

HIGHLIGHTS OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Mbachu, Chinyere Ojiugo;Ikwuakor, Chinyere;Obi, Shalom;Ajibo, Ifeanyi;Agu, Ifunanya;Eze, Irene;

Onwujekwe, Obinna;Ezumah, Nkoli;

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IDRC Grant/ Subvention du CRDI: 108677-001-Addressing unmet need for contraceptives among adolescents using community-embedded intervention

ADDRESSING UNMET NEED FOR CONTRACEPTIVES AMONG ADOLESCENTS USING A COMMUNITY EMBEDDED

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MEETING

Date: 13 June, 2018

Venue: Clevero Hotel, Abakiliki, Ebonyi State

Time: 10 am

Objectives of the meeting

1. To introduce the project to key stakeholders in health in the State and get their buy-in
2. To obtain detailed information on policies, strategies and ongoing activities targeting adolescents' sexual and reproductive health in the State
3. To determine with the help of the participants, the particular communities that will be used for the study and the implementation sites
4. To get their opinions on the types of interventions to target groups of study participants
5. To obtain commitment of key government and non-government stakeholders to support implementation of the project and its knowledge translation

Highlights of the meeting

The stakeholder engagement meeting attracted a diverse group of key stakeholders in adolescent sexual and reproductive health, including the Senior Special Adviser (SSA) to the State Governor on health (who represented the State Governor), State Coordinator of Sustainable Development Goals and the Commissioner for Health (ably represented by Director of Public Health). Also in attendance were representatives of UNFPA, key implementing partners in adolescent health in the State, evidence to policy advocacy agencies, religious organizations and youth/adolescent peer groups.

SSA to the State governor tagged the meeting "*a mini State Council on Health*" because of the number, calibre and diversity of stakeholders that were in attendance, the relevance of research topic to the State and the level of participation and commitment of stakeholders that were in attendance.

The meeting generated interesting discussions around the morals of contraception for adolescents and this enabled participants to confront their fears and concerns about this 'elephant in the room'. According to Dr Alo who is a former Commissioner for Health, "*A lot is going in our schools and among adolescents and we should not use religion to shy away from this study*". Some stakeholders stated their interest and commitment to partnering with HPRG in implementing the project. For instance,

- SDG Coordinator stated that "*SDG will partner with HPRG to implement ARSH project as adolescent SRH is one of the SDG goals*"
- HC3 (a policy to evidence advocacy agency) declared interest to partner with HPRG to implement ARSH project and ensure that knowledge translation occurs, findings of the study are used for policy formulation and elements of sustainability are pursued
- SSA to the Governor on Health said that Government is committed to adopting and scaling up to other LGAs, elements of our interventions that contribute to reducing teenage pregnancy.



Figure 1: Dr Sunday Nwangele, SSA to the Governor on Health, declares the meeting a mini State Council on Health



Figure 2: Key stakeholders at the meeting

(From Left to Right: Front row: **Dr Nwangele**, SSA to the Governor on Health; **Dr Ngozi Obichukwu**, Coordinator SDGs; **Dr Henry Alo**, former Commissioner for Health; **Professor BSC Uzochukwu**; **Professor Obinna Onwujekwe**, Co-investigator; **Mrs Rosegold Okoro**, HOD Reproductive Health Ebonyi SMOH; Dr Irene Eze; **Professor Nkoli Ezumah**, Co-investigator. Back row: Dr Nelson Eze; **Dr Chinyere Mbachu**, Principal Investigator)



Figure 3: Cross-section of participants at the Stakeholders Engagement meeting