



VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS

Children need care, love and so many other essentials to grow well from childhood to adulthood but the society, families (homes) and others, that ought to be a source of strength and encouragement; a breeding place; a place meant to structure and gradually mold the lives of these young ones has somewhat contributed a great deal to the damages done to vital aspects of their lives.

Ranging across board in different communities today are cases of Violence against children. From a report from United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on the World Trafficking Day stated that **"Children makes up almost one-third of all human trafficking victims worldwide"**.

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HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND EMPOWERMENT PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND POSITIVE MOTHERS IN OBI COMMUNITY (HAPPY) PROJECT

This month's activities began steadily with Household Vulnerability assessment carried out in the homes of **thirty-seven (37) vulnerable mothers** with **25** of them eligible to be categorized as **most vulnerable**. This assessment was carried out in at least 8 different communities, with the aim of objectively assessing these women and selecting those who were still most vulnerable, for training and financial aid. A Needs Assessment for **32 vulnerable women** was also carried out by asking strategic questions around the enterprise they would like to be involve in if they had the funds and/or skills required.

The team also had engagement meetings with the Officers-in-charge of Four (4) PHCs towards signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); an agreement that would enable the team refer Adolescents and Young Persons to their facility for testing (Baseline and biannual testing).

In addition, meetings were held with principals of private schools. This was intended to introduce the HAPPY clubs and to highlight the benefits of HAPPY clubs to Adolescents. In addition, team Obi this month enrolled **six hundred and one (601)** in-school Adolescents and Young People and **sixty-nine (69)** out-of-school ones into the HAPPY! club.

Also, the Obi teams reviewed the activities of the COMETs, and picked the best COMET in the Month; in terms of performance for an award and the COMETs were also mobilized for a meeting to review the month's activities and were given feedback to ensure continuous improvement in the progress of the project.

Team Obi also held a Town Hall meeting with the women in Obi community, engaging some community leaders and the COMETs leading to the success of the meeting. The team recorded **seventy (70) participants** in attendance.

The team intend to develop a strategy to reach out to more of the target population. Furthermore, the team intends to hit **2,500 cumulative enrollments** at the end of June 2018, into the HAPPY! clubs and ensure the commencement of the use of educational materials in HAPPY! Clubs.

THE ACHIEVING CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC THROUGH EVIDENCE (ACHIEVE) PROJECT

In the month of June, CFHI continued to conduct linkage and referral activities with the ten (10) facilities assigned to her within AMAC. Mentor mothers and other treatment support specialist working in the facilities were engaged to ensure HIV-exposed infants, HIV infected, and affected children and adolescents were referred and enrolled for community service intervention. Over 800 of the referred have assessed this service in the referred facilities. A total of 258 affected referred clients were enrolled into the OVC program as beneficiaries.

The OVC team also held series of meetings in the month of June, which includes; Parenting Meetings held in 4 communities, with the topic of discussion being "parent-child communication" in two communities: Paibe and Sauka Kahuta. The aim was to educate caregivers on the importance of good and healthy communication between parents and their wards. The caregivers expressed their

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VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS

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Dear Friends of the Family,

We are excited to present to you our June edition of the CFHI Newsletter.

This month of June, CFHI marked the **"Day of African Child"** in a grand style, having **over three hundred and forty-five (345) participants** and we were privileged to have the event covered by CCNG, AIT, Nigerian Info, and Leadership Newspaper among other media houses.

The rate of violence against children has doubled over time, **"Children make up one-third of all human trafficking victims worldwide"** find out more from the article in this edition; **"VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND ITS ADVERSE EFFECTS"**. We hope it will help you understand the harm this has caused and will cause our future leaders of tomorrow.

As usual, information and progress reports on all our current projects are enclosed in the newsletter.

As always, I hope you have an awesome reading experience!

Kind regards,

Princess Osita-Oleribe
Director, CFHI

depression, other mental health problems and suicide.

Impact opportunities and future generations: Children exposed to violence and other adversities are more likely to drop out of school, have difficulty finding and keeping a job, and are at heightened risk for later victimization and/or perpetration of interpersonal and self-directed violence, by which violence against children can affect the next generation..."

From another report from the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on Domestic Violence, **"Every year, as many as 275 million children worldwide become caught in the crossfire of domestic violence and suffer the full consequences of a turbulent homelife"**.

