



2020 Annual Report

Action Health Incorporated

Action Health Incorporated (AHI) is a non-profit organization committed to creating opportunities for young people's successful transition to productive adulthood. AHI was founded out of a deep concern about young people's limited access to preventive information and life skills to deal with the myriad of issues confronting them.

Since our establishment in 1989, AHI has served as an advocate and catalyst for creating better life options for young people in Nigeria. In partnership with individuals and institutions around the globe, AHI has helped to drive advocacy efforts in the public domain and engender action by states and the federal government to address the sexual health and development needs of young people in Nigeria.

We envision a world where every young person's right to achieve their full potentials is guaranteed, where all young girls and boys can grow up to assume control over their lives, having the basic information, skills, and services to enhance their health and well-being.

Learn more about our work on our website at

<https://www.actionhealthinc.org>

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Executive Director's Statement

2020 was an atypical year for the world largely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for AHI, it marked unprecedented disruptions in programme outreach and service provision within the communities we serve. For many months, activities in our Youth Centre were driven to a halt as we contended with the COVID-19 lockdown.

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This report is a snapshot of the progress AHI made in 2020 and I am deeply grateful to our funders, allies, board members, volunteers and staff for their dedication and support in advancing this agenda.

We witnessed the negative impact the pandemic wrought on the mental, psychosocial and sexual wellbeing of young people and had to subsequently adapt our programming to meet these challenges.

As schools reopened, I had the distinct opportunity to support the Lagos State Ministry of Education with the training of over 800 teachers and education administrators on a webinar about communicating with students in a post-COVID era. With young people's exposure to heightened levels of exploitation and abuse, more than ever before, teachers need to be aware and better prepared to address the physical, emotional and social support their students require, as they return to school.

Although 2020 was a trying year in very many ways, I am happy to report that AHI and our partners made remarkable progress despite the odds. We were unrelenting in our interventions aimed at supporting young people's transition to productive adulthood, increasing access to sexual

health and rights services for women and young girls and contributing to efforts to end gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices. We made significant progress with our interventions to uphold sexual and reproductive health and rights in the humanitarian contexts of Northern Nigeria. Our programming contributed to improvements in the delivery of services at health facilities, skilled antenatal coverage, capacity building of healthcare personnel and the availability of trained providers to care for and refer sexual and gender-based violence survivors.



Also, our work with preparing young women to become social justice leaders on the Girls Voices Initiative continued with building their capacity to make informed decisions about their reproduction, sexuality, and health, as well as, defending their right to bodily autonomy, even as they advocated to law enforcement and education sector officials to protect these same rights for girls within their communities.

This report is a snapshot of the progress AHI made in 2020 and I am deeply grateful to our funders, allies, board members, volunteers and staff for their dedication and support in advancing this critical agenda.

- Adenike Esiet

adapt



Service Provision Responses in the Era of COVID-19

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown that began in March 2020 meant that several of our programmes had to adapt to the new context. This entailed transitioning from physical meetings to online meetings using platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams; and adhering to the COVID-19 protocols of physical distancing, mask wearing, and handwashing/sanitizing during any physical meetings and outreach activities.



1,012,000
Individuals

Were reached through
this campaign across Facebook,
Instagram and Twitter in
April and May 2020.

A common message that has carried on from the start of the pandemic is that older persons are more affected by COVID-19. Yet we know that the health and non-health impacts on young people are equally significant. In response, we have taken steps to ensure that young people in our communities play their part in driving solutions in the pandemic response.

Girl Leaders from the Girls Voices Initiative remained active partners in AHI's COVID-19 response-from conceptualization of interventions and knowledge-sharing, to implementation of response measures. As part of ensuring that their communities were kept safe, the Girl Leaders conducted risk awareness and COVID-19 prevention interventions. They also installed pedal-operated handwashing stations to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Bolade Oshodi, Oko-Agbon Makoko, Mushin and Mende Maryland.

Due to school closures and lockdown restrictions on youth-serving social service organizations, the AHI Youth-Friendly Clinic moved its information, education and communication (IEC) activities online

to Telegram and WhatsApp to continue addressing essential topics related to young people's sexual and reproductive health, life skills and livelihood particularly relating to challenges being faced in a COVID-19 context.

To improve access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) information and reduce the incidence of GBV during the pandemic, UNESCO supported AHI to conduct a preventive message campaign on social media using graphics and audio infomercials. This campaign reached 1,012,000 individuals across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter in April and May 2020.

The **COVID-19 lockdown** is a big threat to women living in **abusive relationships**. Spending more time with their abusive partners increases the chances of psychological, physical and sexual abuse.

