

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND ACTION RESEARCH CENTRE (WHARC)

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022 – JUNE, 2023



Promoting the health and Social Wellbeing of Women and Youth through Evidence-based Research and Interventions

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ABOUT US

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



OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

WHARC mission is grounded in a deep love of humanity and a belief in equality and dignity for all people, WHARC works to improve the reproductive health and social wellbeing of woman 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 for adolescent girls in Africa.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to all organizations that supported WHARC during the 2021-2022 through provision of financial and technical support. These include the following:

- 1) International Development Research Centre (IDRC) under the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) project.
- 2) United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
- 3) The Ford Foundation, under its CSO sustainability and investment grant making.
- 4) The Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria.
- 5) The West African Health Organization (WAHO).
- 6) Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI)
- 7) Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RCOG), United Kingdom
- 8) The University of Ottawa, Canada.
- 9) Queen's University, Belfast.
- 10) Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to present the Women's Health and Action Research Center's (WHARC's) annual report, covering the period from 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023. This report provides an overview of our key activities, achievements, and challenges encountered during the year.

WHARC is dedicated to promoting women's health and social well-being through research, documentation, advocacy, service delivery and capacity building on sexual and reproductive health services & rights and policy improvement seeking to create a world where all people (and especially women and young adolescent girls) are treated with respect and dignity and have equal access to basic reproductive health information and services. Thus, since its establishment three decades ago, WHARC a Non-Governmental and Not-for-Profit Organization has collaborated with the three tiers of government in Nigeria and national and international development partners working in several communities in Nigeria.

In this edition of our annual report you will read about our contributions to research in Reproductive health, Advocacy activities, and capacity building programs and projects focusing on a range of critical women's health issues. In addition, we have highlights of WHARC's efforts in documentations and knowledge sharing through our flagship internationally acclaimed African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) rated the best Journal on reproductive health in Africa. The journal is now produced monthly with additional special editions. This journal is available on line and in our well stocked reproductive health library with other current journals and valuable books which researchers and students have found invaluable.

The Women's Health and Action Research Centre is involved in strengthening reproductive Health service delivery. To this end, on site in the WHARC corporate office complex is located the Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital (AGSH) which provides comprehensive medical services with full state of the art laboratory service as a model of service delivery point. Also in the premises of WHARC is the lavishly furnished Academy Guest House for researchers and patient relations; while the Centre's TheNext bottle water, one of the sustainability project is rated as one of the best in the city.

There have been challenges such as funding constraints due to global economic downturn. However, we appreciate our partners like UNFPA, RCOG, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) under the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) project, The Ford Foundation, through its CSO sustainability and investment grant making support, the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and the Federal Ministry of Health of Nigeria for their support. In spite of the challenges, WHARC remains committed to its mission and will continue to promote the health and social well being of women and the girl child in Africa.

Dr. Wilson Imogan

MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Professor Agatha Nonyem Taiwo Eguavoen (Female). She is a Professor of Sociology with specialization in Criminology and Gender Studies at the Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. Her research interest covers virtually all facets of women and girl child life circles – child labour and abuse, child marriage, defilement and rape, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), wife inheritance, child and women trafficking, sexual harassment, domestic violence, women in conflict zones, terrorism from an African perspective and obnoxious widowhood practices amongst others.



Professor Cyril Mokwenye (Male). He is a Professor of Francophone Caribbean and African Literatures at the University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. He was educated at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and the University of Bordeaux, France. Professor Mokwenye has been associated with WHARC for over twenty years and was the Centre's official translator of abstracts of articles published in her highly reputable journal – The African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH). He is an experienced professor, a former Head of Department (HOD) of Foreign Languages in the University of Benin and a former Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the same university. Professor Mokwenye served as Deputy Director of WHARC from 2004 –

2010 and Executive Director from 2010 – 2015.



Chief Lady Marcellina Aisuabeogun (Female). She is a retired Chief Health Sister/Chief Nursing Officer and a Health Educator for several years. She is a member of many professional associations including West African College of Nursing of which she is a past National President. She has been an active member of the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS) the main organization for National Women for several years.



Professor Bridget Ogheneakpobo Ogonor (Female). She is a Professor of Educational Administration at the University of Benin. She has successfully supervised 11 Ph.D. thesis, one M.Phil. and 50 Master's Thesis in Educational Management. She has 54 publications as book chapters, articles in reputable International, National and Local Journals. She has co-edited and co-authored books to her credit. She is a Consulting Editor and Chief Editor to some journals. She serves as an External Examiner to numerous Universities and Colleges of Education. She is a member of National Universities Commission (NUC) Accreditation Team to universities in Educational Management and a member of the Nigerian Academy of Education.



Professor Friday Okonofua (Male) MD, PhD is a professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and director of Grants and Research at the University of Benin, Nigeria. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, and the African Academy of Science. He has served as the Executive Director of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics and as **Honorary Adviser on Health to President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria**. Professor Okonofua is a global champion in women's health, a discipline where he has published more than 270 journal articles and obtained 46 international research grants. He is the founder of the Women's Health and Action Research Centre, one of Nigeria's leading NGOs, and the founding editor of the *African Journal of Reproductive Health*. He is a member of the editorial board of the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, and a reviewer to several international journals. He is the current Editor in Chief of the *Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science*, published by the

Nigerian Academy of Science. He has served as program officer at the Ford Foundation and as consultant to several international agencies, including the Macarthur Foundation and the World Health Organization. He is the team leader of the World Bank Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation, and the Coordinator of the World Bank projects at the University of Benin in Nigeria. He recently completed his term as the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the first University of Medical Sciences in Ondo State in Nigeria, and now he is the Director of Grants and Research at the University of Benin, in Nigeria.



Engineer Ibude Guobadia (Male). He is a Management and Data Consultant with distinctive competences in the creation of predictive mathematical models using Machine Learning algorithms to create data stories which help organizations improve and differentiate their service offerings, create new markets, and mitigate their financial risks. Prior to establishing his consulting firm, Maneng Services Ltd in 2012, Ibude worked in Citibank Nigeria for two decades in different roles. He left as a General Manager/Director Citibank Nigeria. Thereafter, he was engaged as the General Manager (Transaction Banking) at Standard Chartered Bank, Lagos for a two-year period. Ibude has a BSc (Hons) Electrical Engineering from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He also obtained an MBA from the University of Benin, Nigeria and a Post Graduate Diploma in Data Sciences and Business Analytics from McCombs Business School, University of Texas at Austin, United States of America.



Dr. Wilson Imongan (Male). He is a medical practitioner and the current Executive Director of WHARC. He was an Assistant Director of Primary Health Care/Reproductive Health Coordinator in the Edo State Ministry of Health with direct supervisory responsibility for the 18 Local Government Areas of the State. He was also the state coordinator of NGO activities in the State MoH. In 2007, he was subsequently appointed the Honorable Commissioner for Health in Edo State, a position he held between July, 2007 and November, 2008. He is currently the Vice-Chairman of the National Advocacy Committee of the Christian Health Association of Nigeria.

WHARC ASSOCIATES



Dr. Loretta Favour Chizomam Ntoimo (Female). She is a Sociologist/Demographer. She is a Lecturer in the Department of Demography and Social statistics, at Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Nigeria and the Acting Head of the Department of Demography and Social Statistics. Dr. Ntoimo serves as a Guest Lecturer at the World Bank established Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health (CERHI), University of Benin, Nigeria. She is an Associate of WHARC, where she actively contributes to research planning, data collection and management, and writing for publications. 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.



Professor Akhere Omonkhua (Female). She is a Professor and Head Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Benin, Nigeria. Her research focus is determining the efficacy, safety, and mechanisms of action of local medicinal plants used to treat diabetes, malaria, and reproductive disorders. Prof. Omonkhua is the Project Coordinator of the African Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), a World Bank supported project in the University of Benin. She is also the principal investigator of the Natural Products and Phytomedicine Research Group (NAPPREG) of the University of Benin; and principal investigator/co-investigator of several grants including Africa Research Excellence Fund's (AREF) Excell Programme, three TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) grants, National COVID-19 Rapid Diagnostic Tests Validation Study, and Seeding Labs Instrumental Access. She is a reviewer for several national and international journals and a member of the editorial board of Biokemistri. She was Editor - Biological Sciences for Annals of

Science and Technology (2015 – May, 2017) and Science Editor, African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH). Prof Omonkhua is a member of several scientific societies including the Nigerian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (NSBMB), Nigerian Society for Experimental Biology (NISEB), the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), Germany, and a Fellow of the Nigeria Young Academy (FNYA).



