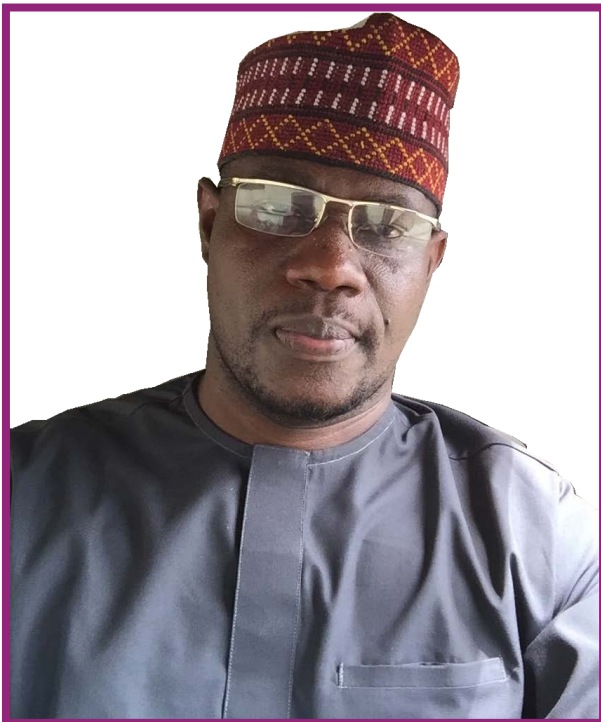




**Steering the  
rudder in  
uncharted  
waters**

## From the Editor



**Emeka Okafor**  
Project Director, IntegratE

As the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) prepares to commence the implementation of the tiered accreditation system, the IntegratE project supported the Council in the facility visit to select and engage the Schools of Health technology in Lagos and Kaduna States as training centres for the Mandatory Entry point training of the Patent and Proprietary Medicines Vendors (PPMVs). With this training, PCN is poised to reposition PPMV practice in Nigeria for better quality health service delivery.

The project sustained and strengthened engagement with key stakeholders, conducted training for providers and supported trained providers through mentoring and supportive supervisory visit for quality service delivery.

In this edition, we will also be introducing some key partnership with **mPharma** -an innovative Vendor Managed Inventory (VMI) organisation who is transforming the outlook of the PPMVs and drug shops to make them more profitable and also deliver better quality services.

Finally, we will also be sharing some of the interesting ways some of the project's trained providers are giving back to their communities by organising medical outreaches to enlighten members on disease prevention and promote healthy living.



Presentation of the directory of mapped CPs and PPMVs to the Honorable Commissioner for Health in Lagos.

## Sustaining Engagement with the State Governments

The project team in the two states continues to actively engage with wider stakeholders as part of efforts to create a sustainable enabling environment for the provision and use of family planning and other basic healthcare services. Following the appointment of a new Commissioner for Health in Lagos state, the project conducted an advocacy visit to the new Commissioner (Prof. Akin Abayomi).

During the visit, the project team provided update on implementation and formally presented the directory of GIS-mapped Community Pharmacists (CPs) and Proprietary & Patient Medicine Vendors (PPMVs) in the state to the government.

The project also used the opportunity to intensify advocacy on the need to approve provision of implant services by the trained PPMVs that are CHEWs.

## PCN's visit to Schools of Health Technology in Kaduna and Lagos State

As part of preparation for the smooth take-off of the Mandatory Entry Point Accreditation training programme, the Pharmacist Council of Nigeria (PCN) supported by IntegratE and Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) visited six Schools of Health technology in Kaduna and Lagos for assessment prior to selection as training centres for institutionalising accreditation system. A 10-man visitation committee inaugurated by the Council's Registrar visited the schools and recommended five for engagement. The Council will sign Memorandum of Understanding with the select schools in February 2020 to signal the commencement of the training.



Dr. Kayode Afolabi of FMOH at the DMPA-SC SI training in Lagos.

## Introducing the DMPA-SC self-administration through the private sector providers



Participants at the DMPA-SC Self-injection training in Lagos.

In support of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) road map for the scale up of Depo Medroxy Progesterone Acetate Sub-cutaneous injection (DMPA-SC) self-administration, the project partnered with the Resilient & Accelerated Scale up of DMPA-SC/Self-Injection project in Nigeria (RASUDiN project) to train selected CPs and PPMVs on DMPA-SC Self-Injection in Lagos.

The training was carried out in four clusters and supervised by the Director of Family Health of FMOH (and the Chairman of IntegratE project steering committee), **Dr Kayode Afolabi**. A total of 58 CPs and 26 Health trained PPMVs were trained in Lagos, and they are expected to introduce the self-injection to their clients that meet the eligibility criteria.

The training which was also monitored by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria represented by **Pharm. Emily Olalere** and **Pharm. Ogijo** also received the support of the state government who had earlier set up a task force for a seamless roll out of the self-injection. After the training, the providers were given all necessary tools like DMPA-SC Self-Injection job aids, client leaflets and sharp disposal boxes to ensure they are well equipped to provide quality services to their clients.



The QA/QI training of PCN staff from south west zone.

## Strengthening the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria's capacity to carry out its regulatory mandate



Interactive session during QA/QI training of PCN staff.

The project also continued to strengthen the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria's (PCN) capacity to carry out its regulatory mandate by supporting the digitisation of its operations and development of a Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement framework.

This process which started with a co-design workshop in 2019 is targeted at improving the effectiveness of PCN in discharging its mandate in the areas of registration, inspection, licensure, education and enforcement of Pharmaceutical operations in the country. To ensure a smooth operationalisation, the project supported the training of key staff of the council across six zones commencing from the South West zone to ensure they fully understand the tools and how it is deployed.

