

Health Misinformation Management Fellowship

Cohort 1: Social mobilisers
and Advocate
Graduation Bulletin



JANUARY 2024

FELLOWSHIP PLANNING TEAM



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we wrap up the immensely impactful Cohort 1 Health Misinformation Management Fellowship in Niger State, I find it essential to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a pivotal role in its success.

To our dedicated facilitators: your wealth of knowledge, unwavering commitment, and passion for tackling health misinformation have been the guiding light for our fellows. Your tireless efforts in imparting valuable skills and insights have undoubtedly shaped the course of this fellowship.

A special appreciation goes out to the Coordinating Team: Your meticulous planning, seamless coordination, and dedication behind the scenes have been the backbone of our operations. Your ability to navigate challenges and ensure the smooth execution of every aspect of the fellowship has not gone unnoticed.

To our fellows: Your enthusiasm, resilience, and commitment to combatting misinformation have been nothing short of inspiring. Your active participation and dedication throughout the fellowship have been instrumental in its success.

In every training session, media engagement, community sensitization, and campaign, it was the collective effort of everyone involved that made a difference. Together, we identified and debunked rumours, reached thousands with vital information, and created a ripple effect against misinformation.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this Cohort, let us carry forward the lessons learned, and the camaraderie forged. Your contributions have not only elevated the fellowship but have also strengthened our shared commitment to truth and public health.

Thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and hard work of everyone involved. Here's to the success and the positive impact we've collectively made in the fight against health misinformation. Here's to more work that lies ahead.

With sincere gratitude,
Abara Erim
Programme Coordinator
Nigeria Health Watch

ABOUT NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

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 and 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.



Our Vision

Nigeria Health Watch is committed to working with stakeholders, through advocacy to realise its vision of a Nigeria where all people, irrespective of income, have access to improved and affordable quality health care.



Our Mission

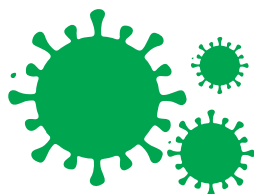
Our mission is to ensure that Nigerians have the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about their health. We seek to advocate for improved access to health services at the federal and state level, promoting transparency and health reform where needed. Nigeria Health Watch aims to achieve this mission through informed commentary, effective advocacy, education, health information dissemination and policy recommendation.



ABOUT THE HEALTH MISINFORMATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT



Misinformation posed a serious challenge to the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) response and hampered adherence to proven public health measures instituted to combat the pandemic. This led to increased attention on the impact of “fake news” in a public health emergency, a term that was previously mostly researched due to its impact on political communication and debate (Domenico et al, 2021).

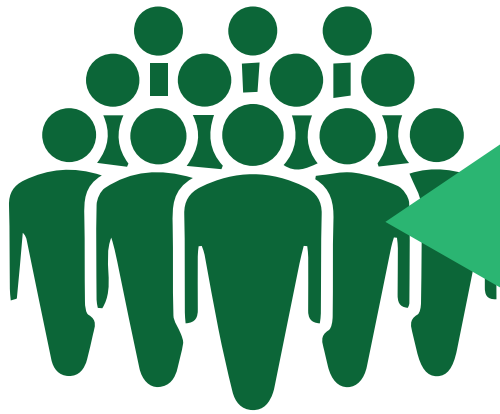


The rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation during the pandemic caused the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare that COVID-19 was both a pandemic and an infodemic.

The **COVID-19 infodemic** was said to have spurred anxiety and confusion, affected people’s mental health, and lengthened the pandemic due to its effects on health behaviour (WHO 2020).



Between **June and September 2020**, **Nigeria Health Watch (NHW)** partnered with **Meedan** to conceive and launch the Misinformation project aimed at combating COVID-19 misinformation through community engagement. Employing a multimedia strategy, the project strategically debunked false information across various social media platforms. Nigeria Health Watch also collaborated with the **Nigeria Centre for Disease Control**, Nigeria Health Watch identified prevalent misinformation, rumours, and fake news by monitoring rumour logs and utilizing social media search functions.



24%

A study revealed that over a third of respondents received such **misinformation via social media**, with 24% actually using salt and water during the **Ebola outbreak** (Balami et al., 2019).

Recognizing the impact of misinformation on health, particularly in the digital realm, the need for fact-checking and debunking gained prominence with the onset of COVID-19. Prior to this, fact-checks were primarily directed at other news, particularly in politics, and were predominantly presented in text/article format. The urgency to combat COVID-19 misinformation underscored the necessity of disseminating accurate debunks in a manner that engages the audience on the same platforms where misinformation spreads.



To gather evidence Nigeria Health Watch piloted the Niger Health Misinformation Project, which is a comprehensive initiative that takes a proactive and data-driven approach to identify and address health misinformation and provide evidence for public health communication interventions/investments.



By combining online and offline listening strategies, the project aimed to inform, engage, and empower the public against health misinformation. Its primary focus areas include data collection through social and community listening, analysis and insights generation, dissemination of reports to stakeholders, timely response to identified concerns, gaps and challenges, and continuous monitoring and feedback.

ABOUT THE HEALTH MISINFORMATION FELLOWSHIP

Health misinformation has posed significant challenges to public health initiatives, particularly during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic. In the pursuit of combatting health misinformation and fostering accurate health communication, Nigeria Health Watch acknowledges the critical role of capacity-building and strategic collaboration.

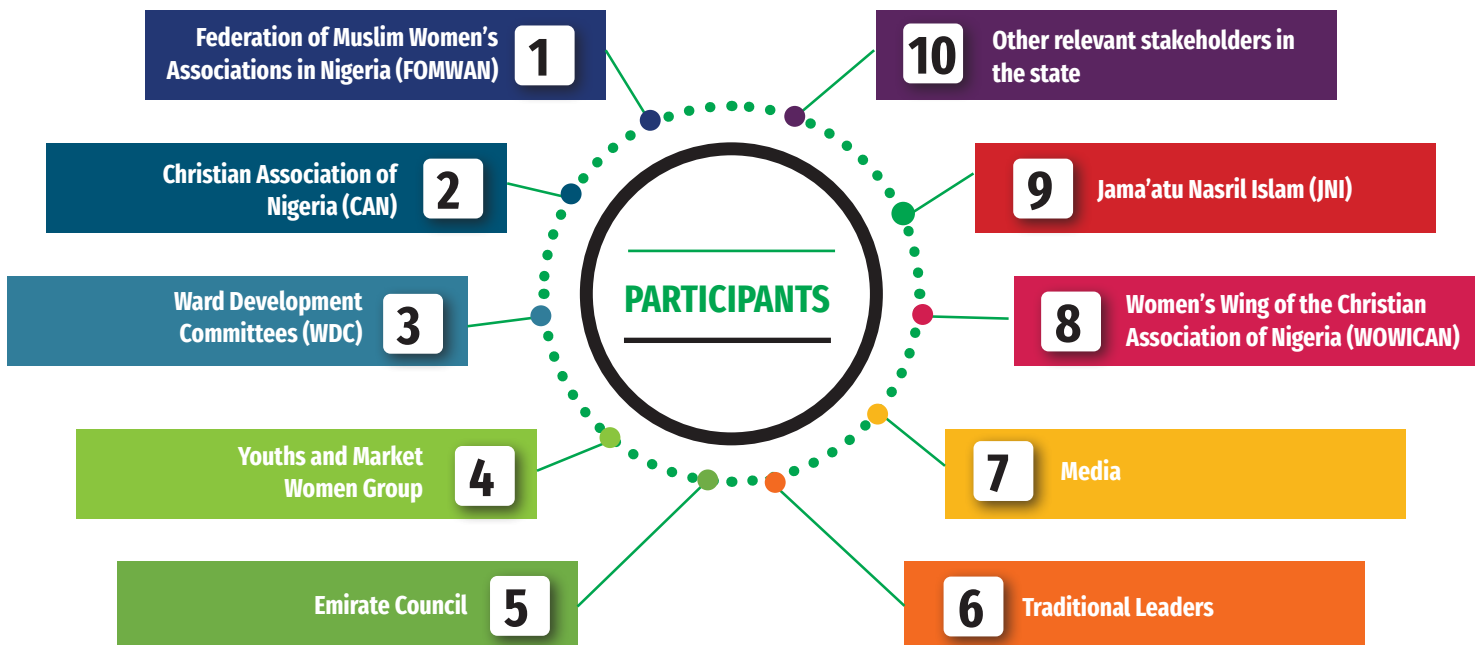
The Health Misinformation Management Fellowship Program was conceived as a transformative initiative to empower various stakeholders at the community level and drive effective misinformation management. Nigeria Health Watch conceptualised and launched the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship Program. This initiative aims to equip the participants with the skills and knowledge needed to combat health misinformation within communities and the country at large. The project was borne following the insights garnered from the misinformation project piloted in Niger state.

OBJECTIVES

- Empower the participants with the skills to effectively identify and address misinformation in the state.
- Foster strategic partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders and participants.
- Develop a repository of best practices for combating health misinformation.

