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SOCIAL PROTECTION, KEY TO ATTAINING SDG 2030

The sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-63) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from the 11th through the 22nd of March 2019 with the priority theme: “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. Sandwiched between the International Women's day (March 8th) and World Water Day (March 22nd), it was not surprising that the themes of most side and parallel events.....

Continues on page 1

HAPPY! REPORT



HAPPY! CENTER - OBI COMETs' Refreshers Training.

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Empowerment Project for Vulnerable Women and Youths (HAPPY!) REPORT

The VIIV's HAPPY! Project started in the month of March with project review/strategy meeting for team members. During this meeting, the team members were able to review plans for the first quarter, set out plans for the month of March and discuss on the challenges and opportunities. This review/plan touched on areas around the

HAPPY! Center, community HIV testing, inculcating PMTCT and male involvement in ANC into the information delivery during community outreaches and *HAPPY!* Club community engagements. COMETs held community-based *HAPPY!* Club meetings with a total of one thousand four hundred and seventy-four (1474) Adolescents and Young people (AYPs) in attendance, a weekly average of about 368 AYPs, held in-school *HAPPY!* Club meetings with a total of four thousand one hundred and eighty-five (4185) Adolescents and Young people in attendance, a weekly average of about 1046 AYPs and supervised COMETs *HAPPY!* club activities in Government Junior Secondary School Musha, GSS Obi, Kofan Bunu community Daddere, Government Day Secondary School Obi, Government Secondary School Daddere South, Oleye Agwatashi community, Assasul Islam Secondary School Obi, and Mustard Seed Academy Gwadenyi and held town hall meeting in Gidan Ausa community with one hundred and two (102) members of the.....

community in attendance. 22 members of the *HAPPY!* Club members were referred for HIV testing and tested negative. Also, the team met with the Nasarawa State AIDS Control Agency (NASACA), Local Government AIDS Control Agency (LACA). The meeting was a success as the Executive Director, NASACA Dr. Ruth Bello and the Director of Finance, NASACA Mr. Suleiman J.D. Awuh formally welcomed CFHI to the state.



**Cross section of Community HAPPY!
Club meeting at Obi, Nasarawa State.**



Continuation from cover page

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Dear Friends and Family,

You are welcome to yet another edition of our newsletter.

The month of March was such an amazing month as CFHI was privileged to host a parallel event at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-63) in New York, in collaboration with Children, Youths and Women Empowerment Initiative (CHIYOWO). Details of this meeting can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. During this meeting, we all agreed that the key to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, is to promote social protection. Kindly see details in the article on “Social Protection, key to attaining SDG 2030”. We appreciate the opportunity given us to work with you and connect you with our cause. Thank you for your support always.

At Rwanda, I was also given the opportunity to lend my voice to the voiceless in the fight towards quality healthcare for everyone, everywhere by 2030. Team work they say, is key to success. We hope that as we continue to work together, we will kick out any form of vulnerability from our communities. Anne Frank once said “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”. Universal Health Coverage is a better way of improving the world and the time is Now. The clock is ticking, no minute should be lost in ensuring this is achieved.

Enclosed in this publication are reports of activities and projects at the cause of the month. Do have a pleasant reading experience.

Best regards,

Princess Osita-Oleribe.

at CSW-63 were around social protection for vulnerable populations – women and girls especially. Social Protection tackles issues of poverty and inequalities (often proactively) through structural changes, social policies and politics (UN Research Institute for Social Development, 2010). Social protection systems provide vulnerable populations social assistance and insurance ([World Bank, 2018](#)) that enable them access basic life needs like healthcare, shelter, clothing, food, water, sanitation, education and even Internet. Social protection and justice is the reason poor and vulnerable populations can escape the cycle of poverty and deprivation. As Professor Gabrielle Casper of University of Notre Dame, Australia put it during one of the side events at CSW-63; “the opposite of poverty is not wealth, it is social justice”. Social justice and protection is the reason no one will be left behind come 2030.

By adopting the 2030 Agenda, the UN Member States have committed to leaving no one behind in their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Social protection is front and center of the efforts around the world towards the achievement of the SDGs that leaves no one behind. So as expected, several aspects of social protection were discussed in depth during CSW-63 such as Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Menstrual Health Management (MHM) as well as Clean Water and Sanitation.

UHC speaks to quality healthcare for everyone everywhere regardless of their gender, age and other socio-economic denominators. Women and girls suffer greater deprivation hence the push for gender focused UHC. UHC ensures right to health, which is a combination of access to healthcare and financial protection. The relationship between health and wealth is inseparable. Health is wealth yet for health to go round, wealth needs to go round. Financial protection for UHC will be achieved when the rich and healthy (individuals, groups, subsidize the poor and the sick. Prof. Philip Cotton captured this well when he said, “those with little in life deserve more in love”. All hands must be on deck if #UHC2030 will be realized. The actualization of UHC requires multi-sectoral action by governments, private sectors, civil societies and communities.

