

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND ACTION RESEARCH CENTRE (WHARC)

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025



WHARC — Promoting the health and social well-being of women and youth through evidence-based research, advocacy, and service delivery

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Women's Health and Action Research Center (WHARC)
– leading the pathway for respectful reproductive and
maternal health care in Africa.

ABOUT US

The Women's Health and Action Research (WHARC) is a well-known non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1993 with its Headquarters in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The Centre is a registered legal entity with the Corporate Affairs Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It consists of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and researchers working together to improve the knowledge and the policy environment for advancing the social development of women and youth in sub-Saharan Africa.

OUR VISION

WHARC's vision seeks to create a world where all people are treated with equal respect and dignity and where women and young adolescents have equality and access to basic reproductive health information and services.

OUR MISSION

WHARC's mission is grounded in a deep love of humanity and a belief in equality and dignity for all people. WHARC works to improve the reproductive health and social well-being of women and adolescents in Africa so they can lead productive, fulfilling lives and provide a healthy future for their children. Through its cutting-edge research, WHARC educates women, youth, community gatekeepers, and policymakers about sexual and reproductive health and advocates for policy change at the local, state, and federal levels. WHARC also provides current and effective reproductive health services for adolescent girls in Africa.

To date, WHARC has conducted formative and intervention research that documents the socio-cultural determinants of women's health, which provides data for developing policies and programs for scaling up best practices relating to women's health in Nigeria and Africa. In particular, WHARC's niche is to use the results of research to build public health awareness and to advocate for policy changes about critical sexual and reproductive health issues in Nigeria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to all organizations that supported WHARC from 2024 to 2025 through the provision of financial and technical support. These include the following:

- 1) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- 2) Ford Foundation's Endowment
- 3) Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RCOG), United Kingdom

We are also grateful for the successful collaborations with the following organizations in 2023- 2024:

- 1) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- 2) Ford Foundation
- 3) Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency (EDSPHCDA), Nigeria.
- 4) State Ministry of Health, Edo State, Nigeria
- 5) The Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues (MSDGI), Edo State, Nigeria
- 6) Ward Development Committee (WDC), Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria
- 7) African Academy of Sciences (AAS)

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As the Women's Health and Action Research Center (WHARC) completes another year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), I would like to take a moment to reflect on the strides that we made during the year in advancing women's reproductive health and rights and social well-being. Our efforts to increase access to skilled pregnancy care in rural and underdeveloped communities have shown promising results, and I am extremely proud of the results we have obtained and the magnificent dedication and perseverance of our team.

Our key accomplishments during the year include the following: 1) increased health access for women – our interventions have led to a significant increase in women's utilization of health services for antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care services, largely epitomized by our model service delivery approaches at the Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital; 2) capacity building – we have strengthened the capacity builder of healthcare providers (nurses, midwives and doctors) as well as community health workers to deliver high quality maternal and new newborn services; 3) research and advocacy – our action-research and evidence-based advocacy efforts have contributed to increased awareness and commitment from several stakeholders (including policymakers and community leaders) to prioritize women's health and socio-economic development.

Despite these achievements, we recognize that much work remains to be done. Maternal mortality, gender-based violence, and the inadequate representation of women in policy and development arena remain major challenges in

Nigeria. However, WHARC promises to continue to push for sustained investment in healthcare infrastructure in health care infrastructure and human resource development in reproductive health in Nigeria.

As we move forward, we will focus on scaling up our interventions, leveraging technology, and strengthening partnerships to achieve greater success. I am excited about the potential for collaboration with other organization and stakeholders to drive meaningful social change.

I would like to express my genuine gratitude to our team, partners, and supports for their tireless efforts and commitments to our mission and vision. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of men and women, everywhere.

In this regard, let me congratulate Dr Natalia Kanem, one of WHARC's lifetime supporters and cheerleaders, who successfully completed her term as the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund in Mid-July 2025. We are very proud of her efforts in promoting the doctrine of reproductive health and its epitome for social development in all parts of the world. We pray that the good Lord protects and supports her in her future efforts to promote global development and well-being.

Let's all continue to work together towards a future where every woman has access to quality healthcare and the opportunity to thrive.

Dr Wilson Imogan
Executive Director, WHARC

CELEBRATING DR NATALIA KANEM'S TENURE AS UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Women's Health and Action Research Center is pleased to announce the successful completion of the tenure of Dr Natalia Kanem as the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in July 2025.

Dr Kanem provided the initial support, funding and advice as Program Officer at the Ford Foundation that led to the founding of WHARC in 1995. During her tenure at the UNFPA, Dr Kanem (a Panamanian by birth) played a pivotal role in enhancing global development in the field of reproductive health, and in promoting the global visibility of the UNFPA.

Her key and reproductive rights in global platforms, ensuring that the UNFPA delivered impressive life-saving results for women and girls, especially in the most challenged settings

- Global development impact: Under Dr Natalia Kanem's leadership, the UNFPA made significant strides in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) particularly in improving maternal health and reducing maternal mortality in low- and middle-income countries. The UNFPA's 3-zero framework provided a global platform to ensure that the ICPD recommendations and platforms of action for reducing maternal mortality are putting in policy ascendancy around the world. UNFPA's efforts helped to avert nearly 31 million unintended pregnancies, 9.5 unsafe abortions, and assisted 2.4 million safe deliveries in humanitarian-affected settings around the world.
- Increasing global visibility for UNFPA: Dr Kanem's leadership and advocacy efforts helped raise intense awareness about critical issues such as maternal mortality, obstetric fistula, harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, and gender-based practices. She emphasized the importance of promoting development through a culturally sensitive approach,

working within the context of each society and taking into consideration local values and beliefs.

The impact of Dr Kanem's work on women's lives have been plentiful. These include 1) reproductive health services – the UNFPA provided life-saving reproductive health services to millions of women and girls, including emergency services. In 2022, UNFPA's reproductive health services reached 22 million people in humanitarian settings, and programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence assisted over 2.3 million more: 2) Midwifery training: UNFPA trained approximately 200,000 midwives around the world, significantly improving quality maternal health delivery. The efforts of Dr Kanem and the UNFPA in responding to humanitarian crises, providing critical support to women and girls affected by conflict and natural disasters.

In sum, Dr Kanem's tenure as the Executive Director of the UNFPA has left a lasting legacy in the organization and the global community. Her dedication to advancing women's health and rights has inspired a new generation of leaders and advocates. Her legacy serves as a reminder of the importance of prioritizing women's empowerment and reproductive health in achieving sustainable development.

We congratulate Dr Natalia Kanem on her remarkable achievements and contributions to global development, and look forward to continuing in seeing the continued work of the UNFPA in advancing women's health worldwide.

We in WHARC are particularly proud of her for her continued mentoring and supporting that has enabled us to overcome some of the most pervading challenges since the founding of the Center.

PROGRAMS REPORT

Setting agenda on research priorities to prevent maternal deaths in rural Nigeria

In July 2024, the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) hosted a two-day workshop that brought together 15 multidisciplinary experts dedicated to tackling one of Nigeria's most pressing challenges: maternal mortality, particularly in rural communities. The workshop was designed to shape a national research agenda that would support UNFPA's goal of achieving zero maternal deaths in Nigeria by 2030.

The workshop came against the background of Nigeria's alarmingly high maternal mortality ratio, with rural women bearing the heaviest burden. WHARC saw the need to convene policymakers, researchers, and community actors to chart a more targeted path forward.

