



2024

ANNUAL REPORT

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Executive Director's Statement

It is with immense delight and gratitude that I share the highlights of Action Health Incorporated's interventions with addressing the interconnected health, education and socio-economic challenges that constrain young people's access to the services they need to achieve their full potential and how we creatively adapted to the changing landscape of youth development programming in 2014.

A key opportunity we harnessed in 2024 based on our understanding of the massive use of mobile phones by young people, was the launch of the new website — www.softlife247.com, which was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This educational platform is designed to provide young people with comprehensive, evidence-based, accurate and age-appropriate information Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights information through a channel they are very familiar and comfortable with.

We also continued to provide access to sexuality education and life skills for young people in schools across Lagos State, deepened our focus on eliminating female genital mutilation (FGM) in high prevalence communities of Oyo, Osun and Ekiti States, expanded the capacity building programmes for health service providers, and scaled-up our humanitarian interventions in the conflict-affected regions of North-eastern Nigeria.

Our Youth Skills Development Programme offering young school leavers a one-year work internship at AHI continues to contribute to shaping their lives as they move on to university, doing great things. A good number of past beneficiaries are also building their own organizations, carrying on similar missions. Their experiences underscore the importance of providing opportunities for young people to lead and innovate.

Our Youth-Friendly Clinic, offered capacity building through the orientation programme for medical and nursing students who are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to deliver adolescent- friendly health services. The Resident Doctors Programme in partnership with the College of Medicine University of Lagos and the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital is a continuing testament to our dedication to nurturing competent and compassionate healthcare professionals who are responsive to the unique needs of young people.

AHI's commitment to ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in high-prevalence communities bore fruit, with substantial community pledges and the empowerment of young advocates who are leading the charge against this harmful practice, and reaffirming the power of education and community engagement.

Our humanitarian interventions in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States addressed the urgent needs of crisis-affected populations, providing life-saving assistance, improving access to essential services, and supporting survivors of gender-based violence. We also contributed to emergency response and service provision when the flooding disaster ravaged Borno State, as well as, established 3 (three) Women and Girls Safe Spaces/ Vocational Centers in Gujba, Fune and Geidam Local Government Areas of Yobe State and opened a new office in Damaturu to support our growing portfolio in the state.

This annual report presents our programme performance indicators and I must acknowledge that AHI's achievements in 2024 and in years past, are a result of the unalloyed support we receive from our implementing partners, stakeholders, volunteers, as well as, our donor organizations whose investments enable us deploy effective approaches to ensure our interventions remain impactful and relevant. We are also very grateful for the invaluable partnerships we continue to enjoy with state government ministries and agencies that grant us access to the communities we serve. Likewise, I extend my utmost appreciation to our Board Members for their undeterred dedication to guiding AHI's sustainability, and to the management and staff of AHI who tirelessly execute interventions that facilitate young people's successful transition to productive adulthood.

As we go into 2025, the road ahead is filled with opportunities to better respond to the emerging issues that have the greatest impact on young people's lives. We also have to contend with the complex nuances of Nigeria's economy and the growing trend of global cuts to development aid budgets and their profound implications for humanitarian organizations like AHI and vulnerable communities where we work. Nonetheless, we remain committed to our resolve to use creative and innovative strategies, to advance our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of the young people we serve.

Adenike
Executive Director

2024 Impact by Numbers



Supporting Young People's Transition to Productive Adulthood

6 teenagers benefitted from a one-year internship and learning journey to self-discovery

Public Engagement & Advocacy to Address Female Genital Mutilation



20

communities publicly declared the abandonment of the practice of FGM

13,891

people reached with FGM messages through sensitization programs conducted at school assemblies and in communities in Southwestern Nigeria

15

anti-FGM clubs established in secondary schools in Osun, Oyo, and Ekiti States

60

people trained and recruited into community-level surveillance systems to monitor compliance

40

medical and paramedical students equipped with tools to advocate against FGM, uphold professional standards and educate their peers

Empowering Young People with Lifesaving Information and Services

14,411

adolescents reached directly with sexuality education and life skills sessions

1,989

young people empowered with information to take action on climate change

315,600+

individuals reached with SRH and life skills information through AHI's social media channels

492

adolescents and youth reached with health services by AHI's Youth-Friendly Clinic

Building the Capacity of Service Providers and Future Leaders

141

next-generation doctors and nurses trained in youth-friendly service provision

14

post-graduate medical doctors trained in youth-friendly service provision





Fostering Resilience in Response to Nigeria's Humanitarian Crisis

6,854

reached with GBV
Case Management
and other specialized
services

5,788

individuals reached
by mobile medical
outreach activities

63,768

people provided with
mental health and or
Psychosocial support
(PSS) counselling services

311

births attended to by
skilled birth attendants
and health personnel

3

Women and Girls Safe
Spaces supported
to provide SRH/GBV
services

2

One-Stop
Centres established

123

cases of severe acute
malnutrition (SAM) and
moderate acute malnutrition
(MAM) addressed

7,000

hygiene kits
distributed as part of
AHI's humanitarian
intervention



121

children vaccinated in routine immunization campaigns

91,003

people reached with RCCE messages and information on SRHR and related services

2,334

vulnerable women and GBV survivors supported with livelihood skills

2,011

women accessed antenatal and post-natal services

24,529

adolescent girls gained improved life skills to strengthen their agency and build a communal safety net

1,024

dignity kits distributed as part of AHI's humanitarian intervention

550

delivery kits distributed as part of AHI's humanitarian intervention





Empowering Young People with Lifesaving Information and Services

At Action Health Incorporated (AHI), we believe in the power of knowledge to transform young lives. Our Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) unit works to equip adolescents and young people with vital information and access to essential services. By bridging critical knowledge gaps, we empower them to make informed decisions and thrive within their communities.

