



Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa

Enhancing Healthier and Safer Communities

Newsletter | February 2019

2018 NEW PROJECTS



- UNHCR awarded HIFASS a project on Protection and Assistance to Cameroonian Refugees(PACR) in Benue and Cross River States
- HIFASS was awarded a project by Society For Family Health as a Sub Recipient to Global Fund (GF) HIV New Funding Model (NFM) in 3 LGA within the FCT
- Contract renewal on 5 Henry Jackson funded Projects
- Ongoing USAID-funded Local Partners Health in Nigeria (HIFASS LOPIN 3) project in Cross River State

2018 COMPLETED PROJECTS



- UNHCR Partnered with HIFASS to support Cameroonian refugees in Benue and Cross River states: Implementation of the Protection and Assistance to the Cameroonian Refugees (PACR) Project
- HIFASS officially ends the Strategic Integration of Nigeria Military HIV/AIDS Response (SINMHAR) Project
- USAID-funded Local Partners Health in Nigeria (HIFASS LOPIN 3) project in Ebonyi State



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Editor's Note

Healthy Lifestyles Awareness

Happy New Year! The year 2018 will never be mentioned in retrospect without its successes recorded and that would be covered in this year's edition.

It's February, and for us in the public health sector, it is a time where we raise awareness on Cancer, Pregnancy, STIs/Condom, Environmental/Reproductive health and Healthy lifestyle.

World Cancer Day is marked 4th February of every year. In this year's edition, I will be commemorating the day by sharing tips on healthy lifestyle as a preventive measure for cancer.

Lately, the disease "breast cancer" caught my attention, because it has become alarming and worrisome to the nation and the world at large. Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cell growth with the potential to invade or spread to other parts of the body, divide uncontrollably and destroy body tissue. This disease can affect men, women and even children. Research shows there are several types of cancer namely: breast cancer, cervical cancer, prostate cancer, basal cell cancer, melanoma cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, leukaemia and lymphoma.

According to the figures released by the WHO on 2019 World Cancer Day, it is observed that many cancer cases are diagnosed rather too late with over 8.8 million cancer deaths recorded globally annually. Statistics reveals that, over 100,000 Nigerians are diagnosed with cancer annually, and about 80,000 die from the disease, averaging 240 Nigerians every day or 10 Nigerians every hour, dying from cancer. The Nigerian cancer death ratio of 4 in 5 is one of the worst in the whole world. Another data also shows that breast cancer kills as much as 40 Nigerians daily

[Source:

<http://venturesafrica.com/80000-nigerians-die-from-cancer-every-year/>]

Research shows that healthy lifestyle can have a great impact on the risk of being infected by breast cancer

[source:

<https://siteman.wustl.edu/prevention/take-proactive-control/8-ways-to-prevent-breast-cancer/>]. The following preventive measures if properly followed can help lower the risk factors to the disease;

1. Limit the intake of alcoholic drinks: Taking too much alcohol increases the risk of developing breast cancer.
2. Having known that the lungs can be badly affected by smoking so also are the breasts. Evidence suggests a link between smoking and breast cancer risk, particularly in premenopausal women. The warning on every Cigarette pack might be referring to this risk alongside.
3. Eat Healthy: Weight control is a direct effect of eating healthy. Avoid food with high cholesterol and carbohydrates, as much as possible eat plenty of vegetables, fruits and whole grains. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of breast cancer and is especially true if it occurs later in life, particularly after menopause.
4. Gym it out: The gym is your friend, make sure you make better use of it. Exercise often, i.e be physically active. Physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight, which helps prevent breast cancer. Healthy adults should aim for at least 150 minutes a week of moderate aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous aerobic activity weekly, plus

strength training at least twice a week.

5. Breastfeeding might play a role in breast cancer prevention. The longer you breastfeed as a nursing mother, the greater the protective effect.

6. Limit dose and duration of hormone therapy. Combination hormone therapy for more than three to five years increases the risk of breast cancer. If you're taking hormone therapy for menopausal symptoms, ask your doctor about other options. You might be able to manage your symptoms with non-hormonal therapies and medications. If you decide that the benefits of short-term hormone therapy outweigh the risks, use the lowest dose that works for you and continue to have your doctor monitor the length of time you're taking hormones.

7. Avoid exposure to radiation and environmental pollution. Medical-imaging methods, such as computerized tomography which use high doses of radiation. Exposure should be reduced by having such tests only when absolutely necessary.

8. Avoid birth control Pills, particularly after age 35. Birth control pills have both risks and benefits. The younger a woman is, the lower the risks are. While women are taking birth control pills, they have a slightly increased risk of breast cancer. This risk goes away quickly, though, after stopping the pill.

9. Lastly, screen your breast.

Despite some controversy, studies show that breast cancer screening with mammography saves lives. It doesn't help prevent cancer, but it can help detect cancer early when it's most treatable. For most women, regular mammograms can begin at age 40, but specific recommendations vary by age and risk. For those who can't afford mammograms, here is an alternative, you can run a personal screening of your breast by using your hands to feel and search for any abnormalities each morning while in the bathroom.

I hope these tips guide you in maintaining a healthy lifestyle!

Linda Obi
Communication Officer



1. WORLD TB DAY 2018: Experts raise concerns on tuberculosis

Minister of Health;
Prof. Isaac Adewole
speaking at the
event in Abuja



24th March of every year commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the germ that causes Tuberculosis. Nigeria is classified among the 14 countries with high burden for TB, MDR-TB & TB/HIV and contributes 8% to the global 4.1million missing TB cases after India (25%), Indonesia (16%). Nigeria ranks 8th among the high burden MDR TB countries. Every day, nearly 30,000 people fall ill with TB and 4500 people lose their lives to this preventable and curable disease. TB is also the major cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance and the leading killer of people with HIV. The social and economic impacts are devastating and include stigma and discrimination. Progress in most countries is stalling and is not fast enough to reach global targets or close persistent gaps in TB care and prevention as reported by WHO.

