

## Launch of the National Clinical Mentorship Programme in Abuja



The Honourable Minister of State for Health, Dr. Adeleke Olorunnimbe Mamora, representing the Honourable Minister of Health, and the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard officially launched the National Clinical Mentorship Programme in Nigeria. The programme

domiciled in the National AIDS, STIs and Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NASCP) aims to provide hands-on mentoring and training for frontline health workers to enable them deliver high-quality HIV services to People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Ahead of the launch, a national Training of Trainers



was held for the Master Trainers who would in turn train other Clinical Mentors in their respective states. The training of State Clinical Mentors is already underway and the cohort

trainings in Benue, Abia and Lagos have been completed. APIN through its Health System Strengthening program has and will continue to support the NCMP trainings and activities.

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**Courtesy Visit to the Federal Ministry of Health**

**Rewarding Good Behaviour at ECWA Comprehensive Center, Bukuru**

**Joint Federal and State MWASD Supportive Supervision in Benue State**

**APIN Hosts NASCP Stakeholders' Meeting in Lagos State**

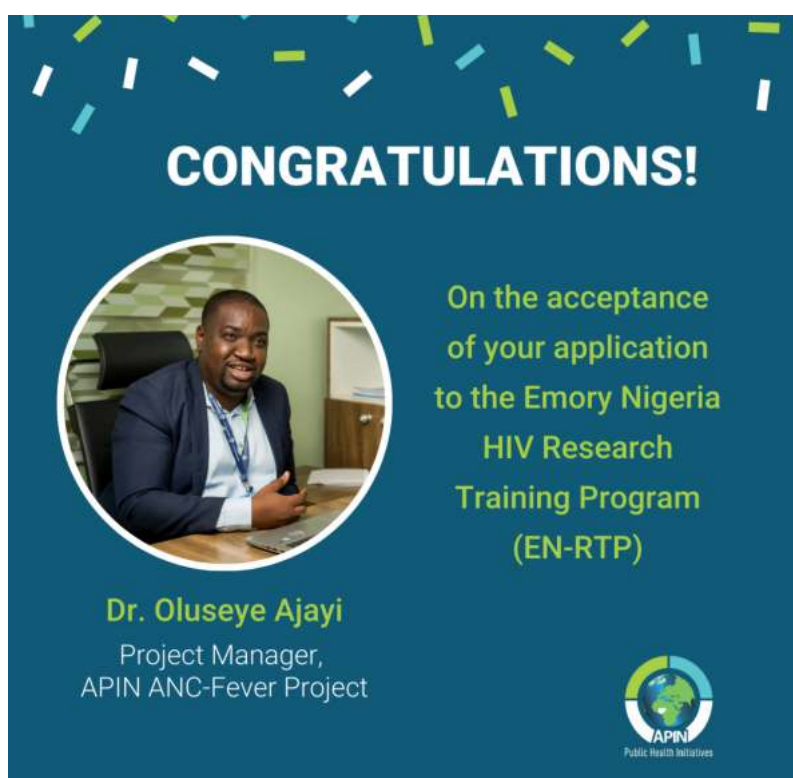
**APIN at the National GBV Indicator Harmonization Workshop in Lagos State**

## Presentation of Start-Up Kits to OVC Beneficiaries in Benue State



With funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the PEPFAR program, we work with Community-Based Organisations in Benue State to identify adolescents, caregivers and families affected by HIV, enrol them into our of our Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme and equip them with vocational skill trainings to improve their economic and health status. Recently, over 188 beneficiaries graduated from the vocational skills trainings and were presented with start-up kits and basic equipment to enable them start a trade and earn a living.

## Dr. Oluseye Ajayi Accepted into Emory Nigeria HIV Research Training Program (EN-RTP)



Our very own Dr. Oluseye Ajayi, the Project Manager of our CDC-funded project, Sustained Care Seeking for Fever and Antenatal Care Services, was accepted into the Emory Nigeria HIV Research Training Program (EN-RTP). The program aims to increase the capacity of researchers focused on HIV and Women's Health in Nigeria, which will in turn generate useful data to help improve health outcomes for Women Living with HIV.

## TBCLICQ! Project Scale-Up and Resources Website

Following the success of APIN's pilot implementation of the TB Clinic-Lab Interphase Continuous Quality Improvement (TBCLICQ!) project, the project is being scaled up to other countries.

