

APIN Benue Launches Baby Shower Project



As part of our efforts to eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Benue State, APIN collaborated with Faith Based Organizations (FBO) on the Congregational Approach to Optimize PMTCT Services (CAPS) initiative also known as the Baby Shower Project. The partnership with the FBOs aims to close the current gap in the utilization of Antenatal Care (ANC) & Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services by reaching pregnant women and their partners with basic health information on the benefits of antenatal care services, HIV Testing and other health interventions.

So far, across 5 LGAs in Benue State, 550 women in their third trimester were supported with “Baby shower kits” containing basic items required for delivery as well as free HIV testing and linkage to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) while others in the first and second trimesters continue to receive health information, HIV testing and referrals for skilled ANC/birth services.

The women, their spouses and the clergy were visibly elated and appreciated APIN’s interventions towards ensuring the safety of mothers and their babies. They appreciated the delivery kits which will in no small measure alleviate the financial and economic deterrents to the uptake of ANC services in health facilities. The clergy, on their part, pledged their continual support to achieve a HIV-free generation and the overall goal of attaining epidemic control.

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Valentine's Day Launch of the HIV Self-Test Kit in Ondo State



APIN Public Health Initiatives in partnership with the Ondo State Government, the Ondo State Ministry of Health and the Ondo State Agency for the Control of AIDS launched the HIV Self Test kit at an event held on Valentine's day.

The launch of the HIV Self Test kit will increase access to HIV testing services and eliminate barriers to the uptake of HIV Testing Services associated with the stigmatization of People Living With HIV. This will in turn promote early detection of HIV and prompt linkage to care.

The event was presided over by the Executive Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency, Rotimi Akeredolu who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa and the Secretary to the State Government, Princess Catherine Odu. They encouraged young people to take advantage of this initiative and avoid high-risk behaviours which could cause them to get infected with the virus.

APIN-CDC Courtesy Visit to the Benue State Commissioner for Health



APIN joined a delegation from the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Clinical Mentorship Programme (NCMP) on a courtesy visit to Dr Joseph Mgbea, the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Benue State. The courtesy visit was to kick-off a review meeting between the U.S CDC team and the members of the Benue State Clinical Mentorship Program. The Honourable Commissioner for Health received the delegation and pledged his support to the success of the program in the state.

550

Pregnant women in their third trimester who received Baby Shower kits containing items needed for delivery in Benue State.

Courtesy Visit to the 32 Artillery Brigade, Owena Barracks, Ondo State



In order to guarantee the success of our programs, APIN engages and partners with relevant stakeholders and groups to design and deploy context-appropriate ways to deliver quality health services to facilities and communities in our supported states.

Recently, staff of our Ondo state office, led by Dr Abimbola Ariyo (APIN Ondo Head of Office), met with the Brigadier General Mukhtar Adamu, the Brigade Commander of 32 Artillery Brigade, Owena Barracks and the Head of the Brigade's Clinic, Major Ameh to identify and discuss opportunities and strategies to increase HIV testing, strengthen referrals and linkages to treatment & care and retain patients on treatment at the Brigade's clinic.

The Ondo HOO also pledged to support the Brigade clinic with 5,000 pieces of HIV self-test kits to support HIV testing services in the barracks.

APIN Benue State Distributes Medical Equipment to Enhance Delivery Services at Traditional Birth Centres

In a bid to strengthen the health system at the community level and to ensure that pregnant women receive optimal services at the all levels of care, APIN Benue State, with support from the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) procured and distributed medical equipment including delivery couches, ward screens, baby and adult weighing scales, sphygmomanometer, trolleys, stethoscopes, fetoscopes, measuring tapes and consumables, to local Traditional Birth Centres / Attendants in the state.



The formal handover ceremony was attended by government stakeholders from the Benue State Ministry of Health (SMOH), Benue State AIDS Control Agency (BENSACA) and the Local Action Committees on AIDS (LACA). While presenting the equipment to the recipients from the traditional birth centres, the Executive Secretary of BenSACA (Dr Ephraim Tyo) and the representative of the Benue SMOH PMTCT focal person (Dr Ugoh Wuese) applauded APIN's innovative strategies for responding to the health concerns of beneficiaries, stating that traditional birth centres are usually the first points of call for most rural women. The 20 TBAs who received the donations expressed their appreciation to APIN and CDC, and pledged to use the items to improve the services offered at their respective facilities.

