



## NIGERIA GRANTEE BRIEF

### WOMEN FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

**Executive Director:** Frances Teshoma  
**C4C Fellows:** Henrietta Itsemekhona (Reproductive Health Officer) and Rosemary Adejoh (Program Associate)  
**Location:** Kuje, Nigeria  
**Organization's annual budget:** \$770,973  
**Champions for Change Grantee since 2014**  
**Total C4C Funding Received:** \$45,000  
**Website:** [www.wfinigeria.org](http://www.wfinigeria.org)

### ABOUT WOMEN FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

Women Friendly Initiative (WFI) is a non-governmental organization committed to empowering youth and women, especially the less privileged, to overcome social, economic and cultural barriers that limit their ability to make informed choices, particularly in the areas affecting their reproductive health, development and wellbeing. WFI uses advocacy to influence policy decisions that lead to the improved provision of RMNCAH services particularly adolescent and youth-friendly reproductive health services at primary health care level. WFI's organizational focus areas include RMNCAH, civic engagement, civil rights and gender equality.

### RMNCAH ADVOCACY

**Project Title:** "Sustained Advocacy for Implementation of the National Guidelines for Promoting Young People's Access to Youth Friendly Services in Primary Health Care Facilities in Kuje Area Council, Abuja"

### KEY IMPACTS

- 53% increase in the utilization of Adolescent reproductive health services in 10 Primary Health Centers in Kuje local area council.
- Increased political will, and established formal Commitments from 49 religious and community decision-makers to implement the adolescent health policy, which has the potential to impact 27,000 adolescents in Kuje.

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

**Geographic Focus:** Federal Capital Territory.

The Federal Ministry of Health has developed policy documents aimed at promoting the health and development of adolescents and young persons in Nigeria. However, there are gaps in the implementation of these policies, especially at the local and community level. Steps were taken to ensure the full implementation of these policies, including the adoption of the "National Guidelines on Promoting Access of Young to Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in Nigeria." The national guidelines were developed by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with key partners, including WFI in 2014, and adopted to guide the provision of AYFHS at the local and community level where these services are in dire need. WFI's C4C advocacy project seeks to influence the full utilization of the guidelines by key decision makers including community and religious leaders responsible for the health and development of adolescents and young people. Effective utilization of these guidelines will ensure that youth-friendly services are available to marginalized young people in Nigeria's capital.

WFI's project goal is to reduce the incidence of early pregnancy and STIs through implementation of the National Guidelines on Promoting Access of Young to Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) in Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities in Nigeria in ten (10) communities in Kuje Area Council (KAC), Abuja.

The project's objectives include:

1. By December 2015, at least ten youth groups and ten key community stakeholders in 10 primary health care facilities (PHC) host communities will

*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/>*

sign MOUs committing to work with WFI on the implementation of the national guidelines in KAC, Abuja to increase access to youth-friendly health services.

2. Establish, strengthen and engage 10 Ward Development Committees, two Village Development Committees, and ten youth advisory groups to lead the implementation of the national guidelines in the ten PHC host communities within the first quarter of 2016 in KAC, Abuja.
3. Build the capacity of at least 50 community stakeholders and 50 youth leaders on the application of the national guidelines to increase demand of PHCs by young people in the Kuje Area Council within the next year.

## IMPACTS TO DATE

- WFI advocacy efforts resulted in increased demand and utilization of adolescent reproductive and youth friendly services in the ten target PHCs in Kuje area by 5,064 young people, recording a 53% increase in uptake of services.
- 49 local key decision-makers including the District Head, Community are demanding community involvement and participation in PHC governance and service delivery after they went through an educational program on the provisions of the National guidelines.
- Established linkages between community political structures and the Local Government Council on the management of the PHCs. PHC performance review meeting are now being held jointly by the community heads and the Local Council. These partnerships will play a key role in ensuring the sustainability of youth-friendly services in Kuje Area Council.