PROMOTING THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND YOUTH THROUGH RESEARCH BASED INTERVENTION

2017 Annual Report of

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

JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017

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Who We Are…

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 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.

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.

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, the World Health Organization (WHO), John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Public Health' Champions for Change (C4C), Ipas, Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) and T.Y. Danjuma Foundation.
We are also grateful to our collaborating partners – Impact, University of Aberdeen, the Federal Ministry of Health and the University of Ottawa who supported our work during the year.

We thank you all.

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facebook.com/pages/Women's-Health-and-Action-Research-Centre
twitter.com/WHARC1

From the Executive Director's Desk

The Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) strives to contribute to creating a world where all people are treated with equal respect and dignity through research to generate documentation, evidence based advocacy for policy change, and modern effective reproductive health services.

In the last year, our former Chairman of the Board of Trustees- Lady Winifred Onyeonwu who devoted her life to humanitarian services and who served us at WHARC with all sincerity and commitment, passed on. We pray that she will continue to rest on and that the legacies she left behind, will not be forgotten. To fill the casual vacancy created in the membership of the Board by her death, the Board appointed Prof. Bridget Ogonor a renowned Professor of Educational Administration, as a member of the Board of Trustees of WHARC.

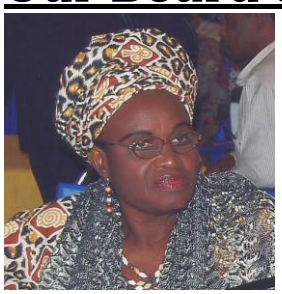
This report is a collection of the reports of programs and activities carried out by the Centre in pursuant to our mandate of promoting women and girls reproductive health, development and social well-being from the period starting July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. Our successes and notable achievements in the year under review include: the publication of the 20th anniversary special edition of our journal on reproductive health – the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH); the launching of our blog- www.wydblog.com; and the appointment of four new WHARC Associates chosen from individuals who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields relevant to our work at WHARC.

Our successes are not without challenges, but through it all, we came out better and stronger, achieving much more than we did in previous year!

To all our partners and sponsors, I want to appreciate you for believing in us and for your continued support. I also want to assure you that we remain committed to our mission and vision, and we are very hopeful that we will indeed, do much more in the coming year, by God's grace!

Dr. Wilson Imongan
Executive Director

Our Board of Trustees



Mrs. Marcelina Aisuebeogun

Mrs. Marcelina Aisubeogun 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.

Engineer. Ibude Guobadia

Engineer. 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 Cyril Mokwenye

Professor Cyril Mokwenye is a Professor of Foreign Languages (French) with the University of Benin. He served as the Executive Director of the centre from the year 2010 to 2015 to become a BOT member in January 2016. He is the Deputy Editor of all publications in the centre. He is a member of many professional associations including Nigerian Academy of Letters.

Professor 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 University of Medical Sciences, Ondo.

Professor Bridget Ogonor

Prof. (Mrs.) Bridget Ogheneakpobo Ogonor is a professor of Educational Administration at the University of Benin. She has over 27years experience in teaching educational administration. She has published several papers in both national and international journals.

Prof. Ogonor recently delivered her inaugural lecture and the Lecture witnessed an unprecedented attendance in the history of the University of Benin.

Dr. Wilson Imongan

Dr. Wilson Imongan was appointed as Executive Director of WHARC in December 2015. He was the Deputy Executive Director (Maternal Health) until his appointment as the Executive Director. He is a Medical Doctor by profession and a Public Health Physician. He was a former Commissioner for Health in Edo State.

Unveiling Our New Associates

Dr. Loretta Ntoimo

Loretta Favour C. Ntoimo, Ph.D. – Lorretta's professional training is in Sociology and Demography. She is currently a lecturer in the Department of Demography and Social statistics, at Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria. Dr.Ntoimo was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Demography and Population Studies program, School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Her research interests are families and households, women, men and children's health and fertility. She is proficient in both qualitative and quantitative data analysis using software.

Dr. Rosemary Ogu

Dr Rosemary Nkemdilim Ogu, is a Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist & Senior Lecturer at the University of Port Harcourt. She graduated (MB.BS) with distinction from the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, in 1999. She is a Fellow of both the West African College of Surgeons and the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. She has special research interest in the areas of Sexual/Reproductive Health, Non-Communicable Diseases & Medical Education and has published several papers and contributed chapters in peer-reviewed textbooks.

She has worked with WHARC on several of its Projects including the WHARC/WHO/Federal Ministry of Health Maternal Newborn Child Health Study Team for the reduction of Maternal & Perinatal Mortality in Nigeria; the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) supported Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Control Program in the Niger Delta; and the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist Collaboration.

