

TOYIN SARA KI



# 2021

## Year in Review

**Full circle,  
reinforcement and  
replenishment to  
protect the progress -  
a healthy future for all**

*Presented By*

*Toyin Saraki Global Office +  
Philanthropy*



# Table of Contents

<b>04</b>	<a href="#"><u>A Note from the Advocate</u></a>	<b>16</b>	<a href="#"><u>Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy 2021 Year in Review</u></a>
<b>06</b>	<a href="#"><u>Global Moments: Snapshot</u></a>	<b>35</b>	<a href="#"><u>Programs &amp; Partnerships in 2021 and Beyond</u></a>
<b>08</b>	<a href="#"><u>Introduction: Protecting the Progress - Leadership through the pandemic</u></a>	<b>47</b>	<a href="#"><u>About</u></a>
<b>12</b>	<a href="#"><u>Re-Inforcing &amp; Replenishing for Impact</u></a>		







Where we are  
Today

## *Preface*

# A note from the advocate

2021 was a year that brimmed with aspiration and apprehension simultaneously. As the pandemic persisted, we familiarised ourselves with our new normal and proper protocol, yet our global healthcare community continued to face an unparalleled burden.

While there were glimmers of hope with the great strides we made scientifically in vaccines, we continued to amplify the lack of equity and accessibility throughout COVID-19. Reflecting on this past year, we recognise the incredible energy and spirit communities around the world have maintained, in conjunction with the daily hardships and strain that arise in this new way of living.

The juxtaposition of our current climate inspired my programmatic, communications and advocacy strategy, in what has now become a full circle, reinforcement and replenishment to protect the progress towards a healthy future for all. A metamorphosis took place so that our innovative work could remain tenacious, compelling and dependable.

The majority of our global health challenges were issues prior to the pandemic and will outlast the pandemic. That being said, the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on health systems and services across Africa, and on the health workers who staff them and the people who depend on them, will continue to define our work in the coming years. We prioritised our efforts towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in all that we implemented and aspired to, in order to create a strong, equitable and reliable healthcare system for generations to come.

That legacy of a dependable and inclusive health care structure is the basis of my founding of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, and it is what drives myself and my team each day.

While I resumed work in 2021 against the backdrop of the profound loss of a beloved family member, 2021 brought the revival of a burning focus on adapting and adjusting strategies to deliver a healthy future.

Access to an average of 3700 women per month through my dedicated frontline programming allows for our core focuses of gender equality, PSHE, tackling poverty alleviation, advocating for global public health advances, mobilizing the private sector and technology to advance the most marginalized communities, to support the main goal of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa - to eliminate preventable deaths of mothers and children.

This mission requires dedicated intention in the fields of nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, creating an environment in which every woman and girl can thrive, upholding education standards, allowing for safe access to reproductive and sexual health resources, tackling climate change, building sustainable economies; these contemporary topics are our consistent underlying themes of purpose.

I begin 2022 as the World Health Organization Foundation Inaugural Ambassador for Global Health, and with the framework that Global Health needs us all, from every country, to work as one. We must all dedicate ourselves to keeping the world safe, and advocate for the protection of the most vulnerable. By working together, from policymakers to the private sector, these collaborative driving forces will allow us to bring about the necessary change needed.

I am honoured to share my 2021 Global Office and Philanthropy Annual Report. It embodies our continued labour over 18 years of devoted and enthusiastic philanthropic endeavours, comprehensive frontline programming, and synergetic global partnerships.

As I bid farewell to 2021, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's vision for 2022 remains ingrained in our decades of achievements, challenges and lessons learned - to conceive a healthy future for all.

***H.E. Toyin Ojora Saraki,***

*H.R.H. The Princess Royal of Ijora Kingdom & Iganmu Lands, Erelu Bobajiro of Iru Land  
Yon Sabuke of Kaiama Kingdom  
Founder & President, The Wellbeing Foundation Africa*







# 20 Global 21 Moments

A SNAPSHOT OF 2021

   @ToyinSaraki



**JAN**

WHO issues calls for  
#VaccinEquity



DAVOS virtual  
attendance



WBFA  
#WASHforWellbeing  
Champions Initiative

**FEB**



UN Food Systems  
Summit



**MAR**

#ChooseToChallenge  
Women's Month



Hormonal Health & Life  
Stages Webinar with  
Vodafone Foundation



**APR**

World Health Day  
2021



Institutionalizing  
Community Health  
Conference



**MAY**

International Day of the  
Midwife 2021



#WHA74 & Nursing Now  
#GlobalFootprints  
Conference



**JUN**

Commissioning of Oniru  
Primary Health Centre



Becoming  
Erelu Bobajiro of Iru  
Land



**JUL**

Welcoming our new  
partnership with  
Nutrition International



Discussing Maternal  
Health during forced  
displacement w/ UNHCR



**AUG**

WBFA-Medela Cares  
advocacy & stakeholder  
workshop



Standing #withRefugees  
and UNHCR in Ogoja,  
Cross Rivers State



**SEP**

Pharmaceutical Society  
of Nigeria's World  
Pharmacists Day 2021



World Contraceptive Day  
2021



**OCT**

Global Handwashing Day



World Cancer Awareness  
Month



**NOV**

#COP26 Goals House  
Roundtable: Planetary  
Health & Public Health



#Reykjavík21 Global  
Forum - Women Political  
Leaders



**DEC**

Africa Private Sector  
Forum of Forced  
Displacement



#16DaysOfActivism with  
Global Citizen: Action  
Against Gender-Based  
Violence

# Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic-related contractions contributed to the most challenging period the world, and the global health and development community has seen since the Second World War. It's given way to the new disturbing normal – deepening inequalities and unearthing vulnerabilities, stalling economies and plunging millions into extreme poverty and hardship. Yet, we all agree that the world must prioritize a sustainable recovery, rooted in the 2030 Agenda, and support countries and communities as we work to rebuild systems shattered by the pandemic. Even with the growing urgency to unite against the continued ravages of COVID-19, 2021 forced us to grapple with the accelerating climate emergency, unfolding humanitarian disasters, rising inequality, and much more.

