these youths cannot be underestimated as epidemic also depreciates social capital in that death and sickness erode possible social networks. The study also observed that poverty reduces your social capital and in the era of AIDS, the rate at which friends and relatives are lost is very high making the maintenance of the kin group more difficult. "Since AIDS may result in social exclusion resulting from stigma which is still high in Nigeria, some cultural and social events may change because of the risk of HIV/AIDS or become less attractive to those afraid that social activity may spread the virus (Seeley, 2002)". Similarly, due to traditional inheritance patterns and economic subordination of women, AIDS-induced

transformations of the structure of households may not only worsen pre-existing gender inequities but the loss of a bread winner may result in the dissolution of an entire household structure and pattern.

Flooding: Climate Change causes floods, landslides, drought and famine. According to Action Aid, "Flooding has been identified as one of the major factors that prevents Africa's growing population of city dwellers from escaping poverty and stands in the way of United Nations 2020 goal of achieving significant improvement in the lives of urban slum dwellers (Action Aid, 2006)". Lagos has a problem of inadequate drainage system which has aided to compounding the problem of flooding in the city.

> "Though the islands in Lagos have a network of drainage channels consisting of both ancillary and main channels with outfalls to the Lagos Lagoon, flooding hazards are worsened when heavy rains or storm surges coincide with high tides. When this happens, large areas of the islands are flooded, causing a disruption of socio-economic activities on the islands with concomitant adverse effects on the economy of Lagos State and the entire nation of Nigeria (Folorunsho,R., Awosika,L., 2002)".

In this study, the respondents from Makoko and other urban slums in Lagos state identified flooding as the foremost problem encountered. Some of the respondents affirmed that their communities and houses were flooded three times years which distrust small scale business run by families to sustain themselves.

Disease: Poverty and high cost of accommodation Lagos drove most households into settling in slums in Lagos state. This situation aids to the outbreaks of disease and infection amongst group of persons who share toilet facilities, or rooms shared by as much 10 persons. In addition to this, climate related disasters like flooding increases malnutrition and disease become common occurrences. Other problems mentioned by respondents were bad roads, pollution, infestation by mosquitoes, neighbourhood insecurity, poor power supply, unemployment and prevalence of diseases.

.4.2. Livelihood Indicators Of Orphan And Vulnerable Youths

The literature of this study indicates that human , natural, physical and social capitals of orphans and vulnerable youths are affected by HIV and AIDS and poverty. An analysis of the findings with these capitals will enable a better understanding of the current livelihood strategies adopted by these youths.

.4.2.1. Human Capital

The most immediate impact of poverty and HIV and AIDS on the life of orphans and vulnerable youths is on their contribution to the household, for which his or her direct household responsibility and size is an indicator. The impacts differ according to demographic characteristics such as level of education, age, gender of respondents.

Table 4: Distribution of youths by their level of support to their families.

Family Support	Number Of Respondents	No Of Siblings	Type Of Caregivers
No Relative At All Or Single Orphans	4	1, 0, 0, 0.	Foster parents, sponsors, the orphanage
Provide For Their Families And Themselves	6	6, 11, 3, 1, 4, 7	Aunty, poor/chronically ill parent, the orphanage
Provide For Themselves Only	9	4, 4, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 7, 6,	Single mothers and poor parents

Source: Author

Household Size And Contribution: Most of the respondents (15) came from large families of 5 persons and above, 6 of them have partial responsibility of supporting the family through farming, money for food, books, uniforms, schools bags and house chores. 3 have no relatives that they know of because they were abandoned. This shows that most of the youths have no extended family support and have to devised several means to survive by themselves and also provide some form of support to their family.

Number of siblings: Information on the number of siblings that respondents have and the number of dependants was also obtained. This was to help ascertain the number of children in the families of the respondents and who their caregivers were. The information that emerged from the investigations revealed that most of the youths came from homes where there were five or more siblings. The study concludes that they have more responsibilities despite their meagre earnings and this forces the youths into early adulthood (Salaam, 2005). *"In the course of developing alternative livelihood options, young people who are now expected to take up adult roles with less protection from their parents may fall prey to sexual exploitation, commercial sex work -which is rated high in Lagos state, and child labor in order to provide for their needs or support the family".*

Age distribution: The ages of the respondents shows that 1 of the total number of the youths interviewed is a female and below 18 years old, 12 of the youths were 18-24 years of age(5males and 7 females) and 5 and between 25-30years old (3 females and 2 males). This shows that majority of respondents are between the age of 18-24 years from the interviews they were mostly unemployed as they lacked marketable skills and resources to fund a tertiary education. This also implied that they are young, with responsibility to contribute to the family and are likely not to get a well-paying job.

Education: The level of education of the Orphans and vulnerable youth after an OVC program was higher than what they had before benefitting from the various supports from the organizations. Prior to the OVC support programs OVCs affirmed that the programs made life a bit easier than it was before the participating in the programs. The finding shows that 2 females completed a HND (a polytechnic higher diploma which is an equivalent to a Bachelor's degree) through personal efforts and family contribution, 2

females also were still taking Bachelor's degree in a private University. They studied in a private University because they had rich sponsors who could pay tuition as high as about $3,645 per academic year and these were respondents. Five other females completed secondary education, but this group did not get help to sponsor their higher education. One out of the 5 female wanted to leave the country desperately as she feels so deprived in Nigeria, hopes to get a better life in the U.S.A.

