

# Education as a Vaccine



Education as a Vaccine

## 2009/2010 Annual Report

## A message from Chairperson, Board of Directors:

I'm pleased to present EVA's 2010 Annual Report. The year of 2010 saw the organization accomplish many goals as we moved forward with our new five-year strategic plan (2010-2015).

This new strategic plan brings EVA in line with the Millennium Development Goals, while also shifting our focus toward more targeted and integrated programming for children and young people. In our continuing effort to meet the ever-changing needs of Nigeria's children and youth, we have adopted a more holistic approach that is focused on addressing the numerous and complex factors that can inhibit Nigeria's children and youth from achieving their full potential. As part of this effort, we are working to ensure that the diverse threads of our projects are seamlessly interwoven. One way we are doing this is by working more closely with government and the private sector to link programs across the states we work in.

- In this report, you will see that EVA has already made significant progress in achieving the aims of this new strategic plan. From the continued success of MyQ&A – voted the Most Outstanding Youth Initiative to Combat HIV and AIDS at the Nigeria 5th National Conference on HIV and AIDS – to our increased use of technology in programming and our commitment to advocacy and making sure the voices of children and youth are heard, this has been a significant year for the organization and is a good launch-point for our work in the future. You will see from the stories we feature how EVA's work has translated into real-life change for some of Nigeria's vulnerable children and youth.

As always, Education as a Vaccine will continue to evolve to meet Nigeria's needs, and we look forward to your continued support as we undertake this next chapter.

Chinelo Dike-Minor  
Board Chair

# A message from Executive Director

The 2010 fiscal year hold a special place in our hearts as an organization. This year, EVA marked its 10th anniversary and was recognized for consistent and impactful work in the area of youth and HIV/AIDS during the 5th National Conference on HIV and AIDS. The year provided a perfect opportunity to reflect as a family on our existence over the past 10 years, while planning for the next phase in our organizational history. The result was a new strategic plan, which we are very confident will transform the organization positively in the coming years.

Beyond our 10th year anniversary and new strategic plan, we recorded significant achievements in our programs and organizational development. I am glad to share with you that we have repositioned our programs for orphans and vulnerable children to be more community centered and sustainable; expanded the use of ICT for delivering quality HIV prevention and sexual health education for young people; increased and tailored HIV prevention services to meet the needs young people most at risk of HIV and AIDS and created more opportunities for children and young people to constructively engage in education and health policy issues. Just as important, we also worked diligently to increase our funding base by 87% compared to the 2009 fiscal year, while ensuring that our administrative costs remained low at 14%. This translated to us doing more for children and young people with the additional resources we were able to generate in the year.

I am very proud of the successes we, as a team, have made in 2010 year and believe that after reading the annual report so will you! On behalf of the board and staff, I thank our funding partners, individual donors, other NGOs, and communities, as well as the children and young people that helped us make the achievement listed in this report possible.

Wishing you happy reading.

Fadekemi Akinfaderin-Agarau.  
Executive Director

# Get to know EVA

## 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.

## New Strategic Plan

The new strategic plan (2010-2015) is a reappraisal of EVA's first strategic plan (2005 – 2009) and a response to increasing demands for the organization's services. As such, the new strategic plan:

- shifts from **stand-alone** to **integrated** programming for children and young people
- shifts from **issue-based** to **target-group based** project focus
- Brings forward a development focus that's in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
  - MDG2: Basic Education
  - MDG4: Child Health
  - MDG5: Maternal Health/Reproductive Health
  - MDG6: HIV, TB and Malaria
- Strengthens partnership with government and private sector
- Includes children as part of our target

### EVA – Facts at a Glance

- Established in 2000
- Headquartered in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
- Field offices in FCT, Nassarawa State, Benue State and Cross River State.

#### Goals:

- Decrease harmful practices endangering the health and development of vulnerable children and young people
- Increased utilization of child and youth friendly services.
- Strengthening institutions providing support to children and young people
- Improved policy environment for care and protection of children and young people

#### Beneficiaries:

- adolescents and youth (15 – 30 years)
- children (6 – 14 years)

# Recognition and Prominence

EVA's projects and programs benefit many children and young people living in Nigeria. In addition to meeting the SRH and educational needs of children and young people, our projects also seek to influence sexual and reproductive health related policies.

Projects under operation during the 2009/2010 financial year include *AIDS Impact Mitigation (AIM)*, *My Question and Answer Service (MyQ&A)*, *Electronic Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education (eFLHE)* and *International Youth Speak Out (iYSO)*.



EVA received numerous awards during the 2009/2010 financial year. At the Nigeria 5th National Conference on HIV and AIDS , EVA received three awards:

- **Most Outstanding Youth Led Organization in the HIV/AIDS Response (2009)**
- **Most Committed indigenous Organization to the Issues of Young People in the Fight Against HIV and AIDS**
- **Most Outstanding Youth Initiative to Combat HIV and AIDS for My Question and Answer Service (My Q&A).**

# Power to the People:

## *Meeting the Needs of OVC through Community Participation*



It is estimated that there are more than 220,000 children in Nigeria living with AIDS. In addition, more than 1.2 million children have been orphaned by AIDS (USAID,2010). Many Orphaned and vulnerable Children (OVC) experience stigma, discrimination, abuse and exploitation. Given these facts, it is clear that addressing the needs of OVC is critical to mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and on the nation.

EVA implements three projects that address the needs of OVC:

- The Window of Hope (WOH) project
- AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria (APIN)
- Dooshima Education Fund (DEF)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Window of Hope Project</b></p> <p><i>Window of Hope</i> is a project that provides life skills education, conducted by youth volunteers, to children aged 8-13. Implemented in both Benue and Nasarawa states, the project is funded by Global Fund for Children and covers topics such as self-esteem, HIV prevention and gender roles. In addition to providing services to OVC, EVA's <i>Window of Hope</i> project also provides support to OVC caregivers through its Income Generating Activities (IGA) workshop.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dooshima Education Fund</b></p> <p>The <i>Dooshima Education Fund</i> provides educational support for orphans in Nasarawa State and Benue State. The fund is also used to support the <i>Window of Hope</i> project. Services covered by the fund include school fees, school uniforms and school lunches. Support for the <i>Dooshima Education Fund</i> comes from corporate organizations and private individuals.</p>
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<p><b>AIDS Prevention Initiative Nigeria- APIN</b></p> <p>The APIN OVC project seeks to improve the lives of children whose family members are beneficiaries of APIN's support group program. APIN provides health and nutritional support, psychosocial support and educational scholarships to these OVC. The project is implemented in Makurdi and surrounding communities, such as Mase, Igbor and Agasha, and is supported by APIN/Harvard PEPFAR. To date, the project has reached 394 orphaned and vulnerable children.</p>
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# A Window of Hope for Mercy Tse-Igbor

Mercy Tse-Igbor, a widow who lives in Igbor, Gwer East LGS, is a beneficiary of EVA's Income Generating Activities (IGA), which is organized through the Window of Hope project. In addition to raising her own three children, Mercy is also raising her deceased relative's children and she says the IGA program is what has helped her to survive.

Before participating in the program, Mercy ran a small business that her husband started for her. However, following her husband's death, she was unable to sustain the shop and had to make significant cutbacks to her business.

With the loan she received through the IGA program, Mercy was able to expand her beer parlour business and open a food storage unit where she sells rice. She uses the small loan to purchase supplies for her beer parlour, and then uses the income generated to supply the rice that she sells at her food storage unit.

Mercy is happy to be a member of the IGA program. She says the sessions taught her how to effectively run her business, as the program is helping her meet the needs of her family. With the money she earns through her businesses, she is able to provide food for her family and pay her children's school fees.

Mercy has experienced much success with the program and was the first IGA beneficiary in her community to pay back her loan, using income generated through the beer parlour. According to Mercy, this strategy allowed her to pay back the loan without using the income generated through her rice shop, which she uses to meet her daily needs.