[Source:
https://www.who.int/tb/features_archive/world_TB_day_2018_campaign/en/].

Each year, HIFASS in partnership with government institutions, health workers and other stakeholders come together to evaluate the TB fight and advocate to governments at all levels on expected interventions that can help reach more people with awareness and treatment. The worldwide event aims at creating public awareness about the devastating health and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts made to prevent and treat the disease and beef up efforts to end the global epidemic. The theme of this years' World TB Day which is **"Find and Notify all TB cases"** and Slogan: **"Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free Nigeria"** focuses on the media playing a key role in creating awareness, as well as high-level commitments to end TB from Heads of State, Ministers, Governors,

parliamentarians, community leaders and religious leaders at all levels of the Federation.

In commemorating the World TB Day was a week-long planned activities by the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP). The event ranged from Press Briefings to roadshows and many more activities.

At the Ministerial press briefing at Sheraton hotel on 23rd March 2018, the Minister of Health; Prof. Isaac Adewole, said in response to the burden of TB, that the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) has developed a robust National Strategic plan (NSP) for TB (2015 - 2020) as well as a framework to support the declaration of 2017 as a year of accelerating TB case finding and treatment in Nigeria. The implementation of the NSP for TB (2015 - 2020) though not without it's limitations have showed noticeable improvements in TB control.

"The National electronic TB information management system (NETIMS) was recently developed to improve real time reporting and monitoring of TB cases. All states actors have been trained and reporting using this platform".

Also, the Minister added that "the current administration places health and TB as a priority and TB is a key element of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR) project.



HIFASS staff at the event in Sheraton hotel, Abuja

HIFASS Prevention Manager; Dr Patrick Matemilola commented on the event stating **"TB is an infectious disease which is seriously ravaging Nigeria. As we have heard, Nigeria is one of the high volume countries in the world. This is a scourge we all need to**

fight together. It is very encouraging that the Minister has committed very strong stand against TB and I believe as HIFASS we have played a very significant part. I encourage everyone to start identifying cases and bringing them up for proper treatment. Treatment is free".

In continuation of the week long activities HIFASS joined the NTBLCP on the 24th of March for a road show/walk in Abuja from Wuse market to Utako market to raise public awareness on Tuberculosis. It was the last of the week-long series of activities and participants came in different eye-

catching and branded T-shirts, distributing IEC materials to passers-by and by-standers, sensitizing them about the disease.



Cross section of participants during the Road Show/Walk

2. HIFASS AND WAI COMMEMORATES 2018 WORLD MALARIA DAY

Photo credit:
Linda Obi



HIFASS commemorates the World Malaria Day annually and the 2018 edition was organised in partnership with White Ace Initiative (WAI), a Non-Governmental Organization and supported by National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) and Codix Pharmaceuticals.

A community outreach was held at Dawko community of the Lokogoma area of Federal Capital Territory on 28th April, 2018 with theme "Ready To Beat Malaria". In line with the national theme, malaria Rapid Diagnostic test using Malaria SD Bioline was

performed on 219 individuals; 61 under 5 year old children and 151 pregnant and non-pregnant women. The positivity rate of the under 5 children was 1.5%, and the pregnant and non-pregnant women was 3.9% giving an average positivity rate of 3.1%. As a preventive measure to reduce the risk of malaria infection Long Lasting Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (LLINs) were distributed to children and their mothers and pregnant women. Anti-malaria drugs were also given to those who tested positive.



Distribution of Long Lasting Insecticide treated Nets during 2018 WMD in Abuja.



Photo credit:
Linda Obi

In an interview with HIFASS' Deputy Director Laboratory, Col Felix Adeoye (Rtd) stated that the focus of the outreach activity was on children between the ages of 6 months to 5 years and pregnant women who are prone to be affected when bitten by female Anopheles Mosquitoes, the vector for malaria. He also implored the Government to extend the distribution of long lasting insecticide treated mosquito nets to the rural communities and the community to keep a clean environment.

A beneficiary, Joy Doris Akuta stated, *"I really appreciate and thank God for bringing such an opportunity to this community because this is what other communities are longing to have but are not privileged. Women and children who are unable to pay medical bills die of malaria and I thank this organization for their free malaria test and drugs provided to us".*

3. DE-WORMING EXERCISE/ DISTRIBUTION OF TREATED MOSQUITO NETS

On 2nd and 3rd July 2018, HIFASS team on the PACR project embarked on a door-to-door campaign against malaria and distributed Insecticide Treated mosquito Nets (ITN) in communities 1 and 2 of the refugees' settlement in Anyake, with households

having expectant and nursing mothers given priority. A total of 60 ITNs were distributed to 45 households, with an average number of 3 children per household. The exercise was widely appreciated by the beneficiaries. The ITNs, donated by the Health Department of Kwande local government area, would also be distributed to the host community when more ITNs are made available as promised. On day 2, the team assisted by selected volunteers, conducted a de-worming exercise at the settlement, with children between 6 months and 11 years being the target population. A total of 231 children benefitted in the exercise.

60 [®] **45**
Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets (ITN) distributed Households (Ave. No. of 3 Children per Household)

231
Children De-wormed (6months - 11 Years Old)



4. World Toilet Day

Children practicing handwashing under running water



Facilitator teaching with pictorial presentation from a manual



Participants at the event



Globally, the World Toilet Day is marked on the 19th November, 2018. This year, HIFASS LOPIN 3 team marked the event with a sensitization on Washing, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) with children of Ikot Eneobong community in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area of Cross River state during a Kids' Club session, on the 14th November, 2018 in conjunction with Oten Ita Foundation. In attendance were children from enrolled households, caregivers and some adolescents. The awareness on WASH was raised through singing, dancing and practical exercises. The children were taught the importance of proper defecation and hand washing.

