



# AMURT FOUNDATION 2025 Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Primary Health Care,  
Reproductive Health &  
Water Projects



# AMURT's mission

**AMURT's mission** is to help improve the quality of life for the poor and disadvantaged people of the world, and those affected by calamity and conflict. We encourage and enable individuals and communities to harness their own resources for securing the basic necessities of life and for gaining greater economic, social and spiritual fulfilment, while respecting their customs, language and religious beliefs.

AMURT (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team) is a private international voluntary organizations founded in India in 1970. The original objective was to help meet the needs of the affected population after disasters. From 1985, AMURT's scope was expanded to include community development with projects in over 30 countries worldwide.

Over the past 16 years, AMURT has facilitated the birth of 34,000 babies, performed over 2,000 cesarean sections and 800 pediatric surgeries, constructed 25 health center buildings, drilled and installed over 290 village boreholes, and supported more than 50 scholarship graduates. We remain steadfast in our mission towards sustainable development in the health sector of Ebonyi State.



*AMURT staff at the office in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State*

# Making primary healthcare work

AMURT is building a sustainable and replicable model for meeting the primary healthcare needs of rural communities through a partnership involving the communities, grassroots organizations, the private sector and government.



Mothers with their newborn babies at Offia Oji Health Center.

# Strengthening primary healthcare at the grassroots

AMURT's model focuses on empowering health centers to deliver high-quality care sustainably. By strengthening financial independence, enhancing infrastructure, and involving communities in governance, we foster local ownership and accountability.

## Financial Management: The Bedrock of Healthcare Sustainability

Commitment to robust financial management is the cornerstone of health center sustainability. By prioritizing fiscal discipline, facilities can transition from a reliance on external aid to a model of self-sufficiency—ensuring they can address immediate operational needs while planning for long-term growth.

### Health Center Major Achievements in 2025

**Odeligbo Health Center:** Full renovation of the old health center building and existing staff quarters.

**Mgbalukwu Health Center:** Construction of a mini-incinerator; extension of solar power to staff quarters to guarantee **24-hour electricity** for both clinical and residential areas.

In general, the centers have Sustained payment for all non-government payroll staff and the creation of emergency reserve funds for future expansions.

### Strategic Outcomes

By managing internal funds effectively, these centers have achieved more than just "upkeep." They have built a resilient system capable of:

**Independent Maintenance:** Fixing infrastructure without waiting for government or donor cycles.

**Staff Retention:** Ensuring local staff are paid on time, regardless of their payroll status.

**Future-Proofing:** Saving surplus funds to handle medical emergencies or physical facility expansion.

**Conclusion:** The success of Odeligbo and Mgbalukwu and other health centers supported by AMURT demonstrates that when local leadership treats financial management as a core clinical duty, the entire community benefits from more reliable, high-quality care.



*Stakeholders meeting with OICs and Chairmen from all AMURT assisted health Centers.*



*Five of the AMURT assisted health center now have solar power. Cleaning the panels in the dry season is an important part of maintenance.*



*Monitoring health center accounts at Uloanwu Health Center*

# Project areas & health centers



*Dr. Jim and Midwife Emilia with newborn baby delivered by CS at Odeligbo Health Center*

	HEALTH CENTER	LOCAL GOVT	OPENED
1	Gmelina	Abakaliki	Sep 2010
2	Offia Oji	Abakaliki	Nov 2010
3	Ephuenyim	Abakaliki	Nov 2010
4	Elugwu Ettam	Ikwo	Feb 2012
5	Odeligbo	Ikwo	Jun 2012
6	Akparata- suspended	Ohaukwu	Apr 2015
7	Inikiri - suspended	Ohaukwu	Oct 2016
8	Mgbalukwu	Onicha	Nov 2017
9	Uloanwu	Ebonyi	Aug 2018
10	Ohagelode	Ebonyi	Mar 2020
11	Item Amagu	Ikwo	Dec 2020
12	Aguotu	Ishielu	Jul 2022

# Safe motherhood

## 24 HOUR SERVICE

AMURT ensures continuous care to reduce maternal and child mortality, with health workers operating in 24/7 shifts and doctors, scientists and midwives on call at CEmONC centers, keeping facilities open for emergencies at no extra cost.

## MATERNAL HEALTH PROMOTERS

AMURT trains Maternal Health Promoters who play a crucial role by tracking every pregnancy in every village. They encourage the mothers to go for pre-natal check-up and give birth in the health center. They host monthly support group meetings, where the mothers learn about danger signs in pregnancy, and how to take care of themselves as they prepare to give birth.

