



## GWIHR COLLECTIVE FY 21 REPORT

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## Acronyms and Abbreviation

ARC	Africa Resource Centre for Supply Chain
ADR	Adverse Drug Reaction
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
CART	Community Anti-Retroviral Therapy
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CF	Community Facilitator
CHEWS	Community Health Extension Workers
COP	Chief of Party
CQI	Continuous Quality Improvement
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CT	Counselor Testers
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DIC	Drop-in Centre
EQA	External Quality Assessment
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMWASD	Federal Ministry of Women and Social Development
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRA	Government Reserved Area
HAI	Heartland Alliance International
HAN	Heartland Alliance LTD/GTE Nigeria
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRM	High-Risk Men
HTS	HIV Testing Services
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
IHVN	Institute of Human Virology Nigeria
IMHIPP	Integrated Most-at-risk-populations HIV Prevention Program
IPC	Interpersonal Communication
KAP	Key Affected Population
KOL	Key Opinion Leader
KII	Key Informant Interview
KP	Key Population
LGA	Local Government Area
LTFU	Lost To Follow Up
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NACA	National Agency for the Control of AIDS
NAFDAC	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
NASCP	National AIDS and STI Control Programme
NEPWHAN	Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHLS	National Health Laboratories Service
OASYS	One World Accuracy System
OC	Outreach Coordinator
OPD	Outpatient Department
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PACA	Police Action Committee on AIDS
PEP	Post Exposure Prophylaxis
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PHDP	Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention
PITC	Provider Initiated Testing and Counseling
PLHIV	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PNS	Partner Notification Services
PrEP	Pre-exposure Prophylaxis
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
PWID	People Who Inject Drugs
RTI	Reproductive Tract Infection
RTK	Rapid Test Kits
SACA	State Agency for the control of AIDS
SAPC	State AIDS Program Coordinator
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SFH	Society for Family Health
SIMS	Site Improvement Monitoring System
SPHCDA	State Primary Health Care Development Agency
SSS	State Security Service
SULGA	Scale-Up LGA
TB	Tuberculosis
TMA	Total Market Approach
TWG	Technical Working Group
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government

## Executive Summary

**Greater Women Initiative for Health and Right (GWIHR)** is a female sex workers led organization with resolve to intervene for the Rights and Health needs of sex workers and women in general, with the aim of informing sex workers of their basic right, help reduce the occurrence of HIV/AIDS and STIs, and facilitate access to treatment, care and support through peer education, advocacy, awareness creation and sensitization.

GWIHR believes that everyone should have access to health care, human rights, and education, regardless of job, gender, sexual orientation, or identity. We are committed to gender equality; we value multiplicity and participation, particularly of sex workers living with HIV/AIDS, in our supremacy and programs; and we accept as true in the strength of mind of volunteerism to be innermost in order to achieve our directive, advance our foundation, and strengthen the voice of sex workers.

## OUR VISION

A society where women live a dignified and healthy life

## OUR MISSION

To work with vulnerable women in the promotion of their fundamental Human Right through psycho social support Education and Economic Empowerment.

## OUR GOAL

To reduce mortality among vulnerable women as a result of sexual reproductive health related infections and poverty

## GWIHR AREA OF FOCUS

- Advocacy for reform of unfavorable social norms and polices that hinders sex workers access to human right protections and legal representations.
- Building capacities of vulnerable women on their fundamental human rights, access to justice and economic empowerment.
- Promoting the quality of lives of vulnerable women through participatory programing, using human right based approach.

- Strengthening partnership and collaboration through critical engagement with relevant stakeholders and Government.
- Building technical and institutional capacity of GWIHR towards achieving a sustainable community intervention.

## *IMPLEMENTING PROJECT BACKGROUND*

### **GLOBAL FUND PROJECT**

Global Fund HIV Project implementation is targeted to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDs amongst FSW in Abia State by strengthening capacity of GWIHR to deliver holistic high quality HIV prevention and care services to community members at the grassroots level. SFH being the principal recipient and EHIA the sub recipient, GWIHR was able to partner with EHIA to implement this grant.