In 2024, AHI engaged youth through a variety of impactful programs, including:

Community Celebrations and Outreach: We organized commemorative day celebrations, school assemblies, after-school sessions, and youth forums, all supported by expert guidance from our Youth-Friendly Clinic.

Skill-Building and Career Development: Our Summer Holiday Program provided 40 young people (ages 10-17) with new IT skills and career guidance, opening doors to future opportunities.

Health and Wellness Education: We partnered with experts like The Safe Food Chefs NG and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to deliver crucial education on food safety and the dangers of drug abuse, reaching over 100 students.

Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns: Young people actively participated in campaigns marking key international days, creating awareness videos on child labor, sharing visions for the future on International Day of the Girl Child, and engaging in critical conversations on issues like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the role of education in peacebuilding.

Celebration of Youth: We provided space for young people to express themselves and enjoy their youth through talent shows, games, and discussions around important themes such as friendships and inclusion.



Through these initiatives, AHI is making a tangible difference in the lives of young people, empowering them to become informed, healthy, and engaged members of their communities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Enhanced Skills
40 young people gained valuable IT skills and career insights.

Increased Awareness
Over 500 young people participated in programs related to health, safety, and human rights.

Active Engagement
Young people demonstrated commitment to positive change through creative projects & advocacy efforts.





Cross-section of participants at
TFL 2024

Teenage Festival of Life: Inspiring Adolescents and Youth to Take Action on the Climate Crisis

Our signature event and edutainment platform, Teenage Festival of Life, returned for its 29th edition. The 2024 edition focused on the issue of climate change with the theme “Adolescents and Youth Taking Action on the Climate Crisis.”

Climate change is a defining crisis posing severe threats to humanity. Its impacts are felt disproportionately by vulnerable populations, particularly adolescent girls. Over 35 million Nigerians are affected by desertification, land degradation, and drought. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns threaten agricultural production and water availability, further impacting adolescents and young people in rural communities. Adolescents and young people (AYPs), especially girls, are often disproportionately affected by climate change.

The Festival ignited students’ creative passion to address the challenge of climate change. 304 entries from 217 schools across the 6 education districts in Lagos State were received in the drama, poetry, and song categories. A new development in 2024 was the collaboration with the Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture (LSCAC), which provided three creative consultants to serve as facilitators for the three forms of creative expression. After a rigorous selection process, consisting of