Notwithstanding, violence against children are not limited/restricted to the earlier mentioned.

From researches, it has shown that children under such atmosphere are likely to suffer some long-time effects, which could affect their lives: emotions, education and some other areas in general. According to World Health Organization; a report from media centre fact sheets on violence-against-children, "the violence against children has lifelong impacts on health and well-being of children, families, communities, and nations. Violence against children can:

Result in death, Homicide: This often involves weapons such as knives and firearms, is among the top three causes of death in adolescents, with boys comprising over 80% of victims and perpetrators.

Lead to severe injuries: For every homicide, there are hundreds of predominantly male victims of youth violence who sustain injuries because of physical fighting and assault.

Impair brain and nervous system development. Exposure to violence at an early age can impair brain development and damage other parts of the nervous system, as well as the endocrine, circulatory, musculoskeletal, reproductive, respiratory and immune systems, with lifelong consequences. As such, violence against children can negatively affect cognitive development and results in educational and vocational under-achievement.

Result in negative coping and health risk behaviour: Children exposed to violence and other adversities are substantially more likely to smoke, misuse alcohol and drugs, and engage in high-risk sexual behaviour. They also have higher rates of anxiety,

Violence against children remains a concern, because it is a major threat to the peace and advancement of the society, therefore immediate intervention is required. Violence against children is a violation against the child's right and if nothing is done, more children will continue to add to the list of the affected. One of the guiding principles of the Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children states **"No violence against children is justifiable. Children should never receive less protection than adults"**.

What is CFHI doing about this? Our focus as an NGO is to seek to enhance family well-being. We have, through projects from funders and partners set up forums for children (adolescents and kids) with programmes centred on: psychosocial support: Mentorship, Education, Enlightenment, and Motivation for an estimated **15,000 Children and Adolescents** this year alone, training them towards a brighter future. More so, we have the Child Protection Unit who are centred to promote Safe Environment for Children and their Households (Child Protection, Gender Based Violence and Legal Protection. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) states **"children from all walks of life remain targets of violence, and millions more are at risk"**. Therefore, there is a need calling to make the world a better place for children. We need to do more!

THE ACHIEVING CONTROL OF HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC THROUGH EVIDENCE (ACHIEVE) PROJECT

gratitude for the enlightenment as some affirmed having poor knowledge about communication. The participants of the parenting session in those **4 communities** visited were also educated on health and nutrition issues. The session was focused on improving their knowledge on best health practices as regards HIV & AIDS infection.

Kapwa and Gishiri communities were also visited and with sessions of parenting meeting held on topics centred on "cultural and social norms: its negative and positive effects on the society, especially on children". The topic attracted lots of contributions, questions and answers especially with emphasis made on early marriage. Participants were given the opportunity to share experiences among themselves. At the end of the community session, bars of soap and packs of seasoning cubes were gifted to participants.

The Adolescent Club meetings also held in **4 communities**, recording an attendance of **264 participants**. The topic of discussion was focused on HIV/AIDS, STIs and drug/substance abuse. Lectures were given on; the various ways of contracting HIV, risk factors and prevention. All participants were given Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) on HIV/AIDS and other related issues.

Also, held was the kiddies club in **4 communities**, with an attendance of **(501) persons**. As always, the basic rules of the club meeting were set as the children were engaged in simple outdoor games and song. The children were taught the importance and benefits of living together as one irrespective of ethnicity or religious inclination. In addition, the children were taught the proper way to wash their hand with a demonstration given through a song. Each participant went home with snacks (biscuits & beverage) at the end of the session.

Furthermore, **the OVC Health and Nutrition Unit**: held the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support group meetings in **three (3) communities** with **170 participants**. Lectures on Exclusive Breast Feeding for the

six months of life with emphasis placed on the extra benefits attained when a baby is fed with Colostrum in their first days was the topic of discussion. The attendees were also taught additional means to feed their 0-5 year-old children using highly nutritious available food commodities.

The session further highlighted the benefits of using bananas and avocados as nutritive additives especially for young children as an appropriate complimentary feeding. The food demonstration introduced the caregivers to one of the appropriate complementary feeding "avocado and banana puree". These complimentary feeding contains nutrient; vitamin B6, vitamin C, and vitamin B2, but low in cholesterol, saturated fat, and sodium, beneficial to the infant. The ingredients for the demonstration included: bananas, avocados and clean water. The caregivers were encouraged to always wash their hands before preparing meals for their infant. Participants were given scoops of the mixture for their babies present at the meeting.

