

# ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND INFORMATION PROJECTS (AHIP)

**AHIP@25**



# ENHANCING HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND WOMEN

## HISTORY OR HERSTORY





# ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND INFORMATION PROJECTS (AHIP)

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**BRANCHES:**

JIGAWA, BAUCHI AND KATSINA STATES

**Supported By:**

Ford Foundation





# INTRODUCTION

- AHIP is foremost a pioneer and a first generation NGO in northern Nigeria. AHIP's projects are focused on states in Northern Nigeria but have partners in all other states of Nigeria. The target groups include young people both in and out-of-school, women of reproductive age and men. Leaders from Governmental and NGOs, Mentoring of NGO/CBO/FBO, media practitioners, traditional and religious leaders, health providers, faith and community-based organizations and Non-Formal Structures are all part of the organization's target. The Key strategies of the AHIP projects include Health promotion across different levels of communities, Service delivery through the establishment, upgrading or improving community-based Reproductive Health facilities, Training and education of key actors, community outreaches through mobilizations, advocacy, sports, IEC & BCC, community organizing, networking, tri-media (radio, television, and print), social media campaign, working with the persons with disability, and People living with HIV/AIDS.
- Over the last 25 years AHIP have worked relentlessly to break the culture of silence; create enabling environment for reproductive health, expanded the scope for young people's health and development, paving the path for female empowerment, building girls skills and promoting dignified living, promoted Leadership for Integrated Reproductive Health, Service Delivery and Peaceful Co-existence in Northern Nigeria. The innovative approach of including religious and traditional leaders in the struggle to break the culture of silence, promote, and improve reproductive health situation in Northern Nigeria, especially among women and young people, is a breakthrough in northern Nigeria.





# INTRODUCTION CONTINUE

- Has branches in Kano, Bauchi, Katsina, and Jigawa.
- Partners in other 14 Northern states (Kaduna, Kebbi, Nassarawa, Sokoto, Yobe, Niger, Plateau, Benue, Borno, Zamfara, Kogi, Kwara, Adamawa, and Gombe).
- AHIP also Mentored over 150 NGOs in 15 northern states to do youth based programs.



# ORIGIN

- AHIP started as a youth club in 1989
- Reorganized and Restructured in 1992 to do development work.
- The vision is to Empower young people and women in Northern Nigeria for improved quality of life.





# MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUE

## Mission

- AHIP is committed to provide young people and women in northern Nigeria with information, knowledge and life skills, to enable them make responsible decision on their health and well-being; working and partnering with other stakeholders.

## Vision

- Empowerment of young people and women in Northern Nigeria for improved quality of Life

## Core Values

- Empowerment and Mutual Respect



# GOAL

The organization shall engage in research and documentation; programming and partnership to promote young people and women health, life skills, social and economic issues as they affect their wellbeing.





# OBJECTIVES

- The Overall Objectives of AHIP are to:
- Research into the condition of young people especially girls, with the aims of improving the conditions of the adolescents in the society.
- Encourage self confidence in growing ladies and men.
- Equip young people with vital information necessary to growing persons in socialization.
- Enlighten adolescents on issues affecting their total wellbeing.
- Sensitize adolescents about knowing their rights in the society and the various laws
- Encourage adolescents especially girls to utilize opportunities in the pursuit of education in all discipline, including vocational training.
- Enlighten adolescents especially girls to grow up to be vocal on issues affecting their mental, physical and social wellbeing.
- Provide knowledge and skills to young people in difficult circumstances
- Provide other services relevant to the wellbeing of young people and women.



# HER-STORY

- **1992** Registered AHIP as a NGO with state
  - Started off with basic activities like health talks; had only 1 staff then;
  - Published the first newsletter
- **1993** Started 'Peer health education' in its 3 focal states (Kano, Bauchi, and Jigawa)
  - School Principals training' in 20 schools.
- **1993** Started sports for development





# HER STORY - SKILLS ACQUISITION



**1994** Started its 'Vocational training centre'; office set-up in a 2-bedroom flat with 3 staffs





# HER-STORY - SPORTS



**1995** Introduced 'Basket ball' as a tool for using leisure time productively and for awareness generation on various health issues among youth, for the first time in Nigeria; conducted 1<sup>st</sup> Youth forum – developing peer health educators