Professor Rosemary Nkemdilim Ogu (Female). She is a Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH), Port Harcourt, Nigeria, is a Maternal Health Advocate with special interest in Sexual/Reproductive Health & Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. In 1990, she won the National Association of Women in Science & Technology Prize for Best Science Girls in Nigeria. This spurred her to study Medicine and Surgery. Rosemary Ogu graduated (MB.BS) with distinction from the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, in 1999. Her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology was from 2003 to 2008 at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital. She qualified with the fellowship of both the West African College of Surgeons and the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (FWACS, FMCOG). Born on March 25, 1973, in Delta State, Nigeria; Rosemary Ogu became a Lecturer 1 in October 2009 and Professor in October 2018. Between 2015 and 2018, she obtained a Master's

degree (MSc) in Reproductive Health from the World Bank-supported Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation, (CERHI), University of Benin, Nigeria. She has received numerous Scholarship and honorary awards including the 2009 Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) Commendation for Service to Rivers State; the 2014 Port Harcourt University Medical Students' Association (PUMSA) Merit Award as Clinical lecturer of the year, the 2015 Nigerian Medical Students Association award for Active Involvement & Promotion of Reproductive Health in Women & Youths; and the 2017 Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) National Award as MWAN Jewel; for outstanding Contribution to MWAN for achieving the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Status. Rosemary Ogu has contributed to several World Health Organisation publications, numerous book chapters, and over 60 published articles in peer-reviewed journals. Prof Rosemary Ogu is married and currently resides in Port Harcourt. She loves giving health talks, reading and traveling.



Barrister Oluwadamilola A. Adejumo (Female). She is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife where she teaches Environmental Law, Law of Taxation, Human Rights Law, Law of Contract, and Law and Medicine. Based on her keen research interest in Medical Law, she was appointed as a Consultant to the Institute of Public Health, Obafemi Awolowo University. She is currently a Doctoral Candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Benin. Her Thesis focuses on a right-based approach to women's access to reproductive health care in Nigeria.



and cytological screening for cervical cancer to Nigeria where he pioneered cryosurgery for treating pre-invasive cervical neoplasia.



engineer” mature T cells and hematopoietic stem cells for generating sustained attack against ovarian cancer in patients. He has developed and implemented protocols for multi-institutional immunotherapy clinical trials under the umbrella of the NCI Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network (CITN); the NCTN (NRG); ETCTN; and the Cancer Vaccine Collaborative (CVC) program of the Cancer Research Institute/Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science. In 2018, he was elected to the United States National Academy of Medicine.



Professor Olufemi Olatunbosun (Male). He is a Professor-Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Saskatchewan Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in Canada. He has been Chair of the Saskatchewan Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Sessions Management for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. He served as ad hoc consultant to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and is currently a Trustee of the Commonwealth Medical Trust, a United Kingdom-based organization that actively promotes Sexual and Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights and Reproductive health education in developing countries./ Professor Olatunbosun is an international champion of reproductive health research and education and has pioneered surgical techniques for treating recurrent mid-trimester pregnancy loss (rescue cervical cerclage; abdominal cerclage), and was one of the early pioneers of Assisted Reproductive Technologies in sub-Saharan Africa. He introduced colposcopy

Dr. Kunle Odunsi (Male). He is the Cancer Center Deputy Director at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is also Professor and Chair of the Department of Gynecologic Oncology, the M. Steven Piver Endowed Professor of Gynecologic Oncology, Executive Director of the Center for Immunotherapy at Roswell Park; and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Buffalo. He maintains an active independent laboratory research program that focuses on understanding the mechanisms of immune recognition and tolerance in human ovarian cancer, and translation of the findings to clinical immunotherapy trials. He has pioneered the development of antigen specific vaccine therapy for prolonging remission rates in patients with ovarian cancer. His laboratory has identified important mechanisms of immune suppression with the ovarian tumor microenvironment; and he has developed strategies to counteract such. He is currently pioneering studies to “re-

Professor Joseph Abiodun Balogun (Male). Joseph Abiodun Balogun, FAS, is a Distinguished Professor in the College of Health Sciences at Chicago State University (CSU), Chicago, USA and Emeritus Professor of Physiotherapy at University of Medical Sciences, Ondo city, Nigeria. Professor Balogun serves on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Physiotherapy Theory and Practice and Journal of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy. He is the Deputy Editor of the African Journal of Reproductive Health. Professor Balogun is a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH), Fellow of the Academy of Science (FAS), Fellow of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (FNPS), and Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (FACSM). Professor Balogun is the first physical therapist to receive the FAS award. In 2003, he was awarded the J. Warren Perry Distinguished Author’s Award by the Journal of Allied Health.



Professor Lindsay Edouard (Male). He had an international career starting as a medical officer in the Maternal and Child Health Unit of the World Health Organization in Geneva and later with the United Nations Population Fund serving as Project Director for Training for Reproductive Health in sub-Saharan Africa, Senior Reproductive Health Adviser in New York and Representative in Algeria. Committed to the social responsibility of professionals, he emphasized their crucial role beyond the clinical setting to improve the health of populations, as opposed to individuals, and held positions with the Commonwealth Medical Association, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics and International Planned Parenthood Federation. He served on the editorial board of the African Journal of Reproductive Health and Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada besides serving as the International Advisory Editor of BMJ Sexual and Reproductive Health.



Dr. Uche A. Menekaya (Male). He is an Australian trained specialist Obstetrician, Gynecologist and Sonologist. He is a director at JUNIC group that includes a Women's Center with specialized focus on advanced gynecological imaging and advanced laparoscopy. Dr. Menekaya has a special interest in the concept of a 'one-stop' ultrasound based outpatient gynecological services especially for the management of women presenting with early pregnancy complications and gynecological symptoms. Dr. Menekaya has partnered with the Women's Health and Action Research Center, Benin, a leading NGO in reproductive health to establish a fully functional laparoscopic operating suites and training center with the overall goal of providing affordable and accessible minimally invasive surgical services to women with reproductive health challenges in Nigeria.



Kenneth Onome Adagba (Male). Kenneth is an experienced public health physician with over 18 years of combined educational attainment and progressive experience in healthcare financing, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and TB/HIV clinical care, program management and health system research. He is efficient in program design, planning and implementation, attentive to details, easily adapts to new processes, and has excellent report writing skills. As a consultant public health physician, Ken has a proven record of leadership, a team player with excellent interpersonal skills, he thrives well in a fast-paced environment and has presented abstracts and published articles in local and international conferences and well renowned journals. Dr. Kenneth is the Training and Research Coordinator at the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Training Centre, Saye-Zaria which is under the department of public health, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja and a fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and consults for several development partners and organizations. Kenneth is happily married with kids and enjoys travelling, reading and making new friends.

After a successful National Youth Service Corp in 2006, Kenneth was appointed Special Assistant to the Honorary Special Adviser to Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Maternal and Child Health (Prof. Friday E. Okonofua), a position he held till May 28th, 2007 and later joined the Federal Ministry of Health as a medical officer in the Department of Public Health in July, 2007. He functioned as the

focal point for National TB prevalence survey until he was posted to the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Training Centre in 2011 where he rose to be Head of Clinical service and Training Departments.

Josephine Aikpitanyi, PhD



Josephine Aikpitanyi is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium. She obtained her PhD in Public Health at the Institute of Health Research and Society (IRSS), Faculty of Public Health, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium. Josephine obtained her Master's degree in Health Economics from the Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI), University of Benin, Nigeria. Josephine has worked as a programs officer and researcher at the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC), a research institute dedicated to improving maternal and child health in Nigeria. Her research interest focuses on exploring the impact of non-cognitive traits on women's healthcare choices and preference for place of childbirth in Nigeria. This is an aspect of the literature that she pioneers using original data collected in a low resource setting. For a country like Nigeria with abysmal maternal and child health statistics, the findings and policy recommendations from her research are of relevance in designing effective healthcare interventions, not only in Nigeria but also in other low and lower-middle-income countries.

PROGRAMS REPORT

A 2-DAY TRAINING ON THE OPTIMIZATION OF THE TEXT4LIFE APPLICATION IN ENUGU STATE; AT BON HOTEL SUNSHINE, ENUGU ON 25TH AND 26TH AUGUST, 2022.

Day 1

The training started with the registration and checking in of participants into their individual rooms and thereafter got settled for the training proper.