Washing, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

5. Welcoming the New-DG HIP

Outgoing DG HIP,
Brig-Gen
Nurudeen Hussain
handing over to
the new DG HIP,
Brig Gen Aen Okeji.

Photo credit:
SSDT Moses

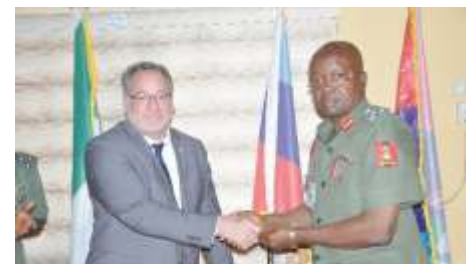


Nigerian Ministry of Defence Health Implementation Programme (NMOD-HIP) is a specialized Health Intervention Programme for the armed forces and is directly under the Ministry of Defence. The NMOD-HIP has 46 military sites through which it carries out its specialized health intervention program. The program also handles all infectious diseases of military significance (military medicine) and research. Over the years, HIFASS has been working closely with NMOD-HIP to implement and enhance PEPFAR-supported HIV prevention, care, and treatment in 26 clinical and research military sites with personnel

management services and other areas. These PEPFAR-supported services are available to members of the Armed Forces, their dependents and civilians in surrounding communities.

The NMOD-HIP came into existence in January 2015 but it was formerly known as Nigerian Ministry of Defence Emergency Programme Implementation Committee (NMOD-EPIC), which was established in 2005. On 7th January 2019 the programme welcomed its 5th DG *Brig. Gen. Aen Okeji*.

Brig. Gen. Okeji giving his acceptance speech stated that he has seen a lot of good works being done and will build on the existing achievement while improving on all needed to be improved upon. And according to HIFASS Managing Director, Barr. Tuedon Uweja who was present at the event, he noted that the new DG also known for being very hardworking and committed has a history of creating positive change and carrying team member along. That his leadership qualities have always been praised.



New DG HIP Brig Gen Aen Okeji with Country Director, Department of Defense Walter Reed Program -Nigeria, Mr Robbie Nelson during the handover in Abuja on 7th January, 2019.
Photo credit: SSDT Moses



Group Photograph of attendees during the handover ceremony in Abuja on 7th January, 2019
Photo credit: SSDT Moses

1. HIFASS CONDUCTS STAFF TRAINING ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PRIMAVERA P6 & MS PROJECT

Batch A in a group photograph with Ciel Senior Consultant, Henry Esedebe (in the middle)



As part of HIFASS planned capacity building and development for staff, 19 HQ staff participated in a training on Project Management, Primavera P6 and MS Project from 30th July – 10th August, 2018 in Abuja. The training was done in 2 batches with each batch lasting for 5 days. Anchored by Ciel Education, two of their Senior Consultants, Henry Esedebe and

Ignatius Chigozie Ukaefu facilitated the sessions. The training was a rich blend of power-point presentations; scenario-based discussions, real-life project analysis, questions and answers sessions and practical exercises. It was entirely educative and interactive for participants as they were made to understand that Project Management consist of 5 process

groups, 49 processes and 10 knowledge areas as these were the topics covered during the training.

"The training was impactful and I wish we get more structured trainings like this that would be tailored towards health related projects"- Gbenga Ogunjiri.

Ugochi Igidiogu, HIFASS Accountant stated that *"Going through this training at this time in the life of HIFASS is a very welcomed development and will really impact the success of current and future projects. She further encouraged that Capacity Building should form a part of all new project plan with prospective funders as it strengthens efficient delivery of project objectives"*.

At the end of the training participants were issued a certificate on PMBOK 6.

2. 4-Day workshop on SINM-HAR project closeout

Participants at the workshop



In preparation of the SINM-HAR project close out, a 4-day workshop was organised for the SINMHAR close-out team prior to the project close-out from 20th – 23rd August, 2018. The purpose was in view of the programme's imminent closure and the need to document the best practices and results in a comprehensive report as well as follow donor-compliant processes for program closeout.

The workshop was delivered in a power point presentation which deployed a robust multi-level discussion, interactions among participants and group exercise. It was all interactive as participants were given the opportunity to express their concerns on the SINMHAR project and operational matters. The facilitator took the participants through theoretical and practical sessions on how to write a standard project closeout report.

According to the MD, Tuedon Uweja "the essence of the workshop was part of the demands for the project closeout phase, however, HIFASS is expected to write a closeout report and submit in September, 2018" he said.

3. 2-DAY GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

HIFASS Staff,
Linda Obi and
some participants
during the Grant writing
workshop in Abuja.



Grant writing is an integral part of growth process for any organization to succeed. In view of writing winning proposals for HIFASS, the Communication Officer, Linda Obi attended a 2-day Grant writing

workshop organized by Writing Mantis International in Abuja on 3rd & 4th December 2018.

The training was attended by representatives from various CBOs

and NGOs across the country and was facilitated by three independent consultants, Dr. Femi Owoeye, Chinedu Chugbo and John Pilaku. Participants were taught the following;

- To discuss the essential elements of a project proposal
- To understand the components of a project proposal
- To understand proposal purpose and donor requirements
- To understand the logical framework in grant writing
- To identify common mistakes in project proposals.
- To develop fundable proposals
- To build professional networks

At the end of the workshop the communication officer was issued a certificate of participation.



Group photograph with facilitator

1. UNHCR Partners with HIFASS to support Cameroonian refugees in Benue and Cross River states

Implementation
of the Protection
and Assistance to the
Cameroonian Refugees
(PACR) Project



HIFASS Project Manager, Mr Adebola Adekogbe being presented with two 4x4 vehicles for the project at Ikom, Cross River state.

In April 2018, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) awarded HIFASS a grant of ₦41,413,336.00 to provide emergency assistance to refugees in Cross River and Benue states respectively. The purpose of the project was to improve the health status, improve equitable access to the supply of potable water, and improved sanitation and hygienic

practices of 5,000 Cameroonian refugees in Anyake settlement of Kwande LGA and 15,000 Cameroonian asylum seekers proposed settlements in Ikom, Ogoja and Obudu.