PARTICIPANTS CATEGORY:

The fellowship program was piloted with 25 participants drawn from:



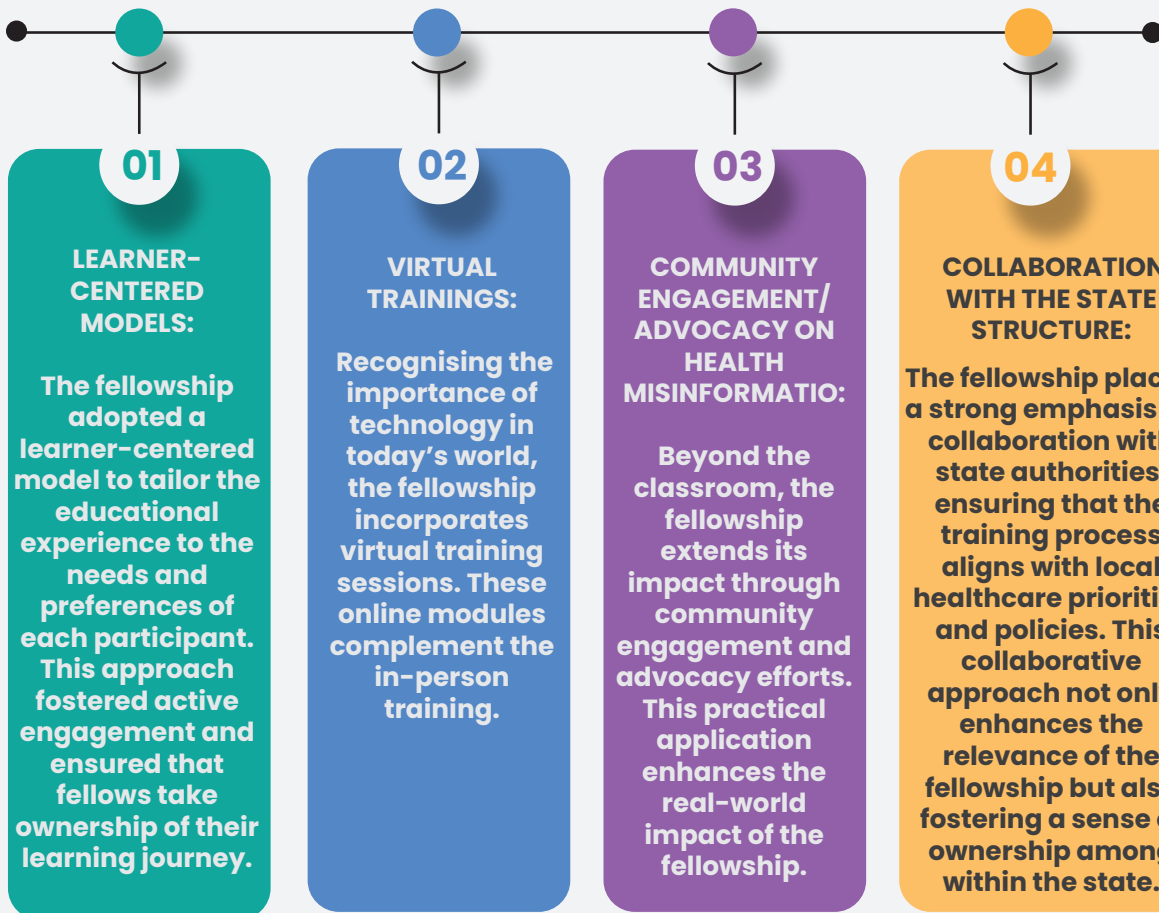
Selection categories were predetermined, based on the findings from the need assessment conducted to identify community structures and understand training gaps around health misinformation in the selected community

FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE

The Niger State Health Misinformation Management Fellowship boosted a comprehensive and inclusive structure designed to address the diverse backgrounds of its fellows.



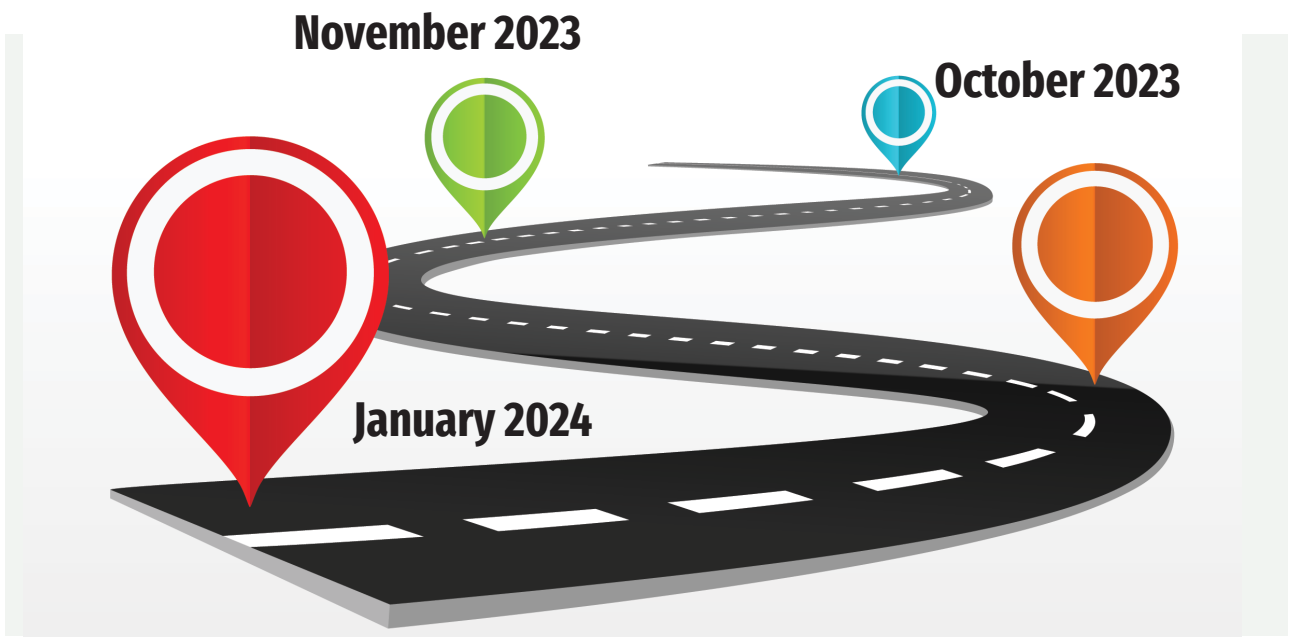
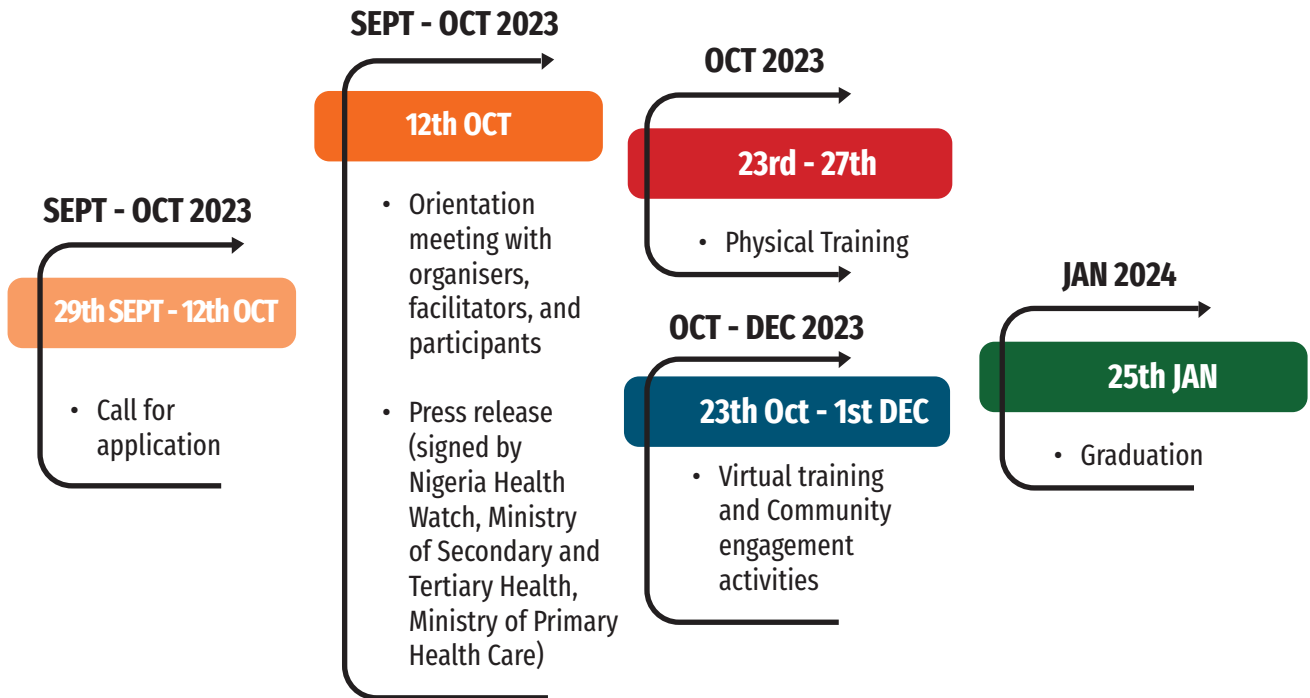
The fellowship was intentionally pedagogical in nature, focusing on education and skill development in health misinformation management. The structure is characterised by an intensive in-class capacity-building and training program, that employed a multifaceted approach, where fellows engage in immersive learning experiences, gaining practical skills and knowledge essential for managing health misinformation. The interactive nature of the sessions promotes a deep understanding of the subject matter.



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

The Health Misinformation Management Fellowship spanned between August 2023 to January 2024; been a comprehensive strategy to combat the challenge of health misinformation.

It commenced with a robust Need Assessment in August 2023, with the findings instructive in the conceptualisation of the fellowship framework and curriculum; Outcomes from the Needs assessment showed gaps in knowledge; the health misinformation management fellowship was designed to address these gaps through a comprehensive process. This crucial step laid the foundation for the subsequent strategic interventions.



SEPTEMBER 2023

1

September 2023 marked the Stakeholder Engagement phase, where we actively reached out to key players in various sectors. Government agencies, media organizations, academic institutions, and community leaders became integral partners in the collaborative effort to address misinformation. Building these connections facilitated a more holistic and impactful approach.

OCTOBER 2023

2

As **October 2023** rolled in, the Call for Applications and Screening process was initiated. This phase aimed at identifying suitably qualified individuals with a passion for combating misinformation, employing a meticulous screening process to select candidates with diverse skill sets and perspectives. The goal was to assemble a cohort with the capability to tackle misinformation from multiple angles.

