

EKO 2023



SOCIETY FOR ADOLESCENTS
AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
HEALTH IN NIGERIA



3rd Nigeria Conference on
Adolescent and Youth Health &
Development

16-19 AUGUST,
2023, LAGOS, NIGERIA

Conference Report





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Achieving 2030 Target;
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ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH HEALTH

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFRIYAN	African Youth & Adolescent Network on Population and Development
AHEAD	Academy for Health Development, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASR	Abdul Samad Rabiu
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
EVA	Education as Vaccine
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FLHE	Family Life and HIV Education
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
FP	Family Planning
GASHE	Gender, Adolescent and School Health and Elderly Care
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GFA	Global Forum for Adolescents
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAAH	International Association for Adolescent Health
ICH	Institute of Child Health, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
LOC	Local Organizing Committee
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS, Nigeria
NDLEA	National Drug Law Enforcement Agency
NPHCDA	National Primary Health Care Development Agency
PLWA	Persons Living with HIV/AIDS
PLWD	Persons Living with Disability
SAYPHIN	Society for Adolescent and Young Peoples' Health in Nigeria



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Achieving 2030 Targets
Driving innovation for
Adolescent and Youth Health

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

SPARKLE	Strengthening Programming for Adolescents and Youths through Resource and Knowledge Generation and link to Evidence
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SWAG	Stand-with-A-Girl Initiative
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNIMED	University of Medical Sciences, Laje, Ondo
UNV U	nited Nations Volunteers
USAID	United States
VTR	Video Training Application
YAaHNaija	Youthful Alive and Healthy Nigeria
YHLDI	Youth Health and Life Skills Development Initiative
YPE4AH	Youth Power Ecosystem for Adolescent Health
YPP	Youth Participatory Platform



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About SAYPHIN

The Society For Adolescent And Young People's Health In Nigeria (SAYPHIN) is a multidisciplinary organization committed to improving the physical, mental and social health and well-being of adolescents and other young people through advocacy, health promotion, health service delivery, professional development, and research. SAYPHIN is a platform for building greater capacity and promoting adolescent health research and effective services with a view to building new partnerships, obtaining new grants and initiating new dimensions of activities that will make us a Regional Centre of Excellence in Adolescent Health in Sub-Saharan Africa, such that we can not only nurture individuals but also mentor centers and institutions.

Aims and Objectives

- To increase awareness about the health and development situations and needs of adolescents and other young people in Nigeria.
- To foster communication and collaborative actions among adolescent and youth health practitioners to improve young people's health.
- To develop educational programs and other human resources development activities to build capacities to improve healthcare service delivery and other interventions to improve the health and development of young people in Nigeria.
- To advance the practice of adolescent health and medicine in Nigeria through policy advocacy, partnership building with professional groups, development partners including governmental agencies, civil society organizations, academic and research institutions, and international development organizations.
- To promote research and evidence-informed actions on advancing the health and development of young people in Nigeria.
- To advocate and support the fostering of an environment that is friendly to young people, supportive of their optimal health and development, as well as promote their dignity, competencies and capacities, confidence, character and active involvement in national health and development agenda.
- To provide technical leadership on all matters relating to the health, well-being and development of young people in Nigeria.



Prof. O. A. Ladipo
Board Chair, SAYPHIN



Prof. Adesegun Olayiwola Fatusi
President, SAYPHIN



Prof. Adesola Olumide
Secretary-General, SAYPHIN &
IAAH V-P, Sub-Saharan Africa



Prof. Kofoworola Odeyemi
Chair, Local Organizing Committee
SAYPHIN EKO2023



Dr. Gbenga Adebayo
Co-chair, Local Organizing Committee
SAYPHIN EKO2023



Rhoda Robinson
Secretary, LOC SAYPHIN EKO2023



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INTRODUCTION

The third epoch-making event of the Society for Adolescent and Young People's Health in Nigeria (SAYPHIN) was held in Lagos at The Zone, Gbagada, Lagos State between the 16th and 19th of August, 2023. The theme of the conference was ***“Achieving 2030 Targets; Driving Innovation for Adolescent and Youth Health”***.

The sub-themes of the conference were:

- Inclusivity, equality, and diversity in adolescent and young people's research and programs
- Gender-based violence and the health and well-being of adolescents and young people
- Adolescents and young people in conflicts and humanitarian situations
- Adolescent and young people, migration and cultural transitions
- Climate change and impacts on adolescent and young people's health and development
- Adolescent and young people and the sustainable development goals
- Electronic media use, digital, health and young people's health and development
- Adolescent mental health and resilience.

This conference provided a platform and another opportunity for actors in the field of adolescent health at all operational levels to share ideas, knowledge and experience on how to promote the health and well-being of adolescents while leveraging the advancement of the 21st century. SAYPHIN equally used this platform to advocate for policymakers and all other stakeholders on the need to make the holistic well-being, growth and development of adolescents and young people a priority to ensure enhanced national productivity and development.

One special feature at this conference was the Mindscape mental health art competition organized by the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF) in conjunction with SAYPHIN. Also, this competition was co-sponsored by the Abdul Samad Rabiou Initiative (ASR). The mindscape competition was an art exhibit by adolescents and young people aimed at creating awareness about their mental health using creative art. The theme of the competition was 'Mindscape: Exploring Mental Health Through Art'. It provided the opportunity for adolescents and young people to express their thoughts, emotions, creativity and experiences through painting, digital art, photography, mixed media and drawing.

Other objectives of the competition were to:

- Promote understanding and empathy of young people towards mental health;
- Promote the creative abilities of young people by engaging them to express themselves and their perspectives on mental health through art;
- Engage adolescents and young people to create a safe space for dialogue and reflection on mental health.



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Cross-section of participants during the EKO 2023 conference

In attendance at the conference were critical stakeholders in the adolescent health field in Nigeria such as the Federal Ministry of Health, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Family Health International 360 (FHI 360), Academy for Health Development (AHEAD), Guttmacher Institute, etc, and numerous Non-Governmental organizations especially the Youth-Led Organizations, Scientists, Researchers and young

people from all the geo-political zones in Nigeria. Strategically, to ensure there was a representation of the executive arm of Government at the event for the seamless prioritization of the growth and development of adolescents and young people among other national issues, the wife of the Governor of Lagos State; Dr (Mrs) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and the wife of the Governor of Ogun State; Mrs Bamidele Abiodun were the Key Note Speaker and the Special Guest of Honour respectively.



From L to Right; Dr Luwei Pearson, Assistant Director, MNC and Adolescent Health, UNICEF, Mrs Bamidele Abiodun (Wife of the Governor of Ogun State), and Mrs Omobolanle Johnson, representing the wife of the Governor of Lagos State

Also in attendance to inspire other young people were outstanding young individuals, who had achieved great feats in their field of endeavours. Such young people include Hilda Bassey; the Guinness World Record Holder for marathon cooking and Nonso Fidelis Egemba “Aproko Doctor”; the social media personality.



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Hilda Bassey (Guinness World Record Holder) and Chinonso Egembe (Aproko Doctor)

The participation at this 3rd conference was both onsite and virtual and in attendance were over 1,000 people with a significant proportion of young people from Nigeria and other African countries,



Registration of participants at the conference



Registration of participants at the conference



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Notably at this event, UNFPA supported young people to participate in the conference in over 28 virtual hubs across the country. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof Ladipo Oladapo, the President of SAYPHIN; Prof Adesegun Fatusi, the Secretary of SAYPHIN, Prof Adesola Olumide, other Executive members and the Local Organizing Committee members headed by Prof Kofo Odeyemi successfully planned and executed this conference with the teeming group of intelligent, resourceful and reliable young people. Young people were actively involved in anchoring and moderating various sessions during the conference. Sign language interpreters were engaged during all the sessions at the conference to ensure inclusivity and equality among adolescents and young people.





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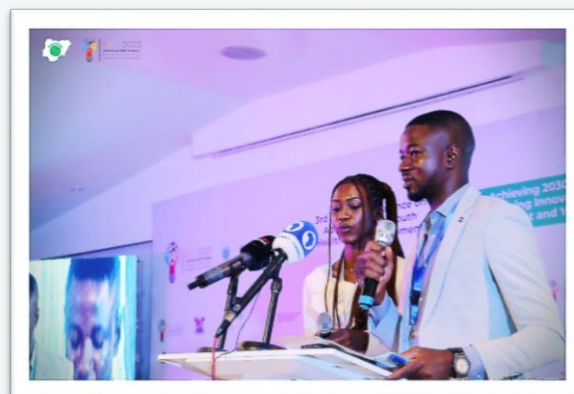


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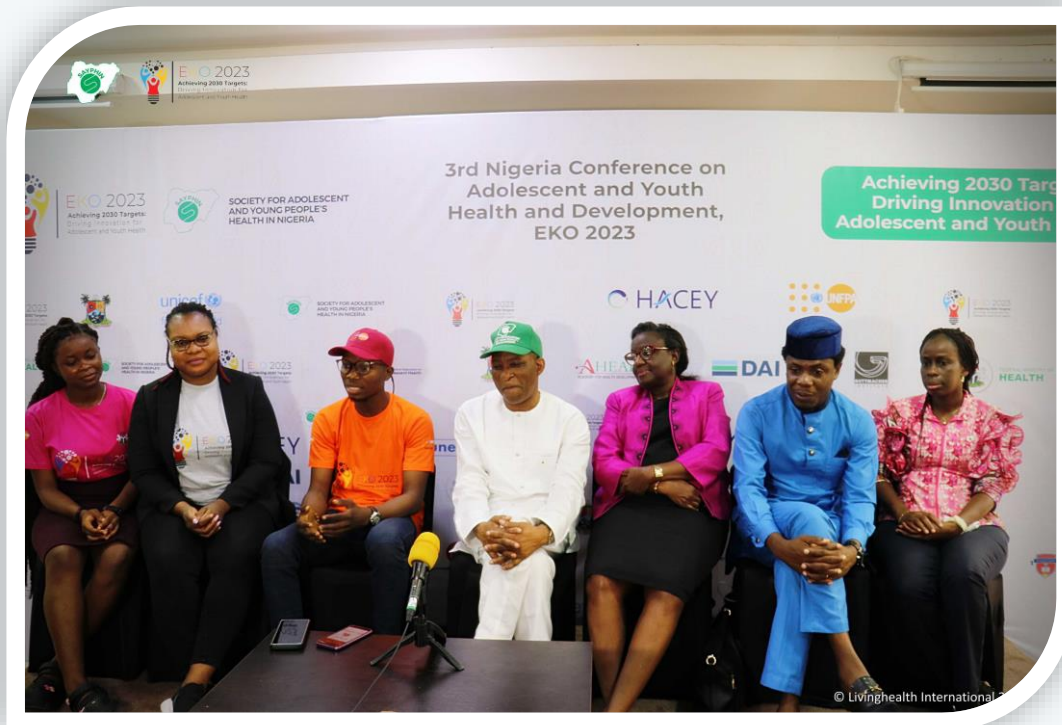
Pre-Conference



Prof Kofo Odeyemi (LOC Chairman)



The Young Comperes at EKO 2023 conference



Prof Adesegun Fatusi, the President of SAYPHIN with other Executive and LOC Members during the press briefing on EKO 2023 conference



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Opening Ceremony (August 16th, 2023)

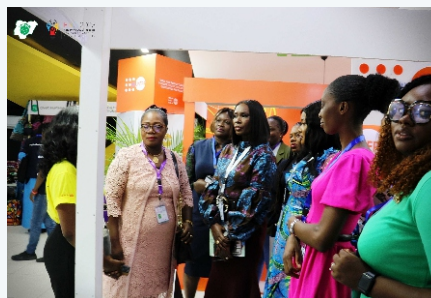
Welcome Remarks by the Founding President of SAYPHIN



Prof Adesegun Fatusi, FAS, the founding president of SAYPHIN set the tone for the conference by welcoming all to the “largest gathering of young people anywhere in Africa”. Recognizing the immense contributions of members and executives of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and, SAYPHIN; partners, youth platform committee, major stakeholders and young people, Fatusi said hosting this conference in Lagos would have been impossible but for their doggedness and commitment to excellence.

He reminisced about the history of the conference that started in Ibadan in 2019, with the second in Abuja to hosting the 2023 edition in Lagos. In all, the tradition of SAYPHIN has been to let the young people themselves sit at the decision-making table and participate actively in matters concerning their well-being and development.

Like it happened in Abuja 2021, he said for EKO 2023, a logo competition was organized calling on young people to design what the preferred logo should look like in line with the theme of the conference, which is Achieving 2030 Targets: Driving Innovation for Adolescent and Youth Health. A new addition to the 2023 conference is the introduction of Mindscape – an art competition aimed at raising awareness about mental health among adolescents and young people using the power of art. According to Fatusi, these two competitions had hundreds of entries from young people across the country. **“Young people are so talented and resourceful and we are indeed proud of them,”** he remarked in closing.





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WE MUST ADVOCATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION



There is definitely no better way to start a conference that is meant for young people than having one of them speak on issues affecting them. Ekemini started with the story of an adolescent called “Ayanfe” who has no understanding of comprehensive sexuality education and, have been fed false information about her sexual and reproductive health by her peers. She advocated for more positive actions towards young people and adolescent health in Nigeria.

Ekemini Keziah Effiong-Robert, Youth Speaker

GOODWILL MESSAGES



The pre-conference ceremony attracted a lot of stakeholders and partners within the development ecosystem. Taking turns one after the other, key actors delivered their goodwill messages to an enthusiastic audience and they were majorly centered around young people, their development and contributions to the larger society.

Macauley urged young people to make the best of the conference by “**asking questions, challenge assumptions and network**” describing them as the force of the economy and innovation of Nigeria and it is making use of the opportunities at their disposal that will help achieve the said targets.

Young people are the force of economy and innovation
Chris Macauley, Officer-in-Charge, UNFPA



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Our focus is young people



Regine Priso, who is the Officer-in-charge of the UNESCO regional office in Abuja, expressed her profound appreciation to SAYPHIN for giving UNESCO a platform to partner with it. She stressed the need to promote young people and their wellbeing, noting that her organization work with government representatives and institutions – its main partners. According to her, UNESCO's mandate is to work on policy implementation as it also focuses on curriculum review to ensure all major issues that are related to education are properly addressed and promote lifelong learning opportunity for all. In doing this, the organization embarks on capacity building for teachers and educators to achieve the target of education for all. She said there is need to have teachers and educators who are well trained, adequately equipped and supported to be able realize whatever ambition one has within the education space. She emphasized the need for education for sustainable development, sustainable choices and behavior and education for global citizenship.

