



ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative (CLHEI) is a Non-Governmental Organization established to bring smiles and plant hope in communities especially among the youths, women and vulnerable children, with offices in Makurdi and Ushongo LGAs of Benue State.

CLHEI was founded in Benue State, Nigeria in January 2006 and is registered with the State and Corporate Affairs Commission with registration number CAC/IT/N0 41255.

CLHEI serves Communities through a variety of Programs, including Outreaches, Seminars, and Capacity Building Workshops, bringing professional resource persons to impart skills, knowledge in various fields.

MISSION

Working with the under-privileged and helping them to maximize their potentials and be self-reliant.

VISION

CLHEI envisage a self-reliant society where individuals and groups explore their inner resources with the aim of realizing their potentials.

GOALS

- To complement government's efforts by reaching out to people in the communities especially youths, women, aged and children at the grass roots level, addressing issues of Community Development, Health, Environment, Peace and Conflict and Humanitarian.
- To bridge development gap by empowering individuals, youths, farmers, and women groups morally, socially, and economically, thereby bringing about change in the society.

CORE VALUES

- Transparency/Accountability
- Excellence
- Team work
- Inclusiveness

THEMATIC AREAS

- **Agriculture and Environment:** Enhancing the agricultural productivity of our communities of intervention and promote the sustainable use of our environmental resources and help communities cope with the impact of climate change.
- **Governance:** We work to promote transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in governance.
- **Health:** We contribute our quota towards the attainment of an improvement in access to and the quality of health care delivery.
- **Humanitarian:** We respond to emergency situations and support individuals and communities with interventions that will place them on the path to recovery and resilience.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** We entrench a community centered approach that leads to healthy living through the best sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene practices.

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



PROF DENIS TEGHTEGH
CHAIRMAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MRS MNENA IKONDO
TRUSTEE



MR. LIVINUS GWAZA UJAMAITYU
TRUSTEE



JUSTICE SULE MOJISOLA IDAYA
TRUSTEE



AMBASSADOR DEMENONGU AGEV
TRUSTEE



DR. HELEN TEGHTEGH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REV. NICODEMUS DAVID
TRUSTEES

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN



2017/2018 were good and memorable years for CLHEI, full of challenges and progress. We welcomed new staff that have proven worthy over the years, obtained a high profiled charitable status, created and worked with a plan that guided us, and we also built partnerships that have impacted us positively and can never be taken for granted.

We are proud to have been able to build, capacitate and maintain an excellent staff strength. CLHEI has continued to make great progress especially with our experience and partnerships with government and its agencies, high ranking financial institutions and other prestigious clubs and organizations. With more focus and pressure on our humanitarian department we were able to reach out to thousands of people through our yearly Christmas kitchen activity, medical outreaches and community strengthening through sensitization.

Our success is the community's success. With so much support from our donors, partners, board and volunteers, I strongly believe Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative is ready for the challenges and achievements ahead.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is my pleasure to present to you, on behalf of the entire staff and management of CLHEI our 2017/2018 annual report. As an organization, we strive to put our best foot forward every day to serve our communities in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

In this report, we are highlighting many, though certainly not all of the organizations accomplishments and activities to advance our vision to create a self-reliant society where individuals explore their inner resources with the aim of realizing their full potentials.

The most notable in 2017 was our emergency response in humanitarian service that led to our intervention during the August floods which rendered about 110,000 persons homeless and loss of property worth millions of naira. Victims were led through the path of recovery, in collaboration with LEAD Benue and support from Zenith and Sterling banks, Rotary club, TY Danjuma Foundation and a host of other well-meaning Nigerians.

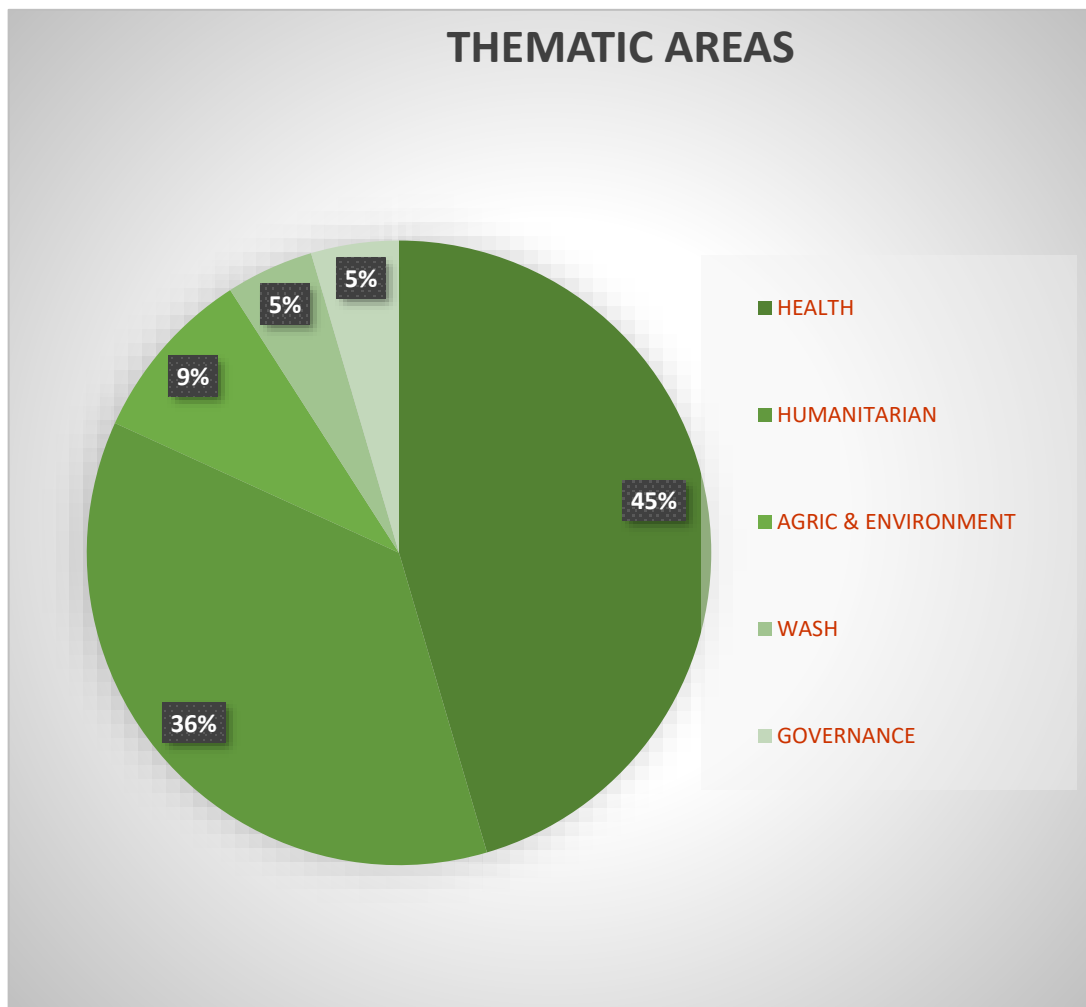
In 2018 we had a major focus on internally displaced persons as a result of the incessant Fulani herdsmen attacks that rendered people homeless and taking shelter in 9 camps and 3 host communities across the state. We have since then been working with BENSEMA to cater for and mobilize food and non-food items for the IDPs with assistance from international partners who have been intervening in WASH, education, and health.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and that it gives you further insight into the work that we do and the progress we have made as an organization in partnership with others over the years. Our volunteers and staff are our greatest resource and I am so pleased and proud to say we have a team committed to working together for the success of the organization, not forgetting the board members also who have been steadfast, I deeply appreciate their tenacity and dedication throughout the years. Lastly, my profound gratitude goes to our partners and donors for believing in us, without them we would not have been able to achieve this much.