*Achieving and protecting long-lasting progress will not only take bold leadership, it warrants brave choices, and sustained commitments.*

As the Founder-President of The Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), and global advocate committed to improving outcomes in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N), Public Health, Social Care, the rise of women and girls, economic empowerment, Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC), and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), I have found my work and commitments on the premise of unshakable and actionable hope.

The leadership of my legacy philanthropy, The Wellbeing Foundation Africa's mission, is filled with impatient optimism that today's actions will have an immediate impact that advocates for women, children and families, through empowering and educating frontline health workers while increasing accessibility to health care and proper hygiene.

2021 has proved to be a year of coming full-circle, in reinforcement and replenishment, to protect our progress to a healthy future for all that is made possible only through our dedicated partners in change and social impact. Amidst the challenges of the new normal, we continued to convene with our companions-in-hope: world leaders, civil society champions, young people, global businesses, and many others, to strengthen and recharge our collective determination to solve our shared problems.

It is with this collective force that we continue to retain a better world in view, seeking to not only recover from COVID-19 but to rebuild sustainable systems, respond to the need of our planet, respect the rights of people and replenish and redeem the promise of multilateralism at the frontline and at scale.



# Protecting the Progress

## *RMNCAH+N*

Through programming, partnerships, and advocacy we continued to accelerate Frontline practices as an essential factor in improving health for all.

My initiatives continued in a steadfast commitment to achieving: zero unmet needs for family planning and services, zero preventable maternal and infant deaths, zero sexual and gender-based violence including early and forced marriage, as well as female genital mutilation.

2021 saw the advancement of our work in the management of childhood illnesses by enhancing the capacity of the health workers, while we continued our flagship projects in Community Midwifery Antenatal and Postnatal Education Program and Adolescent Skills and Drills PSHE WASH Programs

## *Public Health*

Marked as the Year of the Health and Care Worker, in 2021 we continued our calls and investments in strengthening routine maternity and child health services in and beyond the pandemic.

Our commitments to prioritise equity, facilitate decent work conditions and increase investments in the direction of upskilling in a bid to position the midwife, the nurse, and all-female healthcare workers, towards a gender-equal health workforce, truly leading at the front of the frontline.



*Leadership through  
the pandemic*



## *Social Care*

With courage and determination, I have and continue to believe Universal Health Coverage is within reach.

Extending far past the need for innovative health financing, the bedrock of my advocacy in 2021 and beyond continued to echo the Declaration of Astana, that all WHO Member States (1) make bold political choices for health across all sectors; (2) build sustainable primary health care; (3) empower individuals and communities; and (4) align stakeholder support to national policies.

## *Economic Empowerment*

Women's equity within the health and care workforce remained on my front burner, as I firmly supported the increased visibility, advocacy, dialogue, technical output, and commitment to action on improving gender equity in the health and care workforce.

## *Social Care*

Amidst the backdrop of a shadow pandemic of rising cases of gender-based violence, 2021 further illuminated the challenges faced by women and girls around the world – and their continued commitment to undoing and overcoming them all.

We continued to create safe spaces for women and girls by adopting comprehensive and inclusive approaches that tackle the root causes, working to transform harmful social norms through our campaigns, and empowering women and girls.

## *EmONC*

2021 showcased the results and impact of my WBFA's 5-year program to improve the availability and quality of maternal newborn care services delivered by health workers in Kwara State.

Building a community of well-practiced multi-disciplinary delivery teams to address the local frontline barriers to improving care services rapidly and wholeheartedly, at both the health system and societal level, remains our priority in Nigeria.

Believing that we cannot actualise health equity if we do not consider and prioritise the role and place of adequate WASH across any and all facilities - drove our frontline and advocacy efforts throughout 2021.

My calls for the global community, and my Wellbeing Foundation Africa's WASH program and outreach, pushed a thorough review of a mainstream culture that previously undermined the relationship we all had with WASH and disease prevalence especially.

## *Public Health*

Culture is continuous - and built through constant replenishment and reinforcement every day.

My journey and commitment to 'Alaafia', my central motto that promotes the attainment of a state of peace, wellbeing and harmony, drives my collaboration with our leaders, Women and Youth Groups, Cooperatives and Associations to make our cities and communities safer.

With humble gratitude, and bearing the regal approval and presence of His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Abdulfatah Aremu Oyeyinka Aromire, Oyegbemi II, The Ojora of Ijora Kingdom and Iganmu Lands, in 2021 I appreciated the honour bestowed upon me by His Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulwasiu Omogbolahan Lawal, Abisogun II, The Oniru of Iru Land, who conferred my humble self with the recognition of being appointed and installed as the Erelu Bobajiro of Iru Land.





# Reinforcing & Replenishing for Impact

*Guiding Principles of Toyin Saraki  
Global Office Flagship Philanthropy*

## ***The WBFA Development Policy Goals***

The prioritization of global impact, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), informs the following three objectives of The Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA) towards measurable and meaningful outcomes:

1. Empowering and educating front-line community health workers, including midwives and nurses.
2. Advocating for gender equality with the acknowledgement that the status of women, children, and families in Africa require improved resources, support, and advocacy.
3. Increasing accessibility of sustainable maternal, newborn, infant, child and adolescent continuum of care through a lifetime of healthy habits from reproductive health education and family planning, to improved water sanitation and handwashing (WASH) and nutrition behaviours.

