



**Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa**

...enhancing population health in Africa

Newsletter | February 2017



## Inside This Edition

Editor's Note | pg1

Celebrating 9 Years of HIFASS | pg2

Launching of Book | pg3

HIFASS Was There | pg4

Professional Staff Development | pg6

Community Outreach Activities | pg8

Health Manpower Management | pg9

Health system strengthening | pg10

Advocacy visits | pg11

Empowerment | pg12

Stories from the Field:  
Site Visit to LOPIN-3 Project Sites | pg13

Promotions and Awards | pg14

Social Diary | pg15



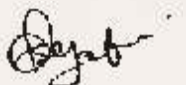


In Nigeria, an orphan is defined as a child (0-17) years who has lost one or both parents and a vulnerable child as one who by circumstances of birth or environment, experiences deprivation of basic needs, care and protection and thus is disadvantaged relative to his or her peers (FMWA&SD 2008) 17.5 million children were reported to be orphaned or vulnerable in 2008 by FMWA&SD, 9.5 million were orphans (UNICEF) and 2.4 million of these were HIV/AIDS orphans (FMOH) ranking Nigeria as the third highest in the world with orphans.

What will happen to us now?  
How will we live?

Unfortunately, those questions are the reality for more and more children in Nigeria as their parents die of AIDS. And sadly for some, they also have to face being HIV positive themselves. There's an old saying that "there are no orphans in Africa." With the tradition of the extended family, there was always someone to take in a child and care for her – an uncle, a cousin, even a neighbour. But the toll of AIDS is growing so heavy in Nigeria, that's no longer true. Families are losing more and more adults, so there are fewer left to care for the orphans left behind. The extended family structure is breaking down, and the children are the victims. Because AIDS predominantly kills younger adults, in most cases orphan children are left in the care of grandparents, if they have them. In some homesteads, a mother has seen four or five of her children die and she must care for all her grandchildren alone. Unfortunately, this older generation is at the point where their own children should be helping them. Most are too old to work – if jobs were available. Many are even too old to tend the family fields and grow food. The most unfortunate orphans are the children who don't have living relatives or relatives who are willing or able to take them in. They have to care for themselves with no adult help, making them the most vulnerable. It's a sad fact that there are people who take advantage of their hunger and poverty, promising food and other presents in return for work and sex. Your Save-A-Lunch-For-an OVC (SALFO) sponsorship can allow them to say "no" to this exploitation.

*Partner with us to support our USAID funded Local Orphans and Vulnerable Children Partners in Nigeria – Region 3 (LOPIN-3) project currently being implemented in Cross River and Ebonyi states. The goal of this project is to improve the livelihood of vulnerable children households in both states. The focus of our intervention is on livelihood building through small start off business grants and vocational & entrepreneurial education, financial literacy training, support to HIV infected and affected households to access treatment and provision of education and health services to households enrolled into the programme. This project was initiated in 2014 and since then one hundred and eight thousand (108,000) OVC in about thirty six (36) thousand households have been enrolled and provided services through the U. S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR) project.*



**Omatsola Oritsejafor**  
KM & Communications Manager

# EDITOR'S NOTE

**All Children Matter:  
Assistance for Orphans and  
Vulnerable Children (OVC)**

For more information on the Save-A-Lunch-For-an OVC (SALFO) please contact our Public-Private Partnership advisor: Peggie Inyang on 07064544777, [ipeggie@hifass-hif.org](mailto:ipeggie@hifass-hif.org)





CELEBRATING  
YEARS OF

**HIFASS**

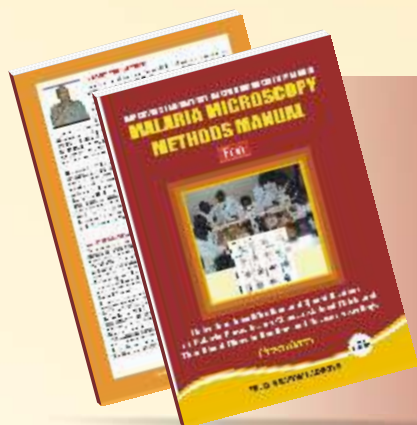
It is with great joy and gratitude to God, that we have crossed another milestone in the history of our organization. On the 17th of October, 2016, Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa (HIFASS) turned 9 years old. On behalf of the board and management of HIFASS, I extend our love and appreciation to each of you for being an earnest part of HIFASS. In this period of time, we have had our own share of difficult challenges. In recent past, an independent international assessment described **HIFASS as “Building a plane and flying it at the same time,”** admitting that far from crashing we have delivered beyond our mandate. Since that report, we have moved on to win both international and local bids, a small organization which began with 3 persons have now risen to stand tall amongst indigenous NGOs in Nigeria.

Today to the glory of God we make bold to declare that we are flying a well-tested plane with reliable leadership that commands respect globally. You all made it happen. You proved the critics wrong; you gave your best in the face of uncertainty and strong opposition. It is your enthusiasm, support and dedication that have brought us to this height. We are also grateful to our funders and partners who have confidence in us and trust that we meet their expectations through diligent services and prudent management of available resources. Our success story remains incomplete without the support of our funders and partners as they have helped us reach out to the world. They spread the word faster and in a better way than any of our promotional means could. Indeed it is part of our DNA to spread love and be part of something bigger than us. This is the culture that should define us as an organization in all circumstances. Therefore I invite you all, from different stages and levels of leadership to get on board to fly a new life transforming plane with a new start to our desired and preferable destination, where what we know does not count but what we do with what we know. Looking forward to a great 2017!

