

ASWHAN NEWSLETTER

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ASWHAN Elects New Leadership and Embarks on Groundbreaking Initiatives

The Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN) has ushered in a new era of leadership and advocacy for women affected by HIV/AIDS. On June 8, 2023, ASWHAN, with the generous support of UN Women, held its first election in eight years, resulting in Mrs. Esther Hindi taking the helm as the National Coordinator. Mrs. Hindi, a leader deeply invested in addressing the real needs of her community, secured both funding and technical assistance from UN Women to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment survey for women living with HIV in Nigeria.

Top News

ASWHAN leadership Transition
World AIDS Day Celebration
Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism





A LEADER WITH VISION

MRS. ESTHER HINDI

Inside The Issues

The survey, which garnered responses from over 1,000 participants, revealed critical issues faced by ASWHAN members, including poverty, gender-based violence, the burden of dependents, challenges faced by women with disabilities living with HIV, and mental health concerns. These insights have enabled ASWHAN to strategically tailor its project designs, as demonstrated by the CLAISE project. Funded by UN Women, the CLAISE project encompasses a range of interventions, such as economic empowerment initiatives, the creation of a peer-to-peer training toolkit for educators across various age groups, an advocacy toolkit to facilitate fundraising, mentorship programs, and mental health training.

Collaboration with HIV TrustFund





Advocacy to UNAIDS

In a significant move to strengthen partnerships, the National Coordinator and her team recently introduced the newly elected management board members to Dr. Leo Zekeng, the UNAIDS country representative, and his team. During this meeting, ASWHAN outlined its needs, emphasizing the importance of bolstering the organization's institutional capacity and member empowerment. Dr. Zekeng assured ASWHAN of UNAIDS' unwavering support, particularly in resource mobilization. This collaboration bore fruit in December 2023 when UNAIDS provided funding for ASWHAN's inaugural management board and staff meeting, along with two office laptops to enhance the organization's planning and program implementation capabilities.





World AIDS Day (UNAIDS)



Highlighting ASWHAN's impact, the National Coordinator represented the association at the UNAIDS World AIDS Day commemoration, where she presented on ASWHAN's significant contributions to the HIV response, its achievements and the ongoing challenges it faces.



World AIDS Day (Relevant Stakeholders at Candlelight procession)



**In Honour of OUR fallen
HEROINES**

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



The Story

In a powerful display of solidarity, ASWHAN joined forces with organizations representing women with disabilities and elderly women to host a symposium during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2023. Funded by UN Women, the event called upon the government to invest more in the gender-based violence response. Helen Aphan, ASWHAN's Assistant National Secretary, spoke intensely about how gender-based violence disproportionately affects women and girls living with HIV, highlighting issues such as stigma, discrimination, intimate partner violence, and the non-consensual disclosure of HIV status by employers.

The symposium also provided a platform for two ASWHAN members to share their harrowing experiences. One adolescent girl, a survivor of sexual gender-based violence who contracted HIV, moved the audience to tears with her story. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, along with other partners and individuals, pledged their support to empower her.

