

# 2024 - THE YEAR SO FAR...



Dear Friends of AMURT NIGERIA,

5 August 2024

Warm greetings from Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria and thanks to all of you for fantastic support!!!

The first half of 2024 has seen AMURT Nigeria brought some good achievements, in spite of unprecedented economic hardship in the country. We passed the landmarks of 31,000 births and 1600 cesarean sections in the AMURT assisted health centers.. Given a boost by the last successful **“Every Life Counts”** fund raising drive concluded in January, we have been able to sustain our assistance for pediatric and obstetric emergency interventions. The expanded adolescent sexual and reproductive health program is impacting lives of teenage mothers and youth. The WASH Team brought water to 12 more rural villages. The women’s Economic Empowerment program went from strength to strength.

## CHILDREN’S SURGERIES

AMURT sponsored 91 children’s surgeries in the first six months of 2024, including many life saving interventions, 70 of the surgeries were done in the health centers by pediatric surgery consultants, 21 were done at AEFUTHA (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki). These include 5 surgeries addressing hydrocephalus and or spina bifida and 7surgeries to repair typhoid perforation.

## EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICES

From January to June, the AMURT CEMONC centers have carried out 165 cesarean sections. 62 most critical and complex cases were done by consultants from the Teaching Hospital, carried by dedicated AMURT drivers, on an emergency basis, often at night. AMURT ambulances carried emergency patients between the AMURT health centers and 21 obstetric emergency referrals were taken to AEFUTHA in Abakaliki and supported by AMURT, ten of them also requiring cesarean sections. AMURT also assisted 41 indigent women who had obstetric emergencies in the health centers.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

The Economic Empowerment program, a Cooperatively Managed Revolving Credit scheme, coordinated by Afuluenu, has been strengthened. 60 additional women have been empowered, bringing the total number to over 800. The members are widows and women who are sole breadwinners in their families. Three of the groups received additional capital.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Currently AMURT supports 19 students in School of Health and University. Seven of them are in their final year and will graduate in October. AMURT’s scholarships program helps to build the health capacity of the rural communities where AMURT has intervened.

## MALNUTRITION

Our health education team held outreach programs in dozens of villages, with main focus on combating the increase in child malnutrition brought by the economic hardship in the country. Over 50 severely malnourished children received personal food and medical aid and over 20 babies received supplementary milk.



**Baby Louis, referred from Ephuenyim Health Center was operated for spina bifida and hydrocephalus**



**Premature twins delivered at Offia Oji Health Centre**



**Induction of the last five graduates from AMURT scholarship program**

## **ADOLESCENT SEXUAL and REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

AMURT ASRH program was carried out in 6 project areas. In communities and schools, the youth champions and peer educators were trained on FGM, Harmful Gender Norms, Menstrual health, Child Marriage and Healthy Nutrition for Reproductive Health. They stepped these teachings down in their various cohort groups to foster health seeking attitude.

The Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed with programs in 17 secondary schools. 1573 girls were reached and they all received a complimentary pack of sanitary pads. This year, boys also participated in the orientation. We were able to clear up their misconceptions. This year we also included a number of secondary schools who have not been part of our ASRH program. The level of awareness in these schools were very low, many girls initially refusing the sanitary pads. The contrast between these schools and our project areas was stark.

We purchased 4 manual sewing machines and we have distributed 3. These were given to our young mothers who AMURT registered to learn tailoring skill in year 2022 and had successfully completed the course. This gave them a new beginning and a place in the society, such that they can fend for themselves and their babies. They are also been monitored to ensure a smooth running of their business. These girls are now AMURT skill champions because they will train others.

AMURT supported 7 vulnerable girls in School. 2 among them completed their secondary school education with flying colors. One among those who completed their secondary school is a young mother while the other is a vulnerable girl who lost her father and elder brother within 2 months. We also carried out home visits and supported pregnant young mothers to pay their hospital bills.

## **WATER PROJECT FOR EZZA NORTH, ABAKALIKI and IZZI LGA**

It is our experience that through partnership we can achieve more. This year we are partnering with State Assembly Representative Hon. Kennechukwu Okeh to give water to six villages in Ezza North Local Government Area. AMURT Italy has once again come in as a partner to bring safe water and training of WASHCOM (Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees) to six villages, 5 in Izzi and 1 in Abakaliki local government areas.

## **BREAKTHROUGH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EBONYI STATE GOVERNMENT**

Last year, the new state government in Ebonyi State made healthcare a top priority. This led to a breakthrough in our partnership with the Ebonyi State government. In October, Governor Nwifuru approved the assimilation of 109 health workers from the AMURT assisted health centers into the civil service. The process, that has been bogged down by government bureaucracy, is getting close to conclusion. Government and local communities assuming greater responsibility will allow AMURT to free up resources to take up new project areas. We have many applications from rural communities to intervene in primary healthcare.

Brotherly yours,

Dada Daneshananda

[www.amurt.ng](http://www.amurt.ng), WhatsApp +2348133047130 Facebook: AMURT West Africa

AMURT 2023 annual report download:

<https://anandamarga.org/pdf/news/africa/AMURTNigeria2023.pdf>



**Students at the Azzuofia Community Secondary School - Menstrual Hygiene Week program**



**Three young mothers completed their training and received support to start sewing business – Gmelina HC**



**New borehole at Ofutu Ebor, Okpuitumo**



**AMURT Health workers at Civil Service Commission during screening for assimilation**