



HELPING WOMEN THRIVE

Success Stories | Benue State | 2021



Real People. Real Stories. Real Change.

APIN Public Health Initiatives is a leading Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that works across Nigeria to improve health and change lives by addressing diseases of public health importance and mitigating their impact through collaboration and cutting-edge strategies in public health programming.

We work with relevant stakeholders in the government and Community-based organizations to empower communities, households and **women**.

Here are some inspiring stories of women whom we've empowered along the way.



Hasbunallahu

Village Savings and
Loan Association

Makurdi, Benue State

In Benue State, APIN Public Health Initiatives partners with Community-based Organizations (CBOs) such as First Step Action for Children Initiative, to support vulnerable individuals and households through the Orphans and Vulnerable Children programme within the PEPFAR-funded Improving Comprehensive AIDS Response for Sustainability (iCARES) grant.

Through our partner CBO, we supported the formation of the Hasbunallahu Village Savings and Loans Association in North bank, Makurdi, Benue State. The members are women who are encouraged to save small amounts of money and extend low-interest loans to each other. We monitor their progress, organize financial literacy trainings and link them to other income-generating opportunities.

The Hasbunallahu VSLA is one of our biggest successes and during the last savings cycle, they were able to save over 1 million naira.

"As the Chairperson, I led the group and we saved a large sum from our interest on loans given to the members. With help from First Step Action for Children, we used the money to buy bags of rice which we distributed amongst ourselves and sold them at a good profit. The profit was then divided into two parts - half for the members and half was returned to the group as interest from the business."

Personally, the group has helped me to improve my business. I got a loan from our VSLA and was able to get a refrigerator for my business and re-enroll my children in school."

- Aisha Ali, Businesswoman and Leader of
Hasbunallahu VSLA

North Bank, Makurdi, Benue State

Yonash

Training Centre

Makurdi, Benue State



A key component of our Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme is providing vocational skill training in tailoring, cobbling, hairdressing, poultry farming etc. to women and adolescent girls living with HIV or affected by HIV. The training is aimed at equipping them with skills to enable them achieve economic self-reliance and access basic health and social services.

Through our partner CBOs, we have extended vocational skills training to 8,000 women and 12,000 adolescent girls. Upon the completion of their training, we support them with start-up kits, some work equipment and/ or capital to start their own businesses.

Yonash Training Centre in Benue State is one of the vocational training institutes that we partner with to provide vocational skill training in tailoring.

"The training has relieved my mind from always wandering about with bad thoughts because I am always engaged with learning and practicing. This has kept me very busy and I go home tired. I am happy leaving the house every day."

- Esther Tyowua, Trainee at Yonash Training Centre
Makurdi, Benue State



Mimidoo's Story

Akpehe, Makurdi, Benue State

We first met Mimidoo's family when her 1 year, four month old daughter was enrolled into our OVC programme as an HIV-exposed Infant. Her daughter was soon found to be HIV-positive and was placed on antiretroviral therapy at one of the APIN-supported facilities in Makurdi, Benue State.

During a house visit conducted by our partner CBO, Integrated Health Programme (IHP), the family was found to be in severe economic hardship. Mimidoo's husband was critically ill and they could barely afford food.

APIN and IHP supported the family by providing a Conditional Cash Transfer to help Mimidoo start a Charcoal business. Through this business, she has been able to afford food for her family and they are adhering well to their treatment.

"I no know how I go follow thank una for wetin una do for me. Na only God go bless una for APIN. My pikin for don die since if say una no come help us; even my husband wey no fit waka, una follow treat am.

Say we dey chop na the support wey una give me to sell charcoal. The charcoal been dey sell well-well until some of our neighbours come follow me dey sell am, so I come add am minerals and cake and the thing help us dey get money to chop".

- Mimidoo Joseph, Housewife & Charcoal Seller
Akpehe, Makurdi, Benue State

