



NIGERIA GRANTEE BRIEF

AMANA RURAL PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Executive Director: Samila Garba
C4C Fellows: Samila Garba and Solomon Niyi (Program Officer)
Location: Niger State, Nigeria
Organization's annual budget: \$125,000
Champions for Change Grantee since 2014
Total C4C Funding Received: \$45,000
Website: <http://amanarural.org/>

ABOUT AMANA RURAL PEOPLE'S HEALTH

Amana Rural Peoples Health (AMANA) works to empower rural people, especially women, adolescents, orphans and vulnerable children, and to advocate for their right to health. Through partnerships, community mobilization and advocacy, AMANA champions efforts to improve access of people living with HIV & AIDS and other vulnerable groups to good nutrition, basic education and poverty eradication programs. AMANA's organizational focus areas include: adolescent and child health, basic education, gender equality, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and HIV/AIDS.

RMNCAH ADVOCACY

Project Title: "Increase the Uptake of RMNCAH Services among Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Kontagora and Rijau LGA of Niger State"

Project Dates: August 15, 2015 – August 15, 2016

KEY IMPACTS

- Increase in number of women with HIV/AIDS accessing RMNCAH services at Kontagora and Rijau PHCs from 34 per month to 104 per month, indicating more than 300% increase in uptake of PMTCT services
- 30 members of the Association of Women Living with AIDS trained on the guidelines of the Anti-Stigma Act.

Geographic Focus: Niger State

HIV and complications related to pregnancy and childbirth remain the leading causes of death for women of reproductive age in Sub-Saharan Africa. High levels of HIV-related stigma in communities and at health facilities negatively affect women living with HIV and deter them from freely accessing interventions available to address the health needs of woman and newborns. This situation significantly contributes to high rates of HIV related maternal maternity and morbidity. This project seeks to domesticate the provisions of the Anti-Stigma Bill recently passed by the Federal Government, which criminalizes all forms stigma and discrimination perpetrated against HIV-positive patients in healthcare facilities. This change will help reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission and reduce HIV infection by removing stigma and increasing the uptake of RMNCAH services.

AMANA's project goal is to increase the uptake of RMNCAH services among women living with HIV/AIDS in Kontagora and Rijau Local Council Areas of Niger State.

The project's objectives include:

1. By the end of July 2016, increase the uptake of RMNCAH services among women living with HIV/AIDS in all the facilities of Kontagora and Rijau Local Government Areas.
2. By the end of the project period, strengthen the Associations of Women Living with HIV/AIDS support groups in Kontagora and Rijau Local Government to be able to advocate for their rights.

Rise Up's Champions for Change (C4C) initiative improves the lives and health of women, children, and youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. C4C achieves large-scale impacts by investing in visionary local leaders and organizations through advocacy, leadership development, organizational strengthening, and grantmaking. In Nigeria, C4C's national network is advocating for improved reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. In Kenya, C4C's national network is advocating to improve young people's health by preventing and combating non-communicable diseases. For more information please visit <http://www.championingchange.org/>

IMPACTS TO DATE

- Established an Advocacy Coalition made up of 12 CBO members. Through the Coalition's efforts, the Heads of PHCs in Rijau and Kontagora commit to orient their staff and institute quality assurance mechanisms to ensure that health workers do not stigmatize women living with HIV/AIDS who attempt to access care.
- Directors of Primary Health services of Rijau and Kontagora Local Governments issued official communication to Heads of PHCs to ensure non-discriminatory services to pregnant women living with HIV.
- Gained commitments from religious and community leaders and the Emir of Kontagora to discourage stigma against women living with AIDS and support women's access to health care. These commitments help reduce community level discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS and increase demand for non-discriminatory services at PHCs in Kontagora.
- Trained 30 members of the Association of Women Living with AIDS support groups on women's rights as dictated by the Anti-stigma Act of 2014. This has empowered women living with HIV/AIDS to use healthcare facilities in Kontagora knowing their legal rights and the penalties for breaking this law.
- Since the beginning of the project, the number of women with HIV/AIDS accessing RMNCAH services at PHCs in Kontagora and Rijau has increased from an average of 34 per month to 104 per month, indicating over 300% increase in the uptake of PMTCT services by women living with HIV.