TFL 2024



304
Entries from

217
Schools
across



6

Education districts
in Lagos State

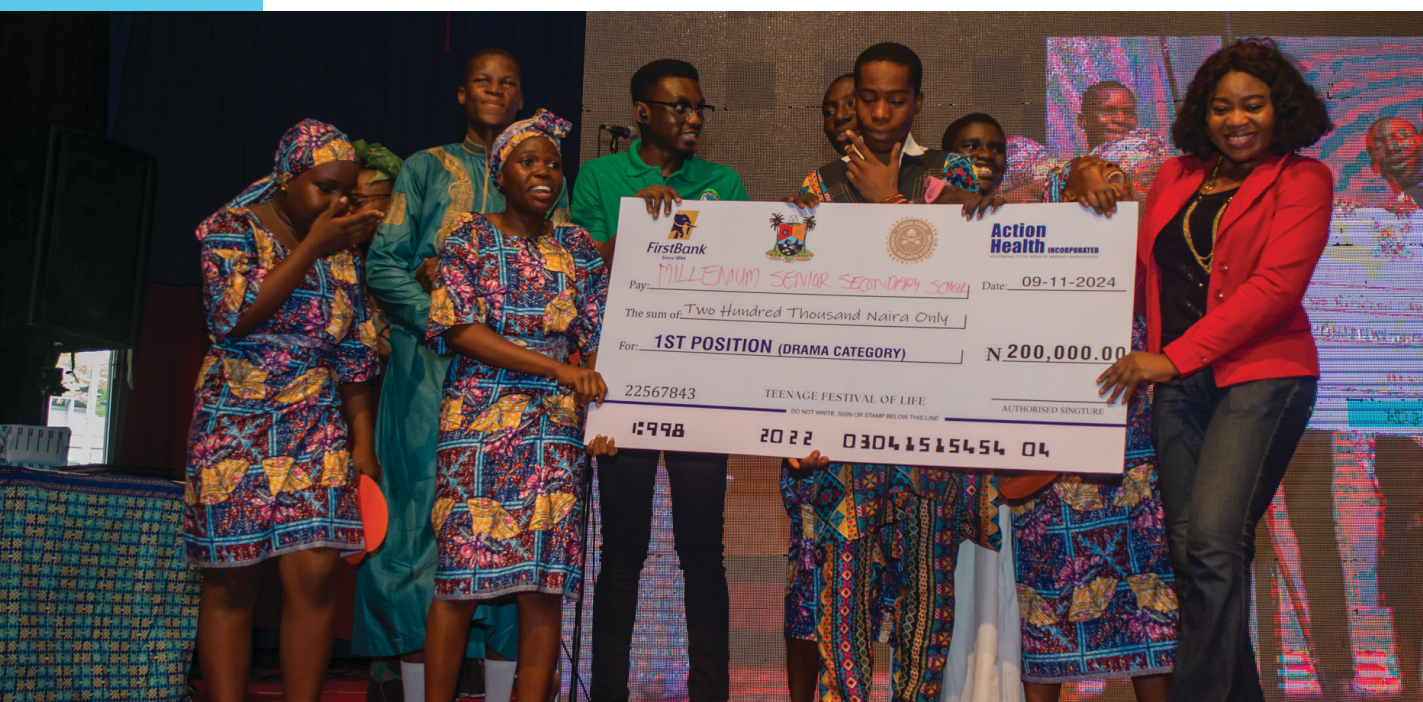




a review of the entries by AHI staff and Pre-Judging by the LSCAC creative consultants, nine schools consisting of the top three in each performance category were selected for the grand finale.

The grand finale was hosted by O.J Lafta with two Youth Skills Development Programme (YSDP) beneficiaries, Ms. Maryann Ugwuanyi and Mr. Divine Ogwuebu, serving as the youth compères. The event also brought together government officials from the Lagos State Ministry of Education, Lagos State Education Districts I – VI, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, and the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, along with UNFPA and Civil Society Organization representatives.

The event was packed with thrilling performances by the finalists with Millennium Senior Secondary School, Egbeda emerging victorious in the drama category, Ijaiye Housing Estate Secondary School, Alakashi, Salolo in the music category, and Estate Junior High School, Ifako Ijaiye in the poetry category. Other winners include Gaskiya Secondary College, Badia Ijora, Oke-Odo Senior High School, Alimosho, Odomola Senior High School, Epe, and St. Luke's Junior Grammar School, Bariga. The compères kept the energy up with the support of the DJ and the attendees had a great time learning and celebrating.



UNFPA and UNESCO Partner with AHI to Birth SoftLife247

For Gen Zs and some millennials, life has to be soft! Influenced by pop culture, it's difficult to miss the preference for soft lifestyle among young Nigerians and their counterparts in several other parts of the world. Immediately a phone is flipped out from the bag or pocket, life becomes softer. With it, a ride could be ordered, shopping can be done, even lunch of the right taste and size can be 'summoned'.

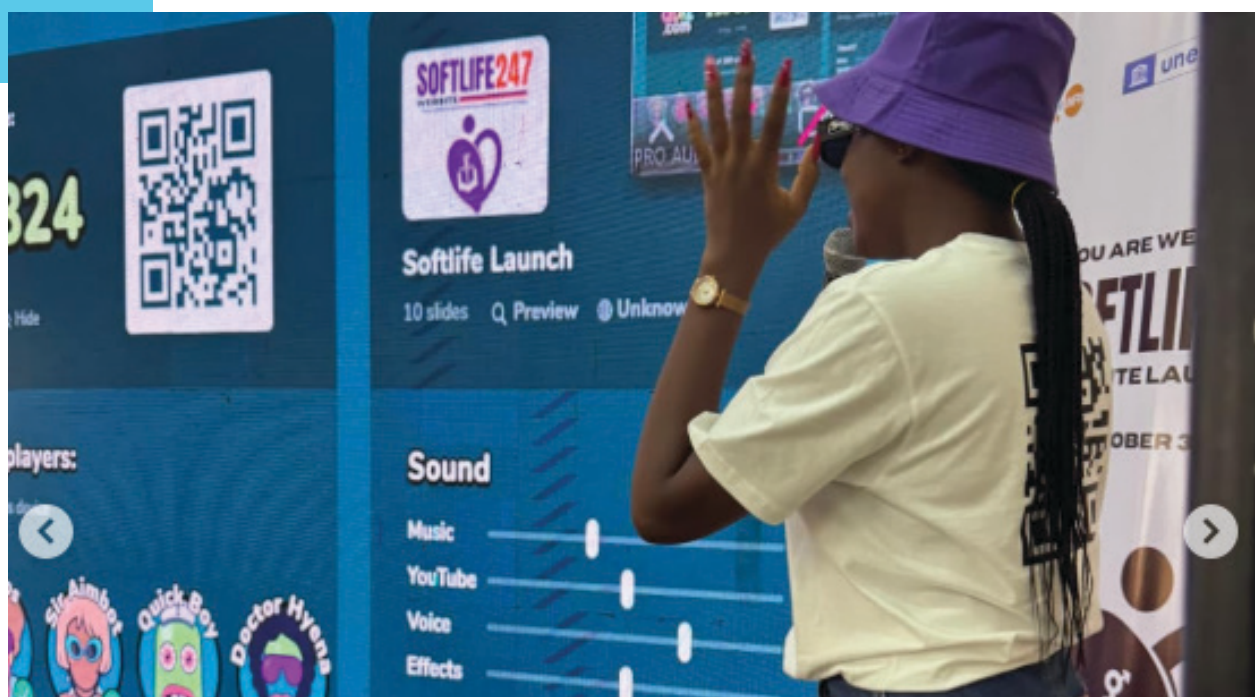
With technical support from UNFPA and UNESCO, AHI worked to make life softer for adolescents and young people with the launch of SoftLife247 (www.softlife247.com). The October 2024 hybrid launch put this platform designed to educate young people on reproductive health in the public domain. The platform provides comprehensive, evidence-based, accurate and age-appropriate information and linkage to services on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The website was developed through a series of co-creation and prototyping sessions with potential users across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, intentionally making the voices of young people and other key stakeholders dominant. It features five tracks on Human Body and Development, Life Skills for Health and Well-being, Sexual and Reproductive Health Behavior, Relationships, and Society and Culture.

