

INITIATIVE FOR GRASSROOT ADVANCEMENT  
(INGRA)

END OF PROJECT REPORT (ACCORD-STP)

FEBRUARY - JULY 2012

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PRESENTED TO  
HOPE WORLDWIDE NIGERIA

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## **ACRONYMS**

AIDS	Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
HWWN	Hope World Wide Nigeria
HCT	HIV Counseling and Testing
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FLHE	Family Life and HIV&AIDS Education
HCT	HIV Counseling and Testing
HIV	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
IDIs	Individual Depth Interviews
IAs	Implementing Agencies
IPs	International Development Partners
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
INGRA	Initiative for Grassroots Advancement
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude & Practices
KOSACA	Kogi State Agency for the Control of AIDS
LACA	Local Government Action Committee on AIDS
LGA	Local Government Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS
PE	Peer Educator
PLWHA	People Living With HIV&AIDS
SACA	State Action Committee on AIDS
SBCC	Social Behavior Change Communication
SMoE	State Ministry of Education
SMoH	State Ministry of Health
SSS	Senior Secondary School
STP	Sexual Transmission Prevention
RELIEF	Renaissance Lifeline Foundation

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Initiative for Grassroot Advancement (INGRA) was selected along with 7 other CSOs to implement the Hope Worldwide Nigeria (HWWN) Assistance and Care for Care for Children Orphaned and At Risk (ACCORD)-Sexual Transmission Prevention (STP) project in Kogi state, from February to July 2012. The project targeted **In-School** Tertiary Youths and Female **Out-of School** Youths (15-29 years), with Comprehensive HIV and STI prevention information, knowledge and skills, with a goal of ensuring behavioral change using the Minimum Prevention package of Intervention (MPPI) concept.

The project was implemented in Okene Local government area and had the following objectives

1. Support LACA Okene to lead, sustain and harmonize HIV prevention response by August 2012
2. Increase HIV risk perception and self -efficacy to prevent HIV among 1,500 young people in Okene LGA by August 2012.
3. Mobilize communities to adopt social and cultural norms and values that reduce vulnerability to HIV in Okene LGA by August 2012
4. Provide referrals to other HIV and Health services interventions in Kogi state

In line with the target population, the project was implemented in the following communities

- Eika-Adagu Otite community – for Female Out-Of-School Youth
- Federal College of Education – for In-school Tertiary Youths

A total of **three million six hundred and eighty-seven thousand twelve naira (N3,687,012.00)** was approved for the project with a cost share of **five hundred and fifty-three thousand fifty-one naira eight kobo (N553,051.80)**.

The targets for the each of the target groups were as follows

- In-school tertiary Youths- 1000
- Female Out-of-School Youths – 500

At the end of the implementation period, the following were achieved

**FOSY = 436(May) + 150(June) = 586 +255(July) = 841**

**In-school male = 332 (May) + 315 (June) = 647 + 315 (July) = 962**

**In-school female =199(May) + 195 (June) = 394 + 195 (July) = 589**

## INTRODUCTION

The ACCORD-STP project was a one year Add-on project to the HWWN ACCORD project and was specifically targeted at 3 major towns in Kogi state namely

- Ankpa
- Lokoja
- Okene

The main objectives of the project were

- Support LACA Okene to lead, sustain and harmonize HIV prevention response by August 2012
- Increase HIV risk perception and self-efficacy to prevent HIV among 1,500 young people in Okene LGA by August 2012.
- Mobilize communities to adopt social and cultural norms and values that reduce vulnerability to HIV in Okene LGA by August 2012
- Provide referrals to other HIV and Health services interventions in Kogi state

In line with the target population, the project was implemented in the following communities

- Eika-Adagu Otite community – for Female Out-Of-School Youth
- Federal College of Education – for In-school Tertiary Youths

The implementation of the project activities took off with the capacity building of project team members and signing of MoU at the Proposal development Workshop that held between the 22nd and 29th of January 2012 at Nostalgia hotel Lokoja.

Other capacity building workshop organized by HWWN include

- Financial training and
- STI Syndromic management training

The following major activities were conducted during implementation

- Advocacy visits to Federal College of Education school management and HIV unit
- Advocacy meetings with the school student Positive Club Executives
- Advocacy meeting with community leaders in Eika-Adagu Otite
- Advocacy visits to HIV Units in General Hospital Obangede and General Hospital Okene
- Advocacy visits to Okene Local Action committee on AIDS (LACA)
- Advocacy visit to the Head of Department (HOD) Primary Health, Okene LGA
- Traditional/Community leaders in Okene LGA (ONOPA of Odoji)
- Advocacy visit to the deputy Dean Student Affairs, Federal college of Education (FCE) Okene