#### *Goals and Objectives of the project*

- **OBJECTIVE 1:** To support community and institutional system strengthening and capacity building of GWIHR for effective programming for the FSW community in Abia state between September 2019 to June 2020
- **OBJECTIVE 2:** To provide comprehensive community-based HIV services package to 8328 in 17 LGA of Abia state including prevention, care and support, referrals and linkages to treatment service in public\private health facilities and one-stop shop between September 2019 to June 2020.
- **OBJECTIVE 3:** To provide enabling /legal environment for 8328 FSW programming through promotion of human right, access to justice, legal aid services and reduction of stigma and discrimination in 17 LGA in Abia state by SEPTEMBER 2019 to June 2020.

### **ACHIEVE PROJECT**

GWIHR, in collaboration with Diadem Consult, is implemented the Action to Control HIV through Evidence (ACHIEVE) surge project for a key population in Rivers State. Diadem Consult sub-granted GWIHR, a sex worker-led organization, to increase access to HIV/AIDS testing, referral, and care through the recruitment of sex workers in 11 LGAs in Rivers State. Since 2019, GWIHR has worked in collaboration with Diadem Consult to ensure that wide topologies and diversity of sex workers in "hard to reach areas" are successfully reached with the UNAIDS HIV target of 95' 95' 95'.under the Achieve project for FY21 GWIHR was able to meet 12,390 FSW with HTS, 15,222 FSW with KP-PREV and enrolled 1639 FSW and her clients in to treatment.

## ON GOING HTS ACTIVITY



## KP CARE 1 PROJECT

The Key Populations Community HIV Services Action and Response (KP-CARE 1) is a 5-year (2019-2024) cooperative agreement being implemented by Heartland Alliance LTD/GTE to address the critical barriers to access that key populations face every day in Nigeria by increasing demand and access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, and care services, and interventions for KPs by expanding the One-Stop-Shop strategy, developing tailored, context-specific and, innovative social behavior change communication (SBCC) approaches for all program elements.

The project's goal is to reduce HIV incidence, morbidity and mortality among KPs as well as their sexual partners and children by increasing their access to and success in HIV prevention, diagnosis and, treatment by addressing the biological, social and structural drivers of the epidemic using human rights principles and sustainable, peer-led approaches. GWIHR selected and trained counselor testers and community facilitators who are also the peers of her community (FSW), GWIHR also engaged other stakeholders like the law enforcement agency to protect the right of her community

## AIHA\_KPIF

The primary goal of this grant was to design and implement a comprehensive GWIHR organizational monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and learning (MERL) Framework. This project improved organizational advocacy efforts and strengthen institutional capacity for program implementation. This project further strengthened GWIHR M&E system for better report and documentation of data in different electronic work sheet and platforms, at the course of the training GWIHR M&E learnt more about goggle duck and its vestal futures

### *Project Objective*

- By July 2021, a comprehensive organizational MERL framework will be developed and staff trained on this new M&E Framework

## **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROJECT**

The goal of the social enterprise is to develop and build a sustainable alternative source of fundraising for the humanitarian services of Greater Women Initiative for Health and Right

### *Social Enterprise Implementation Plans*

AJS as a social enterprise that is that determined to survive has from June 2021- September 2021 implemented her social enterprise on the principles of:

- Making profits that will be re-invested into Greater Women Initiative for Health and Rights (GWIHR) social works to ensure that the health and rights needs of sex workers are met and protected during periods of no funding or other external donations.
- On a monthly basis, provide at least 5 female sex workers with job opportunities in AJS social enterprise.
- Increase the number of her clients by 2% per month by providing excellent service.
- Create a service-based event with a N100 value that exceeds the expectations of the customer.
- Expand our service delivery to the other States of Nigeria

With the help of this project GWIHR was able to cater for 3 big events with quality goods and services rendered

## **ASWA PROJECT**

ASWA is a sex worker led network that unite sex workers led groups/organizations across African countries with the aim of amplifying the voices of sex workers as well as advocating for the health and human rights of the diverse community of sex workers working and living in Africa. From the inception of SWAA programme by ASWA in 2014 till date, sex worker led organizations from 30 different countries including Nigeria across Africa has been invited to participate and learn from the academy as an opportunity to enhance their capacity and further educate other uninvited sex worker led groups at large.

The goal of this project was derived from the goal of ASWA's SWAA program which focuses on building the capacity of sex worker-led groups within the southern part of Nigeria, promote and implement the Sex Worker Implementation Tool (SWIT) and advocate for sex worker's human rights and promote rights-based community-led services.

