

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**NIGERIA
HEALTH
WATCH**

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
NHS	National Health Service
NICD	National Institute for Communicable Diseases
PDE	Positive Deviance Exhibition
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

Nigeria Health Watch Annual Report 2021

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TV Appearances in 2021
Newspaper Publications in 2021
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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 and currently 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 where she chairs the International Workroom of the Perinatal Faculty. She also holds a one year Intermediate Certificate from the University of Plymouth in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. She is a Co-Founder and Trustee of the Foundation for Refugees Economic Empowerment (FREE), a Trustee of Nigeria IDP Diaspora Support Group and a Faculty of its Lay Trauma Counseling Course.



Dr. CHIKWE IHEKWEAZU is the Assistant Director-General at the World Health Organization (WHO), leading the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence. Prior to this, Dr. Ihekweazu was the first Director-General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and led the agency between July 2016 and October 2021. Dr Ihekweazu trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist and has over 25 years of experience working in senior public health and leadership positions at the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), the UK's Health Protection Agency, and Germany's Robert Koch Institute (RKI). Dr Ihekweazu has led several short-term engagements for WHO, mainly in response to major infectious disease outbreaks. He is a graduate of the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria, and has a master's in public health (MPH) from the Heinrich-Heine University, Dusseldorf, Germany. In 2003, he was awarded a Fellowship for the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), completing his Public Health specialization in the UK. He was a co-founder of TEDxEuston.



DR. IKE ANYA is a Partner at EpiAFRIC and manages all engagements in Western Europe. He was until recently 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 a member of the Advisory Committee for Medecins Du Monde's Project: London. He is a co-founder of the Abuja Literary Society, the Nigerian Public Health Foundation, and the Nigeria Health Watch. He is a TED Global Fellow and cofounder of TEDxEuston.



Dr. OLUSOLA ARUNA is a Fellow of the United Kingdom Faculty of Public Health (FPH). 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 the identification, assessment, analysis, and use of data and other information for decision making, including the control of 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 currently the country lead for Public Health England's (PHE) International Health Regulations (IHR) Strengthening Programme in Nigeria.



Nigeria Health Watch had an extremely interesting year in 2021. Our Annual Report details our ongoing expansion as we have been pleased with the expansion of our scope of work.

Following the lockdown in 2020 we looked forward to 2021 with positive anticipation, despite the ongoing pandemic still a major concern. Workplace policies had to be adjusted to ensure that staff members were working in a safe and conducive environment. The year of activity saw Nigeria Health Watch use more innovative advocacy strategies, supporting a one-of-a-kind photo exhibition inspired by Solutions Journalism called 'Positive Deviance.' The exhibition was organised as part of International Women's Day in 2021, showcased the work of MSD for Mothers and other freelance photographers in the area of maternal health.

The restrictions that limited in-person events saw Nigeria Health Watch organize the #FundFPNaija Policy Dialogue in June 2021. The event brought together important stakeholders in the family planning field to explore how to boost domestic resources for family planning services in Nigeria. Increasing taxes for health, ensuring efficient use of current resources, allocating more funds to the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) for family planning services, and the private sector were identified as examples of potential strategies to raise domestic resources for family planning.

For the 2021 World Breastfeeding Week, the Nigeria Health Watch policy dialogue themed 'Strengthening Workplace Policies for Exclusive Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility' analysed existing workplace policies for exclusive breastfeeding. The goal of the policy debate was to raise public knowledge and discussions about the need for stronger workplace policies.

Nigeria Health Watch organised the #HealthMeetsArt Gala titled 'Celebrating Womanhood' as part of the MSD for Mothers-supported #GivingBirthInNigeria project to explore crucial maternal health issues through the lens of the creative arts. The gala's main goal was to honour women in all of their forms, demonstrating their power and perseverance while also fostering constructive discourse about the gender inequalities and disadvantages that women experience. Day One of our annual flagship event, the Future of Health Conference, was themed 'Breaking Glass Ceilings: Gender Equality for Sustainable Development'. It focused on three important sub-themes, *Women in Media*, *HeforShe*, and *Women in Leadership*. Day Two's topic was 'Breaking Glass Ceilings: Gender Equality for Women's Health'.

What we have accomplished would not have been possible without our incredible team members and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to achieving this common goal. We owe a debt of gratitude to our generous partners, who continue to believe in the work we do.

As we continue to advocate for better access to healthcare in Nigeria, it is important that citizens seize the opportunity presented by the upcoming elections. We are committed to our work because it is vital that Nigerians have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare, which can only be achieved if people have accurate information to exercise their rights.

"We are committed to our work because it is vital that Nigerians have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare."



Vivianne Ihekweazu

VIVIANNE IHEKWEAZU
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

Who we are

a. **YEAR FOUNDED:** 2007

b. **LOCATION:** Abuja, Nigeria

c. **EMPLOYEES:** 26

d. WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

At the inception of Nigeria Health Watch, the founders sought to ensure that health was given a greater priority in Nigeria. The poor state of healthcare in Nigeria has remained a challenge, with minimal improvement in health outcomes. The goal was to communicate to Nigerians the challenges and opportunities in the Nigerian health sector, empowering them with evidence-based information to enable them to advocate for better access to quality healthcare. It was also important to hold duty bearers accountable to deliver on the health promises and policies that would lead to positive change in the Nigerian health sector.

e. 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

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.



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.



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



Excellence



Partnership



Commitment

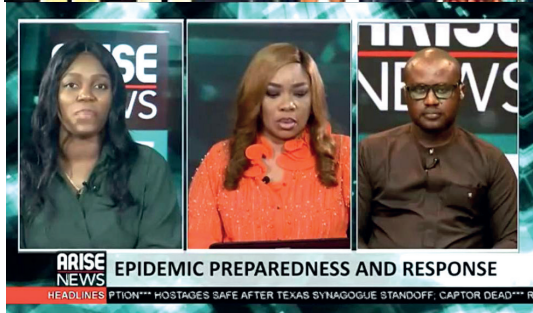


Open-minded

2021 in Numbers



2021 in Pictures

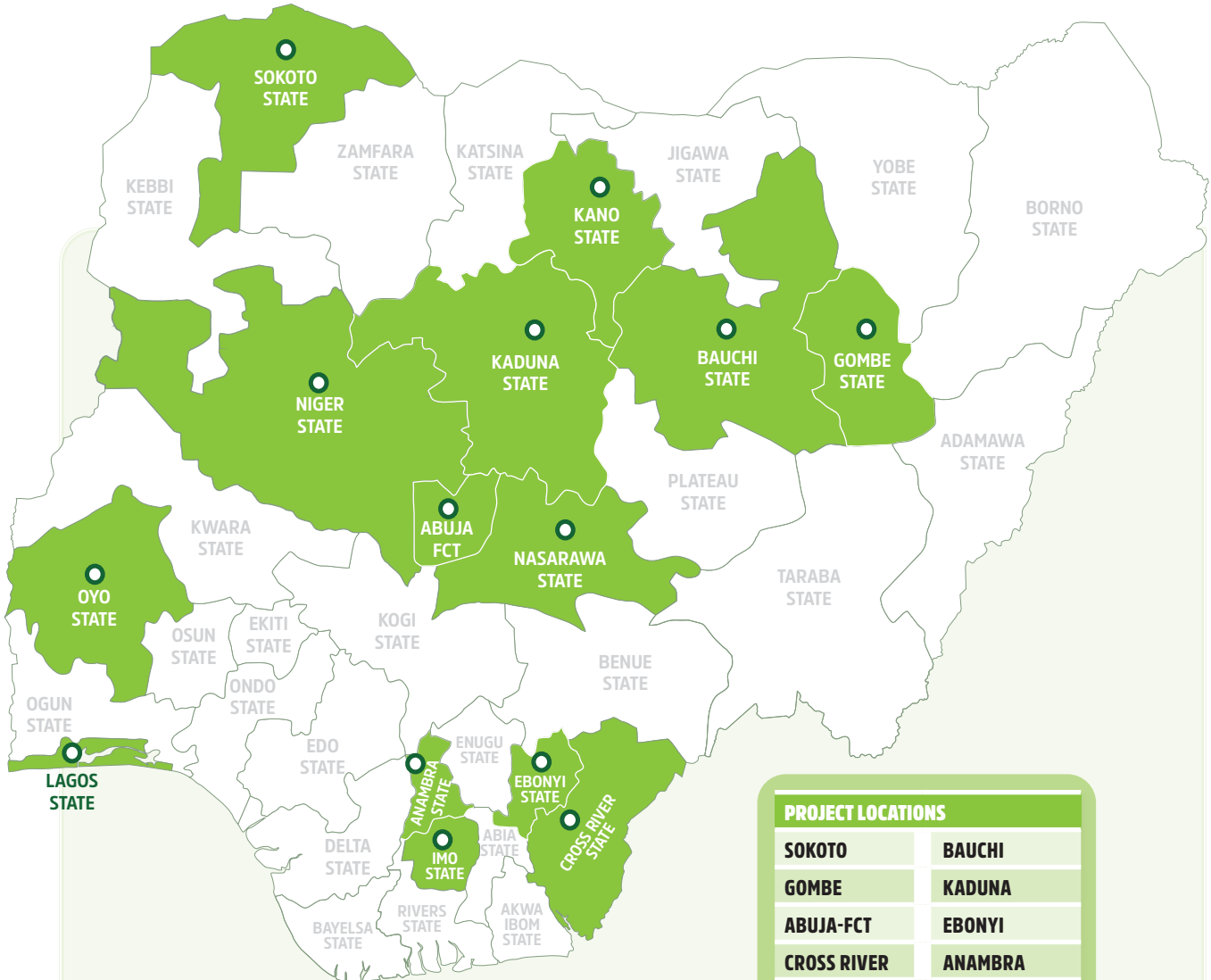


2021 in Pictures

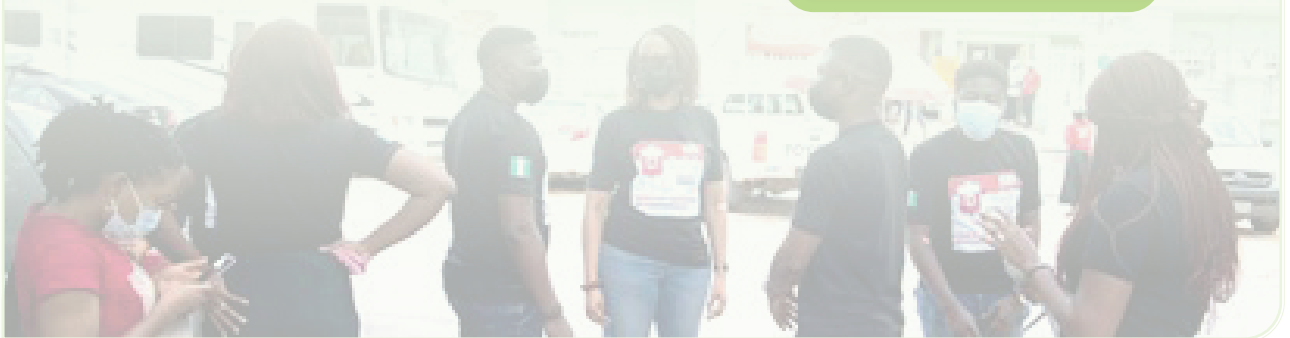


Location of Projects

PROJECT MAP SHOWING WHERE WE WORKED



PROJECT LOCATIONS	
SOKOTO	BAUCHI
GOMBE	KADUNA
ABUJA-FCT	EBONYI
CROSS RIVER	ANAMBRA
LAGOS	IMO
NASARAWA	KANO
NIGER	OYO
CONFERENCES/POLICY DIALOGUES	
ABUJA-FCT	LAGOS