Table 5: Level of Education of Respondents, Source: Author
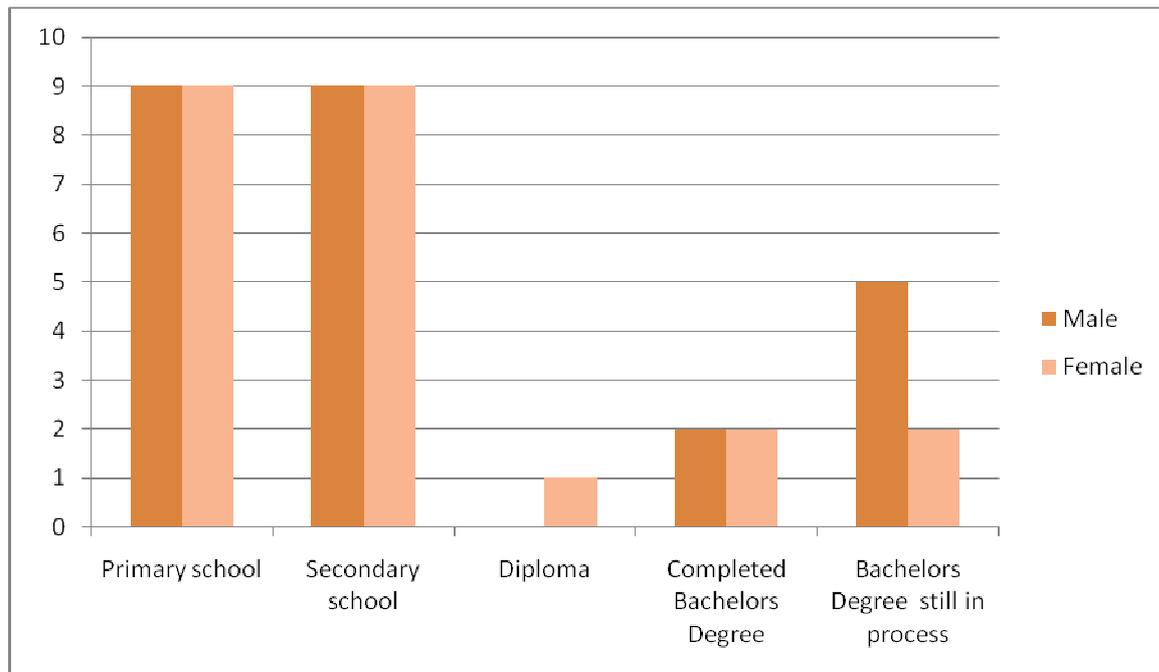
Results from the male respondents shows that; 3 males are currently undergraduate students through personal support and family contribution of which they paid a tuition of about $298 per year (though 1 is on part time because he has to work and save from a small salary). Two males were still taking Bachelor's degree in a private University. They had the opportunity to study in a private University because they have rich sponsors who could pay tuition as high as $3,645 per academic year- just like their friends from the same organizations. Two completed a degree, 2 completed secondary education (See Table 5), but no help to further their studies. A majority of the orphan and vulnerable youths still needed financial support to carry on to the next level of their career interest. Both male and females who have completed their University education was able to achieve that through external (boyfriends, relatives), personal and family contributions. While the other 10 respondents did not have a tertiary education could not get enough funds to support their higher education as well as contribute to their household.

Unlike 4 respondents who had sponsors or mentors that took care of their most of their needs as they did for their children by sponsoring them through to tertiary education with monthly allowances, transportation allowances for travels and personal up keep and loans to start small businesses in school to support their upkeep, and even provided them with mobile phones. The above information affirms that Orphans and vulnerable children or youths are less likely to have proper schooling.

Vocational knowledge and skills: The study shows that some vocational skills were offered to both male and female orphan and vulnerable youths through the organizations supporting them for example basic computer skills(computer appreciation, typing, how to

use the internet),bead making, tie and dye, catering-baking cakes, barbing. The youths confirmed that the skills were useful and it increased their hope for a better future. In order to put these skills into practice, the youth respondents wished that they were either employed or had some form of financial support to aid them open a private business, earn a living and to support their families. When compared to their previous circumstance, it shows that the programs had be helpful, improved their self-esteem but they are not yet employable. Even when they get an income they earn very low. Therefore in search of income for survival these young people participate in labour migration, increasing likelihood of multiple sexual partners or casual sexual partners and risk of HIV infection (Government of Malawi, 2002)".

Employment: The unemployed orphan and vulnerable youths were more, and they depend on gifts from family, NGOs and public spirited individuals. While 9 said that they are employed with low paying earnings on the average of $100 (US dollars) per month (See Figure, 7) . This suggests that the level skills and education they had were not sufficient to earn they a well-paying salaried job in a competitive markets like Nigeria. They earn low because they do not have higher education certificates, or do not have recommendations by rich people to get a better paying job, or do not have professional skills required for better paying jobs. Most of the jobs they are engaged in are mainly, receptionist, marketers or sales agents, labourers for farmers etc. With this amount of salary per month in Nigerian economy they can hardly eat, take care of themselves, save money, or run a bank account and most of all support their families- which is one of their utmost desire to achieve (See figure, 7). Around 25 per cent of the youth population works, but lives on less than the equivalent of US$ 2 per day (UNDP-Spain MDGF, 2007).

Table 7: Sources of support and coping strategies used by OVYs
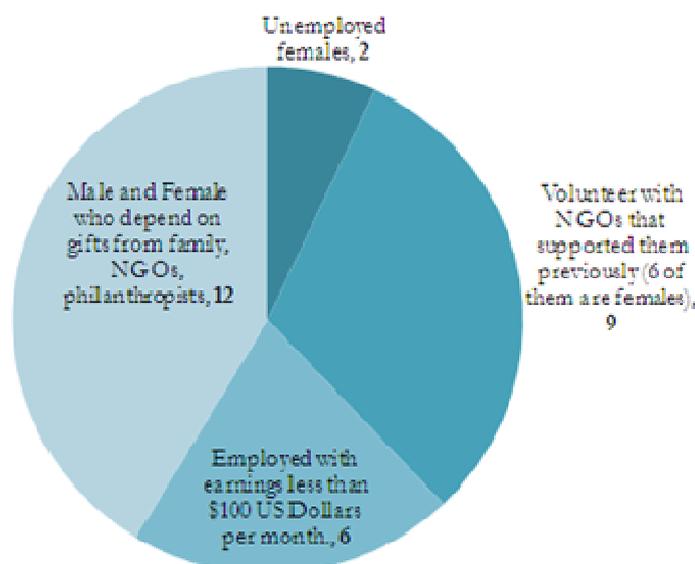
According to Masanjala, 2006 a sustainable livelihood programs seek to create long-lasting solutions to poverty by empowering their target population and addressing their overall well-being with programs that provide youth with salaried jobs and other opportunities to earn income. In this study, 4 out of the sampled orphans and vulnerable youths were assisted by their organizations with salaried jobs. The rest were still

unemployed because they had no higher education, and the skills learnt were not scarce marketable skills in a competitive labour market like Lagos state.

Gender: Most of the orphan were from female headed households affected by HIV and AIDS. These households will have to deal with setbacks affected by female headship such as limited access to land, credit and extension services, denial of rights maltreatments from extended family members. They could only afford accommodations mostly of one bed room apartments shared with about 5 persons and above in a very unhygienic environment. When they have no income and support of any kind, the girls in these households may be forced to keep inter-generational sexual relationships to support themselves and their families. Like earlier mentioned in the literature, these young girls are nurtured with responsibilities to help in house chores as well as provide for the family. Some of the male and female respondents affirmed that their sisters have to make money to support their education of their male siblings till they are able to earn enough to train themselves in the University or end up learning a trade or sewing. With reference to literature, "divisions of labour between men and women in explaining uneven workloads between boys and girls is that parents place more emphasis on educating sons". (Chanta,S., and Jonesa, G.,2005). Poverty reduces the chances of a 'good career' in the life of young female as she may likely drop out of school for a brother.

.4.2.2. Social Capital

Care Givers; This study shows that most of the youth respondents had caregivers. However, about 6 youths from HWW who had poor caregivers were supported through business management skills, financial support to improve their business and provision of raw food. When compared to other respondents, it helped them come to the same level with average earning caregivers and also helped keep the youths around away from the streets.