PROGRAMS

AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

CLHEI's programs and activities for 2017 spread across her five thematic areas of operation. 50% of funds were used to implement activities in Health/WASH, 40% of funds were used to implement activities in Humanitarian Services, 5% of funds were used to implement activities in Agriculture and Environment, while 5% of funds were used to implement activities on Governance.

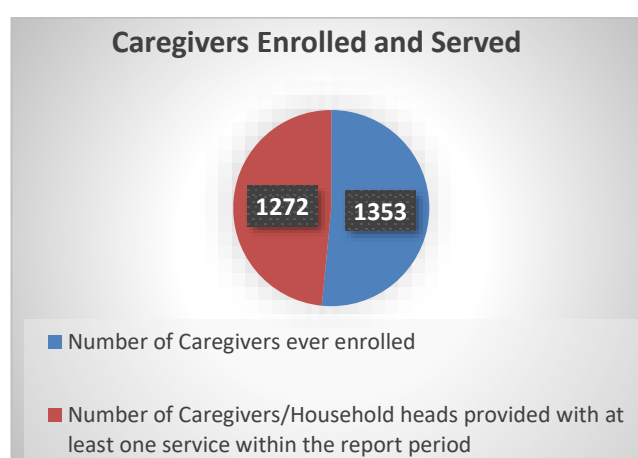
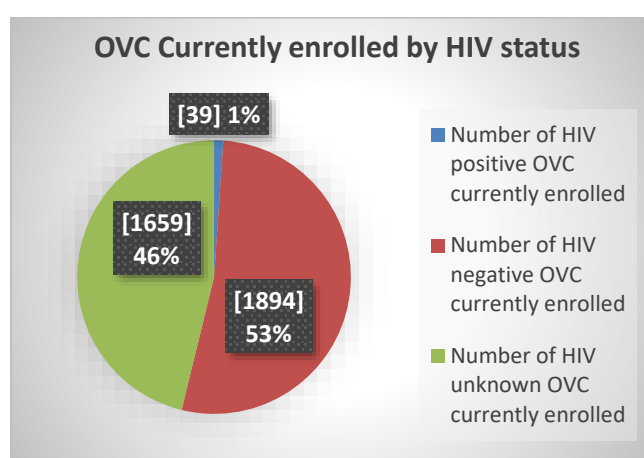


DONOR'S FUNDED PROJECTS

Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and Household Empowerment (SMILE)

CLHEI implemented Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and Household Empowerment (SMILE) Program in Ushongo Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State. The program was designed to scale-up care and support services for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in five States across Nigeria inclusive of Benue State, the program improved the wellbeing of 500,000 VC and 125,000 caregivers across boards by strengthening organizational systems and the technical capacity of Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare Department in the LGA.

CLHEI engaged and sensitised additional three communities in Ushongo LGA. (Mbakuha, Mbagwaza and Ikov communities) thus, increasing the number to six communities.



Educational Block Grant

For an educational block grant, NKST Primary School Gbatse Mbaibon Community got a donation of 65 Dual Desk, 6 Tables and Chairs and School fees waiver for 43 Pupils. Roman Catholic Mission Primary School Gbinde Utange Community (RCM)

got 2 wings shelves, 20 reading chairs, 2 reading tables, 105 textbooks and 50 work books donated to the school.

In addition, an Early Child Care Development (ECCD) Centre was established and equipped at NKST Primary School, Gbatse Mbaibon Community with the enrolment of 35 vulnerable children into the centre



NKST Primary School Gbatse Mbaibon Community Before the Donation of Desks



NKST Primary School Gbatse Mbaibon Community After the Donation of Desks



RCM Primary School Gbinde Utange Community

Capacity Building



CLHEI project staff benefited from several SMILE organized trainings and technical meetings (COPs).