Priso said the organization work with youth-led groups and others to sensitize and support adolescents and young people. reiterated UNESCO's commitment to continuously improve the capacity of young people with life skills, facilitate intergenerational dialogue between youths and older groups in the society.

In conclusion, she thanked SAYPHIN, once again as she said UNESCO will be on ground for the 4-day workshop and give out teaching aides and instructive materials.

***Regine PRISO (Officer-In-Charge,
UNESCO Regional Office Abuja)***



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

By the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Social Development

The keynote by the Permanent Secretary Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Pharmacist Toyin Oke Osayintolu, was centered on how the conference will help harness the potential of young people in Nigeria.

According to her, ***“this year’s theme; achieving 2030 targets; driving innovation for adolescent and youth health organized by the Society for Adolescent and Young People’s Health in Nigeria (SAYPHIN) could not have come at a better time as this conference is apt at a period when a lot of young people are more exposed to behavioral changes such as body image, self-esteem crisis, nutrition, substance abuse, among others”***.

She stressed the importance of empowering young people to drive global responses to rebuild and re-energize their communities and countries for sustainable development. Re-emphasizing that almost a third of Nigeria’s population are

young people according to the 2006 population census.

Osayintolu said youths are considered to be a vulnerable segment of the population that are susceptible to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful health consequences of poor sexual and reproductive health decisions and choices. She pointed lack of adequate access to health information and safe spaces for young people as well the inevitable danger of social norms as factors responsible for the menace among adolescents and young people as she said the conference will help bridge the gaps, charging participants to come up with a communiqué that formalizing addressing these issues.

The Permanent Secretary congratulated SAYPHIN for the successful hosting of the 2023 conference in Lagos and appreciated all the partners who made it a reality.



Prof Akin Osibogun
President of the National
Postgraduate Medical College
of Nigeria



**Dr. Eduardo
Celades Blanco**
Chief of Health, UNICEF, Nigeria



Prof. Ololade Wright
Chair of Scientific Committee



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“Young People’s solution is good enough for Young People’s challenges”

*United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme- Nigeria Country Coordinator,
Veronica Obiuwevbi*

Nigeria Country Coordinator of the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme, Veronica Obiuwevbi said the agency works with other UN agencies and government, including the government of other countries by deploying volunteers to work with them. “With funding, we go far, with volunteerism we go farther,” Obiuwevbi remarked as she said that the UNV currently has 150 volunteers in its system in Nigeria. Speaking on other milestones, the UNV Coordinator disclosed that the agency has built the capacity of 500 Persons Living With Disability (PLWD) in the area of reproductive health and rights in 2021. She also said that the agency built the capacity of 300 young persons in Maiduguri, Borno State in the northeast of Nigeria, on sexual and reproductive health rights, peace building and

volunteerism, especially in the IDP camp. According to Obiuwevbi, the UNV also carries out some of its activities in partnership with UNFPA, UN Women and UNDP. She encouraged young people and participants at the event to take advantage of the numerous openings for volunteer at UNV but should also try and volunteer for other small organizations while waiting to be placed. In the same vein, she charged organizations and agencies to tap into the volunteer base for their respective projects. “With volunteerism, you will get a lot of young people to come on board to support your projects and programs. Sometimes, they may not have all of the pre-requisite competencies but they will be able to contribute to what you are doing by putting them through.” Obiuwevbi concluded.

Nigeria’s large young population could be an asset or burden

Bolade Akin- Kolapo- Chief of Party, DAI



Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI) is an organization that tackles fundamental social and development problems caused by inefficient markets, ineffective governments and instability, takes the rostrum to deliver its goodwill message;

which was done by Bolade Akin-Kolapo, the Chief of Party of DAI. Akin-Kolapo described DAI as a youth-focused organization that has done a lot in the areas of innovation and development. In specific terms, It empowers young Nigerians and help them access life skills, social capital and resources in order for them to realize their aspirations. Also, providing safe space for adolescents to access sexual and reproductive health services. Just like every other speaker, she emphasized Nigeria’s large young population as an asset and can also be a burden if not harnessed,



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quoting the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that puts sixty (60) percent of the country's young population under 25 years. ***“Thankfully, SAYPHIN in collaboration and partnership with relevant organizations, has provided tremendous assistance in charting the course to universal healthcare development for the young people of our country”*** Akin-Kolapo

remarked. She hopes that the stimulating discussions and invaluable insights shared at the conference will serve as catalysts that will promote innovation and harnessing the potentials of Nigerian youths to enable them to compete favorably with their peers around the world.

Margaret Bolaji

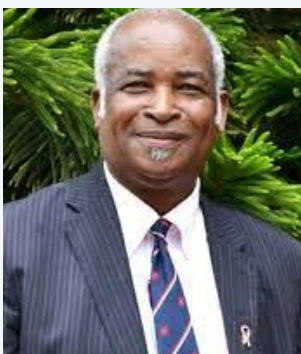
Manager, Youth Partnerships, FP 2030



Bolaji in her short remarks said young people must take advantage of family planning to help them achieve their life goals. She submitted that she is excited that FP2030 is partnering with SAYPHIN to bring issues around adolescent

and young people to the fore thereby finding lasting solutions to them.

She reiterated that having young people as equal partners in these projects will enable them take ownership of youth-focused programs, projects and policies. ***“There is nothing for young people without young people”*** Bolaji concluded.



Prof. Oladapo Ladipo
Chairman, SAYPHIN
Board of Trustees



Dr. Gbenga Adebayo
Co-Chair of the
Local Organising Committee



Prof. Esther Enzuladu
SAYPHIN Asst.
Secretary-General



Prof. Ololade Wright
Chair of Scientific Committee



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Prof Adesegun Fatusi and Representatives of International Development Partners at the EKO 2023 Conference



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PANEL SESSIONS

The key to recording in any development-focused conference is ability to interact with like-minds and bring participants and stakeholders up to speed about programs and projects that were in place to solve some problems. In all the panel sessions, sponsored by partner organizations, the participants had the opportunity to listen, contribute and ask questions to clear some doubts and gain insights into the activities and progress made by some of the organizations.

Session I

Humanitarian assistance by UNFPA for adolescents and youths: Emphasizing digital literacy, addressing GBV and ASRH, sponsored by UNFPA

Moderator:

Abubakar Muktar, UNFPA Humanitarian Analyst and State Program Officer in Yobe State

Panelists:

1. Esther Lalai, UNFPA GBV Information System Coordinator for Borno and Yobe states
2. Esther Chama, UNFPA GBV Program Specialist in Maiduguri
3. Mary Buba, UNFPA Digital Literacy Facilitator
4. Yasmin Mustapha, Final year medical rehabilitation at University of Maiduguri
5. Hauwa Bukar, Secondary School Leaver from Konduga Local Government Area of Borno state

The panel moderator laid the premise for discussion, with each panelist reeling out the challenges faced by young people in accessing

digital literacy and SRHR services in their mandate areas. Some of these challenges are;

- a) Cultural barriers
- b) Lack of access to information and awareness
- c) Fear of stigmatization
- d) Lack of access to adolescent and youth-friendly facilities and services

To address these challenges, Esther Lalai of the UNFPA said the organization has put in place the following packages;

- a) Comprehensive integrated GBV and SRH programs
- b) Establishment of safe spaces, which she said UNFPA has created more than 30 safe spaces in a period of 5 years.**
- c) Launching of the EMAP program. EMAP being acronym for Engaging Men through Accountable Practices. The program was piloted in Adamawa in 2022 and as of 2023 it has over 200 men and boys who are active members and are now acting as agents of change to protect the SRH rights of women and girls

Note: **Safe spaces provide women and girls with a safe entry point for services and a place to access to information.

Another life-changing program being carried out by the UNFPA is the Digital literacy programme, which was piloted in Maiduguri. This programme is to ensure that most marginalized groups affected by conflicts and displacement, especially internally displaced boys and girls are not left behind in the digital era. According to the UNFPA team, the digital literacy programme is not only focusing on computer appreciation for the IDPs



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but also using technology to teach them about Technology Facilitated GBV (TFGBV) such as cyber bully, Internet safety, sextortion and the likes.

The digital literacy programmed did overcome some of the challenges associated with such initiatives such as;

- a) Lack of electricity
- b) Lack of internet
- c) Insecurity
- d) Insufficient computer to go round the students, among others.

Solutions provided by UNFPA to ensure the programme become a success include;

- a) Deployment of digital mobile team to the IDP camps twice a week
- b) Recruitment of ad-hoc staff to train the intake

- c) Provision of generator to serve as alternative power supply
- d) Provision of MiFis for internet connectivity
- e) Collaboration with government to use its ICT centers
- f) Equipping the graduates from the digital literacy programme with iPads to start up
- g) Future plan of scaling up the digital literacy program to cover more states and also get connected to starling internet service provider

The high point of this session was a speech delivered by Hauwa Buka, a secondary school leaver and graduate of the UNFPA initiative in Konduga Local Government Area of Borno state. Miss Buka insisted she was going to read her speech in English Language as against reading it in Hausa language – a task she



Dr. Tunde Adelekan during the discussion



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rendered so eloquently. She brought with her some of the products made by her and her colleagues such as hats, lamps and so on.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The breakout sessions were designed in such a way that participants can focus on particular topics in smaller groups. However, they reserve the right to choose which breakout session they will love to attend as the sessions took place concurrently

Session I

UNFPA's Digital and technological-based ecosystem for adolescent and young people.

This particular session was sponsored by UNFPA to showcase some of the activities and programmes of the organization. Leading discussion here was Dr Tunde Adelekan, who built the premise for the discussion that touches on technologyfacilitated GBV, which he said UNFPA feels it is gradually becoming an epidemic and if not urgently addressed could erode the gains recorded in the fight against Gender-Based Violence.



Mr Soji Megbowon
UNIMED-Youth
Entrepreneurship Co-Hub Project



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The UNFPA Cross River state Rep said the organization created a programme called Youth Hangout, which started during COVID-19, as a means to reach young people through the media (traditional and digital) and it was facilitated by young people themselves. It is an interactive program that discusses SRHR issues with young people without creating unnecessary barrier. The program is now being done across four states. He said the feedback from the initiative has been encouraging and it is something other states can do. This innovation has received global awards for being a potent approach to reaching more adolescent and young people in the rural areas.

The panelists called on like-minded organizations to partner with it to drive the cause of stopping technology facilitated GBV.

Another innovation is the VCR app that encourages adolescents and young people to have the right sexual and reproductive health information from their smart phones. Apart from information and services, the app helps to carry out risk assessment and could link the user to a nearby health facility for comprehensive.

sexual and reproductive health services. The overall goal is to equip them to have the right information to enable them become peer influencers in their communities.

UNFPA has also worked across 12 West African countries to create a technology driven platform called Tech4Youth. It is a joint e-learning platform comprises of educational materials for sexual and reproductive health and rights for both in and out

of school adolescents and young people. It helped to bring all the materials together from all the countries and translate into major languages and also gain access to all the platforms with the aid of Artificial Intelligence. UNFPA, speaking through Adenekan said it aims to reach over 20 million adolescents and young people with the right information across countries in the west African subregion over the next few years, living up to its mantra of leaving no one behind.

Session 2

Conversations with young people living with HIV (PLHIV), organized by Amaka Momah-Haruna

Moderator: Dr. Amaka Momah-Haruna

Speaker: Dr Jekwu Ozoemene

Panelists:

- Dr Lola Idowu, Medical Doctor LUTH
- Mr Benjamin Odey, Project Coordinator APYN
- Ms Ayomide Adewale, General Secretary APYN
- Ms Idonreyin Udosen, International Development Expert
- Temitayo Odeyemi, Lead Positive Action for Treatment Access (PATA)

This session was led by Amaka Momah-Haruna who talked about her motivation to want to have the conversation with young people living with HIV and there is no better place to get that done than SAYPHIN, which is a large gathering of adolescents and young people from diverse backgrounds.

Speaking at the opening of the session, Momah-Haruna said, "I interviewed 10 young people living with HIV and 8 out of them have attempted suicide. They also have similar stories of their



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friends who went through the same trauma”. She itemized other issues being experienced by PLHIV as;

- a. Digital abuse as a result of their status
- b. Accessing medication and treatment
- c. Challenges in seeking employment because of the issues around workplace policy and HIV test
- d. Status disclosure in relationships, which do not go well as some have experienced physical abuse as a result of their status.

At this session, experts lamented lack of awareness and information with respect to HIV.

They urged development partners and government to draw up fresh strategies in raising awareness to enable young people living with HIV overcome stigma. It is also important for this category of people to be at the decision-making table while drawing up plans around them to enable take ownership of these initiatives. The session closed with a brief on HIV Trust Fund Nigeria by its CEO, Dr Jekwu Ozoemene. The HIV Trust Fund was established in November 2020 with the core objective to ensure mobilization of resources is domestic resource mobilization to cater for people living with HIV. It is a private sector-led trust fund Nigeria business coalition against AIDS and NACA.

Session 3

Tech ‘n’ SRHR – Enhancing Accessibility of SRHR for young people, organized by HACEY

Moderator: Oluwatomi Olunuga, Program Manager, HACEY

Panelists:

- George Adjete, Youth Representative UNFPA
- Elizabeth Talatu Williams, Executive Director, Sustainable Impact and Development (SID) Initiative
- Benjamin Odey, State Coordinator, Association for Positive Youths in Nigeria (APYIN)
- Mercy Bolaji, Program Coordinator, Stand With A Girl Initiative



Panelists at this session explored ways in which SRHR services and information can be made available to adolescents and young people with the aid of technology such as games, website, mobile applications, short messaging and the likes.

George Adjete said the advent of tech and SRHR has afforded young people the opportunity to be able to source information they need on the go. According to him, this will remove the barriers they face from the society and having physical contact with service providers at healthcare facilities.

Mercy Bolaji of Stand With A Girl Initiative (SWAG) submitted that experts working in the SRHR space must build the capacity of digital influencers and tech experts to be able to pick interest in sexual and reproductive health right, get deep knowledge and



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understanding and be able to come up with solutions that are not only user-friendly but accurate.

Elizabeth Talatu corrected the notion that tech is all about coding, which she said it must be seen as a solution to solve problems and not necessary a solution that requires coding. She gave examples of existing Instant Messaging platforms such as WhatsApp to pass information across to adolescents and young people.

The importance of a cluster approach to using technology for sexual and reproductive health right (SRHR) was also discussed. This is to reach adolescents and young people who have no access to smart phones and other technology devices.

Session 4

Roundtable: Adolescent Health in Nigeria – understanding the progress made and required investments, organized by SAYPHIN and Lancelet Commission on Adolescent Health Organized by: SAYPHIN & Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health

Moderator: Prof Adesola Olumide: Professor



and Consultant Community Physician, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.

