

## SAVE THE DATE

Conducting Healthy Living for Disease Prevention/ Community Health Improvement Programme (18th Sept. 2013)

HIFASS in collaboration with Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) is organising a 3 Day Training workshop on Strengthening of Quality Assurance in Laboratory: Role of Medical Laboratory Technician/Assistants in Calabar (7th- 11th October 2013)

World AIDS Day 2013

## Lunching and Public Presentation of National HIV Vaccine Plan

The Launching and Public presentation of National HIV Vaccine Plan was held on the 25th of September 2012 in Abuja by the Federal Government of Nigeria, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) with technical support from Walter Reed Program Nigeria. The plan aims to ensure that Nigeria has quality and quantitative research to plan on how to combat HIV. Various stakeholders were present including HIFASS. Remarks and goodwill messages were given by stakeholders, the public presentation and launching of the National HIV Vaccine Plan was done by Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator Anyim Pius Anyim.



Senator Anyim Pius Anyim unveiling the National HIV Vaccine Plan

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## In Remembrance

*We regret to announce the death of two of our staff, we extend our deepest sympathy to their families.*



**Mr. Eneaji Justice**  
**Site Administrator**  
**21 BMC Maiduguri.**  
**(1972-2012)**

Mr Eneaji Justice until his death was the Site Administrator at BMC Maiduguri. He is survived by his wife and two children.



**Dr. Onyekwena Chukwudi**  
**ART Consultant 44**  
**NARH(CTRC).**  
**(1950-2013)**

Dr Nwabueze Chukwudi Onyekwena survived by Wife Mrs Harriett Uzoma Onyekwena and four children. Until his death he was a Consultant ART Physician with HIFASS seconded to 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital (CTRC) Kaduna.

HIFASS will miss you both dearly.....



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### Special points of interest:

- ↑ Presidents Message
- ↑ Our funders
- ↑ World Aids Day 2012
- ↑ World Health Day 2013
- ↑ World Malaria Day 2013
- ↑ An Interview with Mrs. Uju Nwakor

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# HIFASS

Health Initiative for Safety and Stability in Africa

*Enhancing population health in Africa by collaborating with partners to promote public health (focusing on primary health care), support military medicine and promote health diplomacy for peace, stability and development in Africa.*

## Welcome to HIFASS and its first Newsletter

HIFASS is a Non-Government Organization (NGO) registered in October 17, 2007 with Corporate Affairs Commission CAC/IT/NO 25453. HIFASS supports Public Health, Safety Intervention and HIV/AIDS related Services which includes community health services, health education, health manpower management, health systems strengthening, research & development, training and capacity building.

The Newsletter provides information about HIFASS activities.

In this first edition of the HIFASS Newsletter you'll find a brief history of the organization, summaries of programmes and activities to date and information about HIFASS partners.

**Passion & Partnership**



## Presidents Message



DR R.L. Oritsejafor  
President HIFASS

In the past six years, HIFASS has been engaged in the provision of public health services across the nation and in particular HIV/AIDS related services in collaboration with NMOD and USDOD.

We have contributed significantly with resource mobilization and management (human and material), strengthening of health systems especially areas of scaling up access, data collection and analysis, national social determinants, health indices

and the chance of attaining the millennium development goals as well as addressing the issue of inequality in the health sector.

The Board is delighted with the modest achievements of the organization as it provides strategic direction for future challenges in generating support through policy advocacy for the management of existing gaps towards quality control and sustainability of on going programmes, consciously building capacity for eventual

ownership in conformity with the vision of the collaboration, host country and direct investment into public health human resources. The policy includes the promotion of effective leadership at all levels, political commitment, formulation of strategy to improve national health indices and sources of sustainable funding as well as prudent, transparent and accountable management of resources from partners and investors who share our vision and passion. God Bless.

## Our Funders

### The United States Department of Defense Walter Reed Nigeria (WRPN)

The United States Government through the Walter Reed Programme Nigeria with resources provides by United States Navy from PEPFAR funding provide resources for human support to HIFASS for USDOD/NMOD HIV Programme as part of the comprehensive and treatment continuum.

### The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF)

This a global organization dedicated to advancing military medical research. HIFASS has a cost reimbursement contract with HJF to provide personnel management services in Nigeria to ensure services for HIV care and treatment.

### Working Together

Through these partnerships, HIFASS utilizes the extensive

military health infrastructure across the country and skilled health professionals to establish free and comprehensive HIV care and prevention services for the benefit of all Nigerians. In the past 6 years, HIFASS has been providing and managing 131 health care workers to strengthen services across 21 program sites. This invaluable partnership has the objective of strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention, counselling and testing/diagnosis, treatment, training and quality health care service delivery.

