



QUARTERLY **Newsletter**

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



I am pleased to present the Quarter 3 Report of ARFH, highlighting significant achievements and developments during this period.

I am thrilled to report the successful renewal of funding from Global Fund for Tuberculosis (TB) initiatives. This renewal reflects the confidence in ARFH's capabilities and dedication to addressing the TB crisis in Nigeria. With this funding, we can continue our crucial work in the fight against TB, saving lives and improving public health.

ARFH's commitment to achieving its mission was further demonstrated by the successful completion of Spotlight Activity 4.1.12. This achievement underscores our organization's capacity to execute complex projects efficiently and make a positive impact on the ground. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team.

Our organisation has been actively engaged in collaborative discussions with esteemed partners, including the RTI International, White Ribbon Alliance and the Society for Family Health, among others. These talks have paved the way for potential partnerships that will strengthen our impact and reach in the field of reproductive and family health. We are excited about the prospects of working together to drive meaningful change.

As we move forward into the next quarter and beyond, I would like to commend the exceptional efforts of our dedicated staff. Your unwavering commitment to our mission is the driving force behind ARFH's success. Let us continue to put in our best, embracing challenges as opportunities, and keeping our focus on taking ARFH to the next level of excellence.

“Let us continue to put in our best, embracing challenges as opportunities”

WORKING TOWARDS ENDING TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN NIGERIA



In line with the Sustainable Development Goal of ending Tuberculosis by 2030, The Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) carried out a national Tuberculosis (TB) screening week between 14th- 20th August, 2023 working with its collaborating Community -Based Organizations (CBOs) in 35 states of the country plus FCT. This is in alignment with NTBLCP mandate of ‘‘Nigeria free of Tuberculosis’’.

Tuberculosis is the top infectious killer disease in the world. Nigeria is among the high burden countries globally and the first in Africa with number of un-diagnosed tuberculosis.

It was a week-long of effective engagement of all community stakeholders, screening and testing through community level mobilization, awareness, sensitization and collaboration with other partners such as orientation at the NYSC camps who will serve as change agents in disseminating information about Tuberculosis in their various places of assignment. The focus is reaching the unreached with Tuberculosis information and services.

Similarly, house-to-house active TB case finding(ACF) was carried out in 12 states where ARFH implements this strategy.

A total of **198,646 presumptive TB** was identified in the months of July and August.

Sputum samples were collected from these individuals and tested in the laboratory. **Nineteen thousand and sixty-five (19, 065)** were positive for Tuberculosis.



House-to-house active TB case finding in Kaduna



Sensitization in NYSC camp Kano



Outreach and sputum sample collection at Cantonment Kogi state.

ECEWS CDC SPEED PROJECT



ARFH is a consortium partner on the Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Services Delivery (SPEED) project, funded by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As the prime, Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) in partnership with other partners is responsible for implementing the five-year project in Delta, Ekiti, and Osun States.

The primary goal of the project is to achieve epidemic control in these states, targeting specific sub-populations based on age and gender. ARFH provides technical support on the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) component, focusing on improving the quality of service delivery in case management and community services, household economic strengthening (HES) and strategic information.

This is one of the many numerous success stories we have recorded on the project:

A caregiver's journey to financial independence through Household Economic Strengthening-Income Generating Activity.

A caregiver enrolled on the program with unique ID DEL/WRS/VND/00284, had been struggling to

meet the family basic needs. Income from her small business was obviously inadequate to feed the family, send her children to school and transport them to the facility to access health care.

Sequel to HES intervention, the household was profiled, found to be eligible and provided support for business empowerment to enhance Income Generating Activities.



Other HES interventions include financial literacy, with emphasis on savings, record keeping, budgeting and debt management, all of which were provided to build capacity of the household in financial management.

Subsequently, the caregiver's business expanded, she diversified into other businesses and paid her debts. Currently, she keeps record of her business, improved her savings culture by joining a VSLA group and regularly attends meeting.

She is presently able to meet the household needs, enrolled her children back to school and regularly attends her clinic appointments.

The primary goal of the project is to achieve epidemic control in these states, targeting specific sub-populations



- The CEO was in attendance at the ARFH Headquarters in Ibadan, Oyo State, for the handover ceremony of ARFH NGO assets to ARFH Resources Nig. Ltd., alongside other board of directors.
- The CEO also paid advocacy visit to Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, being a CODSAiN sustained state, on the review of empathy-based counselling on Family Planning. Lagos is a strategic partner in the CODSAiN Project. During the visit, the CEO achieved the following:

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with donors and partners is a crucial aspect of our CEO's role. Building and maintaining fruitful relationships with donors and partners is essential for securing funding, fostering trust, and ensuring the sustainability of the organization. Here are some of the CEO's engagement with donors and partners in the quarter under review:

- The CEO held an online meeting with the Country Programs/Advocacy Manager at The White Ribbon Alliance. The key points of discussion focused on how the ARFH could partake in the review of Self-Care Progress Update and Advocacy Plans Alignment.
- A similar meeting with the Society for Family Health (SFH) focused on the SFH's intent to reconnect with ARFH via her policy strategizing as the SFH approaches its 40th anniversary.

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs) + TCI (The Challenge Initiative) visited the ARFH Abuja office for a collaborative meeting.

- i. Promotion of full transitioning of CORPs to the CHIPS program through accountability and tracking of commitment mechanism.
- ii. Supporting the retrieval of monthly DMPA-SC & SI by the ad-hoc officer in all LGAs in the state with support from the DPRS.
- iii. Support of the monitoring and evaluation of the JSR
- iv. Tracking achievement towards journey to self-reliance using the dashboard
- v. Providing minimal office space at the FP coordinator's office for project implementation to function with the leadership of the state.
- vi. CORPS were advised to target young people because the proportion of young women of reproductive age (72%) are contributing to pregnancy between the age of 14, 15 and upward.