S/NO	NAME OF TRAINING/MEETING
1	(Gender/Child Protection, HES, HIV Care/support, Nutrition and M&E Community of Practice)
2	Case management

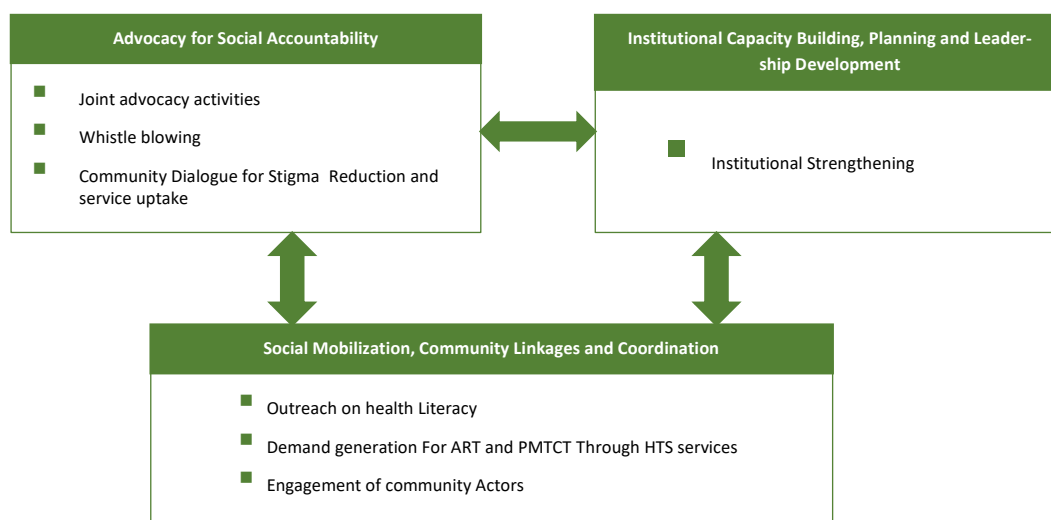
3	Gender integrated training
4	ECCD central Training
5	C-IYCF Central training
6	Local Government referral meeting
7	L-CRIC Meeting at the local Government
8	Central training on quick book accounting
9	Bi-annual ED/PM meeting
10	State CSO review meeting
11	OVC cascade pilot survey & graduation training
12	Follow up assessment training
13	Vocational/apprenticeship training
14	FY18 Planning meeting

Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) Project



On 31st of December 2017 brought to an end the implementation of CSS project supported by Global Fund New Funding Model Grant in twelve States and FCT. The grant was designed to strengthen capacities of selected community based organizations and increase health seeking behaviour of community members.

CLHEI implemented this project in Ushongo LGA of Benue State with this strategic interventions and key activities.



Overview of the Project in Ushongo Local Government Area (LGA)

CLHEI was engaged on CSS in January, 2016 by NEPWHAN (Network of people living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria) and commence work by engaging four Service Delivery Actors (SDAs). CLHEI coordinated and mobilized the general population for HCT (HIV Counselling and Testing) while SDAs mobilized pregnant women to access services at General hospital Lessel. 4940 persons including pregnant women benefited from the services offered.

FACT SHEET	
■	3352 pregnant women referred for PMTCT services
■	1588 individuals from the general public referred for HCT services

The implementation of activities started with a Start-up advocacy to facilities and key stakeholders. Regular community outreach for health education and mobilization of clients for HIV counselling and testing (HCT). Local government Aids Control Agency (LACA) and Ward Development Committee (WDC) were engaged for quarterly monitoring of access to health as well as monthly review meeting with service delivery actors, Participation in State coordination meeting, facility cluster meetings and engagement with different State actors especially at the LGA level.

Key achievements

- 50 cases linked for ARV in different facilities within and outside Ushongo LGA.
- People are more enlightened on HIV/AIDS issues.
- Increase in health seeking behavior of people in Ushongo LGA.
- Involvement of LACA and WDC members for monitoring of access to health by community members.
- Scale-up in the number of reactive clients in the LGA enrolled for ART



Wash in Schools (WINS)

The culture of maintaining Hygiene remains a problem in our communities. CLHEI piloted the Implementing of Wash in Schools (WINS) Project aimed at Hygiene Promotion among school pupils “ In and Through” schools.

The intervention took place in six selected Primary and Secondary schools in Buruku LGA of Benue State with support from UNICEF through BERWASSA and BEN-GONET.

Using Tippy taps to demonstrate, the School pupils were trained to know the five domains of hygiene:

1. Personal Hygiene, 2. Safe drinking water management, 3. Food and home hygiene, 4. Safe excreta management, 5. Environmental hygiene.

FACT SHEET

- **3,200** People benefited
- **50** Teachers trained on hygiene promotion
- **6** EHCs formed in six schools

BOARD/PUBLIC FUNDED PROJECTS

Children's Day Celebration

May 27 is recognized and celebrated in Nigeria as Children's Day, CLHEI in 2017 identified displaced children in schools from four primary schools in Daudu, Guma LGA of Benue State and ensured they felt loved and cared for. CLHEI gave out 250 school bags to the kids' in school, offered free medical check-up services and dewormed 1,257 school children amongst other fun-fare activities.



Menstrual Hygiene

Inadequate menstrual hygiene management is connected with several problems faced by female students particularly in developing countries like Nigeria. Silence about menstruation limits women and adolescent girls access to relevant and important information about their body. This has direct effect on their health, education, dignity and human rights.

The Organization, in 2017 sensitized female students of Methodist High School Makurdi and Assemblies of God Comprehensive College Makurdi to create awareness to female students on the need to maintain good menstrual hygiene benefiting 221 students.