NOVEMBER 2023

3

November 2023 witnessed the next milestones in the form of **Orientation and Training**, which were crucial components of the fellowship. Selected fellows underwent an orientation program, acquainting them with the fellowship's objectives, expectations, and structure. A 3-day Specialized training sessions followed, covering essential areas such as fact-checking, digital literacy, communication strategies, and the utilization of technology tools for misinformation detection. Simultaneously in November 2023, Continuous Group Activities and Assessments were implemented. These activities fostered collaboration among fellows, promoting a dynamic exchange of ideas and strategies. Regular assessments and checking meetings ensured that fellows were progressing effectively and adapting to the evolving landscape of misinformation.

JANUARY 2024

4

The culmination of the fellowship occurred in January 2024 with the Graduation ceremony. This event not only celebrated the successful completion of the program but also provided a platform for fellows to showcase their projects. Recognition was accorded to the achievements of the participants in developing and implementing strategies to counter misinformation. The graduation served as a testament to the fellowship's impact in equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to the fight against misinformation across diverse sectors actively.

IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP

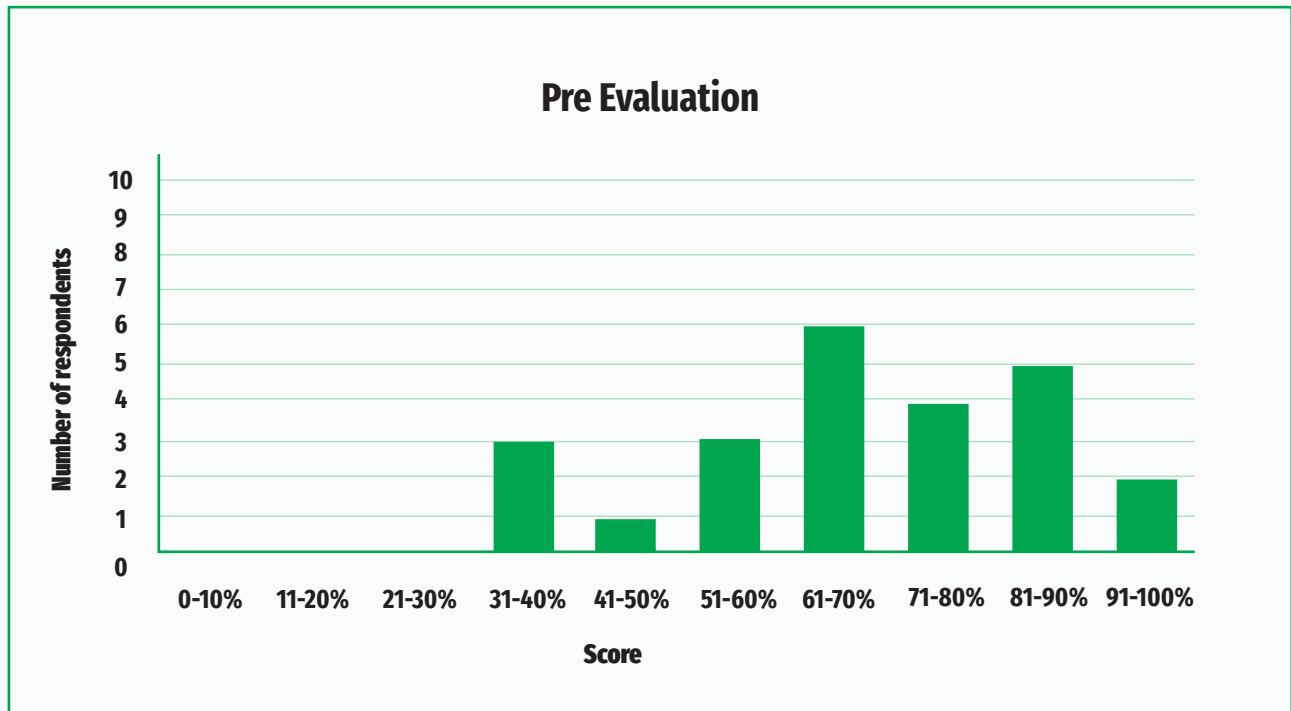
During this fellowship, the fellows engaged in a series of intensive activities ranging from

- 1 Training
- 2 Media engagement
- 3 Community sensitization
- 4 Motorized campaigns
- 5 Town announcements
- 6 Market visits
- 7 School storms
- 8 Parks storms
- 8 Public forums

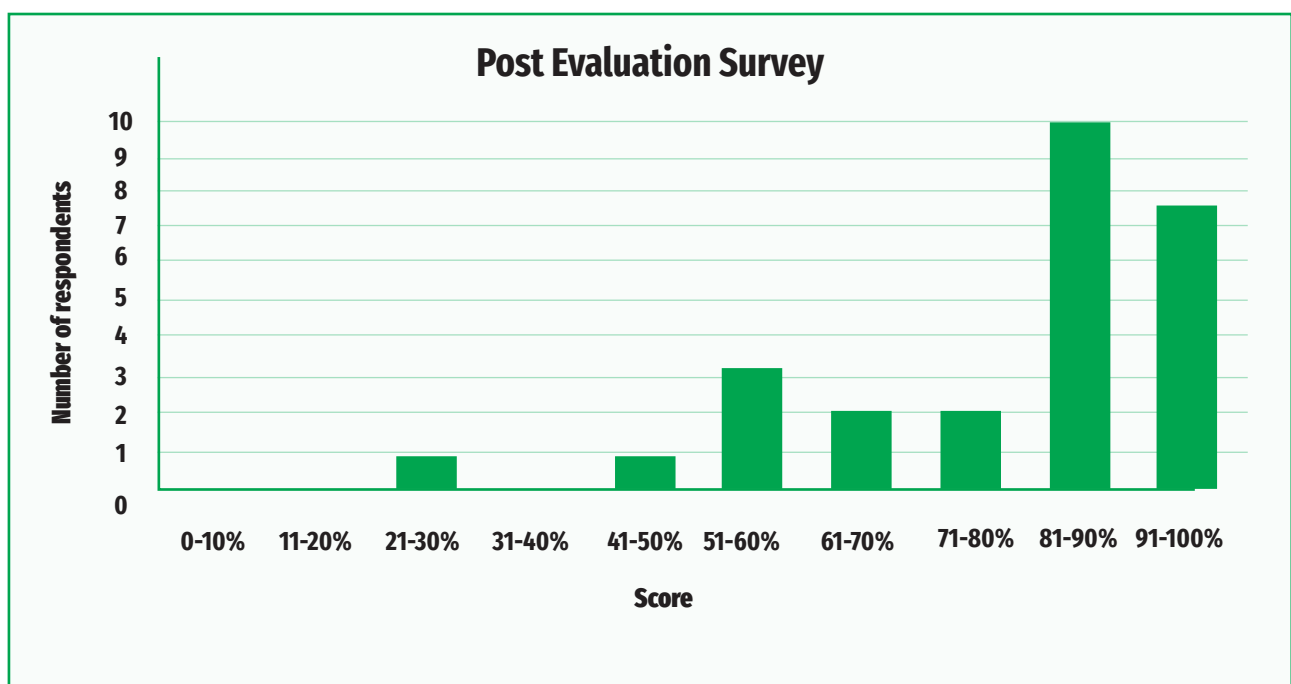
Knowledge and Awareness

The Health Misinformation Management Fellowship has played a pivotal role in fostering a significant increase in knowledge within the Fellows. This innovative program has empowered participants with the skills and tools necessary to combat the pervasive issue of health misinformation. Fellows underwent rigorous training, gaining expertise in identifying, analysing, and effectively countering misleading information that can potentially impact public health outcomes

The increase in knowledge about managing and combatting health misinformation was observed from the pre- and post-evaluation surveys.

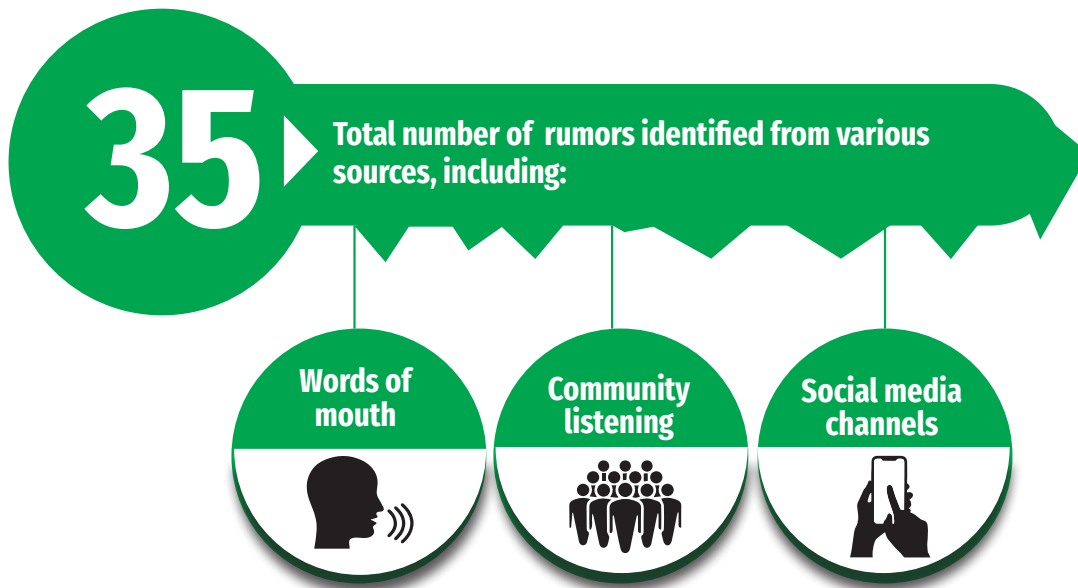


The fellows were assessed across a range of topics before their induction, these topics tested **their understanding of core concept of health misinformation, identification of health misinformation and misinformation management.** The post evaluation result showed a significant improvement knowledge and awareness across all the identified themes.



