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ROTARY FAMILY HEALTH DAYS
(RFHD) PROGRAM
NIGERIA
OCTOBER, 2023

PROGRAM MANAGER : PDG BOLA OYEBADE

DATE: 24 OCTOBER – 26 OCTOBER 2023

Highlights

- Launch Sites
 - National Launch in Lagos,
 - District launch in
 - Kano, Kano State

- 127 Health Day Sites were set up across Nigeria
- Over 121,000 people visited the various sites
- Over 27,791 General pharmacies provided in total
- 37,259 HIV Test performed
- Over 51,000 Hepatitis B&C screening
- 61,406 Malaria screening
- 57,101 Blood pressure tests
- 2,221 Tuberculosis screening
- 12,329 Prostate screening
- 38,696 family counselling
- 24,054 Polio immunizations administered
- 21,470 Sanitary pads for girls distributed
- 23,651 Vitamin A supplements
- 28,240 Children received deworming
- 14,440 Long-Lasting mosquito nets distributed
- 13,329 Male and Female Condoms distributed

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Executive Summary

The October 2023 Rotary Family Health Days was the first being held in the Rotary year 2023 – 2024. It is the third edition fully sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Nigeria. It is the third time being funded solely by an organization other than Rotary. The funding has created opportunity for the program to be held more than just one time in the year. As a result more people are being reached in more locations. The popularity of the program has also increased even further than the last edition in February 2023. The program which was held across the four Rotary International districts in Nigeria viz, Districts 9110, 9125, 9141, and 9142 witnessed more acceptance by the people of various communities.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Rotary Family Health Days began in Nigeria with the 2012 event which was held in Lagos State on 1st and 2nd June 2012 and in Ogun State on Saturday June 9, 2012. The 2013 event took place in Lagos State local government areas and in Ogun State at Abeokuta, Sagamu, Isara and Ijebu- Ode on May 11, 2013 and another round in Abeokuta on May 17, 2013. The RFHA board agreed to the scaling up of the programme in Nigeria in 2014 to cover the whole country. Consequently, all the then three Rotary districts in Nigeria-D9110, D9125 and D9140 held health camps in their various communities on April 24- 26, 2014. The outcome was good and showed that the decision to cover the entire country of Nigeria was a wise one. In 2014 Nigeria recorded 140,856 attendance; 90,875 in 2015 and 140,918 in 2016. Also, since 2016 Nigeria added Hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening to its services, this was further activated in the 2019 and the 2020 program. The 2020 program was able to record about 140,000 attendance while the June 2022 program had 49,891 registrants. This low figure is associated with the available fund for the program versus the number of days employed to activate the program which was two as against the regular two days

Acceptance of the program has increased tremendously over the past eleven years due to much publicity given to it through our robust working relationship with and great work with public relations consultant, Core Prime Ad Concept and other local Public Relations organizations with increased materials and logistics support from our key program partners especially the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health and the US Government missions under the PEPFAR program. The support from the Federal ministry of Health has been very beneficial to the RFHD program as it signifies official acceptance of RFHD as one of the important health programs in Nigeria. The Federal Ministry officially send information and directives to State Ministries of Health and the Primary HealthCare Centres all over the country to work with Rotary on the RFHD as they do during polio, malaria and other health programs which Rotary spearheads. The US Centers for Disease Prevention

and Control and the USAID give adequate information, logistics support and request their Implementing Partners to work with RFHA on its RFHD sites.

Funding for the October 2023 program came fully from The Bill and Melinda Gate Foundation. No other organization funded the program. Notwithstanding there were supports from The Federal Government of Nigeria and most State Governments where the program took place, Local governments and local NGOs that supported in kinds especially through human capital

The proof of concept and sustainability of the program has long been established. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International regularly send members of the Cadre of Technical Advisers to audit the various yearly program. The last sent being in 2020. The audit was conducted virtually spanning a period of one week. The Auditor was able to speak with key role participants in the program and had no known reservation about the program. His report was duly submitted to the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

Background

Rotarians for Family Health and Aids Prevention Inc. (RFHA)

Rotarians for Family Health & AIDS Prevention (RFHA) is a global Rotarian Action Group and mobilizing partner of Rotary International. RFHA creates the design, obtains the resources and has overall management responsibility for Rotary-led disease prevention program such as the Rotary Family Health Days. RFHA's mission is to save and improve the lives of children and families who lack access to preventative health care and education through the mobilization of Rotarians and Global Partners. RFHA's direct impact is the **strengthening of infrastructure on health care delivery systems** worldwide.