Skills Acquisition

CLHEI in collaboration with Banitome Cake Studios organized a two weeks summer holiday entrepreneurship program for children within the ages of 5-15 years. The program was aimed at exposing children to acquire various skills in confectionaries making, beads making, sandals making/mending, basic sewing skills, morals and values.

Christmas Kitchen



Christmas Kitchen is an activity set up to reach out to vulnerable members of a community to support them with knowledge and items for celebration of the season. It is a medium used to bring together members of the community for interaction and putting smiles on faces.

CLHEI celebrated 2017 activity with vulnerable and displaced groups of persons' from Otukpo LGA, Buruku LGA and Makurdi LGA. 420 beneficiaries were reached with items such as clothes, slippers, bathing soap, cooking condiments, mosquito nets and health care services.

The benefiting communities included; Otukpo Icho Community in Otukpo LGA, Ogbema Community in

Buruku LGA and Genabe Community in Makurdi LGA.



Routine drugs administered to beneficiaries in Ogbema community



Benue Flood Victims Intervention

In spite of predictions of flood every year, the Nation still records loss of lives when floods occur. Against several warnings, the 2017 flood came with devastating and catastrophic effect in Benue. A hundred and ten thousand people were displaced, two thousand households were destroyed, twenty four communities affected. Properties worth millions of naira destroyed and means of livelihoods wasted by the raging and ravaging water. The flood created major humanitarian crises; accommodation, feeding and healthcare were needed to provide succour to the displaced people.

CLHEI in collaboration with LEAD Benue initiated Benue Flood Victims Support Initiative. This initiative Partnered with Sterling Bank, ZENITH Bank and Rotary Club District 9110. The Organization also accessed Discretionary Grants from TY Danjuma Foundation. In addition, CLHEI received ₦2,481,000.00 as Donations from kind hearted Nigerians all over the Country.

The intervention was designed based on a need assessment conducted by CLHEI which revealed the topmost needs of the displaced persons. Food, Drugs, water, toiletries, mosquito nets as well as hygiene were identified at the topmost need. The initiative carried out camp Intervention and fed over

1000 persons, provided water to the two camps (Name of camps), provided 20 cartons of disinfectants, 100 Abacha(Charcoal) stoves and 50 buckets. Other activities were outreaches to Otukpo, Ohe-mini, Agatu, Gwer-East, Gwer-West, Konhisha, Guma, Makurdi LGA which were affected by the flood.

Sterling Bank

Sterling Bank partnered CLHEI by providing ₦3,544,300.00 to reach out to Benue Flood Victims with food drugs and toiletries.

Toiletries

- 18 Cartons of detergent
- 18 Cartons of toilet soap
- 18 Cartons of toothpaste
- 9 Cartons of disinfectants
- 18 Cartons of water purifiers

Food

- 90 bags of rice [25kg]
- 11 Cartons of kings' vegetable oil
- 7 Gallons of palm oil [20 liters]
- 27 bags of rice [50 kg]

Drugs

- 50 Tins of Furrans Sulphate
- 25 Rolls of Metronidazole
- 70 Tins of Folic Acid
- 45 Rolls of Amoxicillin
- 20 Tins of Vitamin A
- 50 Rolls of Anti- Malaria
- 10 Rolls of Flaygl
- 148 Rolls of Worm Expeller
- 143 Rolls of Paracetamol
- 100 Tins of Vitamin C

A press conference for the public presentation of all items procured was done at the Sterling Bank office in Makurdi on October 3rd, 2017 with the branch Manager Mrs Ene Obonunu, the Service Manager Mr Rashid Okedele. Also in attendance were the Executive Secretary Benue State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), representative of Benue Non-Governmental Organization Network (BENGONET) and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



Outreaches Conducted

Agboughul Community received the following items;

40 Bags of Rice [25kg]	160 Litters of Palm Oil	4 Cartons of King's Oil
3 Cartons of Maggi	8 Cartons of toilet soap	5 Cartons of Routine Drugs
6 Sacks of Male, Female and Children's Cloths	1 Bag of Mosquito Nets	5 Cartons of detergent
3 Cartons of Disinfectants	8 Cartons of Toothpaste	8 Cartons of Water Care



Kucha Utebe Community received the following items;

5 Cartons of Routine Drugs	1 Sack of Mosquito Nets	4 Cartons of Detergent
5 Cartons of Toothpaste	2 Cartons of Maggi	5 Cartons of Toilet Soap
2 Cartons of Disinfectants	5 Cartons of Water Care	4 Sacks of Cloths
15 Bags of Rice	3 Cartons of Kings Oil	5 Bags of Salt



Gyado-Villa Community received the following items,

20 Bags of Rice	80 Litters of Palm Oil	3 Cartons of Kings Oil
4 Cartons of Detergent	5 Cartons of Toothpaste	2 Cartons of Maggi
5 Cartons of Routine Drugs	2 Cartons of Disinfectants	5 Cartons of Water Care
1 Bag of Mosquito Nets	5 Bags of Salt	5 Cartons of Soap
4 Sacks of Cloths		



Zenith Bank Support Photos



Rotary 9110 District Support Photos



Discretionary Grant from TY Danjuma Foundation

CLHEI accessed Discretionary Grants from TY Danjuma Foundation to support prompt humanitarian response to victims of the Benue flooding. The goal of the grant is to increase access to safe drinking water and improve hygiene/ sanitation on the camps set up by State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

The grant increased access to water for over 7000 beneficiaries on the two camps by providing 3 GP water tanks to the two camps. This increased the availability of clean drinking water on the two camps. It reduced infection from toilets among IDPs by providing 20 Cartons of disinfectants supplied at the two camps. This improved hygiene and sanitation on the camps.