The response included distribution of food and non-food items, health assistance and shelter. The project

was executed within 6 months (April 1–September 30, 2018). Public Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services were provided to registered Cameroonian refugees in Benue and Cross River States and other new arrivals of Cameroonian refugees. During the 6-month project implementation, five thousand six hundred and one (5,601) refugees in both Benue and Cross River states accessed different levels of care on a need by need basis while four hundred and eight (468) pregnant women accessed ANC services.

HIFASS would like to recognize some implementing partners; Marie Stopes International Organization Nigeria (MSION), AIDS Healthcare Foundation, SightSavers, MSF, JIREHDO and Critical Case and Critical Research of Nigeria

2. HIFASS Local Partners Health in Nigeria (HIFASS LOPIN 3) PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 2018, the USAID-funded HIFASS LOPIN 3 project carried out several activities which included;

•EMPOWERMENT OF PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ADOLESCENT GIRLS

On 17th August 2018, two physically challenged adolescent girls were presented with wheel chairs by the HIFASS LOPIN 3 project to enable them move around with ease and participate in activities around them. Both girls were excited and their caregivers visibly overjoyed.



Empowerment at Idundun, Akpabuyo



Empowerment at Calabar South

•EBONYI STAKEHOLDERS/CLOSE- OUT MEETING

To mark the end of project implementation in Ebonyi state, a dissemination meeting was held on 12th September, 2018 for stakeholders in the state. Project statistics were shown to the stakeholders and feedback was received from them regarding the implementation.



The Ebonyi state team bowing out

•TRANSITION OF ENROLLED HOUSEHOLDS IN SUSTAINED AREAS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR THE CONTROL OF AIDS THROUGH THE STATE AGENCY FOR THE CONTROL OF AIDS



Director General, State Agency for the Control of AIDS signing MOUs

HIFASS LOPIN 3 is a five-year USAID-funded project which started off in 2014. In preparation for the final close-out in 2019; preliminary exit from certain communities took place in September 2018, but the most vulnerable households at the point of exit, which are now a minority of the total enrolled households, could not be left without follow up and continuous care.

To fill the void, these households in Cross River State were handed over to

HIFASS PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES

the State Agency for the Control of AIDS which in turn handed them to the Local Agencies for the control of AIDS. The aim is to ensure the state agency will oversee the activities of the local agencies in ensuring that the enrollees are not left vulnerable but continually receive care and have access to services for sustainability; thereby ensuring adherence to treatment in line with the 90:90:90 principle.



Director General, State Agency for the Control of AIDS handing over an MOU

•EMPOWERMENT EXERCISE FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN



The Permanent secretary MOWA, handing over start-up materials for tailoring to a beneficiary

On the 25th of September, 2018, 13 Adolescent Girls and Young Women were given materials for business start-ups after six months of intensive training also funded by the project. Those for hairdressing got generator sets, standing hair dryers, hand held dryers, ceramic rollers, 4 in one roller sets and hair wash basins while those for sewing got Sewing machines,

weaving machines, sewing kits and scissors.

Some of the girls who received their start-up materials last year were placed in project-rented cluster shops where they can showcase their work and get their businesses running. In attendance were the DG, State Agency for the Control of AIDS, Dr. Rose Nyambi; Permanent Secretary Ministry of Women Affairs, Ejom Freedom; and a representative from YESSO, Frances Edem.

They encouraged the beneficiaries to do well with what they have received and the beneficiaries also thanked the organization for the exercise.

•INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

On the 11th of October 2018, HIFASS LOPIN-3 joined the global community to mark the International Day of the Girl Child themed 'EmPower Girls: Before, During and After Conflict'.

Participants were drawn from the project's enrolled Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) as well as secondary schools in the state. Activities for the day included a Spelling Bee, training by specialized personnel on Child Protection, Gender Based Violence and other important areas, distribution of sanitary kits, books etcetera. It was an exciting experience for the young people who learnt a lot about their rights and how they can excel in life.



HIFASS LOPIN -3 Gender and HIV Prevention Advisor teaching giving tips on best practices for using re-usable sanitary pads.

•FISCAL YEAR 19 OVC MONITORING EVALUATION AND REPORTING (MER) INDICATOR/ NOMIS STEPDOWN TRAINING

From 24th – 26th October, 2018, HIFASS LOPIN 3 organized a step-down training for staff, Program Managers and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officers of sub-grantee organizations, Local Agency for the Control of AIDS (LACA) and Ministry of Women Affairs M&E Officers.]

The workshop which was facilitated by the Deputy Chief of Party, Dr. Al'Rashid Usman and the Director for Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr. Stalin Ewoigbokhan was used to update participants on the new pattern of MER indicator reporting for FY 19 and NOMIS Custom Indicator reporting as well as its new features. A total of about 40 participants were trained during the exercise.



Deputy Chief of Party, Dr. Al'Rashid Usman, making a presentation at the event



Group work at the event

•BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT FOR HIFASS LOPIN-3 ENROLLEES

On the 28th of October 2018, HIFASS LOPIN 3 in conjunction with Perpetua Ugbang Foundation, Positive Development Foundation and Back to School Group, organized a school integration program which involved orientation of enrolled households on education and its importance, payment of sessional school fees for vulnerable children, donation of school uniforms and educational materials including textbooks, notebooks and stationery to some enrolled Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area of Cross River State.