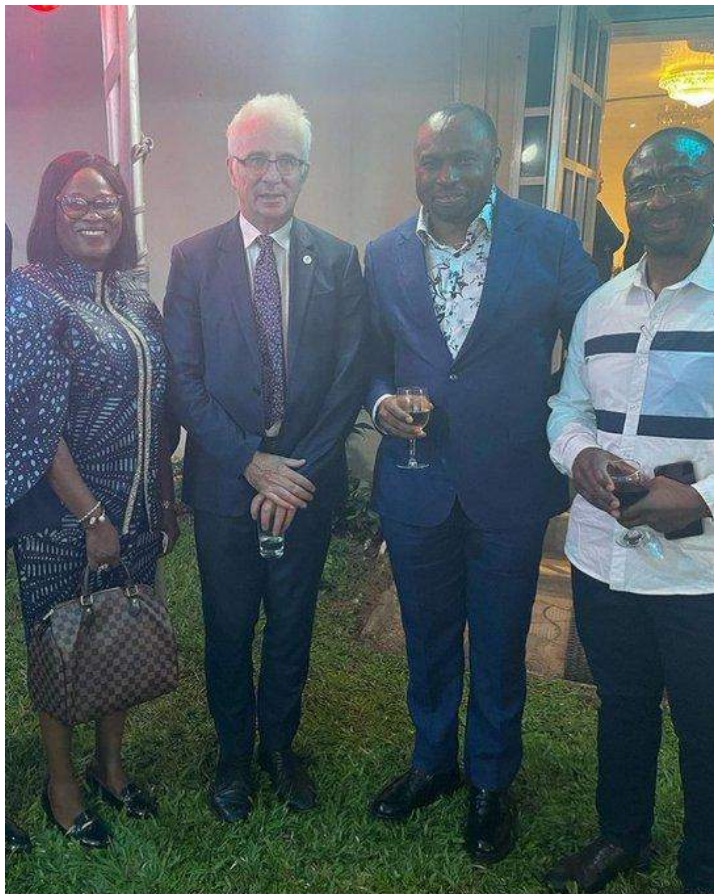
Building Partnerships Contd....

- vii. Encouraging the mapping of communities where sexually active young girls are educated and helped to plan their future by avoiding unplanned pregnancy.

The CEO noted that the intention to transition Lagos State to a sustained state will require a lot of partnership to ensure that the state provides its 1% commitment to FP implementation in the state. The CEO noted that the state has a lot of demand and expectations of support from the donors, including a request for funding their statutory meetings.



US Embassy Team visits ARFH Office in Lagos



ARFH Co-Founder/President Emeritus Prof, Oladapo Ladipo now Chair of E4A-Nigeria Advisory Committee



SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE 4.2.11 CLOSEOUT

The Spotlight Project was successfully completed.

During the project phase, Activity 4.2.11 utilized sports, arts (including drama) and other creative mechanisms to support the long-term recovery of women and girl survivors of VAWG/SGBV/HP; facilitate school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) sensitization campaign and reach out to survivors in selected secondary schools in the FCT-Abuja.

Overall, Spotlight Project achieved, among others:

- GBV Sensitisation campaign in schools with a target of 35,000 students=104.6%
- Revitalisation of School GBV Girls Clubs= 80%
- Orientation of Relevant School Administrators=100%
- Advocacy Activities=100%



**ARFH PARTNERS WITH LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY
IN THE TRAINING OF CASE MANAGERS AS PARA-
SOCIAL WORKERS, WITH SUPPORT FROM USAID**



ICHSSA-2 Program Officer- HES &PPP- Ms Kemi Obalisa (Middle) with the enrolled Case Managers after their lectures at LASU.

Photo Credit: ICHSSA-2 Project, ARFH

The Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH), in partnership with Lagos State University (LASU), has institutionalized the Para-Social Workforce Certification Program, whereby Case Managers will be trained as Para-Social Workers (PSW) under the Certificate Program of LASU.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through ARFH, implementing the Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award (ICHSSA-2) project, in partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development (MYSD) has enrolled 40 eligible Case Managers in Lagos State on the certificate course. The candidates will receive specialized training for improved performance and eligibility for engagement by Government, for uninterrupted service provision to vulnerable children and their households, to promote ownership and sustainability, beyond the project tenure.



Enrolled USAID supported ICHSSA-2 Case Managers during their lectures at LASU. Photo Credit: ICHSSA-2 project, ARFH

This program is predicated on the fact that Nigeria, as the most populous country in Africa with a population of over 200 million people, is experiencing a dearth of trained social development workforce to provide services to vulnerable children and their households. The 12 weeks certificate course is designed to upskill the candidates through a blend of 8 weeks of coursework during weekends and 4 weeks of supervised fieldwork.

This course represents a landmark achievement made possible by USAID, with esteemed technical support from the AOR Ms Doreen Magaji.

As a forward-thinking and innovative organization, ARFH will continue to champion and explore strategic partnerships at all levels to strengthen and support social workforce capacity in Nigeria, through institutional and professional trainings of this nature.

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.

Head Office

ARFH HOUSE, Plot 815A, Army Officers' Mess Road Near Ikolaba Grammar School, Agodi GRA, Ikolaba P.O. Box 30259, Secretariat, Ibadan, Oyo State – Nigeria.

+234-802-354-2881

Abuja Office

Trade and Convention Centre, The Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry Complex, KM8, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Express Way, Airport Road, Beside Shoprite, Lugbe, Abuja – Nigeria.



+2347065964489



Info@arfh-ng.org



Arfh-ng.org



ARFHng



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