Attendees included key players from the Federal and Edo State Ministries of Health, Women Affairs, the National Bureau of Statistics, academic institutions, and local NGOs. While UNFPA officials could not attend, their maternal health agenda was presented by Professor Friday

Okonofua. Together, participants examined gaps in current programs, especially the overemphasis on family planning, and reached consensus on the need for deeper research on the core causes of maternal deaths in underserved communities.

The workshop culminated in the identification of 10 critical research priorities, including improving the quality and demand for rural PHC maternal services, enhancing referral systems, fostering community-led solutions, and scaling verbal autopsies to better understand causes of maternal death. It was also agreed that robust collaboration with government bodies like the Edo State Primary Health Care Development Agency is essential for better data and impactful interventions.

The workshop not only met its objectives but also laid a solid foundation for data-driven policy and program design. It was a vital step toward transforming maternal health outcomes in rural Nigeria, and ensuring no woman dies while giving life.



Participants at the Setting agenda on research priorities to prevent maternal deaths in rural Nigeria workshop



Prof. Okonofua giving a presentation on the maternal health agenda of the UNFPA

Evidence for Action: Addressing Maternal Mortality through Research

Between August and September 2024, the research team at the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) conducted some research to generate evidence-based causes of maternal mortality in rural Nigeria and identify solutions that can drive real change. This initiative combined extensive desk-based evidence reviews with on-the-ground fieldwork in primary healthcare centers across the Egor Local Government Area in Edo State.

The research revealed a web of factors behind Nigeria's high maternal death rates. Cultural beliefs, early marriage, poverty, and preference for traditional birth attendants continue to discourage women from seeking skilled care. At the same time, the healthcare system itself struggles, and many facilities lack essential equipment, trained staff, emergency transportation, electricity, and water. Health workers, though deeply committed, often operate in under-resourced environments that limit their ability to provide life-saving care.

Through literature analysis and direct interviews with healthcare providers, WHARC gathered powerful insights into both the demand and supply-side barriers women face. These findings underscore the urgent need to invest in rural health infrastructure, strengthen referral systems, and develop culturally sensitive strategies that resonate with local communities.

This dual research effort has laid a solid foundation for data-driven decision-making and policy reform. It brings to light not just the scale of the problem but the pathways to meaningful, sustainable solutions. WHARC remains committed to transforming maternal health outcomes and advancing Nigeria's journey toward ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths by 2030.



WHARC's research officer interviewing a PHC provider on maternal and newborn care services



WHARC's research officer evaluating maternal and newborn drugs available at the PHC

EMPOWERING FRONTLINE PROVIDERS FOR SMARTER DATA USE IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

In August 2024, WHARC/UNFPA organized a two-day hybrid training that brought together 26 participants, primary healthcare (PHC) providers, community-based organizations (CBOs), and NGOs from across Nigeria. The goal was simple but powerful: build the capacity of frontline health workers to manage, retrieve, and utilize data more effectively using practical tools like Microsoft Excel.

The training addressed a critical gap in Nigeria's healthcare system, poor data management practices that hinder decision-making and weaken maternal and child health outcomes. Participants were equipped with hands-on skills in organizing, storing, and analyzing data, while also learning about data privacy, monitoring and evaluation, and how accurate data can drive impactful health policies.

The sessions sparked engaging discussions about real-world challenges at the PHC level, including poor electricity, low funding, lack of digital tools, and false patient reporting. Despite these obstacles, the energy in the room was hopeful. Participants exchanged ideas, drew inspiration from states with stronger data systems like Edo State, and pledged to train their colleagues and advocate for digital record-keeping in their facilities.

By the end of the workshop, the impact was clear. Health workers had not only gained technical skills but also a renewed understanding of data as a powerful tool for saving lives and improving care. The participants departed with an increased commitment to building a culture of data-driven healthcare that can help reduce maternal mortality and support Nigeria's global health goals.



Participants at the Empowering Frontline Providers for Smarter Data use in PHC workshop



Presentation of certificates at the workshop

Empowering Frontline Responders to Address GBV and FGM through Training and Advocacy

In August 2024, WHARC/UNFPA brought together 32 participants from PHCs, NGOs, and civil society organizations for an impactful two-day hybrid training aimed at confronting gender-based violence (GBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM). The training sessions focused on building the professional capacity of healthcare workers and community leaders to serve not just as caregivers, but as informed advocates and change agents.

Against a background of deeply rooted cultural practices, weak legal enforcement, and widespread silence around GBV and FGM, this training offered something urgently needed: knowledge, skills, and hope. Experts facilitated sessions on the medical and psychological consequences of GBV and FGM, clinical management of survivors, the legal protections offered under the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAAP) Act, and the critical role of community engagement in prevention.

Participants discussed real challenges they face on the ground, from women's reluctance to report abuse to the cultural beliefs that normalize harmful practices. But they also shared solutions. Together, they committed to integrating FGM education into antenatal and postnatal care, stepping down the training to their peers, and intensifying community sensitization, especially among youth and traditional leaders.

The workshop wasn't just about learning, it was about transformation. Each participant left with a certificate in hand, but more importantly, with renewed commitment to advocate for the vulnerable and to embed GBV and FGM prevention into their daily health services and outreach.



Participants at the Empowering Frontline Responders to Address GBV and FGM through Training and Advocacy Workshop



Presentation of certificates at the workshop

Raising Youth Voices to End Gender-Based Violence

On November 29, 2024, the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), hosted a youth-led workshop bringing together a passionate group of young people determined to become change-makers in their communities.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness about the devastating impact of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and to promote the understanding and use of the **Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law**, a powerful legal framework protecting victims and punishing perpetrators of violence, including rape, FGM, domestic abuse, and harmful widowhood practices.

Throughout the day, expert speakers, including **Prof. Friday Okonofua**, **Mrs. Mary Izevbogie**, and **Prof. Nath Inegbedion**, educated participants on the different forms of GBV, the power of youth voices in advocacy, and the specifics of the VAPP Law. Emphasis was placed on how young people, as influencers and leaders, can help drive conversations and action against violence in their schools, homes, and online spaces.

Beyond the lectures, the workshop featured a series of **engaging and interactive activities** designed to reinforce learning in a fun and memorable way. From quizzes and word puzzles to dance competitions and a GBV myth-busting game, participants competed for cash prizes while deepening their understanding of GBV and their role in stopping it.

A powerful short video by UNFPA stirred emotions and spurred conversations about the real-life impact of GBV. The day closed with heartfelt remarks from Dr. Wilson Imongan, the executive director of WHARC, who thanked all attendees and encouraged them to remain bold, vocal, and committed to ending violence in their communities.

The event was a resounding success, not only raising awareness but sparking a movement. With stronger knowledge of the VAPP Law and a renewed sense of purpose, the youth participants left energized to lead advocacy, support survivors, and foster a culture of zero tolerance for GBV.



Young girls creating awareness on VAPP Law



A facilitator educating the youth on the power of youth voices in advocacy



PHC nurses at the simulation training

Enhancing capacity for quality maternal health services in Primary Health Centres: A 3-Day Intensive Training

In December 2024, WHARC/UNFPA hosted a 3-day training for 10 Primary Health Care (PHC) providers from across Edo State, focused on improving the quality of maternal health care and emergency response at the community level. The training uniquely combined classroom learning with simulation exercises using high-fidelity manikins, giving participants real-time practice in managing obstetric and newborn emergencies.

