

THIRD EDITION

Pneumo-Watch

A Quarterly Newsletter of the INSPIRING Project



ABOUT THE INSPIRING PROJECT

The INSPIRING project is implemented by Save the Children International and funded by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The project is supporting the governments of Lagos and Jigawa states, two unique and different contexts to demonstrate how we can reduce the number of children dying from pneumonia and other infectious diseases at scale in Nigeria.

The INSPIRING project is grounded in a highly sophisticated understanding of how change happens on a national scale and offers an evidence-based approach and tailor-made solutions to a neglected issue like childhood pneumonia. Building on the WHO's Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD), our efforts are focused on:

Protecting children

by establishing good health practices from birth, such as breastfeeding

Preventing children from contracting pneumonia

by increasing coverage of immunization and healthy environments

Diagnose and Treat sick children

through timely and appropriate diagnosis and treatment

Tour of the Inside

A message from the Chief of Party, INSPIRING Project

Photo Speaks

Opinions and Articles

Children Engagement

Did You Know?

Guest Contributors from the International Community

Stories from the Field

Highlights of INSPIRING Activities from January to July 2022.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF PARTY (A.K.A THE CHIEF SERVANT)



Welcome to another edition of the Pneumo-Watch Newsletter, a special quarterly information, learning and resourceful newsletter brought to you by the INSPIRING project. It showcases some of our interventions and generates stakeholders' opinion around childhood pneumonia. I hope that you will continue to find it interesting and useful.

Let me start by welcoming our new Country Director, Mr. Famari Barro who took on the leadership of Save the Children International Nigeria in June this year. I would like to once again appreciate all INSPIRING project staff in Lagos and Jigawa states, for their commitment and dedication to the delivery of quality interventions for children. And to our numerous technical Advisors and support team in the Country Office (and in the UK), for their support and advice.

The year has progressed quite well as we continued to implement high-impact and sustainable interventions in Lagos and Jigawa States. In the first half of the year, we gave priority to implementing those activities that focus on the sustainability of our interventions as well as quality

improvement in supported health care facilities.

For example, at the community level, we conducted a thorough assessment of the needs of 340 men and women groups in Kiyawa LGA and received valuable guidance on the key income-generating activities (IGA) they would like to engage in. After this, we procured and distributed IGA items worth over N21, 000, 000 (GBP29, 000). These include agricultural commodities, fortified seeds, sprayers, fertilizer, livestock, grinding machines, spaghetti-making machines and so on. We believe this donation will empower the men and women groups to stand on their feet and continue the good work we started. We have also trained 680 members of the groups on IGA management skills, village savings and loans and basic bookkeeping who then stepped down the training to other members.

At the Health Facility level, we conducted a major integrated supportive supervision with a focus on mentorship and coaching. We assessed improvement of knowledge and practice after training in Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), Oxygen therapy, Nutrition, Immunization and infection prevention and control (IPC). We provided encouragement and support to the Health facility managers and heads of units for them to independently carry out similar supervisions and improve the quality of care.

The Project made a major donation of state-of-the-art hospital instruments and equipment as well as medical consumables in both Lagos and Jigawa States. 65 health facilities benefitted from the donations worth over N98million or roughly GBP135,000.

Similarly, we conducted post-donation monitoring using a pre-designed checklist and interviews with Health Workers in over 60 Health Facilities in Lagos and Jigawa State. This is part of our strategies to ensure accountability of all donated instruments and equipment in Jigawa State.

In areas of Oxygen service delivery, we developed and launched a tool for tracking and documentation of utilization of Oxygen in supported health facilities. By doing so, we will be able to know the beneficiaries of Oxygen and ensure accountability, among other things. We also distributed Oxygen safety equipment such as fire extinguishers and installed barricades.

Furthermore, we installed piped Oxygen systems in four additional hospitals in Jigawa State and donated Oxygen devices such as pulse Oximeters, Oxygen concentrators, Oxygen cylinders and analyzers. We trained 22 health workers in pulse Oximetry and Oxygen therapy.

On the advocacy side, we continued to engage state authorities on the provision of Universal Health Coverage through health insurance. In principle, the Jigawa State

Contributory Health Insurance Management Agency (JICHMA) has agreed to include medical Oxygen and Amoxicillin DT in their list of essential drugs. If this is done, these two drugs will be provided free of charge or heavily subsidized across Jigawa State. A final decision on this will be made in October during the annual operational plan workshop of the agency.

Finally, we supported two meetings of Nigeria Every Breath Counts (EBC) Coalition. On one of the meetings, the Paediatric Association of Nigeria unveiled an ambitious research plan that would determine the prevalence of Pneumonia in Nigeria. In the other, we looked at simplifying the National Protocol for Management of Pneumonia into a user-friendly version for health workers at the lower cadres of health service delivery.

As we progress in the second half of the year, we aim to deliver more quality and innovative interventions for children, consolidate our gains and continue to showcase more of the impacts we have made in Lagos and Jigawa states.

Once again, I would like to appreciate the governments at all levels and the community stakeholders, particularly in the two project implementation states of Lagos and Jigawa, for their support, commendation and encouragement. I would also like to thank our research partners, the University College London (UCL) and University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, for their collaborative efforts in providing the evidence guiding our interventions.

Our work is possible through the generous donation of our funders, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and the Pneumonia Centenary Commitment (PCC).

Thank you and happy reading.

Dr. Adamu Isah, MD, MPH, DrPH
Chief of Party, INSPIRING Project

PHOTO SPEAKS



The INSPIRING project welcomes Save the Children International, Nigeria new Country Director, Famari Barro. Mr. Barro joined the Nigeria team in June 2022.



Second right, SCI Nigeria Deputy Director, Operations Programme, Nwamaka Ifionu presenting medical supplies donated by the INSPIRING project to Lagos State Ministry of Health and Ikorodu LGA Officials in Lagos.



Barira watches over her two days old baby receiving oxygen through an oxygen concentrator donated by the INSPIRING project in a hospital in Dutse, Jigawa State.



A trained Nurse vaccinates a child at a healthcare facility supported by the INSPIRING project in Ikorodu LGA, Lagos.

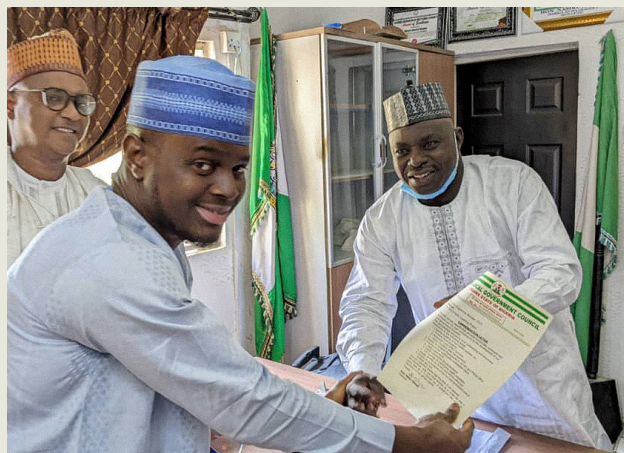


A community health worker trained and supported by INSPIRING project explaining to a caregiver before administering vaccine during immunization outreach services in hard-to-reach community in Jigawa

PHOTO SPEAKS



A community health volunteer trained and supported by INSPIRING project sets out for her monthly group session in Kiyawa LGA, Jigawa.



Kiyawa LGA Executive Chairman presenting a letter of commendation to Save the Children International

Save the Children UK Colleagues Visit to INSPIRING Project

Unable to visit Nigeria since 2020, no thanks to **COVID-19**, we were pleased to receive our amazing colleagues from our UK office in July. **Samy Ahmar, Dr. Tahlil Ahmed and Paula Valentine** worked closely with the Nigeria Country Office team to design the INSPIRING project, and it was great to be able to visit the field in July this year.



Samy interfacing with a Nurse at the Kiyawa PHC, Jigawa



Dr. Tahlil with healthcare providers at a PHC in Ikorodu LGA, Lagos



Paula attending a men's group in Kiyawa, Jigawa



Dr. Tahlil conducting an assessment at the Dutse General Hospital, Jigawa



OPINIONS AND ARTICLES

The INSPIRING Project is living up to its Name as an Integrated and Sustainable Solution to Childhood Illnesses

Written by: Nwamaka Ifionu, Deputy Director, Operations Programme, SCI Nigeria

Design is a critical phase in the lifecycle of a project, requiring the conceptualization of evidence-based and context-appropriate frameworks that when applied can lead to the achievement of desired project outcomes and contribute to overall project impact. However, as project designers, we have learned over the years that designing a project is not always a linear process.

The INSPIRING project demonstrates how iterative a project can and should be especially when it sets out to address an often-forgotten problem like childhood pneumonia, which remains the greatest infectious killer disease of children under the age of five in Nigeria. The INSPIRING project has been able to bring together the technical expertise of

Save the Children, the research expertise of the University College London, and the contextual expertise of key stakeholders in the operating environment, through the generous support of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), to co-design and deliver evidence-based interventions in the two uniquely different project implementation settings, Lagos State and Jigawa State, Nigeria. INSPIRING is making a mark, raising the profile of Pneumonia and giving it the required and desired attention at all levels of influence.

Interventions such as medical oxygen system strengthening, capacity strengthening of health workers on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), and the needs-based donation of critical and life-saving medical equipment and supplies, amongst other innovative technology solutions, all contribute towards enhancing the capacity of the health system, and healthcare facilities, to deliver quality and integrated services that address childhood pneumonia and other infectious diseases.

True to its intent to foster sustainable solutions, INSPIRING has not limited its approach to facility based interventions, but is rather engaging communities, and strengthening/leveraging their capacity to explore and understand the risk factors and symptoms of childhood diseases, agree on context-appropriate solutions to address those issues, and mobilize sustainable action. Thus, the project has seen increased access to preventive and treatment services for children.

The launch of a first of its kind National Integrated Pneumonia Control Strategy and

Implementation Plan in Nigeria, is a result of our concerted effort with other partners and stakeholders, through Every Breath Counts (EBC) Coalition. We have also seen increased interest from the state governments of Lagos and Jigawa towards the domestication of national policies. It is our expectation at Save the Children that all these remarkable interventions will be sustained and taken to scale across the nations, so that Nigeria is better positioned to accelerate progress towards a reduction in the number of children dying from preventable diseases such as pneumonia and diarrhea by the year 2030.

Field Visit to Jigawa – Women’s and Men’s Groups and PDQS Town Hall Meeting

Written by: Paula Valentine, SBC Advisor, SCUK



SCUK SBC TA, Paula Valentine observing women’s group meeting with Andaza

Visiting the field and seeing the programme activities on the ground is always a highpoint of any programme for me. It enables Technical Advisors (TAs) to see how the programme design has been interpreted and translated into activities, actions, and change. It’s been three years since I’ve been able to do an in-country programme visit, due to COVID, and this one to INSPIRING was exceptional, filled me with pride and was indeed inspiring! Highlights for me, as the Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) TA, were seeing

our participatory women’s and men’s groups in action and attending a Town Hall meeting where health service quality issues were being reported to high level leadership, and leadership were pledging their support.

Patience, our Community Mobilization Officer told me passionately about the tireless focus and commitment of the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) facilitators and motivation of the women’s group members to meet, identify issues, plan and act together and monitor their progress.

Here are some of the things I heard from women and men’s group participants about changes that have happened in their communities resulting from their participation in their groups:

“Before the group meetings, it would be 3-4 days before we start looking for care for our sick children. But now, we start within 24 hours and our wives do not have to wait to seek our permission before going to the facility.”

(Men’s group member, Malamawar, Kiyawa)

"We also put funds together and support one another to seek care for our children."

(Woman, Andaza Gabaz, Kiyawa)

"We are very grateful for the support that Save the Children has given us. They have really helped us to increase our knowledge about pneumonia and child illness, and for the items they have donated to help us do income generating."

(Men's group member, Malamawar, Kiyawa)

"What has really changed for us is the improvement of hygiene practices at home, hand washing with soap. During COVID and focus on hand washing has seen an increase in hand washing at critical times, especially in children."

(Men's group member, Malamawar, Kiyawa)

"We pass on information to friends, neighbours and other community members."

(Men's group member, Malamawar, Kiyawa)

At the health facility, I met with some of the **CHV supervisors they told me:**

"We really appreciate everything that Save the Children has done in supporting the women's and men's groups and the CHVs. There have been many changes, and we are seeing an increase in children coming for immunisation, and many practices changing at home preventing illnesses like pneumonia. The programme has been so well designed and it is helping our communities a lot. Thank you for your work."

(CHV, Kiyawa PHC)

Their words fill me with a sense of pride for the SBC team that all of our hard work and efforts to implement this programme with fidelity according to the design has paid off, and we are seeing real, transformative and lasting changes.

At the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS) Town Hall meeting, where quality improvement teams (community members and health facility staff representatives) fed back on issues identified and improvements made. I was amazed to see the calibre of high-level support from Local Government Area (LGA), Health and Community Leadership: Executive Chair of LGA and councillors; 3 District Heads; PHC Manager; and Director of the PHC agency for all health facilities in the State. These leaders were here supporting our programme activities despite being in the middle of conflicting activities in the state. This really demonstrates the value of our programme to our programme partners at LGA and State levels.



CHILDREN ENGAGEMENT

INSPIRING project is providing platforms for children to engage and take the lead in demanding action towards ending childhood pneumonia in Jigawa state. The Child Rights Advocacy club in Dutse Model Primary School, established by Save the Children International, organised a series of pneumonia awareness-raising activities during the school mid-term break. The activities included an advocacy song (themed: Game Over Pneumonia), a Quiz competition, a Drama and a Football match and were organised and delivered

by the club. These were done at school and were subsequently broadcasted in the media to increase public awareness of pneumonia and other childhood illnesses. Additionally, the Clerk of Jigawa State House of Assembly with support from ACF and SCI facilitated the Review/adaption of the Constitution and Standing Order for Jigawa Children Parliament. This is in preparation for the ground-breaking session of the Children's Parliament in the state.



Members of Child Rights Advocacy Club in Dutse Model Primary School during a campaign to end pneumonia in Jigawa



Engagement with children in Lagos

DID YOU KNOW?

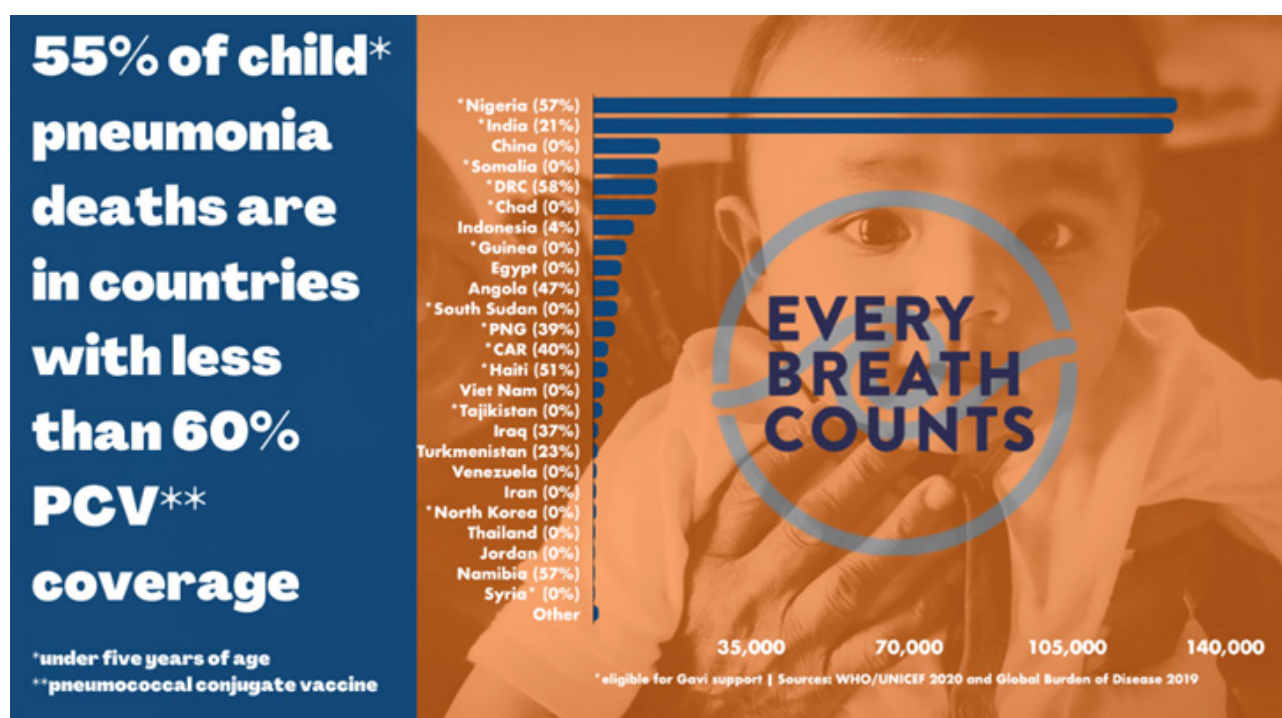


Nigeria became the first country to launch a National Pneumonia Control Strategy and Implementation Plan in 2020. Thanks to the collaborative effort of partners under the umbrella of the Every Breath Count (EBC) Coalition under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Health.



Dr. Osagie Ehanire (2nd right), Hon Minister of Health, Dr. Adamu Isah (3rd left) INSPIRING Chief of Party, and other dignitaries launching the National Integrated Pneumonia Control Strategy and Implementation Plan in Abuja in 2020 Primary School during a campaign to end pneumonia in Jigawa

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



It's Time to Finish the Job on Pneumococcal Vaccine Coverage!

*Written by: Leith Greenslade, Coordinator, Every Breath Counts Coalition
June 2022*

The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine - or PCV - is the most lifesaving vaccine that most children still do not get. More than half (51%) of the world's children are missing out on PCV according to WHO and UNICEF. That's 345 million children under five who are dangerously exposed to pneumonia.

Most (80%) of these children live in just 25 countries. Some have introduced the PCV but coverage is very low - like Nigeria, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Angola, and Papua New Guinea. Others are yet to introduce - like China, Somalia, Chad, Guinea, Egypt, and South Sudan.

Almost 60% of child pneumonia deaths are occurring in these no- and low-PCV coverage countries. And more than half (13) are actually eligible for support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. So what is the problem? It's

been 22 years since PCV became available. Why can't we move faster?

It's not the governments. Health Ministers want the PCV. They know that pneumonia is a leading and often the leading cause of child death and that PCV works fast to reduce infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The problem is global health agencies. PCV is still a relatively expensive vaccine and even if countries can get Gavi support, they need to come up with co-financing. It's not that much - \$US170,000 to \$370,000 per year for countries like South Sudan, Guinea, Chad, and Somalia. But's enough to be blocking uptake.

The Every Breath Counts Coalition issued a Joint Statement with IVAC and Save the Children calling on the Gavi Board to break down the remaining barriers to PCV introduction - starting with these four fragile countries in Africa.

It's time for creative financing solutions involving the multilateral and regional development banks and philanthropies. Short-term Gavi co-financing waivers for

fragile countries should also be explored.

There is a lot at stake in these countries and the other low-PCV countries. The deaths of 220,000 children could be prevented if we actually achieved our global goal of 90% PCV coverage by 2030 (see chart below).

It's time for governments, global health agencies, NGOs, and the scientific community to join forces and complete the unfinished business of protecting the remaining half of the world's children with the most powerful pneumonia-fighting vaccine - the PCV.

For more information see the Every Breath Counts reports:

Introducing the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) in Somalia, Guinea, South Sudan, and Chad, February 2022

The Critical Role of Pneumonia-Fighting Vaccines in an Era of Respiratory Pandemics, April 2022

Co-financing the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV): Country Case Studies, May 2022

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Hafsat with her 18 months old Saratou shortly before her discharge from the hospital in Jigawa

Stories written by Ibrahim Haruna, SBC & Media Coordinator

"I Am Happy She is Alive": Saving Lives through the INSPIRING Oxygen Interventions in Jigawa

Childhood pneumonia can be treated with a simple antibiotic called Amoxicillin DT if the child has timely access to care. Delay in care-seeking can make pneumonia get too serious and children like Saratou will require medical oxygen to stay alive.

"We gave her medication at home for her cough and catarrh, but things grew worse, more than we could handle, so we took her to the hospital. They put her on oxygen for two days. I was very unhappy. I cried and

cried, I was so tired. We had many nights without sleeping – two, three days, no sleep, many nights." recalled Hafsat, Saratou's Mother. Eighteen months old Saratou had pneumonia which became complicated due to delay in appropriate care-seeking. Saratou's condition would soon change as she finally began responding to her treatment – treatment that was made possible by Save the Children's partnership with GSK.

Before the INSPIRING project, access to medical oxygen in many hospitals in Jigawa state was challenging, as they could not supply oxygen to patients who required them, like Saratou. Thanks to the generous support from GSK through the INSPIRING project implemented by Save the Children in Jigawa and Lagos states. The project strengthened the capacity of hospitals in Jigawa state with functional oxygen systems. This intervention made it possible for children like Saratou to have timely access to oxygen, and stay alive. Recounting her experience at the Rasheed Shekoni Specialist Hospital (supported by the INSPIRING project), Hafsat said "I am happy she is alive. They took good care of her at the hospital. It was like they were the ones who gave birth to her. These people truly assisted."

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Nine months old Malik receiving oxygen at a health facility in Ikorodu LGA.

Malik, Nine Months Old, Grasp for Breathe, Saved by a Health Facility Supported by INSPIRING Project in Lagos State

"His breath was not going up and was going out loudly. His body temperature started becoming hot, his breathing was not normal. I took him first to the pharmacy but saw no difference. So I took him to the health centre. They ran a blood test, they gave him antibiotics and oxygen. He couldn't breathe well in the hospital. I was scared because he had never behaved that way before."

Like Olamide (Nine months old Malik's mother), the period of childhood illness can be a nightmare, especially when the child is unable to breathe due to shortage of oxygen in the blood, a condition called hypoxemia, which can result from complicated pneumonia in children. Malik was diagnosed with complicated pneumonia which made it difficult for him to breathe.

Thanks to the generous support of GSK through the INSPIRING project implemented by Save the Children in Ikorodu LGA of Lagos state. Malik's situation soon became under control and was able to breathe. He was properly diagnosed and placed on oxygen by a healthcare provider trained in Pulse Oximetry and Oxygen Therapy by the INSPIRING project. *"The baby was having difficulty breathing. We checked his oxygen levels, and he had a low oxygen saturation of 89%. We administered oxygen immediately."* Says Rachel, Clinical Officer at Okeletu primary healthcare centre, Ikorodu supported by the INSPIRING project.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD



Aisha and her elder brother playing under a tree in their compound in Balago community of Kiyawa LGA

How Aisha (3years old) was saved from Pneumonia in Jigawa State

"At first, I didn't know it was pneumonia, until we arrived at the health facility and I was informed that my baby had pneumonia." Halima's daughter, Aisha became sick with pneumonia in October 2021. Halima (a member of a women's group supported by INSPIRING) did not delay in seeking care at the healthcare facility as she was able to recognize the signs and understood that pneumonia could be dangerous for her child. Aisha received treatment at a Primary Health Facility supported by INSPIRING project

in Kiyawa Local Government Area (LGA) and was soon discharged home. Halima understood the importance of prompt care-seeking for her sick child and overcame all odds to travel some kilometers away to the healthcare facility. "The hospital at Kiyawa is far from our place. It costs us 200 naira (36pence) to get there and takes one hour." recounted Halima.

Through the men's and women's groups established and supported by Save the Children through the INSPIRING project funded by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in Kiyawa LGA of Jigawa state, women like Halima have improved their understanding of childhood illnesses such as pneumonia. They are also mobilizing themselves and taking action in their communities to sensitize others and address negative socio-cultural and gender norms. Halima believes that being a member of the women's group has helped her and her family greatly. She said, ***"I'm part of a women's group (supported by Save the Children). The head of the group enlightened us on ways to live our lives and to enhance our home and health."***

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022

Save the Children and GSK Donates Medical Equipment, Instruments and Consumables to Health Facilities in Lagos and Jigawa States

Save the Children International (SCI) Nigeria and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) partnership through the INSPIRING project have made another round of donations of medical equipment, instruments and consumables to 30 public health facilities in Ikorodu LGA of Lagos state and 35 health facilities in Jigawa state. The donation includes medical equipment, such as incubators,

C-pap machines, radiant warmers, LED phototherapy machines, respiratory timers, pulse oximeters, weighing scales, BP apparatus, stethoscopes, respiratory timers, among others. The handover events which held in June were well attended by top government officials at the states and LGA levels. The project received commendations and appreciations from the governments of both states and the health facilities management promised to ensure the items are utilized for the good of the children and other service users in the states.



INSPIRING Chief of Party presenting medical supplies donated to the Lagos state government in Ikorodu LGA



Permanent Secretary Jigawa State Ministry of Health, Dr. Salisu Mu'azu (middle), inspecting medical supplies donated by the INSPIRING project to Jigawa state government.

Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS)

Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) has shown to improve health worker performance, improves quality of service delivery such as immunization coverage. Supportive supervision is a process that promote sustainable and efficient program management by encouraging effective two-way communication, as well as performance planning and monitoring. Ongoing ISS is an important components of health systems strengthening,

Save the Children International through the INSPIRING Project has conducted several trainings on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), Nutrition, Immunization, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). The trainings targeted different cadre of healthcare providers across supported facilities in Kiyawa, and Dutse Local Government Areas (LGAs). To assess the level of utilization of the knowledge and skills gained, provide on-the-job mentoring and coaching, Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) was carried out using harmonized and

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022

integrated tool. Total number of 16 health care facilities in Kiyawa LGA were visited, and 40 health care providers supervised during the ISS visits in Q2 of 2022. The quality of case management is assessed by comparing health worker's assessment of signs of illness, classification, treatment recommendations, decision making if immunization was needed, advice on home care, counselling on feeding and assessment of other problems. Notable challenges were discussed and actions planned to address the gaps that are within the mandate of the project and others by the government.



A Master Trainer conducting a supportive supervision and mentoring visit at Balago BHC in Kiyawa LGA.

Supporting Immunization Outreach Services in Underserved Communities

Save the Children International through the INSPIRING Project provides technical and financial support to trained Routine Immunization providers (RI) to reach underserved children living in hard-to-reach communities in Kiyawa LGA of Jigawa state. This is to ensure that all eligible children don't miss out of immunization coverage. Between January and June 2022, the project has supported vaccination of 11,259 children through the outreach and mobile services. Of this number, a total of 1,858 were fully immunized with the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) for protection against childhood pneumonia. This intervention has greatly improved the Immunization status of Kiyawa LGA evidenced by Data. Immunization is one of the most cost-effective intervention recommended by WHO for prevention of childhood illnesses, including pneumonia.



Mobile vaccinators supported by INSPIRING project during outreach services in hard to reach community in Gidan Malu, Kiyawa LGA

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022

Men's and Women's Groups Supported with Income Generating Activities in Kiyawa LGA

As part of our plans to ensure the established community groups are economically strengthened to be self-sufficient to sustain their activities beyond the project support, Income Generating Activities (IGAs) were introduced for the groups in the first quarter of the year. The IGA support includes an assessment of IGA opportunities and needs in their communities, training on basic IGA management and Village Savings and Loans in collaboration with the Jigawa State Ministry of Economic Empowerment through the skills acquisition center, and donation of start-up kits for the groups. The INSPIRING project

had established and is supporting a total of 340 men's and women's groups with a total number of 8,500 members to lead community action activities in their various communities in Kiyawa LGA of Jigawa state. All the groups benefitted from the IGA support such as farming, animal rearing, groundnut oil processing, cap knitting, grounding, barbing saloon and trading, among others. Some of the groups have started reaping the gains from this support, reinvesting their profits and saving from their profits to support their communities. The groups will be assessed through post distribution monitoring and performing ones who are utilizing their support for the intended purpose will be supported with additional capital in the coming quarter.



INSPIRING Chief of Party, Dr. Adamu Isah and community leaders presenting IGA start-up kits to women's groups in Kiyawa



Sample farming kits donated to groups

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022

A Town Hall Meeting Between Community Members, Healthcare Providers, Government and Traditional Leaders for Health Service Quality Improvement

The INSPIRING project is making sustainable change in Kiyawa LGA, not just within individual households and communities, but within the healthcare systems as well. An extra-ordinary town hall meeting was held amongst members of the Ward Development Committees (WDCs), community and traditional leaders, primary healthcare providers and the government at LGA and state level to discuss health service quality improvement. This meeting is part of a community accountability mechanism called the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS) implemented by the project in the LGA. During this meeting, the WDCs and Healthcare Providers presented findings from the PDQS process in their various health facility catchment areas. This included presentation of the health quality issues generated from community members and healthcare providers, the scorecard indicators and actions developed to address the poor indicators. The meeting

was attended by the Kiyawa LGA Chairman, Director PHC, and the three District Heads of Kiyawa LGA. The LGA Chairman appreciated the project for this and other interventions and made commitments to address the advocacy asks presented by the WDCs.



WDC members during a town hall meeting presenting joint action plan between community members and health providers to address health service quality issues in Kiyawa LGA. On the high table are: Kiyawa LGA Chairman, Director PHC, and Kiyawa District Heads

Men's and Women's Groups Leading Community Action in Kiyawa LGA

Sustainable social and behavior change is possible if community members are organized and their capacity strengthened with the knowledge and skills to identify and explore problems affecting them, plan and carryout local and feasible solutions to address those issues. The INSPIRING project is implementing a community capacity strengthening and social and behavior change intervention through the establishment of community men's and women's groups. These

groups of 25 members each meet every month to discuss, learn and plan actions to carry out in their communities to address child health issues. The groups have conducted various community actions such awareness raising and sensitization, breastfeeding and food demonstration, environmental sanitation, mobilization of children for immunization services, identification and referrals of sick children to treatment facilities, mobilizing of resources to build toilets, advocacy visits, among others.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022



A men's group during their monthly meeting in Kiyawa.



A women's group during their monthly meeting in Andaza ward.

Stakeholders Review and Harmonisation of BHCPF Framework in Lagos

Save the Children International through the INSPIRING project supported a stakeholder review and harmonization of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) framework in Lagos state. One of the targets of the BHCPF as stated in the National Strategic Health Development Plan (2018-2022) is the reduction of neonatal mortality from 39 to 26 per 1,000 live births and reduction of under-5 mortality from 120 to 85 per 1,000 live births according to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 targets (SDGs Agenda, 2030). The stakeholders' engagement was attended by representatives from the State Ministry of Health and its Agencies; Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Media and others to organize to review the implementation of the BHCPF in the state. The Hon. Commissioner for Health representative in his presentation identified the huge gaps in health financing in Lagos and efforts of the government to reduce the gaps. One of the most challenging issues discussed

was inaccurate population data for planning and projection at state and national level. Highlights from other presenters indicated that much planning and harmonization is required between the national and state in terms of insurance premium, minimum package and sustainability of funds release. The document is work in progress and after completion, a harmonized scorecard for tracking the BHCPF at the different implementation gateways will be developed.



Cross section of stakeholders during review and harmonization of the BHCPF framework in Lagos.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022

Facilitating Pneumonia Policy Environment in Jigawa State

The INSPIRING project continued its engagement with government and other stakeholders towards enabling policy environment for pneumonia. As a result of consistent and targeted advocacy and technical assistance to the government by INSPIRING and partners, the process leading to the adoption of two major policies have been finalized. Final drafts of the State Medical Oxygen Policy and State Integrated Pneumonia Control Strategy have been submitted to the government for onward transmission to the Executive Governor for assent.