WBFA's mission to improve health outcomes for women, adolescent girls, infants and children puts gender equality and the empowerment of women and the girl child front and centre as we combine our programmes with advocacy work locally and on the global stage.

We believe that to overcome maternal mortality, poverty, inequality and social injustice, equal rights and opportunities must be available to all people irrespective of gender and race. We recognize that developmental indicators as they relate to genders and age are unequal, and that we must seek to attain equality in order to sustain any impact made from our programmes and projects.

With gender equality fuelling our advocacy and programme strategies, the WBFA has played notable roles in the major events that have shaped the course of campaigns for the rights of women and girls globally since the Beijing Declaration in 1995. Most notably The Girl Declaration launched in 2013, as a call to action that aims to ensure that adolescent girls are included in the post-2015 agenda, demanding that governments, organisations, individuals and other stakeholders listen, and that the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise, with its asks and commitments are realised.

## ***Making women a priority***

My Foundation acknowledges the fundamental necessity of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Throughout our multi-layered strategy of research, advocacy, policy development, community engagement, philanthropy and education, we have prioritized women, adolescent girls, and children within our various programs mainly focusing on maternal and infant health, as well as sexual, reproductive, mental, and social health in order to empower and strengthen girls and women from birth to old age.

This policy is guided by items 1-5 of the Girl Declaration; 1-10 of the G7 Recommendations for Action from the Gender Equality Advisory Council (2019); and 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 10 and 11 of the Nairobi Statement on ICPD25: Accelerating the Promise.

### ***The WBFA Women, Girls and Gender Development (WGGDs)***

Through this policy, WBFA commits to the following goals:

1  
**Planning and designing with women and girls in mind:** Use insights directly from women and girls that provide quality, timely and disaggregated data, that prioritises the privacy of citizens and is also inclusive of younger adolescents, to sharpen the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and services. Invest in digital health innovations, including in big data systems, and improvement of data systems to inform policies aimed at achieving sustainable development so that the voices of women and girls are heard in key institutions.

Thereby committing to the notion that nothing about young people's health and wellbeing can be discussed and decided upon without their meaningful involvement and participation ("nothing about us, without us").

2  
**Making women and girls visible, making them count:** Collect, disaggregate and analyse data in all sectors by age and sex and use it to improve programs, influence policy and track progress. Data helps drive smarter, more strategic and targeted investments. At a minimum, analyse data by sex and five-year age segments (10-14, 15-19) to ensure that no girl is left behind. No data revolution will be complete without this.

3  
**Giving women and girls a fair share of the money spent to fix things because they give more back.**  
Finance feminist civil society organizations, and allocate dedicated and targeted funding for women and adolescent girls across program and policy budgets. At a minimum, make budget allocations commensurate with women and adolescent girls' needs and potential to drive positive change.

4

**Think of women and girls now, because now is when they need us most; and now is when it will make the most difference**

Intentionally focus on adolescence (ages 10-19) and invest early before girls undergo the physical, emotional and social changes associated with puberty. Design policies and programs to ensure adolescence is a healthy and safe transition to adulthood, not a period in which girls are left out.

5

**Not forgetting women and girls that are poor, distant or too silenced**

In the quest for scale, it's easy to overlook the most marginalized – including adolescent girls in emergency, conflict and post-conflict settings even though reaching them can help end the cycle of conflict. Plan for the most marginalized from the beginning to ensure they aren't left out at the end.

6

**Not holding women and girls back**

Tackle discriminatory social norms that govern women and adolescent girls' daily lives and have significant and enduring consequences. Mobilize communities, families, men and boys to support women and adolescent girls.

7

**Advocating for laws that are fair; they should be made to enforce respect and protection for women and girls**

Ditch gender discriminatory laws and promote progressive ones. Pass laws and ensure accountability to legal policies and frameworks that protect the rights of girls and give them access to justice. At a minimum, governments must meet international obligations and hold those who violate the rights of adolescent girls accountable.

8

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9

**Ensuring that all women and girls living with disabilities have the right to social, cultural and economic benefits including the right to protection, healthcare, appropriate facilities, education and vocational training and employment**

10

**Advocating for the rights of women and girls to live in dignity free from all forms of intimation and gender-based violence**

By making the fight against gender-based violence a national priority, eliminating online harassment, revenge porn, FGM, and child marriage.

11

**Protecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all women and girls**

Every woman has the right to have access to quality respectful maternity care, antenatal care (ANC) provided by a qualified midwife in a clean and safe health care facility up to eight times during her pregnancy, including the right to information, advice and support provided by qualified professionals to ensure safe delivery and adequate postnatal care (PNC) for herself and her newborn child including lactation support and counselling after delivery.



12

**Challenging harmful gender stereotypes and norms**

Stand against gender stereotypes and stereotyping which undermine the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

13

**Advocating for the right of every woman to leadership and political participation**

Promote women's leadership and participation in all sectors, ensuring that women are accorded equal opportunities and support to lead and participate in politics either through elections or by appointments.

14

**Institute equal pay, affordable child care, and paid parental leave**

Every woman has the right to uphold and demand labour rights including the right to fully paid maternity leave.

15

**Stand up for women and gender equality across the world every day**

Daily commit to advocating for women's rights nationally, regionally and globally.

16

**Ensuring that every woman and girl has a fundamental human right to access safe, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (wash) in homes, schools, health facilities and public spaces.**

Using our programmes, projects and partnerships targeted and the girl child from birth to age – including Mamacare360 Community Midwifery and Adolescent PSHE-WASH – to ensure that women and girls have access to safe, clean water for WASH in homes and public places.

