



# LADY HELEN CHILD HEALTH FOUNDATION

Reaching them one at a time



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



I welcome everyone to the second edition of the Lady Helen Child Health Foundation Quarterly Bulletin. Over the last year 2020, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Lady Helen Child Health Foundation has developed innovative ways to engage and carry out its activities to promote, advocate and facilitate the provision of best practice and quality in health care for vulnerable children. These innovative actions have been carried out through its tripod programme RAP (Research, Advocacy, Patient Treatment Assistance Programme (PTAP).

from the perspective of relevant Government Ministries, Agencies and the Private Sector Health Organizations.

The 2020 Lady Helen Child Health Foundation Summit on the impact of COVID 19 on Children and Family was geared towards facilitating information dissemination to stakeholders in the health sector and caregivers of vulnerable children and the public. There are issues about COVID in Africa with obvious impacts, resulting in the provision of mixed messages that has been peddled around and we have different context to our understanding about the salient issues. Also, there has been doubt and concerns in the scientific world about the content and quality of what the local media portrays to the public about COVID. This has resulted in a lot of misinformation, misunderstanding and confusion about the real issue. In these regards, the Covid 19 summit facilitated by the Lady Helen Child Health Foundation was to unpack some of these issues.

In the case of children, there are emotional issues surrounding how COVID can best be managed within this group and the lack of measurable impact especially on those who are vulnerable has been another challenge. At the LHCHF summit on the impact of Covid 19 on children, the speakers eventually ventilated the issues and gave some inroad and insight that illuminated our understanding of what the government and other organizations did and are doing in addressing this situation.

The problem of vaccine hesitancy is gaining momentum and this need to be curtailed by disputing negative and uninformed social media falsehood while encouraging wards to take the vaccine when offered. The WHO and reputable scientific agencies has given safety clearance. The risk of dying from Covid- 19 far outweighs the side effects of dying from the vaccine.

*I have had my vaccination and I am happy to be counted.*

I use this opportunity to welcome the new staff to the foundation both at the Abuja and Lagos offices.

Warm Regards

Dr. Benjamin Odeka *MB DCH MA (Law) FRCP (London) FRCPCH*  
**CEO/Founder Lady Helen Child Health Foundation**  
**Consultant in Health Care Governance and Quality in Paediatrics & Gastroenterology**

## FROM THE RESEARCH DESK: Responding to the Impact of Covid 19

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Nigeria has caused severe impact on children and the family because of the weak institutions that were ineffective in responding to the pandemic.

Nigeria does not have a reliable national social welfare program that offers assistance to all individuals and families in need of health care assistance, food stamps, unemployment benefit, disaster relief and educational assistance. This became evident during the Coronavirus outbreak of 2020 when many poor citizens and the vulnerable population had little to rely on and did not have welfare relief that could help them cope with the economic hardship of the pandemic period. The lack of adequate social welfare programs that would have cushioned the effect of the pandemic on majority of the poor and vulnerable citizens has really caused severe suffering to children and the families during the pandemic.



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

### Public Health Infrastructure

According to a 2015 BMI reports, Nigeria had an estimated 3,534 hospitals in 2014, of which 950 were in the public sector. There were around 9,000 private health facilities, and an estimated 134,000 hospital beds in 2014, equal to 0.8 per thousand populations which is below the rate for the African region. The public health sector in Nigeria has poor health infrastructures such as poor emergency services, few ambulance services, ineffective national health insurance systems, insufficient primary health care facilities, and these problems in the public health sector have often been linked to the high maternal and infant mortality rates in the country (Muhammad et al, 2017).

The majority of Nigeria's healthcare spending is still dominated by out-of-pocket expenditure which account for 70% of total health expenditures, this suggest that most Nigerians either do not rely or trust the health insurance system in the country or they are unaware of the availability of health insurance. Despite the introduction of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in 2004, the population covered by health insurance in 2019 was only 5 percent of the total population. The failings in Nigeria's public health sector made it difficult for Nigeria to cope with the fast-spreading COVID-19 disease during the outbreak which had severe impact on vulnerable children and the Family

### Government Response

The Nigerian government has taken numerous health, social, and economic measures to cushion the impact of COVID 19. However, some of the policy responses have weaknesses and, taken together, are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) through the National Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has been mandated to lead the National Public Health response in Nigeria with oversight of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 (PTF-COVID-19) which is working together with the federal ministry of Health, Federal ministry of Women Affairs, federal ministry of Education, humanitarian affairs, State Government and other relevant agencies has instituted several measures and responses to the pandemic through these institutions.