During the SoftLife247 launch, AHI's Executive Director, Adenike Esiet referenced AHI's long-standing history of providing opportunities for the development of young people's health and well-being, and how it has given the organization the opportunity to learn firsthand, about the empowering impact that access to accurate and timely information has on young people's decision-making ability.

Representing the UNFPA Resident Representative at the launch, Dr. Esther Somefun expressed excitement about the successful collaboration by the two UN agencies with AHI, that birthed SoftLife247. Appreciation was also extended to the Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Ministry of Education, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, AHI's Technical Consultants, as well as, the young people and diverse civil society organizations who contributed in the process of the educational platform's development.

SoftLife247
clearly puts critical
information in the
hands of young
people in the format
and size that they
require it most — soft
and convenient to
access.



Provision of Youth-Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

AHI's Youth-Friendly Clinic is a safe space where adolescents and young people aged 10-24 can access vital SRH and general health services. Our goal is to empower young people to reach their full potential by addressing their health needs in a supportive and confidential environment. At our clinic we provide:

- **Personalised Sexuality Education:** Confidential sessions addressing individual needs and concerns.
- **General Health Services:** Comprehensive check-ups and treatment for various health issues.
- **SRH Testing and Counselling:** Services for HIV, Hepatitis B, and contraception, with expert guidance.
- **Referral and Support:** Assistance in accessing specialised care when needed.

In 2024
492
young people
received excellent
youth-friendly
services at the clinic

89%
Females
uptaking services

UNESCO FLHE Research Dissemination

Action Health Incorporated with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) carried out the review of the short and intermediate term outcomes of the Family Life and HIV Education (FLHE) in Lagos State. The dissemination of the review's report had in attendance the Lagos State Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Hon. Jamiu Alli-Balogun represented by Mrs. Akinlade Omolayo. Also in attendance was the UNESCO Abuja Head of Office, Diallo Abdourahamane. There was also representation from the Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria National Commission for UNESCO and UNFPA.

The dissemination highlighted that Lagos State benefitted from rigorous FLHE in 2005 to 2008 and 2010. There was also a reflection on how the training of teachers helped in training 40 master trainers. Most of the teachers trained then are now senior teachers, principals, and vice principals. FLHE, it was shown has also impacted the adults who are teachers as well.

Dr. Emmanuel Adebayo, the researcher engaged for the study from Torchlight Collective shared some findings from the report. The study involved over 200 students with 70 of them involved in the Focus

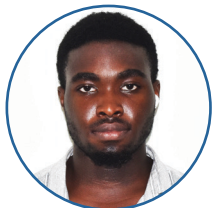
Group Discussion. From the study, it became clear that lots of students talked about new information with friends and 70% of them talked to their friends and some to adults about new findings. Teachers also reported persecution from their colleagues in schools because they are labelled teaching the students wrong things. In some cases, FLHE teachers go the extra mile by going to the homes of parents to understand the home students are from and to follow up in ways that guarantees better outlook for the students.

Some other insights include that FLHE, as it is right now, is heavy on information but low on skills. Students learn a lot of 'whats' and 'whys' but not a lot of 'hows'. The report also noted that FLHE happens when the students are younger, and it is a skill they need more when they start romantic relationships in senior secondary school years and at that time, they no longer have access to FLHE. Each of the interviews with the students lasted a minimum of about an hour and half as the adolescents had a lot to say. The Executive Director of Action Health Incorporated commended UNESCO for coming to the 'Centre of Excellence' to learn about FLHE especially as FLHE in Nigeria started in Lagos State.

Supporting Young People's Transition to Productive Adulthood

Our Youth Skills Development Programme's (YSDP) mission is to enable secondary school leavers to develop the core competencies and skills required for their transition from adolescence to a healthy and productive adulthood. It is a 12-month program that empowers secondary school leavers (aged 16 to 19) with the tools they need to thrive in the working world and beyond.

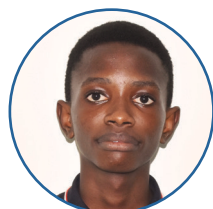
"YSDP 2K24" was the 21st set at Action Health Incorporated and it comprises young people from diverse backgrounds: Mahlon Amusan, Dorcas Dansu, Wisdom Nkomuwa, Divine Ogwuegbu, Dawodu Sekinah, and Maryann Ugwuanyi. As Youth Ambassadors, they provided program and administrative support for AHI's work, including receiving and interacting with youth clients at the AHI youth center library and youth-friendly clinic, and implementing social and behavior change communication (SBCC) programs.



