

NEWSLETTER



World Health Organization
Nigeria

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.... promoting health, protecting people and serving the vulnerable in society

CONTENT

Niger state Government begins cervical cancer services in line with WHO's recommendation



Some equipment donated to Niger state Government by WHO

In line with the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation for screening and treatment to prevent cervical cancer, the Niger State Government has begun screening women for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and cancer prevention services in nine Local Government Areas (LGA).

The pilot scheme, which will be in phases, targets about 5,000 women in Chanchaga, Paikoro, Suleja, Bosso, Gbako, Borgu, Kontagora, Lapai and Mokwa LGA.

The exercise aims to reduce the prevalence of cancer in Niger State.

During the flag-off ceremony held on 10 January 2022 at Jummai Babangida Aliyu Maternal and Neonatal Hospital in Minna by the State Governor, Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar Sani Bello said the government is aware of the disturbing cancer situation and is determined to meet the 90-70-90 World Health Organization (WHO) cancer elimination strategy.

Appreciating WHO and partners support in the fight against Cervical Cancer, he said "we are working with WHO and partners to expand the HPV Cervical Cancer Prevention Services to at least one health facility per ward".

He also pledged that the state government would endeavor to provide quality health services available to her people.

Speaking during the ceremony, the wife of the governor Dr Amina Abubakar Bello, in her keynote address, said most cancer cases are detected late and which contributes to the high mortality rate. She said that in Nigeria, an estimated 36.59 million women above 15 year of age are at risk of developing the disease.

Consequently, working through her foundation in close partnership with the State Ministry of Health, WHO and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), will be providing free screening and testing for 5000 eligible women in the first phase of the laudable project.

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<https://www.afro.who.int/countries/nigeria>

First ladies driving advocacy and interventions on elimination of cervical cancer in Nigeria



The First lady leading a cancer awareness work

I learnt about cervical cancer and people dying from the disease while carrying out my duty as a journalist. I never took time to know my status until October 2021, when an expert reiterated that early detection is key to surviving any form of cancer", says Adenike Tambe, a health journalist living in Abuja.

Miss Tambe took advantage of the price discount for cancer testing conducted by Medicaid cancer foundation (Non-Governmental Organization) as part of their activities to raise awareness against cancer.

When I heard of the discount, I decided to screen for cervical cancer. My result came out negative, and I received the first dose of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV)vaccine. Women should carry out the test, she said.

Miss Tambe is an example of how awareness creation efforts could spur individuals to take action to protect themselves and the barriers faced by millions of Nigerians in accessing preventive interventions against cancers, especially cervical cancer.

With an estimated 12 075 cervical cancer cases and 7 968 deaths recorded in Nigeria annually, the First Ladies of States, under the auspices of First Ladies Against Cancer (FLAC), has responded to the World Health Organization's (WHO) call for action in the global plans to eliminate cervical cancer.

The World Health Organization hopes to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem by 2030.

With increasing cases of cervical cancer becoming a thing of worry globally, the wife of the Kebbi State Governor, Dr Zainab Shinkafi-Bagudu, has been using her office to call for bold action to ensure that her state achieves the strategy 90-70-90 target.

Dr Shinkafi-Bagudu through her Non-Governmental Organization (Medicaid Cancer Foundation), has been leading advocacy for the inclusion of cancer screening and treatment in the benefits package of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), raising awareness about cancers, including annual cancer walk and leading the advocacy for nationwide vaccination of girls with the HPV vaccine.

Stakeholders move to tackle gender inequality in Nigeria's health sector

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is based on principles of equity. As such, in renewed efforts to strengthen equity and gender responsive health systems in Nigeria, the World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to develop guidelines and policies that will aid in addressing key gender issues in the country.

"Gender inequality remains a critical challenge in the health sector and UHC can only truly be achieved if gender and other drivers of inequalities within the health systems are actively considered and addressed", said Dr Olumuyiwa Ojo, a WHO Technical Officer during a retreat for all key stakeholders in the health sector organized by WHO in Abuja, December 2021.

Dr Ojo further stated that "the development of the policies and guidelines is critical as health systems are not gender neutral; structures and processes of oppression and discrimination that exist in society are reproduced in health systems. UHC efforts must focus on reaching the most vulnerable people whom health services are not reaching, such as marginalized, stigmatized and geographically isolated people of all ages."

Gender equality in Nigeria was reported at 0.33333 % in 2020, according to the World Bank. Also in the report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), in 2018, Nigeria ranked 133 among 149 countries surveyed for gender gap reduction. In the 2020 report, Nigeria rose to 128 out of 153 countries. In 2020, global gender gap index for Nigeria was 0.63 index. Though Nigeria global gender gap index fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to increase through 2006 - 2020 period ending at 0.63 index in 2020.