# HER- STORY – COMMUNITY CLINICS

- Garko



- Ingawa-Dawakin Tofa LGA



1996 Started first 'Youth friendly clinic'; and Two community Clinic

# HER-STORY – IN-SCHOOL FACILITATION



In-school' programs and introduced Reproductive Health curriculum (in piecemeal manner)



# HER- STORY



Started the 'Carnival of Learning



# HER-STORY – ENGAGING WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS FOR FAMILY HEALTH



**1998** For the first time Traditional leaders / ward heads were trained on various topics related to Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS in the 3 focal states of Kano, Bauchi and Jigawa



# MENTORING OF NGOS EXPANDING YOUTH PROGRAMMING

## Strategies

- Assessment
- Indication of interest
- Introduction to Adolescent Reproductive Health
- Prioritizing Area of interest and
- Developing workplan
- Capacity Building
  - Project Management Training
  - Strategic Planning Training
  - Setting up of financial process and books
  - Set Up monitoring processes



**2001 Started NGO/CBOs  
Mentoring program in seven  
northern Nigeria states**

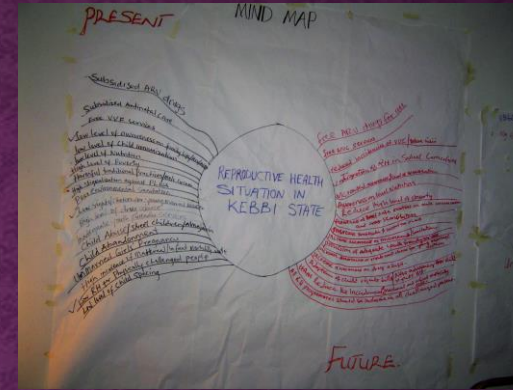


# LEADERS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (RH)

## Strategies

- Select Leaders from all walks of life (including public officer, private organizations, CSOs, Association,
- Do a two day sensitization on RH
- Engage the Leaders in a Future search forum analyzing the Reproductive Health Situation in the State
- Prioritize issues for immediate action
- Form RH group in the state
- Select Core Leaders to anchor the affairs of the group
- Develop a work plan
- Five days intensive training for the core leader
- Step down training in the state and Implement work plan

**2001 Started Leadership Program for Reproductive Health in Different Northern Nigerian States. Reached 12 states**





# HER-STORY -ESTABLISHING A COORDINATION BASE



2002 AHIP set-up its head office building





# VISIONARY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## Training Components

- National Launch Workshop
- Self-learning Phase
- 2-week Advanced Leadership
- Inter-country Forum
- Mentoring Program
- Peer Exchange, Networking,
- On-the-job Reinforcements
- National Dissemination Workshop



2003 AHIP served as an Anchor Institution for the Nigeria Visionary Leadership Program(VLP)





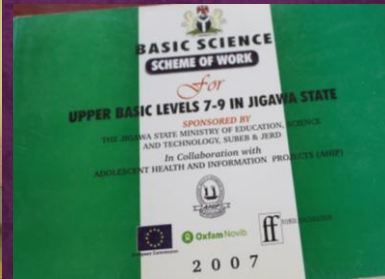
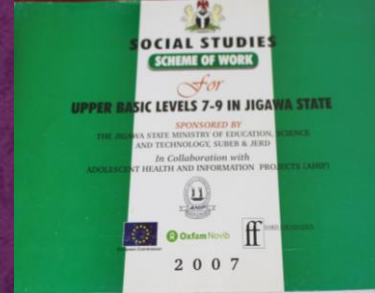
# HER- STORY –DRUG REDUCTION



- Training and rehabilitation of young people
- Counselling
- Re-united with Parent/family
- Reintegrated back to school
- Start small business

**2003** Started program on drug abuse reduction

# HER-STORY --INTEGRATED FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION INTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



- Adapted FLHE curriculum
- Jigawa--916 junior secondary school teachers for Social studies and Basic science
- Kano—240 junior secondary school teachers for Social studies and Basic science

2004 For the first time integrated Family Life Education into the school curriculum



# HER-STORY –INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT





# HER STORY - ENGAGING WITH IMAMS AND PASTORS FOR FAMILY HEALTH



2006 Started training for Faith Based organizations (Imams and Pastors); renovate about 12 clinics, to start Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS services; expanded coverage to 10 states