Participants included nurses and midwives from PHCs in Oredo, Ovia North-East, and Egor LGAs. The participants gained critical skills in emergency response, patient-centered care, and effective referral systems. Presentations by experts emphasized that quality maternal healthcare is not only about available resources but also about the commitment and competence of healthcare providers. Professor Friday Okonofua, WHARC's CEO, highlighted the organization's work in rural communities, including the successful Text4Life initiative in Okpekepe, which led to a 90% increase in PHC utilization by pregnant women.

Discussions during the training shed light on several challenges faced at the PHC level: staffing gaps, role overlap between nurses and community health workers, lack of nighttime security, and inconsistency in government support, such as the mother kit program. Despite these issues, a strong consensus emerged: healthcare workers must lead by example, ensuring quality of care even in resource-constrained settings, as this directly affects patient experience and maternal health outcomes.

The highlight of the training was the hands-on simulation conducted at CERHI's simulation lab. Participants were immersed in real-life emergency scenarios, improving their confidence in managing high-risk deliveries and neonatal care.

The training closed with a collective call for more frequent simulation-based capacity building, stronger referral systems, and deeper community engagement to address maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. WHARC's commitment to equipping frontline health workers remains unwavering because when healthcare providers are empowered, communities thrive.



Debriefing after the simulation exercise

WHARC'S participation and coordination of the Biannual conference and general assembly of the African Academy of Sciences

In December 2024, in Abuja, Nigeria, the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) contributed to Africa's scientific journey. With the honor of co-organizing the 15th Scientific Conference and General Assembly of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), WHARC stepped boldly into the spotlight, alongside an elite gathering of Africa's brightest scientific minds and institutions.

At the heart of this effort was Professor Friday Okonofua, WHARC's founder and the AAS Secretary General, who not only coordinated the Local Organizing Committee but also anchored the conference's vision of **“Empowering and Advancing Africa's Scientific Enterprise.”**

Behind the scenes, WHARC staff poured their energy into logistics, mobilization, and coordination, ensuring every detail ran smoothly. WHARC's contribution helped transform the event into a dynamic platform where global and African scientists, policymakers, donors, and youth leaders converged to tackle issues like pandemics, gender inequity, climate change, and scientific brain drain.

From opening sessions to in-depth technical panels on genomics, maternal health, and climate adaptation, WHARC's impact was felt. The Centre didn't just help host a conference; it helped Africa reflect, reimagine, and reaffirm the central role of science in shaping its future.

By the time the final applause rang out, 22 new fellows had been inducted into AAS, bold recommendations had been made, and WHARC had reaffirmed its standing, not only as a champion of women's health but also as a pivotal player in building Africa's scientific legacy.



WHARC representatives at the AAS conference



The AAS president, Secretary and other AAS fellows

Professor Friday Okonofua Joins Regional Efforts to End Preventable Maternal Mortality

In March 2025, WHARC's Founder and renowned reproductive health expert, Prof. Friday Okonofua, was invited to contribute to a high-level UNFPA Regional Consultation on Ending Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity in West and Central Africa. This pivotal event was held in Saly, Senegal, where it gathered experts and decision-makers from across the region to shape a roadmap for accelerating progress in maternal health.

Prof. Okonofua's contributions, rooted in decades of field experience and policy engagement, were hailed as instrumental to the consultation's success. His insights enriched discussions and helped define actionable strategies to address the persistent causes of maternal deaths in underserved communities.

In a letter of appreciation, Dr. Sennen Hounton, UNFPA Regional Director, expressed profound gratitude for Prof. Okonofua's "invaluable contribution, unwavering commitment, and inspirational leadership," acknowledging his role in shaping the consultation's recommendations.

This participation underscores WHARC's continued influence in shaping regional and global strategies to achieve the 2030 goal of zero preventable maternal deaths. As a respected voice in reproductive health, Prof. Okonofua's involvement reflects WHARC's broader commitment to advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration across Africa.

WHARC's Response to Gender-Based Violence

Over the past two years, WHARC has seen a steady increase in the number of **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** cases reported to its center, rising from last year to even more this year, a sign both of growing awareness and continued vulnerability among women and girls in our communities.

But beyond receiving reports, WHARC has committed itself to **restoring dignity and stability** to the survivors and their families. Recognizing that many GBV cases are rooted in or worsened by economic hardship, WHARC took deliberate steps to **ease the financial burden** of affected families. Since last year, **financial scholarships have been provided to children** from these families to ensure their education continues uninterrupted. In several cases, **economic empowerment was offered through job placements**, giving affected women and caregivers a renewed sense of independence and hope.

This approach, grounded in **compassion, justice, and socio-economic support**, goes beyond crisis response. It is about helping survivors rebuild, thrive, and find new purpose. WHARC's commitment remains firm to not only respond to violence but to break the cycles of poverty and powerlessness that allow it to persist.



The African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) is a multidisciplinary and international journal which started in 1997. The journal is published monthly with special editions that come up any time of the year.

The journal focuses on publishing original research, comprehensive review articles, case reports and commentaries on reproductive health. It strives to provide a forum for both African and foreign researchers working in Africa to share findings in all aspects of reproductive health and to disseminate innovative, relevant and useful information on reproductive health throughout the continent. To date, the journal has published 28 volumes, 157 issues, and 2,219 articles.

AJRH is proudly indexed in the world's most prestigious bibliometric and research databases, including PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, SSCI, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, African Journals Online, JSTOR, SABINET, Bioline International, and many more, ensuring maximum visibility and scholarly reach for every article published. AJRH is also indexed and included in Index Medicus/MEDLINE. The abstracts and tables of contents are published online by INASP at <http://www.ajol.info/ajol/> while full text is published at <http://www.ajrh.info> and by Bioline International at <http://www.bioline.org.br/>. It is also abstracted in Ulrich's Periodical, Feminist Periodicals African Books Publishing Records.

The African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) has been rated with one star by the Journal Publishing Practices and Standards (JPPS), a recognition that reflects compliance with foundational publishing standards. While this rating affirms the journal's ongoing commitment to quality and transparency, it also highlights areas for strategic improvement.

<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajol/browseBy/jpps?ratingId=1>



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In the year under review, the following major achievements were recorded:

Sustained AJRH Scientific Output of 12 Issues yearly

The global reach and scientific impact of the AJRH have surged. Starting with two editions per year, the scientific output of the journal increased from three editions per year in 2002 to four in 2009, six in 2021 and twelve in 2022 till date.

Sustained Journal and Article's Digital Object Identifiers (DOI)

The AJRH articles are Digital Object Identifier (DOIs) assigned. The team has machinery in place to generate its meta data and provides article-linked DOIs, which ramps the journal's impact factor, citations, article downloads and views as well providing easy visibility online.

African Journal Reproductive Health Rating (2019-2025)

SCImago Journal Ranking (SJR) honored AJRH as Africa's highest-rated journal in Reproductive Health, Obstetrics, and Gynaecology and 59th globally, with an impressive SJR value of 0.350 and an H-Index of 51, a reflection of its growing global impact and academic excellence, Web of Science/SCI impact factor of 1.211, Scopus impact factor of 1.2; Impactio impact factor of 0.96 and Resurchify impact factor of 0.88.

JSTOR 2016-2025 Journal Rating of the AJRH

Journal Usage (Views and Downloads) = 421179

Institution Usage (International and National) = 302027

AJRH July – December 2024 Edition (Vol. 28, Nos. 7-12)

AJRH Special on Gender and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in West and Central Africa (WCA) - August 2024 (Vol. 28, No. 8s)

AJRH ISOPH Indonesia Committee Special Edition – October 2024 (Vol. 28, No. 10s)

AJRH January 2025 Edition (Vol. 29, No. 1)

Volume 29, Number 1, 2025 issue of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) has been published. It may be accessed via the following link, <https://www.ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/165>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:

Editorial Where are the “rights” in SRHR?