RFHA's role in the program is to act as the lynchpin organization, to initiate the program, obtain partner organizations and funding sources, and to coordinate the work with all implementing partners leading up to and over the three-day event. RFHA further provides mechanisms, tools, platforms and training to assist the four Rotary Districts and numerous Clubs in Nigerian to roll out the RFHD Program as well as develop a comprehensive Media and Communications strategy delivered through a dedicated Media Team. This was done successfully over the years and are continually building upon.

Rotary Family Health Days: A Public Private Partnership

An Historical background

The Rotary Family Health Days is the signature program of the Rotarian Action Group, Rotarians for Family Health & AIDS Prevention Inc (RFHA). It is a unique public/private partnership program that is currently in its eleventh year of operation. This three day annual program provides wholistic, comprehensives preventive health screenings and Testing (both communicable and non-communicable) diseases by way of leveraging and inspiring a massive force of humanitarian-driven Rotarians and partners. Through this program, tens of thousands of people are served in mostly under-privileged communities in some countries in East Africa, South Africa, West Africa and India.

The services include free life-long immunizations to children, such as polio and measles vaccines and comprehensive life-saving annual health screens, counselling, testing and referrals for HIV/AIDS, TB, diabetes, hypertension, malaria, and some cancers. They also include deworming of children, vitamin A supplementation administration and immunizations for polio. Other services like eye and dental examinations are included at almost all locations. Health counselling, education and referrals for follow-on care are provided as well. Distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets, male and

female condoms, hygiene packs, dental cleaning supplies and other materials are also offered to clients in areas of need and availability.

In 2018 this three-day campaign operated about 500 health camps through the efforts of over 400 Rotary Clubs and 5,000+ Rotarians, Rotaractors, and community volunteers. The sites were located across Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin, and Uganda. Services were delivered to 423,795 patients. Since the inception of the Rotary Family Health Days in 2011 over 2.4 million patients have been offered over 11 million free health services.

In Nigeria the program is Rotary-led together with our valued partners which include the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health, the four Rotary Districts in Nigeria, local NGOs, our media partners and the Measurement and Evaluation partners, Zimi Community Good Health Initiative, etc.

The October 2023 RFHD Programme was fully funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and supported by The Federal Ministry of Health, States Ministries of Health, Primary Health Centres and Local NGOs. We also had huge technical support from RFHA inc. They all provided personnel and material support.

RFHD Program Model Nigeria

Primary Partners

- Rotary Family Health and Aids Prevention (RFHA) – a Rotary International Action Group
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – Main funder
- Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health
- States Primary Health Centre
- Local NGOs

THE OCTOBER 2023 HEALTH DAYS

The 2023 Rotary Family Health days was the third in the series of direct funding from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This mode of funding was coming for the third time in the history of the program. The planning and execution however took largely similar strategy as previous programs. Regardless of this, there was special dedication and concentration of vaccination of children against polio. The team had to work with the Nigerian National Polio Plus Committee who supported with ideas to beef up with our resources. The team also had to work specially with the Federal Ministry of Health and various States Ministry of Health, pulling direct support from the department on vaccination. The program also gave consideration to Covid test and vaccination. The demand for

COVID-19 pandemic related items had to be included in the list of items purchased and distributed. In planning therefore, the planning of the October 2023 Rotary Family Health Days across Nigeria could be said to have commenced few weeks after the execution of the February 2023 edition. The National Planning Committee held series of meetings with various partners, meeting of National Steering committee comprising District coordinators, Team Leads, Field workers , Local Authority leaders, Government personnel at various levels, local, State and National. We also communicated with all the District Governors and got their buy-in for the program. The Governors had earlier nominated their District Representatives and working with them did not pose any challenge.

We had two prominent official launches, one in Lagos, District 9110 and the other at Kano, Kano State, District 9125 . At both launches we had the privilege of having the presence of the District Governor (in District 9110 – Ifeyinwa Ejezie) and District Governor (District 9125 – Ahmed Sagab) Both also had the presence of some Past District Governors, Government officials numerous Rotarians, Partners and members of the Press. Others present includes RFHA Director, PDG Jide Akeredolu, (District 9110), Nigeria and Rotaractors, members of the Press, government officials and local partners.

Both launch events were quite successful and were able to meet the goals of the launch which essentially was to create further awareness for the programme within the local people and the world at large. The press interviewed key participants and publicized same in the National Newspapers, The National Television and National and Local Radio stations

The meetings with the Federal and State Ministry of Health and local Primary Health centres were scheduled early.

Unlike previous events but the last, funding came in time to afford better planning. This also afforded the removal of periodic pressure on the program management team especially with suppliers and vendors of medical supplies and other materials. It also afforded an ease on the time for nationwide transportation of materials.

