



**CENTRE FOR  
FAMILY HEALTH  
INITIATIVE  
(CFHI)**

...promoting health, protecting well-being

# Newsletter

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**SPECIAL EVENTS IN  
MARCH, 2022**

**PROJECTS**

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- Remodeling For Empowerment And Progress (REAP) Project
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- Safepad Production

**Our Appeal**

## THE FOUNDER'S DESK



***Dear friend of the family,***

Welcome to the April 2022 edition of CFHI newsletters.

World Malaria Day is celebrated annually on April 25 to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control, as instituted by World Health Organization (WHO) member states during the World Health Assembly of 2007. This is 15 years later and malaria is still one of the deadliest diseases responsible for high mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa, which includes Nigeria. In this publication of our newsletter, find out why eradicating malaria is a necessity. Also, join our media campaigns and community activities during the commemoration of World Malaria Day, World Immunization Week and World Health Day.

As it is always our culture to keep you abreast of our activities, find enclosed in the April 2022 newsletter our activities and projects report for the preceding month; Action to Control HIV Epidemic Through Evidence

(ACHIEVE) Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Global Action Towards HIV Epidemic Control in Sub-national units in Nigeria (4GATES) Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), The Remodeling for Empowerment and Progress (REAP) and SafePad™ production.

Do have a pleasant reading.

Kind regards,

**Princess Osita-Oleribe**

Co-Founder, CFHI.

## MALARIA - EVOLVING ISSUES



Malaria is a disease caused by plasmodium parasites that are transmitted through the bite of an infected female Anopheles mosquito. Aside Anopheles mosquitoes being responsible for the spread of malaria, different research show that malaria can also be transmitted from exposure to infected blood which arise from mother to unborn child, through blood transfusions, and by sharing needles used to inject drugs. For several decades, malaria remains a primary cause of childhood illness and death among children under five years, responsible for more than 260,000 deaths annually, according to WHO. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2020 also reported that an estimated 241, 000 000 cases of malaria occurred

worldwide and 627,000 people died in 2020, mostly children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Symptoms of Malaria include but not limited to fever, chills, headaches, vomiting, fatigue, body aches, and nausea, depending on age, general health, and the type of malaria parasite responsible. If not properly managed, malaria can lead to impaired function of the brain or spinal cord, seizures, loss of consciousness, or death in some cases. Hence, the need to intensify implementation of malaria-control strategies, which includes community-based activities for malaria prevention and treatment in endemic areas.

Malaria is preventable and can be treated. WHO recommends widespread use of the RTS,S/ASo1 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine in children from 5 months of age for the reduction of malaria disease and burden. The malaria vaccine known by the brand name Mosquirix, prevents against *P. falciparum*, the deadliest malaria parasite globally, and the most prevalent in Africa. In Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa's words, "this recommendation offers a glimmer of hope for the continent which shoulders the heaviest burden of the disease and we expect many more African children to be protected from malaria and grow into healthy adults."

Since the introduction of Mosquirix in 2019, only about 900,000 children have been vaccinated. More sensitization needs to be carried out by the government in partnership with civil society organizations in order to achieve a zero-malaria world. In commemoration of World Malaria Day, 2022, CFHI will be at Karimo community, Abuja on Monday, April 25, to sensitize the community stakeholders, nursing mothers, and expectant mothers to the importance of Malaria vaccine for their children and how everyone can participate in harnessing innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden in the community.

## CFHI DURING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY- MARCH 8, 2022

According to United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Gender equality is the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in the home, community, and society.

Every year, CFHI joins the United Nations to commemorate International Women's Day through media advocacy and community engagement programs. This is done with the aim to achieve a gender equal world. This year's International Women's Day was marked on March 8th and CFHI team in line with the theme "Break the Bias" and as part of the activities carried out, celebrated two women who have been able to carve a niche for themselves in male dominated careers. All through the month of March, CFHI on all her social media platforms also carried out a campaign on the need to break the gender bias for a sustainable future.

Gender equality is a matter of human rights and it is considered as an indicator and a precondition for sustainable people-centered development. To achieve peaceful, healthier, and safe societies, with full human potential and sustainable development, gender equality is essential.

## CFHI AT WORLD WATER DAY- MARCH 22, 2022.

World Water Day (WWD) is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of water and educate people to conserve it. A principal focus of WWD is to support the achievement of United Nations'

Sustainable Development Goal 6, which is to ensure safe water and sanitation for all by 2030. CFHI in line with the year's theme "Groundwater, making the invisible visible" carried out an event including stakeholders from 5 communities in Abuja, and an in-school activity at Junior Secondary School Gosa, Abuja, Nigeria.

All 74 participants were sensitized to the causes and effects of ground water pollution, and how polluted underground water can lead to devastating environmental changes. Participants were also encouraged to take action by promoting proper management of the sources of underground water pollution, ensuring that no hazardous waste is dumped in the landfill unless it is designed for that purpose.