With funding from the U.S President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), APIN implemented the pilot phase of the project with the aim of building the capacity of health personnel to apply change management and quality improvement strategies to strengthen and improve the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, especially in the HIV/AIDS programme. More details can be found on their website: <http://clicq.eptasm.org>

## APIN Institutional Review Board Meeting



The APIN Institutional Review Board (IRB) was established to review all research involving human subjects who are recruited to participate in research activities within and outside our projects and supported facilities. The IRB is constituted of members with vast experience and knowledge of the scientific, legal, social, cultural and religious aspects and consequences of research. Recently, the IRB held a two-day meeting to review research protocols with the aim of ensuring that all activities are conducted in compliance with the code of ethics and that the rights of the participants are respected.

## NEST 360 Alliance Wins 2021 Partnership Award



The Newborn Essential Solutions and Technologies (NEST 360) recently won the 2021 Partnership Award in the annual Innovating for Impact Awards organized by the Global Health Technologies Coalition. As a member of the alliance, APIN works with NEST 360 in five Nigerian hospitals to halve the number of children who die in the first 28 days of life. The program provides trainings, job aids and medical equipment to help improve the quality of newborn health services at the facilities.

## Feature Story

# Before Meets After: Addressing Malnutrition through the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme

By Kenneth Okpala & Emerald Awa-Agwu

*APIN's Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme goes beyond linking HIV-affected children, adolescents and caregivers to HIV services to addressing their nutritional, economic and psychosocial needs so that they can grow and thrive in a healthy environment.*



When he was only three months old, Aondohemba of Ukum Local Government Area and his mother were referred to APIN by the local OVC backstop in his community. Immediately, our partner organization, Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (FJDP) visited their home and conducted a Household Vulnerability Assessment (HVA). HVA uses OVC enrolment criteria to identify, profile, quantify and rank the level of vulnerability when working with HIV-affected households.

At the time of enrolment, Aondohemba, who was then three months old, was found to be HIV-exposed, meaning that he had been in contact with the virus but his HIV status was uncertain. His mother did not attend antenatal classes throughout her pregnancy and was unaware that she was HIV-positive. In addition, both Aondohemba and his mother were found to be severely malnourished.

If left unchecked in children, malnutrition could lead quickly to death. It is therefore imperative for malnutrition, especially in HIV-positive children, to be promptly identified and managed to reduce the risk of further opportunistic infections and/or mortality.

With funding from the U.S President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), APIN works with local community-based organisations like FJDP in Benue State, to implement the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme. The programme identifies HIV-affected children, adolescents, caregivers and households, assesses their needs, ensures that they are linked to HIV care and empowers them (through vocational skills training, cash transfers, economic and financial literacy trainings) to ensure that they are able to sustain their families and provide a stable, health environment for the children to grow in.

Through the OVC programme, APIN not only ensures that HIV-infected and HIV-exposed children and caregivers like Aondohemba and his mother are placed on ART and retained in care, we also address other health, nutritional, psychosocial and economic needs.

Aondohemba and his mother were promptly referred to St. Anthony's Hospital, Zaki-Biam, an APIN-supported facility in Ukum LGA, and were placed immediately on antiretroviral treatment (ART). APIN's OVC team began the process of addressing the child's case of Severe Acute Malnutrition.

## Before Meets After (Story continued)



It was discovered that his father, the breadwinner had passed away a day before they were enrolled into the OVC programme. In order to accelerate and sustain their recovery, APIN worked with FJDP's Case Manager and the local OVC and Clinical backstops to provide the family with food items, nutritional supplements and an unconditional cash transfer and conduct follow-up visits and counselling.

Now seven months old, Aondohemba is doing much better and is on his way to making a full recovery. As always, we remain committed to empowering more households and helping more children like him get better health outcomes in spite of the virus.

## Community PMTCT Intervention Flag-off in Osun State



On the 13th of December, 2021, the Community Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (cPMTCT) intervention was officially launched in Osogbo, Osun State.

The event was attended by key officials from the Osun State Ministry of Health including the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Isamotu Rafiu, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nigeria led by the CDC Nigeria PMTCT lead, Dr. Tim Efuntoye, APIN's Director of Strategic Information, Pharm. Uche Okezie and other partners.

The overall goal for the intervention is to improve the coverage of PMTCT services especially outside the conventional health facility setting. In addition, the cPMTCT initiative will address the low health facility Antenatal Care and PMTCT coverage rates in the state which currently stand at 27% and 26% respectively.

The first phase of the programme will be piloted in six states across the country including two APIN-supported states: Osun and Benue. APIN will implement the programme as part of its Community and Congregational Approach to PMTCT Services (CAPS) initiative.

## Community Mobilization Training for Volunteers in Ogun & Oyo States

Osun state is one of the "red" states in Nigeria where less than 40% of People Living with HIV know their status and are on Antiretroviral Therapy, placing the state in urgent need of innovative approaches to drive the ART Surge strategy. To address this and accelerate progress towards epidemic control, APIN launched a carefully-designed, sustainable Community ART model which will expand access to comprehensive high-quality HIV services at the Custodial Centres in the state.