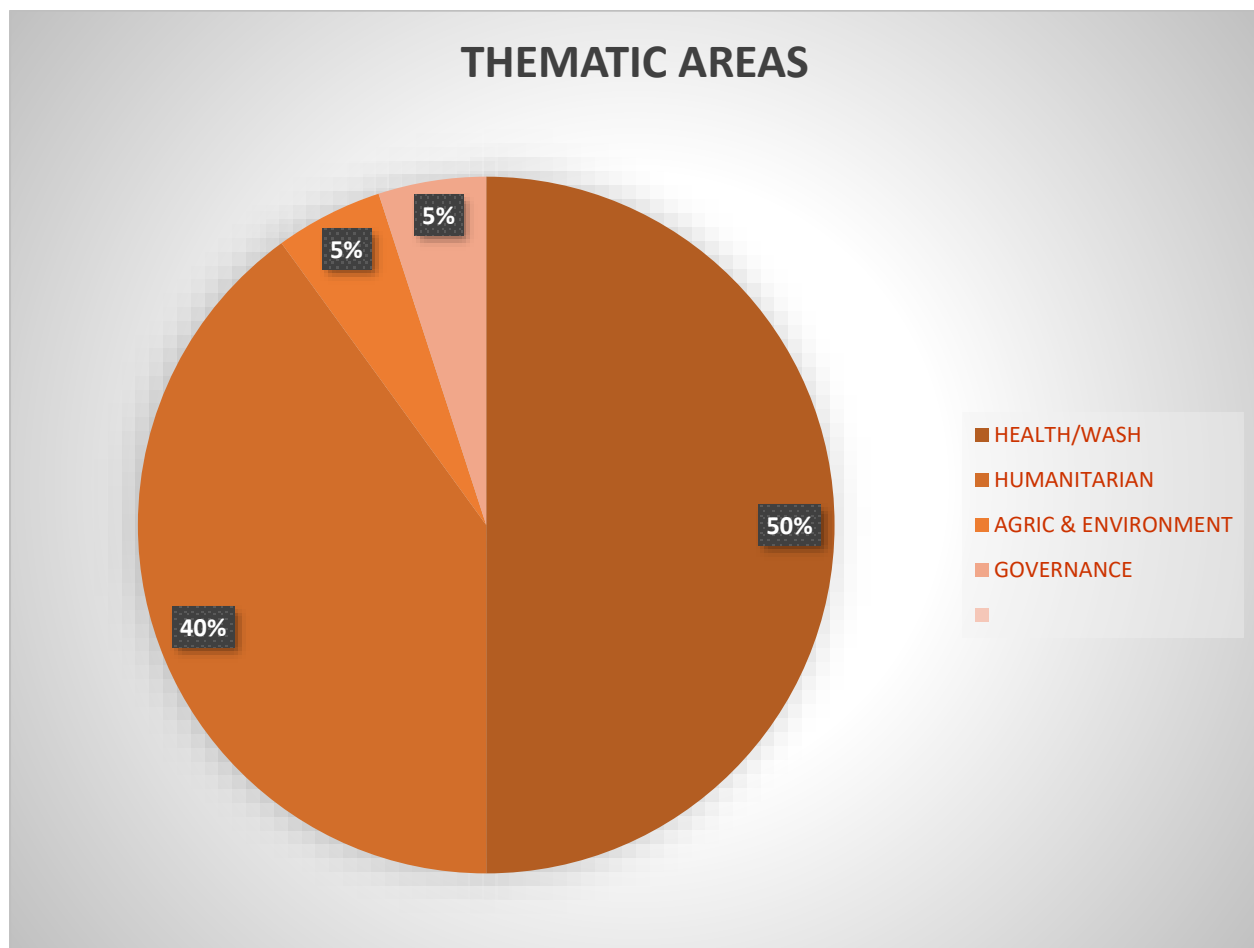
2017 PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNER	INITIATIVE	PROGRAM
Sterling Bank	Benue Flood Victims Support	Humanitarian
LEAD Benue	Benue Flood Victims Support	Humanitarian
TY Danjuma Foundation	Improving Tomatoes & Pepper Preservation Skills of Rural Women Farmers in 2 selected Communities of Benue State [Andor & Wanunne]	Empowerment/ Agriculture
Global Fund	The New Funding Model [NFM] Global Fund Community Systems Strengthening [CSS] Project	Health
Sure P/NACA	Prevention and Impact Mitigation on HIV/AIDS among Internally Displaced Persons in host Communities of Adamawa, Yobe and Bauchi States	Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria [CRUDAN]
Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria [CISHAN]	NETWORK	Health
Benue Network of NGO's [BENGONET]	NETWORK	
Nigeria Youth Network on HIV/AIDS [NYENETHA]	NETWORK	Health
Association of Civil Societies on Malaria, Immunization and Nutrition [ACOMIN]	NETWORK	Health
Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria [CRUDAN]		
TB NETWORK	NETWORK	
Transition Monitoring Group [TMG]	NETWORK	Governance
Nigeria Export Promotion Council [NEPC]		

PROGRAMS

AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2018

CLHEI's programs and activities for 2018 spread across her five thematic areas of operation. 50.00% of funds were used to implement activities in Health/WASH. 40.00% of funds were used to implement activities in Humanitarian Services. 5.00% of funds were used to implement activities in Agriculture and Environment. 5.00% of funds were used to implement activities on Governance.



DONOR'S FUNDED PROJECTS

Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and Household Empowerment (SMILE)

In the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), the CRS-SMILE OVC project transited to APIN iCARES OVC project. Tasked with providing 100% need base services to all beneficiaries both vulnerable children, caregivers and household heads on a monthly basis, CLHEI provided comprehensive training to both her staff and community volunteers to ensure a smooth implementation and also to ensure that APIN priorities are known and followed as planned. The training involved case management, HES, better parenting, training on OVC programming.

Enrolment/Follow-Up Assessment

Household vulnerability follow up assessment was conducted across major/older household enrolled on the project to measure improvement and also identify/provide needed services.

Home Visit Activities

During the year 2018, CLHEI carried out home visits to beneficiaries of APIN iCARES OVC project as a form of follow up and community supervision and mentorship of CVs on the work tools for effective implementation and service delivery as well as to offer health and hygiene messaging and provide adherence counselling and support and facilitate retention in care of PLHIV.

Service Provision

All active beneficiaries enrolled on the program were provided with at least one service during the period on a monthly base serving 4388 OVCs and 1342 caregivers monthly throughout the year.

Gender Norms Sessions

In the reporting period, gender norms session held across six implementing communities of Mbagwaza, Mbaakoso, Ikov, Mbakuha, Utange, Mbabion and Lessel in Ushongo LGA. Twenty-two (22) cohorts were formed in the implementing communities, each cohort is made up of 25-30 caregivers which sum to Six Hundred and Twenty-Three (623) caregivers with the following disaggregation; F=566, M=25 beneficiaries and F =27, M=5 non beneficiaries. Meetings held twice every month where discussions were focused on “the Community Discussion Guide”. The capacity of caregivers was built and improved on how best they can handle issues in their individual households and the people they come in contact with every day and skills on production of liquid soap and Vaseline as a mainstreamed activity into gender norms session. Also, 2018 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was integrated into the gender norms meeting of



Caregivers during a Gender Norms Session

December which gave caregivers an opportunity to discuss effectively on gender-based violence. At the end of these meetings, caregivers were able to comprehend the full meaning of gender norms, gender-based violence and other gender related issues.

Better Parenting Sessions

Better Parenting activity was geared towards facilitating discussion and peer learning where participants can learn from each other's experience. The organization formed and conducted better parenting sessions for 22 cohorts in the reporting period. The cohorts cut across all the six implementing communities of Mbagwaza, Mbaakoso, Ikov, Mbakuha, Utange, Mbabion and Lessel in Ushongo LGA. Each cohort is made up of 25-30 beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Sessions are held twice a month and are facilitated by the community volunteers. This activity has helped improved parent's children relationships in the communities.

Income Generating Activities (IGAs)

127 (M=6, F=121) caregivers were trained on microenterprise i.e. soap and Vaseline production across three communities (Mbaakoso, Mbaibon and Mbagwaza) to improve their means of livelihood, at the end of capacity building training, 7 outstanding caregivers were selected to be equipped with start-up kit at the end of the training to boost their income generation for their Households.



Caregivers during skills acquisition session

CLHEI through SMILE Project was able to give unconditional cash transfer to 293 (M=15, F=278) across all implementing project communities in Ushongo LGA. The organization was able to distribute three varieties of crops: Quality Protein maize, Quality vitamin A maize and soybeans to 1203 (M=148, F=1055) caregivers across seven project communities.

In 2017, CLHEI enrolled 40 (M=19, F=21) beneficiaries into vocational/apprenticeship skill training into various skills ranging from: tailoring, welding, motor bike mechanic, hair stylish and vulcanizing. After a period of one year, those that completed one year mandatory training were equipped with start-up kit to empower them.



Start-up kit presentation to beneficiaries

School Visits/Performance Assessment

In the year under review, CLHEI visited the beneficiaries at homes to enlighten the caregivers (parents) of the importance of education of their children. This was to ensure that all children of schooling age are enrolled in school and are regularly attending school.

CLHEI also established an Early Child Care Development (ECCD) Centre in NKST Primary School, Gbatse, Mbaibon community to ensure that younger children are also attended to and prepared for education at an early stage. The ECCD center currently has twenty (20(F=8, M=12)) pupils.



Pupils playing with toys at the Early Care Development (ECCD) Centre



Infant and Young Child Meeting IYCF/Food Demonstration

Community Infant and Young Child Feeding (C-IYCF) Meeting was conducted for nursing mothers, caregivers in different cohorts across project communities. The activity was done to strengthen participants' knowledge on C-IYCF and the importance of breastfeeding at birth and in the early stage of life. The participants were sensitized on exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding as it directly affects early development and growth of infants and younger children as well as accounts for their immune system.

Recreational Activities (Kids, Adolescent and Youth Clubs)

Kids Club is a recreational activity use in providing psychosocial support to Orphan and Vulnerable Children. This program makes them emotionally stable and gives room for them to interact daily within and outside their world.

The children were divided into three different groups according to their age range of 2-5 years old, 6-12 years old and 13-17 years old each having their sessions accordingly. Activities during their sessions included singing, dancing and storytelling for the 2-5 years old group while the 6-12years covered six different sessions of the Kids Club Training Manual to Provide Psychosocial Support for Children. The older group (13-17years) received presentations from "Peer Facilitators' Guide for Life Skills Development". All sessions were facilitated by the community volunteers across all communities. A total number of 2481 Vulnerable Children participated.



Adolescent Girls Club Meeting



Younger VCs in a Kids Club meeting

Protection

To ensure that Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) are not subjected to any form of abuse, violence, exploitation, neglect, stigma and discrimination, CLHEI has established Child Protection Committee (CPC) in Mbagwaza and Mbaibon communities in Ushongo LGA.

Again, CLHEI has held more than three (3) sessions on Child Protection Policy (CPP) at caregiver's forum across each implementing community in Ushongo LGA. These sessions were anchored by Program Staff of CLHEI and trained Community Volunteers thus, creating more awareness to the caregivers on the rights of children. The caregivers were made to know that child abuse does not necessary means beating a child but also include neglecting a child, starving a child, not sending them to school and refusing them to play with their peers among others.

The process of providing birth registration for OVCs without birth certificates which had been initiated in the previous year (2017) yielded result in the year under review. CLHEI through collaboration with the National Population Commission (NPopC) has issued birth certificates to 151 OVCs (Male = 97 and Female = 54). The bio data of the remaining Orphans and Vulnerable Children without birth certificates are been captured on birth registration forms for onward processing of their birth certificates. This is aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing structures set by the Government of Nigeria (GON) to improve birth registration systems and legal mechanisms for enforcing fair and equitable inheritance laws and guardianship.

Food Demonstration

Food demonstration was done in Mbagwaza and Utange communities where community women were sensitized on the preparation of Tom Brown. Tom Brown, a thick brown powder is a combination of yellow corn, millet, guinea corn (cereals), groundnut (Peanuts) and Soy beans (legumes). Participants cut across OVC Caregivers and other community women who were made to understand how Tom Brown is a meal that is essential for babies especially in their weaning period and accords them healthy growth and good development as well as serve a good complementary meal for breast milk. They were made to understand how Tom Brown can serve a good substitute meal for busy caregivers and other adults who do not have much time for cooking and gives them that much needed strength to stay long hours through their busy schedules, judging by its nutritional value of; Proteins, Iron, Magnesium, Potassium, Carbohydrate, Vitamins B6 and B12. During the year, 94 participants were sensitized which made of 5 Males and 89 Females.

HIV Testing and Counselling

During the quarter also, due to provision of RTKs by SMILE, CLHEI was able to provide testing for its VCs who were administered HIV risk assessment and whose test indicated. As a result, we were able to test 1749 VCs (841F, 908M) within the period of January to March.

Escorts/Transportation/Accompaniment

Escorts and transportation for HIV treatment and adherence support for the quarter was conducted only in the month of January where 35 beneficiaries made of 30 caregivers (all females) and 5 VCs (2F, 3M) were provided transportation to access ARVs at their various treatment centres based on need.

World AIDS Day Celebration

The Ushongo LACA was able to come up with a schedule of activities to mark commemoration of the 2018 WAD which was celebrated in LGEA Primary School Lessel Mbagwa in Ushongo LGA with the Theme: Know Your Status. This was done in collaboration with the LGA Health department where most stakeholders, Partners and service providers in the area of HIV/AIDS implementing and/or operating within the LGA were invited to participate and make necessary contributions and inputs to ensure onward effective implementation. Notably amongst the invitees include; HOD Health department, Director HIV/AIDS and Clinical services, Civil Society Organizations



World AIDS Day Celebration in Lessel, Ushongo LGA

(CSOs), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), National Youth Service Corps members (NYSC peer educators) Officers in Charge (OICs) of Health facilities, HIV Support Group mentor Officers, Health Facilities ART Desk Officers.

Capacity Building/Mentoring/Supportive Supervision

Care and Support CoP Meeting: This meeting was organized by the SMILE team for CSO's Care and Support Officers from 26-27 February, 2018. It was intended for Officers to share challenges and learn from one another what they do not know and have not been doing properly. It was also meant for officers to learn strategies on how to finish strong on the project as well as activities that will encourage community ownership and sustainability of the project.

PHDP Step-down Training for CVs: This training was a 3 days' activity which was meant to build CVs' capacity and provide necessary support in order for them to better take care of positive beneficiaries in their communities as well as communicate sustainability strategies for a continuum of care.

Adolescent Programming

Adolescent Girls Club is an activity conducted for girls between the ages 10-17 who are both in school and out of school and/or live in very vulnerable situations. The aim is to ensure that girls have reduced HIV vulnerability through facilitated access to sexual and productive health knowledge and life skills in safe and fun environments. In this reporting period, Adolescent Girls Club was constituted in three communities of Ikov, Mbagwaza and Mbakoso where the girls were shared into different cohorts and according to their age range. Within this reporting period, 60 girls of both cohorts from Ikov and Mbagwaza communities completed their 14 sessions and were graduated from the club after which a new set of 80 girls were recruited into the club from Mbakoso community making a total of 140 Adolescent girls with the age disaggregation of 10-12 years=70 and 13-17years=70 girls that has received this service. The cohort held their meetings four times every month and is facilitated by the community mentors who focused their presentations on different topics from Adolescent Girls Club Community Based Activity Guides.



Success Stories

The Picture shows a positive caregiver who was pregnant and not placed on PMTCT/EID services due to lack of finances. Through the escort services and transportation, she was linked up to such services and ensured she adhere to her treatment. From the time of pregnancy, she was monitored and counselled. She delivered of her baby and the EID test was done successfully and test result came out negative.

WEP PROJECT

Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislation, that Contribute towards Achieving Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030

Increasing gender equality, rooted in human rights, it is recognized both as a key development goal on its own and as a vital means to help accelerate sustainable development. The field of gender has expanded exponentially over the years, with programmes focused exclusively on women and girls. With the mainstreaming of gender into many development activities, a range of challenges remain. Women are still facing unequal access to political, economic, policy and decision making and financial resources. They often face numerous barriers linked to clear discrimination as well as bear the burden of low wages or unpaid work and are susceptible to gender-based violence. Despite the significant advances for women, the fact is that unless women and girls are able to fully realize their rights in all facets of society, human development will not be advanced.

The beginning of the year 2016 marked a crucial year to further equality and if the new SDGs development agenda is to be truly transformative, women must be at the front and also at its center. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contains a stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. All the goals are intrinsically interrelated and interdependent – and ideally gender will be addressed and mainstreamed amongst all goals.

CLHEI implemented a project in Tarka LGA of Benue State with Women Environmental Programme [WEP] on Ensuring Effective Implementation of Programmes, Policies and Legislations, that Contribute towards Achieving Gender Equality in Nigeria by 2030.

The goal of the project was to enhance participation of Tarka women in budget development and monitor ten capital projects to improve effective implementation in Tarka L.G.A, Benue State by 2019. The highlight of the programme was presentation of women priority needs for inclusion in the 2019 Budget of Benue State.



UNICEF/WASH Project in IDP Camps



The basics of living healthy and good hygiene practices are extremely important for survival and development of children. Benue State has continued to experience farmers and herders' clashes. This has displaced a large number of children and adults from their ancestral communities to over 20 camps (12 Official Camps and 8 Unofficial Camps) in 3 Local Government Areas of Benue State, resulting to lack of access to improved sanitation, and access to improved water sources.

Without these basic needs, the health of the IDPs are at risk. In times of crisis like this, children are particularly vulnerable; it is on this premise that a Coalition of Benue CSOs with support from UNICEF, put together a team to provide emergency response to those in need in all the camps to improve water and sanitation services, as well as basic hygiene practices.

During the period, the Coalition led by Supervisors and Focal Persons carried out various activities to ensure improved hygiene on camps.

The team (2 supervisors and 58 Volunteers) were trained by UNICEF and Benue Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (BERWASSA) to carry out an effective hygiene promotion activity across the 12 IDPs camps in Benue State. WASHCOM (comprising of 144 VHPs) were formed and trained

The teams held meetings on a daily basis to review and improve on areas where there are lapses. WASHCOM was established in all the camps and the Focal Persons created structures that will enable the smooth running of day to day WASH activities.

There were capacity building activities carried out in the camps to sensitize the IDPs on how to take care of themselves, food, water and their environment to ensure a healthy living.

Global Hand Washing Day and World Water Day were observed in all the camps and the IDPs were sensitized on the best practices for healthy living. UNICEF and all other stakeholders present in these camps supported to make these days successful.

Cleaning of the environment and washing of toilets was participatory as the community collectively took part in the cleaning of the environment.

2018 BOARD/PUBLIC FUNDED PROJECTS

Menstrual Hygiene

Menstrual Hygiene Day is an annual awareness day celebrated on May 28 to highlight the importance of good Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). Menstrual hygiene management also include using soap and water for washing the body as required; and having access to facilities to dispose of used menstrual management materials. It was initiated by the German based NGO WASH UNITED in 2014 and aims to benefit women and girls to break taboos surrounding menstruation and raise awareness of the importance of good menstrual hygiene management worldwide. The date 28th was selected to acknowledge that 28 days is the average length of the menstrual cycle.

Creating a culture that welcomes discussion and makes adequate education for girls is of equal importance. Research has found that not having access to menstrual hygiene management products can keep girls' home from school during their period each month. Menstrual Hygiene Day creates an occasion for publicizing information campaigns that help to engage decision-makers in policy dialogue. The day offers an opportunity to actively advocate for the integration of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) into global, national and local policies and programmes. Menstrual hygiene day is meant to serve as a platform to bring together individuals, organizations and the media to create a united and strong voice for women and girls around the world, helping to break the silence about menstrual hygiene management.

FACT SHEET

245
female students
were reached

In view of this, Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative (CLHEI) in collaboration with Blossom Development Foundation (BDF) organized a one-day menstrual hygiene sensitization exercise with female students in secondary schools in Makurdi to mark the day for the year 2018. The aim of the activity was to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene management, address the challenges and hardships many women and girls face during their menstruation, and highlight the positive and innovative solutions being taken to address these challenges.



Christmas Kitchen

Christmas Kitchen is an activity set up to reach out to vulnerable members of a community to support them with knowledge and items for celebration of the season. It is a medium used to bring together members of the community for interaction and putting smiles on faces.

CLHEI celebrated 2018 activity with vulnerable and displaced groups of persons' across selected camps in Ma-kurdi LGA. They beneficiaries were reached with clothes and food items at Baka market IDP camp.



Medical Outreach in The Camps

CLHEI carried out medical outreaches across camps in Benue State.



Sensitization on community based health insurance scheme in Ukum LGA.

Community Links and Human Empowerment Initiative [CLHEI] carried out sensitization on community health insurance scheme in Ukum LGA of Benue State. The programme sensitized the community, Key opinion Leaders – Traditional Institutions, Religious and Political Leaders, Mobilization of resources to contribute to the financing of local health service for the communities. This will improve access to health care services for community members, by eliminating or significantly reducing out of pocket payments for healthcare services and also improve the quality of healthcare by increasing both the amount and reliability of resources available for providers.



PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNER	INITIATIVE	PROGRAM
Sterling Bank	Benue Flood Victims Support	Humanitarian
LEAD Benue	Benue Flood Victims Support	Humanitarian
TY Danjuma Foundation	Improving Tomatoes & Pepper Preservation Skills of Rural Women Farmers in 2 selected Communities of Benue State [Andor & Wanunne]	Empowerment/ Agriculture
Global Fund	The New Funding Model [NFM] Global Fund Community Systems Strengthening [CSS] Project	Health
Sure P/NACA	Prevention and Impact Mitigation on HIV/AIDS among Internally Displaced Persons in host Communities of Adamawa, Yobe and Bauchi States	Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria [CRUDAN]
Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria [CISHAN]	NETWORK	Health
Benue Network of NGO's [BENGONET]	NETWORK	
Nigeria Youth Network on HIV/AIDS [NYENETHA]	NETWORK	Health
Association of Civil Societies on Malaria, Immunization and Nutrition [ACOMIN]	NETWORK	Health
Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria [CRUDAN]		
TB NETWORK	NETWORK	
Transition Monitoring Group [TMG]	NETWORK	Governance
Nigeria Export Promotion Council [NEPC]		