### National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA)

NACA has the mandate to co-ordinate the broad spectrum of the AIDS Response. NACA interfaces with all the stakeholders

involved in the fight against AIDS in Nigeria. In doing so HIFASS recently received funding from NACA to conduct a study on the models of ART decentralization and their level of effectiveness in Nigeria.

### Current Partnerships

- ◆ Henry Jackson Foundation (HJF)
- ◆ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nigeria Ministry of Defence (NMOD)
- ◆ Collaboration with Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN)
- ◆ A Teaming Agreement with Project HOPE
- ◆ MOU with U.S Public Health Service Foundation



DR R.L. Oritsejafor (President HIFASS), Maj Gen. to Umar (Chairman EPIC) and Robbie Nelson (US Dept. of Defence HIV Program Country Director) at United States Public Health Service Scientific and Training Symposium in USA 2012.



DR R.L. Oritsejafor (President HIFASS), Abul Hashem (Vice President, New Business Development Project Hope), Mr. Paul Ugboro (MD HIFASS) and HIFASS staff, during Projects Hope visit to HIFASS in 2011.

## Going the Xtra Mile to put a beautiful smile on faces

Mrs. Uju Nwakor popularly known as Madam Uju to many has worked with HIFASS for over 5 years. Also as one of the 1st Site Administrators she has not only made an impact on her site (DHQ MC Abuja), but the program and the community around her by showing so much passion and enthusiasm towards the cause. Madam Uju goes the extra mile to put smiles on faces. She gives not just her resources, but her time, emotions and above all her love even when she's not working. It all started 3 years ago when during her interactions with clients, she noticed that some widows who were HIV positive suffered neglect and abandonment. To her it wasn't enough to just empathize or sympathize with them, it was essential to have follow up action. She understood that it was double pain for them, dealing with the loss of a husband and being positive. Madam Uju saw the situation as an opportunity to reach out and help. She decided to be a mentor to the widows.

In April of 2012, Madam Uju started a meeting with the widows called "Hope and Smile for Widows Forum" held every last Saturday of the month at the Protestant Church Mogadishu Barracks. The meeting which started with 50 widows has now grown to about 150 attendants monthly. Madam Uju empowers them using 10% of her own salary. So far 10 women have been empowered. An example is Salome. She was given a cooler, a crate of soft drinks, a crate of malt drink, and a bag of sachet water to start a business. With just five thousand naira capital, Salome can now feed her four children!

Again just two months ago, Madam Uju sponsored Lucia for cataract eye surgery at the National hospital. Before then Lucia would have to be led to the support group meetings, but now she can see. Every month birthdays are celebrated for the widows, food items and clothing's are distributed as available. Madam Uju has greater plans for the future, she has gotten a land and hopes to raise funds to build a hostel for positive widows who need shelter.



Madam Uju presenting a cooler to one of the widows in her forum in 2013



Lucia in the middle after her eye surgery in May, 2013



One of the monthly birthday celebration sponsored and hosted by Madam Uju

"I want to see a situation where widows can smile after the loss of a partner."

You can do so too with as little as 2, 3, 5 thousand naira. Join me to put hope and smiles on faces."

Uju Charity Nwakor

Site Administrator, DHQ MC Abuja



## Weddings

- Tosan Yalaju (Chaffuer HIFASS Head Office)
- Mrs. Idawari Roslyn (Lab Assistant 45 NAFH Makurdi)
- Esther Silas (Janitor HIFASS Head Office)
- Adekogbe S. Adebola (M&E Specialist HIFASS Head Office)
- Bunmi Ojo (HR Assistant 68 NARH Yaba)



Mrs. Idawari Roslyn's wedding in Rivers State, April 2013.



Adekogbe Adebola's wedding in Lagos state, May 2013.



Tosan Yalaju's wedding in Kwara State, November 2012.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



## HIFASS WAS THERE

### Nigerian Navy Health Week 2013 held in Lagos State 15-17 April 2013

HIFASS was invited as a guest at this year's Nigerian Navy Health week. The theme was "A synergy of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Naval Transformation Agenda and Repositioning of Naval Health Services for Improved National Security". The NNHW which held for 3 days provided a platform for the review of naval health facilities, evaluation of standards of its medical services and the creation of awareness on topical health issues for the benefit of naval personnel. At the end of the three day event, a communique on ways to enhance the NNMS was presented to the chief of naval staff for further deliberations and actions. Participants were drawn from Nigerian Navy medical personnel, representatives from sister defence agencies and the medical academia.



