



Volume 4

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we delve into the second quarter of the year, I am delighted to share with you the remarkable progress we have made in advancing our mission, i.e., providing access to reproductive health, family planning, communicable and non-communicable disease health services, even as we continue to engage in advocacy efforts to influence policies and programmes at the national and regional levels, most especially in underserved communities.

Again, in the past quarter, we partnered with several campaigns aimed at raising awareness about gender-based violence, challenging harmful cultural norms, and providing support to survivors. These efforts have not only empowered survivors but have also encouraged a broader conversation on the importance of gender equality and the eradication of violence in all its forms.

Child survival is a critical aspect of our work, and I am proud to share the impact we have achieved in this area. Over the past months and through the ICHSSA project, ARFH has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce child mortality rates and improve the overall

well-being of children in vulnerable communities.

In addition, access to life-saving interventions and quality healthcare services such as immunization and proper nutrition were improved. The success stories we have witnessed are a testament to the dedication and expertise of our staff, as well as the unwavering support of our partners.

At ARFH, we firmly believe that collective action is the key to transformative change. In Q2, we have continued to foster strategic partnerships with like-minded organizations, government agencies, and private institutions. These collaborations have not only expanded the reach of our programmes but they have also brought fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to the challenges we face. Together, we are building a powerful network committed to improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations.

The road to sustainable development is often arduous, but our shared commitment and resilience are what propel us forward. Let us continue to support one another, harnessing the power of teamwork and empathy to create lasting change.

As we move forward, we must remain steadfast in our dedication to our cause

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of the ARFH family for your hard work and passion. Your contributions make all the difference in transforming

lives and building a better world.

In closing, I urge you to keep the flame of compassion burning bright within you. Let us face the challenges that lie ahead with unwavering determination and a shared vision of a future where no one is left behind.

Together, we can and will make a difference!

The Global Fund TB Project with ARFH



Global Fund official visit to ARFH

The ongoing ARFH’s Global Fund-supported Tuberculosis implementation aims:

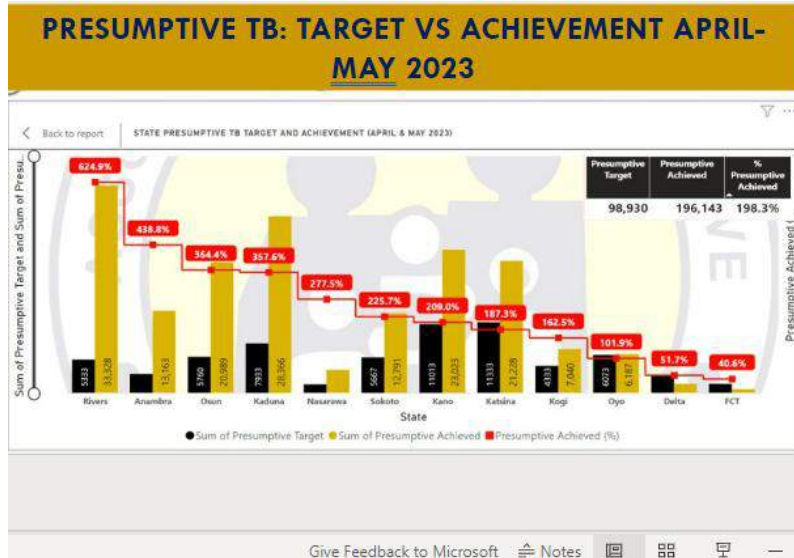
- To ensure that communities have accurate knowledge of TB through sensitization and demand creation for TB services by CBOs and CTWs.
- To increase the identification of all forms of TB cases.
- To strengthen mechanism for linkages and coordination by collaborating with relevant stakeholders in the LGA and communities.
- To ensure prompt access to high quality, patient-centred DR-TB diagnosis, treatment and follow-up services.



As part of planning for next GC7 grant implementation, The Global Fund Country Team led by the Disease Fund Manager TB/HIV made an official visit to ARFH on the 15th of June, 2023. Discussions focused on the re-organization in the implementation structure of TB/HIV programmes.



Our Achievements



"Hands Together, Hearts United:
Fighting TB"

ARFH holds Training of Trainers on CODSAiN Project in Four States



As the **COMMUNITY ORIENTED DMPA-SC/SELF INJECTION ACCELERATION in NIGERIA (CODSAiN)** Project fully takes off, the Association for Reproductive and Family Health held the Training of Trainers and Supervision of Step-Down Training in four states of Yobe, Kano, Nasarawa and Gombe.

The training session included State Family Planning Trainers, Health Educators/Promoters, representatives from the State Ministry of Health (SMOH), the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) as participants.

Also, activities include: training of facility providers and community actors on the CODSAiN Project; orientation of selected master trainers on the CODSAiN project, among others.

"Empowering Women,
Empowering
Communities: DMPA-
SC/Self-Injection
Acceleration"



Participants at the training of trainers in Damaturu, Yobe state



Handover of data collection to Director of Planning, Kano State PHCMB



Handing over the NHMIS tools to the Executive Secretary, Gombe State PHCB

ARFH Co-Founder and President Emeritus, Prof. Oladapo Ladipo, at the launch of 2023 State of the World Population Report



New data reveals population anxieties are widespread and governments are increasingly adopting policies aimed at raising, lowering or maintaining fertility rates. But efforts to influence fertility rates are very often ineffective and can erode women's rights, according to UNFPA's State of World Population report, released April 19, 2023.

“Women’s bodies should not be held captive to population targets,” says UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem. “To build thriving and inclusive societies, regardless of population size, we must radically rethink how we talk about and plan for population change.”

Key Facts and Figures from the 2023 State of World Population:

- 24% of partnered women and girls are unable to say no to sex and 11% are unable to make decisions specifically about contraception, according to data from 68 reporting countries.

Global demographics are changing rapidly: Two thirds of people are living in low fertility contexts, while eight countries will account for half the projected growth in global population by 2050 (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania),dramatically reordering the world’s ranking of

most populous countries.

- Blaming fertility for climate change will not hold the greatest carbon emitters to account.
- Out of 8 billion people, around 5.5 billion do not make enough money, about \$10 a day, to contribute significantly to carbon emissions.
- A recent UN study says greater gender parity in the labour force would do more to sustain economies in ageing, low-fertility societies than setting targets for women to have more children.
- A staggering 44% of partnered women and girls in 68 reporting countries do not have the right to make informed decisions about their bodies when it comes to having sex, using contraception and seeking health care.
- An estimated 257 million women worldwide have an unmet need for safe, reliable contraception.



ARFH takes VAWG to secondary schools in Abuja via the Spotlight Initiative



ARFH CEO Dr. Kehinde Osinowo, with a participant at a stakeholder meeting on the Spotlight Initiative project



School principals at a stakeholder meeting with ARFH on the Spotlight Initiative

Spotlight Initiative Project Activities

The Association for Reproductive and Family Health is the implementing partner with UNESCO on the Spotlight Initiative.

The global Spotlight Initiative works to eliminate violence against women and girls; and is a United Nations initiative in partnership with the European Union and other partners. Spotlight Initiative is the world's largest targeted effort to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

Utilizing sports, arts (including drama) and other creative mechanisms to support the long-term recovery of women and girl survivors of VAWG/SGBV/HP; ARFH facilitated school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) sensitization campaigns and reached out to survivors in selected secondary schools in Abuja, FCT.



Pupils during a sensitisation talk on SRGBV

Community Involvement: Engaging parents, community leaders, and local organizations in addressing SRGBV can create a more comprehensive and effective response.



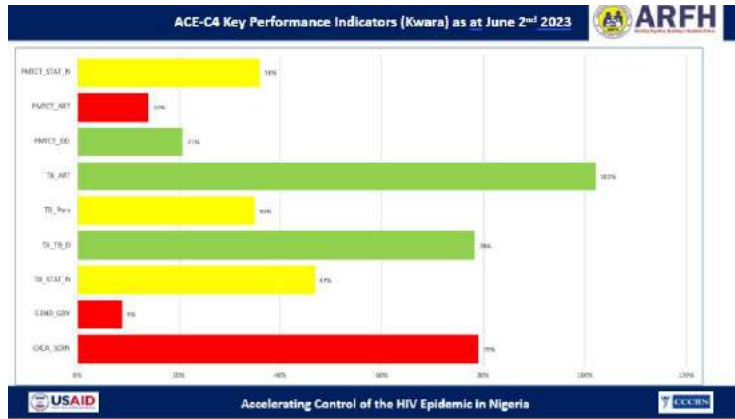
Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:

Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls



ARFH meeting with school principals in Abuja on the Spotlight Initiative

Accelerating Control of HIV Epidemic in Nigeria Cluster 4 - (ACE)

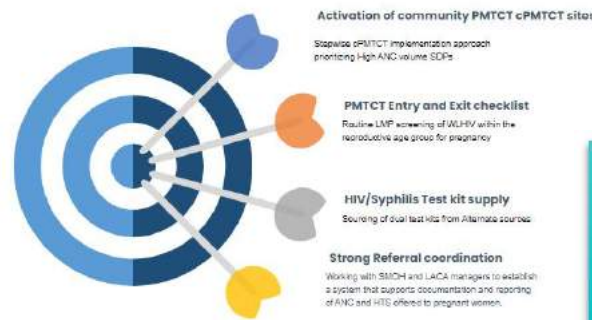


ARFH is in consortium partnership with the Centre for Clinical Care and Clinical Research as Prime to implement the Accelerating Control of the HIV Epidemic in Nigeria (ACE) Cluster 4 Project in Kwara and Niger states.

ACE is a five-year project with overarching goal of achieving HIV epidemic control in Nigeria.

ARFH is responsible for implementing TB/HIV, PMTCT and Cervical Cancer Prevention Programme in the two States.

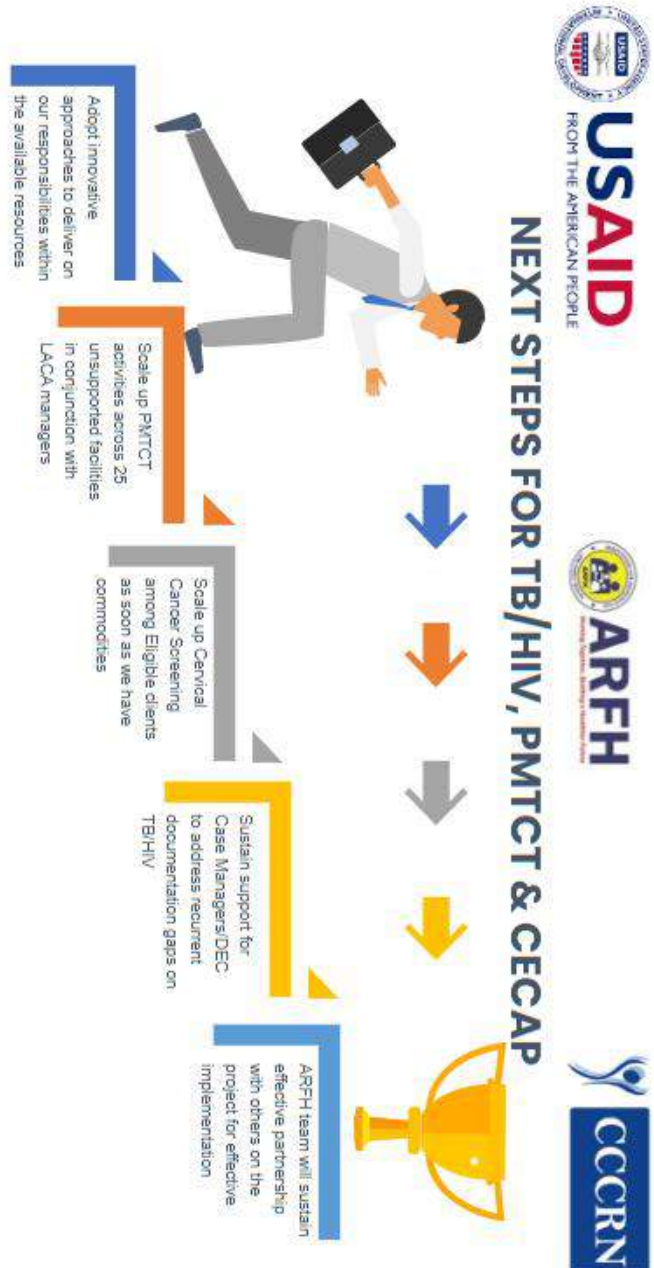
Key Technical Intervention Areas for PMTCT IN FY23



Global Prevalence: As of 2020, an estimated 38 million people were living with HIV worldwide.

New HIV Infections: In 2020, there were approximately 1.5 million new HIV infections globally.

HIV-Related Deaths: In 2020, approximately 690,000 people died from HIV-related causes.



Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (ECEWS CDC SPEED Project)

Gallery of Pictures



Innovations in HIV testing, such as self-testing and community-based testing, have shown promise in reaching individuals who may not otherwise access traditional testing services, contributing to improved epidemic control.

ARFH is in consortium partnership with Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) as prime to implement Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Services Delivery (SPEED) project in Delta, Ekiti and Osun states.

SPEED is a five-year project with primary goal of achieving epidemic control in these states, targeting specific sub-populations based on age and gender.

ARFH provides technical support on the OVC component in the three states.

Project implementation period:

October 2022 -September 2027

ARFH and ECEWS have shared a longstanding commitment to improving the lives of individuals and communities, particularly in providing quality care and support for vulnerable children and adolescents living or affected with HIV and AIDS. Over the years, our collaboration has been marked by shared values, mutual respect and a shared vision for a better and healthier society.

Our partnership on the CDC SPEED project specifically has been instrumental in driving transformative change in the sub-population, leveraging on our collective expertise to intensify efforts for sustainable impact across the three states.

Together, we implement innovative and evidence-based HIV epidemic control and resilience project, promoting quality livelihood and enhancing the overall well-being of vulnerable communities.

HIV prevention efforts, such as promoting condom use, providing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk populations, and implementing harm reduction programs for people who inject drugs, are vital for controlling the spread of HIV.

ARFH Enrolls 9,980 Vulnerable Children and Caregivers on HIS in Lagos and Edo with Support from USAID



ARFH CEO, Dr. Kehinde Osinowo flanked by ICHSSA-2 CoP, Dr. Felix Iwuala presenting signed MoU to the DG of EDOHIC, Dr. Rock Amegor.

July 2023: Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH), in partnership with Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) and Edo State Health Insurance Scheme (EDOHIS) enrolled 9,980 vulnerable children and their caregivers on both premium and Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHC PF). This innovative partnership is part of efforts to reduce Out-of-Pocket payment for healthcare, encourage positive health seeking behavior and facilitate access to quality healthcare. No one should have to choose between poverty, bankruptcy and staying alive as a result of paying for healthcare.

According to data from WHO and World Bank, at least half the world's population lack access to essential health services. Each year, more than 100 million people are impoverished as a result of healthcare costs. Currently, around 800 million people spend at least 10 percent of their household income budgets on health expenses for either themselves, a sick child or other family member.

ARFH through the USAID supported Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award (ICHSSA2) project is changing this ugly narrative by placing on health insurance vulnerable children and caregivers who are infected or affected by HIV and yet are most in need of healthcare. The beneficiaries comprised children, adolescents programs targeted at key populations at higher risk, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men, and injecting drug users.

and their caregivers. In Lagos State, 3,987 beneficiaries were placed on premium and 3,486 on the government supported waiver. Likewise in Edo State, 1,000 beneficiaries were placed on premium and 1,507 on the government supported Basic Healthcare Provision Fund.

Many of our beneficiaries can now seek quality healthcare without any form of hindrance or fear of hospital bills.



One of our beneficiaries after her surgery at Badagry General Hospital, Lagos. Frame 2: One of our beneficiary being attended to by a healthcare provide at Oredo LGA, Edo State

“I just had free surgery with series of lab tests conducted. I would have suffered or paid with my life because I wouldn't have been able to pay for it if not for USAID and ARFH that enrolled me on ILERA EKO health insurance in Lagos” Said Mrs Ajara, one of the beneficiaries from Badagry LGA.”

This innovative partnership between ARFH and sub-national health insurance agencies has lessened financial hardship among the beneficiaries. ARFH will continue to explore strategic partnerships and collaborations to remove barriers to quality healthcare. This is critical to the drive for journey-to-self-reliance and attainment of Universal Health Coverage.



ICHSSA-2 CoP, Dr. Felix Iwuala joined the LASHMA GM, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba to present enrolment ID cards to beneficiaries in Lagos.

Learn More About Us

The Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) is a non-governmental organization based in Nigeria that focuses on promoting reproductive health and family planning services. ARFH was established in 1989 and has since played a significant role in improving healthcare delivery and advocating for reproductive rights in Nigeria.

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Working Together, Building a Healthier Future

