

PROPOSAL FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE IN ANAMBRA STATE USING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

1 BACKGROUND

Every year in August, Anambra state and other Igbo speaking states, women (abroad and home branches) do hold their annual general meetings. During these meetings far reaching decisions that affect the welfare of women are taken. Most of the decisions taken are implemented to the latter. During these meetings health issues that are of relevance to women are discussed. Some times the topics were selected by the communities and sometimes the topics were selected by the dioceses and then passed down to the communities. The state some times does select topics for discussion during the August meeting and send them to the individual parishes through the LGA health department.

An issue that has been disturbing the state and partner agencies since this year is the poor routine immunization coverage. During the 1st quarter of 2005 the state was leading the other states in the zone with 41.5% coverage. During the 1st quarter of this year, the state was the last in the zone in terms of routine immunization coverage with 34%. The more disturbing fact is that while other states' coverage was rising, that of Anambra state was declining. In the same vein while other states are having decreased drop out rates that of Anambra state is increasing.

Anambra State had held her NGO coalition training workshop and the members will be used in the implementation of the proposal.

2 JUSTIFICATION

The routine immunization coverage for Anambra state for the first five months of the year has been falling while that in other states in the zone is rising. Factors responsible for the poor coverage include among others poor attitude to work of the health workers and ignorance and non-challant attitude of mothers and care givers themselves.

A one day state training of leaders of Faith-based Organizations in the state is therefore being proposed to address the issue of ignorance and non-challant attitude of mothers and care givers.

Faith-based organizations such as Catholic Women Organization (CWO) and Mothers Union (Anglican Communion) are organized from the diocesan through the deanery to the parish levels. All the parishes under each diocese are directly controlled by leaders at the diocesan levels. Women are very conscientious in handling matters that affect children.

Using available state information and data on immunization, leaders of these organizations will be sensitized and mobilized at a one day training session by the state team. During the training the best strategies for communities to own, operate and drive immunization programme and for mothers to patronize immunization services in their communities will be discussed and worked out. After the state training of the leaders of these organizations from all the dioceses, it is

expected that the directives will be passed to parishes to have routine immunization as the topic of discussion at this year's August meeting

During the August general meeting at the parishes, mothers and care givers will be educated and the best strategies, depending on the peculiarities of the community, will be adopted for the utilization of routine immunization

3 METHODOLOGY

During the training, lectures, discussions, group work will be used
Topics to be highlighted during the training will include the following:

- Vaccine-Preventable-Diseases
- The poor immunization status of Anambra State (supported with data)
- Benefits of immunization
- Importance of completing immunization schedule
- Roles of women in community immunization exercise
- Baby tracking and defaulter tracing
- Community ownership of immunization programme.

4 OBJECTIVES

.1) To increase routine immunization coverage from the present 34% to 65% by the end of the year.

5 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) Mobilize and train leaders of female faith-based organizations in the state on the importance of routine immunization before this year Women August meeting.
- 2) Create a forum where these leaders will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss maternal and child health issues.
- 3) Develop strategies to ensure that every mother in the state gets her child fully immunized at the appropriate age

6 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

One day sensitization/mobilization training will be organized for the following leaders of Faith-based Organizations in the state:

The President and Secretary from each diocese of Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi (Catholic and Anglican) and Aguata (Anglican)

After the state training, the leaders will in turn brief the leaders at the deaneries on the out come of the training who will then pass the information to all parishes

Health workers at the LGA health facilities within each parish will facilitate the discussion during the meetings. Directive to health workers will be sent from the Local Government Service Commission to the LGAs. The state team and members of HERFON NGO Coalition will monitor the implementation at the parish levels. Reports of the activities are expected from the health workers who will take part in the exercise as well as from the monitors.

