

Informed commentary, intelligence, and insights on the Nigerian health sector



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of **CONTENTS**

Abbreviations and acronyms	02
Board of Trustees	03
Message from the MD	06
Who we are	07
Mission, vision and core values	80
Where we have worked	09
2024 in numbers	10
2024 in pictures	11
2024 Impact numbers	13
Projects	18
Events in 2024	32
Side events	37
Media appearances in 2024	47
Communications support	50
Nigeria Health Watch online	51
Social media numbers	57
Partners	60

Abbreviations

Afriyan - African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development

AR - Annual Report

AVAT - African Vaccine Acquisition Trust

BHCPF - Basic Health Care Provision Fund

CCT - Certificate of Completion of Training

CHWP - Community Health Watch Project

EPIET - European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training

FHC - Future of Health Conference

FP- Family Planning

GBINAP- Giving Birth in Nigeria Advocacy Project

GPAP- Global Policy Advocacy Project

MNCH - Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

NAPHS - National Action Plan for Health Security

NBSC - National Blood Service Commission

NCDC - Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

NHS - National Health Service

NICD - National Institute for Communicable Diseases

PE - Prevent Epidemics

PEP - Prevent Epidemics Project

PHC- Primary Healthcare Centre

RTSL- Resolve To Save Lives

SDGs- Sustainable Development Goals

SJAIP- Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative Project

SJN- Solutions Journalism Network

SM- Social Media

UHC - Universal Health Coverage

UN - United Nations

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

USAID - United States Agency for International Development

WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

WHO - World Health Organization

Board of TRUSTEES



Dr Zainab Imam obtained her medical degree from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria in 1991, followed by training at the University College Hospital in Ibadan in General Practice. Dr Imam retrained as a Psychiatrist in the UK, obtaining her CCT in General Adult Psychiatry with endorsement in Rehabilitation Psychiatry and Subspecialty interests in Early Intervention in Psychosis and Perinatal Psychiatry. She has worked in Psychiatry for 15 years.

She works at Sidra Medicine in Qatar, where she is the Acting Division Chief and Medical Students Clerkship Director for Women's Mental Health.

She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and chairs the International Workroom of the Perinatal Faculty. She also holds a one-year Intermediate Certificate in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy from the University of Plymouth. She is a co-founder and trustee of the Foundation for Refugees Economic Empowerment (FREE), a trustee of Nigeria's IDP Diaspora Support Group, and a faculty member of its Lay Trauma Counseling Course.



is a Partner at EpiAFRIC and manages all engagements in Western Europe. Until recently, he was a Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Deputy Director of Public Health with the UK National Health Service in London, and an honorary lecturer in Public Health at Imperial College. A Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, he has taught at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Imperial College, University College London, the University of the West of England, and Bristol University.

A lead partner for the General Medical Council, he is a member of the Black & Ethnic Minority Health and Epidemiology & Public Health Section Council at the Royal Society of Medicine and the Advisory Committee for Medecins Du Monde's Project: London. He co-founded the Abuja Literary Society, the Nigerian Public Health Foundation, and the Nigeria Health Watch. He is a TED Global Fellow and co-founder of TEDxEuston.



Dr Olusola Aruna is a United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health (FPH) Fellow. Dr Aruna qualified as a doctor in 1984 from the University of Ife, Nigeria. She gained her master's in public health (MPH) with distinction from the University of Leeds in 1996 as a British Chevening Scholar and holds a Diploma in Child Health (DCH) from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Dr Aruna was appointed Consultant in Public Health Medicine in the UK National Health Service (NHS) in 2007 and has worked on identifying, assessing, analysing, and using data and other information for decision-making,

worked on identifying, assessing, analysing, and using data and other information for decision-making, including controlling communicable diseases. Dr Aruna supported the design, implementation, and evaluation of surveillance systems in Nigeria as a Senior Technical Advisor on Surveillance to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control under the USAID-funded MEASURE Evaluation Project. She is the country lead for Public Health England's (PHE) International Health Regulations (IHR) Strengthening Programme in Nigeria.



Mr Joseph K. Ani is the Chief Financial Officer at the Society for Family Health (SFH), overseeing financial operations for 26 projects and subsidiaries. With over 30 years of experience, he has held senior finance roles across the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Before SFH, he was Head of Operations at Centre Point Bank PLC and an Internal Auditor at Liberty Bank PLC, managing fraud investigations. He also led audit services at Akintola Williams Deloitte. Ani is skilled in financial policy, risk management, and strategic planning. He is a Fellow of ICAN and a certified public accountant.



Mr Yakubu Abdullahi is the Director of Human Resources and Administration at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), where he oversees strategic planning and program development. With over 25 years of experience in public health and international relations, he has held senior roles, including Commissioner for multiple departments within the Bauchi State Government and Technical Adviser to the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Health. He played key roles in establishing the ECOWAS Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control and the passage of the NCDC Act. Known for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, Abdullahi excels in building partnerships, resource mobilisation, and driving organisational growth.



Vivienne Ifeoma Onwuocha is the Founder and Managing Partner of Slingstone Business Consulting Limited, where she leads digital transformation initiatives. An ACCA-qualified accountant, she specialises in guiding businesses through complex technological transitions, ensuring they stay competitive in today's fast-paced digital world. Under her leadership, Slingstone has become a key hub for professionals looking to enhance their tech skills. Known for her strategic problem-solving and innovative approach, Vivienne envisions a future where collaboration drives growth in the tech industry, positioning her as a catalyst for innovation and transformation



In a rapidly changing health landscape influenced by global priorities and shifting geopolitics, Nigeria Health Watch remains committed as a health advocacy organisation and driver for action and accountability. This past year, we strengthened our focus on driving conversations that matter and connecting policy promises with lived experiences, challenging ourselves to ask tough questions, listen more intentionally, and act where it matters most. Through convenings, campaigns, and partnerships, our work highlighted our belief that health is a collective responsibility.

2024 marked a year of renewed energy in Nigeria's health sector, with a new administration and ambitious health reform. We seized the opportunity to amplify citizen voices, facilitate critical policy conversations, and support implementation through strategic communications. We remained responsive to emerging priorities, including, health security, primary healthcare, climate-health linkages, maternal and child health, immunisation, sexual and reproductive health, and the increasing attention to mental health. Our team worked across platforms to keep health at the forefront of national discussions.

