

Education as a Vaccine

Sustaining Change By and For Children and Young People



2011 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EVA continues to grow and evolve. When this organization began in 2000 we started small, focusing our efforts on HIV/AIDS in some of Nigeria's most vulnerable populations.

The organization has grown significantly since then, as is reflected in both our 2011 successes and in our new strategic plan to 2015. In 2011, we expanded into new states, new areas of work and have reached more people. We've also extended services to reach more females, more out-of-school children and youth, and more of the underserved. We also continued to show great progress in the work we've been doing for a long time, using our programs to begin helping people help themselves.

This organization will never remain stagnant, which is the secret to our success so far. As the needs of Nigeria's most vulnerable children and youth change, so will we change to help them achieve their potential.

The 2011 Annual Report shows more than this year's successes. It gives you an idea of the work we've been doing to reach further and do more for Nigeria's future.

Chinelo Dike-Minor
Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Expand, Extend and Sustain. We have chosen these three words to represent the way in which we have made progress in meeting our mission this year. These words might mean different things to different people, but it adequately captures how EVA as an organization thrives to do what we do best: sustaining social change with and for children and young people.

In 2011, we scaled up successful interventions to other localities; identified the missing faces in our programs and designed interventions to meet their needs; and worked with young people and communities to ensure that interventions continue long after the end of funding from partners and donors.

Furthermore, there was an improvement in the organizational performance for the 2011 fiscal year compared to 2010. Overall EVA was able to reach 111,289 individuals with our various programs and services in this fiscal year, which is a 7% increase from last year's clients. In addition, females represent 42% of our project beneficiaries, which is an increase from 29% in FY 2010.

I hope that reading this year's report will provide more insight not only on the achievements but how we made them happen. I am very pleased with these achievement and believe that we will continue to make more progress in the coming year.

Fadekemi Akinfaderin-Agarau
Executive Director

VISION:

Education as a Vaccine envisions a Nigeria where children and young people reach their full potential.

MISSION:

To build innovative and sustainable mechanisms for improved quality of life for vulnerable children and young people.



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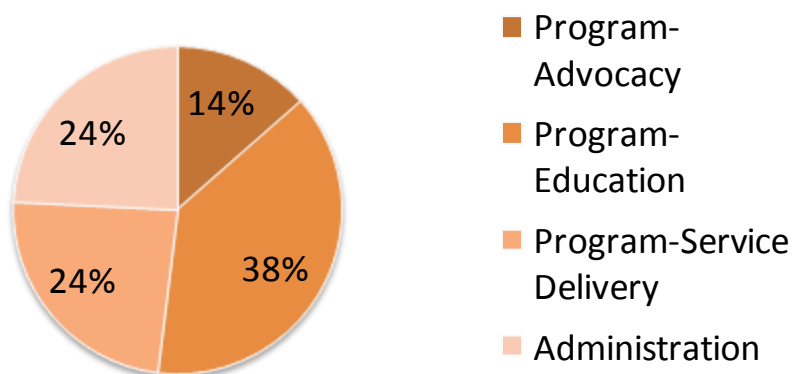
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EVA'S 2011 FINANCES:

Sources of Support	Amount (USD)
International Development Agencies	\$ 166,809
Foundations	\$ 54,315
Consultancy	\$ 20,704
Individual Contributions	\$ 35,022
Investments/IGA	\$ 3,211
Total	\$ 280,062

SPENDING AT A GLANCE:

Breakdown of Expenses



HUMAN RESOURCES:

EVA's team continues to thrive, with new additions and a lot of professional development in 2011.

This year, EVA welcomed seven new staff members to its ranks, as well as 14 volunteers. As well, a great deal of professional development was provided to staff, some of which included :

- Use of Quickbooks for financial management
- Microsoft packages including Word , Excel and Powerpoint
- Interpreting and communicating trial results for monitoring and evaluation;
- Basic of Child's Rights for Advocacy
- Proposal Development
- Policy, advocacy, governance and legislative process;
- Online courses on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Monitoring and evaluation basics.



EXPAND



ex·pand

v. To increase in size or scope.

EVA is doing more of the work we've always done well and taking it up a notch by expanding into areas of work and new states.

There will never come a day when we can say that EVA has done enough to help Nigerians. EVA continues to evolve in its work, expanding beyond national projects to better respond to specific local needs and deepening our work at community levels, expanded services in areas where the needs of youth are greatest.

To expand our work means to do more of what we're already doing well, as well as reaching further into areas of need that haven't been addressed yet. This year, we reached 111,289 people, which is a 7% increase over 2010, and we won't stop there. Already, we're expanding into Niger state, taking our Cross River State activities up a notch and working harder to offer programs and services that are youth friendly.

Every day, EVA finds ways to expand our work so that we may get to the very roots of the challenges Nigeria's children and young people face and help them find ways to overcome them.



IN 2011 EVA EXPANDED BY:

Scaling up successful models to other localities:

Our solid success in current programs means we are ready to expand these programs. One example is our Youth Friendly Services, which was expanded into Nassarawa based on the growing success of our work on the COMPASS project. In fact, the number of youth that accessed youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services at public and private health facilities supported by EVA increased from 69,583 in 2010 to 74,896 in 2011.

Expanding the scope of our work:

EVA is expanding the scope of its work beyond thinking of FCT as the “capital” and looking at it as an area with children and youth that need our help. Now, EVA is doing more field-level work to help those in the FCT by providing programs such as Female Out-of-School Youth Project (For-She) and HIV/AIDS Prevention Project for Youth (HAPPY).

Reaching more people with our service delivery:

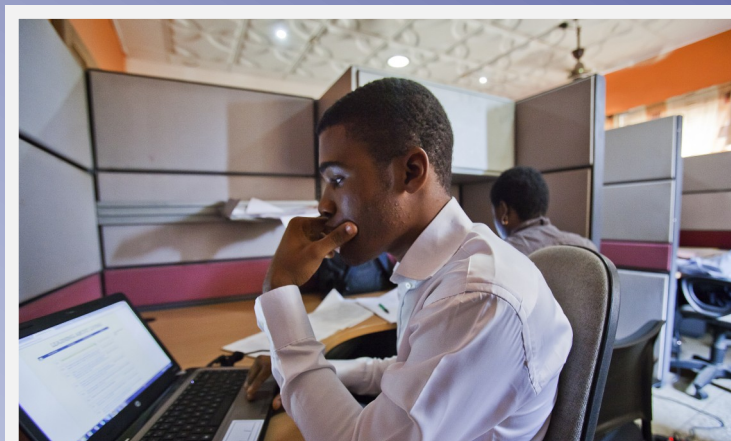
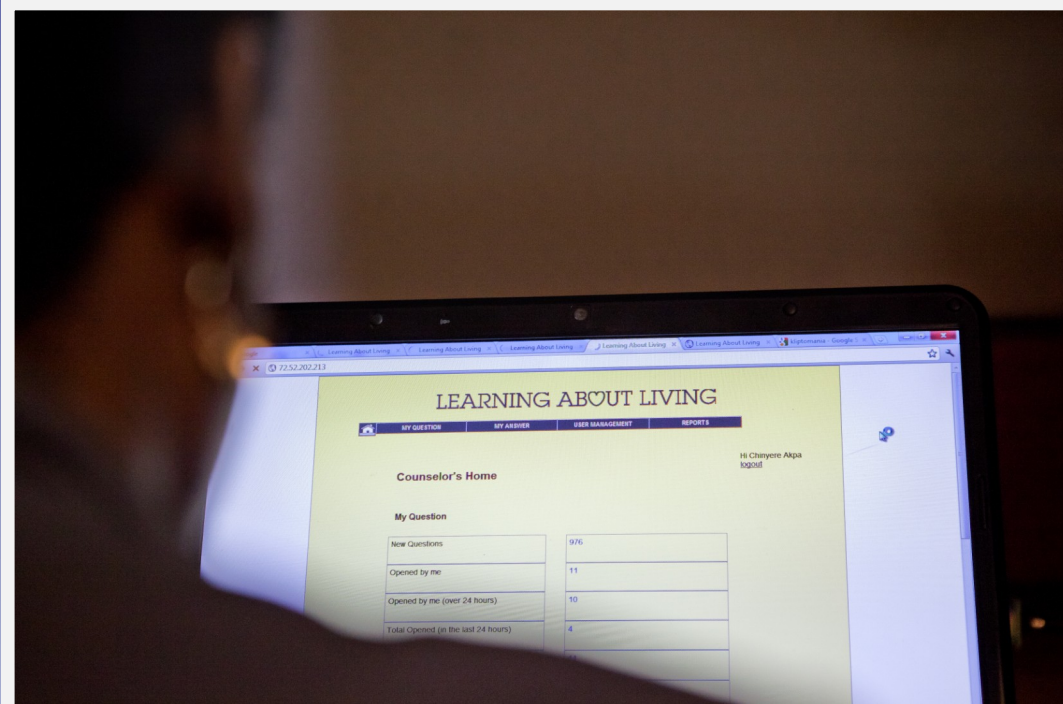
More people than ever before have access to our services. For example, in 2011, our SRH mobile phone counselors provided HIV/AIDS information and referrals to 2505 clients. However, the real success was seen in the SMS and web components, with 109,365 messages.