The meeting started with opening prayers and the singing of the national anthem. Introductions were made by facilitators and each participant. Dr. Adelekan opened the training with a presentation on how UNFPA began working in the state. He titled his presentation "Engaging Civil Society Organization to reverse the negative impact of Covid-19 on equal access to essential health services". An Overview of the CSOE Covid-19 response project was given by Dr. Adelekan.

In his presentation, he highlighted the need for an intervention to address GBV issues and other health related issues across various states in the country stating that relief materials were distributed to various primary healthcare facilities across the country through CSOs in the states. These items included; complete sets of rape kits, sanitary pads, and others were distributed towards the program to address GBV and Covid-19 cases. However, towards the end of the program, the lack of access was seen as the major challenge faced by community members hence the birth of the text4life program. This program's major Objective was to ensure that no woman dies in a community due to lack of health care. The program was also to be used to address the 3 delays experienced when accessing healthcare which included; delay at home, delay in the PHC and the presence of a HCW in the PHCs. This he noted was how the Text4Life which is a WHARC initiative was introduced in 2021. He reminded the

HCW that the Text4Life can be used as a way to measure their level of work in the facility to erase the idea from the minds of people that HCWs in PHCs do not work.

He charged the HCWs that they and the people in their various communities are the government and as government cannot do everything alone, this is where donors come in and donors can only do little as support structures put in by the government that already exist. Donors do not take over responsibility of the government. The people can ensure that these structures are effectively utilized.

Dr. Adelekan stated that the idea for the Text4Life is originally WHARC's and the model was adopted for the UNFPA CSOE project in 2021. He explained to participants the mechanism on how to register and create report on the platform stating that when a report is created, a report route is created via CSOs and link up with the HCW. The Text4Life He said exist in 10 states, they are; Lagos, Akwa-Ibom, Enugu, Borno, Gombe, Kano, Kaduna, Sokoto, Ogun States and the FCT, in 3 LGA each and 10 communities respectively. A number of cases can be reported on the platform from Covid-19, GBV and other reproductive health cases as it doesn't require data just network. It works on both smart phones and feature phones which makes it easy for the people in the rural communities to access.

A practical session was then carried out where Dr. Adelekan took participants through the process of registration on the Text4Life platform by dialing *347*161# on their phones. Everyone understood the process and was successfully registered on the platform.

When this program was launched, phone numbers of HCW were used as facility numbers. This issue was corrected with the registration of new sim cards which will now officially become property of the facility just like the phones given to them at the initial launch of the program. While registration was ongoing, the event continued.

Dr. Adelekan then informed the HCWs that they are to carry out a step-down training in their Health facility and communities. Also, community sensitization which will be monitored by CSOs and HODs will be done. During sensitization, it is important to inform the crowd that the correct name of facility should be registered so the system can properly assign them and avoid error. The HCWs were given targets of 300 persons to register over a period of 4 weeks. During health education process like immunization, family planning etc, he enjoined the HCW to use such times to introduce the Text4Life to patients. At the community level, a 2 days sensitization exercise should be carried out. It is important that CSOs and HODs be aware on the days of the sensitization program.

After the presentation, questions were answered and answers were provided to the understanding and satisfaction of participants. Group photographs were taken as the first day training came to a close.



Day 1 Training on the Optimization of the Text4life Application

Day 2

Recap of the first day was done by volunteers that were asked to give a report from the previous day. Dr. Lanre while reminding them of the step down training, he took them through the work plan template that will be used for monitoring the step down training that will be done in their various communities. He stated that it is impossible for the CSOs to be present in all 10 communities but must be present in 4 communities at least while community mobilizers can be used for the remaining communities. The first thing he noted was to do the step down training, propose a date and know the objective of the step down training. The work plan template were filled by all Officers in charge (OICs) present and submitted to Henrietta of WHARC for further actions. Dr. Lanre took them through the process of completing the work plan. Essential at the sensitization is the HOD, CSO, A Recorder for those that may not be captured at the sensitization due to the presence of more persons so that data is not lost.

A question was asked by one of the Participants that means of Identification be created for all OICs so they can carry out their job effectively in their various communities. Dr. Lanre however replied that it is not possible to create ID cards for them as they have their Primary place of assignment of which they can advocate against GBV effectively. He reminded them that they are not GBV experts rather their role is to identify cases and refer them to the right/ appropriate authorities.

The registration of sim cards were completed on the second day. Closing remarks were given by the 3 CSOs working in the state on this project, where they appreciated UNFPA and WHARC for the initiative and enjoined the HCW to ensure that the lessons from the training be used effectively.

CIRDDOC also applauded the healthcare workers and UNFPA for the support towards the project. WHARC applauded the funders, UNFPA and thanked the CSOs for the support since the birth of this program. The representative of the ES-PHCDA thanked the organizers for the project while pledging more support from the office of the Executive secretary and the state at large. Closing prayer and singing of the second stanza of the National anthem officially brought the training to a close.



Advocacy visit to the Office of the Commissioner for budget and planning Enugu, Enugu state



Advocacy visit to the Office of the Commissioner for Health Enugu, Enugu State

A 2-DAY STAKEHOLDER SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP

Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative (ECOWA), in Collaboration with Women for Fairness & Equity Organization (WEFON) with Support from Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAFA) held a stakeholder sensitization workshop, A “Women Economic Justice Project for Edo State” in Benin City. The 2 day workshop held on the 3rd and 4th November 2022, at the conference hall of Limoh Suites, Benin City, Edo State.

The founder, Echoes of Women in Africa (ECOWA), Dr. Mrs. Louisa Eikhomun-Agbonkhese gave the objective of the workshop which is to draft and develop a bill for economic rights of women for the urban poor and rural poor women of Edo State, stating that this can bring women out of poverty.

Representatives from the Ministries Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Youth and Gender Issues, and Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, and the Odionwere of Amagba Community were present at the workshop.

The lectures of the day were delivered by Dr. Mrs. Esther Jamgbadi, a lecturer in the Department of English and Literature, faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Mrs. Ada Agina Ude, the Convener, WEFON, Mrs. Sabina Idowu, Executive Director, Osseo Centre for challenged children (OSEC) and former MD, LAPO where they all noted that it was time to make laws that would ensure that economic rights of women were Justice-able and easily accessed.

Participants were divided into groups where they were asked to draft possible bill on women economic rights that can be developed. Major areas looked into were the issue of land ownership, inheritance, protection of women in the work environment, agricultural support for women and education of women.

On the second day of the workshop, Economic Rights of women from CEDAW and VAPP Law were extracted and a few adjusted to suit the demand of ECOWA and participants. The founder, ECOWA, stated that the proposed bill will be sent for Legal review before presentation at the State house of Assembly, of which participants will also be invited.



A RAPE CASE REPORT

On February 16th, 2023, a young woman from Ekiadolor, Edo State, brought a rape case to our attention at the Center. She came forward with information regarding the rape of a 3-year-old girl by her aunt's brother-in-law. A young boy who has dropped out of school and is around 18 years old committed the rape. The rape assault happened in the home where both the victim and the offender resided along with the rest of the family. The victim was not given the required medical attention, and the perpetrator was kept out of sight by the family. This resulted in the witness alerting Women Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) to the case. Prompt attention and appropriate action were taken by WHARC to ensure the safety and well-being of the victim and the perpetrator was arrested by the police.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE REPORT

On March 24th, 2023, we got a report of gender-based assault from a 31-year-old lady. She is a mother of four, a small trader, and a primary school dropout who is married to a vulcanizer who has no formal education. They have been married for 10 years. From the beginning of her marriage to her husband, the woman claimed, she had been a victim of violence. The hot-tempered husband beats her to a pulp at the slightest provocation. She described the man's wrongdoings in detail, including his punching her on numerous occasions when she was both pregnant and not pregnant, damaging the food products she sold to make a living, and verbally abusing her at any given time. She further claimed that the husband has driven her and their kids out of the house and does not make financial contributions to their wellbeing.

After her complaint was filed, the husband was invited to the Center to talk about the situation. Presented at the meeting were Professor Friday Okonofua (CEO, WHARC), associates from a women's rights NGO, the woman (the victim of violence), the woman's husband, and some WHARC staff. Following the meeting, the man refused to get back together with his wife and take her home. Afterwards, the CEO of the Center handed the woman N50,000 to cover her and her children's expenses while the problem is being sorted. The case has been taken up by a women's rights NGO.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Analysis Of Caesarean Section Rates in Tertiary Institutions Across Four African Countries Using Robson's Ten Group Classification System is an ongoing research project that is been carried out in seven (7) tertiary health facilities in Nigeria (4), Malawi (1), Guinea (1), and Senegal (2).