Leaving no one behind, the integrated cART model is expected to address the unmet needs of people in enclosed settings / key populations known to have a higher risk and burden of HIV by leveraging multi-sectoral collaboration and partnership between existing ART sites and custodial centre clinics. The launch took place at a stakeholder meeting in Osogbo, Osun State and had relevant stakeholders in the HIV program in attendance.

## Benue Going GREEN: Start-up Meeting



To foster ownership and collaboration among stakeholders in Benue State, APIN Public Health Initiatives hosted a three-day Start-Up Meeting which reviewed the activities, challenges and successes of FY21 (the period from October 2020 to September 2021).

During FY21, the APIN Benue programme recorded major successes and exceeded their targets in the Case-finding, Linkage and Laboratory services components. Over 630,380 persons were tested for HIV including 94,257 pregnant women accessing antenatal care services. 36,147 people were newly started on Antiretroviral treatment and all of them were placed on the optimized DTG-based regimen. At the end of FY21, APIN Benue was able to retain 219,415 PLHIV on treatment, representing 115% of the target.

The event was attended by representatives from partner organizations and key stakeholders including the Benue State Primary Health Care Board (SPHCB), Benue State Agency for the Control of AIDS (BENSACA), Benue State AIDS and STIs Control Programme (SASCP), Benue State Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (STBLCP) and the 252 supported health facilities across the state. At the end of the meeting, stakeholders renewed their commitment to sustain these successes and keep pushing until every PLHIV is linked to care and no new infection is recorded.

### Community Mobilization Training for Volunteers in Ogun & Oyo States

In partnership with the State Primary Health Care Boards and the State Malaria Control Programmes in Ogun and Oyo State, the ANC-Malaria project built the capacity of 38 community volunteers in the two states to create demand and deploy community mobilization strategies and messages to women of reproductive age, pregnant women, caregivers and decision makers. The volunteers will encourage pregnant women to seek early and regular ANC services at the health facility; encourage community members to seek prompt care for fever at the health facility and make community members aware of the IPC measures in place in health facilities and the importance of adhering to COVID-19 prevention measures when visiting the health facility.

## APIN Benue FY22 Successes in Numbers

### Case Finding

630,360 persons received HIV testing services

35,798 HIV-positive cases identified

45,505 persons provided with index testing

94,257 pregnant women receiving ANC services tested for HIV

### Linkage to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

36,147 persons newly initiated on ART

100% of newly initiated clients on optimized DTG-based regimen

219,415 People Living With HIV (PLHIV) retained on treatment at the end of FY21

### Laboratory Services: Sample Collection & Analysis

95% overall Viral Load coverage

96% Viral Suppression

# APIN Commemorates 2021 World AIDS Day

## Abuja HQ



**Scott Adamu-Oyegun**  
Senior Programme Officer, AP

1:00 PM ON ARMED FORCES RADIO

In Abuja, APIN had three radio engagements on **Armed Forces Radio 107.7 FM**, **WE FM 106.3**, and **Human Rights Radio 101.1 FM** represented by our Senior Programme Officer, **Scott Adamu-Oyegun**, our **Behaviour Change Communication Officer**, **Kucheli Wudiri**, our Senior Technical Advisor, **Mrs. Bunmi Amoo**, and our Communications Specialist, **Emerald Awa-Agwu** respectively. The radio engagements sensitized the public about HIV/AIDS in general, inequalities in access to HIV services and the need to end stigmatization.



At our HQ in Abuja, our CEO, **Dr. Prosper Okonkwo** and Deputy CEO (Programs), **Dr. Jay Osi Samuels** participated in an interview on the **Talk Health with Dr. Laz** show on AIT where they discussed the gaps and inequalities in HIV service delivery especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, and how APIN is supporting the national HIV/AIDS programme and COVID-19 response to address these inequalities



Also in Abuja, APIN led by the **Prevention & Community Services unit** conducted an **awareness and sensitization event for traders and buyers at Gudu Market**. The event covered myths about HIV/AIDS, proper use of condoms, prevention, care and treatment of the infection.

## Ekiti State



In **Ekiti State**, APIN was joined by a partner CBO, **Royal Women Health & Right Initiative** to conduct an **awareness campaign at Oja Oba, Ado- Ekiti**. In addition, the APIN Ekiti team held a **Community HIV Testing outreach at Ayo Fayose Market** to commemorate World AIDS Day in the state.

## Osun State

In **Osun State**, APIN joined other partners, government agencies and stakeholders in an **awareness march / rally around the Osogbo**, the state capital. The rally culminated in a **sensitization lecture held at OSAMDO Hall, Osogbo** to demonstrate solidarity to the over **11,000 people who are already on ART** and encourage stakeholders to intensify efforts to reach the **23,000 people who are yet to know their status**.