YOUTH EXPAND SRH KNOWLEDGE THROUGH MY Q&A

When it comes to sexual and reproductive health, knowledge isn't just power – it's life itself. The lives of Nigeria's youth are threatened by their own actions and actions of others,. Young people are at risk for unplanned pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV infection and a host of other health complications.

My Question and Answer Service – supported by OneWorld UK – has helped thousands of youth find confidential and accurate answers to their most pressing questions about health and relationships. In fact, an evaluation of MyQ&A found that more than 75% of clients were satisfied with the services provided. Idris – a 24-year-old male client – loved the service so much that he became it's champion to all his friends, not just telling them about MyQ&A but encouraging them to call and being on-hand to help them if there were any language barriers. Here are just a few more comments from MyQ&A clients:

- “Thank you very much MyQ team, your service has really helped me.”
23, female, Akwa-Ibom.
- “I have seen a Doctor. Thank you for your advice.”
24, male, Enugu
- “Thank you teachers. I have confidence on myself now. I go to places without fear in me and I talk to people without fear.”
16, female, Benue



EXTEND



ex-tend

v. To expand in scope, effect or meaning.

Taking a critical look at the work we do to find the missing faces, so we can extend our services to those underserved Nigerians.

Everything is connected. The truth is that you can't solve the HIV/AIDS issue without considering the larger issues surrounding sexual and reproductive health, and you can't address these issues without looking at the core reasons for unsafe behaviour. Underlying all of this is the economic, social and cultural influences that drive the actions people take, and these can't be ignored.



After a lot of reflection and critical analysis as an organization, EVA has been able to identify which groups are underserved, both by EVA and by other organizations. We know that all young people aren't the same, and we've been able to better fine-tune our services and programs, extending our reach to include programs to address poverty, education, and the need for the most vulnerable Nigerians to raise their voices to advocate for their own rights.

We will continue to extend our services, reaching out to Nigeria's most vulnerable to help them realize their full potentials.

IN 2011 EVA EXTENDED BY:

Reaching out to more young women and girls:

Of the 111,289 children and youth EVA reached in 2011, 42% were female. We recognize that this is a particularly vulnerable group, and through programs such as Married Adolescent Girls Initiative (MAGI); Female Out-of-School Youth Project (For-She); and My Question and Answer Service (MyQ&A) EVA is making sure adolescent and young girls receive the information and services they need to be healthy and reach their full potentials.

Reaching more out-of-school youth:

With many Nigerian youth out of school, and it's important that EVA has programs that fills the gaps that are left. One way EVA is helping this group is through programs such as HIV/AIDS Prevention Project for Youth (HAPPY), that are targeted specifically toward out-of-school youth.

Researching the underserved children and youth:

As long as there are children and youth who need help, EVA will try to help those underserved groups. We completed a number of studies this year, including baseline reports for FORSHE and MAGI, to determine where need is the greatest so we can target programs and better determine how well a program is working.

MARRIED ADOLESCENT GIRLS MANAGING FOR THEMSELVES

The *National Demographic Health Survey 2008* revealed that 60% of Nigerian women between 25 and 49 years had married by 20 years. The impact of that is significant, with early marriage being associated with a higher risk to sexual and reproductive health infections and complications due to a lack of participation rights, as well as little to no control over resources and household power. As well, early childbirth, low education and restrictions to social mobility all put these young women at a disadvantage in accessing the basic sexual and health information that targets young people.

To combat these trends, *Education as a Vaccine (EVA)* developed the *Married Adolescent Girls' Initiative (MAGI)*, with support from *Irish AID*, to provide reproductive, maternal and child health education, livelihoods development and strengthen the self-worth of young married women and young single mothers.

The power of knowledge is palpable in the stories EVA has heard from women in the program. One peer educator in Wamba community told a story about a friend of hers who had vaginal itching but was too shy to go to the hospital. The peer educator eventually got the woman to agree to go to the hospital by going with her to see the doctor, and by then the infection had become really bad. "She said she should have listened to me and gone to the hospital, and it would not have been worse like this," the peer educator told EVA. "She was thanking me."

Another facet of the program is Income Generating Activities (IGA) aspect of it to develop both livelihoods and self-esteem. One IGA group member in Kwara talked about how this side of the program has had a positive effect. "The program has taught us to live independent without minding if the husband has given to you or not," she told EVA staff. "In a situation whereby he did not give you, at the end of the day it was a problem but now this program has taught us how to make things on our own. We can depend on ourselves." She added that the program brings peace that affects the whole community.



SUSTAIN



sus·tain

v. To strengthen or support.

Creating a sustainable, community-driven future in all our work so communities and individuals can start to help themselves.

When it comes to helping people achieve their potential, you want to try to put yourself out of a job. Rather than relying on your programs and services in perpetuity, you want to create programs that provide the kind of skills and information that people can use to eventually create success in their lives without your help.

Sustainability is a key tenet of EVA's program, and we work hard to provide children, youth and their caregivers with the tools that will allow them to build strong lives on their own. We link sexual and reproductive health with the need for basic education and the drive for sustainable livelihoods to support basic needs. We also work hard through our advocacy programs to make sure young people understand that they have a right to demand social change from policy makers, so that the policy environment lays the foundation for sustainable change.

A day may still come when young Nigerians can stand strong on their own with all the knowledge and power they need to make a difference. Until then, EVA will continue to help them help themselves.



IN 2011 EVA SUSTAINED BY:

Creating sustainable solutions through advocacy:

We have had a lot of success in expanding our advocacy programs. Youth Advocates Group have trained and provided materials to young people in Kano and Lagos states to establish their own “youth advocate groups” to influence policy and programs on reproductive health. Also, during the 2011 election period, 966 young people were mobilized and educated on the electoral process and their role in holding electoral candidates accountable for health and education policies.

Helping families provide the essentials without help:

EVA began to implement Income Generating Activities (IGA) to improve self-employment and the standard of living of OVCs and caregivers to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on daily life. This year, 30 caregivers were signed up for IGA activities in Benue State and four have collected loans totaling N100,200 to help them on their way to establishing a business.

Work with the federal and state Ministries of Education:

In 2011, EVA has been working with federal and state Ministries of Education to make sure that the Family Life and Health Education program, and its e-learning platform are being sustained and expanded to reach all schools in Nigeria, especially those states EVA works in.

SHARING SKILLS NETS FUNDS FOR WINDOWS OF HOPE

It's not enough to provide services to help orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria. It's also important to build capacity in communities so they can continue the good work for the years to come.

That's what EVA was working towards when we helped five community-based organizations as part of our sustainability strategy for Windows of Hope. We helped them develop constitutions, get registered, and develop letterhead, as well as train on monitoring and evaluation, proposal writing, and financial management.

That hard work has paid off. In September, written proposals from two of these organizations — Igbor Child Youth Ambassadors and Youth for Positive Change in Tyulen — were selected by the U.S. Embassy out of submissions from all over Nigeria for \$10,000 grants to continue their work.

These two organizations will receive this small grant through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). PEPFAR supports sustainable programs that are country-owned and country-driven, address HIV/AIDS within a broader health and development context, and build upon strengths and increase efficiencies.

Since 2003, the Window of Hope program has provided orphans and vulnerable children in Benue and Nassarawa states with psychosocial support through weekly life skills education sessions conducted by community youth volunteers; health services through outreaches and educational scholarships.





Education as a Vaccine is a non-profit organization created in 2000 to improve the health and development of children and young people. EVA envisions a Nigeria where children and young people reach their full potentials and works to build and implement innovative and sustainable mechanism for improved quality of life for vulnerable children and young people. Using child and youth friendly approaches the organization strengthens the capacities of children, young people and other stakeholders to facilitate and sustain social change in the area of health, protection and education through integrated programming. The organizational programming priorities are aligned with Millennium Development Goals (2-6) with a focus on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, child health and basic education. The organization has its headquarters in the Nigerian capital, Abuja and three field offices in Benue, Nassarawa and Cross River states.

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