Table 6: Distribution of youth respondents by program and location

Organization/Program	Number of Respondents	AREA OF RESIDENCE
Hope World Wide	6	Areas Lagos mainland & Ojo Barracks
Health Matters Inc.	8	Ebutte Metta/Makoko
Little Saints Orphanage	2	Both groups of respondents are Schooling in tertiary institutions outside Lagos and come back to Lagos during vacations.
Bethesda Child Support Agency.	2	

Source: Author

Social Networks: Through the various level of education, the respondents have been able to make friends at school and organization's activities. However, these social networks at this level serves as some form of psychosocial support and as people who help them in times of need e.g. Someone to borrow items like clothes, make their hair free of charge, share a meal with and companionships. This saves them some costs and reduces chances of being enticed with money by men just to fix a new hairdo. "Although they don't like to go clubbing and sleep around with men in hotels every night. It's just a means of survival for girls who did not benefit from OVC support programs. They might have where they live, but they need to buy clothes and feel among." some live in hotels. To eat, sleep and make their hair". Says one of the girls (See figure, 8).

Volunteering: Seven out of 9 females respondents were volunteers with the organizations and received no formal salaries as they were willing to give back to the organisations. They saw the organisation as their family and they received transport allowances once in a period of 2weeks to 1 month from the organization which was less than $50. Although serving at the organization aided to chances of getting employed or recommendations for a salaried job they were all unemployed and still very dependent. Some of the volunteers were already feeling frustrated due to unemployment and height of dependency on the gifts from boyfriends and family.

Agricultural Extension Services: There were no agricultural extension services available for young people and their caregivers as very few families had access to land for farming and only one youth male respondent supported his mother in the farm. This suggests that the social capital of these youths may have been severely strained over a long term period of poverty and HIV /AIDS as they do not fit into a higher social class. Also the type of social status of the schools they could afford are likely to be a school for average or poor families. Unlike those 4 respondents who attended schools of higher social status. Who may make friends with children from highly influential families in the society. Most of the youths affirmed " that unless people help them, then they can say they see opportunities and money is not flowing in the country for now". The study concludes that the social capital of the OVCs slightly improved after the programs but it is not strong enough to take them above of poverty line.

.4.2.3. Natural Capital

 Access To Land: Orphan and vulnerable youths interviewed had no access to land or owned lands. It is suggested that particularly in the context of HIV and AIDS where widows and orphans are reported to lose their lands after the death of their husbands or parents. Some of the respondents said that although the land they were to inherit from their parents exist, they do not have access to them as some of the lands are shared amongst extended family members. "The mothers of the single orphans in Ojo barracks buy lands, but I don't know if their children will inherit it or sell" says one of the girls They often have no say because they have no money to develop the lands and cannot demand for their share of land just to sell for money.

Access To Fisheries Or Fishing: Although about 8 out of the youths respondents were from Makoko a fishing community, only 1 male out of 8 respondents was interested in fishing. He suggested that he would love to go into fish farming as a business in large scale and a more industrialized form but he had no resources or funds to start. While he waited to make money in future, he relied on profit from his typing setting business, sales of recharge cards and mobile phones.

Natural Skills: The study sort to identify talents of the youths as natural assets that could possibly increase their income. A majority of youths interviewed both male and female identified talents that they had which could mainly help them in off farm income generating activities e.g. playing football, playing musical instruments, singing and dancing, has strength in doing hard jobs like farming, great coordination and mobilisation skills, they also confirmed that their talents has helped them survive in hard times, some are still earning a living from it like the one who has the ability to mobilize people runs Anti AIDS programs on campus, 2 have been paid for dancing and singing, 1 serves as a labourer and he is earning some weekly earnings from it, the male footballer has gotten some awards and some money. 2 said singing and dancing earned some money to buy Christmas dresses. There is also a diversification as one of the girls chose football as her talent. This was not common some years ago in Nigeria-(Female football).

In conclusion, there are prospects in enhancing the natural capitals of these youths especially by supporting their natural skills since traditionally they might not be able to access their lands.

.4.2.4. Physical Capital

Fishing Equipment: The study showed that business start-up equipment like fishing equipment was not affordable by these orphan and vulnerable youths as they had low income and had no access to start up loans.

Housing: The distribution of the youths respondents according to their areas of residence shows a larger group of respondents reside in Makoko, while the rest were from Ojo barracks and mainland. Fourteen youths male and females lived either in slums, make shift houses on water, and " face me I face you" houses (over populated slums). Given that they are all youths from very poor homes or have a chronically ill parent, single orphans and double orphans they have very few or no assets. The most of them live by the day, as they said Survival in Lagos is also very difficult for them. This is the same with other OVCs who have not passed through any OVC support programs. While the remaining 4 youths reside partially outside Lagos because they are studying in Universities outside Lagos state. But these 4 come back to Lagos after school to leave with their wealthy sponsors or the orphanage. These students seem to be a lot more comfortable as they live and sponsored by very wealthy philanthropists in Nigeria as their adopted children or mentors.

.4.2.5 Financial Capital:

Access To Loans: Literature suggests that orphan and vulnerable youths have financial problems due to medical bills, funeral expenses, cost of a large family with dependants. Amidst these problems access to loans are not readily available for these youths and their caregivers because in most cases banks require a collateral as a backup for the loans. Young people are usually seen as not capable of also managing businesses which suggests that they might not be able to pay back loans. Most of the interviewed orphans and vulnerable youths both male and female said that they do not have access to loans from their programs except for 2 girls from Bethesda Child support agency who got small grants to support their buying and selling business alongside their studies in school.

Availability Of Micro Credit Scheme For Youths: Micro credit programs can help the poor manage their financial affairs and access financial services that are otherwise unavailable in the regular commercial sector (Clark, 1999). Traditional microfinance

programs can help youth address some of the risk factors for HIV susceptibility, if donors and microfinance institutions find a way to provide creative financial incentives to older adolescents that improve their economic status and prospects. Although these approaches may not be ideal for younger adolescents, sustainable livelihood programs geared toward adolescent girls (ages 10-19 years old) may be the key to integrating HIV prevention strategies. These programs could be strategically placed to addressing various risk factors for HIV infections faced by adolescent girls, including social isolation, child marriage, low socioeconomic status, lack of education, and pressure to provide productive labour and income (Krantz 2001). Investigations from this study shows that orphans and vulnerable youths interviewed did not have access to microcredit. The implementing support programs also confirmed that there were no funding available to support the youths directly.

.4.3. Livelihood Strategies:

.4.3.1. Low Socio- Economic Profile Of The Study Population:

So far the socio economic status of these orphan and vulnerable youths is low and they have devised coping strategies that suits each circumstances they find themselves. It is also clear that most of the respondents have poor shelter and care, financial difficulties, and inadequate level of education to earn them a highly paid salaried job. Amidst all these, they are optimistic that they can survive in Lagos state. This mostly because they feel that they were opportune to have had access to some sort of support by organisation as against other OVCs in Nigeria who cannot find help. The data shows that their social, human, and financial assets are poor. In order to improve these assets, they beg for support through gifts from family members, caregivers, fiends, and neighbours where possible. This suggests, that they are still very vulnerable to abuses, violence, sexual harassments, transactional relationships etc. and this could make them susceptible to HIV infection.

