



NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

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



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



ABBREVIATIONS

- AfriYAN - African Youth and Adolescents Network on Population and Development
- AR - Annual Report
- AVAT - African Vaccine Acquisition Trust
- BHCPF - Basic Health Care Provision Fund
- CCT - Certificate of Completion of Training
- CHWP - Community Health Watch Project
- EPIET - European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training
- FHC - Future of Health Conference
- FP - Family Planning
- GBINAP - Giving Birth in Nigeria Advocacy Project
- GPAP - Global Policy Advocacy Project
- MNCH - Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
- NAPHS - National Action Plan for Health Security
- NBSC - National Blood Service Commission
- NCDC - Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
- NHS - National Health Service
- NICD - National Institute for Communicable Diseases
- PE - Prevent Epidemics
- PEP - Prevent Epidemics Project
- PHC - Primary Healthcare Centre
- RTSL - Resolve To Save Lives
- SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals
- SJAIP - Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative Project
- SJN - Solutions Journalism Network
- SM - Social Media
- UHC - Universal Health Coverage
- UN - United Nations
- UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- USAID - United States Agency for International Development
- WAHO - West Africa Health Organisation
- WASH - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- WHO - World Health Organization



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr Ike Anya. Dr Ike Anya is a public health specialist, author, and co-founder of EpiAfric, Nigeria Health Watch, the Abuja Literary Society, and TEDxEuston. A graduate of the University of Nigeria and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, he is a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health with leadership experience in the NHS, local government, and non-profit sectors. An honorary lecturer at Imperial College, he has taught at several universities and published widely. A TED Global Fellow and author of *Small by Small*, Dr. Anya is also a frequent media contributor and event host.



Joseph Kaemesili Ani is a seasoned finance and banking professional with extensive experience in auditing, banking, and non-profit financial management. He began his career at Deloitte as a Manager before serving as Internal Auditor at Liberty Bank and later Head of Corporate Banking at Centre Point Bank Plc. Currently the Chief Finance Officer at the Society for Family Health (SFH), he provides strategic financial leadership and ensures donor accountability for nationwide health programmes. His career embodies integrity, strategic vision, and a strong commitment to business excellence and social impact.



Dr Olusola Aruna, a Fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health, earned her medical degree from the University of Ife in 1984 and an MPH with distinction from the University of Leeds as a Chevening Scholar. With prior experience in Child Health and Paediatrics across Nigeria and the Caribbean, she became a Consultant in Public Health Medicine in the UK NHS in 2007. She later led the UK Health Security Agency's IHR Strengthening Programme in West Africa (2018–2025) and now serves on the Pandemic Fund's Technical Advisory Panel. She enjoys gardening and dancing.



Vivienne Ifeoma Onwuocha is the Founder and Managing Partner of SlingStone Business Consulting, where she leads organisations through digital transformation. A Fellow of ACCA and Harvard-trained strategist, she blends financial acumen with expertise in AI, ERP systems, and innovation. Passionate about data-driven decision-making and intelligent automation, she helps professionals—especially from non-technical fields—transition into tech-enabled roles. Vivienne serves on several boards, offering strategic and governance insights. Her leadership emphasises responsible innovation, ensuring that AI and automation empower people and strengthen organisational resilience.



Mr Yakubu Abdullahi is the Senior Special Adviser to the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare on HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Formerly Director of Human Resources and Administration at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), he has over 30 years of experience in public health and governance. He previously served as Commissioner in three ministries, chaired Bauchi State's SURE-P, and advised the Federal Ministry of Health. He contributed to establishing the ECOWAS Centre for Surveillance and Disease Control and the NCDC Act, and is recognised for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dr Zainab Imam. Dr. Zainab Imam earned her medical degree from the University of Ibadan in 1991 and trained in General Practice before retraining in Psychiatry in the UK, where she obtained her CCT in General Adult Psychiatry. With nearly 20 years of psychiatric practice, she is Division Chief of Women's Mental Health and Training Director for the Perinatal Psychiatry Fellowship at Sidra Medicine, Qatar. A Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, she co-founded the Foundation for Refugees Economic Empowerment and serves as trustee for Nigeria's IDP Diaspora Support Group. She is married with four children and a granddaughter.



Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present our 2025 Annual Report on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

The year 2025 was not just a busy one for us; it was also marked by challenging shifts in global health infrastructure and funding, as well as the continued embedding of health sector reforms in Nigeria. Throughout the year, we continued to engage with and support government and partners in the formulation and implementation of effective health policies, in our advocacy for improved access to quality healthcare for all Nigerians. We are proud to have been appointed as the representative of Civil Society Organisations on the Governing Council of the National Health Insurance Authority, a role we will use effectively to improve healthcare access. 2025 also saw the development of our new five-year strategic plan, which articulates Nigeria Health Watch's long-term vision, aligns resources and priorities, enables effective performance tracking, improves organisational adaptability, and builds stakeholder confidence in our work.

Our work throughout the year under review, which spanned primary healthcare accountability, regional epidemic preparedness efforts, maternal health advocacy, and polio vaccine demand generation initiatives, continued to be guided by our mission of providing individuals, communities, organisations, and governments with the tools and knowledge to make evidence-based decisions for better health outcomes. I invite you to read about our progress in these areas.

Dr Olusola Aruna
Board Chair



I also want to commend to you our Nigeria Health Intelligence Report, which provides independent, data-driven analysis of Nigeria's health sector, focusing on key trends, progress, and challenges in the Nigeria Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative, aimed at transforming Nigeria's health sector.

The growing external interest in how Nigeria Health Watch's approach could be applied in other African contexts has led to the launch of Africa Health Watch, with the mission of ensuring that the people closest to Africa's health challenges are shaping the narrative, setting priorities, and driving the conversation.

Our successes in 2025, which also included the Excellence Award – Electronic at the Nigerian Healthcare Excellence Award, could not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the team, as well as the commitment and support of our donors and partners, to whom I wish to convey the heartfelt gratitude of the Board of Trustees. While looking forward to an even more successful 2026, we remain committed to justifying the trust of our donors and partners and to improving global health by continuing to advocate for better health for Nigerians and others, while holding duty bearers accountable for delivering affordable, quality healthcare.



Year In Review



Vivianne Ihekweazu,
Managing Director
Nigeria Health Watch

2025 was a defining year for Nigeria Health Watch. Through the strength of our partnerships, the power of community voices, and a relentless focus on accountability, we translated evidence into measurable change across Nigeria and the region.

Under our Global Policy Advocacy Project, 48 Community Health Watch stories informed seven advocacy wins with direct community impact. Our community engagement model was integrated into Kano State's 2026 Annual Operational Plan, while sustained advocacy contributed to the deployment of three additional health workers in Alkalawa, salary increases for PHC staff in Kaduna State, and the adoption of Kano's Human Resources for Health Policy and Strategy (2025-2029).

Regionally, our CEPI-supported Lassa Fever provided technical assistance to the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) strengthened coordination across West Africa. We supported the successful convening of the second ECOWAS Lassa Fever International Conference, culminating in a joint communiqué and ministerial roundtable that elevated Lassa fever on the

regional health security agenda. Twenty-five political intelligence reports across 11 countries informed strategic engagement and sustained momentum.

Through our MSD for Mothers partnership, we amplified maternal health advocacy nationwide. Our campaigns generated over 811,000 impressions and 25,700 engagements, while five editorials and multi-stakeholder convenings advanced dialogue on maternal health financing, MPDSR legislation, and private sector integration. Since 2020, we have championed solutions journalism across newsrooms in Nigeria and the region, contributing to the convening of Africa's first Solutions Journalism Africa Summit and helping to shape a different approach to storytelling, one that moves beyond highlighting problems to examining what is working across the continent. Building on this foundation, we are now integrating solutions journalism more deliberately across our programme areas, while continuing to strengthen and expand the practice, drawing on the expertise we have developed over time.

In Bauchi and Kebbi States, our CSO-led Polio Demand Generation project conducted over 16,000 community engagements across 64 wards, achieving an 88% resolution rate for missed children during the 2025 National Immunisation Plus Days.

These results affirm what we know: when communities are heard, and evidence is amplified, systems respond.

We thank our partners, funders, community champions, and team for making this impact possible. We remain committed to building accountable systems and advancing equitable health outcomes for all Nigerians.



Who we are

Nigeria Health Watch is a division of the Health Watch Foundation, a leading not-for-profit organisation dedicated to advancing health outcomes in Nigeria. The organisation combines deep expertise in health and strategic communications to drive evidence-based advocacy, strengthen the capacity of health sector institutions, and influence policy for impact. Through its platforms and partnerships, Nigeria Health Watch informs and empowers Nigerians on health issues while also providing tailored communications and advocacy solutions that enable stakeholders to shape and implement effective health policies.



Year Founded: 2007



Location: Abuja, Nigeria



Employees: 59

a. WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

At the inception of Nigeria Health Watch, the founders set out to ensure that health receives greater priority in Nigeria. Despite ongoing reform efforts, Nigeria's inadequate healthcare system continues to deliver poor health outcomes. Our goal was to communicate the challenges and opportunities in this sector, empowering Nigerians with evidence-based information to advocate for better access to quality healthcare. hold duty bearers accountable for delivering on the health promises and policies needed to drive positive change.

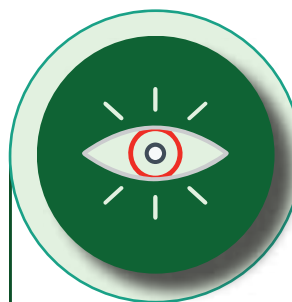
b. WHAT GUIDES US?

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



MISSION

To provide communities, organisations and governments with the tools and knowledge to make evidence-based decisions for better health outcomes.



VISION

A well-informed and empowered population advocating for improved health.



VALUES

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

CORE VALUES



Excellence



Respect



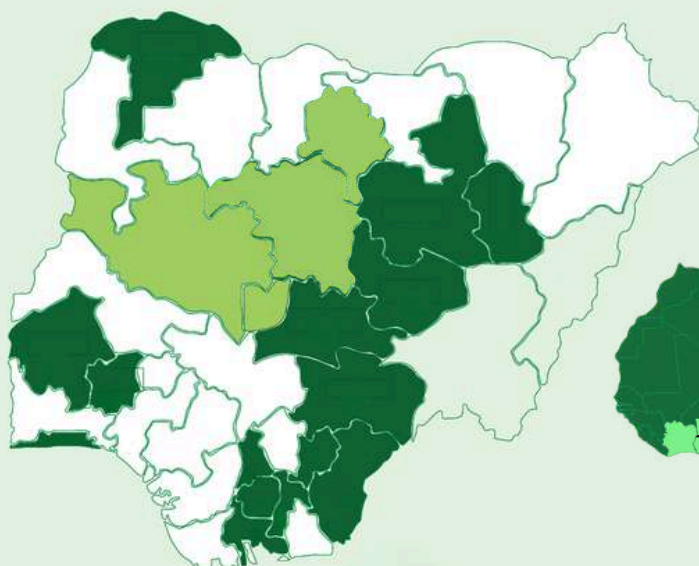
Commitment



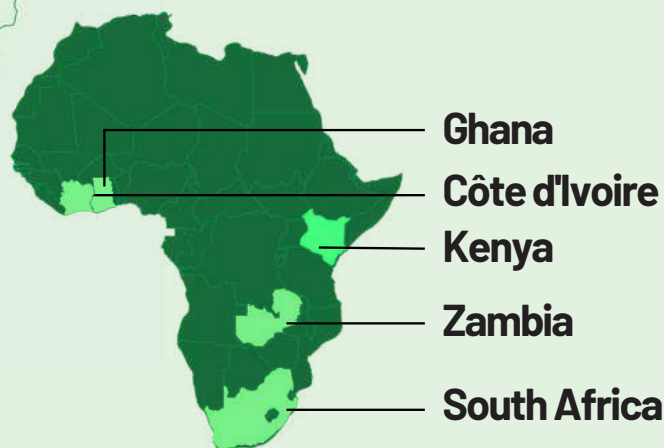
Open-Mindedness



Where We Have Worked:



- PROJECT LOCATIONS
- CONFERENCES/POLICY DIALOGUES

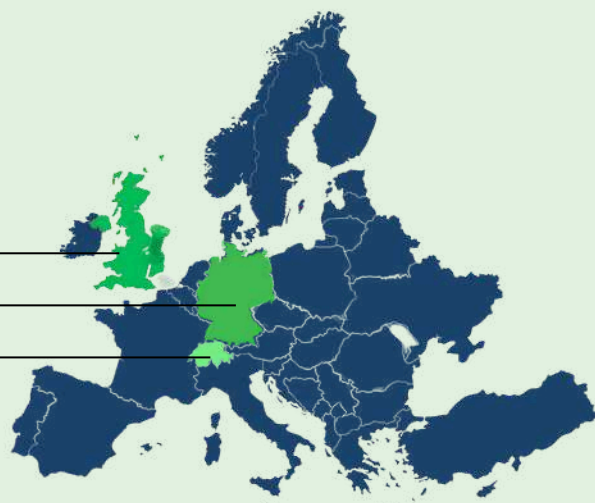


New York



Columbia

London
Berlin
Geneva





2025 in Pictures







Projects

THE GLOBAL POLICY ADVOCACY PROJECT

Funder:

Gates
Foundation

Overview



The Global Policy Advocacy Project is a Gates Foundation-funded initiative designed to strengthen evidence-informed health policy, improve accountability, and accelerate the adoption of effective primary health care and public health interventions in Nigeria and across Africa. It responds to persistent gaps between policy and implementation, limited use of community-generated evidence, and the growing threat of health misinformation.

At its core, the project applies a community-led, systems-oriented approach that positions citizens as active contributors to accountability and reform. Through continuous community listening, human-centred storytelling, and structured feedback, it generates actionable evidence on access to and quality of essential health services.

This evidence is translated into advocacy tools, media content, and policy dialogues to influence planning and implementation. The project also strengthens capacity across the health ecosystem and supports cross-country learning, contributing to more accountable systems and



What We Are Seeing



Despite sustained investments and reform initiatives aimed at strengthening Nigeria's Primary Health Care (PHC) system, service delivery at the community level remains constrained. Structural challenges persist, including inconsistent financing, inadequate infrastructure, workforce shortages, weak coordination across government levels, and limited accountability. These gaps continue to undermine the effectiveness and responsiveness of PHC services.

At the community level, this is reflected in poor health-seeking behaviour, underutilisation of available services, and persistent gaps in maternal, newborn, and child health, routine immunisation, nutrition, and sexual and reproductive health. Low awareness, limited participation in decision-making, and declining trust in the health system further compound these challenges.

A critical issue is the limited integration of citizen-generated evidence into planning and implementation, resulting in policies that do not fully reflect lived realities. Capacity gaps across researchers, civil society, media, and government institutions also weaken the communication and use of evidence.

Health misinformation continues to distort public understanding and undermine uptake of services. Across Africa, similar challenges persist, with limited opportunities for structured learning, reinforcing a disconnect between policy, practice, and accountability.



How We Are Responding



Nigeria Health Watch has adopted an integrated, community-led approach to strengthen PHC accountability, improve service delivery, and bridge gaps between evidence, policy, and practice. At its core is the integration of editorial excellence, community engagement, policy influence, and evidence generation through Integrated Community Listening.

Focus group discussions and household surveys capture community experiences of PHC access, quality, and barriers. These insights inform advocacy, radio programming, community sensitisation, town halls, and policy engagement. Through the Community Health Watch initiative, trained citizen reporters document lived experiences across maternal and child health, immunisation, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, and routine care, translating them into human-centred stories that amplify community voices.

Community mobilisation remains a core pillar. Through community-based organisations town halls, and targeted platforms such as safe spaces and literacy groups, citizens are supported to engage with health issues, improve health-seeking behaviour and build confidence to participate in decision-making.. To strengthen accountability, structured platforms enable dialogue and feedback. Tools such as the Community Scorecard enable structured feedback and strengthen accountability between communities and health providers, translating feedback into improvements for planning and budgeting.

Amplification and system engagement are driven through strategic media and policy dialogue. Radio programmes, policy convenings, and targeted capacity building for researchers, journalists, and government communicators strengthen evidence use. The Health Information Disorder and Infodemic Management (HIDIM) Network supports infodemic management through social listening and coordinated response.

The approach also strengthens capacity across the ecosystem, including researchers, journalists, and government communicators, while addressing misinformation through coordinated social listening and response mechanisms. Cross-country learning further supports the exchange of locally driven solutions and strengthens regional collaboration.



What We Achieved

Community engagement and evidence generation delivered measurable results. Forty-eight Community Health Watch stories documented lived experiences of PHC access, contributing to seven advocacy wins with direct community impact. Community engagement approaches were integrated into Kano State's 2026 Annual Operational Plan, embedding accountability within government planning. Nigeria Health Watch also contributed to state technical working groups, strengthening evidence-based maternal, reproductive, and child health programming.

Editorial and strategic communications translated community-generated evidence into action. Data-driven articles, policy briefs, and multimedia content elevated priority health issues, shaped public discourse, and strengthened advocacy.



Geographic expansion into Kaduna and Lagos States secured buy-in from PHC Boards, Ministries of Health, and key stakeholders. Seven new Community Health Watch Reporters were trained, strengthening citizen-led evidence generation.

Accountability tools drove concrete policy outcomes, including the deployment of three additional health workers in Alkalawa, Kano State, salary increases for PHC staff in Kaduna State, and adoption of Kano State's Human Resources for Health Policy and Strategy (2025–2029).

Community mobilisation through town halls, radio programmes, literacy clubs, and the Know Your PHC campaign improved health literacy, strengthened awareness of health rights and entitlements, and contributed to increased health insurance enrolment.



Capacity building strengthened crisis communication, health journalism, and advocacy, while regional engagements in Ghana and Kenya advanced cross-country learning and Africa-led solutions.



7 Advocacy wins secured through
48 documented PHC access stories.

Kano State
2026
Operational Plan



officially integrated community engagement approaches.



Kano State HRH Policy & Strategy **(2025-2029)** successfully adopted.



STAFF SALARY

increases secured for PHC workers in **Kaduna State.**



3 **ADDITIONAL HEALTH WORKERS** deployed to Alkalawa, Kano State.



LASSA FEVER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - ADVOCACY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Funder:

CEPI

Overview

CEPI engaged Nigeria Health Watch in 2023 to map relevant stakeholders in the Lassa vaccine R&D landscape in West Africa and to aid its understanding of the political context through political intelligence reporting. Results from the stakeholder mapping highlighted coordination and communication gaps in the Lassa vaccine R&D landscape in the countries and the region. Furthermore, a stakeholder engagement plan was developed based on the mapping recommendations. CEPI, in collaboration with the West Africa Health Organisation (WAHO), seeks to strengthen Lassa vaccine R&D and ensure ease of new vaccine development and introduction in the region. Hence, there is a need to support the WAHO in effectively communicating, coordinating, and strengthening Lassa vaccine R&D efforts in West Africa. Additionally, there is a need to continue political intelligence reporting to provide insights into current health trends in the region, as well as beyond West Africa, to inform the development of Mpox vaccine research and development in Central and East Africa. Objectives: This investment aims to increase CEPI's visibility in the region and provide political intelligence to maintain the engagement momentum.

What We Are Seeing

A 2024 stakeholder mapping revealed major gaps in coordination and communication across Lassa vaccine R&D in West Africa, leading to fragmented efforts, duplication, and slow progress. Weak stakeholder engagement and limited regional integration further constrained collaboration and the timely introduction of vaccines.



How We Are Responding

To address these challenges, CEPI developed a stakeholder engagement plan and partnered with Nigeria Health Watch to support WAHO in coordinating, communicating, and strengthening Lassa vaccine R&D across the region. In March 2025, this team became the Coalition Support Partner, alongside the Corona Management System and Bloom Public Health, ensuring sustained regional coordination and effective stakeholder engagement.



The project adopts multiple approaches, including political intelligence reporting and strategic communications support. Strategic communications to increase the profile of Lassa through media support, editorials, targeted social media campaigns, newsletters, and webinars that connected policymakers, researchers, civil society, and partners. This approach also prioritised regional coordination and policy alignment by supporting the planning and execution of the second ECOWAS Lassa Fever International Conference and the socialisation of the Policy Research Working Group (PRWG), creating platforms for shared priority-setting and evidence-informed decision-making.

What We Achieved



Strengthened the profile, coordination, and financing of Lassa fever efforts across West Africa
 Successfully delivered the second ECOWAS Lassa Fever International Conference (ELFIC 2025), resulting in a joint communiqué and ministerial roundtable that elevated Lassa fever on the regional health security agenda

Developed and disseminated Lassa Fever Coalition materials across the region and global platforms
 Produced 25 political intelligence reports across 11 countries to inform strategic engagement
 Facilitated regional knowledge exchange through four quarterly webinars and four Lassa-focused newsletters covering epidemiology, therapeutics, and coalition activities

Strengthened thought leadership through editorials published in Nigeria, Liberia, and Sierra Leone
 Supported the development of a Lassa fever investment case with partners, to advance domestic resource mobilisation

Socialised the PRWG research agenda across ECOWAS member states to promote coordinated regional action



ELFIC 2025 (2nd ECOWAS Lassa Fever International Conference)

resulting in a joint communiqué and ministerial roundtable.

25

Political intelligence reports



produced across **11 countries** to guide strategic engagement.



Coalition materials developed and disseminated across regional and global platforms.



4 Quarterly webinars

facilitated to drive regional knowledge exchange on epidemiology and therapeutics.



LASSA-FOCUSED

Newsletters produced covering coalition activities and updates.





MATERNAL HEALTH ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION PROJECT

Funder:



Overview

MSD for Mothers (MfM) has made significant strides in addressing maternal health challenges in Nigeria and has worked with Nigeria Health Watch since 2018 to promote advocacy, communications and evidence-based focus on integrating women's voices, integrating the private sector into Nigeria's mixed health systems, strengthening surveillance on maternal death and promoting maternal health equity. MfM's investments in Nigeria through collaborators have aligned with supporting quality accreditation of local health providers through the IntegratE-PACS projects, developing and deploying innovations for prevention of postpartum haemorrhage, private sector financing and digital health solutions through Smiles for Mothers, FOR M(om) and mDoc, as well as incorporating local and community-led solutions to address systemic barriers to quality maternal health delivery through Project Aisha. Inadequate healthcare financing and an enabling environment for digital integration have been identified as barriers to the delivery of quality maternal health care. The Maternal Health Advocacy and Communications Project is a strategic initiative currently implemented by Nigeria Health Watch and ACIOE foundation with a goal to improve the quality of maternal healthcare and service delivery in the private sector and across all levels of the health systems in alignment with the Government of Nigeria's health strategic vision 2023 -2026 by addressing these critical gaps in equitable access to quality maternal healthcare delivery through advocacy and communications targeted at policymakers and healthcare workers.

What We Are Seeing

Nigeria continues to record an unacceptably high maternal mortality rate, reflecting deep-seated challenges within the health system. Many women still face significant gaps in accessing quality maternal healthcare, including skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric services and timely referrals. These challenges are further compounded by persistent disparities in maternal health services, largely driven by inadequate and inequitable health financing, which limits the availability, affordability and quality of care for women in underserved and vulnerable communities.