PROCUREMENT OF MATERIAL

We maintained the central procurement of materials. The advantage of this cannot be over emphasized as it allows for uniformity of materials and easy collection during supplies. As a result, all supplies were centrally procured by the Central Planning Committee to ensure the quality and standard of supplies and they were dispatched to the various Rotary District Coordinators through private dispatch services. Most of the suppliers and vendors used were regular and preferred contacts who had in past and currently granted credit facilities to the program. We however benchmarked their quoted prices with prices of other suppliers and vendors with a view to bargaining a most realistic price.

COORDINATING TEAMS

The following committees were set up for effective coordination of the October 2023 Rotary Family Health Days at the national, district, state and club levels:

1. **National Steering Committee**

Consisting of RFHA Nigeria Officers. This includes:

The National Coordinator

National Secretary

Technical Advisor

Project Advisor

Four District Coordinators and

Assistant District Coordinators.

The Central Planning Committee has the responsibility of planning, coordinating, budgeting and strategic oversight duties over all the four Districts in the country. The Committee set overall policies, approves administrative and financial plans and liaison with national partners and cooperating organizations.

2. **District Steering Committee**

The District Coordinators are appointed by District Governors. The Coordinator builds up a team that are responsible for the coordination and implementation of the program in their Rotary district geographical areas. They approve club Needs Assessment exercise, the selection of sites, and relate to local partners. They work with selected areas, regional and state focal persons. The committees prepare and send program report to the national committee and gives their support during the 90-day impact study exercise.

3. **Club RFHD Committee**

A minimum of a 3-member committee is set up in each Rotary Club across the country and especially in participation clubs. They directly secure suitable sites with advice of local government health departments. They also coordinate program implementation at sites, seek volunteers, work with them and communicate with the district committee and report to the Club and the District Coordinators.

DETERMINING THE DATE

The national steering committee members selects possible dates based on the availability of the date and its convenience to all the Districts. Thus the inputs of the District Governors was necessary in the course of selecting the appropriate dates. In the past, RFHA normally reminds them of the usual month of RFHD which for about 5 years has been third quarter of the year except for the June 2022 edition, based on prevailing climate, National events, District Governors' itinerary and other Rotary programs. The Federal and State Ministries of Health gives us a free hand to pick a date but give long information to facilitate strong participation of government agencies in the programme.

The October 2023 date was however specifically designed to fall on the world Polio day of 24 October, 2024. The program was therefore scheduled for and held from 24 October to 26 October 2023. Future RFHD may take this pattern especially when funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

SITES DETERMINATION

As many clubs desires to be involved, they find avenues to involve the people in their communities and new communities they have not explored in the past. The Rotary Clubs are the local people that deals directly with the people. They conduct Needs Assessments of their geographical areas. Reports are collated and discussed by all the committees set up and agreement is reached on how many sites will operate in the exact locations. Factors considered include medical gaps, needs, performance in previous years within that location, community assets, level of Rotarian involvement. The local government health departments, State ministries of Health, CDC and the USAID also provide lists of locations which service must be taken to and the areas each of them actually works. The locations are finalized with our partners as they offer valuable logistics and personnel support. Effectively, there were a total of One Hundred and Ten (127) approved sites for the October 2023 program.

Project Goals

The goals of the program are multi-faceted and they are broken down as follow:

- To organize a 3-day general medical outreach in various locations of the country through Rotary Clubs and private organizations who desires to partner with RFHA
- To medically screen, test, immunize , counsel, and refer clients to where they can get appropriate medical treatment
- To raise awareness for polio immunization and immunize children of age zero to 5 years.
- To distribute mosquito nets to nursing mothers and pregnant ladies
- To distribute sanitary pads to ladies , especially teenage girls
- To increase the number of people who know their HIV status and refer them to appropriate health facilities,
- To increase the overall number of people exposed to various other diseases like Prostate Cancer, Tuberculosis, breast Cancer, malaria, typhoid, etc.
- To give support and boost both prevention and treatment and offer other family health related services.
- To educate people on the various health challenges that as may be offered at different locations

Project Objectives

The October 2023 program is the third of its kind where funding is wholly out of Rotary, the Central Planning team had to adjust its regular objectives slightly to advance the area of focus of the new Partner which is Polio immunization. Effectively the objectives of the program are as follows:

- To sensitize, mobilize and effectively immunize children of ages zero to five years
- To proactively sensitize, mobilize and engage the community to ensure significant participation in the HIV counseling and testing
- Test and counsel about 120,000 people
- Set up at least 120 sites for the tests and screening
- Offer information and related materials for various diseases and conditions
- Refer clients that tested positive for appropriate care, support and treatment services
- Carry out testing and screening for other infections and diseases
- Mobilize volunteers from Rotary, Rotaract, Rotary Community Corps and communities for the events
- Seek support of RFHA's partners: USAID, CDC, the ministries of health at all three levels of government
- Create sufficient awareness in the media to showcase the work of Rotary and the Action Group in particular

Engagement with Primary Partners

1. The Federal and States Ministries of Health were intimated of the program early enough to get them to continue their collaboration. They were requested to mobilize the community citizens to come out for the event at the various sites, permit Rotary the use of government health facilities at sites for the tests, donate consumables like condoms, test kits and deploy some nursing and technical staff for the program.
2. The RFHA National and district committees constantly work with all Rotary Clubs, Rotaractors, the Family of Rotary and Rotary Community Corps giving information, explaining the program and mobilizing them through visits, workshops and training
3. Our media consultants prepares a viable media campaign
4. Meetings were held with major program partners who were requested to transport the HTC services of their NGO partners to Rotary and provide other relevant support.
5. The Central Planning Committee has engaged the services of an M&E Consultant, ZIMI Community Good Health Initiative. As a cooperating partner they support with their wealth of professionalism and the various committees worked with the organization to achieve our goals

6. In support for awareness and bigger publicity, Radio and Television jingles, Fliers, posters and various communication materials were supplied to various government and primary health centers.

Training

The Central Planning committee planned four training sessions which were held across the country for key participants including, Rotarians, Rotaractors, health workers and other volunteers. The syllabuses dealt with general health issues, data collection, testing/screening techniques, correct use of treated nets and sanitary towels, general hygiene, what is expected of volunteers at the site , what clubs must provide to augment what the Central Planning Committee is providing, methods of public image and awareness, health and safety of workers and clients , confidentiality in results, etcetera. Facilitators included Rotarians, both government and private medical experts, the consulting staff and RFHA committee members.

The best use of the designed forms for data capturing was extensively discussed.

Programme Partner Organizations

As a result of the successes of the past, the Action Group has grown in fame and more organizations are confident in dealing with us. In the program under review the following partners collaborated with us

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- USAID
- Federal Ministry of Health
- Numerous States Ministry of Health
- Local NGOs
- Faith-based organizations
 - Catholic Church
 - Muslims organization
 - Faith Evangelist
 - Grailland Movement
- Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria
- National Malaria Control Programme
- National Primary Healthcare Development Agency
- The Eye Foundation
- Power Oil

- Life Agenda
- OASIS Foundation
- Sure Dental Clinic
- University of Uyo Teaching Hospital
- Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital
- Sebecly Cancer Care Foundation
- Amazing Care Foundation
- Health Matters Incorporation
- Hepatitis Zero (a Rotary Action Group)

Media strategic plan and campaign

We had a very robust media plan in collaboration with our media partner, Core Prime Ad-Concept. Our media partner organized a nationwide coverage of the program from various sites and helped with two media interactions in Lagos State for the national launch program. The National launch event took place in Lagos and had in attendance representatives of the minister of health, Rotary and community leaders and the key partners. The event was covered by the National Television station and International Local Televisions like Africa Independent Television, TVC and the Channels TV, national newspapers and Radio stations. There were Television interviews and Radio talk sessions at various states of the federation during the activation. Other publicity campaigns includes:

- Radio jingles in colloquia English and three major local languages, Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, radio announcements and interviews
- Pre and post event press interviews and newsreels
- Awareness campaigns in town and cities at community gatherings, markets, schools and worship centers
- Social media campaign like the Facebook and WhatsApp platforms
- Distribution of flyers, posters and banners
- Notifications and announcements in Rotary bulletins and speaking at Rotary events like Clubs President Installation, Clubs events etc.

Specifically, we utilized the following media:

PRINT:

The Guardian,
Punch newspapers

The Nation

ELECTRONIC:

The National Television Networks

Lagos television

Africa Independent Television

TV Continental

RADIO:

Radio Nigeria

Bond FM

Eko FM

Paramount FM

Dugba FM

Kaduna FM

Asaba FM

Wazobia FM

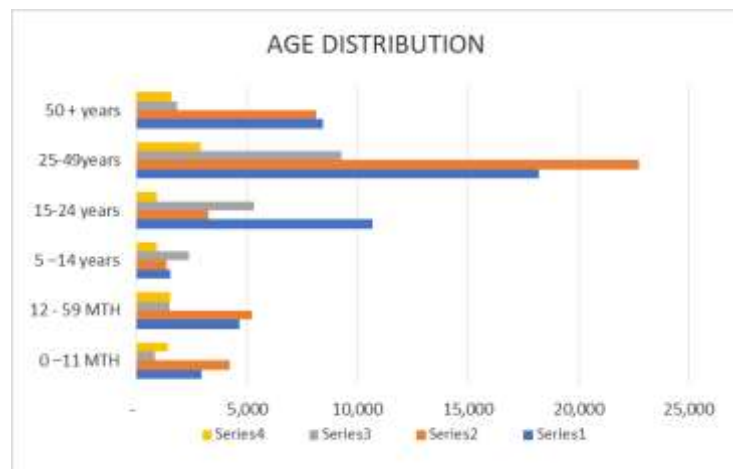
Monitoring and Evaluation

Relevant data were collected on sites by volunteers, especially health workers from our NGO partners, Rotarians and Rotaractors. The records are being analyzed for use during the 90-day Impact Study/ Exit exercise which will be conducted in February / March 2024. The exercise is planned to be conducted by our M&E consultant, ZIMI Community Good Health Initiative with support of the RFHA M & E Team. It will cover areas in all the Rotary Districts. When the report is received, it would be shared with all parties.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

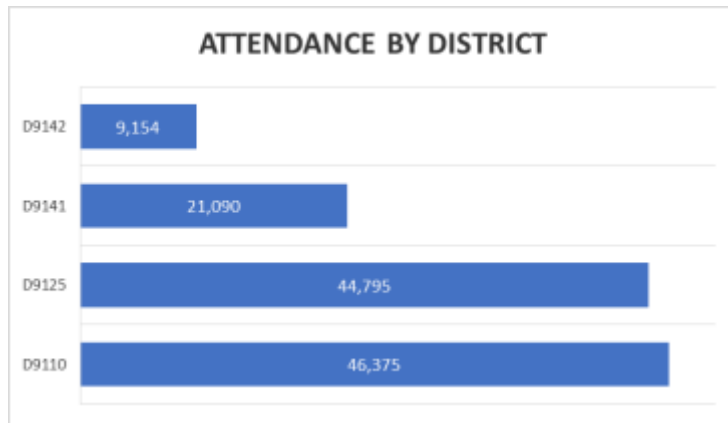
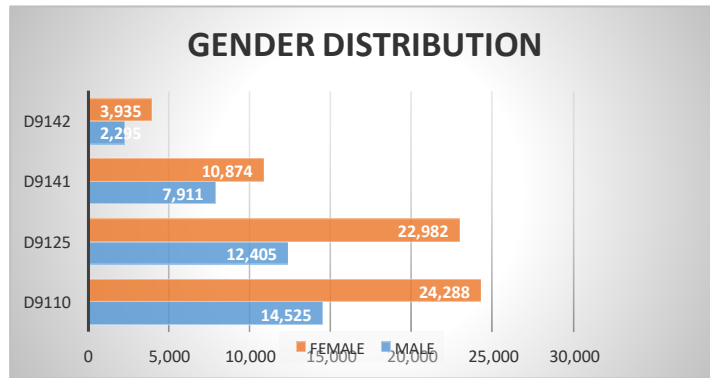
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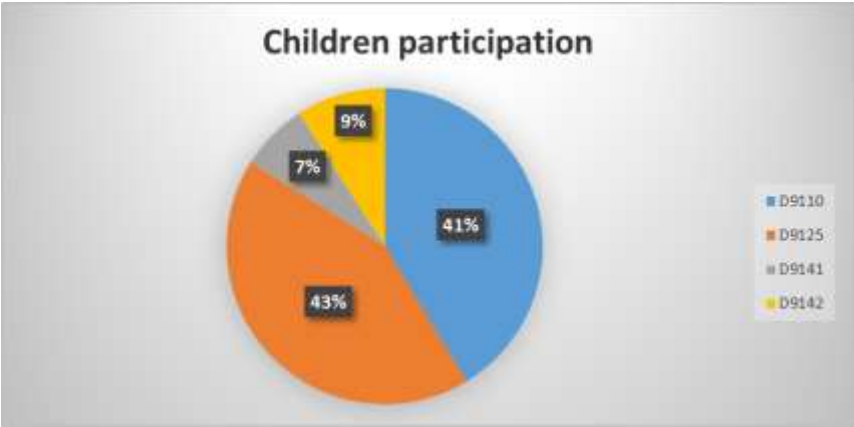
	9110	9215	9141	9142	TOTAL
0 -11 MTH	2,929	4,213	834	1,398	9,374
12 - 59 MTH	4,633	5,195	1,471	1,526	12,825
5 -14 years	1,530	1,352	2,353	923	6,158
15-24 years	10,683	3,222	5,322	882	20,109
25-49years	18,181	22,714	9,274	2,864	53,033
50 + years	8,419	8,099	1,836	1,561	19,915