Thanks and God bless

Dr Roland Lere  
*Oritsejfor*

President, HIFASS



## LAUNCHING OF BOOK

Title:

**“Improving Laboratory-based Diagnosis of Malaria: Malaria Microscopy Method**

Written by Col. Felix A. Adeoye (rtd)



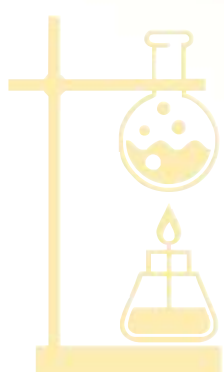
HIFASS has been supporting National Malaria Elimination Program through our laboratory advisor Col. Felix Abayomi Adeoye (rtd) in capacity building and preparations of malaria diagnostic documents. These include the standard operating procedures, External Quality Assessment of malaria microscopy, Training Manual for malaria microscopy, and How to perform malaria Rapid Diagnostic Testing (RTD) just to mention a few. As effort is geared towards total eradication of malaria by the year 2030, Col Adeoye (rtd) launched his book, “Improving laboratory-based diagnosis of malaria: Malaria microscopy manual,” in Abuja on the 29th of September, 2016.



The Author, **Col Adeoye (rtd)** at the ceremony

Malaria case management, which consists of prompt diagnosis and effective treatment, remains a vital component of malaria control and elimination strategies. The core principles in the 2015 WHO Guidelines for the treatment of malaria include: early diagnosis and prompt, effective treatment; rational use of antimalarial treatment to ensure that only confirmed malaria cases receive antimalarial; the use of combination therapy in preventing or delaying development of resistance; and appropriate weight-based dosing of antimalarial to ensure prolonged useful therapeutic life and an equal chance of being cured for all patients. “This book will contribute greatly to early and accurate diagnosis of malaria and prompt effective management, ensuring only confirmed cases receive anti-malarial as well as optimum surveillance.” Dr. Roland Oritsejafor, President, HIFASS

The book was reviewed by Professor Francis M. Useh of University of Calabar in a well-attended ceremony.





# HIFASS WAS THERE



## Cross River State Launches Action Plan on Violence against Children



MD HIFASS and HIFASS-LOPIN 3 project staff at the event

On the 16th of June, 2016, at the Conference Center, Tinapa, Cross River State government launched the campaign to End Violence against Children as a follow up to the national launch on the 15th of September, 2015. The plan, which was developed with the participation of relevant stakeholders such as the media, child

protection workers and educationists, has been designed to implement the end violence campaign.

The HIFASS team was led by Barr. Tuedon Uweja the MD, in order to support the good cause of the state and also to showcase the works of HIFASS. Speeches were given by various stakeholders in Cross River State. The representative of the Country Representative from UNICEF Rachael Harvey in her address commended the commitment of the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari to end violence against children through the launching of a national action plan, stressing that “while national level commitments are important, how these are translated into action at State, Local Government Area and community levels are critical.” The coordinator of Child Protection Network (CPN) Mrs. Lilian

Ekanem made a presentation on the state of VAC in Cross River State, painting clear pictures of the traumatic experiences some children have experience. She identified HIFASS-LOPIN3 project as one of the key organizations supporting CPN in the state.

Children from the state made presentations and at the end of the workshop, the Action Plan for Cross River State was presented to stakeholders.

### Stakeholders Meet to Validate Stigma Reduction Strategy

On 15 July, 2016, at the Gracious Hotel Garki 2, Abuja, The National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) organized a meeting with the purpose of reviewing the draft Strategic Plan for HIV Stigma Reduction. The meeting comprised various stakeholders which include: NGOS, health departments, Military and paramilitary agencies, legal and human right agencies, CBOs, state and local HIV/AIDS agencies, and people living with HIV, thus, ensuring effective collaboration in the development of the Strategic Plan for HIV Stigma Reduction which is expected to be a part of the National Strategic Plan.

The Assistant Director Treatment, Care and Support Programme Department NACA Dr Emmanuel Agogo gave an opening remark followed by a presentation on “Stigma Reduction Strategy.” The stakeholders expressed their different views and opinions concerning the plan under review which was adequately noted, corrections were also made where necessary furthering agreeing that “stigma reduction at the workplace” is included as an objective on the strategic plan. Rita Sunday program officer HIFASS stated that “engaging stakeholders in the development of every strategic plan increases the chances for the success of the plan/project.” A five-man committee was set up to meet on Friday 22nd July 2016 to collate the inputs and update the draft strategic plan. After the Strategic plan has been published it is expected to be adopted and used by

different stakeholders, developing specific interventions as related to their areas of specialization.

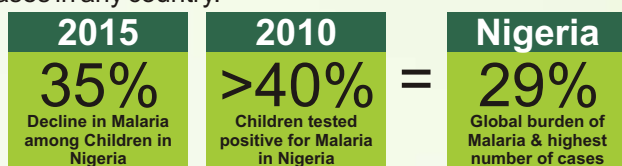
### HIFASS joins experts of the HIV response in Nigeria to discuss the latest development

The SI manager HIFASS, Mr Adebola Adekogbe joined healthcare workers, advocates, development partners and policymakers to provide access to the latest science and opportunities to question how that information impacts local epidemics. The scientific symposium, Building Consensus – Strategies for bridging the gap between HIV science and programme implementation, which was held on 27 October, 2016 was attended by more than 200 participants.