Dr. Rosemary Ogu is a highly intelligent, proficient, well-spoken and very dynamic advocate for women's health.

Akhere A. Omonkhua (PhD)

Akhere A. Omonkhua obtained her Bachelors' and Masters' degrees in Biochemistry from the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria). She was awarded a PhD in Toxicology in 2010; her PhD thesis was nominated for the National Universities Commission (NUC) Doctoral Award by the University of Benin in 2012.

Dr. Omonkhua joined the University of Benin in 2012 and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in October, 2015. Dr. Omonkhua has over 30 journal publications to her credit. She has presented papers in a number of local and international conferences, and has acted as a resource person and guest speaker at several workshops and seminars in Nigeria. Dr. Omonkhua is a member of several scientific societies including the Nigerian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB), Nigerian Society for Experimental Biology (NISEB), American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) and The Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), Germany. Dr. Omonkhua was inducted into the Nigerian Young Academy (NYA) in 2014. She is a reviewer for several national and international journals and a member of the editorial board of Biochemistry. Dr. Omonkhua is the Editor, Biological Sciences, Annals of Science and Technology; and Editor, African Journal of Reproductive Health.

Oludamilola A. Adejumo

Oludamilola A. Adejumo obtained her LL.B from the Obafemi Awolowo University and was called to the Nigerian Bar as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Oludamilola holds a LL.M degree from the University of Benin and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Benin. She is currently a senior legal officer at the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo city, Nigeria. Prior to her employment with the University, she has been involved in active legal practice in Lagos and Benin and spent years under tutelage with a renowned and highly respected Senior Advocate of Nigeria. She has very keen research interest in human rights and humanitarian Law, with a bias for women and children's rights. She has delivered papers at Conferences within and outside Nigeria and has published research articles on key human rights and humanitarian law issues in reputable journals. She is an associate of the Chartered Institute if Arbitrators (UK).

Our Programmes and Workshops

1. **Report on the WHARC/Macarthur Project to build accountability mechanisms for improving the quality of maternal health care and preventing maternal mortality.**

WHARC continued the implementation of the 3-year project on promoting the uptake of accountability practices for the prevention of Maternal Mortality in Lagos State. The aim of the Project is 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.
The Project was conducted in 3 health facilities: Lagos Island Maternity, Ajeromi General Hospital and Gbagada General Hospital. The result of the findings from the facility Maternal Death Reviews has been written and is currently awaiting publication in scientific journals. The Project which was funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation started in 20… and was successfully completed in December, 2016.

Upon the successful completion of the initial Project, the McArthur Foundation in January 2017, gave WHARC a three year grant to scale up capacity building for Maternal and Perinatal Death Review Accountability in three Nigerian States; Lagos, Niger and Edo State. The specific objective of this Project is to consolidate the practice of maternal and perinatal death reviews and surveillance (MDPRS) in Lagos State, encourage learning exchange in MDPRS between Lagos, Edo and Niger States, and stimulate demand and provide technical support for MDPRS in Edo and Niger states.

To kick-start the Project, we have:

- Held a project inception meeting with representatives from project facilities in Lagos State and project coordinators from Edo and Niger States
- Held a sensitization meeting on MPDSR with key Stakeholders of Edo State Ministry of Health.
- Identified project facilities in Edo and Niger State.
- Commenced the process of obtaining consent for program implementation in Edo and Niger State
- Commenced needs assessment survey on the knowledge, attitude and practice on MPDSR amongst policy makers and health care providers in Edo State.

Specific Project activities are expected to begin in a short while. This Project is expected to help fill the gap in knowledge needed for recommending evidence-based measures for prevention Maternal and Perinatal Deaths in the Project States.

Sensitization meeting with key stakeholders at Edo State Ministry of Health.

Participants at the Macarthur project inception meeting

2. **Report on the WHARC/C4C Project on Advancing Implementation of Primary Health care Under One roof (PHCUOR) Policy for Promoting Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent (RMNCAH) Health in Edo State**

The goal of the project is to improve the performance of the Primary Health Care (PHC) system and the quality of supply of RMNCAH services in Edo State by designing an evidenced-based advocacy plan of action, and use it to build political commitment for improved implementation of PHCUOR Policy in Edo State.