Rear Admiral TGS Epelle (Director of Medical Services) and Omatsola Oritsejafor (Communication Officer, HIFASS)

### Luncheon in Honour of Dr Ezekiel Akintunde

The Luncheon in honour of Dr Ezekiel Akintunde was held at Chelsea Hotel, Abuja on 1 May 2013. Until his resignation he was an Associate Director, Lab Services, Department of Defense HIV Program (Nigeria). The Chairman EPIC (Major Gen T. O. Umar) and Country Director DOD WRP-N (Robbie Nelson) were in attendance. Delegates from HIFASS were also at the event. Prayers were said, acknowledgements and farewell speeches were given. To close the event the special guest (Dr Ezekiel Akintunde) gave a response thanking everyone who attended and mentioned he will always be available when needed.



HIFASS staff and other well-wishers with the special guest

### Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project flag-off ceremony

On May 16 2013, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project flag-off ceremony was held in Mogadishu Barracks Abuja. The Honorable Minister of State for Defence, Dr. Erelu Olusola Egbeja Obada chaired the occasion. Others present were the US Embassy Deputy Chief of Missions Mr. James McNulty, the president of HIFASS Dr. Roland Oritsejafor, senior government officials, wives of service chiefs, and the host of barrack community. Highlights of the event include the presentation of a Utility Bus by Skye bank Nigeria Plc to aid the OVC Project and cash donations from the Nigerian Air force Officers Wives Association (NAFOWA). The OVC project is an initiative under the NMOD/USDOD Program to cater for the needs and well-being of children orphaned as a result of HIV and AIDS. Achievements of the OVC Program include identification and enrolment of 51 OVC (female 22, male 29) who are all being supported to ensure access to benefits including payment of school fees, purchase of school materials, payment for external examinations (WAEC and NECO) for those in the relevant age group, nutritional support and foodstuff for households. HIFASS collaborates with EPIC to ensure linkages and referrals for age-specific health care, social welfare and legal protection.



HIFASS president, and other guests present

## HIFASS ACTIVITIES

### World Health Day

HIFASS in collaboration with Nigeria Ministry of Defence Medical Unit and Coscharis Medical group joined millions of people to celebrate the world health day by organizing an awareness campaign on High Blood Pressure Prevention and Treatment on Sunday April 7, 2013 at the Millennium Park, Abuja. The theme was "High Blood Pressure. The event started with exercises (Walk for life and Aerobics), followed by health talks on

- (i) The dangers of the disease
- (ii) Proper nutrition
- (iii) Prevention and management of hypertension
- (iv) Life style.

Blood pressure testing and counseling was also carried out. 50 clients were reached with health talk on high blood pressure causes and prevention; management of hypertension; nutrition and healthy living lifestyle. 47 clients voluntarily had their blood pressure checked with 24 clients had high blood pressure (BP) and one with low BP. A total of 25 clients diagnosed with both high and low BP were referred to Nigeria Ministry of Defence Clinic for follow up treatment.



Testing for Blood Pressure on World Health Day 2013, Abuja.

### Commissioning of the First Phase of Global Fund Operations Research

HIFASS was awarded a grant by NACA through Global Fund to conduct operations research titled "The Models of Decentralization of ART Services and their level of effectiveness in Nigeria". The commissioning of the first phase of Global Fund Operations Research was held at the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) Abuja on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013. HIFASS was one of the awardees at the ceremony. The implementation of the operations research took place in selected LGAs in Benue, Delta and Oyo States. It started with the entry level meeting with SACAs and training of research assistants. Presently, the operation research is at an advanced stage of implementation.



Mr Bola Adekogbe, Data Manager receiving the award for HIFASS

### HIFASS Participation at the 2013 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium

HIFASS participated in the 2013 COF/USPHS Scientific Conference with the theme "Public Health Prevention and Care: Bridging the Gap" from 21st - 23rd May. The symposium was attended by 500 participants made up of Commissioned Officers of USPHS corps including a delegation from Nigeria. The activities of the conference included opening and closing ceremonies, plenary sessions, panel discussions and technical track sessions in six areas:

- 1) Public Health Communities
- 2) Clinical and Community Preventive Services
- 3) Emergency preparedness and response
- 4) Elimination of Health disparities
- 5) Mental Health strategies to bridge Public Health gaps among different ethnic population.
- 6) Pharmacy and therapeutics.