- Advocacy meeting with Executive members of the FCE Okene Positive Health Club
- 1-day workshop for Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members
- 5-days Peer educators training for 17 Female-out-of-school (FOSY)
- 1-day stakeholders meeting (in collaboration with RELIEF)
- Five- day Peer educators training for 34 In-school (tertiary) students
- Peer to peer outreach in the targeted community of EIKA ADAGU in Okene Local Government area of Kogi state
- monthly Peer educator review meeting by the Ingra PMT
- Site visit by the M&E Officer for the ACCORD STP Project
- Focus group discussion (FGD) BY the INGRA Project Management Team (PMT) in the targeted community
- Peer to peer outreach for in school tertiary of (FCE Okene)and female out of school youth (FOSY)of Eika-Adagu community
- Advocacy visits to General Hospital Obangede, LACA Okehi Focal Person
- Project advisory committee(PAC) meeting
- Stakeholders forum
- LACA management meeting
- Youth friendly Syndromic management training for health care provider in Okene/Okehi LGA
- LACA coordination meeting
- Site visit by the M&E Officer Community interventions: Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting, advocacy meetings
- peer outreaches involving the trained Peer Educators,1-day refresher training for FOSY Peer Educators, peer educators review meetings, Club meetings for in-school targets
- Established Community Based Organization (CBO) called EIKA-ADAGU Community Health Forum, was formally introduced to the Kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (KSMWA&SD) for official registration..

Major outcomes from the activities include:

- Support from the Federal College of Education Management for the project
- Willingness from the school” Positive Health club executives to take part in the project
- Warm welcome and tremendous support from Eika-Adagu community leaders for the project (both moral and financial support)
- Support from Lead Implementing Partners in the General Hospitals (Obangede – MTNF and Okene-Centre for Integrated Health Project (CIHP))

- Acceptance and promise of support for project goal, objectives from Okene LACA
- Acceptance and promise of support from Head of Primary Health, Okene LGA
- Support and attendance of stakeholders meeting by Traditional leaders in Okene LGA
- Pre selection meeting and list of potential trainee Peer Educators for upcoming in-school tertiary Peer educator training
- Constitution of Project Advisory committee (PAC) and sensitization of PAC on the project goal, objectives, target group and methodologies for project implementation
- Pre selection meeting with PAC and potential PE trainees.
- Training of 17 FOSY as Peer educators on HIV Prevention and self efficacy
- 39 In-School (tertiary) Peer educators trained and equipped with Peer Educator's Manuals
- first ever LACA Management and Coordination meeting in Okene and Okehi Local Government Areas

#### MEETINGS/WORKSHOP:

- 5-day STI syndromic management training for Implementing Agencies and health care workers by HWWN in may 2012
- 3 day STI management step-down training by INGRA
- 3-day Communication Strategy and Creative Brief development Workshop by HWWN in June 2012
- Monthly Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings at the community level

#### MPPI

- Holding of cohort sessions
- Holding of Positive Choice Club meeting
- Holding of Peer Educators review meeting

#### M&E

- Site visits

## **OBJECTIVES AND THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER EACH OF THE FOUR ACCORD-STP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

### **OBJECTIVE 1:**

Support LACA Okene to lead, sustain and harmonize HIV prevention response by August 2012

- LACA management meetings

This was the first time such activity involving LACA in Kogi Central took place. The meetings provided the LACAs of Okene and Okehi, with their Malaria and TB coordinators, the opportunity to meet and re-orientate themselves with their roles and responsibilities as it concerns HIV coordination in their respective local government areas. This was a joint collaborative activity between INGRA and RELIEF

- LACA Coordination meetings for all organizations working on HIV in Okene and Okehi Local Government Areas

This provided a platform for the two LACA Focal CBOs, IPs and Support Groups working on HIV in their respective local government areas. INGRA provided Secretariat, transport and refreshment support for the activity. Two of such coordination meetings have been held



Cross section of participants at Coordination meeting

- Advocacy visits/planning meetings held with the Focal persons of the two LACAs

This was in preparations to the management and coordination meetings. The meetings were held at the offices of the Focal persons at Okene and Obangede. The meeting included the Coordinators of Malaria and TB in both the two LGA.

#### Objective 2:

Increase HIV risk perception and self -efficacy to prevent HIV among 1,500 young people in Okene LGA by August 2012

1. 5-day Training for 17 Female-Out-Of School (FOSY) Peer educators. The training took place at the Community Primary School Eika-Adagu from the 15th-19th March 2012. The workshop was facilitated by a combined team of facilitators headed by Mr. Jonathan Bakshak of the ADOLESCENT ACTION PACT, Nassarawa State, using the Society for Family health (SFH) Peer education plus (PEP) manual. Other facilitators were
  - Steve Salawu, Head, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Adavi LGA and Coordinator Citizen's Empowerment Project and Advocacy Trust (CEPAT) Lokoja.
  - Baiye Malik, Coordinator, Kogi research support, Lokoja.