In this session, data of some adolescent health indices in Nigeria were presented. The

participants explored the different areas where tangible improvements have been made in adolescent health. In addition, participants divided into three groups mentioned the availability of National Adolescent Health Policy, involvement of the civil society organizations, partners support as some of the gains in adolescent health in Nigeria. However, recommendations highlighted to promote the growth and development of adolescent health were:

- improved data management,
- improved engagement of relevant stakeholders (parents, community and religious leaders) on topical issues and effective strategic approaches to promote the health and well-being of adolescents
- Strengthened integration of adolescent health at the primary health care level- this will involve having youth friendly primary health care facilities, with skilled health care workers
- Mainstreaming and integration of adolescent mental health issues into the existing structures at all levels of health care.
- Improved advocacy for dedicated budget line and release of funds for adolescent health
- Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration at all levels of operation
- Enhanced use of innovative approaches to reach adolescent and young people
- Improved advocacy to promote the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in schools.



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Session 5

UNFPA Innovations for Empowering Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria, organized by UNFPA





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Panelists in this session comprised of young people who have been empowered by UNFPA through the Youth Participatory Platform (YPP) that was established in 2015. They included George Adjete, Ibrahim Oladimeji and Elizabeth Talatu. The YPP alumni told their stories one after the other while revealing opportunities that abound in volunteering and the UNFPA YPP.

Adjete as the youth coordinator for YPP talked about his flagship project called the Boys Charter project, an initiative that is aimed to develop adolescent and young people as advocates against Gender Based Violence in their schools. He talked about how the UNFPA team brings into reality any idea developed by the YPP members.

Talatu spoke about her experience as one of the pioneer set of YPP. In her submission, the YPP

platform bridges the gap that existed in terms of not involving young people in programme planning and implementation. She appreciated UNFPA for strengthening her advocacy capacity and asked young people to take advantage of the opportunity.

“If we must achieve the sustainable development goals and most importantly the ICT, we must build the competence, capacity and character of every young person” Ibrahim Oladimeji said as he spoke of all other things he has achieved by being a member of the UNFPA YPP.

A social media influencer and medical doctor, Chinonso Egemba also known as Aproko Doctor talked about storytelling in empowering young people.

Session 6

Raising young professionals in innovative leadership, organized by young innovation leaders fellowship





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This session was delivered by Emem Isong, an award winning, frontline screenwriter and movie producer in Nigeria's Nollywood with a top-rated skill in the business of filmmaking. Isong charged young people who are aspiring to be entrepreneurs or are just starting out to ensure they focus on the following skills;

- I. Leadership
- ii. Relationship
- iii. Inter-personal
- iv. Communication

She encouraged them to acquire deep knowledge on how to run a business and pay attention to the overall outlook of their businesses. Specifically, in the areas of;

- Branding
- Marketing
- Financial management
- Mentorship, and
- Networking
- Education and vocational skills



DAY 1

AUGUST 17TH, 2023

Day I of EKO 2023 conference marked the official opening ceremony, which attracted dignitaries from government and the development sector.

SPECIAL SESSION

Intergenerational chat: building the gap to an inclusive future, organized by SAYPHIN

Moderator: Oluwafisayo Adebowale

Panelists:

- Dr Yetunde Olagbuji
- Prof. Oladapo Ladipo
- Bolawole Temiloluwa Emmanuel

- Prof Esther Envuladu
 - Miss Ogooluwa Olufemi-Ajiboso
- This special session on intergenerational chat was aimed at bringing the older and young generations together on the same podium to have a conversation on creating a linkage and shaping the life trajectory of young people. The discussants, the older generation, all agreed that young people are very energetic and innovative and as such they tend to want to speed up every process.





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Panel Discussants

Dr. Yetunde Olagbuji suggested that jumping the process may lead to unmet expectations or success target, which in turn will result in mental health issues in most cases. She advised young people to undergo the process or pathway leading to success to enable them acquire resilience skills and build life skills. Corroborating Dr Olagbuji's position, Prof. Esther Enzuladu said the general attributes of young people may become a crisis for them if not we'll handled "**because at the end of the day, they struggle for identity**".

"The idea of hardship equals success should be discarded" said Miss Ogooluwa Olufemi-Ajiboso, a young medical student. In her opinion, young people now have faster means to get the process done but agreed with other discussants that young people can and should move at their different phase. On his own part, Bolawole Temiloluwa Emmanuel, who is equally a young person on the panel, believed active listening and lack of communication are the major problems between the old and young. He emphasized "**older people must understand that communication is a two-way thing**".

Professor Ladipo Oladapo who belongs to the older generation and has worked with a lot of young people, opined that the younger generation

are moving in a faster pace and that is expected, while culturally, unfortunately, the younger generation have acquired and imbibed the foreign culture and habits. It is key for young person's to slow down. The implication of not having age appropriate education is far more detrimental than the benefits. Most young people in this category can't cope with thought process and may not be able to engage in conversations. In the past, this has led to suicide. He also mentioned that the youths of today comes with the certain ideas based on what they have read from the internet without having an in-depth analysis of issues.

Highlights:

- Adults should not expect that the young people would move at their own pace.
- Young people are very fast in thinking, innovative and energetic. They have a problem of struggling with identity.
- Balance and depth is very important
- Critical thinking is very important. This helps to analyze issues before you eventually taking a decision.
- Youths should not only focus on academic work but be involved in extra-curricular activities as well.



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Opening Ceremony



The opening ceremony attracted major stakeholders in development sector, partner and top government functionaries. It is important to say that the first lady of Ogun state in Southwest Nigeria, Her Excellency Mrs Bamidele Abiodun, was physically present and accompanied by other dignitaries

from the Ogun state government. This event comprised of keynote address, goodwill messages, performance by Ijotayo Art concept regaled in the iconic Eyo masquerade attire, displaying the beautiful culture of Lagos people with dance and music.



Ijotayo Art Performance at the opening ceremony



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WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROF ADESEGUN FATUSI, FAS

“Without innovation, we will not make significant progress towards SDGs” –



The founding President of SAYPHIN, Prof. Adegun Fatusi, welcomed all to the beautiful and wonderful city of Lagos and to the “largest gatherings of adolescent health experts in the continent of Africa”, the 3rd Nigerian conference on adolescent and youth health and development tagged, EKO 2023.

Fatusi took the audience through all the activities that went into the conference and the events to come within the conference, which included the mindscape mental health art competition sponsored by UNICEF, conference logo design competition and national competition for youth speaker, which were all widely advertised in national dailies and across digital platforms and received hundreds of entries. He said, “SAYPHIN

is a strategic national platform that puts together government agencies, parastatals at national and sub-national level, United Nations Agencies, international development partners, academia, non-profit organization and the private sector. It is committed to improving the physical, mental, social, health and wellbeing of adolescent and young people through advocacy, health promotion, health service delivery, development and research”.

Speaking on the theme of the conference in relation the development of adolescent and young people nationally and globally, Fatusi revealed that “the theme ‘Achieving 2030 targets: Driving innovation for adolescent and youth health’ recognizes that without innovation, we will not



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make significant progress towards SGDs. Adolescent health and development must be at the center of global, national and local development effort if sustainable development goal have to be achieved by 2023”.

According to him, the subthemes for the 2023 conference have been carefully framed to address the health and development needs of adolescents and young people in contemporary time as well as in the immediate future.

In concluding, he reiterated that SAYPHIN is an open club with different categories of membership ranging from individual membership to organization membership.

Professor Ladipo, while welcoming participants and dignitaries to EKO 2023, made the case for improved investment in adolescent and young people in Nigeria and Africa. He said Nigeria has a large youthful population as 60 percent of the country’s population is under the age of 25, making it one of the largest in the world.

“Adolescents and young people are the heartbeat of our society and we must do our best to invest in them. There is a dire need to involve the young people much more in program implementation and design.” he submitted. Though, he highlighted of the challenges facing this category of the population such as teenage pregnancies, sexually transmitted incidences, child marriage, drug abuse.



Ladipo berated the erstwhile Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu who called for the scrapping of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) from the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC). However, he called every stakeholder to continue to advocate for a curriculum that empowers adolescents and young people with accurate, age appropriate, and

comprehensive sexuality education.

“Adolescent and Young People are the Heartbeat of our Society”

*Prof. Oladapo Ladipo,
Chairman Board Chair, SAYPHIN*



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GOODWILL MESSAGES

“Investing in education system is our mandate”

Mrs. Regina Priso

Officer-in-charge UNESCO
Regional Office for West Africa in Abuja.



Mrs Priso was delighted to join the EKO 2023 conference, which she described as a gathering of great professionals working in adolescent health, education and development space in Nigeria. She believed the conference marks another milestone in the response towards achieving the 2030

agenda of sustainable development. According to her, “the theme for the conference: Achieving 2030 targets: Driving innovation for Adolescent and Youth Health appraises the need to ensure transformative approaches at ensuring thriving education, health and wellbeing of our adolescent and young people”.

She said the health and wellbeing of today’s adolescent, the largest generation of adolescents in the history of the world, would shape the achievement of the United Nations sustainable development goals framework, related to health, nutrition, education and gender equality.

“Investing in the education system is our mandate. Education has the power to transform the lives of children and young people” Priso said as she advocated for violent free education spaces and promised that UNESCO will continue to support innovation and advancement in the achievement of the education for change agenda and overall SDG4 and targets”.

Chris Macauley

*Achieving the SDGs and the 2030 target is ambitious but possible -
Officer-in-Charge Nigeria Nigeria Country Office UNFPA,*



On behalf of UNFPA Nigeria, Macauley appreciated the SAYPHIN for putting the conference together, which he said, “symbolizes our common interest and commitment in advancing the health,

wellbeing and empowerment of adolescent and young people, an endeavour that strongly aligns with UNFPA mission which is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled”

Speaking on the theme of the conference; Achieving 2030 targets: Driving innovation for Adolescent and Youth Health, Macauley said is a call to action that resonates with urgency and



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promise. *“Achieving the SDGs and the 2030 target is ambitious based on the broadness and complexity. However, this can be achieved through innovation for development driven by young people that constitute an important portion of our population”* he concluded.

Professor Jonathan Klein

*President international Association of
Adolescent Health (IAAH)*

Prof. Klein spoke briefly via zoom to the audience and he mentioned how impactful SAYPHIN's work has been in shaping adolescent and youth health and development in Nigeria.

Temiloluwa Bolawole

“Promoting the health and wellbeing of adolescent and young people requires a multifaceted approach” – Youth Speaker,



Temiloluwa Bolawole also known as ThatPoet, rendered a spoken word where he addressed the issues surrounding Gender-based Violence (GBV) and the health and wellbeing of adolescents using a case study of a young girl who is faced with gender-based violence on several occasion. The effect of GBV on young people could lead to mental and emotional health deterioration, which could also have severe psychological effect such as trauma, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thoughts. Also, let's not

forget physical injuries and bruises and self-inflicted injuries as a psychological effect as a result of GBV encountered. He laid emphasis on the fact that GBV affects everyone. He noted that addressing the GBV and promoting the health and wellbeing of adolescent and young people requires a multifaceted approach involving various stakeholders, government, and non-profit organizations.

Government policies and laws that prohibit gender-based violence like The Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act of (2015) which prohibits all forms of violence against persons in private and public life, providing maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders should be enacted and promoted as this will deter Gender-Based Violence. Also, education and awareness by organizations, communities, and schools is essential; a comprehensive sexuality education program should be integrated into the curriculum to promote gender equality, consent, and healthy relationships. Public awareness campaigns and advocacy against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) can challenge social norms and encourage bystanders to intervene in issues about Gender-Based Violence.

Furthermore, support services and counseling hotlines need to be provided and promoted for access by youth and adolescents to be able to report and seek help if or when Gender-Based Violence related issues arise.

In conclusion, we all have active roles to play in our bid to eradicate issues of Gender-Based Violence. By prioritizing prevention and implementing comprehensive measures that cater to the needs of victims, including adolescents and young people like Tolani and Kunle.



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“We can unlock the innovative potential of our young generation”

Dr Luwei Pearson

Associate Director Maternal Newborn and Child Health, UNICEF Headquarters



Dr. Luwei saluted the effort of SAYPHIN and its partners to make the conference a reality. She said the conference is a collective journey of young people and the stakeholders to look at what have been achieved in the past and what lies ahead. She assured that UNICEF’s commitment to its SDGs mandate areas is unwavering, which are;

- * Zero hunger
- * Quality education
- * Gender equality
- * Decent work and economic growth
- * Reduced inequalities and
- * Climate action

“We can unlock the innovative potentials of young people, if we start investing right in their health, education and wellbeing” Luwei submitted. She disclosed that investment in the health and wellbeing of adolescents in Nigeria, the region and the whole world is critical for yielding 3 important results;

- i. Optimize the wellbeing of today’s adolescents
- ii. Enhance young people’s prospect
- iii. Improve outcomes for generation to come

Keynote Address

Her Excellency, First Lady of Ogun State,
Mrs Bamidele Abiodun



H.E. Mrs Abiodun, who was accompanied by top government functionaries from Ogun state, was a special guest at Day I of EKO 2023 and she delivered a speech using her Ogun state experiment in tackling Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Mrs Abiodun believed that sustainable collaboration is key in tackling the menace of SGBV and improving sexual and reproductive health services for adolescent and young people.

Excerpts from her keynote below:

I address you with a profound sense of purpose, driven by a strong resolve to champion the cause that lies close to my heart – the wellbeing and empowerment of our youth, especially in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights and addressing gender-based violence.

In response to the sharp increase in rape, sexual assault, and murder of women and girls during the COVID pandemic, the Ogun State, our governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun mobilized stakeholders from various institutions set up the Management Committee of the Violence Against Persons



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Prohibition (VAPP) Law, and I was appointed Chairperson.

I have had the privilege to collaborate with a multitude of stakeholders, including law enforcement, and the Ministries of Justice, Health and Women Affairs. Together, we have tirelessly worked to ensure that those who perpetrate genderbased violence are held accountable, and justice is served for the survivors. Not only that, we have worked on preventive initiatives while intervening in several cases in different local government areas. I wish to illuminate our comprehensive approach that goes beyond just addressing the aftermath of these heinous acts but seeks to address root causes while educating our young ones in school.