How We Are Responding

Strategic advocacy and communications to drive policy reforms that expand affordable financing for private health providers, enable digital health solutions, strengthen maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response, integrate women's voices into maternal health policies, programmes and practices and advance the adoption of innovative strategies for managing postpartum haemorrhage (PPH), all aimed at improving quality, equity and sustainability of healthcare delivery.

What We Achieved



- Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala: Engaged cross-sector stakeholders through arts-based advocacy to elevate maternal health issues, amplify women's voices, and promote equitable, responsive healthcare for women. A total of 277 participants attended the event, with 178 attending physically and 99 virtually.
- MSD for Mothers Implementing Collaborators Roundtable: Convened partners, including IntegratE-PACS, Digital Mom, Project Aisha, Smiles for Mothers, MomCare, and FOR M(om), to share lessons, identify synergies, and align community-led, data-driven maternal health interventions with national priorities, including MAMII.
- Leveraged the 2025 Gender and Inclusion Summit to make a case for MPDSR Legislation: Convened policymakers and health stakeholders to examine systemic barriers to maternal survival and advocate for strengthened, scalable MPDSR legislation. A total of 143 people attended the event in-person.



- Themed Social Media Campaign: Published 396 social media content generating over 811,000 impressions and 25,700 engagements spanning across key thematic areas.
- Editorial Publications: Published 5 editorials, with three published on the Nigeria Health Watch website and two external publications on This Day and The Guardian:

 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigeria Must Embrace Climate-Resilient Healthcare to Protect Mothers 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Strength in Every Story: How Art and Advocacy Reframe Women’s Health in Nigeria
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Sector as Contributor to National Health Goals 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scaling Heat-Stable Uterotonics to Prevent Maternal Deaths in Nigeria

- Provided strategic communications support for MSD for Mothers collaborators and the Federal Ministry of Health: Supported 21 events (both virtual and in-person activities), driving our advocacy ask, enhancing visibility and stakeholder engagement.





277 total participants attended the Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala.



178 physical attendees and



99 virtual attendees made up the Art Gala audience.



21 events (virtual and in-person) received strategic communications support for MSD for Mothers collaborators and the Federal Ministry of Health.



396

social media posts were published for the themed campaign



Over

811,000

impressions generated across the social media campaign.



5 TOTAL EDITORIALS

Published to advance maternal health advocacy.



SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM AFRICA INITIATIVE PROJECT

Funder:

SOLUTIONS
JOURNALISM
NETWORK



Overview

In 2025, the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative (SJAI), supported by the Solutions Journalism Network, strengthened the practice of solutions journalism across Nigeria's media ecosystem. Building on foundations established since 2020, the initiative shifted its focus from introduction to sustainability to institutionalisation and leadership, embedding evidence-based, solutions-focused reporting within newsroom routines and editorial decision-making. Across the country, journalists we worked with increasingly moved beyond problem-only narratives to interrogate credible responses, their effectiveness, limitations, and potential for replication.

Engagements were organised around five strategic streams, each designed to drive long-term impact. The West Africa Fellowship expanded the initiative's regional reach - equipping fellows from Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana and Liberia with skills, mentorship, and professional networks to produce rigorous solutions, stories, and champion the approach within their organisations. An Editorial Masterclass, delivered in partnership with Pan-Atlantic University, strengthened the capacity of editors and newsroom leaders by embedding solutions journalism principles at the gatekeeping level, where story framing and priorities are shaped.

The inaugural Solutions Journalism Africa Summit convened journalists, editors, academics, and sector experts, creating a vibrant space for peer learning, cross-border collaboration, and a continental community of practice. To reach wider and more diverse audiences, particularly at the community level, the Radio Magazine Programme, implemented in partnership with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, leveraged radio's accessibility to amplify solutions-focused stories and encourage constructive public engagement.



Finally, the SoJo Research stream generated evidence on the state of solutions journalism practice in Nigeria, identifying gaps, tracking progress, and surfacing opportunities for growth. Together, these efforts have positioned solutions journalism not as a passing initiative, but as a sustained and influential force shaping how Nigeria's media tells stories that matter – beyond the project's lifespan.

What We Are Seeing

Across Africa and beyond, journalism has largely been dominated by problem-centred narratives that emphasise crisis, failure, and helplessness. While these challenges are real, their repeated framing without showing pathways for progress has contributed to growing news avoidance, audience fatigue, and declining public trust, particularly among communities most affected by the issues being reported. In addition, many newsrooms lack the skills, incentives, and institutional support to rigorously identify, investigate, and report on what's working.



As a result, Africa-led solutions often remain underreported, poorly documented, or dismissed. This limits peer learning, weakens accountability, and reinforces external perceptions of Africa as a continent defined by problems rather than progress. Addressing this gap requires more than isolated trainings; it demands sustained efforts to embed solutions journalism practices within journalism ecosystems.

How We Are Responding

With five years of implementation experience behind us, our work in 2025 shifted from building awareness of solutions journalism to embedding it within the systems, structures, and routines that shape how news is produced. We pursued this through five distinct but complementary initiatives – each targeting a different lever of change – alongside emerging experiments that extended our reach and relevance.

We focused on editorial leadership and partnered with Pan-Atlantic University for a second cohort of the Newsroom Editors' Masterclass. This recognised editors as critical gatekeepers whose commissioning decisions, mentorship, and editorial judgement determine whether solutions journalism takes root in a newsroom or remains a one-off exercise.

We invested in regional expansion through the SoJo West Africa Fellowship – a first-of-its-kind programme that trained and supported ten journalists from across West Africa through in-person learning, mentorship, grant support, and cross-border collaborative reporting.



We prioritised evidence generation, conducting Nigeria-focused research on audience news consumption patterns and newsroom attitudes toward solutions journalism. This gave us context-specific data to sharpen our advocacy and strengthen our case for institutional adoption.

We built peer networks by convening the first Solutions Journalism Africa Summit on the continent – a continental platform for learning, tools exchange, and collective practice-building among journalists, editors, and media stakeholders.

And we tested new channels for public reach, piloting a radio magazine programme with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria to expand access to solutions-focused content and build institutional capacity within public broadcasting.

Beyond these five streams, we also experimented with ideas that gained traction during the year. We developed SoJo Quick Insights, an AI-powered tool that helps users quickly learn from published, vetted solutions stories. We collaborated with MSI Nigeria and the Family Planning News Network to organise solutions journalism field reporting trips across two regions in Nigeria. We also shared insights from the project at regional and global media and health convenings.

What We Achieved



Through the Solution Journalism Africa Initiative (SoJo), Nigeria Health Watch has continued to strengthen newsrooms and journalists' capacity to produce rigorous, evidence-based solutions journalism. The initiative recorded significant milestones in advancing solutions-focused journalism across Africa.

The second cohort of the Editors' Masterclass did more than build skills – it shifted editorial mindsets. Several participating editors moved from learning about solutions journalism to actively proposing its institutionalisation within their newsrooms. The cohort also produced solutions-focused stories on two critical health issues: immunisation and sexual and reproductive health and rights.



The SoJo Africa Summit, the first of its kind on the continent, convened over 200 participants and served as a landmark moment for the practice, raising the profile and visibility of solutions journalism both in Nigeria and across Africa.

The SoJo West Africa Fellowship extended the initiative's reach beyond Nigeria's borders, growing a regional cohort of skilled, connected solutions journalists. Complementing this, two SRHR-focused reporting trips across Northern and Southern Nigeria gave fellows and participating journalists the opportunity to produce in-depth, on-the-ground stories that centred the voices of communities — including men, religious leaders, health providers, and local authorities — who are often absent from mainstream health coverage.

We also successfully launched the SoJo Quick Insights AI platform, giving journalists faster, more accessible ways to learn from already published solutions stories and strengthen their evidence-based reporting.

Beyond our core programming, we shared insights from the project, spoke on panels, and led workshops at convenings in Kenya, the United States, Colombia, and South Africa — contributing to a growing global conversation about the role of solutions journalism. We also produced a series of short learning videos published on YouTube, which have been well received by journalists seeking practical, accessible training resources.



To ground our advocacy in evidence, we led research exploring how solutions journalism is being received across the continent and the challenges that limit its scale. The findings sharpened our understanding of where the practice is gaining traction, where resistance remains, and what it will take to move from pockets of adoption to systemic change.

Together, these efforts have continued to expand the community of solutions-focused reporters and editors across the continent.



Over

200

participants convened at the SoJo Africa Summit, the first of its kind on the continent.

2 SRHR-focused reporting trips were conducted



across Northern and Southern Nigeria to gather on-the-ground stories.



4

international countries (Kenya, the United States, Colombia, and South Africa) hosted convenings where project insights, panels, and workshops were delivered.



1

specific cohort

(the second cohort of the Editors' Masterclass) successfully shifted mindsets toward institutionalizing the practice in newsrooms.



2

critical health issues

(immunization, and sexual and reproductive health and rights)

were the focus of the solutions stories produced by the masterclass cohort.



EXEMPLARS IN MALARIA SUB-NATIONAL TAILORING (SNT)

Funders:



Overview

Nigeria Health Watch led the Exemplars in Malaria: Subnational Tailoring (SNT) research project to document and analyse Nigeria’s experience in applying data-driven, locally adapted approaches to malaria control. The project was implemented as part of the global Exemplars in Global Health initiative, which seeks to identify and distil practical lessons from countries that have achieved progress against major health challenges under real-world constraints. Nigeria was selected as a global exemplar because of the deliberate steps it has taken to institutionalise SNT within its national malaria programme, using evidence to guide strategic planning, prioritise interventions, and allocate scarce resources more efficiently across states and local government areas. Rather than treating SNT as a one-off analytical exercise, Nigeria has embedded it within national policy processes, including the development and costing of its National Malaria Strategic Plans and the negotiation of donor and domestic financing. The project examined how SNT has evolved in Nigeria, the systems and partnerships that enable it, and the challenges that remain, particularly amid declining external funding and growing pressure to do more with less. By combining quantitative analysis with in-depth qualitative insights from policymakers, programme managers, and frontline implementers at the national and sub-national levels, the study aimed to generate actionable lessons for Nigeria’s malaria response. The lessons are also relevant for other high-burden countries seeking to strengthen sub-national planning, improve efficiency and accelerate progress toward malaria elimination or even other health programmes.





What We Are Seeing

Nigeria bears the highest malaria burden globally, accounting for approximately 25% of global malaria cases and nearly 30% of malaria-related deaths. In 2023 alone, the country recorded an estimated 68 million cases and over 180,000 deaths, with children under five and pregnant women disproportionately affected. Although malaria transmission occurs nationwide, it is highly heterogeneous, shaped by ecological conditions, poverty, urbanisation, conflict and health system capacity. Parasite prevalence among children under five ranges from as low as 3% in Lagos state to nearly 50% in Kebbi state, illustrating stark subnational disparities. Despite variation, malaria interventions were historically planned and financed using largely uniform national approaches, limiting efficiency and impact, especially in high-burden, hard-to-reach areas. At the same time, the malaria programme has faced shrinking donor support, rising delivery costs and persistent domestic financing gaps, increasing pressure to achieve more with fewer resources. This mismatch between heterogeneous risk and uniform programming underscored the urgent need for a more precise, evidence-informed approach that directs interventions to where they can deliver the greatest impact.