The Peer educators were trained on the Basic facts about HIV and STIs, issues around drug abuse and relationship to HIV prevention, Life Building skills, roles, responsibilities and characteristics of a Peer Educator, facilitation skills, PITT/MPPI



Facilitator during session at FOSY training



cross section of FOSY participants at training



group sessions



during session



group photograph

2. 5-day Training for 39 in- School (tertiary) Peer educators. The training took place at the French department Hall of the School of Languages, Federal College of Education Okene from the 2nd -6th April 2012. The workshop was facilitated by a combined team of facilitators headed by Mrs. Christy Abayomi of GLOBAL HOPE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOUNDATION Kabba, Kogi State, using the UNICEF/NYSC approved Peer Educator Trainer's Manual (PET) manual. Other facilitators were

- Steve Salawu, Head, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Adavi LGA and Coordinator Citizen's Empowerment Project and Advocacy Trust (CEPAT) Lokoja.
- Baiye Malik, Coordinator, Kogi research support, Lokoja.

The Peer educators were trained on the Basic facts about HIV and STIs, issues around drug abuse and relationship to HIV prevention, Life Building skills, roles, responsibilities and characteristics of a Peer Educator, facilitation skills, Prevention Intervention Tracking Tool (PITT)/Minimum Prevention Package of Intervention (MPPI)





Photo 1: Facilitator with participants during condom demonstration session



Photo 2: HWWN Program Manager clarifying a question to a participant



Photo 3: Facilitators, Dean Student's Affairs, Deputy Registrar, Student's Affairs, HIV Desk Officer FCE, INGRA Staffs and participants



Photo 4: Mr Baiye Malik during a session

- 204 peer outreach sessions in cohorts organized using 51 trained peer educators

The peer out reaches involved using the trained Peer Educators (in-school and FOSY) to conduct peer sessions in cohorts with their peers. Each PE had 15 Peers in a cohort. Each session dealt with one or more specific topics on HIV and STI provided for in the manual given to each PE. A total of 204 sessions (4 sessions per PE) was conducted reaching a total of 2,392 peers.

- 9 peer educators review meetings held with 90% of peer educators in attendance

Peer review meeting were held to review the conduct of sessions, challenges and recommendations for going forward. The review meetings also developed workplans for the following month. A total of 9 meetings (4 in-school and 5 out-of-school) were held with the PEs and INGRA M&E Officer.



Peer review Meeting with INGRA/HWWN Project Manager and M&E officer

- 13 club meetings held by in-school tertiary target group

Club activities (under non-curriculum approach) provided an avenue to reach target peers with HIV Prevention information. Activities such as drama, debates, etc were conducted by the trained peers who belong to the club. The HIV and AIDS Prevention Club (HAPC) for FCE Okene met weekly in the reporting period. INGRA provided Technical Assistance in developing scripts for drama sketches. The meetings also dealt with issues around sustainability of HIV Prevention activities. A total of 13 meetings were held during the project period.



Peer educators during drama session at club meeting



INGRA/HWWN during club lecture activity

- 1 refresher training organized for FOSY Peer educators

A one day refresher training for FOSY was organized for the trained Peer educators to update and refresh their knowledge on HIV Prevention and MPPI. The training provided PEs with opportunity to clarify topics and concepts around HIV Prevention and provided INGRA the opportunity to reinforce skills the PEs needed for improved knowledge transmission to their peers.

### **Objective 3:**

#### **Mobilize communities to adopt social and cultural norms and values that reduce vulnerability to HIV in Okene LGA by August 2012**

- 5 Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting held with community leaders in attendance

The Project Advisory Committee meetings provides an avenue for Project team and the selected community representatives to look at project implementation and workplan and to discuss ways of best achieving project objectives. The meeting held monthly and a total of 5 meeting were held with 20 community leaders present per meeting.



INGRA CEO at PAC meeting



community leaders at PAC meeting

- Stakeholders Forum organized in collaboration with RELIEF

The stakeholders Forum provided an opportunity for a wider community audience to participate in a forum to discuss the project implementation and objectives and also proffer ways for community participation and ownership to ensure sustainability of the project. INGRA and RELIEF collaborated to bring their two communities together for the meetings. This amplified the reach of the messages discussed at the fora.