The Nigeria Government including the Health Sector has however continued to sustain the activities of the presidential Task Force, especially in raising awareness of the need for its citizens to focus on preventative and non-pharmaceutical approach to stemming the spread of covid 19 pandemic across the country.



## OVERVIEW: A Global Perspective on Impact of Covid 19 On Children

**A**t the 2020 Lady Helen Child Health Foundation Summit on the Impact of COVID 19 on Children and Family, Dr. Ms. Bibian Ofoegbu, Consultant Neonatologist from the UAE, presented a review of UNICEF/WHO Collated data which so far suggested that children under the age of 18 years represent about 8.5% of reported cases, with relatively few deaths compared to other age groups with usually mild disease. However, cases of critical illness in children have been reported. As with adults, pre-existing medical conditions have been suggested as a risk factor for severe disease and intensive care admission in children, she states:

“Children are not the face of the pandemic, but they risk being among its biggest victims, as children's lives are nonetheless being changed in profound ways. All children of all ages, and in all countries, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. Moreover, the harmful effects of the pandemic will not be distributed equally. They are expected to be most damaging for children in the poorest countries, and in the poorest neighbourhoods, and for those in already disadvantaged or vulnerable situation”.

*Unicef.org/covid19 and children*

However, for Nigeria and other African countries, it has been pure luck that death due to the pandemic had not escalated as predicted by developed countries. There is a need to ensure that pandemic management measures incorporating relevant professional groups are adequately harnessed and funded in state of preparedness at all times. Government should make available all necessary resources for Nigeria Doctors to cater for the vulnerable children and families.

The views of this private sector health practitioner on the impact of Covid 19 on children illuminates on the following issues:

- Mental health of children
- Access to education
- Family abuse- stress in home associated with job losses
- Upsurge in gender violence
- Child poverty – Absence of basic needs
- Increase in child labour
- Health- nutrition, access to vaccinations, access to health care by vulnerable children
- Vulnerable children- with special needs- Cerebral palsy; autism etc

### Why this degree of impact?

With the steady rise of cases in Nigeria, the level of impact of covid 19 took a more drastic turn due to:

- Lock downs/ poor planning of food distribution
- Access to business/trade
- Loss of jobs especially daily paid jobs/ reduction in salaries
- Disruption of routine health care services
- Health system collapse, - lack of health care workers; access to PPE; testing availability
- Intentional choices made in responding to the pandemic,
- Delay in accessing health care- poverty, closures, fear of "Covid", resulting in delayed presentation
- Devastating increase in child and maternal deaths.

Although, children tend not to be heavily affected by Covid infection itself, Children may be carriers; adults are at risk and account for most deaths. But the consequences of Covid in the community is what will be catastrophic if action is not taken

### Role of Stakeholders

In responding to the impact of covid 19 in Nigeria, various stake holders need to take action and play critical roles to support:

- Co-ordination, foster growth and sustainability of Governmental and Non- governmental agencies activities
- Children and families
- Strategies directed to vulnerable children and adults
- The role of primary health centers- located in the community with access to designated secondary providers
- The role of State and National governments in creating road maps for children and the family



## INSTITUTIONAL INSIGHT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY

In December 2020, Lady Helen Child Health Foundation hosted a zoom Summit on the impact of COVID 19 on Children and Family, The summit presented a platform for the following institutions to inform the public about COVID 19 and its impact on children as well as highlight what relevant government agencies are doing. At the summit, each of the institutions highlighted the issues of Covid impact and gave some insight that illuminated what the government and other organizations did and are doing in addressing the situation. They are as follow:

- Federal Ministry of Health
- Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
- Federal Ministry of Education
- Federal Capital Territory Administration
- The Orphanage Homes Representative
- Private medical Sector Representative

### FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH: Insight on the Health Impact of Covid 19 on Children

According to the Federal Ministry of Health, the COVID 19 pandemic overstretched the health system due to increased admission rates to isolation centres which inevitably lead to reduced utilization of health facilities because of fear of contracting the disease at those facilities. There was also the disruption of routine immunization due to lock down leading to increased child morbidity and mortality rate. Other areas affected by the pandemic include adolescent health with increase in rape, unwanted pregnancy and mental health issues as well.

**Response:** The Federal Ministry of Health is working with the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in the development of guidelines on infection control in the paediatric population, training and scaling up of testing in the 36 states +FCT, with private labs, to scale up testing and also with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) to carry out health evaluation to ensure that vulnerable, malnourished and impoverished children are tested and given welfare support.

The Federal Ministry of Health also outlined the following strategies to mitigate the effect of Covid

- Covid 19 response plan on how to manage the spread and impact including the readiness of the hospitals.
- In ensure that medical personnel in the forefront of managing Covid 19, have adequate protection and remuneration to carry out their roles.
- To Increase funding for health provisions to the vulnerable children
- Sustenance of routine Immunization
- Distribution of Family Planning commodities
- Ensuring continuous supply of essential drugs
- All thematic areas of RMNCAEH+N are addressed
- Ensure adequate awareness and enlightenment programs to be put in place by the Federal Government to prepare the general public and give them enough confidence to get vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine when eventually available.

In conclusion, the Ministry of health emphasize the need to explore responsive ways of providing health care to the vulnerable groups and also to conduct a post Covid 19 audit of the response to their provisions. This could be done by putting adequate strategies in place based on data gathered from on-going research work, by immediate upgrade and funding of health institutions in the country. As the Covid 19 pandemic has shown the inadequacy of the country's health infrastructure and management. There should be tangible and impactful evidence of synergy work between health and social welfare care especially as it affects the vulnerable groups.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lady Helen Child Health Foundation is a non-profit organization that is established to promote and improve healthcare delivery to vulnerable children in Nigeria. Volunteers are needed to support the activities of the Foundation in the area of Research, Advocacy and PTAP programme.

To join the LHCHF as a volunteer group, Kindly visit our website: [www.ladyhelenchildfoundation.com](http://www.ladyhelenchildfoundation.com) for more information on how to apply.



## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: Insight on the Educational Impact of Covid 19 on Children

**A**t the Lady Helen Child Health Summit, the Federal Ministry of Education on the impact of Covid 19, highlighted the point that students were abruptly stopped and horridly dispatched home to their parents in the middle of writing their 2<sup>nd</sup> term examinations. The early release of students however has reduced transmission in schools. The longer the closure of schools remained, the more parents find themselves in a frustrating circumstance. The pandemic fractured school calendar in all the tiers of education, which led to students losing almost one school year across all tiers. This development had indeed altered the narrative on the traditional methods of teaching, requiring new strategies such as the use of e-learning platform to keep students busy at home.

Arising from the declaration by the World Health Organization of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the inauguration of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) for the control of the Pandemic in Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Education took action with the following responses:

- Directed the immediate closure of all schools, including Tertiary institutions on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.
- Virtual learning platform was rapidly deployed as a stop-gap measure for continued learning: Rapid deployment of e-learning platforms for students to continue their lessons mainly on [www.education.gov.ng](http://www.education.gov.ng) and other associated platforms.
- Collaborate with TV and Radio station to provide teaching platform to reach students in the remotest location.
- Specific monitoring of situations and advice to Government through the PTF.
- Sustained sensitization on the preventive Protocols to students while at home.
- Use of e-learning platform to keep students busy at home.
- Constant consultations with critical stakeholders to establish the right course of action on matters that concerns the sector.



In preparation for the safe reopening of schools, Consultation and series of virtual meetings were made with stakeholders in Education sector on the production of guideline for reopening, safety and security of Learners, Teachers, educational personnel and school Communities. The resumption of the schools were to be carried-out in phases:

Phase I: examination graduating (exit) classes which are SS3 and JSS3 and

phase II: All other classes. Teachers, Supervisors and Students would be provided with re-usable cotton face marks while each school would be provided with hand washing equipment, hand sanitizers and temperature measuring equipment at strategic places and also ensure physical distancing by placing restriction on irrelevant visitors into the schools.

However, irrespective of the above measures to mitigate the impact of covid 19 on schools, there was clear understanding that there is a need for massive investment in education at all levels therefore all tiers of government should increase funding for education. The Private sector, corporate bodies and Development Partners are also expected to increase investment in education to support the upgrading of ICT centres, establishment of visual classrooms, virtual libraries, e-content, etc. Additional classrooms, hostels, laboratories and technical workshops need to be built in the long run to facilitate the effective implementation of non-pharmaceutical measures such as physical distancing and wearing of face mask which is now the new normal.

## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS: Insight on the Social Impact of Covid 19 on Children

The view of the Hon. Minister for the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development on the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and their Families, highlighted the issues of family crisis; upsurge in Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), rape cases, teenage pregnancies, child marriage, child exploitation, child labour, child battery, incest and other forms of violence against women, children and the vulnerable groups. The Ministry which is charged with the mandate to ensure the continuous improvement of the welfare and well-being of women, children and the vulnerable groups in all facets of national life, including the empowerment, protection and advancement of their social rights in Nigeria, and in this regard, the Ministry has put in place measures and interventions principally targeted at women, children and the most vulnerable groups in the society which included:

- Provision of a Toll-free line (08031230651) for reporting cases of violence against women and girls, including Sexual Based Violence
- Distribution of food palliatives to some Women organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Orphanages and Households in the FCT
- Distribution of educational materials and Menstrual Hygiene Kits to students of Government Science Secondary School, Pyakasa, Maitama to mark the 2020 International Day of the Girl Child on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.
- Provision of Nutritional Support and Medical outreaches to Women and Children in IDP Camps and Children's Homes in the FCT;

According to the Ministry of Women Affairs, the Ministry will visit each state of the Federation especially the ten states that are yet to sign into law the Child Right Act to advocate to the leaders (Government, Legislators and Stakeholders) of those states of its importance and relevance. Women Affairs emphasize the need to include all necessary 'Assistance' for the vulnerable in the budget to avoid it being just an occasional event.

Ministry of Women Affairs stressed it's proactive approach in addressing the issues of gender based Violence and active in encouraging states to domesticate various laws that will improve the life of women and children in their states.



Our Programmes

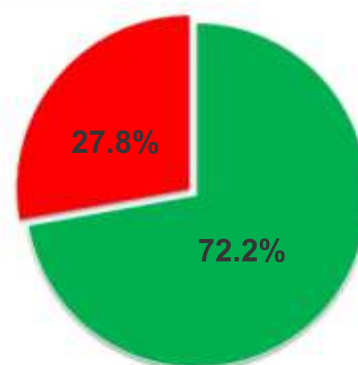
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### STATUS OF CHILD RIGHT BILL ACROSS STATES IN NIGERIA



■ States that have Passed Child Rights Bill

■ States that have **Not** Passed Child Right Bill

■ On-going Child Rights Bill Advocacy projects

# Insight on the Social and Psychological Impact of Covid 19 on Children and their Family: Perspectives of the FCTA and Orphanage Homes in FCT

## Federal Capital Territory Administration FCTA

At the 2020 LHCHF Summit on the Impact of covid 19 on Children and the family, the Federal Capital Territory Administration FCTA, gave an insight on the psycho social impact of COVID-19 on children, stating that COVID-19 brought the change of routines to what people were used to thereby affecting proper social interactions and relationships which is very vital to the growth of children. The lock down and isolations resulted in post-traumatic stress, frustrations, anxiety, feeling of abandonment, depression and also the spiritual life of families were adversely affected as the gender department of FCTA witnessed increase in children brought into the facilities for custody due to poverty and inability of parents to take care of them. In addition, there was an upsurge in cases of gender based violence especially against the girl child.

## Actions taken

- Distribution of palliatives to cushion the effect of COVID-19 on FCT residents
- The sexual and gender based violence unit are on red alert to attend to all cases.
- Increased consultation by the unit with registered children's homes on how to accommodate more vulnerable children.

Several measures have been instituted and the FCTA need to improve more on the distribution of materials to vulnerable children as well as ensuring a good governance approach and accountability.



## Orphanage Homes in FCT

The Orphanage Homes at the Summit also gave an insight on the social and psychological effect of COVID 19 on children in the orphanage homes stating that Children lived in:

- Fear of death and anxiety daily due to the media reports of COVID victim as shown on television.
- Hindrances on learning due to closure of schools and the inability of the children in the orphanage home to access the alternatives to classroom teaching which was online learning, hence they stayed at home with attendant increase in sexual harassment even from their family members.
- The lack of adequate social support during the pandemic, coupled with the increase in prices of essential commodities which led to difficulty for most orphanages to cope and as such needed support in areas of:
  - Food items
  - Educational support – school fees, books, computers.
  - Cash for salaries and home upkeep especially fuelling and electricity bill.
  - Provision of free electricity for all orphanages
  - Educational support from the government and well-meaning individuals
  - Grants should be given to orphanage homes to help them establish a viable business that can support the home.
  - Free medical care for orphans
  - Provision of survival funds

There is a need for the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to focus on the needs of vulnerable children especially as it relates to school feeding whenever there is a lock down and in the distribution of palliatives. In addition, it was emphasized that the Ministry of Health needed to provide free medical services to orphanages who receive little help from government during the lockdown. As such, they thrived through the period predominantly with support from their trustee and individuals. There is therefore the need to ensure that a clear and transparent support stream is available for the orphanages and their care givers in alleviating the on-going hardship due to the impact of covid 19.



# IMPLEMENTING COVID-19 VACCINE; ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

**COVID-19** is a virus, an invisible threat which has spread to almost every country in the world including Nigeria. The **COVID-19 vaccine** is intended to provide acquired immunity against severe acute respiratory syndrome. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, medical researchers were working to develop a vaccine against coronavirus diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) which established knowledge about the structure and function of coronaviruses.

All scientific endeavor in eradicating the pandemic point at the use of vaccine as a way out. Vaccines are arguably the most important public health tools. Vaccines always have and will continue to be most potent approach to the eradication of pandemic.

Over the years, many Vaccines have been developed to facilitate the eradication of critical pandemic diseases, one of such vaccine is the successful development and production of the smallpox vaccine which ensure the eradication of smallpox.

Data from many parts of the world including African countries have shown the benefits of vaccines. But the use of vaccines continues to challenge cultural and religious belief all over the world.

Public trust is essential in promoting public health. Such trust plays an important role in the public health intervention and compliance, especially with vaccination programs. Where public trust is eroded, rumors can spread and this can lead to rejection of health interventions. The Nigeria experience of polio vaccination continues to provide a bases for lessons learnt.

In 2003, the political and religious leaders of Kano, Zamfara, and Kaduna states brought the polio immunization campaign to a halt by calling on parents not to allow their children to be immunized. These leaders argued that the vaccine could be contaminated with anti-fertility agents (estradiol hormone), HIV, and cancerous agents. Many of the issues raised were underpinned by religious and cultural orientation.

The polio vaccination boycott should not be considered in isolation, but rather in the context of the history of orthodox health services in northern Nigeria. Other historical factors that fed into the polio vaccination boycott include population and fertility regulation. This belief was not restricted to northern Nigeria—similar opinions were also expressed in some communities in southern Nigeria.

The vaccine boycott in Nigeria was influenced by a complex interplay of factors. These factors included lack of trust in modern medicine, political and religious motives, general distrust of aggressive mass immunization programs in a country where access to basic health care is not easily available and a conceivably genuine attempt by the local leadership to protect its people.

Mistrust of vaccines is often tied to “Western plot” theories. This suspicion has existed for different infections and vaccines over the past 20 years. Hence controversies attributed to the COVID-19 vaccination are not new.

Preparations for COVID-19 vaccination in Nigeria is solely in the hands of the Federal Government, whilst the Primary Health Care in the states is the critical platform for government to drive vaccination.

Nigeria as a country at this point in time is ill prepared for the manufacturing of vaccine and has to rely on the world health organization for its covid 19 vaccine supply. A whole range of issues have emanated as Nigeria prepare to acquire its share of vaccines, some of which are;

- Experts concern about the temperature of the country, the lack of adequate storage facilities to hold vaccines at the required temperature especially for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recommended by WHO which the Presidential Task Force (PTF) and the Federal Government had proposed to acquire for the nation.
- None clinical trial of vaccines within the country and the absence of genetic impact of the vaccines
- Issues of environmental efficacy of the vaccines, that is yet to be addressed in Nigeria
- Affordability of the vaccine to all the citizens and distribution equity
- Evidence of a structured and systematic approach to the vaccination of the populace

However, NAFDAC, the primary agency responsible for validation of food and drugs have put in place a robust plan to monitor post vaccine impact on citizens which will provide relevant data for use across Africa.

In conclusion, now that NAFDAC has approved the AstraZeneca/Oxford COVID-19 vaccine, there is need for the Federal Government to work in collaboration with National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), and Ministry of Health to:

1. Create awareness and sensitize the citizen on the efficacy COVID-19 vaccine which is currently being used across the world.
2. Ensure that the general public understand that the benefit of the COVID-19 and that this outweighs its negative effects especially in view of its use across the world.
3. Ensure the use of local leaders, Chiefs, community influencers to sensitize the public to reduce cultural bias
4. Make resources available for as much vaccines as are needed to be purchased in other that vaccines will not become a lottery or a commodity that is meant only for the rich and those who can easily access it.

## Reference

- Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine : [www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines)
- The Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: what you need to know : [www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/the-oxford-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-what-you-need-to-know](http://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/the-oxford-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-what-you-need-to-know)
- NAFDAC Nigeria approves use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine : <https://africa.cgtn.com/2021/02/18/nafdac-nigeria-approves-use-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine/>

## LHCHF – Patient Treatment Assistance Programme (PTAP)

The provision of equitable access to basic health services is a major challenge in Nigeria health system. This affects the most vulnerable population which includes children, pregnant women, people living with disability, displaced, the elderly and the unemployed.

Most households in Nigeria bears the burden of largely paying for healthcare services and these leaves the most vulnerable population at the mercy of health care services that are not affordable to them. A significant majority of the Nigeria population are unable to afford basic healthcare services despite the existence of the National Health Insurance Scheme NHIS which was established in 1999 to ensure access to quality healthcare.

The enactment of the child right act, should act as the corner stone for ensuring that the health and well-being of every Nigeria child is secured. However, there are no specific policy and guidelines which ensures that every Nigeria child have access to health services irrespective of parents ability to pay. The detention of patients in hospital especially vulnerable children and their parents, for inability to pay their medical bills is common in public as well as private hospitals. This is to be assumed that it is the right of these hospitals to detain vulnerable patients in the hospital ward until their bills are paid.

In some instances, vulnerable children and their parents are detained for long periods in the hospitals and are subjected to denial of vital services. These detentions result in psychological trauma for the parents and guardians of the children. This experience can result in some of the poorest parents sliding further into poverty, even though the Federal Government has warned against hospitals detaining patients who cannot pay their medical bills.

The Lady Helen Child Health Foundations' Patient Treatment Assistance Program (PTAP) is an initiative based on the need for medical aid for Vulnerable Children, with special focus on the patients and families who are detained in the hospital due to their inability to pay for their child's medical bill.

### PTAP Intervention

Lady Helen Child Health Foundation is involved in:

- Providing treatment assistant grant to the children who cannot afford to pay for their medical bill, in other to meet their needs for good health and protection.
- Supporting families to meet the cost of treatment
- Staying in touch with these Children and their caregivers to see how they are improving.
- Supporting families with adequate information necessary to provide the best treatment for the child's Health
- Working with stakeholders to develop stronger support structures for Orphan, Vulnerable Children and their caregivers.
- Partnering with other organizations to assist Vulnerable Children and their family in meeting health needs.

### To access the Lady Helen Child Foundation PTAP grant, Application is based on the following criteria:

The vulnerable child is diagnosed with a specific medical condition or suffering from an ailment certified by a qualified and registered Medical Practitioner.

- The child is within the age of 0-18.
- Must be in need and proven to be unable to afford to pay for the treatment being offered.
- Must fall under UNICEF's definition of Vulnerable Children.

### Our Role in LHCHF PTAP Medical Grant

- Full or part payment for the hospital bill depending on the cost
- Contribution towards the cost of prescribed medication
- Transportation to and from the nearest health center
- Nutritional support during treatment.

### How to Apply

Parent or guardian of applicants are to visit [www.ladyhelenchildfoundation.com/patient-treatment-assistance-programme/](http://www.ladyhelenchildfoundation.com/patient-treatment-assistance-programme/) fill the PTAP application form and click the submit button.

Or apply through the social welfare officer of the hospital by calling this number 08137654501, 08104859191.



LHCHF Operational Director Dr. Francisca Odeka presenting PTAP grant Beneficiary



LHCHF Volunteer Presenting PTAP Grant to beneficiary

To Support the LHCHF Patient Treatment Assistant Program PTAP, Kindly make your donation to:

Account Name: Lady Helen Child Health Foundation  
Account Number: 0385232693 Bank: GTB

Your donation will be tagged to a beneficiary and you will have the mechanism to cross check the use of your monies. This is in line with our accountable and transparent governance package.

# #Vaccinated

*Help spread the word that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.*

## **Vaccines save lives.**

Since the late 18th century, vaccines have reduced the scourge of diseases such as polio, measles and smallpox, saving millions. Now, they are our best hope of ending the COVID-19 pandemic and getting back to the people and things we love and enjoy.

**Help spread the word that vaccines are safe and effective.**

**Getting a COVID-19 vaccine? Join [@UNICEF's](#) for #Vaccinated campaign and share what getting a vaccine means to you.**

Take a photo holding up a V-sign, plaster or vaccination card (without your personal details visible).

Share it on social media, telling us what the vaccination means to you.

Use the hashtag #Vaccinated and tag [@UNICEF](#) for the chance to be featured. Encourage your friends and family to join, too!







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## LHCHF ACTIVITIES



LHCHF Partnership meeting with the Chairman House Committee on Health Care Services Hon. Yusuf Sununu Tanko at the National Assembly - (2021)



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