.4.3.2. Farming:

After the interviews, it was clear that though literature says that urban farming could be a good source of livelihood for young people. Most of the interviewed orphans and vulnerable youths said that they do not have any form of interest in farming. Further results shows that farming was not an option, given that they aspired for what they saw as lucrative and the preferred jobs e.g. trading, white collar jobs, corporate business, working in the banking or oil sector etc. Others are Computer science, Accountancy, Fashion/modelling, Medicine, Music, Dance, Mass communication, Marketing, Human Resource management, Estate management and Sports (See figure 13). Here it was clear that although some youths served as labourers in farms they emphatically said **No'** to farming as a dream career. ***"I don't want to be a farmer ooo!!*** *"Says 10 of the respondents. "I want to be a business woman instead" said by one of the females.*

.4.3.3. *Migration:*

Earlier in the literature, the study noted migration as a driver of HIV epidemic. This study chose not to under estimate the possibilities of orphan and vulnerable children becoming exposed to HIV infection or re-infection in the course of making a living. It is also noted the people settle in and out of Makoko and other slums of Lagos. They reallocate often due to accommodation problems or in search of a better shelter to enhance their social status. Some vulnerable youths interviewed also move from one community in Lagos state to another daily or periodically for their earnings, trading, job opportunities and sometimes in the course of their volunteering for these NGOs.

.4.3.4. Non-Farm Activities:

These activities which does not include farming. In this study the youths respondents mainly engaged in nonfarm activities as part of their livelihood strategies.

Orphans and vulnerable youth from OVC support programs interviewed engage in the following activities;

Males - The male OVY interviewed engaged in a range of non-farm activities like menial jobs, receptionists in private firms/ NGOs, trading, helping their mothers in the vegetable farms. They also get involved in sales of recharge card, petty trading, fetching water for people, Biking (Okada, See figure 8) and work as labourers in farms *"As farming is common in the Ojo barracks area).* Most times, gifts from family and philanthropists reduces the impact of poverty in their lives. Whereas some stay at home idle waiting for uncles to visit and give them money, the possibilities of past OVCs engaging in internet fraud under peer pressure may not be ruled out as one OVY confided in the researcher.

Females-It was also revealed that most of the Females engaged in: menial jobs as secretaries, recharge card sales, trading, hairdressing, sell in the markets, Hawking, or work under somebody to raise money to help themselves, Or begging. Cooking, baking, Buying and selling, fashion, sometimes nothing at all, music, dancing (as they want to be celebrities), clubbing.

Non program going Orphans an vulnerable youths engage in these activities;

<u>Males</u>- A majority of Nigerian unemployed youths earn a living through a very risky transportation job known as Okada riding (biking). Mostly, these group of vulnerable youths work as labourers, mechanic artisans, masons, bus conductors, recharge card, petty trading, menial job in firms like cleaners, print on sachet water bags for companies, fetching water for people, barrow pushers and work at the sawmills of which the machines amputates or kills most of the youths. Others engage in pick pocketing, stealing, drugs sales, yahoo-zee, on traffic hawking (See Figure, 9) etc. The responses revealed that the young vulnerable males in Makoko are mainly involved in Lottery (working at a gambling company in Makoko), staying at home, selling marijuana, smoking drinking, *living for today'.* They spend all the money they made in smoking and drinking so that their morale goes high'. This is because they believe that life is short for them so let them enjoy life for today.

Figure 8: A 12yr old bike man (Okada man) on the left and Strippers in a night club in Lagos. Source : Author

Although, life seems difficult for these youths some find a way to work for instance as an electrician or motorcyclists for transport services - *Commonly called Okada w*hile schooling. And they survive through some of these means while they support their families, train themselves in school and sometimes to tertiary level of education.

Females- Some of the respondents said that their female friends who have not benefitted from OVC programs live with their parent or friends. They also have financial problems. They are dependent, so they need gifts to survive, while some of the females rely on getting married to survive. Alternatively, the females are often found to be buying and selling recharge cards, tailoring, hairdressing, running pay phone business using the GSM mobile phones, working as cleaners, receptionists, internet fraud, stealing if they don't have an income, prostituting, clubbing(strippers), and engaging in menial jobs. The reason is that they need to buy clothes, shelter, eat, support their siblings if any and *feel among'*(a feeling of belonging to the wealthy class).

Crime: From this study, Orphans and vulnerable youths who passed through an OVC program are not likely to consciously engage in any form of crime unless on extreme cases and these extreme cases were not found in this study. However, their inability to afford home or workplace internet services can expose them to being mistaken for other vulnerable youths who deal on Cyber Fraud popularly known as *yahoo-zee*'. For example a male respondent, said that he was arrested by the police who raided a public cyber cafe where he went to check for his exam results on the internet and he was bailed by his immediate and extended family with the sum of $100 US dollars.

Transportation: Transport is an important aspect of the survival strategies of Orphan and vulnerable youths especially when they have to fend for themselves. Transportation within Lagos city from these slums are expensive for a low earner. This contributes to their very low chances of getting employed with private companies who may only be willing to pay meagre salaries. In order to make a living amidst the unemployment issue, search of jobs or attend interviews they device various means of raising money for transport within the state. Twelve out 18 respondents says that there is no point getting a job in distances were all your earning goes into transportation.

Access to Communication: Mobile phones, internet access and other digital devices are essential in today's Lagos and in the world. These youths, of both sexes will do what they can to own and maintain a mobile phone. Mobile phones in Nigeria has also become a thing of social status. Amidst the poverty situation, all the respondents owned mobile phones. The difference was the youths from the orphanage, and those who had sponsors and mentors used more expensive phones.

Talents: The talents of these orphans and vulnerable youths provides some form of livelihood. From the responses, it show that the Females believe they have the following talents: one of the females said she has a talent of marketing and it has helped her earn a living with or without certificates. Another said she has a talent of public speaking and modelling, two girls said they had talents in singing and dancing, one in football and modelling and the other three were not sure they had talents.
The Males believe that they have the following talents**:** Three males said they have talents in playing football, one said he is talented in playing musical instruments and it earned his a job at the NGO. One other male also said he has talents in singing and dancing, 1 male has been farming for a long time and believes he has a natural strength for hard jobs, 1 said he has great coordination and mobilisation skills for large groups of people, and 2 males could not identify if they had any talents.

In all, 7 out of all respondents said it has helped them survive in hard times, some are still earning a living from their natural talents (assets). Therefore, the talents of these youths earned them income though not consistent but could be further harnessed and channelled to use. They have been paid for dancing and singing, serving as a labourer, as a footballer and earned some award. Christmas dresses is something young people look forward to receiving from parents or caregivers annually, in a situation of poverty, 2 females said that singing and dancing earned some money to buy Christmas dresses. There is also a diversification as one of the girls chose football as her talent. This was not common some years ago in Nigeria-(Female football).