Community Mobilization/Public Private Partnership Advisor addressing participants at the event. He is flanked by the project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (right) and the Executive Director of Perpetua Ugbang Foundation (left)

•VITAMIN ANGELS TRAINING ON 'DELIVERY OF VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENTATION AND DEWORMING SERVICES'

USAID-funded HIFASS LOPIN 3 has enjoyed fruitful partnership with Vitamin Angels who have constantly made Vitamin A supplements, albendazole and supplements for women available to the project for administration to vulnerable households and donation to the state for use during the 'Maternal New-born and Child Health Week'. Considering the sensitivity of drug administration, HIFASS LOPIN 3 created an opportunity for staff, Civil Society Organizations, nutrition focal persons and other stakeholders to be trained in 'Delivery of Vitamin A Supplementation and Deworming Services' on the 6th of November, 2018. 72 participants received training, were tested for competence and certified at the Marian

Hotels Calabar. The exercise included practical assessment through role play.

According to Mr. Ellis Bena Etim *"it was educative and revealed a lot about administration of Vitamin A and Deworming tablets. It has also shone light on places of ignorance"*. This training fulfilled the goal of ensuring proper administration of vitamins and de-worming tablets in the state.



Facilitators and some participants after the training



Mr. Ellis Bena-Etim receiving his certificate

•STEPDOWN ON GENDER SEXUAL DIVERSITY (GSD), GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND CHILD PROTECTION



Gender and HIV Prevention Advisor making a presentation

From the 7th - 9th November 2018, USAID-funded HIFASS-LOPIN 3 organized a stepdown training to sensitize service providers on the concept of Gender Sexual Diversity (GSD) and its integration into communities, targeting young persons

and to share and learn strategies for integrating gender, and on preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the community level. It created an environment for dialogue with others working on gender integration and on GBV prevention and response, and to give update on child protection as it concerns the Cross River State child rights law, case management and referral.

For the curriculum, GSD and GBV training manuals which were distributed at the parent training organized by USAID were used in conjunction with the Cross River state Child rights document.

Methodologies used were presentations, role play, group discussion and plenary sessions. A total of 43 participants made up of HIFASS LOPIN 3 project staff, representatives of sub-granted CSOs, Child Protection Network, Ministry of Women Affairs and Heartland Alliance were present and the CSOs submitted their action plans to step down the training. It is expected that by 30th December 2018, the last organization would have stepped it down to their staff and volunteers.



A cross section of participants at the workshop



Role play

STEPDOWN TRAINING ON STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) FOR ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN REFERRALS IN NIGERIA



Nutrition and OVC Referral Advisor making a presentation at the event

A stepdown training on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Referrals in Nigeria was held on the 21st and 22nd November, 2018 at the NAKs Hotel, Calabar, organized by the USAID-funded HIFASS LOPIN 3 project. Facilitation was done in collaboration with Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS and Ministry of Women Affairs, to build capacities of participants in using the referral package developed by 4Children in conjunction with other organizations and to form a referral network so that children and their families can receive appropriate and timely services within the state.

It was a follow up to the training organized by USAID-funded 4 Children project earlier this year which was attended by the Nutrition and Referral Advisor, aimed at strengthening linkages and referral between community and community based OVC services, between community and social services and linkages with facilities or organizations, that is why stakeholders were brought in to ensure works well with state structures.

The referral network was formed at the state level and the representatives have been mandated to go to their own Local Government Areas (LGAs) and form networks which will help ease the referral process at the community level. The LGA groups are to meet monthly while the state group will meet quarterly, headed by the Ministry of

Women Affairs. Referral registers and logs from CSOs sub-granted for the HIFASS LOPIN 3 project will be submitted to the project office and forwarded to the Ministry of Women Affairs regularly.

Each participant received a referral package to guide their activities, it included the SOP, handouts and referral tools.

•ADMIN AND FINANCE QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING

From the 27th – 28th November 2018, HIFASS LOPIN 3 Admin and Finance team, comprising of project staff of the Admin and Finance unit and of sub-granted Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the state, met to review activities of the quarter which ended in September and plan ahead.

It was an opportunity to share the new USAID guidelines on liquidation with CSO staff to improve their work. Participants were also taught how to secure their data and prepare for the final project audit which will take place in the last quarter between January and March 2018.



Director, Admin and Finance speaking at the event



Participants at the event

3. HIFASS enters an agreement with HJFMRI Ltd, Gte to provide personnel management services in Nigeria to ensure continued service for HIV/AIDS care and treatment at 26 military clinical and research sites within 17 states in Nigeria

HIFASS signed a 1 year contract with HJF Medical Research International LTD, Gte for the sum of NGN 351,795,092.29. The period of performance is from 29 September 2018- 30 September 2019. However, the period of performance for this effort shall align with the prime award anticipated to cover 2018-2022.

The aim of the agreement is for HIFASS to provide personnel management services in Nigeria to ensure continued services for HIV/AIDS care and treatment. HIFASS will hire and manage staff with oversight from DOD WRP-N/HJFMRI Ltd Gte. HIFASS will also manage healthcare workers who facilitate research and strengthen service delivery across military clinical sites located within 17 states of Nigeria providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS service. These personnel would be spread across the 5 programs/project.

- **PEPFAR:** HIFASS provides personnel, manpower and technical assistance to MNOD-supported facilities in resource insecure geographical areas for 25 military hospitals across Nigeria.
- **Research RV-329:** AFRICOS- a 15 year study called the African Cohort Study, longitudinal study to access the impact of clinical practices, biological factors and socio-behavioural issues on HIV infection and disease progression in a African context in sites at DHQMC Abuja and 68NARH Yaba Lagos.
- **Research RV-466:** Severe Infectious Disease Surveillance and Detection in West Africa.
- **JWARG:** Severe Infectious Disease Surveillance and Detection in West Africa.
- **Research RV-515:** HIV and STI

incidence and Risk Behaviours among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Female Sex Workers (FSWs) in Nigeria.

Since entering the agreement HIFASS has engaged and is currently managing 87 personnel across the 5 program/project areas.

