AMURT NIGERIA UPDATE JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

Dear Friends of AMURT NIGERIA, 4 July 2025

Warm greetings to all friends around the world from all of us in the AMURT Nigeria team. Here is the main news so far from 2025. Thanks again to all of you who contributed to the annual EVERY LIFE COUNTS fundraising in December/January. It has enabled us to continue emergency assistance for mothers and children and other grassroots health programs in the villages.

WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

The AMURT and AMURTEL team conducted programs in 15 secondary schools to spread awareness about menstrual hygiene. 1804 girls received a pack of free disposable sanitary pads. Sadly, it's still common that the girls receive no information from their homes. The teachers in the schools really appreciated AMURT's initiative to support the young girls.

MOBILIZING TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

At Offia-oji, 25 women from 15 villages were trained on "End Violence against women and girls". The women trained are carrying out house to house campaigns and they teach in various cohort group meeting in their community for the complete elimination of violence against women, harmful traditional practices including Female Mutilation and forced child marriage. The AMURT & AMURTEL team has joined them to carry out FGM/GBV sensitization during women/men meetings in 7 villages. The traditional ruler and his cabinet have also been visited. School sensitization, Church outreach and market outreach were also done. In Elugwu Ettam, we trained 28 women from 14 villages.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN HEALTH FOR YOUNG WOMEN

There are currently 12 students in School of Health on full scholarship from AMURT, and an additional 5 on partial scholarship. They are all former trainees who demonstrated their talent volunteering in the AMURT assisted primary healthcare centers. Six students graduated last fall and they took their oaths and were formally inducted at health workers in a ceremony in June. AMURT continued to receive IT students from several schools of health from Ebonyi State. For the first time we also welcomed 18 nursing students from Cambridge School of Nursing in Emene, Enugu.

CHOLERA OUTBREAK INTERVENTION

The AMURT team, lead by the Medical Director, Dr. Opoke, responded to out breaks in Elugwu Ettam and Ettam in Ikwo Local Government Area. The team also responded to outbreaks in several places in Abakaliki and Ezza North LGAs. In addition to response with medical doctors and lab scientists, AMURT provided cartons of fluids and medicines used in the treatment of cholera, along with Waterguard to treat drinking water.

Girls at Wisdom Secondary School at Aguotu, Ezzagu, Ishielu LGA

Meetings with women from the villages in Offia Oji and Elugwu Ettam project areas about FGM & GBV.

Scholarship students inducted as Community Health Extension Workers

EVERY LIFE COUNTS - CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

From January to June, AMURT sponsored a total 46 paediatric surgeries. Thirty-six of them were done in the rural health centers, while 10 were done at the AEFUTHA teaching hospital in Abakaliki. AMURT supported an additional 14 serious paediatric cases and 12 newborn cases. Chibuike (see photo) had intestinal perforation from untreated typhoid. AMURT supported surgery to repair the intestines and save his life.

SAVING LIVES AT BIRTH

The new federal CEMONC program has improved the access to emergency services in Ebonyi State. The patronage in the four AMURT assisted CEmONC center continued to carry a very significant share of Ebonyi State's emergency obstetric services for the rural population with over 150 cesarean sections done so far in 2025. Meetings were held with the Governor and Ministry of Health to strengthen the partnership. AMURT's ambulance service made an additional 24 referrals to tertiary hospitals that resulted in emergency cesarean sections. AMURT supported interventions in 12 more life threatening complications related to childbirth, including ante-partum hemorrhage, post-partum hemorrhage, and ectopic pregnancies. Nkechinyere (see photo) had kidney damage after delivery. She had 7 sessions of dialysis before being discharged home in good condition.

WATER FOR ISHIOKOMA HEALTH CENTER

AMURT has started assisting Ishiokoma Health Center in Izzi local government area. Water is very scarce in the area. We found water about 175 meters from the health center. The borehole was dug, electric pump installed, and the water was piped to the health center. It's AMURT's hope to continue support for Ishiokoma health center.

NEW WATER PROJECT IN IKWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Through a partnership with Ndufu Ikwo Development center, AMURT drilled boreholes for ten villages. The project was completed from March to May, with safe water now accessible for the first time in 10 villages.

VISIT FROM NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR

In March, Ebonyi Stated Governor hosted an official visit by the ambassador from Norway, Svein Baera. Norway has a historical relationship with Ebonyi State dating back to the 1960s and the Biafra war. We were honored that the ambassador took time to visit Odeligbo and Uloanwu Health Centers, and he also stopped by Item Amagu Health Center. The visit helped strengthen AMURT's partnerships with Norway and with the state government.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

Through the consistent work of Afuluenu, the economic empowerment program for widows and women who are sole breadwinners in their families, continued to grow. 63 more women were empowered through five of the 10 cooperatives, to start their own business to support their children. The women in the Offia Oji applied the cooperative structure to save additional money, that they have now cashed out to help them during the farming season.

Brotherly yours,
Dada Daneshananda

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Nkechinyere

Chibuike

The water is flowing for the first time at Ishiokoma Health Center

Ndioduma Inyemagu – one of the 10 villages benfiting at Ikwo LGA

The Norwegian ambassador was made a chief at Item Amagu village in Ikwo LGA.