



Nigeria Research Days for MNCH

1st Edition held 11-13 July 2018, Abuja Nigeria



Final Communiqué



Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, former Governor of Ondo State

“...people ownership is the best way of interventions sustainability...”



L-R: Dr Nafissatou Diop, representative of IMCHA
Professor Stanley Okolo, DG of WAHO
Dr Abebiyi, Adepimbi Director of Family Health /FMOH

“...there are people out there ...who are not benefiting from some of other things that have done across our region, ...or most of those other innovative programmes... I will work tirelessly to ensure by the next years, some of those programme will start scaling up....”

DG WAHO

Moving maternal new-born and child health Evidence into Policy in West Africa



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A 3-DAY STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON NIGERIA RESEARCH DAYS FOR MATERNAL NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH: IMPLEMENTATION OF MOVING MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (MNCH) EVIDENCE INTO POLICY (MEP) PROJECT HELD AT THE ROCK VIEW CLASSIC HOTEL, WUSE ABUJA FROM 11th TO 13th JULY, 2018

Preamble

The West African Health Organization (WAHO), with funding from Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Global Affairs Canada under the Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) Initiative, is implementing the programme- “Moving maternal, newborn and child health evidence into Policy” (MEP) in 6 ECOWAS Member States including Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana and Senegal. There are three (3) IMCHA implementation research projects ongoing in Nigeria in Oyo, Edo and Bauchi States.

The validation meeting held in 2015 to consider the report on the situation analysis on knowledge transfer and use of evidence as part of MEP initiative recommended the need to set aside specific days for MNCH Research in Nigeria. The aim is to bring together all stakeholders on one platform to foster collaboration, networking, communication and sharing of experience between researchers and decision-makers as well as disseminating preliminary results from the ongoing IMCHA Implementation research teams.

It was on this basis that the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), in collaboration with the West African Health Organization (WAHO), organized a 3-day meeting tagged “ Nigerian Research Days for MNCH” as part of the implementation of the MEP initiative.

There were 87 participants at the workshop including DG WAHO - Prof Stanley Okoro, Senior specialist representative of IDRC from Canada, Dr Nafissatou Diop, Former governor of Ondo State His Excellency, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, representatives of the FMOH, professional associations, MDAs, NGOs, CSOs, and other key stakeholders in MNCH. The meeting was declared open by the Honorable Minister of State for Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire (MD, FWACS).

Presentations and Discussions

The Director, Family Health Department, FMOH Dr. Adebimpe Adebisi in her welcome remarks thanked all the participants for coming. Then the DG WAHO in his own remarks reiterated his commitment to provide support to any project designed to impact the lives of West Africans.

The key note address was presented by His Excellency, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko. He showcased the Abiye Programme in Ondo State as a prototype of a high impact, sustainable and scalable intervention for maternal and child health in Nigeria. The Abiye project was initiated to address the high maternal death rate in Ondo state, which was at that time the worst in South West Nigeria. The key elements of the Abiye programme were:

- To track every pregnant woman and bring qualitative and effective health care to them wherever they live, work or play
- Develop sustainable equity-based health care services that will provide universal access
- Implement equitable allocation of limited resources premised on specific needs and performance driven principles.

The result was a reduction in maternal mortality from 545/100,000 in 2009 to 171/100,000 in 2016; a reduction of over 70%.

Key presentations

Dr Abosede Adeniran, Child Health Division FMOH, presented the meeting objectives. The main aim is to move MNCH research evidence into policy and practice. The main presentations included:

- The status and vision of MNCH in Nigeria - Dr Adeniran.
- Innovating for Maternal and Child Health in Africa (IMCHA) - West African Health Organization as a HPRO and Nigeria Perspectives - Prof. Isiaka Sombie (WAHO).
- Application of the equitable impact sensitive tool (EQUIST) tool in evidence informed policymaking to improve Maternal and Child health outcomes in Nigeria - Prof. Jesse Uneke.
- Getting results and evidence into policy and practice - Prof BSC Uzochukwu.
- The 3 IMCHA project
 - Scaling up Care for Perinatal Depression for Improved Maternal and Infant Health (SPECTRA) in Oyo State- Dr Bibilola D. Oladeji.
 - Video Edutainment at the Doorstep: Impact on Infant and Maternal Outcomes in Toro, Bauchi State, Nigeria - the Bauchi team led by Hajia Yagana Gidado.
 - Increasing Women's Access to Skilled Pregnancy Care in Edo State Nigeria- Prof. Friday Okonofua
- Two panel discussions of 9 stakeholders each, to discuss the three projects and how to move the research evidence into policy and practice

Observations

1. Capacity building is key to successful implementation of the IMCHA projects
2. Preliminary evidence from the IMCHA projects demonstrates the importance of community and stakeholder engagement and participation, to the success and sustainability of projects.
3. The involvement of the key government officials and decision makers in each implementation state enhanced the implementation of the project.
4. The projects strengthened existing structures and brought in innovative strategies.

Recommendations and conclusions

1. The programmes and projects developed under the IMCHA initiative should be subjected to external evaluation and lessons learned should be presented to the National Council on Health.
2. Promote collaborative and multi disciplinary research involving stakeholders in MNCH.
3. There should be constant engagement between researchers, policy makers and practitioners to ensure that evidence arising from research are used to inform policy and change practice by the FMOH.
4. The need for community participation and ownership of evidence based programmes by implementers to ensure sustainability.
5. The Federal Government of Nigeria through the Directorate for Planning, Research and Statistics of the FMOH should establish a robust research governance, support structures and effective leadership for health research.
6. There should be capacity building and collaboration between researchers and policy makers on research and grantmanship
7. Going forward, on the next research days for MNCH
 - The research days should be an annual event organized by the Federal Ministry of Health and the call for abstracts for presentation at the meeting should be made open to both sponsored and individual research on MNCH
 - State policy makers to be invited for subsequent meetings (at least 2 from each geopolitical zone).

Signed

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