Mahlon Amusan



At first, I wasn't really expecting much from the program and just decided to give it a try. I would say that January was quite a tedious month for me. Joining the organisation meant I had to put my previous plans for the year on hold. SBCC helped to improve my communication skills and my resourcefulness. Sometimes, we were spurred to think on the spot, and I think I can handle more pressure and work under pressure now. I am also more computer literate because I have been made to use software that I couldn't operate previously. My time at the organisation was memorable as all the staff members were hospitable towards me. The program is a beautiful idea and AHI is a wonderful organisation. I suggest there should be more time for youth ambassadors to reflect with one another and conduct team assessments.



Wisdom Nkomuwa



I am extending my deepest gratitude to AHI for the opportunity of this internship as a Youth Ambassador. During my time on the programme, I have been able to build organisational capacity, imbibe valued leadership skills, and get hands-on experience in teamwork and furthering the agenda on sexual health and gender inequality. As a Youth Ambassador, I am grateful to be granted exposure to work hand-in-hand with other brilliant minds in achieving a common aim.

Shall I talk about my experience with the students? It was awesome having to interact with them and clear fogs of questions that in their minds as regards their sexual and reproductive health. Also, having to represent young people in rooms that matter and encourage them to be greater versions of themselves was another level of awesomeness. I am immensely grateful once more to the entire management of Action Health Incorporated for the opportunity to thrive beyond my environment's dictation and to reach for the stars even when they seemed far. For the experience here and beyond, I give thanks to AHI for shaping my reality.



**Divine
Ogwuegbu**

“

Prior to getting employed as a Youth Ambassador at AHI, I had little or no prior knowledge of work life. I discovered that working in AHI was the right place for me to gain a handful of experiences — teamwork, resilience, assertiveness, being able to relate with adults, public speaking, etc. Staying in SBCC was taxing – I learnt there are different students with different characters and we need to relate with them at different levels to pass vital messages to them. One of my most amazing times in AHI was when I compèred at TFL, and different people were surprised I was able to mount the stage facing over a thousand people, including students from different schools and individuals from different ministries, congratulating me for a job well done, most especially with Dr. Esiet giving me a very long handshake which I truly appreciated. This proved to me that I’ve improved in my assertiveness and public speaking skills. It has been a wonderful time for me in AHI and I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity and privilege to be part of the YSDP in 2024.





**Dorcas
Dansu**

“

When I first started, I expected to gain some experience, build my network, and enhance my skills. However, this program has exceeded my expectations in every way. I have been entrusted with significant responsibilities, worked in different units, and collaborated with incredible colleagues with different passions. Throughout my internship, I have developed a wide range of skills including leadership, communication, the ability to write a well-detailed report and work plan, working with cross-functional teams including staff and interns, fostering strong relationships and a deeper understanding of teamwork, navigating ambiguity, adapting to changing priorities, and demonstrated resilience in the face of challenges.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to AHI for giving me this incredible opportunity. As I move forward, I am reminded of the importance of embracing uncertainty, building meaningful relationships, and pursuing purpose, and I aspire to continue making a positive impact in my community, advocating for healthy and productive adulthood, and empowering young people to become active citizens.



**Maryann
Ugwuanyi**

“

I had always known that the Youth Skills Development Program was all I needed to kick-start my out-of-secondary-school experience and oh-so-well it did! Every task was educational, and every journey was eye-opening. I had the chance to represent young people at various levels and be part of an awesome, much-needed website project to cater to the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of young people. During this voyage, I navigated through time mismanagement and procrastination. I have also been able to find treasures in my talents and potential. My stay at AHI has helped me to meet people from different walks of life — talented young people included. Through the annual Teenage Festival of Life, I tapped into my potential as an upcoming media personality and saw the talent in the young performers as well. As a Youth Ambassador in the Clinic Unit, I interacted with different young people about their SRH concerns, and I realised that indeed, these issues are closer than we think, and I am grateful for the opportunity to interact with these young people one-on-one.

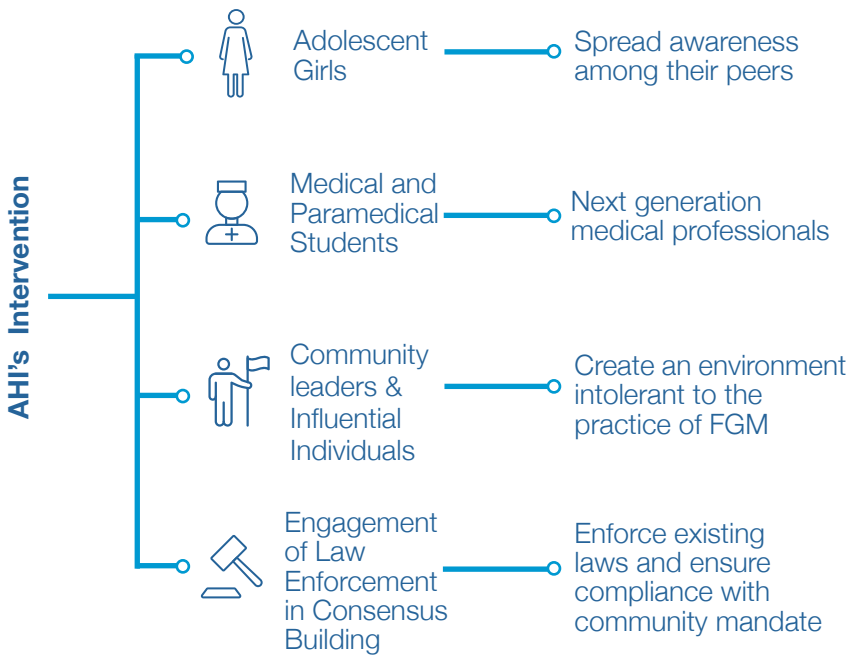
Finally, as a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, AHI has constantly shown me that indeed the question we all need to ask ourselves is “What can we do for the country?” and not “What can the country do for us?”



Public Engagement and Advocacy to address Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a globally recognised violation of the human rights of girls and women. Despite a global decline in its prevalence, FGM remains practiced in some parts of the world, including Nigeria.

As part of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and primarily with the support of UNFPA, AHI used a multi-pronged approach to address the problem in South-West Nigeria.



Our intervention responds to Nigeria’s status as one of the highest contributors to the global FGM burden. 20 million women and girls in Nigeria (15.1%) affected and in Osun (44.7% of women aged 15 – 49, and 12.8% among girls aged 0 – 14 years old). Though there was a marked decline from 27% in 2011 and 18.4% in 2017, the prevalence of GBV is still significant. Our intervention is intended to end the harmful practice of FGM, which is a form of gender-based violence (GBV) and a gross violation of girls’ and women’s human rights.

The primary beneficiaries of our intervention were girls and women who are protected from the practice of FGM. The secondary beneficiaries were the other members of the targeted communities, community leaders and religious leaders, medical students, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). We measured success by the number of girls empowered with knowledge and skills, the number of communities that abandon the practice of FGM, and the number of medical and paramedical students who denounce the practice.

Residents in Orolu, Osogbo, Egbedore, and Ede North communities have taken a strong stance against FGM, helping girls and women feel that they are valued within their communities with families previously in support of the practice now having an understanding of its harmful effects. Boys and men have also been mobilised as advocates against the practice of FGM and have a better motivation to stand against it in the community.

As a result of AHI’s deep community engagement and capacity building, social and gender norms are being transformed and entire communities are becoming advocates against the practice of FGM.





Voices from the Field

“I really enjoyed the drama presentation put on during the 16 Days of Activism. Before, I didn’t know that forcing my wife to have sex with me when she was not in the mood was rape. I thought that because she is my wife, I should be able to have sex with her whenever I like. This event has enlightened me and I will not do it again.”

– Anonymous

“The challenge I encountered during my advocacy outreach was at a particular community in Ede South. When I visited this community to sensitize them on FGM, the community members were so stubborn and did not accept that FGM is bad. However, I refused to give up. I had to revisit the community several times before my message was accepted, and ...I was able to convince them. About 125 people (40 males and 85 females) ended-up pledging to stop FGM in their community and also telling others about the effects of FGM. I won’t stop promoting this message of FGM being wrong until everyone hears about it.”

– Alfa Sharafudeen Abubakar



Building the Capacity of Service Providers and Future Leaders

Empowering the Next Generation of Youth-Friendly Health Service Providers



In addition to providing services and conducting outreach activities, the Youth-Friendly Clinic also supports AHI's capacity building interventions.

One key intervention involves training 500-level medical students from the Department of Community Health and Primary Care at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos (CMUL), and nursing students from the Post-Basic School of Mental Health Nursing, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Yaba, Lagos.

Participants receive comprehensive training in Concepts and Principles of Youth-Friendly Health Service Provision through lectures, group discussions, role-play, and scenario-based problem-solving sessions. The objective is to equip medical and nursing students with practical knowledge and skills to effectively provide adolescent and youth-friendly health services in healthcare settings in Nigeria. In 2024, 141 medical and nursing students were trained.

Another capacity-building initiative is the Resident Doctor Programme, which hosts doctors undergoing postgraduate training in the Departments of Community Health at Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) and Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH).

They spend a month at the AHI Youth-Friendly Clinic, providing consultations to clients and conducting outreach activities in secondary schools and communities in Lagos, gaining the hands-on experience and learnings to better address the unique needs of young people. At the conclusion of their residency, they deliver an educational presentation on a topic related to their area of interest or specialization. In 2024, 14 post-graduate medical doctors participated in the Resident Doctor Programme.

These capacity-building interventions are vital in enhancing the proficiency of future healthcare providers, ensuring that they are well-prepared to meet the health needs of young people in Nigeria.

In 2024

141

medical and nursing students were trained

14

post-graduate medical doctors participated in the Resident Doctor Programme

Fostering Resilience in Response to Nigeria's Humanitarian Crisis

With the support of the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF), we worked in Fune, Geidam, and Gujba local government areas (LGAs) in Yobe State to build up vulnerable girls and women by incorporating personal safety and resilience skills into gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services. We also addressed the limited access that vulnerable girls, women, and persons with disabilities had to essential life-saving services.