4. HIFASS SIGNS A NEW CONTRACT WITH SFH

On 3rd October 2018, HIFASS was sub-awarded a 9-month contract of **₦47,666,572.50** by Society for Family Health (SFH) on the Global Fund (GF) HIV New Funding Model (NFM) to implement comprehensive HIV intervention for KPs (FSW), according to the National Strategic Framework (2017- 2021) and approved National Minimum Intervention Package (MPPI) guideline and to Integrated HIV service delivery across the cascade of care in line with the UNAIDS 90:90:90 target amongst KPs; and intensify efforts to address stigma and intimidation in Community and health care settings, and social and legal barriers which inhibit achieving program targets in the Federal Capital Territory.

Under the terms of the contract, HIFASS as a Sub Recipient (SR) in a tripartite agreement with Society for Family Health and a local CBO Passion and Concern for Women Welfare and Empowerment Initiative (PACOWWEI) will help Global Fund continue to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in Nigeria.

The Managing Director- HIFASS, Tuedon Uweja said the new contract has given HIFASS the opportunity to fulfil one of her strategic objective and mission which is to engage in communities thereby promoting healthier communities. Also we are actively promoting public health in raising awareness about HIV infections and taking positive steps to curtail its spread in Nigeria. It has enriched our profile working with the Kps.

5. HIFASS Officially Ends the SINMHAR Project

30th September 2018 marked the final day of the Strategic Integration of Nigeria Military HIV/AIDS Response (SINM-HAR) project that lasted five years. Many lessons have been learned and many achievements have been made. The projects partners and all involved will now continue to spread knowledge about HIV Prevention and treatment; Family planning; HIV integration activities amongst others and hope to inspire others to take action!

The project SINM-HAR was a 3 year (2013 - 2016) structured comprehensive HIV/AIDS technical support program aimed at increasing access, improving quality and transitioning towards fully Nigerian owned sustainable services in the Nigeria Military. However, the Cooperative Agreement had further modifications which extended the project to 2018.

HIFASS supported key areas of HIV/AIDS services in the military under the SINMHAR project which were; Basic Health Care and Support (HBHC), Laboratory infrastructure (HLAB), Health System Strengthening (OHSS), ARV drugs (HTXD), Adult Treatment (HTXS), HIV Counselling and Testing (HVCT), and Strategic Information (HVSII). Services provided by HIFASS in the SINMHAR project pertained mainly in Human Resources Management and strengthening which was crosscutting among all programme areas listed above.

To ensure the quality of service delivery provided by HIFASS under the SINMHAR, HIFASS ensured the recruitment of an adequate number of staff required to run the project. However, in order to ensure sustainability of the services provided, a steering committee was set up in November 2017 and mandated to brainstorm approaches to sustainability and make recommendations. A list of 39 staff has

been submitted for absorption into Nigerian Ministry of Defence.

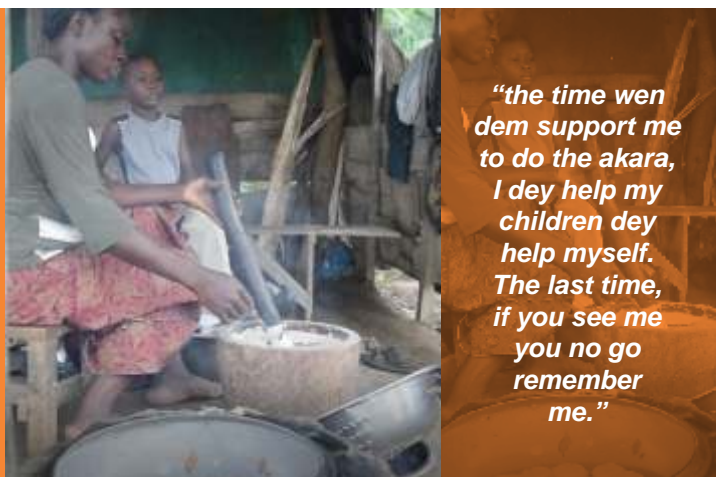
Key Project Achievements

- Training of over 300 staff on HIV comprehensive care;
- More than 28646 clients on ART treatment;
- Establishing well-equipped laboratories including two reference laboratories;
- A total of eight hundred and forty eight (848) HIV Exposed Infants and three hundred and sixty four (364) PMTCT were made into the HITSystem within the period under review which ended on the 30th September 2018;
- Key indicators buttress the claim that these efforts have been fruitful: 93% of the DBS PCR tests taken have results available in the HIT System, 93% out of mothers were informed of their child's results and 94% of infants who tested positive were initiated on ART;
- About half a million people have received quality treatment, counseling and testing through this program and 80% of them are civilians who live in communities surrounding the program facilities;
- Transitioning of 69 staff to Henry Jackson Foundation for the advancement of Military Medicine;
- Throughout the life of the project, advocacy visits were also carried out to Government of Nigeria (Nigerian Ministry of Defense) and military hospital Commanders to commit resources to ownership and support sustainability of the Military HIV program.

1. Vulnerability to Stability

Stella Ukah
frying Akara

Photo credit:
Omonefe Eruotor



"the time wen dem support me to do the akara, I dey help my children dey help myself. The last time, if you see me you no go remember me."

Stella Ukah is a widow saddled with the responsibility of caring for her 3 children. She tried farming but was still unable to meet basic needs, only one of her children was enrolled in school because of the required demands which she could not meet.

HIFASS LOPIN 3 project funded by PEPFAR through USAID enrolled Stella's household based on their level of vulnerability through Destiny Daughters Initiative of Nigeria, a Community Based Organization, and placed her in a Caregivers group where issues affecting vulnerable households are discussed. She received training in nutrition, education, and other areas;

but most importantly was in a group where people who were striving to get out of vulnerability, like her, met. There, she was encouraged to begin a business and started making and selling Akara, a local staple. She was selling regularly but did not have enough funds to buy in bulk. Her customers were dissatisfied because she could not meet the growing demand. Stella needed reassurance that everything could turn out right and that was exactly what she got from the Caregivers' Forum.

