

HEAL

THE LEPROSY MISSION NIGERIA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Children living with disability in Nigeria are raising awareness about the challenges of learning in a pandemic.

The path to education for children with disabilities is congested with challenges particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria. These challenges range from lack of resources, insufficient access to information, weak or absence of effective policy framework for inclusive education. To promote access to inclusive education for children with disabilities, The Leprosy Mission Nigeria (TLMN) with funding support from Liliane Fonds (LF) organized the “We Ring the Bell” event to commemorate the Global Action Week on Education. This event contributed to raising public awareness and called on policy makers to work towards improving access to inclusive education for children with disabilities in Nigeria.

Thursday May 12, 2022 in the Capital City of Nigeria, Abuja at Dennis Hotels, Wuse II, Children from inclusive schools, delegation from the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, development actors and students all came together to “Ring the Bell”.



Students of the School of The Blind Jabi, presenting a



The clamor for 'accessible education' couldn't be any louder as it is important that all schools remove the barriers that prevent all children with disabilities from getting fair opportunities at education. It is imperative that all parents, guardians, and caregivers support education for their children with disabilities and stand up for their children in the face of discrimination. Authorities at all levels must commit to ensuring that the right to education for every child is respected.

In Nigeria during the Covid19 pandemic schools were shut down and most schools switched to online learning which teachers and parents in Nigeria were rarely equipped and ill prepared to manage. This led to additional barriers to education for children with disabilities. For Children with disabilities the concerns were not just how difficult it was for them to participate in online learning but also how the gap in unequal access to educational opportunities was further widened.

The challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic were enormous, including school closures and loss of educational terms, poor learning conditions, difficulties in home-schooling, poor/lack of technology for distance learning, poor knowledge/skills on the part of the teachers and parents, as well as poor/negative attitude towards teaching.





“My friends were playing, and I couldn’t join them, I couldn’t even exercise, much more participate in school.”

Kingsley Kawedo

Visually Impaired Student (School of the Blind Jabi)





A visually impaired student Kingsley Kawedo highlighted the challenges he faced with accessing his virtual class and receiving lessons during the Covid-19 lockdown; *“my friends were playing, and I could not join them, I couldn’t even exercise, much more participate in school.”* Andrew Elizabeth a student at Government Girls Secondary School, Dutse after their breakout session, highlighted challenges of education during the lockdown; *“Most of the teachers just wanted to finish their scheme of work, sometimes we didn’t have data, and electricity was also a challenge.”*

TLMN partner organizations also lent their voices to this cause around Nigeria, the Festus Fajemilo Foundation (FFF) along with children at Ikeja Junior & Senior High School came together in a loud fun fare to create awareness on inclusive education, over 1993 Children and 80 teaching and non-teaching staff were sensitized on the rights of children with disabilities to education.

In Ozubulu LGA of Anambra State, another partner organization, Rehabilitation Centre for the Disabled Old and Tramp (RECDOT) cranked up the

decibels for Global Action Week for Education. The organization mobilized relevant stakeholders during the event to promote an understanding of disability issues, mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of children and young persons living with disabilities. The campaign also increased awareness on gains to be derived from the integration of children and young persons living with disabilities in education.





Learn how Healthcare is made more accessible to rural areas within the Federal Capital Territory.

Nigeria faces tremendous health challenges. The causes are a toxic mix of problems including inaccessibility of quality health care, poor hygiene, corruption, malnutrition, lack of access to safe drinking water, poor health infrastructure, fake drugs, insufficient financial investment, and lack of sufficient health personnel. Government's performance in the health sector has been abysmal. Investment in infrastructure has been sub optimal, and meager remuneration for health workers coupled with poor working conditions have created a massive brain drain of health professionals to the US, Europe and Asia. The annual budget of the government for the health sector is 4.17% of the total national budget, which is equivalent to only \$5 per person per year! The Leprosy Mission Nigeria with support from the Isle of Man Government, the Ministry of Health and The Leprosy Mission England & Wales, is going into the nooks and crannies of the city of Abuja partnering with relevant stakeholders including religious institutions around the Federal Capital Territory to get medical care to the slums.

Wheels that Heal is a mobile health service project currently

being implemented in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, over the past months the Mobile Clinic has been to 4 settlements in the F.C.T Including Dakwa, Piwoyi, Utako Village, and made a stop at the National Stadium.

Piwoyi Community Outreach:

The Leprosy Mission in collaboration with Diocese of Kubwa (Anglican Communion) held a medical outreach at Piwoyi Community Lugbe, Abuja.