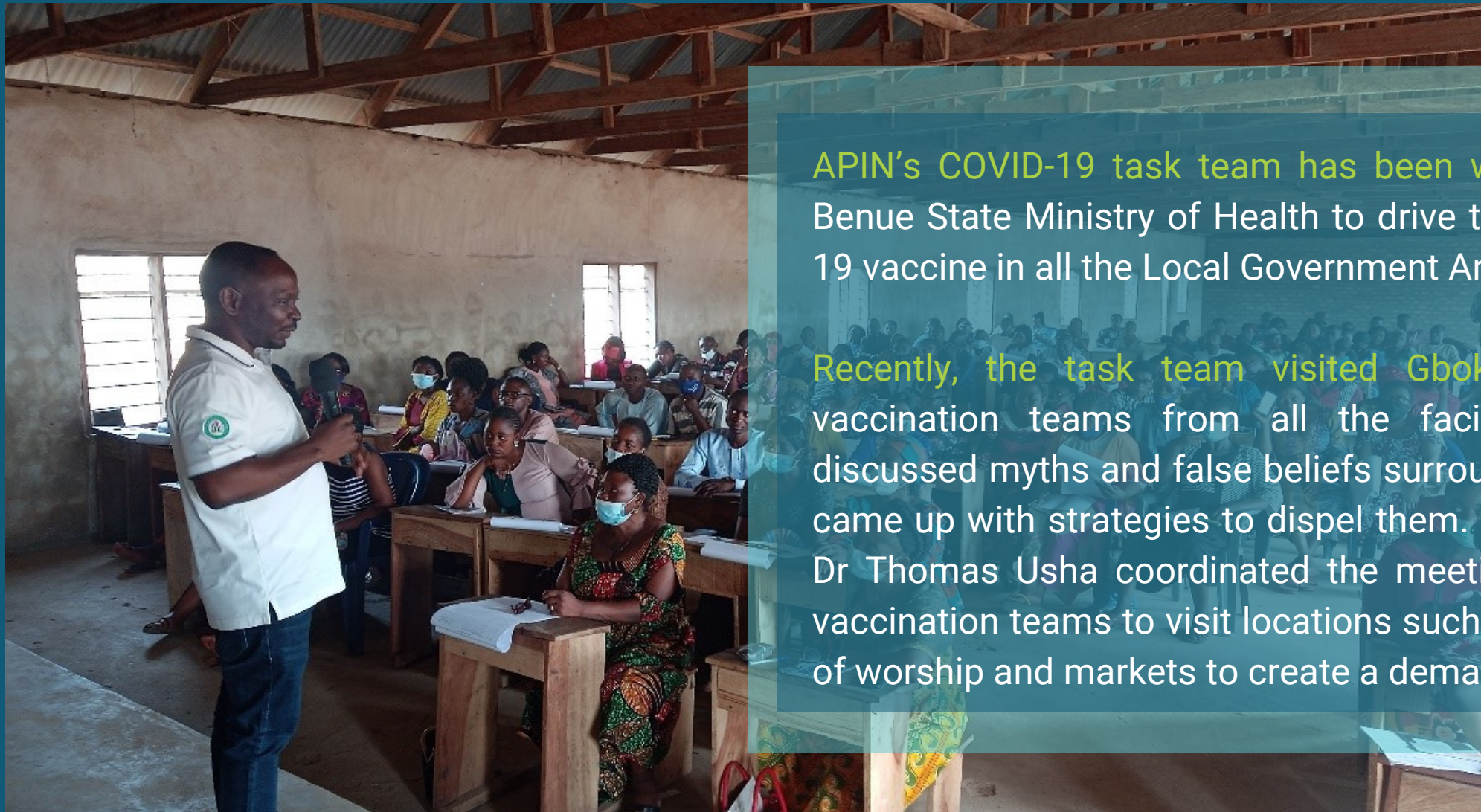
Dr Kelechi Ngwoke, the Head of Office for APIN Benue State expressed APIN's overall expectation that this gesture would foster a better collaboration for the achievement of critical ANC and PMTCT milestones in Benue State.