GWIHR with the help of the small grant from ASWA was able to impact the knowledge gotten from the sex worker's academy in Kenya to handpick and active 12 sex workers leaders/representative in the southern part of Nigeria.

## **ASG GRANT**

GWIHR is working as a sub recipient of US Ambassador's small grant to break the silence and cycle of violence meted out on female sex workers and increase access to justice and improved

living standard of sex workers in Akwa Ibom State. GWIHR trained 10 of her community member as paralegals to help bring justice to victims of GBV in the community and also give out human right education as a bead to end violence against sex workers in the state of implementation.

GWIHR with the help of US Ambassador's Small Grant was able to enrol 12 of her community members in skill acquisition of different forms depending on their area of interest and choice. The selected persons are still undergoing training in their responsive fields.

## **Activity Summary**

### **A. Result 1: Increased demand for and access to comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment services and interventions for KPs.**

#### **i. PREVENTION**

GWIHR was given a target of 39,791 across three (3) states of implementation in FY21. During the program year from October 2020 to September 2021, the organization's field workers delivered KP prevention messages to a total of 51,719 FSWs. These messages were distributed to brothel and non-brothel FSWs in smaller groups using IPC, which is the process of exchanging information, ideas, and feelings between two or more people using verbal or nonverbal methods. It frequently includes face-to-face information exchange, which has proven to be very effective when speaking to FSW in their hot spots, peer education, and outreaches, where community members are always gathered in large numbers for community issues concerning their health and right across the LGAs of implementation

Gender norms and human rights education were delivered to **900** FSWs in Akwa Ibom state.

#### **PrEP**

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a pill that HIV-positive people take to avoid becoming infected from sex with an infected partner. PrEP is a highly effective HIV prevention method. GWIHR ensured that community members were educated and informed about PrEP, thereby creating demand, and as a result, they provided PrEP as a means of HIV and AIDS prevention. GWIHR enrolled 1,485 FSWs and their sexual partners in PrEP, exceeding its target of 1,079 FSWs and their sexual partners.

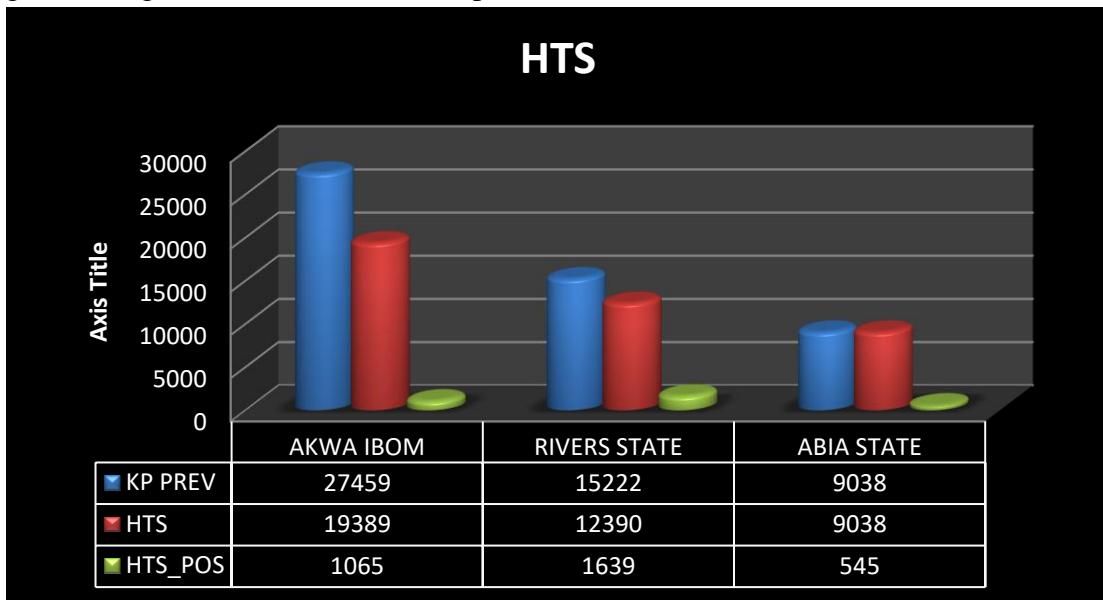
#### **CONDOM DISTRIBUTION**

GWIHR distributed o Safe sex commodity in all implementation states. This is one of the most effective methods of enforcing behavioral change in FSWs. GWIHR distributed 1,132,613 male condoms in FY21, and 73,000 female condoms were used for program activities. This helps to promote safe sex and reduce the risk of exposure to all forms of sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancy

#### **ii. HTS/POSITIVE**

HIV testing is a critical first step in gaining access to HIV prevention and treatment services, as well as meeting the UNAIDS target of 95 percent of HIV-positive people being aware of their status by 2030. HIV testing is one component of a comprehensive package of services provided to key populations, particularly FSWs; these services are derived from prevention, behavioral, biomedical, and structural interventions. It provides every client with the opportunity to learn

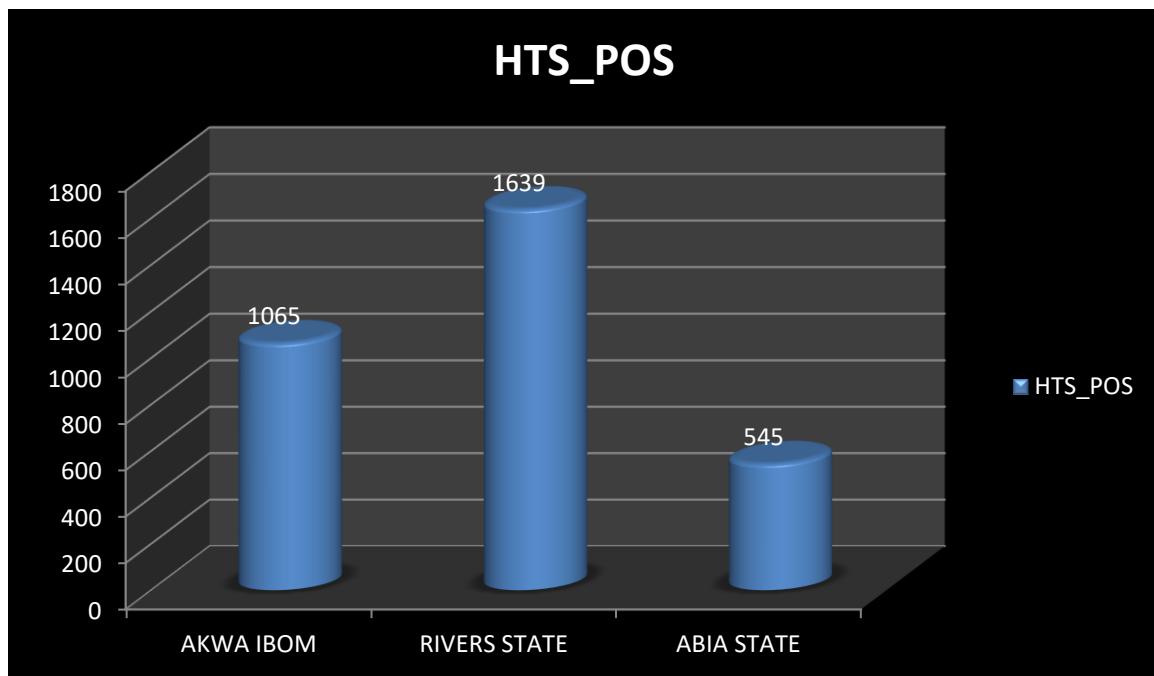
about their status because it is the first step taken to foster preventive measures in the event of a negative outcome and to provide additional care in the event of a positive outcome. GWIHR was given a target of **43,137** and ended up with **44,066**.



## POSITIVE

In FY21, GWIHR was given a comprehensive target of enrolling 4076 HIV Positive FSWs in treatment, care, and support. With the assistance of Outreach Coordinators, community facilitators, and counselor testers, 3249 HIV positive clients were successfully enrolled in the Heartland Alliance OSS for ART services. The following strategies were implemented to achieve UNAIDS 2nd 95 in ensuring that all newly discovered clients are placed under treatment, care, and support.