Projects

WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2021



THE GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY PROJECT

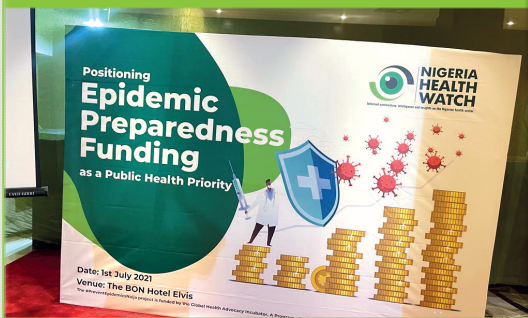
COVID-19 IN NIGERIA - TELLING THE TRUE STORY



GIVING BIRTH IN NIGERIA ADVOCACY PROJECT



COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH PROJECT



PREVENT EPIDEMICS PROJECT

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM AFRICA INITIATIVE (SJA)



The Global Policy Advocacy Project

FUNDED BY BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

In 2021, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Global Policy and Advocacy Project continued to increase public and policymaker awareness of key health issues, including maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, primary health care, routine immunisation and polio, nutrition, and salient issues like health security and gender equality. This was done via traditional (TV, radio and print) and social media, as well as policy dialogues and larger events like the 2021 Future of Health Conference.

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the project is to raise awareness, knowledge, and engagement on health issues in Nigeria, with emphasis on basic primary health care and nutrition.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **Increase knowledge and awareness** of key health focus areas at federal and state levels
- **Increase engagement** with decision and policymakers around key health focus areas and salient issues like health security and gender equality
- **Increase accountability** in Nigeria's primary health sector by policymakers at federal and state levels
- **Increase salience of key health issues**, including gender equality, health security, Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHC PF), contributing to their prioritisation at federal and state levels

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Four **(4) health events convened** - **3 policy dialogues** and the 2021 Future of Health conference
- **113 articles** published on our focus areas - **74 thought leadership** and **39 torchlight series**
- An assessment of water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) services in primary health centres (PHCs) conducted in Kaduna and Niger State
- The Community Health Watch project, which seeks to amplify community voices on PHC launched in Niger State

THE GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY PROJECT

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Articles republished on other platforms, such as the *News Chronicle* and *AllAfrica.com*
- Social media mention by the British High Commissioner to Nigeria
- Multiple newspapers mentions on *PremiumTimes*, *Daily Sun*, *Policy Digest*, etc.
- Invitation to participate, facilitate and provide communications support at major health events including the Special National Council on Health and the 2021 Nigeria Health Commissioners Forum.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Honourable Commissioner for Health, Ogun State Dr. Tomi Coker, mentioned that she uses Nigeria Health Watch newsletter to keep abreast of Health Information in Nigeria and looks out for the articles as a critical tool that informs some of the work done in Ogun State.

The National Council on Health is the highest policy-making body in Nigeria in all areas related to health. On the 3rd of December, Nigeria Health Watch was called up to provide social media communications support to amplify a special session that was held to discuss the need for domestic vaccine manufacturing, especially in response to health emergencies. The event was co-organised by the World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO)

The Community Health Watch reporting has generated a lot of social media interest, with posts frequently liked and re-shared. In November 2021, the First Lady of Kebbi State, Dr. Zainab Shinkafi-Bagudu, held a Cancer Awareness and Fundraising event themed 'Art for Cancer'. In attendance at this event, was the Country Director for Pathfinder International, Dr. Amina Aminu Dorayi. And in a conversation, she mentioned that she had forwarded some of the Community Health Watch articles to the Commissioner for Health in Niger State and the articles were really 'putting the Niger State' government under the spotlight.

Nigeria Health Watch was invited to contribute to the review of the new Public Health Emergency Bill signed by the Senate in August 2021.



Giving Birth in Nigeria Advocacy Project

FUNDED BY MSD FOR MOTHERS

The Giving Birth in Nigeria project is centred on providing informed advocacy and communications for better quality maternal health care in Nigeria. The first phase of the project focused on building evidence for better quality maternal health care at the community level through the “Why Are Women Dying While Giving Birth in Nigeria?” report. This community-informed maternal death review provides an in-depth analysis of why women die while giving birth in local communities across Nigeria and provides recommendations for action through a multi-stakeholder approach.

The second phase of the project which began full implementation in January 2021, and running, focuses on disseminating evidence-based advocacy demonstrating that private sector collaboration, digital innovation, and a commitment to equity are key to providing better quality maternal health care for women in Nigeria. Through our focus on access to quality care, quality maternal medicines and multi-stakeholder collaboration, we are able to provide advocacy for better quality maternal health care through evidence-based solutions.



PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the advocacy project is to elevate dialogue on maternal health in Nigeria and garner commitment from key stakeholders to improve quality of maternal health care to reduce maternal deaths. It is expected that through advocacy and communications activities, there will be eventual policy change and action.

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC APPROACH

The objective of the advocacy project is to spotlight the importance of quality of care in maternal health in Nigeria by:

- **Collaborating with successful maternal health projects in Nigeria** to publicise their project successes, goals of the projects, activities, outputs, achievements and outcomes.
- **Providing evidence for better quality maternal medicines** as a key determinant of maternal health outcomes
- **Showcasing the importance of community pharmacists and patent and proprietary medicine vendors** in providing extended family planning services in local communities



RADIO PROGRAMMES PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF POST-PREGNANCY FAMILY PLANNING

GIVING BIRTH IN NIGERIA ADVOCACY PROJECT



PROJECT OUTPUTS

- The **production and launch of the IntegratE documentary** shone a spotlight on the success of the IntegratE project and **its goal of providing a viable model for the tiered accreditation of patent and proprietary vendors and community pharmacists** to provide extended family planning services in local communities
- The webinar provided **evidence for the effectiveness of human-centred design in providing better quality maternal medicines**
- **Radio programmes** that provided an overview of the importance of post-pregnancy family planning
- Blog articles that became **strong advocacy tools for maternal mental health**, better quality maternal medicines, maternal death surveillance, community health and the power of embracing public-private partnerships for better quality maternal health care

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- **Increased knowledge about evidence-based approaches to achieving** better quality maternal health care in Nigeria
- **Increased knowledge across state-level decision making**, on better approaches to maternal medicine storage and use
- Increased advocacy to public sector on strategic avenues for private sector collaboration in family planning, maternal care and community health

ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Established partnership with state governments** to improve maternal medicines
2. **Increased visibility of maternal health solutions** among key stakeholders in academia, private sector, professional and public sector

The Giving Birth in Nigeria project is supported by funding from MSD, through MSD for Mothers, the company's \$500 million initiative to help create a world where no woman dies giving life.

Prevent Epidemics Project

FUNDED BY RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES THROUGH GLOBAL HEALTH ADVOCACY INCUBATOR

COVID-19 revealed important gaps in Nigeria's capacities to prepare for, detect, and respond to epidemics. It also highlighted the need to raise awareness to devote considerable political capital and economic resources to build epidemic preparedness and response capacity to improve health security.

Investing in health emergency preparedness will improve health outcomes, build community trust, and reduce poverty, thereby also contributing to efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Nigeria has improved capacities to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats, moving from a Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of 39% in 2017 to 46% in 2019. As the nation prepares for another JEE in 2022, Nigeria Health Watch has been building on the progress made in 2020 to garner support for epidemic preparedness through events and activities tailored strategically towards key target audiences. It has also been leveraging every opportunity to support NCDC's key priority areas for 2021, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that epidemic preparedness is adequately funded to ascertain the systems and engagement needed to detect and control potential disease outbreaks are properly established.



PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of this project is to **support NCDC's 2021 national priorities by building public and policymaker awareness** and demand for epidemic preparedness funding increases at the federal and state levels, through advocacy and communications.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- To increase awareness among policymakers and the public on infectious disease outbreaks and why it is important to prevent them.
- To increase public demand for more funding for the prevention of infectious disease outbreaks
- To increase funding for epidemic preparedness and implementation of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) in Nigeria.

PROJECT OUTS

- Organized a breakfast meeting that was focused on mainstreaming NAPHS into Annual Budget Proposals with Heads of MDAs involved in the NAPHS.
- Delivered a Journalism Masterclass focused on Positioning Epidemic Preparedness Funding as a Public Health Priority.
- Engaged journalists to write and publish articles on epidemic preparedness in mainstream media, to increase reportage and push forward our project objective.
- Arranged Media Interviews with lawmakers, policymakers and relevant stakeholders.
- Produced and disseminated targeted multimedia interviews and testimonials.

