



HEALTH REFORM FOUNDATION OF NIGERIA!

OCTOBER, 2011
NEWSLETTER

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A). Nigerian Senate investigates Cholera outbreak in 14 States of the Federation.

B). HERFONS' Output to Purpose Review (OPR) held from 5th-16th September, 2011.

C). Press Conference for the NCDs Book launch.

D). HERFON published NHR2010

E). HERFON/PRRINN-MNCH Advocacy committee in Damaturu, Yobe State.

F). DFID Health Program Advisor, Sarah White visited HERFON.

G). Health Sector Reform Coalition plans a retreat with Allied Professional Leadership.

SENATE INVESTIGATES CHOLERA OUTBREAK

According to Punch Newspaper of Friday 23rd September, 2011, Nigerian Senate mandated its committee on Health to commence investigation into the outbreak of Cholera across the Country.

The decision was taken by the Senate following a motion moved by Senator Olubunmi Adetumbi (Ekiti North) that called the attention of the Senate and indeed Nigerians to reports of Cholera outbreak in Adamawa, Abia, Yobe, Sokoto, Gombe, Benue, Nasarawa, Oyo, Kogi, Plateau, Jigawa, Osun, Bauchi and Kano States.

In his submission, Sen. Adetumbi said the outbreak occurred between May and September, killing 234 people. He added that a total of 2,135 cholera cases were recorded within the period.

HERFON in her usual watchdog role in the health sector will not cease from holding government accountable. We are gathering additional information to identify system failures that resulted in the outbreaks and proffer evidence based policy recommendations.



SENATE PRESIDENT, DAVID MARK

Our State and Local Governments must be able to guarantee the average Nigerian with a basic minimum care package including clean water and adequate waste disposals systems.

HERFONS' OUTPUT TO PURPOSE REVIEW (OPR)

The second Annual Review of HERFON Accountable Grant (HERFON AG II) took place from 5th to 16th September, 2011. During the period, the Consultants visited some of the HERFON Partners/Friends in Abuja between 7th-8th September 2011 and undertook field visits to four of our six zonal offices between 11th - 13th September, 2011.

At Headquarters, the Programme Manager, Dr Nkem Ene took the OPR team through the four major outputs of HERFON (Partnership, Advocacy, Capacity Building and Evidence generation) highlighting various achievements/progress made within the period under review and the next steps.

The Acting Executive Secretary, Mr John Igboka led the team to Kaduna State (NW Zone) where they met with the Zonal Coordinator, State Chairmen, Board members and Partners. Presentation of activities going on in States within the zone



Angie Roques the OPR Lead Consultant (second from right), Max Loko -General Manager NTA- Nassawara (second from left) and the Chairman Board of Trustees, Dr Ben Anyene (third from left) with HERFON members from North Central Zone at NTA office in Lafia, Nasarawa State.

were made. The same format was followed in the SW, NC and SS zones visited. The emphasis for review was on assessing the impact that programme activities were having on the health status of Nigerians. The review concluded with an in depth feedback session at the DFID Abuja Office, where recommendations were made for possible implementation in the coming year.

PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE NCDs BOOK LAUNCH

HERFON organized a press conference as part of the pre event for the public presentation of NHR2010.

The Chairman Board of Trustees told the press that HERFON assembles international and national experts to constitute the Review Advisory Committee (RAC) with a chairman to develop the NHR each year. The RAC works independently of HERFON and it coordinates the selection of the technical content, the expert contributors and chapter arrangements including the Foreward of each publication. He also added that when they finish, the manuscripts are approved by the RAC and signed off by its Chairman and then made available to HERFON for publication.

The NHR 2010 has the following as members of the RAC:

1. Prof Adetokunbo Lucas (Chairman)
2. Prof OO Akinkugbe
3. Dr. AG Abdulrahman
4. Prof AF Biola Mabadeja
5. Prof. CU Abengowe
6. Prof. GC Onyemelukwe
7. Dr. Aderonke Olumide
8. Prof OK Alausa



L-R Program Manager, Dr Nkem Ene, Prof Abengowe chimele, BOT Chairman, Dr Ben Anyene and Dr Shehu Sule at the press conference for the NCDs book launch

9. Prof. C N Obionu
10. Dr. Ibrahim Taofeeq
11. Dr. Nnebe Agumadu
12. Dr. Ibrahim Oloriegbe
13. Dr. Issa Baba
14. Jane Miller
15. Dr. M Anibueze
16. Dr. Francis T Aminu

Lamenting on the poor state of the health system in the country, Prof Abengowe called on the Federal Government to live up to the expectation of the citizenry by providing good access roads to reduce accident cases in the country. He also advised Nigerians to eat more of fruits and vegetables and reduce intake of carbohydrates. He also challenged mothers to give their households a balanced diet to reduce both malnutrition and obesity.

Dr Shehu Sule congratulated the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Health for the laudable efforts by way of policies that have been put in place to checkmate the activities of tobacco companies and use of their products. He also called on Nigerians to keep exercising to reduce excess weight, decriing the recent drop in the life expectancy of the average Nigerian has reduced to 42 and 43 years for men and women respectively.

