

WHARC ANNUAL REPORT 2012 – 2013

1.0 Administration

During the year 2012 – 2013, WHARC was administered by a Board of Trustees with Lady Winifred Onyeonwu as Chairman and Professor Cyril Mokwenye as Executive Director. As part of the need to fill the administrative gap, Dr. Michael Ezeanochie, a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist was appointed to manage the Abel Guobadia Clinic..

Several other administrative changes took place in the Centre during the year, including the appraisal performance which was done by a consultant from Lagos and the appointment of new staff and program officers in different Unit in the Centre. WHARC prides itself as having the most ethnically diverse staff among any non-governmental organization in Nigeria. Our desire is to get the best staff from any part of Nigeria, and to bring in the experiences of persons from various parts of Nigeria as an essential part of efforts to promote women's health. The multi-disciplinary team of associates expanded considerably and now consists of 25 members, while full time administrative and program staff now stands at a compact size of 40. Additionally, major changes took place in the composition of the board of trustees and pool of associates of the Centre during the year.

2.1 Board of Trustees

In February 14, 2013, the 1st Dr. Abel Guobadia Memorial Lecture was done in honour of WHARC Board of Trustees Chairman (BOT) Chairman who died on February 4, 2011. The lecture was held at Best Western Homeville Hotel, Off Sapele Road, G.R.A., Benin City. The lecture was well attended with dignitaries. The lecture was delivered by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, former President and Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the lecture title was "Reflections on Nigeria's Democracy and the Role of Women's.

The Chairman and members of the Board participated actively in the Centre's activities during the year. These included the safe motherhood lecture held in Abuja, Professor Ogonor Memorial Lecture held in Benin City and the Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti memorial lecture held in Lagos on June 1, 2012. The Board Chairman has an office at the new complex where he oversees the implementation of the Board's resolutions and policies. During the financial year, the Board of Trustees held meeting on September 28, 2012 at WHARC's office complex in Benin City. Many of the trustee members attended the meeting.

WHARC BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS

Lady (Mrs.) Winifred Osaru ONYEONWU (Chairman, Board of Trustees)

Lady (Mrs.) Winifred Osaru ONYEONWU (Née Ayanru) replaced as Dr. Abel Guobadia as the Chairman of the board of trustees of WHARC.

Lady Winifred was educated at Queen's College, Lagos, from 1949 to 1953; the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Ibadan from 1954 to 1956 before proceeding to the university College (UCI) now the university of Ibadan in 1957 from where she bagged a B.A degree in History in 1961. She later attended the University of McGill, Montréal, Canada where she obtained a bachelor's degree in Library Science (1962) as well as a masters' degree in Library Science (1970). Lady Onyeonwu's working career started in Canada where she worked as a Librarian before returning to Nigeria (to the defunct Bendel State) in 1973 to

occupy the substantive Director of the Bendel state Library Board. She rose to become the first female Director of the Bendel state Library Board. In 1980, she was appointed Permanent Secretary in the then Bendel State Ministry of Education and between 1994 and 1996, she held the position of Commissioner for special duties in Edo State executive Council. From 1996 to 1997, Lady Onyeonwu was the Commissioner for information Youth and Sports in Edo State Executive Council.

Lady Onyeonwu who is a Fellow of the Nigerian Library Association (FNLA) and a Justice of Peace (JP), belongs to many social clubs and professional organizations in which she held different leadership positions at various times. She was chairman, Nigerian Association, Bendel State Chapter (1976-78), first vice president Nigerian Association of University Women, second vice president Nigerian School Library Association (1977-1983), first national vice president, university of Ibadan Alumni Association Bendel State Chapter (1980-1983), chairman university of Ibadan Alumni Association Bendel State Chapter (1987-89), Federal Government Representative on the Board Ashaka Cement Factory, President Soroptimist International Benin. She was a member of the governing Council of the Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma from 1990 – 1997.

Before her appointment as the Chairman of the Board, Lady Onyeonwu had been an active member of WHARC Board of Trustees for over 10 years. She had played very key roles in ensuring the realisation of the Centre's dreams and aspirations. She brings in her immense wealth of experience to bear on her new position as Chairman to further enhance the image of the Women's Health and Action Research Centre in the years ahead.

Professor Cyril Mokwenye

Professor Mokwenye assumed the position of Executive Director of the Centre in May 2010, when the former Executive Director, Professor Friday Okonofua, left for the Ford Foundation on leave of absence. Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, he had served as the Deputy Executive Director and Chairman of WHARC Committee of Associates.

Professor Cyril Obiajulu MOKWENYE was born at Illah, in Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State of Nigeria, on the 24th of May 1949. He had his primary school education at St Patrick's Catholic School, Zaria, from 1955 to 1962. In 1963, he gained admission into Government College, Ibadan, where he obtained the West African School Certificate in Division 1. He proceeded to King's College, Lagos, for the Higher School Certificate (HSC) course, in 1968, which he obtained in 1969, having passed three principal and two subsidiary papers.

He gained admission the following year into Nigeria's premier university, the University of Ibadan, in 1970 for the degree program in French. Professor Mokwenye did the Year-Abroad program at the University of Nice in France, between 1971 and 1972. He obtained the B.A. degree in French from the University of Ibadan, in the Second Class Upper Division in 1974. He thereafter served in the NYSC program in Kwara State from 1974 to 1975. He obtained the Postgraduate Diploma in Education in 1978 from the then University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. In 1979, he obtained an M.A in French from the University of Ibadan. He later proceeded to the University of Bordeaux in France where he obtained the *Doctorat de Troisième Cycle* in Francophone Caribbean Literature, in 1986.

Professor Mokwenye began his University teaching career at the University of Benin in October 1980 as Lecturer II. He rose to become a full Professor in October 1999. He has, in the course of his career, supervised numerous Masters Projects and produced two PHD holders. He worked as Visiting Associate Professor at the Delta State University, Abraka in the 1994/1995 academic year. In the 2010/2011 session, he was at the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, as Visiting Professor. He headed the Department of Foreign Languages of the University of Benin on four different occasions and was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the same University from 2006 to 2008.

Professor Mokwenye is the official French translator for the journal published in the Centre, *African Journal of Reproductive Health*. He has published scholarly papers in reputable journals both at home and abroad. He belongs to many professional bodies including the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL) and the University French Teachers Association of Nigeria (UFTAN). He serves on the editorial boards of several journals. He has attended many local and international conferences and has presented keynote addresses in some of them. He has also served as External Examiner to a number of Nigerian and foreign universities.

Professor Friday Okonofua

Professor Friday Okonofua, MD, PhD, ad eundem FRCOG is a medical doctor and a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Benin. He is a fellow of the West African College of Surgeons, the Nigerian Postgraduate Medical College, the International College of Surgeons, the International Health program at Harvard University, and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He also has PhD in international Health from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. He is a Fellow of both the Nigerian Academy of Science (FAS) as well as the New York Academy of Science.

Professor Okonofua began his academic career as lecturer 1 in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Obafemi Awolowo University in 1986. He served as Acting Head of Department between 1987 and 1992, and rose to the post of Professor in 1992. He transferred his services to the University of Benin in 1996, where he has been Head of Department, Dean, Provost, and member of the University's Governing Council.

He has also been Secretary of the Faculty of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the National Postgraduate College of Nigeria, as well as the Secretary-General of the Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria. Between April 2005 and November 2009, he served as the Executive Director of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), supervising projects management in the 110 member countries of the organization. **He was Honorary Adviser on Health to President Olusegun Obasanjo from July 2006 to May 29, 2007.**

Professor Okonofua is a global champion of women's health, a discipline where he has published more than 200 refereed articles. Several of his publications are in the field of maternal and newborn health, especially in sexual and reproductive health, safe motherhood and adolescent reproductive health. In recognition of this, he was honored with the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and with a special award as "champion of women's health" by the University of California, Berkeley. He founded the Women's Health and Action Research Centre, one of Nigeria's leading NGOs in 1995. He is the founding editor of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health* that was adjudged by the

National Universities Commission in 2005 as the best Nigerian journal (in all disciplines) that “meets international standards”. The journal currently has one of the highest citation indexes among all African journals.

He is a recipient of more than 40 research grants, and he is a member of several international organizations and committees including the editorial board of the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where he has served for more than 12 years. He has attended and presented scientific papers in 100 conferences in up to 40 countries around the world. He is a reviewer to 20 international journals, and a technical consultant to many international agencies including the World Health Organization, the Macarthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation where he currently serves as a policy analyst and grant maker.

Professor Okonofua is a recipient of several honors including Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Special Achievers Award by the Nigerian Television Authority, Distinguished Services Award by the Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria, Award of “the most outstanding professor of the people” by the Students Union Government of the University of Benin, and a Chieftaincy award – Efe of Okpella by the Okukpella of Okpella Kingdom. He is married with children.

Mrs. Amina Sambo (OFR)

Mrs Amina Esther Sambo (OFR) was born in Riyom, Barkin Ladi LGA of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. She had her Primary School education at Girls Boarding School, Gindiri, Plateau State after which she enrolled for a Nursing Course before she had her secondary school education. She is currently the Executive Director of the Grassroots Health Organization of Nigeria.

She started her career as a Student Nurse in Kaduna State, worked as a television and radio presenter at B.C.N.N Kaduna. She later joined the civil service where she worked with different government ministries between 1963 and 1987 when she voluntarily retired from the position of Chief Executive Officer, Cabinet Office and Ministry of Information.

Her expertise spans across community mobilization on health issues, advocacy with policy makers and religious leaders and strengthening of women NGO activities. She co-ordinated a National programme on the prevention of Vesico Vaginal Fitsula (VVF)towards safe motherhood in Nigeria, and was a consultant for the delivery of Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) projects in the Northern part of Nigeria.

She was the National President, National Council of Women’s Societies of Nigeria; Member Vision 2010; Member, Joint Action Committee of Traditional Rulers and Leaders of Thought and Member, Committee on the Future of Higher Education in Nigeria. She has attended numerous international conferences and workshops where she presented thought provoking papers and researches. In view of her outstanding achievements and contribution to national growth, she was conferred with the award of Officer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (OFR) by President Goodluck Jonathan in 2012.

Mrs. Marcelina Aisuebeogun

Mrs Marcelina Aisuebeogun was born at Eguare Irrua, Esan Central LGA of Edo State, Nigeria. She started out as a nurse and have travelled far to get the best out of her chosen profession. She is a fellow of West African College of Nursing (FWCAN), Member of the Royal Society of Health (MSRH) of England and Nigeria. She began her career as a Staff Nurse at the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, Derby, England in 1960.

After spending some years in the UK, she came back to Nigeria to practice and worked briefly with institutions like Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria Clinic, the School of Health Technology and the Ministry of Health among others. Between 1984 and 1989 she was the Family Planning Co-ordinator of the old Bendel State where she was overseeing the training, management and evaluation of family planning activities in the state. She later became the President of the West Africa College of Nursing Bendel/Ondo Zone and the President, West Africa College of Nursing Nigeria. She has served as a member on different Government committees at different times. She mostly spend her time now with hobbies like reading, sewing and gardening if she isn't travelling or visiting her children and grandchildren.

Mrs Marcelina Aisuebeogun has contributed immensely to the development and implementation of the major activities in WHARC.

Professor Obioma Nnaemeka

Prof. Obioma Nnaemeka – a multilingual, widely travelled scholar and activist is a Professor of French, Women Studies and African American Studies at Indiana University, Indianapolis, USA. Prof. Nnaemeka studied French and African Studies at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Université de Dakar, Dakar, (Sénégal), Université de Grenoble (France), and the University of Minnesota , Minneapolis where she earned a Ph. D. with distinction. She has taught at many institutions including the University of Nigeria, the College of Wooster and the University of Minnesota , Minneapolis.

A former Rockefeller Humanist-in-Residence (Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, University of Minnesota , Minneapolis, MN) and Edith Kreeger-Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL). Prof. Nnaemeka is a biography of the Marquis Who's Who in American Women, Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in the World. She is the Founder and Current President of the Association of African Women Scholars and the List Administrator of an internet discussion group on gender issues in Africa (AFWOSCHO). She is the recipient of grants from the Macarthur Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), and the International Development Research Center, Ottawa, Canada (IDRC).

Prof. Nnaemeka is on the Board of Trustees of some Africa-based non governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Advisory Board of magazines and scholarly journals. She has received many national and international awards including the Nigerian Achiever of the Year Award for Leadership, the Distinguished Africanist Award, the Daughter of Africa Award, Teaching Excellence Recognition Award, Faculty Achievement Award, and Outstanding Faculty Award. An expert in Women's Studies, multiculturalism, post-colonial studies, African Literatures, globalization, and Francophone studies.

Prof. Nnaemeka combines research, teaching and consultancy with speaking engagements and active participation in national and international conferences, programs, and projects. She is the convenor of the first international conference on “Women in Africa and the African Diaspora: Bridges across Activism and Academy” (held in Nsukka, Nigeria in 1992) in which over 700 researchers, activists and grassroots women and men from all continents participated and the second WAAD conference on “Health and Human Rights” (held in October 1998 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA) that attracted governmental delegates and NGOs from 25 countries and 48 international organization.

Prof. Nnaemeka is a referee/reviewer for many press and academic journals and has written extensively in the following areas: women in development, literature by Black women from Africa and the African Diaspora, Francophone literature, African oral and written literatures and feminist scholarship. Her publications have appeared in numerous edited volumes and scholarly journals including Signs, Feminist Issues, Women’s Study Quarterly and more too numerous to mention. Prof. Nnaemeka is the proud mother of two extraordinary sons, Ike and Uche who are gifted writers and artists.

Dr Babatunde Ahonsi

Dr Babatunde Ahonsi is a seasoned expert in health, population and development issues with special reference to youth & women. His work experience spans over 25 years in academia and development practice as a researcher, trainer, consultant, grant-maker and project manager. He has lectured at different Federal Universities in Nigeria which include University of Ilorin, University of Calabar and University of Lagos.

He was Senior Programme Officer with the Ford Foundation (Office for West Africa) between 1997-2008, where his work contributed to the establishment of a network of HIV reference laboratories across Nigeria, the roll-out of the National Family Life and HIV Education Curriculum, the emergence of several internationally reputable indigenous NGOs in the women’s rights, youth development and reproductive health fields across West Africa.

He has been Population Council’s Country Director for Nigeria since May 2010 overseeing programs in HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and poverty, gender and youth in the country. Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi brings expert knowledge in youth sexual reproductive health, rights and gender issues to the board of WHARC.

Mr. Ibude Guobadia

Mr. Ibude Guobadia is the son of the late Dr Abel Guobadia, former Chairman of WHARC’s Board of Trustees. He replaces his father in the Board. Mr. Guobadia is a Management and Engineering Consultant with expertise in Engineering and Industrial Projects and Facilities Maintenance Management.

He was formerly Director at Citibank Nigeria where he was Senior Relationship Manager responsible for top tier local and multinational companies in Nigeria. Ibude Guobadia attended King’s College, Lagos and the University of Lagos, Lagos where he obtained a B.Sc (Hons) degree in Electrical Engineering in June 1984. He obtained a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Benin, Benin City in July 1990.

Ibude Guobadia has variously been electrical engineer at Delta Steel Company, Aladja near Warri and a Consultant Engineer with Maneng Services Limited in Lagos. He is happily married to Osaro Guobadia and they are blessed with two sons. Mr. Ibude Guobadia brings in strong administrative experience and expertise in financial management into the board of WHARC.

Board Retreat: During the financial year, the Board of Trustees held two meetings. In February 12-13, 2012, the Board held a retreat at the West African office of the Ford Foundation in Lagos. The retreat was held to bring senior staff and board members up to date on WHARC's mission and vision statements and to review its work in seeking to promote women's health and social well-being.

In particular, the retreat deliberated extensively on the implementation of the 2010-2015 strategic plan of the Centre that seeks to consolidate its programming on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. The retreat, which was chaired by the new Board Chair, Lady Winifred Onyeonwu, resolved to consolidate research and evidence on youth sexual and reproductive health during the period, and to build the competencies and skills of civil society and youth-serving organizations to undertake research, documentation, advocacy and evidence-based service delivery on all aspects of adolescent reproductive health. The Centre also aims to enter into partnerships with governments and the private sector to promote life skills and livelihood opportunities for youths as ways to mitigate the vulnerabilities that engender adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes for youths. Following the retreat, WHARC board and staff have continued to implement its activities with greater focus and purposefulness.

3.0 RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

In July 2010, WHARC re-conceptualized its policy and program relating to associates, and reconfigured it to be an avenue to support and mentor individuals to conduct high profile research and program activities in sexual and reproductive health. Thus, henceforth associates will only be invited to join the centre if they are involved in active research in the discipline or if they have long-term research and service delivery intentions in sexual and reproductive health. The specific objectives of WHARC's program on associates were therefore revised as follows: 1) to provide an opportunity for selected individuals to broaden and strengthen their capacity and research interest in sexual and reproductive health; 2) to provide an avenue for WHARC to mentor junior academics and programmers in all aspects of research and service delivery in sexual and reproductive health; 3) to enable WHARC contribute towards building the next generation of senior researchers, advocates and programmers in Nigeria in sexual and reproductive health; 4) to serve as a forum for sharing cross-disciplinary ideas and information relating to the promotion of research and service delivery in sexual and reproductive health; and 5) to serve as a think-tank and useful resource for WHARC in its effort to conduct essential research and service delivery in sexual and reproductive health.

To this end, the new membership of WHARC's associates includes the under-listed:

3.1 Dr Patrick O Erah

Dr Erah is a registered pharmacist in Nigeria who holds a PhD from University of Nottingham, UK. He is an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Practice in Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin, Benin City. Being an ICT specialist, Dr Erah advises the Centre on matters relating to ICT development. He designed and currently maintains the WHARC's website for the *African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)*. He served as the Assistant Editor of AJRH during the year, assisting in copy-editing and typesetting all editions of the journal. He was an active Research Associate of WHARC who participated in all meetings and workshops of the centre.

3.2 Professor (Mrs.) A.N.G. Alutu

Dr. (Mrs.) Azuka Ngozi Grace Alutu is a Professor of Counseling Psychology in the Department of Educational Psychology and Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education, University of Benin. She has been a dedicated and active member of WHARC for the past 10 years. During the past years, she has shown great interest in the welfare of WHARC staff especially with respect to counseling on work ethics, productivity and human relations. Her ongoing research work on HIV/AIDS stigma is nearing completion and will surely provide new knowledge that would assist in new HIV/AIDS program design and implementation.

3.3 Professor (Mrs.) A. O. Imogie

Professor (Mrs.) Imogie is a Professor of Education at the Institute of Education, University of Benin, Benin City. She is also the Director of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Benin, and the editor of the Benin Journal for Gender Studies of the University. She participated actively in all activities of the Centre during the year and remains a useful resource to the centre.

3.4 Professor Michael Okobia

Professor Michael Okobia is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Benin. He is a very active member and important associate of the Centre. He holds two positions at the Centre: 1) as a clinical consultant, and 2) as a member of the Board of Management of the Abel Guobadia Reproductive Health Clinic (formerly called Life Tree Clinic) of the Centre. He is a Fellow in surgery of the Nigerian and West African Postgraduate Medical Colleges. Professor Okobia also has MSc and PhD degrees in epidemiology from University of Pittsburgh, USA. He is an Assistant Editor and a reviewer for the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*. As Assistant Editor, he is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal and has worked variously to promote the interest of the journal. He recently returned to the country from a research and fellowship program at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, and is the current head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Benin.

3.5 Dr (Mrs.) Nkoli Aniekwu

Barrister (Mrs.) Nkoli Aniekwu is an associate Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Benin, specializing in reproductive and human rights law. She is a key Associate, and a member of the Research Ethics Committee of the Centre. She participated actively in many seminars, workshops and meetings of the Centre during the year. She presented a paper at the research priorities workshop organized by WHARC in Lagos in January 2011, and contributed a chapter to a book that emanated from the workshop.

She is a visiting fellow at the African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town, and the International Institute for the Sociology of Law at Onati, Spain. She has also been admitted as a GEXcel Scholar at the University of Linköping in Sweden, and presented her doctoral research at an

International conference organized by GEXcel in June 2009. Mrs. Aniekwu has recently concluded her PhD theses at the University of Lagos, for which WHARC treated her to a grand reception in April 2010.

In April 2012, Dr Aniekwu presented her book on: '*Reproductive Health Law*' to a large audience at the Institute of Legal Studies of the University of Lagos. WHARC's BOT member, Professor F Okonofua reviewed the book, which is currently the first available textbook on reproductive health law in Nigeria.

3.6. Dr. Lawrence Omo-Aghoja

Dr. Omo-Aghoja recently obtained the two Fellowships in Obstetrics and Gynecology from the Nigerian National Postgraduate Medical College and from the West African Postgraduate Medical College. He was recently promoted Associate Professor and consultant obstetrician and gynecologist at the Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State of Nigeria. He is currently the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the hospital. A highly prolific and dynamic young man, Dr. Omo-Aghoja is a highly resourceful associate of WHARC, and a prominent co-author of many of WHARC's research publications.

3.7. Professor Charles Imarengiaye

Professor Charles Imarengiaye was promoted to the post of full Professor of Anesthesia at the University of Benin in 2011. He continues to function as Consultant Anesthesiologist to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. He worked as an associate of WHARC during the year, providing anesthetic cover for many of the surgical operations at the Centre's Reproductive Health clinic. He also participated in several of WHARC's seminars and workshops, bringing considerable intellectualism and new thoughts and insights into WHARC's projects and services. He is very well published in several local and international journals and is one of the most outstanding future leaders in the discipline.

3.8. Dr Pius Iribhogbe

Dr Pius Iribhogbe is a senior lecturer in the Department of Surgery at the University of Benin. He doubles as WHARC's associate assisting in clinical service delivery at the Abel Guobadia Health Centre. He also research and publication interest relating to gender-based violence. He participated in several of the centre's activities during the year.

3.9 Dr Kingsley Agholor

Dr Kingsley Agholor is an obstetrician and gynecologist and currently works as a consultant at the Central Hospital, Warri. During the year, he functioned actively as a key associate of the centre participating in the centre's research and programmatic activities. He participated in the field work on many research projects of the centre and also co-authored several peer-review articles published by the centre. He participated in the research priorities workshop held by the centre in Lagos in January 2011, and has functioned as the secretary of the network of the associates of the centre.

4.0 Dr Biodun Olagbuji

Dr Biodun Olagbuji is an obstetrician and gynecologist, who recently completed his training at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. He recently gained admission into the MPH program of the Johns Hopkins University, USA, which he would be commencing in September 2011. He functioned

very actively as an associate of the centre during the year, participating in all research and documentation activities of the centre. He co-authored some papers published by the centre, and has been an active member of the Centre's network of associates.

4.1 Dr Michael Ezeanochie

Dr Michael Ezeanochie is an obstetrician and gynecologist, who recently completed his training at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. He is a very avid researcher and is a key advocate for women's sexual and reproductive health. His major area of research interest is gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. He functioned very actively as an associate of the centre during the year, participating in all research and documentation activities of the centre. He co-authored some papers published by the centre, and has been an active member of the Centre's network of associates.

4.2 Dr Rosemary Ogu

Dr Rosemary Ogu is a senior lecturer and consultant obstetrician and gynecologist at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers state. She is the Rivers State coordinator of WHARC's activities and was a key associate of the centre during the year. She co-authored several peer review articles of the centre during the year and also presented the centre's paper on its private sector capacity building program for the provision of qualitative reproductive health care in northern Nigeria at a workshop on "the social, economic and health consequences of unsafe abortion", held in San Juan, Mexico in December, 2010. She also attended WHARC's workshop on research priorities in adolescent sexual and reproductive health held in Lagos in January 2011.

4.3. Dr Tokunbo Fabanwo

Dr Tokunbo Fabanwo is an associate professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Lagos State University (LASU). He is the Lagos state coordinator of WHARC's program activities aimed at promoting safe motherhood and reducing maternal mortality in the state. He is a very reliable and avid member of WHARC's committee of associates and has attended all meetings to date. He co-authored a key paper on WHARC needs assessment study of the situation of maternal health in Lagos state, and developed a policy brief with the results of the study. He is currently leading the advocacy activities relating to the reduction of maternal mortality in Lagos state.

4.4 Professor Eric Archibong

Professor Eric Archibong is a professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Calabar, Cross River State. He is the Cross River State coordinator of WHARC's activities and program aimed at promoting safe motherhood and reducing maternal mortality in the state. He attended many of WHARC's associates meetings during the year and contributed greatly to strengthening the network. He co-authored a key paper on WHARC needs assessment study of the status of maternal health in Cross River state during the year, and developed the related policy brief. He is currently leading WHARC's advocacy activities aimed at reducing maternal mortality in Cross River State.

4.5 Professor Joseph Okeibunor

Professor Joseph Okeibunor is a professor of sociology at the University of Nigeria (UNN), Nsukka. He is the Enugu State coordinator of WHARC's activities and program aimed at promoting safe motherhood in the state. Additionally, he is one of WHARC's key resource persons assisting in developing key strategic documents for the centre. He is also one of WHARC's key spokespersons and has made scientific presentations on behalf of the centre. He co-authored a key paper on

WHARC's needs assessment study of the state of maternal health in Enugu state during the year, and developed the related policy brief. He currently leads WHARC's advocacy efforts aimed at reducing maternal mortality in Enugu state.

4.6 Dr Calvin Chama

Dr Calvin Chama is an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Maiduguri, Borno state. He is the Borno state coordinator of WHARC's activities aimed at increasing women's access to quality reproductive health services. He coordinates WHARC's capacity building program for private obstetrical providers in Borno state as well as the program related to the promotion of safe motherhood in the state. He has co-authored up to four papers with WHARC in various aspects of reproductive health published in top ranking international journals. Dr Chama is very reliable and very passionate about improving the reproductive health situation of women in northern Nigeria. He attended all of WHARC's activities during the year, including the research priorities workshop held in Lagos. He currently leads WHARC's advocacy activities aimed at leveraging political will for reducing the high rate of maternal mortality in Borno state.

4.7 Dr Hadiza Galadanci

Dr Hadiza Galadanci is a consultant obstetrician and Gynecologist at the Murtala Mohammed Hospital in Kano, and is also the Chief Medical Director of the hospital. Dr Galadanci is the Kano state coordinator of WHARC's activities aimed at promoting reproductive health and reducing maternal mortality in the state. She co-authored some of WHARC's key papers during the year, and was a chapter contributor in WHARC's recent publication titled: "Identifying Research Priorities in Sexual and Reproductive Health in Nigeria". She also co-authored a key paper on WHARC's needs assessment study of Kano state maternal health services during the year, and developed the related policy brief. She currently leads WHARC's advocacy efforts aimed at promoting safe motherhood in Kano State.

4.8. Dr Josiah Mutihir

Dr Josiah Mutihir is an associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Jos, Plateau state. He is the coordinator of WHARC's activities in Plateau state, especially those that relate to the promotion of maternal health in the state. He participated actively in WHARC's activities during the year, and co-authored a paper with WHARC that explored the situation of maternal health in Plateau state. He also developed a policy and media advocacy brief with the results of the assessment. He is a very active and passionate member of the associate team and attended all meetings of the associates' network during the year. He currently leads WHARC's advocacy activities aimed at reducing maternal mortality in Plateau state.

4.9 Mr. Tajudeen Abass

Mr. Tajudeen Abass is a community health worker and social advocate and is the longest serving member of WHARC's committee of associates having joined the centre in 1998. An extremely reliable, trustworthy and dependable member, he has led over the years, WHARC research and programmatic activities in Kaduna state. To date, he has coordinated more than 10 WHARC projects in Kaduna state and has always demonstrated high level efficiency, reliability and accountability in the discharge of his responsibilities. His research interest is in improving women's access to qualitative post-abortion care and family planning. He is co-author in several of WHARC's key scientific articles in leading international journals. He presently coordinates WHARC's intervention

in Kaduna state aimed at improving the quality of private provision of post-abortion care and family planning services in the state.

2.2 WHARC full time staff (2012 – 2013)

WHARC continue to maintain a stable staff list which now consists of 15 program staff and 14 support staff. A large proportion of the staff members (75%) are women, which is consistent with our philosophy to build the capacity of women to conduct research and advocacy activities on women's health. A major strength of the Centre is the ethnic diversity of its staff. Staff recruitment in the Centre is strictly based on merit, which allows for needed competencies and capabilities to be drawn from all parts of the Nigerian nation.

The unit-centered mode of administration which was introduced last year functioned very well during the year. The Centre continued to hold its Wednesdays' weekly staff meetings, which provide opportunity to make inputs into the administration of the Centre. The weekly meetings are chaired by either the Executive Director or the Deputy Executive Director and are attended by all staffs and associates of the Centre. The meetings begin at 11.00am and end at 12.00 p.m each Wednesday. These meetings have contributed immensely to better understanding among staff and to organizational effectively in the centre.

Program Reports

Adolescent Reproductive Health Project (Ford Foundation Project).

A 3-year grant was received from the Ford Foundation to implement a project titled *"Using Empirical Evidence to scale up Policies and Programs to reduce Adverse Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes in Nigeria"*. The justification of the project was based on the fact that in the 20 years of existence of the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), we have researched and documented substantial evidence-based information related to the sexual and reproductive health of Nigerian adolescents in high ranking local and international journals.

Unfortunately, these information have not been used regularly by policymakers either, because the journals are not accessible to policymakers, or because research findings are often not presented in journals in the language easily understood by policy makers. Hence, the need to find adequate ways to reach policymakers and other stakeholders (especially women, youth, and traditional/religious gatekeepers) with evidence-based information so that policies and programs can driven at scale and impact led to the project.

The first step of the project was the nomination of a communications consultant to help the centre develop a strategic communication plan. A communications strategy workshop was held on January 24, 2013 at the centre's headquarters where management of WHARC gave a SWOT analysis of WHARC communication activities. The day also provided an opportunity for management and key WHARC staff to be trained on recent communications trends and how to get effective message across.

The information presented at the communication strategy workshop formed the basis of a strategic communication document which was developed for the centre. The strategic communication document has been shared with different stakeholders and recently with Hattaway Communications, the comments received would be incorporated before we adopt the document. To get the buy-in of key staff members at the centre and prepare them for effective implementation. An internal workshop is being planned where staff will be intimated with the newly developed strategy. Subsequently, a media

parley will be organized to get the media informed about our activities at WHARC and to get their buy-in to the strategy. This will afford the management, associates and staff at the centre that will be implementing the strategy a chance to meet with the media.

In furtherance of the project, an international consultant grounded in ASRH reporting has been appointed to review WHARC's publications and the African Journal of Reproductive health (AJRH) since inception. The messages and findings from the review will constitute key messages to be used in a documentary which WHARC will produce to report our work in the 20 years of existence. It would also form messages which will be used for Public Service Announcements (PSAs), online and offline campaigns, IEC materials, policy briefs, Radio/TV program and our social media platforms, all geared towards reaching the different segments of our target audience adequately.

WHO Implementation Research Program.

The Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) recently got a grant from the World Health Organization (WHO) to implement a national study titled "Assessing the impact of an Intervention to improve the quality of emergency obstetric care on Maternal And Neonatal Outcomes In Nigeria."

The 3 stages in the implementation process of the project are:

- Needs assessment survey to describe the provision of emergency obstetrics care as it is delivered currently in eight secondary and four tertiary hospitals, in the following causes of maternal mortality in two geo-political zones of Nigeria:
 - (i) Primary postpartum haemorrhage
 - (ii) Eclampsia
 - (iii) Obstructed labour
- Adaptation and implementation of a set of evidence-based multi-faceted interventions for the improvement of the quality of care for primary postpartum haemorrhage, eclampsia and obstructed labour in six of the selected hospitals (four secondary and two tertiary hospitals),
- Test of effectiveness of the intervention package by comparing maternal and neonatal outcomes and process quality indicators in the six intervention hospitals with six comparable control hospitals in the same geo-political zones.

WHARC is set to commence the hospital-based intervention study which will be carried out in the randomly selected secondary and tertiary hospitals within the six geo-political zones of the country, stratified into northern and southern zones for the purpose of the study.

Aberdeen Safe Motherhood Project

The Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) and Impact, University of Aberdeen with funding from the MacArthur Foundation is currently working on a project aimed at reducing maternal and newborn mortality in Nigeria with the purpose of generating evidence for accountability by strengthening capacity for assessments of health system performance in maternity care.

A workshop has been held as part of the actualization of the project and it assessed the needs and experiences of organisations conducting or facilitating the conduct of maternal audits and reviews, oriented the participants on current evidence for best practices and improved approaches to conduct audit and review. Also, ways to share and synthesise findings of audit for policy relevance were explored at the workshop. The workshop was attended by participants and individuals representing SOGON, WHARC, FMOH, NIMR, E4A and UN agencies. It was emphasised at the workshop that the University of Aberdeen project was intended to support and give added value to existing national plans for conducting audit and not to duplicate any activities.

Currently the University of Aberdeen team are working on the synthesis of literature reviews for the project.



Participants at the workshop: from the left (front row): Prof Tokunbo Fabamwo, Toyin Owolabi, Dr Taiwo Oyelade, Dr Abimbola Kolawole (UNFPA rep.), Julia Hussein, Dr Tunde Segun, Dr Chris Agboghroma and Dr Wilson Imongan. Back row from the left: Julius Ehizokhale Winifred Ojei, Prof Layi Erinosh, Dr Segun Adeoye and Dr Rosemary Ogu.

TY Danjuma Foundation Project

In furtherance of its intervention to provide free maternity care, and prevent maternal mortality in Orhionmwon Local Government Area, the Women's Health and Action Research Centre commissioned the newly renovated Oligie-Ottah Primary Health Centre. The PHC, which serves Oligie, Ottah, Idumodin and Wire-Ake communities in

Orhionmwon Local Government was renovated with the support of the TY Danjuma Foundation .

The goal of the project which is the reduction of the high rate of maternal morbidity and mortality among rural women in Edo state, has provided free clinical equipment , drugs and consumables for the delivery of obstetrics care and computers for effective data management in the 3 Primary Health Centers (PHCs), in three communities in Orhionmwon local government area respectively. Midwives who were recruited through the advocacy efforts of WHARC were retrained and provided with clinical algorithms, parthographs and guidelines to support the delivery of quality obstetrics' care in the PHC.

The renovated PHC was commissioned on Friday March 22, 2013, by the representative of the State Commissioner for Health Dr C Aimiebenomo , the Director of PHC , Ministry of Health. Present at the occasion were state and local government officials as well as representatives of the civil society network in Edo State, the Chairman Board of Trustees of WHARC Lady Winifred Osaru Onyeonwu and the Edo Officer of the TY Danjuma Foundation, Ms Tomi Ajayi.

Recent reports from staff at the health centre stated the turn out of clients including men and children has greatly increased and that women are coming to assess free health care at the clinic from as far as Agbor in the neighbouring Delta state.



Newly

Renovated Primary health Centre Providing Free Maternity Service.

WHARC PROGRAM ON HIV/AIDS

WHARC programmed actively in the provision of HIV testing, counselling, and treatment in its reproductive health clinic (Abel Guobadia Clinic) during the year 2012-2013. We also provided follow up treatment and counselling for clients (especially expectant mothers) that tested positive to HIV virus while advanced stage cases were referred to University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

Our clinic staffs are well trained in HIV counselling, testing and treatment as well as management of other cases relating to HIV; and our setting offers a friendly, conducive and confidential environment for all categories of clients. Additionally, WHARC organized public lectures in Lagos, Abuja and Edo states of Nigeria on HIV related issues among youths

WHARC also participated in the Edo State Agency for the Control of Aids (Edo SACA) /Public and Private Partnership quarterly meeting in response to the urgent need to put in place mechanisms to monitor useful inputs from various stakeholders for the collaboration to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence rate to zero percentage in Edo State.

Safe motherhood Project: Building Accountability mechanisms for improving quality of maternal health care and preventing maternal mortality

To complement ongoing efforts at national levels to establish concrete accountability mechanism for maternal health, WHARC is programming for MDR at sub national levels (in a selected State - Lagos).

In April 2012, WHARC's Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Wilson Imongan attended a three day international workshop on Accountability in Maternal and Reproductive Health with representatives of leading maternal and reproductive health organisation from India, Mexico and Nigeria. The meeting held in Oaxaca in Mexico, provided an opportunity to learn and share experiences on a range of initiatives and strategies to improve accountability for maternal and reproductive health, including Budget analysis, community mobilization, legal approaches and maternal death audit. The Nigerian team to Oaxaca, (SOGON, WARD-C, CHRI, CSLAC, ADVOCACY NIGERIA & WHARC) convened a stakeholder's meeting in Abuja on June 14, 2012, to discuss Accountability In Maternal Health In Nigeria (AIMHIN), with the hope of forming a coalition on Accountability.

The 2012 MacArthur grantees meeting held in July, after the Oaxaca meeting featured further discussions on accountability and transparency in maternal health with experience sharing on Maternal Death Audit in Mexico.

In January 2013, WHARC partnered with University of Aberdeen's IMMPACT in a workshop on Maternal Death Audit / Maternal Death Review held in Abuja with participants from SOGON, FMOH, NIMR, Tertiary Health Institutions, UNFPA, WHO and E4A. While in April 2013, WHARC partook in a MacArthur Foundation workshop held in Abuja on Accountability in Maternal health in Nigeria where Judith Helzner, MacArthur Foundation's Director of Population and Reproductive Health stressed the need for collaboration and synergy in program implementation. At the end of the workshop, various NGOs were requested to develop proposals based on a new list of objectives to ensure collaborations. WHARC's proposal with the necessary collaborations has been sent to the MacArthur Foundation.

African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)

Between July 2012 and June 2013, a total number of **165** manuscripts were submitted into the journal for review and possible acceptance. Of the above total number of article received by the journal within this period, **26 articles** were accepted all of which have been published, except for some that are still included in the **20 accepted articles pending to** be published in the September and December 2013 edition respectively. **44 articles** were rejected within this period while the remaining **93** articles are still undergoing peer review, copy editing and proof reading by some International Global Copy Editors. **2 articles** were withdrawn from

the journal within this period. The journal now receives within **5 to 7** submitted articles each week.

During this period of July 2012 and June 2013, 4 editions of the journal have been published. This consisted of the September 2012 edition, December 2012 edition, March 2013 edition and the June 2013 edition which is currently out online but still being copy-edited and will be printed out in hard copies by the publishers before the end of June 2013.

In total, **67** articles were published between September 2012 and June 2013. Of the numbers of articles published within this period, the countries from which these papers emerged from are as follows:

Country	Number
Nigeria	29
Ghana	8
Kenya	7
South Africa	4
Ethiopia	2
Malawi	2
Cameroon	2
Zimbabwe	2
Cote d'ivoire	2
Tanzania	1
Rwanda	1
Namibia	1
Sierra Leone	1
Gabon	1
Togo	1
Burkina Faso	1
Nether land	1
Cotonou (Benin republic)	1
	67

A detailed table of content (TOC) of the four Editions published during this period is presented below. The quality of the journal has improved drastically and this will be concluded on from the citation index and impact facto of the journal that will be presented in our next report.

AJRH: VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3 (SEPTEMBER 2012)

Editorial

Prioritizing the prevention of HIV/AIDS in African women: A call for action
Friday Okonofua

Articles

Motivational Groups Support Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy and use of Risk Reduction Behaviors in HIV positive Nigerian Women: A Pilot Study

Marcia McDonnell Holstad, Ekere James Essien, Ernest Ekong, Melinda Higgins, Ilya Teplinskiy, Modupe Falilatu Adewuyi

Knowledge, Attitudes and Barriers towards Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV among Women Attending ANC in Uyam District of Zaki-Biam in Benue State, Nigeria
Samuel K. Hembah-Hilekaan, Terlumun Z. Swuende, Terkaa T. Bito

Why some women deliver in health institutions and others do not: A cross sectional study of married women in Ghana, 2008
Smith Marian, Tawiah O. Emmanuel and Badasu Delali

Physical access to health facilities and contraceptive use in Kenya: Evidence from the 2008-2009
Kenya Demographic and Health Survey
Remare R. Ettarh and Catherine Kyobutungi

Community, Social Group, and Individual level Correlates of Rural Malawian men's and women's Reproductive Health Intentions and Practices
Valerie A. Paz-Soldan, Thomas Bisika, Joseph deGraft-Johnson and Amy O. Tsui

Identifying pregnant women who would adhere to food taboos in a rural community - A Community-based study
Olurinde A. Oni, Jamilu Tukur

Are the Attitudes Associated with the mother and HIV/AIDS responsible for the Rise in infant Mortality Recorded in Cote d'Ivoire in the 1990s?
Emmanuel Ezzo, Gilles Pison

Obstructed Labor: The need for the revival of symphysiotomy in Nigeria
Emmanuel Monjok, Ita B. Okokon, Margaret M. Opiah, Justin A. Ingwu, John E. Ekabua, Ekere J. Essien

Widowers' accounts of maternal mortality among women of low socioeconomic status in Nigeria
Ezebunwa E. Nwokocha

Emergency Caesarean delivery in prolonged obstructed labour as risk factor for obstetric fractures - A case series
Alfred O. Ogbemudia and Ehimwenma J. Ogbemudia
Gender Equality and Childbirth in a Health Facility: Nigeria and MDG5
Kavita Singh, Shela Bloom, Erica Haney, Comfort Olorunsaiye and Paul Brodish

Assessment of Uterine Cavity Size and Shape: A Systematic Review Addressing Relevance to Intrauterine Procedures and Events
Norman Goldstuck

Sexual coercion among in-school adolescents in Rwanda: prevalence and correlates of victimization and normative acceptance
Els Van Decraen, Kristien Michielsens, Herbots Sarah, Ronan Van Rossem, and Marleen Temmerman

Correlates of Contraceptive use among Ghanaian women of Reproductive Age (15-49 Years)
Edward Nketiah-Amponsah, Eric Arthur and Aaron Abuosi

Status of Emergency Obstetric Care in a Local Government area in South-South Nigeria
Seye Babatunde, Foluke O. Adeniji Charle I. Tobi-west, Margaret M. Mezie-Okoye

Pregnancy outcome after Cerclage for Cervical Incompetence at the University of Port
Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Port Harcourt
John I. Ikimalo, Kenneth E. Izuchukwu, Nestor Inimgba

AJRH: VOLUME 16 NUMBER 4 (DECEMBER 2012)

Editorial

Same sex relationships and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Need for Research and programmatic focus

Friday Okonofua

Articles

Management of Infertility in HIV infected couples: A Review
Chris O. Agboghroma and Osato. F. Giwa-Osagie

Prevalence of internalized homophobia and HIV associated risks among men who have sex
with men in Nigeria
Sylvia B Adebajo, George I. Eluwa, Dan Allman , Ted Myers and Babatunde A. Ahonsi

Short preceding birth intervals and child mortality in Mozambique
Sandra D. Gonçalves and Tom A. Moultrie

Contribution of Transvaginal Ultrasound to Hysterosalpingography in the Etiological
Research
on Female Infertility in Abidjan
*N'goran Kouamé, Anne-Marie N'goan-Domoua, Nicaise Konan, Alihonou Séchéou,
Olivier Tra-Bi, Roger-Daniel N'gbesso and Abdul-Kader Kéita*

Determinants of fertility in Namibia
Nelago Indongo and Lillian Pazvakawambwa

Age differences and protected first heterosexual intercourse in Ghana
Joshua Amo-Adjei

Increased Use of Injectable Contraception in Sub-Saharan Africa
John A. Ross and Alfred T. Agwanda

Age of Sexual Debut and Patterns of Sexual Behaviour in Two Local Government Areas in
Southern Nigeria

Uche C. Isiugo-Abanihe, Olayiwola Erinosh, Boniface Ushie, Adeyinka Aderinto, Gbenga Sunmola and Richard Joseph

Survival Analysis of Timing of First Marriage among Women of Reproductive age in Nigeria: Regional Differences

Stephen A Adebawale, Francis A Fagbamigbe, Titus O Okareh and Ganiyu O Lawal

Prevalence and Factors Associated with Perpetration of Non-Consensual Sex among Students of a Tertiary Institution in Ibadan, Nigeria

Oladipupo S. Olaleye and Ademola J. Ajuwon

Female Genital Mutilation in Sierra Leone: who are the decision makers?

Owolabi Bjälkande, Bailah Leigh, Grace Harman, Staffan Bergström and Lars Almroth

Perception and Practice of Female Genital Cutting in a Rural Community in Southern Nigeria

Ofonime E. Johnson and Rose D. Okon

Provision of Family Planning Services in Tanzania: A Comparative Analysis of Public and Private Facilities

Deodatus C. Kakoko, Evert Ketting, Switbert R. Kamazima and Ruerd Ruben

Awareness, Use and Main Source of Information on Preventive Health Examinations: a Survey of Childbearing Women in Uyo, Nigeria

Emilia A. Udofia, Christie D. Akwaowo and Uwemedimbuk S. Ekanem

Trends and Differentials of Adolescent Motherhood in Ethiopia: Evidences from 2005 Demographic and Health Survey

Eshetu Gurmu and Tariku Dejene

Low Cost, Simple, Intrauterine Insemination Procedure with Unwashed Centrifuged Husband's Sperm for Developing Countries

Rose Nsa Ada Mve and Leonardo Formigli

Getting Real with Youth-Friendly Services in Africa: Report of a Satellite Session at the 2012 International HIV/AIDS Conference

Otibho Obianwu

Review of Special Edition of the African Journal of Reproductive Health, Vol. 16, No. 2, 2012

AJRH: VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 (MARCH 2013)

Editorial

Integrated Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (IMNCH) Strategy: How has it advanced in Africa?

Friday Okonofua

Articles

Shifting norms: pregnant women's perspectives on skilled birth attendance and facility-based delivery in rural Ghana

Halley P Crissman, Cyril M Engmann, Richard M Adanu, Doris Nimako, Keesha Crespo, Cheryl A Moyer

Birth and Emergency Planning: A Cross Sectional Survey of Postnatal Women at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana

Emilia A. Udofia , Samuel A. Obed, Benedict N. L. Calys-Tagoe, Kwasi Poku Nimo

An assessment of essential maternal health services in Kwara state, Nigeria

Rakiya Saidu, Euna M. August, Amina P. Alio, Hamisu M. Salihu, Mohammed J Saka and Abdulgafar A. G Jimoh

Sexual Behavior among Adolescents and Young People in Subsaharan Africa and Related Factors

Jean-Robert Mburano RWENGE

Epidemiological and Clinical Aspects of the Management of Sexual Aggression among Female Victims in Lomé

Amah B. Adama-Hondégla, Abdoul-Samadou Aboubakari, Kodjo Fiagnon, Augustha R. N'kamga-Tchocote, and Koffi Akpadza

Reaching Adolescents and Youth in Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania

Solène Lardoux and Afiwa N'Bouke

Experiences of Girls with Hearing Impairment in Accessing Reproductive Health Care Services in Ibadan, Nigeria

Oyedunni S. Arulogun, Musibau A. Titiloye , Nathanael B. Afolabi , Oyediran E. Oyewole and Onyekwere G.B. Nwaorgu

Sexually transmitted infections prevalence, knowledge and treatment practices among female sex workers in a cosmopolitan city in Nigeria

Adekemi O Sekoni, Oluwakemi O Odukoya, Adebayo T Onajole, Kofoworola A Odeyemi

Marital status and risk of HIV infection in slum settlements of Nairobi, Kenya: results from a cross-sectional survey

James K. Kimani , Remare Ettarh, Abdhalah K Ziraba, and Nelly Yatich

HIV/AIDS-related knowledge and misconceptions among women attending government-owned antenatal clinics in Gwagwalada Area Council of Abuja, Nigeria

Aboh O. Otokpa, Taiwo. O. Lawoyin, and Michael C. Asuzu

Challenges Facing Early Infant Diagnosis of HIV among Infants in Resource Poor Settings

Wasiu O Adebimpe

Opinion of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on Ethical Issues in the Practice of In-Vitro Fertilisation and Embryo Transfer in Nigeria

R. A. Ajayi, O. J. Dibosa-Osador

Knowledge and Practice of Family Planning in Dschang Municipality, Cameroon

Catherine K Fusi-Ngwa, Vincent K Payne, Augustine N Asakizi, Bridget F Katte

A Comparative Study of Factors Influencing Decisions on Desired Family Size among Married Men and Women in Bokkos, a Rural Local Government Area in Plateau State

Makshwar L Kahansim, Idris S Hadejia, Mohammed N Sambo

An analysis of key stakeholders' attitudes and beliefs about barriers and facilitating factors in the development of a cervical cancer prevention program in South Africa

Shelley A. Francis, Kendall A. Leser, Emma E. Esmont, Fareeda M. Griffith

Use of Cervical Cerclage as a Treatment Option for Cervical Incompetence: Patient Characteristics, Presentation and Management Over a 9 Year Period in a Kenyan Centre

Paul B Karau, Mwikamba G Mutwiri, Julius A Ogeng'o, Geoffrey M Karau

AJRH: VOLUME 17 NUMBER 2 (JUNE 2013)

Editorial

Tackling maternal mortality in Africa after 2015: What should the priorities be?

Annette Bazuaye and Friday E. Okonofua

Commentary and Original Research Articles

Confronting Maternal Mortality Due to Postpartum Hemorrhage and Unsafe Abortion: A Call for Commitment

Joseph Karanja, Projestine Muganyizi, Emmanuel Rwamushaija, Nuriye Hodoglugil, Emma Nesper Holm and Regional Experts' Summit Group

The Impact of Family Planning on Primary School Enrolment in Sub-national Areas within 25 African Countries

Abiba Longwe and Jeroen Smits

Birth interval and its predictors among married women in Dabat District, Northwest Ethiopia: A retrospective follow up study

Gizachew Assefa Tessema, Berihun Megabiaw Zeleke and Tadesse Awoke Ayele

Delaying Sexual Debut as a Strategy for Reducing HIV Epidemic in Kenya

Elijah O. Onsomu, James K. Kimani, Benta A. Abuya, Ahmed A. Arif, DaKysha Moore, Vanessa Duren-Winfield and George Harwell

Modern Contraceptive Use among Women in the Asuogyaman District of Ghana: Is Reliability more Important than Health Concerns?

Joseph Kofi Teye

Immediate postpartum versus 6-week postpartum intrauterine device insertion: a feasibility study of a randomized controlled trial

Amy G. Bryant, Gift Kamanga, Gretchen S. Stuart, Lisa B. Haddad, Tarek Meguid and Chisale Mhango

The effectiveness of Community Based Distribution of Injectable Contraceptives using Community Health Extension Workers in Gombe State, Northern Nigeria

Rabiatu A. Abdul-hadi, Moyosola M. Abass, Bolatito O. Aiyenigba, Lolade O. Oseni, Solomon Odafe, Otto N. Chabikuli, Mohammed D. Ibrahim, Christoph Hamelmann and Oladapo A. Ladipo

Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Causes and Intervention Strategies of Male Infertility: A Case Study of Mhondoro-Ngezi, Zimbabwe
Stanzia Moyo and Itai Muhwati

The work of a woman is to give birth to Children: Cultural Constructions of Infertility in Nigeria
Ritgak A Dimka and Simon L Dein

Why women are dying from unsafe abortion: Narratives of Ghanaian abortion providers
Carolyn M. Payne, Michelle Precourt Debbink, Ellen A. Steele, Caroline T. Buck, Lisa A. Martin, Jane A. Hassinger and Lisa H. Harris

Identifying Obstetrical Emergencies at Kintampo Municipal Hospital: A perspective from Pregnant Women and Nursing Midwives
Brenda Oiyemhonlan, Emilia Udofia and Damien Punguyire

The social dynamics of selling sex in Mombasa, Kenya: a qualitative study contextualizing high risk sexual behaviour
Karen M. Hampanda

Knowledge of the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine, and opinions of Gynaecologists on its implementation in Nigeria
Imran O. Morhason-Bello, Olubukola A. Adesina, Babatunde O. Adedokun, Olutosin Awolude, Clement A. Okolo, Christopher O. Aimakhu, Babatunde O. Akinwunmi, Adesina Oladokun and Isaac F. Adewole

Exposure of media content and sexual Health Behavior among Adolescents in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria
Onipede Wusu

Premarital Sex in Antananarivo (Madagascar): How are students freeing themselves from the Norms?
Bénédicte Gastineau and Clotilde Binet

Journal Advertising and marketing

One area the journal is working very hard and will continue to work fruitlessly on in improving its wide spread since the last 12months is the marketing of the journal. As reported previously, a lot of strategies were put together in the last months to enhance the marketing and advertisement of the journal and these strategies are still being followed in marketing of the journal.

The use of Social Media to advertise the journal eg Face book, Tweeter and the journals Blog where abstracts of current manuscripts only are posted has helped in the wide spread of the journal since the last 12months. The E-Library system of the AJRH has been updated since the development of the new website.

Development of a New Journal Website

The AJRH now has a new modernized website that will be launched by JUNE 2013 as soon as our online payment mode has been put in place. With the launching of this new website,

we will no longer operate the open access system. The articles published will either be paid for by the authors to enable it be free on air and enable readers to gain free access or will be hidden which means all reader has to pay a certain amount online to gain access to the article.

The new website has also provided us ability to do all the editorial work on line and this will enable thousands of people access our website on a daily basis as communication with clients will be done via online.

Marketing Agents

The AJRH now have marketing agents in different Universities in Nigeria and across the globe that assist in selling hard copies of the journal. These are mainly bookshops in most Universities, departments and research institutes that are patronizing the journal.

Recently, the AJRH signed a contract with the Universal Publishers, Inc., BrownWalker Press – USA to be in charge of publishing the journal quarterly and to market it in a bid to enable to reach a wider audience globally.

Publication of Special Edition

The AJRH is working towards producing a Special Edition that will focus on HIV/AIDS. The aim is to comprehensively review the state of current knowledge around HIV/AIDS. Program administrators, advocates and policymakers in sub-Saharan Africa will use it as a guide for future action and this will be published and presented to the general public on 5th December 2013 in Abuja.

WHARC's Reproductive Health Library

The Reproductive Health Library of the Centre experienced a tremendous growth during the year 2012/2013. New books and non – book materials consisting of journals, magazines, Video tapes, compact disc, audio tapes, slides and reference photographs were acquired.

During the period under review the total reference materials available in the library increased by 35%. In view of this, more shelves were acquired for the library. And a total of 1,687 people benefited from the library facilities. Comments made about the Centre's library service delivery in the previous year were taken into consideration and efforts were made to better serve clients.

The WHARC Board of Trustees Chairman – Lady Winifred Osaru Onyeonwu, JP, donated 49 (Forty – nine) books of various titles to WHARC Library. The library also received free books from World Health Organization (WHO) the Ford Foundation, through subscriptions and exchange of our publications from both Local and International Organizations. Upon receipt of these books, they are classified according to the Library of congress classification scheme for easy retrieved.

Recent materials are kept on special display shelves for easy referencing. The Library is open to Students, Researchers, Reproductive Health activists and Members of the public from 8am – 4pm daily Monday – Friday.

WHARC Communication Activities

The year under review has been a very commendable one in the aspect of communications and results reporting for the Women's Health and Action Research Centre. The organization's website was overhauled in August 2012 and replaced with a better and highly interactive website with graphics

and buttons that increases interaction with users of the website. The publications page on the website now provide access to ground breaking research findings and access to lectures delivered by thought leaders in different aspects of health. Our social media platforms are very vibrant with the numbers moving steadily in hundreds. Blog posts are written in line with an editorial calendar that takes into cognisance all important international days relating to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and these are made available to a wider audience via our social media platforms and HIFA2015.

The first edition of the 2013 Women's Health Forum (WHARC official newsletter) has been distributed to a wider audience both in hard and soft copies. The second edition of the 2013 Women's Health Forum is almost complete and will be out anytime soon.

An internet mail service called mailchimp is now being used to distribute the newsletter electronically to our target audience; this service makes it easy for any type of audience to read the newsletter because of the versatile manner it is being presented. Aside the women's health forum, in April 2013, we started a monthly e-newsletter which is called "WHARC Monthly Updates". The platform would be used to reach and engage our target audiences with key research findings and our activities on a monthly basis.

In the year under review, WHARC's press releases and events were reported in all major Nigerian newspapers which include the Punch, Guardian, Tribune, Thisday, Vanguard, Leadership and Blueprint amongst others. One of our lectures was reported in the Time Magazine. A communication strategy has just been developed for the centre which will guide our communication activities in the years ahead.

Research Workshops and Lectures

In the course of the 2012/2013 accounting year WHARC sustained its tradition of dedicated lectures as follows

The Professor James Ogonor Memorial Lecture

The 10th Professor James Ogonor Memorial Lecture organized by the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) held in Benin City on January 22, 2013. The lecture titled **"Tackling the Public Health Challenge of Lassa Fever in Edo State"** was delivered by Dr. Sylvanus Okogbenin, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH). He began with the history of lassa fever which was first reported in Nigeria in 1969 at Lassa Town in the Northern part of the country. Presently, lassa fever has been reported in 24 states in Nigeria and has been found to account for 20% of maternal deaths in the ISTH. This is a pointer to the fact that lassa fever could be a significant but hidden cause of maternal deaths in several communities in Nigeria.

Dr. Okogbenin informed the audience that any kind of fever condition where body temperature goes above 38°C with absence of a clinical response after 72 hours of anti-malarial treatment and a broad-spectrum antibiotic accompanied with abnormal bleeding could possibly a case of lassa fever which should be reported and treated immediately with Ribavirin. He added that the main cause of lassa fever is the lassa virus which is carried by a special specie of rat that lives around houses. The virus can be transmitted from the rodents to human or from human to human.

Distinguished guests in attendance at the lecture comprised medical practitioners, social change organizations and members of the academia which include Professor L. I. Ojogwu, Professor of

Medicine, University of Benin, Emeritus Professor A. G. Onokerhorhay, former Vice Chancellor, University of Benin and Professor (Mrs) B. O. Ogonor, wife of late Professor James Ogonor.

The 1st Dr. Abel Guobadia Memorial Lecture

The maiden edition of the Dr. Abel Guobadia Memorial Lectures was held on February 14, 2013 in Benin-City, Nigeria. The former President of Nigeria, Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Obasanjo delivered the lecture titled *“The Role of Women in Safeguarding the Nation’s Health”* where he called for greater commitment on the part of policymakers and stakeholders to give girl child education the priority it deserves.

Chief Obasanjo said that to adequately address women’s health, it must be treated within the broader context of power, control and decision making. The extent to which women are included in essential political and economic roles will determine the extent to which all aspects of women lives, living and health will be appropriately addressed. He presented the current statistics of political representation at various levels in the country which showed that out of the 36 state governors, none is a woman. At the national level only 8 out of the 109 senators are women while the House of Representatives can boast of only 24 women out of its 360 members. He said this did not augur well for efforts to re-position women’s health issues, since women comprise 50% of Nigeria’s population.

The Governor of Edo State, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole while speaking at the event tasked the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to create a truly woman-friendly environment so that more women can vie for decision making positions via brains instead of arms which is the case in some parts of the nation. He praised the former President for finding time to appear in person at the event as this was the hallmark of a true leader. He believes the voice of the former president will help to bring high level commitment and action on issues affecting women.

The lecture was organised by the Women’s Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) to honour Dr. Abel Guobadia, former INEC Chairman and the immediate past Chairman of its Board of Trustees. WHARC intends to hold the Dr. Abel Guobadia Memorial Lecture annually and use the medium to garner support for the improvement of the health and social well-being of women in Nigeria.



L-R, Sir Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbinedion, Esama of Benin, Emeritus Prof. O. O Akinkugbe, Chairman of the Event, Chief (Dr.) Olusegun Obasanjo, former President & Guest Lecturer, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, Executive Governor of Edo State, Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, Secretary to Edo State Government, Hon. Patrick Obahiagbon, Chief of Staff to Governor of Edo State at a chief representing His Royal Majesty, the Oba of Benin.

External Workshops and Learning Meetings Attended

1. On October 3-4, 2012, WHARC's Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Wilson Imongan, Communications/ICT Officer Officer Mr. Abokede Nurudeen and the Assistant Managing Editor, AJRH, Ms. Theresa Ezeoma attended a training workshop on the "Role of media in advancing youth sexuality and adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights issues." Organized by the Ford Foundation.
2. On January 24, 2013, WHARC's Communications/ICT Officer Officer Mr. Abokede Nurudeen attended a Communication Strategy Development workshop organized by the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC).
3. On February 18-22, 2013 WHARC's Communications/ICT Officer Officer Mr. Abokede Nurudeen attended different sessions at the Social Media Week event held in Lagos. The event was organized globally by Nokia.
4. On March 13, WHARC's Executive Director, Prof. Cyril Mokwenye and the Communications/ICT Officer Officer Mr. Abokede Nurudeen attended a training titled "Animation and alternative story telling techniques." Organized by the Ford Foundation.
5. On February 15, 2013, the Medical Officer of the Abel Guobadia Women's Health Clinic and Miss Chioma Ekwo, a program officer at WHARC attended the quarterly Edo State Agency for the Control of Aids (EDOSACA) Public Private Partnership (PPP) forum held in Benin-City, Edo State. The forum was organized by EDOSACA.

6. On June 28, 2012 and July 5 2012, WHARC's Executive Director, Prof. Cyril Mokwenye, Managing Editor, AJRH, Mr. Daramola Abayomi, Asst. Managing Editor, Ms. Theresa Ezeoma, Program Officer, Ms. Chioma Ekwo and Communications/ICT Officer, Mr. Nurudeen Abokede attended the public presentation of a special edition of the journal and a lecture titled: "Addressing Youth Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS in Nigeria" delivered by Professor John Idoko, Director-General of NACA. Organized by WHARC.

7. On October 8 - 12, 2012, the Managing Editor, AJRH, Mr. Daramola Abayomi and Asst. Managing Editor, Ms. Theresa Ezeoma attended the OJS National Workshop: Editorial and Online Peer-review Journal Management in Nigeria-Invitation at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

8. On November 19-24, 2012, the Managing Editor, AJRH, Mr. Daramola Abayomi, Asst. Managing Editor, Ms. Theresa Ezeoma and Marketing Manager, Ms. Bosede James attended the SOGON AGM and Conference tagged "Challenges of managing gynaecological malignancies in a resource poor setting". organized by the Society for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Nigeria.

9. On August 13-17, 2012 Miss Toyin Owolabi of the Research unit attended accompanied by some WHARC associates attended a proposal development workshop on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Implementation Research organized by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) held in Ibadan.

10. On September 19, 2012, Dr. Wilson Imongan WHARC's Deputy Director and Ms Toyin Owolabi, Program Officer, Research & Documentation attended a meeting of grantees with the Ford Foundation on Measuring the Outcomes and Progress on Youth Sexuality, Reproductive Health and Rights.

11. On November 29, 2012 in Abuja, WHARC's Executive Director, Professor Cyril Mokwenye, Deputy Director, Dr. Wilson Imongan and Program Officer, Research & Documentation, Miss Toyin Owolabi attended a technical dialogue on Building National Consensus on Approaches for Integrating Youth Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services into Primary Health Care in Nigeria organized by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in collaboration with the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)

12. On November 19-23, 2012, WHARC was represented by Dr Wilson Imongan, Dr Zelda Ewah, Miss Joyce Enogieru, Miss Chioma Ekwo, Miss Toyin Owolabi and Miss Osasu Aigbogun at a family planning advocacy training workshop organised by the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) in collaboration with National Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI).

13. On December 4-6, 2012, WHARC's Program Officer, Miss Osasu Aigbogun attended a workshop on the "Adaptation and Development of Site Specific Advocacy Materials for Benin City organised by National Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI).

International Visits and Consultations

1. On July 28, 2012 Mrs. Margeret Y'au, a Program Officer from TY Danjuma Foundation visited WHARC for Project Assessment.

2. On July 28, 2013 Ms Tomi Ajaji, a Program Officer from TY Danjuma Foundation visited the Centre for Project Assessment.
3. On January 7, 2013 Mr. Olusola Ajibona from Thomas Ajibona Associates, Lagos Visited the Centre for Staff Evaluation.
4. On January 17, 2013 Mr. Adeduji Kunle Olayimika from Women Friendly Initiative visited the Centre for Advocacy Survey Visit.
5. On January 17, 2013 Dr. Bene Nnabugwu-Otesanya from Women Friendly Initiative visited the Centre for Advocacy Survey Visit.
6. On January 17, 2013 Maryamu G. Nastic from Women Friendly Initiative visited the Centre for Advocacy Survey Visit.
7. On April 11, 2013 Mr. Oyewole Daniel from Edo State Agency for Aids (SACA), Edo State visited the Centre for Civil Society Organization mapping to update their data base.
8. On April 11, 2013 Mr. Omoh Oyarekhua from Edo State Agency for Aids (SACA), Edo State visited the Centre for Civil Society Organization mapping to update their data base.

WHARC'S Reproductive Health Clinic

WHARC'S Reproductive Health Clinic, also known as the Abel Guobadia Women's Health Clinic, is the clinical and reproductive health service delivery unit of the Centre. The Clinic in its inspiring drive to achieve its stated aim which is to improve the reproductive health of the community provides efficient and effective services in the areas of adolescent and women's sexual and reproductive health.

In the year under review, a considerable number of clients were attended to in the Clinic. Common cases seen were Infertility, Uterine fibroids, antenatal care and delivery, postnatal care, family planning services, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and gynaecological cancers. Gynaecological surgeries-hysterectomies, myomectomies and caesarean sections were carried out during the year. The Clinic has also continued to fulfil its role as a referral centre for clinics within and outside Nigeria. The laboratory unit provided haematology and chemistry investigations, hormonal assays, seminal fluid analyses, swab cultures and urine tests during the year. The diagnostic ultrasound scan in the clinic is fully operational, providing the service during the year.

Dr. Michael Ezeanochie, a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist works as the clinical consulting specialist in the Clinic while Dr. Pascal Erhuanga is the Medical Officer involved in the day-to-day management of the Clinic. Other staff in the WHARC'S Reproductive Health Clinic are three full-time qualified nurses/midwives and two laboratory scientists. The Clinic also served as a centre for industrial training of laboratory science students from various tertiary institutions in Nigeria during the year.