

MAKING PEOPLE HEALTHIER



<https://www.afro.who.int/countries/nigeria>

Breast cancer survivor preaches routine screening



Gloria Orji was 35 years old when she was diagnosed with stage 2 breast cancer in June 2010.

As an unmarried young woman in her prime, she was devastated because she thought she had her life planned out but finding out she had breast cancer was certainly not a part of her plans.

"I felt shattered and asked the doctor how long I had to live, and he answered who said you will die?" she says, recalling the day she received her result.

Today, she has every reason to be grateful as she is still alive, living healthy, and got married in 2021.

She recounted detecting a lump in her breast during self-examination and informed a friend, who advised her to visit the hospital for a medical check.

"I underwent a biopsy, and cancerous cells were found in the breast tissue sample. I was then referred to National Hospital, Abuja for treatment," she says.

In her message to commemorate the 2023 event, WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, says approximately 1.1 million new cancer cases occur each year in Africa, with about 700,000 deaths.

According to her, data estimates show a considerable increase in cancer mortality to nearly one million deaths per year by 2030 without urgent and bold interventions. She called on Governments to develop/update national cancer control plans, provide sustainable financing, incorporate cancer care into essential benefits packages and national health insurance systems and invest in cancer registration.

Meanwhile, in Nigeria, WHO, with funding from the Susan Thompson Buffet Foundation, provides catalytic support to five states (Anambra, Ondo, Kebbi, Niger and Ekiti) to enable routine cervical cancer secondary prevention services across primary healthcare facilities, to reach up to 5,000 women per state.

[Read more](#)

The 12th Joint Operations Review on humanitarian support to North-east begins in Borno state

The 12th Joint Operations Review (JOR) on humanitarian support to the northeast commenced on 6 February 2023, in Maiduguri, Borno State.

The 3-day meeting (6-8 February) is the 12th in a series of its kind, since the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2016, declared the humanitarian situation in the northeast at grade 3, owing to its gravity and impact on public health that put intense pressure on healthcare services in the affected communities.

The WR reaffirms WHO's commitment to continue providing the critical leadership and coordination of the health sector partners to provide healthcare services to the population across of the three states, as well as strengthen the capacities of healthcare workers to quality health services to the underserved and vulnerable communities in the region.

Dr Mulombo stresses that the JOR will help identify opportunities and pilot ways to incorporate the recommendations from the Lake-Chad conference which focuses on stabilization, localization, and resilience processes, into the humanitarian response.

Grade 3, is WHO's highest emergency response level in terms of emergency interventions.

The affected states are Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (tagged BAY States). The humanitarian crisis in the BAY States remains protracted, with an estimated eight million people at risk of displacement, impoverishment and threats of violence.

WHO and its partners have been implementing operational plans to ensure the provision of quality health services to populations at risk.



[Read More](#)

In Nigeria, boosting viral hepatitis awareness and treatment



Boosting viral hepatitis awareness and treatment in Nigeria

"I was very scared, Titilope recalls, describing the horrors she read online about the disease. I thought it was a death sentence."

Four months before her wedding and on the eve of starting a new job, Dada Titilope went in for a routine medical check. It was then that the 36-year-old resident of Ile-Ife Osun State in Southwestern Nigeria discovered that she had hepatitis B.

"I was very scared," Titilope recalls, describing the horrors she read online about the disease. "I thought it was a death sentence." She considered calling off the wedding. But her fiancé and family wouldn't hear of it, encouraging her instead to focus on staying well.

"The doctors were able to calm me down," she recalls. "I had to start treatment as soon as possible."

Hepatitis B infection (HBV) is preventable and treatable, and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is now curable. Yet more than 90% of those living with hepatitis B and C in Africa lack much-needed care.

In Africa, including Nigeria, hepatitis is a silent epidemic. More than 90 million people are living with hepatitis in the Region, accounting for 26% of the global total. Nigeria has a prevalence rate of 8.1 and 1.1% for HBV and HCV among adult aged 15-64 years respectively according to the Nigeria HIV-AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey, 2018 (NAIIS 2018).

[Read More](#)

In Nigeria, stakeholders are not lowering their guards against all forms of poliovirus



Baba Safejo Amogbon with the vaccinators in front of his compound

Alhaji Safejo Amogbon (fondly called Baba – Father in the Yoruba language) is an octogenarian (89 years). notwithstanding his age, he still mobilizes people in his community (Surulere-Safejo, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State) to present their children for vaccination.

He is one of the community's pillars of support on health and education, and he leverages his years of experience to educate parents about the importance of vaccination, especially against poliovirus.

"I have seen people crippled by the poliovirus. It is a great relief that the disease has been eradicated. We need to continue vaccinating our children so that the disease does not come back.

It is good for the elders and traditional leaders to draw from their years of experience and get involved in raising awareness about the importance of immunization activities to younger people," he says.

Knowing the significance of vaccination, Baba Amogbon had offered a section of his compound to house a Health Care Centre (Basiri Health Centre) for 13 years before it was moved to its permanent site.



Vaccinator finger-marking a vaccinated child

[Read More](#)

Prevention is better than cure – Bayelsa state vaccinates residents against Yellow fever



The vaccination team taking commodities to hard to reach riverine area in Bayelsa State

It was between 11 am and noon on a recent Wednesday when health workers with their Geostyle boxes filled with the Yellow fever (YF) vaccines got to Kpansia area of Yenagoa Local Government Area (LGA), Bayelsa State.

