

ASWHAN NEWSLETTER

July to October, 2024



WWW.ASWHANWOMEN.ORG



Inauguration of National PMTCT & Pediatric ART Acceleration Plan Committee

The Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN) as a key player in the HIV Response that advocates for Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV represented by the National Coordinator is a member of this committee chaired by the Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare. This committee is tasked with the responsibility of ending the prevalence of pediatric HIV in Nigeria as a contribution to achieving the global 2030 target.



The Chairperson Governors' Spouses Forum, the DG NACA and the National Coordinator



Faces of women that have made impacts in their various capacities in the HIV response



Dr James Anenih Director CPC&S NACA, Esther Hindi NC ASWHAN and Dr Leopold Zekeng Country Rep UNAIDS Nigeria



Representatives of PEPFAR, CCM , MDAs and Civil Society Organizations from Nigeria at the IAS

The National Coordinator, Esther Hindi sponsored by National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) attended the 25th International AIDS Conference 2024 in Munchen, Germany which called on the Global HIV Response to unite behind a simple principle: **Put people first**. The conference aimed at building and strengthening capacities of individuals and CSOs in the HIV Response through presentation of best practices, collaboration from various countries across the globe and other relevant sessions.



The NC ASWHAN & the Executive Director UNAIDS Winifred Byanyima



The National Coordinator as a Panelist during a session



**The NC and Sharon Lewin
The President IAS 2024**



Gombe State

UNITED FOR PREVENTION (U4P)

After the launch of the HIV Prevention 2025 Road Map, Frontline AIDS supported 126 organisations in 10 countries (including Nigeria) to play an active role in supporting their government to develop national Road Maps and holding governments accountable for national and global commitments on HIV prevention.

In Nigeria, a coalition of 10 organisations was formed with one of its key targets Prompting the NHRC to publish disaggregated human rights violation data regularly, providing specific information on the people and communities most affected by HIV, and collaborate on anti-stigma programmes, particularly targeting key populations.

ASWHAN as a lead coalition member in six states: Gombe, Lagos, Rivers, Benue, Enugu and Nasarawa with other coalition members in those states; DRHAN, JAAIDS, COSWRIM, MSMTG and LAMECON paid advocacy visits to the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) state coordinators.

This was followed with a Round table meeting with relevant stakeholders in each states to discuss barriers and possible recommendations on addressing issues of violations against KPs and PLHIV, proper engagement and collaboration of NHRC with the community which include the integration of key population and Persons living with HIV in the multi-stakeholders monitoring team in the GHR intervention under the GC7.



Enugu State



Lagos State



Rivers State



Nasarawa State



Benue State



WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK 2024

ASWHAN celebrated World Breastfeeding Week with funding support from Love Alliance through GNP+ under the Last Mile: Children of Structurally Silenced Women grant. This year's theme, "Breastfeeding support for Structurally Silenced Women," highlighted the importance of providing resources and assistance to women facing unique challenges in breastfeeding. The organisation's activities aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding and provide crucial support to this underserved population.

"Structurally silenced" women face intersecting challenges, including those living with HIV/AIDS, women in rural communities, those experiencing poverty or displacement, and others whose voices are often unheard. These women may encounter significant obstacles to successful breastfeeding, such as limited access to information, healthcare services, and social support. Stigma and discrimination can further isolate them and hinder their ability to make informed choices about infant feeding and ASWHAN aimed to bridge such existing gaps.

The Breastfeeding Week also served as a medium to educate traditional rulers and community heads, who were represented, on the importance of breastfeeding and raised awareness within the targeted population.



Stakeholders at the Event



Participants



Tajudeen Ibrahim Olaitan
Executive Secretary,
CCM



Esther Ikomi
Deputy Director,
NACA



Peer-to-peer Northern Training

ASWHAN with funding and technical support from UN WOMEN and UNAIDS, held a 3-day Training of Trainers workshop from August 15th to 18th, 2024. The training brought together 47 Peer educators representing support groups across six northern states: Kwara, Kaduna, Kebbi, Taraba, Gombe and the Federal Capital Territory. This intensive TOT focused on building the capacity of peer educators, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to effectively support other members of the support group using a comprehensive toolkit, designed to cover a diverse range of topics over 52 weeks. The peer educators through the toolkit are able to help empower over 600 women living with HIV in Northern and Southern zones to amplify their voices, develop resilience, and contribute more purposefully in the larger world scale.



Patience Ekeoba
Nat. Programme Officer,
UN Women



Stakeholders and Partners





Peer-to-peer Southern Training

Following the Northern training, a second phase of the peer-to-peer training was held in Asaba the capital of Delta state with participants drawn from six states: Rivers, Abia, Imo, Osun and Lagos and Delta in the Southern Zone. The TOT was held as a means to strengthen the capacity of women in the support groups.



Okpohworho Faith
Director Women Development & Gender Affairs, Delta State





Participants during Energizer





Stakeholders accessing the flood crisis in Borno state

On the 10th of September, Borno State faced flooding after the collapse of the Alau Dam.

A team of stakeholders in the HIV Response including the National Coordinators of NEPWHAN and ASWHAN visited Maiduguri the state capital to access the flood and its effects on the lives of persons living with HIV especially on access to treatment as health facilities were affected by the flood.





stakeholders and Mentor-mothers in Maiduguri