# Creating awareness on disease prevention, empowering communities to lead healthier lives

With an estimated population of 1.28million inhabitants (Census 2006, current estimate at 5.7million), Alimosho is unarguably the most populated Local governments in Lagos State. Ikotun, one of the most densely populated community within the local government with majority of its inhabitants as petty traders are often faced with poor access to quality healthcare.



Public enlightenment on disease prevention during the outreach.

A few government owned and private hospitals in this community are grossly inadequate to provide for the health needs of this ever growing population, leaving a lot of the inhabitants to self managed care which often times is not well informed.

Determined to create appropriate awareness and contribute to the reduction of disease burden in their community, Pharm Olusegun Sanusi and Pharm (Mrs) Adegoke Sanusi both owners of De-Royal Treat Pharmacy located at Ijegun road Ikotun, Lagos organised a medical outreach within their community. The outreach which had the support of other health professionals, reached over 200 members of the community with various



Blood Pressure check during the Outreach.

health services which includes family planning, Blood pressure check, body mass index check, Blood sugar test, HIV screening, cervical cancer screening and Breast examination.

One of the beneficiaries, Mrs Folami Temitope, a teacher who lives within the community and received a long acting reversible contraceptive method during the outreach was so excited when approached to share her experience. Showing the team and feeling the rods in her upper arm where it was inserted and smiling, she said:

*"You know actually I have been trying to go for it (implant) but there was no time because*

*of my busy schedule, but during the outreach, I took the advantage and I'm happy I have done it and I have been referring other women to the Pharmacy since then"*

Without the outreach, it may have taken a longer time for women like Mrs Folami to make up her mind and find a trained provider closest to her that will provide her with the desired family planning services.

Pharm. Olusegun and Pharm. Mrs Adegoke are among over 200 community pharmacists trained by the IntegratE project on provision of comprehensive family planning services including injectables and implants and empowered to reach out to their communities to provide information on disease prevention and hygienic practices with the overall goal of supporting the state government meet its health goals.

## Partnering to improve the quality of services delivered by the PPMVs



Anuluwapo PMS before the upgrade



Anuluwapo PMS after the upgrade

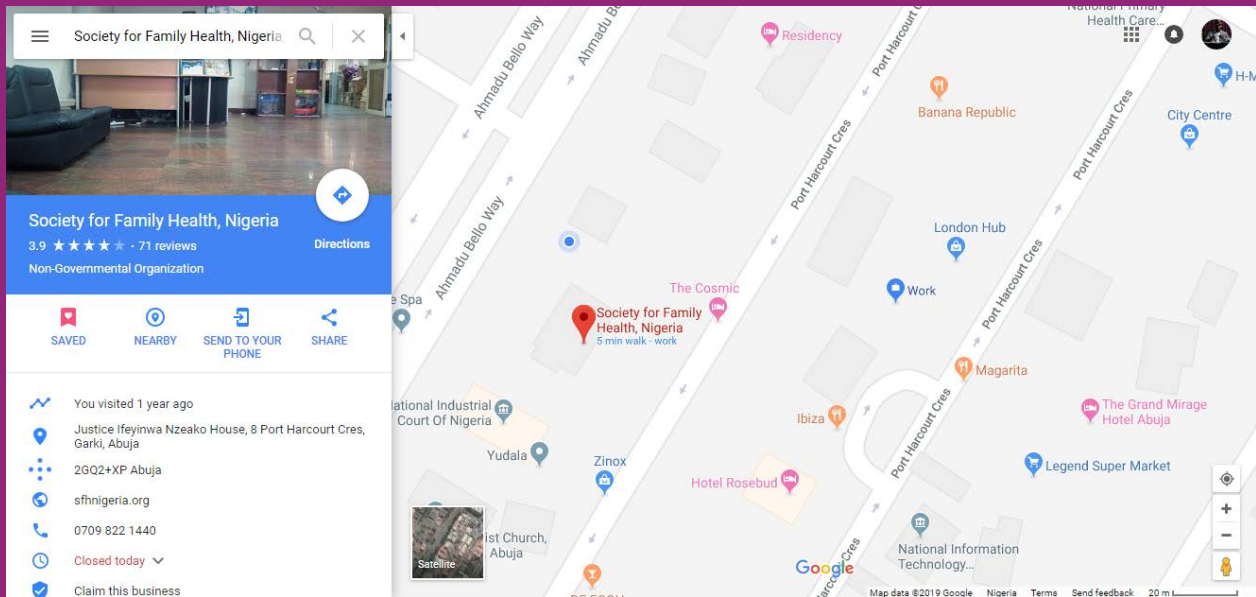
In line with PCN's personnel and facility accreditation, the project partnered with mPharma- a private Vendor Managed Inventory organisation to refurbish and remodel some PPMVs in Lagos to meet the accreditation standard and make them more profitable on the long run.


mPharma is working on a conversion retail franchise model for PPMVs in Nigeria that enables PPMV shop owners to get their facilities remodeled at no upfront cost and also ensures access to continuous inventory through the Vendor Managed Inventory model. The shop owners are expected to pay back the cost of remodeling from the proceeds of the business over a period of time.

One of the beneficiaries- Mrs Iyabo Akinsola, owner of Anuluwapo Patent Medicines Shop (PMS) Igbogbo Ikorodu, Lagos was very excited as her sales have doubled since the upgrade in December 2019.

She says: *"I am very happy with IntegratE project and mPharma now my customers say my shop is fine oo"*.

# connect with us



 2nd Floor, Justice Ifeyinwa Nzeako House  
#8 Port Harcourt Crescent,  
Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

 SFHIntegratE

 IntegratEProj

 IntegratEProject

# #knowitplanit

  
**IntegratE**

EXPANDING ACCESS TO QUALITY FAMILY PLANNING AND PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES