Overview: The model households’ intervention exemplifies the integration of population, health, and the environment (PHE) by tangibly demonstrating the reinforcing behaviors that help families to develop in healthy and environmentally sustainable ways. In each HoPE-LVB project site, model households are selected and supported to meet standards that reflect healthy environments and families. The model households serve as role models and teachers of other families in the project communities.

Selection process: The model households’ intervention began with the selection of households that demonstrated interest in PHE and had a pit latrine. These households were provided with a two-day orientation on PHE by the HoPE-LVB project trainers using the PHE module developed by the project. Model households were then encouraged by project field officers to engage in sustainable farming, maintain clean homes and compounds, and seek health services. Approximately 1 year into the project, the HoPE-LVB team, led by Pathfinder, identified the need for clear selection criteria and more systematic selection processes. HoPE-LVB model household criteria were developed in partnership with project site members (criteria are found as an attachment to this brief). Existing model households were assessed by the project field officers using a model household assessment tool developed by the project. It was found that many of the model households did not meet the criteria; however, it would be damaging to community relationships to remove households from the model household status. The community leaders in each project site, including the leaders of the BMUs and the local council member (LC1), worked with the project field officers to develop a grading system with three levels (called level A, B, C or gold, silver, bronze). Each level corresponded to certain criteria and households were categorized accordingly. Each household was encouraged to take steps to achieve the next level of model household.

Model household cluster model: In response to the growth of the model household intervention, the project established a model household cluster system in December 2012. All the model households in a village (approximately 5) were grouped into a cluster. Each cluster was called for a meeting by the project field officer during which they voted amongst themselves on a model household cluster leader. The cluster heads are responsible for visiting each of the model households in their cluster to monitor progress towards meeting criteria, identify challenges, and liaise between the model households and the project field officers.

System for monitoring, supervision, and support: Each model household was given a visitors book by the project. The book is meant for them to record any visits by fellow community members interested in learning more about the model household practices. Each month, the model household cluster leader compiles data from the visitors’ books as well as additional information about the model households in the cluster and completes the model household cluster leader reporting form. This is turned into the field officer every month prior to monthly supervision meetings. Model household cluster leaders are provided a transportation stipend of 10,000 UGX for bringing the data to the field officer. Beginning in quarter 4 of 2013, model households are now called to join the monthly monitoring and support meetings that are held with the village health teams/community health workers in the project sites. Depending on funding availability for the month, either all the model households are called or (more commonly) cluster leaders are called. Meeting attendees are given 10,000 UGX transportation reimbursements. Meetings are led by the field officers and include reviewing data collected from the model households, discussing project themes, listening to challenges, and identifying solutions.

Resources/inputs into the model household intervention: Model households receive the following inputs from the HoPE-LVB project:

- 2 day PHE orientation/training for all members of the model household
• Training in sustainable agriculture, agro forestry, biodiversity conservation, land use planning and watershed management, improved breed goats management (quick maturing and attains higher live weight than local breeds)
• Drought-resistant Cassava cuttings / improved cassava varieties
• Banana suckers (banana cuttings)
• Improved varieties of maize & bean seeds (quick maturing & high yielding)
• Tree seedlings
• Goat Breeding (Goats were given to some of the model households meeting specific selection criteria.)
• Part of the model household criteria is that they have an energy saving stove. Some model households were trained to construct them and others participated in the initial round of construction of stoves. These did not have to pay for the stoves (just the materials). Model households acquiring the stoves later in the project have to pay those in the community who were trained to construct them.

Successes:
• By the end of Dec 2013, a total of 110 model households in Uganda were active. (By active we mean receiving visitors and demonstrating project interventions). Of these 40 were in Jaguzi (20 males and 20 females) and 70 in Bussi (15 males and 55 females).
• **Community commitment:** The model household intervention has been highly acceptable within the community. Members of the community are proud to be model households and other members of the community have engaged with model households’ members to learn more about PHE practices.
• **District buy-in:** District level officials (including officials from the departments of health, population, conservation, and agriculture as well as the district Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and other political officials) in each project site have also shown support for this intervention. In Wakiso district the model household intervention aligns with district plans to have “model villages” in the future. In Mayuge, the district has proposed that, Jagusi Sub-county be declared a model sub-county of the district. The HoPE-LVB project staff agreed with the district to share the process of initiating the model households so that the district could learn from project experiences to eventually start up the intervention in other villages/sub counties, which would lead to model villages or sub-counties.

Future directions: In October of 2013, the HoPE-LVB project staff from Pathfinder and ECO began thinking of how to "remodel the model households.” The resulting idea is to promote a cascade model whereby each existing model household tries to encourage five other households to become model PHE households.

**Guidelines for Model Household Selection**
The Household should meet at least 75% of the mentioned criteria below;

*Definition of HOPE LVB Household: two or more individuals living together*

1. Household unit should be located in project area
2. Eligible households should be willing to promote the following: healthy practices for birth preparedness, accurate information about FP; adoption of sustainable agricultural practices; etc.
3. Household farm should have any of the following enterprises;
   - agro forestry tree & fruit species
   - annual & perennial food and cash crops
   - Livestock for example; goats or cattle or chicken or piggery
4. Practicing minimum environmental sanitation including a toilet (latrine) and at least one of the following: shower area, drying rack, hand washing facility, kitchen, separate shelters for animals, etc.
5. Commitment to share knowledge/innovations with other households
6. Should be willing to receive visitors and be willing to learn and share knowledge with visitors
7. Willing to participate in the trainings supported by HOPE