Menstrual Health Management (MHM) also came to the fore in CSW-63 highlighting that fact that though menstruation is not a choice women and girls have made, the cost of its management is borne by them. Marginalized women and girls, women/girls in conflict zones, women/girls living with disability, women/girls in incarceration, women/girls of the least socio-economic status are not spared from menstruation. While sex, which is a choice is furnished with “free” condoms and lubricants, the purchase of menstrual pads are even taxed. A woman is estimated to use over 12,000 sanitary pads/tampons/panty liners ([Ann Borowski, 2011](#)) for an average 450 menstrual cycles in her lifetime ([David F. Archer, 2006](#)). While the push for reusable and environmentally friendly menstrual kits are increasing, MHM has economic costs regardless. MHM is also bedeviled by lack of facilities (like water and toilets) as well as a poor knowledge, attitudes and practices. The management of this natural biological occurrence is the reason many have missed out of school, are exposed to hardship and health risks. MHM is a development issue, it touches on SDG 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 12) and needs to be advanced as such. A number of interventions have been set in motion as discussed in CSW-63 to ensure that no one is left behind like the [African Coalition for Menstrual Health Management](#), which seeks to

ACHIEVE REPORT

.....strengthen coordination among key MHM stakeholders to build on, and support the evidence-base to better transition research to action, support multi-sectorial policy making and scale-up of evidence-based and sustainable programs that address the MHM needs of people who menstruate throughout their life cycle in Africa.

The last day of CSW-63 was the World Water Day. Water covers 70% of the earth's surface and is integral to life on earth yet over 2 billion people still lack access to portable clean water in 2019 (World Water Development Report, 2019). This is because only 0.4% of this water is available for the 7 billion people on earth to use ([Save the Water, 2019](#)). Thus access remains a challenge, which women and girls are disproportionately affected by as they are often belabored with the task of fetching about 20kg of water over a distance of 2.5km daily ([Save the Water, 2019](#)) – costing them dignity, time and energy that could have been redirected to productive efforts. Clean water and sanitation impacts on health and wellbeing; on retention in schools (especially of girls); on economic, social and human development. Access to clean water and sanitation is a human right. It addresses many other public health challenges like open defecation, insecurity and even on life itself. No wonder the theme for World Water Day 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind' in line with the SDG 2030 agenda. Everyone, regardless of their demographics needs water to literally survive, water is life. There is need for more funding and interventions to be targeted at effectively distributing water the poor and marginalized. The return on investment in clean water and sanitation is estimated at US\$ 4.3 for each US\$1 invested ([WHO Economics](#)).

Social protection though a political choice is an economic necessity. There could hardly be any progress on this front without political will. But where does that leave the people with self-preserving politicians who have failed to uphold their promises, one may ask. The good news is that political will can be achieved when the will of the people drive the wheel of politicians. All hands must be on deck to provide social protection to the marginalized if #SDG2030 will be realized – communities, civil societies private sectors, and governments.

Source-CF Blog



Gender norms meeting at Angwa-Sayawa, Lugbe, Abuja.

Kiddies club at Jahi, Abuja.

MICRO-CREDIT SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM (MISCEP) PROJECT REPORT

The MISCEP project improves the lives of people in poor communities by empowering the vulnerable ones in the communities with social entrepreneurship skills, and especially microfinance to startup businesses for greater resources and for household economic strengthening.

Over thirteen beneficiaries are consistent in paying their monthly remittance, as it has been reported that they are succeeding in their individual businesses and the aim of the project is being achieved.

This month, CFHI OVC team on PEPFAR funded ACHIEVE OVC project of the IHVN successfully enrolled 21 new referrals into the program, enrolled a total number of 67, 48 Vulnerable Children (VC) and 19 Caregivers. While 16 out of 48 children are infected, the remaining 32 are affected. Two VC who were lost to follow up, returned to the hospital and were restarted on ART and two caregivers whose adolescent children are HIV positive, promised to disclose the status to the infected for adherence purposes.

The Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support group meeting held at Sauka kahuta, where participants were thought on how to make locally made therapeutic food for their infants and also the importance of breast feeding. The team conducted needs assessment for 41 adolescents across 5 communities: Jahi, Dape, Kabusa, Angwa-sayawa and Old Karimo, while preparing them for proper training in the month of April.

The team facilitated the kiddies club activities with 573 (M=286,F=287) participants across six communities (Jahi, Gishiri, Old Karimo, Gbagalape, Deide and Sauka-kahuta), reached 705 (M=355,F=350) adolescents across eight communities: (Gbagalape, Deide, Jahi, Gishiri, Sabo-lugbe, Old Karimo, Angwa-Sayawa and Kapwa) with Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) issues, soft skills on assertive and negotiation skills. 163 (M=13, F=150) caregivers across Jahi and Angwa-sayawa also participated in the gender norms meeting. During the gender norms meeting, participants were educated on issues around gender based violence, and child abuse in the communities, the implications and preventive measures. Next month, the team will be disbursing start up grants to 44 beneficiaries across 18 communities who were assessed for various businesses under the Household Economic Strengthening (HES) scheme.



A cross-section of participants at our parallel event at the CSW-63 Newyork



The Executive director Posing outside the UN building.



The partners in the parallel event, Chiyowo, CFHI and the moderator to the right.

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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