How We Are Responding



We adopted a mixed-methods research design to understand how subnational tailoring (SNT) has been applied, institutionalised and operationalised within Nigeria's malaria programme over the last 10 years. The study combined a process map, a comprehensive desk review of national policies, strategic plans and partner documentation with quantitative analysis of malaria trends, intervention coverage and financing patterns. To complement this, we conducted key informant interviews (KII) with stakeholders at the national, state, and local government levels, including programme managers, technical partners, and implementers directly involved in the SNT processes. Six states (Akwa Ibom, Borno, Ekiti, Imo, Katsina and Kwara) were selected as in-depth case studies to reflect Nigeria's epidemiological diversity, security contexts, geopolitical zones and financing arrangements. An adapted Nigerian SNT conceptual framework, developed through in-country process mapping, guided the analysis across three domains: generating evidence, synthesising evidence and acting on the evidence. This framework enabled us to examine how data flows, decision-making processes, and resource allocation interact across levels of the health system, and to identify the enablers, challenges, and lessons shaping the effectiveness and sustainability of SNT in Nigeria.



What We Achieved:

Findings Across the SNT Cycle

The study showed that Nigeria has made meaningful progress in institutionalising subnational tailoring as a core approach to malaria planning, financing, and implementation. SNT has shifted malaria programming away from uniform, one-size-fits-all interventions toward evidence-driven, location-specific decision-making, enabling the programme to better match resources to risk. The establishment of the National Malaria Data Repository (NMDR) in 2020 marked a major milestone, improving integration of survey, routine, and partner data and strengthening accountability and transparency across levels.



Through SNT, Nigeria translated complex epidemiological and contextual data into actionable programmatic decisions. Stratification and impact modelling informed the expansion of seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) to additional high-burden northern states, guided the targeted deployment of next-generation insecticide-treated nets in areas with high transmission and insecticide resistance, and supported more efficient allocation of limited resources. Critically, SNT provided the analytical foundation for navigating significant Global Fund funding cuts, enabling Nigeria to make defensible, evidence-based trade-offs across interventions and geographies. The same approach underpinned the development of a realistic, costed investment plan for subsequent financing cycles, strengthening alignment between national priorities, donor resources, and expected impact. At the same time, the study identified persistent challenges, including uneven data quality, limited analytic capacity at subnational levels, fragmented financing, and weak advocacy to translate evidence into sustained political action. Nevertheless, Nigeria's experience demonstrates that SNT is not merely a technical tool but a governance and systems reform that improves accountability, efficiency, and impact, particularly in a context of constrained resources and increasing demand for value for money.





What's Next

Sustaining and deepening SNT in Nigeria will require embedding the approach more firmly within government systems, strengthening analytic capacity at state and local levels and improving data quality, harmonisation and use. Stronger communication and advocacy will also be essential to translate evidence into sustained political commitment and domestic financing for malaria control. Looking ahead, integrating SNT into routine national and subnational planning, budgeting and performance review processes will be critical, particularly as resources become more constrained. Continued investment in data systems, human capacity, communications, advocacy and coordination mechanisms will be essential to maintain momentum and ensure that SNT remains a practical tool for guiding efficient, equitable and impact-oriented malaria programming.

Early Insights

INCREASING DATA USE CAPACITY, ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS & INTRODUCTION OF DUAL ACTIVE INGREDIENT

Phase 2		NMSP 2020-2025						
2021 - 2023		Intervention mixes NMSP 2020-2025						
<p>Establishing the NMDR and expanding its use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electronic integrated data information system (NMDR) was launched in Q4 2021 In May 2022, the first annual one-week data deep-dive workshop was held. The first high burden country to regularize this forum. By end of 2022, over 2500 federal, state and LGA staff were trained in NMDR use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A data quality improvement plan was proposed, focusing on abnormally high levels of test positivity rates reported. A data charter was established enforcing data contribution to NMDR to allow partner access to NMDR. The NMDR steering group was established. 	<p>Revising Malaria Control Strategy</p> <p>Key outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second generation SNT based NMSP (2021-2025) was launched. Re-prioritization of selected urban areas from receiving mass ITN campaigns based on malaria risk classification Introduction of Dual Active Ingredient LLINs in highest burden countries. Further expansion of SMC in LGAs identified in Phase 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A study to investigate urban malaria and develop a microstratification approach was launched. A modelling group was funded to build institutional capacity in Nigeria SNT for malaria vaccine implemented 	<p>Overall intervention mixes</p> 	<p>Selected intervention mixes based on available funding</p> 					
<p>CM, case management; IPTp, intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy; LLIN, long-lasting insecticide treated net; SMC, seasonal malaria chemoprevention; IRS, indoor residual spraying; PIPR, Plasmodium falciparum parasite rate, Urban = urban areas excluded from mass campaigns</p>								
<p>Enablers of SNT Implementation</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Integrated Malaria Data Repository</td> <td>Consensus on data sharing</td> <td>Federal and local staff capacity in data use</td> <td>Open forum for data deep dive</td> <td>New malaria interventions</td> </tr> </table>				Integrated Malaria Data Repository	Consensus on data sharing	Federal and local staff capacity in data use	Open forum for data deep dive	New malaria interventions
Integrated Malaria Data Repository	Consensus on data sharing	Federal and local staff capacity in data use	Open forum for data deep dive	New malaria interventions				





POLIO DEMAND GENERATION PROJECT

Funder:



Overview:

The Civil Society Organisation (CSO)-led Demand Generation Project strengthened trust in polio vaccination by mobilising trusted community voices to drive demand during the 2025 National Immunisation Plus Days (NIPDs) in Bauchi and Kebbi States. Implemented by Nigeria Health Watch in partnership with government stakeholders at the national level and in the 2 states, the project positioned local civil society organisations as credible messengers, leveraging their deep community relationships to address hesitancy, misinformation, and resistance to immunisation. Through interpersonal engagement at compound meetings, community dialogues, edutainment, media outreach, and real-time data validation, CSOs facilitated respectful, trust-based conversations with caregivers and community leaders, ensuring concerns were heard and addressed. This approach achieved an 88% compliance resolution rate across both states while also strengthening data quality, accountability, and campaign responsiveness. The project demonstrates that trust-led, community-owned communication, supported by strong supervision and evidence-based learning, is critical to sustaining progress toward polio eradication in high-risk settings.



The Problem

Despite Nigeria's certification as free of wild poliovirus, circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) continues to affect northern states. In Bauchi and Kebbi, repeated outbreaks were driven by misinformation, rumour, religious resistance, low risk perception, and caregiver fatigue. Technical vaccination efforts alone were insufficient to address these challenges, as many missed-children cases were rooted in trust deficits rather than access constraints



Our Approach

The project selected, trained, deployed and monitored 20 CSOs across 64 priority wards in the 2 states to lead advocacy, communication, and social mobilisation activities. Engagement strategies included compound meetings, mosque sensitisation, school sensitisation, community dialogues, town announcements, edutainment, and structured follow-up of missed-child cases. These activities were reinforced through localised radio programming and supported by joint supervision, real-time Open Data Kit (ODK) reporting, and daily & weekly review meetings to ensure data quality and adaptive learning.



What We Achieved

Between April and December 2025, CSOs conducted over 16,000 community engagement activities across Bauchi and Kebbi States. Through sustained interpersonal engagement, follow-up on missed-children cases, and collaboration with ward- and LGA-level stakeholders, the project achieved an 88% resolution rate for missed-children cases in priority wards, including communities with long-standing vaccine hesitancy. Importantly, the project found that non-compliance was not driven solely by misinformation. In several communities, resistance to vaccination was closely linked to structural and social challenges, including a lack of access to basic amenities such as water and sanitation. CSOs worked beyond routine sensitisation by documenting these concerns, escalating them through established channels, and engaging relevant authorities and community leaders to facilitate responses. Addressing these underlying grievances helped rebuild trust, leading to increased acceptance of vaccination and resolution of non-compliance cases.



Over
16,000

community engagement activities were conducted by CSOs across Bauchi and Kebbi States.



month timeframe
(between April and December 2025) spanned the duration of these community engagement activities.

88%

resolution rate was achieved for missed-children cases in priority wards, including areas with long-standing vaccine hesitancy.

What's Next

The project demonstrated that sustained, community-led demand generation is critical to polio eradication. Lessons from Bauchi and Kebbi will inform future immunisation and public health interventions, positioning CSO-led engagement as a scalable model for building trust, countering misinformation, and strengthening social accountability.



Editorial Outputs	Numbers
Total Articles Published	171
Thought Leadership	105
Torchlight	36
Torchlight Africa	7
Thought Leadership Africa	23
Community Health Watch Stories	51
Total article views	49,983
Press Releases	67
Media Amplifications	384
Individual Impact	68
Institutional Impacts	38
Awards	4
Invitation to contribute to policy change	20
Social Media Impressions	3,562,630
Social Media Engagement	282,940
Social Media Net Audience Growth (2025)	26,914
Total Video Views	308,735



COMMUNITY-GENERATED EVIDENCE (CHW & ICL)



- **9,733** citizens engaged across 6 states through the Community Health Watch (CHW) and Integrated Community Listening (ICL) initiatives.
- Evidence captured through structured surveys, facility spot checks across PHCs and secondary facilities, and qualitative community feedback.
- Data revealed persistent gaps in PHC utilisation, insurance enrolment, accountability mechanisms, maternal and child health services, SRHR access, and antimicrobial use practices.
- Community insights directly informed policy dialogues, PHC accountability discussions, media reporting, and state-level engagements, including requests to scale ICL across additional LGAs.

REAL-TIME EVIDENCE ON MISINFORMATION (INFODEMIC INTELLIGENCE)



- Nigeria Health Watch operationalised infodemic intelligence through the Health Information Disorder and Infodemic Management (HIDIM) Network, strengthening coordinated, evidence-informed responses to health misinformation.
- Priority health narratives tracked and addressed included routine immunisation, cholera, Mpox, HPV vaccination, antimicrobial resistance, and health sector reforms.
- Two cohorts of Health Misinformation Management Fellows trained in Lagos State, combining a 3-day intensive training with a 12-week applied learning cycle.
- Fellows applied evidence tools through HealthFactCheckNG, strengthening detection, analysis, and response to harmful health misinformation at the community level.

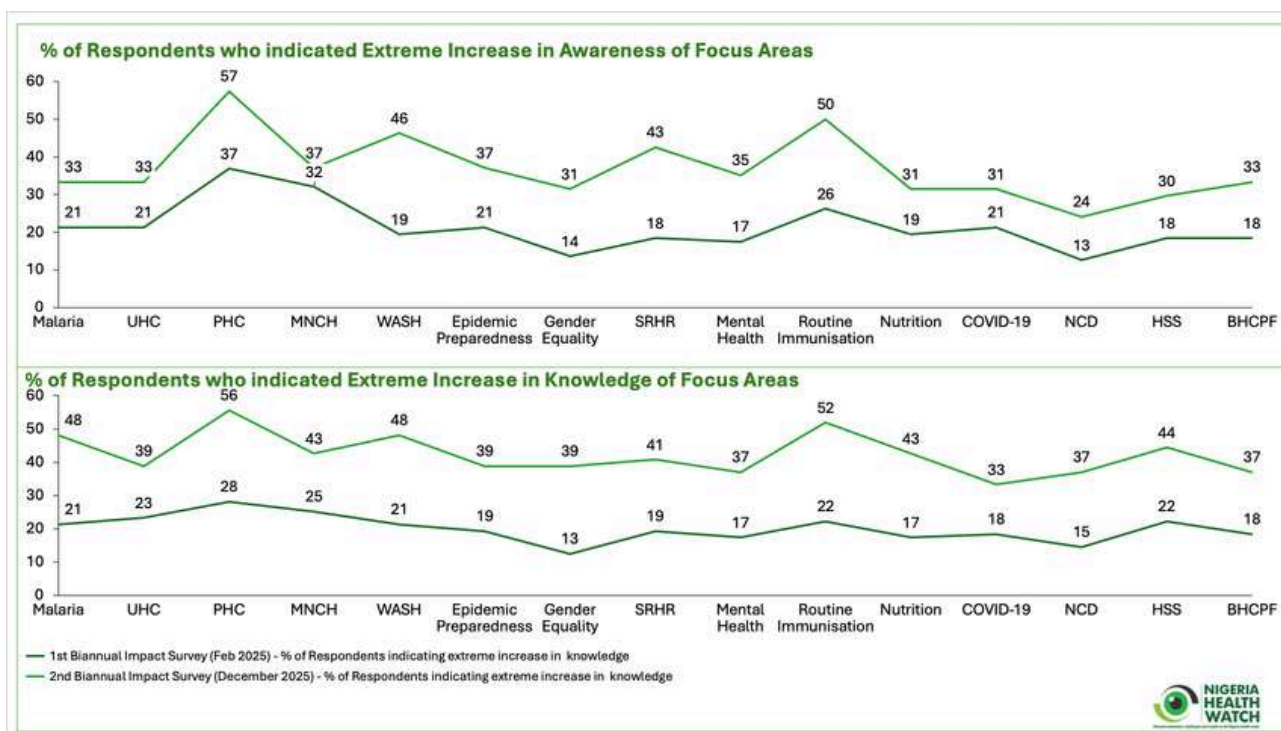


AUDIENCE AND ENGAGEMENT EVIDENCE



- Audience analytics tracked reach, engagement depth, and content effectiveness across platforms, including website traffic, video watch time, podcast downloads, newsletter engagement, and social media interactions.
- Biannual impact surveys showed stable information sharing (35%), a shift from contacting elected officials (22% → 18%), and a rise in community-led action such as fundraising for health interventions (18% → 25%).
- Awareness and knowledge indicators increased across all priority health themes, with the strongest gains in PHC, Routine Immunisation, WASH, SRHR, and Health Systems Strengthening.