We conducted this intervention because the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) needs assessment indicated that there was still a great need for protection services for girls and women in the BAY States (Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe) due to the risks of violence, abduction, rape, and other forms of GBV. Their vulnerability was also exacerbated by traditional gender norms and power dynamics.

The Timely Access to Care Project consisted of outreach activities (including awareness campaigns and sensitization sessions); vocational skills training, financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills to enable economic independence; psychosocial support services and GBV/SRH information provided during safe space sessions; and the construction of a one-stop centre in Gujba.

Interviews with project beneficiaries reported significant changes as a result of AHI's intervention, including increased access to life-saving gender-based violence (GBV) services such as case management and psychosocial support. The women and girls also noted an enhanced sense of safety and empowerment through the establishment of safe spaces and access to resilience-building activities as well as the support received in the form of 8,574 delivery, dignity, and hygiene kits distributed. Community members across the project locations also noted improved awareness and change in attitudes toward GBV prevention which previously due to cultural norms were not accepted. The case workers testified and demonstrated greater knowledge in delivering services as the result of the capacity building training received at the beginning of the project.

The project goes beyond offering GBV services — it empowers vulnerable women and girls by equipping them with essential skills to protect their dignity, build resilience, and actively contribute to their communities. The project also provided self-defense training to help them safeguard themselves in situations like potential rape, ensuring they are better prepared to face challenges. By mainstreaming self-defense and life skills training into GBV programs, it created more lasting change and impact, fostering a more inclusive environment where survivors can thrive and rebuild their lives with more hope. It is helping women and girls heal, regain their confidence, and become financially independent.





The project also has a transformative impact on underserved communities. Through targeted interventions in health, education, and livelihoods, it empowers individuals—especially women and girls—with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to break cycles of poverty and inequality, fostering sustainable development and creating ripple effects of positive change across generations.

Mafarki Ya Cika (A Dream Come True)

Maryam Adamu, a young woman born and raised in Gujba, Yobe State, had always been curious about technology. However, her aspirations of learning to use a computer seemed well out of reach due to limited access and resources in her community.

Through the intervention supported by Action Health Incorporated, Maryam gained access to a computer for the first time in her life at the digital learning center at the Women and Girls' Safe Space in Gujba. This opportunity opened a new chapter for her, giving her a chance to acquire skills that were previously unimaginable.

"Before this intervention, I had never laid my hands on a computer," Maryam shared enthusiastically. "Seeing a computer up close was something I only dreamed of, but now, I can actually use one. It feels like a dream come true!" With access to training and resources, Maryam has begun her journey toward digital literacy. She expressed gratitude and determination to make the most of the opportunity.

"I promise to pay utmost attention to learning everything about computers," she said confidently. "One day, I hope to teach others in my community, so they too can benefit from this knowledge."

Maryam's story reflects the transformative impact of providing access to technology and skills training in underserved communities. For her, it is mafarki ya cika — a dream come true. Her determination to not only learn but also share her knowledge with others showcases how interventions can inspire a ripple effect of positive change.





Delivering Health and Nutrition Assistance during the Lean Season: Providing Reproductive Health Services and Responding to Disease Outbreaks

The Nigeria Humanitarian Fund is also supporting the DELIVER Project, our intervention in Bama and Dikwa LGAs in Borno State. DELIVER addresses the nutrition and health needs of vulnerable populations such as children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

We are implementing the DELIVER project in response to the reality that conflict and insecurity has impeded access to people's farms and livelihoods and disrupted food and livestock markets; climate change has created a combination of dry spells and flooding which affect the farming season; and conflict, combined with poor water and sanitation services has spurred on outbreaks of diseases like cholera; and diphtheria became a major health concern in 2023.

DELIVER consists of mobile medical outreach activities, testing and treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), provision of essential health services in IDP camps, birth attendance by skilled medical personnel, antenatal and post-natal services, and health promotion activities. The beneficiaries of DELIVER are the host communities, returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Bama and Dikwa LGAs.

As a result of the mobile medical teams' efforts, vulnerable beneficiaries who couldn't access health facilities were reached with essential health services at the community level. There is also better awareness of our health services due to the awareness created by the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) teams. Through comprehensive and inclusive interventions, the project significantly improved access to essential healthcare services and empowered communities to adopt better health practices.

Communities have reported improved access to quality healthcare services, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach areas. 2,011 pregnant women have benefited from increased awareness and access to antenatal and post-natal care, resulting in safer pregnancies and healthier babies. Furthermore, community-level health education and disease prevention activities have enhanced resilience and reduced the spread of preventable diseases.



The Programme Officers involved in DELIVER assert that through strategic partnerships and localised interventions, critical health and nutrition needs can be effectively addressed, delivering essential support to vulnerable individuals, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, and bringing hope to underserved populations.

From AHI's efforts that help to bridge the gap of the Northeast's need as reported in OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview 2024, it is evident that providing health services and support in critical situations has a lifelong impact. Our engagement of stakeholders and government officials is a testament of our intent to collaborate and promote community ownership. It also proves that AHI's community empowerment framework and inclusive strategy works.





“I received help to bring my baby into this world safely when I was in fear.”