A Cross Section of Participants During World Water Day Commemoration at JSS, Gosa, Abuja



CFHI Staff with Some Community Stakeholders at Gosa, Abuja

## PROJECTS

## **ACTION TO CONTROL HIV EPIDEMIC THROUGH EVIDENCE (ACHIEVE) ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC) REPORT**

CFHI ACHIEVE OVC team in the period under review, continued implementation of planned community and facility activities across assigned facilities and communities. A total of 1, 626 (M-613, F-1,013) beneficiaries were provided different services, 22 (M-14, F-8) enrolled into the OVC program, and 45 people were risk assessed. Other activities carried out include provision of health emergency funds, medical logistics support, coordination of in-school and community meetings/activities, and disbursement of Household Economic Strengthening (HES).

76 beneficiaries received HES disbursement, 80 (M36, F44) children reached during Kiddies club meetings across 4 communities, 80 (M41, F39) adolescents participated in the adolescent meetings across 4 communities, 30 (F30) participated in Gender Norms meeting at Gosa, Abuja, 20 (F20) caregivers in attendance for Better Parenting activity at Jiwa, Abuja, and 24 girls participated in the DREAMS club meeting at JSS Gosa, Abuja. Also, a total sum of N36,900 was contributed as savings funds by 4 savings and internal lending committees across Kagini, Tudunwada, Sabo-Lugbe and Gosa communities.



Adolescent club at Apo-Dutse, Abuja

## **THE REMODELING FOR EMPOWERMENT AND PROGRESS (REAP) PROJECT REPORT**

The goal of the REAP project is to improve the economic status of female sex workers (FSWs) in Owerri, through an empowerment scheme that involves enrolling FSWs to learn different vocational skills of their choice and providing them with start-up kits at the end of the 6 to 9 months period of training.

In March, the REAP team focused on the graduation ceremony of beneficiaries who had successfully completed the 6 months vocational training in different skills. In preparation for this event, the team commenced procurement of start-up kits for all beneficiaries, contacted the trainers for final assessment of their performance. This is done to ascertain eligibility for the start-up kit and readiness to make a living from the skills they learnt.

Furthermore, the team continued with the monthly monitoring and evaluation visits for FSWs that are still enrolled into the vocational skill program. During the visits, a monitoring and evaluation questionnaire was administered, and conversations were held between the trainers and trainees on the performance of the trainees as well as the impact of the training so far. The follow-up was achieved through visits to their training centers and interactive phone conversations.



Some of the Startup Kits Procured for Graduating FSWs

## GLOBAL ACTION TOWARDS HIV EPIDEMIC CONTROL IN SUB-NATIONAL UNITS IN NIGERIA (4GATES) ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVC)

4GATES OVC activities in March 2022 cut across routine service provisions by intensifying households' enrolment into the OVC program, Household Economic Strengthening (HES), Psycho-Socio Support, education, and Care and Support. A total of 3,978 Vulnerable Children and 1,626 caregivers were provided with different OVC services, 1,626 caregivers were reached for service provision, 115 beneficiaries were newly enrolled in OVC program, 69 beneficiaries were supported for drug pickup and viral load tests, 30 VCs benefitted from Exam fees support intervention, provided logistics support for 23 children living with HIV OTZ in Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Mbieri General Hospital and Imo State Specialist hospital. 20 copies of Form B1 were received within the month for birth certificate processing for children in need of birth certificates, retrieved 357 educational performance assessment forms from Case Managers, facilitated adolescents' and caregivers' fora in schools and communities with 177 participants.

Sequel to interventions, beneficiaries for Income Generating Activities (IGA) for the program year have begun to receive support for their businesses, while some households would benefit from cash transfer. Also, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between Umuodu Community Primary School Mbieri and City Secondary School, Owerri Municipal, both in Imo state with CFHI as witnessed by Caritas staff, community stakeholders and local government officials. The aim of the MOU is to provide school desks to students at

Umuodu community Primary School and at City Secondary School, the burglary proofs will be fixed. The decision was arrived at, after needs assessment in both schools were conducted . Examination support fees have been paid for 30 VCs who are sitting for Junior and Senior West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) examinations in the aforementioned schools.



Adolescent HIV Prevention Forum at City Secondary School, Owerri, Imo state



Signing of MOU at Umuodu Community Primary School Mbieri, Imo state

## SANITARY PAD (SAFEPAD™) PRODUCTION

SafePad™ is a unique and award-winning sanitary pad with a special antimicrobial treatment produced by Centre for Family Health Initiative (CFHI) in partnership with Real Relief, Denmark. The permanently bonded antimicrobial technology helps heal vaginal infections by removing yeast

and bacteria during use and care.

To partner with us to end period poverty in Nigeria and beyond, kindly contact [info@cfhinitiative.org](mailto:info@cfhinitiative.org) or [ed@cfhinitiative.org](mailto:ed@cfhinitiative.org) for more information.



## OUR APPEAL

### 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, individuals or groups concerned with improving community health, sustainable socio-economic empowerment and the development of family-centred policies should kindly do so through the channels below.

### For Donations and/or others:

#### Account Details:

**Name:** Centre for Family Health Initiative

**Number:** 5080117843

**Bank:** Fidelity Bank PLC

**Swift Code:** FIDTNGLA

#### Or Contact us:

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