The Project started in January 2017 and is expected to end in September, 2017. Since the inception of the Project, the following activities were carried out till date:

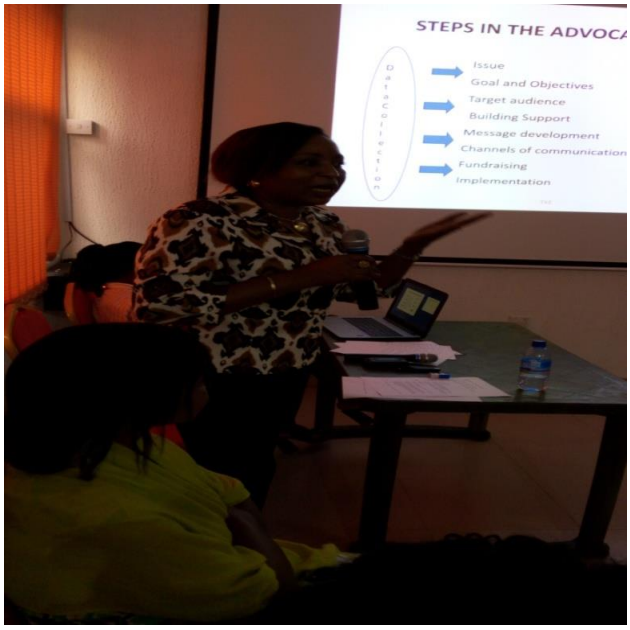
- **Literature Review on Effective Interventions and Guidelines for Improved PHC Performance**
  This review was done in order to identify best practices in PHC services, with special reference to those targeted at promoting RMNCAH, and to recommend same in drafting policies and regulations for PHC Services in Edo State.

  The review was carried out in January 2017 by WHARC's Associate with a group of research assistants. Twenty-Five studies were reviewed and the manuscript of the research has been finalized and submitted to an international journal. The manuscript is currently undergoing peer-review.

- **Selection and Inauguration of the Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR) Champions**
  The purpose of this activity is to build synergy among relevant advocacy groups, civil society and non-governmental organizations, in order to fortify the execution of this project. A 10-member Advocacy panel- the PHCUOR Champions was formed and formally inaugurated on the 22nd of February, 2017. The Panel members were also made to be aware of the current deplorable state of PHCs in Edo State and the need for urgent actions.

- **A Two-day Advocacy Training Workshop**
  As part of the activities under the Project, a 2-day Advocacy Training Workshop was organised to train the PHCUOR Champions. The main purpose of this workshop was to update the PHCUOR Champions on core principles of PHCUOR Policy, to develop an Advocacy Plan of Action and train the members on steps and procedure of Advocacy in order to form a strong voice for the needed change in PHC Services delivery in Edo State.

  The training took place on the 22nd and 23rd of March, 2017. Also present during the training were; the Country Director, Champion for Change, the Executive Secretary, Edo State Primary Health Care development Agency and representative from National Primary Health Care Development Agency.



Prof. Friday Okonofua (left) and The Country Director, C4C, making presentations during the Advocacy Training workshop

Dr. Mbarie (ES, ESPHCDA) (left) Dr. Loretta Ntoimo (middle, Associate WHARC) and Oludamilola Adejumo (Associate, WHARC) making presentations at the Advocacy Training Workshop

A cross-section of participants at the Advocacy Training Workshop

- **Advocacy Visit to the Speaker Edo State House of Assembly**
  As part of the activities in the Advocacy Plan of Action - developed during the Advocacy Training Workshop, the PHCUOR Champions carried out an advocacy visit to the Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly on the Tuesday 4th of May, 2017.

  Dr Imongan, WHARC's Executive Director lead the team and highlighted the need for the House of Assembly to expedite action on passing the Bill for fully establishment of EPHCDA. He also reiterated the importance of PHC in ensuring people in rural and remote communities have access to quality health care, and how the State has not been able to access fund from the FG due to on-functional Agency.

  The Speaker promised to expedite action on the law once the House is back from recess.

PHCUOR Champions on Advocacy visit to the Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly

- Conciliatory Meetings
  WHARC has initiated conciliatory meetings with the representatives of the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) and the Ministry of Health. The members of NULGE have expressed their readiness to stall the process of implementation of the PHCUOR Policy in Edo State if their concerns are not addressed.
  WHARC is currently at the fore-front of the mediation moves to ensure that the implementation of the PHCUOR Policy in Edo State is not stalled and that all genuine concerns are well addressed.

Prof Okonofua in a meeting with the representatives of National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Edo State

- **Media engagement and dissemination of information**
  Apart from journal articles, we have as part of the Advocacy Project, engaged the media to campaign actively for the implementation of PHCUOR Policy in Edo State and also, for improvement of PHC services. We have actively disseminated information on our social media platforms (Facebook, twitter handles), our blog-wydblog and on sponsored radio and TV programmes to call for implementation of PHCUOR and improved PHC services in Edo State.
  Policy briefs have also been developed as part of the activities under the Advocacy project.

3. **Report on WHARC/Ford Foundation Project on Building Multi-stakeholder Commitment for Scaling Programs on Women and Youth Development and Reproductive Health in Nigeria through Strategic Communication of Essential Research Findings and Information**

The goal of this project is to promote the attainment of scale and impact for women and youth development and to build capacity for policy makers in Nigeria through the improved use of data and research evidence and deepened implementation of the research-to-communication strategy.

WHARC has addressed the following issues and achieved significant milestones in the implementation of the Project.

- Published a special edition of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health* on the Sustainable Development Goals and what it means for the development of

reproductive health of African women and youth. This special edition was launched in October, 2016 at Abuja giving room for stake holders and policy makers' involvement.

- Created a blog for easy reporting of issues not limited to women and youth development in real-time and passive discussions and follow up on events and activities trending in the SRH areas
- WHARC broadened the perspective of its mobile application (Reprohealth App, which is on google play stores) to provide offline SRH information and access to Youth Friendly Health Clinics.
- Published a policy brief specifically on SDGs containing specific recommendations on how policymakers, government agencies and departments can ensure achievement of SDGs relating to women and youths. Other policy briefs addressing specific areas of youth development has also been published.
- Development of media content using the research publications, reports, policy briefs and occasional working papers
- WHARC's website and social media channels greatly improved with integration of Chat engine and language translation for ease of communication and feedback.
- Strengthened WHARC Youth Forum with the creation of online presence to increase beneficiaries and youth partners in WHARC community-based activities and also taking proactive measures to become very active in social media, with a more than 300% increase in follower-ship during the period.
- Continued publication of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, with various issues highlighting research findings in ASRH across several African countries
- Organized Public lectures on critical issues in sexual and reproductive health delivered by high profile leaders.
- Continued participation in international conferences, workshops and discourses in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Created service delivery models and providing essential youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop

As part of the Ford Foundation Project, WHARC held a Workshop on sustainable development goals. The Workshop tagged "Advancing the SDGs for promoting the social development of women and youth development in Edo State" was held on June 15, 2017 at the WHARC's main Hall.

The objectives of the workshop include awareness building and commitment of stakeholders towards promoting the social development of women and youth in Edo State, strengthening of critical stakeholders' knowledge and skills needed to develop appropriate policies and programming for addressing the development of youth and women in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Edo State.

Participants at the SDGs workshop organized include a representative of the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Hon. (Barr.) Kingsley O. Ehigiamusor, a representative of the first lady of Edo State (Mrs. Betty Okonoboh wife of the speaker of Edo State House of Assembly), Prof. Paul Nwulu from Ford Foundation, Wives of some honourable members of the Edo State House of Assembly, Representatives from the different government parastatals and ministries, civil society organizations, Professors, Students and other members of the University of Benin community, media representatives and WHARC staff and interns.

Presentations made at the Workshop include:

- The SDGs: A broad overview presented by Prof. F.E Okonofua
- The Implications of the SDGs for Youth and Women Development presented by Professor F.E. Okonofua
- The Human Rights and Gender Dimension of the SDGs presented by Professor (Mrs.) Agatha Eguavoen
- Policies and Laws for promoting SDGs in Edo State: A review by SDGs Focal person in Edo State (Represented by Mr. M. Okunsebor – PRO Project Support Unit SDGs.

At the end of the presentations, all participants were divided into about four (4) working groups to develop a consensus for sustained implementation of the SDGs in Edo State.

Faces at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Workshop

Prof. Friday Okonofua delivering a lecture at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop

Wife of the Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly Mrs. Betty Okonoboh delivering a speech at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop

Prof. Okonofua and Prof. Nwulu welcoming the representative of the 1St Lady at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop

Dr. Odiko, representative of PS, Ministry of Health delivering a speech at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop

Hon. (Barr.) Kingsley Ehigiamusor, representative of the Deputy Governor, Edo State at the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Workshop

Launching of our BLOG site

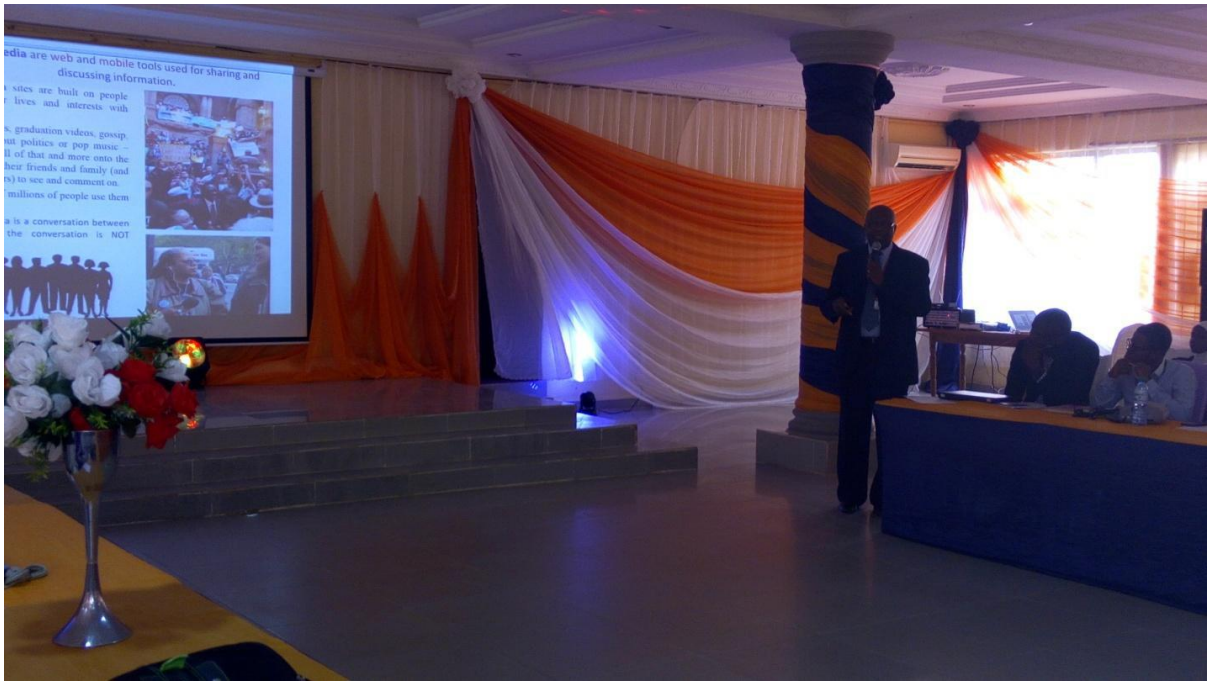
As part of the Ford Foundation Project, WHARC launched our newly developed Women and youth development blog site (www.wydblog.com). The launching which was held on April 19, 2017 at Women's Health and Action Research Centre Secretariat Main Hall was an opportunity to create awareness on the blog.

The occasion was chaired by Rev. Dr. (Mrs.) Nosa Aladeselu of African Women Empowerment Guild (AWEG) who gave a brief speech encouraging participants to utilise the blog to get useful information that cut across all spheres of life. This was followed by a presentation by WHARC's ICT unit on the blog, how it works, how to access the site, access information from the site and how to share information content on the site.

There was also a presentation by Dr. Wilson Imongan, the Executive Director on the role of social media in promoting social change. The representatives of government ministries and parastatals, civil society organisations and Student leaders.

Barr. A.E. Akhuamhenkhun, Permanent Secretary, Edo State Ministry of Information and Orientation in his presentation described how his ministry is an integral part of the Blog Launching.

Barr. A.E. Akhuamhenkhun Permanent Secretary, Edo State Ministry of Information and Orientation delivering a speech at the launch of the blog



Dr. Imongan making a presentation at the launching of the Blog

Representative of WHARC ICT Unit making a presentation at the launching of the Blog

4. Report on WHARC/International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Project on Increasing Women's Access to Skilled Care to Reduce Maternal and Perinatal Mortality in Nigeria

The 5 year Project which started November 30, 2015 aims to reduce maternal and perinatal mortality in Nigeria by strengthening the availability and use of maternal primary health care services by most-at-risk and vulnerable women. Objectives of the Project includes:

- to explore the demand and supply factors in the use or non-use of primary maternal and neonatal services in 2 selected rural communities in Edo State, Nigeria;
- to implement a series of multi-facetted interventions for improving demand and use of primary maternal and neonatal services in selected facilities;
- to test the effectiveness of the interventions in improving women's use of evidence-based primary maternal and neonatal services by comparing MCH outcome indicators in the intervention and control sites; and
- to use the study findings to develop better implementation strategies of national PHC policy in Edo State.

The Project which is expected to end in May, 2020 is currently at the formative Research stage. Some of the notable activities carried out during the year under review are highlighted below:

- **The Joint meeting of the West African Health Organisation (WAHO), WHARC and IDRC on Knowledge transfer and use of evidence for MNCH policy**

  The Meeting which was held in Abuja on 21st September, 2016 was a follow-up to the situation analysis on knowledge transfer and validation workshop held in Dakar, Senegal from 18th to 20th February 2016.
  The objective of the meeting was to share information with the Implementing Research Teams (IRTs) on project implementation; on the WAHO plan to support Knowledge transfer in West Africa; and to identify activities to improve Knowledge transfer in the Nigerian context.

Group photograph of participants at the WAHO/IDRC/WHARC Abuja Joint Meeting

- **Joint Meeting of WHARC, University of Ottawa, WAHO and IDRC on refinement of the project implementation plan developed based on results of scoping study**

  The meeting was held at WHARC Complex, Benin on 23rd September, 2017. The need to create specific activities to enable the Project Team enhance utilisation of PHCs for maternity use; the need to create a platform of knowledge transfer on the project with WAHO; and the need to utilise the Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks (MBB) Tool and build capacity for the use of MBB for the Project was addressed at the meeting.
  A thorough review of the Project Implementation Plan including identification of measures for mitigation of risks was carried out at the Meeting.

Prof. Friday Okonofua, Dr. Wilson Imongan and other participants deliberating at the WAHO/IDRC/WHARC Joint Meeting held in Benin

Cross-section of participants at the WAHO/IDRC/WHARC Joint Meeting held in Benin

Participants at the WAHO/IDRC/WHARC Joint Meeting held in Benin

The Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks (MBB) Workshop

As part of the activities under the WHARC/IDRC Project, WHARC in collaboration with West Africa Health Organization, IDRC and University of Ottawa, Canada organised a 3-day workshop on Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks (MBB); Equitable Impact Sensitive Tool (EQUIST); and Knowledge Translation (KT).

The Workshop was held from May 24 to May 26, 2017 at WHARC Main Auditorium in Benin.

The workshop which was organized in preparation for the intervention phase of the Project had the following objectives:

- To learn EQUIST, a tool for high-impact intervention and budgeting.
- To learn the strategies for knowledge translation in implementation projects
- To inaugurate Project team members.

Participants had practical and in-depth training on the use of EQUIST for situational analysis. The procedure involves visiting the website, [www.equist.info], registration with an email address, confirmation of registration through the email account, navigation to the dashboard on the EQUIST site, selecting the country; the year of dataset; health item for analysis; stratification by an effect modifier; and a click on the chart to display an output as in the image below:

An overview of EQUIST system procedure

Intervention and knowledge translation committees were inaugurated during the Workshop.

Group photograph at the Workshop on Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks

Dr Ermel Johnson, Representative of WAHO making a presentation at the Workshop on Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks

Prof. Jesse Uneke making a presentation at the at the Workshop on Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks

5. WHARC/WHO Report on Improving Quality of Emergency Obstetric Care for Preventing Maternal and Perinatal deaths in Nigeria

The Project which is being done with support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is to improve the quality of emergency obstetric care and reduce maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality in secondary and tertiary level health facilities in Nigeria. This Project is being carried out in 4 geopolitical zones in the Nigeria namely: North-west, South-South, North-Central and South-West.

The Project objectives are to:

- To describe the nature and pattern of emergency obstetric care as currently delivered in six secondary and two tertiary hospitals in 4 geo-political zones of Nigeria;
- To implement a set of evidence-based interventions for improving the quality of care for primary postpartum haemorrhage, eclampsia and obstructed labour in four of the selected hospitals; and
- To test the effectiveness of the intervention by comparing maternal and perinatal outcomes and process quality indicators between intervention and control hospitals

The Project is being carried out in two-phases. The first phase which is the formative research (needs assessment) phase to identify the current practices of emergency obstetric care in the hospitals has been concluded. A Report on the first phase of the Project has been submitted to WHO. Also, some manuscripts based on the outcome of the project have been published while some are still under-going peer review.

The second phase which is the implementation phase to test the effectiveness of a composite sets of interventions for improving the quality of emergency obstetric care has commenced. The ethical approval for the second phase of this project was obtained in March, 2017. A technical Committee meeting was held 19th and 20th May, 2017 to effectively plan for the upcoming intervention workshop.

6. **The WHARC/ Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) Project: Building The Capacity Of Mid-level Providers To Deliver Medication Abortion and Post-abortion Care In Nigeria.**

As part of WHARC's effort to reduce the prevalence of unsafe abortion, WHARC with support from Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) continued to build capacity of Mild-level providers on the provision of sexual and reproductive health services and increasing women access to new technology (WANT) in Ovia North East local government in Edo state.

This Project which started in 2014 is specifically aimed at increasing women and girl's access to reproductive health and family planning services. The following were achieved: establishment of MA clinics; provision of family planning commodities; and conduct of Community outreaches and sensitization.

In addition to the activities carried out in previous years, the following activities were carried out during the year under review:

1. **Update meeting and retraining of Mid-level providers and community pharmacist/patent medicine vendors providing MA services**
   The aim of the meeting was to share experience and refresh the memory of medical abortion (MA) service providers on what they had been earlier trained on as well as to increase their knowledge and capacity to provide evidence based reproductive health services including medication abortion, post abortion care, counseling and family planning in their respective communities.

2. **Procurement and distribution of Reproductive health commodities**
   As part of WHARC support for the project to strengthen established MA clinics to perform, MA and family planning commodities were procured and distributed to the MA service providers. Packets of condoms, misoprotol and sayana press where purchased and delivered to MA clinics and pharmacy stores at no cost.

3. **Community sensitization**

Community sensitization activities were carried out in Oluku community. The aim of the activity was to enlighten community members on available reproductive services including safe medication abortion, family planning and counseling services. Free pregnancy test and other lab investigations were conducted for the community inhabitants at no cost.

4. **Update meeting with trained Mid-level providers (MLPs) and Community Pharmacists (CPs)**
   A one-day update meeting was organized for trained mid level providers and community pharmacists to discuss successes, challenges and way forward for the Project. The meeting held at Association of MLPs secretariat in Oluku. The outcome of the meeting revealed that MA services are being provided by majority of the trained providers. This meeting also informed the decision to carry out a survey to access roles and practices of trained MLPs in providing MA services within the project year.

5. **Survey on the role of MLPs and CPs in provision of MA services.**
   The WHARC/SAAF project team carried out a survey to assess the needs, roles and practices of trained Mid Level Providers and Community Pharmacists regarding provision of MA services and other reproductive health services. The survey was conducted with MLPs and CPs previously trained by WHARC.
   80 of the total trained providers completed the questionnaires and the data obtained was analyzed. The result revealed that Majority of the trained providers are providing MA services. The detailed report of the survey is currently under peer- review for possible publication.

The WHARC/SAAF Project Team during deliberations

Some of the Family planning commodities provided as part of the WHARC/SAAF Project activities

WHARC/SAAF Project Team during one of the community outreaches carried out under the Project

Our Reproductive Health Library

Our well-equipped Library contains up-to-date journals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, women's Reproductive Health, Reproductive choice and Reproductive rights. Materials in other fields of Health, medical sciences and social sciences are also available at the Library.

Journals in the Library include the African journal of Reproductive Health, British journal of Gynaecology, Reproductive Health Matter, Studies in Family Planning, South African journal of Psychiatry, Journal Biomedical Research, Annals of Biomedical Sciences, and South African Medical Journal amongst others.

There are also numerous books on Family Planning Methods and Practice, Reproductive Health and Human Rights, Family Planning hand book for health Professionals, Regulating Menstruation, Women health Empowerment, Designing HIV/AIDS intervention Studies, Human sexuality in Africa, a Comprehensive Textbook of Postpartum Haemorrhage amongst others. The library also has compact discs (CD) containing soft copy of materials on various aspects of women's Health and social Determinants of health.

In the year under review, our Library received over 800 new journals titles, 1,100 Newsletters/Magazines, 900 Textbooks and 20 CD-ROM on various aspects relating to Reproductive Health. The library also received free books from various agencies through donations, exchange for our Publications and subscription to free copies available to developing countries on online. Such donors include World Health Organization (WHO), the Ford Foundation and the John Hopkins University, while some others were acquired through purchase.

The Library has become a rich place for acquiring facts for undergraduate, Postgraduate Students and NGOs from different part of the state.

The Library received over 500 visitors- who utilised its facilities during the year under review. A consumer's Assessment notebook is provided at the library where users can express their views and assessments in writing.

The Library is open from 8am-4pm Monday –Friday to researchers, Human Right Activists, students and the general Public.

THE ABEL GUOBADIA SPECIALIST HOSPITAL

The Hospital has made a remarkable impact in the year under review. A total of 630 consultations were made out of which 300 were new cases and 310 were follow-up cases. A total of 190 normal spontaneous vaginal deliveries occurred, 20 emergency caesarean sections, 8 myomectomies, 82 medical cases and 20 assisted reproduction procedures (IUI--- Intra-Uterine Inseminations) were recorded.

Several health talk presentations were organized by the Hospital to foster capacity building for the nurses. The nurses were also provided with 2 pairs of scrubs each.
Besides the ultrasound scan and Doppler machinery, the Medical Laboratory unit of the hospital has procured more ultra-modern diagnostic machines thereby expanding its scope of investigations to cover more test requests in areas of Haematology, Clinical Chemistry, Medical Microbiology, Tumour Markers, Endocrinology, Serology, Drug screening & monitoring, Histopathology and Cytopathology.