PREVENT EPIDEMICS PROJECT



PROJECT OUTCOMES

- **Improved knowledge** of journalists on the need for increased reportage around Prevent Epidemics (PE) as an economic, political and social issue
- **Increased capacity** of journalists to identify and accurately report on key issues to promote awareness and national support for epidemics preparedness
- **Improved accuracy**, content and frequency of stories outlining the importance of sustained funding for epidemics preparedness, leading to improved public awareness and support for epidemic prevention
- **Increased circulation of stories** on funding for epidemics preparedness in the media leading to increased pressure on policymakers for policy change by the public
- **Improved understanding** and public support for PE
- **Increased engagement and awareness** of environmental health issues, the importance of preparing for epidemics, the economic, political, and social effects of epidemics
- **Increased knowledge and awareness** of community people on the need to fund efforts for epidemics preparedness

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Leveraged on the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks to **increase public awareness of the importance of epidemic preparedness**
- Successfully engaged with journalists and **increased reporting skills** through the organized master-class
- Through our partnership with the International Health Regulations (IHR) Unit of the NCDC, we have been able to **provide extensive support to technical leads** for the implementation of NAPHS
- Through our grantees' coalition, the project has successfully **gained more visibility with stakeholders**, and particularly at the state level where the project is being implemented

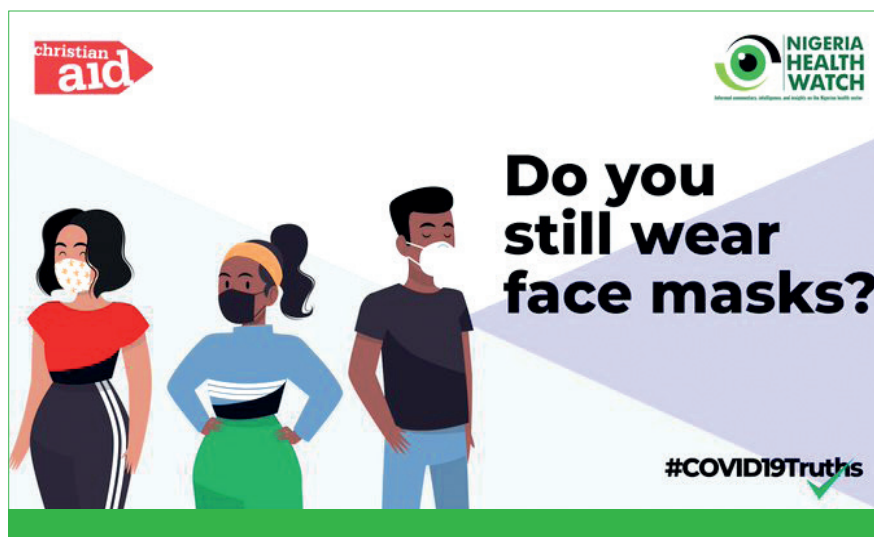
COVID-19 In Nigeria - Telling the True Story

FUNDED BY CHRISTIAN AID UK-NIGERIA

The spread of false and harmful information around the COVID-19 pandemic had the potential to destroy the gains made by the response of global governments. To address this, the Nigerian government, with support of the private sector, started proactive curation and dissemination of information to help debunk COVID-19 related misinformation.

This made the COVID-19: Telling the True Story project very timely as the main goal revolved around first understanding the types of messaging being shared around COVID-19 and developing messaging that will put the correct evidence-based narratives in place. The information created was distributed using social media and other digital media platforms. Traditional media (especially radio) also played a significant role in disseminating evidence-based information to the public. The radio-based activities happened in local Nigerian languages. The project adopted various methods to understand the types of information being shared across traditional media, online and offline.

Beyond subscription to a media monitoring tool, we leveraged relationships with journalists working in radio stations to understand the concerns and issues raised by their listeners. We also leveraged existing relationships with community-based organisations in other CA-funded projects to understand the types of information being shared in their communities about COVID-19. All these helped inform the focus of the contents being created and published weekly on the project.



PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of the project was to reduce misinformation around COVID-19 by curating and publishing evidence-based content online

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- To **understand and counter fake and misinformation trends** in above-the-line and digital media.
- To **gauge Nigerians' perception** on what kind of news influences their behaviour
- To **learn and document lessons from Nigeria's COVID-19 response** and apply lessons learnt from different actors (including the private sector) for the containment of COVID-19 infection.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- The project **created multimedia content** (infographics, animations, audio drama, video, doodles, text) that countered COVID-19 information trends that had the potential of becoming harmful.
- **Multiple radio engagements** held in English and other local languages (Pidgin, Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba) helped reach over 500,000 listeners across different Nigerian states. The radio programs leveraged various delivery formats including call-in to ensure the public got maximum value from the engagements. The choice of the radio stations also ensured spread by using urban, regional and national radio stations.
- Four **freelancers were commissioned to write stories** that educated their audiences on COVID-19 information while providing actionable insights on avoiding it and staying safe.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Messaging addressing various elements of the COVID-19 misinformation were embedded in infographics content and shared across multiple social media platforms (*Twitter, Facebook and Instagram*). Graphic and doodle animations were produced and embedded with messaging that addressed COVID-19 misinformation or provided information with the correct narratives.
- The project produced short audio drama series embedded with correct COVID-19 information while debunking misinformation.
- The project worked with African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development (AfriYAN), a vibrant youth network supported by United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) with members across different Nigerian states. They created activities that helped amplify the messaging priorities of the project.
- Beyond subscription to Meltwater media monitoring tool, the project leveraged Nigeria Health Watch's network of community-based organisations (CBOs) to get insights on what was being said in their communities around COVID-19. These helped generate more relevant content to debunk the wrong narratives.
- Videos produced in multiple formats including public interviews (*vox pops*), in-house analysis, expert interviews with the DG, NCDC, Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu.
- Leveraged relationships with vendors to get value for money by producing more videos than projected in the activity plan.
- Produced content received over 20 million timeline deliveries across multiple social media and web platforms.

[An Open Discussion on COVID-19 Misinformation](#)



PROJECT OUTCOMES

- **More evidenced-based content around COVID-19 is curated** and published to reduce the impact of misinformation.
- **Increased engagement and interest generated around COVID-19** with audiences across Nigeria using radio stations in their local languages
- Involvement of vibrant youth organisations to **conceptualise and lead advocacy initiatives**
- High-Level engagements to **document and publish authoritative content** around COVID-19
- **Increased engagement on social media** with multimedia content published across social media channels

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Provided **a platform for direct engagement** with Nigerians to gauge their misconceptions around COVID-19 response.
- The project implementing team **increased their awareness of tracking and managing COVID-19 misinformation**. They also developed more capacities on project management
- **Increased awareness of fake news** by project implementing team
- Two project team members **leveraged the skills from the project** to join a network of African journalists responding to COVID-19 misinformation. The project is managed by the Institute of War and Peace reporting



Community Health Watch Project

FUNDED BY THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION

Nigeria Health Watch commenced the Community Health Watch project in August 2021. The project is being piloted in three Local Government Areas in Niger State, with a plan to scale up to Kano State in the first quarter of 2022, Kaduna and Benue State joining in second quarter of the year. The project involves the production of short articles with photos and videos on the state of primary healthcare in rural communities, as well as holding town hall engagement meetings on access and delivery of basic healthcare services in communities.



PROJECT GOAL

To provide community members with the opportunity to share their experience accessing healthcare in primary healthcare centres in their communities, and highlight challenges faced by health facilities in rural communities in providing care. This is also to hold decision-makers accountable at the primary healthcare level, to push for improved service delivery in communities.

Our approach included training and commissioning a network of community reporters. These were youth leaders in various communities across three LGAs in Niger State – as they are direct recipients of local healthcare delivery in their communities. The reporters are able to report on the quality of service provided and the state of the primary healthcare centres. Parameters of reportage included infrastructure, water, sanitation, health, essential medicines and human resource for health. Challenges of WaSH in schools and communities, and experience of community members accessing care from their health facilities, especially on immunisation, maternal, new-born and child health and infectious diseases were also given coverage.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve accountability around Primary healthcare system
- Provide opportunity for community members to share experiences on accessing healthcare
- Provide opportunity for health workers to share experiences in providing care
- Amplify good practices and call out bad ones in primary healthcare delivery in Nigeria
- Present policymakers and stakeholders with evidence around the state of healthcare delivery in rural communities

15

**REPORTS
PUBLISHED**
ON NIGERIA HEALTH
WATCH FACEBOOK
AND INSTAGRAM
HANDLES BETWEEN
AUG. & DEC. 2021



COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH PROJECT

LEAVE NO ONE'S HEALTH BEHIND INVEST IN HEALTH

DR. BASHAR ABUBAKAR
HEALTH JOURNALIST
GUEST

SWAT DUNIAH
ON-AIR PERSONALITY
HOST

14th December 2021
12 P 30 M
NIGERIAINFO ABUJA 95.1



PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Between August and December 2021, a total of **15 reports were published** on Nigeria Health Watch's social media handles
- **Videos were published on YouTube and Twitter**, and some of the reporting was published on the Nigeria Health Watch website
- **Five town hall engagement meetings** with community members, health workers and LGA health officials were held in Bankogi and Maito communities in Wushishi LGA, Ejiko community in Gbako LGA and Tunga Malam community in Paiko LGA of Niger State. Discussions of the meetings were tweeted
- To mark the 2021 universal health coverage day, a **town hall engagement meeting held in Dukpa community**, Gwagwalada Area Council, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The meeting was streamed on *Facebook* and backed with live tweets on *Twitter*

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- The town hall engagement meetings provided an **opportunity for community members to share their experiences** accessing care from health facilities, dialogue with health care workers and LGA health officials on challenges of healthcare delivery and potential solutions
- The reports **generated engagements on social media** handles after publication
- The reports **served as advocacy tools for improvement of primary healthcare systems** by Nigeria Health Watch

5 TOWNHALL ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS HOSTED

Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative Project

FUNDED BY SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK

The project is aimed at changing the narrative as it concerns using journalism and media to drive social change and development by creating and publishing more stories around how people are addressing various social problems around health and other social determinants of health. This is as opposed to the usual practice of focusing more and amplifying what is not working. The project is supported by the Solutions Journalism Network based in New York, USA.



PROJECT GOAL

Contribute to increased knowledge and practice of solutions journalism in Nigeria. Help media organisations and freelance journalists produce and publish more solutions-focused stories that show how people are addressing various social problems

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Train and support 90 nominees from 30 media organisations across Nigeria to learn solutions journalism and apply the framework in their reporting.

- Select, train and support 10 freelance journalists to learn and apply the solutions journalism framework in their reporting.
- Curate communication activities and contents that will amplify the practice and create demand for solutions journalism.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

First cohort of 10 newsrooms trained and supported to produce over 30 SoJo stories between May - December 2021.

Reviewed 227 applications for the fellowship component and selected 10 freelancers that will be trained and supported.

Trained over 200 participants during an info session organized for the fellowship applicants.

Supported the European Journalism Center to train their Global Health Security fellows on solutions journalism

Trained over 80 Mass Communication students at Fountain University in Osun State on SoJo.



SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM AFRICA INITIATIVE PROJECT



PROJECT OUTPUTS

- Organized two radio appearances to amplify the importance of SoJo.
- Created multimedia content to amplify stories produced by the media organization nominees.
- Supported the Solutions Journalism West Africa Fellows selected by Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) to deliver on their fellowship projects
- Create a pool of potential freelance journalists that will be commissioned to produce solutions stories for the project and the organization.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- More solutions-focused stories produced as a result of project activities
- More awareness about the organization and solutions journalism created as a result of project activities
- Increased newsroom interest to adopt the solutions journalism approach
- Request by educational institutions and individuals for solutions journalism training

ACHIEVEMENTS

- An influential newsroom in the first cohort, News Agency of Nigeria decided to incorporate solutions reporting in their organization. They are setting up a dedicated solutions journalism team, desk, and section on their website for this purpose.



2 RADIO APPEARANCES ORGANISED TO AMPLIFY THE IMPORTANCE OF SOJO

Media Appearances

MEDIA APPEARANCES



RADIO SHOWS

VACCINE HESITANCY

HARD FACTS

LIVE STREAM

MONDAY 10th MAY 2021
4:10 - 5:00PM

Host: **KIMBERLY NWACHUKWU**
@bikimberly

Guest: **VIVIANNE IHEKWEAZU**
Managing Director - Nigeria Health Watch
@Vihekweazu

Vaccine Hesitancy

Navigating Healthcare POST COVID-19

EpiAFRIC

Ifeanyi Nsofor
CEO EpiAFRIC

Uche Nwagboso
Communication & Content Editor
Nigeria Health Watch

Tune in 99.9 **Kiss FM**

SEPTEMBER 7TH
2:00 PM (WAT)

www.nigeriahealthwatch.com

Navigating Healthcare Post COVID-19

GENDER EQUALITY & Sustainable Development

12th August 2021
10am - 10:30 AM (WAT)

HOSTS

OWIGHO
@on_owigbo

GESIERE
@thelathagus

GUEST

Dana Ajala-Damisa
Programme Manager
Nigeria Health Watch

Gender Equality

Health Education is Important to achieving Universal Healthcare in Nigeria.

COOL 96.9 FM
ABUJA

Time: 2:25PM

The BIG One
@danielthebigone

Thelma Chioma Abeku
Information and Research Manager
Nigeria Health Watch
@chioma_thomas

www.nigeriahealthwatch.com

Health Education is Important to achieving Universal Healthcare in Nigeria

RADIO SHOWS



Family Planning

WHERE THE MONI?
FINDING ALTERNATE FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING IN NIGERIA

HOSTED BY @IAMDORKONG

KEMISOLA AGBADE
SENIOR PROGRAMME MANAGER
NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

LIVE ON
4:25PM
15th July 2021
cool
ABUJA
96.9FM

Maternal Mental Health Care: Making It A Reality For All Women

Aloysius Ugwu
Programme Analyst Nigeria Health Watch

Dara Ajala-Damisa
Programme Manager Nigeria Health Watch

Vivienne Ihekweazu
Honorary Director Nigeria Health Watch

Monday
October 11th 2021
2:00pm

99.9 Kiss FM

Maternal Mental Health

MANAGEMENT OF COVID 19 Waste

Aloysius Ugwu
Programme Analyst EpiAFRIC

Beti Baiye
Programme Manager Nigeria Health Watch

Nigeria Info FM
Let's Talk!

NigeriaInfo Thursday 10am WAT

99.9 Kiss FM

Kiss FM - Friday 10:30am

UNDP Hackathon

2021 Future of Health Conference

BREAKING GLASS CEILINGS

Andy Eko
Cool FM

Uche Nwagbaso
Communication & Content Editor
Nigeria Health Watch

STAY TUNED

3rd November 9:30am

cool 96.9 FM
Your #1 Hit Music Station
ABUJA

Future of Health Conference



NEWSPAPER REPORTS

12

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 - THURSDAY

NEWS



CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD...

L-R: Country Director, Pathfinder International, Dr. Arima Arima (Daisy), Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Juana Tomévilva, Nigerian Director MSD for Mothers, Iyekanmi Okubadejo, Deputy Managing Director Programme Society for Family Health, Dr. Jennifer Anusant, and Managing Director of Nigeria Health Watch (Iyemore Fekunso), at the Nigeria Health Watch Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala in Abuja, recently.

50

THURSDAY - MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2021

FEATURES

Group Features Editor: Chiamelie Ezabo
Email: chiamelie.ezabo@thisdaylive.com, 0700550450

Advocacy for Gender Equality, Women Inclusion in Leadership and Media

Stakeholders at the recent Nigeria Health Watch conference not just advocated for gender equality for women's health, but also, more inclusion of women in media, key leadership and decision-making positions, among others in Nigeria. **Sunday Ehiogator** reports



According to the World Bank, a collection of developing systems, including digital systems, is crucial for economic growth. Nigeria was reported to be 62.5% in 2020. This indicator from the above data equally showed that women have an enormous impact on the achievement of their national and global goals, and their potential in commitment not realized because of discrimination, social control, inequality, and legal inequalities. Although the world has been progressing in women's rights, gender inequality still persists. The limited participation of women in the leadership and decision-making positions is a major concern.

Advocating for equal support for women to complete their studies with men in health and gender equality. The need to increase inclusion of women in the leadership and decision-making positions is a major concern. The need to increase inclusion of women in the leadership and decision-making positions is a major concern.

It is not surprising that women are not included in the leadership and decision-making positions. The need to increase inclusion of women in the leadership and decision-making positions is a major concern.

It is not surprising that women are not included in the leadership and decision-making positions. The need to increase inclusion of women in the leadership and decision-making positions is a major concern.

In order to create an enabling environment for women and girls to thrive alongside men and boys, it is imperative to increase the number of women who can stand to favourably compete in the marketplace

THURSDAY - MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2021

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NEWSPAPER REPORTS



THE NATION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

FEATURES

Roadblock to women's access to quality health care

Statistics with our health system estimated that 10 per cent of the population will be over 60 years of age by 2050. This is a significant challenge for our health system, especially for women who are in positions of leadership within critical decision-making roles. As a result, the health system is facing a significant challenge in providing quality health care to women, especially in the areas of reproductive health, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases.

Dr. Anu Akhtar
Dr. Chiboka

Social determinants of health

For Dr. Mary Ann Ekeke, Lead Director of the National Health Watch, the health system is facing a significant challenge in providing quality health care to women, especially in the areas of reproductive health, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases. She explains that social determinants of health, such as poverty, illiteracy, and lack of access to health services, are major barriers to women's health. She notes that women are often the primary caregivers for their families, and their health is directly linked to the health of their families. She calls for a holistic approach to health care that addresses the social determinants of health and ensures that women have equal access to quality health care.

Improving quality health care for women

The gender gap in health care is a global issue, and it is one that we must address if we are to improve the quality of health care for all. Women are often the primary caregivers for their families, and their health is directly linked to the health of their families. We need to ensure that women have equal access to quality health care, and that their health is a priority for the health system. We need to invest in the health of women, and we need to ensure that they have the resources and support they need to lead healthy lives. We need to ensure that women are not just passive recipients of care, but active participants in their own health care. We need to ensure that women have a say in the decisions that affect their health, and that they are treated with respect and dignity. We need to ensure that women have access to the same quality of care as men, and that their health is a priority for the health system. We need to ensure that women are not just passive recipients of care, but active participants in their own health care. We need to ensure that women have a say in the decisions that affect their health, and that they are treated with respect and dignity. We need to ensure that women have access to the same quality of care as men, and that their health is a priority for the health system.

Legit

Basic Healthcare Provision Fund: Nigeria Health Watch Organises Town Hall Meeting in Dupka

Nigeria's Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHPF) has the potential to allow for more equitable and efficient health care financing. There are, however, concerns to ensure accountability between the different stakeholders responsible for implementing the BHPF at national, state, local and facility levels. Nigeria Health Watch is doing its part to ensure that a community in the outskirts of Abuja gets what it deserves from the BHPF.

Your support matters. Sustain Independent Journalism in Nigeria - contribute to L695166

FCT, Abuja - Dupka a community in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja came alive on Monday, December 12 as a town hall meeting organised by the Nigeria Health Watch gave the residents an opportunity to meet with government officials in

Nigeria: FCT Community Groans Under Poor Health Care As Insecurity Hampers BHPFP Implementation

Leadership (Abuja)

By Patricia Ijejelema

28 DECEMBER 2021

The launch of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHPFP) brought smiles on the faces of Nigerians, with high expectations that the fund would reduce the hardship facing many who pay through their nose to combat ill health. The fund is expected to bring healthcare within the reach of otherwise indigent and vulnerable Nigerians, thereby boosting the country's match towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC). However, the impact is not felt optimally in the communities due to lack of basic amenities and insecurity.

Spurred by the federal and state governments, the BHPFP, a component of the National Health Act of 2014 and signed into the 2019 fiscal budget in 2018 by President Muhammadu Buhari, is designed to provide free minimum basic healthcare to most vulnerable Nigerians through accredited Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the 38 states of the federation and the federal capital territory (FCT).

THURSDAY - PHYSICAL, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

NEWS

Physiotherapists Recommend Exercises for COVID-19 Patients

Rebecca Ejirofe

The Nigerian Physiotherapy Association (NPA) has recommended a set of exercises for COVID-19 patients to help them recover faster and improve their overall health. The exercises are designed to strengthen the muscles, improve circulation, and boost the immune system. The NPA emphasizes that patients should consult their healthcare providers before starting any exercise routine, especially if they have underlying health conditions or are recovering from a severe case of COVID-19. The recommended exercises include walking, stretching, and light aerobic activities. The NPA also advises patients to maintain a healthy diet, stay hydrated, and get plenty of rest to support their recovery.

18 BUSINESS NEWS

Insecurity, port challenges mar Nigeria's \$750bn sesame export target

SUPPORT

Central Bank of Nigeria has assisted farmers to boost seed production

Bayo Akomolafe

Numerous port challenges and insecurity have denied Nigerian exporters the opportunity to earn \$750 billion (€1.5 billion) yearly from sesame seed export from the global market. Other problems include lack of good laboratories, lack of bank loans, storage facilities and equipment to boost the quality of the seed. In the first quarter of 2021, it was gathered that the country exported only \$41.9 billion or 5.58 per cent of its potential because of the challenges facing the crop. Findings revealed that export fell from 964,800 tonnes in 2012 to 500,000 tonnes in 2020 because of delay and poor packages. Exporters explained that the country's seed, which contains 50.5 per cent oil and 25 per cent protein, is used for pharmaceuticals, confectionery, cosmetics and soaps, lubricants, shampoos and industries for paints in Japan, China, Turkey, India, Poland and The Netherlands. However, the exporters said that they had been incurring demurrage on sesame goods as a result of bad roads leading to the ports.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

NEW TELEGRAPH

Physiotherapists Recommend Exercises for COVID-19 Patients

Rebecca Ejirofe

The Nigerian Physiotherapy Association (NPA) has recommended a set of exercises for COVID-19 patients to help them recover faster and improve their overall health. The exercises are designed to strengthen the muscles, improve circulation, and boost the immune system. The NPA emphasizes that patients should consult their healthcare providers before starting any exercise routine, especially if they have underlying health conditions or are recovering from a severe case of COVID-19. The recommended exercises include walking, stretching, and light aerobic activities. The NPA also advises patients to maintain a healthy diet, stay hydrated, and get plenty of rest to support their recovery.