Rumour Identification:

Throughout the fellowship, a dedicated effort was made to identify and address misinformation.



This multiprong approach allowed the fellows to target misinformation at its source, ensuring a more effective intervention.

BELOW ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE RUMOURS THAT WERE IDENTIFIED INCLUDING THE SOURCES AS PART OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE FELLOWSHIP:

WhatsApp	Word of Mouth	X (Twitter) and Facebook
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccines can darken ones teeth. • Vaccines can make one a Flesh Eater. • Bleach cures Cancers • Eating eggs during pregnancy may cause behavioral change in newborn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccines are dangerous • HPV vaccine reduces fertility • Vaccines could prevents Pregnancy • Herbal Medication can cure HIV/AIDS • Taking pineapple and oranges causes miscarriage at the early stage of pregnancy • OPV vaccine have been replaced with the HPV vaccine in order to reduce child birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPV vaccine is only meant for children who have been raped

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

One of the significant achievements of the fellowship was its reach to the online community. Through a series of well-crafted campaigns, the fellowship successfully reached over 550,000 online users on various social media platforms. Below is the breakdown of people reached per social media channel:

The infographic displays three social media channels with their respective view counts: Facebook (over 5000 views), X (Twitter) (over 3000 views), and WhatsApp (over 400 views). To the right, a graphic titled 'WHAT IS HPV?' explains that HPV, or Human Papillomavirus, is a common virus that can be sexually transmitted and can cause cervical cancer, as well as genital warts. Below this, a sample social media post from Daniel Atori (@PrinceDanAtori) is shown, featuring a list of 5 facts about HPV vaccine. To the right, a screenshot of a tweet from Rabiyya Biyora (@RabiyyaBiyora) is displayed, warning that everything posted on social media is fake and can be destructive to people. Below the tweet is a graphic with Hausa text: 'Duk abin da aka yada ta shafukan sada zumunta na karya game da lafiya kan iya halakar da jama'a. Mu hada kai wajen yakar hakan' (Everything that is spread is harmful to the health of the community. We have reached the point of the struggle).

Social Media Channel	Views
Facebook	Over 5000
X (Twitter)	Over 3000
WhatsApp	Over 400

WHAT IS HPV?
HPV, or Human Papillomavirus, is a common virus that can be sexually transmitted and can cause cervical cancer, as well as genital warts.

#SupportHPVvaccine
#HealthFactCheckNaija
#HPVvaccineNG

5 facts about HPV VACCINE

- Prevents Human Papilloma virus infection
- Recommended for both male & Female
- It is usually administered in 2 doses
- Most effective before the onset of sexual activity
- Reduces the risk of HPV-related cancer

X Twitter

Duk abin da aka yada ta shafukan sada zumunta na karya game da lafiya kan iya halakar da jama'a. Mu hada kai wajen yakar hakan

#HealthFactCheckNaija

OFFLINE ENGAGEMENT

Various offline engagement were carried out by the fellows in the course of the fellowship reaching over

5000
people

including

3,240

Female



1,760

Male



889

Children



The offline engagement conducted included school storm, market sensitization, worship centers sensitization, sensitization disability groups, hospital sensitization, many of these engagements were in response to identified misinformation.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

In addition to the online and offline engagement efforts, the fellows leveraged traditional media channels to amplify their messages. This included four radio appearances and a tv appearance during the course of the fellowship reaching over 100,000 people in the state and beyond. These appearances provided a platform for the fellows to disseminate accurate information and address the impact of misinformation on a broader scale.



Fellows during a tv and radio appearances, sensitising the public on how to identify and combat health misinformation.

A promotional graphic for a radio talk show. It features a large microphone and headphones. The text reads: "STAY TUNED TO OUR Radio TALK SHOW ON HPV VACCINE". Below this, it says "ON TUESDAY 02:00PM - 03:00PM ON ULTIMATE FM 103.9 COE MINNA". At the bottom, it says "Hosted by" with a logo for "GROUPS FELLOWS NHW YOUR CORRECT HEALTH INFORMATION SOURCE". A request line number "08065199412" is also provided, along with "LIVE VIDEO STREAM ON: FACEBOOK".



Below are a few pictorial evidence of activities carried out during the fellowship





MEET THE FACILITATORS



ABARA ERIM

Abara Erim is a public health communications professional with expertise in epidemic preparedness, response, and recovery. He currently works as the Program Coordinator for Health Misinformation Management Project at Nigeria Health Watch, an organization dedicated to using informed advocacy and communication to shape health policy and enhance healthcare access in Nigeria. In his current role, Abara is leading a groundbreaking social and community listening project aimed at supporting the Government of Nigeria in the successful introduction of the HPV vaccine into routine immunization programs.



**SOLOMON YEMI
OLADIMEJI**

Solomon Yemi Oladimeji, is a Public Health enthusiast with six years of experience within the humanitarian and development sector, specialising in monitoring and evaluation. His focus spans public health elevation, environmental sustainability, gender equity, and human development initiatives. With a track record of active involvement in impactful projects, Solomon showcases strong teamwork, reliability, and purposeful problem-solving skills.

His expertise in monitoring and evaluation plays a pivotal role, allowing Solomon to meticulously track the impact of interventions meticulously, ensuring data-driven decision-making and program enhancement. His commitment lies in leveraging this expertise to drive innovation and positive change within communities, constantly seeking novel ways to add value and effect a meaningful difference.



SONIA BIOSE

Sonia Biose is a health policy enthusiast. She is a graduate of Human Anatomy from the University of Benin and currently works with Nigeria Health Watch as a Programmes Officer with the Health Misinformation Management and the Prevent Epidemics Projects.



SUNDAY OKO

Sunday is a Programme Officer at Nigeria Health Watch. He currently supports the Health Misinformation Management Project. He is a public health professional with over 4 years of progressive experience in data analysis, reporting and dissemination. He has proven capacity in design thinking project implementation, advocacy, and communication.



**OKECHI
EBERCHUKWU
NZEDIBE**

Okechi Eberchukwu Nzedibe is a WHO-Certified infodemic manager, public health consultant, pharmacist, and researcher with a demonstrated history of working in the public and private sectors. Her expertise ranges from infodemic management, health communication and advocacy, and leadership to pharmaceutical care, clinical research, and training. She is passionate about health access and equity. Hence, she supports organizations to strengthen global, national, sub-national, and local health systems.

Okechi holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy from the University of Nigeria, an MBA from the University of Liverpool, and an MSc in Public Health from the University of South Wales. She is a member of the COCHRANE Nigeria Advisory Board, the Global Infodemic Manager Community, the Nigeria Infodemic Management Team, the Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP), the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists, the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, and Boardroom Africa.



**MOHAMMED ALHAJI
USMAN**

Mohammed Alhaji Usman is a trained health education and promotion officer, social mobilization officer, risk communication officer during covid-19 and outbreak diseases and Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization officer (ACSM) with 14 years of progressive experience both national, state, LGA and Ward levels.

Mohammed has undergone several pieces of training, both National and State, on different communication strategies and approaches to debunk rumors, misinformation, myths, and misconceptions and is also well-experienced in resolving non-compliance cases. As a health educator and health promotion officer, my primary objective is to increase community participation/ownership of all programmes/interventions in the state, to also deliver maximum utility through consistent performance, by applying knowledge, leadership, and interpersonal skills to improve the productivities of self-reliance and organization



**DR. PATRICK
B. GIMBA**

Dr. Patrick Gimba is a medical expert with impressive qualifications and experience in various aspects of healthcare. He holds a master's degree in public administration and public health, as well as a medical degree from Moscow State University, Russia. He is a member of several reputable professional bodies, such as the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, the Nigeria Medical Association, and the Nigeria Association of Government General Medical and Dental Practitioners. He is also a fellow of the African Institute of Public Health Professionals and the Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Nigeria.



Cross section of the Fellowship planning team during a courtesy call on to the State Ministry of health

MEET THE FELLOWS



DEBORAH PHILIP

DEBORAH PHILIP

Deborah Philip, born on February 28, 1982, in Gbalu Dnapakpma, is a Christian nurse from Kpagoti Paikoro LGA of Niger state, Nigeria. She is happily married with children and belongs to the Gbari tribe, speaking English, Hausa, and her native language. Deborah's educational journey includes primary and secondary schooling in Chimbi and Government Girls' College, respectively. She obtained her Registered Nurse certificate from the School of Nursing in Bida and pursued a post-basic Ophthalmic Nursing program at the National Eye Centre in Kaduna. Currently, she is an undergraduate student at the National Open University of Nigeria.



ALI USMAN DOMA

ALI USMAN DOMA

Ali Usman Doma, born in Tayi village, Nassarawa C ward, Minna, Niger State, hails from the family of Mal. Ali Doma, the village ward head of Tayi Minna. His educational journey started at Chiroman Primary School Minna (now Aliyu Mu'azu Memorial Primary School) from 2000 to 2005, where he obtained his first leaving certificate. He continued to Ahamadu Bahago Senior Secondary School Minna, earning both junior and senior secondary school certificates in 2011.

Ali proceeded to Niger State College of Education Minna, obtaining a Nigerian Certificate in Education in Business Education in 2015. On 28 August 2021, he achieved a Bachelor's degree in Business Education from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto. Completing his one-year National Youth Service in Kagarko local government area of Kaduna state on 14 June 2023, Ali is a Gbagyi by tribe and a civil servant with the Niger State government.



HASSAN ISAH WUSHISHI

HASSAN ISAH WUSHISHI

Hassan Isah Wushishi, born on April 4, 1962, in Limawa Ward Minna, Niger State, embarked on a dedicated and accomplished career in the public service. His educational journey began at Sarkin Zanzo Primary School Minna, where he studied from 1973 to 1979, followed by Government Secondary School Minna from 1979 to 1984/85, where he graduated with a GCE/WAEC Certificate O' Level.