In each of these areas, our work created space for dialogue, research, convening, evidence-sharing, and policy engagement, we challenged the status quo and spotlighted issues that demand urgent attention. The implementation of the current administration's health agenda provided an opportunity for us to track commitments, communicate changes, and amplify citizen perspectives.

In 2024, Nigeria Health Watch hosted high-level convenings on critical issues like the climate-health nexus, and nutrition coordination. Our campaigns provided accessible information to Nigerians, while collaborations with media partners and civil society helped strengthen health journalism and built a shared vision for health. These partnerships enabled co-creation of solutions and advocacy for meaningful change.

As we look ahead to 2025, Nigeria Health Watch remains committed to holding duty bearers accountable, championing evidence-based policies, and advocating for a health system that truly delivers for all.

To our partners, supporters, and team, thank you. Your collaboration, trust, and dedication made our work possible in 2024.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

WHO WE ARE

Nigeria Health Watch is a not-for-profit health communication and advocacy organisation that seeks to advocate for better health for Nigerians. We have worked to actively engage and support the government in raising awareness and increasing knowledge on a wide range of health issues in Nigeria.

We aim to hold duty bearers accountable for delivering affordable, quality healthcare to Nigerians. The unique capacity of Nigeria Health Watch lies in the combination of its communication and health expertise, which enables the organisation to provide solutions for evidence-based communications and advocacy in the health sector.

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

At the inception of Nigeria Health Watch, the founders set out to ensure that health is given a greater priority in Nigeria. With little progress in improving health outcomes, Nigeria's inadequate healthcare system remains challenging. The goal was to communicate the challenges and opportunities in the Nigerian health sector to Nigerians, empowering them with evidence-based information to advocate for better access to quality healthcare. Holding duty bearers accountable for delivering on the health promises and policies that would lead to positive change in the Nigerian health sector was also essential.

WHAT GUIDES US?

We are guided by the belief that health is a right and all Nigerians should have access to affordable quality healthcare.



MISSION

To provide individuals with the tools and knowledge to make evidence-based decisions for better health outcomes.



VISION

A well-informed and empowered population advocating for improved health



VALUES

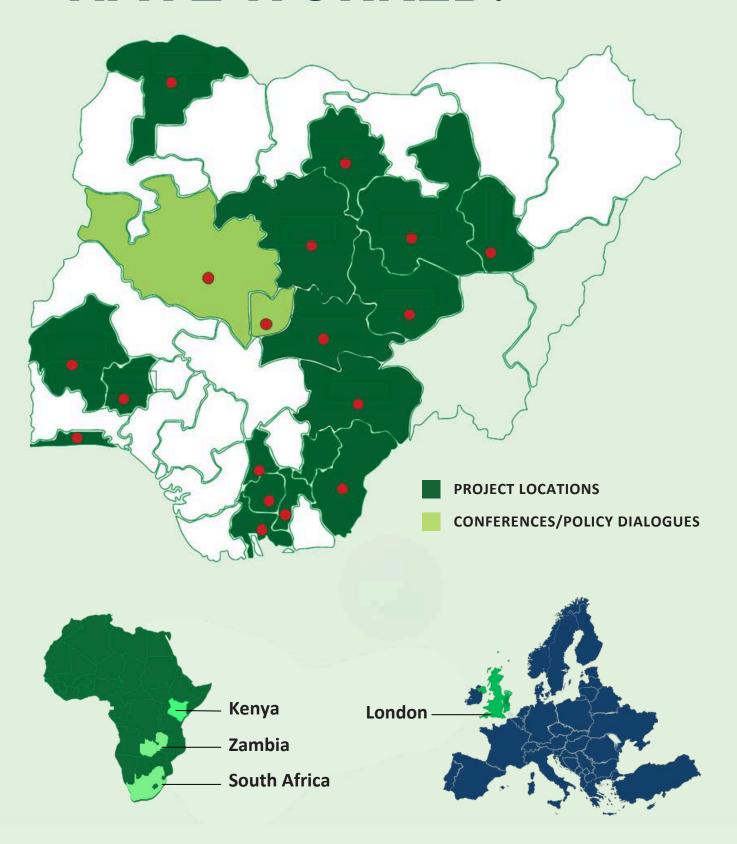
Our values are excellence, partnership, collaboration, commitment, and open-mindedness as we work collectively to advocate for better access to health care for all Nigerians.



CORE BELIEFS

- COMMITMENT
- OPEN-MINDEDNESS
- PARTNERSHIP
- EXCELLENCE

WHERE WE HAVE WORKED:



2024 IN NUMBERS

Torchlight Nigeria Stories **Published:**





Torchlight Africa **Stories Published:**





New Team Members Welcomed:





Award Wins, **Shortlists:**





New Partners Welcomed:





Total Number of Website **Visitors:**





202,239



Communications /Newsroom **Professionals** Trained:





Reports **Published:**





Torchlight articles are unique solution journalism pieces written by the in-house editorial team at Nigeria Health Watch. They focus on a response to a public health problem and how that response has worked.

Thought leadership articles are nuanced opinion pieces with deliberate and clear calls to action engrained within them. They focus on sharing in-depth analysis and amplifying implementation insights to drive change in the health sector.

2024 IN PICTURES





2024 -IMPACT IN NUMBERS



WEBSITE NUMBERS IN 2024



12

12 events conducted

including Policy Dialogues and Conferences, fostering strategic discussions on key health issues, including maternal health, nutrition, climate and health, and epidemic preparedness.



through the Community-Based Perception Household Survey across six states, driving advocacy efforts for improved Primary Health Care (PHC) accountability.



social media influencer campaigns combating health misinformation, reaching over 15 million users.



An independent health intelligence insight report developed to track the implementation of Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare's four-point agenda.



18+ collaborations with global and local partners, strengthening Nigeria's health communication and policy advocacy landscape.



Expansion of

Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative to include 40+ new reports on innovative public health solutions across Nigeria and Africa



journalists trained in epidemic preparedness reporting, vaccine confidence promotion, and investigative health journalism.