- ❖ Same day enrollment
- ❖ Moonlight testing
- ❖ Field enrollment
- ❖ Accompanied referral
- ❖ ICT
- ❖ Incentives
- ❖ Conducting HTS in hard-to-reach areas
- ❖ Outreaches



#### **a. STI**

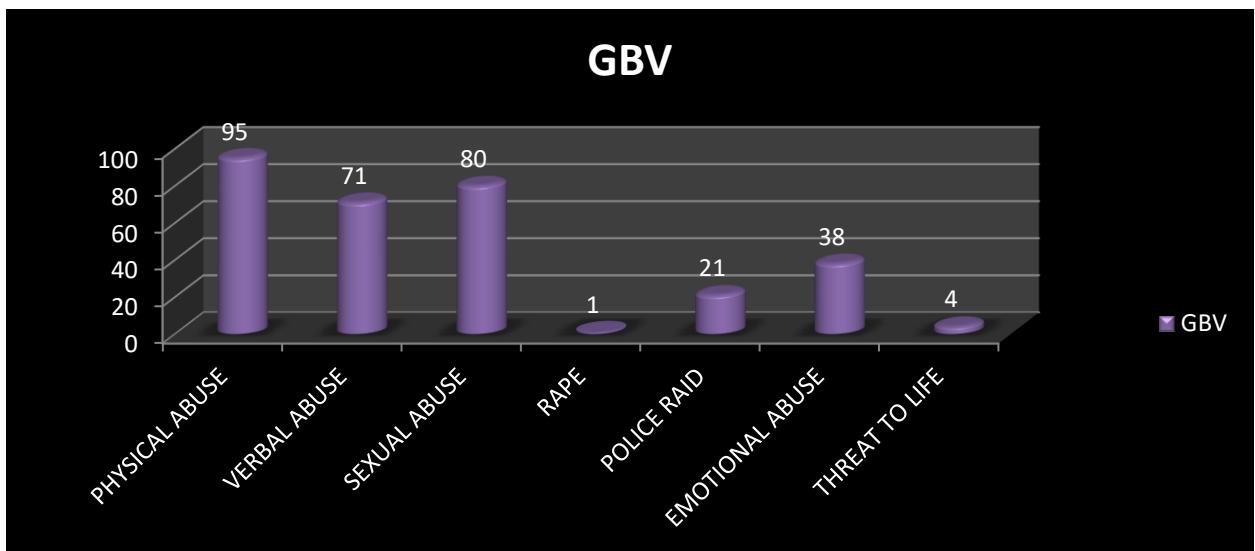
GWIHR has been providing syndromic screening and referral for Sexually Transmitted Infections without discrimination or stigma since 2015 till date. Community members are educated on how to avoid contracting these infections and are always given infection drugs if they require them.

In the previous COP year, the GWIHR clinic was able to screen and refer approximately 793 community members with STI cases.

#### **b. GBV&MHPSS**

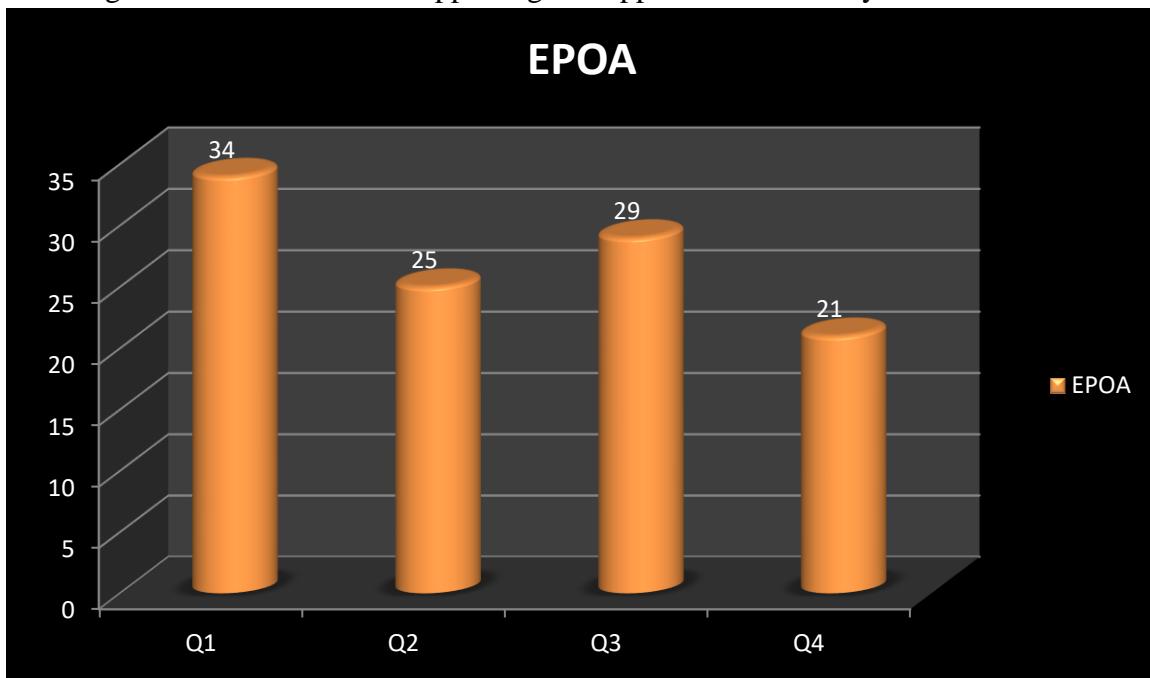
Gender Based Violence (GBV) is defined as violence directed at a person based on his or her biological sex or gender identity. Physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether in public or private life, are all included. GWIHR responded to 310 GBV cases, exceeding the 304 target set for FY21. These victims were also given appropriate mental health and psychosocial support.

GWIHR made it a mandate to respond to GBV issues faced by her community because of the marginalization, discrimination and stigma her community face not forgetting the moral impediment put on her by the community due the nature of her job and the lack of acceptance by the society to recognize sex work as worker



### c. EPOA

In Akwa Ibom state, the Enhanced peer outreach approach is a strategy that the organization has recently adopted to reach out to hard to reach, down low, closeted, discrete, conservative community members who may not want to identify themselves in hotspots, outreaches, and gatherings where community members are found for fear of being exposed due to their social strata. This approach has actually worked because the organization was able to reach out to over 1230 distinct community members, with 109 enrolling in treatment care and supporting this approach this fiscal year.



#### **d. ICT**

Index client testing and partner notification services are based on the belief that people's knowledge of their own HIV status, as well as the status of their partners, is critical to global intervention, risk reduction, and treatment. The index client testing modality is an ongoing treatment strategy that the organization has been using to reach out to sexual partners of positive community members in our database. GWIHR has successfully enrolled 200 positive sexual partners of already enrolled clients this fiscal year.

#### **e. SOCIAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA**

We also know that no one can track an FSW better than an FSW. FSWs are highly mobile and tend to migrate easily, and social media is also their hustling ground. Using WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Badoo, We Chat, and other platforms, GWHIR were able to track down and enroll a large number of FSW. This fiscal year, social media brought in a total of 171 clients.

#### **f. OVC/PEDIATIRCIS**

Children and adolescents face significant risks and vulnerabilities as a result of HIV/AIDS. GWIHR aims to work towards an HIV free generation By lessening the impact of HIV and AIDS on children of sex workers. In Akwa Ibom GWIHR was able to enroll **6** pediatric cases into treatment, care and support

### **iii. LINKAGE**

Referral and linkage systems are key components of improved services demand and accessibility, one strategy associated with increase linkage to care is active referral. Which is why field enrollment, case manager approach and same day enrolment. GWIHR was able to retain 100% referral and linkage rate this FY. A total of 3,249 clients were linked into treatment care and support

### **Government and Stakeholder Partnership**

GWIHR while building herself as a sex worker led organization in the 3 state of implementation has always aline with the stake holder/ state actors ( SACA,MOH,NACA, LACA,FIDAS, Law Enforcement agency, etc.) mostly through advocacy or courtesy visit to the stakeholders and always share reports to the appropriate authorities to update them on the growth or the program, GWIHR also have stakeholder quarterly meeting where the project achievements and challenges are been shared for input and resolution.

GWIHR also join hands with the state to mark and commemorate related significant days.

## **GWIHR ACHIEVEMENT**

- ❖ GWIHR's Akwa ibom office now has a fully functional clinic, a well-equipped safe house, a skills unit, and a library.
- ❖ This year, GWIHR was awarded a small grant from the Ambassadors Program, and 23 FSWs are currently being trained on income-generating activities.

