



PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY (PLWD) AND HIV

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 10% of the world's population (650 million) represent People Living With Disabilities (PLWD). And though PLWD are amongst the key populations (KP) that have a high risk to HIV transmission, they are regularly overlooked when HIV Testing Services are being implemented. Additionally, People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) may also develop several physical and mental impairments as the disease progresses, thereby adding to the current figure mentioned above. Yet, HIV related national programs still lack specific

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CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) MANAGERS IN KANO STATE



CFHI Facilitators for the EPI Managers training in Kano state

In continuation of the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and CFHI collaborated project of providing capacity building trainings to 200 Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Managers in the Kano State Primary Health Care Development Agency (SPHCDA), CFHI carried out a 6 day training on 2 significant technical and management skills. These are skills that were identified as inadequate in the managers implementing the state's EPI program; therefore, in addition to

building their capacity in Routine Immunization Supportive Supervision (RISS) - which occurred in August; they were also trained on Effective Project Communication and Reporting, and the Basics of Project Management within the month.



The CFHI Director facilitating a session with Health Care Workers (HCWs)

This follow-up training occurred within 6 days, with the first 3 days designated to training 201 EPI Managers on various technical skills needed to improve the dissemination of RI related information in the state; while the next 3 days were for training 203 Managers on essential skills required for developing and managing projects effectively. In each training session, 25 CFHI facilitators communicated the knowledge to the participants using illustrated lectures, in-session feedback, group discussions and in-class presentations.



An EPI Manager presenting a group work to the class

Among these over 200 participants were Local Government Immunization Officers (LIOs), Zonal LIOs, Cold Chain Officers (CCOs), Supportive Supervision Officers (SSPOs) and Community Health Educators from all 48 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the state. These managers took competency based tests, before and at the end of each training module, and they recorded an average of 69.6% knowledge gain in the second module and a 55.4% knowledge gained average after the third module.





Dear Friend of the Family,

As this is the last edition of our monthly newsletters for the Fiscal Year 17, I and the organization would like to appreciate your continuous support of our projects and willingness to get updates of these projects.

This month, we joined the world to mark the significant **World AIDS Day (WAD)**, with a medical outreach in an indigent community-Kaba. CFHI chose to do this, so as to meet with the day's objective of ensuring that no one's right to quality health services, in relation to HIV programming, is disregarded. As such, adults, adolescents and children and babies were reached that day; with HIV Testing Services (HTS) and other support services.

Furthermore, in line with leaving no one behind in the race towards Ending HIV/AIDS by 2030, an article calling for states and civil societies to ensure that a neglected group – People Living with Disabilities (PLWD), are given active consideration in the development and implementation of HIV programs, is enclosed in this publication.

I hope you enjoy reading about our activities carried out within the month and the article featured.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2018!

Happy holidays,

Princess Osita-Oleribe
Director, CFHI

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provisions to cater to this very important group of people.

The recent call of nations to increase PLHIVs access to important information and treatment regardless of who they are or where they live, during the World AIDS Day (WAD 2017), shows that more needs to be done to ensure that all persons have adequate access to preventive and treatment information and services, for the goal of eliminating new HIV infections by 2030 to be attained. Therefore, PLWD should not only be considered but included when programs are being developed and implemented.

About 10% of the world's population are People Living with Disabilities (PLWD)

Though, a joint collaboration among WHO, UNAIDS and the United Nations Office of the High Commission on Human Rights, brought to existence the Disability and HIV Policy; many states, especially the developing countries, and civil societies are yet to implement the recommendations into their programs. This has a lot to do with the compound services needed to adequately reach this group of persons, in addition to the already limited one available. This is because in addition to the discrimination and stigma that a person may face for being HIV positive, one with disability with face even more discriminatory acts because of their disability.

A third of the out of school children are living with disabilities

Even though it may seem somewhat permissible for programs to overlook PLWD, because of the inability of the already scarce funding to provide the additional accommodations needed to adequately reach them; neglecting them decreases the global chances of eliminating HIV by the deadline. For instance, UNAIDS states that there are 72 million out of school children in the world, and a third of the individuals are children with disabilities. And surveys have shown that out-of-school adolescents have a high risk of engaging in risky sexual behaviours that increases their risk of contracting the diseases. This just shows that leaving PLWD behind would increase the risk of

new transmissions.

Punitive measures need to be established in states' laws, to prevent the abuse and discrimination of these individuals

Furthermore, because a large portion of women and girls who have some form of disability are being sexually assaulted or abused, the risk of new transmissions among them keeps increasing. For this reason, just improving HIV services such as having health workers trained in the sign language or the creation of IEC materials in Braille, is not enough. Punitive measures need to be established in states' laws, to prevent the abuse and discrimination of these individuals.

In conclusion, for the world to make definite and upward strides towards attaining a zero new HIV transmission, concrete steps towards including PLWD in the design, implementation and evaluation of HIV policies and programmes have to be undertaken.