During the event, leading HIV researchers and thinkers presented their ideas on how to effectively incorporate new science and new approaches into national plans in the field of HIV and HCV treatment, new HIV prevention technologies, HIV co-infections and HIV cure providing knowledge and skills training for local, national, and regional HIV and public health experts in Nigeria. The meeting was organised by The International AIDS Society (IAS), the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) and the West African Infectious Disease Institute (WAIDI).

## HIFASS participates in the Launch of the 2015 Nigeria Malaria Indicator Survey (NMIS)

On Monday 7th November, 2016 at the Barcelona hotel Abuja, the Hon. Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole, launched the 2015 Nigeria Malaria Indicator Survey (NMIS). The survey indicated a 35percent decline in malaria among children in Nigeria compared to the indicator survey in 2010 when more than 40percent of children tested positive for the disease. The survey however, indicated that Nigeria accounts for 29percent of the global burden of malaria and has the highest number of cases in any country.



The minister stated that “Malaria still remains a major public health challenge in Nigeria but we are confident that the war against malaria is winnable. No health worker should treat malaria without diagnosis.” The representative from Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria stated that the survey is the most comprehensive data for malaria that has been produced for Nigeria, and we hope to use this survey in making plans for malaria intervention.

“The exercise was conducted from September-November, 2016 in 6 geopolitical zones of the country to know the prevalence of malaria amongst pregnant women and children under the age of five.” With Col. Felix Abayomi Adeoye (rtd) the Laboratory Advisor, HIFASS, being one of the Biomaker, Quality Assurance monitor responsible for training biomarkers on how to carry out malaria rapid diagnostic anaemia and malaria slide preparation.

The Survey was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (UKaid) through the support to National Malaria Program (SuNMaP) and was implemented by the National Malaria Elimination Programme(NMEP) Federal Ministry of Health, National Population Commission (NPopC) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)



Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole at the launch of the 2015 malaria survey in Abuja

## HIFASS participates in the 2016 National HIV prevention conference



Dr Usman Alrashid DCOP HIFASS-LOPIN 3 project and Bola Adekogbe SI manager, HIFASS

On 28-30 November, 2016, 3 HIFASS staff joined The National Agency for the Control of AIDS in its 2016 National HIV Prevention Conference with the theme, “Hands on for HIV Prevention”. Participants were drawn from all sectors, including government, business, community, civil society and the academia. The Conference 2016 brought together a range of experts to advance knowledge, present new research findings, as well as promote and enhance scientific and community collaboration. It was also a platform for discussions on development of new strategies for addressing HIV, especially in the area of HIV prevention. Keynote speakers were invited from within and outside the country for the meeting.



At the event, HIFASS' prevention manager, Dr. Pat Matemilola Co-chaired a session titled "The National HIV Prevention Landscape: Potential Impact of use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in Nigeria" together with Dr. Bola Oyeledun.



# PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT



## MLSCN

### Training of Trainers CPD Workshop

MLSCN Training of Trainers On the 18 - 21 July, 2016, Medical Laboratory Scientist Council in Nigeria conducted a 4 day training of trainers continuing professional development workshop in Vines Hotel Durumi FCT, Abuja. The workshop was aimed at training participants and according them formal recognition and certification as council's accredited Organizers and Facilitators of its CPD programs with the goal of improvising the standard of knowledge of participants in line with Council policy and guidelines.

Participants were drawn from private and public hospitals and NGO's. Mr Johnbosco Unamba a Program Officer in HIFASS also attended the training.

Workshop topics discussed include:

- Overview of past CPD programs accredited by council between 2011 and 2015
- Effective presentation skills
- How to develop standard CPD topics that will actually update knowledge of participants
- How to facilitate an interactive lecture
- How to prepare good slides for power point presentations
- Assessment of CPD application for award of credit units
- Proper way of filling CPD application forms
- Monitoring and Evaluation of CPD workshop for award of credit
- How to plan and organize a successful CPD workshop
- Data collation and application of CPD credits for licensure

At the end of the workshop certificates on Training and Certification of Organizers and facilitators of Council Accredited CPD workshop were presented to all participants.

*"MLSCN CPD workshop is critical to future successful on the job performance. It enables medical laboratory scientist, technicians, assistants to reach beyond their formal education to the maintenance and continuation of important and necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to deliver high quality services in laboratories."*

Johnbosco Unamba, Program Officer

## Fraud Awareness and Prevention Seminar for USAID Implementing Partners



HIFASS Team and The OIG, USAID

On 22 July 2016, a seminar was carried out at the HIFASS HQ office in Abuja by staff of the Office of the Inspector General for USAID. The purpose of the seminar was to educate HIFASS a USAID Implementing Partner on fraud indicators and awareness and also to provide information on understanding tools for the prevention and detection of fraud. The OIG, USAID, François Henry Dossous spoke on fraud awareness, compliance and reporting.

