

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Dear Friends,

19 December 2020

On behalf of the AMURT Nigeria team, I want to wish you Happy Holidays and thank you for the support during the year. 2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges for the planet. While Nigeria so far has been mercifully spared the worst of the pandemic, we felt the economic impact. With the fantastic commitment from our main sponsors, we were still able to continue the work, expand to new areas and make some significant upgrades to our project.

Two new health centers: Oghagelode Ishieke Health Center in Ebonyi Local Government Area opened 3rd March with assistance from Rotary Club of Alfarheim (Elverum), Norway. It is off to a promising start with a very dedicated staff providing 24 hours service. On 8th December, AMURT started service at Item Amagu Health Center in Ikwo LGA. After extensive renovations, equipment upgrades, a staff of 16 health workers, the health center now offers round the clock service. A new wing was constructed at Odeligbo Health Center. The construction was made possible by a grant of cement from Dangote Foundation.

In November we crossed the milestone of **19,000 births** since we started. We are getting close to 4000 birth for 2020. In October we had **470 births, a record for one month.**

In 2019 we upgraded two more health centers, Mgbalukwu and Inikiri, to perform cesarean sections. Making **obstetric emergency services accessible and affordable** in the rural communities saves lives. We have passed **600 cesarean sections** in our health centers since the first in 2017, and we are closing in on 300 for this year. Odeligbo, Ephuenyim and Akparata Health Centers were equipped with solar powered blood banks financed by AMURT UK.

AMURT's six ambulances are on call round the clock every single day. While the obstetric emergency referrals reduced due the heightened capacity in the health centers, the need for children emergency referrals increased. AMURT sponsored close to **sixty children's surgeries**, many of them life saving, in 2020.

Odeligbo Health Center in Ikwo LGA, the biggest of the AMURT assisted health centers, added a new wing. It is **solar powered**, with a well equipped operating theater and a newborn unit with **neonatal incubator and CPAP machine**, all financed by AMURT UK.

Eight students from our project areas graduated as qualified health workers after completing their studies on AMURT scholarship. We currently have **16 students in school on AMURT scholarship.**

AMURT's **Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health** program at Mgbalukwu work at village, school and health center level supporting pregnant teenage girls and first-time mothers with counseling, skills training, and medical and food aid, while raising awareness and access to contraception with the aim of reducing teenage pregnancies.

The Economic Empowerment program for widows and mothers with disabled husbands kept growing. Three new groups, at Inikiri, Mgbalukwu and Uloanwu was started with financial support from ASM. To date, over **400 women have been empowered** to start their own businesses through this cooperatively managed revolving credit scheme.

In 2020, the AMURT WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) Team drilled **33 new boreholes**, taking the total boreholes drilled to 200.. Rotary Club of Casalmaggiore, Viadana and Sabionetta in Italy financed boreholes, with training and equipping of WASH committees in 30 villages in Ishielu, Ebonyi, Afikpo South and Izzi Local Government Areas.

EVERY LIFE COUNTS: In 2020, AMURT direct expenses for emergency medical assistance for mothers and children reached over \$ 65,000. We are doing an end of the year **fund raising campaign** where the funds will be used exclusively for emergency assistance. If you can **make a contribution** through this site: <https://amurt.enthuse.com/cf/every-life-counts> We receive matching funds from our main sponsor, so every donation will be doubled. If more convenient, it's also possible to donate through AMURT USA, AMURT UK, AMURT NORGE and AMURT NIGERIA. (write for details)

Nigerian government statistics published in 2020 showed Ebonyi State with 79.76 % of its population living under the poverty line. This makes Ebonyi State, by a margin of 20 percentage points, the poorest state in southern Nigeria and the fourth poorest state in the whole country. The challenges are very real, Our dedicated staff face life and death cases every single day, knowing that we are where we are needed.

We find deep meaning and fulfillment in our service work. Working unitedly with a hardworking team to build capacity and raise awareness at the grassroots is a wonderful experience.. Together we find deep meaning and fulfillment as we struggle to save lives, We are grateful for the blessing of this opportunity to serve those who need it the most. Thanks a lot for all support.

Brotherly yours

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470 births in October 2020 is new record for one month

Newborn Intensive Care Unit at Odeligbo with incubator



Baby Martha weighed 600 grams at birth. Discharged at 1.5 kg after 2 months

One of dozens of teenage mothers benefitting from AMURT's program



Baby Ngozi, one of 60 children who had surgery sponsored by AMURT in 2020