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.1

Friday Okonofua

Original Research Articles

Effectiveness of open glottis (modified breathing holding technique) during second stage of labor on maternal and neonatal outcome among Primigravida women- A quasi-experimental study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.2

Emi J. Prince, Vidya Seshan, Divya Raghavan, Frincy Francis, Gerald A. Matua and Sawzan Abuhammad

Two decades of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights in Nigeria: Successes, challenges, and opportunities

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.3

Ajoke E. Ogedegbe, Oluwafemi Adeagbo, Brenda M. Yankam, Oluwaseun Badru, Muktar A. Gadanya and Luchuo E. Bain Stigma experience of female infertility patients in China: A phenomenological study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.4

Liling Jiang, Yuan Zhong and Lili Xiao

Evaluation of midwives' knowledge, attitudes, and opinions about LGBTI Individuals

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.5

Nazlı A. Sezer, Ayçasultan Kılıç, Seda F. Emre, Ezgi Tuna and Nazlı S. Kurt

Awareness and attitudes of pregnant women regarding endocrine disruptors

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.6

Mukaddes T. Miral and Elif Koç Impact of comprehensive nursing on operation time of myomectomy and intraoperative blood loss of pregnant women with co-existing uterine myoma

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.7

Yan Pan and Ge Han

An exploratory study on midwives' fear of childbirth in Türkiye

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.8

Esra Sari and Joeri Vermeulen

Pakistan's experience with the covid-19: Pandemic's effects on traumatic stress and psychological health: A qualitative exploratory study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.9

Sara Akram, Humera Amin, Muhammad S. Alam, Sarwar Khawaja⁴, Muhammad Imran, Anum Obaid and Rashid Iqbal

A gender-based analysis of employment, workforce productivity and economic growth in West Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.10

Chensheng Wu, Busayo Aderounmu, Hongyu Dou and Emmanuel Ephraim

Factors influencing access and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services by adolescents in Namibia: Insights from nurses

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.11

Daniel O. Ashipala and Vaja Katjime

The impact of social media addiction on pregnancy stress and prenatal attachment

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.12

Yasemin Şanlı, Nuran Nur Aypar Akbag and Yeliz Dinçer

Dezocine versus esketamine as postoperative analgesia in women undergoing cesarean section

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.13

Wei Qiao and Xiaoxiao Zhang

The effect of weight-related self-stigma on sexual functioning in obese women with type 2 diabetes

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.14

Abmet Sanli and Demet Celik

The questionnaire for the detection of invisible violence against women: Turkish validity and reliability study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.15

Tuğçe Sönmez, Serap E. Apay and Adnan Taşgin

The effects of long-term low-dose aspirin on coagulation function in gynaecological patients with co-existing chronic periodontitis

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i1.16

Xi Lu, Jie Miao, Neng Shi, Chaosheng Lin, Hongmei Yu, Xun Hu and Yi Shen **AJRH February 2025 Edition (Vol. 29, No. 2)**

Volume 29, Number 2, 2025 issue of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) has been published. It may be accessed via the following link, <https://www.ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/166>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:

Editorial Every mother counts: Or, don't they?

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.1

Anne Baber Wallis

Original Research Articles

Experiences of postnatal mothers regarding the implementation of maternal and neonatal referral system guidelines in Mopani District in the Limpopo Province, South Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.2

Kgadi R. Mosebla, Melitab M. Rasweswe and Mmapheko D. Peu

Randomized clinical trial of acupuncture in patients with poor ovarian stimulation response

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.3

Rongli Yuan, Xinyun Zhu, Yunzhu Liu, Mengjing Wang, Tianyu Wang, Zhi Li and Jie Wu Barriers to sexual health communication between parents and teenagers: Perspectives of parents at a rural community Mpumalanga province, South Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.4

Nothando M Mngomezulu, Majaji E. Masala-Chokwe and Tshiamo N Ramalepa Clinical value of perineal ultrasound in diagnosis of pelvic floor dysfunction in women

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.5

Yan Zhu and Jiajia Liu Challenges, role and capacity of midwives in providing maternal health services in public health facilities in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Qualitative analysis

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.6

Sintayehu A. Temesgen and Thinavhuo R. Netangabent Value of placental blood perfusion monitoring on therapeutic effectiveness of drug therapy in women with pregnancy-induced hypertension

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.7

Zhili Yang and Jinzhong Zhao

Effects of intergenerational feeding on the growth and development of infants aged 6-36 months: A cross sectional study

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Liming Chen, Jiuqin Tian, Xiaoying Xu, Honghua Liu et Yibing Zhang Reduced sexual activity and increased sexually transmitted infections risk among left-behind women in rural China

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DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.10

Yunqin Wang, Wei Zhao, Lanlan Jiang, Wei Fang, Lingling Cui and Juan Cai

Why should the baby live or not live? Decisions of Turkish pregnant women regarding the fate of pregnancy when there are fetal anomalies

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.11

Belgin Babadağlı^{1}, Rabime Aydin Er²; Nermin Ersoy*

Clinical effects of laparoscopic versus open radical prostatectomy in the treatment of early prostate cancer

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.12

Yi Guan, Changbin Tan, Hengcheng Zhu, Haoyong Li, Haitao Liu, Wei Hu, Huajie Song and Fei Xiao

Gender inequality: health, gender, and economic benefits of self-employment in China

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.13

Bo Lu, Hubong Shi and Lulu Zhang

Sexual and reproductive health needs and barriers among youth living with HIV / AIDS in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Babatunde A. Adelekan, Toriola Femi-Adebayo, Bisola I. Adebayo, Esther O. Somefun, Amaka Haruna, Bukola F. Popoola, Funmilade O. Adepoju, Maureen U. Samuel, Olufunsho T. Akinyemi, Oladipupo Fisher, Monsurat Adeleke, Erika Goldson and Ulla Mueller

Effects of rapid rehabilitation nursing on common carotid artery elasticity in patients undergoing transvaginal endoscopic hysterectomy

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.15

Yuan J, Wu YF, Qiao YQ and Lin YR

Sexual health literacy and associated factors in pregnant women

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.16

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Out-of-pocket expenditure and human welfare in Nigeria: Evidence from a fully modified ordinary least squares regression

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.17

Hongrui Jia, Xin Han, Timothy A. Aderemi, Nkiruka E. Ifekwem, Mamdouh Abdulaziz Saleh and Al-Faryan

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Interventions to address baby blues among postpartum mothers: a systematic review of effectiveness and implementation

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.18

Rahmawati Rahmawati, Junuda Junuda, Saida Saida and Akifah Akifah

Effectiveness and safety of levofloxacin in the treatment of community-acquired pneumonia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i2.19

Fengchun Song and Yating Zheng **AJRH March 2025 Edition (Vol. 29, No. 3)**

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DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i3.1

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Three decades after Beijing: Progress and challenges in maternal, reproductive, and child health and rights in Africa

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“We are on our own”: The neglected voices of the boy-child in adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Vhembe District, Limpopo, South Africa

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Vasfiye B. Değer and Havva Kaçan Midwifery students' solution-focused thinking and communication skills; A cross sectional study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i3.7

Nurdan K. Yılmaz Efficacy and safety of simplified follitropin delta dosing in women undergoing intrauterine insemination in Indonesia

