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CHILD ABUSE

According to Dr. Regina Benjamin, child sexual abuse is not simply an issue for one family or community. It is a public health issue that affects society as a whole.

One in 10 children will be the victim of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday according to different researchers. Despite this startling statistics, Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is still a silent epidemic that people are afraid to talk about. To prevent this, we have to break through the stigma and shame, and talk about how the sexual abuse of children happens. It's the only way we will be able to stop what is arguably the number one health crisis that children face today.....

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HAPPY! REPORT



HAPPY! CENTER - OBI TAILORING TRAINING

CFHI has through the PACF funded HAPPY! Project done extensive work on: breaking the silence around HIV/STI; addressing key barriers to accessing HIV/PMTCT prevention services; increase demand for HIV Testing & Counselling and male involvement in Ante-Natal Care.

This month, the community-based HAPPY! Club meetings held with a total of one thousand, three hundred and seventy (1,370) Adolescents and Young people (AYPs) in attendance, making a weekly average attendance of 342-AYPs, the School-based HAPPY! Club meetings also held with a total of three thousand, nine hundred and fifty four (3,954) Adolescents and Young people (AYPs) in attendance, with a weekly average attendance of 988-AYPs.

The team supervised COMETs HAPPY

club activities in Ishugu community, Foundation Model Secondary School, Obi, GSS Daddere, Revival Thunder International School Odobu, GSS Agwatashi, Assasul Islam Secondary School, Mustard Seed Academy Gwadenye, and Agada II community. The COMETs monthly review meeting was conducted with seventeen (17) COMETs in attendance.

During the safe pad training, the trainees learnt simple weaving techniques, set the threading in the weaving machine, and presented their work on six pieces blouse, A-shape dress, 8-pieces skirts, peplum top and gown.

Two video interviews with beneficiaries under the catering and baking empowerment programs were taken for video documentary.

DIABETES AWARENESS AND CARE [DAC] PROJECT REPORT

CFHI Diabetes Awareness and Care [DAC] project funded by Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF) is aimed at improving Diabetes health outcomes in selected communities in Imo state. Its objective is to raise awareness of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, its risk factors and prevention in targeted communities. This project's goal is to screen people for diabetes and also reach people with awareness messages.

In the month of June, CFHI team

carried out seven advocacy visits to community leaders, Principals and religious leaders in three intervention communities. The stakeholders visited include; Traditional Prime Minister of Ihitte Mbieri Community (Chief A.C Ihezue), Traditional ruler of Amurie-Omanze (HRH EZE C.O Nnajimere) community, the President General of Umunkwo (Sir Chris Mbawike), Principals of Bright International Schools Ihitte Mbieri and Sancta Theresa Secondary School Amurie - Omanze, as well as the Parish Priests of St John Catholic church Umunkwo and St Theresa Catholic Church Amurie-Omanze.

After the successful advocacy visits, sensitization and screening exercises were carried out in three LGAs namely; Mbaitolu (Amulu community), Isu (Amurie-Omanze community) and Isiala-Mbano (Umunkwo community). Students and teachers of Bright International secondary school Ihitte-Mbieri and Sancta Theresa Secondary School Amurie-Omanze in Mbaitolu and Isu LGAs respectively were sensitized on T2DM and over three hundred (300) students were reached while thirty-two (32) teachers were screened for T2DM.

Also, about three thousand, five hundred (About 3,500) persons were reached with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus



CHILD ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is any sexual act between an adult and a minor, or between two minors when one exerts power over the other. It also includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, and voyeurism. Child sexual abuse can occur anywhere. It happens in places like homes, neighborhoods, schools, and youth sports environments, but it also occurs online, whereas a child is communicated to in a sexual manner by phone or internet. Child sexual abuse basically takes many forms. CSA has been on the increase in Nigeria, especially in remote communities, where perpetrators end up riding on the ignorance of their victims, and in some cases threaten them into silence.

Recently, on 11th May 2019, one of CFHI's beneficiaries reached out to the Centre for Family Health Initiative (CFHI) to report a gruesome incidence. It was a case of child sexual abuse (rape) perpetrated against an 11 year old girl in one of the communities CFHI serves by her neighbor. This victim was sent on an errand to her abuser's apartment to return a torchlight. On getting there, she was overpowered and raped. It was also revealed during the interrogation that she had been abused several times by different perpetrators starting when she was only 7 years old.

It is important to note that adults are responsible for the safety of children and should be taking proactive steps to protect children from this significant risk. It is unrealistic to think that a young child can take responsibility for fending off sexual advances by an adult. Adults are the ones who need to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Yet, the statistics clearly show that adults are not shouldering this responsibility. It is believed that adults want to, they just don't know how. Which is why this article is important for you.

Sexual abuse can happen to children of any race, socioeconomic group, religion or culture. There is no foolproof way to protect children from sexual abuse, but there are steps you can take to reduce this risk. If something happens to your child, remember that the perpetrator is to blame, not you and especially not the child. Below you will find some precautions you can take to help protect the children in your life.