*"The seminar was very educative as it taught me to pay closer attention when dealing with vendors, as the organisation will be accountable for any mistakes or fraudulent act".* Remi Daji, IT Officer

## Business Development Workshop



HIFASS staff during the workshop

On the 31st of October 2016, at the HIFASS HQ office a business development workshop was held and key staff were represented from all departments. A total of about 20 persons attended the workshop. The facilitator Dr Femi Owoeye administered a pre-test questionnaire to the participants in order to analyze changes in knowledge at the end of the workshop when the same questionnaires will be administered (post-test). The workshop was in 3 sessions: Overview of business development, Sources of Funding and Types of and how to write a project proposal. It



was interactive and led to several discussions and action points. During the workshop lots of discussions and brainstorming happened and resulted in action points. Some of the salient points during the workshop include: Business development goes beyond organization's survival and is important for its continued relevance in the field of public health, Business development relies on knowledge management of an organization since performance on present projects will be used to obtain new ones, Proposal writing must start with decision to 'go or not to go' as it can be costly. This is based on the strength and potentials for success of the organization.

*"I am delighted as the result of the pre and post-test showed a range of score from 30% to 80% in pre versus 40% to 100% in post-test. Average score in pre was 51% versus 75% in post-test. This means an improvement of 24% which is encouraging given that so much information was passed in a short period."* Dr Femi Owoeye, Consultant.

Dr Femi Owoeye, Consultant.

### Refresher Training on HIV Testing and Counselling



HIFASS staff during the workshop

In preparation of the World AIDS Day 2016 to be held in Jahi Community on the 1st of December 2016, HIFASS' Laboratory Advisor Col Adeoye (rtd) facilitated training on HIV testing and the Program Officer, Rita Sunday facilitated the training on Counselling. The training took place on the 8th of November, 2016 in the conference room of the HIFASS HQ Office.

Areas covered include HIV/AIDS basics (prevention, transmission and treatment), how to conduct HIV test, safety precautions in testing, what is counselling, qualities, skills techniques and ethics in counselling and condom demonstration. The training was delivered through presentations, role-plays, questions and comments.

*"The essence of the in-house refresher training was to adequately prepare us for outreaches and specifically train testers and counsellors for the World AIDS Day 2016 event scheduled to take place on the 1st of December 2016 in Abuja."* Kehinde Sanyaolu, HR/Training Officer



Col Adeoye (rtd) giving training on HIV Testing



HIV Testing practicals





## Malaria day Commemoration in Nuwalege

April 25, 2016 marks World Malaria Day – a day to celebrate the gains made in the fight against malaria. Each year, this day highlights global efforts to control malaria and mobilizes action to combat the disease. To commemorate the World Malaria Day 2016 in Nigeria, HIFASS in collaboration with 108 Nigerian Air Force Hospital and with support from Society for Family Health celebrated the World Malaria Day with the theme

“End Malaria for Good” in Nuwalege Village, AMAC, FCT.

Activities included Health Talks with demonstrations, Malaria tests plus provision of available treatment, voluntary counselling, and distribution of mosquito nets. The event was able to reach 387 persons with health talk, 230 persons were tested for malaria infection and 120 LLITN's were distributed to households.



Testing on a school girl

## Guest appearance on radio program called lend a hand

On Sunday May 1st, 2016, workers day in Nigeria, HIFASS features as guest on a radio program called lend a

hand-The reach out show with Abide on 99.9 Kiss FM. The purpose of featuring on the radio program was to serve as a communication link with the general public, explain the objectives of HIFASS and place our programs and activities before the public to foster understanding and goodwill. It was also an opportunity to get others involved in our programs and to inform people of upcoming event.

In the first part, Mr Adebola Adekogbe, the Strategic Information Manager spoke extensively on our past projects, also on the talk show was Omatsola Oritsejafor, Communications Manager. In the second part, a beneficiary Abigail spoke about how she had benefitted from the organisation and our services.



Mr. Bola Adekogbe - SI Manager, Madam Abigail (Beneficiary), Ishola Abidemi - Kiss FM Radio Presenter, Omatsola Oritsejafor - KM & Communications Manager

## World AIDS day Commemoration in Jahi (Kado Kuchi) community



Testing during the event

The 1st of December is a day set aside globally to remember those who have died, show support for those living with HIV/AIDS, and create awareness on HIV prevention and for most civil societies, it serves as a way to recommitting to ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat. This year with theme “Hands Up for HIV Prevention,” HIFASS conducted a one day community outreach in the Jahi community (Kado Kuchi) AMAC, FCT

on the 1st of December 2016. Activities carried were Health Talks, HIV Testing, and Distribution of Condoms and IEC materials. Malaria testing was carried out on children and pregnant women. Mosquito nets were also distributed to families.

Also the HIFASS-LOPIN 3 project marked the World AIDS Day in conjunction with other implementing organizations like FHI 360, Mediatix, Lafarge, Pathfinder and Heartland Alliance to organize activities in line with the theme – Hands-up for HIV Prevention.

The event began in Calabar with a long walk which ended at the Calabar Municipal Local Government secretariat for a rally as well as HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) services. A goodwill message was given by the Chief of Party of HIFASS-LOPIN 3, Dr. Ademola Adetunji. He

commended Cross River state for having a robust civil service structure that his team can work with and emphasized the commitment of the project to the fight against HIV/AIDS in 3 ways – discovering and managing children with HIV AIDS; going to the communities where culture is to address gender norms and gender based violence; working closely with Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW). At the event, the Executive Governor Ben Ayade stated that abstinence and faithfulness are the best ways to ensure prevention, he advised participants to be faithful to their partners at all times instead of living freely and depending on condoms alone to protect them. After the rally, HIV Testing and Counselling Services continued at the venue so participants could know their HIV status and be referred immediately for management, if positive.