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Binarwan Halim, Hilma P. Lubis and Carine A. Widjaja Marital experience and challenges of women with disabilities in Saudi Arabia: a phenomenological study

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Yasir A. Alsamiri, Ayesha A. Alaghdaf, Basbeer A. Allouash, Ibraheem M. Alsawalem, Seham D. Alfaidi and Malik A. Hussain Gynaecological cancer awareness and healthy lifestyle behaviors of women aged 20-65 years: A descriptive cross-sectional study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i3.10

Beril N. Yaşar and Sevdâ A. Şeker

The effect of oketani massage on breastfeeding success and breast engorgement in mothers delivering by cesarean section: randomized controlled study

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Emine S. Çagan, Rumeysa Taşkın, Ebru Solmaz, Rozerin Balci and Elmin Eminov

Assessment of breastfeeding self-efficacy and effectiveness: A comparison of primiparous and multiparous mothers

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Prevalence of early childbearing practice among young women in Nigeria: Evidence from 2021 multiple indicators cluster survey

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Michael A. Omoyemiju and Soladoye S. Asa

Perceptions and practices of community pharmacists regarding emergency contraceptives in Jordan: A qualitative study

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Analysis of the characteristics of community-acquired pneumonia in children and the high-risk factors leading to severe disease

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Li Liu, Wei Huang, Sisi Zhang and Mingli Li

Assessing the features of mobile Apps for self-managing postpartum depression

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The conditionality of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance: A qualitative study in Pakistan

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Sara Akram, Rehan Aftab, Qadar B. Baloch, Farid Ullah, Wadi B. Alonazi, Verdah Q. Baloch, Humaira Amin and Muhammad S. Alam

Determinants of life expectancy in China: A comparative analysis of economic and non-economic factors

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i3.18

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Review Article

The control and prevention of sexually transmitted infections in primary healthcare facilities among key and priority population in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i3.19

Seloka M. Ablonia, Phalane Edith and Phaswana-Mafuya R. Nancy

AJRH April 2025 Edition (Vol. 29, No. 4)

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Editorial When the world's richest country walks away from global health: A call for research and action

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Original Research Articles

Optimising the effectiveness of the see and treat program for cervical intracellular neoplasia among HIV-positive women, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.2

Meaza Z. Wodajo, Azwihangwisi H. Mavhandu-Mudzusi, Ayobami P. Adekola and Hulisani Matakanye

Impact of migration on HIV/AIDS in South Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.3

Yuting Liu and Haifeng Yue Paraneoplastic Ma antigen 5 promotes cellular processes of primary cells in ovarian endometriosis

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Yinglei Liu, Zbe Chen, Jun You, Yanli Zheng and Haifeng Qiao Maternal socio-biological and obstetric factors associated with neonatal near miss at a specialised public mother and child hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa: A case control study

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Chileshe Mpehle, Firdose Nakwa, Joy Fredericks, Gbenga Olorunfemi and Lawrence Chauke Assessing the impact of the journey plus curriculum on sexual and reproductive health and rights and behavioural change among Ugandan youth

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.6

Patrick Kagurusi, Maureen Nankanja, Michael Muyonga, Irene Ayanga, Arnold Tigaiza, David Okimait and Mary Ssonko Nabacwa

Effectiveness of oral probiotics and metronidazole compared with oral probiotics and metronidazole pessaries in the treatment of bacterial vaginosis in Chinese women

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.7

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Chlamydia Trachomatis infection in infertile men from Cotonou, Benin

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.8

Simon Azonbakin, Marius Adjagba, Delali N'bouke, Maria Amoussou, Yannick Goussanou, Arnaud Agbanlinson, Jean Paul Dossou and Anatole Laleye Are traditional honour ideologies associated with fertility goals and contraceptive use? Findings from a cross-sectional study with a national sample of women and men in Uganda

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.9

Arnab K. Dey, Kalysba Closson, Jarrod E. Bock, Ryan P. Brown, Pamela K. Nabukhonzo, Wilson Nyegenye, and Anita Raj

Detection of precancerous lesions in cervical images of perimenopausal women using U-net deep learning

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.10

Na Zhao, Yan Gao, Fang Li, Jingtian Shi, Yanni Huang and Hongyun Ma

Barriers to effective parent-adolescent communication on sexuality in rural Southern Malawi

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.11

Flemmings F. Ngwira, Sufyan Rashid, Grace Kadzakumanja and Mary Kamwaza

Experiences of midwifery students and graduates in conflict-affected settings in Yobe State Nigeria: Evidence from qualitative data

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.12

Rejoice H. Abimiku, Sussan Israel-Isab, Charity P. Maina, Rifkatu S. Aimu, Kazeem O. Ayodeji, George Odonye, Hadiža Sabo, Hannah Tappis, Shatba Elnakib and Emilia N. Inu

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Exploring youth information seeking on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Senegal

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Hacer Y. Dilcen, Yasemin Bilişli, Güleser Ada and Ebru Bulut

Is there a relationship between social media user intensity and mental well-being? An exploratory study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i4.16

Ji Yuan **AJRH Special Edition on Advances in Disease Management through Evidence-Based Approach May 2025 (Vol. 29, No. 5s)**

Volume 29, Number 5s, 2025 Nigerian Abortion Research Special issue of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) has been published. It may be accessed via the following link, <https://www.ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/169>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:

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Role of neutrophils in the immune microenvironment of endometriosis

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Effect of tacrolimus plus mycophenolate mofetil in the therapy of children with steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.3

Lili Zhao, Jia Hao and Lei Zhang

Effectiveness of transurethral resection combined with saprolin for bladder perfusion in glandular cystitis: A randomized controlled trial

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.4

Yi Guan, Changbin Tan, Fei Xiao, Haoyong Li, Haitao Liu, Wei Hu, Huajie Song and Hengcheng Zhu Effect of pain sensitivity on the efficacy of opioid-free anesthesia in laparoscopic cholecystectomy

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Xinhua Hong, Haowen Zhu, Lirong Ding, Hailin Liu, Zhen Su and Wei Cai Teach back educational model combined with zinc supplementation improves clinical symptoms and immunity in children with asthma

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.6

Yuxiang Qin, Yan Lin, Jun Han, Xinxing Zhang and Jing Li Assessing fetal lung maturity: Integration of ultrasound radiomics and deep learning

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Wanming Chen, Baohui Zeng, Xiaoyan Ling, Chen Chen, Jichuang Lai, Jianru Lin, Xibong Lin, Huifen Zhou and Xinmin Guo Diagnostic significance of pulmonary ultrasound in neonatal respiratory distress syndrome and its correlation with the severity of the disease

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Qingxin Shen, Xin Zhao, Xiaodong Wei, Hong Su, Dan Xiang and Binbin Guo

Effectiveness of continuous renal replacement therapy and hemoperfusion in treatment of acute severe organophosphorus pesticide poisoning

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.9

Xiaorong Cheng, Haiyang Yang, Jun Wu, Li Wang, Tingting Wu and Yuhong Chen Clinical effects of a Chinese herbal medicine on patients with chronic renal failure

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.10

Hui Bu, Xinyi Shen and Yanqin Zou

Clinical impact of mindfulness meditation training combined with probiotics on postoperative gastrointestinal function, nutritional status, and psychological status in children with hypospadias

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.11

Meng Anand Lu Wang

Clinical application of trastuzumab and docetaxel in the chemotherapy of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 positive breast cancer patients

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.12

Jian Qian, Yunxia Xu, Xiaokai Ling, Fenhua Wang

Clinical impact of bronchoscopy combined with targeted nursing of oxygen nebulization inhalation in pediatric mycoplasma lobar pneumonia