The study is aimed to analyze and compare rates of caesarean section in tertiary health facilities in Nigeria, Malawi, Guinea, and Senegal using the Robson group classification system. As well as to identify differences in indications and use of caesarean sections between the health facilities. The study also seeks to determine how the rates of caesarean sections compare with global rates as well as with rates in similar tertiary institutions in high-income countries and to make recommendations on ways to optimize caesarean sections for reducing maternal and perinatal mortality rates.

Specific data on caesarean sections carried out in the hospitals from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2022, are been collected using a study protocol that was developed by Professor Friday Okonofua. The study protocol contains questions that extract information on indications and characteristics of caesarean sections in each patient delivered by caesarean section, characteristics of the patients, obstetric history at the time of the caesarean section, Robson's classification for each patient, and the complications and death rates from caesarean section.

Currently, in all four nations, data collection has already started.

Harnessing Mobile Technology to Manage Gender-Based Violence in Rural Nigeria

From the results gotten from an intervention conducted in 10 states and 300 rural communities in Nigeria, we are required to test the effectiveness of a mobile technology device-Text4Life, in the self-reporting and management of Gender-Based Violence. The 10 states were: Lagos, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Enugu, Kano, Borno, Adamawa, Kaduna, and Gombe.

WHARC-UNFPA conducted this intervention in the year 2021, and the results from the past 22 months indicate a total of 3,200 reports related to gender-based violence and other reproductive health challenges were received by the server located at WHARC.

Qualitative interviews are being conducted by researchers currently on the effectiveness of the Text4life application. Using the contact information received by the server, we've been able to reach out to some of those who have used the service. Interviews are still ongoing at the moment.

A Study on Male Infertility

This study involved the collection of sperm samples from men to study the causes of male infertility. Analysis has been carried out for mycotoxins, antibiotics and parabens on a number of samples. So far, we have received results of 191 samples and the data has been entered into the IBM SPSS Statistical Software for further analysis.

A meeting was called by the project coordinator to discuss the results of the analysis with the stakeholders and the rest of the project team. The result of the analysis is to undergo another process of data cleaning due to the inconsistency of results.

A Qualitative Study on The Perceptions of Male Involvement as A Companion of Choice During Labour and Childbirth in Nigeria funded by WHO

The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of companionship in labour in maternal and childbirth. The study was conducted in Edo and Ekiti States by using focus group discussions and in-depth interviews for data collection. We carried out a focus group discussion with two groups of people; men who have recent birth of at least one child and women who have recent birth of at least one child. Furthermore, data were also collected using in-depth interviews. Health administrators and providers, women with recent birth and male partners of women with recent birth were interviewed to elicit information on their views on the perception of male involvement as a companion of choice during labour and childbirth.





Focus Group Discussion with women who have recent birth of at least one child

FREE MEDICAL SERVICES



As part of activities to commemorate the International Day of Action for Women's Health, Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) in partnership with Centre of Excellence for Reproductive Health Innovation (CERHI) and Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), provided free medical services to the general public on Saturday May 28th, 2022, at Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital (AGSH), inside WHARC Premises. A workshop themed: "Leaving no woman behind in access to reproductive health services"; succeeded the free medical services at Dr. Natalia Kanem Event Hall, WHARC.

Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital

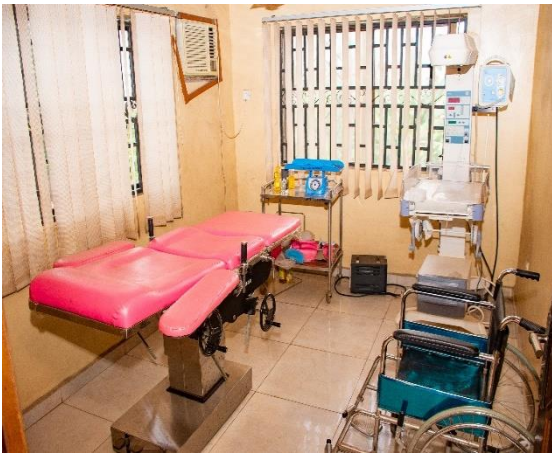


In the year under review, Abel Guobadia Specialist Hospital (AGSH) was very active in meeting the need of clients during the months of July 2022 to June, 2023. AGSH is also an approved service provider for National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

AGSH successfully carried out an Open Reduction and Internal Fixation (ORIF) of the left femur on a 79 years old woman who had history of fractured femur. He underwent ORIF surgery by Dr. A. Obum and Dr. A. Itua and was discharged in November 2022.

In the ultrasound diagnostic clinic, of the AGSH received about sixty (60) women who underwent ovarian follicular growth monitoring using vaginal probe as part of infertility treatment. We also carried out a number of ultrasound scans in women desiring evaluation of their pregnancy.

The clinic recorded a total of One Hundred and Sixty Eight (168) consultations were made in the first quarter of the year under review. There were Two Hundred and One (201) new registrations and One Hundred and Sixty (180) follow up cases. There is significant increase over the previous year's consultations. The family planning/immunization unit were equipped to carry all forms of requisite activities. A total of Nineteen (19) spontaneous vaginal delivery, Thirteen (13) caesarean sections, Nine (9) myomectomy, and Seven (7) intrauterine insemination.



Additionally, AGSH provided laboratory, diagnostic and ultrasound services during the year, more than Four Hundred (400) samples relating to hormonal assay, basic haematological services, STIs screening and diagnosis and blood chemistry were carried out in the facility during the year. Specialist consultants and medical consultant who worked in the clinic during the year under review includes Professor Friday Okonofua, Professor Osime and assisted by 6 Nurses, 3 laboratory scientist and 2 orderlies.

Free medical services were rendered by AGSH to members of the General Public to commemorate the International Day of Action for Women's Health. The hospital witnessed a large turn up of patients, lab investigations were carried out, drugs were administered and expert consultations provided.

The clinic is also computerised. A complete management information system is now in place to document and monitor of all clinical activities in the clinic.

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

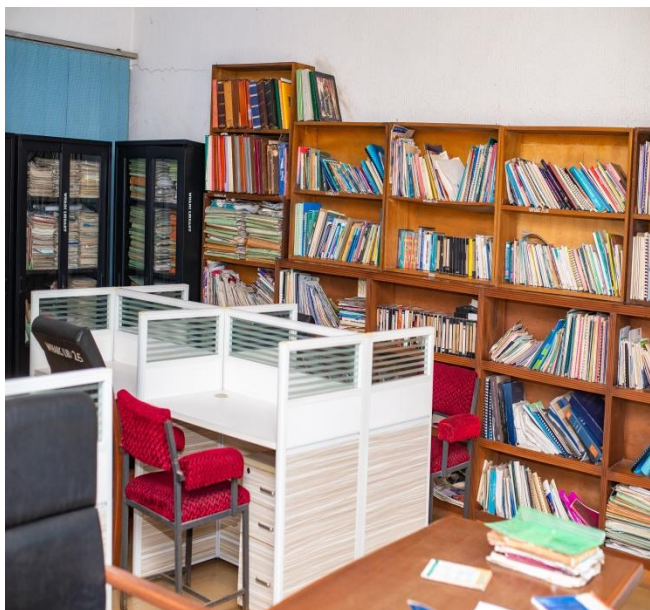
Phone: 08026822064 **Email:** agsh@wharc-online.org **Or visit our Website:** www.wharc-online.org

AGSH: Known for our expertise, chosen for our care!!!

WHARC Reproductive Health Library



WHARC Reproductive Health Library is the storehouse of information at the women's Health and Action Research Centre, it contains both books and non-book materials for use in reproductive health research, advocacy and other activities. Specifically, the unit keeps journals, recorded tapes and videos, photographs. The unit also keeps recorded information of all activities of the Centre.



During the period under review, (2022/2023), the library unit of the Centre continued to provide access to information on reproductive health to researchers, NGOs, students and reproductive health advocates. The library provides access to information that researchers need to enable them to work productively, cost-effectively, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary duplication of previous efforts. All the categories of staff are allowed to borrow books and materials for a maximum of seven days after which the material is returned.

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

- Up-to-date journals in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Women's Reproductive Health and the Broad Ramifications of Health and the Social Sciences.
- Journals which include the British Journal of Gynecology, New England Journal of Medicine, Reproductive Health Matters, Studies in Family Planning, South African Medical Journal, South African Journal of Psychiatry, Journal of Higher Education in Africa, Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research, etc.
- Books on Family Planning Methods and Practice, Family Planning Handbook for Health Professionals, Regulating Menstruation, Reproductive Health and Human Rights, Women Health and Empowerment, Amanuensis on the Right to Health in Nigeria etc.
- Compact discs (CD) in various aspects of Women's Health and Social Determinants of Health.

WHARC Reproductive Health Library is a major research centre for undergraduate, postgraduate students, Researchers, Human Right Activists, NGOs and the general public. The number of library users increased to 225 during the 2021 to 2022 and they are included researchers, students and other professionals. For those who cannot physically visit the reproductive Health Library Centre in Benin, data base materials currently available in the Library can also be accessed online through the WHARC

website www.wharc-online.org. A customer assessment notebook is provided at Library where the users can express their view and assessment in written form. This is to enable the Centre obtain necessary feedback from the users to improve the Library.

Open from: 8am – 4pm; Mondays – Fridays.

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

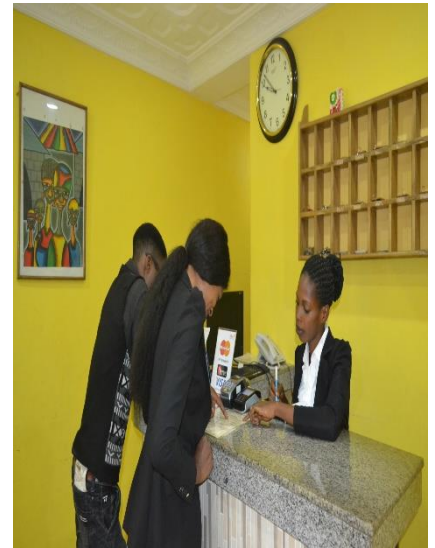
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Email: info@wharc-online.org

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

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

The Academy Guest House and Event Centre



The Academy Guest House and Event Centre is designed with top class taste. The name was changed from WHARC Guest House to the Academy Guest House and Event Centre for the sake of Academics and Researchers and the general public. We offer complete comfort including 24 hours' electricity, (2 standby generators), spacious rooms, CCTV surveillance and security, in-room internet facilities, plasma TV with multiple channels, full air-conditioning, excellent local and international meals, a 500-sitting capacity events hall open for all your events, safe and secure parking space, and lots more

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It is positioned in a quiet and serene part of Benin City, to make our guests feel royal, comfortable and to experience the proverbial feeling of being in a home away from home.

This highly prestigious guest house is situated on Km 11 along the Benin -Lagos Express Way, (immediately after Evidence of the Gospel Church), Igue-Iheya, Benin City, Edo State. The Academy

Guest House offers the best quality of hospitality available in south-south Nigeria. Our key goal is never to compromise on quality and the services we provide to our customers.



We believe in keeping customers happy and providing them with the best experience at a very competitive price. We have an excellent staff that is prepared to attend to the needs of all our customers making sure they receive maximum value for their money.

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Visit our website **www.academyguesthouse.online**

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- **Instagram:** wharcguesthouseandeventcentre

THE NEXT PREMIUM WATER

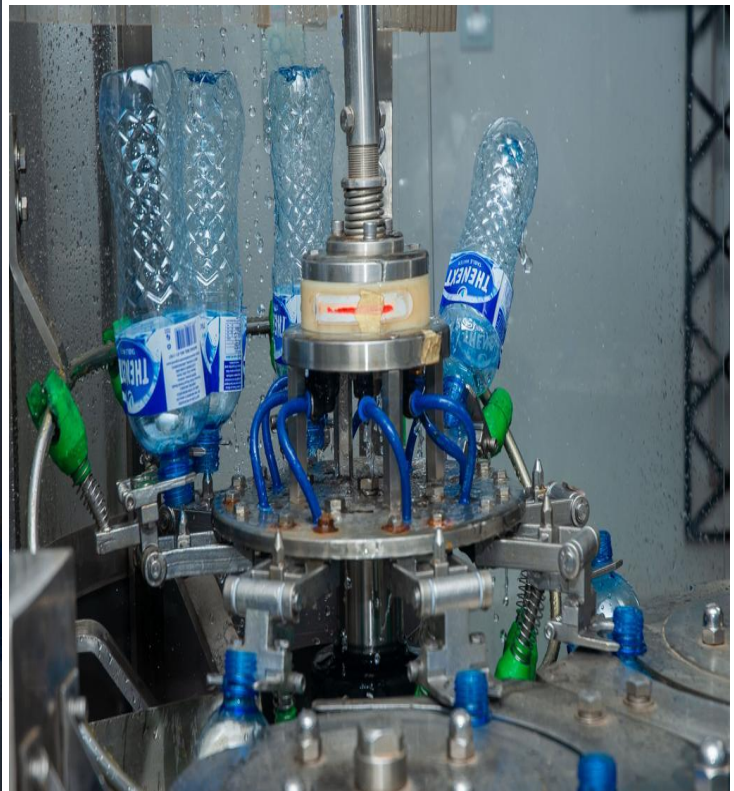
The Next premium table water is a first-class still water bottled and packaged by the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC) with factory fully functioning at international standards in the most hygienic conditions, located at km 14, after Uromi Junction, Benin-Auchi Expressway, Irrua, Esan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

A new water factory complex with location in Benin at film house road, ugbowo main-gate, has commenced production and sales of distilled and premium water.

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









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

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

Our premium table water is available in 75cl and 50cl bottles. With it's elegant shape, the table water is perfectly suited for use in restaurants, press conferences, seminars, public lectures, offices, outdoor events etc. To continue offering high quality water across several regions in Nigeria, we provide a network of distributors with a relative competitive price.

For more information on product testing, marketing and distributorship,

please contact: 08023105456, 08056038843, 08060612739

Email: thenexttablewater@gmail.com

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

The journal focuses on publishing original research, comprehensive review articles, case reports and commentaries on reproductive health. It strives to provide a forum for both African and foreign researchers working in Africa to share findings in all aspects of reproductive health and to disseminate innovative, relevant and useful information on reproductive health throughout the continent. To date, the journal has published 27 volumes, 125 issues, and 1,762 articles.

The AJRH has open access in several websites including PubMed, AJOL and SABINET 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:

- **Sustained AJRH Scientific Output of 12 Issues yearly**
- **Indexing in the most prestigious bibliometric databases**
- **2022-2023 Journal Rating**
- **Sustained Journal and Article's Digital Object Identifiers (DOI)**
- **Publication of the June, August, October and December 2022 Edition**
- **Publication of the Special Edition on Uterine Cervical Cancer**
- **Publication of a Special Edition on Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Social change in Africa**
- **Publication of the January 2023 Edition**
- **Publication of the February 2023 Edition**
- **Publication of the March 2023 Edition**
- **Publication of the April 2023 Edition**
- **Publication of the May 2023 Edition**
- **Publication of a Special Edition in honor of Profesor Olikoye Ransome Kuti**
- **Publication of the June 2023 Edition**
- **Squeezing Water Out of Stone: Pioneering the First Specialized Medical University in Nigeria**
- **Contemporary Obstetrics and Gynaecology for Developing Countries Textbook (2nd Edition)**

Sustained AJRH Scientific Output of 12 Issues yearly

The global reach and scientific impact of the AJRH have surged. Starting with two editions per year, the scientific output of journal increased from three editions per year in 2002 to four in 2009, six in 2021 and twelve in 2022 - 2023.

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

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

African Journal Reproductive Health Bibliometric Databases

The AJRH is indexed in the most prestigious bibliometric databases – PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, African Journals Online, Journal Storage, Southern African Bibliographic Information Network, Bioline International.

African Journal Reproductive Health Rating (2019-2022)

SCImago Journal Rating (SJR) ranked the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) as the Best Rated Journal on Reproductive Health in Africa with an SJR value (2022) of 0.455, H-Index (2022) of 44, Web of Science impact factor of 0.79, Scopus impact factor of 0.79 and Researchgate Journal impact of 0.19.

- **JSTOR 2019-2023 Journal Rating of the AJRH**

Journal Usage (Views and Downloads) = 306,689

Institution Usage (International and National) = 23,588

Total Social media platform followers:

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: 18,045

- **Improved 2023 Journal impact factor:** Research Gate (RG) Journal Impact (2023): 0.91
- **Improved AJRH online downloads, abstract views and citations**

- i. African Journal Online (AJOL) Article Downloads (2017-2023):

Total Article Downloads: 742,479

United States: 48,013

China: 7,025

Nigeria: 88,975

United Kingdom: 11,945

India: 15,356

South Africa: 17,955

- ii. African Journal Online (AJOL) Article Abstract Views (2017-2023):

Total Article Views: 214,332

Nigeria: 20,396

United States: 9,620

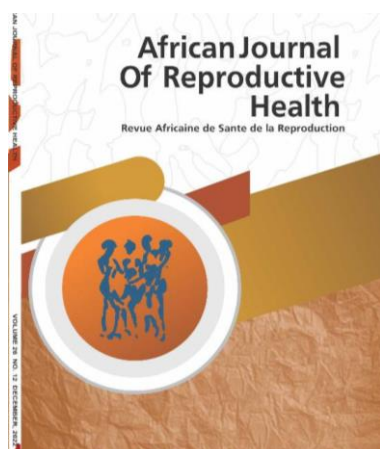
United Kingdom: 7,313

Ghana: 7,574

South Africa: 6,381

<https://www.ajol.info/stats/4d1b5231c437c6368bcd43598778824bf50ddbb5>

- **AJRH Special Edition on Uterine Cervical Cancer (Vol. 26, No. 7s)**



Volume 26, Number 7s special issue on Uterine Cervical Cancer of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) was published. It may be accessed via the following <https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/124>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:

Editorial

New studies on determinants of cervical cancer in Saudi Arabia

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.1

Friday Okonofua and Karl Eimuhi

Original Research Articles

Cervical cancer perceived risks and associated factors among women in Saudi Arabia: A cross-sectional study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.2

Heba A. Ibrahim, Mohammed H. Nahari, Mohammed A. Alshahrani, DaifAllah D. Al-Thubaity, Wafaa T. Elgzar, Hanan A. El Sayed and Samiha H. Sayed

Predictors of cervical cancer knowledge and attitude among Saudi women in Najran city: A cross-sectional study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.3

Wafaa T. Elgzar, DaifAllah D. Al-Thubaity, Mohammed A. Alshahrani, Mohammed H. Nahari, Heba A. Ibrahim, Samiha H. Sayed and Hanan A. El Sayed

Perceptions of barriers to cervical cancer screening among Saudi women: A cross-sectional study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.4

Wafaa T. Elgzar, Mohammed A. Alshahrani, DaifAllah D. Al-Thubaity, Mohammed H. Nahari, Heba A. Ibrahim, Samiha H. Sayed and Hanan A. El Sayed

Saudi women health beliefs and associated factors regarding cervical cancer prevention at Najran city: A theory-based study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.5

Heba A. Ibrahim, Mohammed H. Nahari, DaifAllah D. Al-Thubaity, Mohammed A. Alshahrani, Wafaa T. Elgzar, Hanan A. El Sayed and Samiha H. Sayed

Impact of an educational intervention on deaf and hard hearing females' knowledge and health beliefs regarding cervical cancer in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia: A theory-based study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.6

Hanan A. El Sayed, DaifAllah D. Al-Thubaity, Mohammed H. Nahari, Mohammed A. Alshahrani, Heba A. Ibrahim, Wafaa T. Elgzar, Sahar Z. Zaien, Hanadi Alqahtani, Narjees A. Bazuhair and Samah A. Said

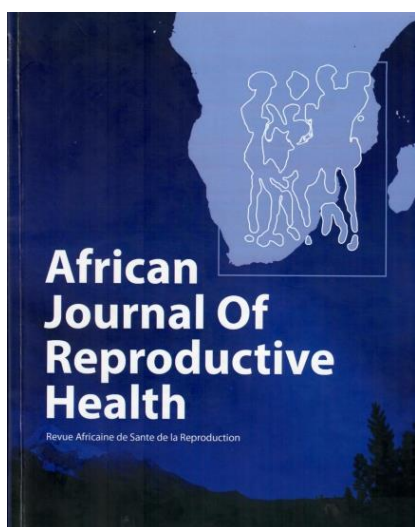
Intention and self-efficacy for pap smear screening and human papilloma virus vaccination among Saudi women at Najran city, KSA

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i7s.7

Wafaa T. Elgzar, Mohammed A. Alshahrani, Mohammed H. Nahari, DaifAllah D. Al-Thubaity, Heba A. Ibrahim, Samiha H. Sayed and Hanan A. El Sayed

- **AJRH November 2022 Edition (Vol. 26, No. 11)**

Volume 26, Number 11 issue of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) has been published. It may be accessed via the following <https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/129>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:



Editorial

Supply dynamics in access to reproductive, maternal and child health services in sub-Saharan Africa: Need for new research and innovations

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.1

Friday Okonofua and Lorretta Ntoimo

Original Research Articles

Prevalence of cervical cancer in Ain Defla region (Algeria)

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.2

Aicha Laissaoui, Azdinia Zidane, Mohamed Amine Cherier, Mustapha Ould Khaoua and Rachida Allem

Stakeholders' perceived achievements and challenges after the safe motherhood project in northern Uganda

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.3

Ai Ogata, Mie Naiki, Yukiya Saito and Alex Onzima

Socio-economic drivers and contraceptives usage effects on breast cancer among Women in Nigeria

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.4

Gbenga Wilfred Akinola, Josue Mbonigaba and Joseph Akande

Factors influencing cervical cancer screening among pregnant women in Nairobi, Kenya

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.5

Angela Adhiambo Omondi, Mary Shaw-Ridley and Amr Soliman

Prevalence of sexual harassment and its relationship with family birth order among female undergraduates: New findings from institutional-based cross-sectional study in the south east, Nigeria

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.6

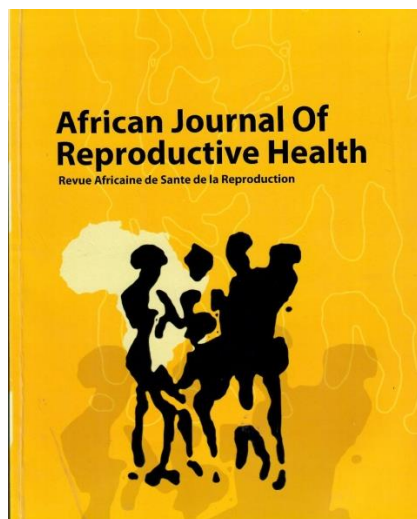
Nkiru Edith Obande-Ogbuinya, Christian Okechukwu Aleke, Lois Nnenna Omaka-Amari, Emeka Usman Mong, Eunice Nwafor Afoke, Ben Ngozi Ohuruogu, Maria-Lauretta Chito Orji, Onyechi Nwankwo, Cajetan Ikechukwu Ilo, Ifeyinwa Maureen Okeke, Valetine Ojike Arinze, Uzochukwu Chimdindu Ibe, Stanley Chijioke Anyigor-Ogah, Scholastica Amuche Orj, Okocha Yusuf Item

Perceptions, knowledge and exercises of sexual and reproductive health rights and associated factors among adolescents in Arsi zone, Ethiopia: A sequential explanatory mixed method study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11.7

Daniel Bekele Wakjira and Debbie Seoka Kgomotso Habedi

- **AJRH December 2022 Edition (Vol. 26, No. 12)**



Volume 26, Number 12 issue of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) has been published. It may be accessed via the following <https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/131>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:

Editorial

Of infections and reproduction - from childbed through sexual transmission to COVID-19

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.1

Lindsay Edouard

Feature Article

Kelsey Harrison, Africa's Academic Giant at 90

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.2

Friday Okonofua, Tubonye Harry and Nimi Briggs

Original Research Articles

Reasons for delay in accessing free treatment of obstetric fistula in South-East Nigeria – A qualitative study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.3

Adebayo BC Daniyan, Henry Uro-Chukwu and Johnson Obuna

Perceived causes of change in Nigerian adolescent sexual risk behaviour – Results from semi-structured mobile instant messaging interviews

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.4

Eleana Dongas and Jimoh Amzat

The level of awareness, attitude and perception about the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine among university of Mauritius students

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.5

Hansa KP Teeluck, Dhanush KSA Bhoola and Bibi S Keenoo

A qualitative synthesis of the impact of infertility on the mental health of African women

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.6

Labinjo Temitope

Barriers to Utilization of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services Among Young Deaf Persons in Ghana

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.7

Wisdom K. Mprah, Juventus Duorinaah, Maxwell P. Opoku and William Nketsia

Factors associated with the utilization of antenatal care services among pregnant women in Eswatini- a cross-sectional study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.8

Zama Mkhonta, Yu-Ying Lu Shu-Chen Kuo and Chieh-Yu Liu

Access, perceived quality and uptake of antenatal services in urban communities of Osun state, Southwest Nigeria