17

**Every child has a right to be registered at birth and the right to individual identity**

Using our Personal, Maternal and Child Health Record books, WBFA will not relent in its drive to put one in the hands of every mother as a right to individual identity.



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Committed  
*to caring*

# Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy 2021 Year in Review

FULL CIRCLE, REINFORCEMENT  
AND REPLENISHMENT TO  
PROTECT THE PROGRESS -  
A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR ALL



# Actualising the continuous agenda

## *January*

It is not how many times we fall but how we choose to get up, dust our knees and hands, and try again. After experiencing the profound personal loss of a loved one, I returned to work in the new year with a burning focus on adapting and adjusting strategies to deliver a healthy future for all.

In the persisting shadow of COVID, the onset of 2021 revived international calls for our governments and multilateral agencies to strengthen health systems, deliver COVID-19 testing, treatment and equipment, and contribute to the most ambitious vaccination campaign in history. In January, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued a pressing call for all countries to work together in solidarity – emphasising it was in each of their best interests to ensure that within the first 100 days of the year, vaccination of health workers and older people was underway in all countries. Soon after, I virtually joined global experts at Davos 2021, the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, with a particular interest in centring the promise of technology within the #DavosAgenda. To truly rebuild back better, orienting new decisions on the shape and form of our economies would only be incomplete without prioritising investments in health. As world experts gathered to synergise radical new ways of thinking about economic revival following coronavirus, ensuring we fundamentally prioritise public health and the linkages to economic gain for all remained critical. .

These calls were echoed at the heart of WHO's campaign for #VaccinEquity, which I adamantly joined. Pleased to lend my voice to millions calling upon their countries and the worlds largest companies to ensure, that by the time World Health Day arrived on 7 April, COVID19 vaccines were being administered in every country, as a symbol of hope for overcoming both the pandemic and the inequalities that lie at the root of so many global health challenges today.

## *February*

*To act, prioritise, invest and sustain commitments – these provocations resonated deeply within as the new year started with much urgency.*

Through my Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), I have consistently honoured and expanded our central mission to make childbirth safer and reduce preventable deaths by deepening our knowledge-driven impact on community frontlines.




Through the core platform at the heart of our frontline impact - the multi-faceted institutionally endowed Mamacare360 Community Midwifery powered Antenatal and Postnatal Social and Health Education and Nursing Care Program- and to guarantee the progression of a healthy future towards attaining our Women Girls and Gender Development Targets, the WBFA has continued to promote respectful and comprehensive maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health, care, and combat both non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases through improvements in nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene practices.

From the research bench to the health facility, household and hut in over 670 communities, we continued our commitment to improving competencies in clinical practice of health workers, creating an enabling environment for healthcare leaders and facility managers and enacting policy and programs that work for, and directly with, women, their newborns and their families.

The WBFA programmatic initiatives continued to be targeted at remediating the weaknesses of health systems challenged by a myriad of issues- from demand creation for health seeking orientation for social behavioural change to better supply chain management, diagnostics and treatment- all with reaching people and building sustainable cities to enable better health and wellbeing at the core.

Of all our programming across Nigeria, the 2 programs were most prophetic of the skills and capacities needed to combat COVID-19 during the restrictions of socially distanced physical lockdowns. These were our organic introduction of Mamacare360 and MaternalMonday Whatsapp Chat Groups to continue the conversations in our Mamacare360 classes, and our WASH For Wellbeing program, teaching clean hygiene to mothers and medical workers in HCF, and its counterpart Primary and Adolescent PSHE-WASH in Schools.

In February, I was pleased to welcome a new iteration and launch of our new Wellbeing Africa #WASHForWellbeing Clean Nigeria Women and Youth Community Leaders and Champions Initiative driving female representation and participation in the health system from grassroots level up as the engine that churns for better health outcomes for everyone. By empowering community 'Sanitation Angels' and ensuring interventions reach the vulnerable, we are making good on our promise as a strategic partner to the Every Woman Every Child (EWEC) global movement and consultative member of the United Nations (UN), to unlock female and youth representation in the health system by fostering ownership of WASH issues and solutions.



Of all our programming across Nigeria, the 2 programs were most prophetic of the skills and capacities needed to combat COVID-19 during the restrictions of socially distanced physical lockdowns.

*Central to our achievements were our female community health and care workers who were instrumental in reaching the underserved and most marginalised members of the community, especially in areas with weaker health care systems.*

As we pivoted into the Month of the Woman, I welcomed the Gender Equal Health and Care Workforce Initiative of the Government of France, the World Health Organisation (WHO), and Women in Global Health (WiGH) to increase visibility, advocacy, dialogue, technical output, and existing commitments to action on improving Gender Equity in the health and care workforce, alongside the UN Women Generation Equality Campaign to accelerate gender equality actions.



## *March*

Rebalancing fundamental gender disparities across the world launched into full focus in March. To remain committed to advocacy in the directions of equity, empowerment and evolution; of policy, of opportunity and of community-centred commitment, was my personal charge. I reinvigorated thoughts - both individual and collective which sought and still seek to move us beyond the status quo, and beyond the limitations that have long been accepted.

It is indeed far from new news, that a host of countries continue to face inadequacies and workforce challenges - particularly regarding staffing levels and the maintenance of their morale and momentum. But the emotional and physical toll Covid-19 has had on an estimated 18 million healthcare workers worldwide, now shone a pressing light on our need to actualise gender parity.