# HEALTH MANPOWER MANAGEMENT



## Our Competitive Edge through Strategic Recruiting



*HIFASS provides an environment for team building and a high quality of work life for all its employees through opportunities for a meaningful career, job satisfaction and professionalism.*

**HR Manager, Susan Oporum**

One of the great strengths of HIFASS is manpower management. For many years we have recruited people best suited to carry out specialised tasks, train them, develop their careers, ensure that they are appropriately motivated and compensated. HIFASS was primarily established as a continued effort of the Nigeria Ministry of Defense Health services for providing strategic manpower needs of the Military health facilities so as to meet the health needs of Military personnel, their families and the population around military formations, especially for the control of HIV epidemic and other related diseases. But over the years the organization has grown and extended its services beyond the Barracks; working in 19 states of the federation by supporting vulnerable population such as orphans and vulnerable children, caregivers in households, reaching pregnant women attending antenatal care facilities, and providing HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing Services. HIFASS has a policy to recruit top quality consultants and research personnel, providing comprehensive benefits package to attract top level management and supervisory staff and maintaining a data bank of all

prospective applicants in all professions relevant to military health.

### Staff strength since inception

2007 - 11

2008 - 48

2009 - 61

2010 - 95

2011 - 97

2012 - 157

2013 - 165

2014 - 193

2015 - 215

2016 - 232

For Over 9 years, HIFASS has supported PEPFAR HIV/AIDS program in Nigeria and furthermore played a critical role in the management of personnel services in multiple locations across Nigeria, managing about 232 health care workers to strengthen service delivery across 46 program/clinical sites of which 23 are major sites providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS services while the remaining 23 are satellites sites. This invaluable partnership has the objective of strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention, counseling and testing/diagnosis, treatment, training and quality health care service delivery in these centres. Primarily, HIFASS serves as recruitment/contracting agency/clearing house for providing qualified and competent human resource/trained health personnel to the various military health sites where their projects are located. In 2016 alone HIFASS engaged the following staff:

- Interviewer/Counsellor- 1
- M&E Officer/Data Managers-30
- Program Admin Specialist- 19
- Data Clerk- Molecular Diagnostic- 2
- Laboratory Program Specialist-

Molecular Diagnostic-2

- Other recruitments - 17 positions filled

Based on our successes over the years, HIFASS was engaged to recruit additional staffing to support PEPFAR research RV 368, RV 329 HIV prevention, 352 HIV, Malaria Treatment and AFRICOS Study, PEPFAR, Ebola and the President Malaria Initiative (PMI)

### 2016 Achievements

- Transitioning 49 staff from SINMHAR-HJF
- Recruitment- 17
- Volunteer Engagement and Management
- Total number of employee in 2016- 171
- 4191 Applications received and reviewed
- 234 Applications were processed
- 65 interviews conducted



Recruitment process at HIFASS HQ

# HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

HIFASS strives to make high quality health care available to military formations in Nigeria. Some of the greatest barriers to increasing access to essential health care are staffing, infrastructure, health commodities, logistics, monitoring and evaluation and effective financing.

## HIFASS organizes a 2 day workshop on Phlebotomy, Biosafety and Biosecurity

Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa (HIFASS) in collaboration with Defence Reference Laboratory (DRL) on 9th – 10th November 2016, provided a training workshop on “Phlebotomy, Biosafety and Biosecurity” for the laboratory workers and support staff and “Hospital Environment, Safety and Waste management for the Utility officers (cleaners, drivers, janitors etc.) at the Conference Room of Defence Reference Centre, Mogadishu cantonment Abuja.

A total no of 25 Laboratory workers and 9 Utility officers attended the workshop. The objectives of the training of the DRL Utility workers was to assist health workers in protecting themselves against occupational exposure to pathogens, reduce the rate of injuries and illness due to needles and exposure to blood and body fluids, strengthen knowledge of disposal systems for sharps and other infectious waste and to increase awareness about personal and hospital hygiene, infection control and good health for hospital staff.

*“The training was to support the DRL on preparedness of the Laboratory Management towards International Accreditation. Phlebotomy is a risky business. Phlebotomists draw blood from people -- sometimes uncooperative people. Being a phlebotomist can be hazardous if safety precautions are not taken because needle stick injuries are common and can transmit dangerous viruses and bacteria. Biosafety – preventing Laboratory Acquired infection - is the section of Environmental Safety that addresses working safely in the laboratory with microorganisms and DNA while Biosecurity is the set of measures employed to prevent the theft, misuse, or intentional release of materials or relevant critical information. Healthcare Waste Management is an integral part of hospital hygiene and infection control. Infection and infectious diseases in humans are caused when dangerous germs, known as*

*pathogens enter the body and multiply. Nosocomial infections (Hospital acquired) are Infections not present in the health worker or patient at the resumption of duty or patient's time of admission but developed during the course of duty or the patient's stay in the hospital.”*

Col. Felix Adeoye (rtd)

## Training on Understanding ISO 15189 - 2012 Standard, Use Of SLIPTA Checklist Version 2:2015 And Mentorship of 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital Kaduna Laboratory