Shifts in Knowledge Across Priority Health Issues

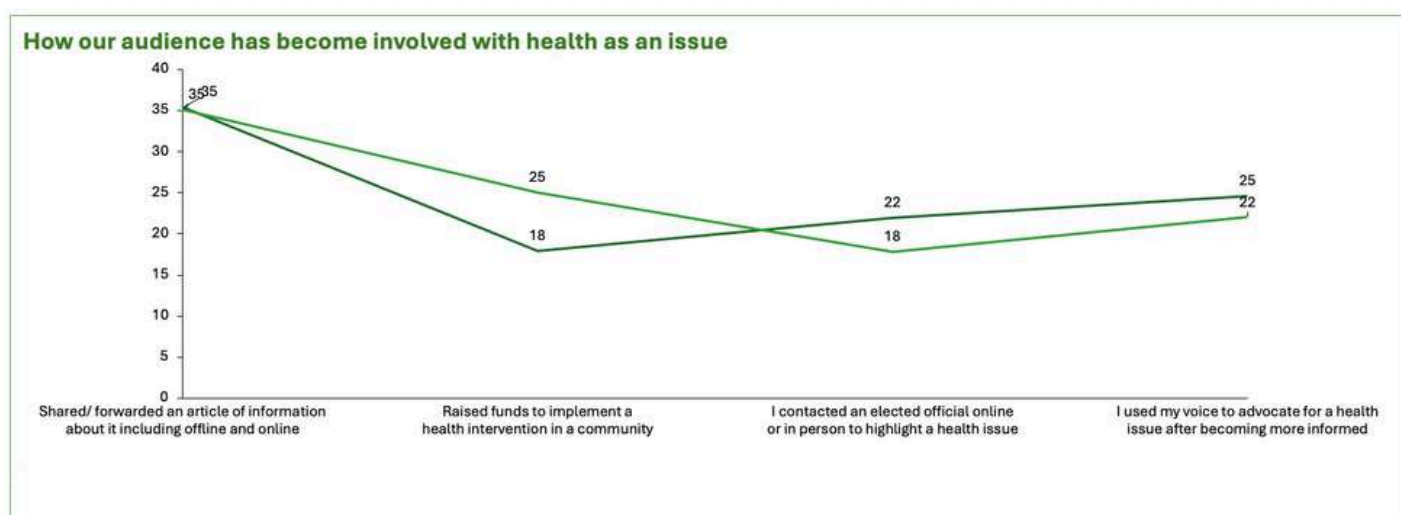


Across priority health areas, audiences moved from awareness to deeper knowledge, particularly on primary healthcare, immunisation, WASH, and health system reforms, signalling stronger foundations for informed engagement and accountability.



- Knowledge gains outpaced awareness gains across nearly all themes, indicating deeper understanding rather than surface-level exposure.
- The strongest increases were recorded in PHC (28% to 55.6%), Routine Immunisation (22% to 51.9%), WASH (21% to 48.2%), and Malaria (21% to 48.2%).
- MNCH knowledge increased substantially, from 25% to 42.6%, reinforcing the effectiveness of sustained focus on maternal and child health narratives.
- Gender Equality and SRHR showed sharp knowledge gains, rising from 13% to 38.9% and 19% to 40.7%, respectively, indicating a growing audience capacity to engage with rights-based and sensitive health topics.
- Knowledge related to systemic health reforms also improved, including HSS (22% to 44.4%) and BHCPF (18% to 37.0%), supporting stronger evidence-informed discourse on health financing and governance.

Evidence Use and Audience Engagement (Biannual Impact Surveys)



- Year 1 - 2nd Biannual Impact Survey (February 2025)
- Year 2 - 1st Biannual Impact Survey (December 2025)





Data from Nigeria Health Watch's biannual impact surveys show how audience engagement with health issues has evolved over time, reflecting shifts in how evidence is translated into action. Comparing findings from the Year 1 second biannual survey (February 2025) and the Year 2 first biannual survey (December 2025) revealed areas of growth and consolidation in evidence-informed behaviour.

- Information sharing remained consistent, with 35% of respondents in both survey rounds reporting that they shared or forwarded health information.
- Engagement shifted away from formal accountability channels, as the proportion of respondents who contacted elected officials declined from 22% to 18%.
- Advocacy through personal voice also reduced slightly, from 25% to 22%, suggesting barriers to sustained civic engagement.
- Community-led action strengthened, with respondents who raised funds for health interventions increasing from 18% to 25%.
- Overall, the findings indicate a shift from institution-facing advocacy toward self-driven, community-level action, highlighting evolving pathways through which evidence informs engagement.



Evidence in Action: State-Level Impact

Kano State

Data from Community Listening informed advocacy for integrating accountability mechanisms (e.g., feedback platforms and community oversight) into state health planning processes. Nigeria Health Watch's community-led accountability activities were formally incorporated into the State's Annual Operational Plan (AOP), thereby admitting Nigeria Health Watch as a formal member of the Kano State Maternal Mortality Crashing Committee, following approval by the State Ministry of Health. Evidence from Nigeria Health Watch's reporting on PHC performance and equity informed discussions within the government and partner forums, contributing to renewed scrutiny of PHC delivery approaches and the role of community feedback in service improvement.

Kaduna State

Evidence from community surveys and facility spot checks informed policy dialogues on PHC workforce recruitment, remuneration, and performance monitoring. Data supported evidence-based discussions on frontline service delivery gaps and workforce sustainability. Evidence contributed to the recruitment of about 1,800 healthcare workers and an upward review of health worker remuneration.

Niger State

Community insights and social listening data informed the co-creation of targeted radio messaging with the State PHC Development Agency. Messages were designed to address locally identified misconceptions, information gaps, and behavioural barriers, strengthening risk communication and community engagement.

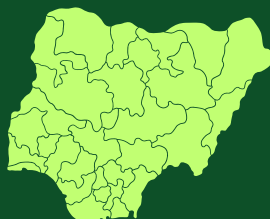


2025 At a Glance



9,733+

citizens engaged



6 states covered

111

Media amplification



54 media mentions



6 data use/citations



6 policy dialogues informed



9 Podcasts

Total Website visits:

155,121

Combined views:

175,012



Shaping a Healthier Future for Nigeria in 2025



Planting the Future:
How a Nigerian University is Tackling Food Insecurity with Agricultural Innovation



Reimagining Health Financing in Africa:
Navigating the Aftermath of the U.S. WHO Withdrawal





	<p>MAMI: A Promising Initiative to Crash Maternal Mortality in Nigeria</p>	
	<p>N-774: A Community-Centric Approach That Could Address Nigeria's Malnutrition Crisis from the Ground Up</p>	
	<p>Ulerawa: Ekiti's Bold Approach to Cutting Out-of-Pocket Health Costs For Residents</p>	
	<p>From Nigeria to Kenya: Primary Health Systems Fail to Serve People with Disabilities</p>	
	<p>At the Brink: Nigeria's Current Family Planning Dilemma and the Urgent Need for Reinvestment</p>	
	<p>A Grantsmanship and Mentorship Programme is Shaping the Future of Medical Research in Nigeria</p>	
	<p>Standing at the Hourglass: Reflections on Nigeria's National Health Financing Dialog</p>	



Events and Conversations

Through events and conversations, the organisation created spaces for knowledge exchange, elevating underrepresented voices, and translating complex health evidence into accessible discussions that inform public understanding and policy debates. By bringing together research, lived experiences, and decision-makers in the same forum, these engagements strengthened our advocacy efforts, building strategic partnerships, and helping drive attention and action toward improved health policies, greater accountability, and better health outcomes in Nigeria.

Conversations

Break It Down Podcast **January - December 2025**

In 2025, we focused on strengthening public understanding of complex health issues through Break It Down, its flagship podcast co-hosted by Asari Ndem and Chibuike Alagboso. The podcast convenes experts, policymakers, journalists, and advocates to unpack pressing public health challenges in Nigeria and across Africa.

Episodes explored key themes including epidemic preparedness, maternal health, digital innovation, and misinformation, with a strong focus on evidence-based decision-making and resilient health systems. Conversations featured experts such as Sabiha Essack on antimicrobial resistance, Emeka Oguanuo on cholera outbreaks, and Olubayo Adekanmbi on digital tools improving access to health information.

The podcast also examined the role of technology and communication in shaping health outcomes, with insights from Solomon Chinedu and Sunday Oko on digital health solutions and misinformation. Through the #JournoConversations series, journalists including Asha Bekidusa and Afeez Hanafi reflected on the role of media in driving accountability.

Overall, Break It Down continued to make complex health issues more accessible while fostering informed public engagement through storytelling and dialogue.



Audience Reach and Engagement

In 2025, Break It Down continued to grow its audience and deepen engagement with listeners across Nigeria and beyond.

 <p>17 podcast episodes were released during the year.</p>	<p>The podcast recorded 8,449 total listens and downloads across all streaming platforms</p>
 <p>Listeners tuned in from more than 10 countries, reflecting growing international interest in African health policy conversations.</p>	 <p>Episodes generated strong engagement on social media, with clips and insights shared across Nigeria Health Watch's digital platforms to reach wider audiences.</p>

Episodes of Break It Down are available on the Nigeria Health Watch website and across major podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify, so listeners across Nigeria and beyond can access credible, engaging conversations on the health issues that matter most.





Curated Conversations **January - December 2025**

In 2025, Nigeria Health Watch expanded its storytelling through Curated Conversations, a short-form video series featuring expert insights on key health issues in Nigeria and across Africa.

Through concise, accessible interviews, the series highlights perspectives from policymakers, researchers, and practitioners on topics such as health financing, epidemic preparedness, gender equality, and local research. Designed for digital platforms, each episode distils complex issues into clear, practical insights.

Curated Conversations continues to amplify expert voices, support evidence-based dialogue, and strengthen public understanding of health policy and systems.

Audience Reach and Engagement

In 2025, Curated Conversations expanded Nigeria Health Watch's digital engagement by delivering expert insights in a concise video format tailored for online audiences.



