INTRODUCTION

The year 2014 was a tremendous year for us at Murtala Muhammed Foundation. We were able to accomplish significantly all the projected programs for 2014. This newsletter gives you a glimpse of some of these activities.

The year 2015 promises even greater accomplishments. We are hoping to take a step further strategically in partnership with relevant stakeholders on the key points from the two national programs held recently. The draft frameworks will become available for adoption, implementation and operation.

The Computer for School (C4S) program continues to resonate across the country. The last commissioning ceremony at Iju Senior Grammar School shows the impact of the program in bridging the digital divide in Information Communication Technology between the privileged and less privileged. Infact, the Lagos State Government recently honored MMF with an award of excellence for sterling contribution to education in the state.

The 2014 Relief Christmas with items donated by Murtala Muhammed Foundation, Ford Foundation, Nestle Nigeria PLC and Cadbury Nigeria PLC to Internally Displaced Persons in excess of N25M is a pointer to the fact that all hands must be on deck in combating terrorism and providing succor to victims of insurgence.

The success stories from the CTC program in Kano has given visibility to the need to replicate the gain and success of the program in more North-Eastern states in Nigeria. We will publish more success stories in our future editions.

We wish you the best in 2015. May this New Year turn all your dreams into reality and all your effort into great achievements.

MMF Team.
Our Mission
“To improve the living conditions of Africans by contributing to reduction of poverty and elimination of conflict, while “promoting self-reliance and self-fulfillment”

Our Vision
“To be an institution that transcends all boundaries, dedicated to the socio-economic development of Africa”
Humanitarian response the world over is sustainable when driven by both state and non state actors. The need to drive meaningful and sustainable Humanitarian arrangements in the modern day Nigeria has necessitated the need for a collective and holistic approach from concerned citizens and organizations. Ford Foundation, in conjunction with the Murtala Muhammed Foundation (MMF) convened a one-day workshop of key stakeholders in emergency response, to review the existing Humanitarian Response framework and make recommendations for the development of a Unified Humanitarian Response framework with a view to adopting a Sustainable Coordination Mechanism for Nigeria. Coordinating emergencies and relief efforts will minimize the duplication of humanitarian services thereby enabling a more coherent, effective and efficient response to disasters, whether man-made or natural, in Nigeria and Africa at large.

This one-day event was held on the 2nd of December, 2014 at the Yar’adua Center, Abuja, with the theme “Reviewing existing Humanitarian Response framework with a view to adopting a sustainable Humanitarian Response Mechanism for Nigeria.”

The event was opened with a declaration by Her Excellency Mrs. Ajoke Muhammed, the Vice Chairman of MMF. She welcomed the idea of timely holding the workshop when the need to respond to cases of emergencies were most pressing. In her remarks, she empathized with those affected by the various man-made and natural disasters in Nigeria and encouraged all stakeholders to work in coordination to “urgently put balm on the wounds of the victims of these disasters and to minimize and or prevent such disasters from re-occurring.”

Mrs. Aisha Oyebode, the CEO of MMF, delivered a Convener’s address. She started the message by describing disaster synonyms used by practitioners and experts, which include “calamity”, “catastrophe”, “emergency” and “crises”. After giving the meaning of a disaster, which is an abrupt shock to the socio-economic and environmental system, involving loss of life and property, she then clearly spelt out the focal point of the workshop, which was to address the following issues:

- Financing Humanitarian Action
- Building a Sustainable Coordination Mechanism
- Information Management and First Response
- Roadmap to Implementation
Real Life Scenarios from Ground Zero were shared by individuals who were survivors. Discussions were held at both plenary sessions and small group sessions. The following were recommendations made by participating stakeholders:

1. Legal framework needs to be consolidated to guide and coordinate operations in a seamless way.
3. Coordination between State actors and non-state actors including National and International based NGOs, in order for post emergency issues be appropriately addressed.
4. 0.2% of the annual profit of Major Corporations should be set aside for Humanitarian efforts.
5. Focus on the micro dimension of Government policies.
6. Holistic educational program; going beyond literacy to include:
   a. Disaster education
   b. Peace education
   a. Religious tolerance Education
   b. Leadership/Influence
   c. Psycho social status
7. Sustainability issues to be addressed in consideration of short term and long-term impacts of disasters in an integrated fashion.
9. A comprehensive audit of all designated human and material resources and commitment to distribution of allocated resources to address needs.
10. Need for capacity building for the security apparatus and personnel to professionalize their responses to

The Murtala Muhammed Foundation in partnership with the Ford Foundation is taking a step forward to ensuring that the Framework for Humanitarian Coordination for Nigeria comes to lime-light. The Foundation will soon be engaging stakeholders to further brainstorm and come up with “The Unified Framework”. This will further be passed-on to the appropriate authority to follow through.
Today's young leaders are taking on a variety of meaningful and dynamic roles in development. Youth are driving their own destinies by taking part in decisions that affect them and their communities. To include youth in a more meaningful way, engagement becomes an inseparable piece of our work. MMF holds monthly, a training and professional development seminar that is intended to build youths that will become relevant in demanding contemporary situations in Nigeria and beyond.

The seminar which lasts for an average of 5 hours has resource persons who have exhibited great passion for youth development and have distinguished themselves professionally.

For further enquires, participation and

“When sleeping women wake, mountains move.” Women are now taking the lead in the sphere of development. This includes outsourcing for opportunities to grow themselves entrepreneurially. The Murtala Muhammed Foundation (MMF) supports Women who are willing to span across being just comfortable as House wives to co-winning bread winners in her family. In May 2013, the MMF in collaboration with the Cherie Blair Foundation, United Kingdom started a mentorship program for women entrepreneurs. This was tagged as “Women in Business Mentorship Program”. Women who have made up their minds to defeat poverty are linked with other women who are successful entrepreneurs for “Hand Holding” sessions online.

Mrs Idowu Adebanjo is one among several women who has benefitted from this program. “Thanks for giving me the opportunity to participate in the one year mentoring program” She says. “It has been of tremendous help to me as a person and to my business. Before I started I was struggling with keeping the business afloat and was beginning to consider looking for a paid job but been on the program and hearing other peoples story have inspired me to continue. I have been able to learn about structuring the business which for me I needed a lot. The experience am gaining cannot be quantified. I am looking forward to the rest of the year. After the program I hope to have expanded my business and to continually use the resources the program makes available. I would also like to recommend this program to some other entrepreneurs.”

Since inception the Foundation has nominated eighteen mentees, thirteen of whom have completed the year long program.

More women are encouraged to vie for this opportunity. Inquiries on how to become a mentee can be made at www.mmfng.org/cherie-blair or info@mmfng.org.
The Youth ICT Empowerment Project is designed to improve the reproductive health and employability of vulnerable youths aged between 15 to 35 years in Kano state. This project has two key components: the training component focuses on computer-based employability trainings and internships for unemployed youth and students as well as entrepreneurial training and assistance in youth enterprise development for youths who lack higher education. The training includes life skills, ICT, and job search techniques training followed by internship/business development. In addition to the employability training component, another project component entails experience sharing and mentorship by peers. Another component focuses on providing information and services necessary to improve the reproductive health of vulnerable youths.

The MMF works with key relevant stakeholders from the Kano state ministry of Health, Information, Education, youth & sport, the National Orientation agency, Kano State AIDS Control Agency, the Murtala Muhammed Library, Traditional council, Society for Family Health (SFH), civil society networks and youth groups to establish 3 ICT based Youth Friendly Centers, 1 in each of the 3 Senatorial zones in Kano state. This program is scheduled to take-off by May 2015.
Mrs. Aisha Oyebode, CEO of MMF, gave the welcome address. In her address she informed that the workshop is set to provide a platform for the evolution of a robust framework for the management of psychological trauma in disaster situations in Nigeria. The workshop is built around National and international expertise and knowledge in the field of mental health, community health, psychology, psychiatry, social work, counseling and its outcomes will greatly assist in developing National Framework for Post-Traumatic Stress Care, for victims of disasters in Nigeria.

Dr. Fatima Akilu, Director of Behavioural Analysis, Office of the National Security Adviser, gave an overview of the recognition and management of psychological trauma in disaster situations in Nigeria. She mentioned the highpoints of working with NEMA which included:

1. creating centers of excellence
2. toll free trauma counseling
3. setting up strong partnership with stakeholders
4. provision of trauma care nationally.
5. training personnel in management of psychological distress.

She stressed the need for a holistic framework that will require working with partners for effective intervention for post disaster/conflict psychological distress in the country.

Dr Shehu Sale (Consultant and Mental Health Specialist, NPHCDA) did an overview of the Draft National Guideline for the Management of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders in Primary Health Center (PHC) setting in Nigeria. The draft guidelines emphasized on identification of PTSD, basic psychological intervention appropriate to competence and referral pathway. The Document contained provisions for differential symptoms in children/adolescents, support for families, monitoring and supervision and plan for evaluation.

Dr Femi Olugbile (Rtd Perm Sec, LSMoH) later described two (2) scenarios of the recent bomb blast compared to the Dana aircraft crash and emphasized coordination, establishing mental health desk office in states, use of religious leaders, use of pre-existing personnel and infrastructure and best practice (including participation, do no harm, using existing structures and capabilities, integrating services and offering multiple layers of support).

Strategic partnerships among stakeholders, coupled with improved capacity building and increased funding, are key to delivering efficient post traumatic response to victims of natural and man-made disasters in the country. The Murtala Muhammed Foundation in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser convened a one day sensitization meeting with key relevant stakeholders on the need to develop a National Framework for Post-Traumatic Stress Care for victims of disasters in Nigeria since the existing Draft National Guidelines for the Management of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders in Nigeria is outdated and not robust enough to capture the needs of the victims of disasters in Nigeria.

The meeting was held on the 15th January, 2015 attended by over 100 participants, made up of national and international players in the field of mental and community health, psychology, psychiatry, social work, and counseling, and managers of traumatic stress.

The Executive Director of the National Primary Healthcare development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Ado Mohammed, identified the objectives of the workshop. He stressed the need for supervision of the activities of the PHCs by the tertiary institutions. He acknowledged the draft document for the PTSD care which he expected will be modified extensively by the participants (which include the experts, NGOs, policy makers, end users and other stakeholders) and to be adopted and accepted by the state PHCBs.

The meeting was also used as a platform for reflection on the deplorable dilemma of traumatized victims and submits recommendations for the alleviation of the agony the victims experience. During the discussions, it was resolved that response efforts should be coordinated and concerted at driving effective services delivery for traumatized victims of disasters. Other suggestions were improving leadership and teamwork through capacity building and systems strengthening and the use evidence informed approaches to deploying response programs.

The meeting also had a breakout session which was chaired by Professor Oye Gureje (Chairman, National Mental Health Action Committee), where issues germane to the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder were adequately diagnosed. At the end of the discussions during this session, a communiqué was issued which included:

- The National assembly should pass bills that would allow a specific percentage of the federation account be allocated to agencies like Health Ministries, NPHCDA, NEMA and other agencies dedicated to the management of psychological distress after disaster, as well as mandating corporate organizations to dedicate a percentage of their CSR budget to post traumatic stress care.
- The Foundation will work with key relevant stakeholders to further analyze and pull together all recommendations made and propose for the development of Guidelines which will be passed on to State actors for consideration and adoption.
The C4S program enables Nigerian students to acquire extensive, quality and relevant education in ICT by providing the schools with dedicated well-equipped computer labs and delivering courses to teach ICT skills with a view to enhancing the students’ opportunities, productivity and employability. Although, the beneficiaries of the C4S project are majorly public high schools students, C4S also reach indigent young persons residing in the communities where its interventions are targeted. Since its inception in 2007, this program has reached over eight thousand (8,000) young persons in public secondary schools in 11 states (Lagos, Ogun, Taraba, Edo, Kano, Enugu, Rivers, Ondo, Benue, Kwara and Ekiti including the FCT) across the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. Secondary school graduands and other young persons who have benefitted from this program have become mentors of their peers, advocates of the C4S program and transcending bounds in their chosen career.

**BELOW ARE BENEFICIARIES OF THE MMF C4S PROGRAM**

1. Rumfa College, Kano;
2. Girls High school Kano
3. Beeri High School Ogoni
5. Government Secondary School, Wanune, Benue State;
7. Emirs palace (Kano )
8. Akenzua II Senior Secondary School, Benin City, Edo State;
9. Western Boys High School Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, Edo State;
10. Itohan Girls Grammar School, Benin City, Edo State;
11. St Maria Goreti Senior Grammer School Benin
12. Edo College, Benin City, Edo State;
13. Edopkpolor Girls School, Benin City, Edo State;
15. Government Commercial School, Tarkum, Taraba State;
17. Skill Acquisition Centre Donga, Taraba State;
18. Government Day Secondary School Abare, Taraba State;
20. Kuramo Junior Secondary School, Victoria Island, Lagos,
21. Awoyaya Junior Secondary School, Victoria Island, Lagos,
22. Victoria Island Junior Sec School
23. Maroko Junior College, Ikoyi, Lagos,
24. Asiebga Community Hight School -Ekiti
25. Orija High School- Emure Ekiti
26. Government Science College Iyin Ekiti
27. Dohety Memorial School Ijero Ekiti
28. Ekiti Parapko College , Ido Ekiti
29. Isan Secondary School . Isan Ekiti
30. Ilesan Sec School . Ilesan Lekki
32. Queens college
33. Command Children School
34. St Peters Unity College . Ondo State . Akure
35. Nigerian Navy Sec Sch Abeokuta
36. Junior Secondary School Asokoro
37. Lagos State Junior Model College. Badore
38. Aje Comprehensive School
39. komfota Nursery / Primary School
40. Iju Comprehensive School
41. Little Acorns Educational Foundation
42. Wesly school for the Hearing Impaired
43. Lily Children School (Bickersteth)
44. Bethesda School for the Blind
45. Lagos State Water Coperation.
In advancement of its mission to improve the living conditions of Africans by contributing to reduction of poverty and limitation of conflict, while promoting self-reliance and self-fulfilment, the Murtala Muhammed Foundation (MMF) in collaboration with Ford Foundation (FF), and three other reputable organisations (Nestle Nigeria Plc, Cadbury Nigeria Plc and Access Bank Plc) packaged an intervention to succour the plight of Internally Displace Persons (IDPs) in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states respectively. Relief items such as cereals, food drinks, confectionaries, premium bottled water, blankets, mats, buckets, clothing materials, soccer balls etc were realized through this collaborative effort to be distributed in an event titled “The Relief Christmas”. These relief items were distributed to the IDPs in their camps on the 17th December 2014b by the office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

“The Relief Christmas” with items being donated in excess of N50m, emerged prior to the recently concluded one day National Programme on Developing Sustainable Humanitarian Response Mechanism For Nigeria, convened by the Murtala Muhammed Foundation in partnership with Ford Foundation, where key relevant stakeholders from the Government (Federal, State and Local), Higher institutions, Research Institutes, Health facilities, the private sector and civil societies actively participated in the technical process of evolving
For over 10 years, under its Disaster Risk Reduction Program, the Foundation has provided humanitarian support to victims of disaster across the country. It is in continuation of these efforts, that the Foundation is planning this all important intervention to ensure that these IDPs are not forgotten at this festive season.

PHOTO SPEAKS
North – Eastern Nigeria has been faced with incessant violent attacks in recent times by the militant Islamic group popularly known as “Boko Haram”. This current precarious situation which now bedevils the country in proportions has never before been experienced in the turbulent and checkered history of this potentially great nation. The escalated spate of unconscionable bombing has seen many lives lost since the attacks began in 2009 with more than 5,000 people reported killed and many more suffered degrees of injuries (Human Rights World Report 2013). According to the United Nations Humanitarian Office about 470,565 Nigerians have been displaced from their homes, while the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reports that children constitute 51% of the total number of persons displaced. There is now a dangerous escalation of terrorist campaigns with all the hallmarks of insurgency which has left many devastated by grief and trauma and the ingrained language of fear and anxiety. It is against this backdrop that the Murtala Muhammed Foundation in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser established a Crisis and Trauma Counseling Centre (CTC) in Kano to provide victims and affected persons with adequate life coping skills to improve their emotional and mental well-being while pursuing peace building to reduce the spate of incessant bombing in Northern Nigeria.

The CTC Project was designed to provide over 1,000 beneficiaries from various crisis situations from different parts of the north with post traumatic stress life coping counseling skills. The project which has since begun with its pilot phase has so far reached 335 clients. The pilot project is expected to last for eighteen (18) months with the possibility of extension of timelines and expansion to other parts of the Northern Nigerian region.
Nicholas, a traumatized client had this to say when interviewed by IRIN at the CTC Centre in Kano (a victim of Bomb Blast and Student of FCE, Kano).

“I'm very shaky after the incident,” Nicholas told IRIN, sweat forming on his forehead, despite the cool of the room. “I'm finding it very difficult to cope. Every time I'm in the lecture hall and I hear a loud noise, I jump and become so scared. A lot of students are like me. “The situation is very, very bad actually. My elder brother advised me to drop from school because of my emotional disorder. Counseling is helping me. They [the counselors] are advising me to continue, that there are always challenges in life; that you have to be courageous … With time, I hope everything will resolve itself,” he said.

There are many people like Nicholas who live in fear of the unknown every day. Most of them are resident in the devastated states of Borno, Plateau and Yobe and cannot access the Post trauma stress disorders management services provided at the Crises and Trauma Counseling (CTC) Center in Kano. After recording a landmark success in improving the psychological conditions of victims of Crises in Kano state, MMF has concluded arrangements to replicate the CTC center in Borno, Yobe and Plateau states. The centers when established will cater for victims of various disasters.

See link below for more

MMF AND THE FUTURE

Scaling up of Crisis and Trauma Counseling Centre, program to Borno, Yobe and Plateau. April, 2015.

Establish Youth ICT Centers in each of the senatorial zones in Kano state. May, 2015.

Empowerment for deserving CTC center clients in Kano state, May 2015.

Expansion of the Computers for Schools (C4S) Program

Construction of MMF Youth friendly center.
We thank all our donors and sponsors for their unflinching support and donation to the Foundation and we look forward to substantial relationship in the coming year. We are so grateful to the following Institutions;

- Access Bank Plc
- Ford Foundation
- Office of the National Security Adviser
- Presidential Initiative for the North East
- National Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Ministry of Health
- Lekoil
- First Bank of Nigeria
- Kano State Government
- Magnum Trust Insurance Brokers Ltd
- Aluko & Oyebode
- CNBC Africa
- African Leadership Academy, South - Africa
- Cherie Blair Foundation
- Accenture
- Corporate and Financials
- Computer Aid International
- Ondo State Government
- Lagos State Government
- KPMG
- Diamond Bank
- Namibian Government
- The Namibian High Commission, Nigeria
- Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare, Namibia
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Namibia
- Nigeria High Commission, Namibia
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