I had the honour of launching my 2021 International Women's Day advocacy with friends Vanessa Kerry, Seed Global Health and the healthcare community, by discussing the importance of investing in women in healthcare alongside 11 amazing change agents, table-shakers and thought-leaders committed to reigniting the road to equity in global health for all. Discussing women's equity within the health and care workforce sharpens our collective focus on honing in particularly on the importance of up-skilling, equal remuneration and putting the 'front' in the frontline. Women make up 70% of the global health workforce yet we only fill up 25% of leadership positions. Helping to forge equality by working collaboratively and strategically; necessitates sharing our stories and encouraging the concept of frontline morale. Ultimately when we choose to challenge, identify and recalibrate existing systems, policies, and work environments - I fiercely believe we are creating a culture of work for women that promotes and provides the ability for us to thrive and close the gender gaps in leadership and in pay. It is not impossible, we only need to choose to boldly challenge the status quo.





It was incredibly fitting, therefore, to kick off the Commission on the Status of Women (#CSW65) in the International Year of the Health and Care Worker, with such a timely and complementary focus on 2021 World Social Work Day. As I continued to lead my Wellbeing Foundation Africa's frontline health and care workers in joining the International Federation of Social Workers' commitment to global equity and global interconnectedness, the desire was to see the #WSWD2021 theme of Ubuntu - "I am because we are," come to life: and to equip women to be daily doers; activists, advocates, change-agents and mobilisers. On World Day of Social Work, I advocated for each member of society to recognise the power they possess in protecting, preserving and positioning equity, safety and social solidarity for all. For how much more powerful that can become, when one works for another.

This belief in the promise of a better world would remain in constant supply through the year, as new developments helped us stay optimistic about the introduction and equitable distribution of vaccinations, and the promises of herd immunity. In light of the changing climate of 2020, in 2021 I immediately explored how global thought leadership and philanthropy could drive the transition to sustainable business and society, and how individuals, trusts and foundations can galvanise and shape our response to the pandemic and matters beyond.

Global responsibility ought to be followed by global leadership, to establish a global health system truly fit for this millennium. At the end of March, I congratulated global leaders and Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) commitments to the World Health Organisation's Global Pandemic Treaty which embodied not only solidarity, but fairness, transparency, inclusiveness and equity - all of which must be the foundation by which our new global health system is built.



*"At a time when COVID-19 has exploited our weaknesses and divisions, we must seize this opportunity and come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis."*  
- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General



# Taking Frontline Action

## *April*

As global stakeholders took bold steps in navigating the new normal, at the Frontline we witnessed brave steps towards continued community-centred care. Truly, the applause was not near enough for our health and care workers who continued to face inadequacies and challenges from the onset and throughout the pandemic, particularly regarding staffing levels and the maintenance of their morale and momentum. In 2016 it was estimated that an additional 18 million healthcare workers would be required in order to actualise Universal Health Coverage. COVID-19 created an additional burden in the form of health worker deaths, infection, exhaustion, mental trauma, long-COVID, and attrition.

As we progressed through the International Year of the Health and Care Worker, I took hold of the opportunities to powerfully recognise, re-position, and reverberate our policies as a clarion call to a much needed global revival of health and care worker empowerment, through promoting increased autonomy within the health and care worker professions and, by way of assuring a patient's continuum of (health) care. This included doing more to secure their future, appreciate the present and respect their past in the form of their training and dedication.

The release of the UNFPA, WHO and International Confederation of Midwives 2021 State of World Midwifery Report gave us a deeper understanding of how our Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Adolescent Health (SRMNAH) workforce across 194 countries, can be better empowered and positioned to save millions of lives, every year. The data showed us that educated, licensed and integrated midwives, when supported by multidisciplinary teams, can deliver about 90% of the essential SRMNAH interventions across the life course. Yet, midwives account for less than 10% of the global SRMNAH workforce. Through 4 key areas of low-cost and high-impact investment in midwifery, we can reduce critical workforce shortage, secure more positive birthing experiences and support a range of clinical interventions contributing to broader health goals, all while addressing sexual and reproductive rights, and empowering women and adolescent girls.

In 2021, the WBFA Mamacare360 programme continued to lead on maternal and newborn health interventions across 6 states in Nigeria, but our Midwives still required whole-system support - as "Defenders of Women's Rights" and health outcomes - to better identify and support those most at risk, and to have true efficiency and enjoyment in their daily roles. From fewer preterm births to fewer fetal losses at any gestation, and high rates of positive experiences and health outcomes for women, midwife-led continuity of care has been associated with positive outcomes around the world.





When I inspected the new Primary Health Centre in Iru Kingdom, Oniru, Victoria Island in Lagos in April, which was soon to be a new Mamacare location, I left pleased with the level of infrastructural investment and planning devoted to the project, seeing well ahead how our WBFA midwife would expand her reach to bring timely information to and partner with mothers in the thriving communities of Iruland. Working with my WBFA midwives has enriched my understanding and approach to actualising Comprehensive Community Healthcare at the primary level which will remain a matter of urgent importance, as I advocated to ensure all essential and critical services reach the most vulnerable.

Later that month, I welcomed the 2021 Institutionalising Community Health Conference Opening Plenary, focused on addressing the challenges hindering community healthcare from becoming an equitable reality. Having led Nigeria CSO's PHC Revitalization Support Group which advocated for the 2018 redemption of the Abuja Declaration Pledge of 1% Consolidated Revenue Fund to Health, Comprehensive Community Healthcare is a core target of my Foundation's mission, vision and actions.

## *May*

Covid-19 has taught us that the most resilient health system is a holistic health system. One that can withhold the everyday, commonplace health demands of the people and where community-based health care providers serve as the bridge between communities, the formal health system, and government authorities. We must support and empower them, accordingly. Advocating for our health bravely, community health workers, nurses, doctors and researchers around the world deserve the utmost respect and recognition.