7 PARTICIPANTS

Participants for the state training include the followings

2 reps from the Catholic dioceses of Awka, Nnewi and Onitsha	6
2 reps from the Anglican dioceses of Awka, Nnewi, Onitsha and Aguata	8
2 reps from state chapter of National Council of Women Societies (NCWS)	2
Rep from the Local Govt. Service Commission	1
Resource persons (State team members)	6
Total number of participants and resource persons	23

8 VENUE

The venue is the CANA House Awka

10 DATE

The proposed date for the training is July 24th 2006. This will enable the dioceses and Local Government Service Commission to plan and transmit the information down to the parishes before the first week of August

9 BUDGET

a) State Training

Stationery for 23 @ N300 each	N6900
Lunch for 23 @ 600 each	N13800
Tea break for 23 @ N250 each	N5750
Hall Hire for one day	N10000
Transport to 17 participants @ N1000	N17000
Sub-Total	N53, 450.00

b) Implementation

Expected number of Parishes to be visited during the exercise	200 *
Transport for Health staff @ N500 per parish	N100, 000.00
* (Parish to be visited will be determined based on routine immunization coverage)	
Sub total	N100, 000.00

c) Monitoring

2 Monitors per LGA	42
Transport money @ N2000 per monitor	N84000
Sub-Total	N84, 000
Grand Total (a + b + c)	N237, 450.00

DR R.O. NRIAGU
State Chairman/
Zonal GAVI Consultant

**HEALTH REFORM FOUNDATION OF NIGERIA (HERFON)
ANAMBRA STATE CHAPTER**

18th July 2006.

INVITATION TO A ONE DAY SENSITIZATION MEETING

The number of children under five years dying in Nigeria, including Anambra State, from preventable causes is unacceptably high and is among the highest in the world. Most of the causes of these deaths are vaccine preventable diseases. To reduce these deaths, National Programme on Immunization (NPI) was established to provide vaccines and other necessary logistics to ensure that every Nigerian child is immunized with the right vaccines at the right age. Immunization is the most cost effective intervention in preventing childhood illnesses and deaths.

Regrettably, despite the fact that enough vaccines are available in the state most children are not immunized and those that start immunization do not complete the schedule. For example in 2005 only 50% of eligible children were immunized in Anambra State while the national target was 65%. This year the coverage in other states in southeast zone is increasing while that of Anambra State, unfortunately, is decreasing. For example 1st quarter 2005 coverage was 53% while 1st quarter 2006 was 34%. The state is worried about this situation because our children are dying. Recently an out break of measles which killed many children was reported in one of the LGAs in the state.

It has been found that the reasons for this low coverage include health workers attitude to work; ignorance and non-chalant attitude of mothers to immunization. Government is making efforts to address the problems with health workers. In view of the strategic position your organization occupies and the influential roles it has on women you are invited to a one day sensitization meeting with the State NPI team. The meeting is scheduled to take place as shown below:

Date	Monday 24 th July 2006
Venue	National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) office, Nkwo Amenyi (opposite Ozor Filling Station) Awka
Time	10.00am

Let us join hands in getting every child in Anambra State immunized and saved from premature deaths resulting from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Dr R.O. Nriagu
Ag. State Chairman

**HEALTH REFORM FOUNDATION OF NIGERIA (HERFON)
ANAMBRA STATE CHAPTER**

18th July 2006.

The Executive Secretary
Attn: Director, Health Dept
LGSC
Awka

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Dr R.O. Nriagu
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ONE DAY SENSITIZATION MEETING WITH LEADERS OF FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS IN ANAMBRA STATE – 24/07/06

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
10.00-10.30	Registration	All
10.30-10.35	Opening Prayers	All
10.35-10.45	Welcome Remarks	DPHC/DC
10.45-10.55	Objectives and expected out come of the meeting	Dr Nriagu
10.45-11.30	Vaccine-Preventable-Diseases	Dr (Mrs.) Onyeibe
11.30-12.00	Immunization status of Anambra State	Dr Nriagu
12.00-12.45	Benefits of immunization and importance of completing immunization schedule	Dr Nriagu
12.45-1.30	-Roles of women in community immunization exercise including baby tracking	Dr (Mrs.) Onyeibe
1.30-2.15	-Community ownership of immunization programme.	Ms Akannam
2.15-2.45	General Discussions and Way forward	All
2.45-3.15	Communiqué	Participants
3.15-3.20	Closing Prayers.	All

WHAT EVERY MOTHER SHOULD KNOW CONCERNING IMMUNIZATION

1 DISEASES PROTECTED THROUGH IMMUNIZATION

- Tuberculosis
- Poliomyelitis
- Diphtheria
- Whooping cough
- Tetanus
- Measles
- Hepatitis
- Yellow fever

2 NO. OF VISITS AND VACCINES GIVEN

AGE	VACCINES
At Birth	BCG, OPV ₀ , HB ₁
6 Weeks	DPT ₁ , OPV ₁ , HB ₂
10 Weeks	DPT ₂ , OPV ₂
14 Weeks	DPT ₃ , OPV ₃ , HB ₃
9 Months	Yellow fever, Measles and Vitamin A

Five visits to an immunization centre are required for complete immunization. Unless a child is completely immunized s/he is not fully protected from the 8 killer diseases. A child normally should be completely immunized before the age of one year. If an appointment is missed the centre should be visited on the next immunization day.

3 SIDE EFFECTS OF IMMUNIZATION

The following side effects some times do occur:

- Sore from BCG
- Fever from DPT
- Rash from Measles

These side effects are normal and indicate that **the vaccines are potent and working**.

The rash and sore need **no** treatment while fever needs Paracetamol and tepid sponging.

If the side effects seem serious or last more than two days, the child should be taken back to health facility.

4 SICK CHILD AND IMMUNIZATION

Immunization is important even for sick children. A child if sick should be taken to immunization centre for the health worker to decide whether the child can be immunized or not.

5 IMPORTANCE OF IMMUNATION CARD

Immunization card should be taken good care of and always brought every time the child is taken to the health facility. The vaccination card should be kept like a birth certificate as the child will most likely need it in the future.

COMMUNIQUE

At the meeting of the presidents and secretaries of Mothers Unions and Catholic Women Organizations of the dioceses in Anambra State and the State Immunization team held on 24th July 2006 at the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) Office Awka;

It was observed that:

- 1) Most of our children are not being immunized and only 32% of them (a very low coverage) were immunized as at end of April this year.
- 2) While the routine immunization coverage in other states in the south east zone is increasing, that in Anambra state is decreasing.
- 3) This low coverage has led to increased cases of vaccine-preventable diseases in the state and currently out breaks of measles with deaths are being reported in some LGAs in the state.

Resolutions

In view of the fore going, the meeting therefore resolved as follows:

- 1) During this year August meeting in all the dioceses and parishes in the state, health talk should be delivered. The topic is “Reaching Every Child with Immunization”
- 2) Competent health staff from the LGA health centres will serve as resource persons to deliver the lecture.
- 3) All dioceses and parishes should also make other necessary efforts to get to mothers for the purpose of ensuring that every child in Anambra State is fully immunized at the right age.
- 4) This meeting which will be held on a regular basis will include representatives from other denominations in the state.

Recommendation

Efforts should be made to organize similar meeting for leaders of men from the major denominations in the state to discuss routine immunization in particular and other childhood health concerns.

Mrs. T. Azodo
Rep. CWO

Mrs. P. Kwulunebe
Rep. Mothers Union

Dr (Mrs.) R.I. Onyibe
WHO State Coordinator

Dr N.B Onwughalu
Director PHC/DC

Mrs. C. Umunna
LGSC Representative

Dr R.O. Nriagu
SE Zonal GAVI Consultant/
HERFON State Chairman

ATTENDANCE

S/N	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NO
1	Mrs. Kwulunebe P.	Bishop's Court Awka Anglican diocese	-
2	Mrs. Chukwudozie U. P	Bishop's House Nnewi Cath Secretariat	08034538697
3	Mrs. Ejezie Gertrude	As above	08037644481
4	Mrs. Azodo Theresa	CWO Awka diocese	08035449253
5	Mrs. Umunna S.C	Local Govt. Service Commission	08054728132
6	Pharm. Uchem Chisom	MOMS Int'l (Mothers Offering Mothers Support)	08035657865
7	Akannam Augustina U	NPI Zonal Office Enugu	08023636278
8	Dr Onwughalu N.B	DPHC/DC (SMOH) Awka	08035443921
9	Dr (Mrs.) Onyeibe R.I	WHO State Coordinator Awka	08056647108
10	Dr R.O.Nriagu	NPI Zonal office Enugu	08046112727
11	Mr. Okeke L.C	SMOH Awka	08064151938

More to attach

Minutes

Monitoring schedule by NGO coalition members

Proposal to monitor the impact in Sept 2006

PROPOSAL TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE AUGUST WOMEN MEETINGS IN ANAMBRA STATE ON ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE.

