



STEERING THE RUDDER IN UNCHARTED WATERS

From the Editor's Desk

Victoria AWOGBINDIN
Program Assistant, IntegratE

3 years, 9 months already and this laudable proof-of-concept is gradually closing out on its first phase. Some challenges encountered, many learnings learnt and success stories abound by women who have been impacted by the improved quality of service from our CPs and PPMVs in Lagos and Kaduna States.

The project will be scaling up to more states, hence highlights of advocacy visits, stakeholder sensitization meetings and other strategic activities in preparation for its second phase are featured in this edition.

Preparatory work is being done for dissemination of key learnings, scale up and layering of primary health care services in Lagos and Kaduna among already trained providers. These together with an interesting success story of a happy and satisfied advocate of family planning in Ikorodu LGA, Lagos State are featured.

Enjoy reading!

Stakeholders' Sensitization Meetings and Advocacy Visits in Preparation for IntegratE



Advocacy visit to SMOH in Kano

The IntegratE project team in collaboration with PCN intensified engagements via sensitization meetings and advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders in Kaduna and Lagos states, as well as in upcoming implementation states- Kano, Gombe and Nasarawa.

In Kano State, the team met with the key stakeholders to discuss the lessons learned from IntegratE 1.0 and to share the plans for scale up to the state. The Director, Pharmaceutical Services, Kano State Ministry of Health, Pharm. Gali Sulieman and Director, Pharmaceutical Services PHIMA, Pharm. Abdullahi Dambazua as well as Chairman, Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (ACPN) Kano State, Pharmacist Najib

were some of the officials met with during the visit.

In Gombe, meetings were held with the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Habu Haliru, the Permanent Secretary, Gombe State Ministry of Health, Director of Pharmaceutical Services and other key officials of the State Ministry of Health, as well as executives of the Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (ACPN), Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria and National Association of Patent & Proprietary Medicine Vendors of Nigeria, Gombe State Chapter.

The Commissioner formally welcomed the team to Gombe and expressed the state's readiness to partner with the project in the laudable task of improving private health sector regulation and service delivery. In his words, "we will give you all the support to ensure success of the project in Gombe State".

IntegratE and ANRiN projects pay advocacy visit to Commissioner of Health, Kaduna State



Commissioner of Health, Dr. Amina Baloni, with IntegratE and ANRiN project representatives during the advocacy visit.

In Kaduna, the team formally introduced IntegratE 2.0 project scale up plans to Kaduna State government and other key stakeholders. The state team also met with and briefed key directors of the SMOH including Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Director of Public Health, Director Family and Community Health and the Executive Secretary, Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Board.

The meetings were successful as the Commissioner and the Directors acknowledged the timeliness of the scale up plans especially the iCCM component and expressed their support for the IntegratE 2.0 project scale up plan. In response to the presentation by the project team on IntegratE 2.0 scale up plan and the need for the state's support and commitment towards its successful implementation, the Commissioner of Health, Dr. Amina Baloni, thanked the project team for the visit and expressed her excitement for the inclusion of childhood illnesses (iCCM) in the scale up plan as well as the choice of Kaduna State as one of the benefiting states for the implementation of the second phase.

IntegratE Project Lagos Team makes Presentation to Lagos State Ministry of Health on Planned Activities for its Second Phase

In Lagos, the IntegratE project team commenced engagements with Lagos State Ministry of Health (LSMoH) in a meeting.

The meeting had in attendance Directors and Heads of Units that are involved in family planning (FP), integrated community case management of childhood illnesses (ICCM), tuberculosis (TB) and nutrition.

The state program manager made a presentation highlighting achievements so far in the current phase of the project as well as the planned activities for the second phase.

The LSMoH team applauded IntegratE for its immense contribution to FP services in the state through CPs and PPMVs and expressed commitment to support the next phase of the project.

Advocacy visit was also paid to the 2 new Directors of Pharmaceutical Services and Director, Pharmaceutical Inspectorate Unit of the LSMoH. This was done to intimate them about the project and to solicit their support.

Mandatory Entry Point Training Program (MEPTP) continues in Lagos and First Set of Graduates awarded Certificates



Presentation of certificate to a Tier-2 PPMV MEPTP graduate in Lagos

The mandatory entry point training program (MEPTP) in Lagos continues with 102 PPMVs (99 Tier-1 PPMVs and 3 Tier-2 PPMVs) in attendance for the second batch. These were trained by the three approved schools of health technology in Lagos, bringing the total number of PPMVs that have undergone the accreditation training in Lagos to 154.

Feedbacks from the participants showed improvement in their knowledge as well as their willingness to operate within approval limit.

In the course of the quarter, the first set of graduates from the MEPTP were awarded their certificates.

The certification event was witnessed by major stakeholders in the state- the Director of Pharmaceutical Services, ACPN chairman, provosts of the schools and colleges of health technology in the state and the IntegratE team.

The presentation of certificates to the PPMVs was done by the Director of Program Coordination, PCN, Pharm. Emily Olalere and the Director of Pharmaceutical Services.

Pharm. Olalere in her remark appreciated IntegratE for supporting PCN to achieve the great feat, which will uplift the standard of PPMV operations and regulation in the country.

Stakeholders' Sensitization Meetings and Advocacy Visits in Preparation for IntegratE



In Kaduna, successful PPMVs who participated in the mandatory entry point training programme (MEPTP) were presented with certificates by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) in collaboration with IntegratE project.

A total of 223 PPMVs comprising of 176 Tier-2 PPMVs and 47 Tier-1 PPMVs completed the training and about 199 received their certificates. Those that could not pass the tiered accreditation final examination will be given another opportunity

to re-sit the exam during the next stream of trainings planned for August 2021.

The presentation ceremony was well attended by PCN staff from Abuja and Kaduna offices, the IntegratE Project Director, other key stakeholders from DPS, KSPHCDB, NAFDAC, PSN, ACPN, NAPPMED, APMEV and provosts of the school of health technology in Kagoro and Makarfi LGAs.

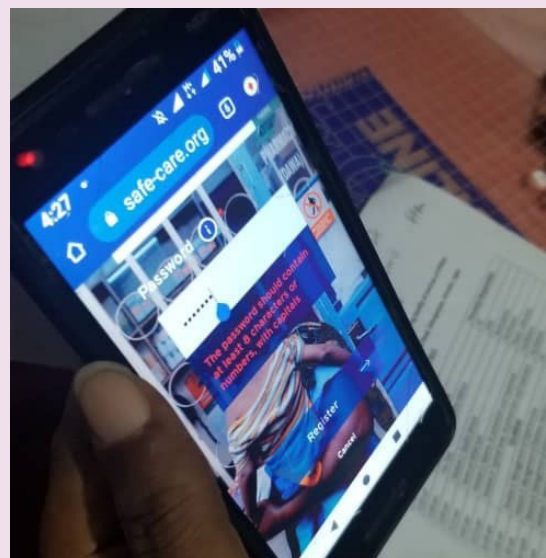
PCN's Electronic License and Registration Process Is Actively Serving IntegratE-trained PPMVs

To improve PPMVs' registration rate with PCN, the project team through supportive supervisory visits and WhatsApp platforms encouraged the providers on the need for regulatory compliance. The project team retrieved 38 licenses from PCN Kaduna state office on behalf of PPMVs. 8 PPMVs also visited the state's IntegratE office and have been supported to use PCN pay portal to apply for registration/license renewal with PCN.

Refresher Training organised for 499 PPMVs on managing Common Illnesses and Use of MSSA tool



PPMV being guided on how to use the MSSA tool



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140 PPMVs reached via the Integrated Supportive Supervisory Visit (ISSV)



ISSV team providing feedback to a tier-2 PPMV on BCS Plus



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Family Planning Outreach

In Lagos, six outreaches were carried out with support of 4 community pharmacists and 2 tier-2 PPMVs in Ikorodu, Kosofe Alimosho and Badagry LGAs. A total of 92 persons took up different methods and 49 of these were implant services.

In Kaduna, seven family planning-focused outreaches were conducted across some rural communities in Chikun, Igabi, Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Sabon-Gari and Zaria LGAs. Clients were mobilized by IPCAs to the premises of IntegratE-trained providers within the community where quality FP services were being offered.

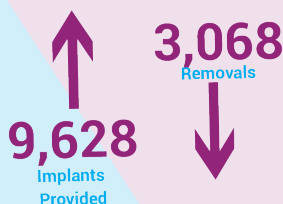
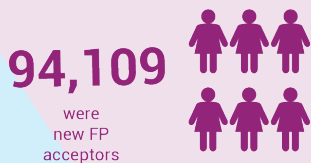
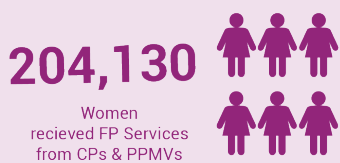
The outreaches served as platforms to further strengthen the skills of the providers in invasive methods especially implant insertion and removal. A total of 501 clients were reached through the outreaches- 85 clients received counselling only, 105 clients took oral pills, 95 clients accepted implants, 5 clients were served for implant removal and 211 clients received male condoms.

Impact of IntegratE Project via the Tiered Accreditation System

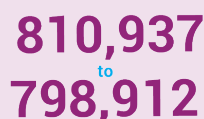
As at June 2021, the following has been achieved via the tiered accreditation system:

- A total of 998 PPMVs (342 Non-Health trained PPMVs and 656 Health-trained PPMVs) and 461 community pharmacists have been trained on the project in Kaduna and Lagos States on provision of family planning services.
- Based on provider-reported data, 204,130 women of reproductive age have received FP services from CPs and PPMVs of which 94,109 were new FP acceptors.
- A total of 9,628 implant insertions were provided with 3,068 removals.
- Injectable and oral pills uptake stood at 43,874 and 125,180 respectively while condom uptake stood at 810,937- 798,912 male and 12,025 female condoms.

Project Targets and Achievements



Female condoms

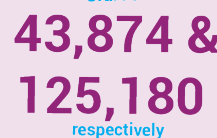


998 PPMVs



- **656** Health
- **342** Non-Health
- **461** Communities Trained

Injectable & Oral Pills



Human Interest Story



Zainab, a Satisfied and Happy Advocate of Family Planning

Mrs Zainab Morruff, 30, is married with two children and she lives with her husband in a semi-urban area in Ikorodu LGA, Lagos state. She is a hairdresser and was quite skeptical about the uptake of an implant method because according to her, the nature of her work requires frequent use of her hand and she didn't want a situation where the implant would sink into her body, so she opted for an injectable method which she had to switch from subsequently.

IntegratE interviewed her on how she took up the implant method, and how it has benefited her.

IntegratE Interviewer: How did you know about family planning?

I usually purchase drugs from this pharmacy and I asked for an injectable method for family planning. I mentioned that I didn't like the other method that goes into the body (implant). But I usually got stained from injectable. I took up this method by my sister's advice, she is a nurse and so I got injectable from him but because of the stain I decided to opt for another method. However, I was reluctant about the implant method because I didn't want a situation where the implant would sink into my hands because of frequent use, as I am a hairdresser.

IntegratE Interviewer: So how was your fear of the implant sinking cleared?

When I came to the Pharmacist to opt for another method, as he was talking to me about the available methods, I like the implant method because it will be for a longer time- 5 years. But I mentioned to him that I wasn't sure of taking it because I didn't want a situation where it would sink into my hand.

The Pharmacist reassured me that there was no such possibility if it was inserted correctly. Because I trusted him and I've patronized him for drugs for a long time, I decided to give it a try.

IntegratE Interviewer: Since you took up the Implant method, have you experienced any challenge?

No I haven't. I don't have any complaints at all.

IntegratE Interviewer: How has uptake of a family planning method helped you?

You know, if I didn't take up this now, I would have been pregnant. It helps me to prevent unwanted pregnancy. You know for this country we're in, one has to plan the number of children one intends to have.

That is the main reason I took up family planning method. So I must apply wisdom to everything I do and I'm not ready to have another child now. Even the two I already have, I pray for God's provision to take care of them.

IntegratE Interviewer: If you didn't take up this method, what would have happened in your marriage/ family?

You know men, once they've decided on the number of children they want to have they'd be reluctant to spend on any extra child that comes.

While they might not reject the child, they'd only do what they have the means to do. And a woman will be blamed in such an instance. So a woman must know her way to prevent unwanted pregnancy to avoid misunderstandings between herself and her husband.

IntegratE Interviewer: What's your comment about the quality of service provided to you from this pharmacy?

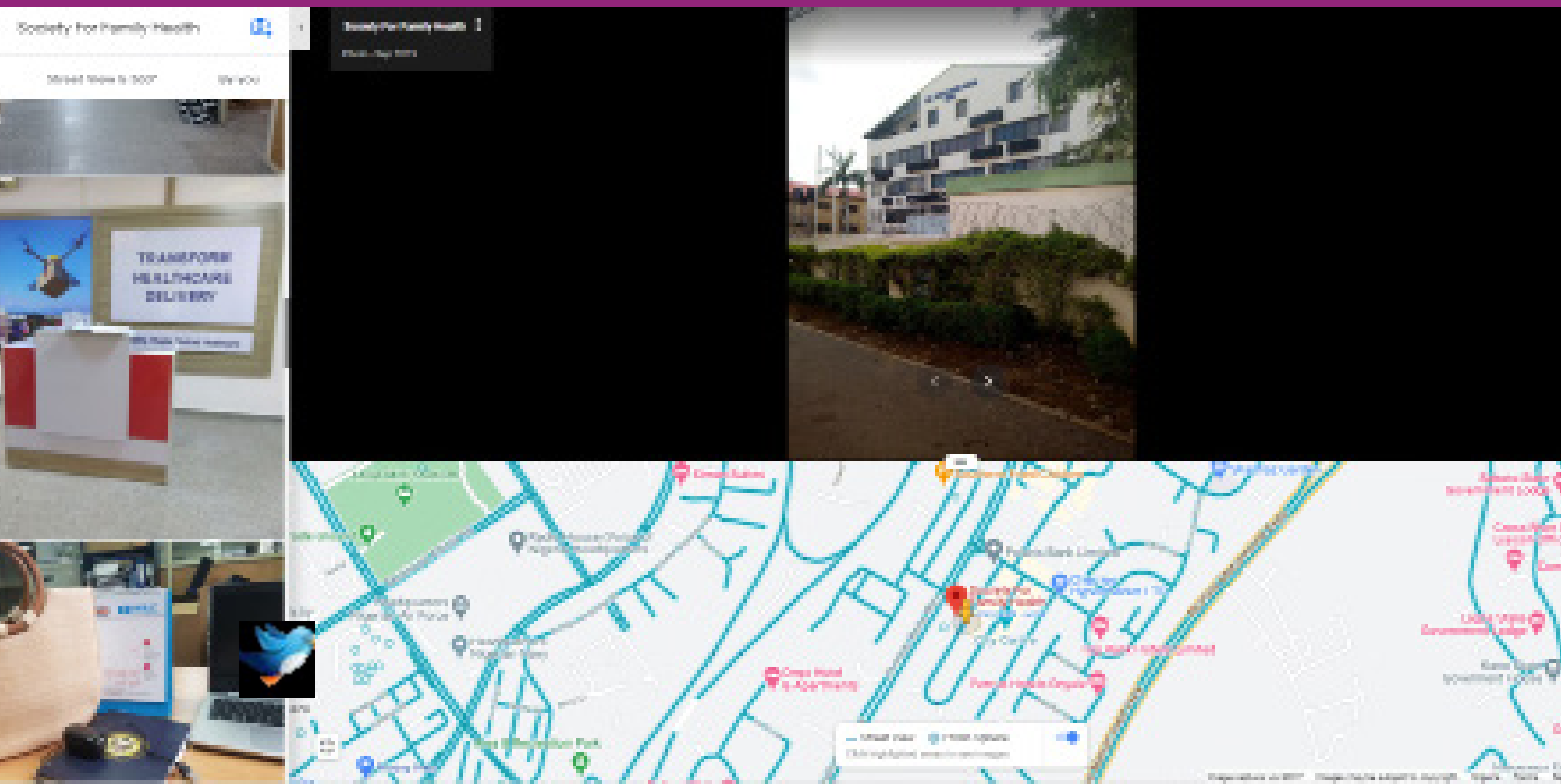
I've even started advertising for the provider because I really like the service I was given. I usually patronise them for drugs before and this implant method was introduced to me by him when I complained about the recurrent blood stains from the injectable method.

The price point was really friendly and it didn't even seem as if I spent anything. I've told all my friends about this pharmacy so they can come too. I pray that God will bless and increase this community pharmacist.

IntegratE Interviewer:

Thank you very much for sharing your story. We hope you'd continue to advocate the benefits of family planning to more of your friends.

connect with us



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

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