I ushered in the month of May with the 2021 International Workers Day, celebrating our brave and resilient health frontline - who despite challenging odds pressed on to deliver life-saving services daily. Followed very closely by the timely occasion of International Nurses Day, an opportunity to honour our nurses at the frontline, for the valuable, tireless, person-centred work that they do, and to call out to governments and stakeholders to give nurses the voice and agency necessary to lead in making quality health care a right for all.





I continued to participate in forums such as the PMNCH Civil Society Session - ACT-A Vaccine Pillar Civil Society Dialogue exploring joint Gavi, CEPI and WHO-led conversations on COVAX supply, allocations and introductions, as well as vaccine safety and policy recommendations - with the focus of collaborating arduously towards ensuring our Front-liners; doctors, nurses, midwives and more, were well-equipped in the efforts to bring each of us closer again through improved vaccination coverage.

Joining Professor Sheila Tlou, Lord Nigel Crisp, Dr Matshidiso Moeti and Howard Catton and others for the Africa Session at the start of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly (WHA74) alongside the Nursing Now Global Footprints Conference, my opening remarks celebrated every member of the Global frontline and highlight the contributions that nursing and nurses- care epitomised- have bravely made in fighting against the Coronavirus.

Keeping both caregiver and beneficiary in view, I joined SPANS and The Marce Society on Africa Day, to open the 2nd International Conference On Maternal Health in Africa, engaging in pertinent conversations and knowledge-sharing on parental mental health on the continent and beyond. Noting importantly, in Nigeria, 10–20% of consecutive attendees in primary care have depression, with reported rates of perinatal depression ranging from 10-30%. Statistics remain significantly lower than our global north counterparts, not because they are lower but because there is a stigma attached towards those experiencing mental health challenges. My search for solutions only reinforced the mobilisation of an adequately trained & empathy-filled multidisciplinary team, at the community level, coupled with the careful dissemination of mental health & pregnancy-related education resources with the power to support women and their families.



*Once Hesitancy is released  
Trust is formed. The former  
has its roots deeply entangled  
in the need to equip our  
health interlocutors with the  
requisite knowledge, skills,  
confidence and experience.*

Thus, it was with joy that welcomed the end of May with the announcement of the close-out of my WBFA's 5-year program to improve the availability & quality of maternal newborn care services delivered by health and care workers in Kwara State, joined our partners, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, CMNH-LSTM Nigeria and Johnson and Johnson Global Health.

With 80% of all maternal deaths resulting from 5 manageable complications, the main driver of the Emergency Obstetric Care (EmONC) Skills and Drillsproject pioneered across Kwara State was to equip doctors, nurses & midwives, introducing the skills needed to overcome these obstetric emergencies. As we concluded the 5th year of the EmONC Program, the results of improvements & up-skilling in Kwara were clear: a 38% reduction in facility stillbirth rate recorded since 2015.

We have convincing proof this concept is beyond suitable for whole nation deployment.

Once again, I use this reflective opportunity to thank our partners, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Johnson and Johnson, for the trust and confidence invested in the Wellbeing Foundation Africa and UN Every Woman Every Child Commitments to the Global Strategy on Women and Childrens' Health, which powered our partnership and catalyzed this significant program.

I beam with pride and with a grateful heart at the readiness demonstrated by a robust frontline and continued in June looking forward to the actualisation of a continuum of care that will contribute to the total zeroing of maternal & neonatal deaths in Nigeria.





# Counting our Wins

## *June*

The recently concluded WHA 74 in May ushered in the two year anniversary of the WHO Resolution on WASH in Health Care Facilities and with it, a global progress report on the inroads and investments made to secure desperately needed WASH in healthcare facilities (HCFs). The report reveals that over 70% of countries surveyed by the WHO had conducted related situation analyses, 86% had updated and were implementing standards and 60% were working to incrementally improve infrastructure and operation and maintenance of WASH services. As we sought to exit the looming shadows of COVID-19, envisioning and planning for 'healthier environments for healthier populations' only further augmented the importance of infection prevention control (IPC), clean hands, and access to safe WASH in order to save and strengthen lives.

Nonetheless, huge gaps in services, adoption of standards and establishment of baselines remained persistent in the majority of countries with an alarming need to increase regular budgets, monitoring and integration of WASH in HCFs through adequate and timely health programmes around the world, most especially in LIMCs.

When I joined The End Fund and The Economist Intelligence Unit to speak during 'Breaking the Cycle of Neglect' a gathering exploring the far-reaching impact of a worm-free world.

I emphasised that diseases such as Schistosomiasis, STH and Parasitic Worms, can and must be recognised early and treated effectively - without cost, access or literacy competency posing as a barrier to patients and drawing linkages to demonstrating within my WBFA WASH programming and outreach, that the solution for combating neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) starts and ends with WASH. The was reiterating a message that the onset of the global pandemic successfully communicated to members of the NTD community, our global infrastructures, households and public service facilitators.

Even as the end of the month brought a sunset to the legacy that 3 years of collaborative advocacy with partners Global Water 2020, the Global Handwashing Partnership and the emergent Water and Sanitation Council, the revived, national and regional commitments and dedication to the #WASHinHCF agenda that had been carved out is a cause of celebration. Together we have moved the needle from a 'neglected crisis' to a clear and compelling global health movement. Notably, the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action, World Health Assembly Resolution, and more than 100 commitments from stakeholders around the world confirms together we have successfully begun watering the planted seeds of positive change into a forest of commitments for WASH and for the crucially associated NTD's.