Prevention, interventions, and advocacy – these are the three pillars that underpin my efforts to create a safer society for our children and adolescents;

1. Equipping Boys and Girls with Sexual and Reproductive Health Education
2. Interventions: The Establishment of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
3. Advocacy: Fostering Continuous Public Awareness

Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu

*First Lady of Lagos State,
"Youths have the power to make
impact in nation building"*



The first lady of Lagos State was not available at the conference because of other official engagements but was duly represented by Dr Omobolanle Johnson, Secretary Medical Women Association of Nigeria, who herself is a stakeholder in the health sector. In a well-delivered speech, the first lady applauded SAYPHIN for its continuous effort and commitment in promoting and advocating for proper administration of health services for adolescent and the youth especially by coming up this conference which she said is a laudable program that serves as a veritable platform to discuss and dissect issues relating to health management and provide the desired result. Speaking further on the importance of the conference, Mrs Sanwo-Olu said EKO 2023 is a unique initiative designed to address various challenges faced by the younger generation. He therefore called on all stakeholders and experts in the field of adolescent and young people's health to brainstorm and come up with ideas in tackling the challenges facing young people in the Nigerian society.



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According to her, *“The youths are the strength of every nation and play a vital role in its development by utilizing their skills for economic growth and political stability of the society. The youths have the power to make impact in nation building. It is important for stakeholders to collaborate to provide for them health, socioeconomic and financial growth”*

Mrs Sanwo-olu said her office has initiated various programs for adolescents and young people living in the state, which includes;

- * Digital skills empowerment
- * Health forum
- * Youth collaboration
- * Boy child initiative
- * School support program

“As a concerned mother and medical professional and advocate of quality healthcare service delivery, I am convinced that this forum will further spur various ideas and strategies aimed at providing adolescent and youth access to comprehensive health services including prevention, promotion, treatment and rehabilitation of sufficient quality and ensuring users are not exposed to financial hardship”. The first lady submitted.

In concluding, she sought the cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders to support the government in its quest to improve the healthcare system in Lagos state for the benefit of the younger generation.

Mrs Oluyemi Kalesanwo

Permanent Secretary,
Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and
Poverty Alleviation



The Permanent Secretary ‘s address was delivered by Mrs Jaji Shakirat who lauded the EKO 2023 conference by saying it is coming a better time and that it was targeted at promoting the dignity, competency, capacity and active involvement of young people in the national health and development agenda. In her words, *“the theme for the conference; Achieving 2030 targets: Driving innovation for Adolescent and Youth Health is thought-provoking as it draws our attention to the health and wellbeing of young people with various factors as well as provide solutions-focused strategic intervention”*

She said the role of youth in nation building is crucial to political, social and economic development of a society. However, in most parts of the world youths are faced with issues threatening their development and wellbeing, which includes poverty, inadequate education, abuse, delinquency, violence, inadequate access to services, adolescent pregnancy and substance abuse as well as lack of innovative solutions.



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According to her, the Nigerian situation is not different from what is being experienced globally. *“Sad to say the Nigerian economic potentials is constrained by many structural issues including inadequate infrastructures, tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, lack of confidence in currency valuation, limited foreign exchange capacity, among many others”* She disclosed that the Lagos state ministry of women affairs and poverty alleviation

has established 19 skills acquisition centers with 20 vocations to freely train women and youth for financial sustainability. This, according to her, is in line with the development agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos state in ensuring that no one is left behind on account of their social status, gender or age.

DECORATION AND PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

President of SAYPHIN, Prof. Adesegun Fatusi invited Eduardo Celedes Blanco and Chris Macauley of UNICEF and UNFPA respectively to receive awards on behalf of their respective organizations as platinum sponsors for the 3rd Nigeria conference on adolescent and youth health and development, tagged EKO 2023. Equally, both the Lagos and Ogun first ladies were decorated as members of SAYPHIN.



Award presentation and decoration of the wife of Ogun State Governor and Heads of International development partners



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PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary sessions commenced after the break and this was an opportunity for more focused conversations around various topics. The sessions were organized by various organizations such as IAAH, UNICEF, SAYPHIN, UNFPA and the Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health.

Session 1

Girl Power Unleashed: Rolling out the HPV Vaccine in Nigeria.

Organizer: UNICEF

Moderator: Dr Zobo

Presenter: Dr Ngozi Nwosu, NPHCDA

Panelists:

- * Dr. John Ovuoraye, Director GASHE Federal Ministry of Health
- * Eduardo Celedes, Chief of Health, UNICEF
- * Aghogho Ojoh, an adolescent
- * Dr Ngozi Nwosu, Director Primary Healthcare System Development, NPHCDA
- * Bamike Olawunmi (BamBam), Social media Influencer.

Just before this session commenced, Dr Nwosu made a presentation on cervical cancer and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine rollout in Nigeria, which is in collaboration with UNICEF. She warned that HPV can cause anal, throat and mouth cancer while type 16 and 18 are responsible for cervical cancer. She revealed that about twelve thousand cases are reported each year and about eight thousand mortality, advising that vaccination is the most cost-effective means to save lives.

Highlights of the session:

- * Dr Ovuoraye spoke on how government is using the rollout of the vaccine as an entry point to strengthen adolescent healthcare systems in Nigeria, saying the rollout of the vaccine will engender trust between providers, parents or adolescents
- * Dr Ngozi said the HPV vaccine will prevent cervical cancer by stopping inflammation and abnormal growth of cells and it is important to administer before people begin sexual contact.
- * Aghogho on ensuring girls are well engaged; She said sensitizing parents to know the effects of the vaccine on their children is one important way to make the campaign a success.
- * Bamike Olawunmi said social media influencers must be well informed about the import of the vaccine and encouraged mothers to get the right information also in order to help their children.
- * Celedes on role of UNICEF in addressing common adolescent health challenges in Nigeria: He said UNICEF has taken the decision to move forward to support adolescent health, a way to look for entry point to support adolescent health. He mentioned specific intervention such as co-creation and concluded by saying UNICEF is committed to adolescent health for the next five years because they need opportunities, empowerment, learn and earn.

Session 2

Innovations for improving access to FP services by young people and innovation by young people towards accelerating effort to end FGM



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Organizer: UNFPA

Moderator: Ashi Blessing

Speakers:

- * Dr. Joachim Chijide, Family Planning/Reproductive Health Commodity Specialist, UNFPA
- * Dr. Ummulkhulthum Bajoga, National Family Planning Analyst, UNFPA

- * Ms. Amaka Anene, National Reproductive Health Commodity Security; RHCS Analyst, UNFPA
- * Ms. Motunrayo Olabodun, Supply Chain Assistant, UNFPA
- * Dr. Akinkunmi Akinbajo, Maternal Health/Family Planning Analyst UNFPA



Highlights of the Session

- The session began with an explainer video animation that speaks to Family Planning.
- The essence of the animation is to appeal to adolescent and young people in the best language they understand in order to drive home the message of family planning and sustainable development goals
- The National Contraceptives Basket Fund Tracker is an intervention around resource mobilization, managed on behalf of the federal government by UNFPA
- Supply is a licensed pharmaceutical inventory management software, deployed in Nigeria for the management of contraceptive inventory at warehouse. It is to ensure reproductive medicines



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including contraceptives are properly managed to reduce wastages and promote accountability

- U-PLAN, a family planning Whatsapp Chatbot that masks the identity of young people willing to access family planning services

Session 3

UNFPA Presentation on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), featuring Dr Costly Aderibigbe



Dr. Costly Aderibigbe is the first ever Executive Secretary of the Global Youth Consortium against FGM where she is working with over 2,500 young people from more than 55 countries to achieve a world free of FGM by 2030.

She took time to talk about the adolescent boot camp started out as an effort to provide comprehensive capacity building package to adolescent girls and delivered in a way that they are able to connect and accept without any distraction. The boot camp, in its 7th edition, has recorded tremendous achievements in raising peer influencers and advocates with a myriad of success stories.

Session 4

Increasing awareness on the Needs of Adolescents Towards Global Forum For Adolescents 2023

Organiser: Federal Ministry of Health

Moderator Philip Idoko: Federal Ministry of Health

Presenter: Dr John Ovuoraoye, Director, GASHE Division, FMOH

Panelist: 3 Adolescents

Highlights of the session



- Philip Idoko, the moderator who is a young person, asked questions around what the Nigerian government is doing through the federal ministry of health with regards to adolescent and young people's health. Equally, the session afforded the adolescents on the panel to speak about what they want from government.

- Dr Ovuoraye said the Federal Ministry of Health works closely with a lot of youth-led organizations to develop programs for adolescent and young people. According to him, "we have changed the blueprint, now we make sure we do not plan for them but plan with them". He further said



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young people are now at the driver seat of planning while government gives them the needed backing.

- Adolescent and young people on the plenary session are hopeful that the new honorable minister of health will commit to health and wellbeing of adolescent and young people by increasing When it comes to the issue of adolescent we have changed the blueprint now we make sure we don't plan for them but we plan with them. They take the decisions and government support them in actualization
- They want quality education and stigma-free mental health services that can also be integrated into the school curriculum
- Dr Ovuoraye said different youth-led organizations are already brainstorming and harvesting opinions on what the country should present at the next Global Forum for Adolescent (GFA)

Special Guest Presentation **By Hilda Bassey**

Hilda Bassey, popularly referred to as Hilda Baci, is a celebrity chef and Guinness World Record holder for the longest cooking time by an individual, made a special appearance to motivate participants and speak on HPV and selfrealization. Her words, well captured below; *"The journey of self-discovery and confidence development has been a tough journey for me. Beating child trauma is not an easy one but with the proper information and exposure, you can overcome. It is important to know that we are all unique in our ways and you can aspire and learn good traits from people, but do not beat yourself to becoming exactly like somebody else."*

She highlighted the importance of building self-confidence by taking good care of the mind and body particularly paying attention to one's mental health. She also talked about the necessity of the vaccine to keep the individual healthy so as to actualize one's dreams and fulfill your goals.



DAY 2

AUGUST 18TH, 2023

UNICEF, the Platinum Sponsor of the EKO 2023 Conference, FP 2030, HACEY, TECH 4 DEVELOPMENT, and the University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED) engaged the participants in both plenary and concurrent sessions on the second day of the conference. Also, the second day marked the commencement of the oral and poster presentations of the scientific papers submitted as abstracts for the conference.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Session I

FP 2030 Non-Governmental Actor Commitments

The aim of this session was to engage youth-led organizations and other relevant stakeholders in a panel discussion on their experiences with the implementation and commitment to FP 2030.

Moderator: Margaret Bolaji Adegbola, Manager, Youth Partnerships, FP 2030.

Panelists

- Itoro Ekanem; Board Member, FP 2030
- Dr Ejike Orji; CSO focal person, FP 2030
- Felcity Nneoma Ike; Youth Focal Point, FP, 2030

- Queen Ugwoeru; Programs Officer, Strong Enough Girls Empowerment Initiative.



Margaret Bolaji

and the panel discussants on the FP 2030 Commitment

It was emphasized by the panelists that young people's concerns were reflected in the FP 2030 commitment because they were involved all through the processes of the development of the FP 2030 commitment policy document. The moderator reiterated that the involvement of young people in the drafting of the FP commitment policy document also necessitated the production of the abridged, simple and easy-to-read version of the document for young people.



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Furthermore, it was noted that the global board committee members of the FP 2030 commitment comprised academicians, government, donor agencies, partners, and notably two youth representatives from Nigeria and Sudan. Itoro Ekanem, who is the Nigerian youth representative on the global board on FP 2030 highlighted the importance of involving young people in decision-making on the global level. He stated that the youth representatives are able to ensure the integration of young people's priorities into the implementation strategies of the FP 2030 commitment. He reiterated that the youth representatives have the required platform to advocate to relevant stakeholders that young people should not only be considered as beneficiaries of family planning but also as key partners who have the power to influence others to promote the uptake of family planning services. According to him, youth representatives are also

able advocate for the capacity building of youths leading non-governmental organizations on how to promote the uptake of family planning services within their localities as well as financial management to promote their efficiency, effectiveness and productivity. All the state and non-state actors at the conference were charged by the panelists to make personal and organizational commitments to implement the FP 2030 commitment as well as achieve the set goals to ensure the promotion of the sexual and reproductive health of young people. In addition, every participant was urged to evangelize family planning and advocate for more funding for family planning. Finally, it was recommended that there should be a nucleus of FP 2030 in all tertiary institutions in Nigeria to improve the access of young people to family planning services.



Panel discussants pledging their commitment to FP 2030 commitment



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Dr Adekemi Sekoni making the presentation on the report of the CSE project in Lagos State

The session ended with a panel session. The panelist emphasized that Lagos State introduced comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) into the educational system to address the sexual and reproductive health problems of young people as well as to build their life skills essentially for the successful navigation of the vulnerable period of adolescence. At the commencement of the CSE project in non-formal institutions as supported by UNFPA, Lagos State developed a training manual for the instructors using the existing National CSE curriculum. After the project was launched in the Technical College, an impact evaluation of the project was conducted by the team at the University of Lagos to determine if the aim of the project was achieved at the end of the implementation phase. Aside from the report of the project which revealed that the

project achieved the set objectives, the Adolescent learner equally corroborated the study findings that the CSE training improved her communication skills as well as personal growth and development. She further reiterated that with the CSE training, she can make better informed choices resulting in the promotion of her sexual and reproductive health.

Finally, the UNFPA representative, Dr Esther Somefun stressed that Lagos State through the Ministry of Youth and Social Development owns the project because it leveraged the existing structure and systems to ensure its sustainability. She also stated that the CSE project will be scaled up to the schools of disability with the training manual converted to the braille form for adolescents with visual impairment.



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L to R: Mrs Rashidat Umar, Dr Adekemi Sekoni, Dr Esther Somefun, Mr Olaley Maroof and Miss Eniola Olawoyin



The UNFPA project team after the plenary session



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Session 3

Sex education and the city: Redefining sexual and reproductive health right services for young people.

Moderator: Rhoda Robinson, Executive Director of HACEY.

Panel

- Adetoun Afolabi, Member, HACEY Girl Advisory Board

- Chinonso Egemba (Aproko Doctor), Medical Doctor and content creator
- Anto Lecky; Founder, Live Wire Project
- Margaret Bolaji, Manager, Youth Partnerships, Fp2030
- Oluwatobi Ololuga; the Program Manager for gender and development at HACEY



The Panelists

This was another plenary session anchored by HACEY. The panelists underscored that a lot of progress has been made in Nigeria regarding access of young people to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services including sexuality education. They stated that several efforts have been made by the Government, partners and non-governmental organizations to

train and engage young champions on SRH across Nigeria as well as establish youth-friendly centres in underserved areas. However, they also highlighted that many adolescents and young people still lack adequate knowledge about sexuality education and how to access SRH services despite their increased vulnerability and predisposition to risky behaviours. Furthermore, it



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was duly noted that there is a need for the effective implementation of existing policies promoting the sexual and reproductive health of young people and the allocation and release of sufficient budget for SRH services at the National, State and Local Governments to improve young people's access to these services.

