

Pilot Project: Integrated Primary Healthcare Project, - as part of the Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront Primary Healthcare System in Lagos

Context

Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront (M/IW) community is a marginalized sprawling century-old informal fishing neighborhood on the lagoon of Lagos, Nigeria. The community accommodates upwards of 50'000 inhabitants, the majority of whom lives below the poverty line of US\$ 2 per day. They have no access to basic infrastructure, nor have they access to reliable clean drinking water, electricity, sewage and other waste disposal, nor the existence of conventional health care services. There is no written statistics but the community decries its high maternal mortality and infant death rate. According to local reports, Makoko community accounts for the highest prevalence of adolescent pregnancy in Nigeria. Besides the prevalence of malaria, pneumonia, measles & HIV/Aids, there are frequent outbreaks of water borne diseases like diarrhea, cholera and typhus, due to the congestive living and very poor hygienic conditions. **Most inhabitants rely on traditional healers (TH) and traditional birth attendants (TBA) for their healthcare needs especially for deliveries and postnatal care.**



Project description

The overall goal is the establishment of an **integrated primary healthcare system** of conventional and traditional medicine in the M/IW community that is **accessible** and **affordable**. The focus lies on mother, newborn and child health and reproductive healthcare. In the absence of conventional healthcare services, we shall – together with the “forces on the ground” – create new structures that are accessible, close to the people and low threshold specifically by accommodating and improving existing services by the TH/TBAs. Despite the Lagos State Government’s (LSG) provision to coordinate, train, register and supervise the activities of the traditional medicine practitioners, an estimated 80% of TH/TBAs statewide practice in the shadows of illegality.

The existing traditional healthcare in the M/IW community provided by the TH/TBAs will be improved and integrated into the system of accessible, affordable and qualitative primary healthcare in a complementary manner thereby supporting the efforts of the LSG to provide primary healthcare to all its citizens.

The pilot project rests on three components, which are interlinked and built on each other:

1. **Awareness raising, health promotion and capacity building for and with “forces on the ground” (i.e., community, TH/TBAs and health champions)**
 2. Health Posts (i.e., healthcare professionals and traditional health service providers)
 3. Integrated Primary Healthcare Centre with a special mother and child unit.
- Component 2 and 3 are for now not subject of the present stage of the project.



The focus of Component 1 targets the following objectives to realize the goal of the project:

- a. Mobilize residents of M/IW community for full participation in the integrated primary healthcare project. Through health promotion events with elucidatory pictorial education on nutrition, sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS counselling, Malaria prevention, environmental and personal hygiene as well as minimal check-up services → **Raising Health Awareness in the Community**
- b. Mobilize, successfully train and guide the 34 TH/TBAs in their traditional service delivery. Areas covered are among others hygiene in the context of their healthcare delivery, obstetric emergency recognition, basic antenatal care and basic skills in the care of the newborn → **Capacity Building**
- c. Mobilize and train young adults in the community and national youth corps students to become Health Champions. They will conduct personalized outreach health promotion programs for Inhabitants on the M/IW community → **Capacity Building, Health Promotion and Awareness**

At end of this Project Phase, partnership achieves:

- ✓ Successful completion of training for 34 committed TH/TBAs, who achieve improved skills and knowledge for the integrated service delivery.
- ✓ Increase in number of TH/TBAs facilities registered with the Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board (LSTMB) from **three to thirty-six**.
- ✓ Data collection: by making relevant consumables available for TH/TBAs, general and relevant medical data collection in all 34 traditional practices set up and functioning.
- ✓ Nucleus of medical database for diseases inventory is established and functioning.
- ✓ Trained and empowered 30 Health Champions for household outreach to promote and enhance health awareness in community through direct personal contacts.

The partnership, through training of the TH/TBAs, empowering of Health Champions for outreach programs in the homes and health promotion and awareness raising events in the



community paves the way and achieves preparedness for the envisaged overall goal of integrated primary healthcare system in this marginalized community.

Partnership

The Partnership comprises of four institutions in Nigeria and two institutions in Switzerland.

Institutions in Nigeria:

1. Arctic Infrastructure (AI)

AI (www.arcticil.org) is a registered for-profit development NGO focusing on infrastructure delivery, urban development and environment whose founder Lookman Oshodi masterminded the extensive “Makoko/Iwaya Waterfront Regeneration Plan”.

2. Iroko Healthcare Support (IROHES)

IROHES, a newly founded NGO (state registration still pending) with a project manager for health infrastructure will replace AI in view of the implementation of the M/IW healthcare system..

3. St. Nicholas Hospital

St Nicolas Hospital (www.saintnicholashospital.com) has voluntarily offered its facilities and personnel for the training seminars for the TH/TBAs and later for Industrial Training.

4. Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board, Chairman Mr. Adigun

The Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board facilitates the training of the TH/TBAs by delegating lecturers and evaluating the training course.

Institutions in Switzerland

1. Organization SUPPORT

SUPPORT (www.med-support.ch) is a non-profit NGO founded in 2007 in Switzerland with the aim to assist and empower non-profit healthcare projects and –institutions in West Africa. SUPPORT believes that a well-conceived development aid project in collaboration with initiative partners employing resources on ground (north-south exchange) is the basis for successful and sustainable development.

2. Cantonal Teaching Hospital Aarau

The cantonal teaching hospital Aarau (www.ksa.ch) is a Grade A referral teaching hospital affiliated in part, to the medical faculty of the University of Basel. The hospital has been the clinical base for SUPPORT.

Timeframe

April 2017 to April 2018

Contact

Vincent da Silva, MD, Organization SUPPORT

Postfach 146, 5015 Erlinsbach, Switzerland

Phone: +41 62 842 6577; E-Mail: vincedasilva@med-support.ch

www.med-support.ch