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Juan Cai, Qiong Wu, Wei Zhao, Xinyue Wang, Min Lu and Qiuyan Xu

Effect of graded nursing and feeding guidance based on water swallow test combined with enteral nutrition support in juvenile dermatomyositis children with swallowing dysfunction

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5s.14

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AJRH May 2025 Edition (Vol. 29, No. 5)

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Ending nuclear weapons, before they end us

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5.1

Kamran Abbasi, Parveen Ali, Virginia Barbour, Marion Birch, Inga Blum, Peter Doberty, Andy Haines, Ira Helfand, Richard Horton, Kati Juva, Jose F. Lapena Jr, Robert Mash, Olga Mironova, Arun Mitra, Carlos Monteiro, Elena N. Naumova, David Onazi, Tilman Ruff, Peush Sabni, James Tumwine, Carlos Umaña, Paul Yonge and Chris Zielinski

Original Research Articles

Evaluating a brief mindfulness intervention after hysterectomy in young women – A pilot study in Pakistan

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Farhana Ambreen, Ambreen Fatima and Vladimir O. Hedrih

Translation and cultural adaptation of the FertiQoL questionnaire into Luganda: A comprehensive report

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Douglas Makumbi, Anthony Kayiira, Gilbert Tumwine, Romano N. Byarubanga and Daniel Zaake Risk factors for pregnancy-related pelvic girdle pain: A cross-sectional study

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Yanan He, Yuanchao Li, Linli Xu, Yiming Chen, Peifeng Shen, Guoxin Zhong and Chunlong Liu

Experiences of vaginal examination by pregnant women during labour: A cross-sectional study

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Dilek Öcalan and Saadet H. Oğuz

Effects of kintai capsule in combination with hormone replacement therapy on premature ovarian failure and bone metabolism

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5.6

Aidong Shen, Yajun Ren, Jing Ling, Junxu Zhou and Yangyan Sun Knowledge and perceptions of uterine fibroids: A descriptive cross-sectional survey among women of childbearing age in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

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Amanda Dlamini, Celenkosini T. Nxumalo, Nomakhosi Mpojana, Michael Paulse, Mokegadi Makgobole and Pavitra Pillay Maternal and child health outcomes in BRICKS countries: Analysis of MDGs and SDGs periods

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Xin Wang, Yuting Liu and Haifeng Yue The effects of breastfeeding education provided to family members supporting mothers on breastfeeding parameters

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Cevriye O. Tetikçok and Sevil İnal

Mother-infant interaction and postpartum mental health: A study on promoting maternal emotional bonding through psychological nursing care

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5.10

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Factors influencing home birth decisions among women in Al-Madinah, Saudi Arabia: A phenomenological study

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Predictive value of doppler ultrasound blood flow indicators and placental growth factors in patients with severe preeclampsia

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5.12

Xiangni Li and Wei Chen

The relationship between self-compassion and acute stress disorder in mothers whose babies were hospitalized in the neonatal intensive care unit

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Effectiveness of production-oriented approach and plan-do-check-action cycle for clinical teaching of gynaecological oncology

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The impact of COVID-19 on prenatal anxiety in women: A study in Rawalpindi, Pakistan

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Komal Niazi, Jianfu Ma, Sara Akram and Kamran Saddique

Occupational safety compliance and workforce stability in women-owned businesses in China

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Rift valley fever in Sudan: Assessing public awareness and preventive practices in Al-Karad

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i5.17

Yousif Mohamed, Hind AM. Elamin, Sobaib Arbab, Dalal Elemam, Amir Osman, Amna M. Ali, Raga A. Mohamed, Rabab K.A. Mansour and Laila AM. Maashi

AJRH IDRC Special Edition on Gender Transformation for Africa - June 2025 (Vol. 29, No. 6s)

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Editorial What does it take to operationalise gender transformative approaches across different African contexts?

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.1

Woldekidan Amde, Gabriel Ananya, Kéfilath Bello, Nkoli Ezumab, Asba S. George, Amani Hachimou, Tanya Jacobs, Mat Lowe, Chinyere Mbachu, Vuyolwethu Mjijehwa, Abdoul M Noubou, Ramatou Ouedraogo, TK Sundari Ravindran, Nathalie Sawadogo, Nichola Schaay, Lauren Wallace

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Co-creating gender-transformative interventions for adolescent mental, sexual, and reproductive health and rights: Influence of context and actors on process and content in Niger, Ghana, and Burkina Faso

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.2

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Empowering community health workers in Malawi to deliver gender-responsive life skills training for adolescent mothers to overcome social exclusion

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.3

Emmanuel O. Otukpa¹, Witness O. T. Alfonso, Anthony I. Ajayi, Caroline W. Kabiru, Cynthia W. Kairu, Beatrice W. Maina, Michelle N. Mbutia, Alister Muntali and Ramatou Ouedraogo

Let's hear it from the facilitators: Experiences of peer facilitators in engendering work with adolescent boys and young men in Cape Town, South Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.4

Nikki Schaay, Tanya Jacobs, Phoebe Oware, Vuyo Mjijehwa, Colleen Wagner, Bronwyn Damon, Ulla Walmisley, Anam Nyembezi, Olagoke Akintola and Asba George

Promoting husbands' participation in birth preparedness and complication readiness in The Gambia: implications for gender transformation

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.5

Mat Lowe, Muhammed Jobe, Awa Dubois and Ogbenowede Eyawo Transforming and integrating gender norms and social practices to promote maternal health through male engagement

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.6

Abdoul-Moumouni Noubou, Mohamed Sallab Harouna Oumara, Aminaton Issaka Assoumane, Amadou Noubou Chatima and Maman Moudaba Maman Tchiroma

Applying community-based action learning in the provision of gender-transformative sexual and reproductive health services in Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.7

Ifunanya C. Agu, Chibuike Agu, Chinyere O. Mbachu, Chinazom N. Ekwueme, Ozioma Nwankpa, Nkoli Ezumab and Obinna Onwujekwe

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Shaping the African research agenda for gender transformative approaches to sexual and reproductive health and rights: A scoping review taking stock to re-align and move forward.

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.8

Asba George, Woldekidan Amde, Kéfilath Bello, Tanya Jacobs and Sundari Ravindran What does it take to operationalise gender transformative approaches across different African contexts?

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.1

Woldekidan Amde, Gabriel Ananya, Kéfilath Bello, Nkoli Ezumab, Asba S. George, Amani Hachimou, Tanya Jacobs, Mat Lowe, Chinyere Mbachu, Vuyolwethu Mjijehwa, Abdoul M Noubou, Ramatou Ouedraogo, TK Sundari Ravindran, Nathalie Sawadogo, Nichola Schaay, Lauren Wallace

Original Research Articles

Co-creating gender-transformative interventions for adolescent mental, sexual, and reproductive health and rights: Influence of context and actors on process and content in Niger, Ghana, and Burkina Faso

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Lauren J. Wallace, Natasha A. Darko, Aissa Diarra, Maurice Yaogo, Bernice Gyawu, Priscilla Prempeh, Emelia A. Agblevor, Ann-Michelle Darko, Tolib Mirzoev and Irene A. Agyepong

Empowering community health workers in Malawi to deliver gender-responsive life skills training for adolescent mothers to overcome social exclusion

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6s.3

Emmanuel O. Otukpa¹, Witness O. T. Alfonso, Anthony I. Ajayi, Caroline W. Kabiru, Cynthia W. Kairu, Beatrice W. Maina, Michelle N. Mbutia, Alister Munthali and Ramatou Ouedraogo