1 BACKGROUND

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. * Factors responsible for the poor coverage include among others poor attitude to work of the health workers and ignorance and non-challant attitude of mothers and care givers themselves. A one day state sensitization meeting of leaders of Faith-based Organizations in the state was organized to address the issue of ignorance and non-challant attitude of mothers and care givers during this year's August meeting.

*Faith-based organizations such as Catholic Women Organization (CWO) and Mothers Union (Anglican Communion) are organized from the diocesan through the deanery to the parish levels. All the parishes under each diocese are directly controlled by leaders at the diocesan levels. Women are very conscientious in handling matters that affect children.

*During the August general meeting at the parishes, mothers and care givers will be educated and the best strategies, depending on the peculiarities of the community, will be adopted adopted for the utilization of routine immunization

*One day sensitization/mobilization training was organized on 24th July 2006 for the following leaders of Faith-based Organizations in the state:

The President and Secretary from each diocese of Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi (Catholic and Anglican) and Aguata (Anglican)

After the state training, the leaders will in turn brief the leaders at the deaneries/arch deaconries on the out come of the training. The information will then be passed to all parishes.

Health workers at the LGA health facilities within each parish will facilitate the discussion during the meetings. Directive to health workers have been sent from the Local Government Service Commission to the LGAs. The state team and members of HERFON NGO Coalition

will monitor the implementation at the parish levels. Reports of the activities are expected from the health workers who will take part in the exercise as well as from the monitors.

2 JUSTIFICATION

The following objectives were set as a guide for the implementation of the programme.

Objectives

.1)To increase routine immunization coverage from the present 34% to 65% by the end of the year.

Specific Objectives

- 1) Mobilize and sensitize leaders of female faith-based organizations in the state on the importance of routine immunization
- 2) Create a forum where these leaders will be meeting on a regular basis to discuss maternal and child health issues.
- 3) Develop strategies to ensure that every mother in the state gets her child fully immunized at the appropriate age

The impact assessment will be used to evaluate the level of success of the programme in terms of the increase in routine immunization in Anambra State. If the impact is worth the effort then such will be repeated next year in the state. Since women's yearly August meeting takes place in all Igbo speaking states such exercise will be replicated in them next year.

METHODOLOGY

Three LGAs, one from each senatorial district, randomly selected will be used for the impact assessment. Four communities in each LGA will be randomly selected. In each community 200 house holds will be visited and mothers/care givers of children less than two years will be interviewed. Children of the target age will be examined immunization scars and the immunization cards checked to ascertain the immunization status.

Time Schedule

The impact assessments will be conducted at the end of September and end of December.

Budget

12 Participants (one per community) @ N1000 for 5 days	N60, 000.00
3 Supervisors (one per LGA) @ N2000 for 7 days	N42, 000.00
Stationery	
Data collecting form	N20, 000.00
Report writing	N20, 000.00
Total	N142, 000.00 x 2
	N284, 000.00

**HEALTH REFORM FOUNDATION OF NIGERIA (HERFON)
ANAMBRA STATE CHAPTER**

21st August 2006

The Executive Secretary
HERFON HQ
Abuja

PROGRESS REPORT ON ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES IN ANAMBRA STATE

During the month of July and August 2006, HERFON Anambra State in conjunction with the HERFON Coalition embarked on activities aimed at improving the routine immunization coverage in Anambra State. The proposal for sponsorship was written but due to time constraint, it was not submitted. However the exercise was borne financially by the state champion with some assistance from the Director PHC/DC. The success of the exercise could be attributed to zeal and support of HERFON members but more especially the members of the coalition who also monitored the implementation at the various communities.

The impact of the exercise will be monitored in September 2006. The proposal for the impact assessment is attached as annex H

The details of activities are attached as annexes A-H

Activity proposal Annex A
Invitation letters to participants Annex B and C
Meeting agenda Annex D
Soc. Mobilization document Annex E
Communiqué Annex F
Attendance Annex G
Proposal for Impact Assessment Annex H

Dr R.O. Nriagu
State Chairman