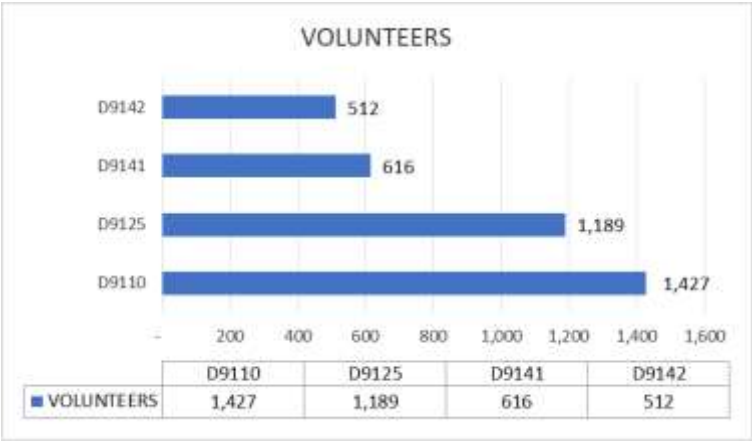
ATTENDANCE

	D9110 46,375	D9125 44,795	D9141 21,090	D9142 9,154	TOTAL 121,414
ATTENDANCE					
	D9110	D9125	D9141	D9142	TOTAL
MALE	14,525	12,405	7,911	2,295	53,136
FEMALE	24,288	22,982	10,874	3,935	68,278
	D9110	D9125	D9141	D9142	
CHILDREN	7,562	9,408	2,305	2,924	22,199
	D9110	D9125	D9141	D9142	
VOLUNTEERS	1,427	1,189	616	512	3,744
	D9110	D9125	D9141	D9142	
PARTICIPATING CLUBS	75	72	112	55	314
	D9110	D9125	D9141	D9142	
NO.OF SITES	50	40	16	21	127





Commented [U1]:



Club Participation



SITES PER DISTRICT

Legend

- 1 – District 9110 - 50
- 2. – District 9125 - 40
- 3. – District 9141 - 16
- 4. - District 9142 - 21



Core RFHD Services Provided

HIV Test / counselling	41,587
Hepatitis B & C Screening	26,600
Glucose Level check	47,624
Malaria Test	48,483
Blood Pressure Test	54,294
Tuberculosis Screening	1,190
Polio immunization	20,633
De-worming of children	26,898
Vitamin A supplement	21,289
Vitamin B	39,108
Vitamin C	21,260
General Pharmacy	27,791
Family Counseling	27,374
Mosquito nets distribution	22,688
Condoms (FEMALE)	9,151
Condoms (MALE)	13,555
Sanitary Towels	15,680
Prostate Cancer screening	11,596
Breast Cancer Screening	19,190
Cervical Cancer screening	8,639
Reading Glasses	4,065

ROTARY SERVICES PROVIDED BY DISTRICT
RFHD FEBRUARY 2023
SERVICES RENDERED

	D9110	D9125	D9141	D9142	TOTAL
Blood Pressure Test	25,866	15601	11,776	4,459	57,702
Body Analysis/checks	1,200				1,200
Breast Cancer Screening	5,369	13,821			19,190
Cervical Cancer screening	5,414	3,225			8,639
Cholesterol check	322	2,005			2,327
Condoms distribution(FEMALE)	3,801	2,000	300	3,050	9,151
Condoms distribution(MALE)	2,927	5,000	400	5,228	13,555
Delivery "mama" kits	3,000	2,420			5,420
Dental care	6,467	15,400	115	2,130	24,112
De-worming of children	10,458	11,240	900	4,300	26,898

Eye check	3,488	11,900	136	299	15,823
Family Counseling	10,614	7,850	4,980	3,930	27,374
Fertility				3	3
General Pharmacy	7,937	10,000	1,589	8,265	27,791
Glucose Level check	23,125	13,301	4,573	6,625	47,624
Hepatitis B Screening / vaccination	12,050				12,050
Hepatitis C Screening	12,050				12,050
Hepatitis B Vaccination	2,500				2,500
Height check	25,388	29,557	0	1,127	56,072
HIV Test / counselling	22,093	16,240	420	2,834	41,587
Malaria Test	26,919	15,334	3,200	3,030	48,483
Malaria Treatment / counselling	11,775	8,674	3,812	8,265	32,526
Menstrual health counselling	6,542	4,328	198	1,680	12,748
Mosquito nets distribution	11,450	8,360	1,200	1,678	22,688
Nutrition education	14,654	6,815	2,248	3,680	27,397
Polio immunization	5,491	11,220	920	3,002	20,633
Prostate Cancer screening	4,665	4,390	91	2,450	11,596
Reading Glasses	2,500	1,200	120	245	4,065
Sanitary Towels	7,760	4,890	1,350	1,680	15,680
Toothpaste distribution	450		200		650

