

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Dear Friends,

22 December 2021

On behalf of the AMURT Nigeria team, I want to wish you Happy Holidays and warm thanks to everyone who supported us this year!

Mercifully, Ebonyi State and most of Nigeria continue to be spared the worst of the raging global pandemic. Our biggest challenge of 2021 were the frequent **communal conflicts and violence** that affected the population in half of our project areas, that for compelled us to abruptly suspend service in to health centers. AMURT provided **medical support for victims** of the violence and food aid for displaced families during the height of the crisis. The AMURT medical team also **responded to cholera outbreaks** in Izzi and Ikwo Local Government Areas.

With support from Dangote Foundation, and active participation of the communities, AMURT constructed **new staff quarters for Uloanwu and Ohagelode Health Centers**, each with 10 self contained units for health workers and medical personnel. From July, **Uloanwu Health Center was upgraded with resident doctor and operating theater to become an emergency obstetric referral center..** With funding from Rotary, work started on a **new project in Ogbuoji Community in Ishielu Local Government.**

While AMURT activities have diversified over the years, our number **one priority remains maternal and child health.** We have reached close to **23,000 births** in AMURT health centers. Seeing the gap in emergency obstetric services in Ebonyi State, the first cesarean section in an AMURT health center was done in 2017. Today, we have passed **850 cesarean sections** Making emergency obstetric services accessible and affordable in the rural areas, has saved many lives.

The successful **Every Life Counts** fundraising campaign concluded last January, enabled us to assist mothers, babies and children with life threatening conditions. Our goal is that no lives be lost due to lack of financial means. We sponsored **70 pediatric surgeries in the health centers and another 25 in the tertiary hospitals** in Abakaliki, Enugu and Kaduna. About 200 children with acute malnutrition, were treated. Our ambulance services was given a boost in November, with the grant of **two new ambulances**, stationed at Odeligbo and Ohagelode Health Centers. We are grateful for the fantastic support from our main sponsors. **Please support this year's campaign so we can continue our level of life saving interventions.**

The AMURT Water & Sanitation Team was able to complete **30 boreholes in rural villages** in 2021. 26 of them were in Ikwo and Ezza South LGAs and they were done in partnership with Hon. Chinedu Ogah.

The Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health program extended to three new project areas. The program encompasses **Youth Health Champions on the village level, and Peer-to-Peer educators at the school level, and First Time Mothers Clubs** at the health centers. By educating and raising awareness among the youth, we hope to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies. The program offers comprehensive support to all teenage mothers, including home visits, counseling, skills training and medical assistance. Eight teenage mothers were supported to resume their education after birth.

**Two new economic empowerment groups** were started in Ohagelode and Item Amagu project areas. The number of **women empowered rose from 385 to 525**, through the new groups and the established groups revolving their capital.

The AMURT Health Education took on the challenge of malnutrition with programs in all our project areas Village sensitization meetings through outreach programs bringing treatment and training on how to prepare nutritious meals with local food. In Item Amagu project area **six cultural health rallies**, combining health talks and dialog with educational dramas and colorful cultural displays, were held with strong participation..

Our team is prepared to take the project to another level in 2022. We intend to extend the reach of the programs, broaden our partnerships, and improve the quality of healthcare in rural Ebonyi State.

Brotherly yours

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**Ohagelode and Odeligbo has new ambulances**



**New staff quarters at Uloanwu, with ten self contained units**



**Chigozie spent three weeks in intensive care for obstetric complication**



**95 pediatric surgeries in 2021**



**Ifeanyi 11, had throat surgery in Kaduna**



**Destiny, 4 months, had surgery at Enugu**



**Children at new borehole Ofutu**