

AMURT NIGERIA UPDATE JULY TO OCTOBER 2024



Dear Friends of AMURT NIGERIA,

31 October 2024

Warm greetings to all our friends around the world from all of us in the AMURT Nigeria team. Here is the main news from the last four months. We will be in touch about the annual EVERY LIFE COUNTS fundraising in December/January. We hope for another successful campaign with your support.

CHILDREN'S SURGERIES

From July to October we sponsored 61 pediatric surgeries, bringing the total for the year to 152. Of these 124 surgeries were done in the AMURT assisted health and 28 more critical and complex surgeries, were done at AEFUTHA teaching hospital in Abakaliki.

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICES

A total of 247 cesarean sections have been carried out in the AMURT assisted health centers so far in 2024. Of these, 92 were emergency critical and complicated cases, done by consultants from AEFUTHA carried to the rural centers by dedicated AMURT drivers. Blood is very crucial in obstetric emergencies, and when the right blood type cannot be sourced in the village, HOD Lab sends life saving blood from Abakaliki to the health centers. We are proud of how the AMURT staff are always ready to go the extra mile, at any hour, to save the lives of the mothers and babies.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

Since July, forty five women have been empowered to start their own businesses through the Economic Empowerment Program through the cooperatives in Offia Oji, Ephuenyim and Item Amagu. The model is a Cooperatively Managed Revolving Credit Scheme. 800 widows and vulnerable women have been empowered across 10 cooperatives.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

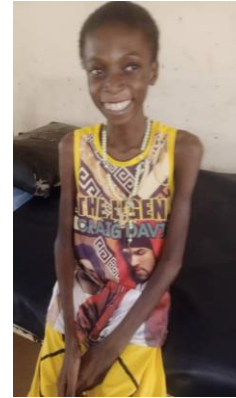
Seven AMURT scholarship students graduated in October. They are now fully qualified health workers, and can return to serve their communities. Since we started, we have sent 52 candidates and 39 have graduated, leaving 13 on full scholarship still in school.

MALNUTRITION PREVENTION & TREATMENT

Since August, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Chinwendu and Stephen from the AMURT health education team have conducted regular nutrition clinics in five of the health centers. A total of 264 children were identified as malnourished and 84 of them as SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition). These children were given RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic Foods). Sadly, during the same period we lost three children to malnutrition. Since July 24 bad cases received special emergency packages of protein rich food from AMURT.

SOLAR POWER AT EPHUENYIM HEALTH CENTER

In October, we were able to install solar power at Ephuenyim Health Center. New 15 kva battery and inverters, and a total of 26 solar panels. All the four CEmONC centers are now fully powered by solar. With the cost of fuel increasing by 500 % in one year, freeing the center from reliance on generators, has made a big difference.



Gideo, and Kodirich had life saving intestinal surgeries.



Twins delivered at Mgbaluwku Health Centre



Scholarship students at School of Health Ezzangbo 135.



Solar Power Ephuenyim



Giving RUTF Aguotu

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL and REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

From July to October, teaching programs were held for Youth Champions and Student Peer Educators in six project areas. Abortion risks and complications, Sexual Abstinence and the need to resist Peer Pressure were central topics.

Our 81 Youth Champions from 6 project areas having been trained on sustainability of adolescent health programs in rural areas; led outreaches in markets, churches, youth meetings and other cohort meetings in their various communities. This is a great mile stone for the Adolescent health unit. The core information they passed across to their participants during these outreaches were reproductive health Rights of the Girl Child and the negative effects of child marriage and female genital mutilation.

Adolescent health week was held with emphasis on good health seeking behavior among the adolescents. International Day of the Girl-Child was marked with immense appreciation to everyone sponsoring, supporting and participating in programs for the Girl-child in rural areas. A write-up captioned "To every girl child" was developed which will be used during our November School-Based Competition for girls and boys in schools.

We carried out follow-up visits to young mothers and vulnerable girls in schools. Counseling sessions were held for pregnant young girls at the health centers.

BREAKTHROUGH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EBONYI STATE GOVERNMENT

In September, after many delays, the Ebonyi State Government, concluded the absorption of AMURT recruited staff from across 10 health primary healthcare centers, as 83 health workers were paid five months arrears. It is significant that the government finally followed through on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2012 and a big step towards sustainability of the 10 AMURT assisted health centers. Four of the health centers serve as emergency obstetric referral centers, and operate on a secondary level. We now prioritize efforts for government to formally recognize these health centers as secondary health facilities. As government assumes a greater responsibility, the dependency on AMURT funding is gradually reduced and AMURT is free to move on to other remote communities that still don't have access to good healthcare services.

CHOLERA OUTBREAK RESPONSE

Since September, the AMURT team, led by Medical Director, Dr. Opoke have responded to cholera outbreaks. Th team comprises doctors, lab scienists, WASH and Health education staff. We responded in Igidiagu, Eketube, Ephuenyim and Offia Orji Health Centers all in Abakaliki LGA. Offiakum Health Center in Izzi LGA, and Uloanwu Health Center in Ebonyi LGA and Health for All Hospital in Omege in Ezza North LGA. Through our quick response we have treated 256 patients. Lives were saved. AMURT doctors and teams visited the affected areas and supplied free medical consumables, including infusions for rehydration and drugs for the management of cholera patients. HOD Lab Daniel collected samples for diagnostic test of affected patients. Three culture tests was submitted by AMURT came out positive, confirming the cholera outbreak. Community sensitization by health education team have helped in reducing new cases. The AMURT WASH team repaired 5 bore holes in affected areas.

Brotherly yours,

Dada Daneshananda

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AMURT 2023 annual report download:

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



International day of the Girl Child at Offia Oji market with AMURT ASRH team and Village health champions



Stakeholder meeting with government, community, health center staff and AMURT team.



AMURT is grateful to US AID for the donation of a Ford Explorer vehicle.



Repair of borehole Offiakum, Izzi LGA



Cholera response at Eketuma Health Center, Abakaliki LGA