Figure 9: Youths hawking items at their own risk to people in moving vehicles on traffic jam in Lagos.
Source: Author

4.4. Impact Of OVC Program On Employment: The study looked at the impact of OVC programs on the employment of these orphans and vulnerable considering the role employment plays on individual livelihood options. Observations, reveals that most of these trainings are more effective when the participants have some level of education and are motivated to stay the course. This is because the training is usually carried out on a regular basis with groups of participants e.g. those associated with business management skills, opportunities for integrating education, leadership skills, and building the life skills for both male and females.

Life skills: OVC programs geared towards life skills reflects a growing interest in this area of livelihoods preparation, training and linking these skills to building entrepreneurial skills. The findings show that the youths have been empowered to coordinate events and are equipped with good leadership skills, self-development programs, program management skills, offered reproductive health related workshops, how to mobilise and implement projects and public speaking. Specifically respondents from organisations like HWW and HMI said that they learned about a lot about their sexual reproductive health, No discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS and HIV/AIDS prevention. Social re-integration was also included in the programs like how to make and manage friends to enhance their social assets.
 A majority of the OVYs confirmed that these trainings they received has helped them survive, improved their lives, has taken them to places they haven't seen and built their self-esteem. This suggests that the programs they support they received from the NGOS has in some way helped them build a level of resilience when compared to other OVCs that have not had such opportunities.
From the study, interviews of both the OVYs and the program heads shows that the impact of these programs in the longer term is enhanced by integrating education and knowledge building about reproductive and sexual health.

Vocational skills: Examples of vocational skills offered were bead making, catering, sewing, business management plan, and with computer appreciation skills (basic computing skills and how to use the internet). The OVYs confirmed that prior to the programs, they didn't know how to browse, type, uses excel and other computer skills, *but now they can*". Some of these youths who got computer skills said they have forgotten a few things as they did not have opportunities to practice what they learnt and as they could not afford computers. However, about 4 of the respondents made meaningful use of the computers skills by running a business centre where they typed for people and got paid for the services, 2 are working with the certificate. Out of 18 youth respondents, 6 were employed with meagre salaries through the skills gotten from the OVC programs.
Reviews of these programmes reveals mixed results which underlies the need for assessments that analyse their structure, function and value. There are no clear references to whether these programs and their approaches have an impact on changing sexual behaviour and relationships so that these vulnerable youths are less susceptible to HIV infection.

4.5. Transforming Structures And Processes

4.5.1. Nigerian OVC Policy and Service Delivery Environment

A policy is a statement of government's declared intensions or actions along with the goals and means to achieve them. Service delivery environment in this case is the totality of conditions that influence (enhance or frustrate) the provision of services to orphans and vulnerable children. This can only be realized through the formulation and implementation of functional policies, creation of a legal framework and establishment of OVC response coordination structures and systems to prevent and mitigate susceptibility of OVC to HIV/AIDS and poverty.

4.5.2. OVC Issues in the Existing Law and Policies

Until recently, the legal and policy framework for the protection of children's rights in Nigeria has remained weak, uncoordinated and out of step with Nigeria's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and other international treaties and conventions. In spite of international these obligations to implement these laws, Nigeria has been slow at modernizing its legal framework for the protection of children. This is because the federal constitutional arrangement does not situate issues concerning children within the legislative view of the National Assembly but with state legislatures, thereby making it difficult to establish an adequate legal framework applicable throughout the country. Apart from the Constitution, there are other laws, and statutory provisions adopted to protect Nigerian children which includes issues like child labour, child trafficking, HIV/AIDS etc. Some of the laws already enacted by the Nigerian government is the Child's Rights Act, 2003, which recognizes the rights and responsibilities of the Nigerian child, and that the best interest of the child should be of paramount consideration in all actions at all levels. In addition to these, several other policies and programs have been adopted by the Federal Government over the years with a declared intention of improving the well-being of children from their education, health, social development, child welfare and youth development.

Generally, these policies and programs lack specifics on orphans and vulnerable children, and some of them lack implementation strategies and/or operational guidelines, which could undermine their translation into interventions. Besides, there is a low level of knowledge of the existence of most of the policies and programs at State, LGA and community levels. Further, many of the policies have remained in a draft format many years after their development was initiated. Typically the Ministry responsible for children's affairs suffers from low budgetary allocations and has no operational programmes for front-line delivery of social welfare or protection services to the large numbers of children in need.

4.5.3. OVC Issues in the Child's Rights Act

Nigeria ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 21st March1991 (FMWA, 2004). Prior to the ratification of CRC, child's rights issues were guided by various legislations at both Federal and State/Regional levels. Although the CRA does not have a section explicitly devoted to OVCs per se, most of the provisions are applicable to them, such as the sections on protection of children, children in need of care and protection, care and support, possession and custody, guardianship, ward-ship, fostering, adoption, etc. Indeed, with the Child's Rights Act, the policy environment is supportive of an OVC-focused rights and interventions.

.4.5.4. Existing OVC Service Delivery Systems, Coordination and Regulatory Frameworks

The OVC situation in Nigeria requires a multi-sectorial approach. "Subsequently, the National Stakeholders Forum, comprising representatives of the line ministries and government agencies, representatives of 12 donor agencies, international and national NGOs, civil societies and OVCs, was inaugurated on April 25, 2005 (FMWA,2009)". This Committee reports to the National Steering Committee on all OVC issues.

Generally there is lack of funds for OVC response at the community level, and ineffective fund raising coordination and resource utilization at all levels. Apart from the prevailing high level of poverty and low level of awareness of OVC issues, inadequate capacity to mobilize communities and insufficient advocacy skills by project implementers, there is low prioritization of OVC by governments at all levels, NGOs and donors.

.4.5.5. Policy Environment

(i) There is no national policy on orphans and vulnerable children, a huge gap in the face of high and rapidly increasing number of orphans and vulnerable children in the country.

(ii) The Child's Rights Act is yet to be passed by the majority of states in the country; also the document, though comprehensive on children generally, does not have a section specifically addressing care and support for orphans and vulnerable children in the context of HIV and AIDS.

(iv) Inadequacy of national data on OVC, or lack of OVC database, which will form the basis for policy.

(v) OVC care and support have not been mainstreamed in the planning process and development programmes at all levels from national (line ministries) to state, local government and community levels.

(vi) OVC care and support have not been integrated or mainstreamed into relevant policies such as National Policy on Food and Nutrition, Social Development Policy, Health and Education policies.

.4.5.6. OVC Service Delivery Systems, Coordination and Regulatory

Framework

(i) The Coordination and Regulatory Framework in the FMWA is weak and grossly inadequate; there is inadequate coordination among government ministries and agencies with respect to services for OVC.

(ii) There is inadequate coordination of OVC response and activities at state and LGA levels; in fact, it is virtually non-existent.

(iii) There are no guidelines for programmes, and no regulatory or coordinating structures for services and support provided by non-state actors: NGOs, FBOs, CBOs and the private sector.