HIFASS participation at the conference include Dr. Roland Oritsejafor, Paul Ugboro and Dr. Ademola Adetunji, while the Nigerian Ministry of Defence was represented by Maj. Gen. Tahir Umar and Commodore Okunola.

HIFASS has participated regularly at this conference since 2007 till date.





### A Visit to HIFASS by Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International, LTD/GTE

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2013, HJF paid a visit to HIFASS head office in Abuja to carry out a limited review on HIFASS. The following were reviewed: time sheets, salaries paid to employees, indirect cost rate support, invoices, reports and other documentation supporting services rendered under the pertinent subcontract. The review was conducted by Hygela Vibar and John Sunday.

### World Malaria Day Medical Outreach

HIFASS in collaboration with His Majesty Home of Refuge (HMHOR) and Nigeria Ministry of Defence (NMoD) held a one day prevention and awareness campaign on Malaria and HIV Prevention on Saturday April 27, 2013 at the Old Parade Ground, Area 10 Abuja. In achieving the global theme on World Malaria Day 2013 "Invest in the Future: Defeat Malaria." Health talks with emphasis on prevention and creating awareness on Malaria, HIV, Blood Pressure and STI's were given by several doctors, after which short health video clips were played informing guests on preventive measures on Malaria and HIV. There were tests for the following;

- Malaria
- Blood Pressure
- HIV
- Determining Blood group
- Eye Sight Checks

Drugs were administered to those who tested positive for Malaria referrals were given to a medical facility for those who tested positive to HIV. Condoms and IEC materials were distributed.



Testing for HIV, Malaria and Blood Group



Happy Beneficiaries displaying IEC Materials received from World Malaria day medical outreach 2013.

### Site Visits

Dr. Ademola Aderemi Adetunji (Director of Public Health) and Susan A. Oporum (Human Resource Manager) visited 19 sites from 13 September 2012 to 22 February 2013. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the new HIFASS Director of Public Health to EPIC service sites and service delivery structures, to assess how far HIFASS has provided support in the provision of HIV/AIDS care and services through different public health professionals deployed to the 21 NMoD/DoD program site, to also generate lessons learned from five years of service delivery as basis for future planning and interventions and to determine and expand the scope in which HIFASS can be of assistance to improve sustainability, address equipment maintenance and improve inputs required for efficient commodity logistics.



HIFASS team visiting Nigerian Navy Hospital Warri.



### Recruitments

In ensuring continuity of ongoing activities and successful system strengthening of the sites, HIFASS recently conducted interviews for eligible health professionals and filled critical manpower gaps for support of NMoD/DoD WRP-N planned research activities at 44 NARH Kaduna, DHQ MC Abuja and 68 NARH Yaba. Also HIFASS engaged seven staff for on-going clinical services at AFSH Kano, 21 BMC Maiduguri and 45 NAFH Makurdi. The filled positions are HIFASS Staff and are responsible for providing services on clinical management and HIV related research activities.



Board Members for interview at 44 NARH Kaduna

### Highlights From 2012

In June & July 2012, HIFASS collaborated and provided technical support to the Ministry of Defence in community outreach programs held in TRADOC, Minna and 177 Guard Brigade Keffi to create awareness on HIV, Malaria and Diabetics with counselling and testing for Malaria, HIV and Blood Sugar level.



Testing Participants for malaria and HIV in TRADOC Minna



Testing Participants for malaria and HIV in Keffi

Collaborating with Ministry of Defence, HIFASS Organized training on "HIV/AIDS Basics and Making Medical Injection Safe for Health Workers" from 28-29 August 2012 in Makurdi.



Presenting Award to successful participants at the Training on HIV/AIDS Basics and making injection safe for health workers

HIFASS joined the rest of the world to celebrate World AIDS Day 2012 with the general theme of "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths." The event took place at North Bank Makurdi LGA, Benue State. The activities ranged from health talks, HIV counselling and testing, distribution of prevention and promotional materials, (condoms, t-shirts and stickers). Also recreational activities were carried out, walks, dancing competitions and quizzes, winners were awarded. In attendance were Benue State Agency for the Control of Aids (BENSACA), The Local Action Committee against Aids (LACA), Walter Reed Program Nigeria (WRP-N), 45 Nigerian Air force base Makurdi and North Bank community members. 70 people were tested for HIV and three positives were referred for treatment.



Rally to create awareness on HIV prevention on World AIDS Day 2012 in Makurdi