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.9

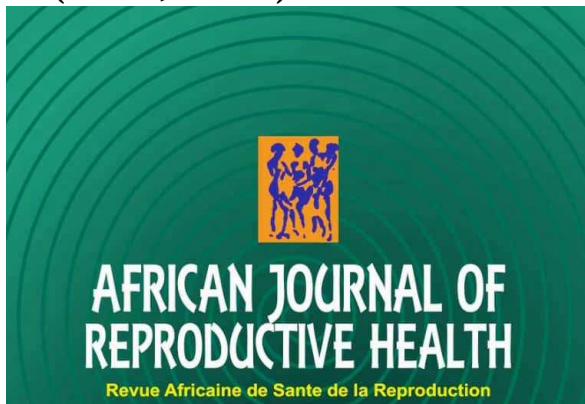
Ajibola Idowu, Oluwaseyi Kikelomo Israel and Roseline Oluyemisi Akande

Severity of intrauterine adhesions and pregnancy success rates after treatment: Comparison of adhesions obtained from open myomectomy versus uterine curettage

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i12.10

Jude E. Okohue, Nkeiruka Ameh and Adebayo Adewole

- **AJRH Special Edition on Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Social change in Africa (Vol. 26, No. 12s)**



Volume 26, Number 12s special issue on Gender, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Social change in Africa of the African Journal of Reproductive Health (AJRH) (<https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh>) was published. It may be accessed via the following <https://ajrh.info/index.php/ajrh/issue/view/130>. All published articles are DOI-assigned. The table of content for this issue is listed below:

- **AJRH January 2023 Edition (Vol. 26, No. 1)**

Covering Editorial

New research in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for promoting social change in sub-Saharan Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.1

Friday Okonofua

Guest Editorial

Gender, sexual and reproductive health, and social change in Africa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.2

Chimaraoke Izugbara and Connor Roth

Commentary

Leaving no one behind: older African women's rights to sexual and reproductive health

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.3

Ibrahim Banaru Abubakar

Original Research Articles

Effect of living conditions on genital mutilation practices among adolescent girls in West Africa: a pooled analysis from Demographic and Health Surveys

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.4

Pacôme Evènakpon Acotcheou, Jacques Zinsou Saisonou, Alphonse Mingnimon Affo, Justin Dansou and Patrick Makoutode

Associations between spousal gender equity and recent unintended pregnancy among married adolescent girls and their husbands in rural Niger

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.5

Ruvani W. Fonseka, Stephanie M. DeLong, Holly B. Shakya, Sneha Challa, Mohamed I. Brooks and Jay G. Silverman

Correlates and reproductive consequences of consanguinity in six Egyptian governorates

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.6

Wafaa M. Hussein, Maha M. El-Gaafary, Ghada O. Wassif, Maha M. Wahdan, Dalia G. Sos, Sally A. Hakim, Amany M. Abdelhafez, Mohamed Y. El-Awady, Mervat H. Rady, Tarek T. Amin and Wagida A. Anwar

Measures Adopted by Indigent Mothers in Kilifi County to Tackle Maternal Health Challenges during the COVID-19 Pandemic: a Qualitative Study

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.7

Stephen O. Ombere, Erick O. Nyambedha, Tobias Haller and Sonja Merten

Sexual and reproductive health factors associated with child, early and forced marriage and partnerships among refugee youth in a humanitarian setting in Uganda: mixed methods findings

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.8

Miranda Loutet, Carmen H. Logie, Moses Okumu, Isha Berry, Simon Odong Lukone, Nelson Kisubi, Alyssa McAlpine, Simon Mwima and Peter Kyambadde

A conceptual framework for understanding child marriage, marriage markets, and marriageability

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.9

Melnikas AJ, Saul G, Pandey N, Gueye M, Mkandawire J, Diarra A and Amin S

Do gender-equitable attitudes translate to gender-equitable chore-sharing behavior? A sex-stratified longitudinal analysis among adolescents in Kinshasa

DOI: 10.29063/ajrh2022/v26i11s.10

Kathryn M. Barker, Caroline Moreau, Mengmeng Li, Jennifer Gayles, Kristin Mmari, Eric Mafuta, Kara Hunersen and Rebecka Lundgren

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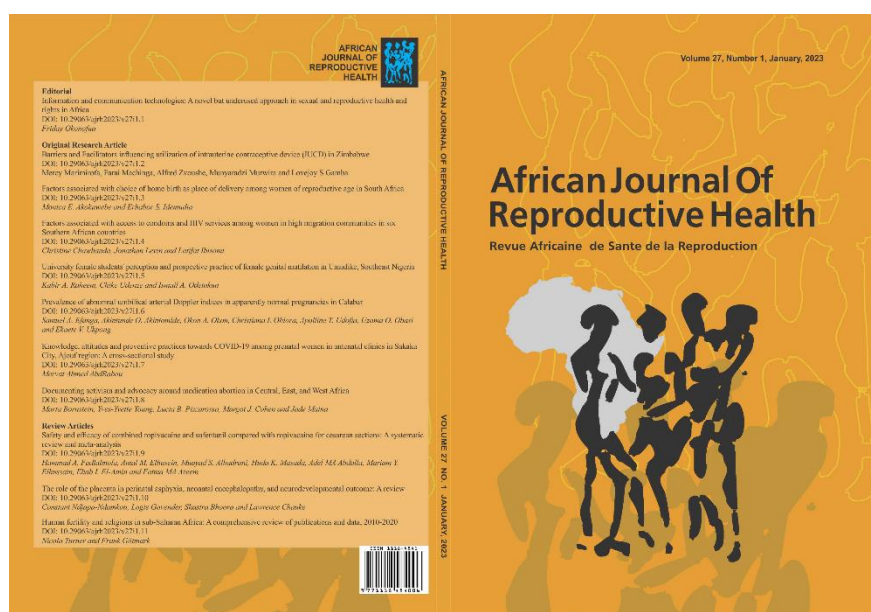
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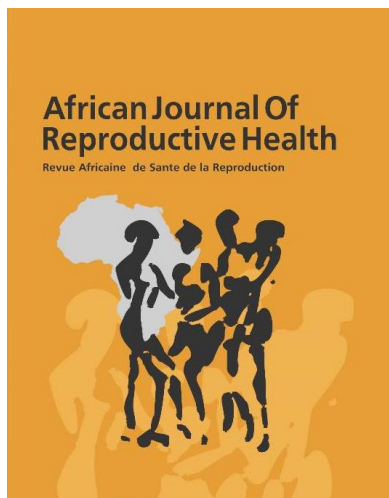
Hammad A. Fadlalmola, Amal M. Elhusein, Muayad S. Albadrani, Huda K. Masada, Adel MA Abdalla, Mariam Y. Elhussain, Ehab I. El-Amin and Fatma MA Azeem