(iv) Lack of genuine interest and intention on the part of implementing partners at all levels; corruption and embezzlement of OVC funds (FMWA,Nigeria,2009).

Government impact: With the above information from the study, there is currently no clear impact of these policies to the development of the OVCs when compared to the number of OVC in Nigeria. Most of the communities in Lagos state are underserved lacking basic infrastructures and amenities like good drinking water, good roads and power supply. Most of the youths said that unless the government and her people help them, then they can say they see opportunities for them in the country. "We really need someone's to help because money is not flowing in the country for now". While some other argues that there are lots to do that they will like to bring good health to their community- Makoko.

.4.6. Organisations And Services Provided For OVCs In Lagos State.

The researcher interviewed respondents from NGOs who had program for OVCs within Lagos state targeting underserved communities. Some of these organisations refused to be interviewed including government owned projects and some well-known international NGOs. A total of 5 organisations to include two faith based organisations; Hope worldwide and Bethesda child support agency and other organisations were Health matters Inc, Women of hope and Little saint's orphanage. The summary of the responses on the questions asked to the programs heads are presented in the table below. It outlines the various services by organisation, the type of services the OVCs confirmed that they received from these programs. This table also differentiates the services and also draws a list projects the study recommends as best practices.

Table 7: Differentiating Organisation and services for OVCs

Programs	Health Matters Inc.	Hope World Wide	Bethesda Child Support Agency	Little Saints Orphanage	Women and Children of Hope
Focus on the Best Interests of the Child and His or Her Family	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prioritize Family/Household Care	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Food and Nutritional Support	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shelter and Care	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Protection	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
General Health Needs of OVCs (including HIV/AIDS prevention)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Health Care for HIV-Positive Children	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Prevention of HIV	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Psychosocial Support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education and Vocational Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Economic Opportunity/Strengthening	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Educational support: school bags, uniforms, books etc	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fostering /adoption	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Mentoring	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Scholarship to secondary level	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Built free community schools for OVCs	No	No	Yes	No	No

Full scholarship to tertiary level	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Youth business loans/ access to bank loans	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Follow up mechanisms in place for OVCs above 17yrs	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Average number of children above 17yrs annually in Lagos program	About 50	450-700 (above 0-17yrs)	18-200, not fixed.	About 200	About 20, (0-17yrs).

BEST PRACTICE ON OVC PROGRAMING: This study recognizes a best practice as programs that *focus on the Best Interests of the Child and His or Her Family ,Prioritize Family/Household Care, Food and Nutritional Support, Shelter and Care, Protection, General Health Needs of OVCs (including HIV/AIDS prevention), Health Care for HIV-Positive Children, Prevention of HIV, Psychosocial Support, Education and Vocational Training, Economic Opportunity/Strengthening, Educational support: school bags, uniforms, books etc, Fostering /adoption, Mentoring, Scholarship to secondary level, Provide full scholarship to tertiary level, support Youth business loans/ access to micro credit and Most importantly follow up on the OVCs after the programs.*

Table 9: Career interests by Male and female respondents, Source: Author
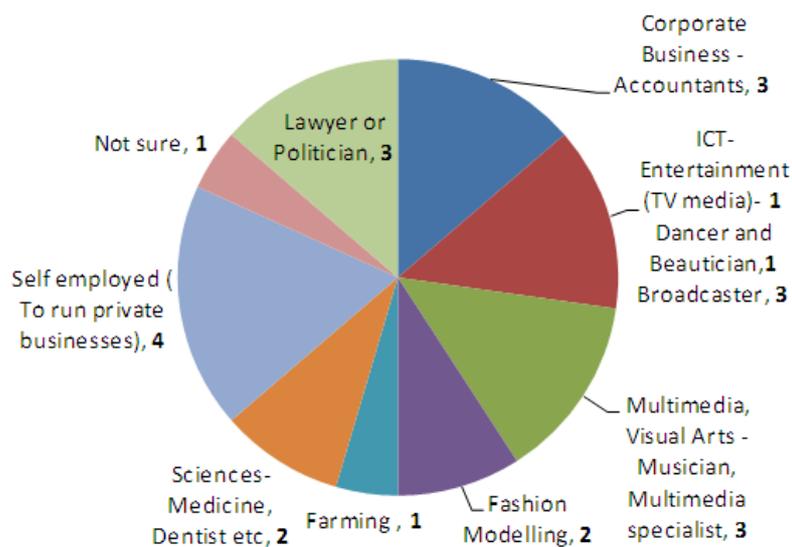
.4.7. Career Interest: This section of the study is considered to play a vital role in development programs of young people in general. It is important to assist youths' progress from their educational experiences to primary labour markets that match their career interests. In this research, the results shows that the orphan and vulnerable youths had their aspirations and were keen on achieving the dream careers.

Some of the respondents want to work in the corporate world, buying and selling, very few wanted to be self-employed or work in the civil society sector. Those that chose to work in the civil society said they want to help vulnerable people from their community. In the words of the youths "I just want to be a business woman, working in an oil company", "I want to be a Businessman fishing in large scale", 2 respondents wanted to be Accountant or regular 9 to 5' job, Doctor, engineer, lawyer, politician, lawyer, and a Footballer. Some other respondents said they just want a degree, become a professional dancer, acting, makeup artist, while 3 wanted to be in the Communications and entertainment industry. Here it also shows that the entertainment industry has become more attractive than the usual medicine, pharmacy, engineering etc.

From my investigations almost all respondents, have a lot of value for good morals, have a lot of religious attachments *(mostly they mentioned by God's grace, God will do this or that... etc)*, and also aspired to live a good life and make positive impact in their communities. As one said "I have to remember the daughter of who I am". Contrary, one female was not sure of what she wanted, and says "I leave it to God". Most part of this credit goes to what they have learnt from the various programs, their caregivers, mentors, and urge to avoid a lifestyle that could cost them a good future. In all, most of them had confidence that they will make it through the struggles and life is not easy as they say.

.4.8. Other Issues: These youths will like to give back to their communities and family if supported. Fifteen of them said that they will also support vulnerable people and poor families in future.

.4.8. Livelihood Outcomes

Improved Income: In this study most of the respondents who benefitted from OVC programs had no clear transformation of sustainable and improved income. However due to level of education they had obtained, they are likely over a longer period of years become gainfully employed.

Improved Security: The results shows that a good level of security been improved, however a good tertiary education or professionally trained marketable skills will strengthen their security.

Well Being: The previous support received by these older OVCs improved their wellbeing.

5. RESULTS

1.) **Livelihood assets available for orphans and vulnerable youths**: They had Low **Human capital** as they were mostly young and not yet financially established, their households were mostly large and had sibling to support coupled with unemployment. They mostly had secondary school level of education in an economy with high level of unemployment amongst youths.

Low Social capital: the social asset was still weak because their caregivers were mostly poor or average income earners, their individual social network was also weak due to HIV and AIDS, poverty. Volunteering in the NGOs served as their strongest social asset.

