



STRATEGIC HEALTH SECTOR FOCUS GROUP CONVENED BY LIVEWELL INITIATIVE LWI

Background:

LiveWell Initiative LWI (RC: 692490), a self-sustaining non-profit healthcare organization, which has outreached over 1.5 million Nigerians and over 3,000 Ghanaians with health literacy and empowerment since its inception nearly 6 years ago, convened a Stakeholders **Strategic Health Sector Focus Group Meeting on "Promotive Healthcare"**, which held on Wednesday 31st of July 2013 at the LWI Head Office, FBA Suites, 2nd Floor, Plot 5, Chief Yesuf Abiodun Way, Oniru Road, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Objective of the Focus Group:

To facilitate wellness promotion and health status awareness among the populace through a proactive and deliberative strategy.

Deliberations:

The discussion was centered on *promotive healthcare*, with focus on the following palpable health threats:

- Hepatitis in Africa
- Executive Health / Workplace Wellness
- Poverty Illness
- Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
- Nutrition and Health
- Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH)

Composition of the Focus Group:

- Dr. Olufemi Olugbile, Honourable Permanent Secretary Health, Lagos State - *Chairman*
- Dr. Mona Khanna, Medical Contributor, US FOX Chicago News - *Co-Chairman*
- Representative of Osun State Commissioner for Health - *Invited Member*
- Representative of United States Consulate General USCG - *Invited Member*
- Dr. Adesina Fagbenro-Bryon, Regional Coordinator South West Nigeria, Department for International Development DFID / PATHS 2 - *Invited Member*
- Prof. Akin Osibogun, Chief Medical Director, LUTH - *Invited Member*
- Mr. Tony Attah, Vice President Shell Petroleum Development Company SPDC - *Invited Member*
- Mr. Charles Fordjour Agyemang, Country Director, Roche Diagnostics Nigeria - *Invited Member*
- Mr. Chukuka Chukutem, Business Director, May & Baker Nigeria Plc - *Invited Member*
- Mrs. Ayodele Iroko, Chief of Party, United States Agency for International Development Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector USAID SHOPS - *Invited Member*
- Mrs. Yinka Oshai, CEO Megacare Group Limited - *Invited Member*
- Dr. Dolapo Fasawe, Special Projects Director, Lagos State Ministry of Health - *Invited Member*
- Mrs. Kemi Ajayi, Chief Operating Officer, Banwo & Ighodalo - *Invited Member*
- Mrs. Bisi Bright, CEO LWI - *Convener*
- Mr. Damola Oladimeji, Head of Logistics LWI - *Chief Host*
- Mrs. Bukky Ayoade, Advisor LWI Academy - *Chief Hostess*
- Miss Uloma Ubani-Ukoma, Faculty Officer LWI Academy - *Meeting Secretary*
- Mrs. Nneka Isiadinso, Academy Officer LWI Academy - *Verbatim Secretary*
- Student Member / Intern LWI - *Invited Member*

Expected Outcomes:

The strategic health sector focus group findings will be very useful in steering the course of promotive healthcare in the right direction, with a view to improve healthcare indices in Nigeria. At the end of the deliberations, a *Communiqué* was issued to reflect the joint opinions of the focus group members, with a view of paving the way for subsequent implementations of an evolving ACTION PLAN by Government partners, NGOs and Stakeholders.

Communiqué (please see overleaf)



A COMMUNIQUE ON THE LWI STRATEGIC HEALTH SECTOR FOCUS GROUP MEETING ON PROMOTIVE HEALTHCARE HELD AT LWI HEAD OFFICE, FBA SUITES, 5 YESUF ABIODUN STREET, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS ON THE 31ST OF JULY 2013.

Objective: *To facilitate wellness promotion and health status awareness among the populace through a proactive and deliberative strategy*

Chairman: Dr. Olufemi Olugbile, *Honourable Permanent Secretary Health, Lagos State*

Co-Chairman: Dr. Mona Khanna, *Clinical Affiliate, Center for Global Health and Visiting Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, USA; Fox Chicago News Medical Contributor*

The participants (see list below) discussed the following topics and recommendations, and agreed that further ideas as to implementation and execution will be discussed at future meetings.