6,500+

health professionals and community stakeholders engaged through training sessions, webinars, and workshops on misinformation management, policy advocacy, and crisis communication.



increase in social media audience and 10% increase in engagements, demonstrating heightened audience awareness and participation in health advocacy efforts.

141 events

held, including **112** physical events, 18 virtual events, and 11 hybrid events, covering policy dialogues, stakeholder strategy meetings, capacity-building workshops, and advocacy engagements.

Hosted 34 events

Hosted 34 events, cohosted 4, facilitated 10, supported 18, attended 63, and participated as a panellist in 15 engagements. Editorials Published



generating 33,682 total views and 300.4 hours of total attention time, reflecting strong audience engagement and knowledge dissemination.



Significant Online and Physical Engagements, including over 500 combined virtual attendees for major webinars and over 400 physical attendees at the Future of Health Conference and the inaugural Youth Pre-Conference.

100 Hours



Over 100 Hours of YouTube and Zoom Streaming Time, amplifying key health messages to a broader audience

PROJECTS

THE GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY PROJECT

FUNDER: BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

About:

The Global Policy Advocacy project encompasses many multidimensional strategies to improve health outcomes through quality editorial, communication and advocacy, community engagement, capacity building, and leveraging partnerships. These strategies aim to create lasting and systemic improvement in Nigeria's public health outcomes.



OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and prioritise critical public health challenges, promote evidence-based policies using research and data, and foster partnerships to unify voices advocating for impactful health reforms.
- Empower communities to participate actively in decision-making processes, increase awareness of health policies and rights, and mobilise support for sustainable public health initiatives.
- Equip stakeholders, including health professionals, advocates, and journalists, with the skills to effectively communicate, address misinformation, and promote health literacy. Facilitate cross-learning to share innovative solutions and best practices across regions.
- Address health misinformation through infodemic management, promote vaccine confidence, and integrate strategies to enhance public trust, preparedness, and adherence to health recommendations.
- Develop robust frameworks to monitor health initiatives, provide actionable insights for advocacy, and strengthen accountability mechanisms through community-based monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

IMPACT:

- Advocacy and Awareness: Significant progress was made in strengthening evidenceinformed advocacy for maternal health reforms, addressing policy gaps, and promoting
 the #KnowYourHealthRight campaign. This initiative bridged awareness gaps on patients'
 rights and policies such as the National Policy on Health Workforce Migration. Through
 radio programs, social media, and multimedia dissemination, critical topics like maternal
 mortality and primary healthcare were spotlighted, fostering collaboration and
 sustainable health improvements.
- Community Engagement and Policy Impact: Community-based efforts included the
 creation of targeted health messages addressing the needs of adolescent girls and
 women of reproductive age, the translation of community health watch stories from
 Hausa to English for broader visibility, and direct engagement between Kano CBOs and
 the Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board. These initiatives facilitated
 discussions on healthcare challenges and solutions, complemented by sub-national
 policy dialogues that strengthened partnerships between civil society, government, and
 local communities.



- Global Health Leadership and Knowledge Dissemination: Contributions to global platforms like the Global Health Security Conference and the International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID) showcased critical perspectives on decolonising global health. These efforts increased awareness and stakeholder engagement and created resources like infographics, blogs, and videos to further knowledge dissemination.
- Combatting Health Misinformation: Efforts to address health misinformation included social listening, surveys, and workshops to promote vaccine uptake and public health measures. Tailored Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and community engagements that empowered stakeholders with tools to counter misinformation. Social media influencers contributed 57 posts promoting accurate health information, while reports to the NCDC identified public perceptions and knowledge gaps on cholera and Mpox.

- Capacity Building and Fellowship Programs: Fellowships targeting policy communication and biosafety advocacy improved stakeholder communication and engagement skills. Initiatives like the "Strengthening Health Reporting for Newsrooms in Nigeria" project amplified health reporting and accountability. Additionally, designing a machine-learning platform to harmonise data aligned with the Ministry of Health's agenda further supports evidence-based policymaking.
- Collaborative and Cross-Border Advocacy: Partnerships with the African Health Budget Network, Kenyan Medical Association, and others fostered regional and cross-border collaboration. Initiatives included digital reproductive and maternal health advocacy, a climate change and health intersections podcast, and youth-driven policy discourse. These efforts amplified discussions on climate resilience, nutrition, and universal health coverage.
- Impact Metrics and Knowledge Sharing: The Nigeria Health Intelligence Report consolidated actionable insights, informing policymakers and stakeholders. A Community-Based Perception Survey conducted across six states gathered critical insights from over 9,000 responses, driving advocacy efforts. Public awareness and knowledge saw measurable increases in areas like nutrition (12.22%) and gender equality (8.67%), while attitudes and self-efficacy improved, with a 19.24% rise in public advocacy efforts. Social media campaigns and infographics educated audiences on topics like HPV vaccination and mental health, demonstrating innovative and effective knowledge-sharing approaches.

THE PREVENT EPIDEMICS PROJECT

FUNDER: GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCACY INCUBATOR

ABOUT

The Prevent Epidemics Project, funded by the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), aimed to build and demonstrate public and policymaker support for epidemic preparedness and response funding at national and subnational levels in Nigeria, focusing on Lagos and Kano. The initiative's primary objective is to enhance epidemic preparedness and response in Nigeria by raising awareness, promoting sustainability, ensuring transparency and accountability in the budgetary processes concerning epidemic preparedness and response, reinforcing effective and reporting mechanisms on epidemic preparedness at national and sub-national levels.

Launched in 2018, the project employed media advocacy as a strategic tool, empowering media outlets and civil society organisations achieve to increased funding for epidemic preparedness and response, improve budget accountability, and drive policy reform for health security. It utilised journalism to emphasise human-angled narratives to effectively communicate the infectious importance of disease prevention and the potential consequences of inadequate preventive measures within communities in Nigeria.



Using the hashtag #PreventEpidemicsNaija, the initiative leveraged social media platforms and traditional media outlets, including radio, print, and television, to disseminate critical messages regarding epidemic preparedness and response. This comprehensive approach elevated the importance of epidemic preparedness as a national priority among decision-makers, the public, and relevant stakeholders, ultimately translating to increased budget allocations and enhanced reporting on epidemic preparedness nationally and within Lagos and Kano states.