UNDP, EpiAfrican, NHW, Reboot, Call for Submission to #HackCOVIDWaste

Sunday Ejirofe

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), EpiAfrica, Nigeria Health Watch (NHW), and Reboot are calling for submissions to the #HackCOVIDWaste challenge. The challenge is aimed at encouraging young people to use their creativity and technical skills to develop innovative solutions to the COVID-19 waste management problem. Submissions should be sent to the #HackCOVIDWaste website by September 30, 2021. The winners will receive cash prizes and other incentives. The challenge is a part of the UNDP's efforts to support the Nigerian government in its fight against COVID-19 and to promote digital innovation and entrepreneurship.

Mobile transfers hit N1.2trn in 8

17 NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2021

HEALTH MEETS TECH

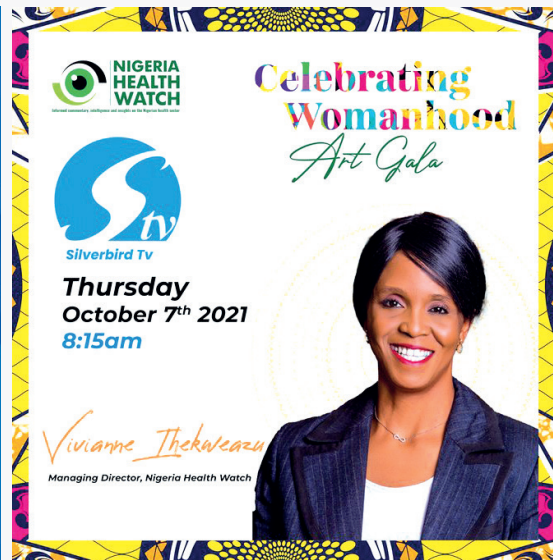
L-R: Chief Executive Officer, EpiAfrica, Dr. Ifeanyi Nsofor; Clinical Quality and Training Advisor, Marie Stopes International Organisation Nigeria, Amaka Ife-Okonkwo, and Head, Communications, Nigeria Health Watch, Uche Nwabogbo, during EpiAfrica Health meets Tech Hackathon Conference in Abuja.



TV FEATURES



Breastfeeding and COVID-19 – Channels TV



Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala - Silverbird TV



Funding for Epidemic Preparedness - Channels TV



Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala - Arise News



Funding for Epidemic Preparedness - TVC News



Investment in Health - TVC News

Events

PREVENT EPIDEMICS JOURNALISM AWARDS
30TH JANUARY, 2021

Icon: A hand holding a gear and a smartphone.

POSITIVE DEVIANCE EXHIBITION
26TH MARCH, 2021

Icon: Silhouettes of a man and a woman.

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NEWSROOM CONTRACT SIGNINGS & TRAINING
31ST MAY – 9TH JUNE, 2021

Icon: A person at a computer with a plus sign.

BUILDING BACK BETTER: REFLECTIONS ON NIGERIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE
10TH JUNE, 2021

Icon: A stylized virus particle.

GIVE BLOOD & KEEP THE WORLD BEATING
14TH JUNE, 2021

Icon: A hand holding a blood bag.

DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR SUSTAINED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES
24TH JUNE, 2021

Icon: A family silhouette with a globe.

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH RECEIVES HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE AWARD
25TH JUNE, 2021

Icon: A star on a pedestal.

STRENGTHENING WORKPLACE POLICIES FOR EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING
5TH AUGUST, 2021

Icon: A woman breastfeeding a child.

AFRICAN VACCINE ACQUISITION TRUST
12TH AUGUST, 2021

Icon: A vaccine vial and syringe.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE POLICY DIALOGUE
16TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

Icon: A house with a cross and people inside.

CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD ART GALA
8TH OCTOBER, 2021

Icon: A woman's profile with a globe.

UNDP HACKATHON
15TH -16TH OCTOBER, 2021

Icon: A person at a computer with a recycling symbol.

INTEGRATE MEDIA ROUNDTABLE
15TH OCTOBER, 2021

Icon: A group of people around a table.

FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE 2021 DAY 1: GENDER EQUALITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
3RD NOVEMBER, 2021

Icon: A woman and a man silhouette.

FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE 2021 DAY 2: GENDER EQUALITY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
4TH NOVEMBER, 2021

Icon: A woman silhouette with a female symbol.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY EVENT
12TH DECEMBER, 2021

Icon: An umbrella over a group of people.

On 30th January 2021, Nigeria Health Watch organised the first edition of its **#PreventEpidemicNaija Journalism Awards**. The award recognised and celebrated journalists who had produced excellent stories on epidemic preparedness and response in the year 2020.

The winners of the award according to media categories were:

1. **Justice Nwafor** with his **'How years of Underfunding of the Health Sector affected Nigeria's Response to COVID-19'** story published in the *Nigerian Tribune*.
2. **Aneta Felix** with her **'COVID-19 Lockdown: Inside a Lagos Emergency Food Market'** TV report published on *TV360*.
3. **Chibuike Utaka** with his **'Talk Your Own' on our Health System'** radio show produced through *BBC Media Action's* 200 local radio partners.
4. **Victor Azodoh** with his **'Preventing Future Pandemics'** Facebook post.

PREVENT EPIDEMICS JOURNALISM AWARDS 30TH JANUARY, 2021



POSITIVE DEVIANCE EXHIBITION 26TH MARCH, 2021



On the 26th March, 2021, Nigeria Health Watch supported and featured in a first-of-its-kind '**Positive Deviance**' photo exhibition at Ventures Park, Abuja. The exhibition, inspired by Solutions Journalism, was led by team member **Chibuikwe Alagboso** as part of his LEDE fellowship. Themed around the 2021 International Women's Day, the exhibition highlighted efforts put in place to address challenges faced by women in maternal healthcare. The exhibition featured works done by MSD for Mothers and other freelance photographers who had sent in photos for review. A virtual segment of the exhibition also debuted and ran for two months.



As part of the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative project, Nigeria Health Watch signed up 10 media organisations who had nominated three journalists each to be trained on the framework of solutions journalism. The 30 nominees were trained over a four-day period on the solutions journalism approach. The newsrooms received seed grants to enable them put the skills into use by producing their own stories with technical support provided via mentorship by Nigeria Health Watch.

The contracts were signed with both influential media organisations like **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**, **ThisDay**, **Daily Trust**, **LEADERSHIP**, **Pulse Nigeria**, **Nigeria Info** and start-up media organisations like **The Republic**, **Talkhealth9ja**, **Sparkling FM**, and **Freedom Radio**.

SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NEWSROOM CONTRACT SIGNINGS & TRAINING 31ST MAY - 9TH JUNE, 2021



News Agency of Nigeria is one of the newsrooms participating in the first cohort of the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative. They hold a strategic position in Nigeria's journalism ecosystem.

Journalists from the LEADERSHIP Newspapers will also be trained as part of the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative.



As part of the Solutions Journalism Africa initiative, Nigeria Health Watch will train journalists working with Daily Trust Newspapers and other newsrooms across Nigeria.



BUILDING BACK BETTER: REFLECTIONS ON NIGERIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

10TH JUNE, 2021



On 27th February 2020, Nigeria reported its first case of COVID-19. With over 250,000 confirmed cases reported to date in June 2022, Nigeria's response has been driven by the power of coordination, collaboration and solidarity across federal and state governments, the international community, private sector and within the nation's communities. The United Nations (UN) COVID-19 Basket Fund supported the Government of Nigeria by mobilising resources to strengthen the country's COVID-19 response.

On 10th June, 2021, Nigeria Health Watch supported *Channels TV* in organising a town-hall meeting for the European Union (EU) in Nigeria and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to reflect on Nigeria's COVID-19 response, discuss and share lessons learned and how to build forward for a more resilient future.

The town-hall gathered perspectives on the COVID-19 response from heads of government and private sector organisations. Discussions from the various panel sessions focused on the arrival of COVID-19 in Nigeria, its impact on the country and its systems, the response, and lessons learned. The government's efforts were highlighted as well as the strong collaboration between the government, international organisations, and key stakeholders in Nigeria's response to the pandemic. Stakeholders were successful in increasing visibility and instilling trust in the Nigerian public – that response efforts have been effective, and improvements can be made to strengthen the country's health system.

To commemorate the 2021 World Blood Donor Day on 14th June, Nigeria Health Watch carried out some activities to promote awareness on the importance of blood donation.

Activities included:

1. **Nigeria Health Watch (NHW) Engage on Twitter to drive conversations about blood donation.** People responded to the question 'Have you ever donated blood before?'
2. **Social media posts** to highlight the importance of blood donation
3. **Blood Drive** - Some members of the Nigeria Health Watch Team were at the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) to donate blood and elevate the conversation for more blood donor champions in Nigeria.
4. The national coordinator of the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS), Dr. Omale Joseph Amedu, discussed some knowledge gaps and skepticism about donating blood and he provided answers to some FAQs about blood donation in Nigeria.
5. An **article** highlighting five actionable steps to eliminate the prevalent issue of blood shortage in Nigeria:
 - a. Increased funding for NBTS by the federal, state, and local governments of Nigeria will improve efficiency and ensure equitable access to safe and quality blood transfusions for the population.
 - b. Strengthening quality assurance systems for proper screening of blood at the point of donation of blood and blood products to prevent patients from receiving sub-standard blood products.
 - c. Incorporating technology in facilitating the services of NBTS
 - d. Conducting regular sensitisation campaigns about the importance of regular blood donation in communities across the country, beyond the annual World Blood Donor Day events.
 - e. Increasing the network of blood donation centres across all the states in Nigeria and ensuring that health workers are adequately trained on how to safely handle blood products.