# APIN Commemorates 2021 World AIDS Day

## Benue State

In Benue State, APIN joined the National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS (NYNETHA) and the Benue State Agency for the Control of AIDS (BENSACA) in a candlelight procession to honour those who had passed away as a result of AIDS and to demonstrate a shared commitment to end HIV/AIDS in the state.



Ahead of World AIDS Day 2021, an interdenominational Christian service was held at Dunamis International Gospel Centre, Makurdi and a Muslim Juma'at prayer at the Makurdi Central Mosque. Stakeholders from government agencies, NGOs and relevant networks & associations attended both services.



APIN Benue was joined by other stakeholders in a walk/rally from Tito Gate (Low Level, Makurdi) to the Ibrahim Babangida Square (High Level, Makurdi). During the rally, stakeholders made stops at strategic points to sensitize the general public on the 2021 WAD theme and to encourage uptake of to health/HIV services and HIV testing services at the venue of the Grand Finale.



Also on World AIDS Day, a finale event was held at the Ibrahim Babangida Square, Makurdi where representatives of various government agencies, partner organizations and the First Lady of Benue State commended the efforts of partners to achieve epidemic control of HIV in the State. HIV testing services were provided for all consenting members of the public at the venue of the event of condoms, prevention, care and treatment of the infection.

## Ogun State



In Ogun State, APIN joined the Ogun State Agency for the Control of AIDS in a rally to create awareness and sensitize the public on the need to get tested for HIV and avoid high-risk behaviours that promote the spread of the virus.

Also in Abeokuta, Ogun State, APIN and Ogun SACA held a training on Community ART for staff of the Ogun Correctional Centre Clinic on World AIDS Day



# APIN Commemorates 2021 World AIDS Day

## Plateau State



APIN Plateau joined government stakeholders, civil society organizations and relevant interest groups in a rally around the APIN JUTH gate and its environs to sensitize tricycle drivers and other market men and women in the environs. The rally procession ended at the Old Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) Complex where goodwill messages were presented by representatives of various organizations.



At the Old JUTH Complex, APIN Plateau Head of Office, Dr. Solomon Wekpe is being interviewed by the National Television Authority, Jos, Plateau State



Also at the Old JUTH Complex, APIN Plateau Prevention Lead, Mrs. Chidinma Stevens poses for a photograph with members of the Federation of Muslim Women's Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN) after the rally.



Condom distribution at the market during the rally around Jos University Teaching Hospital and its environs,

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# APIN Marks the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

## Oyo State



## Plateau State

To kick-off the Commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, APIN joined **Torro Centre for Care & Support for Adolescents, Children & Women**, an organization that APIN partners with for referrals of GBV survivors, to conduct a **sensitization and awareness program targeted at adolescents in secondary school**. After the event, the Prevention lead, Mrs. Chidinma Stevens and the State Team Lead, Dr. Emmanuel Osayi were interviewed by Unity Television, Jos. They used the opportunity to advocate for the need to break the culture of silence and for the government to provide the needed legal framework to address reported GBV cases. To close out the 16 Days, Mrs. Chidinma Stevens represented APIN at a sensitization event where she taught the adolescents present the sign to show that a GBV victim needs help.



## APIN Marks the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

### Abuja HQ

APIN staff at the corporate headquarters in Abuja commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV with a sensitization event for the teachers and more than 150 students at Government Senior Secondary School, Apo. The talk covered gender roles, the importance of speaking out against gender-based violence and also addressed questions and comments from the students.



### Plateau State

APIN Osun commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV with a palmpoint artwork to show their commitment to eliminate GBV and speak out against gender-based violence. They also visited GOF International School, Osogbo to educate over 120 students and teachers on what constitutes gender-based violence and what to do if someone reports a GBV case.



# APIN Marks the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

## Ogun State

APIN staff in Ogun State commemorated the 16 Days of Activism with a visit to Baptist Girls' College, Abeokuta.



## Benue State



APIN Benue held an interactive session for staff and stakeholders around the 2021 theme of 16 Days Activism Against GB. In addition, Benue State held a Community of Practice. A Community of Practice is an interagency forum where GBV actors come together to deliberate, share experiences and best practices on GBV response. This platform strengthens the capacity of gender focal persons to respond to issues around IPV and adverse events of Index testing, care and treatment milestones and also prevent and identify cases of gender-based violence in the community.

## Ekiti State



APIN Ekiti State participated in the GBV Closing ceremony and had the chance to meet with the Director of Women Affairs, Erelu Bisi Fayemi.

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