

**Advancing National Understanding of the Socio-economic,
Educational and Reproductive Health Needs of Nigerian
Women and Youth**

**The 2014-2015 Annual Report of the Women's Health and
Action Research Centre (WHARC)**



WHARC ANNUAL REPORT: JULY 1, 2014 – JUNE 30, 2015

About WHARC

WHARC is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1993. It consists of a multi-disciplinary team of health, social science and legal professionals and researchers working together to build the knowledge base and to improve the policy environment for advancing women's health in Africa. To date, the Centre has conducted formative and intervention research that documents the socio-cultural determinants of women's health and that provides critical data for developing policies and programs for scaling up best practices relating to women's health in the region. In particular, our 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. WHARC also publishes the *African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)* (www.ajrh.info), now widely recognized as the leading journal that promotes sexual and reproductive health and the principles of sexual rights, equity and social justice in sub-Saharan Africa.

Our Mission

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 wellbeing 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 level. WHARC also provides current and effective reproductive health services to women and adolescent girls in Africa.

Our Vision

The Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) 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.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to numerous organizations and individuals who worked with WHARC and supported the centre during the year. These included the Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the World Health Organization (WHO), Ipas, the TY Danjuma Foundation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC). We are also grateful to our collaborating partners – Impact, University of Aberdeen, Save the Children, the Federal Ministry of Health, Champions for Change and the University of Ottawa who supported our work during the year.

We are extremely grateful to them all.

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twitter.com/WHARC1

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Message from the Executive Director

The 2014-2015 year was a highly eventful one in WHARC. The year began with a rejuvenated workforce, especially with the introduction of a well scripted staff performance and evaluation system. Staffs now know that it would not be “business as usual”, and therefore are more determined to work towards accomplishing the mission and vision of the Centre. The addition of a reward system for hard-working and results-oriented staff has also helped the process of consolidating the key values of performance, ethical behaviour and adherence to high level integrity in the centre.

During the year, WHARC expanded its funding base, first through winning competitive grant applications, and secondly through boosting its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR). WHARC won competitive grants posted by the World Health Organization, and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, and assisted the University of Benin to develop a proposal and win the World Bank sponsored project on establishing a Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) in the University.

On the IGR front, WHARC established a Guest House and Events Centre that meet international standards during the year. The Guest House was developed with the IGR funds of the Centre, which was accumulated over a 3 year period. The Guest house consists of 14 well equipped rooms complete with air conditioning, multi-channel TV, free internet access, 24-hour electricity, high level security and full CCTV coverage. There are also two conference halls that can seat up to 250 guests each, and several break-out rooms for seminars, workshops and meetings. Transportation is also available to take guests on tour of the culture-rich city and its suburbs. Indeed, the Guest House and Events Centre are ready to host any workshop and meetings organised by governments, various institutions, NGOs and Development Partners in Benin City and its environs. Clearly, WHARC has come of age and with its rising IGR profile, is now more fortified to take its destiny in its own hands.

For us, 2015 is a significant and monumental year. It marks the end of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the beginning of the 17-points Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Knowing that the MDGs did not fully meet its target in promoting social development in Nigeria, WHARC promises to work hard to ensure that the SDGs become the rallying point for promoting the development of women and youth, and engendering Nigeria’s sustainable development. We thank those who have helped us thus far, especially our donors and partners and promise that WHARC will continue to work to promote social justice and reduce inequality and inequity wherever they exist.

Members of WHARC Board of Trustees

Lady Winifred Onyeonwu (Chairman)

Lady Winifred Onyeonwu is an educationist and publisher. A former Director of Library Services in the then Bendel State, she has a lot of experience in Bookshop management. She retired as a Permanent Secretary in the then Bendel State Civil service and later served as Commissioner for Local Government Affairs in Edo State and has since devoted her time to building public libraries and monuments.

Mrs Marcelina Aisuebeogun

Mrs Marcelina Aisuebeogun is a retired Nurse/Midwife. She has been an active member of the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), the main organization for Nigerian women, for several years.

Mrs Amina Sambo

Mrs Amina Sambo is past national President of the National Council of Women's Societies (NCWS). She presently resides in Kano, northern Nigeria where she runs an NGO, the Women's Health Organization of Nigeria (WHON), which organizes women for community self-effort and social emancipation.

Engr. Ibude Guobadia

Engr. Ibude Guobadia is a Management and Engineering Consultant. He had previously worked with Citi Bank. He has vast experience in Engineering and Business consultancy. Engr. Guobadia is currently a Consultant Engineer with MANENG SERVICES LTD in Lagos.

Prof Friday Okonofua

Professor Friday Okonofua is the Founder of the Women's Health and Action Research Centre. He is also a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Benin. He is currently the Vice Chancellor of the new Ondo State University of Medical Sciences.

Prof Cyril Mokwenye

Professor Cyril Mokwenye is a Professor of Foreign Languages (French) with the University of Benin. He is the Executive Director of the Centre. He was formerly the Head of Department of Foreign Languages, University of Benin and has also served as the dean of the Faculty of Arts of the same University.

1.0 PROGRAM REPORTS

1.1 Building Accountability Mechanisms for Improving the Quality of Maternal Health Care and Preventing Maternal Mortality

WHARC continued to implement the 3-year project on promoting the uptake of accountability practices for the prevention of Maternal Mortality in Lagos State with funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The project aims to improve the quality of care in maternal health at all levels of health care system through the practice of Maternal Death Review (MDR) within health delivery systems in Lagos State and to increase the capacity as well as action of the community through conducting verbal autopsy of maternal deaths. In collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Health, MDR is presently being conducted in the tertiary and secondary health facilities: Lagos Island Maternity, Ajeromi General Hospital and Gbagada General Hospital. The project spans from November 1, 2013 to October 31, 2016.