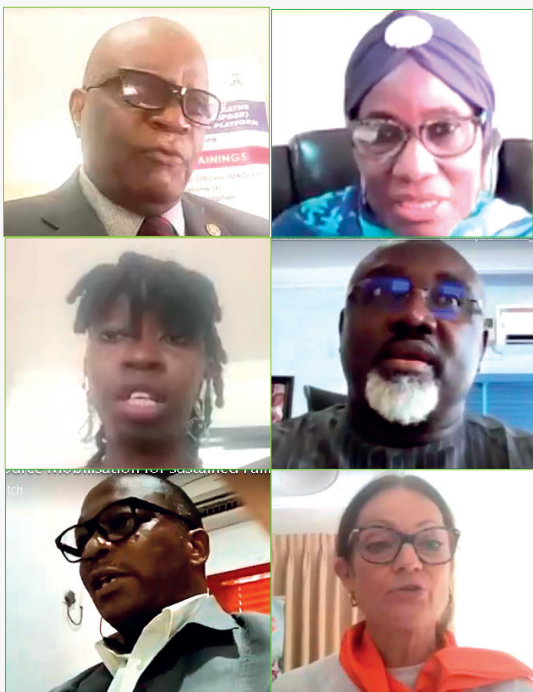
DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR SUSTAINED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

24TH JUNE, 2021



“There is a strong correlation between family planning and even weather, climate change, climate control and crime. We need to make that case.”

EFFIOM NYONG EFFIOM, Country Director, Marie Stopes



As part of her efforts in advocating for domestic funding for family planning, Nigeria Health Watch organised the **#FundFPNaija** Policy Dialogue on June 24, 2021. Key family planning stakeholders came together to discuss ways to increase domestic resource mobilisation for family planning services in Nigeria. The discussions spotlighted potential ways to increase domestic resources for family planning, including earmarked taxes for health, ensuring efficient use of existing resources, allocation of a percentage of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) to family planning services and the private sector. To reap demographic dividends, it was stated that Nigeria needs to reduce the total fertility rate from 5.2 births per woman to less than 4 by achieving an mCPR of 24.5%, which amounts to about \$400m in investment. Emphasis on efficiency and accountability in the use of available funds at both national and sub-national levels were also made.

Some of the recommendations made were:

1. Increasing revenue generation and allocation of funding to health through earmarked taxes and efficient management of resources.
2. Working with states to identify their priorities and ensure advocacy for family planning services fit into them to increase resource mobilisation at the state level.
3. Increasing private sector involvement in funding for family planning services by making a sound business case on prospective benefits, such as reduction in taxes, and reduced maternal mortality.
4. Empowering youth with the right information to increase demand, uptake, and access to family planning services
5. Increasing men's involvement in advocacy for increased access to family planning services.

“Domestic resource mobilisation is a good indicator for family planning sustainability, but if we do not look at the demand side, we will not solve the problem of family planning in Nigeria.”

MS. ULLA MUELLER, Country Representative, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

On 25th June, 2021 Nigeria Health Watch received the Nigerian Healthcare Excellence Award (in the online category) – for the third time.

The Nigerian Healthcare Excellence Awards are designed to celebrate distinguished personalities and organisations who have contributed immensely to the growth of the Nigerian health sector. Recognising Nigeria Health Watch's consistent impact in strong advocacy for salient health issues, the 2021 Award was a nod for collaboration for impact in the health space.

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH RECEIVES HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE AWARD

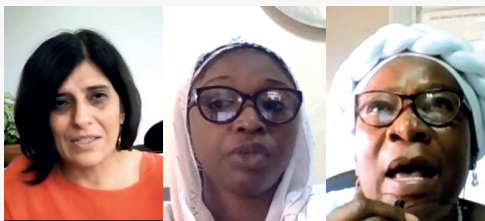
25TH JUNE, 2021



Nigeria Health Watch receiving the Nigeria Health Excellence Awards (NHEA) Healthcare Media Excellence Award

STRENGTHENING WORKPLACE POLICIES FOR EXCLUSIVE BREASTFEEDING

5TH AUGUST, 2021



For the 2021 World Breastfeeding Week, the Nigeria Health Watch Policy Dialogue tagged **'Strengthening Workplace Policies for Exclusive Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility'** discussed existing workplace policies for exclusive breastfeeding. The aim of the policy dialogue was to increase public awareness and discourse on the importance of stronger policies, including contributions to the bottom line of organisations and other components of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).

The dialogue brought together stakeholders in government, academia, research, development, civil society, nutrition commodities manufacturing and marketing, relevant groups, associations and healthcare providers. It highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral collaboration for the advancement of workplace policies for nutrition.

Speaking at the policy dialogue, Mrs Nduka Chito Nelson, Head of Nutrition at the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (FMFBNP), discussed the existing national legislation, policy and coordination frameworks for nutrition programmes. Nemat Hajeebhoy, Chief of Section, Nutrition at UNICEF, spoke on the advocacy efforts of UNICEF in ensuring stronger breastfeeding protection policies. Dr Ni'ima Kera, Director of Public Health at the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, revealed the state's newly amended policy on paid maternal leave and the level of implementation across the state. Following the announcement of the new policy, implementation commenced with continuous communication with the Heads of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of the state and the Head of Civil Service, to ensure adoption and compliance across board.

Key recommendations from the policy dialogue included:

1. Protecting breastfeeding should be everyone's responsibility, not just the mothers, as it benefits the whole of society.
2. Making breastfeeding the new normal. Employers could do better by providing flexible work options and at least 10 square metres of space for breastfeeding mothers.
3. Taking responsibility to ensure the full implementation of the revised IYCF policy at all levels.

Speakers who attended the event included: Dr Hajara Ni'ima, Director of Public Health, Kaduna State Ministry of Health; Nemat Hajeebhoy, Chief of Section, Nutrition, UNICEF; and Mrs. Nduka Chito Nelson, Head of Nutrition, Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning.

On August 12, 2021, the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) delivered 176,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines to Nigeria. This was against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic that shocked the global community and overwhelmed the health systems of even high-income countries.

The pandemic has been unprecedented in several ways – affecting the Nigerian economy and worsening the plight of many families. The World Bank forecast in January 2021 that the pandemic will result in about 11 million Nigerians entering poverty by 2022.

In Africa, Nigeria was among the first countries to confirm a case of COVID-19 on 24th February 2020. Consequently, the country put in place a multi-sectoral response as well as strict public health and social measures to contain the spread of the virus. The national public health institute, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) established more than 84 laboratories and supported the activation of 54 private laboratories.

The single-shot J&J vaccines delivered by AVAT were easier and cheaper to administer, and had a long shelf life. This was a momentous initiative and milestone for the African Union (AU) member states who pooled their purchasing power and procured the J&J vaccines that were partly manufactured on continent. Due to Nigeria's high population density and weak health system, the J&J vaccines were an effective measure to strengthen the country's response in combating the COVID-19 virus.

AFRICAN VACCINE ACQUISITION TRUST (AVAT)

12TH AUGUST, 2021



Dr Faisal Shuaib, executive director/ CEO, Nigeria Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), speaks on the expected number of doses of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccines that were to be shipped to Nigeria.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE POLICY DIALOGUE

16TH SEPTEMBER, 2021



PHC in Nigeria:

Progress, Challenges and
Collaborating for Transformation

Thursday 16 September 2021



For a heavily populated country like Nigeria where there are income inequalities, there is a need to examine the healthcare system through the lens of health equity, - accessible, affordable, and offers healthcare for all. This brings to the fore the importance of primary healthcare which is the bedrock of every health system and should be the first port of call for most Nigerians when seeking healthcare.

On 16th September, 2021, Nigeria Health Watch and the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PacFah@Scale) organised a policy dialogue on Primary Health Care (PHC) in Nigeria themed **'40 Years After the Alma-Ata Declaration: Primary Health Care in Nigeria'**. The discussions centred on access challenges and delivery of PHC services in Nigeria and the progress made so far. Designed and implemented services to improve PHC services such as 'Saving One Million Lives for Results (SOMLR)', the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) and the critical role the private sector could play in improving access to PHC services were also highlighted.

The panelists on the policy dialogue included Ekenem Isichei, chief executive officer of ACIOE Associates; Dr. Anthonia Hananiya, chief medical officer of EHA Clinics; Dr. Oyebanji Filani, Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Ekiti State; Dr. Charles Ezuma-Ngwu, president and financial director, Healthcare Innovation in Delivering Financial Analysis and Actionable Business Insights; Dr. Rahila Mukhtar, president of Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN) and Prof. Tanimola Akande, a consultant at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital - who was the keynote speaker.



Through the Giving Birth in Nigeria project, Nigeria Health Watch established a platform for key stakeholders and influencers in maternal health to drive improvements in maternal healthcare, service delivery and access to quality maternal health medicines – in order to improve maternal outcomes.

As an innovative and strategic approach to drive multi-stakeholder discussions around these key issues, the **#HealthMeetsArt** Gala themed **'Celebrating Womanhood'** debuted. At this event, critical maternal health issues were portrayed vividly through the lens of the creative arts.

Attended by an array of critical stakeholders within and outside the health space, the energy at the event was palpable. Key thought leaders from across the country convened physically and virtually to interact on the salient issues of gender cross-cutting maternal health. Creative art was used to communicate the triumphs and challenges of women, through the vivid paintings of their everyday lives.

A key purpose of the gala was to celebrate women in all their diversity, showing their strength and resilience. The event also created a space for positive dialogue to highlight the gender inequalities and inequities women faced. Outcomes from the gala included discussions around these critical issues as well as a compendium of ideas and solutions needed to drive positive change.

CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD ART GALA 8TH OCTOBER, 2021





The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus adversely affected global health systems. Consequently, the environment was also affected as hospitals and individuals continued to produce more waste than usual from subsequent COVID-19 response efforts. Some of these wastes included face masks, hand sanitisers, gloves, syringes, gowns, and other personal protective equipment (PPE). A critical point of consideration was the disposal methods of these wastes. In this light, the **#Hack4COVIDWaste** project provided a platform for diverse stakeholders in the health, business, tech and environmental sectors to take a closer look at the complex development challenge. The focus was on health wastes generated from the COVID-19 response in Nigeria and the need to design innovative solutions to mitigate these challenges. The hackathon held over two days -15th and 16th October, 2021 – at Ventures Park, Abuja. A total of 270 entries from across 12 states were received. Following multiple elimination rounds, 10 promising ideas were shortlisted to participate in the virtual hack event. Out of the 10 ideas that participated in the hackathon, team **Recycle Points** emerged winners.

