



BEACON YOUTH INITIATIVE (BYI) NGO
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
ON THE
WORLD HEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY
AT
LAFIA, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA.

DATE: 25TH, 27TH AND 28TH JULY, 2014.

**LOCATIONS: BUKAN SIDI CENTRAL MOSQUE, ERCC NO 2
CHURCH BUKAN SIDI AND LAFIA MOTROPOLITAN**

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INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis is a global epidemic but little is known of its symptoms, prevention, complication and the great dangers it pose to this generation and the unborn generations.

Government and other development partners have always taken matters like this unserious thereby fueling viral hepatitis which is on the increase.

This year WHD is a very important period for our government and other actors to play their own part most especially with the theme of 2014 “Hepatitis, Think Again” which is calling on the various stakeholders to play a very important role to see that viral hepatitis is controlled.

The activities to mark World Hepatitis Day in Nigeria (Nasarawa State) took place in three different locations and three different dates as thus;

S/N	DATE	LOCATION	BENEFICIARIES	ACTIVITIES
1.	25 th July, 2014	Central Mosque Bukan Sidi	250 Muslims worshippers	free Hepatitis B and C Screening, sensitization
2.	27 th July, 2014	ERCC No2 Church, Bukan Sidi	350 Christian Worshippers	free Hepatitis B and C Screening, sensitization and vaccination
3.	28 th July, 2014	Lafia Metropolitan, Nasarawa State	General Population	Massive street walk Awareness campaign, distribution of handbills, and jingles.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

❖ Advocacy and Follow Up

In other for Beacon Youth Initiative (formerly Beacon Youth Movement) to also be a key player in actualizing the **theme** of this year 2014, it sent letters and carried out Advocacy to relevance government ministries, development partners (UNICEF, Institute Human Virology of Nigeria, WHO regional office,) community leaders, politicians, pharmaceutical stores, hospital boards and other private companies. In these entire advocacies, key messages were sent and emphases were made to educate them and the need to support program on viral hepatitis.

In spite of the financial challenges experienced by those organizations we visited, yet we have been able to passed relevant information on the need to always support program on hepatitis such

as awareness creation and a host of other activities that will aim at reducing the prevalence of viral hepatitis.

In other to also effectively achieve our goal Beacon Youth Initiative had planned in reaching out to about 600 people with free hepatitis B/C screening. Advocacy visit was paid to Imam of the Mosque and the Church Reverend to seek for their consent to carry out the free screening in the mosque and the church. The two religious leaders welcome the call for the screening of hepatitis to their worshippers and there after announced and mobilized their worshippers for the program.

Media being an important tool in reaching out to wider communities were part of the campaign and they gave a wider coverage of the program as part of existing partnership to raise massive awareness to the general public on menace of viral hepatitis.

Other collaborative efforts were also made with the Medical Laboratory Scientists, Medical Doctors, Nurses, YMCA-Lafia, and other professionals' bodies in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

❖ Free Hepatitis B and C Screening at Bukan Sidi Central Mosque, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

On the 25th July, 2014 (Friday), as part the activities to mark the year 2014 WHD as outlined by BYI, we began with free screening of Hepatitis B and C started at about 2:30 PM after Juma'at Prayer where all Beacon Youth Initiative volunteers, Media (Nigeria Television Authority, Nasarawa Broadcasting Service and Precious FM), Medical Team were at the site to carry out the intended planned activities to mark World Hepatitis Day in Lafia.

After the Friday prayers, a good percentage of Muslim worshippers gathered to benefit from the free hepatitis B and C test. Briefing were made to the worshippers on hepatitis and the need to be tested by the Executive Director (EnvoH Emmanuel Okolo) after which an identification code were given to each beneficial at the registration desks where all the necessary data were collected for proper documentation and labeling of EDTA containers were made to avoid mistakes and to keep to standard practices.

After being registered, beneficiaries proceeded to the screening table to access the free screening. Blood samples were collected and the beneficiaries were asked to wait for their results.

The collected samples were screened for Hepatitis B and C after which there were briefed as to the importance of vaccination for those that tested negative for HBsAg, result slips were given to them while for those that tested positive for either Hepatitis B and C or both were addressed and further referrals were given to access further test in Government facilities.

The breakdown of all the screening activity at Bukan Sidi Central Mosque is as follow:

TARGET BENEFICIARY	FEMALE TESTED	MALE TESTED	MALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS B	FEMALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS B	MALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS C	FEMALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS C
250	90	210	32	14	8	7

A total number of 250 Muslims worshippers at Juma'at Mosque whom were tested, 46 tested positive for hepatitis B while 15 tested positive for hepatitis C.

Media present conducted an interview on the Executive Director on the importance and why BYI carried out this exercise. Target and direct beneficiaries of program were also interviewed.

The activity lasted over 4 hours and ended at about 6:50PM.

❖ Free Hepatitis B and C Screening and Vaccination at ERCC NO 2 Bukan Sidi, Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

The second activities' commemorating the WHD was on the 27th July, 2014 (Sunday). The free screening of Hepatitis B and C started at about 10:10 AM after Sunday Service for members of English Session and 12:20 PM for members of Hausa session respectively, where all Beacon Youth Initiative volunteers, Media (Nigeria Television Authority, Nasarawa Broadcasting Service and Precious FM), Medical Teams were in the site to carry out the intended planned activities .

Similar activities were also carried out for ERCC NO 2 BUKAN SIDI members were 350 people were tested for hepatitis b and c alongside hepatitis b vaccination to the beneficiaries.

The breakdown of all the screening activity at ERCC No 2 Bukan Sidi is as follow:

S/N	TARGET BENEFICIARY	MALE TESTED	FEMALE TESTED	MALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS B	FEMALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS B	MALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS C	FEMALE POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS C
1	350	140	210	27	14	8	4

Out of these 350 people that were tested, 41 tested positive for Hepatitis B while 12 tested positive for Hepatitis C and many other started their vaccination dose while the remaining two doses will be administer to them on a later specified date.

Also there are cases of hepatitis B and C co-infection among 7 people and co-infection of hepatitis B and HIV among 3 people and co-infection hepatitis C and HIV among 2 person in the two location of the programme.

CO-INFECTION OF HEPATITIS B AND C/HIV
12

Media present conducted an interview on the Executive Director on the importance and why BYI carried out this exercise. Target and direct beneficiaries of program were also interviewed.

The activity lasted over 7 hours and ended at about 6:50PM.

❖ World Hepatitis Awareness/Campaign Day in Lafia City (28TH JULY, 2014)

Awareness-Sensitization, no doubt has become a necessity due to the active role it plays in the reduction of so many diseases in the world today. Apart from the free screening that Beacon Youth Initiative carried out, massive awareness campaign were also carried out in Lafia the state capital as a strategy to reach a sizeable target population through a major street walk awareness campaign.

In preparation towards the successful WHD for this year, we made contact with the media, Nigerian police, Ministries, Department, Agencies, Pharmaceuticals, stakeholders and friends of

BYI. This was to enable us create awareness and seek for their support morally and otherwise in fulfilling our mandate in this regard.

As a result of this, we had a team of twelve personnel of Nigerian police including the divisional Police officer joined us.

The World Hepatitis Awareness Day in Lafia started at about 11:00 am. The starting point was our office in Lafia with general information as to the major streets to be covered.

The day started with a press briefing by the Executive Director (Mr. Envoh Emmanuel Okolo) on the importance of this day and made passionate appeal on the general public to as matter of urgency imbibe the culture of going for the test.

Jingles on hepatitis was played, key messages were also passed across, displaying of card board papers/ banners, and sharing of hands bills as we campaigned all round Lafia town to commemorate World Hepatitis Day in Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

The program started at BYI Office, Bukan Sidi, Lafia and ended at VIO Junction, Lafia by 5:50 pm local time with success achieved.

Some of the Materials that were used in the Sensitization Campaign

Banners with an inscription 'WORLDHEPATITIS AWARENESS DAY' were made. Hands bills, card board papers with an inscription of these year world hepatitis awareness day with the theme were also made. We hired a long open van, a D.J with musical instruments and Beacon Youth Initiative Jingles on Viral Hepatitis that was produced with a Pidgin English, Nigeria Police Van. All these and many others things were all made available as part of plans to facilitate the commemoration of this year World Hepatitis Day in Nasarawa state, Nigeria.

SUCCESS STORY

This year World Hepatitis Day was indeed one of the best Beacon Youth Initiative has ever carried out, because our target groups/public were reached and the purpose was attained (objectives and goals). Large populations turn out for the free screening unlike other years where people were not willing as a result of ignorance of viral hepatitis.

Due to the fasting period of our Muslim target group we thought they may not availed themselves for the free screening, however reversed was the case.

With little or no resource mobilization from individuals' contribution of the unemployed youth and other community members, implementations of this year World Hepatitis Day was made possible.

Worthy of mentioning is the fact that in other years World Hepatitis Day commemoration, vaccines were not always available at the site of the program due to its unavailability but this year World Hepatitis Day, vaccines were made available at a subsidized rate for the beneficiaries.

The campaign for this year in the state came at the midst of impeachment saga in the political affairs of the state where some people assume or associate it to be in support of the governor, but we were able to overcome that through the strategies we adopted by writing and involving the Nigerian police. This singular act/approach spoke loud of the program as their presence gave us protection.

As the time of compiling/writing this report, there are people still visiting our office on daily basis to be tested for Hepatitis B and C and vaccine were given.

CHALLENGES

1. Limited financial resources to meet up the target of screening seven hundred people, offering free vaccination, print stickers, and other printable IEC materials.
2. Negligence and lack of good will support for hepatitis program.
3. Rainfall obstructed the starting of the massive major streets walk_awareness campaign thereby delaying the commemoration of World Hepatitis Day and thereby disallowed many of our volunteers from participating as expected.
4. Non availability of Affordable drugs to the infected patients to kick start their treatment.
5. Inability of Muslim worshippers who were tested negative to take the vaccination dose , as a result of fasting .

ACTIVITIES PHOTOS



SOME OF THE MEDICAL LAB SCIENTIST CONDUCTING SCREENING 27TH JULY, 2014



BENEFICIARIES OF THE FREE TESTING OF HEPATITIS B AND C, VACCINATION AT ERCC NO 2 BUKAN SIDI



BYI REGISTRATION DESKS





SOME OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE FREE TESTING OF HEPATITIS B AND C, VACCINATION AT ERCC NO 2 BUKAN SIDI



SOME OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE FREE TESTING OF HEPATITIS B AND C, VACCINATION AT ERCC NO 2 BUKAN SIDI

BYI STREET WALK AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (2) 28TH JULY 2014



BYI STREET WALK AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (2) 28TH JULY 2014



SOME OF THE MEDICAL LAB SCIENTIST CONDUCTING SCREENING 27TH JULY, 2014



SOME OF THE BYI NGO VOLUNTEERS DURING THE WHD 2014 PROGRAM



FREE HEPATITIS B AND C TESTING FOR MUSLIM WORSHIPPERS AT BUKAN SIDI MOSQUE (25TH JULY, 2014



THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADDRESSING THE PRESS



FREE HEPATITIS B AND C TESTING FOR MUSLIM WORSHIPPERS AT BUKAN SIDI MOSQUE (25TH JULY, 2014)