TLMN through the outreach was able to reach over 300 people, and over 50% of that number presented with varying illnesses including and not limited to several non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes, communicable diseases such as leprosy, malaria & various chest infections. Piwoyi is one of clusters of satellite settlements in Abuja Municipal Area Council. It is located along KM 7.5, Umar Musa Yaradua Way, Airport Road, Abuja FCT, Nigeria.



Joshua Generation Youth Conference:

The Joshua Generation Youth Conference was born as a result of a need to galvanize young people; bring them together, teach and train them to be leaders well-grounded in Christ. It was created by the Primate of The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Most Reverend (Dr.) Henry Chukwudum Ndububa. At the second time running, The Leprosy Mission was there to provide medical support in collaboration with the Red Cross, The Anglican Medical Outreach Team, as well as other supporting bodies. Over 2000 young people received medical care by the collaborative efforts of The Leprosy Mission and the Anglican Medical Outreach Team.



Joshua Generation Medical Team (Comprising of The Leprosy Mission, R





ed Cross, & Medical Professionals/Volunteers of The Anglican Diocese)





L-R: Idowu Kolawole Jnr., Gwongson Dungyang, Jika Amah Baruwa, Garba Magaji, Francis Kabia, Zainab Usman, Pius Ogbu Sunday, Onah Uchenna

ADVOCACY

Creating Partnerships across Borders; A Visit from Sierra Leone.

In Nigeria, leprosy is still prevalent and remains a significant public health concern with around 2,000 new cases being diagnosed every year. It is therefore paramount that efforts are intensified in order to meet up with the goal of defeating leprosy and stopping leprosy transmission in Nigeria by 2035.

The Leprosy Mission is always willing to create collaborations, strengthen bonds between public and

private sector and foster new relationships both locally and internationally that would lead to improving lives, creating access, and effectively catering to persons with disabilities in Nigeria. Fostering partnerships to drive the cause was the core reason of the visit of Director of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children’s Affairs in Sierra Leone Mr. Francis Kabia.

Nigeria is one of the countries that have paved the way for inclusion of persons with disabilities in society. This inspired the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare,

Gender, and Children’s Affairs represented by Mr. Francis Kabia to pay a visit to the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development. He was received by The Director Special Needs, Mrs. Nkechi Onwukwe represented by her assistant, Mr. Garba Magaji. The visit was to create a “south-south cooperation” between Nigeria and Sierra Leone to the effect that a cross-regional collaboration can be established with both governments that would provide benefits for persons living with disabilities, and Nigeria at large.

TLMN NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE UPDATES

Staying Strong

in an everchanging organizational culture.

The work culture and organizational structure of many organizations in Nigeria changed during the Covid19 pandemic. Most organizations adopted a work from home culture which is still being used today. Recent studies have shown that organizations which took concrete actions on organizational health, saw an improvement in their performance. In the light of this, TLMN, in its quest to evaluate itself, left no stone unturned in assessing its overall organizational performance. TLMN embarked on an organizational health check (OHC). This was aimed at mirroring its impact and sustainability.

In a two-part assessment format via an online survey and a one-day review meeting of TLMN Management and staff, the organizational health check sought to:

- Assess the views of staff and Management of TLMN as captured in the assessment of the organizational health survey report.
- Identify existing gaps and opportunities for improvement and sustainability for TLMN.

The organizational health check was led by a consultant Dr. Ifeanyi Nsofor, and all staff of the NCO were present. At the end of the health check several recommendations were made that would contribute towards:

- Fostering an improved and sustainable organization
- Improving staff and board integration.
- Bridging capacity gap through mentoring and grooming.
- Creating more room for learning.
- Improving communication practices.



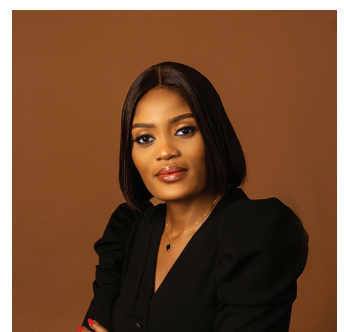
New Hands

Over the second quarter, two (2) new staff have joined the National Coordination Office, Abuja, they include:



Chioma Nkata

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountaability & Learning (MEAL) Assistant







Pamela Hagher

Head of Human Resources & Administration



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We are looking to interact with you and tell you all about us.

-  The Leprosy Mission Nigeria
-  @TLM_Nigeria
-  theleprosymission_ng
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