Similarly, Jigawa State Ministry of Health has incorporated Pneumonia in its Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS) and the Health Sector Annual Operational Plan (AOP). This technically means that pneumonia will henceforth be considered in the budgeting process with specific budget line allocation to drive pneumonia related interventions. Furthermore, a budget provision of N100 million has been made in 2022 Budget as Equity fund contribution to the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) to widen access to Universal Health Coverage.



Engagement with Ward Development Committee (WDC) members on the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund accountability process in Jigawa state

These policies and programmes of the state government will ultimately contribute towards reduction in the number of children dying from pneumonia and other infectious diseases in the state.

Stakeholders Engagement

INSPIRING supported the Bi-monthly meeting of Every Breath Count (EBC) Coalition in the month of June. The meeting focused on reflection on 2021 World Pneumonia Day (WPD) with the view to planning for the 2022 edition in earnest. During the meeting, the coalition resolved to keep an eye on the progress towards approval of State Medical Policy and Pneumonia Control Strategy ahead of the 2022 WPD for possible launch of the documents. On the other hand, the State Nutrition Committee was also supported to hold its bi-monthly meeting where nutrition budget performance were analysed across Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and plans put in place to effectively engage the 2023 budget development processes. As part of INSPIRING project's medical oxygen systems strengthening effort, Save the Children and UNICEF are supporting the State in assuring oxygen security in the state.



Engagement with CSOs and other stakeholders on the budget implementation tracking process in Jigawa state

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022

Collaboration with the Media for Increased Pneumonia Visibility

The INSPIRING project is engaging with the media to create awareness and visibility on childhood pneumonia through Save the Children's media engagement strategy. The project established media working groups in Lagos and Jigawa state and the platform has been effective in driving media engagement and visibility for pneumonia. The project has provided members of the media working

groups the opportunity to engage in field visits to document project interventions and interact with beneficiaries and other stakeholders. We also conduct media roundtables and training opportunities for the media as part of our capacity-strengthening support. Through this strategic engagement with the media, we positioning pneumonia to gain the required attention and action at all levels as the number one infectious killer of children under the age of five in Nigeria.



SCI Nigeria Media and Communications Manager, Kunle Olawoyin addressing members of the media working group and CSOs during a roundtable in Lagos



INSPIRING Project Manager, Abdullahi Magama addressing members of the media working group and CSOs during a roundtable in Jigawa

INSPIRING Q2 Review Meeting in Lagos

Every quarter, the INSPIRING team from the implementation states of Lagos and Jigawa meet to review the progress of implementation, discuss key achievements, challenges and share learnings. This meeting was also attended by colleagues from the Project research partners, the University College London (UCL) and University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan. The Q2 review meeting took place in July and was well attended, as we hosted colleagues from SCUUK and government partners. The INSPIRING team also spent some time conducting team bonding activities during the week-long activities. Enjoy the photo gallery below:



INSPIRING Chief of Party, Dr. Adamu Isah making an opening remark during the review meeting in Lagos

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022



Lagos SMOH representative making a remark at the review meeting



Project Manager (Lagos) Folasayo Olukera presenting the DIP



CHIS, Mairo Yakubu presenting clinical updates for Jigawa



MEAL Officer, Mohammed Abubakar presenting MEAL update



HFAS, Folake Kuti presenting advocacy update for Lagos



Awards Manager, Collins Anyamhul making a comment

HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY TO JULY 2022



Project Manager (Jigawa), Abdullahi Magama presenting the DIP



CMA, Patience Alfred presenting SBC updates



Finance Officer, Desmond Yimaun presenting finance updates



PRIME Manager and INSPIRING MEAL Manager, Osebi Adams presenting indicators



SBC Coordinator, Ibrahim Haruna presenting SBC & Media updates



HFA Specialist, Mustapha Kurfi, presenting advocacy updates



INSPIRING Team bonding at the Beach

EDITORIAL TEAM

Publisher:

Dr. Adamu Isah, Chief of
Party, INSPIRING Project

Editor-In-Chief:

Kunle Olawoyin

Content Developer:

Ibrahim Haruna

Content/Layout Designer:

Pem Musa

CONTRIBUTORS

Nwamaka Ifionu

Leith Greenslade

Paula Valentine

Mairo Yakubu

Folake Kuti

Mustapha Kurfi

Patience Alfred

Thank you for reading!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A publication of the INSPIRING project

Implemented by Save the Children International

**with generous funding from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
and the PCC Hub**



Save the Children

HELPING TO SAVE ONE MILLION CHILDREN'S LIVES