Speak out and support access to help for women experiencing abuse in your community.

**Call 0815 577 0000
Mirabel Centre Helpline**



This message is brought to you by UNESCO Education for Health and Wellbeing Programme: Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Project.



Due to the **COVID-19 lockdown** and school closures, women in low-income households are **burdened with increased domestic labour**. The pressure of increased housework can increase the risk of tension, verbal abuse and physical violence in affected households.

Speak out and support access to help for women experiencing abuse in your community.

**Call 0815 577 0000
Mirabel Centre Helpline**



This message is brought to you by UNESCO Education for Health and Wellbeing Programme: Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Project.



The **COVID-19 lockdown** can increase the risk of **unintended pregnancies**. Pay attention to using a family planning method to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

SRH information and services is a human right, make it an essential service.

**Call 0815 577 0000
Mirabel Centre Helpline**



This message is brought to you by UNESCO Education for Health and Wellbeing Programme: Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Project.



When girls are not in school due to the **COVID-19 lockdown** especially those from the poorest income households, they are at higher risk of **sexual exploitation and abuse**.

No one has the right to demand any sexual favours or actions in return for offering help.

**Call 0815 577 0000
Mirabel Centre Helpline**



This message is brought to you by UNESCO Education for Health and Wellbeing Programme: Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Project.





932,000
Individuals

Were reached through a social media awareness campaign driven by an animated video published across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter in August 2020.



In furtherance of AHI's partnership with the Ogun State Government, the MacArthur Foundation supported our risk awareness communication activities with the State Ministry of Health. In addition to monitoring the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP), AHI also worked with the State Ministry of Health to take information to Ogun State residents about COVID-19. We developed a risk awareness publication in English and Yoruba and mobilized community volunteers to enlighten people about preventing the spread of the virus and dispel common misconceptions and misinformation. AHI also created radio jingles in Yoruba, English, and Ijebu, as well as an animated video targeted at children on television. A concurrent social media awareness campaign driven by the video reached over 932,000 individuals across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter in August 2020. You can watch the video at <https://youtu.be/cxY7M5tpenE>



Supporting Young People's Transition to Productive Adulthood

The Youth Skills Development Programme (YSDP) reflects the core of AHI's mission - the creation of opportunities for young people to transition successfully to productive adulthood.

“

In the meantime, they are all pursuing opportunities to acquire more skills.

Since its inception in 1992, the YSDP has provided the opportunity for an annual cohort of young people aged 16 and 19 years to develop the core competencies and skills to succeed in the adult world of work. In 2020, the YSDP participants were Ibukunoluwa Adejimi, Ayomide Ajibola, Victoria Benedict, Omotomilola Oladeji, Olumide Olorunfemi, and Williams Zannu.



While working on the YSDP, all six Youth Programme Assistants prepared for and took the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) exams, but due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, admission to their tertiary programmes has been put on hold. In the meantime, they are all pursuing opportunities to acquire more skills such as photography, graphic design, and web design. Meanwhile one of them is growing a hair and wig business online.



“

I had a great experience speaking to students about sexual health topics at school assembly outreaches and clinic sessions. The Youth Skills Development Programme has helped to build my skills in public speaking.

Olumide Olorunfemi



“

I am passionate about younger people's sexual and reproductive health. My experience working with AHI has helped sharpen my skills as a good team member. I have also grown as an agent for change through my participation on the Girls Voices Initiative.

Victoria Benedict

“

Starting from my first day at AHI, I've been working on the fears I had as an introverted person. I can now talk confidently to my peers. During our last medical outreaches, I was very involved in the planning and I have more knowledge about managing projects.

Williams Zanu



“

I am grateful for the platform that AHI gave me to work as a Youth Assistant. I had a great time working with my colleagues and carrying out the ideas we had jointly developed as we embarked on fieldwork projects.

Ayomide Ajibola



“

During my time on the programme, I have gained more clarity about my life goals and improved on my communication skills. I had the opportunity to speak with community members and leaders on the importance of education for the Girl Child.

Ibukunolowa Adejimi



“

Working with AHI was a great experience. It wasn't too hard to blend into the working system; the older staff were all pleasant and ready to put us through the process. I particularly enjoyed work in the Youth-Friendly Clinic, on and offline.

