

2021 - THE YEAR SO FAR...



Dear Friends of AMURT NIGERIA,

6 July 2021

Warm greetings from Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria and thanks for fantastic support!!!

The first half of 2021 has seen AMURT Nigeria move forward in spite of unprecedented challenges, as our work was seriously affected by the horrifying violence and tensions created by multiple communal conflicts in Ebonyi State. We passed the landmarks of 21,000 births and 700 cesarean sections in the AMURT assisted health centers.. Given a boost by the successful **“Every Life Counts”** fund raising drive concluded in January, we doubled our assistance for emergency pediatric surgeries. The expanded adolescent sexual and reproductive health program is impacting lives of teenage mothers and youth. The facilities in Uloanwu Health Center were upgraded to serve as a referral center and CEMOC facility. The WASH Team drilled 14 new boreholes in Ikwo and Ezza South Local Govt. in partnership with Hon. Chinedu Ogah. Our health education team held outreach programs in dozens of villages with assistance for severely malnourished children. One new economic empowerment cooperative was started at Ohagelode.

CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADE AT ULOANWU and OHAGELODE HEALTH CENTERS

24 hours service is fundamental in primary healthcare. Without it, nothing can be achieved in maternal health and without good facilities it’s hard to ask staff to be at their post round the clock every day of the year. In June we completed the construction of a big new staff quarters at Uloanwu Health Center in Ishieke, Ebonyi Local Govt. Area. We also started construction of staff quarters at Ohagelode Health Center. We have completed blockwork, ready for roofing.

UPGRADE OF ULOANWU HEALTH CENTER TO CEMOC CENTER

With the completion of the new staff quarters, Uloanwu health center was ready to host a CEMOC (Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care Center). The new operating theater is the best equipped among the AMURT health centers. Starting in July, we have a resident doctor and laboratory scientist at the health center 24 hours, every day of the week. They join two midwives and 20 health workers. Emergency obstetric services are now accessible and affordable to the rural communities in that area. Lives will be saved by cutting delays.

CHILDREN’S SURGERIES

AMURT has sponsored 54 children’s surgeries this year. Many of them life saving interventions. 35 of the surgeries were done in the health centers by pediatric surgery consultants. 17 were done at AEFUTHA (Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki) and one at UNTH Enugu..

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICE

This year, the AMURT CEMONC centers have done 121 cesarean sections. The most critical and complex cases were managed by obstetric surgery consultants from AEFUTHA. AMURT ambulances carried emergency patients between the AMURT health centers and 43 obstetric emergency referrals were supported by AMURT at AEFUTHA.

WATER PROJECT FOR IKWO and EZZA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

It is our experience that through partnership we can achieve more. This year we are partnering with National Assembly Representative Hon. Chinedu Ogah to bring safe water and training of WASHCOM (Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees) to 31 rural villages. So far 14 have been completed.



Uloanwu staff quarters with 10 self contained units



Uloanwu health center has a new well equipped operating theater



First CS at Uloanwu HC



53 pediatric surgeries



Ifeanyi 9 throat surgery



Chiamaka 15 intestinal surgery



WASHCOM at new borehole Amana, Ezza South LGA

WAR IN EBONYI

The AMURT staff manage life and death cases on a daily basis. It's at the heart of what we do, and the reason why we are here. However, the work to ensure safe birth, to come to the aid of mothers, newborns and children at risk, could not prepare us for 2021 in Ebonyi State. An outbreak of communal conflicts brought horrifying acts of violence in and around the AMURT project areas in the north of Ebonyi State. The number of deaths is in the hundreds. Many of them, perhaps the majority have been women and children. We have seen gun-shot wounds and horrific machete attacks. Akparata and Inikiri Health Centers in Effium Community, the site of the worst violence, had to be evacuated in January. The total absence of healthcare access in Effium has resulted in ten maternal deaths. As we were taking steps to resume service violence flared up again on 18th May, with over 20 killed in Akparata. In June Offia Oji Health Center also had to be evacuated for a week due to outbreaks of communal violence. A nighttime attack on Ndiobasi village just across the border in Benue State killed dozens, mostly women and children. Many survivors were taken to Ohagelode Health Centre.

AMURT's response to the communal conflicts have included: Food packages (rice, beans, red oil, maggi) were given to 437 families + 50 families of maternal health promoters and cleaners and health workers. Internally displaced victims fleeing the conflict were treated for free at Ohagelode, Ephuenyim and Offia Oji Health Centers.

JACINTA'S STORY

Jacinta, from Ebeta, Effium was carried to Ohagelode Health Center in critical condition and referred to AEFUTHA. She had two bullet wounds. Her whole face, mouth, nose and eyes was cut by machete. The photos from immediately after the attack are too horrible to show. She was pregnant in the 8th month. She could not eat and was fed intravenously at first. She was breathing through a pipe in her throat. She lost one eye and she lost the baby she was carrying. She spent three months on admission and she still needs to return for reconstructive surgery on the nose.

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL and REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

After last year's successful start in Mgbalukwu project area, we have taken the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health program to Gmelina, Ephuenyim and Offia Oji Project areas. Esther, the coordinator, conducts programs in 10 secondary schools, training peer educators. The program is welcomed by the teachers, parents and the youth themselves. In every village Youth Health Champions have been trained to help educate and raise awareness on reproductive health among village youth. At the heart of the program is the support for pregnant teenage girls and teenage mothers and their babies. We have monthly First Time Mother' Meetings where the pregnant girls and the young mothers meet, get information, and receive training including skill acquisitions. Every pregnant girl and young mother get personal attention, counseling and home visits to provide personalized support. We are trying to build the young mothers' confidence and support them to return to school to complete the education that was interrupted by unplanned pregnancy.

The second half of 2021 is going to be exciting! Thanks for your support!

Brotherly yours,

Dada Daneshananda

dada@amurnigeria.org WhatsApp +2348133047130 Facebook: AMURT West Africa



Distribution of food to families displaced by Effium conflict



Ohagelode Health Center receiving victims of Ndiobasi massacre 30 May



Jacinta – victim of Effium conflict



Child victim of Ndiobasi attack



Home visit to teenage mothers



First Time Mothers Meeting at Mgbalukwu, Isu