In conclusion, Dr Nkem Ene, the National Program Manager of HERFON, called on the media to contribute their quota in the fight against NCDs in Nigeria by reporting on evidence based trends for the government and public to act upon appropriately.

...if you prevent a diabetic from progressing through intervention in the medical health system you will prevent him from getting to need dialysis for example, which is much more expensive “

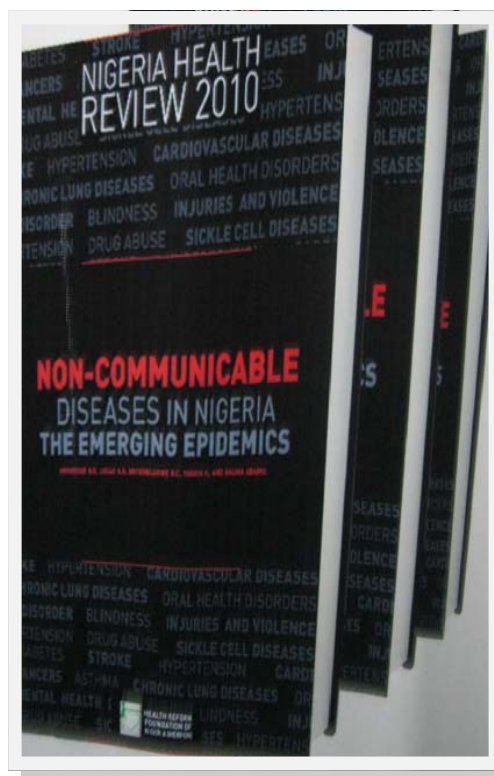
Dr. Mohammed Alli Pate, the Hon Minister of State for Health.

HERFON PUBLISHED NIGERIA HEALTH REVIEW (NHR2010):

Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria publishes Nigeria Health Review annually, as part of her effort to support Evidence-Based Policy Analysis and Development in Nigeria. This edition, of the NHR 2010, the third in the series, which is on “Non-Communicable Diseases in Nigeria: The emerging epidemics, x-rays the efforts government has made at all levels, identifying gaps and challenges institutions, agencies and parastatals to rise up to their responsibilities..

The United Nations General Assembly in 2010 also passed a resolution on NCDs recognizing the enormous suffering, premature death and serious threat it poses to the national and global development as well as it's negative socio-economic impact. The World Health Organization estimates that if nothing is done, death from NCDs will increase by 25% by 2015

The aim of the publication is to increase awareness of the burden of NCDs in Nigeria and to stimulate the development of policy frameworks for disease surveillance, preventative and cross-sectoral strategies to fight NCDs in Nigeria.



**HEALTH REFORM
FOUNDATION OF
NIGERIA!**



L-R Dr. Shehu Sule (BOT Member), Dr. Khalid Aliyu (Sec. JN) HRH Yahaya (NPHCDA BOT Chairman), Mrs Fatima Bamidele (Perm Sec. FMOH), Dr. Ben Anyene, (HERFON BOT Chairman) Senator Dantong (Senate Health Committee Chairman), Dr Mohammed Vinusa (CEO, DUNLOP), Dr Labaran Dr. Jide Idris (Lagos Health Commissioner)

PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF NIGERIA HEALTH REVIEW 2010

health for all.

In his speech, the Chairman Senate Committee on Health, Senator Dr. Dantong, congratulated HERFON for the publication on NCDs in Nigeria and her commitment and focus in the area of health sector reforms. He re-iterated the resolve of his committee to continue to work with HERFON to give legislative backing to all policies of health reforms. He also called on Nigerians to be hopeful concerning the National Health Bill, pledging that the National Assembly will create an enabling environment for HERFON and related bodies to realize their mandate.

The representative of the Hon. Minister of Health, Permanent Sec-



Cross section of participants at the book launch

retary of FMOH, Mrs. Fatima Bamidele and the representative of the Hon Minister of State for Health, Dr. Labaran, both assured HERFON of a good working relationship at all levels of Government for Health. They also thanked HERFON for publishing the NHR2010 which shared their same focus. with the just concluded UN General Assembly theme for the year.

HERFON on the 13th day of October, 2011 presented to the public the Nigeria Health Review (NHR2010) which is a snapshot of issues around NCDs in Nigeria. The actions that has been taken and areas where governments, institutions and agencies need to do more to guarantee better

HERFON & PRRINN/MNCH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE IN DAMATURU YOBE STATE

Partnership for Reviving Routine Immunization in Northern Nigeria (PRRINN) and Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) initiative aim to transform Primary Health Care System in order to improve health outcomes and ultimately the health of mothers, newborns and children in Northern Nigeria. four States (Jigawa, Katsina, Yobe and Zamfara) with the worst indices.

To deliver on these mandate, well structured and targeted advocacy effort to engage policy makers and implementers in these states is important for increasing political will and commitment to MNCH programmes.