Entertainment and media were identified as important channels to disseminate information on family planning to young people. It was however emphasized that content creators should acquire relevant knowledge to ensure that the right information is passed across to their target audience in easily understood language to achieve

behavioural change. In conclusion, the team recommended that all stakeholders, especially parents and religious leaders must be sensitized about the rudiments of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) for young people to engender their full participation. CSE was described as an inclusive approach to providing information on abstinence and other safe SRH methods of ensuring that all adolescents and young people regardless of their biological, economic, educational status, etc. are able to make informed and healthier decisions resulting in improved sexual and reproductive health.





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Session 4

Innovative approach to sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people.

The next session was on the innovative approach to sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and young people. On behalf of Youth Health and Life Skills Development initiative (YHLDI) and InStrat Global Health Solutions, Dr Yetunde Olagbuji presented the report of the pilot project on the video training (VTR) application on comprehensive sexuality education developed by the two nongovernmental organizations for use by teachers in secondary schools. She stated that the content of the video mobile training on CSE for teachers was developed using the existing National curriculum in order to have a structured template for teachers as well as bridge the knowledge gap among them. She highlighted that the VTR Application was successfully piloted in five private schools in Akure with a significant improvement (more than 10 points) in the post-test knowledge of teachers when compared with their knowledge before the training. She reiterated that the difference in the knowledge of the teachers before and after the training in the five pilot schools was statistically proven not to be due to chance ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). She mentioned that the commitment of the head of schools and the availability of ICT facilities contributed immensely to the success of the project and future sustainability as well. She concluded that based on the success of the pilot, the two non-

governmental organizations hope to collaborate with other partners to ensure the scale-up of the VTR mobile App to all schools in Nigeria and other Sub-Saharan African countries with similar challenges as Nigeria.



Dr. Yetunde Olagbuji speaking about the VTR Application on CSE at the conference



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Session 5

Systems innovation for Adolescent Mental Health- A paradigm shift.

This session was anchored by UNICEF. The session commenced with awards presentation to the winners of the Mindscape Mental Health Art Competition. Over 200 entries of various artwork were received from adolescents and young people (15-24 years) across Nigeria over a period of 6 weeks and the winners were selected by independent judges based on their originality, creativity, technical skills and interpretation of the themes. A total of fifteen winners; three per each

category of artwork i.e. painting, drawing, digital art, mixed media and photography were selected. The young persons who emerged the best across each category of artwork got a plaque and #150,000 cash gift, the second position received #100,000, while the third position attracted #50,000.

The presentation of awards to the winners was done by the UNICEF Health Specialist, Dr Victoria Isiramen, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Abdulsamad Rabiu Initiative: Dr Ubo Udoh and the Vice Chairman of the EKO 2023 Local Organising Committee, Dr Gbenga Adebayo.



From L to R: Dr Victor Isiramen, Dr Ubo Udoh, Dr Gbenga Adebayo and some winners of the Mindscape co Commitment



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Dr Ubo Udoh presenting plaques to the winners

Furthermore, the M.D of Abdul Samad Rabiu initiative (AMR) was decorated as a member of SAYPHIN by the Vice President of SAYPHIN, Dr. Bridget Okoeguale for his interest in the development of adolescents. In

response to the honor bestowed on the MD, he promised to continue the partnership with UNICEF to promote the mental health of adolescents and young people.

Concurrent Sessions

Session I

Innovation Ecosystems Unleashed: Harnessing the Collective Power to Revolutionize Adolescent Mental Health.

Organizer: UNICEF

The second part of this plenary session after the presentation of awards to the Mindscape competition winners was moderated by Dr Chinonso Egemba (the Aproko Doctor). He stated that the aim of the session was to explore the transformative solutions to the increase in the prevalence of mental health disorders among young people. He noted that the areas of focus for the transformational solution regarding the mental health of young people via innovative approach will be limited to access to care, capacity building of health workers, and data management.

Sponsor: UNICEF and ASRAfrica

Speakers:

- Eduardo Celades Blanc, Chief Health Program Section, UNICEF
- Olusoji Vactor Ladele- Innovation Manager, Global Mental Health Innovation Portfolio, UNICEF Innovation
- Dr Tunde Ojo: Director Mental Health, Federal Ministry of Health

Dr. Tunde Ojo noted that the mental health of adolescents and young people have been neglected for a long time and appealed to all



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stakeholders to prioritize the provision of preventive mental health care and services among young people considering the increasing burden of mental health disorders among them. He stressed that young people undergo transitional developmental changes during adolescence that may negatively impact on their mental health if not well supported and may have adverse outcome of life-long morbidities and even mortality. He highlighted that the public awareness about mental health issues is quite low and so there are myths and misconceptions around the cause, prevention and treatment of mental health disorders. He noted that young people have to be involved in the development of innovative digital solutions to reduce the risk of mental health disorders. He, however warned that the use of innovative digital solutions to address the mental health of adolescents and young people have to be well managed to prevent counter –productivity. He concluded by educating the participants about the yet to be published Adolescent Mental Health Policy and the suicidal prevention framework and guideline by the Federal Ministry of Health.

Eduardo Celades Blance and Olusoji Ladele presented the results of the mapping and ecosystems scans conducted in Nigeria.

The highlight of the result include:

- There is an established burden of mental health disorders among adolescents and young people in Nigeria.
- There are economic and health implications of increased burden of mental health disorders among adolescents and young people.

- Adolescents and young people’s interaction with their social environment (family, school, community, religious homes) impact on their mental health.
- Six stakeholders namely policymakers, knowledge creators/research institutions, innovators, inventors, content creators and health care providers were identified to provide innovative mental health solutions
- The needs of an adolescent are expressed as:
 - i. I can shape
 - ii. I know my worth
 - iii. I am heard
 - iv. I can trust
 - v. I am equipped

After the presentation was a group discussion among participants to identify youths specific strategies to aid the development of innovative mental health solutions. Participants provided responses to questions addressing each of the thematic areas of needs of young people.

Questions

- I. I can shape**
 - How can young people be guided to take charge of their mental health?
 - What topics can guide such discussions?
 - What platforms can these discussions be carried out?
 - What government actions, and policies are required to create a safe environment for adolescents and young people to excel in Nigeria?



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2. *I know my worth*

- What strategies can be employed to reduce stigma around mental health among adolescents and young people?
- Which stakeholders are responsible for promoting self-awareness of mental health among adolescents and young people?

3. *I am heard*

- How can traditional/cultural practices and community structures be leveraged to promote mental health awareness and support?
- Who are the key stakeholders that should be involved and how can we ensure collaboration within the communities?
- Considering the Nigerian context, what innovative approach/technology can be harnessed to support adolescent mental well-being?

4. *I can trust*

- What role can schools and educational institutions play to address mental health issues among adolescents/young people?
- How can we integrate mental health education into the school curriculum?
- How can we ensure the sustainability of the mental health education in schools?

5. *I am equipped*

- What potential challenges or barriers may arise during the implementation of mental health solutions and how can it be addressed?
- What should be the next steps as individuals, scientist, donors, etc.

Adolescent fact sheet

UNICEF conducted a survey assessing the public health challenges of adolescents in Nigeria and documented the findings on the Adolescent fact

sheet. The survey report was disseminated to the audience by Taiwo and Kehinde Bamgboye.

The key highlights include:

- There is a huge burden of public health problems among adolescents across all the States in Nigeria
- The public health problems include teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, early marriage, unsafe school environment, poor hygiene.
- The national performance of the educational indicators such as literacy rate, retention rate in school, level of school attendance, completion of primary school etc, are fairly good but varies within the 6 geo-political zone of Nigeria, with the Southern States performing fairly better than the Northern States.
- Male adolescents have more access to mobile phones than female adolescents.
- A significant proportion of adolescents in Nigeria are poor adolescents
It was also emphasized that UNICEF provides support to promote the health and wellbeing of adolescents and young people to the Nigerian Government through their engagement in the following activities:
- Paying advocacy to the government for increased prioritization of programs that promote the health and well-being of adolescents and young people.
- Building the capacity of health care providers
- Empowering adolescents on life skills
- Designing innovations to prevent HIV/AIDs such as YAaH
- Developing adolescent mental health strategies to reduce the burden of mental health disorders



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- Promoting adolescent education and literacy
- Provision of support for adolescent pregnant
- Provision of support for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Provision of support to adolescents for menstrual hygiene
- Provision of adolescent psychosocial support services
- Promotion of healthy environment
- Prevention of violence against children
- Empowerment of young people
- Child protection and adolescent development
- Promotion of girl leadership and
- Mentorship of adolescents on inter-cultural diversity, digital skills, involvement in decision making
- Data management

U-REPORT

One of the U-Reporters, Ms Ifeoluwa Adesokan engaged by UNICEF gave a report about the U-report system. She stated that U Report is a key insight and data analytics tool that amplifies the voices of adolescents and young people. She reported that over 1.5 million young people drives meaningful youth engagement via U-Report. She reiterated that U-Report provides the platform where opportunities and information are shared among young people, and gives young people a voice to speak out and to actively participate in issues concerning them. She invited other young people to join U-Report via SMS by texting JOIN to 24453. Other social media platforms where young people can join U-Report include WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Telegram. She concluded by highlighting that the feedback of young people are usually analyzed and the data is

used for advocacy and decision making, programming and policy formulation that promote multi-sectoral collaboration, child protection, WASH, HIV prevention, Human Papilloma Virus vaccination, and gender based violence.

Session 2

With and For Adolescents: Advancing Health and Well-being through Multisectoral Programming

Organizer: UNICEF

Facilitator: Takudzuwa, Gender and Adolescent Manager, UNICEF

Moderator:

Ngozi Nzuora; Adolescent Specialist, UNICEF

Speaker:

- Dr. Luwei Pearson, Associate Director Health, UNICEF New York
- Dr. Stella Nwosu, Director of Family Health, FMOH
- Dr. Victoria Isiramen, Health Specialist, UNICEF, Abuja

Panel

- Dr. John Ovuoraye- Director GASHE, FMOH
- Zainab Mohammed, U Report Territorial Manager/Young Person, UNICEF
- Toyin Chukwudozie- Executive Director, EVA
- Prof Adesola Olumide- Secretary General, SAYPHIN

Mr John Ovuoraye stated that the Federal Ministry of Health through the GASHE department has a coordination platform known as the National Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising of representatives from various sectors such as health, education, UN Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Youth and Social Development, and other relevant stakeholders. The composition



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of the TWGs are equally replicated at the sub-national levels to coordinate the implementation of adolescent health programs. He emphasized that the aim of the adolescent health programming in Nigeria is to ensure that the voices of adolescents are heard using the system thinking approach to solve the problems of adolescents.

It was equally emphasized by the panelists that multi-sectoral collaboration of all actors in the public, private and UN organizations should be embraced more than ever in adolescent health programming. Furthermore, inclusivity of all categories of adolescents (married, those living with disability, those living in the rural areas) should be promoted and the right policies should be formulated to incorporate all adolescents so that no one is left behind.

In conclusion, the participants highlighted the following challenges with adolescent health programming in Nigeria

- Misconception of various actors on multi-sectoral collaboration
- Weak team building in partnerships
- Weak community engagement Challenges with adolescent health programming
- Weak involvement of adolescents
- Unskilled teachers and parents in providing comprehensive sexuality education
- Lack of resources at all levels to provide mental health services
- Vertical programming for adolescent health programs
- Weak sub-national, inter-agency, intra-agency collaboration on issues of adolescents.

Scientific Presentation

The scientific sessions occurred in two days concurrently with plenary sessions. The scientific sessions provided the opportunity for adolescents and young people, researchers and all professionals working in the field of adolescent health to share their ideas and present their findings from primary and secondary research as well as evidence-based reports of programs and projects piloted across Nigeria. There were a total of 123 abstracts accepted for oral presentation and 38 poster presentations. The abstracts were categorized into 7 tracks in line with the subtheme of the conference. None of the abstracts accepted for either the oral or poster presentations focused on Adolescent mental health and resilience.

The seven major areas of focus of both the oral and poster presentations were:

- Track 1: Inclusivity, equality, and diversity in adolescent and young people's research and programs
- Track 2: Gender-based violence and the health and well-being of adolescents and young people
- Track 3: Adolescents and young people in conflicts and humanitarian situations
- Track 4: Adolescent and young people, migration, and cultural transitions
- Track 5: Climate Change and impacts on adolescent and young people's health and development
- Track 6: Adolescent and young people and the sustainable development goals
- Track 7: Electronic media use, digital health, and young people's health and development.



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The abstracts were published in Volume 6 of the Nigeria Journal of Child and Adolescent Health, produced as a special edition for the 3rd Nigerian Conference on Adolescent Health and Young People's Health and Development. The Nigeria Journal of Child and Adolescent Health (NJCAH) is a peer-reviewed journal produced every two years by the Society for Adolescent and Young People's Health in Nigeria and the Institute of Child Health, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. The aim of NJCAH is to increase the awareness of relevant stakeholders about the public health challenges of adolescents and young people as well as provide evidencebased data to influence decision-making and policy formulation.



Group Picture with the Presenters and Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Sessions

"Developing Nigeria's First National Youth Index: Progress and Potential" Session

The session was organized by the SPARKLE Project, University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED, Ondo, Ondo State, Nigeria). The SPARKLE (Strengthening Programming for Adolescents and Youths through Resource and Knowledge Generation and Link to Evidence) is funded by the Ford Foundation and aims to facilitate a paradigm shift towards optimizing available and new datasets for tracking and strengthening youth development in Nigeria. The session was moderated by Prof Adesegun Fatusi and featured the presentation of the results of the National Youth Index by Mr Hassan Ogunwemimo, followed by discussions by four critical stakeholders who examined the potential

and implications of the results. The discussants were Alhaji Kabiru Mohammed of the Federal Ministry of Youth; Dr Babatunde Adelekan of UNFPA Nigeria, and Mr Bamidele Oyewumi of the National Youth Council, Lagos State chapter. The discussants and session participants were unanimous that the development of the national youth index represents a critical milestone in youth development efforts in Nigeria and has huge potential in terms of advancing evidence-based advocacy for youth development, as well as improving the generation and utilization of youth-related data in Nigeria. Participants posited that the results of the Youth Index need to be presented to the Governors' Forum and also utilized in the development of future national youth policies.



DAY 3

AUGUST 19TH, 2023

Plenary Sessions

Session I

Policy Dialogue- Progress so far: National Adolescent Health and Development Policy Implementation Plan

Organizer: FMOH and SAYPHIN

Moderator: Dr Emmanuel Adebayo, Faculty, Adolescent Health Unit, Institute of Child Health, UCH, Ibadan

Panelists

- Dr John Ovuoraye; Director, GASHE division, FMOH
- Mercy Bolaji, Program Coordinator, Stand With a Girl Initiative
- Dr Ayeni Olasumbo Olufunke, Adolescent Health Focal Officer, MOH, Lagos State • Dr Victoria Isiramem, Health Specialist,



The aim of this session was to review through discussion with relevant stakeholders the extent to which the National policy on Adolescent and Young People's Health launched at the 2nd National conference on Adolescent Health in Abuja has been disseminated and implemented.