June also marked the Launching Ceremony And Commissioning of Oniru Primary Health Centre, newly established by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to The President on Sustainable Development Goals OSSAP-SDGs, and graciously endowed by His Royal Majesty, The Oniru of Iru Land, Oba Omogbolahan Lawal, Abisogun II and his amiable Olori Mariam Lawal. I was delighted to also commission and confirm Oniru PHC as a Wellbeing Foundation Africa Program Beneficiary Health Facility, bringing our full range of development programs to Iru Land including our donation of healthcare essentials to the facility.

Soon thereafter, bearing the regal approval of His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Abdulfatah Aremu Oyeyinka Aromire, Oyegbemi II, The Ojora of Ijora Kingdom and Iganmu Lands, I would receive the immeasurable honour bestowed upon me by His Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulwasiiu Omogbolahan Lawal, Abisogun II, The Oniru of Iru Land, who conferred my humble self with the recognition of being appointed and installed as the Erelu Bobajiro of Iru Land, during the week-long 1st Year Coronation Anniversary Celebration of His Royal Majesty Abisogun II, Oniru of Iru Land.

I am grateful for the inestimable love and support of my Royal Father, The Ojora of Ijora Kingdom and Iganmu Lands, Kabiyesi, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr) Abdulfatah Aremu Oyeyinka Aromire, Oyegbemi II, His Council of Chiefs, and the good people of the Ijora Kingdom and Iganmu Lands who honoured my homecoming as The Princess Royal Omo-Oba to Ijora Oloye with the highest privilege of Apesin Ceremonial Procession.



## July

The start of July was coloured with riveting conversations and new collaborations with my colleagues and partners in international development and global health.

I was delighted to welcome a new partnership with Nutrition International promoting greater recognition and adoption of diarrhoea treatment using ORS-Zinc, a low osmolarity rehydration remedy. The partnership is taking this community of practice that we have built so effectively across the FCT Abuja and Lagos, Kwara, Osun, Ogun, Kaduna States, further now to Sokoto and Kano States, both to educate mothers as household nurturers, as well as helping HCF's manage their supplies of this essential medicine, to improve health and nutrition outcomes.

I also joined the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) for an InstaLive discussion on Maternal Health during forced displacement conversing with Ms Nancy Aburi, UNHCR's Chief of Private Sector Partnerships in Africa and Dr Ernest Ochang, UNHCR Public Health and maternal health expert based in Ogoja, Cross Rivers State, Nigeria as we unpacked challenges and developments in the provision of maternal health for forcibly displaced women across the region. Later that month, at the UNHCR Nigeria Symposium commemorating 70 years since the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention, in the robust panel discussion "70 Years Refugee Convention: How can Nigeria take refugee protection to the next level?" moderated by Amarachi Ubani of Channels TV, I noted that while Nigeria has taken solid steps in establishing the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) to implement the rights of refugees, our IDP and refugee population continue to face barriers in community integration and full support that speaks to meeting them at their point of need - in Health, Welfare, Education, Livelihoods and beyond.

*So much more can be done to stand with Refugees – be it in actualising truly inclusive and universal health for all to an expanded focus of Nutrition, NTD's and WASH while ensuring the timely access of refugee communities to health and social care and provision of sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and services for our young women and girls who are often the most vulnerable members of their communities.*







## *August*

With August drifted in moments for the Mother, starting with the 2021 World Breastfeeding Week promoting Breastfeeding as the key solution to infant nutrition. Since 2004, my Wellbeing Foundation Africa has worked across community frontlines, health facilities and households to promote and protect breastfeeding as a shared responsibility to build a healthier world - namely through our Mamacare360 Community Midwives who support Baby-Friendly HCFs and mothers to nurture and nourish their newborns from birth.

2021 was the time to turn our attention to the most vulnerable newborn citizen - our 871,000 annual premature & fragile neonates in intensive and special care settings to ensure they receive the benefits of breastmilk too. At the start of August, we ushered in a new, powerful chapter in WBFAs journey promoting and protecting Breastfeeding as the ideal first nutrition in Nigeria.



With much pleasure, I welcomed the Hon. Minister For Health - Professor Osagie Ehanire, Hon. Executive Director NPHCDA - Dr Faisal Shuaib, Hon. DG Nafdac - Professor Moji Adeyeye, the CEO Medela Cares, Professor Olugbenga Mokuolu, respected stakeholder organisations, and our Great Nigeria Midwives, Nurses, and Lactation Consultants at our joint WBFA-Medela Cares advocacy and stakeholder workshop: Improving the use of Mother's Own Milk in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where the announcement was made that WBFA, having received ethical approvals and completed a baseline assessment exercise to roll out its program partnership with Medela Cares. Together, we are working to improve the health and survival of infants in need of care in Nigeria's Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) by: developing the key contextual practices supporting the transition to at-breastfeeding.



*I ended my birthday month locking arms with UNHCR, spending precious time with Refugees at the UNHCR Nigeria supported refugees settlement communities in Ogoja, Cross Rivers State. My first stop was Adagom where I was cheerfully welcomed by over 67,000 mothers, men and children once forced to flee, now residing in the Refugee Resettlement Community.*

Followed by an insightful discussion with the Women Leaders of both the refugee and wonderfully kind Adagom host communities.

I was pleased that my WBFA team, National Program Coordinator and Lead WBFA Community Midwife were on hand to deliver food boxes, dignity kits, education learning materials, and undertake our WBFA baseline needs assessment. We demonstrated our flagship MamaCare class, whilst imparting successful breastfeeding practices with the assistance of WBFA manuals and IEC material.

I was reminded that solutions require home-grown global leaders and those with influence to put aside their differences, end an egoistic approach to politics, and instead focus on preventing and solving conflict and ensuring respect for human rights.




