



Health Initiatives for Safety and Stability in Africa

Enhancing Healthier and Safer Communities

Newsletter | June 2021



**Passion & Partnership**

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## Editor's Note

Linda Obi

**L**ately I have been turning this pointer on “handwashing hygiene, and it has proven to be much more useful than ever.

There's one nugget of wisdom that gets dug up in my head each time I think about hygiene and it is far way beyond mere essays on the writing of healthy lifestyle. As a child who grew up in a Nigerian home, “Hand Hygiene” has always been a moral inculcated in most children by their parents, yet after much has been said and done, we still find ourselves not living the healthy lifestyle. I have read a good deal of personal hygiene books but I will streamline it to handwashing hygiene in this year's edition of the newsletter.

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic was an eye opener for everyone in taking conscious effort in their personal hygiene. Personal hygiene is how we care for our body, this practice includes bathing, washing your hands, brushing your teeth, and more. Every day, we come into contact with millions of outside germs and viruses, they can linger on our body and in some cases, and they may make you sick. Personal hygiene practices can help you and the people around you prevent illnesses. They can also help you feel good about your appearance.

Handwashing has never been more important as the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the critical role hand hygiene plays in disease transmission. Regular handwashing with soap can reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 infection by 36%.

The main goal of the Global Hand Hygiene Day awareness is to recognize that handwashing is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. Health

workers and community members alike can play a role in preventing infections by practicing regular and frequent handwashing. It is a call to action to policy-makers to provide safe work environments for nurses and improve staffing levels. Additionally, it calls on infection prevention and control leaders to empower nurses and midwives in providing clean care.

Evidently, UNICEF works around the world to ensure that children and families have access to appropriate handwashing facilities. Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, UNICEF Supply Division has delivered more than 954,000 toilet soap bars and 314,000 litres of hand sanitizers to help countries limit the transmission of the disease.

They also work to provide water handwashing facilities to improve hand hygiene, especially in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, and promote behavioral change interventions for optimal hand hygiene practices. It is important to note that most health care-associated infections are preventable through good hand hygiene, cleaning hands at the right times and in the right way.

Below are 5 steps provided by CDC to guide you on achieving an effective hand wash:

1. Rinse your hands under running water at a comfortable temperature. Warm water is not more effective than cold water at killing germs.
2. Apply the type of soap you like best. Soaps to try include liquid formulas, foams, and those with added moisturizers.
3. Work up a lather for half a minute or longer. Make sure to spread the lather on all parts of your hands and wrists, including under your fingernails and between your fingers.
4. Rinse and dry thoroughly.
5. If you're using a public bathroom, use a paper towel both to turn off the faucet and turn the door handle when exiting.



# 2020 World Cancer Day

**W**orld Cancer Day is an international day marked on February 4 to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. This year's World Cancer Day was led by Project PinkBlue organisation in partnership with HIFASS and various supporters across the Federal Capital Territory.

The walk against cancer was marked on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020 from Transcorp Hilton Hotel to Wuse 2, Abuja. The walk served as a time to call

on the government as led by Honourable Ossai Nicholas Ossai, Chairman House Committee on Treaties, Protocols and Agreement; Dr Okpikpi Okpikpi, Coordinator National Cancer Control Programme and Representative of the Honourable Minister of Health; and Dr Zainab Bagudu, wife of Kebbi State Governor for better funding of cancer care in Nigeria so as to help mitigate the struggle of those battling cancer in Nigeria.



Group photograph with Dr Zainab Bagudu, wife of Kebbi State Governor with some staff of HIFASS



# More pictures from the 2020 World Cancer Day







Cross section of participants undergoing breast cancer screening



# 2020

## World Tuberculosis Day

-It's Time to End TB

**W**orld TB Day 2020 is a continuation of joint efforts to keep TB high on the global and national agenda. Each day, nearly 4500 people lose their lives to TB and close to 30,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease. Global efforts to combat TB have saved an estimated 58 million lives since the year 2000 and reduced the TB mortality rate by 42%. However, the emergence of drug-resistant TB poses a major

health threat and could put at risk the gains made in efforts to End TB.

The theme for World TB Day 2020 “It's time” is an action call on government, affected communities, civil society organizations, health-care providers, and national/international partners to unite forces under the banner “Find, Treat, All, End TB” to ensure no one is left behind.



Dr Awe Ayodele, NPO WHO with top NTBLCP officials at the Wuse market storm



It also puts the accent on the urgency to act on the commitments made by global leaders to scale up access to prevention and treatment; build accountability; ensure sufficient and sustainable financing including for research; promote an end to stigma and discrimination, and promote an equitable, rights-based and people-centered TB response.

24th March remains a day set aside to raise

public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. HIFASS in collaboration with the federal government and development partners to commemorated World Tuberculosis (TB) Day with a week-long planned series of activities which kicked-off on 17th with a Pre-press briefing and end on 24th March with Ministerial press briefing



Dr Boyiga Bodinga of IOM sensitizing the barrow pushers during the Wuse market storm.



HIFASS Communication Officer, Linda Obi with Stephanie Gande of KNCV at the Wuse market storm.

As part of the activities lined up for the world TB day 2020 celebration, TB Wellness on Wheels (WOW) truck, a mobile truck equipped with digital X-ray and GeneXpert serving as a one-stop shop was made available for TB screening and diagnosis screening in Wuse market and Karu PHC, Abuja. The testing was made free and people who tested positive to TB were linked to

the nearest TB treatment facility.

At the Ministerial press briefing on 24<sup>th</sup> March, the National Coordinator of the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), Dr. Adebola Lawanson, explained that the essence of the event is to bring into the consciousness of the public the havoc being wrecked by the disease called Tuberculosis.



**“In addition, we have included TB services in the PHC minimum health care package to ensure the achievement of the universal access to care”**

According to her, “TB is a major public health problem in Nigeria. According to the 2019 Global TB report, Nigeria is ranked 1st in Africa and 6th globally amongst the 30 high TB burden countries and also among the 14 countries in the world with the triple high burden of TB, HIV associated TB and Drug resistant TB (DR-TB). Also, every hour 18 Nigerians die of TB, which is a disease that is preventable and curable. There is therefore, the need to scale up the level of awareness of TB among Nigerians, as only about 30 percent of Nigerians are aware of TB control and preventive methods.”

“The theme was carefully chosen and all efforts are directed towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ending TB by 2030. WHO, in line with the SDGs, set a target of the 2030 to end the TB epidemic. In order to accelerate towards this goal, there have been a lot of controlled efforts that have been put in place. We have just 10 years towards the end of 2030, so a lot still needs to be done. And the slogan for this year is “check that cough, time no dey”.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire who was represented by the Director Public Health Doctor Ene Obong in his address, said that Nigeria is among the few countries to commence

the use of child-friendly medicines for drug resistant DR-TB after development.

According to him, “In line with the END TB strategy, the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) with the support of partners has made some strides in the fight against TB in Nigeria. We have adopted new rapid diagnostic tools as well as child-friendly medicines for drug susceptible and drug resistant TB (DR-TB). It is noteworthy that Nigeria is among the few countries in the world that immediately commenced use of child-friendly medicines for DR-TB after development”.

“With regards to access, we have been able to expand diagnostic and treatment services for TB across the country by increasing the number TB microscopic centres and Gene Xpert machines from 32 in 2012 to 399 in 2020, as well as expansion of TB services to 12,254 health facilities (DOTS centers) in both private and public facilities in the country for Drug Susceptible TB.

“In addition, we have included TB services in the PHC minimum health care package to ensure the achievement of the universal access to care” he said.



# World AIDS Day 2020

1<sup>st</sup> December is a day set aside to mark the World AIDS Day worldwide. In commemoration of the annual World AIDS Day event themed “United to End AIDS in the Midst of COVID-19”, HIFASS in partnership with NACA and other stakeholders commemorated the day at various locations of the FCT to create awareness in epidemic to the general public. The 4-Day event were held in various segments

and locations within the FCT from 26<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The week-long event featured an advocacy visit paid to Emir of Abaji and a Flag-Off of HIV Testing Services (HTS) at Emirs palace; Adolescent and Young People Program held at Sheraton hotel; Strategic Document Launch/Annual Lecture at Transcorp hotel; and HIV Testing Services (HTS) at National Assembly, Abuja.



Group photograph with partners and attendees at the AYP symposium.

In attendance were dignitaries from the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), National Assembly, other government parastatals, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), schools, health facilities, National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) and the general public.

“It is time for every citizen to do one thing which is to help us control the virus if you have it. The gateway to HIV is helping to fight stigmatization and discrimination” DG NACA, Gambo Aliyu.



Some staff of HIFAS with NACA and National Assembly staff at National Assembly complex.



HIV testing conducted by HIFASS counsellor testers at the National Assembly Complex.



## PHOTO SPEAKS

**H**IFASS attended the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nigeria Ministry of Defence Health Implementation Programme (NMOD-HIP) and the US Army Medical Research Directorate-Africa/Nigeria (USAMRD-A/N) on

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 in Abuja. Since the commencement of the programme HIFASS has been providing strategic workforce that supports manpower needs of the programme. Hence, HIFASS was recognized with 4 awards;

- Institutional Establishment/Sustainability Award presented to the President of HIFASS, Chief Dr Roland Oritsejafor
- Long Quality Services (10 years and above) presented to Mr Paul Ugboro, former MD of HIFASS, Mr Tuedon Uweja, current MD of HIFASS, and the AD-HR, Ms Susan Oporum.
- Collaborative Institutional Awards presented to HIFASS as an organization.



HIFASS MD, Tuedon Uweja on behalf of HIFASS' President, Chief Dr Roland Oritsejafor received an award from the Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy, Kathleen FitzGibbon on Institutional Establishment/Sustainability.



HIFASS' MD, Tuedon Uweja being presented an award by the Country Director Walter Reed Program-Nigeria, Dr Laura Chittenden on Long Quality Services (10 years and above)



HIFASS' AD-HR, Ms Susan Oporum being presented an award by the Country Director Walter Reed Program-Nigeria, Dr Laura Chittenden on Long Quality Services (10 years and above)



Laboratory visit with the Minister of Defence, Bashir Salihi Magashi in company of the DG-NMOD-HIP, Brigadier General Aen Okeji and invited guest.



HIFASS AD-HR, Ms Susan Oporum in a group photograph with Deputy Director Public Health, Dr Yakubu Adamu and invited guest



HIFASS HQ staff in group photograph with the DG NMOD-HIP, Brigadier General Aen Okeji and invited guest.



**We congratulate all awardees and congratulate NMODHIP/WRD-N on the successful military to military partnership and achievements over the years.**

## **MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF NMOD-HIP AND USAMRD-A/N 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



Commissioning of Tuberculosis(TB) Modular Laboratory Defence Reference Laboratory (DRL)  
Abuja by Nigeria Minister of Defence, Bashir Salihu Magashi at the Mogadishu barracks.

 IIFASS

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YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY



## SOCIAL DIARY



PAS/M&E Officer at NAFRH-PH Oscar Nzeribe Ugwuezumba tied the knot with his spouse Valentina Chisom Nwachukwu on 26th December, 2020 at Imo State.



Programme Administrative Specialist, Otubo Margaret Mary from SA 6 Battalion Ibagwa Abak and husband welcomed their son Kenechukwu Kendrick Otubo on 23rd March, 2020.

# *Call to Glory*



## **Mrs Hannah Arit Ejuwa**

(Nee Udofia)

**1972-2020**

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Hannah Arit Ejuwa, M&E Officer/ Data Entry Specialist at NNH OJO Lagos. She passed on 11th February, 2020 and was laid to rest on 14th March, 2020 at Atan cemetery, university road, Okaka Yaba, Lagos State. she is survived by father, husband, children, sisters, brothers and relations.

We pray that God consoles the deceased family and give them the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.

**May her gentle Soul Rest in Peace**





# SUPPORT A WIDOW!!!

HIFASS would appreciate your sincere support for HIV positive widows and out-of-school children!!!

## HOW?

- Play a part in the hostel project for HIV positive widows who need shelter.  
A piece of land has been purchased but we still need your support towards the building project and this would cost about ₦5,000,000.
- Support a widow on cataract surgery annually at ₦100,000.
- Support out-of-school children on scholarships in Primary education, Secondary and Tertiary level.
  - 20 students at Primary level at ₦50,000 each for a year
  - 20 students at Secondary level at ₦70,000 each for a year
  - 15 students at Tertiary level, ₦100,000 each for a year
- Empower a widow on a skill acquisition training or give a financial support at ₦50,000

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

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

**Online Donations: [www.hifass-hfi.org/donations](http://www.hifass-hfi.org/donations)**

Donation can be made in cash or kind. For further details, please see the address at the back cover.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR CORONA AND LASSA FEVER CASES

**Public Health Department, Health and Human Services Secretariat**

- FCT Emergency Operation Centre (EOC): 08109901599
- FCT Call NO: 08031320330
  - 08037882384
  - 08033156560
  - 08091229912
  - 08056011582
  - 08035954830

**Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)**

- NCDC Toll-Free Number: 080097000010
  - SMS: 08099555577
  - WhatsApp: 07087110839
  - Email: [info@ncdc.gov.ng](mailto:info@ncdc.gov.ng)

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- 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)
  - United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Department of Defence Walter Reed Program-Nigeria (USDOD-WRP-N)
  - Cordix Pharmaceuticals

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

- The Management and Board of Trustees HIFASS
- Hifass staff working on all HJF funded projects/programmes

**C O N T A C T   U S**



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