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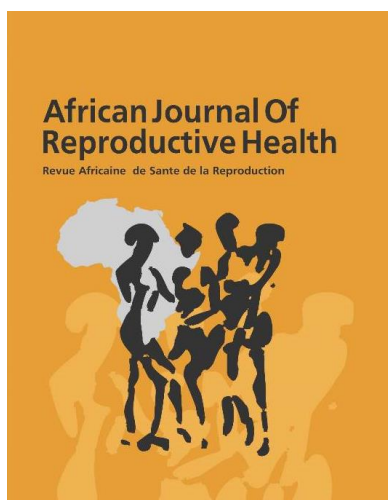
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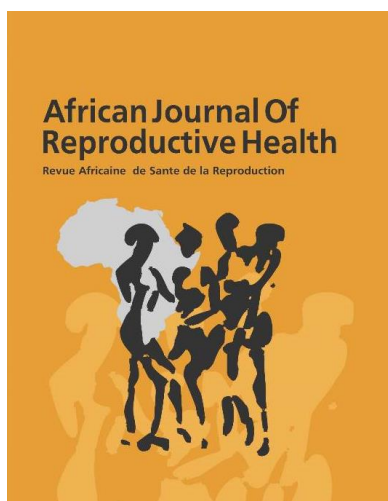
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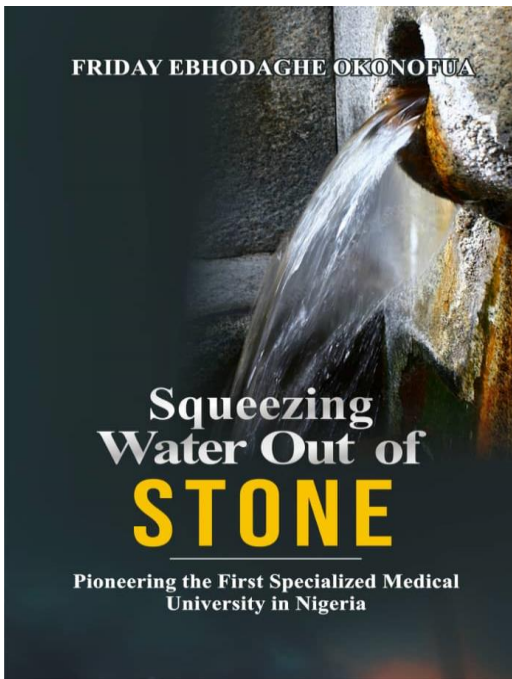
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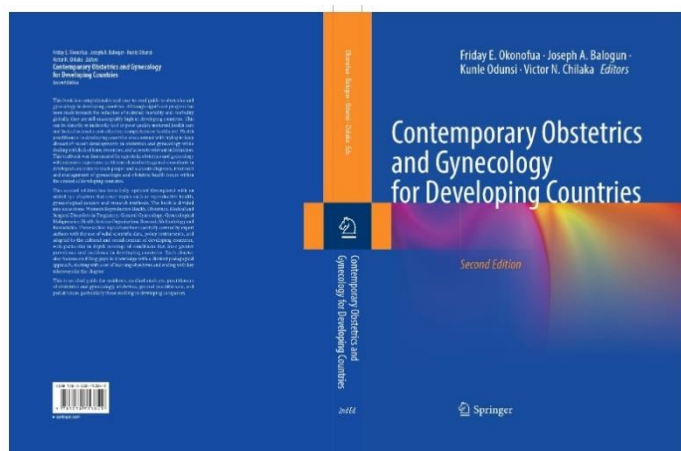
- **Textbook on Squeezing Water Out of Stone: Pioneering the First Specialized Medical University in Nigeria**



The idea to write a book on my experiences in pioneering the first specialized University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED) in Nigeria began as soon as I was offered the appointment. However, I oscillated between writing and not writing the book, not knowing whether the university experiment would succeed. If it failed, as there were many potential landmines on the way, it would not make sense to write a book a failed project, However, as it increasingly became a success and everyone began to buy into the idea by establishing similar institutions across the country, and as evidenced by the numerous accolades that one received, it became evident that the book would be a useful read.

The next was the importance and the potential for the book to tell a coherent story that will not only imbue readers with the strategies and inherent challenges in pioneering a university that seeks global excellence but also one that provide valuable lessons and anecdotes on the challenges associated with the management of universities within the context of present-day Nigeria. Identifying the title of the book then became a challenge. I first toyed with a title that would enumerate the challenges without demonstrating the underlying countermeasures I took to deal with the challenges. I reasoned that this approach would be limited in its broader applicability to Nigeria context, where numerous chief executives of tertiary educational institutions often grapple with similar challenges. It is only the narration of the difficulties that would be exciting, but the efforts made to deal with the challenges using personalized and innovative approaches.

- **Contemporary Obstetrics and Gynaecology for Developing Countries Textbook (2nd Edition)**



The first edition of *Contemporary Obstetrics and Gynaecology for Developing Countries* was published in 2005. Since then, several groundbreaking discoveries and innovations have taken place in the discipline, including within the context of developing countries. The widespread enthusiasm with which the first edition was received, and the opportunity to incorporate the suggestions of numerous readers and stakeholders, justify the publication of this second edition. Many countries in the developing world continue to witness some of the most daunting clinical scenarios relating to reproductive health, obstetrics and gynaecology, and women's health. It is beyond doubt that these challenges and scenarios require specific and novel methods differing from those applied in other parts of the world. It is therefore necessary and appropriate to devote a specific textbook, and to enable the development of approaches and methodologies to address these challenges.

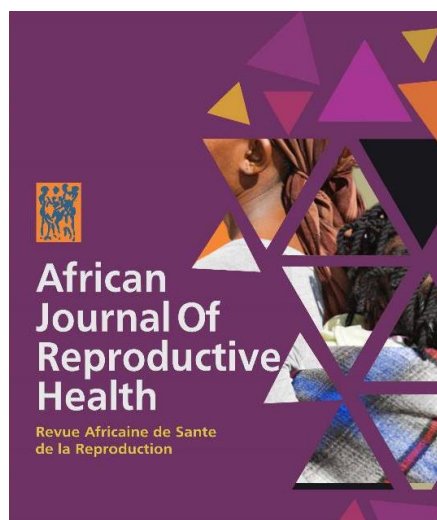
The editors of this textbook possess rich scientific backgrounds, with years of clinical practice, research, and service delivery in many parts of the developing world. As such, we are conversant with some of the drawbacks in educational delivery and pedagogy which continue to feature in the curricula of many undergraduate and postgraduate programs. In particular, there remains a deficit of skills, clinical orientation, and broad-based practices that limit the ability of graduates to deal with contemporary challenges connected to women's health and its related components in the region. Some of these deficits include poor linkage of science to service delivery, misalignment of competencies to patient and population needs, poor inter-professional teamwork, narrow technical focus without broader contextual understanding of a practitioner's role in the health system, the predominance of a hospital-based orientation at the expense of public health (especially with respect to reproductive health and primary health care), and weak understanding of the importance of leadership and business in firmly positioning the discipline within societal infrastructure.

The need to address these deficits has guided the development of this second edition of the textbook. The volume now comprises 70 chapters written by a multi-disciplinary team of 80 authors. Apart from updating information on specific topics in obstetrics and gynaecology, we have expanded the sections on sexual and reproductive health, and gynaecological oncology. These are two key areas that currently generate intense interest in most of the developing world. We have also incorporated chapters that were missing in the first edition, especially those related to research methodology, epidemiology, biostatistics, physical therapy, health management, human rights and the legal context of obstetrics and gynaecology. We believe that these additional topics will provide readers with a single integrated resource which contextualizes the interconnections between different concepts and principles that underpin the practice of the discipline in the region.

In summary, this second edition of *Contemporary Obstetrics and Gynaecology for Developing Countries* will be an exciting and essential textbook for undergraduate and postgraduate students in obstetrics and gynaecology, public health, health economics, nursing, physical therapy, reproductive health, demography, medical sociology, gender studies, and related fields in many parts of the developing world, especially sub-Saharan Africa. To the best of our knowledge, this textbook is currently the most comprehensive, detailed, and multi-disciplinary of its kind in the region. It will be

of use for researchers, programmers, development workers, and women's advocates in the developed world who have research interests or conduct health promotion activities in the developing world.

- **Forthcoming Special Edition on Gender and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in West and Central Africa (WCA) by the ICRW and IDRC**



The AJRH is currently processing a Special Edition on Gender and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in West and Central Africa (WCA) by the International Centre for Research (ICRW) on Women and Independent Development Research Centre (IDRC).

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RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- 1) **Okonofua FE.** Y-plasty vaginoplasty needs proof of superior effectiveness. BJOG 2017 Jan; 124(2): 335. Doi: 10.1111/1471-0528.14436,
- 2) **Friday Okonofua,** Kingsley Agholor, Rosemary Ogu, Ola Okike, Adeola Abdus-salam, Mohammed Gana, et al. Qualitative assessment of women's satisfaction with maternal health care in referral hospitals in Nigeria. BMC Reprod Health. 2017; 14, 44. DOI: 10.1186/s12978-017-0305-6. REPH-D-16-00234.
- 3) **Friday Okonofua,** Abdullahi Randawa, Rosemary Ogu, Kingsley Agholor, Ola Okike, Adeola Abdus-salam, Galadanci H. Views of Senior Health Personnel about Quality of Emergency Obstetric Care: A Qualitative Study in Nigeria. PLOS ONE March 27, 2017, 12 (3): e01734. Doi:101371/journal PONE-D-16-41470
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CONCLUSION

The year under review was a very amazing and fulfilling year. WHARC was able to achieve all set goals and delivered high quality services. Our research and program outputs and outcomes have been tremendous and have contributed significantly in knowledge of public and reproductive health matters.

Of course, there were challenges but we pulled through brilliantly, executing our projects and programs efficiently. We are happy that this year has set a pace for more activities in the centre.

We remain thankful to our funders, Associates Board of Trustees, Staff, friends of WHARC and Volunteers, you all made this year a great year and we look forward to your continuous supporting the coming year.