Cross section of participants at forum



- 1 community based organization established

To ensure sustainability and retention of knowledge and skills acquired during project implementation, establishment of a community entity to carry on the project activities after close out of the ACCORD-STP was imperative. During the period of reporting, a community based organization called EIKA-ADAGU COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM for the FOSY target community of EIKA-ADAGU. The organization is in the process of registration with the Kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

- 12 advocacy visits/meetings held

Advocacy visits were carried out to various community and traditional leaders in Okene and Okehi to solicit support for the project and provide access to community assets (for meetings and refresher trainings) and structures such as community/artisan organizations. Advocacy visits were also carried out to the referral health facilities (General Hospital Obangede) to discuss issues around referrals of clients. A total of 12 visits were carried out in the reporting quarter.



Community leaders of Eika-Adagu during Advocacy Visit



Mr Anichebe of MTNF during visits

#### **Objective 4:**

##### **Provide referrals to other HIV and Health services interventions in Kogi state**

- 6 advocacy visits conducted

Advocacy visits were carried out to the referral health facilities (General Hospital Obangede) to discuss issues around referrals of clients and participation in LACA Coordination meetings. A total of 6 visits were conducted during the project.

- 2 referral meeting attended

As a result of the various advocacy meetings and visits to General Hospital Obangede, and to ensure integration of service provision, the INGRA/ACCORD-STP project was invited to attend the Referral network Meeting for service providers in Okehi LGA. The meeting supported by Centre for Integrated Health Project (CIHP), former ICAP, took place at General Hospital Obangede. The meeting provided network referral officers the opportunity to discuss issues around effective referrals to and from service providers.

## PERSONS REACHED

S/No	Sex	Reached with 1 intervention	Reached with 2 intervention	Reached 3 intervention
1	Male			<b>962</b>
2	Female			<b>1,430</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>2,392</b>

**FOSY = 436(May) + 150(June) = 586 +255(July) = 841**

**In-school male = 332 (May) + 315 (June) = 647 + 315 (July) = 962**

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\*Total Referred – M=0 F=0

## SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2.392 (M-962: F-1,430) young people reached with the minimum prevention package intervention
- The project was able to resuscitate the dormant LACA Focal Persons and TB and Malaria coordinators in the two (2) LGAs and begin working with them on issues around coordination of HIV activities in their respective LGAs
- The project was able to establish a community based organization (Eika-Adagu community Health Forum) for the target community
- facilitation of the LACA Coordination meeting

## **LINKAGES BETWEEN STP AND OTHER PROGRAM AREAS**

- The identified hospitals are key in the referral system to be in subsequent. The advocacy visits provided a platform for discussions on ways of strengthening the two way referral system.
- there was linkage with Association of OVC NGOs in Nigeria (AONN) Kogi State, and some Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN) and Anti Malaria drugs were provided for identified pregnant mothers in Eika-Adagu during the PAC meeting.

## **CHALLENGES**

- The time period for project implementation was short, taking into consideration the objectives of the project which centered around behavior change.
- A major challenge was the timings for project implementation especially for in-school.
- Issue of double counting for **in- school** tertiary. However, with diligent supervision from INGRA M&E, the challenge was notice and corrected.
- There is a serious challenge with the quality of knowledge transferred from PEs to their cohorts. Interviews with some peers have shown gaps in the information they are receiving.

## **OPPPORTUNITIES**

- The enthusiasm of the LACA Focal Persons in Okene and Okehi shows promise for engaging with the local government on areas of sustaining the project activities
- The enthusiasm of the target community and FCE shows promise for engaging with the community and the institution on areas of sustaining the project activities

## **LESSON LEARNT** (*what you have learnt that is of relevant to the intervention during the reporting period*).

- One important lesson learnt is that it was important to collaborate with any existing CBO that had capacity in community mobilization to ensure success in engendering support from the target community
- Collaborative efforts increase the scope and effectiveness of activities implemented

**RECOMMENDATIONS** (*what things need to be put in place to enhance delivery on program objectives*)

- Need for increase implementation period (3-4 years), for the desired behavior change to be achieved
- Need for seed grants to established CBOs to provide platform for organizational strengthening for sustainability
- Need for refresher training (albeit on a small scale) for PEs (especially) FOSY to refresh their knowledge on HIV Prevention
- Need for follow up visits to the aforementioned entities to further strengthen collaborations and referral support
- Ensure that planned activities are coordinated with the community and institution and carried out on time to strengthen trust
- Need for follow up visits to the aforementioned entities to further strengthen collaborations and referral support
- Ensure that planned activities are coordinated with the community and institution and carried out on time to strengthen trust

**CONCLUSIONS**

The ACCORD-STP project provided a platform for integration of and sustainability of HIV prevention interventions, with particular focus on system strengthening of coordinating bodies, which had albeit been the weak point in HIV Prevention interventions in Kogi state.

It is critical that this project be followed up immediately to build on the important gains and trust achieved from both community and systems (LACA).

**Reporting Officer:**

**Name** .....

**Sign/Date**.....