Adaptation of Gender Based Violence Clinical Handbook in Abuja

According to WHO, Sex and gender are increasingly recognized as important determinants of health for women and men. Beyond the biological differences, gender roles, norms and behavior have an influence on how women, men, girls and boys access health services and how health systems respond to their different needs. The different and often unequal abilities of women, men, girls and boys to protect and promote their health require recognition.

WHO recognizes that gender is an important determinant of health in two dimensions: gender inequality leads to health risks for women and girls globally; and addressing gender norms and roles leads to a better understanding of how the social construction of identity and unbalanced power relations between men and women affect the risks, health-seeking behavior and health outcomes of men and women in different age and social groups.

World Neglected Tropical Disease Day: Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases



"The first time I noticed a sore on my left hand, I did not take it seriously because I thought I had injured myself unknowingly. However, when the wound failed to heal, and sores came out, on the other hand, I decided to go to the hospital", says Mr. Bako Ibrahim, a 25 years old taxi driver resident in Gima village, Konduga Local Government Area (LGA), Borno State.

Mr. Bako was diagnosed with Cutaneous Leishmaniasis, a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTDs).

"I do not know how I contracted the disease. I have not been able to work in the last eight weeks because of the sore on my hands", he said.

Mr Bako is one of the 1.5 billion people infected by NTDs, such as Leishmaniasis, Buruli Ulcer, Chagas Disease, Leprosy, Cysticercosis, Dengue Fever, Dracunculiasis (Guinea Worm Disease) Echinococcosis, Fascioliasis, found in several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

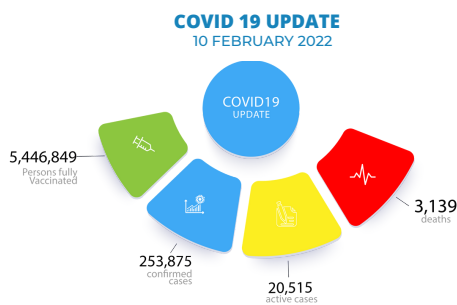
In commemoration of this year's World NTD Day, the Government of Nigeria reaffirmed its commitment to eliminating all forms of NTDs, while urging stakeholders to focus on mobilizing local resources to strengthen interventions in tackling the high burden of the diseases.

The minister of State for Health, Dr Olorunnimbe Mamora, addressing to stakeholders and journalists at the ministerial press briefing in Abuja on the 28th of January 2022, said Africa bears about half of the global burdens of NTDs, with Nigeria contributing substantially with more than 120 million people living at risk of contracting at least one NTDs.

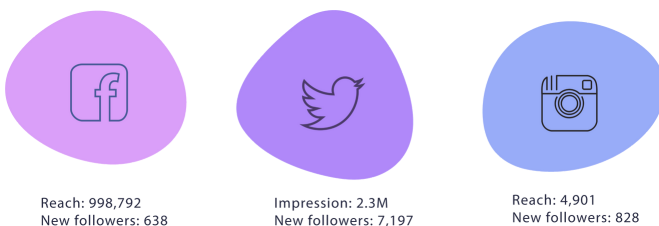
Dr Mamora said that NTDs are diseases that mostly affect people who live mostly in impoverished communities and prevalent in areas that have poor sanitation, poor safe water supply and substandard housing conditions.

In his goodwill message, the WHO Country Representative (WR), Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo, said this year's theme is "Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases" emphasizes the need for increased collaboration by all stakeholders to eradicate the diseases.

Dr. Mulombo emphasized that the country is important in the global NTD eradication road map and commended the government on the significant progress made in treatment and control of NTDs.



SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS
JANUARY 2022



CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DAYS 2022

JANUARY

- 26 World Leprosy Day
- 30 World NTD Day

FEBRUARY

- 4 World Cancer Day
- 6 International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 11 World day of the Sick
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 First COVID-19 case in Africa (Egypt)
- 25 First COVID-19 case in WHO African Region

