ADVANCING ADOLESCENT AND YOUTH REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ADVOCACY IN NIGERIA PROJECT (AAYRHAN) TRAINING



TEAM REPORT

DATE: SEPETEMBER 24TH – 27TH, 2019

SUMMARY

The **Academy for Health Development (AHEAD)** in partnership with the **Lagos State Ministry of Health** with support of from **Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACHaH@scale)** beautifully released a call in the month of August 2019 for Organizations working in the field of sexual and reproductive to submit their application for a Family planning Youth project that will be embarked on very soon.

It was a moment of great excitement indeed when Dr. Ojo Roland, Co-Executive Director of the Organization made the announcement that SHI was selected in a pool of other Youth-led Organizations in Lagos State to be among the lucky 9 organizations that got in.

This led to the journey of 6 members from SHI to participate in the first phase of the project which involved a 4 days Training held at The Bible Guest House, Palmgroove Estate, Lagos State along with more than 30 other Young people from different Organizations.

'**AAYRHAN**', which is the theme of the Training had high caliber of people from Lagos State Ministry of Health and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) deliver seasoned lecture of the participants on issues relating to the present state of Reproductive health within Lagos State and also Participants were actively engaged and made to work together as a Team to formulate Action plans which will be subsequently be implemented by each Team. Worthy of note as well, are the sumptuous meals provided during the Training which was made up of Tea break, lunch and also a dinner package. Participants' transportation fare was also duly reimbursed at the end of the Training.

Below is the list of the 6 participants that took part in the Training:

1. Agoyi Kemisola (Co-Executive Director)
2. Ajibade Oluwabukunmi Omoniyi (Partnership Team Member)
3. Afolabi Oluwatoyosi (Partnership Officer)
4. Olubukola Jongbo (Volunteer)
5. Obadeyi Olarenwaju Joseph (Volunteer)

6. Ibikunle Oluwatoyin Anthonia (Volunteer)

Find more details of the Training below.

DAY 1

Being the first day, it was started out with registration of each participants before proceeding with the sessions.



(Pharm. Jongbo asking questions during one of the sessions)

SESSION 1: "WELCOME AND REMARK" – this was done by Dr. Bello, the AHEAD Coordinator who briefly introduced the Guest present and gave a brief insight into what to expect from the Training.

SESSSION 2: "OVERVIEW OF THE PAS PROJECT" – Dr. Wusu from Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACHaH@Scale) talked about the key issues

tacked by the Organization which include; Routine immunization, Childhood killer disease, Primary healthcare under one roof and family planning. He also talked about their implementing partners and made mention of how this present project is part of what the organization is presently doing in the aspect of Family planning.

SESSION 3: "OVERVIEW OF THE AHEAD – PACHaH@Scale Project – An in-depth overview of what the Project is all about was giving by Mr., Oladimeji. Mr. Oladimeji started out by talking about what 'AHEAD' does as an Organization, including the vision of AHEAD. He then talked about the aims of the project which are: 1) To empower more young people with the capacity to drive relevant changes and influence their peers. 2) To create awareness and monitor the implementation of the youth related family planning policies in Lagos and also to ensure its effective implementation and accountability. He concluded by mentioning the Key activities which include; Advocacy visit to key state players in family planning, development of 40 family planning Youth Advocates, provision of support to the Youth Advocates in program implementation, research and advocacy visit to policymakers.

SESSION 4: "CHALLENGES IN ADOLESCENT HEALTH SERVICES" - This exciting, thought provoking and motivating session was delivered by Mrs. Birch, the Lagos State MOH, who gave an overviewing of the challenges in Adolescent health services as including; lack of space, lack of accessibility, por maintenance, untrained healthcare personnel on youth friendly services provision, judgmental attitude, unaffordability of services and so on.

SESSION 5: "ADOLESCENT AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN LAGOS STATE: POLICY AND SERVICE DELIVERY CONSTRAINTS" - Mrs.

Birch stepped out again to take about how the policies within the State has put into constraints, full delivery of reproductive health services. She talked about the National Adolescent Health Policy, the National Strategic Framework for Adolescent Reproductive Health, the National HIV/AIDS Emergency Action plan and the National Reproductive Health Policy and Strategy, as the earliest policy initiatives relied upon in advocating for establishment of Adolescent Youth and Friendly services (AYFHS). She also spoke about the Lagos State policies and laws and identified the challenges involved with implementing AYFHS fully. The guiding principles to overcoming all these were given as : respect for human rights, gender mainstreaming, equity and accessibility, health investment, respect for religion, culture and diversity, meaningful youth engagement and so on.

SESSION 6 "EXPERIENCE SHARING: KEY FP SRVICE DELIVERY ISSUES IN YFC" – The last session for Day 1 was delivered by Dr. Toriola Femi-Adebayo, she talked about who adolescents were, and also about Youth friendly services and what should be expected from a Youth friendly center. She talked about the challenges faced by Youth friendly centers among which are the 'Hello Lagos centers located in 7 places within Lagos State which are LASUTH-Ikeja, Agege, Ajegunle, Alimosho, Lagos Island, Ogudu and Maryland.



(random pictures with participants from other organizations)

DAY 2

Day 2 started with a recap of what was learnt from the previous day.

SESSION 1: "ESSENTIALS FOR ADVOCACY" – Ms. Sola Olarenwaju from AHEAD took the lead on Day 2 with a session on Advocacy. Participants were made to understand who an Advocate is and who an Advocate is not. 'Passion, tactfulness, credibility, mobilization, resourcefulness, and so on were also listed out as attributes of an Advocate. Participants were also made to understand the 'advocacy process' which involves defining the issue, setting a clear SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound) goals & objectives, reaching out to stakeholders, planning activity and evaluation. The session ended with a look into advocacy strategy which include: lobbying, collaboration, press/media work, mobilization and petition.



SESSION 2: "KEY ELEMENTS IN FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCACY" – Mr. Ajayi Abiodun

from Public Health Sustainable Advocacy Initiative (PHSAI) handled this session and He started out by talking about the present state of Adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health in Lagos State. He mentioned that Lagos state over the years have been to take bold steps to increase young people's access to youth friendly sexual and reproductive services, but then there is still a need to increase the discussion at all levels and also the need to increase funding. He concluding by highlighting some key things that Lagos State needs to prioritize which are maintenance of the Lagos Hello centers, establishment of 4 Youth friendly centers at Higher Institutions across the state and so on.

SESSION 3: "INTRODUCTION TO ACTION PLAN" – Mr. Olarenwaju from AHEAD was in charge of this very engaging session which truly highlighted the importance of planning and how to plan effectively and efficiently. He said that 'failure to plan = planning to fail'. He talked about the criteria of an Action plan which are completeness, clarity and current. He took participants through each of the steps of planning which are: set objectives, assess objective, identify action required to achieve each objective, develop a timeframe, assess the action plan and finalize the Action plan.

SESSION 4 "STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES" – Once again, Mr. Olarenwaju had the floor when He taught the participants about what goals and objectives entail. He went on to talk extensively on what "SMART" objectives are and He expatiated the difference between a goal and an objective by saying that objectives are the stepping stones while the goal is the end result and also that objectives are means to an end but then goals are broader visions. The characteristics of appropriate goals and objectives were also mentioned.

DAY 3

Day 3 started with a recap of what was learnt from the previous day.

SESSION 1: "INDICATOR" – Mr. Olarenwaju started the day's session by talking about what 'indicators' are. Indicators are determined prior to implementation, during implementation and at the end of implementation. They answer the questions of 'where are we now, where do we need to be? How will we get there? , How will we monitor our progress?. An indicator provides a sign or a signal that something exists or it is true. Indicators must also be SMART. The session ended with how to develop an indicator.

SESSION 2: "FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCACY TOOLS" - Ms. BlessMe from Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative (NURHI 2) took participants through this session. During the session she talked about Lagos state findings on existing sectoral budgets and funding synergies for AYSRH. Some of these findings revealed that there is lack of funding at the Federal and State government levels, lack of clear budgetary provision for programming on Adolescents and Young people's reproductive health need, bulk of funding available for Adolescent sexual reproductive health

SESSION 3: "GROUP WORK ON ADVOCACY TOOLS" – The group was divided into 2 groups based on each organization's objectives and goals and the areas in which they work. SHI was grouped with Group 2 and the task was to identify the issues posed by 'Service provision' in accessing reproductive health services. Working together as a Team, we were able to identify 3 problems and also identified several issues under each. Some of these issues include – Poor effective referral systems, shortage of equipment, age of consent, shortage of Youth friendly centers and so.

SESSION 4: "GROUP WORK ON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES" – Working within the same group, the next task was to analyze the goal and objectives for an action plan which will address some of these issues. Part of the issue for which an action plan will be developed for that was picked was the 'the issue of age of consent at accessing reproductive health facilities', the goal was to 'reduce the age of consent to 15 by June 2021', the objectives included identifying the barriers posed by age of consent, getting the support of the Ministry of Health to engage lawmakers in ensuring reduction in the age of consent and getting the support of Religious and Community leaders via dialogues.

The ideas from different groups were later collated and presented.

DAY 4

The final Day started with a recap of the previous day

SESSION 1: "STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT" – A session on who stakeholders are and how they play major roles in our advocacy activities was held by Dr. Bello from AHEAD. She went on to talk about the different categories of stakeholders which are 'The Grumblers', 'The Friends' and the 'The Champions'. She talked about the level of support and influence from each of these groups and the level at which they can be engaged in.

SESSION 2: "GROUP WORK ON ACTION PLAN" – This was the final session for the training. The Members within each of the 2 groups had to work together with their Team members to create an 'Action plan' from what has been learnt so far. The Action plan included the problem statement, goals, objectives, activities, indicators, outcome and

impact. After the drafting, the plan was presented by each of the Subgroup leaders and afterwards, it was collated into a single draft.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Bello and Mr. Olarenwaju concluded the training by informing participants of the way forward which entails implementing the action plan by each group, though detailed information was not giving on this but a group chat was created on whatsapp platform in order to ensure further communication among group members.

COMMENDATIONS

1. Great meal packages
2. Creation of a whatsapp group chat by the Organizers on Day 1 of the training for all participants which eased passing important information across timely.
3. Sharing slide presentation at the end of each day to participants
4. Reimbursement of transport fare.
5. Incorporation of group work into the training which made the training more engaging
6. Having an implementation and follow up plan.

CHALLENGES

1. Lack of punctuality among participants due to traffic and some other reasons
2. The Training Hall appeared to be a bit crowded for the number of participants.

RECOMMENDATION



1. Having a Residential training will probably have reduced the number of days and stress on participants coming down from far distance each day.