MSH Nigeria Presents 7 Posters at International AIDS Conference, South Africa

A total of seven abstracts developed by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) Nigeria were presented as posters at the 21st International AIDS Conference, held from July 18 to 22, in Durban, South Africa.

These abstracts developed by the PEPFAR-USAID funded Prevention Organizational Systems AIDS and Treatment (Pro-ACT) project, implemented by MSH, highlighted best practices, innovative models, and tools used by MSH to improve health in Nigeria.

Seven posters presented at the 21st International AIDS Conference:

1. A facility-based approach to improve tracking of HIV-exposed infants in the PMTCT treatment cascade: Experience from Sokoto, North-West Nigeria
2. Sustaining HIV and AIDS services in the face of falling Government revenue: The Zamfara state experience
3. Institutionalizing HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria In-service trainings: MSH Nigeria experience
4. Rapid program evaluation on determinants of poor retention among PLHIV accessing care in peripheral HIV clinics in Niger State, North Central Nigeria
5. Evaluating the impact of innovative state quality improvement projects in HIV programs: Experience from North-West Nigeria
6. Improving healthcare service delivery to PLHIV through the dual administration of a standardized monitoring tool and targeted capacity-building: Experiences from Kebbi State, Northern Nigeria
7. Overcoming structural barriers to improving quality healthcare service delivery to PLHIV: Lessons from General Hospital Minna, North Central Nigeria

MSH Pays Courtesy Call on the Minister of Health

MSH leadership led by Vice President HPG, Catharine Taylor, paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole, in his office in Abuja ahead of events in celebration of MSH’s 10 years of improving the health of women and children in Nigeria. Professor Adewole used the occasion to thank MSH for its commitment to saving lives and improving health systems in Nigeria.
From the Country Representative

Dear Readers,

I welcome you to another edition of MSH Nigeria Newsletter. In this edition, you will read about our 10 years anniversary, the visit of MSH Vice President Health Program Group (HPG), Catharine Taylor, to Nigeria for the anniversary, and the courtesy visit we paid on the Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole. You will also read about our participation and seven posters presentation at the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. We also featured the impact of the CBHI scheme and the training of Traditional Birth Attendants in Akwa Ibom state through our LMG project which closed out in April, and more.

We sincerely thank PEPFAR and USAID for their technical and financial support. We thank the Government of Nigeria for making project implementation possible and our numerous partners for their cooperation. I especially thank all MSH Nigeria staff for their great work and contribution towards the achievement of MSH goals.

Enjoy your read!!!

Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, Country Representative, MSH Nigeria

MSH Celebrates 10 Years of Health Impact in Nigeria

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) celebrated 10 years of successful health impact in Nigeria, this year. More than 250 stakeholders joined MSH at the event showcasing our work with women and children.

MSH Country Representative Dr. Zipporah Kpamor in her opening remarks said, “It is unacceptable that more than 150 women die every day due to preventable causes. The time is now, let’s join hands together to end the needless deaths of mothers and children in Nigeria.”

MSH Vice President of the Health Programs Group, Catharine Taylor, applauded the Nigerian government for coming up with new initiatives aimed at improving maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health.

There were two technical roundtable sessions. The first was on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH). It focused on how policies are developed and modified to meet the health challenges of women and children in Nigeria.

The second roundtable, on the impact of Malaria programs on the health and wellbeing of pregnant women and their newborns in Nigeria, focused on how policies and procedures developed by the Federal Ministry of Health and supported by donor partners such as USAID are translated into service delivery.

Vision for MSH in Nigeria: “To save the lives of more moms, babies, and children by 2018, MSH will be recognized in Nigeria as a health systems leader in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, HIV and AIDS, TB, malaria, chronic diseases, and healthcare financing -- and for our outstanding work in the fragile Northeastern states. Our staff will be fully engaged and approach new business development in a new way.” – Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, MSH Country Representative in Nigeria
Chief Victor Joseph Ntuen is the village head of Onuk, Ukana clan in Essien Udim Local Government Area (LGA) in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. He and his wife Emem, have five children. Their youngest, 11-month-old Rosemary, fell seriously ill in January. She constantly vomited and had diarrhea for over one week. Baby Rosemary was diagnosed with cholera.

Chief Ntuen was devastated at the thought of losing his baby girl to the cholera outbreak ravaging the community. But, they had no money to take Rosemary to the hospital for treatment. He and Emem had just paid their older children’s school fees.

“I would have lost my little baby to cholera, if not for the community-based health insurance,” says Chief Ntuen. He had bought family insurance in 2015 for 2,400 naira ($12) during a Community-Based Health Insurance Scheme sensitization program, organized by the US Agency for International Development-funded, Management Sciences for Health (MSH)-led Program to Build Leadership and Accountability in Nigeria’s Health System (PLAN-Health) project, now the Leadership, Management and Governance (LMG) Nigeria Project, also led by MSH.

He took little Rosemary to the Primary Health Centre in Ukana Ikot Ide, Essien Idim Local Government Area, and they were referred to the cottage hospital for treatment. Baby Rosemary was admitted for a week and she received quality treatment free of charge.

He said what amazes him the most is that he registered for the insurance with only a small amount of money, but his family receives health benefits from the scheme free of charge.

As a village head, Chief Ntuen has been encouraging his community members to take advantage of the scheme. He has also been advocating for more sensitization in his community and beyond.

“My joy knows no bounds because today my daughter has fully recovered, is full of life, and looking healthy,” said Chief Ntuen. “Thank you to MSH for bringing the insurance scheme to my community. It has really saved many lives and freed us from medical debts.”

The Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria presented Management Sciences for Health (MSH) with an award of excellence in recognition of the Prevention Organization Systems AIDS Care and Treatment (Pro-ACT) project expertise in organizational development.

Presenting the award to MSH, Alhaji Toyosi Raheem, National President of AMLSN, said “MSH has demonstrated uncommon passion for contributing to the development of individual and organizational competencies. This has contributed immensely to the quality and efficient management of human and material resources for health in Nigeria.”

Alhaji Raheem further explained that without MSH’s intervention and support, the association would not have developed a strategic plan and the gap in the management of internal administration would have been devastating. ProACT’s strategic partnership with the association helped to effect a change in attitude, mindset and increased community ownership for sustainability.

Receiving the award on behalf of MSH, Mr. Ibiang Livinus, Associate Director for Laboratory Systems Strengthening, thanked the management of AMLSN for recognizing MSH’s contributions in strengthening the capacity of Nigeria’s public, private and community sectors for sustainable health systems.

ProACT is a PEPFAR-USAID funded project, implemented by MSH, in Nigeria.
MSH Trains TBAs in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria to Reduce Maternal and Child Mortality

Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in collaboration with the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Health and the Local Government Commission organized a pilot training for 98 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA) and Faith-based Birth Attendants (FTBA) selected from three Local Government Areas (LGA): Etiman, Eket, and Ikot Ekpene in Akwa Ibom State.

The training was aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality and morbidity through improved delivery and child care practices, as well as strengthening linkages with health facilities in the state.

Through the USAID-funded Leadership, Management and Governance (LMG) Nigeria project implemented by MSH, the training was done in two phases. The first was the four weeks (March 1-22) classroom intensive training, where TBAs were taught using a 14 module manual. The modules focused on the human reproductive system; pregnancy and the role of TBAs; care of mother and baby after delivery; communication; counselling and motivation; primary health care management information system: advantages of referral system; and community mobilization and participation amongst others. For better comprehension some resource materials used in the training included mannequins and models for practical demonstration, case studies, posters, flipcharts, medical equipment, and songs. The use of the local dialect in teaching TBAs eased learning and made the training very interactive.

The second phase was a four-week (April 4-21) internship at hospital facilities. The training was guided by the TBA internship log book that clearly outlined medical procedures that TBAs needed to observe and demonstrate.

“I cannot over emphasize the importance of TBAs, as they are found everywhere in our communities. If they can be trained to practice safe methods of delivery, then we will be on the verge of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity,” said Dr. Nsikak Nyoyoko, Obstetrician, University of Uyo Teaching Hospital Uyo and Coordinator of the TBA training in Etinan LGA.

Alice Uko Monday, Leader TBA Eket Chapter, said, “I am happy because I have learned new and safe methods of delivery. I will ensure that I put them into practice immediately in order to save mothers and their babies from preventable deaths.”

Our Work in Nigeria

MSH is a non-profit global health organization that works to save lives and improve health by strengthening health systems in over 74 countries, including Nigeria, since 1970. For over 20 years, MSH has had presence in Nigeria and 10 years ago, it established an operational office. MSH has provided assistance in maternal and child health, reproductive health, TB, and HIV/AIDS through strengthening health systems and building synergies for better health outcomes, across the northern and southern part of the country. MSH has built the capacity of over a 100 civil society organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria and has assisted over 23 states to strengthen their health systems and improve access to quality health services through its projects.

With the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), MSH is currently in 12 states implementing four USAID funded projects—Prevention Organizational Systems AIDS Care and Treatment (Pro-ACT), Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS), Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3) and Systems Transformed for Empowered Actions, and Enabling Responses for vulnerable children and their caregivers (Steer).