



ASSOCIATION FOR REPRODUCTIVE AND FAMILY HEALTH

ARFH News Splash
August 2021



First Lady, Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, Commends USAID and ARFH for Mitigating the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

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First Lady of Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu honored as “Grand Ambassador for OVC” as USAID Launches Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award (ICHSSA-2), Lagos, being implemented by ARFH



First Lady of Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu displays award plaque and flanked by USAID ICHSSA2 AOR, Mrs Doreen Magaji and President/CEO, ARFH- Prof. Oladapo Ladipo

On July 6, 2021, First Lady of Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu was honored as “Grand Ambassador for OVC” as USAID Launched Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award (ICHSSA-2), Lagos, being implemented by ARFH in partnership with the Lagos State Government, Project HOPE and FHI360. The historic event was well attended by dignitaries from all walks of life including USAID team Ms Helina Meri (USAID Deputy Office Director for HIV/AIDS & TB), Dr Moses Katbi (USAID Lead Prevention and Community programs) and Mrs Doreen Magaji (USAID ICHSSA2 AOR). “This project will not only protect young people from the stigma of HIV, but also help eliminate the perception of people living with HIV as being anything less than vibrant and productive,” Ms. Meri said. Other award recipients recognised as advocates for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Lagos State include the Honourable Commissioner for Health- Prof. Akin Abayomi, Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development- Ministry of Youth and Social Development- Mr Segun Dawodu and Director General of Nigerian Institute of Medical Research- Prof. Babatunde Salako.

Also worthy of note was the joint presentation of health insurance enrolment ID cards by the General Manager of LASHMA Dr Emmanuela Zamba and ICHSSA 2 Chief of Party- Dr Felix Iwuala to the project beneficiaries enrolled into the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme (Ilera Eko). Partnership agreement was mutually endorsed by ARFH and LASHMA on Health Insurance Scheme.



GM LASHMA, Dr Emmanuela Zamba and ICHSSA 2 Chief of Party, Dr Felix Iwuala during the signing of partnership agreement, flanked by USAID Deputy Office Director for HIV/AIDS & TB- Ms Helina Meri.



ARFH facilitates the Launch of Lagos State OVC Operational Plan of Action 2021-2024 with support from USAID



First Lady of Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu presents the Lagos State OVC Operational Plan of Action assisted by USAID Deputy Office Director for HIV/AIDS & TB- Ms Helina Meri, Permanent Secretary MYSD, GM LASHMA, DG NIMR, President/CEO ARFH and other dignitaries

In partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, ARFH supported the development and launch of a 4- year Operational Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children 2021-2024. The launch of the operational plan took place alongside the official project launch on July 6, 2021.

ARFH President/CEO- Prof. O.A. Ladipo noted that the operational plan is in line with the project's mandate to strengthen the capacity of Government at the State and LGA levels to plan, fund and implement quality OVC interventions.



Copies of Lagos State OVC Operational Plan Action 2021-2024

Likewise, the operational plan which is structured along the 4 PEPFAR graduation benchmarks of Healthy, Stable, Safe and Schooled will help guide decision making, coordinate response, action and investment towards ameliorating the plight of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Lagos State.

Another Adolescents and Youth Friendly Centre planted at Gbagada General Hospital, Lagos by ARFH with support from USAID



USAID Deputy Office Director for HIV/AIDS & TB- Ms Helina Meri launching the Adolescents and Youth Friendly Centre at Gbagada General Hospital, Lagos

Due to the growing recognition of the need to make existing health services youth friendly with the aim of increasing demand for HIV and SRH service uptake among adolescents and youth, ARFH established and equips Adolescent and Youth Friendly Centre at General Hospital Gbagada, Kosofe LGA, Lagos. The youth centre was commissioned by the USAID Deputy Office Director for HIV/AIDS & TB- Ms Helina Meri in company of ARFH team, Gbagada General Hospital staff and beneficiaries.

While speaking, the President/CEO of ARFH- Prof. Oladapo Alabi Ladipo (FRCOG, OON) urged the adolescents and youths to live responsibly and abstain from any vices that could predispose them to early pregnancy and HIV, as they are the future of tomorrow. This is the 5th youth centre newly equipped by ARFH with support from USAID across 5 project implementing LGAs- namely Agege, Badagry, Lagos Island and Surulere.

The youth centre will help provide safe space for youths to come together, share knowledge and access and access lifesaving information on HIV/AIDS and services needed for them to make informed decision, live a healthy and productive life.



President/CEO, ARFH- Prof. Oladapo Alabi Ladipo during his welcome address at the commissioning of the AYFC at Gbagada General Hospital



Group picture of guests at the commissioning of AYFC at Gbadaga General Hospital



ARFH Supports the Distribution of Business Start-up Packs/Equipment for Vulnerable Households Enrolled on ICHSSA 2 Project



L-R: ICHSSA2 Chief of Party- Dr Felix Iwuala; USAID ICHSSA2 AOR- Mrs Doreen Magaji; President/CEO ARFH- Prof Oladapo Ladipo; Project Beneficiary; USAID Deputy Office Director for HIV/AIDS & TB- Ms Helina Meri; USAID Chief Prevention and Community programs, Dr Moses Katbi and Heartland Alliance Representative

ARFH with support from USAID empowered 40 vulnerable households with business start-up items to enable them cope with the economic challenges posed by COVID-19 as well as mitigate the impact of HIV on them. The 40 beneficiaries were drawn from 5 project LGAs namely: Agege, Kosofe, Shomolu, Surulere and Lagos Mainland.

Prior to the distribution of the business materials, the beneficiaries went through series of financial literacy classes which equipped them with the necessary skills, tools and resources to effectively and sustainably manage their business.

This intervention (Household Economic Strengthening) is a critical component of OVC programming aimed at improving vulnerable children and households resiliency as they journey towards self-sufficiency.



ICHSSA2 Chief of Party- Dr. Felix Iwuala inspecting the startup business items

ARFH is a Non-Governmental organisation with a mission to collaborate with other strategic partners in designing and implementing innovative and high impact programs for improved health outcomes and well-being of individuals and families in Africa.

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