Participants at the training

The NMoDHIP- USDoD WRP-N in its continual efforts to build the capacity of Laboratories organized 6-day training on understanding of ISO 15189: 2012 Standard, use of SLIPTA checklist version 2:2015 and mentorship of 44NARHK Laboratory Staff from 28 Nov to 02 Dec 2016. A total of 17 medical Laboratory Scientists/Support staff were in attendance. The training facilitated by Col Felix Adeoye (rtd) Laboratory Advisor, HIFASS, includes the detailed explanation of the ISO 15189:2012 in collaboration with the 2015 SLIPTA checklist version 2:2015. Furthermore, an in-depth training on biosafety was delivered to all laboratory personnel including technicians and utility officers. A mock assessment of the Laboratory was jointly conducted with the medical laboratory scientists. “The training is an initiative by Director General, MOD HIP, Brig Gen NAA Hussaini. This is the first of its kind in the NMoD USDoD Programme where a detailed training usually conducted centrally is site based. It allows participants to actualize the impact of the training on activities in their sites.” Col Felix

Adeoye (rtd)

## Training on Hospital environment, safety and Biocontainment

The Laboratory Advisor HIFASS, Col Adeoye conducted a 1 day training on Hospital environment, safety and management of Biomedical waste on 2nd December, 2017. The training was conducted for hospital health workers which included hospital utility officers (cleaners, attendants, ward maids) and all health workers involved in waste management. A total of 72 personnel of the 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital Kaduna participated in the Biosafety training

## Mentorship of Military Hospital Benin Laboratory

On the 10-12 January, 2017, Col Felix Adeoye (rtd), Laboratory advisor HIFASS carried out a mentorship program at the Military Hospital Benin (MHB). The Goal was to increase high level of performance and greater confidence in the reliability of results and to achieve, maintain and improve accuracy, timeliness and reliability of reported test results. In order to address these specific issues identified, lectures and hands on practice were delivered and conducted on Phlebotomy and patient safety, Laboratory environment safety, waste management and Post Exposure Prophylaxis, use and maintenance of Microlab 300 semi-automated Chemistry analyser, stock management and proper inventory control, Documentation and Records. Process improvement is a systematic and periodic approach to improving laboratory quality, and the inputs and outputs that glue these processes together. It is a way of solving problems and the core of quality management.

*“The laboratory has great potentials for quality process improvement when supervised, monitored and mentored.” Col Felix Adeoye (rtd), Laboratory advisor, HIFASS*



# ADVOCACY VISITS

HIFASS in its continuous effort to make positive impacts and contributions in the area of health and development sectors and in pursuit of ownership and sustainability of the HIV military program conducted the following advocacy visits to enlighten stakeholders of the program and to seek ways for greater collaborations in Nigeria: visits paid to the to Corps Commander Medical NAMC Lagos, Director of Medical Services, Nigerian Air Force, Advocacy visit to the Head of Medical Services, Nigerian Ministry of Defense, NACA, and USAID Health Finance Governance.



HIFASS staff with USAID health Finance Governance



HIFASS Staff with Prof. Eytayo Lambo



HIFASS staff with Dr Oluwatoyin Akinlada- Head Medical Services NMoD and Dr Philip Lenka



HIFASS staff with Air vice Marshall S Shinkafi DMS Nigerian Air Force

# EMPOWERMENT



## Household Economic Empowerment and OVC Graduation Training for First Tier Level Master Trainers

HIFASS-LOPIN 3 organized a training workshop at Focus Hotel, Afikpo, Ebonyi State from 22-26 February, 2016 in preparation for Household empowerment and graduation of OVC's with improved household vulnerability due to the various services offered. The training which was adult learning centered helped to develop a strategic road map with the following basic steps:

- Develop a strategic approach to graduating OVCs and Households (H/H)
- Review, refine and streamline enrolled OVCs and H/Hs according to vulnerability
- Develop a transition plan for enrolled OVCs in FY 16 in non-scale sites
- Develop a roadmap for LOPIN 3 Economic Empowerment for caregivers and older OVCs

Participants were drawn from both Cross River and Ebonyi States- HIFASS-LOPIN 3 technical staff, Program officers, Executive Directors and Finance officers from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) currently sub-granted by LOPIN 3. At the end of the training, an action plan was developed for the reassessment of households, empowerment processes and procedures for the most vulnerable and positive households were also concluded on.

## Peer Education Strategy For Adolescent Girls And Young Women



The Gender and HIV Prevention Advisor making a slide presentation at the venue

With the power of peer influence in our society, HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Project came up with a strategy to adopt peer education as a means of inspiring positive behavioural change among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) with respect to STIs, HIV/AIDS, gender norms and other issues. To this end, a Peer Educator Plus (PEP)

manual was adopted and a one day orientation on its usage was held on the 21st of September, 2016 at the HIFASS-LOPIN 3 conference room in Calabar, Cross River state. The participants were trained on the meaning of peer education, roles of peer educators, skills needed for good peer education, life building skills to help increase self-esteem and ways to use the PEP manual. In attendance were 25 participants - program officers, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and some community volunteers of Civil Society Organizations working in Calabar South and Calabar Municipality Local Government Areas.