Natural capital: They owned no lands their talents served here as their strongest asset, but this indicates that their natural capital is also poor as they cannot afford or gain easy access to inherited lands if any.

Physical capital: Most of the OVY respondents were from poor households, so they invariably owned no lands or houses. They were mostly dependent for their shelter.

Financial capital: High level Education, good marketable skills, and family financial background/ capacity plays a key role on the strength of the financial asset of an orphan or vulnerable youth. For most interviewed youths their financial capital was low because they mostly did not have access to higher education therefore it contributed to their low income level. They were also no access to loans or micro credit to support available for these group of persons in Lagos state.

2.) **Strategies developed by male and female youth orphans and vulnerable youths of 18-30yrs in rural parts of Lagos for a sustained livelihood:** The strategies used by both sexes were almost the same except in areas of negotiating safer sex with their partners and cross generational sex of which was more amongst the female OVY respondents. These strategies include skills from the OVC programs, working as volunteers, migration, farming, non-farm activities, crime, access to communication devices, transportation, and talents.

3.) **Contributions of experiences and support from the OVC programs to orphan and vulnerable youth's employment:** The impact of experiences offered to the OVC programs as listed in table 8 through life skills, vocational skills and educational support has given them hope for a better future. They confirmed that prior to the programs, they didn't have those competences. Most part of this credit goes to what they have learnt from the various programs, their caregivers, mentors, and urge to avoid a lifestyle that could cost them a good future. A majority of the OVYs confirmed that these trainings they received has helped them survive, improved their lives, reduced their chances of getting involved in crime, has taken them to places they haven't seen and built their self-esteem. This suggests that the support they received from the NGOS has in some way helped them build a level of resilience when compared to other OVCs that have not had such opportunities.

4.) Sources of support available for orphans and vulnerable youths: There are no clear sources of sustainable support available for the target group of this study. The available laws, polices ,and programs on OVC and Orphans and vulnerable youths are not being properly implemented by the government. Poor access to infrastructure, not enough farm land available in Lagos slum or communities has also contributed to weakening their capitals and assets. Hence, these youth depend on money from their talents, trading, menial jobs, begging and working as volunteers in the NGOs to support themselves.

5.) Career interest of orphans and vulnerable youths in Lagos state: The study results shows that the orphans and vulnerable youths are interested in the corporate business world, trading, working with civil society organisations, the oil sector, becoming self-employed etc. Some just wanted to become professional dancers, acting, makeup artists, footballers, or work in the Communications and entertainment industry. Here it also shows that the entertainment industry has become more attractive amongst youths than the usual medicine, pharmacy, engineering etc.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS
6.1. CONCLUSIONS

The study was on orphans and vulnerable youths above 17yrs and no specific program covering this age group was found, and yet this is the age-group most in need of more assistance for a higher education and skills training and hence less affordable. NGOs that have been implementing programs on HIV/AIDS prevention, economic empowerment, community capacity development, Care and Support services for Orphan and Vulnerable Children (0-17yrs) of which the impact of the programs have been measurable. The investigation shows that the NGOs are making visible efforts in mitigating the effect of HIV on orphans and vulnerable children in order to secure their future livelihoods by keeping them in school at least to secondary level, providing them with some life and vocational skills like computer appreciation'. NGOs who depend on foreign donors also did not clearly have a database on the where about of their beneficiaries because they end the programs when funding stops.

In order to answer the research questions on coping strategies, current livelihood options and career interests of OVYs, the study concludes that the livelihood assets available for orphans and vulnerable youths are generally poor. The human capital in particular is generally weak as they have responsibilities like gender roles, personal upkeep and proving financial support to a large family. This suggests that they are overstretched beyond their capacity leaving them to becoming susceptible to HIV infection. They youths resorted to gifts, menial jobs, volunteering without a quantifiable incentive, working as labourers as means of survival while they source for a means of getting financial support to set up a small scale business, a good higher education, recommendation for a well-paying job and for some these might never happen. Comparing the employment rate of youths who have not passed through OVC programs the study concludes that there is little or no difference with those groups as most of them were still dependent, unemployed and still very susceptible to HIV infection (reference to point 1.6.2 Susceptibility).

The experiences shared by the youths shows that the support they received from the NGOS has in some way helped them build a level of resilience when compared to other OVCs that have not had such opportunities. The Orphans and vulnerable youths are also clearly aware of their needs and they expect some form of support from the government. UBE (free primary and secondary education), government policies on OVCs, Child rights Act and other youth related policies are not effectively implemented at community levels. Also poor infrastructure available for the masses in Nigeria also contributes to making it difficult for even youths who are not orphans to survive on their own between the ages of 18-30yrs.

6.2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bridging the gap for the effective implementation of OVC programs may include long and short-term interventions and recommendation which includes that:

- It is not enough to create awareness amongst these youths on HIV and AIDS, but it also important that they are equipped enough with professional skills, a conducive economic environment and opportunities to cope and to build their resilience enough to face the real world, especially when they no more get the support they are used to from the sponsor organisations.
- International donors should allocate funding on implementing programs for vulnerable youths above 17yrs to further their studies, acquire certified professional and marketable skills. This will contribute to the effectiveness of these programs and not necessarily emphasizing on sustainability
- In order to prevent reverse reactions through unemployment, social pressure, poverty in their quests for greater heights, It is necessary to provide possibilities financial support to further their studies, start-up business loans or a micro credit programs. Being that these youths despite their conditions are very optimistic, it is therefore necessary that they get support to complete their higher education, or other forms of support.
- Urban farming may be introduced in urban areas like Lagos state but the implement agency may have to put into consideration in level of interest these youths on the job options being made available through farming.

- Government should ensure a proper implementation of already created policies on OVCs at the various levels, provide basic infrastructures like accessible roads, water, health facilities to underserved communities in Lagos state, study loans /scholarships, microfinance schemes (specifically for youths),agricultural extension services and develop skilled workforce targeting the vulnerable youths.

- Therefore, ensuring that educational programs for OVCs/ orphans and vulnerable youth are geared towards their career interest will accelerate career development.
- NGOS should develop fostering plans for their beneficiaries; mentorship programs linking the youths to sponsor families to further directly support their development. Vocational skill programs like computer appreciation should be thought and certified by professionals.
- Youths are currently interested in new areas apart from the usual bead making like fashion design, singing, music or movie production, youths need professional trainings not just short time workshops.
- GCAF and Van Hall Larenstein Univerrsity of Applied may Organise an International workshop/meeting (for organisations and companies)for stakeholders to discuss/identify these gaps. E.g. On youth livelihood- and a book can be published (with findings and way forward). Papers will be compiled as best practices.
- GCAF should conclude her plans of a well-equipped art foundation for vulnerable children and youths with free courses like, singing, dancing, theatre, Music, visual arts and multimedia in order to develop the numerous talents of these children wasting in Nigeria most especially in Lagos state .This project can accommodate older OVCs from other NGOs who cannot further their studies.