Having lost a sibling to YF in 1996, Tarekebi Ebi-Jones, a 40-year-old single mother of two was waiting patiently for her turn to get her children vaccinated against the disease.

"I first heard of Yellow fever in late 1996 when my younger sister suddenly developed yellow eyes and a high fever.

It was a difficult time for my family as my parents took her to a patent medicine vendor, who prescribed some drugs, but she soon went into seizures, and subsequently coma, before she died.

As I grew older, I got to know that YF is preventable through immunization. We must ensure that we are vaccinated against it. And that is why I was going round to invite other mothers to bring their children out for this vaccination", she says.

[Read More](#)

WHO scales up emergency response to reach displaced vulnerable populations in north-east Nigeria

Raising from the recently concluded 12th Joint Operations Review (JOR) on humanitarian support in the northeast, the World Health Organization (WHO) is widening its emergency health response to reach displaced vulnerable populations in the region.

Already, the agency leads international action to expand universal health coverage and coordinates health emergency responses globally.



Breakout session

In Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states (BAY), WHO has been supporting the government of Nigeria to resolve health challenges, stemming from the humanitarian crisis in the region. The JOR is a biannual evaluation of the health emergency response programmes in the BAY states since WHO declared the humanitarian situation in the northeast at grade 3, owing to its gravity and impact on public health that put intense pressure on healthcare services in the affected communities.



In-depth discussion and brainstorming session with key stakeholders

Experts accede to Nigeria's progress, highlight areas of focus for maintaining polio-free status



Child being vaccinated with oral polio vaccine

The 39th Expert Review Committee (ERC) for Polio Eradication and Routine Immunization has expressed optimism that the Nigerian programme is on course to stop the transmission of the circulating Variant Polio Virus (cVPV2) with 'impressive progress' recorded.

The ERC meets periodically to evaluate progress toward the attainment of a polio-free Nigeria. The monitoring body comprising global and local experts on polio eradication guides the government and partners on how they can interrupt the residual risk of all forms of poliovirus and boost routine immunization in the country.

At the end of the 2-day meeting (07-08 February, 2022), the ERC commended Nigeria. "Everyone has demonstrated commitment and leadership towards quality coverage. For the past 5-weeks, we have not recorded any cVPV2.

If we continue this trajectory then the end of cVDPV2 is in sight," says Prof. Akin Osibogun, the Chairman of ERC'.

Recall that Nigeria was declared wild poliovirus free in 2020. However, the circulating Variant Polio Virus2 (cVPV2) strain transmission continues. In 2022 alone, Nigeria reported 168 cases. To further strengthen the fight against cVPV2, the Coordinator for Polio Eradication Programme from the WHO Regional Office for Africa, Dr Jamal Ahmed, says that work is still cut out for the country in the northwest zone which has persistently presented with breakthrough transmission of cVPV2 cases despite several rounds of novel Oral Polio Vaccines type 2 (nOPV2)

[Read more](#)

Social Media




Reach **81831**
New Followers **2427**




Reach **112000**
New Followers **1162**



Reach **7978**
New Followers **1319**



114,313,109
doses of COVID-19 vaccines



COVAX
CEPI **Gavi** The Vaccine Alliance
OPS **unicef** **World Health Organization**

CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DAYS 2023 **FEBRUARY**

- 4 World Cancer Day
- 6 International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 11 World Day of the Sick
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 First COVID-19 case in Africa (Egypt)
- 25 First COVID-19 case in WHO African Region

GALLERY



A group photograph with Dr Ahmed Jamal (Programme Coordinator PEP AFRO), WHO Nigeria PEP cluster and Operations Team



Meeting with Dr Ahmed Jamal (Programme Coordinator PEP AFRO), WHO Nigeria PEP cluster and Operations Team

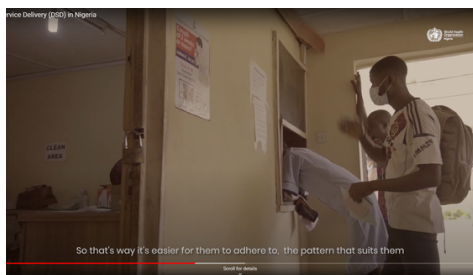


Dr Vivas Claudia giving a goodwill message at the Northern Traditional Leaders' Committee on PHC Delivery



Stakeholders at the Northern Traditional Leaders' Committee on PHC Delivery

MEDIA



Nigeria adopted Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) in 2016 and, in 2017, streamlined 14 models of care, which are currently implemented in 36 states +FCT.

Watch the video for more...

We appreciate our partners



Birthdays/Social Events

We celebrate all our colleagues born in the month of February, this is to wish you a happy and blessed birthday.

Editor-in-chief

Dr. Walter Kazadi MULOMBO

Editor

Charity WARIGON

Contributors

Dr. Sodipo Olutomi YEWANDE

Dr. Loveday NKWOGU

Graphics Design/Photography

Eromosele OGBEIDE

Dr. Mary DEWAN

Dr. Muraguri BEATRICE

Dr. Anne Jean BAPTISTE

Dr. Akinola FATIREGUN

Dr. Odunlade OLUWAFUNKE

Dr. Balami Kumshida YAKUBU

Dr. Kofi BOATENG

Documentation Team

Mrs Kulchumi HAMMANYERO

Ayodamola OWOSEYE

Chimaobi OCHEMBA

Kingsley ICWEBUIKE



whonigeria

World Health Organization, United Nations House Plot 617/618, Diplomatic Drive. Central Business District

+234 9 4628900

afwcongregistry@who.int