In September 1989, Hassan secured employment with the State Civil Service Commission as a clerical officer. His commitment to professional development led him to enroll at the College of Administration and Business Studies (CABS Bida) in 1992, earning a course certificate in Public Administration. Subsequently, in 1999/2000, he pursued a Diploma in Public Administration at the State College of Education Minna in affiliation with ABU Zaria.



OPAWOYE RAPHAEL

OPAWOYE RAPHAEL

Opawoye Raphael, aged 45, is a clergyman married with three children. His educational journey includes completing his First School Leaving Certificate at Central Primary School in Auna, Niger State, in 1992. He then attended Ira Grammar School in Ira, Kwara State, obtaining his SSCE in 1998. Opawoye continued his education at the Federal College of Education in Kontagora, Niger State, earning an NCE in 2003. Furthering his academic pursuits, he obtained a BSc.Ed from Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, in 2013.

In the field of theology, Opawoye pursued studies at the Word of Faith Bible Institute, earning Basic and Leadership Certificates in Theology in 2009. He later advanced his theological education at The Redeemed Christian Bible College, obtaining an Advanced Diploma in Theology in 2015.

Professionally, Opawoye serves as a pastor in the Cherubin and Serafin Movement Church in Minna. His hobbies include reading and traveling.



YAHAYA ALIYU

YAHAYA ALIYU

Yahaya Aliyu, born on May 22, 1968, is a dedicated professional in Health Information Management, armed with a professional diploma in the field. With a career marked by significant roles, I have made notable contributions to streamline health information processes.

My expertise lies in implementing efficient data management systems, ensuring accuracy and accessibility crucial for healthcare decision-making. Beyond the professional realm, I actively engage in relevant organizations, contributing to the shaping of the future of Health Information Management.



SALAMATU JUMMAI MOHAMMED

SALAMATU JUMMAI MOHAMMED

Salamatu Jummai Mohammed is a Gbyagi woman from Niger State who pursued education and service in public health. She studied at Chiroma Primary School, Day Secondary School, School of Health Technology, and University of Ibadan, becoming a Community Health Worker with a degree in Public Health. She has 29 years of experience as the Officer in Charge at Chanchaga's Primary Healthcare Department, working on various projects and programs in family planning, immunization, newborn care, and more. Salamatu is also a member of the FOMWAN Health Committee and a passionate community health advocate. She is a role model for public health service in Niger State.



HAJARA MUHAMMAD SAMBO

HAJARA MUHAMMAD SAMBO

Hajara Muhammad Sambo is a dynamic and passionate young journalist driven by a strong commitment to uncovering important stories and making a meaningful impact through her writing. Raised in the bustling metropolis of Minna city, Hajara developed a keen interest in storytelling, interviewing, fact-checking, and gathering information from diverse sources. Her dedication to truth, accuracy, and unbiased reporting distinguishes her in the field.

Despite her background in science education, Hajara ventured into journalism and began her professional journey as an artist volunteering at Niger State Radio Corporation. This experience immersed her in the fast-paced environment of a newsroom, where she honed her skills in breaking news and adapting to demanding deadlines.



ABDULAZEEZ GARBA

ABDULAZEEZ GARBA

Abdulazeez Garba, a dynamic individual and former president of the Minna Emirate Youth Association from 2013 to 2015, and a professional Database Administrator. He thrives in environments that foster excellence and collaboration. His dedication to skill acquisition and application is evident in his pursuit of professional growth.

Abdulazeez is recognized as a lead captain in the Nigerian Handball team, showcasing his athletic prowess on the international stage. He played a significant role in the team's participation in the Spain Granollers Cup in 2006 and the Sweden Partile Cup in 2011/2012.

Beyond his athletic achievements, Abdulazeez is a pioneer leader of the Niger State Emirates Youth Alliance Council (NEYAC), a testament to his commitment to youth empowerment and leadership development. His leadership extends beyond borders, reflecting a global perspective in his pursuits.



ABRAHAM SAIDU TWAKI

ABRAHAM SAIDU TWAKI

Abraham Saidu Twaki is an ICT savvy; web developer, and he currently works as a Senior System Analyst (Webmaster) with the Federal University of Technology Minna.

Abraham is a proud graduate of FUTMINNA with a first degree in Physics Electronics and a Master's in Applied Geophysics. He was inspired to pursue a career in Information and Communication Technology due to his passion for Cyberspace technology. This has led to the birth of his company, Emperortech Global Solutions Limited, which specializes in providing consultancy services in Information Technology.

He is a Gospel Minister, a Public speaker, and a self-motivated and passionate leader with a vision to establish a network of people working with purpose by adding value to humanity. He has pioneered and still serves youth-centered organizations with proven track records.



FATI SAIDU

FATI SAIDU

Fati Sa'idu, a distinguished Hausa woman from Niger State, embarked on a remarkable academic journey at Nasrawa Primary School in Kainji, Niger State, she continued her studies at Women Science Teachers College in Gunu and the School of Health Technology, earning a diploma in community health. Fati advanced to Usman Danfodio Teaching Hospital, earning the title of Community Health Officer.

Driven by a passion for public health, Fati pursued higher education at the University of Ibadan, obtaining a BSc in Public Health. Her commitment to knowledge expanded at Kaduna Polytechnic, where she honed her skills as a PHC tutor.

With an illustrious 35-year tenure in the Niger State Civil Service of Chanchaga Local Government, Fati made significant contributions. Her roles included serving as an Officer in Charge of a PHC, MCH Coordinator, Family Planning and Nutrition Coordinator, Desk Officer NHIS, and Deputy Director. Her expertise spanned diverse areas, including immunization, health education, maternal health services, ARIN Program, and PMCTC Program.



**FATIMA MOHAMMED
PAIKO**

FATIMA MOHAMMED PAIKO

I'm Fatima Muhammad Paiko, born on September 13, 1990, from Paikoro local government area of Niger state. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in English Language from Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai (IBBUL), and a Diploma in Law (Sharia and Civil) from Fati Lami Abubakar Institute for Legal and Administrative Studies (FLAILAS), Minna.

With a diverse educational background, I've actively participated in conferences, including the 12th and 13th International Conferences of students of English and Literary Studies. In September 2023, I completed the International Executive Diploma in Disaster Management.



USMAN UMAR GUNI

USMAN UMAR GUNI

I am Usman Umar Guni, born on June 6, 1960, in Guni, Munya local Government area of Niger state. Currently serving as the District Head of Guni and the Assistant Secretary of Minna Emirate Council, I also hold the position of Secretary of Jama'atul Nasrul Islam (JNI).

My career began in 1986 as a clerk with the then Chanchaga Local Government council, later transferring to Minna Emirate as Assistant Secretary. I attended Local Authority Primary School, Guni, and Government Secondary School, Kagara, graduating in 1980. Proficient in Gwari, Hausa, and English, I am dedicated to serving humanity and have a passion for Quran recitation and farming.



DANIEL OKPOLE ATORI

DANIEL OKPOLE ATORI

Daniel Okpole Atori, born into the Uwhe Royal family HRH Anthony Okpole Atori (late), hails from Isoko North of Delta State. A seasoned journalist and media professional, he holds a degree in Theatre Arts, a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, and a master's Degree in Theatre Arts. With a prosperous career spanning two decades, Daniel began his media journey in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, covering beats such as Health, Energy, Information & Communications. He later became the State Correspondent for Nigeria Compass Newspapers in Niger state.

Currently, Daniel serves as the Niger State Correspondent for the NEW TELEGRAPH NEWSPAPER and holds the position of Secretary at the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Correspondent Chapel. He also acts as Media Aide to Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Niger State. Daniel's voice resonates on the airwaves as he co-anchors the popular radio programs "INSIDE NIGER" and "ENOUGH is ENOUGH (EiE) NIGERIA" on Ultimate FM 103.9, Minna.



HABILA DANIEL DIKO

HABILA DANIEL DIKO

Habila Daniel Diko, a Gbagyi man hailing from Diko in Gurara local government, Niger State, embodies diverse roles in his dynamic life. He is a dedicated youth leader, influential community figure, missionary, political scientist, and accomplished author of four books. Habila is a proud alumnus of Saint Patrick's College, Ikot-Ansa Calabar, Cross River State, and the National Open University of Nigeria, with further accreditation from the Institute of Fundraising, London.

With a rich history of leadership, Habila served as the Leader of ECWA Minna District Youth Council, Chairman of the Youth Wing of CAN Niger State, and Vice Chairman of the Youth Wing of CAN for 19 Northern States & FCT. Additionally, he was the Delegate of ECWA Minna District Church Council and chaired The Leprosy Mission Nigeria Volunteer group for 15 years.



MOHAMMED SANI ABUBAKAR

MOHAMMED SANI ABUBAKAR

Muhammad Sani Abubakar is a dedicated journalist serving as the Information Officer for the Niger State Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health. Born on February 26, 1982, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature from Bayero University Kano, obtained in 2006.

Commencing his public service commitment during the mandatory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 2007, Muhammad joined the Niger State Civil Service in 2009 as an Information Officer 1 under the Ministry of Information. Over his 14-year career, he has worked in various government departments, gaining extensive knowledge through educational and developmental trainings.



MARYAM MUHAMMAD DALHATU

MARYAM MUHAMMAD DALHATU

Maryam is a Gender Advocate, Tech enthusiast, serial Volunteer, and Entrepreneur. As a Program Manager, she plays a critical role in the daily operations of Salma Attah Foundation for Women and Girls Support (SAFWGS), providing invaluable support to the program team and other staff members. Maryam is a skilled communicator, adept at engaging with stakeholders and beneficiaries to ensure the success of the organization's initiatives.