## MTN Donates Desks to Model Primary School, Ohong



MTN REP, school boy, Sharon Simpa, Capacity and Organizational Development Advisor HIFASS-LOPIN3 project CR state

The school and community leaders in Uwhobikpam, Obudu received MTN foundation team on Wednesday March 16, 2016. The meeting was organized to officially hand over 100 set of desks and chairs for pupils of the primary school, 10 set of tables and chairs for the teachers. This was an intervention in line with the strategic objective of HIFASS-LOPIN 3 to provide Organizational Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisation (CSOs). With technical support from HIFASS LOPIN 3, Oten Ita foundation applied and was selected to benefit from MTN "What Can We Do Together Campaign" project.

The Regional Technical Manager, Theophilus Nnabugwu in company of Bassey Etim, the foundation state coordinator in Cross River, encouraged the Headmaster and his team to be committed to harnessing other available resources towards educational development. The Head Master, Mr Ishul Innocent Agorge and HIFASS LOPIN 3 Technical Point Person, Sharon Simpa thanked MTN team and expressed appreciations for the kind gesture and great support to the community. Representatives of Oten Ita foundation, the organization that won the proposal were present to witness the occasion.



# STORIES FROM THE FIELD

## Our Vulnerable Children: Stories of Hope



### CHUKWUDI TURNS A NEW LEAF

Story by - Ojiakor Gilbert, OVC Officer  
HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Project



Chukwudi receiving package

Chukwudi is a 15yr old orphan, the only grandson to his visually impaired grandmother, Da Vero; who had seven children that all passed on, including Chukwudi's mum who left the village for greener pasture, got pregnant and was abandoned by her baby's father till she died of an unknown but prolonged illness. They reside in Ugwulangwu, an agrarian community located in Ohaozara LGA of Ebonyi state, approximately 1 hour 30 minutes from the state capital, Abakaliki.

To further complicate her situation, Da Vero's husband abandoned her to remarry so he could make up for the children he lost. She was devastated, so at the tender age of 10, Chukwudi

had to fend for himself and his grandmother, picking palm fruits, cracking them and selling the seeds on market days. They would spend his earnings and go hungry till the next market day when he would return with some more money. At 15 he was over-aged in primary 5; his attendance was irregular as was noticed during periodic monitoring of those enrolled in the HIFASS-LOPIN 3 project funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The volunteers attached to him met with the class teacher and head mistress who further lamented over his absenteeism, torn uniforms, bare feet and lack of basic materials. At his home, his grandfather was quick to point out that Chukwudi enjoyed truancy.

*Chukwudi disliked school because he always went to bed without food and was ashamed to go out with his torn uniform which made his teachers flog him*

Proper assessment helped identify Chukwudi's needs and develop a plan to address his plight and that of his grandmother whose frustration was

*To survive chukwudi worked as an assistant to a mason, carrying blocks and supplying water for construction.*

Making her respond in anger to everyone around her. The volunteers in charge of their household from Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki Succour and Development Services Initiative (SUCCDEV), a Community Based Organization (CBO) sub-granted by HIFASS-LOPIN 3 for activities in their locality visited and counselled him. As a result of the intervention, Chukwudi is counselled regularly, his school authorities are in constant dialogue and some donations have been leveraged for him - sandals, uniforms, writing materials and a school bag. The household has been empowered with a seed grant to start up Palm Kernel trade and Da Vero is being monitored and linked to a Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) group where she will be taught to save and benefit from the gradual integration of parenting, will writing and succession planning, HIV prevention and gender norms and nutrition training in the group.

### Going the Extra Mile for a Child in Need

Daniel Urom Uro a 4year old double orphan from Ezi Aja Amuro Itim, in Afikpo North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State was very sick but left at home because his grandmother, Mrs. Susan Urom and other family members could not foot the hospital bills. Mrs. Urom a widow, can only get money through menial labour, all she could do for her grandson was hope for a miracle.

His miracle came when a Community OVC Improvement Team (COIT) member, Mr Augustine, visited his household. He went on a routine home visit but decided to exceed routine expectations by taking the case to the monthly team meeting. The COIT members, inaugurated for ownership and sustainability, took it upon themselves to take the boy to the nearest health facility where he was tested and diagnosed with malaria. Drugs were prescribed for him but unfortunately, none of them was available at the health facility, even paracetamol to help reduce his temperature. The only alternative was the patent medicine store where the drugs, all marked "not to be sold", were

purchased at exorbitant rates by the COIT members. [The COIT team was inaugurated in that locality by HIFASS – LOPIN 3 Project; funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through United States Agency for International Development. Today, Daniel is well and has resumed regular activities, his happy grandmother is being prepped by Destiny Daughters Initiative of Nigeria, the Community Based Organization (CBO) sub-granted by HIFASS-LOPIN 3 for direct liaison in their community, for training in finance and to be placed in a Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) group so she will never be stranded in any other case of family emergency.

# PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS



Health Initiatives for Safety and stability in Africa

## STAFF RECOGNITION Awards 2016

To recognize the extraordinary people of HIFASS, the Staff of HIFASS HQ offered a Staff Recognition Award. Winners were recognized at the end of year Christmas party and received certificate of appreciation signed by MD and President of HIFASS.