11 episodes were produced and published during the year and you can watch them now by scanning the QR code on this page



The series generated over **25,335** views across Nigeria Health Watch’s digital platforms.

Episodes of Curated Conversations are available on the Nigeria Health Watch website and across its social media platforms, including YouTube, X, and LinkedIn, allowing audiences to easily access and share expert insights on critical health issues.





Events

Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala - Her Strength In Every Story: Creative Expressions For Women’s Health

Date: 28th March 2025

Location: Abuja

The third edition of the Celebrating Womanhood Art Gala, themed “Her Strength in Every Story: Creative Expressions for Women’s Health,” was held in March. This biennial event brought together stakeholders from diverse sectors to create a space for meaningful discussions and cross-sectoral engagement around women’s health. By leveraging art’s unique ability to blend text and visuals, the gala simplified complex issues while highlighting the importance of equitable access to healthcare for women.

The 2025 edition provided a platform to elevate women’s voices and integrate their lived experiences into conversations about healthcare systems. Through numerous creative expressions, including poetry, a fashion show, and art exhibitions, the event emphasised women’s healthcare needs, encouraged dialogue on solutions to address these needs, and fostered collaboration among policymakers, practitioners, and advocates.

Key insights

- - Improving women’s health is not only a matter of social justice but also an economic and societal imperative,
- healthier women contribute more effectively to the economy and play a central role in promoting the health and well-being of their families.





Enhancing Private Sector Participation In Nigeria's Response To Antimicrobial Resistance

Date: 3rd June 2025

Location: Lagos

In June, a side event at the 2025 World Health Exhibition (WHX) in Lagos focused on strengthening private sector participation in Nigeria's response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The event convened stakeholders from government, the private sector, academia, and civil society to examine practical strategies for integrating private healthcare providers into national AMR efforts, improving antimicrobial stewardship, and promoting responsible prescribing practices.

Designed as a collaborative workshop, the session provided a platform for knowledge sharing and the co-creation of actionable pathways, while reinforcing multisectoral collaboration to support sustainable AMR interventions. Through interactive discussions, participants mapped out stakeholder roles, explored shared data protocols, and identified opportunities to improve surveillance, innovation, and governance, drawing on lessons from Nigeria's COVID-19 response and existing stewardship initiatives. The insights generated from the event continue to inform advocacy, shape policy discussions, and strengthen Nigeria's collective response to AMR.





National Policy Dialogue On Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights (SRHR): Closing Reproductive Health Impact Gaps: Strategic Approaches For Equity And Access

Date: 3rd July 2025

Location: Abuja

A national policy dialogue on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), themed “Closing Reproductive Health Impact Gaps: Strategic Approaches for Equity and Access,” convened stakeholders from government, civil society, education, health, the private sector, youth movements, and the media to examine gaps in policy implementation and address systemic barriers to reproductive health access.

The dialogue provided a platform for collaborative dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy to advance equitable access to reproductive health services nationwide. A key insight from the discussions was that improving SRHR access in Nigeria requires more than expanding service availability; it also demands targeted efforts to close knowledge gaps, confront cultural stigma, and reduce economic barriers, particularly for young people who face the greatest challenges in accessing essential care.





Nutrition Roundtable: Fortifying Nigeria’s Future Through Local Solutions

Date: 28th August 2025

Location: Abuja

A nutrition roundtable in Abuja, themed “Fortifying Nigeria’s Future: Strengthening Nutrition Through Local Solutions,” was held in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and Civil Society Scaling-Up Nutrition in Nigeria. Bringing together stakeholders from government, regulatory bodies, development partners, civil society, academia, and the private sector, the dialogue addressed Nigeria’s persistent malnutrition crisis.

It explored strategies to strengthen the national food fortification ecosystem. The roundtable examined strategies to reduce reliance on imported premixes by promoting local production, maintaining regulatory oversight, supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and fostering innovation across the value chain.

A key insight from the roundtable was that tackling Nigeria’s triple burden of malnutrition requires robust local fortification systems, including expanded domestic premix production, incentive-based support to improve MSME compliance, increased research and development (R&D) in premix formulation and food fortification through government–industry–academia collaboration, and the adoption of innovative food vehicles and behaviour-change strategies to improve nutritional outcomes and secure long-term national development.





From Evidence to Impact: Financing Climate & Health with Equity

Date: 14th October 2025

Location: Berlin, Germany

At the World Health Summit 2025 in Berlin, Nigeria Health Watch, for the first time and in collaboration with the World Health Summit, convened a high-level VIP Dialogue on Climate and Health. The session brought together stakeholders across policy, science, finance, civil society, and the private sector to address a persistent gap between evidence and financing, particularly in African contexts.

Discussions reflected the reality that climate change is already intensifying health risks, with Africa disproportionately affected despite minimal contribution to global emissions. The dialogue highlighted how rising climate-health financing risks misalignment with local realities without stronger, context-specific evidence systems.

Participants explored practical approaches to strengthen local evidence, advance equitable financing, and improve cross-sector integration across sectors such as energy, agriculture, and urban planning. The session also created space to align global financing with country-led priorities while informing climate-health discussions ahead of COP30. Key outputs included discussing opportunities for partnerships and investment.





Academia-MNDC Roundtable: Advancing Sustainable Food Fortification In Nigeria: Bridging Research, Innovation, And Local Premix Production For Improved Nutrition

Date: 24th October 2025

Location: Abuja

Nigeria Health Watch, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, hosted the Academia-Micronutrient Deficiency Control (MNDC) Committee roundtable to promote evidence-driven innovation in Nigeria's local premix production. The event brought together stakeholders from academia, government agencies, premix suppliers, development partners, and civil society to enhance the visibility, relevance, and impact of research while fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Building on insights from the August 2025 nutrition roundtable on strengthening local premix production, participants recognised a critical gap in Nigeria's food fortification ecosystem: limited investment in research and development, which constrains the effectiveness of fortification efforts and underscores the need to bridge academic research with industry application. In response, stakeholders co-created a roadmap for translating research evidence into policy action.

Other recommendations included the establishment of a coordinated national mechanism linking academia, industry, and policymakers to drive research translation and innovation; the creation of an industry-academia knowledge hub for data sharing and cross-sector learning; and the introduction of fiscal incentives and public-private financing models to stimulate R&D for local premix production.





Solutions Journalism Africa Summit

Date: 14th–15th November 2025

Location: Abuja

Nigeria Health Watch hosted the Solutions Journalism Africa Summit, convening journalists, media professionals, students, development partners, and other stakeholders to advance the adoption of solutions journalism across Africa. The summit provided a platform for rethinking traditional media narratives by shifting focus from problem-centric reporting to evidence-based, solutions-driven storytelling that highlights what is working, why it works, and how it can be scaled.

Through a series of panel discussions, practical workshops, and interactive sessions, participants explored innovative approaches to reporting on challenges, with a strong emphasis on accountability, data-driven storytelling, and amplifying underreported success stories. The summit also facilitated cross-sector collaboration, strengthening linkages between the media and key stakeholders to improve access to credible data, expert insights, and impactful story leads.

A key outcome of the summit was the strengthened capacity of journalists and media organisations to produce rigorous, solutions-focused content that informs public discourse and influences policy. The event underscored the critical role of the media in shaping narratives, driving accountability, and supporting the scale-up of effective interventions across the African continent.





Health Taxes Roundtable: Beyond Aid Dependency: Unlocking Domestic Health Financing Through Health Taxes Date: 25th November 2025

Date: 25th November 2025

Location: Kenya

Nigeria Health Watch, in collaboration with Willow Health Media, convened an interregional health financing roundtable to explore sustainable domestic financing for health in Africa. Set against the backdrop of rising noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), shrinking fiscal space, and declining development assistance, the event highlighted health taxes as a cost-effective tool to fund African health systems while reducing NCD risk factors. The roundtable brought together stakeholders from government institutions in Kenya, Nigeria and other African countries, regional organisations, academic institutions, private health providers, media and technical partners to discuss strategies for adopting, reforming, and scaling health taxes across African countries.

By promoting cross-regional and multisectoral dialogue and exchanging practical lessons, the roundtable created a platform to turn global and regional commitments into actionable national policies. The event aimed to position health taxes as a credible and sustainable mechanism for financing African health systems while building the political commitment and social consensus needed to strengthen health sovereignty across the continent.





Side Events and Trainings 2025

Side Events

Towards Self-Sufficiency in Africa's Public Health System

Date: 4th March 2025

Location: Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC), Kigali, Rwanda



Nigeria Health Watch convened a curated side event panel session at the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC), bringing together policymakers, public health experts, development partners, and advocates to explore pathways towards a more self-sufficient and resilient public health system in Africa. The session was held against the backdrop of renewed concerns about Africa's reliance on external health financing, particularly following the freeze on United States global health aid, which highlighted the continent's vulnerability to geopolitical and funding shifts.

The conversation provided a platform to critically examine Africa's progress and gaps in local manufacturing of medical countermeasures, procurement systems, and broader health system resilience. It also explored sustainable financing mechanisms, policy reforms, and the role of innovation and technology in strengthening health sovereignty. Through engaging discussions, participants emphasised the importance of prioritising local production of essential medical supplies, strengthening supply chains, and investing in the healthcare workforce as key pillars for achieving long-term self-sufficiency.



2nd International Conference for Primary Health Care (ICPHC) 7th - 9th October 2025 Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Solomon Oladimeji and Precious Ajayi represented Nigeria Health Watch at the 2nd International Conference for Primary Health Care (ICPHC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. At the conference, Solomon delivered a Lightning Paper Talk presentation titled “A Qualitative Assessment of Primary Health Care Accountability and Citizen Voices in Niger State, Nigeria”, while Precious presented an abstract titled “Raising Awareness on Maternal and Child Health Through Radio Media for Culturally Responsive Health Sensitisation in Primary Health Care Centres in Northern Nigeria”. They also engaged with fellow experts, exchanged insights, shared the work we do at Nigeria Health Watch, and learned from global experiences in primary health care.





Trainings

Biosafety Communications Fellowship October 2024 – February 2025

The National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA) is mandated to regulate and ensure the safe application of modern biotechnology and its products in Nigeria. While the Agency has made notable progress in strengthening Nigeria's biosafety framework, persistent gaps remain in the strategic communication of biosafety issues to key stakeholders, including policymakers and the general public. To address this, Nigeria Health Watch implemented the Biosafety Communications Fellowship to strengthen NBMA Communications Officers' capacity to communicate complex biosafety and biotechnology concepts clearly and accurately. The fellowship equipped six (6) NBMA Communications Officers with practical skills in crisis communication, strategic messaging, and the effective use of traditional and digital media. Through a combination of facilitated sessions and practical exercises, fellows enhanced their ability to proactively engage diverse audiences, respond to biosafety-related misinformation, and build public confidence in Nigeria's biosafety governance system.





NTA Headquarters Solutions Journalism Training 5th February 2025

On 5 February 2025, Nigeria Health Watch delivered a large-scale, in-person Solutions Journalism training at the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Headquarters in Abuja during their journalism clinic. The training reached over 100 reporters, producers, and editors, equipping them with practical tools to report beyond problems and incorporate evidence-based responses and accountability into their stories.

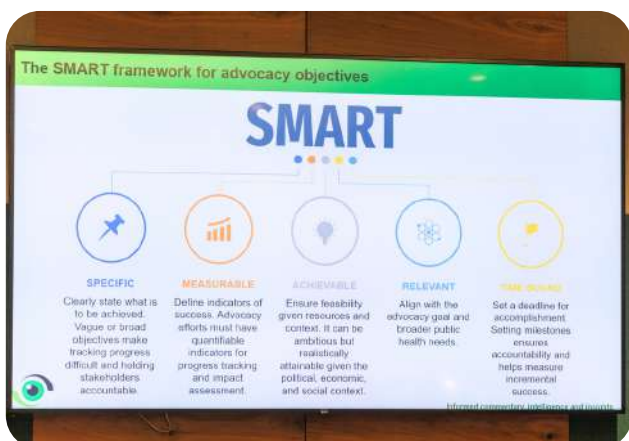




Effective Public Health Advocacy Training 27th February 2025

Civil society organisations (CSOs) and media organisations play a critical role in driving accountability, equity, and progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Recognising this critical role, Nigeria Health Watch convened a one-day training on Effective Public Health Advocacy for CSOs and media on the 27th of February 2025, in Kigali, Rwanda.