1. Be actively involved in your child's life by showing interest in their day-to-day lives, identifying the warning signs, getting to know the people in your child's life, choosing caregivers carefully, and talking to your child about sexual assault.
2. Children should be taught to talk about their bodies. From an early age, they should be familiar with their body parts. This enables them to come to you when something is wrong. They should be able to know that there are private body parts that are sacred to just them and no one else.
3. Teach your child about boundaries. Let your child know that no one has the right to touch them or make them feel uncomfortable. This includes hugs from grandparents or even tickling from mom or dad. It is important to let your child know that their body is their own. Just as importantly, remind your child that they do not have the right to touch someone else if that person does not want to be touched.
4. Encourage your child to speak up and create the time to always be available when they need someone to talk to. Never be too busy for your kids.
5. Many perpetrators use secret-keeping or threats as a way of keeping children quiet about abuse. Remind your child frequently that they will not get in trouble for talking to you, no matter what they need to say. When they do come to you, follow through on this promise and avoid punishing them for speaking up.
6. Give them the chance to raise new topics. Sometimes asking direct questions like, "Did you have fun?" and "Was it a good time?" won't give you the answers you need. Give your child a chance to bring up their own concerns or ideas by asking open-ended questions like "What more would you like us to talk about?" While the criminal and juvenile justice systems may be flawed, there are people within the scheme of things that can make meaningful differences for children and women by redirecting their path towards support, services and equity. CFHI, for instance is relentless in its effort to eradicate child sexual abuse and gender based violence by making sure that victims of child sexual abuse in the society are protected.

Dear Friend of the Family,

You are welcome to another interesting edition of our Monthly Newsletter.

In Nigeria, sexual abuse has become very common, with Children, women and intimate partners being frequently abused. This is heartrending because most of these victims hardly speak about it due to the stigma associated with it.

Speak Wednesday program that runs through 2019 was birthed by CFHI to create awareness and to end the menace of gender violence. This way, people who lost their voice may be given a voice to speak up. It is also worthy of note that to reduce the number of Gender Based Violence (GBV) victims, it is imperative that Nigerian communities stop treating violence as a morally acceptable practice. The article on the first page of this edition will provide you with more information on how we can play a part in ensuring we defeat sexual violence against our children.

With Day of the African Child (DAC) being celebrated this month, CFHI team sensitized over 178 children on their rights and 81 parents and caregivers sensitized on protecting the rights of children and child education at the Internally Displaced Camp (IDP) in Pegi, Kuje. Details of this, anti-substance abuse program of MTN Foundation and Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agents, ACHIEVE OVC, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Empowerment Project for Vulnerable Women and Youths (HAPPY!), Diabetes Awareness and Care (DAC), and Catalyzing Accountability for Maternal Death in Nigeria (CAMDIN) project reports are featured in this publication.

Enjoy your reading.

Kind regards,

Princess Osita-Oleribe

Executive Director, CFHI.

CFHI AND HER ROLE IN PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE.

CFHI seeks to improve the protection of victims of any form of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Nigeria through the provision of psychosocial support services, social media advocacy and ensuring justice is served in obvious cases by carrying out legal actions. A number of culprits are presently undergoing trial, and CFHI will not relent until justice is served.

Kiddies clubs, adolescents and youth clubs and Gender Norms meetings are platforms organized to explore the role of families and family policies in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 16 in terms of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and that includes educating the caregivers, children and adolescents on their roles in ensuring that CSA is avoided. Child sexual abuse happens often because a good number of children and their caregivers are negligent of how their actions and inactions contribute to this menace.

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD (DAC) DAY

The Day of the African Child (DAC) was instituted in 1991, by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the then OAU in memory of the 16th June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, South Africa. Over the years, CFHI has commemorated the Day of the African Child in collaboration with various schools, government institutions and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) based on the theme released by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights & Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) of the African Union. CFHI utilizes the day to promote the education and rights of the African Child. The theme for DAC 2019 event “Humanitarian Action in Africa: Children’s Rights First” seeks to affirm that the protection of children’s rights should be at the forefront of all humanitarian actions, and should accordingly, be prioritized during humanitarian crises. Bearing in mind the theme, CFHI sought to mark the event with Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Pegi, Kuje. The objective of the event was to; sensitize children on their rights and responsibilities especially in crisis situations and sensitize parents and other stakeholders on the rights and responsibilities of children.

Over 178 children were sensitized on their rights and 81 parents and caregivers sensitized on protecting the rights of children and child education.



(continuation from DAC report)..... awareness message while One thousand and twenty six (1,026) persons were screened for diabetes. About five hundred and seventy (570) IECs materials were distributed during sensitisation, sixty (60) persons who had abnormal values for blood sugar test and blood pressure, were counseled and referred to various HSDF supported facilities for further management.