Recycle point is a social corporate enterprise that engages communities and corporate organisations in the collection of post-consumer wastes for recycling. The solution design focused on the use of paper-based corrugated boxes for the collection of recyclable medical wastes. These were further processed into plastic plumbers for the production of school chairs and other medical products like new surgical gloves and face masks. The solution adopts the use of a mobile app to monitor the storage levels of the waste bins, tracking of recyclable materials collected and the provision of incentives to partner hospitals.



Nigeria Health Watch, in collaboration with Society for Family Health, lead implementers of the **IntegratE Project**, hosted health journalists, media stakeholders in health media as well as general media practitioners to a media roundtable on October 15, 2021. With project implementers and key stakeholders in attendance, outcomes from the 4-year IntegratE project were outlined.

The roundtable provided a platform to create dialogue between project implementers and media practitioners on the project. Media practitioners were urged to produce high-quality multimedia content on the activities, outcomes and impact of the IntegratE project to family planning service delivery in Nigeria.

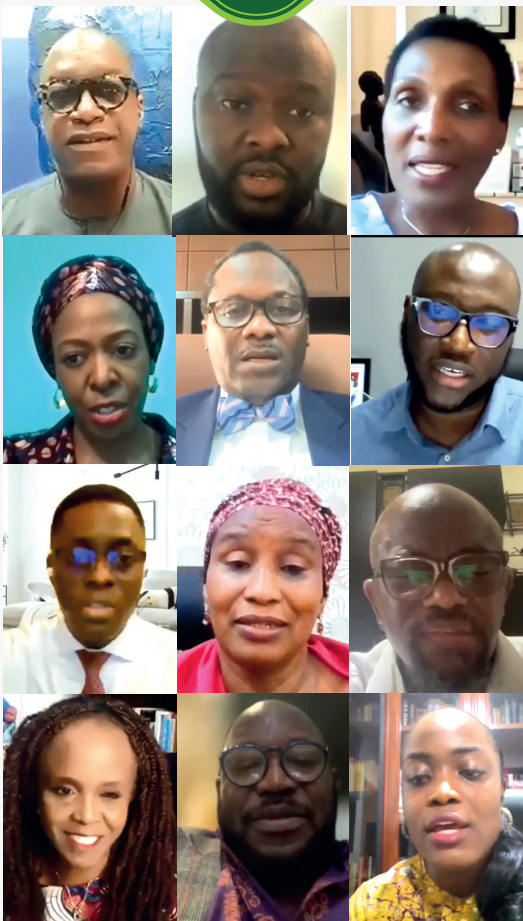
INTEGRATE MEDIA ROUNDTABLE 15TH OCTOBER, 2021



FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE 2021

DAY 1: GENDER EQUALITY FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

3RD NOVEMBER, 2021



Nigeria Health Watch's flagship event, the Future of Health Conference continued to blaze the trail in Nigeria's health sector. The two-day event held between 3rd-4th November, 2021 and focused on two topical issues. Day One of the **'Breaking Glass Ceilings: Gender Equality for Sustainable Development'** themed conference provided delegates a unique platform to listen to experts from across different sectors share their experiences on the impact of gender equality in their sectors. The virtual event offered attendees the opportunity to make a case for equity for women through inclusiveness. Individuals, communities, organisations and governments were encouraged to promote gender equality, with the promise of positive dividends and solutions for gender equality. No doubt, these had the potential to lead to sustainable development and better quality of care for women who had been historically disadvantaged. This supports the conference's main advocacy objective that men and women should be champions of gender equality, and this must be consistent in policy and practice across sectors.

The Conference had three-panel sessions which afforded 12 speakers on the day the opportunity to share their perspectives and experiences. The sub-themes were **Women in Media, #HeforShe, and Women in Leadership.**

CHAMBERLAIN USOH,

PRODUCER/NEWS ANCHOR, CHANNELS TELEVISION, on prioritising women issues:

"There are tons of men who do not prioritise women's issues not because they do not want to but because they do not have good orientation. It is okay to educate male children that there is nothing wrong in valuing the opinions of their female counterparts."

MOKY MAKURA,

FOUNDER, AFRICA NO FILTER, on how to help women know their rights in the workplace:

"If you see that women are not well represented say something. When people start understanding that it is not okay that is when we will see a change."

PROF. BABATUNDE IRUKERA,

Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, on balancing workplace teams:

"There is no empirical evidence that men are likely to be better at doing some work than women. I am convinced about that both from my experience growing up and in my workplace."

Day 2 of the 2021 Future of Health Conference **'Breaking Glass Ceilings: Gender Equality for Women's Health'**, highlighted the need to increase gender equity for women in accessing healthcare and the ability to make decisions about their healthcare needs. Discussions were divided into three-panel sessions: **'Women Elevating the Importance of Gender Equality in Achieving Quality Women's Health'**, **'Men as Change Agents'**, and **'The Girl Child Dividend'** - the World Bank-supported panel on the role of the healthy productive adolescent girl in generating Nigeria's demographic dividend.

Speakers and delegates advocated for equal representation of women at the policy-making level to support prioritisation of health issues that affect women. They made a case for increased focus on maternal mental health and the need to incorporate it into the maternal health care value chain. The discourse spotlighted global, regional, and national commitments that had been made to engender better sexual, reproductive, maternal and mental health for women.

DR. EBERE OKEREKE

SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISER, TONY BLAIR INSTITUTE,
on supporting women to get to leadership positions:

"We actually need to drive more women to support women getting to leadership positions. It is necessary. It is not a problem for women to solve on their own. It is for all of humanity to recognise the importance of improving the quality of our health decisions and systems by ensuring that the 50% of the population are represented"

DR. MARY-ANN ETIEBET,

LEAD & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MSD FOR MOTHERS,
on the role of the private sector in improving healthcare quality:

"The way private sector targets its investment can actually be a real vehicle not just for quality improvement in the health sector, but for empowering women leadership in the health sector and then ultimately for cultural change."

DR. EMMANUEL AGOGO

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE, RESOLVE TO SAVE LIVES,
on resource allocation for healthcare:

"In many countries, majority of funding allocated to healthcare goes to tertiary care - high evaluating care for a few people - instead of broad-based care to the majority of people. In order to change the health outcomes of women, the focus of health policies must change."

FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE 2021 DAY 2: GENDER EQUALITY FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH 4TH NOVEMBER, 2021



UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY EVENT 12TH DECEMBER, 2021

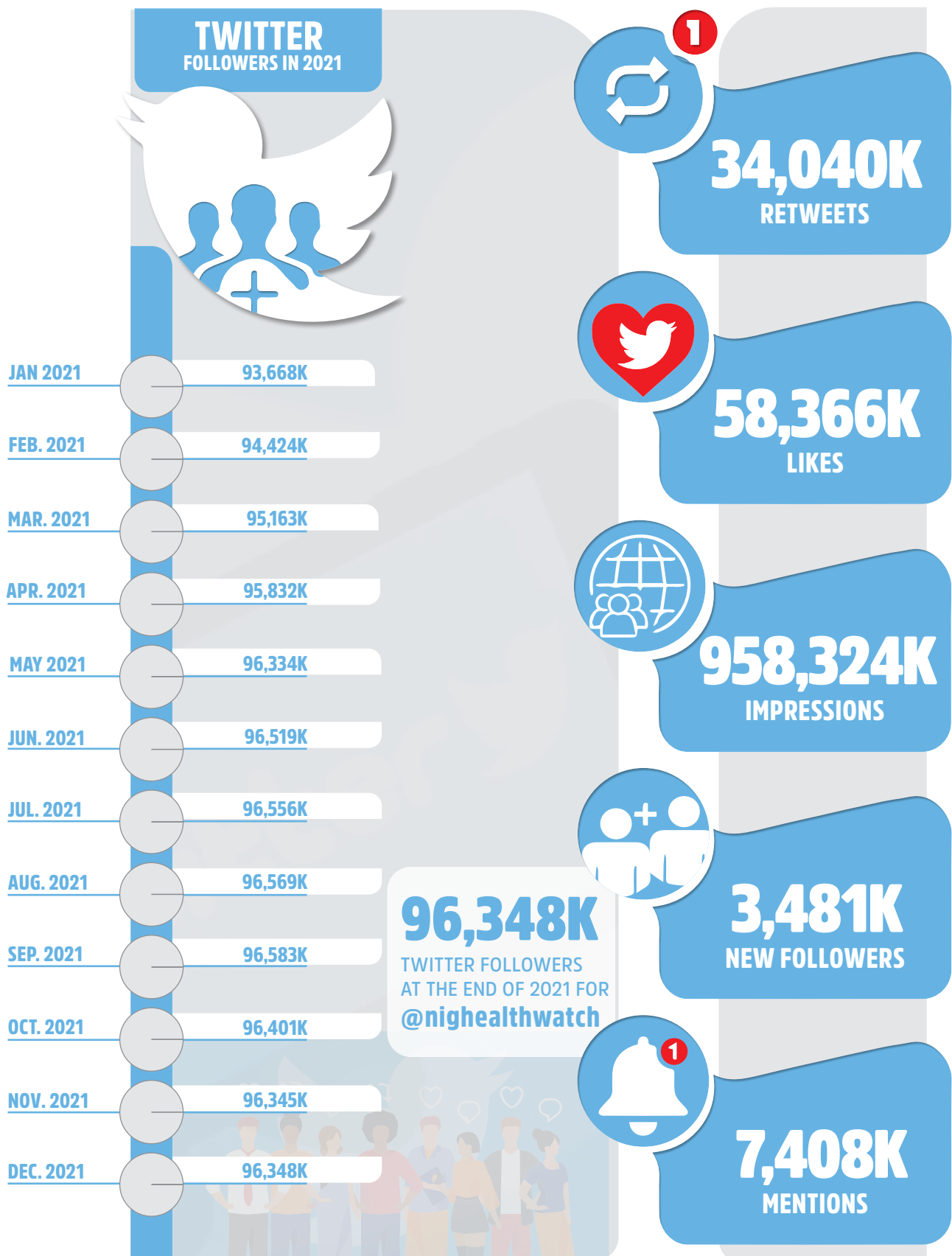


Nigeria Health Watch organised a community town hall meeting with community members, health workers and health officials in Dukpa, Gwagwalada Area Council, in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja. The utilization of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) being received by the Dukpa Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) was at the focus of the discussions. The aim was to understand the experiences of community members in accessing healthcare in Dukpa community. How the BHCPF was improving access and delivery of healthcare services, and how the funds are spent and monitored was also looked into. This was part of the newly launched **#CommunityHealthWatch** project that tracks and reports on PHC service access and delivery in rural communities in Nigeria.