Government partners decry stigmatization of people living with leprosy



HMH addressing media personnel during the 2022 World Leprosy Day Press briefing

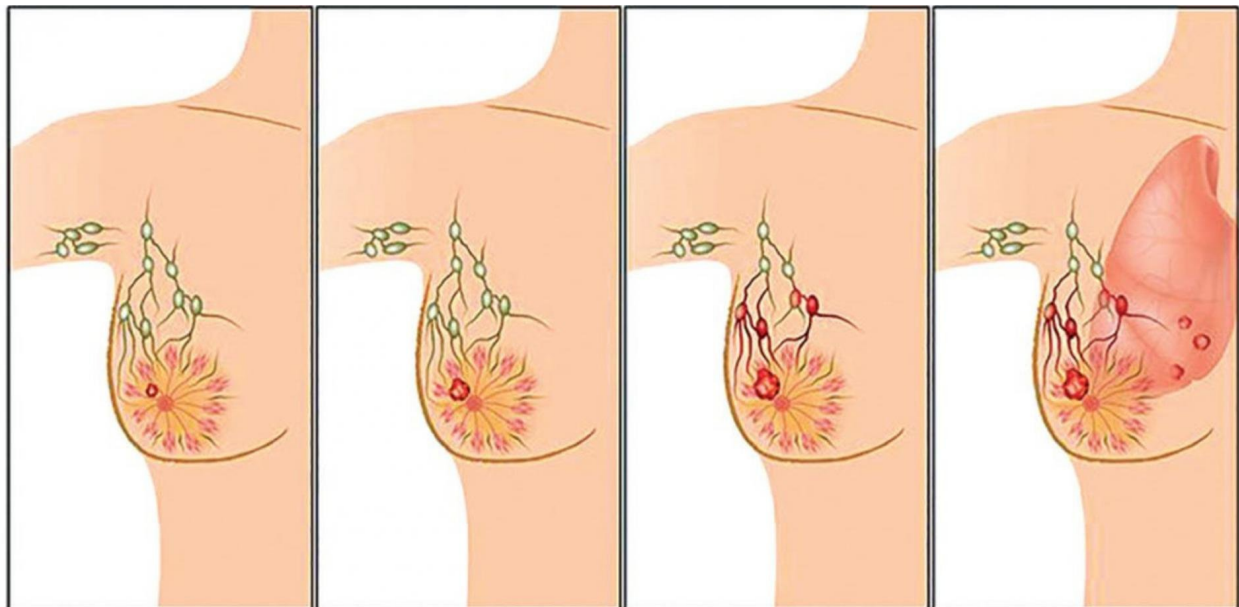
In commemoration of the 2022 World Leprosy Day, the Government of Nigeria and Partners have decry the continuous stigmatization of people living with the disease.

The Honorable Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, speaking at a ministerial press briefing to mark the day in Abuja on 31st of January 2022, said stigmatization continues to have negative impact to the successful elimination of the disease and re-integration of those cured back into their communities.

Dr Ehanire noted that leprosy is a public health issue and puts the country among the last nations in the world to defeat the disease, with more than 1,000 new cases still reported in a year. In 2020, Nigeria notified 1,508 new cases, of which over 13% had a visible deformity of fingers and toes, and more than 6 % were children.

In his goodwill remark, the WHO Country Representative (WR), Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo, appreciated Nigeria's efforts on the Leprosy Programming, saying the country is not yet out of the woods as it remains important in the global Leprosy eradication road map.

Survivors affirm that regular testing for early diagnosis is panacea to curbing cancer.



Stage I

Stage II

Stage III

Stage IV

"In 2014, I noticed a small swelling in my left breast and didn't pay attention as it was initially painless and I thought it will resolve by itself" says Grace David, a 68-year-old woman living in FCT, Abuja that survived breast cancer.

"When the swelling became bigger, I noticed a dimple, with slight pain and nipple discharge, I confided in my neighbor who advised me to visit the hospital immediately for a proper check by a doctor. I immediately went to the hospital and had to undergo series of examinations and tests.

I was confirmed to have stage two breast cancer and was told I need to have a mastectomy (a surgery to remove all breast tissue from a breast as a way to treat or prevent breast cancer), radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

After the surgery, I had several courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy over a period of time. It was a tough time for me physically and mentally as I experienced darkening of the skin, loss of hair, poor appetite, weight loss and I was always tired. I have almost recovered from all these side-effects and I am happy to say, I was declared cancer-free in 2016. I am grateful to have gone to see the doctor when I did, otherwise, I may not have survived if I further delayed" she adds.

GALLERY



World Leprosy day Ministerial Press briefing



World NTD day Press briefing



Dr Walter led a team to meet with Dr Chris Elias, President Global Development for BMGF



Delivery of 2 million doses of Johnson and Johnson vaccines through COVAX initiative donated by the European Union Commission

Mr Alexander Chimbraru giving a goodwill message on behalf of the WR

Birthdays/Social Events

We celebrate all our colleagues born in the month of January, this is to wish you a happy and blessed birthday.

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