Omotomilola Oladeji

Muslimah Lagos

Volume 1

Issue 1

April 2020

Volume 1

Action

Research

Our Lives
Create Change

engage

Preparing Young Women to Become Social Justice Leaders

In response to the human rights abuses, gender-based violence, and limitations to their education, employment, and full participation in public life that many girls experience, the Girls Voices Initiative commenced in 2019. With the support of Rise Up, AHI identified and trained 60 Girl Leaders aged 13 – 18 from across Lagos State on how to engage with community leaders and decision makers to advocate for action on important issues affecting them and their peers.

In 2020, the cohort of Girl Leaders intervened in six key areas:



Group 1 (the Extraordinary Girls)

Convinced the Tutor General/Permanent Secretary of Education District I (Agege) to commit the implementation of the Lagos State Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, directly impacting 50,000 adolescent girls in the Education District.



Group 4 (the Pearl Girls)

Secured commitments from the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Olosan Police Station, the Baale of Atewolara, and the Iya-Oloja of Olowuye Market to ensure the end of sexual harassment in Atewolara.



Group 2 (the Dynamite Girls)

Secured the commitment of the Executive Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government to re-integrate over 2,000 out-of-school adolescent girls into formal and informal education.



Group 5 (the Ace Girls)

Facilitated the appointment of community vanguards to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of girls in the community, as well as a commitment from the Baale of Sogunro and Makoko to initiate actions towards ending child marriage in the community.



Group 3 (the HERStory Makers)

Secured the Education District III (Epe, Eti-Osa, Ibeju-Lekki and Lagos Island) Tutor General/Permanent Secretary of Education's commitment to improve sanitation facilities in schools across the district.



Group 6 (the Change Makers)

Secured commitments from the Baale of Mende and the local Councillor to take ending sexual harassment more seriously and 5 community vanguards were appointed to work in conjunction with police to promote the rights and wellbeing of the over 10,000 adolescent girls in the community.



Educating Nigerian Girls in New Enterprises Project Closes Out

Over the past three years, AHL, working in partnership with Mercy Corps and the Lagos State Agency for Mass Education, and with funding from DFID UK, worked to positively impact the lives of nearly 6,000 marginalized and out-of-school girls across five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Lagos State.

The programme was designed to build a critical mass of empowered girls by addressing the key pillars of literacy and numeracy skills, financial education, and life skills. The 3-year project came to a close in 2020.

In the course of the programme in 2020:



729 Girls

In the area of building life skills, were linked to different vocational training institutes to learn various skills that include hairdressing, fashion design, make-up, etc.



456 Girls

In the area of education, wrote transitional exams like the West African Secondary School-leaving Certificate Examinations (WASSCE), Joint Admission Matriculation Board (JAMB) and National Examination Council (NECO). Most of the girls successfully passed their exams.



National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

Members were trained on the ENGINE Teaching Methodology.



685 Girls

Opened bank accounts in commercial banks



130 Girls

Were supported with business expansion grants and equipment to support their individual enterprises.



Master Trainers

From the Lagos State Agency for Mass Education (AME) supported the training of Learning Centre Facilitators (LCFs) to aid programme implementation.





accountability

Promoting Accountability in the School Feeding Programme

Our three-year project to promote transparency and accountability in the Ogun State Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) reached its final stages in 2020.



Government needs to ensure accurate and consistent collection of school enrolment data, as a key requirement for good programme planning and budgeting.

Despite the disruption of the 2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic AHI:

- Convened a Monitoring and Evaluation capacity building training for officers of the Ogun State HGSFP office.
- Facilitated the publication of a state-level Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and monitoring data collection tools.
- Conducted a comparison of 2018/2019 data of schools being monitored by AHI and schools not monitored to assess the impact of the accountability monitoring intervention.
- Monitored the government-led Take-Home Ration (food palliatives) Programme implemented during the COVID-19 lockdown in 63 of the state's distribution centres.
- Conducted an End-Line study of the accountability project to better understand how to improve the school feeding programme in Ogun State.

The following are policy recommendations emanating from the end-line study:

- Government needs to ensure accurate and consistent collection of school enrolment data, as a key requirement for good programme planning and budgeting. Alternative reliable data sources on the number and profile of programme beneficiaries should also be explored, to complement the enrolment data provided by schools and state governments.

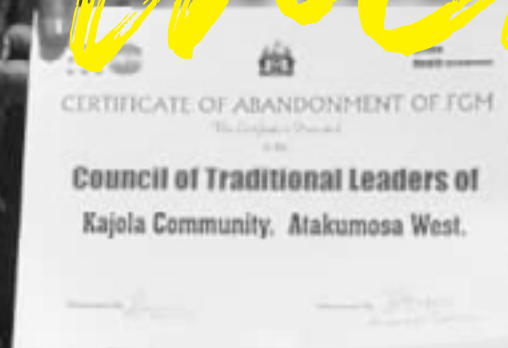


AHI will be undertaking project exit interventions focused on scaling-up the sustainability of accountability mechanisms in all the 340 public primary schools.