Her educational journey includes successful stints at the College of Education and Preliminary Studies in Kano, Kano State, School of Health Technology in Minna, Niger State, and Abu Turab Islamic School in Minna, Niger State. Notably, she achieved a First-Class National Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technician.

Maryam's involvement in the Islamic Education Trust's (IET) Youth Capacity Building program has equipped her with strong leadership and personal skills, enabling her to become a catalyst for positive change in her community. She is a passionate advocate for youth participation in civic affairs, having attended the Community Organizing Institute training by YIAGA AFRICA and INCREASE SRHR and civic participation for social change workshops.



MUSA M. MANIRU

MUSA M. MANIRU

Musa M. Muniru was born on April 3rd, 1981, in Minna, Niger State. Currently, I serve as a Senior Community Health Extension Worker (SCHEW) at the Chanchaga Local Government Primary Healthcare Department.

My educational journey includes a Diploma in Community Health from the School of Health Technology, Minna, obtained in 2011, and an earlier certificate from the School of Health Technology, Tungan Magajjiya, in 2006. I began my education at IBB Primary School, Minna, and completed my secondary education at Day Secondary School, Minna.

As a dedicated professional, I started my career in 2002 as a Health Assistant and have progressively advanced to my current position through commitment to community service.



ABUBAKAR IBN ZUBAIRU

ABUBAKAR IBN ZUBAIRU

Abubakar Ibn Zubairu, a native of Katcha LGA in Niger State, began his education at Barikin Sale Primary School, obtaining his FLC. He then attended Bosso Secondary School for his SSCE. Continuing his academic journey, Abubakar gained admission to Niger State College of Education Minna, where he obtained an NCE in Biology/Special Education. He furthered his education by earning a B'Ed in Guidance and Counseling from Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto in 2020.

For his NYSC, Abubakar served in Kagarko LGA of Kaduna State. Additionally, he attended Niger State Polytechnic Zungeru, obtaining a certificate in Social Welfare in 2022. Abubakar has a diverse work history, including positions at the Society for Family Health, Barikin Sale Junior Secondary School in Minna, and the Niger State School for Special Education in Minna.



SANI LAWAL

SANI LAWAL

Sani Lawal, known by the pseudonym Aduba, was born on January 8th, 1990, and is a dedicated journalist and advocate for good governance and youth behavioral change. He holds a Diploma in Mass Communication (2015) and is currently pursuing a BSc in Public Administration. Sani is a versatile freelancer at Niger State Television, showcasing skills as a presenter, reporter, and broadcaster. Additionally, he is proficient in film editing and documentary production.

As the Niger State Correspondent for Hijrah TV, a satellite channel based in Ghana, and Grassroot Reporting News, an online platform headquartered in Borgu, Niger State, Aduba has demonstrated his commitment to diverse media roles. Fluent in both Hausa and English, he is visionary, hardworking, focused, and a team player.

Sani Lawal has actively participated in various conferences and capacity-building workshops focusing on media, citizen reporting, and health management. He is a certified Infodemic Manager, residing in Minna, Niger State. His hobbies include reading, writing, conducting research, traveling, and swimming. He can be contacted at sanilawal47@gmail.com.



ABUBAKAR HASSAN

ABUBAKAR HASSAN

Abu Hassan is a media practitioner with over 17 years of experience in the industry. Currently, he serves as the Editor and Head of the Hausa vernacular department at Niger Printing and Publishing Company Limited. Holding a Bachelor of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Planning, he also has an Advanced Diploma in Mass Communication.

Abubakar began his career in 2006 as a Reporter-Translator III and has progressed professionally. He is passionate about sports journalism and has been actively involved in the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN). He has held various positions, including Chairman of SWAN, Niger state chapter.

He is known for his proficiency in English, Hausa, and Nupe languages. As an enthusiastic and reliable team player, he continuously seeks new opportunities and enjoys socialising and networking.



TONY UKACHUKWU

TONY UKACHUKWU

Tony Ukachukwu, is a distinguished gospel preacher and teacher. He serves as the Presiding Overseer of The Shepherd's Heart Encounter Gospel Centre in Maikunkele-Minna and holds the position of Director of Education, Youth, and Women Development at the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), North Central Zone. Additionally, he is the Niger State Secretary of Christian Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria/Pentecostal Fellowship Nigeria (CPFN/PFN), a block in CAN.

Apostle Tony is a graduate in Computer Science and holds certifications as a trained and certified Strategic Manager and a certified Peace Ambassador. He actively advocates for peaceful coexistence among people of different faiths and religious persuasions. As a great team player, Tony is open to learning and values building new connections. He is a member of various professional bodies and fellowships, including the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP), Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria (ISMN), and COFP Network of African Peace Builders (CANEP). Fluent in about five Nigerian languages, he has a passion for music and dancing.



TEMIDAYO JOSEPH OLUWAFEMI

TEMIDAYO JOSEPH OLUWAFEMI

Temidayo Joseph Oluwafemi (TJO) is a PhD student in Applied Mathematics (Specialist in Mathematical Biology, Disease Modelling and Differential Equations) with experience in the teaching profession at both secondary and post-secondary institutions; teaching mathematics, further mathematics and statistics. TJO also has a couple of scientific publications to his credit. He is a volunteer with TAF Africa, and also a member of the ECO-GREEN SANITATION AND HYGIENE INITIATIVE NIGERIA. He has also participated in the organisation of various workshops and conferences both academic and religious. TJO also oversees the success of affiliation programs, former head of unit, member of various committees, presently acting head of General Studies Newgate University Minna (NUM). A member of PFN Youth Wing, Minna and CAN Minna, Niger State. TJO is a certified infodemic Manager and presently resides in Minna, Niger State.



UMAR ADAMU

UMAR ADAMU

Umar Mk Adamu has a diverse educational and professional background. His educational journey includes attending Limawa Primary School (1980-1986), Ahmadu Bahago Junior Secondary School (1987-1989), Gov't Science College Kagara (1989-1990), and Gov't Technical College Minna (1991-1993). He recently attended the Justice Fati Lami Abubakar Institute for Legal and Administrative Studies from 2022 to 2023.

Professionally, Umar is employed by Chanchaga Local Government as a Senior Driver Mechanic. He holds various positions such as the Word Head of Akare Nassarawa by Minna Emirate Council, Secretary of Central Mosque Minna, Secretary of JNI Chanchaga Local Government, Chairman of WHDC Gwari Road Clinic, Chairman of the Police Community Relations Committee, and Director of Landlord and Tenant Affairs in Minna Metro Peace and Security Committee.

Umar has acquired several certificates, including the Primary School Leaving Certificate, WAEC Technical Certificate, Labour Trade Test Certificate, National Diploma Certificate in Criminology, and a PCRC Certificate of Recognition. He is fluent in Nupe, Hausa, and English.

His hobbies include reading the Quran, engaging in poultry farming, and being involved in horse-related activities.



MUNEERAH SAEED

MUNEERAH SAEED

Muneerah Saeed has a background in education and she is committed to societal change. She attended Kaula Nursery, Primary, and Secondary School, followed by Government Day Secondary School Dandaudu, where she obtained her Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSCE) in 2018.

Since 2018, Muneerah has been working as a teacher, showcasing her dedication and hardworking nature. Beyond her teaching role, she is business-oriented and actively advocates for societal change, particularly emphasizing decency for women. Her attributes include being very hardworking, dedicated, courageous, and a team player.

Muneerah is of Gbagyi origin and is fluent in Hausa and English. During her leisure time, she relaxes with music and movies, and she enjoys activities such as cooking, cleaning, and reading. For communication.



BILKISU SALEH

BILKISU SALEH

Mrs. Bilkisu Saleh originally from Kaduna, is now a citizen of Niger State. Her educational journey began at the Demonstration School for Deaf Children in Kawo, Kaduna, where she completed her nursery, primary, and junior secondary education from 2003 to 2014. She furthered her studies at Government Technical College, Malali, Kaduna, from 2014 to 2017, specializing in Special Education/Economics. Bilkisu obtained her NCE at Federal College of Education Zaria, Kaduna, in 2021, completing her teaching practice at Demonstration School for Deaf Children in Kawo.

Bilkisu excels in various skills, including beads and cap making, tailoring, and catering. She generously teaches sign language to those interested, without any charge. In her junior secondary years, she actively participated in Reproductive Health, HIV, and AIDS Club. A member of both the Niger State Association of the Deaf and Niger State Association of Deaf Women, Bilkisu has attended numerous workshops and conferences, particularly focusing on women with disabilities. She is a fellow of Bambinos Initiative and has been honored with the "Kind Heart Award."

STAKEHOLDER TESTIMONIALS/ GOODWILL MESSAGES

“Access to the right health information is crucial to guiding people to make the right choices and take the right steps towards safeguarding and improving their health status.

Misinformation in the health sphere can be catastrophic and detrimental to societal wellbeing, as we've often see in many diseases such as vaccine preventable diseases, cancer, and epidemics.

We thus welcome the efforts being made by Nigeria Health Watch to expand the Health Information Fellowship in the State, which definitely will make positive impact”.

– Dr. Ibrahim Dangana
Public Health Physician &
Hon. Commissioner for Primary Health Care,
Niger State.

“First, I would like to thank the organisers of the fellowship program on health Misinformation, that is, Nigeria Health Watch. It has been an exciting and educative experience, and I would also like to appreciate every participant, including the state team, for their kin interest and participation during the program. On a personal note, I have gained valuable insights into the effective management of misinformation. Judging from the participants' responses during the training. It seems that they, too, have undergone a similar enlightenment. I express my gratitude for the opportunity provided to us. I am confident that both now and, in the future, we are well-informed and equipped to address health misinformation in our state”.