Mercy thanked Education as a Vaccine for providing business loans to people in her community, saying "make una add more money, make I go up, again!"

## Facts at a Glance

### Window of Hope:

- Started in 2005
- Funded by Global Fund for Children

### Nasarawa State:

- 47 youth educators trained and deployed
- 603 adolescents orphans reached with sexual health and life skills education

### Benue State:

- 39 caregivers received IGA training and mentoring
- 24 young people supported to create their own community based organization to sustain provision of services to vulnerable children.

### Dooshima Education Fund

- Funded by corporate organizations and private individuals
- Covered the school levies and material costs for 21 orphans
- 85% school attendance rate for orphans supported

### APIN

- Funded by APIN PLUS and Harvard PEPFAR
- Implemented in Makurdi and surrounding areas
- 394 children reached with services

# Learning life skills in Benue State

Lucy Dickson — from Abochiche, Cross River State — is another beneficiary of the Window of Hope project.

10 year old Lucy lives in Igbor, Benue and is currently in primary school. She came to the community with her father, who relocated to the area in search of business opportunities. Lucy's father passed away four years ago, and she lives with her mother and other half-relatives.



Lucy has participated in the Life Skills Education sessions held in Igbor. She likes the sessions because “they teach us (the children) how to take care of our bodies,” as well as teaching about how HIV is transmitted. In addition to learning essential life skills, Lucy participated in a variety of child-friendly activities during the education sessions, and Lucy's favourite component is the exercise activity.

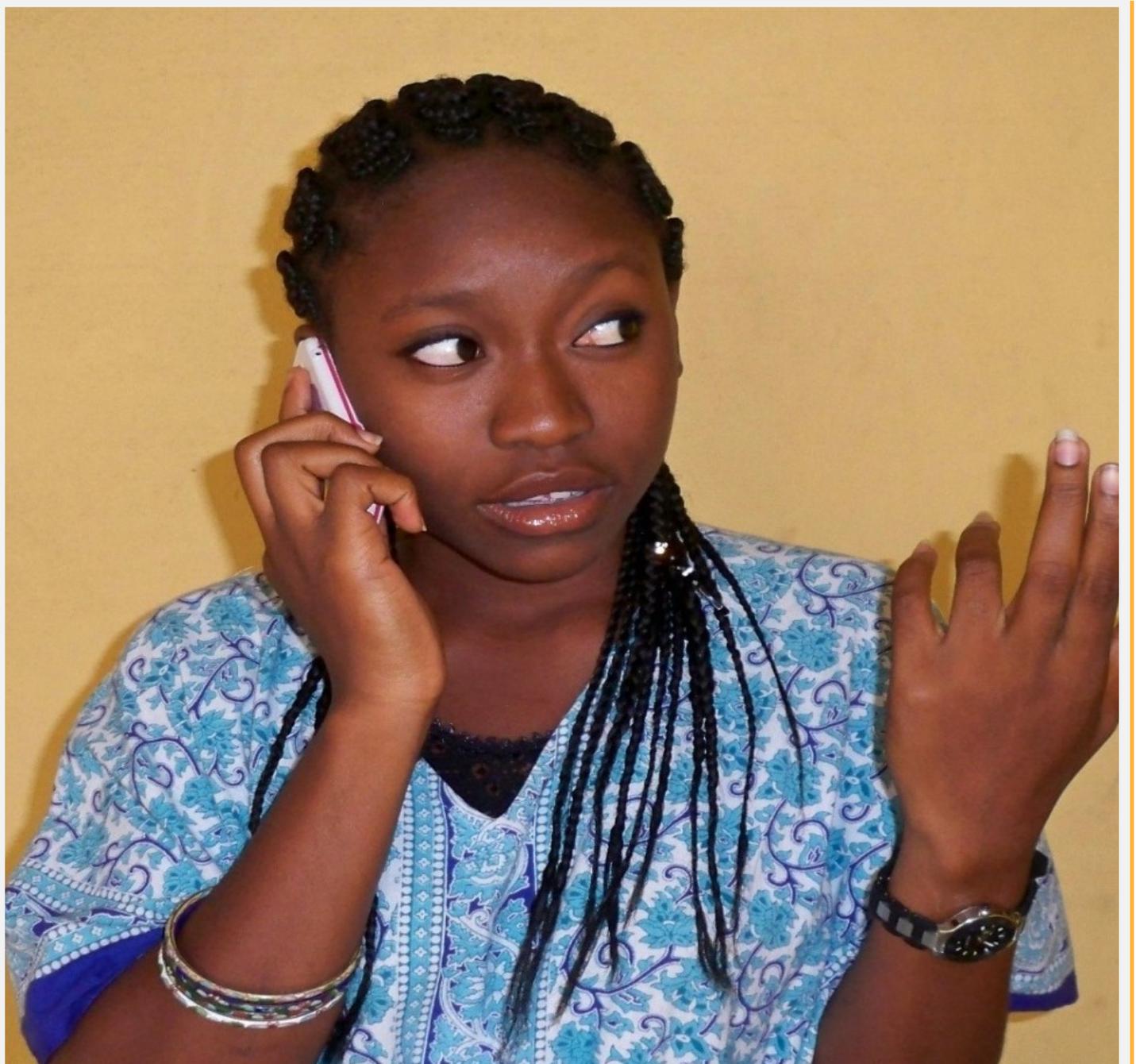
When asked about how her involvement in the program makes her feel, Lucy said, “they make me feel happy because they teach me how to take care of my body.”

## Next Steps

- Enhancing our partnership with caregivers to foster their ownership over the programs
- Mentoring community-based organizations so they will be prepared to take the lead in delivering services to OVC
- Strengthen the micro-enterprise, nutritional and livelihood education of caregivers

# **It's Not Business as Usual:**

*Using ICT as an Innovative Medium for HIV and Reproductive Health Programs*



The reproductive and sexual health needs of young people in Nigeria require that young people have quick and safe access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. The sexual and reproductive health of young people is a sensitive topic in Nigeria. Discussing this topic openly and freely is not something that many young people feel they can do with ease.

That's why EVA uses a variety of mediums to provide information, counselling and referrals for services. The availability of different electronic mediums in particular means that young people can seek and obtain accurate sexual and reproductive health information quickly and in a confidential manner.

<b>Hotline</b>	<b>MyQ&amp;A</b>
EVA's Hotline is a toll-free telephone service that allows young people to obtain HIV/AIDS and reproductive health information, counselling and referral at no cost. Broad issues addressed through the service include sexual transmission and prevention of HIV; gender based violence; and sexual abuse and exploitation.	Through this service, young people can send their sexual and reproductive health related questions/issues via SMS and/or email. This way, the service is able to provide non-judgemental, confidential and accurate information to young people's questions and issues.

### **Electronic Family Life and Health Education (eFLHE)**

eFLHE supports the implementation of an electronic version of the Family Life and Health Education curriculum. During the 2009/2010 project year, 1495 students were reached through classroom delivery of the project, and 110 teachers and 6 state officials received computer skills training. Teachers were also sensitized on the eFLHE curriculum.

## Mr. Gideon mixes ICT with life skills

Mr. Gideon is a teacher and participant of EVA's eFLHE project. A teacher for 17 years, Mr. Gideon has been training teachers on the eFLHE curriculum for three years. Mr. Gideon says the project's greatest strengths are its focus on e-learning as a tool for HIV/AIDS education and its ability to build the capacity of students and teachers.

In addition to exposing students to computers, Mr. Gideon says the project has also exposed teachers to computers. Prior to the eFLHE training that he received, Mr. Gideon says he had very modest computer skills: "Before the training, I could only type on the computer a little but the program has forced me to learn a lot of things on the computer."

Where students are concerned, Mr. Gideon says he has witnessed first-hand the impact the program has had on their HIV/AIDS education. He says students are now actively involved learning about HIV/AIDS, as a result of the program, and are more open to talking to teachers about their sexual and reproductive questions and issues. For Mr. Gideon, this success is due to the fact that, "with the electronic version of FLHE, students do most of the activities while the teacher is a spectator and sees to the success of the lesson."

Overall, Mr. Gideon is very pleased with the project and urges the project team to continue their good work while also considering extending the program to out-of-school children and youth, and even adults.



### Facts at a glance

#### Electronic Family Life and Health Education

- Funded by One World UK
- 1495 students reached with eFLHE curriculum
- 85 teachers sensitized on eFLHE curriculum
- Implemented in Benue state and the FCT.

#### Expanding Public Private Partnership for Uptake of HIV Clinical Services for Young Women through Mobile Phones (EP3)

- Funded by NACA HAF3
- 2608 young women reached through marketing outreaches and small group discussions
- 56% increase in number of young girls calling to know location of HCT services
- 7% increase in the number of young girls accessing HCT as result of the project.

#### My Question and My Answer (My Q&A)

- Questions and issues sent via SMS/email
- Funded by One World UK
- 92,392 text messages received
- 69,104 young people provided with reproductive health and HIV/AIDS information

#### Hotline

- Toll-free SRH questions/issues telephone service
- Lines provided by ZAIN and National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).
- 3602 voice calls received, and 1937 first-time callers.

# Answers are just a call, text or email away

The MyQ&A service has been extremely successful during the 2009/2010 fiscal year, and users say they find it extremely useful when seeking sexual and reproductive health information. For example, Babatunde, a 28-year-old first-time user of the service said that he was relieved and happy following his discussion with a MyQ&A counsellor. He prefers to use the phone-in option because calling allows him to express his thoughts and ask as many questions as possible. Patience – a 20-year-old student – shared a similar sentiment. Patience sought the MyQ&A service because she was confused about some health issues, and she says the counsellor answered all her questions and helped clear up some of her worries. Patience said, “I like it and I love how the people answered my questions.” She plans on recommending the MyQ&A service to her friends.

Clients like Patience and Babatunde are assisted by one or more of EVA’s counsellors. Eteng has been working as a counsellor on the project for one year, and he enjoys working as a counsellor because “it is exciting. It feels good to know that you are in a position to help someone else and it has exposed me to a lot of issues that bother young people.” He finds the MyQ&A system easy to use, which he says is one of the service’s strengths. Speaking on what he has gained by working as a counsellor, Eteng stated “as days go by you are always adopting better ways of responding to clients.” Eteng also sees the services’ frequent calls as an opportunity to improve his knowledge of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, and he views callers’ questions about the accuracy of certain SRH information as a strategy for keeping counsellors informed.

## Next Steps

### **MyQ&A and Hotline**

- Expanding our marketing efforts in order to attract more young women to utilize the mobile phone services (Hotline and SMS)
- Improving our services to meet user demand for the projects

### **eFLHE**

- Enhancing teacher training for classroom teaching
- Scaling up the project to cover more EVA project sites.

# Amplifying Voices: *Building the Capacity of Children and Young People for Advocacy*



EVA recognizes that it is critical that young people get involved in the strategies used to address development issues including health and education. In particular, they must be given a chance to actively participate in the planning and decision making processes for matters that affect their lives.

Too often, youth are excluded and disengaged from these key processes. Given that youth constitute 65% of Nigeria's population, they must be encouraged to take an active part, including leadership roles, in addressing the issues that affect their lives.



At EVA, advocacy is one strategy we are working on to help young people become effectively engaged in addressing health and education issues and challenges.

### Plus OVC Campaign

The Plus OVC Campaign seeks to increase stakeholder support in providing holistic educational support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The Campaign is implemented by community members and OVC, who are trained as community advocates, and then become responsible for training advocates in other communities.

Implementation of the Plus OVC Campaign has led to 7 press releases and 27 media mentions. Advocacy work done through the project has led to a 50% PTA levy waiver in LEA Primary School, Tyulen.

### International Youth Speak Out (IYSO)

IYSO seeks to build the capacity of young people to mobilize their peers, create awareness, and advocate for their own sexual and reproductive health.

The project is organized by the Youth Advocates Group (YAG), which is comprised of young people ages 15-24. In 2009/2010, the project reached more than 1800 people through meetings, speaking engagements and events held at tertiary institutions. IYSO also participated in the public hearing on the anti-stigma and discrimination bill at the national assembly.

## Raise your voice for change: Kike Taiwo and Mr. Ajagun find advocacy

Kike Taiwo is a youth volunteer at EVA and a member of the Youth Advocates Group (YAG), under the International Youth Speak Out project. Kike was asked to join the YAG shortly after beginning her work as a volunteer at EVA. Soon after joining the YAG, she realized that her membership in the group presented a great opportunity for her to learn about the various ways young people can become involved in youth issues. She remains an active member in the group because of the interesting projects, the interaction with other young people, and the increased knowledge of health issues her involvement has provided.

Kike also revealed that her involvement in the group has allowed her to discover her potential. “The International Youth Speak Out project has totally transformed me from being clueless and timid to an informed, creative, smart, outspoken and bold young person,” Kike said. “It has created a platform for me to unleash my potential. I never knew I could think creatively and speak with boldness but the IYSO brought that out.” She also says that YAG has given her the opportunity to interact with policy-makers and youth leaders both nationally and internationally.

Similar sentiments regarding the YAG were echoed by Mr. Ajagun, an assistant director in the adolescent health unit at the Ministry of Health. Mr. Ajagun has worked closely with the members of the YAG. In his view, the YAG is a critical and valuable initiative, saying that “their value lies in the fact that they are championing their own cause and are the mouthpiece of their own needs. They are not allowing others to run their own issues for them.”

When asked to reflect on what he has gained from working with the YAG, he expressed that the YAG has assisted him with youth policy and program planning at the Ministry of Health. He noted that he regularly seeks the insights of the YAG regarding youth health policy issues. Mr. Ajagun would like to commend the members on the great work that they are doing through the youth advocates group. He encourages them to remain persistent in their work and to consider new and exciting ways to expand their advocacy work to the local and state levels.



## Facts at a glance

### Plus OVC Education Campaign

- Funded by American Jewish World Service
- Implemented in Benue and Nasarawa state
- 130 stakeholders were sensitized on OVC education issues
- 54 teachers and 22 head teachers were trained and sensitized on OVC education issues

### International Youth Speak Out

- Funded by Advocates for Youth
- Comprised of 8 members Youth Advocates Group (YAG)
- Members of YAG received training on advocacy, sexual and reproductive health and effective writing
- YAG has reached 1800 stakeholders including young people on the issues of sexual and reproductive health of young people.



## Next Steps

### Plus OVC

- Partnering with organizations working on child rights
- Pay advocacy visits to newly elected policy makers within Wamba and Akwanga

### IYSO

- Enhancing our accessibility to key policy makers
- Increasing our campaign efforts to obtain more financial support from stakeholders and funders
- Strengthening our relationship with government stakeholders to encourage the government to increase its role in youth led projects

# **Not Left Behind:** *Extending Services to Young People Most at Risk*



HIV prevention for vulnerable groups – especially children and youth – is part of EVA’s core objectives. Although HIV poses risks to all young people, female sex workers (FSW) and out-of-school-youth (OSY) are most vulnerable to contracting the virus. The HIV prevalence for FSWs in Nigeria ranges from 30-37% (USAID,2010). This incidence is due to a combination of factors, including low condom use, clients’ refusal to use condoms and a “low-risk” perception among FSWs. In light of these facts, EVA recognizes the critical need to pay particular attention to FSWs and OSY.

### **EVA Youth World**

*EVA Youth World* is youth-friendly HIV testing and counselling centre. The project provides free HIV counselling and testing services to youth in tertiary institutions and those out of school. The project is based in Makurdi, Benue State and was initially supported by Family Health International under the Strengthening Nigeria's Response to HIV and AIDS.

During the 2009/2010 fiscal year, the project provided HIV testing services to 1132 young people.

### **AIDS Impact Mitigation (AIM)**

*AIDS Impact Mitigation (AIM)* is a project designed to increase HIV/AIDS prevention and behaviour change messages among OSY and FSWs. Situated in Benue and Cross River States and supported by Winrock International, uses community awareness campaigns, peer education and condom messages to address the vulnerability issues of FSWs and OSY. During the last fiscal year, the project reached 1482 OSY and more than 300 FSWs.



## Ruth Nwogodo takes AIM at a better life

Ruth from Anambra State, is a beneficiary of the AIM project. She has three children, all of whom are being cared for by her sisters. As a sex worker, Ruth came into the AIM project at the tail end of March 2009. Ruth entered sex work following some financial hardships when her provision business burned to the ground five years ago. As a result, she was unable to meet many of her financial obligations and decided to enter the sex trade as a way to meet basic needs and save money for a new provisions shop.

Ruth was introduced to the AIM project by an EVA staff member monitoring the brothel where she worked. She was able to receive an IGA grant by participating in the project, which she used to obtain a deep freezer for her provisions shop.

Today, Ruth is steadily getting back on her feet. She left the brothel in April 2010, obtained a store, and now sells provisions and food. Ruth is extremely happy to have participated in the project and states, "I am very grateful to EVA and WINROCK for what they have helped me to become. The money was small, but what I got from the program is more than money. The way they taught me how to save and keep record of my business is what I am enjoying today. I am going to go back and tell the other girls how you people helped. I have learned my lessons during my stay in the hotel and am not going back."



# **Finances and HR:** *Important Ingredients for our Success*



## Human Resources:

EVA experienced significant growth in human resources during the 2009/2010 financial year. Although four staff members left the organization, we welcomed ten new volunteers and nine staff members. In terms of capacity building, our staff and volunteers received specialized training in a variety of areas. For example, key staff members in Benue State, Nasarawa State and FCT underwent writing and communications training with the Volunteer Service Overseas communication advisor. Staff members also participated in a training session on NGO engagement with various media outlets held by Health Committee and Development Initiative (HCDI), as well as finance training.

According to Ijeoma Ikeji, EVA's human resources administrator, the organization's effective HR unit "has been the means through which EVA achieved its goals and objectives over the years."

## Financial Results:

Education as a Vaccine achieved strong financial results in the 2009/2010 fiscal year. Our Net asset increased by 87 percent when compared with the previous fiscal year. The majority of this growth in revenue came from monies received through foundations, which rose by 101 percent.

Foundations that supported our work during the 2009/2010 financial year were the Global Fund for Children (GFC) and the American Jewish World Service (AJWS). Other support came from the following international development agencies and organizations: Winrock International, One World UK, Advocates for Youth, Irish Aid and Harvard University AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria (APIN) and the government of Nigeria through the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).

## Facts at a glance

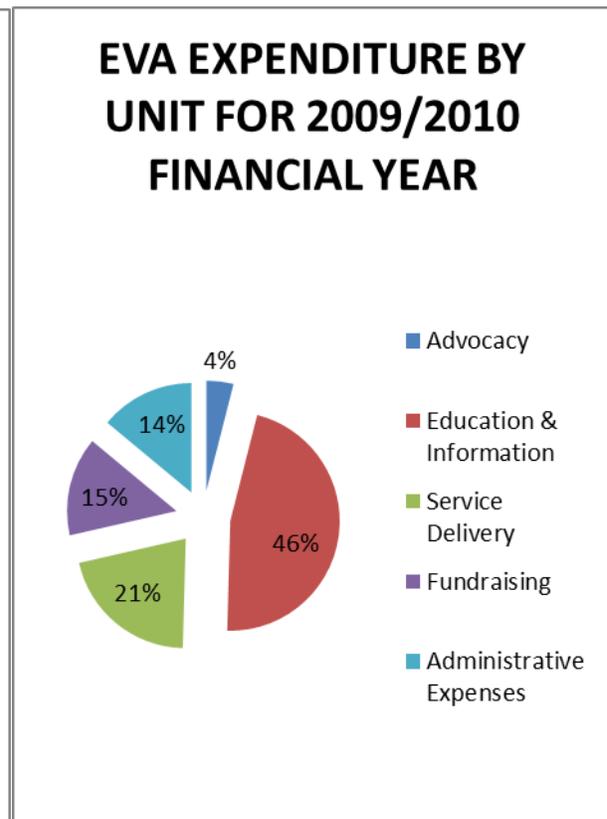
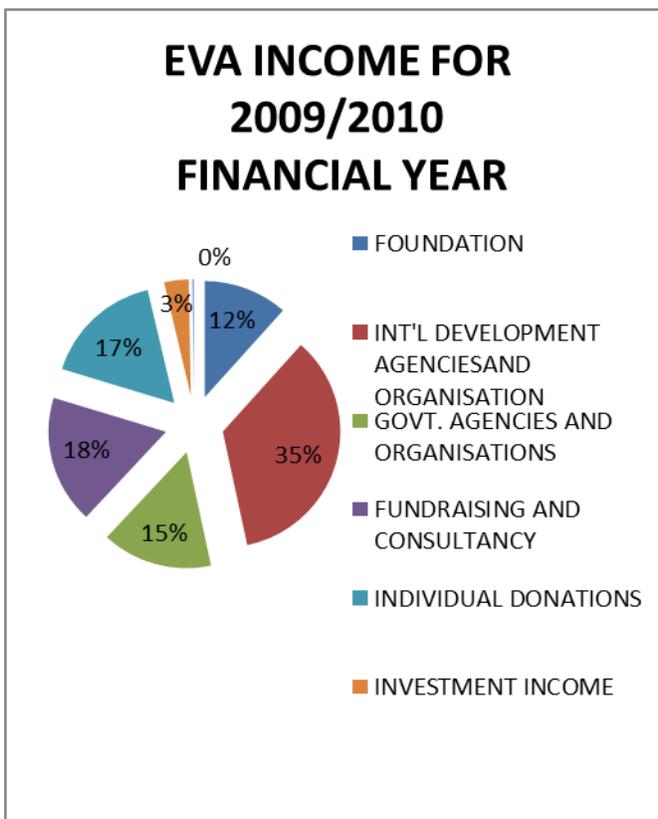
- Total income- 77,064,686.93 (NGN)
- Total expenditures- 57,889,079 (NGN)
- 86 % of expenditures directed to programs
- 14 % of expenditures directed to general, administrative and fundraising costs
- 26 full-time employees
- 13 Volunteers
- 10 Board members



TYPE OF DONOR	AMOUNT (NGN)
Foundation	8,925,450.00
International development agencies & organizations	27,032,999.19
Government agencies and organizations	11,729,634.30
Fundraising and con-	13,754,005.00
Individual donations	12,809,653.44
Investment income	2,597,945.00
Contribution from	215,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77,064,686.93 (NGN)</b> <b>\$513,764.58 (USD)</b>

EXPENDITURE BY TYPE	AMOUNT (NGN)
Advocacy	4,619,639.54
Service delivery	12,193,872.16
Fundraising and consultancy	8,615,023.26
Education and infor-	24,207,502.25
Administration costs	8,253,042.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,889,079 (NGN)</b> <b>385,927.20 (USD)</b>

In the coming fiscal year (2010/2011) we envision continued growth in grants and in the necessary support expenses. We have recently increased staff salary and hope for better opportunity to bolster staff resources to our grantee partners.





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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