In the **OVC Child Protection Domain**; there was an Inauguration of the sixth Child Protection Committee (CPC) bodies in Sauka Kahuta community of Lugbe. These CPC members were informed of the continuation of the OVC program in Lugbe under CFHI and the team gave copies of the child protection policies to the co-opted members which included a police officer, the chief of the community, two Christian clerics, seven mai-angwas of tribal sub-communities, an adolescent and women leader.

Also, **Adolescent Girl and Young Women (AGYW)** meeting, held in Tudun Wada community, with the topic centered on "**Body Hygiene as it affects the Woman**". A total number of **132** adolescent girls and young women were in attendance. Family size bathing soap bars were given to all participants in attendance to encourage personal hygiene.

In addition, The Household Economic Strengthening (HES) unit, disbursed funds to **47 selected beneficiaries**, who were selected based on an assessment; a special tool was developed prior to the disbursement. Also, there was a supervised Savings Internal lending Committee (**SILC**) activities in **four communities** with **130 participants**; the team began advocacy to set up an

additional 10 groups across communities where there are non-currently existing.

And finally, education assessment was conducted for about **380** newly enrolled beneficiaries of school age residing in **Dape, Saburi, Kaba, Kabusa, Jahi, Lugbe and Guidna communities**.

Vocational training needs assessment was conducted in four communities (**Kabusa, Sauka Kahuta, Tudun wada and Gishiri**) with the largest enrollment of AGYW population. This assessment will form the basis of the vocational skill training for out of school older adolescents, in preparation for the intervention in July.

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD (DAC)

The Day of the African Child is an annual event (held June 16th of every year) initiated by the African union since 1991 in honor of students who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976. Where hundreds of black students were killed. The protest was intended to show disapproval about the poor quality of their education in Soweto, South Africa. The protest was targeted toward showing their disapproval with the Black Education Act, which segregated students based on their race. As a result of this sad event, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in honour of the event declares a theme annually; that all member states draw in on in memory of those killed during the Soweto uprising and to propagate the need for quality education.

As it is CFHI's tradition every year to celebrate the Day of the African Child, CFHI commemorated the Day of the African Child in grand style on the 12th of June 2018, although earlier than the supposed date of 16th of June 2018, because of the (Salah) holiday declared by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Day of the African Child was marked with an educational event held in Government Secondary School Tudun Wada, in the FCT, with a total number of twenty-two (22) schools across Bwari Area Council and AMAC turning up from the thirty-two (**32**) schools invited and with an estimated

number of **three hundred and forty-five (345) persons in attendance.**

CFHI during this special event, hammered on the continuous need for quality improvement in the education provided to African children. In line with this year's theme "**leave no child behind for Africa's development**", several activities aimed to promote "innovation and sustainable development" were the focal points used to commemorate the day. Some resource persons gave lectures on sustainable innovations, creative ventures and healthy life style. In particular, was a lecture given by the **Chief Executive Officer of Excellence and Friends Management Care Centre (EFMC) Dr Obinna Oleribe** on drugs abuse, stating the dangers of drug abuse on its victims: suggesting and motivating student to avoid the abuse of drugs as well as the intake of hard drugs. Topics addressed during the event included; sexual and reproductive health, converting waste to wealth through recycling in plastic, clothing and other locally available materials amongst others.

The event featured mind stimulating activities like debate, quiz, poem recitation; other activities like; essay writing, creative arts and poetry were opened to assigned schools after due consultations with the sub-committee and school authorities. Outstanding students who participated in each session/activity were awarded with gifts. This was to encourage outstanding performance on academics.

Finally, CFHI was honoured to have during the Day of African Child event representatives from the Secondary Education Board, Ajayi Oluyemi and from the Universal Basic Education Board, Mrs. Ogwueleka P.C, and We also had representatives from SOLDAR Ngo, who took the children/adolescents on Sexual education, who both expressed their satisfaction with the event and lauded CFHI for the work done to promote quality education and the role of CFHI in creating awareness on quality education and other interventions she renders to society.

See some photos of our DAC event at the top-right corner of this page



Photo Collage from the Day of the African Child (DAC) 2018

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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