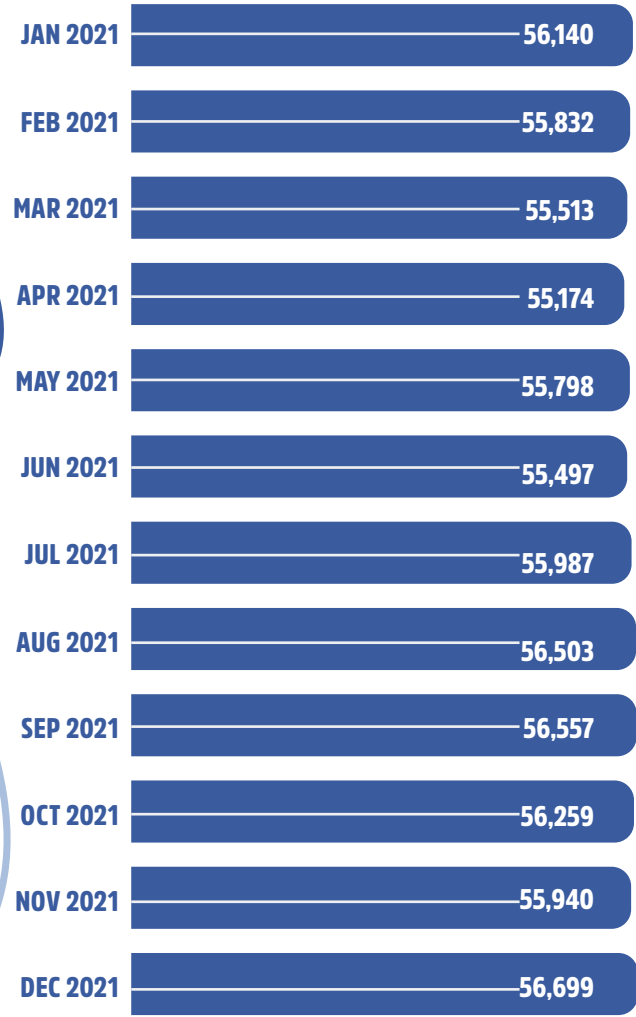
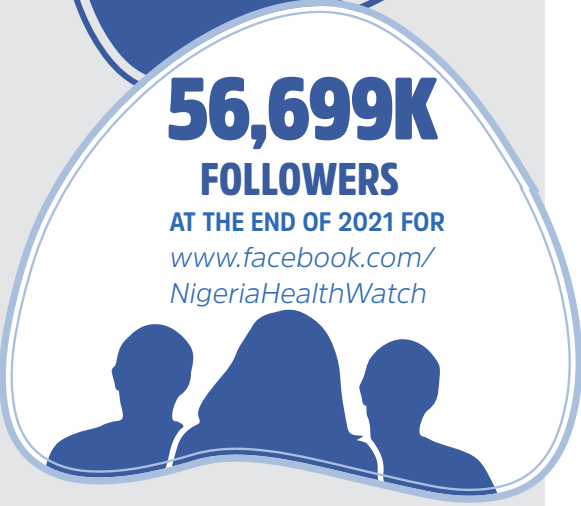
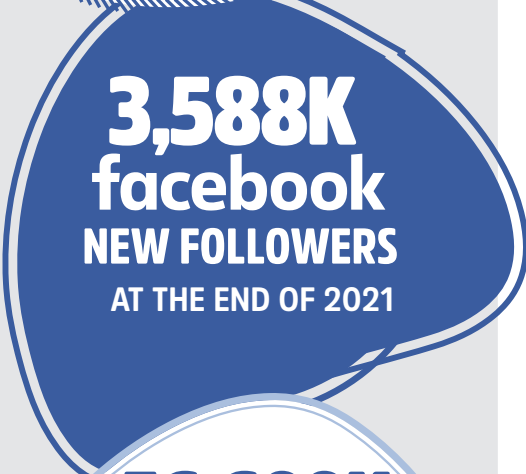
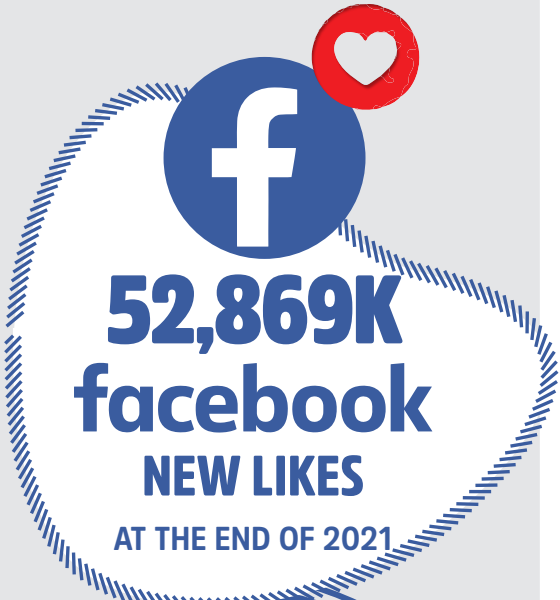


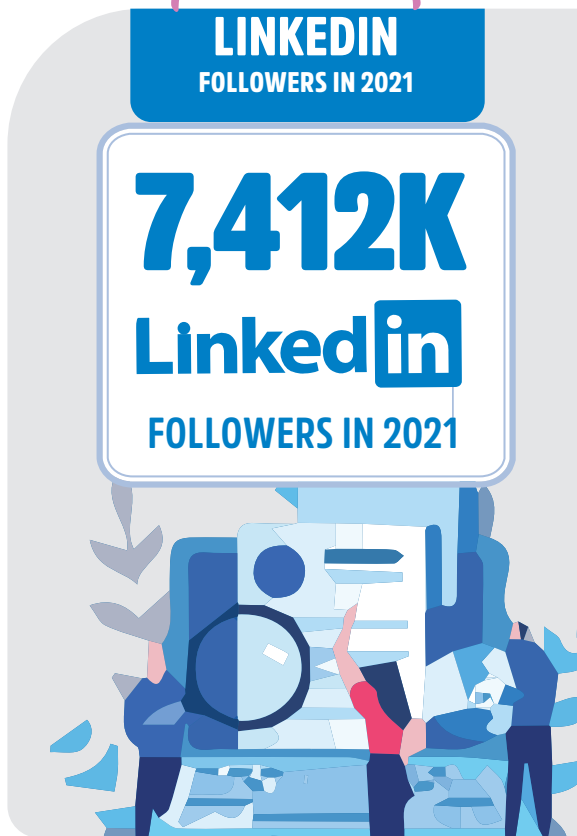
Dr. Adeyemi Adeniran, Director, PHC services, Gwagwalada Area Council at the Town Hall Engagement Meeting conducted by Nigeria Health Watch.

Social Media



FACEBOOK
LIKES AND FOLLOWERS IN 2021





HASHTRACKING BY EVENTS



COVID-19 IN NIGERIA
#COVID19Truths
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

1,291
POSTS

Number of tweets with the #COVID19Truths hashtag

12,707,379
TIMELINE DELIVERIES

Total number of times that people saw post containing the hashtag #COVID19Truths

482

CONTRIBUTORS

Number of users who contributed or posted using the hashtag #COVID19Truths

4,679,299
USERS REACHED

Total number of unique users who saw posts containing the hashtag #COVID19Truths



FHC2021
#BreakTheCeilingNaija
AUGUST 24 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

561
POSTS

Number of tweets with the #BreakTheCeilingNaija hashtag

14,823,587
TIMELINE DELIVERIES

Total number of times that people saw post containing the hashtag #BreakTheCeilingNaija

99

CONTRIBUTORS

Number of users who contributed or posted using the hashtag #BreakTheCeilingNaija

593,616
USERS REACHED

Total number of unique users who saw posts containing the hashtag #BreakTheCeilingNaija



2021 PHC POLICY DIALOGUE
#PHC4AllNaija
SEPTEMBER 1-31 2021

140
POSTS

Number of tweets with the #PHC4AllNaija hashtag

3,625,225
TIMELINE DELIVERIES

Total number of times that people saw post containing the hashtag #PHC4AllNaija

45

CONTRIBUTORS

Number of users who contributed or posted using the hashtag #PHC4AllNaija

287,856
USERS REACHED

Total number of unique users who saw posts containing the hashtag #PHC4AllNaija



UNDP HACKATHO
#Hack4COVIDWaste
OCTOBER 5-31 DECEMBER 2021

289
POSTS

Number of tweets with the #Hack4COVIDWaste hashtag

4,485,297
TIMELINE DELIVERIES

Total number of times that people saw post containing the hashtag #Hack4COVIDWaste

58

CONTRIBUTORS

Number of users who contributed or posted using the hashtag #Hack4COVIDWaste

419,125
USERS REACHED

Total number of unique users who saw posts containing the hashtag #Hack4COVIDWaste

HASHTRACKING BY PROJECTS

IN NUMBERS: #PreventEpidemicsNaija
SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW: JAN. - DEC. 2021

2,363
TWEETS

587
CONTRIBUTORS

54,963,035
TIMELINE DELIVERIES

4,773,471
REACH

IN NUMBERS: #GivingBirthInNigeria
SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW: JAN. - DEC. 2021

2,160
TWEETS

428
CONTRIBUTORS

34,710,557
TIMELINE DELIVERIES

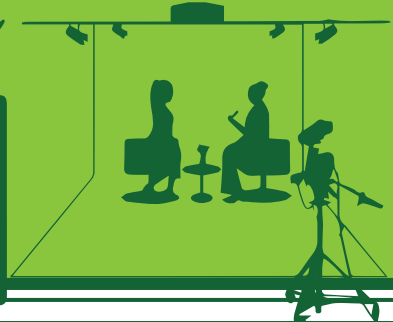
1,873,390
REACH



19,355K
mailchimp
SUBSCRIBERS
AT THE END OF 2021

6

TELEVISION
APPEARANCES
IN 2021



18

NEWSPAPER
PUBLICATIONS
IN 2021



40

RADIO
SHOWS
IN 2021



Partners



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Nigerian Urban Reproductive
Health Initiative



Global
Health
Advocacy
Incubator

Changing Policies to Save Lives

SALIENT



Saving lives. Improving health.
Transforming futures.










NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH



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CONTACT NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

-  7th Floor, Plateau House
Plot 79, Ralph Shodeinde Street,
Central Business District
Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
-  **WHATSAPP** +234 708 501 4676
-  **EMAIL** info@nigeriahealthwatch.com