It should be noted that appreciable progress has been achieved in Yobe state in the HERFON led advocacy to Political leaders, Legislators, Government Ministries and Agencies and CSOs for the establishment of the PHCMB, HRH forum, Sustainable Drug Supply System (SDSS), free MNCH services and Emergency Transport Scheme in hard to reach areas among others.

A uniform advocacy strategy is now being employed in the four PRRINN states and an Advocacy Committee was formed to support and coordinate all these efforts. The focus is on making the PHC system function properly and respond to the needs of the people, by improving financial and physical accessibility, availability of skilled and motivated staff, distribution of health manpower, forecasting, planning and management, intersectoral collaboration and partnership, quality of care and coordination of reform activities.

The strategy is to influence people who have the power to change immunization and the wider PHC policy and practice in the PRRINN/MNCH states within the next two years.

The following include among other expected outputs of the advocacy efforts in these states:

- ◆ Increased accessibility to quality health services for mothers and children.

- ◆ Increase in number and appropriate distribution of properly motivated health workers.
- ◆ Free Maternal, Newborn, and Child health services.
- ◆ Improved funding of Health care services
- ◆ Improved coordination of PHC services in the PRRINN/MNCH States.

The membership of the committee is drawn from HERFON and relevant stakeholders and is chaired by Dr Eric Amuah and co chaired by Dr Sani Chiromari.

Consequently, PRRINN/MNCH office engaged Dr. David Olayemi to train the new advocacy team for them to better understand health issues and develop advocacy strategy that will be suitable for the targeted audience for improved results.



DFID Senior Health Adviser, Sarah White visited HERFON

Sarah White the new DFID Team Leader visited HERFON as part of her efforts to familiarize herself with the activities of HERFON and keep abreast of progress made by the foundation in the last few years. The visit offered HERFON the opportunity to share efforts and strategies for sustainability of the foundation beyond the new DFID grant, as well as the new approach to contributing to the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 in each zone.



R-L Ebere Anyachukwu, Sarah White, David Ukaegbu, Dr Ben Anyene and the Acting Executive Secretary, Mr John Igboka listening to the Program Manager, Dr Nkem Ene (off camera) as she makes a presentation to the team.

HEALTH SECTOR REFORM COALITION PLANS A RETREAT WITH LEADERSHIP OF ALLIED PROFESSIONALS:

As part of the strategy to have one health voice advocating for better health for all Nigerians at all levels, the Health Sector Reform Coalition at her last meeting agreed to organize a retreat which is aimed at putting all hands on deck to achieve a common resolution for next steps towards signing the National Health Bill by Mr President.

The coalition is also planning to co-opt very influential Nigerians as a high powered advocacy delegation that could effectively persuade the president to assent to the Bill. These "Senior Advocates" will include: **The Sultan of Sokoto, Prof. Bolanle Awe, Emeka Anyaoku, Alh. Maitama Sule, Rtd. Gen. Yakubu Gowon, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Prof. Alele Williams, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor and Mrs. Fatima Shagari** and so on.

The processes to achieve all these are on-going. Individual organizations of the coalition have been assigned roles towards reaching out to both the Allied Professionals and the Influential Nigerians as Ambassadors for better health outcomes.

This is HERFON:

Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON) is an indigenous Non-Governmental Organization founded by a group of reform-minded Nigerians. It was launched in July 2004 by the President of Nigeria to initiate, promote, facilitate and monitor reforms towards improved health policies and services to all, with special emphasis on the poor. The main funding source was from the UK Department of International Development (DFID). The vision for HERFON at inception was to consolidate the gains of the highly successful Change Agents Programme (CAP) – also funded by DFID, and technically assist Change Agents (CAs) to improve systems, develop and propagate a reform agenda within their spheres of work. To date, HERFON has made some landmark achievements including supporting individuals and organizations to carry out study tours of successful interventions in and outside Nigeria, publication of Health Reviews, Change Management Trainings, establishment of chapters in all the states of the Federation (including the FCT) and supporting the Federal and State governments in drafting various laws and policies. HERFON depends on Human Capacity Development to achieve its goal and objectives and is the foremost National Non-Governmental Organization devoted solely to Health for all Nigerians through Health System Strengthening.

HERFON's mandate is to identify and support the capacity of key partners and its members to use Evidence generated or sourced by it to carry out Advocacy at Federal, State and Local Government Levels. HERFON Partners include Governmental and Non-governmental Organizations while members of HERFON include all Change Agents who have passion for Health Reforms at National and sub-national levels. Their capacities are built to generate evidence, transform research to action, continuously advocate for change, manage change and monitor the process of transformation of the system.

Goals : To improve health outcomes for all Nigerians especially the poor and vulnerable

Purpose : To support broad-based reforms in the Health Sector with special focus on Primary Health Care

Outputs:

- ◆ Strengthened Partnerships and Networks for Health Sector Reforms.
- ◆ Improved Enabling Environment for Health Care.
- ◆ Strengthened Capacity for Health Sector Reform in Nigeria.
- ◆ Strengthened Evidence-based Policy Analysis and Development

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