- The HGSFP should ensure that cooks are provided with photo identification, to curtail the pervasive practice of subcontracting cooks and facilitate the identification of defaulters on the programme. Greater attention should also be given to ensuring transparency in the recruitment of cooks based on stipulated selection criteria rather than the application of other spurious considerations that create room for compromising agreed operational standards.
- The Ogun HGSFP Office needs to continue strengthening the budding partnership with community stakeholders, making sure that community engagement becomes an integral part of the programme's design, as a pathway to sustainability.
- The government's monitoring and evaluation efforts to track progress and accomplishment of set goals can be significantly enhanced by involving volunteer community members and parents who provide a veritable resource for citizen-led monitoring as the AHI intervention has successfully demonstrated.

In 2021, AHI will be undertaking project exit interventions focused on scaling-up the sustainability of accountability mechanisms in all the 340 public primary schools located in the project's four focal LGAs, with support from the MacArthur Foundation.

partnership



Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in Osun State

In furtherance of the UNFPA/UNICEF Joint Programme mandate, UNFPA funded AHI's partnership with the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Affairs in Osun State for actions geared at eliminating the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in 7 LGAs in the state (Atakumosa West, Boripe, Ede North, Ifelodun, Ilesha West, Irepodun, and Olorunda).

This harmful practice, which is quite prevalent in South Western Nigeria, is a violation of women and girls' human rights, and has been found to have lasting psychological effects and lead to serious sexual and reproductive health complications.

Working in partnership with our state-level stakeholders and volunteers in Osun State.



50 Health Workers Trained

to operationalize the service referral pathway for FGM in the state.



50 Anti-FGM Champions

were trained across Boripe and Olorunda LGAs to advocate for the abolishment of the practice.



99 Surveillance Team Members

were trained to prevent, monitor and track FGM across the state and prevent cases of mutilation.



550 Community Members

between the ages of 15 and 75 participated in public declaration events in 22 communities, where they committed to collectively abandon the practice of FGM and prevent any new incidents.



Expanding Voluntary Access to Modern Contraceptives

Unexpected or unplanned pregnancies among women of reproductive age remains a major health challenge in developing countries where 1 in 3 maternal deaths could be avoided by delaying motherhood, spacing births, preventing unintended pregnancies, and avoiding unsafely performed abortions.

Through the DMPA-SC (Sayana Press) Scale-Up project supported by UNFPA, AHI has been addressing this challenge by expanding voluntary access to the Sayana Press injectable contraceptive among women of reproductive age. The project uses facility-based distribution and community health outreaches to meet the significant unmet need for contraceptives that exists in South-Eastern Nigeria, particularly in Cross River and Imo States. While increasing their awareness about modern contraceptives and dispelling myths and misconceptions, this

project provides women with a safe and effective option that is easy-to-use, requires minimal training and can either be self-administered or administered by community health extension workers (CHEWs) and community health volunteers (CHVs).

In 2020:



100 Healthcare Providers

Trained on awareness creation and delivery of the Sayana Press injectable contraceptive (DMPA-SC)



Community Outreaches

Were conducted to increase awareness about contraceptive options and these generated increased demand for family planning methods including DMPA-SC injectable.



15,237 Women

Were provided with DMPA-SC with 9,447 recorded as new users across 16 LGAs.



Providing SRH and GBV Services and Creating Pathways for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality

According to the World Health Organization (2018), the Northeast region of Nigeria has the highest maternal mortality rate in the country with 1,549 deaths per 100,000 live births.

In 2020, AHI's interventions in North East and North West of Nigeria were focused on increasing the reach of the health sector in addressing identified gaps in service provision to girls and women, as well as improving the capacity of healthcare personnel to enhance the health

and wellbeing of women and girls in the Humanitarian setting.

Through our UNFPA-funded projects, we were able to:



Strengthen the delivery of maternal healthcare through provision of five fully equipped IVM 1100 Tricycle Ambulances in Borno State



Last mile distribution of lifesaving and ante-natal care drugs, delivery kits, and medical supplies in Borno, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kastina State



Safe Spaces

Establish and equipped Safe Spaces in Rabah LGA in Sokoto and Gusau LGA in Zamafara state



Healthcare Providers

Build capacity of healthcare providers on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), Minimum Initial Service Package(MISP), Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) and GBV case management in Borno, Sokoto, Zamfara and Kastina



Furthermore, we accomplished the following through our Nigeria Humanitarian Fund-supported projects in Borno State:

- Strengthening integrated response to Sexual and Reproductive Health Emergency Services in Mongonu, Gwoza, Damboa and Dikwa
- Strengthening referrals and emergency transport scheme to aid pregnant women with complications to higher level of care

- Last mile distribution of lifesaving and ante-natal care drugs, delivery kits, and medical supplies in Mongonu, Gwoza, Damboa and Dikwa

- 4 information kiosks emplaced in Dikwa and Monguno LGAs

Safe Spaces

The key objectives of Safe Spaces are to provide an area where women and girls can:



Socialize and re-build their social networks



Receive social support



Acquire contextually relevant skills



Access safe and non-stigmatizing multi-sectorial GBV response services (psychosocial, legal, medical)



Receive information on issues relating to women's rights, health and services



123,561

Reached with health education messages and information to improve health outcomes



4,000

Reached with protective clothing attire (Hijabs)



20,525

Direct beneficiaries of emergency drug supplies, dignity kits and delivery kits and other sanitary items



308

Reached with psychosocial support and SRH/GBV Service



1,291

Births attended by skilled birth attendants



201

Healthcare providers with capacity built on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), Minimum Initial Service Package and GBV Case Management

BAYANINLAFIYA

Ku zo nan don samun
damar bayanana
kiwon lafiya.

INFORMATION



here to access
information.

improve

Improving SRHR Delivery to IDPs Through Evidence-Based Research

The Boko Haram insurgency which has displaced millions and heightened the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) vulnerabilities of women and girls, is magnifying the need to generate and use evidence to improve the design and delivery of SRHR interventions among women and young girls in IDP camps.

With an International Development Research Centre (IDRC) consortium grant to International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Ugandan Red Cross and AHI, a qualitative study was conducted in Muna Garage El Badawee Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp to document the SRHR challenges experienced by young women and girls, identify

existing services targeted at them including barriers to uptake of those services as well as possible ways to improve these services.

The study revealed that there is great need for:



Sexuality education among young women and girl IDPs to dispel misconceptions and encourage them to take advantage of available SRH services.



SRH Services

Increase in the duration of time that facilities are open to provide SRH services to IDPs, as well as, expansion in the range of services and products that are available.



Programme Implementers

To engage with parents, community leaders and men to change social norms around GBV, contraceptives, and child/forced marriage for programmes targeted at young women and girls to be effective.

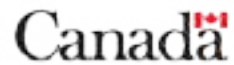


Service Providers

To be more intentional in preventing sexual abuse and exploitation of young women and girls by people in authority by developing a system to prevent and address the problem.



Our Funders



Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

as at December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Assets	N	N
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	62,610,907	53,517,383
Total Non-Current Assets	62,610,907	53,517,383
Current Assets		
Receivables	127,626,188	97,033,579
Prepayment	2,103,971	1,212,930
Inventories	936,987	1,197,362
Cash and Cash Equivalents	253,961,495	251,857,412
Total Current Assets	384,628,641	351,301,283
Total Assets	447,239,548	404,818,666
Liabilities & Reserves		
Reserves		
Restricted	83,964,133	84,615,999
Unrestricted	289,105,134	272,367,827
Total Reserves	373,069,268	356,983,826
Current Liabilities		
Account Payable and Accrued Liabilities	36,843,612	47,834,840
Income in Advance	37,326,668	-
Total Liabilities	74,170,280	47,834,840
Total Liabilities and Reserves	447,239,548	404,818,666

Statement of Activities

for the year ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue	N	N
Grants and Special Projects Contributions	613,536,599	569,427,580
Finance Income	1,842,256	8,093,311
Other Income	15,391,526	9,900,032
Total Revenue	630,770,381	587,420,923
Operating Expenditure		
Program Services	520,646,225	447,838,347
Management and Administrative Expenses	94,347,415	114,651,022
Fundraising	3,986,332	3,684,777
Total Expenditure	618,979,972	566,174,146
Surplus For The Year	11,790,409	21,246,777

NB:

2020 Figures Based On Un-audited Financial Statements

2019 Figures Based on 2019 Audited Financial Statements By Ernst & Young

Action Health Incorporated

 17 Lawal Street, Off Oweh Street, Jibowu Yaba Lagos, Nigeria

 +234 812 344 5837

 info@actionhealthinc.org

 www.actionhealthinc.org

 www.facebook.com/actionhealthinc.org

 Twitter: @actionhealthinc