# HER- STORY -- EXPANDING SAFE SPACE



2007 Expanded In-school Safe Space Youth Club for Girls



# HER-STORY -- WORKING WITH ISLAMIIYYA SCHOOLS



- Islamatized Family Life and HIV/AIDS Curriculum
- Produce the Islamatized Family Life and HIV/AIDS Curriculum
- Train Teacher of Islamiyya schools

2008 Introduced Family Life Education to Islamiyya schools for the first time in northern Nigeria





# HER-STORY- PEACE BUILDING



Life skills Training

Counselling

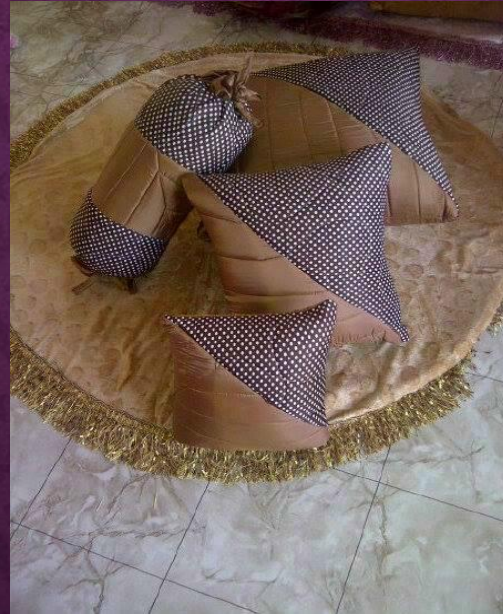
Livelihood Skills development

Integration into school

2009 Started Programs for Peace and Development with Young People



# FUND RAISING



2012 Started a fund raising project using product from the Institute for Human Development



# HER-STORY - WORKING WITH PROFESSIONAL



- Training Health professionals in HIV Counselling and Testing
- Training In Youth Friendly Services
- Train to Create demand and improve Outreach

2013 Training Professional and Health Workers

# CHALLENGES

- AHIP interventions are mostly sensitive as they have to do with reproductive health or gender issues hence, it comes with a lot of challenges, some resistance from government officials, traditional leaders, and religious scholars that have little or no knowledge about the issues. Also in some cases challenges come from parents and school teachers as well. These challenges include the following among others:
  - Initially, the misconceptions relative to AHIP as an organization reflected in the numerous pre-emptive as well as unsubstantiated questions and comments that came from the participants in all interactions. These were clarified, and AHIP made a good effort to keep the line of communication open for all the stakeholders.





# CHALLENGES

- The organization and its leader were labeled with different non-complimentary names including being the gate for immorality in northern Nigeria
- Competitors plots and tried as much as possible to pull down the program and organization
- Misconception of the AHIP work by stakeholders
- The thought of leaders that the organization's program is out to adulterate culture and disrupt religious believes
- Selfish interest of people who think donor's money is for sharing without working for it.





# LESSONS

- **Building trust is crucial but difficult**
- **The establishment of the vocational training projects was apt, it has a great impact on the communities, and it legitimized AHIP work.**
- **Taking calculated risks aimed at changing lives can be beneficial to an organization and communities.**
- **Earning trust and having change agents who believe in the program in the different communities in which they reside can spread knowledge fast.**
- **Encouraged young people, girls, and boys to be good ambassadors of their community work for both the community and the individuals.**
- **Helping women and young people to understand and realize the importance of being self-reliant, wakes up their quest for achievements.**
- **At least fifty percent of persons trained will train more people with what they learned.**
- **We learned that partnership and collaboration are key in every program.**
- **Working with the state ministries, departments, agencies, boards and Local /Emirate councils, Traditional, community, religious leaders, teachers, higher institutions, and other stakeholders gives the young people's program required legitimacy and paves the way for program ownership and sustainability**
- **State actors have a sense of awareness, ownership, and responsibility towards programs for the young people.**
- **Islammiyya school teachers are strong allies in the implementation of FLHE for young people in Islammiyya schools and out of school. They demonstrated a strong sense of commitment, responsibility and took ownership of the process.**
- **Misconceptions and suspicions among teachers, gatekeepers, and other stakeholders still exist and, we shall continue to work in dispelling the misconception.**





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