- **Communicable Disease – Hepatitis** – Given the prevalence of Hepatitis in Africa, and with special focus on Hepatitis in Nigeria; screening and testing should be made available to the entire population. This can be done effectively through raising awareness and making testing available through such events as health fairs. Highlights were thrown into the efforts by Lagos State, which has instituted a hepatitis epidemiological survey. Those who test positive should be educated as to how to minimize transmission, and treatment for hepatitis B and C should be made widely available.
- **Executive Health / Workplace Wellness** – Health Professionals and Consumers of healthcare services need to be knowledgeable and to have a preventive focus. Collaborations need to be built and Safety Standards need to be defined across the health sector. SPDC has made important inroads in the prevention of illness and injury through training and hazard awareness, and its occupational health program can be used as a prototype for other companies. The risk hazard management protocol should be used in the following order: Elimination, Engineering, Mitigation and Treatment EEMT. Occupational illness and injury should be treated immediately to avoid secondary complications due to delay in care. Companies should train employees as First Responders with roughly 1 in 10 staffers receiving full first aid CPR training in order to deliver emergency health services. Also, offices should be furnished with adequate life-saving equipment such as automated external defibrillators (AEDs), which should be a legal requirement alongside safety requirements, e.g. fire extinguishers. Office buildings should house at least two trained and certified first aiders on every floor. AEDs are life-saving devices and should be placed in public areas and within all public buildings, with appropriately trained personnel.



- **Poverty Illness and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** – Due to the burden of disease, which is a multidisciplinary, multiagency affair, healthcare services should be made available to the general population. The Media has a role to play in Health Education and Promotion, galvanizing the multidisciplinary multiagency roles, disseminating health information, and improving access to care. The starting point should be **ADVOCACY, AWARENESS** and thereafter there should be **Leadership by Government and the Private Sector**, and lastly, **Legislation and Enforcement**. Health insurance should be offered to workers through their employers so they can access care. Out of pocket expenditures for healthcare should be minimized with community health insurance for the informal sector and for poorer populations who pay for health out of pocket. Preventive measures should be emphasized in order to avoid loss of health, financial costs of treatment, and loss of ability to work, which can lead to further impoverishment. A lack of awareness and understanding of current public health resources including the Community Based Health Insurance Scheme (CBHIS) exists which results in wasted resources due to under-utilized staff. Raising awareness of this, health fairs, screening opportunities, and other healthcare resources must be made a priority.
- **Partnerships** – The key to reaching the grassroots population and sustainability of healthcare initiatives is through **People Public Private Partnerships PPPPs**. The key to raising awareness is by forming an alliance with the press/media, which has the scalability to reach millions of people at once. A media representative, a Financial Specialist, and Patients should be identified and invited to future meetings of the LWI Strategic Health Sector Focus Group. Media outreach should be performed with a goal of transforming media representatives into public health advocates who will embark on communications campaigns. The government, non-profits (including NGOs) and private enterprise should solicit all forms of media such as radio, television, online and print. Media empowerment can be further facilitated with basic health education. For example, social media such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter may be used to create awareness of service offerings by primary health centers in Lagos. Additionally, communities should be involved as stakeholders and not just beneficiaries, e.g. PATH 2 Module.
- **Nutrition and Health** – postponed until the next meeting.



- **Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (MNCH)** – The significant maternal mortality rate MMR statistics in Nigeria, was a key source of concern to the focus group. DFID provided information on its efforts within the community, and, the need for collaboration between the communities and the health system. The negative socio-behavioural and attitudinal response of low literacy women to the health facilities was responsible for high MMR and the statistics can be brought down through the community engagement programmes. The topic was in exhaustive and was therefore further deferred for discussion at a future meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

1. **Dr. Olufemi Olugbile**, Hon PermSec Health Lagos State – *Chairman*
2. **Dr. Mona Khanna** (US Fox Chicago News) – *Co-Chairman*
3. **Prof. Akin Osibogun**, Chief Medical Director, LUTH – *Invited Member*
4. **Mrs. Anthonia Bakare**, Voice & Accountability, DFID / PATHS 2 – *Invited Member*
5. **Dr. Adebola O. Hassan**, Technical Specialist, USAID SHOPS – *Invited Member*
6. **Dr. Edet Edet**, Public Health Advisor, SPDC – *Invited Member*
7. **Mrs. Kemi Ajayi**, Chief Operating Officer, Banwo & Ighodalo – *Invited Member*
8. **Mrs. Bisola Ayodele**, Pharmacy Coordinator, Megacare Group Ltd. – *Invited Member*
9. **Mr. John Edheku**, National Sales Manager, May & Baker Nig. Plc – *Invited Member*
10. **Mrs. Bisi Bright**, CEO LWI - *Convener*
11. **Mrs. Bukky Ayoade**, LWIA Advisor – *Chief Hostess*
12. **Mr. Adedamola Oadimeji**, Head of Logistics LWI – *Chief Host*
13. **Miss Uloma Ubani- Ukoma**, LWIA Faculty Officer – *Meeting Secretary*
14. **Mrs. Nneka Isiadinso**, LWIA Officer – *Verbatim Secretary*
15. **Mr. Ekene Okafor** - LWI UNILAG Intern – *Invited Student Member*
16. **Miss Kafilat** - LWI Babcock Intern – *Invited Student Member*

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LWI Management