For Falmata Bakura, life in Bama Dina community, Bama Local Government Area (LGA) of Borno State, has not been easy. Ongoing conflict had already disrupted her community, and a recent flood swept away her husband's farm, leaving them struggling to access basic essentials, including healthcare. Pregnant with her first child, Falmata was deeply worried about how she would safely bring her baby into the world amid such challenging circumstances.

“The struggle to survive amidst the insecurity has already been overwhelming for my husband and me,” Falmata explained. “As if that wasn't enough, the recent flood destroyed everything my husband had planted on his farm. Being pregnant during such a difficult time left us both heartbroken, wondering how we would make it through,” she added.

Everything changed when she met AHI's Risk Communication Team members who referred her to the GDSS IDP camp health facility.

“I was scared and unsure where to go for help,” Falmata said. “When they came to my community and told me about the AHI services at the health facility in the IDP camp, I felt hope for the first time in months.”

At the health facility, Falmata attended regular antenatal care (ANC) sessions. These sessions taught her what to expect during her pregnancy and how to care for herself and her unborn child.

“I didn't know so much about pregnancy before, but they explained everything to me, and I was also given an insecticide treated mosquito net. Now, I sleep better at night knowing my baby is safe,” she shared with a smile.

Beyond medical care, Falmata attended sensitisation sessions that taught her about good hygiene practices, post-natal care, and proper nutrition. These sessions gave her the confidence to care for her newborn and herself after delivery.

Today, Falmata holds her healthy baby close, her face glowing with joy and gratitude. “I don't have the words to thank the people who helped me,” she said. “They were like angels sent to us. They helped me bring my baby into this world safely when I was in fear.”

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Thanks to the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF), Falmata's story is a powerful reminder of how accessible and compassionate essential healthcare can impact lives, even in the most vulnerable communities. Her journey reflects the importance of ongoing AHI efforts to ensure that women and children in Bama and Dikwa LGAs of Borno State, have the chance to thrive in good health. Over 880 young women like Falmata have benefitted immensely from this intervention.

UNFPA Supported Humanitarian Intervention

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) supported AHI's efforts in Adamawa and Yobe States to combat the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and harmful traditional practices like early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

As part of this intervention, we provided survivors with access to psychosocial support, medical care, and legal aid; raised awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender equality, and the importance of addressing GBV; mitigated the economic vulnerability of women and girls by providing skills training, livelihood opportunities, and financial support; addressed the mental health needs of women and girls affected by trauma, displacement, and violence; and provided counselling and psychosocial support to promote resilience and recovery.

The **47,800** beneficiaries of AHI's intervention included women, girls, boys and men from among Host Communities, IDPs, and returnees including persons with disabilities. The indicators of the programme's success were the number of persons reached with specialized GBV services including psychosocial support (PSS); the number of persons reached with SRH services including antenatal care, post-natal care, family planning, and STI treatments; the number of births attended by skilled medical personnel; the number of girls and women reached with livelihood skills training; and the construction of a one-stop center in Gulak, Madagali LGA of Adamawa State.

When beneficiaries reflected on the programme's impact in 2024, they observed transformative changes, including that many girls and women gained practical skills such as tailoring, enabling them to achieve financial independence and contribute to their families' well-being; and that through sensitization campaigns and educational sessions, communities became more aware of issues like gender-based violence, early marriage, and the importance of supporting girls and women. There has also been a marked reduction in intimate partner violence (IPV) in Daware, Fufore LGA due to continuous awareness-raising efforts within the community.

One key thing the Programme Officers want the world to know about our UNFPA-supported intervention is that the Women and Girls Safe Space in Daware serves as a vital hub for GBV prevention and response, offering survivors access to essential services, shelter, psychosocial support, and empowerment programs that build resilience and promote economic independence. Another is that this intervention prioritizes the dignity, safety, and well-being of women and girls in crisis-affected areas, providing life-saving services, empowering them with knowledge and skills, and ensuring their voices are heard in building a more resilient future.





Hauwa Abdul's journey from a dreamer to a skilled pasta maker is a testament to the power of passion and opportunity. For years, Hauwa had nurtured a deep desire to learn the art of pasta-making. Despite her enthusiasm, she faced numerous obstacles that prevented her from fulfilling this dream. It wasn't until the Women and Girls Safe Space in Daware introduced a pasta-making training that Hauwa's aspirations began to take shape.

She recalls, "I've always loved cooking, and pasta was something I always wanted to master. But I never had the chance or the resources to learn it properly." The introduction of the pasta-making training at the Safe Space provided her with the perfect opportunity to pursue her passion. "When I heard about the training, I was overjoyed. It felt like a dream come true," she says with a smile.

The training not only equipped Hauwa with the skills to make a variety of pasta dishes but also instilled in her a newfound confidence. "Learning pasta-making has opened so many doors for me," Hauwa shares. "I now feel more confident in my abilities and intend to start my own small business."

Hauwa's journey is a shining example of how access to resources and training can empower individuals to achieve their dreams. The Women and Girls Safe Space in Daware has played a pivotal role in transforming Hauwa's life, turning her passion into a tangible and rewarding skill. "This experience has changed my life," Hauwa reflects. "I'm so grateful for the support and the opportunity to learn and grow."

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