The training involved 12 participants representing CSOs and media organisations from across the continent, with a particular focus on Ghana, Kenya, and Rwanda. The training aimed to build a more coordinated and effective advocacy community capable of influencing inclusive, sustainable health policies in Africa by enhancing participants’ understanding of advocacy planning, stakeholder engagement, evidence-informed messaging, and media collaboration.





Solutions Journalism Training with The Nation Newspaper 24th June 2025

On 24 June 2025, four team members facilitated a virtual Solutions Journalism training for selected staff of The Nation Newspaper. The training followed a request from Mr Joseph Jibueze, an editor at The Nation, who had previously participated in our Solutions Journalism Editors' masterclass at Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) in 2024.

Mr Jibueze was also among the five media leaders selected for targeted support to advance Solutions Journalism within their organisations. The session was designed to introduce core SoJo principles and support The Nation's internal plans to embed solutions-focused reporting. A total of 10 journalists participated. Engagements like this continue to strengthen our institutional capacity to deliver tailored training support, as requests from media organisations increase.





Solutions Journalism and Social Media Amplification Training at NAN 7 July 2025

On 7 July 2025, the Nigeria Health Watch team delivered a physical training at the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) focused on Solutions Journalism and the strategic use of social media for story amplification. The session engaged approximately 30 participants, emphasising how journalists can leverage digital platforms to extend the reach and impact of solutions stories.





Science Policy Communication Fellowship 10th July – 11th December 2025

To address the gap between the generation of public health research evidence and its translation to policies, Nigeria Health Watch designed and implemented the Science Policy Communication Fellowship, a structured capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening the ability of public health researchers and policy actors to communicate evidence effectively for policy influence.

The fellowship sought to promote the uptake of research evidence in health policy formulation and implementation by equipping researchers with the skills needed to communicate evidence to diverse audiences, including policy and public audiences. The fellowship brought together a cohort of 14 fellows from public and private research institutions across Nigeria.

Participants were trained on key aspects of science policy communication, including evidence translation, strategic messaging, media and stakeholder engagement. Through a combination of hybrid training sessions, mentorship, and a real-world capstone project, fellows developed communication products tailored to diverse audiences and gained practical skills for engaging policymakers, the media, and the public.





Solutions Journalism West Africa Fellowship 1 August - 1 November 2025

As part of the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative, supported by the Solutions Journalism Network (SJN), we organised a three-month fellowship to shift traditional problem-focused reporting by equipping journalists with tools to identify and amplify solutions. Selected from a pool of over 100 submissions across 10 West African countries, the fellows brought diverse expertise in news writing, radio production, digital storytelling, and health journalism.

Their work spanned broadcast, print, and digital media, with a strong focus on health, gender, governance, and other social issues. The fellowship began with a two-day, hands-on workshop in Abuja, followed by expert mentorship and editorial support. Each fellow produced and published two in-depth, solutions-focused health stories, focusing on maternal health, sexual and reproductive rights, immunisation, and vaccination efforts within their local communities.





FRCN Solutions Journalism and Radio Production Training September 16th - 19th 2025

In September 2025, we conducted a four-day Solutions Journalism and radio production training for staff of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) as part of the Solutions Journalism Project. The training focused on strengthening their capacity for producing a weekly radio magazine programme. A total of 10 reporters, producers, and editors participated, gaining hands-on skills in solutions-focused radio production, editorial planning, and programme sustainability. The training led to the launch of a weekly solutions-focused programme called 'Who Dey Work', aired from the national headquarters and disseminated to other sub-stations across the country.





GAIN and Nigeria Health Watch Nutrition and Food Systems Capacity Strengthening Training 7th - 8th October 2025

The GAIN–Nigeria Health Watch Nutrition and Food Systems Capacity Strengthening training in Abuja equipped journalists with the skills to report accurately, ethically, and effectively on nutrition. It strengthened understanding of complex nutrition issues, improved data-driven and solutions-oriented reporting, and addressed misinformation while fostering collaboration between media and nutrition stakeholders. Through expert sessions and field visits to Kado Market, IITA, and Mabushi Primary Health Care Centre, participants connected policy discussions to real-world challenges and developed human-centred story ideas.

The second day focused on practical reporting skills, including identifying strong story angles, interpreting key data sources, and applying solutions journalism. Participants also explored AI and digital tools for research, fact-checking, and content development, with an emphasis on accuracy and ethics. Assessments showed strong progress, with average scores rising from 76% to 89%, and all participants reporting high confidence in applying their new skills, particularly in data storytelling, misinformation detection, and the responsible use of AI tools.





Solutions Journalism Field Trip in Enugu and Ebonyi States on Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting 24th - 28th November 2025

Nigeria Health Watch, in partnership with MSI Nigeria Reproductive Choices, implemented another phase of a five-day Solutions Journalism (SoJo) field trip and capacity-building workshop focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) reporting. The workshop convened 40 participants, including senior Ministry of Health officials, PHCDA representatives, and members of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ).

18 journalists from print, broadcast, and digital media across Southern Nigeria participated in the training. Sessions were facilitated by members of the Nigeria Health Watch team and the MSI Nigeria team. Journalists also undertook guided field visits to selected primary health facilities in Enugu and Ebonyi States. The field trip trained 18 journalists in Solutions Journalism methodologies for SRHR reporting.





Global Digital Health Forum (GDHF) 3rd - 5th December 2025

Nigeria Health Watch participated in the Global Digital Health Forum (GDHF) 2025, held from 3 to 5 December 2025 as a hybrid convening in Nairobi, Kenya, and online. GDHF is a leading global platform advancing equitable, locally led digital health solutions in low- and middle-income countries by bringing together governments, development partners, researchers, civil society, and technology innovators. Represented by Solomon Oladimeji (Senior Manager, M&E) and Sunday Oko (Programme Coordinator), Nigeria Health Watch facilitated a 60-minute interactive workshop titled “Combating Health Infodemics: Leveraging Digital Systems for Community-Owned Solutions.”

The session was designed to strengthen participants’ capacity to understand digital approaches to addressing health misinformation, identify relevant tools such as social listening and community reporting platforms, and collaboratively analyse real-world misinformation scenarios. Through practical demonstrations and group discussions, participants developed context-appropriate, community-owned digital responses and outlined actionable next steps to strengthen digital health communication within their organisations.

The workshop engaged 17 participants and resulted in improved understanding of infodemic management, enhanced peer learning across countries, and increased visibility for locally driven digital innovations. Insights from the Forum will inform Nigeria Health Watch’s ongoing work on digital health communication, partnerships, and misinformation response.

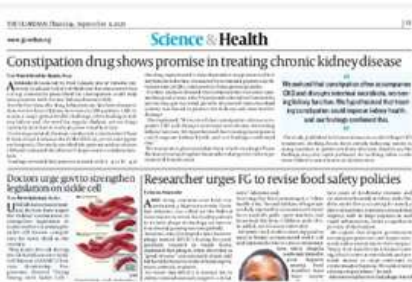




Communications & Visibility Metrics

AUDIENCE GROWTH METRICS

Media mentions (Nigeria Health Watch in the news):





Nigeria Health Watch on the Radio

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH
92.9FM

**FROM POLICY TO IMPACT:
ADVANCING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN KADUNA STATE**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Starts 1:00 PM

Safiya Shuaibu Isa
Deputy Director, Advocacy and Partnerships
Nigeria Health Watch

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH 2025

**Celebrating Womanhood
Art Gala**

Thursday, March 27, 2025
5:30 PM

Nigeria Info
Let's Talk! 95.1 FM

Christopher Bassey
Programme & Event Manager
Nigeria Health Watch

Adanna Opara
Programme Manager
Nigeria Health Watch

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

**Amplifying Voices:
Art and Community Dialogue
for PHC Accountability**

Friday, 21st February 2025
2:00PM

Safiya Shuaibu Isa
Deputy Director, Advocacy and Partnerships
Nigeria Health Watch

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

Nigeria Info
Let's Talk! 95.1 FM

FAMILY PLANNING BUDGET Slashed By **97%**
Why Nigeria Must Act Now!

With **Yemi Jamal Bakare**
Executive Director, Advocacy and Partnerships
Nigeria Health Watch

Time to **LIVE (It's on!)**

Time 05:30 PM
Friday 27 June, 2025

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

Amplifying Citizens' Voices and Promoting Accountability for Better Health Outcomes

30th January, 2025 10:00AM

Wagdyan
99.5 FM

AARON BAWALA
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

**Combating Mpox Misinformation:
The Community's Role**

Tuesday March 11, 2025
3:00 PM

Sunday Olo
Programme Officer
Nigeria Health Watch

Aaron Bawala
Community Engagement Coordinator
Nigeria Health Watch



Nigeria Health Watch on Television

ITS IMPACTS ON HEALTH

Friday 7th March 2025
Starts 9:00 AM

NFA
NTA ABAKALIKI
Channel 43

Abara Erim

**"EQUITY IN MATERNAL HEALTHCARE:
LEAVING NO MOTHER BEHIND"**

Friday April 11, 2025
Starts 7:30 AM

NFA
NTA NETWORK ABUJA

DStv

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY

UNAFFORDABLE HEALTH COSTS? WE'RE SICK OF IT!

LIVE ON

DStv CH. 251, 419
GOTV CH. 26
StarTimes CH. 101



Nigeria Health Watch Online WEBINARS

Accelerating Implementation Of Nigeria's Four-Point Agenda For Health Sector Transformation

Date: 14th January 2025

Nigeria Health Watch hosted a webinar titled "Accelerating Implementation of Nigeria's Four-Point Agenda for Health Sector Transformation." This session will bring together policymakers, health experts, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for advancing Nigeria's health sector reforms, ensuring stronger systems, improved service delivery, and sustainable health outcomes across the country.



ECOWAS Research And Development Lassa Fever Webinar Series

Date: 11th March 2025

In collaboration with WAHO, Nigeria Health Watch hosted a webinar themed "Strengthening Community-based Research for Lassa Fever Prevention and Control." This session brought together experts and partners to explore how community-driven research can improve surveillance, early detection, and response efforts, while strengthening local capacity to prevent and control Lassa fever across West Africa.



Re-Imagining Health Financing In Africa

Date: 8th April 2025

In collaboration with Willow Health Media, Nigeria Health Watch hosted a webinar titled "Re-imagining Health Financing in Africa." This session convened key stakeholders to discuss innovative and sustainable financing approaches, with a focus on strengthening health systems, improving access to care, and ensuring long-term resilience across the continent.





Networked Approaches To Combating Health Information Disorder

Date: 15th May 2025

In collaboration with NCDC and Ghana Health Service, we hosted a webinar titled "Networked Approaches to Combating Health Information Disorder." This session brought together public health institutions and communication experts to explore coordinated strategies to address misinformation and strengthen trusted health information systems.



ECOWAS Research And Development Lassa Fever Webinar Series

Date: 26th June 2025

In collaboration with WAHO, we hosted a session themed "Strengthening Medical Countermeasure R&D Coordination for Emerging Infectious Diseases: Applications of the Lassa Vaccine Coalition." This webinar convened key stakeholders to discuss the importance of coordinated research efforts and partnerships in accelerating vaccine development and strengthening epidemic preparedness.



Evidence-Based Frameworks For Networked Infodemic Management

Date: 8th July 2025

We hosted a webinar titled "Evidence-Based Frameworks for Networked Infodemic Management." This session brought together experts and practitioners to explore data-driven approaches and practical tools for managing infodemics and strengthening the credibility of health information ecosystems.





Investing In Health In A Limited Fiscal Space

Date: 29th October 2025

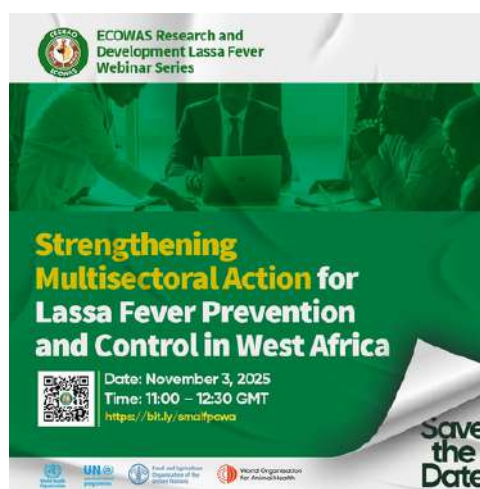
In collaboration with Premium Times and Punch, we hosted a webinar titled "Investing in Health in a Limited Fiscal Space." This session convened policymakers, media, and health experts to discuss how to prioritise and optimise health investments in the face of constrained financial resources.



ECOWAS Research And Development Lassa Fever Webinar Series

Date: 3rd November 2025

In collaboration with WAHO, we hosted a session themed "Strengthening Multisectoral Action for Lassa Fever Prevention and Control in West Africa." This webinar brought together stakeholders across sectors to discuss coordinated approaches to improving prevention, preparedness, and response efforts in the region.



Health Misinformation Management Fellowship Graduation Ceremony Webinar

Date: 10th December 2025

Following weeks of intensive training and engagement, we hosted the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship Graduation Ceremony Webinar. This session celebrated the achievements of fellows while highlighting their role in addressing health misinformation and strengthening public health communication in their respective communities.





Science–Policy Communication Fellowship Graduation Ceremony Webinar Date: 11th December 2025

We hosted the Science–Policy Communication Fellowship Graduation Ceremony Webinar to mark the completion of the programme. This session highlighted the fellows’ work in bridging the gap between research and policy, and their contributions to strengthening evidence-informed decision-making.



Plain Language For Clear And Effective Health Communication Date: 15th December 2025

In collaboration with Clear Global, we hosted a webinar titled "Plain Language for Clear and Effective Health Communication." This session brought together health communicators and stakeholders to explore how simplifying complex health information can improve public understanding, build trust, and enhance engagement.





X Spaces



Debunking Myths And Misconceptions On Voluntary Blood Donation Date: 13th June 2025

We hosted the Science–Policy Communication Fellowship Graduation Ceremony Webinar to mark the completion of the programme. This session highlighted the fellows’ work in bridging the gap between research and policy, and their contributions to strengthening evidence-informed decision-making.



Exclusive Breastfeeding: What’s Holding Us Back? Date: 7th August 2025

We hosted a Twitter Space titled "Exclusive Breastfeeding: What’s Holding Us Back?" This session brought together health experts and stakeholders to explore the barriers to exclusive breastfeeding, while highlighting practical solutions to improve awareness, support mothers, and strengthen policies that promote optimal infant nutrition and health outcomes.

Counterfeit Medicines: How Fake Drugs Drive Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Date: 25th September 2025



We hosted a Twitter Space titled "Counterfeit Medicines: How Fake Drugs Drive Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)." This session brought together experts and stakeholders to examine how the proliferation of fake and substandard medicines contributes to AMR, while highlighting the urgent need for stronger regulation, public awareness, and coordinated action to protect public health.



Social Media Numbers

Twitter



- 2020: 95,074
- 2021: 98,721
- 2022: 112,090
- 2023: 120,017
- 2024: 124,640
- 2025: 126,583

Facebook



- 2020: 55,887
- 2021: 52,869
- 2022: 60,024
- 2023: 64,814
- 2024: 65,231
- 2025: 62,000

Instagram



- 2021: 7,194
- 2022: 7,343
- 2023: 7,681
- 2024: 8,128
- 2025: 9,047

LinkedIn



- 2022: 8,237
- 2023: 10,561
- 2024: 13,709
- 2025: 20,232

YouTube



- 2021: 2,961
- 2022: 77,99
- 2023: 35,500
- 2024: 58,000
- 2025: 79,754



Communications Support

01

Leadership Programme for Women in Oncology (LPWO) Event
(Thursday, 23 January 2025)

02

Health Federation of Nigeria (HFN) Annual Conference 2025 – Expanding Access to Quality Healthcare
(Thursday, 27 February 2025)

03

The Banking on Women’s Health Conference 2025
(Saturday, 3 May 2025)

04

One-day Maternal Health Quality Improvement Summit
(Thursday, 15 May 2025)

05

The World Health Exhibition (WHX Lagos)
(Monday, 2 to Thursday, 4 June 2025)

06

The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority, NPIDemoDay 3.0
(Saturday, 2 August 2025)

07

The 7th edition of the National Council on AIDS (NCA)
(Tuesday, 5 to Thursday, 7 August 2025)

08

National Health Financing Policy Dialogue to Promote Sustainable, Inclusive Health Financing
(Monday, 1 to Thursday, 4 September 2025)

09

First National Stakeholders’ Dialogue on Power in the Health Sector
(Monday, 8 to Wednesday, 10 September 2025)

**10**

The ECOWAS Lassa Fever International Conference in Abidjan
(Monday, 8 September - Thursday, 11th September 2025)

11

The RenewHER Gala & Awards Night
(Thursday, 11 September 2025)

12

The Big Push Against Malaria Nigeria Launch
(Thursday, 11 to Friday, 12 September 2025)

13

The International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)
(Thursday, 6 November 2025)

14

The Joint Annual Review (JAR) 2025
(Thursday, 13 November 2025)

15

The 66th National Council on Health (NCH)
(Tuesday, 18 November 2025)

16

The 2025 World AIDS Day: "Overcoming Disruptions: Sustaining Nigeria's HIV Response".
(Monday, 1 December 2025)

17

Immunisation Financing Champions Summit on Strengthening Primary Health Care
and Domestic Resource Mobilisation
(Monday, 8 December 2025)

18

The 2025 National Blood Donor Day Commemoration
(Monday, 8 to Tuesday, 9 December 2025)

19

The World Health Expo Leaders' Summit in Accra
(Tuesday, 9 to Friday, 12 December 2025)



Strategic Partnerships & Collaborations

Partnerships & Collaborations



Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMHSW)

The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare remains a key stakeholder for Nigeria Health Watch and provides strategic leadership for the health sector that underpins our work. In 2025, Nigeria Health Watch collaborated with FMHSW to amplify and drive conversations around key health reforms implemented by the ministry, its departments, and agencies, leveraging the ministry's high-level forums, including the National Council on Health (NCH) and the Joint Annual Review (JAR).



Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC)

Nigeria Health Watch provided technical support to NCDC on risk communication, community engagement, and infodemic management through active membership in national technical working groups, including Lassa fever, Cholera and yellow fever; delivery of a collaborative learning workshop in collaboration with the Ghana Health Service; implementation of the Lagos infodemic management workshop; and dissemination of insights to strengthen public health communication on infectious diseases in Nigeria.



EngenderHealth

Nigeria Health Watch signed an MoU with EngenderHealth to strengthen health policy advocacy, accountability, and evidence-informed decision-making at national and sub-national levels. In 2025, the collaboration supported the Open Kaduna Health Sector Dialogue and a joint leadership dialogue on strengthening primary healthcare systems, while advancing stakeholder engagement, budget advocacy, and tracking of commitments to address systemic health system gaps.



Amref Health Africa

Nigeria Health Watch partnered with Amref Health Africa as a technical and media partner for AHAIC 2025, hosting a side event on public health self-sufficiency, producing interviews and a podcast with Amref's leadership, and delivering strategic pre-, during-, and post-conference media amplification across regional platforms.



Africa Health Business (AHB)

Nigeria Health Watch partnered with the Kenyan-based Africa Health Business (AHB) to drive advocacy, awareness, and engagement around Africa's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) targets, culminating in the delivery of AHB's annual symposium in Nigeria, titled "Leveraging Innovation to Advance Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria."



Informa Markets

In June 2025, Nigeria Health Watch, in collaboration with the NCDC, DRASA Health Trust, and Ducit Blue Solutions, organised a workshop at WHXLagos, hosted by Informa Market, to facilitate private sector participation in Nigeria's response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a key gap identified in Nigeria's National Action Plan on AMR.



GAIN Nigeria

In partnership with GAIN Nigeria, Nigeria Health Watch delivered nutrition reporting training for journalists, combining classroom learning and field visits to strengthen accurate, evidence-based reporting on food systems, nutrition policy, and advocacy.



World Health Summit

Nigeria Health Watch co-hosted a VIP Roundtable with the World Health Summit on equitable climate and health financing, convening high-level stakeholders to bridge local evidence and global financing discussions, and producing a Call to Action and policy-relevant insights to inform COP30 conversations.



ONE Campaign

Nigeria Health Watch partnered with the ONE Campaign on the Solutions Journalism Africa Summit to promote solutions-focused storytelling, strengthen cross-border collaboration, and reposition African journalists as thought leaders shaping evidence-based narratives on development and social progress.

Following the partnership, both organisations commemorated Universal Coverage Day on December 12th, marked by community engagement and sensitisation activities during an outreach at a primary health centre in Abuja, in line with the #KnowYourPHC Campaign implemented by Nigeria Health Watch



Africa CDC (CPHIA 2025)

Nigeria Health Watch collaborated with Africa CDC as a media partner for the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2025 to amplify conference conversations and insights in real time.



International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP)

Nigeria Health Watch served as an official media partner for the International Conference on Family Planning, delivering comprehensive conference coverage, contributing to thought leadership on reproductive equity, engaging stakeholders through an exhibition booth, and amplifying local perspectives on global SRHR platforms. The support also extended to supporting the conference's media lab by training and mentoring journalists on solutions-focused coverage of the conference.



Axum Earth

Nigeria Health Watch partnered with Axum Earth through a Memorandum of Understanding to advance health system resilience and evidence-based policy advocacy by combining Earth Observation data with strategic storytelling. The partnership included Axum's contribution to the regional roundtable in Kenya on domestic health financing, where Edwin Macharia, Global Managing Partner and Co-founder, delivered the keynote, highlighting declining donor aid and the role of health taxes in strengthening sustainable, domestically financed health systems in Africa.



Final Words

Vivianne Ihekweazu

Managing Director
Nigeria Health Watch



The year ahead will test whether recent reforms in Nigeria's health sector translate into consistent delivery. As political and economic pressures intensify, keeping health at the centre of national priorities will require discipline, transparency, and follow-through.

Primary health care must remain the foundation of the system. Infrastructure, financing, and policy reform will only matter if they result in staffed, functional facilities delivering quality care close to communities. At the same time, health financing reforms must move beyond intent to enforcement through predictable domestic funding, expanded insurance coverage, and clearer accountability for results.

In a more uncertain global environment, Nigeria's health security will depend on strong national institutions, timely data, and effective coordination across sectors and borders. Progress along the health value chain must also continue, supporting local production and reducing dependence on external systems.

Nigeria Health Watch will remain focused on tracking implementation, convening critical conversations, and amplifying citizen voices. The choices made in 2026 will determine whether hard-won gains endure. Health must remain a national priority because lives cannot wait for the next political cycle.



Partners



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Federal Republic of Nigeria



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