Courtesy Visit to the Director General, NCDC



Our leadership team paid a courtesy visit to our long time partner, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC). We were received by the Director General, Dr Ifedayo Adetifa and some of his key officials. We reflected on and discussed APIN's past, ongoing and prospective collaborations with the organization especially in the areas of Quality Management Systems, Laboratory Services and COVID-19 testing. It was an impactful meeting and we look forward to more opportunities to work with the NCDC in the future.

Scaling-Up COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Gboko LGA, Benue State



APIN's COVID-19 task team has been working closely with the Benue State Ministry of Health to drive the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in all the Local Government Areas across the state.

Recently, the task team visited Gboko LGA and met with vaccination teams from all the facilities. The participants discussed myths and false beliefs surrounding the COVID-19 and came up with strategies to dispel them. APIN Benue's STA Lead, Dr Thomas Usha coordinated the meeting and encouraged the vaccination teams to visit locations such as schools, bars, places of worship and markets to create a demand for the vaccine.

Continuous Quality Improvement & Patient Satisfaction Roll-Out Training for Strategic Information, Laboratory Services and Clinical Services Teams

To reinforce APIN's culture of Continuous Quality Improvement and Patient Satisfaction, we recently trained relevant staff from our Strategic Information, Clinical Services and Laboratory Services units across our HQ and program states. The participants of this training would be responsible for steering this initiative, conducting routine & periodic patient satisfaction surveys and developing performance indicators to help us stay on track.

In addition, the training equipped our staff with the needed capacity to understand patient expectations and provide hands-on technical support to our facilities so that patient expectations can be consistently exceeded at every interaction.



APIN Commemorates 2022 Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Our HQ staff held a **sensitization meeting** with members of the **Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)** from various area councils in Abuja and took to **WE FM 106.3 Abuja** to discuss factors that increase the risk of cervical cancer, prevention, care & treatment of cervical cancer. They also advocated for more women to get screened for Cervical Cancer.

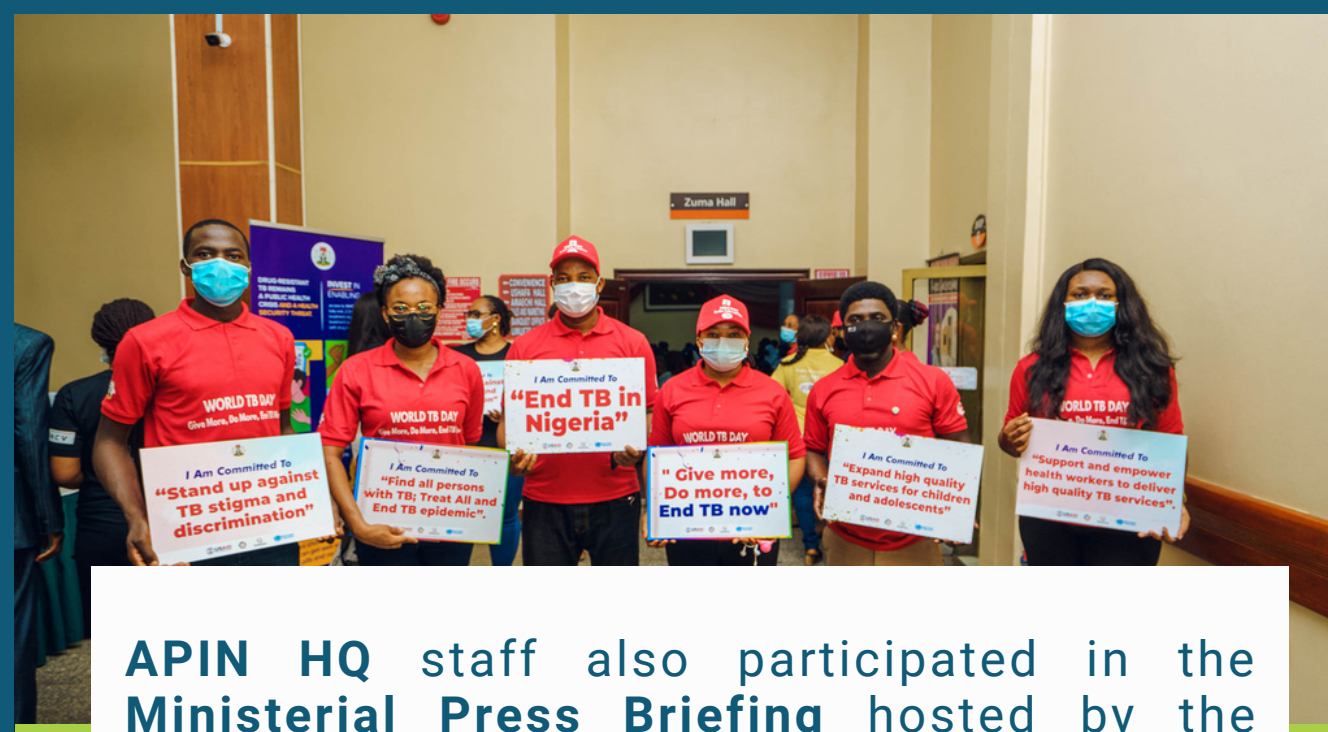


APIN Oyo State partnered with **Adeoyo Maternity Teaching Hospital** to hold a **health talk** that enlightened WLHIV about cervical cancer, its risk factors, prevention, and the treatment of pre-cancerous lesions. Following the health talk, **12 women volunteered to be screened** and those who were found to have **pre-cancerous lesions**, were treated using **thermal ablation**.

APIN HQ Joins National Stakeholders to Commemorate 2022 World Tuberculosis Day



APIN HQ joined the **National Tuberculosis & Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP)** and other development partners on an **awareness road walk/rally** to sensitize residents of Abuja about Tuberculosis. During the walk, fliers containing Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs) and key information translated into different Nigerian languages, were distributed to the general public and passers-by.



APIN HQ staff also participated in the **Ministerial Press Briefing** hosted by the **Honourable Minister for Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire**. He spoke about the **prevalence of TB in Nigeria** and efforts that had been made so far to **end tuberculosis**. He ended by calling on more **investment**, collaboration and private sector participation in the TB program.

APIN Ondo State Commemorates 2022 World Tuberculosis Day



Our Ondo State office partnered with the Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme of the Ondo State Ministry of Health to conduct community sensitization programmes in Akure North LGA, Owo LGA and Ese-Odo LGA.

In addition, our staff participated in the joint symposium and press briefing anchored by the Ondo State Honourable Commissioner of Health, Dr Banji Awolowo Ajaka. The event was attended by traditional, religious and political leaders as well as relevant stakeholders in the TB space who all delivered goodwill messages.

APIN at the 38th AHPN Scientific Conference in Ilorin, Kwara State



APIN was a co-sponsor of the 38th Scientific Conference of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) in Ilorin, Kwara State. Our CEO, Dr Prosper Okonkwo gave the keynote lecture at the conference titled "Imperatives for Strengthening the Nigerian Health System". In addition, five APIN staff made oral and e-poster abstract presentations at the conference.

APIN Commemorates 2022 International Women's Day

APIN HQ commemorated 2022 IWD with an event for staff which featured a drama that highlighted some of the cultural, societal and workplace biases that women face; and a panel discussion to discuss some of these biases and come up with strategies through which we can break the bias and end stereotypes against women as individuals and as an organisation. The women also gave special awards to the CEO and the DCEO (Programs) and DCEO (Operations) to appreciate them for their efforts to create an enabling environment for women.



In Benue State, we commemorated this year's International Women's Day by engaging with relevant stakeholder groups including our staff, traditional and community leaders, religious leaders, women groups and high-risk key population groups at some of our community intervention sites. We discussed the need for male involvement to end stereotyping of females.

APIN Oyo commemorated 2022 IWD with an event that recognized and celebrated the achievements and contributions of notable women to the society. In total, four women were presented with the APIN Award for Excellence for their roles in APIN's success stories in the state and for the support that they provided to vulnerable groups including children and women living with HIV.



Our Plateau State office, at their International Women's Day event, presented awards to five women from partner organizations, facilities and agencies who have helped to break the bias against women in their respective spheres.



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