OBJECTIVES:

 To enhance epidemic preparedness and response in Nigeria by raising awareness, promoting sustainability, ensuring transparency and accountability in the budgetary processes related to epidemic preparedness and response, and reinforcing effective reporting mechanisms on epidemic preparedness at national and sub-national levels



IMPACT:

- Trained journalists on budget accountability across TV, print, radio, and online platforms.
- Developed a Budget Accountability Toolkit for Health Security with support from LISDEL.
 This toolkit provides media professionals with comprehensive explanations of budget
 accountability for health security, the Nigerian budgetary system, and the health security
 accountability framework.
- Conducted virtual capacity-building sessions for East African CSOs using the Media Advocacy Toolkit for Epidemic Preparedness. The CSO groups trained included the Uganda National Health Consumers Organisation (UNHCO), the National Organisation of Peer Educators (NOPE), Kenya, and the Zambia Health Education and Communications Trust (ZHECT).
- Conducted the Media Advocacy Training for CSOs in Lagos and Kano to build their capacity to effectively utilise the media (both traditional and digital media) to amplify their health security advocacy messages.



- Sponsored a special awards category to recognise and celebrate outstanding epidemic preparedness and response journalism across various media platforms, including TV, radio, and print media, at the 10th Edition of the Nigeria Healthcare Excellence Award in 2024.
- Conducted a 2-day capacity building workshop on communication for the Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical of the NAPHS, headed by the National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) to build their capacity to better communicate biosecurity-related information and to better document and communicate progress made in strengthening health security within the technical area.
- Developed the Prevent Epidemics Project Overview Documentary to highlight the project's contributions to strengthening health security and the successes and key achievements recorded at the national and sub-national levels.
- Using the project hashtag #PreventEpidemicsProjectNaija, we developed and disseminated key messages on epidemic preparedness and response, including 524 X (formerly known as Twitter) posts and 32 Facebook posts, reaching over 15 million social media users.

LASSA FEVER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - ADVOCACY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.

FUNDER: COALITION FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS INNOVATIONS (CEPI)

ABOUT

In December 2023, Nigeria Health Watch, with funding from CEPI conducted stakeholder mapping for Lassa vaccine research and development (R&D) landscape across West Africa. This initiative aims to deepen CEPI's understanding of the political context within the region through political intelligence reporting. The stakeholder mapping exercise identified significant coordination communication gaps that hinder progress in Lassa vaccine R&D. Based on the findings, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan was developed to address these gaps and strengthen collaboration.

Working in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control (RCSDC), CEPI seeks to enhance the ease of vaccine development and introduction in the region. A critical component of this effort involves supporting ECOWAS-RCSDC to effectively communicate,









coordinate, and reinforce Lassa vaccine R&D efforts. In addition to focusing on West Africa, the initiative extends to political intelligence reporting on health trends in Central and East Africa, providing valuable insights for Mpox vaccine R&D in these regions.

OBJECTIVES:

- Provide Strategic Insights: Deliver actionable intelligence for engagement strategies targeting Lassa fever and Mpox across 11 countries: Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Ghana, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Cameroon.
- Enhance CEPI's Visibility: Position CEPI as a global leader in vaccine R&D through strategic communication and advocacy in the region.

IMPACT:

• Political Intelligence Insights:

- Providing actionable intelligence for Lassa and Mpox vaccine R&D across the targeted regions.
- Supporting CEPI's internal and external stakeholders with relevant political and health sector trends.

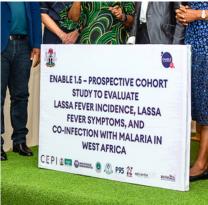
• Targeted Social Media Campaigns:

 Launching and sustaining a high-impact social media campaign to raise awareness of Lassa fever across West Africa.

Research and Communication Support:

- Facilitating the launch and implementation of the CEPI ENABLE 1.5 Research Project.
- Strengthening WAHO's communication efforts, including:
 - A quarterly newsletter focused on Lassa fever updates.
 - A webinar series featuring expert discussions on vaccine R&D progress. This initiative is fostering stronger collaboration and communication among stakeholders, enhancing vaccine R&D efforts, and positioning CEPI as a leader in public health innovation across Africa.







MATERNAL HEALTH ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

FUNDER: MSD FOR MOTHERS

ABOUT

The Maternal Health Advocacy and Communications project funded by MSD for Mothers was launched in 2018 as a strategic initiative to address Nigeria's maternal health challenges. The project, which is co-implemented by Nigeria Health Watch and ACIOE Foundation with funding from MSD for Mothers, has broadened its objectives and targets key priorities to improve maternal health outcomes. These include promoting private sector financing for healthcare, leveraging digital health solutions, raising awareness of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR), integrating women's voices in maternal health policies, and advancing interventions to manage post-partum haemorrhage.

By addressing systemic gaps and mobilising resources, this initiative aims to ensure safer pregnancies and childbirth for Nigerian women, contributing to the broader goal of reducing maternal mortality and promoting sustainable health outcomes. The project aims to improve the quality of maternal healthcare and service delivery in the private sector and across all levels of the health systems in alignment with the Government of Nigeria's health strategic vision 2023 -2026.



OBJECTIVES:

- Amplify the importance of policy reforms that support and promote private health sector financing through affordable lending structures for patent and proprietary medicine vendors and other private health sector players for sustainable and equitable access to quality maternal health care.
- Promote developing and implementing supportive policies that facilitate digital health solutions in improving maternal healthcare delivery.
- Increase stakeholder awareness of maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) and the need to integrate women's voices in policies and practices to improve the quality of maternal healthcare.
- Promote the development and implementation of policies that support the adoption of proven innovative strategies in managing and treating postpartum haemorrhage.

IMPACT

- Enhanced and sustained dialogue with policymakers, decision-makers, and stakeholders to promote improved maternal healthcare.
- A growing number of stakeholders, including the private sector, advocate for a stronger health system and better maternal health services.
- Expanded awareness and involvement in maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) and its critical role in improving maternal health quality.













SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM AFRICA INITIATIVE PROJECT

FUNDER: SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

ABOUT

The Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative, implemented with support from the Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) USA, trains and supports newsroom and freelance journalists across Nigeria to investigate and report on how people respond to various social problems. This helps to address the predominant trend of problem-focused reporting that contributes to audiences avoiding news. Since its inception in 2020, the project has helped integrate this practice across newsrooms in Nigeria. It has also worked with academic institutions to reach student journalists. The project also has a fellowship component that equips freelancer journalists and academics to spread the practice across Nigeria.

Beyond their stories, the fellows and newsroom journalists are helping to institutionalise and advocate for solutions journalism in their workplaces and among their peers. The objectives in the second phase are grouped into five streams. In addition to supporting more media



organisations to learn and integrate solutions journalism in their practice, the second phase had other objectives aimed at spreading the practice in Nigeria:

OBJECTIVES:

- Leverage community radio stations to deepen the practice of solutions journalism.
- Facilitate SoJo knowledge exchange by creating opportunities to engage and share insights from stories about previously published solutions.
- Institutionalising Solutions Journalism in higher institutions.
- Develop inclusive training content to make solutions journalism more accessible.
- Provide dedicated SoJo coaches/mentors for select print/online newsrooms.



IMPACT:

- Seven radio stations and five print media organisations were trained in solutions journalism, enabling them to publish over 40 stories covering topics such as community development, public health, and disability support. One notable success was a story about the Lavun community's efforts to reduce malaria deaths, which led to inquiries from neighbouring communities and health officials interested in replicating the initiative. The Fulani community in Kutigi also benefited and requested more inclusive health interventions, demonstrating the project's ability to inspire replication and community impact.
- The first SoJo Knowledge Cafe, focusing on "Innovative Solutions to Climate Change's Impact on Food Security," attracted over 50 participants. A call for climate and public health pitches resulted in 11 commissioned stories.
- Trained 10 Nigerian newsroom editors collaborating with Pan Atlantic University and mentored 15 student journalists from two universities through Prime Progress. Further collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Journalism integrated solutions journalism into their curriculum.

NIGERIA MEDIA INNOVATION PROGRAM (NAMIP) PROJECT

FUNDER: MEDIA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FUND

ABOUT

The Nigeria Media Innovation Program (NAMIP) is a multi-year initiative designed to bolster digital media innovation and ensure the sustainability of independent media outlets in Nigeria. Funded by the MacArthur Foundation, NAMIP addresses challenges such as financial instability, reliance on unsustainable grants, and limited access to diverse news. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the sector's vulnerabilities, making NAMIP's intervention timely.

The program supports up to 25 media organisations, from startups to established outlets, targeting urban and rural audiences. It helps them explore new business models, diversify revenue streams, and attract audiences for long-term sustainability. Beyond funding, NAMIP offers coaching, technical assistance, and tailored capacity-building through workshops, expert consultations, and community learning sessions. Inspired by similar programs in South Africa, Myanmar, and Ethiopia, NAMIP focuses on product development, audience engagement, digital innovation, revenue generation, and organisational growth to create a resilient Nigerian media landscape.

While the project is in the extended phase until mid-2025, it continues to provide Nigeria Health Watch with consulting and advisory services and support new products, such as Aldriven media/journalistic innovations.









- Participated in key events such as the London Podcast Show and the Africa Media Perspective conference in South Africa, including the Young Farmers Indaba in Pretoria, South Africa, where Nigeria Health Watch engaged with food security and climate change stakeholders, including South Africa's Minister of Agriculture. Insights gained influenced activities at the inaugural Future of Health Youth Pre-Conference in October 2024.
- Provided access to a diverse network of newsrooms across Nigeria, enabling cross-learning and collaboration within the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative.
- Supported the production of a media market analysis report, offering insights into launching a new editorial product.
- Several team members also participated in in-person and virtual training sessions focused on areas such as corporate governance, digital metrics, podcasts, and business strategies.



EVENTS IN 2024

MEDIC WEST AFRICA: COMMUNICATING YOUR BRAND VALUE WITH IMPACT IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

DATE: 18TH OF APRIL 2024

LOCATION: LAGOS

In April, Nigeria Health Watch played a significant role at the Medic West Africa event held in Lagos, underscoring its ongoing commitment to health systems strengthening and stakeholder engagement. As part of the event's knowledge-sharing sessions, Nigeria Health Watch facilitated a workshop titled: Communicating your Brand Value with Impact in the Healthcare Industry. By convening diverse actors across the healthcare value chain, Nigeria Health Watch helped stimulate critical dialogue on policy and practice reforms necessary for building a more resilient healthcare system.









MATERNAL HEALTH POLICY DIALOGUE: SCALING MATERNAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS IN NIGERIA: LEARNINGS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

DATE: 18TH OF JULY 2024

LOCATION: ABUJA

Nigeria Health Watch hosted its first policy dialogue of the year on Maternal Health, titled "Scaling Maternal Health Innovations in Nigeria: Learnings, Challenges and Opportunities." The event convened key stakeholders, including government representatives at national and sub-national levels, healthcare providers, civil society organisations, the private sector, and development partners, to discuss strategies, challenges, and benefits of scaling maternal health innovations in Nigeria. Maternal health remains vital for public health, shaping the future generation's well-being. Addressing maternal mortality in the African Region underscores the need for investment in research, evidence-based interventions, and scaling proven innovations for broader, lasting impacts.









NUTRITION FORUM: ADDRESSING COORDINATION BOTTLENECKS IN NIGERIA FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION OUTCOMES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11TH 2024

LOCATION: ABUJA

Nigeria Health Watch hosted the 2024 Nutrition Consultative Forum titled: "Addressing Coordination Bottlenecks in Nigeria for Improved Nutrition Outcomes." The event brought key stakeholders together, including representatives from national and sub-national governments, healthcare providers, civil society organisations, the private sector, and development partners, to discuss challenges, opportunities, and strategies for improving nutrition coordination in Nigeria. The forum provided a platform for dialogue to strengthen cohesion and effectiveness in nutrition policy, programming, and financing. By addressing coordination bottlenecks, the discussions focused on fostering sustainable strategies to enhance nutrition outcomes and support long-term improvements in public health across the country.