– Dr Safiya Sadiq
State Disease Surveillance and
Notification Officer, Ministry of Secondary
and Tertiary Health, Niger State

“In our world today, technological advancement has made access to information very easy, and one can access any kind of information without leaving the confines of his/her home. However, this same technology has equally made it easier to create and disseminate false and misleading information (Misinformation). Health Misinformation has continually been one of the greatest causes of poor uptake of public health interventions; for instance, Testing for COVID-19 infection, COVID-19 vaccination, HPV vaccination, et cetera.

The Fellowship training of Cohort 1 on Health Misinformation Management in Niger state which was supported by Nigeria Health Watch (NHW) is an initiative in the right direction.”

– Dr. Patrick B. Gimba
State Epidemiologist, Ministry of Secondary
and Tertiary Health, Niger State

“The fellowship centered around misinformation, rumours, and misconception and presented an opportunity for key stakeholders to be trained in Niger state to see how there can debunk rumors centered around health. These activities have tremendously added value to Nigerlites by increasing vaccine uptake and addressing misinformation around vaccination, especially with COVID-19 and the HPV vaccine.

The fellowship activity conducted in Niger State has tremendously increased the Knowledge and awareness of caregivers and the key stakeholders in the state, which has increased the uptake of RI and Covid-19 services in the state.

Thank you and God bless you.”

– Mohammed Alhaji Usman
State Health Educator,
Niger State Primary Health Care Agency

“The Niger State Health Misinformation Management Fellowship is nothing short of a tremendous success. In a country where health misinformation poses enormous challenges, there is no better time to launch a program of this kind. Given the complex nature of misinformation, developing a training handbook adaptable to the Nigerian context is commendable. Structuring the fieldwork, selecting the right individuals for this cohort, and the final launch comprising a 3-day training for the fellows provided the springboard for the work. After training in misinformation management, the selected fellows were visibly motivated and ready to move into the field. I am very impressed with the enthusiasm, drive, and self-efficacy the fellows have demonstrated to make the fellowship a resounding success. The fieldwork feedback further underpinned the fellowship’s importance and impact in combatting health misinformation. Unsurprisingly, people in other states in Nigeria are calling for the same program. I am delighted to have been a part of this monumental success. I commend the Nigeria Health Watch, Director of Programs, Dr. Kemisola Agbaoye, Program Coordinator, Mr. Abara Erim, who reached out to find me, Sunday Oko, Sonia Biose, Solomon Oladimeji, and other team members I worked with for this timely initiative. I value this opportunity to partner with Nigeria Health Watch.

I look forward to the 2nd cohort.”

Okechi Eberechukwu Nzedibe
WHO-Certified Infodemic Manager

TESTIMONIES OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

“I have been enlightened about the danger of cervical cancer and the need to get the HPV vaccine. I have also informed my parents and my siblings about the harmful effect of spreading and heeding to misinformation”.

Maryam Musa
(Student of Government Girls Day Secondary School Minna speaking after a school storm by the Fellows)

“The misinformation management session was an eye opener for me, as it helps me to differentiate accurate information from misinformation”.

Fatima Zahra Madugu
(Speaking after one of the fellows community outreach visit)

“The visit of the Misinformation Management Fellows to NUJ was very impactful, it was a reminder to us, Journalists and especially me on the need to always verify any information we get before we disseminate. I also learnt that there is a slight difference between misinformation and disinformation. We must also be able to put an end to rumours or untrue stories”.

Falalu Suleiman
speaking after a sensitization visit to the Union house in Niger State

“People (literate and illiterate) deliberately refuse to access and accept health services because of cultural beliefs and myths. When Polio vaccination was introduced, people who refused their children to be vaccinated later came down with polio, and it was too late to reverse it. Many people refuse to learn from such lessons and so many other disease conditions, e.g., Covid 19 and now the HPV vaccine. The sensitization has increased my awareness of health matters and increased my willingness to accept any government-approved policy on health care services. and promised to vaccinate his daughter for HPV when the time comes because he has seen the effect of immunization on his children’s health. I thank Nigeria Health Watch for the laudable initiative aimed at increasing awareness at the grassroots”.

Mr Danladi Makama,
a member of the Gbadna community in Paiko speaking after a Church sensitization visit by the Fellows

“I was really enlightened and educated by the sensitization carried out by the Fellows to curb the spread of fake news on health matters, especially on vaccine acceptance. I live in the Gbeganu community but attend church service at Sihiyona Baptist Church Sayako Minna, where the awareness creation was carried out during the midweek programme. I had an experience where I saw a very ill child who was supposed to be taken to the hospital. However, the parents took him to a herbalist claiming that the illness was caused by witchcraft. And as a result, that child later died. She said henceforth that she would agree with any government policy on health and encourage others to accept and embrace it no matter the forces of objection and rumours surrounding it. I pledge to be an advocate for spreading facts on vaccine acceptance and other related health matters. I appreciate Nigeria Health Watch for their kind gesture in bringing the initiative to the grassroots level.

Mrs Hannatu Clement Gbeganu
community Niger State speaking after a Church Advocacy Visit by the Fellows.

FELLOWSHIP IMPACT ON THE FELLOWS

“I am thanking Nigeria Health Watch for imparting knowledge to me and my beloved community. In the past, we have done lots of atrocities with our own hands. We were misinforming our people in place of love. Nigeria Health Watch, you have conveyed not only information about Health Misinformation but also made decisions that enable the fellows to be the gold standard for their communities. The Nigeria Health Watch team's commitments and the wise decision to group fellows into different teams. It's marvelous and encouraging. I love it more as a member of the champion team group 3. God bless Nigeria Health Watch”

– ABDULAZEEZ GARBA

“As a tech expert, I had mixed feelings about volunteering for this fellowship. However, from day one, Nigeria Health Watch cleared all my concerns and engaged us very professionally. We were trained and well-equipped despite the diversity of backgrounds and affiliations. The program structure, content, facilitators, and hosts provided an atmosphere for learning and effective collaboration. Most fulfilling of all was the impact and positive feedback from our sensitization programs. Our group collaboration was unparalleled. More so, Mr. Abara and his team provided excellent leadership throughout the program. Thank you again, Nigeria Health Watch”.

– ABRAHAM SAIDU TWAKI

“As a Media practitioner, I didn't know that part of my Corporate Social Responsibility is to reach out to the masses through various means and to ensure information is verified to be correct first before dissemination. The training in Health Misinformation Management has helped me professionally. I thank the team of resource persons who have raised excellent fellows in Niger state. The teamwork of my group during our activities remains great with initiatives, ideas, suggestions, and resolutions. Finally, the impact and feedback from our targeted audience were great.

I want to thank the Nigeria Health Watch for finding me worthy to be selected as a Fellow (Pioneer).”

– DANIEL OKOPOLE ATORI

“My name is Habila Daniel Diko. My first physical encounter with Nigeria Health Watch was on the 20th of October 2023, when I and my colleagues were inaugurated and presented as successful fellows of the Nigeria Health Watch. We received good training and were empowered as change agents in the fight against health misinformation. I must confess that I am personally enlightened regarding health misinformation, its negative effects, and how to fight against it. Let me conclude by appreciating Mr. Abara Erim and all other staff of Nigeria Health Watch. You are a great team. Shalom!”

- HABILA DANIEL DIKO

“As a Program Manager at Salma Attah Foundation for Women and Girls Support and a non-practicing Medical Laboratory Technician, the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship has been a transformative experience. The past few weeks were a journey that blends my passion for health with the skills to tackle misinformation. Nigerian Health Watch has empowered me to make a real impact, ensuring that the projects I manage at SAFWGS are grounded in accurate health information for the well-being of our communities. Thank you for the life-changing opportunity Nigeria Health Watch and the Health Misinformation Management team.”

- MARYAM MUHAMMAD DALHATU

“Having dedicated my entire career to public health, the Nigeria Health Watch Health Misinformation Management Fellowship has been a profoundly personal journey. It's not just about professional growth; it's a reflection of my lifelong commitment to the well-being of communities. This fellowship has given me new perspectives and tools to navigate the challenges of misinformation, reinforcing my passion for ensuring everyone has access to accurate and reliable health information. Thank you, Nigeria Health Watch”.

- SALAMATU JUMMAI MOHAMMED

“Nigeria health watch I am happy to write to appreciate Nigerian health watch and the Niger State Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary health care for the opportunity given to me to participate in a health misinformation management fellowship. I have learned a lot and can now differentiate between health Misinformation and disinformation and how to address misinformation in our communities. I have also learned that the social listening cycle is the best way to manage misinformation by identifying, simplifying, amplifying, quantity, and coordinating. Thank you, Nigeria Watch Health”.

- ALI USMAN DOMA

“This fellowship was very insightful and made absolute sense in terms of identifying health Misinformation/disinformation, especially now that the struggles with infodemic have become more common with the emergence of any new health crisis. The implementation of the social listening circle procedure would help a great deal in spreading the right health information. I am thankful for having the opportunity to attend, it was an excellent experience with practical exercises and worthwhile information that I can use in both my professional and personal life.

My testimony will be incomplete if I do not appreciate the facilitators; you guys did so well; I'm so glad that our paths crossed, and I feel so lucky to be part of it; looking forward to learning more and more from you guys.”

- HAJARA MUHAMMAD SAMBO

“In the spirit of hope, humanity, and honesty, the fellowship is on the right channel and direction; the impact has been received and also felt by the general public, young and old; the transformation has been achieved, and we are saying hurray!! to the Nigerian Health Watch and Niger State Ministry of Primary Health Care, You are indeed making Niger State a healthier State. Thanks for all you've done.”
Long live Nigeria Health watch, long living Niger state.

-HASSAN ISAH WUSHISHI

“I am happy to write to appreciate Nigerian health watch and the Niger State Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary health care for the opportunity given to me to participate in a health misinformation management fellowship. I have learned how to identify health Misinformation/disinformation, especially now that the struggles with the infodemic have become more common with the emergence of new health crises. The implementation of the social listening circle procedure would help a great deal in spreading accurate health information. Thank you, Nigeria health Watch.”