Tuberculosis Screening	1,190				1,190
Temperature check	31,377	28,733	13,472	5,797	79,379
Uterine fibroid Check	45			4	49
Vitamin A supplement	6,607	5,411	1,650	7,621	21,289
Vitamin B	29,548	8,000	1,560	0	39,108
Vitamin C	14,000	7,260	0	0	21,260
Weight check	27,473	30,643	0	2,389	60,505
Pulse check	22,499	13,866	13,246	2,147	52,3762
Covid vaccination	358	205	47	85	695
Hypertension	10,160	6,251	309	198	16,918
TOTALS	383,363	288,362	43,438	111,297	826,460

Add-On Services Provided

* Intervention at two Internally Displaced People's Camps	7,443
* Intervention at Correctional homes	6,752
* General body analysis/checks	8,000
* Nutritional education	27,397
* Distribution of "mama kits" to pregnant women	5,420
* Eye Tests	22,472
* Reading glasses	9,027
* Toothpaste	2,000
* Weight check	60,505
*	

Service Referrals Provided

HIV Test	16
Hepatitis B	43
Hepatitis C	6
Blood Glucose	102
Eye Screening	65
Dental Care	46
Breast Cancer Screening	2
Cervical Cancer Screening	4
Prostate Cancer Screening	6
Malaria Tests	2,376
Blood Pressure Tests	867

Observations, Challenges and Key Learnings

RFHA Nigeria requested from certain NGOs. The NGO partners came and were very active in providing counselling, testing, screening and supply of materials to various sites.

- The Federal Ministry of Health supported the program with supplies of thousands of male and female condoms, malaria Rapid Diagnostic Testing kits, IEC materials and some insecticide treated mosquito nets. It also provided facilities/ materials for polio immunization, HIV testing and Hepatitis screening.
- Most of the States ministry of Health also gave logistics and personnel support through their Primary Health Care centers
- The Society for Family Health gave support towards malaria screening
- The Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria performed the screening for cancers
- We received the required media support from RFHA Inc. This helped in no small measure to enhance our social media presence. The tool employed, that is Givefinder was of great support. We hope to receive more of this support in subsequent programs.
- For Monitoring and Evaluation, the support of RFHA Inc also played a significant role. The team supported in the design of training tools and data capture.

- All the four Rotary International District Governors in Nigeria gave the RFHD generous support and ample opportunities to speak at their district events, seminars and major programs
- As a result of the program we have received some requests by members of the communities to volunteer in the program and or enquiries on how to join Rotary . This is good news to Rotary and they are being followed up

Challenges

- The greatest challenge encountered in this program is the fact that the program fell in the period of World Polio Day. Most Rotarians were already planned to attend various World Polio Day Event at the Clubs and Districts and therefore had some issues marrying both events especially on the 24th of October 2023.
- Also as we ventured into some unknown areas, new people were recruited to participate. This caused some challenges that eventually led to delay in report filing. The reports were not submitted in time and our representatives had to wait for over two months before they could eventually get the reports in the formats required.
- As our primary focus was to vaccinate as many children as possible, but we could not achieve much in this area as most states recently carried out their State Polio immunization exercise. The children were therefore not allowed to present themselves for a fresh round of polio immunization exercise.
- We also encountered some challenges of high cost of materials. Since the new government took over in Nigeria in May 2023, inflation had made the cost of materials and supplies gone above budgeted estimates. The saving grace however was that the high cost was cushioned by the forex gain we had
- Accessing some rural areas continue to pose great challenges, coupled with the current insecurity at such places. This highly affected our performance in such areas. It also strongly affected our collation of data and reports
- The Nigerian erratic electric power supply is still a major challenge as this greatly affects internet operation in rural areas and convenience of partners
- The program is designed to run for three days but service providers usually get overwhelmed during the last day of event and when the crowd usually builds up much more than the previous two day..

Expansion

With effect from July 2024, Nigeria would be expanded to Four Districts. Hopefully, this will enable us reach more areas in Nigeria as more will be engaged to support the programme and given far reaching exposures. As a result of this we have already appointed District Coordinators to lead the

two Districts . We also have started engaging the Incoming District Governor-Elects particularly at the recently concluded All Nigerian Rotary Convention held at Lagos in mid February 2024

Conclusion

Regardless of the pockets of challenges encountered, the October 2023 program was a huge success like previous editions. The Central Planning committee members were excited with the outcome of the Rotary Family Health Days . It turned out to have attracted more awareness and acceptance.

As usual, the program turned out to be a great experience both for Rotarians and the public we serve. Not minding the time and other resources put into it, the team was determined to make it an excellent program that it turned out to be.