- ❖ The grant from the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) allowed the organization to train its staff on the Monitoring and Evaluation MAL framework.
- ❖ The African sex workers alliance (ASWA) awarded the organization a grant to carry out a capacity-building program for sex workers in the south-south region..
- ❖ We were awarded a social enterprise grant to upgrade our catering services in order to ensure the organization's long-term viability.

## BEST PRACTICES

- ❖ Strategic and integrated community testing was carried out using positivity yield analysis from LGAs.
- ❖ EPOA activities have been boosted.
- ❖ Integration of mental health screening during pre-test counseling improved response to stigma-related issues in PrEP service uptake and treatment adherence among sex workers living with HIV who were enrolled in a treatment and care program.
- ❖ Integration and provision of emergency contraception into our programming, as FSWs frequently request contraception.
- ❖ During pretest and post-test counseling, the importance of index client testing is introduced.
- ❖ Targeting special boyfriends of brothel sex workers, which increased our index client's case finding
- ❖ Malaria testing for walk-in clients and during outreaches, which increased case detection.

## LEARNING

- ❖ Interacting directly with law enforcement agencies strengthens agendas aimed at achieving an all-encompassing human rights protection response.
- ❖ Incorporating other sex workers' SRH needs into community-owned OSS improves HIV case finding and index client testing.
- ❖ The inclusion of startup trade tools in skill acquisition packages encourages sex workers to seek other HIV-related services
- ❖ In programming, targeting sex workers' partners improves index testing and case finding.

The COVID-19 pandemic gave great insist on the need to work in hand with your state actors in other to create an enabling ground for implementation which is what help us during the stay at home order because we were issued a permit by the state ministry of health to carry out our activity while observing the covid-19 regulations

## EXPERIENCE IN FY21

- ❖ It was discovered FSWs are more susceptible to receive services when other SRH services are integrated into HIV programming.
- ❖ GWIHR utilized strategies we felt would yield result in this even without waiting for funders to fund those programs improved our program result.
- ❖ For fronting key population in advocacies especially targeted at law enforcement agencies strengthened relationship between the law enforcement agencies and key population ,in addition it uplifts KP confidence in building one on one relationship with the law enforcement agencies
- ❖ In Global Fund program, integrating skills acquisition into our support group will encourage more clients to attend these meetings

## **GWIHR SAFE HOUSE**

GWIHR operates a fully functional safe house in her AKWA IBOM and Rivers State offices, where sex workers in distress are temporarily housed until any danger they face has passed. They are provided with food, cooking utensils, sanitary products, and clothing. GWIHR has been able to house two female sex workers in the safe house.

The safe was thought of as a place for sex worker to say when they experience GBV or any issues that threatens their safety. It's more like a home away from home for sex workers.

## **A. SHORT SUMMARY**

### **a. VIRAL LOAD**

Viral load samples of clients were collected during refill and during support group meetings. This process is done by the clinical volunteers and OSS team with the help of case managers and outreach coordinators. In Akwa Ibom, a total of **1,645** clients were refilled for and their viral samples were collected, **1,493** samples were virally suppressed. In Abia State, a total of 525 active clients 12 transferred out. 2 cases of death and 6 LTFU

### **b. RETENTION**

GWIHR clinic team worked hand in hand with the Clinical volunteers, OSS with the help of case managers, outreach workers and retention officers to ensure all clients due for refill are refilled for, and their viral load samples were collected. Adapting to COVID-19 has been a major challenge for PLHIV, who require continuous access to services to stay healthy. Before COVID-19, it was already challenging for many sex workers in hard to reach areas to access care, GWIHR ensured all clients due for refill are refilled for.

### **c. SUPPORT GROUP**

Support group meeting was held in all GWIHR states of implementation. It was held every last Friday of the month. It was an interactive meeting where the clients were asked to state their different challenges and effect of the drugs in their systems. This aided in adherence and the clients having better understanding of HIV and how to manage it. GWIHR gathered all her clients in their various places of support group meeting while HALG clinic team educated the clients.