- SAIDU FATIMA

“The experience during the activity weeks has been eventful. I must confess that this project has exposed me to meeting so many people of different calibres from different fields of work within and outside the country. From the day of orientation training to date, the journey has been eventful and impactful. I see myself learning new things daily in each activity carried out.

During the advocacy visit to the Hon. Commissioner of Livestock and Fishery Niger State, I count it as a rare privilege and an honour done by the organization. Moving on to the places we visit for sensitization, ordinarily, I may not be permitted to enter some of these places, but this program paved the way for that. In addition to my curriculum vitae, I was able to take a course on health infodemic management with the World Health Organization and was issued an international certificate that is recognized all over the world. The different assignments I was able to complete and submit gave me the joy of being able to measure the expectations of the organization. Thank Nigeria Health Watch. God bless and watch over you.”

- DEBORAH PHILIP

“I count it a great privilege to be part of this Fellowship in a time like this when Health Misinformation in our society spreads like wildfire. The Fellowship has opened my eyes to so many things, especially in the area of misinformation management. The Fellowship has also taught me more about team spirit and the need to be more accommodating irrespective of my status or religious affiliation.”

- OPAWOYE RAPHAEL OLUWASEYI

“The depth of knowledge received during our training alone is beyond measure and highly impactful. I must also utilize this avenue to commend the organizers for the technique adopted during the training period, whose outcome is result-oriented, mild, and quite engaging.

One more thing I have gained is the fastest response mechanism, especially in emergency situations. In all, I wish to thank the entire management team of the Nigeria Health Watch for this life-saving opportunity because, through this, we are already saving lives through our campaigns on a regular basis. Again, teamwork, regardless of our individual backgrounds or affiliations, just working towards a common goal and result is also something I have enjoyed, and it has shaped me.

This fellowship will do great wonders if replicated in other parts of Niger state and Nigeria at large.

- SANI LAWAL

“First, I want to thank the Nigeria Health Watch for the opportunity to participate in this fellowship program; it has been engaging, exciting, challenging, and most importantly, educative and informative. During the program, I became familiar with the concept of health misinformation, its causes and dangers, and how to spot and manage health misinformation. It has also exposed me to how much misleading health-related information is in our environment. Finally, through this fellowship program, the need to respond to the call to curb Health Misinformation has been ignited.”

- TEMIDAYO JOSEPH OLUWAFEMI

“I can't thank NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH AND THEIR TEAM enough; as the only Person With Disability (Deaf) among the participants, I had all the privileges given to everyone, and I am so glad about that. I also appreciate my group members, especially my interpreter, who have been supportive in all ramifications. Thank you so much.

During the field assignment, I realized that health misinformation spread with high speed even within Persons with Disability (PWD) communities because of social media influence, family, and friends. I believe that with our intervention/awareness, they are well enlightened. It will have a positive impact on them. One of the challenges we faced during the fieldwork was that some government organizations requested a letter of introduction and permission for our activities from NIGERIA HEALTH or the MINISTRY OF HEALTH as written document and evidence, but we were able to improvise using our association head letter and mobility; honestly, it wasn't easy for us to move from one centre to another. The organizer should take this into consideration.”

-BILKISU SALEH

“Alhamdulillah, for everything. During the three days of training and the fieldwork for this remarkable project, I understood the concepts of health misinformation, infodemic, disinformation, rumor, and information gap/void. As a sign language interpreter, I tried my best to ensure that the PWD, especially the DEAF community, aren't left behind due to their impairment in communication; also enjoy how the organizers NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH, AND TEAM find their feet to create room for INCLUSION for PWD's because they are also part of the society and do have health misinformation.

Meeting these special people and discussing the topic, we found out that they also have challenges with health misinformation, and we were able to enlighten them on how to Identify, Simply, Simplify, Simplify, and coordinate it, and process and websites to get correct health information.

The chairman of the Deaf Association in Niger State, on behalf of the persons with disability community, appreciates the effort of the organizers and seeks more inclusion as they are part of the society.”

- ABUBAKAR IBN ZUBAIRU

“The program is truly amazing, and it has impacted me in so many ways. First is the acquired knowledge as far as health misinformation and disinformation are concerned and the advanced training techniques that are achieved through the social atmosphere. The program has also exposed me to see life beyond myself and my loved ones. In this crusade, every life matters. It is also amazing that today, I am a Certified Infodemic Manager and one of the first cohort members of the health misinformation Management exercise in Nigeria. For this, I need to say kudos to the entire team of Nigerian Health Watch for this amazing opportunity. I am looking forward to more productive engagement in the future even as we continue to advocate for properly informed Nigerlites on health matters”.

- MUNIRAH SAEED

“It has been, for me, a very educative, engaging, exciting, extraordinary, and yet challenging discovery. I have learned new things, new terms, new methods, and made new friends. It’s a whole new world for me. The program has been fulfilling to me, especially in our outreaches to members of the Special Community: The Deaf, The Blind, and other persons with special needs. I witnessed firsthand the effect and impact of combating health misinformation with the right, accurate, and timely evidence-based knowledge.

The professional handling by the Nigeria Health Watch and the Niger State Ministry of Secondary & Tertiary Health Care is worth emulating. Above all, Members of the Cohort 1 Fellowship and, most especially, my wonderful Group fellows have taught me lessons on the power of Teamwork. I remain committed to combating health misinformation and taking this campaign further and further.”

- TONY UKACHUKWU

“The Health Misinformation Management Fellowship Programme under Nigeria Health Watch is a worthwhile experience for me as a person. Starting from the inauguration/induction ceremony to the three days of training, as well as the field activities to sensitize the public on Health Misinformation.

Despite being a media personality, some concepts I came across during the training were new to me, but thanks to the program, I am more informed and equipped with the necessary tools and skills to combat health misinformation as an ambassador of Nigeria Health Watch.

The WHO Online Infodemic Management Course was educative, learning from experts across the globe. The three days of training were both informative and fun as I made new friends while interacting. The program, generally, I can say, is impactful, and with more commitment, we can bring health misinformation to a standstill in Niger state, Nigeria, and the world at large. Thank You, Nigeria Health Watch, for the opportunity.”

- ABUBAKAR HASSAN

“My testimony on this program is that it has increased my knowledge about misinformation; it has made me know more about social media information and also know how to interact with people with disability, most especially the Deaf, and also widened my scope of knowledge on Health misinformation generally.”

- UMAR MK ADAMU

This project has equipped me with knowledge, skills, and necessary tools to effectively debunk any health misinformation and disinformation at any level of contact; it also taught me a moral obligation to respect social values.

The fellowship gave me opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds and brought us together as a family to share views and ideas with the aim of achieving common goals. In fact, it’s a great task, and I really enjoy it.

GOD bless Nigeria Health Watch,
GOD bless Niger State,
GOD bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- MUSA MUNIR

“I was engaged in a week-long series of impactful activities, starting with an orientation and inauguration of the Health Misinformation Fellowship. Dedicated three days for intensive training of fellows, fostering expertise.

I actively participated in sensitization activities addressing health misinformation and demonstrated commitment through bi-weekly reports presented in virtual Zoom meetings, contributing to the collective efforts in combating misinformation. It was impactful, thanks to Nigeria Health Watch.

- YAHAYA ALIYU

For me, the exercise has been an arduous task filled with lots of lessons and memorable experiences. From the Orientation exercise to the three days of training, down to the group activities where we go out as a team to sensitize people of different backgrounds, religions, sex, social status, etc., and finally, the presentation of the bi-weekly reports.

Interestingly, the project has exposed me to several online applications and techniques that can be deployed in the fight against health misinformation. The WHO online classes I participated in taught me a lot, and one aspect of the class that caught my attention most was the Photo and Video Verification using the Reverse Image Search. This technique will not only be handy in authenticating health misinformation but will help provide reliable information in other critical areas. Lastly, one very important lesson I have learned is that the burden of misinformation is one that has been with us for ages and cannot be easily wiped out in the near future. What we can continuously strive for as a network of Fellows is to manage the situation by bringing more Patriots on board and through endless sensitization campaigns until the threat is reduced significantly.”

– MOHAMMED SANI ABUBAKAR

“This fellowship program was a very delightful one and has made a vital impact in the aspect of identifying health misinformation and disinformation at this critical level, where infodemic has become a rapid thing in health-related issues. Even though it is impossible to eliminate infodemics completely but rather manage it, it has become an obligation for everyone to contribute his/her quota in managing it. I have really felt the impact of the fellowship program, as I am now well-equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to fight health misinformation. I am extremely excited to have this opportunity to partake in this program; it was a marvelous experience being in the mix of people of different calibres to relate to and exchange ideas with.

My achievement will be incomplete without showing my innermost gratitude to the facilitators. I am overwhelmed to be part of this, and it will be my pleasure to learn more and more from you all.”

– FATIMA MOHAMMED PAIKO

After our inauguration, we went into three days of intensive training, which made me understand what misinformation stands for and its dangers to public health.

The Sensitization Activity embarked upon by my group afforded me the opportunity to know some people and places, particularly because it taught me more about teamwork.

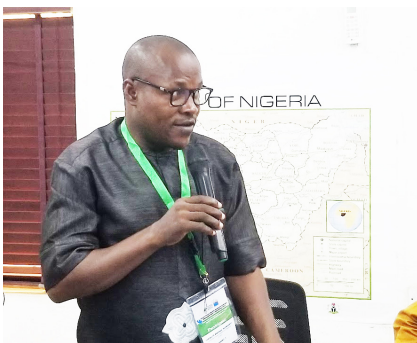
The Zoom meeting I participated in was my first time participating in such a meeting, which made me interact with the Zoom application. In general, the fellowship program is an eye-opener and worthwhile experience.

– USMAN UMAR GUNI

FELLOWSHIP IN PICTURES















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