SUB-NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE: STRENGTHENING PHC ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPROVED MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH: BRIDGING GAPS IN SERVICE DELIVERY

DATE: 4TH OF OCTOBER 2024

LOCATION: ABUJA

In 2024, Nigeria Health Watch conducted a baseline community perception survey, revealing disparities in healthcare services across Local Government Areas (LGAs). Rural areas like Ghari (Kunchi) and Kura faced significant gaps, with only 13.4% of respondents believing their Primary Health Centres (PHCs) were fully equipped. Inadequate staffing emerged as a critical issue, with overburdened workers negatively impacting service delivery and patient satisfaction. Long wait times were reported, particularly in Bunkure (85.3%) and Gwarzo (91.3%).

On October 4, 2024, Nigeria Health Watch hosted a policy dialogue to share evidence on the current gaps in PHC service delivery and discuss strategies to strengthen PHC accountability and improve maternal and child health outcomes across Kano State.









THE 2024 FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE: FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION: BUILDING RESILIENCE AT THE CLIMATE- HEALTH NEXUS

DATE: 23RD - 24TH OF OCTOBER 2024

LOCATION: ABUJA

Nigeria Health Watch hosted the 10th edition of the Future of Health Conference, introducing the inaugural Youth Pre-Conference 2024, titled: "Amplifying Youth Voices for Climate-Health Action." This annual conference brings together delegates, speakers, and partners to address health sector challenges and advocate for policies ensuring access to quality, affordable healthcare for all Nigerians. Featuring voices from health and allied sectors, the event drives innovation and knowledge-sharing to inspire change.

The 10th edition provided an interdisciplinary platform to explore evidence and actions at the climate-health nexus, fostering collaboration to integrate climate resilience into public health strategies. By promoting sustainable solutions and enhancing health systems' capacity to adapt to climate change, this landmark event catalysed transformative actions and strengthened stakeholder engagement in addressing the intersection of climate and health. Insights shared during the conference continue to inform advocacy and drive meaningful conversations beyond the event.











SIDE EVENTS

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY CONFERENCE 2024: COMMUNICATING ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS USING THE SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM FRAMEWORK

18TH JUNE 2024







Nigeria Health Watch hosted a side event at the 2024 Global Health Security Conference in Australia to strengthen communication skills using the Solutions Journalism framework. Participants gained practical storytelling techniques to effectively communicate impact, promote solutions journalism beyond traditional media, and enhance partnerships with CSOs and local communities. The event also marked the launch of an interactive dashboard featuring solutions-focused stories from media organisations trained over three years. Additionally, attendees received hands-on training on using the Solutions Journalism international tracker to filter public health stories.



CAPACITY BUILDING IN COMMUNICATION: NATIONAL BIOSAFETY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

29TH - 30TH OF APRIL 2024

The Prevent Epidemics Project, in collaboration with the National Biosafety Management Agency, conducted a two-day capacity-building training in effective strategic communications for the biosafety and biosecurity technical area. The training, which took place on the 29th and 30th of April, aimed to strengthen the agency's ability to communicate risks and respond to public health threats in a timely and transparent manner. Participants were taken through practical sessions on message development, media engagement, audience targeting, and the use of digital platforms to improve outreach. By enhancing the communication skills of NBMA staff, the training supports Nigeria's broader epidemic preparedness efforts and contributes to more coordinated and credible public health responses.







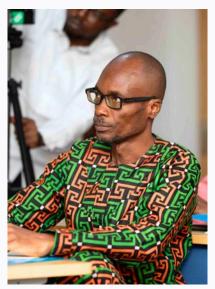


CAPACITY BUILDING IN SOCIAL LISTENING AND MISINFORMATION MANAGEMENT: NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

25TH JUNE 2024

The Nigeria Health Watch team organised a two-day workshop to strengthen staff capacities at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) on social listening and misinformation management for infectious diseases. The training focused on equipping participants with the skills to effectively track, analyse, and respond to health-related misinformation and disinformation. Attendees learned to leverage digital tools and social listening techniques to monitor public conversations, detect emerging health concerns, and counter false narratives. The workshop also emphasised the importance of proactive communication strategies in building public trust and enhancing community engagement. Through interactive sessions and case studies, participants gained hands-on experience designing and implementing misinformation management frameworks to improve public health response and crisis communication.













HEALTH MISINFORMATION MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP FOR MEDIA INFLUENCERS

8TH JULY 2024

The Health Misinformation Management Project conducted a three-day intensive training program for a selected group of influencers, bloggers, and creatives as part of the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship deliverable. The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to identify, counter, and prevent the spread of health misinformation across digital platforms. Attendees were introduced to fact-checking techniques, ethical content creation, and strategies for promoting accurate health information in ways that engage and resonate with online audiences. The sessions also explored the role of social media in shaping public perceptions of health issues and how digital influencers can leverage their platforms to drive positive behavioural change. Through practical exercises, case studies, and expert-led discussions, participants gained hands-on experience crafting credible, engaging, and solutions-oriented health communication content to effectively combat misinformation.









NOVO NORDISK HAEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

IST AUGUST 2024

Nigeria Health Watch co-created and co-facilitated a one-day advocacy workshop in collaboration with the Novo Nordisk Haemophilia Foundation to raise awareness about haemophilia and support the success of strategic advocacy efforts. The workshop brought together key stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, patient advocates, policymakers, and civil society organisations, to discuss challenges and opportunities in haemophilia care and policy development. It was structured into three interactive sessions designed to foster meaningful dialogue and knowledge sharing. Curated and structured conversations were combined with andragogic learning strategies to ensure participants' engaging and impactful experiences. The workshop emphasised the importance of evidence-based advocacy, compelling storytelling, and cross-sector collaboration in improving access to care and support for individuals with haemophilia. Through real-life case studies and group exercises, attendees gained practical skills in policy engagement and communication strategies to drive sustainable change in haemophilia awareness and treatment in Nigeria.











BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS AND INFODEMIC MANAGEMENT TRAINING

19TH - 20TH OF SEPTEMBER 2024

The Nigeria Health Watch team was in Kano for two days to facilitate a comprehensive training session on behavioural insights and infodemic management organised by the Policy Innovation Centre (PIC). The training focused on equipping participants with strategies to counter misinformation and disinformation in public health communication, particularly regarding vaccine hesitancy and disease outbreaks. Attendees learned to apply behavioural science principles to enhance health messaging, build public trust, and encourage evidence-based decision-making. The session also explored practical techniques for identifying and mitigating the spread of false health information and fostering collaboration among media professionals, health communicators, and policymakers to improve information dissemination and crisis response.