## **Result 2: Strengthened sustainability and organizational systems for program and data management, and quality assurance of programs by KP-competent and KP-led civil society**

### **a) ORGANIZATIONL CAPACITY BUILDING**

#### **KPIF CAPACITY BUILDING**

The KPIF capacity building project enhanced GWIHR capacity through the strengths, fresh breathe and overhaul upgrade it brought into her MERL system. The project was able to revamp and correct all MERL system gaps identified during the organizational internal MERL assessment with the consultant. In addition, it built the technical skills of each M&E team who participated in the capacity building training on the new and current methods of monitoring, evaluating, reporting and management of data. Most importantly, the project generally strengthened GWIHR MERL system into an outstanding system that can effectively function and continue to stay relevant within several years of constant changing project period.

#### **PROPOSAL WRITING**

The organization organized a 1 week proposal writing workshop for her program staff in GWIHR office Rivers State, where they were educated on the steps to proposal writing by a master trainer. They were taught on how to identify the salient points in each call for application to know what a particular funder is looking for in order not to write off point and were encouraged to always practise in order not to forget what they were taught. This workshop has strengthened the institutional capacity of GWIHR staff on proposal writing greatly.

#### **b. EXTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING**

- ❖ CSO accountability meeting
- ❖ SBCC material training
- ❖ Covid-19 prevention and infection training
- ❖ COVI9 Vaccination and acceptance” workshop
- ❖ COVID 19 SBCC materials
- ❖ One day KEY POPULATION Consultative Meeting

#### **c. CAPACITY BUILDING NEED**

- ❖ Project management
- ❖ Monitoring and valuation training
- ❖ Clinical Management

## **Result 3: An enabling environment established for KP community-based programming through advocacy, data management systems and other interventions promoting KP supportive health policy, ideas and norms**

### **a. POLICY AND ADVOCACY**

Advocacy visits were made to relevant stakeholders ranging from the Ministry of Health, SACA, LACA, Divisional police officers, the Commissioner of police, community leaders, and brothel owners in all GWIHR states of implementation.

The purpose of these advocacy visits was to inform our stakeholders about policies that affect community members, such as police raids, police money, harassment by neighborhood boys, and other social vices that affect community members in some way..

## **CHALLENGES**

- ❖ During the COVID-19. Pandemic and the stay at home order issued out, made movement difficult and some brothels were shout down with girls still inside.
- ❖ Inflection of transportation cost.
- ❖ Some states having low commodity and test kits issued.
- ❖ High target with little man power{rivers state}

## HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

**GWIHR with her service to her community was able to bring justices and compensations to Miss Blessing that was harassed and battered by her special boyfriend due to her refusal to submit the money she made for the day through sex work. Her refusal fueled his anger to the extent of beating her and locking her inside the house, collected her money without giving medical help. GWIHR was alerted by her next door neighbor and the law was brought in to save her, GWIHR gave her medical help and got the law to take it full course by arresting the guy and getting him to take full responsibilities for his action by paying the medical bills and refunding her of all the money he has been extorting from her all along.**

## PICTURES



*STAKEHOLDERS MEETING*



*STAKEHOLDERS MEETING*



*HTS ACTIVITY*



HTS ACTIVITY



Commemoration of sex workers pride day



Commemoration of mental health day



Brothel visitation  
GWIHR community facilitators





*Peer session*

#### **SKILLS ACQUISITION TRAINING**





*Courtesy visit to SACA AKWA IBOM*

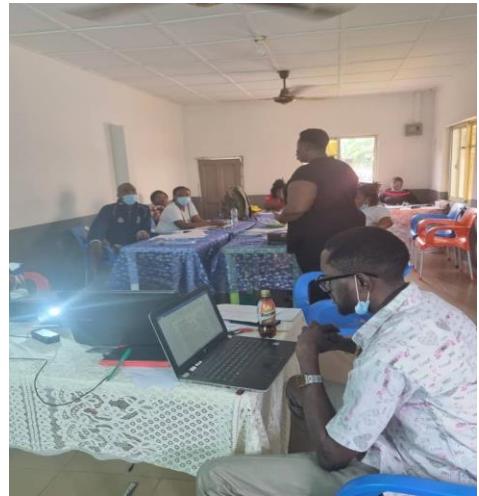


*Condom demonstration*

*Advocacy visit to law enforcement agencies*



*ASWA TRAINING*





*CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING*

*Stake holder's visitation*





#### *GWIHR SAFE HOUSE*



### SUPPORT GROUP MEETING



### M&E TRAINING