Over 45 students (undergraduates & postgraduates) underwent industrial training & internship respectively with us in the year under review.
A new contract was made with BEDC to provide constant power supply for our patients. More so, the Hospital which is affiliated to the WHARC Guest House provides patients and their relatives with the best care and comfort at subsidised rates.

Specialist consultants and Medical Officers who worked in the clinic during the year under review include Prof. Odigie, Prof. Friday Okonofua and Dr. Orukpe. The Clinic currently has 7 Nursing Officers, 3 Medical Laboratory Scientists/Officers and 2 Orderlies.

A cross-section of medical laboratory scientists carrying out investigations at the Abel Guobadia Hospital laboratory

Some members of staff of Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital

The African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH)

African Journal of Reproductive Health is a multidisciplinary and international journal which started in 1997. The journal is published quarterly (March, June, September and December), with special editions that come up any time of the year.

The journal focuses on publishing original research, comprehensive review articles, case reports and commentaries on reproductive health. It strives to provide a forum for both African and foreign researchers working in Africa to share findings in all aspects of reproductive health and also to disseminate innovative, relevant and useful information on reproductive health throughout the continent. To date, the journal has published 21 volumes, 77 issues, and 1,229 articles.

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 10 other indexing and abstracting bodies.

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

- **The publication of the Special Edition on the SDGs (Vol. 20, No. 3)**

  This edition was launched in October, 2016 at the Sheraton and Towers Hotel, Abuja. The edition focused on the implications of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) for sub-Sahara Africa, especially to expatiate on how countries in the region can achieve the milestones outlined in the SDGs. There were 8 short commentaries, 5 review articles, and 7 original articles.

  The detailed Table of Content is shown below:

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    Ekechi Okereke, Susan Aradeon and Ibrahim Yisa

- **December 2016 Edition (Vol. 20, No. 4)**

This edition focused on long term solutions for African countries to develop their population, reproductive health and development policies without external influences, and to find ways to use their own resources to implement the policies rather than rely on external or donor support. There were 11 articles including the editorial for this edition.

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African Journal of Reproductive Health celebrated 20 years of unbroken record in documenting essential research and programming outcomes on women's reproductive health and social development in Africa. There were 12 articles including the editorial for this edition.

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- **Restructuring of the Editorial Board of AJRH**

To increase the functionality and impact of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health* (AJRH), a few organizational changes recently took place in the management of the journal. Professor Friday Okonofua, the founding editor, has now moved to the position of Editor-In-Chief, while a new Editor has been appointed for the journal in the person of Dr. Akhere Omonkhua an Associate Professor of Medical Biochemistry at the University of Benin, Nigeria.
Dr Omonkhua is a strong advocate for women's health, gender equality, and social equity for women.

Two new members were appointed as Assistant Editors, namely: Judith Ann-Walker and Dr. Loretta Ntoimo.

Several new members were also appointed into the **Editorial Advisory Board** of AJRH. They are:

1. Andrew Onokerhorhaye Nigeria
2. Ana Langer USA
3. Peter Okebukola Nigeria
4. Lindsay Edouard Mauritius
5. Andrzej Kulczycki USA
6. Kole Shettima Nigeria

AJRH is very proud of these new appointments as we are convinced that the appointees will bring their deep passion and considerable commitment to work and take the journal to higher levels of achievement.

- **AJRH Website**

During the period under review, the restructuring of the AJRH website was undertaken. The migration of AJRH to the new journal management system (JMS) provides a more robust platform for the submission, processing and publication of articles on AJRH. Upon completion, the website will also provide easily accessible platforms for subscriptions, article retrieval and links with indexing bodies and social media.

For Subscription Order placement, please contact:

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Conclusion

It has been a very fulfilling year for us at WHARC. During the year, we were able to achieve most of our set goals and targets. With the appointment of our new Associates, the quality of our research and delivery of our Projects became even richer. With their wealth of experience in diverse fields, we were able to address issues from a multi-disciplinary perspective. This for us is the way to go!

The year was not with the usual challenges, worthy of mention is the economic downturn which is being witnessed in the Country. Despite this however, we were able to execute our Projects efficiently and without much impact on the quality of our work and implementation of our Projects.

Overall, the year has been a good one and we are very hopeful that the coming year will be even more productive for us at WHARC. In closing, we do appreciate ALL our Grantees, Volunteers and supporters for your constant support.

We are grateful and we look forward to attaining greater heights with you by our side, in the years to come.

Annexure 1
Our Audited Financial Report 2016