## COMPREHENSIVE ANTE-NATAL CARE

AMURT ensures that comprehensive antenatal care is accessible across all project areas. In 2025, we had a total of 13,463 ante-natal check up visits in AMURT assisted health centers. Doctors are present to examine patients, identify danger signs, and provide counseling. Equipped with ultrasound machines, our centers facilitate early detection of high-risk cases. Health workers also conduct home visits for follow-ups on these cases.

During ANC visits, mothers undergo tests for dangerous diseases, while lab scientists perform PCV blood tests and determine blood groups to expedite care during emergencies. Additionally, AMURT offers family planning counseling, routine medications, tetanus vaccines, and preventive malaria treatment. Notably, 51 % of women attending ANC at AMURT-assisted centers in 2025 traveled from outside the project areas, reflecting the trust and impact of our services.



*Mother with newborn twins at Offia Oji Health Center*

<b>BIRTHS</b>	
<b>HEALTH CENTER BIRTHS</b>	<b>2206</b>
<b>OUTSIDE PROJECT AREA</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>CAESAREAN SECTIONS AT HEALTH CENTER</b>	<b>265</b>
<b>C.S. as % OF TOTAL BIRTH</b>	<b>12 %</b>
<b>OBSTETRIC AMBULANCE REFERRALS TO TERTIARY</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>% OF BIRTHS REFERRED TO TERTIARY</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>AMBULANCE REFERRALS TO TERTIARY HOSPITAL RESULTING IN BIRTHS</b>	<b>35</b>

# Making emergency obstetric care accessible in rural communities

## EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICES: Filling the gap

Minimizing delays is key in reducing maternal deaths. Since 2017, AMURT has been making emergency obstetric services accessible in the rural communities. Four health centres, spanning Ikwo, Abakaliki, Onitsha and Ebonyi LGAs, have been equipped with operating theatres, facilities for blood transfusions, and stand-by ambulances, along with resident doctors, laboratory scientists, midwives and health workers on shift around the clock.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For complicated cases, AMURT's dedicated drivers stand by at all hours to carry consultants from Abakaliki for interventions in the rural centers. AMURT's lab department provides blood for life saving transfusions. AMURT responds to all obstetric emergencies, like severe ante-partum and post-partum bleeding, ectopic pregnancy, etc. 61 % of the cesarean sections in AMURT assisted health centers were paid in full by the patients. 81 % of the cesarean sections came from other wards and other local government areas. Only 5 % of the cesarean sections were elective.



*AMURT supported Nkechi when she was referred to AEFUTHA with kidney failure resulting from complications after birth. She had seven dialysis treatments, and recovered.*



*Mother with newborn baby at Uloanwu Health Center*

# EVERY LIFE COUNTS: Pediatric Surgeries

In addition to Making Primary Healthcare Work, AMURT's engages in direct service delivery to save lives of mothers, newborn babies and children. We make pediatric surgery available in the rural health centers. In 2025, we sponsored 78 pediatric surgeries, performed by consultants in the 10 AMURT assisted health centers. In addition, 14 major pediatric surgeries were taken to AEFUTHA teaching hospital in Abakaliki under AMURT's referral program, giving the rural population access to life saving interventions.



**CHIOMA** referred from Offia Oji Health Center, had intestinal perforation from untreated typhoid. AMURT supported the surgery to repair the intestines and her life was saved.



**CHISIMDIRI** was referred from Odeligbo Health Center with hydrocephalus, a condition where the natural drainage of cerebral fluids are blocked, causing swelling of the head. AMURT sponsored the surgery.



**CHIBUIKE**, from Ikwo, 10 years old suffered from intestinal perforation. He was referred to AEFUTHA and had surgery sponsored by AMURT.



*Pediatric surgery at Odeligbo Health Center*



*Three children after surgery at Offia Oji Health Center in November.*

# Cooperative model for women’s economic empowerment

AMURT’s Economic Empowerment program supports widows and women who are sole breadwinners in their families to start their own businesses to support their families. The program started in 2016, and today 10 groups operate as Cooperatively Managed Revolving Credit Schemes. 141 additional women were empowered through these groups in 2025, as the total membership, numbers of beneficiaries crossed 1000 women. Most of the members were identified at the health centres, as they struggled to afford the treatment for their children. Some of the groups have set up village savings and loans schemes for to help members save for farming season, Christmas holidays and other special occasions.



Monitoring at the market in Odeligbo. Focal person Comfort with a women who sells garri



The cooperative group at Uloanwu, Ishieke



Beatrice, coordinator of the Offia Oji group with one of the women beneficiaries

Empowered in 2025	141
Empowered since 2016	1059
<b>COOPERATIVE GROUPS</b>	<b>10</b>

# ADOLESCENT SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

## Knowledge, Rights and Empowerment

In the year 2025, AMURTEL through its Adolescent and Sexual Reproductive Health Unit continued to bring vital knowledge to adolescents in rural schools and communities. Our programs focused on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health, rights, and empowerment initiatives. By addressing these topics in schools and communities; adolescents, women, and communities were empowered to challenge harmful traditions, make informed choices, and protect their health, dignity, and rights.

### School Based Programs

Our programs in schools via peer-to-peer learning and general sensitizations empowered over 3598 adolescents with clear, life-changing information on their reproductive health rights, helping them understand their bodies, their choices, and their worth.

The International Day of the Girl Child program was a heartwarming celebration of courage and identity. During which young girls showcased dramas, songs and dances reflecting their dreams of a life free of violence. They learned to value their voices, know their rights, and stand tall against abuse.

### Menstrual Hygiene Education

Our Menstrual hygiene sessions supported 1804 girls, equipping them with accurate knowledge and confidence – while also providing free disposable sanitary pads to ensure they can manage their periods safely, hygienically and without missing school.

### Supporting Young Mothers: Rebuilding Lives

Through mentorship and counselling sessions, young teenage mothers who faced early pregnancies and school dropout, are regaining self-worth and rebuilding their futures. Support was also provided for some who couldn't pay for the hospital bills of their babies.



*Azuoffia, Edda – school group work*



*Ohagelode, Ishieke – school outreach*



*Aguotu. Ishielu – menstrual hygiene day*



*St. Michael's. Isu, Onicha – menstrual hygiene day*

# Protecting the girl child from harmful traditional practices

## Capacity Building:

### Empowering Women as Change Agents

Working alongside community volunteers, we continued to advance our campaigns against Female Genital Mutilation and strengthen local commitment to ending Gender Based Violence. Ninety-nine (99) female volunteers were trained across three project communities, with comprehensive knowledge on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. The training emphasized stopping FGM and other harmful practices prevalent in rural areas.

These women became champions of change, actively reporting violations, teaching peers and fostering dialogue in their communities, they've reported 14 FGM cases – 9 confirmed, 5 unconfirmed which were due to incomplete information or refusal of families to admit involvement. All confirmed cases received medical attention, psychosocial support and counselling to rebuild self-esteem and reduce stigma on the mutilated girls. Other civil society organizations in the state were actively involved in addressing these violations.

### Engaging Community Stakeholders

Traditional rulers, community chairpersons, village heads, and patent medicine dealers were sensitized. Through video presentations, participants were educated about the legal and health consequences of FGM.

### Market and Faith-Based Outreaches

Trained volunteers conducted market outreaches combining live dramas, songs and local storytelling. Faith-based outreach sessions in local churches engaged congregations, linking moral and religious teachings to the protection of women and girls. These efforts strengthened community awareness.



*Ohagelode, Ishieke – change agents for FGM*



*Offia Oji, Ekumenyi – change agents training*



*Esther addressing state meeting on FGM*



*Nwedoga Market, Ndidenyi – market outreach*

# Water is life: Reaching every village

Many rural villages in Ebonyi State still rely on rivers and ponds for their drinking water. The water is often contaminated and causes the spread of cholera, gastroenteritis and other water borne diseases. In 2025, the AMURT Water and Sanitation team brought safe water to nineteen communities in Ezza North, Abakaliki, Izzi and Ikwo Local Government Areas. This work was made possible through partnerships with AMURT Italy, Antola Foundation and private sponsors in Nigeria. WASHCOMs (Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees) were formed and trained in community sanitation, hygiene and how to use the toolbox supplied for maintenance of their new borehole.



*The borehole made a big difference at Akahu Omege village in Ezza North LGA*



*Ndioduma Inyemagu village in Ikwo LGA.*

BOREHOLES SINCE 2011	291
NEW BOREHOLES 2025	19
BOREHOLES REPAIRED 2025	32

# Youth capacity building: a career in health

## SCHOLARSHIPS

AMURT offers a scholarship program to give the most talented and committed of community volunteers the opportunity to become qualified health workers. In 2025, seven graduated, leaving 5 candidates in school. Through support for higher education and employment, AMURT has given 50 young women and four young men, a career and opportunity to serve their communities in the health sector through full scholarships. In addition AMURT has given partial scholarship to a dozen more volunteers from the health centers. Most of the candidates enter the School of Health Technology to become CHEWs (Community Health Extension Workers) or Junior CHEWs. A few entered university to become registered nurses and medical lab scientists. AMURT cultivates a close relationship with the academic institutions and in 2025 we hosted over 300 IT students to get practical experience through placement in the AMURT assisted health centers.

Capacity building in the rural health sector is a key factor for increased self-reliance of primary healthcare facilities in remote villages.



AMURT scholarship students from School of Health Technology, 135 Ezzangbo



**Okeke Esther Chinecherem.**  
Health Worker  
Mgbalukwu Health Centre,  
Isu, Onicha LGA

*I had the opportunity to be a beneficiary of AMURT. First by attending the Adolescent / young mothers' program at Mgbalukwu Health Center. I was given free delivery service during the time of my childbirth. Later I was enrolled back to school to sit for my senior certificate exam. Also from this life saving organization. Through their encouragement and inspiration I was able to further my education at the School of Health. After school I sought for work with the organization which I was granted. I am saying a very big thank you to this great and life saving organization for all support and encouragement to the youth and indigens, for the wonderful opportunities brought to our communities. May God always bless AMURT and all the workers. Thank you very much!*



**Igberi Oforinma Precious.**  
Health Worker  
Elugwu Ettam Health Centre,  
Ikwo :GA

*I sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude to the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team for the great support they have given me in my educational journey. After I completed my secondary school, AMURT gave me the opportunity to be trained as an Auxiliary Nurse. This training helped me gain knowledge and practical skills in the health field. It also gave me a strong passion for caring for people and serving my community. Through their continued support and encouragement, AMURT also helped me to further my education in the College of Health Technology and I am now a qualified community health worker. This opportunity has opened a new chapter in my life working in the health sector. I am deeply grateful to AMURT for believing in me and investing in my future. I say a very big thank you to AMURT for their kindness, support, and dedication to improving lives.*



**Ada-Aku Peace**  
Health worker  
Odeligbo Health Center,  
Anainyima, Okpuituma,  
Ikwo LGA

*AMURT is a humanitarian NGO working in rural areas of Ebonyi state. AMURT 's focus is on reducing maternal and child mortality by supporting 24-hour services at primary health care centers in underserved villages. The work extends to water and sanitation, health education and emergency medical support for children and pregnant mothers. AMURT has played a life changing role for me, giving me purpose, direction and opportunities to serve humanity. They have helped me discover my passion through service and making an impact for the vulnerable. Being part of AMURT has opened my eyes and allowed me to grow personally and spiritually. My time with AMURT has strengthened my commitment to helping others. Through AMURT, I found the platform to fulfill my destiny to serve with love, and make a positive difference in the lives of those who need it most. Am so happy to be part of this AMURT family.*



**Dr. Nelson Uchenna Nwaedu**

**Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee  
Alex Ekwueme Federal University  
Teaching Hospital Abakaliki**



**Dr. Divine Igwe Okemefuna  
Executive Secretary/ CEO  
Ebonyi State Health Insurance Agency**

*The work of AMURT in Ebonyi State has significantly improved community health through maternal and child health services, outreach programs, and emergency medical support. In partnership with the state government, their interventions strengthened primary healthcare delivery and referral systems. Notably, these efforts contributed to a significant reduction in maternal and neonatal deaths by improving access to skilled care and promoting safe delivery practices. Overall, AMURT's presence has enhanced health outcomes in underserved communities. DR.IGWE DIVINE OKEMEFUNA  
J.P.EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/CEO EBONYI STATE HEALTH INSURANCE AGENCY.*

## **ALEX EKWUEME FEDERAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL**

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AMURT is a private international voluntary organization with the initial objective of meeting the needed population after disaster since 1970 which was later expanded to community development. AMURT came into Nigeria in 2010 and partnered with Ebonyi State Government to extent primary health care services to the remote arrears in Ebonyi State. This was led by the Country Director, Mr Dada Tor Bjoernsen. Outside medical services, AMURT launched a WASH (Water and Sanitation) program in 2011, providing boreholes in more than 270 villages for safe and clean water. This has markedly reduced the incidence of water borne disease in the state and its environs.

AMURT established a revolving credit scheme to support women, especially widows and sole breadwinners, enabling them to start businesses for their livelihood. AMURT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ebonyi State government in 2012 and established multiple health centers that spread across the three senatorial zones of the State which served as a model where local communities initiated, managed, and took ownership of health centers fully funded by AMURT.

In recent developments, AMURT expanded its emergency services, including the use of ambulances to transport patients to referral centers such as Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki (AEFUTHA).

Despite facing severe security challenges from communal conflicts in 2021, AMURT continued to provide emergency services, saving victims of violence.

In early 2024, the Ebonyi State government under the leadership of a health friendly Governor, His Excellency, Rt Hon Bld Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru having seen the great impact made in the health sector by AMURT especially in the drastic reduction of maternal/perinatal morbidity and mortality solidified its partnership with AMURT by integrating their staff into the state civil service to ensure the sustainability of the health centers established by the AMURT foundation.

AMURT has played a vital role in overseeing child and maternal healthcare service deliveries, establishing care protocols, and collaborating with Ebonyi State Hospital Administrators on quality improvement initiatives. They have equally trained and employed surgeons who are always on ground to handle emergency surgical cases. They have also been instrumental in developing and implementing protocols to prevent and control child and maternal mortality in the State, leading to a marked reduction in mortalities.

One thing that make AMURT different from other partners is their selfless services to humanities, taking every patient as their own. In Ebonyi State, AMURT started by employing health personnels to manage patients and equally ensures that patients receive the best health care by ensuring that every patient that needs to be referred to a higher level of health care, accesses that by their transporting the patient to the hospital of higher level of care, send their nurses to accompany the patient to the hospital, ensure everything needed for the patient care is provided for the patient including drugs, investigations and blood for those that require blood transfusion. They do not stop there, they follow up the patient till discharge. They pay for the hospital bill completely and take the patient home with rehabilitation support given to the patient.

I must sincerely attest that as a Chairman Medical Advisory Committee of Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki (AEFUTHA) Ebonyi State, AMURT has tremendously supported and made our patient management highly seamless as they provide all that are needed for the patient management. AMURT foundation is indeed a reliable and dependable partner to work with. I therefore commend the untiring efforts of the Country Director, Dada Tor Bjoernsen and his amiable team for sustaining these wonderful services for more than a decade especially their diplomatic and intellectual approach in administrative management.

Thank you and God bless the management and staff of AMURT and Ebonyi State Government for their unwavering support.

  
**Dr Nelson Uchenna Nwaedu**  
Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee  
Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki

# PARTNERS and AMURT STAFF

SPONSORS	COUNTRY	PROGRAM
GMT-NIGERIA, LTD.	Lagos Nigeria	Main sponsor
Voice of a Child	California USA	Medical equipment, Emergency assistance
AMURT UK	London, UK	Emergency assistance
Dangote Foundation	Lagos Nigeria	Cement
Rotary International	Nigeria Italy Norway USA	Water & Sanitation, Primary healthcare
Antola Foundation	New York USA	Water & Sanitation
AMURT Italy	Parma Italy	Water & Sanitation
AMURT USA	Maryland USA	Emergency assistance
AMURT Norway	Oslo, Norway	Emergency assistance
AMURTEL USA	Vermont, USA	Scholarships, Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Health
AMURTEL GERMANY	Berlin, Germany	Maternal & Child Health
A.S.M.	U.S.A. & Finland	Economic Empowerment

## AMURT STAFF

Director	Dada Tor Bjoernsen
Medical Director	Dr. Opoke Peter
Chief Operations Off.	Ogbonna Agha
Office Manager	Martha Nweke
M&E Manager	Chike Anah
H.O.D. Laboratories	Sct. Daniel Ejiofor
WASH Manager	Peter Chukwu Elem
Logistics / Procurements	Paul Haligah
Program Manager	Ibiam Iro Oji
Adolescent Health	Esther Amah
Referral Officer	Friday Okeh
Economic Empowerment	Uguru Ikechukwu
Head Midwife	Rita Obiakor
Head Driver	Sunday Nwonuku

## DOCTORS at PROJECT AREAS

Abakaliki LGA	Dr. Opoke Peter
Ikwo LGA	Dr. Orji Jim
Onicha LGA	Dr. Duru Stephen
Ebonyi LGA	Dr. Igwe Kingsley

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman	Ade Akin-Olugbade
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Finance Sec	Christopher Opogah
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