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Appendix 1: Interview Guides for the Youth

These questions have been adapted from Bennell (2007).

Date

Gender: Male or Female

How do youths of 18-30yrs cope in rural parts of Lagos?

1. Presently, where do you live?
   - o Ebuttemetta/Makoko
   - o Ojo Barracks
   - o Other parts of Lagos
2. Who have been taking care of you? *(this is to help us know if we interviewing the right persons as Orphans or vulnerable children)*

   - o Guardian
   - o Friends
   - o Extended family
   - o Parent/s
   - o Others---
3. Do you have immediate family members? *(this will help ascertain if they had extended or immediate family members)*
   - o Yes
   - o No
   - o Others---
4. How many are they?
   - o 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
   - o More---
5. Who provides and supports the family? *(this was to help identify their level of responsibility)*

   - o I provide for them
   - o Family efforts
   - o NGOs and philanthropists
   - o Others----
6. Have you or any of them passed through any OVC support program and for how long? If yes which... *(this question was to help understand if they were really part of any program and how many of their family member benefited from it directly)*

   ----

7. How do you get money to buy clothes? What do you do in order to eat? Where do you get the money from? *(this question will help get clear information on where they got their monies for personal up keep from, especially desires from peer pressure like fashion, gadgets)*
   - o Job
   - o Unemployed
   - o Gifts
   - o Others---volunteer services etc
8. How often do you get money? *(to check consistency of their income)*

- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Others----Not fixed

9. Have you been involved in a police case? Yes or No. If yes, What was the case? *(This was to find out if they have been involved with crime in the cause to survive. Apparently the interviews were as friendly and relaxed we assume from the way they responded that they were honest with their answers. They mostly didn't have reasons to be involved in crime as they lived a guarded lifestyle having the organisation as mentors)*
   - Stealing
   - Fights
   - Prostitution
   - Accomplice/ witness
   - Others-----
10. How did you get out of the case?
    - Bail
    - Family support
    - No bail
    - NGO support
    - Others------

What do young people want to do for a living in Lagos state?

11. What level of education do you have and what are your areas of interest?
    - Primary
    - Secondary
    - Diploma
    - Bachelor's Degree
    - None
      List of study areas-----

12. Do you have friends who are also orphans? Yes or No, if yes. How do they make money? Have you made money the same way?
    - Job
    - Unemployed
    - Gifts
    - Gambling, fraud, sales of drugs
    - Others—hawking, stealing

13. What do you think youth (especially girls) do in Lagos state to survive the situation? *(emphasis were laid on girls in order to get a balanced view)*
    - Job
    - Unemployed
    - Gifts
    - Gambling, fraud, sales of drugs
    - Others--------hawking, stealing etc
14. Do you have any talents? If yes... *(this is clarify if they are able to use skills apart from what they learnt from the OVC programs to sustain themselves)*
    - Entertainment-
    - Communication (TV media)
    - Sports
    - Visual Arts
    - Designs (fashion, graphics etc)

- o Others---marketing etc

15. Has it helped you survive?
    - o Yes or No
16. What job do you want to be doing in future? *(this is help understand if the dreams career were different from their natural talents)*
    - o Corporate business -accountants
    - o Lawyers or politicians
    - o ICT, Entertainment (TV media)- dancing, broadcaster , beautician
    - o Self employed
    - o Multimedia, visual Arts
    - o Sports
    - o Farming
    - o Sciences
      Others ---
17. What opportunities do you see around you for dream career?
    - o Government programs
    - o NGO programs
    - o Corporate bodies
    - o Others—sports, entertainment etc
18. How do you think you should be supported to achieve your dreams?
- o Loans
- o Short skill based courses
- o Land
    - o Educational scholarships
    - o Employment- job security
    - o Others--
19. If supported in your dream career, do you think you will be able to support yourself and your family? If yes why? *(this is unravel other sides of their orientation and morals which will cut across cultural beliefs)*

20. From what you see in the world today. E.g. TV, computers etc what would you like to do for a living if you were giving a choice to make a big wish?
    - o Personal business
    - o Great artiste
    - o A pilot, doctor, engineer
    - o Pastor
    - o Great farmer
    - o Others---

What do the youth do for a living?

21. What new skills did you learn from the OVC programs? Has it helped you survive? Yes or No
    - o Self-employment skills
    - o Entertainment
    - o Multimedia/design
    - o ICT
    - o Catering ,bead making
    - o Business management
    - o Others----

22. Do you keep in touch with the organization since your program ended?
    - o Follow up through calls

- More programs
- None
- Others---

23. Do you want the OVC support and trainings you got from the NGO to continue?
    - Yes or NO

    Why?

24. What do you want the government to do for you as a youth in order to assist your dreams? *(this is to check if their request from government will be different)*
    - Loans
    - Free food
    - Free Education to secondary or University level
    - A conducive environment for small business
    - Others
25. What do you know about HIV and AIDS? Do you think you can be infected with HIV? If Yes or No Why?
    - In a relationship or transactional sex
    - Peer pressure
    - Risky jobs
    - Risky behaviours.
    - others---
26. Do you have a girlfriend /boyfriend? If yes, do you have Sex? If yes, is it with or without condoms?
27. Does the background of your parents, affect your employment opportunities? E.g. do people use it negatively against you? If Yes, in what ways---?
    - Rejection
    - Verbal abuses
    - Suspicion
    - Other----

Thank You for your time!!!!

Appendix 2 Interview Guides for the Program Heads and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs)

Date

Position   Gender: Male or Female

How do youths of 18-30yrs cope in rural parts of Lagos?

1. How long have you been working with OVCs?
   o 1-2, 3- 4, 5- 6 ,7 -10, more
2. **How many youths graduate annually from your programs?**
   o 1-9
   o 10-15
   o 16-25
   o 26-35
   o More---

3. What are their age groups?
   o 1-7yrs
   o 8-14yrs
   o 15-17yrs
4. What type of services do you provide for the OVCs?
   o Capacity building
   o Life skills
   o Education
   o Food aid
   o Care and support
   o Others--
5. Do you think your programs will help young people survive the economic situations in Lagos state? If Yes how?

What do young people want to do for a living in Lagos state?

6. Do you think the youths want your type of programs? If yes why?
7. Have you tried to find out if these programs are best practices for survival in Lagos amongst young people? Yes or No, if yes are they?
8. What are the youth from your programs currently doing for a living?
   Job
   No job
   Gifts
   Gambling, fraud, sales of drugs
   Others--------
9. **Are there mechanisms in place to further support young people in order to apply skills and knowledge received during the program?**
10. Is there a follow up program for youths above 17yrs from your OVC programs, if yes how do you do that?
11. How do you get in touch with them?
    o Phone
    o Emails
    o Visitations
    o They keep in touch

12. Are the youths equipped enough to survive on their own, if yes how is the impact of the program monitored over the years?
13. Do the youths have access to micro-finance, agricultural extension, access to service providers and other support programs? Yes or No, if others please mention.

Thank You for your time!!!!