Participants at the MDR Training Workshop held in Ajeromi General Hospital, Lagos

During the reporting period, the following have been achieved through the project implementation:

- 25 Health Care Providers at Ajeromi General Hospital were trained on conducting facility based MDR
- 31 Health Care Providers at Lagos Island Maternity Hospital were trained on conducting facility based MDR

- 27 Health Care providers at Gbagada General Hospital were trained on conducting facility based MDR.
- Maternal Death Reviews are being conducted in the three project facilities and findings are being documented.
- Lagos Island and Ajeromi Local Government Areas has been identified for community verbal autopsy on maternal deaths.
- Verbal Autopsy Protocol was developed for the community verbal autopsy; this tool would document information on maternal deaths occurring in these communities through interviews and conversations from the deceased relatives or friends thus establishing a documentation of maternal deaths in the community as well as the causes.

1.2 Assessing the Impact of an Intervention to Improve the Quality of Emergency Obstetric Care on Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes

In November 2014, WHARC obtained a competitive grant from the World Health Organization (WHO) to implement a national implementation research for improving the quality of emergency obstetric care in Nigeria. The intervention study is aimed at improving the quality of care for the management of obstetric complications that leads to maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in secondary and tertiary level health facilities in Nigeria. The multi-facet evidence-based interventions adapted for the implementation research include awareness creation and advocacy to hospital managements, use of recommended protocols in the management of the leading causes of maternal mortality, maternal and neonatal audits and reviews, reminder systems for health care providers and patients' education.

The study which will last for three (3) years from January 2015 to January 2018 kicked off its formative research phase in January 2015. Eight study sites were randomly selected within 4 geopolitical zones of Nigeria and FCT. The States are Oyo, Ogun, Delta, Edo, Kano, Kaduna, Niger and FCT.

Activities carried out within the formative phase are as follows:

i. Implementation Workshop

The phase commenced with an implementation workshop which was held on January 18-21, 2015. The objective of the workshop was to review project implementation plans and update participants with final project objectives, methods and planned measurement indicators. Study sites within the selected geo-political zones were identified during the workshop. The workshop was attended by 16 individual participants comprising of the PI, Co-PIs and other consultants.



Participants at the WHO Implementation Workshop held in January, 2015

ii. Site Coordinators' Update Meeting

Following the Implementation Workshop, a one-day meeting was organised for the identified Coordinators of the 8 selected study sites on February 27, 2015. During the meeting, modality of the Needs Assessment Survey within the sites was discussed and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) on individual's commitment to the expected responsibilities was signed. The meeting was attended by 14 individual participants including the site coordinators, PIs as well as the Co-PIs.

iii. Needs Assessment Survey

The Needs Assessment Survey commenced in the selected study sites from March 1, 2015 and will end by August 31, 2015. The data collection phase of the survey has ended by June 30, 2015 and the data are currently being analysed.

The Formative Research phase will end with the Dissemination of the Survey findings in a one-day workshop in October, 2015.

1.3 Using Empirical Evidence to scale up Policies and Programs to reduce Adverse Sexual and Reproductive Health Outcomes in Nigeria

With the need to find ways to better communicate the research findings to key stakeholders including policymakers, so that they become useful tools for driving the design and implementation of sexual and reproductive health and policies in Nigeria, WHARC implemented a project with funding from Ford Foundation to make available

its research findings and program reports over the years in languages that are easily understood by policy makers and other stakeholders.

The 3-year project implementation began early January 2013 with the appointment of a Communications Consultant to help the Centre develop a strategic communication plan. To the end, all the activities within the plan have been implemented.

The implemented activities and achievements of the projects include the following:

i. Development of a mobile app- Reprohealth

An android application which has more than one hundred questions and answers on reproductive and sexual health was developed. Since adolescents and young people lack access to critical sexual and reproductive health services, the application allows mobile users get access to this high quality sexual and reproductive health information they seek. The mobile application also provides direction to several health care centres in the country. Also developed was a plan that create awareness of the mobile application and also make it available to all users especially adolescents.

ii. Production and Distribution of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and Documentaries

Also under the project, WHARC produced some short educational public service announcement videos and a documentary of WHARC's achievement since its inception. These are being aired in several television and radio stations (Silverbird and Bronze 101.5 FM) and also uploaded on different social media channels such as facebook, twitter and YouTube. These videos were on family planning, maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS. This is just the beginning as WHARC has plans to produce more educational videos that will give the public more information about reproductive and sexual health.

iii. Production of Live Radio Program

WHARC also produced a live radio program tagged "WHARC and your health" on the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) Bronze 101.5 FM. The program tackled sexual and reproductive health issues and had experts on these issues as Guest Speakers on a weekly basis. It aired for a period of six (6) months with a wide coverage of about six (6) states and hundreds of thousand audiences.

iv. Publication of Events and Research findings on the Print Media

Listed below are some of WHARC's publications in the National Dailies during this reporting year:

- "WHARC to assist Lagos Fight Maternal Death Rate" (Daily Independence Newspaper January 13th, 2014).
- "WHARC to Train Journalists on Reporting" (Daily Independence Newspaper January 5th, 2014).

- “Nigerians needs Leaders with Political will to Tackle its Problems” (National Point Newspaper March 3rd, 2014).
- “Stakeholders call for Enforcement of Teenage Pregnancy Law” (Nigerian Pilot Newspaper February 26th, 2014).
- “Group raises alarm over Teenage Pregnancy” (Daily Champion Newspaper Monday 16th, 2014).
- “Varsity Don lampoons politicians on democratic law growth” (Nigeria Pilot Newspaper February 7th, 2014).
- “Political scientist blames Nigerian elites for lack of democratic progress” (Nigeria Pilot Newspaper Friday February 11th, 2014).
- “NGO Decries Increasing Teenage Pregnancy” (Daily Independent Newspaper June 17, 2014).
- Ekiti State Teenage Pregnancy (National Point Newspaper March 25th, 2014).
- “Mrs Fayemi others seek Rehabilitation Package for Teenage Mothers” (National Point Newspaper March 18th, 2014).
- “NACA Stresses the Importance of Research in HIV Issues” AJRH launch in Abuja. (Daily Times Newspaper) through NAN website on February 23rd 2014.
- “Communities Appreciate WHARC Over Donated Drugs” (This Day Newspaper April 12th, 2014).
- “Group Donate Drugs to PHCs” (Daily Independence Newspaper April 17th, 2014).
- “19million Abortions Done In Unsafe Condition Annually in Nigeria, Say Don” (Edo PM News September, Edition 10, 2015).
- Over 19 million Abortion Performed in Unsafe Condition in Nigeria- Prof Erah” (National Point Newspaper Tuesday, September 30, 2014).
- “WHARC Trains Health Workers on Reproductive Health” (National Weekender Saturday, October 25- Friday 31, 2014).
- “WHARC Trains Health Workers on Reproductive Health” (National Weekender Newspaper October, 2014).
- “WHARC gets Campaign Team on Leadership” (Monday, June 30, 2015).
- The 3rd Annual Dr. Abel Guobadia Memorial lecture was published in National Point Newspaper.
- 3rd Dr. Abel Guobadia Memorial Lecture was posted in www.alltimepost.com
- WHARC Organises Puberty and Sexual and Reproductive health Capacity Building for Very Young Adolescents was posted in www.alltimespost.com
- “WHO collaborates WHARC to Improve the Quality of Obstetric and Maternal and Prenatal Care in Nigeria” the story was published by the Nations, Daily Independent and National Point Newspapers respectively.
- “Gynaecologist Urges Infertile Couples to Embrace IVF” (the Nigerian Observer Newspaper. Monday, March 16, 2015).

- "WHARC on Maternal Death Review for Health Providers" (Daily Independent Newspaper December, 2014).
- "Ofeimun Says Constitutions Amendment Will Rectify Nigeria Problems" (National Point Newspaper page 8, Tuesday, February 24, 2015).
- "Gynaecologist Urges Infertility Couples to Embrace IVF" (Midwest Times March 28, 2015).

v. Electronic Monthly Updates on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Issues and other topical issues

The centre continues to produce and distribute the monthly e-newsletters. This is a medium of communicating to our subscribers/followers on monthly basis about our research outcomes and activities of the centre. The following were the issues discussed during the reporting period:

Month	Focus	Subscribers Reached
July 2014	Maternal Death Review	695
August 2014	The Ebola Virus	921
September 2014	Sexuality Education	978
October 2014	Family Planning: Contraception a Vital Tool	1,065
November 2014	Very Young Adolescents	1,239
December 2014	Antenatal Care and Delivery	1,237
March 2015	Family Planning	1,987
April 2015	Infertility in Women: Causes and Treatment	1,800
May 2015	Obstetric Fistula and Early Child Marriage	1,798
June 2015	Maternal Obesity: Effect on Pregnancy	1,795

vi. ICT/Communication Activities

- WHARC website (wharc-online.org):** This major channel of communication has been undergoing serious updates and modifications to meet the demand for dynamism, easy navigation, security etc.; and this had led to active followership.
- Data Management Office:** The Centre within the past year has setup up a fully equipped data management office for data entry and analysis.
- WHARC Social Media Channels:** this is one of the active measures adopted by the centre to reach a wider audience with its research outcomes and other project activities. During the reporting year, radical approaches to increase and boost our campaigns were taken to improve the channels; this includes paid advertisements on traffic sites, championed interactive discussions etc.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS	
WHARC Facebook	
Total Page Likes	3062
Total Posts	300
Total Post Reach	81664
Total Likes/Shares/Comments	660110
Total Page Views	2017440
WHARC Twitter	
Total followers	221
Total Posts	783
Total Post Reach/views	675
WHARC YouTube	
Total No. of Videos	11
Total Page Views/downloads	8720

- d. **WHARC's Newsletter:** WHARC produced two editions of its newsletter, the *Women's Health Forum* during the year, which were widely circulated to numerous stakeholders. Both the hard and electronic copies were widely distributed and are still being distributed.
- e. **Policy Briefs:** WHARC developed and widely disseminated two policy briefs on essential issues during the year. These included: 1) a policy brief titled: "Tackling Youth Unemployment and Under-Employment in Nigeria: The Way Forward - Recommendations to Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies" and 2) another titled: "Addressing the Challenge of Sexual Violence Affecting Nigerian Youth - Policy Recommendation for A Women Movement to address Gender Based Violence". 2000 copies of the policy briefs were printed and widely distributed to policymakers. Additionally, the e-formats of the briefs were distributed using WHARC's social media channels.
- f. **Research Papers:** The following papers were written and published during the year based on research conducted by WHARC in collaboration with other partners. As shown, the papers are in various stages of publication.
 1. Okonofua FE, Shittu OA, Diop A, Shochet T, Winikoff B. Acceptability and feasibility of medical abortion with mifepristone and misoprostol in Nigeria. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*. 2014, 125; 49-52.
 2. Okonofua FE, Hirose A, Ogu R, Ezeanochie M, Agholor KA, Owolabi T. Experience of sexual violence and risk behaviour among University women in Southern Nigeria. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Research (Submitted)*

3. Akpata CBN, Uadia PO, Okonofua FE. Prevalence of polycystic ovarian disease in Nigeria: A hospital-based study. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 2015 (submitted)
4. Ojochenemi Onubi, Debbi Marais, Lorna Aucott, Friday Okonofua, Amudha S. Poobalan. Maternal obesity in Africa– A systematic review. *International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* (In Press)

vii. African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)

African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) is a Multidisciplinary and International Journal which started in 1997 and published tri-annually (April, August and December) up to December 2008. From 2009 till date the journal has been publishing quarterly (March, June, September, December and a Special Edition which comes up any time of the year). The publication of the journal has being consistent since inception. The Journal has published 19 volumes and 63 issues since its onset and over 1,063 articles on Sexual and Reproductive Health (average of 15 articles per issue). The journal focuses on publishing original research, comprehensive review articles, short reports and commentaries in reproductive health in Africa.

The AJRH has open access in 3 websites which include Pubmed, Ajol and AJRH while full text is published at <http://www.ajrh.info>. It is also abstracted in Ulrich's periodical feminist, periodical African books publishing records and in 7 other indexing and abstracting bodies.

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A Comparative Analysis of Fertility Differentials in Ghana and Nigeria
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Obstetric Danger Signs and Factors Affecting Health Seeking Behavior among the Kassena-Nankani of Northern Ghana: A Qualitative Study
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Effects of improved access to transportation on emergency obstetric care outcomes in Uganda
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Rural Origin and Exposure Drives Ghanaian Midwives' Reported Future Practice
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Maternal Health Practices, beliefs and Traditions in Southeast Madagascar
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Current Evidence Supporting Obstetric Fistula Prevention Strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review of the Literature
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Understanding Maternal Deaths from the Family's Perspective: Verbal Autopsies in Rural Tanzania
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Risk factors for transactional sex among young females in post-conflict Liberia
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The Abuja +12 Declaration: Implications for Investment in HIV Prevention Research Africa

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Development of Guidelines for the Conduct of HIV Research Monitoring by Ethics Committees in Nigeria

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Money, Power and HIV: Economic Influences and HIV Among Men who have Sex with Men in sub-Saharan Africa.

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Addressing the Socio-Development Needs of Adolescents Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria: a call for action

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Ethics of Ancillary Care in Clinical Trials in Low Income Countries: A Nigerian Case Study.

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Cervical Cancer and Human Papilloma virus Knowledge and Acceptance of Vaccination among Medical Students in Southwest Nigeria.
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viii. Reproductive Health Textbook

WHARC launched a reproductive health textbook during the year, titled: “Reproductive Health Challenges in Africa- A textbook for students and Development Practitioners”. The book was published by Brown Walker Publishers, one of the global leaders in scientific book publishing, based in Florida, USA, and is available in all bookstores around the world.

The table of content (TOC) of the textbook is presented below:

1. List of Members of International Advisory Board
2. Contributors and Authors of Chapters
3. Foreword - *Friday Okonofua, Editor*
4. The Concept of Sexual and Reproductive Health - *Oluwole E. Akande*
5. Evidence-Based Decision making in Sexual and Reproductive Health - *Bukola Fawole*
6. Research Methods in Sexual and Reproductive Health - *Olufemi A. Olatunbosun*
7. Social Determinants of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa - *Olayiwola Erinosh*
8. Enhancing Maternal Survival in Africa - *Staffan Bergström*
9. Youth Sexuality, Reproductive Health and Rights - *Friday Okonofua and Biodun Olagbuji*
10. Abortion in Africa - *Charlotte Hord*
11. The Concept and Practice of Sexuality Education in Africa - *Adenike O. Esiet and Corinne N.C. Whitaker*
12. The Impact of Early Marriage in Africa - *Judith-Ann Walker*
13. Gender-Based Violence - *Olufunmilayo I. Fawole*
14. The Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases through Integrated Health Programs. - *Lindsay Edouard and Olufemi Olatunbosun*

15. Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa: The Role of Family Planning
- *Okpani O Anthony, Ogu Rosemary and Okonofua Friday*
16. Infertility and Sexual and Reproductive Health in Africa - *Friday Okonofua*
17. Sexual and Reproductive Health in the Context of HIV/AIDS in Africa - *Paula Tavrow*
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20. Female Genital Mutilation - *Friday Okonofua*
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23. Monitoring and Evaluation in Sexual and Reproductive Health - *Kolawole Azeez Oyediran, Olusesan A. Makinde, and Stephanie Mullen*
24. Afterword - *Mahmoud F.Fathalla*
25. Afterword - *Sabaratnam Arulkumaran*
26. Afterword - *Kole Shettima*

1.4 Accessing Reproductive Health services with a Phone click

WHARC commenced a new project aimed at increasing women's access to quality safe abortion and post abortion care in Nigeria through a reproductive health app with funding from Ipas. The one-year project which commenced in October 2014 has achieved the various milestones as proposed in the project work plan.

These include the following:

- i. Development of a mobile app which is downloadable on different operating systems of phones (android, blackberry, windows, IOS). The app contains questions and answers on sexual and reproductive health issues including safe abortion and post abortion care as well as family planning. It also includes a platform for chat message and Google maps on address information of nearby hospitals, clinics and WHARC affiliated centres.
- ii. Training of 10 Staff on the technicality of the mobile app which entails how to manage the back end system of the app including adding questions and answers, responding to chat messages from the mobile phone users and updating information.
- iii. Training of 25 Peer Educators from different communities for further retraining of other youth. The peers were trained on use of social media to further broadcast the app.

Subsequently in the course of the project, school outreaches and rallies will be

conducted in selected institutions to mobilise the youth on the use of the app. Flyers will also be produced for distribution. Also through the help of GSM service providers, WHARC will disseminate SMS informing them of the app and how it can be downloaded. The bulk SMS will be sent quarterly to supplement the active mobilization.

The app is called Reprohealthapp and it is available on mobile app stores.

1.5 Assessing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs of Very Young Adolescents (VYAs)

WHARC in collaboration with Save the Children initiated a project funded by Ford Foundation on the need to scale up sexual and reproductive health services for VYAs (10 – 14 years). A formative research on the SRH needs of the VYAs was carried out in 5 secondary schools in Egor local government of Edo State and the findings from the survey was used to design a capacity building workshop for 20 selected VYAs in Benin City, Edo State to improve their sexual and reproductive health. Areas in which their capacities were built include puberty and personal hygiene, changes in feelings and relationships, Gender roles and assumptions. The key findings from the project were the need for the improvement of parent-child communication as well as uptake of open discussions on sexuality issues especially in schools.



WHARC Research and Programs staff with students (10-14 years) from UNIBEN Demonstration Secondary School, Uwagboe Demonstration Secondary School, Edo Boys High School and intellect Group of Schools during a one-day capacity building workshop for Very Young Adolescents (VYAs)

1.6 Discourse Analysis on Maternal Death Reviews in Nigeria

WHARC in collaboration with Immpect, University of Aberdeen implemented 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 systems performance in maternity care.

The University of Aberdeen which is the main implementing organization conducted capacity building and learning workshops on maternal health accountability mechanism for NGOs and other stakeholders working on MacArthur-funded accountability project in Nigeria. WHARC collaborated with the University of Aberdeen to assist in domesticating the project activities in Nigeria.

The team conducted a discourse analysis workshop and data collection on Maternal Death Reviews in Nigeria with the objective to analyse the communication practices used during maternal death reviews and their potential consequences, for instance in terms of decisions reached on the causes of, or circumstances surrounding the death. Such information will be useful to those implementing various maternal health accountability projects.



WHARC and Aberdeen Research Teams at the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital during the establishment of the Maternity Data Bank in the hospital

The team also established a maternity data bank in one of the teaching hospitals in Edo State to commence the collation of prospective longitudinal data on obstetrics, maternal and perinatal health over a long period of time and to improve the documentation of maternity records.

1.7 Building the Capacity of Mid-level providers to deliver Medication Abortion and Post-abortion care in Nigeria

WHARC with support from Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) is implementing a 3-year project aimed at increasing women's access to reproductive health and family planning services including safe abortion in Ovia North East LGA of Edo State.



A cross-section of participants during the training workshop of CHEWs

The project achievements since the inception of the project in January 2014 include:

- i. The project team conducted a baseline survey on the knowledge and practice of mid-level providers (MLPs) regarding reproductive health and family planning services, through in-depth interviews. The findings of the survey informed the development of the training module for mid-level health care providers.

- ii. Development of training modules for mid level providers (nurses, midwives, CHEWs, pharmacists) to offer reproductive health and family planning services
- iii. WHARC has trained over 100 Mid-level providers including nurses/midwives, Community Health Extension Worker (CHEWs) and Community Pharmacies/Patent Medicine Vendors.
- iv. A total of 13 MA facilities including 7 clinics and 6 pharmacies have been established and stocked with products to render MA services as well post abortion care and family planning services.

1.8 Strengthening Primary Health Centres (PHCs) for delivering of Maternal and Child Health care in Edo State

As part of effort to improve quality of maternal health care services, WHARC with funding from TY Danjuma Foundation is implementing a project with the aim of increasing the quality of primary health care and increase access to evidence-based maternal health care to vulnerable rural women in Urhonigbe and Oligie-ottah community of Orhionmwon LGA of Edo State. This is a follow-up of WHARC previous project in the LGA. The project seeks to provide modern toilet and bathroom facilities, provide befitting primary health facilities and engage the project beneficiaries in maintaining and sustaining the facility after completion. The one-year project started in November, 2014 and will be completed by November 2015.

The project key achievements include the following:

- i. Training of 12 Community Members on project monitoring and management
- ii. Constitution of Community Project Monitoring and Management Committees to manage and monitor the work from inception to completion
- iii. Renovation of Urhonigbe PHC from being a Health post to a Modern Health Centre
- iv. Reconstruction of Toilets and Bathrooms at Uhronigbe Primary Health Care Centre
- v. Construction of a Modern Toilets and Bathrooms at Oligie-Ottah Primary Health Care Centre
- vi. Construction of Borehole and repair of generator at the Urhonigbe Primary Health Care Centre
- vii. Regular supply of Clinical supplies (including drugs and other consumables) to the health centres



Renovation of Urhonigbe PHC from being a Health post to a Modern Health Centre (Before and after)

1.9 Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa

WHARC was represented at the inception workshop for the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) program which was hosted by the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) with co-funding from Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The inception workshop was held at the Southern Sun Mayfair Hotel, Westlands, Nairobi Kenya. The overall goal of the workshop was to lay the foundation for the IMCHA program in order to achieve and optimize results and establish collaborations among research teams and health policy and research organizations.

The workshop was a part of the process involved in the WHARC's new project titled **Increasing Women's Access to Skilled Care to Reduce Maternal and Perinatal Mortality in Nigeria** which is undertaken in the IMCHA program. WHARC is collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Health and the University of Ottawa, Canada to execute the project over a period of 4 and half years.

The new project is in the implementation plan phase as of this reporting period.

2.0 WHARC Reproductive Health Library

The Reproductive Health Library of the Centre was fully functional during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Library contained up-to-date journals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Women's Reproductive Health and the Broad Expectations of Health and the Social Sciences. Journals in the Library include the British Journal of Gynaecology, 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. There are also, books on Family Planning Methods and Practice, Family Planning Handbook for Health Professionals, Regulating Menstruation, Reproductive Health and Human Rights, Women 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.

In the year under review, WHARC Library received 300 new Journals Titles, 1,700 Newsletters/Magazines, 290 textbooks and 40 CD-ROMs on various aspects relating to Reproductive health. The library also received free books from various agencies through donations, exchanges for our publications and subscription to free copies available to developing countries on online. Such donors include World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ford Foundation, and the John Hopkins University while some others were acquired through purchase.



A cross-section of the WHARC Reproductive Health Library Users

Over 800 persons used the library facilities in the year under review, as a result the library has become a major research centre for undergraduate and postgraduate

students and NGOs from different parts of the country. A consumers Assessment Notebook is provided at the library where users can express their views and assessments in writing. This is to enable the centre obtain necessary feedback from users in improving the library.

The Library is open from 8am-4pm Mondays-Fridays to Researchers, Human Right Activists, students and the general public.

3.0 Abel Guobadia Reproductive Health Clinic

The clinic has made a laudable performance in the year under review. A total of 560 consultations were made out of which 220 were new cases and 340 were follow-up cases. The clinic established a neonatal/paediatrics unit with the capacity to cater for newborn asphyxiated babies and infants with various morbidity. The laboratory where several investigations are done including machinery for ultrasound scan and Doppler entered into partnership with Pathcare Nigeria Limited in the year under review to provide the best results for our clients. Over 40 students came for industrial training in the year under review. A total of 150 normal spontaneous vaginal deliveries occurred, 15 emergency cesarean sections, 5 myomectomies and 72 medical cases were recorded.

A new 70kva Mikano generator to provide 24hours constant light supply for our patients was made available in the year under review and the clinic has affiliations with the WHARC Guest House to provide patients with the best care and comfort.

Specialist Consultants and Medical Officers who worked in the clinic during the year under review include Dr Michael Ezeanochie, Dr Irowa, Dr Ejiro Ogonor, Prof Friday Okonofua, Dr Ndokwu, Dr. Stephanie Omoifo. We also had 4 Nursing Officers, 2 Laboratory Officers and 1 Orderly.



A cross-section of laboratory technicians at the Abel Guobadia Reproductive Health Clinic

4.0 Research Seminars and Workshops

4.1 WHARC launched a Textbook on Reproductive Health Challenges in Africa

The Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) unveiled a new textbook titled *"Confronting the Challenges of Reproductive Health in Africa: A Textbook for Students and Development Practitioners"* on September 30, 2014 at the National University Commission (NUC), Abuja. The textbook is an indispensable resource for anyone delving into the field of sexual and reproductive and rights, either as a student, practitioner or policy maker and it aims to serve its readers as an authoritative resource of disseminating significant sexual and reproductive health related scientific information.

The 20 chapter pieces of the textbook were written by individuals with long years of research and programmatic experience in sexual and reproductive health in Africa. The book is designed to be a multidisciplinary textbook for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the fields of Public Health, Maternal and Child Health, Reproductive Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Sociology and Anthropology, Social Work, Health Economics, Demography, Nursing and Midwifery, Health Policy, Medical Geography and related fields in African Universities. It is also a useful reading and reference textbook for non-governmental organizations, international development agencies, and policymakers working in the field of maternal and reproductive health in and about Africa.



Launching of the Reproductive Health Textbook in Abuja (from the left, Ondo State Commissioner for Health, Dr Dayo Adeyanju, Emir of Shonga, Kwara State, Dr Haliru Yahaya, His Excellency Governor of Ondo State, Dr Olusegun Mimiko and other distinguished guests

The launching of the textbook was attended by dignitaries including Prof. Julius Okojie, NUC Executive Secretary, Emeritus Prof. Wole Akande of the University of Ibadan, the Emir of Shonga, Prof. Eugene Okpere, University of Benin, the Executive Governor of Ondo State Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, Prof. Paula Tavrow University of California, LA and Prof. Staffan Bergstrom, Karolinska University, Stockholm.

4.2 Public Lecture on Ebola Viral Disease

On September 22, 2014, Dr. Oladoyin Odubanjo, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) and a member of Ebola Preventive Committee said once a doctor determines that a patient has recovered from Ebola Virus Disease, it is safe for the patient to go home and return to work and that recovered patients are not at risk to their families or the community. The Medical expert views came as he delivered a lecture entitled: *“The Ebola Virus and You: What the Public Needs to Know”* organised by the Women’s Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) in Benin City.



Special guests, the Guest Speaker, Dr Doyin Odubanjo (6th from the left) and the WHARC Youth Forum Members at the Ebola Public Lecture

Dr. Odubanjo said that, “EVD is a group of viruses that affect multiple organs systems in the body and are often accompanied by bleeding”. He noted that not all patients with the Ebola virus die and patients who seek early care have a better chance of recovery and once the patient is confirmed Ebola free, the patient have greater immunity against the disease than those who have never been infected. The recent outbreak according to Dr Odubanjo had recorded not less than 2,630 deaths from September 14, 2014 in West Africa and eight deaths in Nigeria as at the time of the workshop.

Dr. Odubanko noted that the virus can easily be killed by contact with soap that contains sodium hypochloride solution, bleach, sunlight, or drying and that a washing machine will kill the virus in clothing saturated with infected body fluids. He therefore advised it is good to cultivate good health habits by properly imbibing the correct measures needed to curb and prevent the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Also speaking at the workshop, Dr. Osamuyi Irowa, Director of Disease Control in Benin City who represented the Hon. Commissioner for Education Dr. Mrs. Aihanuwa Eregie said that “a treatment centre has been created at the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital and Edo State Government has inaugurated a rapid response committee on the Ebola Virus Disease”.

4.3 The 3rd Dr Abel Guobadia Memorial Lecture

A foremost Nigerian poet said the only way Nigeria could come out of its current socio-political quagmire was the total amendment of the Nigeria’s constitution and a review of the constitution would address the present socio-political imbroglio. Dr Odia Ofeimu noted this at the third Dr Abel Guobadia Memorial Lecture held on February 5, 2015 at WHARC Auditorium in Benin City. In his lecture titled “*The 2014 National Conference: Looking Back, and Looking Forward*,” the erudite scholar opined that a country driven by do or die battles arising from regional vetoes and unsolved ethnic arithmetic cannot find the way to answers. He however said we cannot find solutions unless we bid within a common morality which is what a good constitution institutes, “not a benign one for you and yours, and a pernicious one for others”.



The Guest Speaker, Dr Odia Ofeimu at the 3rd Abel Guobadia Memorial lecture

While x-raying the live and times of Guobadia, Dr Ofeimu described Professor Guobadia as a cockpit of nurturing our nascent democracy and a manager of national elections. In

his words “I am simply intrigued by his contribution to public service as a boss of the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC) in the Fourth Republic”. Dr Ofeimu further stated that “we need to re-appraise the value of the constitution as a necessary fixture of the integrity of an electoral commission as this could be a good way to prime the efforts of the current Chairman, Professor Attahiru Jega, as he confronts the problems of the 2015 General elections and beyond”.

In his good will message, the Resident Electoral Commissioner of Edo State, Engr. Mike Igini said that the 2015 General Election will be free and fair noting that the Permanent Voters Card and the Card Reader Machine are of importance in this regard. He insisted that the implementation of the existing platform laid by Dr. Guobadia will go a long way in reducing electoral malpractices in the 2015 General Election.

4.4 WHARC in Commemoration of the International Women’s Day held a General Public Lecture titled “Getting Pregnant by Test Tube: What the General Public Should Know”

On March 12, 2015, WHARC organized a public lecture titled “Getting pregnant by test tube: what the General public should know”. The lecture was aimed at enlightening the public about infertility and assisted reproductive biotechnology. WHARC Executive Director, Prof. Cyril Mokwenye in his welcome address gave a brief summary of the current problem of infertility and the increasing need for assisted reproduction in the present day.



The Guest Lecturer, Dr Babatunde Ogunkinle (4th from left) and other special guests at the public lecture

During his lecture, Dr. Babatunde Ogunkinle, the Consultant Gynaecologist and Fertility Specialist stated emphatically that “Test Tube Pregnancy” was purely biological because the human sperm and ovum was used to achieve this. He gave a brief overview of the reproductive system from early puberty up until old age. He defined infertility as the failure to achieve conception after a year of regular and unprotected sexual intercourse of at least 3 times a week in a woman less than 35 years of age. He further described the different approaches to managing infertility which are conservative approach, artificial insemination, in-vitro fertilization and embryo transfer. He discussed the current IVF treatment modifications, different treatment protocols, factors affecting IVF success rate and the individuals who would benefit from IVF.

4.5 Unveiling of WHARC Guest House and Events Centre

As part of the Women’s Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) to streamline efforts to attract new foreign investors in the state and to generate internal revenue, WHARC formally unveiled her Ultra-Modern Guest House and Event Centre on May 19, 2015 under the distinguished Chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Andrew Yesufu E. Dirisu (JP), the Okuokpelligbe of Okpella Kingdom. The Chairman said during his speech said, “WHARC Guest House and Events Centre meet international standard and it is an important investment which will benefit not only WHARC but the society at large. He also said “in these days and age when various non-governmental organizations are struggling to survive due to declining support from donors, I have no doubt in my mind this guest house will help WHARC in sustaining its humanitarian services over time”.



Chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Andrew Yesufu E. Dirisu (JP) (middle), the Okuokpelligbe of Okpella Kingdom at the opening of WHARC Guest House and Event Centre in May 2015

In a good will message, the Public Relations Officer of University of Benin, Mr. Osasuye said that WHARC has done well in promoting the reproductive health of women and adolescents in Nigeria and especially in Edo State. He however expressed optimism that both organizations will partner to promote the interest of WHARC.



The WHARC Ultra-modern Guest House

WHARC Guest House is owned by WHARC and built with the aim to promote the reproductive health of women and to uplift the girl-child. The guest house will further broaden the base of the centre's internally generated revenue and create more opportunities for foreign investors and tourism destination as it will help to better the masses.

5.0 Conclusion

To conclude, the 2014-2015 was a very eventful and rewarding year for WHARC. The many accomplishments attained during the year permit us to look towards the future as most promising and fulfilling. We will continue to expand our revenue base to enable us perform more activities in line with our mission and vision statements. Despite its rising economic profile, Nigeria continues to witness some of the most challenging issues in social disequilibrium in its history. It is worrisome that these challenges that result in social inequality in all its forms are most severely borne by women and youth. Social development entrepreneurs have an important task to ensure inclusive development for women, youth and all marginalised persons in this country otherwise the future of our country will remain uncertain. During the forthcoming years, WHARC will re-position itself very strongly to ensure that it champions the cause of gender equality, and that all governments include the comprehensive development of youth and women as a priority human rights agenda.

WHARC AUDITED ACCOUNTS

BALANCESHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2014

	NOTES	2014		2013	
		N	US\$	N	US\$
FIXED ASSETS	1	92,640,686	554,735	97,788,432	585,559
Deferred Charges	2A	61,335,986	367,281	52,482,265	314,265
Special Development Project	2B	<u>25,123,536</u>	<u>150,440</u>	<u>17,747,173</u>	<u>106,270</u>
		179,100,208	1,072,456	168,017,870	1,006,095
Investment	3	<u>2,528,314</u>	<u>15,140</u>	<u>2,528,314</u>	<u>15,140</u>
		181,628,522	1,087,596	170,546,184	1,021,235
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash/Bank	4	<u>64,355,646</u>	<u>385,363</u>	<u>43,917,083</u>	<u>262,977</u>
		64,355,646	385,363	43,917,083	262,977
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Deferred Grant		17,046,583	102,075	-	-
Accruals	5	<u>100,000</u>	<u>599</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>599</u>
		17,146,583	102,674	100,000	599
Net Current Asset		<u>47,209,063</u>	<u>282,689</u>	<u>43,817,083</u>	<u>262,378</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>228,837,585</u>	<u>1,370,285</u>	<u>214,363,468</u>	<u>1,283,613</u>
FINANCED BY					
Accumulated Fund	6	214,363,468	1,283,614	208,842,958	1,250,557
Income & Expenditure (Surplus)		<u>14,474,117</u>	<u>86,671</u>	<u>5,520,510</u>	<u>33,057</u>
		<u>228,837,585</u>	<u>1,370,285</u>	<u>214,363,468</u>	<u>1,283,614</u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

		2014		2013	
	NOTES	N	US\$	N	US\$
				167	1
<u>Income</u>					
Grants	7	68,186,334	408,301	61,711,553	369,530
Internally Generated/Others		32,021,950	191,748	17,704,731	106,016
Bank Interest		<u>20,266</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>12,932</u>	<u>77</u>
		100,228,550	600,171	79,429,216	475,624
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>					
Personnel	8a	12,386,178	74,169	13,631,721	81,627
Project Activities & Training		14,987,281	89,744	10,063,250	60,259
SAAF Project Activities	8b	3,530,885	21,143	-	-
Advertisement, Printing & Publication		5,742,790	34,388	5,508,640	32,986
Administration	9	15,903,951	95,233	14,447,718	86,513
Travel & Conferences		15,461,568	92,584	9,967,500	59,686
Scholarship/Award/Donation		3,110,967	18,629	2,994,397	17,931
Audit Fee		100,000	599	100,000	599
Bank Charges		432,792	2,592	654,897	3,922
Sundry/General Expenses		<u>854,603</u>	<u>5,117</u>	<u>35,790</u>	<u>214</u>
		<u>72,511,015</u>	<u>434,198</u>	<u>57,403,913</u>	<u>343,736</u>
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>					
Plant/Generator		779,262	4,666	779,262	4,666
Motor Vehicle		1,476,390	8,841	2,403,200	14,390
Office Equipment & Computer		1,932,143	11,570	1,932,142	11,570
Furniture & Fittings		1,097,432	6,571	1,097,432	6,571
Medical Equipment		28,162	169	599,838	3,592
Library Books		<u>116,178</u>	<u>696</u>	<u>116,177</u>	<u>696</u>
		5,429,567	32,512	6,928,051	41,485
Deferred Expenses Written Off		11,789,935	70,598	9,576,742	57,346
Total Provision Written Off		<u>17,219,502</u>	<u>103,111</u>	<u>16,504,793</u>	<u>98,831</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>89,730,517</u>	<u>537,308</u>	<u>73,908,706</u>	<u>442,567</u>
Surplus for the year		10,498,033	62,862	5,520,510	33,057
Prior Year Adjustment	10	<u>3,976,084</u>	-	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR CARRIED TO		<u>14,474,117</u>	<u>62,862</u>	<u>5,520,510</u>	<u>33,057</u>
BALANCE SHEET					