AJRH June 2025 Edition (Vol. 29, No. 6)

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Exploring the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and young people living with vertically acquired HIV

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.2

Bandile E. Ndlaazi, David D. Mphuthi and Thinavhuyo R. Netangabeni

Risk factors and predictive modeling of exclusive breastfeeding failure in mothers separated from their infants

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.3

Weimei Wu and Xiangxue Wang Context and reasons of preference for use of traditional birth attendant care in Indonesia and Ethiopia

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.4

Sudirman Nasir Clinical application of vaginal natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery in hysterectomy

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.5

Chenghong Xie and Huarong Cao

Prevalence of HIV and Hepatitis B virus among adolescents seeking healthcare services at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Kebbi State, Nigeria

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Min Wang, Mary O. Oyebamiji, Amechi E. Igbaro, Elizabeth U Osabobien and Eugene O. Ifere

Health implications of folic acid deficiency during pregnancy: women's awareness and attitudes

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.7

Alaa Abazayd, Ahmad Shaikh, Mohammed Makkawi and Sultan Alasmari

Barriers to utilization of anti-retroviral therapy among HIV positive pregnant women in Birnin Kebbi, North West Nigeria

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.8

Hongrui Jia, Christopher Oluwale Solo, Amechi Endurance Igbaro and Mamdoub Abdulaziz Saleh Al-Faryan Construction and validation of a prediction model for postoperative recurrence risk of cervical high-risk lesions using nomogram analysis

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.9

Shuxia Wu, Miaomiao Li and Xingye Ren

“Of course I would tell a friend about self-management with pills”: the role of hotlines in increasing access to self-managed abortion in Kenya

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.10

Yves-Yvette Young, Lucía B. Pizzarossa, Ibtehal Jastaniab, Margot Cohen, Sheilah Warindiand Samantha Ruggiero

Analysis of factors influencing blood glucose self-monitoring behavior in patients with gestational diabetes mellitus and construction of its prediction model

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.11

Yanfei Zhu, Jing Zhou, Xiao Xie, Chenyang Ding, Chunmei Zhu, Yayan Li and Ping Lan

Client satisfaction with the quality of maternal healthcare services among immunization clinic attendees in selected primary healthcare facilities in Cross River State, Nigeria: A rural - urban comparison

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.12

Anastasia I. Isika, Afiong O. Oku, Izuchukwu F. Obi and Angela Oyo-ita

Clinical effects of methylphenidate hydrochloride extended-release tablets on improvement of intelligence and behavior in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.13

Wenjin Huang, Yanyan Wang

Review Articles

HIV/AIDS and reproductive health education in Ghana; Risk perception among junior and senior high school students: A scoping review

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.14

Chloe N. Alderson, Ransford Aduah and Traci L. Wells

Men matter too: examining the role of male partners in family planning in South Korea and Ethiopia

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2025/v29i6.15

Eun W. Nam and Melika G. Desalegn

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ABEL GUOBADIA SPECIALIST HOSPITAL



Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital (AGSH) had a productive year from July 2024 to June 2025, delivering various healthcare services to clients.

WHARC Launches Abel Guobadia Wellness Clinic with a Call to Healthier, Longer Lives

In a vibrant celebration of health, community, and service, the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) officially launched its **Wellness Clinic** in May 2025. The event brought together a distinguished array of guests, including **the former and current Chief Judges of Edo State, a former Commissioner for Health**, and several prominent health experts and civil society leaders, each lending their voices to a shared goal: helping Nigerians live healthier, longer lives.

The highlight of the launch was a lively **panel session**, where expert speakers discussed the importance of preventive healthcare and lifestyle choices in tackling today's most pressing health issues: **diabetes, high blood pressure, excessive sugar consumption**, and related non-communicable diseases. The conversation

emphasized that the path to longevity begins with simple, informed daily habits and regular checkups.

Guests praised WHARC's foresight in establishing the Wellness Clinic as a center that combines **preventive care, treatment, counseling, and health education** under one roof. True to its mission of serving the community, the clinic staff offered **free health services** during the event, including blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings, and health consultations, giving attendees not just information, but immediate access to care.

The launch signaled more than the opening of a facility service, it marked WHARC's renewed commitment to accessible, people-centered healthcare. With the Wellness Clinic, WHARC is creating a space where communities can not only seek treatment but also learn to thrive.



Panel discussion on the importance of preventive healthcare and lifestyle choices in tackling today's most pressing health issues



Abel Guobadia hospital staff offering free health services during the event



Prof. Friday Okonofua and other speaker during the panel session

The clinic's ultrasound unit provided essential services, including ovarian follicular growth monitoring for 60 women and pregnancy evaluations. AGSH recorded notable consultation volumes, with 160 consultations and 370 cases (250 new registrations and 150 follow-ups).

The laboratory conducted intrauterine insemination procedures for a range of fertility needs. Additionally, the diagnostic unit analyzed over 800 samples for various tests, including hormonal assays and STI screenings.

The hospital's family planning and immunization services were also active, with 30 spontaneous vaginal deliveries, 19 cesarean sections, one myomectomy, and other medical procedures. Additionally, an emergency appendectomy was successfully performed. The clinic also managed cases of hyperprolactinemia, providing specialized care.

With state-of-the-art facilities and a team of specialist consultants, medical experts, nurses, laboratory scientists, and support staff, AGSH is well-equipped to provide quality healthcare services.

The clinic operates with a fully integrated computer system, utilizing a comprehensive management information system to track and document all clinical activities.

Situated at: Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) KM 11, Benin-Lagos Expressway, Igue-Iheya, Benin City, Edo State.

Phone: 08026822064 **Email:** agsh@wharc-online.org
Or visit our Website: www.wharc-online.org **AGSH:**
Known for our expertise, chosen for our care!!!

WHARC Reproductive Health Library



WHARC Reproductive Health Library serves as a comprehensive repository of information at the Women's Health and Action Research Centre. The library's extensive collection includes books, journals, and non-book materials, such as recorded tapes, videos, and photographs, to support reproductive health research, advocacy, and other initiatives. Additionally, the library maintains a detailed archive of the Centre's activities, providing a valuable resource for tracking progress and informing future endeavors.

During the 2023/2024 review period, the library unit of the Centre continued to play a vital role in providing access to Reproductive health information for researchers, NGOs, students, and advocates. The library serves as a hub for knowledge, equipping users with the necessary information to work efficiently and avoid duplicating existing efforts. To facilitate knowledge sharing, all staff categories are entitled to borrow books and materials for a maximum of seven days, after which they are expected to be returned.

WHARC Reproductive Health Library is a fully functional Library that contains:

- Up-to-date journals in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Women's Reproductive Health, and the Broad Ramifications of Health and the Social Sciences.
- Journals which include the British Journal of Gynecology, New England Journal of Medicine, Reproductive Health Matters, Studies in Family Planning, South African Medical Journal, South African Journal of Psychiatry, Journal of Higher Education in African, Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research, etc.
- Books on Family Planning Methods and Practice, Family Planning Handbook for Health Professionals, Regulating

Menstruation, Reproductive Health and Human Rights, Women's Health and Empowerment, Amanuensis on the Right to Health in Nigeria, etc.

- Compact discs (CD) in various aspects of Women's Health and Social Determinants of Health.

WHARC Reproductive Health Library is a major research centre for undergraduate and postgraduate students, Researchers, Human rights activists, NGOs, and the general public. During the 2023-2024 period, the library witnessed a significant surge in usage, with over 300 users, comprising researchers, students, and professionals, leveraging its resources. To facilitate remote access, the library's database materials are also available online through the WHARC website, www.wharc-online.org, enabling users to access valuable resources from anywhere, even if they cannot physically visit the library in Benin. To ensure continuous improvement, the Library provides a customer assessment notebook where users can share their thoughts, opinions, and suggestions in writing. This feedback mechanism enables the Centre to gather valuable insights from its users, informing enhancements to the Library's services.

Opens from 8 am – 4 pm; Mondays – Fridays.

Visit us at: Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) KM 11, Benin-Lagos Expressway, Igue-Ihey, Benin City, Edo State.

Call us on: 08063760175

Email: info@wharc-online.org

Or visit our Website: www.wharc-online.org

WHARC Reproductive Health Library: Read, Know, Grow!!!

THE ACADEMY GUEST HOUSE AND EVENT CENTRE



The Academy Guest House and Event Centre is a luxurious haven designed with refined taste, catering to academics, researchers, and the general public. Formerly known as WHARC Guest House, it was renamed to better serve its target audience.

Our guest house offers a range of amenities, including 24/7 electricity with 2 standby generators, spacious rooms with in-room internet and plasma TV, CCTV surveillance and security, full air-conditioning, and delicious local and international cuisine. We also have a 500-capacity events hall and secure parking.

Located in a serene area of Benin City, along the Benin-Lagos Expressway, our guest house provides a home-away-from-home experience. We're committed to providing top-notch hospitality at competitive prices,

ensuring our guests receive maximum value. Our dedicated staff is always ready to attend to your needs, making sure you feel comfortable and valued during your stay.

For Bookings:

Call us: 08026822064

Email: academyguesthouse.online@gmail.com

Visit our website

www.academyguesthouse.online

Social Media Handles:

Facebook: Academy Guest House & Event Center

Instagram: wharcguesthouseandeventcentre

The Academy Guest-House and Event Centre: Pleasure and Comfort Personified!

The Next Premium Water

The Next premium table water is a first-class still water bottled and packaged by the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) with factory fully functioning at international standards in the most hygienic conditions, located at km 14, after Uromi Junction, Benin-Auchi Expressway, Irrua, Esan Central, Edo State.

A new water factory complex with location in Benin at Film House Road, Ugbowo main-gate, has commenced production and sales of distilled and premium water.

The factory is a registered entity with NAFDAC registration number E1-1767. With our multi-disciplinary team of health professionals and industry experts, we provide the best quality water with high preference to purity using the latest technologies and scientific methods.



The following modernized scientific methods are used for daily quality assurance;

1. Reverse Osmosis to remove odour and taste
2. Ozonator to kill bacteria that may be present in the water and also to improve the water PH
3. Ultraviolet Sterilizer to destroy the DNA of the bacteria, thereby making it harmless
4. Stand Filter to trap all particles that may be present in the water.

Our premium table water is available in 75cl and 50cl bottles. We also offer sachet water and refilled water in large containers. With its elegant shape, the table water is perfectly suited for use in restaurants, press conferences, seminars, public lectures, offices, outdoor events, etc. To continue offering high-quality water across several regions in Nigeria, we provide a network of distributors with a relatively competitive price.

For more information on product testing, marketing, and distributorship, please contact:

08023105456, 08056038843, 08060612739

Email: thenexttablewater@gmail.com

University of Benin Honours WHARC's CEO with Emeritus Title

In November 2024, Professor Friday Okonofua, Founder and CEO of the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), was formally conferred with the title of Emeritus Professor by the University of Benin. This honour followed his valedictory lecture which held in April 2024.

The conferment of the Emeritus Professorship is a significant recognition of Prof. Okonofua's exceptional contributions to academia, health research, institutional leadership, and public health advocacy in Nigeria and globally. With over 380 scientific

publications and numerous international research grants to his name, he has played a transformative role in shaping reproductive health policy and mentoring the next generation of African scholars.

WHARC proudly celebrates this milestone achievement, which not only reflects Prof. Okonofua's personal accomplishments but also reinforces the organization's commitment to excellence, innovation, and leadership in women's health and development. Despite his retirement from university service, Prof. Okonofua continues to provide visionary leadership at WHARC and remains actively engaged in advancing research and policy for reproductive health across Africa.



WHARC: Next steps

The next steps for WHARC in promoting women's health and social well-being include 1) scaling our research and evidence-informed advocacy to improving women's and youth access to quality reproductive health services. We will continue to advocate of increased access to services particularly in underserved communities. This includes expanding women's health hubs, training health providers, and bolstering maternal health care. 2) Enhance community engagement. WHARC will continue to foster collaborations with community organizations to broaden the impact of our health initiatives and address social determinants of maternal health; and 3) support preventative care. We will continue to develop and support preventative care programs target health issues prevalent among women and youth. Our recently launched Wellness Clinic will be expanded to enable us achieve this outcome.

The key initiatives of WHARC will continue to be in the underlisted domains: 1) capacity building for health care providers on issues relating to reproductive health, including sensitivity to diverse needs and cultural backgrounds; 2) Advocacy and policy development. Advocacy for policies and practices that support the provision of comprehensive health services for women, including healthcare coverage; 3) continued publication of our flagship journal, the African Journal of Reproductive

Health to achieve higher global coverage and impact; and 4) research and data collection – WHARC will continue to invest and build partnerships for higher level research and data collection that address the unmet need for women's reproductive health in the African continent, using research protocols and guidelines based on the most recent research findings.

In conclusion, WHARC will continue to seek partnerships with government agencies and the private sector to deepen and scale up our efforts in promoting the reproductive health of women and youth. We will continue to engage with local communities to develop and implement initiatives aimed at promoting women's health and social well-being.

WHARC's audited financial report

Our 2024-2025 Annual Financial Report highlighting our financial performance.

Visit : <https://www.wharconline.org/service/annual-reports/>

WHARC's New Board of Trustees

Professor Friday Okonofua	-	Chairman
Dr. Wilson Imongan	-	Executive Director
Mrs. Pat Okonofua	-	Deputy Executive Director
Professor Rosemary Ogu	-	Member
Dr. Uche A. Menakaya	-	Member
Professor Lorretta Ntoimo	-	Member
Dr. Oluwadamilola Adejumo	-	Member

WHARC's Associates

Professor Lindsay Edouard	-	Member
Prof. Olufemi Olatunbosun	-	Member
Dr. Kunle Odunsi	-	Member
Dr. Josephine Aikpitanyi	-	Member
Dr. Kenneth O. Adagba	-	Member
Dr. Elsie O. Ugege	-	Member
Dr. Emomine Odjesa	-	Member
Mrs. Mary Izevbigie	-	Member
Dr. Christiana A. Alex-Ojei	-	Member
Dr. Rose Ashinedu Ugiagbe	-	Member
Dorothy Ngozi Ononokpono	-	Member

WHARC's contact address

Address: Km 11 Benin-Lagos Expressway, Opposite Evidence of the Gospel Church, Igue-Iheya, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria

Tel: +2348176358767

Email: info@wharconline.org

Website: www.wharc-online.org

Journal website: www.ajrh.info

Facebook: facebook.com/pages/Women's-Health-and-Action-Research-Centre

Twitter: twitter.com/wharc_nigeria

Instagram: [wharc_nigeria](https://www.instagram.com/wharc_nigeria)

LinkedIn: WHARC NIGERIA

YouTube: www.youtube.com/wharcbenincity@gmail.com