- **Key Contributor Award-**  
Adebola Adekogbe, SI Manager
- **Team Player Award-**  
Omatsola Oritsejafor,  
Knowledge Management &  
Communications Manager
- **Extra Mile Award-**  
Col Felix Adeoye, Laboratory  
Advisor
- **New Contributor Award-**  
Ugochi Igidiogu, Accountant

Congratulations again to each of our category winners of HIFASS' Employee Awards



2016 Awardees



Mr Adebola Adekogbe receiving his certificate

## Adebola Adekogbe attains new heights

HIFASS'SI Manager, Mr Bola Adekogbe was inducted as a Senior Professional Member of the Institute of Information Management in Africa on 19th November, 2016.

The Institute of Information Management (IIM) - Africa provide leadership to the information management/information security profession and act as a forum for the interchange of ideas.



# SOCIAL DIARY

**End of the Year  
Party 2016**



Fab ladies of HIFASS HQ



HIFASS staff during games session

•On December 16, the HIFASS End of the Year Party was organized in Abuja. HIFASS HQ staff and their invited guest were at the event. During the event there were speeches from staff, and games session towards the end of the evening. All in all, it was a crowded event!



HIFASS HQ Staff and guests

## HIFASS-LOPIN 3 welcomes new babies!!!

- Congrats Mr & Mrs. Kingsley Otueze- M&E officer HIFASS-LOPIN3 on the birth of your daughter Excellence ZimchikachimEze on the 9th of October, 2016
- EbereBabatunde- Finance officer HIFASS-LOPIN3 had a naming ceremony for her baby of the baby on the 9th of January 2017.



HIFASS HQ Staff and guests

Congrats to our HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Desk and Communications Officer Omonefe O. Eruotor on publishing a novella that addresses issues faced by young adults, gender discrimination and child vulnerability in middle class homes.



Omonefe O. Eruotor

## We warmly welcome all new staff of 2016

### •HIFASS HQ

1.	Ugochi Igidiogu	Accountant
2.	Peter Otu-Internal	Auditor
3.	Aisha Tijani	Janitor
4.	Peace Momoh-Office	Assistant
5.	Margret Awe	Youth Corp Member
6.	Oladele Aduroja	Youth Corp Member

### •DoD/NMOD SITES

7.	Falaju Francis Idowu	Data Specialist (68 NARH Yaba)
8.	Otubo Margaret Mary	Program Admin Specialist( 6 BN MRS Abak)
9.	Onyia Darlington Onyedika	Progran Admin Specialist (21 BMC Maiduguri)
10.	Haruna Dauda Yakuni	Program Admin Specialist (33 Artillery BMC Bauchi)
11.	Achugwo Chibuzo Emmanuel	Laboratory Program Specialist (68 NARH Yaba)
12.	Ugochukwu C. Nkechi	Laboratory Program Specialist (68 NARH Yaba)
13.	Inedu Cletus Audu	Data Specialist( DRL Abuja)
14.	Adoh Lynda	M& E Officer /DEM (DHQ MC,Abuja)
15.	Ali Abubakar	M&E Officer/DEM (44 NARH Kaduna – CTRC
16.	Olawale Moshood Abiola	Data Specialist (68 NARH Yaba)
17.	Omeh Chinyere Kelechi	Medical Officer II (45 NAFH Makurdi)
18.	Igiri Faith Ogadimma	Medical Lab Scientist (68 NARH Yaba)
19.	UdoezeChidi Abel	Medical Officer (DHQ MC, Abuja)

### •HIFASS-LOPIN-3

20.	Airenakhor Sunny Eseigbe	OVC Program Assistant
21.	Helen Obot Michael	OVC Program Assistant
22.	Blessing Hephzibah Etuk	M&E Assistant
23.	Femi Ayeni	Youth Corp Member
24.	Jane Ossai	Youth Corp Member
25.	Bukola Thompson	Youth Corp Member





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- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
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- People-To-People Health Foundation
- Calabar Arch-Diocesan Action Committee on AIDS (CAACA)
- Succour and Development Services Initiative (SUCCDEV)
- Cross River State Agency for the Control of AIDS (CRSACA)
- Ebonyi State Agency for Control of AIDS (EBSACA)
- National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP)

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

- All staff working on all projects executed by HIFASS
- Omonefe O. Eruotor, Desk and Communications Officer HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Project, Cross River State
- Dr Pat Matemilola, Prevention Manager, HIFASS
- Ojiakor Gilbert, OVC Advisor, OVC Advisor HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Project, Cross River State
- Peggie Inyang, Public-Private Partnership Advisor HIFASS-LOPIN 3
- Sharon Simpa, CRS Capacity & OD Advisor HIFASS-LOPIN 3
- Shunnum Musa, Community Mobilization Officer (NYSC HQ)

## CONTACT US



49, 34 Crescent, Third Avenue  
Gwarinpa, FCT  
Abuja Nigeria  
Tel: +234 (0)8137067345  
Email: [info@hifass-hfi.org](mailto:info@hifass-hfi.org)



LOCAL OVC PARTNERS  
INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA  
REGION 3

HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Project Cross River State  
Plot 206, 1st Avenue, MCC Road,  
Opposite 5-2-0 Hotel, State Housing  
Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.  
Tel: +234(0)803 788 0803

HIFASS-LOPIN 3 Project Ebonyi State  
Catholic Diocese of Abakaliki Secretariat  
Bishops' House, Mile 50,  
Abakaliki, Ebonyi State  
Tel: +234(0)8072993308

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