MASTERCLASS FOR NIGERIAN JOURNALISTS ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

2ND - 4TH OF OCTOBER 2024

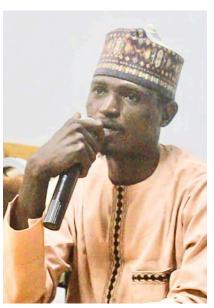
Nigeria Health Watch team members represented the organisation and co-facilitated training sessions for journalists at the African Newspage One-Day Masterclass on Climate Solutions. During the session, they provided insights on effectively reporting climate-related health challenges using a solutions-focused approach. Journalists were equipped with practical storytelling techniques to highlight community-driven and policy-based responses to climate issues. The training emphasised the role of media in driving action through constructive narratives and fostering engagement with key stakeholders, including policymakers and local communities. Participants also explored strategies for integrating solutions journalism into their reporting to enhance public awareness and accountability.











STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT ACTION AND OWNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE ADOLESCENT SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROGRAMMING AND DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

14TH - 15TH OF OCTOBER 2024

Nigeria Health Watch provided strategic support to the Adolescent 360 (A360) Amplify Project team under the Society for Family Health (SFH) to deliver an in-depth training session on Digital Communications during a three-day workshop. The workshop featured a blend of discussions, reflections, and capacity-building activities to empower adolescents and their communities with the skills needed to advocate for a healthy transition into adulthood. Participants were introduced to key concepts in digital storytelling, social media advocacy, and content creation, with a strong focus on using digital platforms to promote positive health behaviours and address misinformation. The sessions emphasised the power of youth-led advocacy, equipping attendees with tools to craft compelling messages, engage with diverse audiences, and drive social change through digital communication. Through interactive exercises, hands-on training, and expert-led discussions, participants gained practical experience leveraging digital tools to amplify their voices, foster meaningful conversations, and influence policy discussions surrounding adolescent health and well-being.













SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM MASTERCLASS FOR NIGERIAN EDITORS

19TH - 22ND OF NOVEMBER 2024

Some team members represented Nigeria Health Watch at a four-day Solutions Journalism Masterclass in partnership with the School of Media and Communication at Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos. The masterclass was part of the Solutions Journalism Africa initiative. It aimed to equip newsroom editors across Nigeria with tools to tell impactful solutions stories and integrate solutions journalism into their organisations.













NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES DEMOCRACY RADIO CITIZEN'S JOURNALISM WORKSHOP FOR NIGERIAN STUDENTS

7TH NOVEMBER 2024

The Nigeria Health Watch team actively participated in a Citizen Journalism Training Workshop organised by the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) to equip Nigerian students with essential journalism skills. The workshop provided a platform for young aspiring journalists to develop a deeper understanding of media ethics, investigative reporting, and responsible storytelling. Participants were introduced to the fundamentals of news gathering, fact-checking, and multimedia storytelling, emphasising producing accurate and impactful reports on governance, public health, and social issues. The sessions also explored the role of citizen journalists in promoting accountability, transparency, and civic engagement in Nigeria's democratic landscape. Through interactive discussions, practical exercises, and real-life case studies, students gained hands-on experience crafting compelling news stories, leveraging digital tools, and navigating the evolving media landscape. The workshop reinforced the importance of ethical reporting and the power of citizen journalism in shaping public discourse and driving positive social change.













MEDIA APPEARANCES IN 2024

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH IN THE NEWS





Youth Engagement Vital For Addressing Climate Change, Health vulnerabilities – *Ihekweazu*

The managing director, Nigeria Health Watch, Vivianne lhekweazu, has said that with nearly 42 percent of Nigerians aged 0-40, the youth must play an active role in tackling the dual challenges of climate change and health vulnerabilities.

or climate change and neatin vulnerabilities.

She stated this at he Future of Health Youth Conference, themed "Applying Youth Voices for Climate-Health Action." organised by the Nigeria Health Watch, in Abuja.

The conference underscored the innoortance of interating

the importance of integrating youth perspectives into climate solutions, as Nigeria grapples with the health impacts of environmental changes. Ihekweazu said that climate rising temperatures, adding that "Young people, who will bear the brunt of these impacts, must be part of the solution. Our health systems are fragile, and the integration of climate resilience into health infrastructure is essential."

dehydration, often face health facilities unprepared to meet climate-related challenges. She stressed the need for energy-efficient hospitals powered by renewable sources, such as solar energy,

The discussions at the conference were enriched by young innovators presenting apps and tools designed to monitor weather patterns, ly track air quality, and page of the conference of the conf







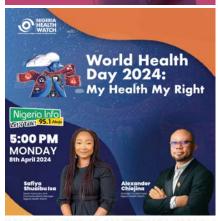


NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

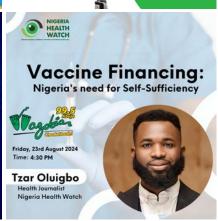
























NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH ON TELEVISION

















COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

PROVIDED COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR:

PSHAN One-Day National Stakeholder Meeting (18 January 2024)

Promoting
Accreditation for
Community Health
Services (PACS)
project state-level
workshop (25th
March 2024)



World Population
Day National
Symposium by the
Population
Association of
Nigeria (11th July
2024)



National Non-Communicable Diseases Policy Launch (8th August 2024) The Elizabeth
Glaser Paediatric
AIDS Foundation
(EGPAF) Africa's
closeout event for
the DELTA II AP3
project (24 - 25
January 2024)

Boost Bright Spots
Webinar Series:
Leveraging NNRISP
Grant Successes for
Immunization and
Primary Health
Care Optimisation
powered by Solina
Centre for
International
Development and
Research (SCIDaR)
(14th March 2024)

Enable 1.5 Project
Launch hosted by
the Coalition for
Epidemic
Preparedness
Innovations, CEPI
(2nd October 2024)

The Healthcare
Federation of
Nigeria (HFN)
Annual
Conference (8 - 9
February 2024)