According to the Dr John Ovuoraye, the Director of Gender, Adolescent and School Health and Elderly division of the FMOH, the National policy on Adolescents was developed by all stakeholders with a plan to domesticate the National policy at the sub- national level. He mentioned that the Technical Working Groups across the National and State level are expected to ensure the implementation of the policy in their respective domains. He highlighted the process of domestication across all the 36 states and FCT was ongoing with a plan to involve as many adolescents as much as possible at every level of implementation. He also mentioned that work is ongoing to capture and integrate all adolescent health indicators on the District Health Information System (DHIS 2.0).

Dr Victoria Isiramem, the representative of development agency, UNICEF highlighted that based on the mandate of her organization, they



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have hitherto provided support to the Nigerian government to achieve result. She went further to mention that UNICEF has been supporting the functionality of the Technical Working Group at the national level to ensure that the health system is responsive to the health and development of adolescents and young people. Other support provided by UNICEF include strengthening of multi-sectoral collaboration, paying advocacy to states to ensure that the Annual Operational Plans developed in the States incorporate plans to promote the health and well-being of adolescents and young people. She mentioned that UNICEF has increased the support for the prevention of HIV/AIDs to the North to reduce the prevalence since their focus has always been in the Southern part of Nigeria. Lastly, she said that UNICEF is working in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Health on the development of the Adolescent Research Agenda, which is expected to influence the implementation of adolescent health programming in Nigeria.

The Lagos state focal person on Adolescent Health, Dr Ayeni Olasumbo Olufunke expatiated on how Lagos state has been promoting the health and well-being of adolescents through various innovative and highly commendable health programs. Some of the unique health programs include:

- Establishment of fourteen youth-friendly centres to provide adolescent health services for both in-school and out -of -school adolescents. This activity was supported by UNFPA. There is also a plan to scale-up the youth-friendly centres to all the LGAs in Lagos State.
- Provision of family planning services at all levels

of care and the youth friendly centres to improve access to these services.

- Capacity building of health care providers to provide youth-friendly services attractive to adolescents and young people
- Establishment of young mothers' clinics which was conceptualized because of the increase in the rate of abandoned babies by teenagers. The service provided include antenatal care services. Family planning services, delivery services for teenage mothers. These teenagers are enrolled, insured and integrated for into the society through vocational skill acquisition and or schooling.
- Provision of school health services to ensure that the school environment is safe for students and that the school clinics are well equipped to provide preventable services and treatment of minor ailments.
- Future plan of establishing Youth-Friendly Centres in Tertiary Institutions.

Mercy Bolaji, the representative of Stand With A Girl Child (SWAG) Initiative emphasized that her organization works with state actors to simplify adolescents data used for decision making. She also mentioned that her organization engages policy makers through advocacy using data, provide support to adolescents requiring humanitarian services like in IDP camps as well as build the capacity of adolescents to contribute to policy development and to monitor the progress of the implementation of the adolescent policy.

The Campus Right Initiative representative also spoke extensively about the role of her organization in Obafemi Awolowo Ile-lfe campus.



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She mentioned that her organization conducts surveys on gender-based violence (GBV) among students on campus. Furthermore, she reiterated that her organization builds the capacity of students to know their right so that they can recognize when their rights are violated and where to access services if in need. She said the organization has a help line that provides support to GBV victims and equally links victims of GBV to the teaching hospital for sexual and reproductive health services since there are no youth-friendly centres in the school. Finally, she appealed to development agencies to expand their support for young people in tertiary institutions beyond Lagos and Abuja and the building of the capacity of more young people to disseminate the National Adolescent policy.

Session 2

Emergency Meeting Alert: Substance Abuse among Adolescents- A call for urgent attention

Moderator: Mojisola Alere, Program Officer, YPE4AH Project

Panel:

- Mrs Umar Rashidat, Assistant Director, Ministry of Youth & Social Development
- Muzamil Sani Kurawa, Program Manager, League for Societal Protection against Drug Abuse (LESPADA)
- Aderonju Ogunjobi, Adolescent Participant, YPE4AH Project
- Babajide Daini, Program Officer, YPE4AH Project
- Stella Amaechi from NDLEA



This session was sponsored by Development Alternatives Incorporation (DAI) with an objective of providing insight into the growing menace of drugs and substance abuse among adolescents and young people in Nigeria through YPE4AH project. YPE4AH (Youth Power Ecosystem to advance urban adolescent health) project is a five-year project funded by USAID to improve the sexual and reproductive health of out of school adolescents between the ages of 15-19 years in urban slums in only Lagos and Kano. Even though, the aim of the project was targeted at promoting family planning uptake among adolescents in urban slums but the drugs and substance abuse was a major challenge among them. So a multi-throng approach was adopted to address the health needs of the adolescents to promote their total well-being.

The panelists underscored the fact that drugs and substance abuse is a global problem cutting across all age groups, though more prevalent among adolescents, so necessitating urgent attention by all stakeholders. Mrs Stella Amaechi of the NDLEA deeply expressed her concern about the negative impact drugs and substance abuse has on adolescents and was also bothered that specific



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preventive measures may be difficult to institute because young people in Nigeria abuse a combination of known and unknown substances. Mrs Rashidat Umar briefed the participants about the effort Lagos State is making to reduce the menace of drugs and substance abuse. Some of the activities and plans of Lagos State include:

- The establishment of rehabilitation and detoxification centres. Though the number of facilities seem to be inadequate because of the progressive increase in the number of drug and substance abuse victims.
- Establishment of a rescue unit to identify drug addicts in need of rehabilitation.
- Youth engagement to identify their specific needs to prevent their idleness which predisposes them to drug and substance abuse
- Engagement with the informal sector and other relevant stakeholders to develop holistic strategies to prevent drug abuse
- Establishment of Well Person's Clinic for Civil Servants to identified those who are addicted.

Aderoju Ogunrobi narrated his ordeal as a drug addict. He was rehabilitated and integrated back into the society through the YPE4AH project.

Babajide Daini, one of the Program Officers of the YPE4AH project further emphasized that drug abuse was also prevalent among females, particularly, in Kano, which is one of the implementing States. He opined that there are gaps in the quality of care across the spectrum of care provided for drug addicts, and this include; i.e. counselling, rehabilitation and detoxification. The panelists recommended that the public

sector through the health insurance scheme should provide support to rehabilitate and ensure the recovery as well as integration of drug addicts back to the society because of the exorbitant cost of the health care services. Other recommendations include, involvement of the private sector for community interventions and provision of additional technical and financial support by donor agencies for the prevention and treatment of drug and substance abuse among young people.

Session 3

Investing in education, health and well-being of children, adolescents and young people

Moderator: Mrs Eucharia Chime, Head Education Support Services, Federal Ministry of Education

Speaker: Mrs Oyebukola Tomori-Adeleye, Project Officer, UNESCO

Panel

- Dr Boladale Akin-Kolapo, Chief of Party, YPE4AH Project
- Grace Nnena Obama, UNESCO Focal Person, Ebonyi State Universal Basic Education Board (EBSUBEB)
- Victoria Agboti, Student, Ebonyi State.

The UNESCO representative, Mrs Tomori-Adeleye elucidated on the organization's flagship project tagged "Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future" across 33 Sub-Saharan African countries. Furthermore, in her presentation, she highlighted that the flagship project is the largest school-based program on Education to promote the health and well-being of adolescents and young people in Africa. She said UNESCO collaborates with the Ministries of Education in Nigeria as well as other relevant MDAs to equip adolescents and



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young people with good quality and right-based sexuality education and school violence prevention programs to enable them to make healthier and informed choices about their health and wellbeing. Also, she stated that the project was conceptualized to provide a safe place for adolescents and young people in the midst of the encumbrances and risks they are predisposed to. She mentioned that cost-effective digitized models were developed to provide sexuality education to in-school and out-of-school adolescents through their teachers and tutors.

She said a baseline assessment was conducted in 10 states in Nigeria before the commencement of the project in selected states. She said the survey focused on identifying if states had conducive environment and policy documents to promote the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents in schools. The survey then revealed implementation gaps amongst other major findings. Thereafter, 4 states, namely Ebonyi, Cross Rivers, Nasarawa and Taraba States were selected as pilot states for the project. She reported that since the commencement of the project in the four states, about 4 million learners have acquired skills-based HIV and sexuality education and 7.8 million young people in school and out-of-school have been reached with SRH information via social media and other digital platforms. The capacity of 3,842 teachers were built as well as 117,000 relevant stakeholders including the Parents-Teachers Association, and Community and Religious leaders were sensitized to correct the myths and misconceptions regarding the provision of SRH services to young people. The ABCs of the Child Rights Act was also developed in a simplified version to support and

strengthen the implementation of SRH in schools. In addition, the national policy on HIV/AIDS was reviewed.

After the presentation by Mrs Oyebukola Tomori-Adeleye was the panel discussion. The panelists had an extensive discussion on the implementation of the project “Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future” in Ebonyi State.

The adolescent beneficiary of the project in Ebonyi State; Victoria Agboti testified that UNESCO supported her when she had unintended pregnancy, provided both financial and psychological support for her and equally reconciled her with her parents. Through the project, she was armed with SRH information to protect herself and prevent a similar future occurrence and she has been able to go back to school after the delivery of the child.

Session 4

Public Health Challenges of unintended pregnancies and abortion: Global and National Dimensions

Moderator: Prof Mrs Olawunmi Fatusi, CEO, Academy for Health Development

Panel

- Prof Adesegun Fatusi, President, Academy for Health Development
- Dr Jonathan Bearak, Senior Research Scientist, Guttmacher Institute
- Doyeun Kim, Senior Manager, Digital Global Communications, Guttmacher institute



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This session was sponsored by the Academy for Health Development (AHEAD) and Guttmacher Institute. The aim of the session was to disseminate the findings of the study across 195 countries and territories, including Nigeria on unintended and abortion to inform country-level policy and programming.

The highlights from the presentations made by the three panelists include:

- Unintended pregnancy is experienced by women in all regions and countries, however, there are variations among countries.
- It was noted that between 2015 and 2019, Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest rate of unintended pregnancy; 91 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 per year followed by Western Asia and Northern Africa, 85 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. Europe and Northern America had the lowest rate of unintended pregnancy, 30 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years.
- Low income countries had the highest rate of unintended pregnancy, 95 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years, followed by lower middle countries with the rate of 65 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. High income countries had the lowest rate with 30 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years.
- There are 121 million unintended pregnancies yearly, out of which 73 million pregnancies are aborted yearly.
- There is no reliable data on unintended pregnancy and abortion in countries where abortion is heavily restricted.
- The administrative data on the complications of abortion is far less than expected because it is usually the iceberg of the reality.
- Abortion rates are similar in countries where it is legal and prohibited, so there is need for comprehensive abortion care services in all context.
- Women with unintended pregnancies obtain abortion in restrictive settings.
- In the Nigerian context, the rate of unintended pregnancy among women 15-49 years have increased from 1990 to 2019. However, abortion rate has increased by 39% within the same period. Also, the unintended pregnancy that ended in abortion increased from 35% to 48%.
- In Nigeria, between 2015-2019, there were a total of 10,500,00 pregnancies annually. Of these, 2,990,000 pregnancies were unintended and 1,430,000 ended in abortion. So effort should be made to reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy to achieve a reduction in abortion rate.
- Abortion in Nigeria is legal only to save the pregnant person's life.
- The unmet need for contraceptive is 39% in Nigeria.
- Just about a third of adolescents have access to contraceptives and the risk of unintended pregnancy is high among them



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- Stakeholders- government and donors should invest in sexual and reproductive health services to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortion by 80% and maternal and neonatal mortality reduction by 61%. It is estimated that, if 30 dollars is invested in each woman in Nigeria, there will be improved abortion care and services.
- SRH services should be integrated with all health care services to improve access.
- More resources should also be used to conduct research to enhance quality of care at all levels.
- Cultural norms, stigma, age, socio-economic status, residential location, personal experiences, etc. will determine if there will be unintended pregnancy and its outcome. These social factors may cause reduced access to SRH services, lack of accurate information, limited options to healthcare services, unsafe abortion, etc.
- Data from evidence-based research are useful to quantify public health information which will be useful to make decisions and influence policies.
- Data from evidence based research can be used to develop advocacy briefs designed in the most comprehensible and appealing way to the target audience.
- Effort should be made by stakeholders to prevent amplification of false information. Accurate information should be disseminated in the most accessible way.



Session 5

Mainstreaming inclusivity and intersectionality in SRHR programming best practices and way forward by EVA

Moderator: Elizabeth Williams, Executive Director, Sustainable Impact Development

Panel:

- Dr Ufuoma Edewor, Program Manager, State AIDS and STI Control Program, Ministry of Health, PortHarcourt
- Dr John Ovuoraye, Director of GASHE Division, FMOH
- Jumai Hosea, Rightsholder, Deaf Women A loud Initiative
- Obioma Chukwuike, Executive Director, Intersex Nigeria
- Geoffery Betruce, Chairman, Internally Displaced Persons, Abuja
- Caren Olomo, Representative of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS
- Dr Abis Idowu

This session was sponsored by HIVOS with the aim of ensuring that people of diverse identities have access to appropriate, comprehensive, non-judgmental and non-discriminatory sexual and



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reproductive health (SRH) information and services. This session helped panelists to share best practices and ways forward on mainstreaming inclusivity and intersectionality into SRHR programming in Nigeria.

The FMOH Director of GASHE division, Dr John Ovuoraye spoke about the effort of the government is ensuring inclusivity and intersectionality in adolescent health. He mentioned that in the development of the adolescent health policies, social exclusion was eliminated to the barest minimum. He emphasized that the FMOH collaborates with various groups such as that of PLWD to ensure that no one is left behind. He reiterated that the FMOH in collaboration with other agencies such as National Orientation Agency and Civil Defence commemorates the day set aside for Persons Living With Disability annually on the 3rd of December.

The challenges that people with diverse identities, such as Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, Persons Living with Disabilities, Intersex community, Internally Displaced Persons are facing regarding accessing SRH information and services include;

- The lack of integrated SRH services,
- Lack of access to cervical cancer screening for PLWA,
- Bad attitude of health workers and family members involved in stigmatization and discrimination,
- The lack of youth-friendly health facilities,
- Lack of feedback mechanism to ensure improved quality of care,
- Communication barrier for the Persons Living with disability,
- Isolation in families
- Loss of self-esteem/confidence
- Mental health disorders such as depression

- Drop-out of school
- Unemployment
- Lack of integration into the society

To promote the health and well-being of people with diverse identities, the panel made the following recommendations:

- Health Care Providers should be trained to provide youth-friendly services and preferably should be young people.
- Monitoring and evaluation should be intensified to ensure the improvement in quality of care in the youth-friendly facilities
- Training and retraining of health care workers to provide youth-friendly services.
- Government and donor agencies should provide more support to improve access to SRH information and services
- Increase community awareness of the HIV anti-discrimination Act
- Ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of HIV anti-discrimination Act.
- The intersex community should be incorporated into data management and planning
- More financial support for the provision of SRH information and services should be provided through the health insurance scheme.
- There should be continuous health education campaign using appropriate strategies to improve the health seeking behavior of adolescents
- More skilled human resources should be recruited to provide SRH information and services
- There should be a deliberate involvement of all people with diverse identities within adolescent health during planning, implementation and evaluation of adolescent health programs.



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Concurrent Sessions

Session I

YAaHNaija! Innovative HIV Programming for Adolescents and Young People Moderator: Moses Isaac

Panel:

- Dr Victoria Isiramem, Health Specialist, \ UNICEF
- Prof Ehimaro Igumbo, Researcher, NMIR
- Dr Daniel Ndukwe, Deputy Director, NACA

This plenary session was sponsored by UNICEF. The aim of the session was information sharing on the experiences and lessons learnt from the implementation of the innovative pilot project tagged Youthful Alive and Healthy Nigeria (YAaHNaija). Other objectives include the dissemination of findings from YaaHNaija assessment study and to mobilize partnership for future scale-up of the YaaHNaija model framework.

The moderator of the session was Moses Isaac; Project Officer, SOHAI, while the panel discussants were Dr Victoria Isiramem, Health Specialist, UNICEF, Prof Ehimaro Igumbo; Researcher, NMIR and Dr Daniel Ndukwe; Deputy Director, NACA.

It was reported by the presenter that the Youth Alive and Healthy Project is an

innovative HIV prevention intervention for Adolescents and Young People with the aim of improving HIV self-testing and Post Exposure Prophylaxis among adolescents and young people. According to the presenter, some of the implementation activities included the training of 44 community service providers on HIV self-testing, the administration of post exposure prophylaxis, intensive ongoing social media campaign and development of digital reporting tools. In Ebonyi state, 154 teachers were trained and the best ten teachers became the Master Trainers responsible for the training of peer education trainers and mentors. According to the presenter, an adolescent or young person is able to access the risk profile for HIV on the U-report platform by sending a text "risk" to 24453 for a self-risk assessment test. Also, to assess the chat box to get any information on HIV transmission, prevention and treatment, the adolescent will send text "Yaah" to 24453. Through this platform, 4,622,681 people have been reached both online and offline with the general HIV information, and 151,480 people have engaged the chat box.





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The presenter also mentioned that feedback was also received from young people on the suitability of the project during the monitoring and evaluation exercise. In addition, young people in attendance during this session provided different suggestions to UNICEF on how more adolescents and young people could maximally benefit from the project.

Session 2

Closing Plenary: Advancing Adolescent Health in Nigeria: From the Present to the Future

Moderator: Prof Adesola Olumide

Panel

- Prof Esther Enzuladu, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Jos
- Prof Abiola Oduwole, Professor of Pediatrics
- Dr Babatunde Adelekan, ASRH/HIV Analyst, UNFPA
- Ms Adeola Olunloyo, Adolescent Health Advocate and Development Communication Expert
- Miss Ogooluwa Olufemi Ajiboso, Youth Speaker

The aim of this plenary session was to explore the trajectory of advancing Adolescent Health in Nigeria. It also delved into the innovative strategies and human resources development that can pave the way for enhanced adolescent well-being. The conversation also spotlighted the role of innovation in driving capacity building, while emphasizing the potentials of in-service training, the involvement of international development partners and fortification of adolescent health within pediatric and pre-service public health training.

The panelists had a discussion and agreed on the following highlights:

- The Government is developing a repository of adolescent health trainers/facilitators comprising of academicians, partners, government workers, Civil Society Organizations, etc. across the country to reduce the cost of cascade training.
- The capacity of health care providers, particularly at the primary health care and other workers in other sectors, (such as social workers, Guidance and Counsellors, workers in the sports industry who frequently have contacts with adolescents) should be built to provide youthfriendly services using the existing training curriculum.
- Multi-sectoral collaboration should be strengthened at all levels to develop the human resources to promote the health and well-being of adolescents.
- There is also need to build capacity for Adolescent Medicine as a SubSpecialty at the Post-graduate level. According to the Prof of Pediatrics; Prof Abiola Oduwole, the commencement of the Adolescent Medicine postgraduate training by the Pediatric Association of Nigeria will be a major activity of the association in 2024.
- Adolescent Health is yet to be fully integrated into the pre-service training of undergraduate and postgraduate Medical students, Nurses and other health care workers. Although, the undergraduates are exposed to Adolescent Health under



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- the Family and Reproductive Unit in Community Medicine, but the knowledge acquired is usually limited. This is because the training is more theoretical than practical, thereby necessitating a review of the undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum.
- Tertiary institutions should also have health facilities that are youthfriendly so that the students can have improved access to sexual and reproductive health services.
- There is lack of awareness of the existing Adolescent Health policies among the academicians and young people, which makes the implementation of the policies, even for curriculum development difficult. So the effort to increase the dissemination and awareness of the polices among stakeholders should be heightened.
- The problems faced by young people include; inadequate access to sexual and reproductive health services, lack of access to mental health services, lack of skilled health care providers to provide youth-friendly services, poor attitude of health workers, poor health seeking behaviour of young people due to stigmatization and discrimination by health care providers.
- The Adolescent Advocate appealed that all stakeholders should be keenly sensitive to the needs of adolescents. In her words “Listen, learn the current culture of young people today to understand how to respond to them, be ready and open to support them. Let us remain teachable as things are emerging”.
- There is a need for multi-sectoral collaboration to identify the gaps in adolescent health programming and research in Nigeria.
- There should also be a plan to have online courses for continuous professional education and development on adolescent health for interested individuals across all professions. In-person trainings should be reduced to the barest minimum to save cost.
- Resident Doctors in the Community Health Department of Teaching Hospitals are now more interested in conducting their final thesis in adolescent health.

Call To Action

The four-day event ended successfully on Saturday, the 19th of August but not without the call to action of all relevant stakeholders involved in the promotion of the health and well-being of adolescents and young people in Nigeria.

Prof Lolade Wright, the Chair of the Scientific Committee charged all the state and the non-state actors such as development agencies, academia and civil society organizations to take full responsibility of all the action points generated from the beginning of the conference to the last day from the various 14 plenary sessions, 12 concurrent sessions, recommendations from the 123 oral abstract presentations and 38 poster presentations.

ACTION POINTS

All stakeholders should meet the needs of young people through the following:

1. Involvement of young people in decision-making processes with an acceptable proportionate representation in governance at all levels.
 - Ensuring an inclusive process of young people in program design, implementation and evaluation.
2. Integration and unpacking of accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) into existing curricula to promote gender equality, consent, and healthy relationships.
 - Enhancement of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in educational institutions and continuously advocate for a curriculum that empowers adolescents and young people
 - Embarking on digitalization of CSE curriculum for easy access by young people
 - Updating the 2003 National Family and HIV Education curriculum to incorporate



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- present day realities of adolescent health and development
3. Prioritizing mental health needs and building resilience.
 - Mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support into the CSE curriculum.
 - Addressing mental health of young people through transformative solutions, improved access to care and ensure adequate numbers of trained mental health workers.
 4. Strengthening access to FP services for young people.
 - Creating demand for and utilisation of FP services
 - Increasing funding of family planning programs for young people.
 5. Train and retrain health workers on the provision of Youth friendly health services.
 6. Amplifying knowledge and uptake of HPV vaccination.
 - Creating awareness about HP and cervical cancer prevention using various communication channels including social media
 - Implement, spread and scale up HPV vaccination for the prevention of cervical cancer and other related cancers targeting young persons.
 7. Prevention and response to gender-based and all forms of violence
 - Creating awareness about the magnitude and consequences of GBV
 - The provision of reporting and counseling services and hotlines for access by young persons and victims of GBV.
 - Devise Innovative strategies and transformative investments such as the use of school GBV clubs in the prevention of GBV.
 - Expand and strengthen Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for victims of GBV.
 8. Aligning with the core mandate of leaving no one behind and provision of services to the last mile.
 - Provision of SRH services and educational materials for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) – Ensure no group is left behind
 - Prioritizing the wellbeing of young people in hard-to-reach areas and young girls given out in marriage.
 - Paying special attention to out-of-school youths living with disabilities.
 - Creating safe spaces for dialogue and more youth friendly hubs for access to SRH Information and services
 9. Provision of opportunities for positive youth development projects to shape the narrative of the continent by
 - Establishing mentoring programs for young people in Nigeria using tested models and structured or unstructured frameworks.
 - Organizing more entrepreneurial programs for young people
 - Promoting skills acquisition to enhance youth-led launching of smart businesses and start-ups
 10. Emphasize the role of research for strengthening population data by generating evidence and mobilizing resources to turn evidence into impact.
 - Entrench and embed a strong research culture involving young people to inform policy decisions and evidence-based implementation practices to ensure sustainability of initiatives and programs.



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11. Ensure community attitudes, institutional practices, cultural nuances and other contextual factors are taken into cognisance in the design of projects for young people.
12. Champion positive change and leverage demographic dividends from our current demographic structure for the growth and development of young people and our great country.



Closing Ceremony

Prof Adesegun Fatusi giving his speech at the closing ceremony

Prof. Adesegun Fatusi gave a closing speech where he expressed his satisfaction with the conduct of the conference and thanked all participants from the 6 geo-political zones of the country and contributors at various levels, particularly the conference sponsors. He also expressed his heart of gratitude to all the LOC members who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of EKO 2023 conference. He mentioned that another Adolescent Health and Development conference will hold in the year 2025, but the location of the conference was yet to be determined. However, he emphasized that the conference will no longer hold in the South-Western part of Nigeria since it has held in both

Oyo and Lagos State. He said, the conference will likely hold in either the South-South or in the Northern part of Nigeria. He assured all participants that the next state to host the conference will be communicated to all members before the end of the year.

After the speech, he presented awards of appreciation to the LOC Chairman; Prof Kofo Odeyemi, LOC Vice Chairman; Dr Gbenga Adebayo, LOC Secretary; Rhoda Robinson, and the Heads of all other committees. Other LOC members were presented with the certificate of appreciation for the well-planned and successful event. In closing, every participant at the



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conference were hosted to a sumptuous three course meal and assorted drinks at the gala night. The master of ceremony who was also a

comedian ensured everyone had a good laugh and he also made everyone dance to the variety of music just to relief the stress of the conference.





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Reviews by young people at the virtual hubs sponsored by UNFPA

Here are some of the young people's opinions about the EKO 2023 conference:

"I am saying a big thank you to UNFPA Nigeria for sponsoring me to EKO2023 SAYPHIN Conference, my first attended conference so far. It was really an insightful and inspiring one. All sections impacted my life and struck different messages in my mind, hence I can boldly say I got my capacity built too via this conference. I have learnt so much on Family Planning, prior to this time, I have not thought of family planning being extended to younger people but via this conference, I have learnt why it should be extended to young people and the various mechanism in place to achieve this.

The Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) session also created a different drive in me. This is an aspect of education I have been and keep worrying about, but after this conference, I have the full assurance and confidence that this course will be fixed sooner than I imagined. What a relief it is! The mental health sessions was also another session that struck me deeply, not just because of the sessions alone but also because I was a victim of Adolescent Mental Health challenge. Each session on mental

health communicated my experience, my feelings and my mind. I have come to understand mental health and the stages of mental health better. I intend publishing a book soon where I will use my experience as a case study to addressing mental health issues among young people and the larger community. Lastly, I got the opportunity of winning an earpod. Once again, I say a big thank you to UNFPA for the privilege.". Blessing Okaima Igaga.

"Wow, where will I start my appreciation speech from? Thanks to the entire UNFPA team for making my dream of attending the conference come true. This is actually my first conference experience, and I must say I enjoyed every bit to the extent of winning the Kahoot game, coming 2nd position. This is to say I have learnt, connected and added my voice. Thanks to the CSE team for introducing Kahoot. It's a very innovative way to share information to adolescent and youth. Also to add, you come SAYPHIN conference you no visit UNFPA booth, omo you go explain tire, no evidence".
Anonymous

PICTURE PANORAMA





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ANNEX 1: CONFERENCE PROGRAM

YOUTH PRECONFERENCE		16 th AUGUST, 2023
TIME	EVENT/SESSION/TITLE	PRESENTERS/SPEAKERS
8.00-9.00am	Registration	
9.00-10.00 am	Special Session Young and Healthy: Practical Tips for promoting your emotional well-being Organizer: Asido Foundation	Dr Jubril Abdulmalik , Consultant Psychiatrist/CEO Asido Foundation
10.00-11.45 am	Opening Ceremony: Achieving 2030 Targets: Driving Innovations for Adolescents and Youth Health: Role of Government and Private Sector	
	Opening Plenary What works in advancing the health and development of adolescents and youths	Margaret Bo laji , Manager Youth Partnerships, FP 2030 Ms Veronica Obiuevbi , County Coorinator, United Nation Volunteers Dr Costly Aderibigbe-Saba , Executive Secretary, Global Youth Consortium Against FGM Dr Oyebukola Tomori-Adeleye , Program Specialist, UNESCO Moderator : Ms Elizabeth Williams. National Coordinator, AFRIYAN
11.45-12.00pm	TEA BREAK	
12.00-1.00 pm	Plenary Humanitarian Assistance by UNFPA for Adolescents and Youths: Emphasizing Digital Literacy, Addressing GBV and ASRH Organizer: UNFPA	Esther Lalai , GBVIMS Interagency Coordinator, UNFPA Mary Mahdi Bumba , Digital Literacy Facilitator, UNFPA Esther Chama , GBV Prgram Specialist, UNFPA Moderator : Abubakar Muktar, Humanitarian Analyst, UNFPA
1.00- 2.30 pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	UNFPA's Digital and technological-based Ecosystem for Adolescents and young people Organizer: UNFPA	Ms Chiazam Onyenso , Knowledge Management Analyst, Population and Development, UNFPA Mr Oke Nteigbanam , ASRH/HIV Analyst, UNFPA Mrs Toyin Chukwudozie , Executive Director, Education as a vaccine Moderator : Dr Babatunde Adelekan, ASRH/HIV Analyst, UNFPA