ACHIEVE REPORT

This month, the ACHIEVE OVC team received eight (8) referrals from assigned facilities, provided medical emergency for two (2) children from Modern Health Hospital to enable them have their viral load test done after being away for a long time without treatment. The team strengthened referral coordination and participated in the monthly review meeting at Maitama District Hospital. Sixty seven (67) HIV positive children are on line list and a total of 2388 (M=1287, F=1101) adolescent between age 10-17 were reached with HIV prevention/SRH services.

Infant and young child feeding support group meeting was conducted at Sabo-lugbe. Thirty three (33) women of child-bearing age who participated were educated on the importance of breast feeding. They were taught on how to prepare “tom brown”, a local source therapeutic meal for children within 6 months and above and detailed education on balance diet.

Using the needs assessment form and vulnerability profile index, a total of 80 beneficiaries across assigned communities were assessed for household economic strengthening for the 2nd batch. Disbursement of fund is expected to take place before the end of July 2019 at Mabuchi chief palace. A total of 14 new out-of-school adolescents across six communities were enrolled into various skills this month, bringing the total of enrollees to 70 (M=18, F=52). The team also continued monitoring of both old and new enrollees. 7 Savings Internal Lending Community SILC groups were successfully facilitated across five communities; Saburi, Kagini, Jahi, Sabo-lugbe and Kabusa simultaneously.

Assessment of one hundred and sixty (160) students in Junior Secondary Schools and one hundred (100) in primary schools was completed. Meantime, assessment of the remaining one hundred and nine (109) primary school pupils and fifty six (56) junior secondary school students is currently on-going at identified schools. Letters of intent and permission were submitted to school authorities; UBEB and LEA respectively for school grants. Presently, 2870 previously enrolled children are regularly attending school.

For psychosocial Support Interventions, the team during the Gender Norms meetings, had a total of forty four (44) caregivers in Sauka-kahutain in attendance, 651 (M=319, F=332) adolescents across seven communities: Old Karimo, Sabo-lugbe, Mabuchi, Tudun-wada, Paipe, Angwa-sayawa and Sabura1 reached during adolescent club meetings, 510 (M=218, F=292) children across five (5) communities: Shereti, Kagini, Kabusa, Gbagalape and Dape in kiddies club, seventy two (72) adolescent girls and young women reached in Jahi.

Continuation from page 2 (ACHIEVE report)

These participants were sensitized on HIV/AIDS transmission and mode of transition, Value clarifications, hand sanitisation, among others. A total of ninety eight (98) households comprising of 122 beneficiaries were responsibly graduated from the program in the reporting period.

Other activities include Child protection meeting at Old Karimo, Abuja, where participants were thought the steps in preventing child abuse. Community Stakeholders were also in attendance.

CATALYZING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MATERNAL DEATH IN NIGERIA (CAMDIN) PROJECT (also known as Giving Birth in Nigeria) REPORT

To develop, test and implement innovative approaches that incorporate community voice in maternal death reporting and surveillance efforts, CFHI team had a meeting with the secretary (Dr. Wamakko) and Chairman (Dr. Bello) of Maternal death surveillance and response (MDSR) in Abuja for a formal introduction of the role of Centre for Family Health Initiative (CFHI) in implementing Giving Birth In Nigeria project in Abuja FCT.

At Kuje area council, the team met the ward focal person in person of Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim, Dr. Yama the HOD health and the supervisory counselor for health, Hon. Bouna Yunusa to introduce the project and got all necessary support for the successful implementation at the community level. The team visited AMAC area council, and as part of the advocacy visit, submitted letter of introduction on behalf of CFHI and Africare at the three selected LGAs and Wards. Though unable to see the LGA stakeholders, mobile contacts were collected and a phone conversation was carried to the counsellor of Orozo, Hon David, and the supervisory counsellor, Hon. Abdulwahab. A meeting was scheduled with both stakeholders for the first week of July.

The team attended a training organized by EpiAfric to bring CFHI team up to speed on how to use Magpi for data collection. A Magpi account was activated for the team and a Tecno P701 notepad was given to the team for data collection.

ANTI-SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

Drug abuse has been a problem among youth in our society as this problem has claimed the lives of young and promising youths in our society and also stolen the dreams of many. Beyond the drug abuser being affected directly, are the family members and also the society at large. This birthed MTN foundation in collaboration with NDLEA and other stakeholders, including CFHI, coming together to mark the 2019 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking with the theme "Justice for Health, Health for Justice" at the Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton and to create an awareness about the problem involving drug abuse among our youths in Nigeria.

Centre for Family Health Initiative (CFHI) team, Excellence and Friends Management Care Center (EFMC) and various stakeholders were in attendance, including the guest of honour, the wife of the vice President, Her Excellency, Mrs Oludolapo Osinbajo, the Chairman/Executive Officer, NDLEA col Muhammed Mustapha Abdallah (rtd) and the Chairman MTN foundation Prince Julius Adelusi-Adeluyi, OFR, mni, and other dignitaries.



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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