End of Project
Dissemination
Event: State-Led
Strategic
Purchasing for
Family Planning
hosted by Health
Systems Consult
Limited (12th
March 2024)

High-Level Policy
Dialogue
organised by the
Healthcare
Federation
Network, HFN (8th
October 2024)

M/Other Performance organised by CNN As Equals and QDance Productions (30th October 2024)

Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria, SOGON (27 - 30 November 2024) Healthcare Business
Collaboration
organised by
PharmAccess, the
Consulate of the
Kingdom of the
Netherlands, the
Healthcare
Federation of
Nigeria (HFN), and
the Nigerian
Economic Summit
Group, NESG (27th
February 2024)

Joint Annual Review (JAR) Meeting 2024 (6 -8 November)



65th National Council on Health (NCH) Event (18 -22 November 2024)



65th National Council on Health (NCH) Event (18 -22 November 2024)

8th Nigeria Family
Planning Conference (2 - 6
December 2024)

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH ONLINE

WEBINARS

MAIDEN GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE HEALTH MISINFORMATION MANAGEMENT FELLOWS IN NIGER STATE

DATE: 30TH OF JANUARY 2024

In 2023, we partnered with the Niger State Ministry of Health to launch the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship in the state. This fellowship aims to build a network of informed stakeholders who will play a key role in addressing health misinformation and contribute to improved public health interventions. After 12 weeks of engaging in a series of intensive activities, including training, media engagement & community sensitisation, we celebrated the culmination of the first cohort of the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship in Niger State with a graduation ceremony.

PRE-FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE WEBINAR

DATE: 17TH OF OCTOBER 2024

In partnership with World Bank Nigeria, we hosted a webinar titled "Shaping Nigeria's Climate and Health Agenda." This webinar brought key stakeholders from the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, World Bank Nigeria and others to discuss how we can create a climate agenda that prioritises health in Nigeria and build anticipation of our Future of Health Conference 2024







WEST AFRICAN LASSA FEVER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WEBINAR

DATE: 10TH OF DECEMBER 2024

In collaboration with the West Africa Health Organization and with support from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, we hosted the first West African Lassa Fever Research and Development Webinar titled: "New Knowledge Frontiers for Lassa Fever Preparedness and Response in West Africa: Evidence from the Field." This webinar brought key stakeholders together to discuss the latest developments and regional progress in tackling Lassa fever.



X SPACES

1. DID SOMEONE SAY SOJO 2.0

We organised a Solution Journalism Space where we hosted incredible journalists who were part of the project's first phase to share their experiences as solutions journalists in Nigeria

DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2024



2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LASSA FEVER OUTBREAK

We organised a #HealthFactCheckNaija X Space to discuss the ongoing #LassaFever outbreak, those most at risk, and the efforts being made to curb its spread.

DATE: 15TH MARCH 2024



3. IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH BY SURVEILLANCE, RESPONSE AND COLLABORATION.

We organised an X Space to explore strategies for improving maternal health outcomes, focusing on strengthening health systems and safeguarding the health and rights of women across Nigeria.

DATE: 4TH APRIL 2024



4. ADDRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT THE HPV VACCINE IN NIGERIA

We organised a #HealthFactCheckNaija X Space to discuss the introduction of the human papillomavirus (#HPV) vaccine into Nigeria's routine immunisation schedule and address misinformation that threatens progress towards eradicating cervical cancer

DATE: 27TH JUNE 2024



5. COMBATING CHOLERA: NIGERIA'S FIGHT AGAINST THE OUTBREAK

We hosted a #HealthFactCheckNaija X Space to discuss Nigeria's response to the ongoing cholera outbreak and the urgent actions needed to curb its spread.

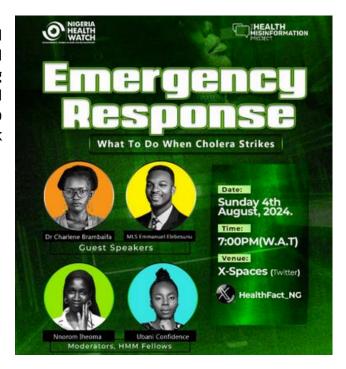
DATE: 2ND JULY, 2024



6. EMERGENCY RESPONSE: WHAT TO DO WHEN CHOLERA STRIKES

We organised a Cholera Awareness and Prevention Space, where we shared critical information on identifying early warning signs, first aid for suspected cases, and effective prevention measures to help reduce the impact of the ongoing outbreak in Nigeria.

DATE: AUGUST 4TH 2024



7. CHOLERA CONTROL IN RIVERS STATE: CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS

We organised an X Space to highlight how the Rivers State government tackled the cholera outbreak and the control measures implemented across the state, featuring the Commissioner of Health, Dr Adaeze Oreh

DATE: 23RD AUGUST 2024



8. LASSA FEVER: WHY WE ARE STILL CONCERNED

We organised an X Space to unpack the facts and dispel myths about Lassa fever, highlighting why it remains a significant public health threat in Nigeria.

DATE: 4TH OCTOBER 2024



SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS

TWITTER

98,721

2020 2021 2022

112,090

2023 2024 120,017

124,640



RETWEETS-10.991



LIKES -32,376



IMPRESSIONS -32,376



ENGAGEMENT-117, 342

FACEBOOK

2020 2021

55,887

52,869

2022 2023

60,024

64,814



FOLLOWERS AT THE END OF 2024 -65,231



TOTAL **IMPRESSIONS** -1,805,967



TOTAL **ENGAGEMENT-**25, 981



TOTAL LIKES -12,387

INSTAGRAM

2021

2022

7,194

7,343

2023

2024

7,681

8,128



TOTAL LIKES -3,730



TOTAL **IMPRESSIONS** -90,379



LINKEDIN

2022 2023

8,237

10,561

2024 2023

13,709

64,814



TOTAL **IMPRESSIONS** -409.807



TOTAL **ENGAGEMENT-**69,701



TOTAL LIKES -11,900

MAILCHIMP

2020 2021 2022

19,448

19,360

19,329

2023 2024

24,996

36,755

YOUTUBE

2021 2022 2023 2024

29,61

77,99

35,500

58,000

PARTNERS





































































Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Federal Republic of Nigeria



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