Effectively,

- We achieved most of the goals of the program.
- Some clients were able to get referrals for medical follow-on, treatments and care.
- Awareness of the program has been generated more than previously and more access has been made as a result of this particular program
- Clients at various communities are in dire need of our services as it is helping them in knowing their health status which in turn has reduced the health anxieties and the cost of keeping healthy and encouraged lifestyle changes
- Rotary awareness in some communities was increased and in some an affirmation of Rotary's good deeds in the community.
- Participating Rotarians felt fulfilled to be part of the program
- As a result of the program some members of some communities are now attending Rotary meetings with a view to becoming members.

NEW AREAS DISCOVERED

We also witnessed an impressive outing especially at the two new sites we introduced at the Northern part of Nigeria. Our focus was to intensify our effort in the areas that are more polio endemic. These areas are mostly the Northern part of the country and particularly Sokoto State and Borno State. We started this by showing presence at the Primary Health Centre, notified them of our mission and shared with them some of our activities in different areas of the country, concentrating on sites that are within the same Northern areas. The significance of this is that RFHD was being introduced in these two location. It is important to state that Sokoto is a core muslim state, it is in the North west of the country and has very low level of education generally. The people are averse to western education and by extension, western medical treatment. Beyond encountering challenges related to cultural , our representatives had to do extra networking for weeks to convince the village head who in turn had to convince the members of the community to accept our medical

support. Surprisingly, the turnout for the three days was more than what we anticipated and planned for. At the Sokoto Site held at the Sokoto State Primary Health Centre, Kofar Rimi, Sokoto we were able to attend to over One Thousand Three Hundred clients, most of whom were women and children. Some of the services executed includes Polio vaccination for children of less than five years old, distribution of Mosquito nets, test for HIV AIDS, Sanitary pads distribution for young ladies, screening and testing for malaria, etcetera to mention but few. A total of Fifty Eight referrals was recorded.

Borno State, north east of Nigeria on the other hand is the state that recorded the last case of Polio. Immunizing children in Borno state has been a major challenge in recent times more so as the state have been battling local wars, kidnapping of people for ransom and whole scale abduction of children. These has made the area to be declared as one of the major communities at risk of polio disease. Activating a site in this area that has not received any Rotary major project in recent times is therefore an achievement to us particularly at RFHA. We therefore received government permission to use the Cross Primary Health Care, Maiduguri, Borno State. Total clients received was in excess of One Thousand Two Hundred. This comprises mostly of women, Nursing mothers and children. Referrals of about Twenty persons was also recorded.

At both sites, we were excited that in spite of government effort and periodic intervention of polio immunization, we could still get sizeable number of children to administer the polio vaccine.

The effort in attempting to get to these areas that we have not reached can therefore be said to be justifiable. The Rotarians and non-Rotarian volunteers that made these happen at the various locations indeed deserves our commendation.

Recommendations

Following the demand by the community members we will like to recommend that

1. The next program be approved for the last week of February 2024
2. The Funding be released not later than second week of February 2024 to enable us have ample time to plan and get prepared for the February 2024 edition.
3. The funding be increased by about 20% to cushion the current inflationary trend in the country which has affected all line items of our medical supplies and cost of administration.

Appreciation

We wish to appreciate specially the effort of Senior Programs' Officer at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Andrea Thompson) for her support and believe in our activities. We recognize also the astuteness of The RFHA CEO, Susan Paget and her leadership style of coordination and motivation. We also want to appreciate PDG Eric Kimani for his wonderful support and encouragement at all monthly meetings.

All participants and recipients in Nigerians are very grateful to the RFHA Inc. Board for giving us the opportunity to serve the various people in our communities through the Rotary Family Health Days Program. We appreciate the support of the various four District Governors in Nigeria in whose districts we were able to execute the health Days.



PHOTO GALLERY



Some acronyms for this report

1. AGYW - adolescent girls and young women
2. AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency syndrome
3. ART Antiretroviral therapy
4. HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
5. CBO community based organisation
6. CDC – Centers for Disease Control and prevention
7. CHW community health worker
8. Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief
9. EPI expanded programme on immunization
10. HCT HIV counselling and testing
11. HIVDR HIV Drug resistance
12. HBV Hepatitis B virus
13. HCV Hepatitis C virus
14. HTS HIV testing services
15. IEC Information, education and communication
16. M&E monitoring and evaluation
17. MMC medical male circumcision
18. NDOH national department of health
19. NDP national development plan – vision 2030
20. NGO nongovernmental organization
21. NCD non communicable diseases
22. OVC orphaned and vulnerable children
23. PCA Provincial Council on AIDS
24. PEPFAR United States Presidential
25. PIP Provincial Implementation Plan
26. STI Sexually transmitted infections
27. TB tuberculosis
28. UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
29. USAID United States Agency for International Development
30. UTT – UNIVERSAL TEST AND TREAT
31. VCT – VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING