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Project Background

Healthy Mother Healthy Child Project is a TY Danjuma Foundation Funded Project being implemented by Antof Rural Resource Development Centre (ARRDEC) in three LGAs namely: Iwok Nsit, odot, Ikot Uyo communities of Nsit Atai LGA, Ibaka, Uda, Okobo-Ebughu communities of Mbo LGA and Oduonim, Edok, Mbokpu Eyoakan Communities of Urue Offong/Oruko LGA in Akwa Ibom State.

The project is being implemented by ARRDEC under the sub-title, "Promoting uptake of ANC and PMTCT services at 2 PHCs each in Mbo, Nsit Atai and Urueoffong/Oruko LGAs for improved IMNCH in 11 months". and the target populations are pregnant women and HIV exposed infants. The objective of the Project is to contribute to reducing the prevalence of under-five and maternal mortality in targeted states, therefore to achieve this, the project is working with the beneficiaries, host communities, engaging the various community structures that impact women's care-seeking behaviour to promote uptake of ANC and PMTCT services at the selected Primary healthcare Centres in the project. Results-focused activities being implemented included: Sensitization meeting with Community gate keepers, Capacity Building Community-based Outreaches, Health Talk, Cluster Meetings, Meeting with Male Partners, and tracking and follow-up of positive clients.

KEY PROJECT RESULTS

ANTE NATAL CARE

789 Pregnant women persuaded and enrolled for Ante Natal Care at 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.

373 Pregnant women made 4 Ante Natal Care visits at 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.

524 Pregnant women made more than 4 Ante Natal Care visits at 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.

134 Babies successfully delivered in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs

PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

764 Pregnant women counseled and tested for HIV in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.

27 Pregnant women tested positive to HIV and enrolled for PMTCT in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.

11 HIV-exposed infants received early infant diagnosis in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs

11 HIV-exposed infants received ART in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITY-LEVEL RESULTS BETWEEN FEB. TO Nov. 2020

COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION/PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

"In February 2020, The project team visited the selected project communities for the purpose of mobilization, sensitization and partnership building all towards achieving the project goal of promoting uptake of ANC and PMTCT services at the Primary Health Facilities."

"And sensitization meetings were held in the same month across the three LGAs of Mbo, Nsit Atai and Urueoffong/Oruko, with religious leaders, community leaders, women associations and other gate keepers in attendance. Also, focused-group sessions were held targeting community structures such as traditional birth Attendants, mission home operators etc.,"

"Supports of 33 gate-keepers (16 males, 17 females) were garnered. Twenty two (22) community structures were interviewed, out of which fifteen were selected to participate in the capacity building training."



ARRDEC Team with the officer-in-charge of Oduonim Health Centre, Urue Offong/Oruko LGA on February 19, 2020



ARRDEC Team with the Village head of Iwok Nsit, Nsit Atai LGA, and his cabinet members, on February 21st, 2020

“The pre-project assessment conducted before project commencement revealed that Health System strengthening was key to achieving the project goal. The project's community health systems strengthening activities carried out included capacity building for selected community volunteers, Refreshers Training for Primary Health Centres' workers (PHCWs) and quarterly cluster meetings PHCWs, Traditional birth Attendants, and Mission Homes Operators.”

2-Day Refresher Training for Health Workers in 3 PHCs
 The Refresher Training held Sept. 2020 was aimed at re-enlightening health workers on ethics, code of conduct, best practices, Focused ANC Care (FANC), sign/symptoms of pre-eclampsia and its management as well as care of new born.”

“The **Capacity of 35 health workers** comprised of 32 females and 3 males was built 3 PHCs across the three LGAs.”

“Also, the selected PHCs were provided with desk sphygmomanometer, delivery instrument set and stethoscope for additional strengthening.”

2-Day Capacity Building for 9 PMTCT Outreach Team Members and 15 Community Structures

“The training held in February 2020 at Antofitel Hotels & Suite, Oron resulted in improved knowledge of **15 Traditional Birth Attendants and 9 community health workers on ANC and PMTCT.**”

“Consumables such as **hand gloves, Methylated Spirits and cotton wool** were provided to **15 TBAs**”

Cluster Meeting with PHCWs, PPMVs, TBAs/Mission Homes, and Mentor Mothers

“Two rounds of Cluster Meetings were held between August and November 2020.”

“Collaboration/synergy among **72 persons** comprising traditional birth attendants, Mission Homes Operators and Primary Health Facilities' workers for improved service delivery.”



Cross section of participants, facilitators and ARRDEC Team, February 25, 2020

Cross section of participants during the Refreshers' Training at PHC, Enwang, Mbo LGA on Sept. 11, 2020

The Executive Director of TY Danjuma Foundation, Mr. Gima Forje (R) presenting delivery instrument set, desk sphyg. & stethoscope to Mrs. Esther Daniel, the officer-in-charge of PHC Iwok Nsit on Sept. 08, 2020

CREATING DEMAND FOR UPTAKE OF ANC AND PMTCT

“The pre-project assessment revealed demand gap at the Health facilities as pregnant women preferred the services of Traditional Birth Attendants and Mission Homes to services Health Centres provide. The project employed a community based house-to-house Outreach strategy. This resulted in more uptakes of ANC and PMTCT by pregnant women at the health facilities. Tracking and follow-up was also carried out on HIV positive pregnant women to ensured adherence to treatment.”

Mobile Outreaches

“9 trained community volunteers conducted mobile outreach across Nsit Atai, Mbo and Urueoffong/Oruko between March and Oct. 2020”

These outreaches resulted in

<p>“789</p> <p>Pregnant women persuaded and enrolled for Ante Natal Care at 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs”</p>	<p>“27</p> <p>Pregnant women tested positive to HIV and enrolled for PMTCT in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.”</p>	<p>“11</p> <p>HIV-exposed infants received early infant diagnosis in 9 health facilities across the 3 LGAs.”</p>
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Tracking and Follow-up Visits to Identified HIV Positive Pregnant Women by Mentor Mothers:

“6 mentor mothers were engaged and carried out tracking and follow-up activity across Nsit Atai, Mbo and Urueoffong/Oruko between March and Oct., 2020.”

These resulted in

“27

HIV-positive Pregnant women placed on **ART** adhered to treatment

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

Behaviour change communication was used as an effective strategy for not only achieving the project goal but for sustaining project gains. Improved knowledge of the beneficiaries will result in their practicing good health seeking behaviours. Activities carried out under this strategy included Bi-monthly Health Talk, meetings with Male Partners.

Bi-monthly Health Talk

“**6 Health Talk sessions** held across the 3 LGAs between March and Oct., 2020.

162 Persons (149 women & 13 men) participated in the health talk across the 3 LGAs between March and Oct., 2020.”

Meeting with Male Partners

“**40** men participated in the meeting held Sept., 2020 Across 3 LGAs.

40 men had improved knowledge on: the benefits of encouraging their wives for ANC for a minimum of four times before delivery, reproductive health, use of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) in the homes, correct and consistent use of condom, purpose and need for child spacing”



The Officer-in-charge of PHC, Enwang, Mbo LGA, addressing participants during the health Talk on 26th March 2020



Cross section of participants at the meeting held on Sept. 21st, 2020 at Ikot Uyo, Nsit Atai LGA.