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	<p>Conversations with young people living with HIV (PLHIV) Organizer: Amaka Momah-Haruna</p>	<p>Dr Jekwu Ozoemene - Executive Director, HIV Trust Fund, Nigeria Dr Lola Idowu, Medical Doctor, LUTH Mr Benjamin Odey, Project Coordinator, APYN Ms Ayomide Adewale, General Secretary APYN Ms Idonreyin Udosen, International Development Expert Temitayo Odeyemi, Lead Positive Action for Treatment Access (PATA) Moderator: Dr Amaka Momah-Haruna, International Development Expert</p>
	<p>Tech 'n SRHR- Enhancing Accessibility of SRHR Services for Young People Organizer: HACEY</p>	<p>George Adjete, Youth Representative, UNFPA Elizabeth Talatu Williams, Executive Director Sustainable Impact and Development (SID) initiative Benjamin Odey, State Coordinator, Association for Positive Youths in Nigeria (APYIN) Mercy Bolaji, Program Coordinator, Stand with a Girl Initiative Moderator: Oluwatomi Olunuga, Program Manager, HACEY</p>
	<p>Roundtable: Adolescent Health in Nigeria- understanding progress made and required investments Organizers: SAYPHIN & Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health</p>	<p>Moderator, Prof Adesola Olumide, Professor & Consultant Community Physician, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan</p>
2.30- 4.00pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	<p>Socializing Nigeria's FP 2030 Commitments Organizer: FP2030</p>	<p>Felicity Nneoma Ike, Youth Focal Point, FP2030 Dr Ejike Oji, CSO Focal Point, FP 2030 Ito Ekanem, Board Member, FP2030 Moderator, Manager, Youth Partnerships, FP 2030</p>
	<p>UNFPA innovations for empowering Adolescents and Young People in Nigeria Organizer: UNFPA</p>	<p>Mr Emmanuel Egorp, Gender/GBV Analyst, UNFPA Bahijjatu Garko, Program Analyst, ASRH, UNFPA Esther Somefun, Benjamin Odey, UNFPA George Adjete, Oladimeji Ibrahim, Elizabeth William, UNFPA</p>



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		Moderator , Dr Babatunde Adelekan, ASRH/HIV Analyst, UNFPA
	Raising Young Professionals in Innovation Leadership Organizer: Young Innovation Leaders Fellowship	Daniel Victor , Partnership Manager, Young Innovation Leaders Alumni Network Eniola Oni , Chief Operating Officer, Therapist Ms Lillian Efobi , Head of Projects, YIL Fellowship, Hutzpa innovations
4.00 - 4.30 pm	LUNCH	
4.30- 5.30pm	Closing ceremony	
DAY 1		17th AUGUST, 2023
8.00- 9.00am	Registration	
9.00- 9.30am	Special Session Intergenerational Chat: Bridging the gap to an inclusive future Organizer: SAYPHIN	Professor Oladapo Ladipo , SAYPHIN BOT Chairman Dr. Yetunde Olagbuji , Consultant Public Health Physician, OSPHCDA Professor Esther Enzuladu , Professor of Community Health, University of Jos Ogooluwa Olufemi -Ajiboso , Youth Speaker Temiloluwa Bolawole , Youth Speaker Moderator : Oluwafisayomi Adebowale, Youth Advocate
9.00-9.30am	TEA BREAK	
10.00am - 12.00pm	Opening Ceremony Key Note: Achieving 2030 Targets: Driving Innovation for Adolescents and Youth Health	
12.00-1.00pm	Plenary Girl Power Unleashed Rolling out the HPV Vaccine in Nigeria Organizer: UNICEF	Dr Faisal Shuaib , Executive Director, NPHCDA Eduardo Celades , Chief of Health Section, UNICEF Dr Sama Anas Kolo , Special Adviser on Health to the President Pelemo Nyajo , AYP Moderator , Dr Zobo, Social Media Influencer
1.00-3.00pm	Plenary Innovations for improving access to FP services by young people and innovations by young people towards accelerating efforts to and end Female Genital Mutilation Organizer: UNICEF	Dr Costly Aderibigbe , Executive Director, Value Female Network Karima Bungudu , Gender/FGM Analyst, UNFPA
3.00-4.00pm	LUNCH	
4.00- 4.30PM	Plenary	Prof Jonathan Klein , President, IAAH



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	Global efforts to improve adolescent health and the Global Forum for adolescents Organizer: The International Association for Adolescent Health	
4.30-5.00pm	Plenary Increasing Awareness on the needs of Adolescents Towards Global Forum for Adolescents 2023 Organizer: FMOH	Dr Stella Nwosu , Director Family Health, FMOH Dr John Ovuoraye , Director/Head, GASHE Division, FMOH
DAY 2 18TH AUGUST, 202		
8.00 -9.00am	Special Session Driving Innovations and Empowering Youth Health Organizer: The University Co-creation Hubs (University of Medical Sciences, Ondo and Teenpreneur, Lagos)	
9.00 -9.30am	Plenary FP 2030 Non-Governmental Actor Commitments Organizer: FP2030	Itoro Ekanem , Board Member, FP2030 Dr Ejike Oji , CSO Focal Point, FP 2030 Felicity Nneoma Ike , Youth Focal Point, FP2030 Queen Ugwoeru , Programs Officer, Strong Enough Girls Empowerment Initiative Moderator , Margaret Bolaji, Manager, Youth Partnership, FP 2030
9.30 -10.00am	TEA BREAK	
10.00 – 11.00 am	Plenary Comprehensive Sexuality Education and Gender-Based Violence Prevention for Improved Sexual and Reproductive Health Organizer: UNFPA	Dr Adekemi Sekoni , Associate Professor, Com Health, LUTH Dr Esther Somefun , Gender/Reproductive Health Analyst, UNFPA Mrs Rashidat Umar , Assistant Director, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Devpt Mr Olaleye Olaniyi , Instructor Lagos State Govt Technical College Ms Eniola Dorcas Olawoyin , Adolescent Learner, Lagos State Govt Technical College Moderator , Ms Oluwafunmilayo Taiwo, CSE Youth Advocate, UNFPA
11.00-12.00pm	Plenary Sex (ed) & the city: Redefining SRHR services for young people Organizer: HACEY	Chinonso Egemba (Aproko Doctor), Medical Doctor/Content Creator Adetoun Afolabi , Member, Hacey Girl Advisory Board



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		<p>Dr Anto Lecky, Founder Live Wire Project</p> <p>Margaret Bolaji, Manager, Youth Partnerships, FP2030</p> <p>Moderator, Rhoda Robinson, Executive Director, HACEY</p>
12.00pm - 1.00pm	<p>Plenary Systems Innovation for Adolescent Mental Health- A paradigm shift Organizer: UNICEF</p>	<p>Eduardo Celades Blanco, Chief Health Program section, UNICEF</p> <p>Dr Tunde Ojo, Director Mental Health, Federal Ministry of Health</p> <p>Aika Matemu, Partner, Dalberg Design</p> <p>Moderator, Olusoji Victor Ladele, Innovation Manager, Global Mental Health Innovation Portfolio, UNICEF Innovation</p>
1.00 -3.00pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	<p>Innovation Ecosystems Unleashed: Harnessing the Collective Power to Revolutionize Adolescent Mental Health Organizer: UNICEF</p>	
	<p>Women Leading Change: Innovation, Income, and Access to Quality Healthcare Organizer: Tech 4 Dev</p>	
	Concurrent Oral Scientific Sessions-1	
3.00-4.00pm	LUNCH	
4.00- 6.00pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	<p>With and For Adolescents: Advancing Adolescent Health and Well-being through Multi-sectoral Programming Organizer: UNICEF</p>	<p>Dr Luwei Pearson, Associate Director, Health, MCH and Adolescent Health UNICEF</p> <p>Zainab Mohammed, U Report Territorial Manager/Young Person, UNICEF</p> <p>Dr Stella Nwosu, Director of Family Health, FMOH</p> <p>Dr Victoria Isiramen, Health Specialist, UNICEF</p> <p>Dr John Ovuoraye, Director GASHE, FMOH</p> <p>Toyin Chukwudozie, Executive Director, EVA</p> <p>Prof Adesola Olumide, Secretary, General, SAYPHIN</p> <p>Takudzuwa, Gender and Adolescent Manager, UNICEF</p> <p>Moderator, Ngozi Nzuora, Adolescent Specialist, UNICEF</p>



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	Developing Nigeria's First National Youth Index: Progress and Potential Organizer: SPARKLE Project, University of Medical Sciences (UNIMED), Ondo	Alhaji Kabiru Mohammed , Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development Dr Babatunde Adelekan , ASRH/HIV Analyst, UNFPA Bamidele Oyewumi , Youth Council of Nigeria Dr Olorunfemi Ogundele , SPARKLE Project, UNIMED Moderator , Prof Adesegun Fatusi, Centre for Adolescent Health & Development, SPH, UNIMED
	Oral Scientific Sessions- 2	
6.00 -7.00pm	SAYPHIN MEETING	
DAY 3 19TH AUGUST, 2023		
8.00 -9.00am	Plenary Policy Dialogue-Progress so far: National Adolescent Health and Development Policy Implementation Plan Organizer: FMOH and SAYPHIN	Dr Stella Nwosu , Representative, PS, FMOH Dr John Ovuoraye , Director Family Health Dept, FMOH Mercy Bolaji , Program Coordinator, Stand with a Girl Child Initiative Dr Ayeni Olasumbo Olufunke , Adolescent Health Focal Officer, Lagos State Ministry of Health Dr Victoria Isiramen , Health Specialist, UNICEF, Abuja Moderator , Dr Emmanuel Adebayo, ICH, UI, Ibadan.
9.00-9.30am	Plenary Emergency Meeting Alert!!! Substance Abuse among Adolescents- A call for urgent attention Organizer: USAID YPE4AH (TEENSMATA)	Dr Boladale Akin-Kolapo , Chief of Party, YPE4AH Project Mrs Umar Rashidat , Assistant Director, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Devpt Muzamil Sani Kurawa , Program Manager, League for Societal Protection against Drug Abuse (LESPADA) Aderonju Ogunjobi , Adolescent Participant, YPE4AH Project Moderator , Mojisola Alere, Program Officer, YPE4AH Project
9.30 -10.00pm	TEA BREAK	
10.00 -11.00pm	Plenary Investing in the education, health and wellbeing of children adolescents and young people	Mrs Eucharia Chime , Head Education support Services, Federal Ministry of Education



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	Organizer: UNESCO	<p>Dr Boladale Akin-Kolapo, Chief of Party, YPE4AH Project</p> <p>Grace Nnenna Oboma, UNESCO Focal Person, Ebonyi State Universal Basic Education (EBSUBEB)</p> <p>Victoria Agboti, Student Ebonyi State Moderator, Oyebukola Tomori-Adeleye, Project Officer, UNESCO</p>
11.00 -12.00pm	<p>Plenary Public health Challenges of unintended pregnancies and abortion: Global and National Dimensions Organizer: Academy for Health and Development (AHEAD) and Guttmacher Institute</p>	<p>Prof Adesegun Fatusi, President, Academy for Health Development</p> <p>Dr Jonathan Bearak, Senior Research Scientist, Guttmacher Institute</p> <p>Doyeun Kim, Senior Manager, Digital Global Communication, Guttmacher Institute</p> <p>Moderator, Prof. Mrs. Olawunmi Fatusi, CEO Academy for Health Development</p>
12.00-1.00pm	<p>Plenary Mainstreaming inclusivity and Intersectionality in SRHR programming: Best Practices and Way Forward Organizer: Education as a Vaccine (EVA)-We lead</p>	<p>Dr Ufuoma Edewor, Program Manager, State AIDS and STI Control program, Port-Harcourt MOH</p> <p>Dr John Ovuoraye, Director/Head GASHE, Family Health, FMOH</p> <p>Jumai Hosea, Rightsholder, Deaf Women Aloud Initiative</p> <p>Obioma Chukwuike, Executive Director, Intersex Nigeria</p> <p>Moderator, Elizabeth Williams, Executive Director, Sustainable Impact Development</p>
2.00 -3.00pm	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	<p>YAaHNaija! Innovative HIV Programming for Adolescents and Young People Organizer: UNICEF</p>	<p>Dr Victoria Isiramen, Health Specialist, UNICEF</p> <p>Prof Ehimaro Igumbo, Researcher NMR</p> <p>Dr Daniel Ndukwe, Deputy Director NACA</p> <p>Moderator, Moses Isaac, Project Officer, SOHAI</p>
	Oral Scientific Sessions- 3	
3.00 -4.00pm	LUNCH	
4.00 -5.00PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS	
	Poster Scientific Sessions	
	Closing Plenary	



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	Advancing Adolescent Health in Nigeria: from the Present to the Future Organizer: SAYPHIN	
6.00 -7.00pm	Closing Ceremony	
7.30 -9.00pm	GALA NIGHT	

ANNEX 2: LIST OF CONFERENCE SPONSORS

1. United Nations Children's Fund
2. United Nations Population's Fund
3. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
4. United States Agency for International Development
5. Academy for Health Development (AHEAD)
6. Guttmacher Institute
7. Development Alternatives Incorporated
8. Education as a vaccine
9. HACEY
10. Federal Ministry of Health
11. FP 2030
12. Sparkle project, University of Medical Sciences
13. Fan Milk
14. Malta Guinness
15. TEENSMATA
16. Living Health International

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JOIN US TODAY ...to positively impact the lives of young people MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	MEMBERSHIP DESCRIPTION	ANNUAL FEE
ASSOCIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students Trainees Recent Graduates 	N5,000 ANNUALLY
CORPORATE	<p>Partner Organizations and Affiliate Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit organizations For profit organizations International development partners Relevant government agencies 	RANGE TO N30,000 TO N100,000 ANNUALLY
FULL	<p>Professionals in an field of adolescent health and development which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare workers Social workers Counsellors Youth development officers, etc. 	N10,000 ANNUALLY



SOCIETY FOR ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH IN NIGERIA

The Society for Adolescent and Young People's Health in Nigeria (SAYPHIN) is the national association of professionals working in the area of adolescents' and young people's health in Nigeria, including health professionals, social workers, counselling and educational professionals. Membership of SAYPHIN provides a strong platform for engaging with other experts with significant opportunities for personal and professional development, networking, and for influencing the development of adolescent and youth health programmes and policies and advancing the field of adolescent health and development in Nigeria.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Access to resources for professional development; access to information on conferences and development opportunities; opportunities for skills development and mentoring; local, national and international networking

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 Prof. Kofoworola Odeyemi
 Chair

Dr. Gbenga Adebayo
 Co-Chair

Rhoda Robinson
 Secretary

Scientific Sub-Committee
 Prof. Ololade Wright
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