WORLD'S AIDS DAY (WAD)



The Community Head (Sarki) of Kaba being tested

In commemoration of the World AIDS Day (WAD), which is globally observed every 1st of December, CFHI organized an Advocacy and Sensitization Outreach in an Abuja satellite community called Kaba. With the theme of this year being "My Health, My Right -Making it happen", the organization carried out the outreach with an objective of ensuring neglected populations have access to quality and comprehensive HIV Testing Services (HTS). This activity served as an avenue for CFHI to actively contribute to the global efforts toward eliminating new HIV infections and keeping infected persons alive.



A child under the age of 5 receiving oral Vitamin A medication

With Kaba having no healthcare centre in it, accessing any form of medical care is restricted to Private Patent Medicine Vendors (PPMVs) or hospitals in very far distances; and the provision of community health services has also been minimal there, though necessary. These indicators promoted CFHI to carry out its WAD outreach within the community. Through this outreach, 234 individuals were reached with HTS and other support services, such as Blood Pressure (BP) Checks for adults, Growth and Development Assessments for the children and Malaria Testing for all participating individuals.



A mother with her twin children provided with Long Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLINs) after receiving HTS

Furthermore, the beneficiaries- pregnant mothers, children, adolescents, men and women, were engaged in health talks on HIV prevention methods and treatment services, and the use of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) to prevent the transmission of Malaria. Additionally, 60 persons who tested positively to the Malaria tests were provided with Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACT) tablets; 92 Households were given LLINs; and over 40 children under the age of 5 years were administered Vitamin A and deworming drugs.

VACCINE ACCOUNTABILITY TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS (HCWs) AND EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) MANAGERS IN NASARAWA STATE

A recent assessment of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the country shows that technical gaps such as the poor documentation of stock transactions, disparity between stock utilization and number of children immunized, and leakages of vaccines into the open market are some of the major reasons for low Routine Immunization (RI) coverage rates in most parts of Nigeria.

In order to address these gaps, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) engaged CFHI to carry out intensive trainings on Vaccine Accountability for HCWs and EPI Managers in Nasarawa state. As such, CFHI facilitated different sessions of the training across 8 LGA clusters in the state- Awe, Keana, Doma, Akwanga, Kokona, Nasarawa, and Nassarawa Egon; with Nasarawa and Nasarawa Egon having two different sessions each, because of the high number of HCWs in both locations. Furthermore, another training occurred separately in Lafia LGA for EPI Managers, making it the 10th cluster for the project.

Through these trainings a total of 406 health workers were provided with a 5 module training course on topics like the Overview of Vaccines Management; Documentation and Archiving of Immunization and Stock Data; Analysis (inclusive of triangulation) and use of data for action; Facilitation of review meetings- documentation, reporting and issues tracking; and Nigeria's Vaccines Accountability System- Expectations, Roles and Responsibilities.

Amongst these trained health officials were 364 HCWs and 42 EPI Managers; who at the end of the course of the training scored an average of 80% in the competency-base tests done after the training exercise. Additionally, an average of 31% knowledge gain was recorded, indicating that after the training most of the participants showed significant improvement in the skills they were trained on.

Therefore, with these results, significant improvement in the documentation, tracking and reporting of immunization activities in Nasarawa state is expected. This should culminate in an increase in the subsequent immunization coverage rates of the state.

OVC CHRISTMAS PARTY



Santa Clause and the children at the OVC/ End of the Year party

Annually, CFHI commemorates the activities and successes achieved each year with the children that benefitted from its care and support services. This it does with an End of the Year/ Christmas party for all the vulnerable children (VC) currently enrolled in its various programs, across communities in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).



A dance competition for the children and some adults

Through several of the projects undertaken by the organization in this FY17, over 3,000 VC were provided with educational support, psychosocial counselling and health and nutrition interventions among others. In order to celebrate this milestone, 87 children from the Kubwa, Karimo and Mabushi areas participated in activities like games and dance competitions; and then provided with gifts and refreshments. Furthermore, about 14 caregivers, some of who profited from CFHI services such as vocational skills trainings and start-up grants, were also present at the party.



REPORT ON OTHER CFHI ACTIVITIES

Some members of CFHI staff were in attendance of a Network of Civil Society Organizations against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) forum tagged "Securing Justice And Support For Sexually Abused Children". The essence of the meeting was to enlighten young persons, who were represented by members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), about sexual abuse of a child; effective strategies for addressing the issue; protection programming using a child-based approach; and a step-by-step guide to attaining justice for identified cases. The expected outcome of this programme is to yield conscious Advocates against Child Abuse among the participants, who will eventually use referral linkages that were established with the CSOs present at the forum when responding to identified cases.

Interested in helping in any aspect of our work ?

Persons interested in donating to our activities, offering volunteer services or partnering with us, are always welcome. All CFHI's projects are community based and family-centred, so that our beneficiaries are reached with activities that proffer sustainable solutions.

Therefore, persons or organizations concerned with improving community health, sustainable socio-economic empowerment and the development of family-centred policies should please contact us.

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