After they were trained in financial literacy, her Caregivers forum formed a Savings and Internal Lending

Community (SILC) group where they save money regularly and share at stipulated times. They also give out loans among themselves for important activities. She received a seed grant from the project with which she boosted her business enabling her produce more Akara balls, sufficient for her customers. She was also able to expand her business to include selling pap, bread, milk, chocolate beverages and other items along with the akara. Her customers now have options of accompaniments with their Akara.

She is glad to say she now travels all the way to Enugu state, a neighbouring state, to buy Beans and Corn for her trade in bulk. She also saves money with her SILC group and on her own. All her children are enrolled in school and she is happy with her current state, hoping to keep improving with time. She says in pidgin *"the time wen dem support me to do the akara, I dey help my children dey help myself. The last time, if you see me you no go remember me."* This means that with the support received, she could take care of herself and children, and her physical appearance has improved tremendously.

2. 'SANITATION HAS IMPROVED IN OUR CAMP'

The excavation of the toilet at the Ikom Transit Shelter for Cameroonian refugees in Ikom, Cross River, has improved sanitation conditions in the camp and prevented the spread of air-borne diseases and various infections.

Following the influx of refugees from across the Cameroonian border into Cross River and Benue states, due to violence in parts of Cameroon caring for the refugees became a challenge. HIFASS in partnership with UNHCR provided water, health care, sanitation for the Cameroonian refugees.

The refugees are scattered in five local government areas in Cross River and parts of Benue states. Sonia Besong is

one of the refugees at the Ikom Transit Shelter. She fled the violence in her country (Cameroon) for Nigeria on October 31, 2017 and arrangements were made for her and over 200 others to reside at the temporary shelter, after registration.

The pit and pour-flush toilet units for the camp filled and spewed its contents, leaving the occupants of the camp open to infections. Thanks to UNHCR/HIFASS, a WASH analysis was carried out and the waste was treated and rechannelled, making the toilet fit to use again.

For Miss Besong, the intervention could not have come at a better time. "Before that toilet was excavated and area treated, many of the women in camp had to be rushed to the hospital to be treated for various infections they got from using the toilet". There was a lot of fear in camp when it was discovered that the health issues they

were having resulted from using the unsafe toilets.

"Thanks to UNHCR/HIFASS, we all use the four toilet units and they are clean. We wash them every morning so that they can be safe for everyone and proper for use," she said.

As one of the leaders in camp, Besong is conscious of the need to keep other refugees educated about the hazards of poor sanitation. *"We explain to them the need for the constant washing and cleaning of the toilets and why we must keep germs far from us, so that the women and children, especially, can be safe,"* said Besong who sees beyond the current situation in her country and aspires to continue her education when it is all over.

Courtesy visit to Head Chief Dakwo Community, FCT in preparation for 2018 WMD activity.



Advocacy visit to FACA- Dr Okoro, PM- FACA (second right)



Advocacy visit to Bwari Area Council



Advocacy visit to Federal Ministry of Justice



HIFASS would appreciate your sincere help and contributions for Cameroonian refugees in Benue and Cross River states.

HOW?

- Refugees in camp need Food, household items and relief materials (mattress, blankets, mosquito nets, toiletries, sanitary wares, clothing and anti-malaria drugs)
- Support an infant at the refugee camp with food supplements for 3 days at #2,000
- Support refugees with a box of First Aid kits at #15,000
- Support a family of 4 at the refugee camp with food items at #30,000 for one month on the average
- You can also support refugees living

in a transit shelter to move to a convenient shelter by providing building materials or a finished house

- You can support unaccompanied & separated children with a stable home

Kindly send us your donation payable by cheque/Bank draft in favour of "HIFASS ACCOUNT 4"

Zenith Bank
Wuse zone 3, Abuja.
Account #: 1015598708

Online Donations: www.hifass-hfi.org/donations
Donation can be made in cash or kind.
For further details please see the address at the back cover.

Support a
Refugee





AD-HR, Ms Susan Oporum (middle) with other PARC project staff during Staff Orientation/Protection workshop at Joranny hotel and resort, Ikom-Cross River state on 26th -27th April, 2018.



Head Counsellor- 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital (NARH) Kaduna, Mrs Victoria Idi Ifeanyi presenting a gift to Counsellor-NARH, Mr Shola Samuel during NARH end of SINM-HAR project party at the site.



HIFASS' Assistant Director HR Ms. Susan A.Oporum from 14th-16th November, 2018 attended the 50th Annual National Conference for HR Practitioners at International Conference Center, Abuja.



Group Photograph of HIFASS LOPIN 3 staff during the Finance and Admin meeting held in Afikpo, Ebonyi state on 25th -29th March 2018.



Group Photograph with some staff from 161 NAFH Makurdi and HQ staff

Considering the end of the SINMHAR Project on the 30th September 2018, HIFASS Team visited some sites to brief affected staff of the closure.

The visit took place from 13th -24th July, 2018. Sites visited were DHQ MC/DRL Abuja, 44 NARH Kaduna, 161 NAFH Makurdi, 68 NARH Yaba, MH Ikoyi Lagos, 661 NAFH Ikeja and 82 DIV Enugu.



HIFASS visits Primary Health Care in Dutse, Abuja to conduct a baseline evaluation on 6th January, 2018.

Social Diary



Finance Assistant SINM-HAR, Mr Monday Peter was taken by surprise on his birthday, 8th May, 2018.



Monitoring & Evaluation Director HIFASS LOPIN 3, Mr Stalin Ewoigbokhan's Birthday, 5th March, 2018.



Administrative Director HQ, Augustina Akugbe's birthday, 23rd August. 2018



Gender and HIV Prevention Advisor HIFASS LOPIN 3, Mary Umoh's Birthday, 9th August, 2018



Head Counsellor-44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital (NARH) Kaduna, Mrs Victoria Idi Ifeanyi celebrating her birthday with staff in December 2018



Desk & Communication Officer, Mrs Omonefe O. Eruotor and Grants and Compliance Manager HIFASS LOPIN 3, Mr Augustine Onyema celebrated their on August, 2018.



M&E Officer/Data Entry Specialist-44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital (NARH) Kaduna, Mr. Emmanuel Isikaku celebrating his birthday with staff on August, 2018.



Director of Admin & Finance- Mr. James Adedayo Oladele marked his birthday with HIFASS HQ staff on 25th February, 2019



HIFASS@11 ANNIVERSARY

Prayer session at HIFASS HQ during HIFASS 11th anniversary celebration



2018 end of year party at HIFASS HQ



Group photograph of 68 NARHY CID-HIFASS staff after 2018 end of the year meeting

Weddings



HIFASS LOPIN 3 celebrated with the Director of Admin & Finance - James Adedayo Oladele as he walked his daughter, Victoria Omolola Adedayo down the aisle on 15th December, 2018.



Data Entry Specialist at 68 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital Yaba (NARHY) Lagos, Mr. Falaju Francis with his bride at their wedding in November 2018



HIFASS LOPIN 3 staff represented at Mr James Adedayo Oladele daughter's wedding.

Hifass Babies

• Mr and Mrs Lawanson with baby



• Blessing Danladi and family

M&E/Data Manager CTCRC 44 Nigeria Army Reference Hospital Kaduna, Blessing Danladi on 29th April was blessed with twin boys, Silan-Gubine and Sila- Elaskame Ibrahim Dorh.



HIFASS Secretary BOT, Mrs Omatsola Lawanson and family welcomed their son Jaiyeoluwa Lawanson on 25th August, 2018.



• Baby Asher Ekene Ossai

Finance Officer, HIFASS LOPIN 3 Mrs Edore Ossai and family welcomed son, Asher Ekene Ossai on 14th September, 2018

• Baby Oritsegbogwa Wisdom Yalaju



Logistician, SINMHAR project Mr Tosan Yalaju and family welcomed son, Oritsegbogwa Wisdom Yalaju on 4th November, 2018



Programme Administrative Specialist, 3 Div Hospital Rukuba Jos, Mrs Chizoba Lar welcomed her baby on 15th December, 2018



Data Entry Specialist at 68 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital Yaba (NARHY) Lagos, Mr. Falaju Francis and other project staff at his baby's naming ceremony in the month of January 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations To Dr Grace Essien



Dr Grace Essien

HIFASS congratulates Dr Grace Essien, as she is awarded a doctorate degree in Public Health.

Dr Grace Essien joined HIFASS in 2017 as the Nutrition and OVC Referral Advisor in the HIFASS LOPIN 3 project. Since her employment she has been selfless in her commitment to the course of Nutrition Education and Provision as well as OVC Referral Services.

Her services ranges from organizing food demonstration activities, linking positive households to treatment and following them up to ensure adherence etcetera.

We celebrate her today and wish her success in all her endeavours.

HIFASS Congratulates Mrs Omatsola Tawiah Lawanson



We wish to congratulate Omatsola Tawiah Lawanson as she takes up the role of Secretary of the Board of HIFASS.

Mrs Lawanson studied at Southampton Solent University where she graduated with a degree in Marketing with Media and Design. She also has a Masters in Communication and International Marketing from the University of Surrey.

Before taking up the above role, she has worked on the DFID-funded program, Growth and Employment in states 3 (GEMS3) as Business Registration Campaign Coordinator/Fundraiser, she has also worked as a Communication Manager for HIFASS overseeing the communications efforts of the organisation.

We wish her greater heights in her career.

Congratulations to Ms. Susan Oporum



HIFASS Congratulates Assistant Director-Human Resources, Susan Oporum, she was certified as an Associate member of Chattered Institute Management of Nigeria.

CALL TO GLORY



With sadness, we announce the passing of Data Entry Assistant at 68 Nigeria Army Reference Hospital Yaba, Mr Owolabi Moshood Olawale (25th November 1989- 21st November 2018) from Iwo LGA Osun State.

HIFASS mourns with Finance Officer, Edore Ossai on the death of her mother in-law who passed on 6th December, 2018, aged 58years. May her soul rest in peace.

HIFASS acknowledges the role and support of the following funders/partners:

- AIDS Healthcare Foundation
- Arty Care
- Back to School Africa
- Basic Rights Council Initiative
- Calabar Arch-Diocesan Action Committee on AIDS (CAACA)
- Child Protection Network
- Codix Pharmaceuticals
- Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CRSACA)
- Critical Case and Critical Research of Nigeria
- Cuso International
- Ebonyi State Agency for the Control of AIDS (EBSACA)
- Excellent Community Education
- Global Fund
- Heartland Alliance
- Initiative for Women's Health Development and Right Protection (WRAHI)
- Local Agency for the Control of AIDS (LACA)
- Marie Stopes International Organization Nigeria (MSION)
- Medical Women
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP)
- Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN)
- Nigeria Ministry of Defence Health Implementation Program (NMOD HIP)
- National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP)
- Oten Ita Foundation
- People to People Health Foundation in Nigeria (PPHFN)
- Perpetua Ugbang Foundation
- Red Cross
- State Agency for the Control of AIDS
- SightSavers
- Society for Family Health (SFH)
- Succour and Development Services Initiative (SUCCDEV)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Department of Defence Walter Reed Program-Nigeria (USDOD-WRP-N)
- Vitamin Angels
- Welfare Scheme (ECEWS)
- White Ace Initiatives (WAI)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO)

We would also like to thank the following individuals for their contributions in this edition:

- The Management and Board of Trustees HIFASS
- Entire staff working on all projects
- Omonefe O. Erutor, Desk and Communications Officer HIFASS LOPIN 3 Project
- Jubal Kanayo, Communication Assistant PACR project

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