# Coming Full Circle

## *September*

At the beginning of September, I was delighted to receive the generous donation of 8 VScan handheld ultrasound machines from the Nigerian division of the global medical technology innovator, General ElectricHealthcare. As a result of increased access to this medical equipment, our community-centred offering was enhanced, supporting the early detection and subsequent diagnosis of women and neonates at 8 more of the hundreds of primary health centres where our MamaCare Midwives provide a continuum of antenatal and postnatal care and counsel for every woman and her newborn, including:

- Okelele PHC, Ilorin East LGA, Kwara State,
- Ajikobi Cottage Hospital, Ilorin West LGA, Kwara State,
- Lugbe PHC, Abuja Municipal Area Council, FCT Abuja,
- Dafa PHC, Kwali Municipal Area Council, FCT Abuja,
- Karu PHC Abuja Municipal Area Council, FCT Abuja,
- Oniru PHC, Eti Osa LGA, Lagos State,
- Ijora Oloye PHC, Apapa LGA Lagos State
- Isokun PHC Ilesha West LGA, Osun State.

I celebrated this achievement on our global journey to zeroing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity and continued to advocate for recognition and respect for local and frontline organisational capacities with regards to global partnerships, in order to ensure equitable funding practices and donor-grantee relationships. I stressed these points throughout the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA76) sessions - which included the 2021 Africa Open for Business Summit, organized by the African Renaissance and Diaspora Network (ARDN) and a lively roundtable with Reckitt, leading academic institutions, the White House Covid-19 team, New York State Government Officials, and a wide range of experts who have all developed key tools and skills towards 'Building Resilience: The Future of Protecting Global Health'. We all agreed that the world must prioritise a sustainable recovery, rooted in the 2030 Agenda, and supporting countries and communities as we work arduously to rebuild and make better systems shattered by the pandemic



*Increasing reinforcement and replenishment, especially towards the empowerment of the frontliner, remained throughout the last quarter of the year.*



## October

October brought in a wave of important national and global moments, from Nigeria's 61st Independence day, where I put pen to paper, joining senior global experts, Ms. Comfort Lamptey, UN Women Country Representative to Nigeria & ECOWAS, Dr. Roopa Dhatt, Executive Director Women in Global Health, and youth-filled national innovators, Olabukunola "Buky" Williams, Executive Director of Education As A Vaccine and Dr. Adepeju Adeniran Co-chapter Lead, Women in Global Health Nigeria - to share our thoughts on Nigeria's gains in the journey towards gender equality - and the progress we must work together achieve in women's active inclusion in social, economic, and political spheres.

I further recognised October as World Cancer Awareness month, drawing attention and taking action to fight cancer through my WBFA efforts - through frontline outreach and awareness in our Mamacare programs, shaping national policy with the Legislative Network for Universal Health Care (UHC), and implementing our Wellbeing Foundation Africa Research Fellows 2018 Rapid Cancer Assessment Report with partners like Amref and Takeda. And also personally, supporting the Walk Away Cancer effort with my dear husband His Excellency Bukola Saraki, sponsoring 40 Mammograms, 40 Cervical Pap Smears, and 40 Breast Ultrasounds through the Medicaid Cancer Foundation.

*Importantly, also recognising International Day of the Girl, International Day of Eradication of Extreme Poverty, UN Day, and Global Handwashing Day, as opportunities to amplify our shared values and call for meaningful actions both at home and across the globe.*





## November

November was characterised by tentpole global moments - COP26, 16 Days of Activism and the anniversary of the ICPD25 commitments.

I arrived in Glasgow in the first week of the month to join Reckitt at the COP26 GOALS house roundtable: Planetary Health & Public Health. The session gathered experts from Eco Health Alliance and The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, authors of 'The Impact of Climate Change on Health'. The call to action remains clear: we must build climate-resilient health systems while tracking national progress in protecting health from climate change. Only by respecting the intrinsic connection that exists between planetary health and public health will we be able to put in place adequate prevention measures to support people's ability to tackle the impact of climate change on their own health and wellbeing.

Constantly reminded of the complex and interconnected nexus of health to all other parts of contemporary life and societal organisation, I was equally honoured to contribute to the COVID-19 Champions Consultations later that month, led by the President of South Africa, H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa. In discussions with the Work Stream on Recovery, led by Dr. Githinji Gitahi, in partnership with the Africa CDC, the Consultation discussed workforce development needs on the continent, gathering public health experts and policymakers on the continent and partners to discuss a framework for workforce development in Africa to combat the current pandemic and prepare for future pandemics, and the role of the private sector in the development and scale-up of the workforce on the continent.





## December

Reflecting as I joined Nigeria's National Population Commission, UNFPA, Country Stakeholders, Partners and Federal Commissioners, in marking the 2nd Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development ICPD25 Commitment Progress, collaborating with prominent agents of change is critical to tackling emergent challenges.

As a member of the International Steering Committee, my Wellbeing Foundation Africa led in-country advocacy in partnership with UNFPA Global Partnerships to raise and support country commitments towards: Zero unmet needs for family planning and services, Zero preventable maternal and infant deaths and, Zero sexual and gender-based violence including early and forced marriage, as well as female genital mutilation.

As the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, our organisation was fortunate enough to continue our vital programming due to self-endowments and our midwives and doctors being classed as essential workers. We are so grateful to have been able to persevere during those difficult moments when we were needed the most.

Throughout this period we have experienced first-hand how crucial it is to continuously reinforce and replenish sexual and reproductive health and rights actions and my WBFA is committed to advancing universal access to sexual and reproductive health, reinforcing the goal to end preventable maternal deaths by upskilling the maternal, newborn and child health workforce, creating safe spaces, and empowering the younger generation to know and respect their social, sexual and reproductive health and rights.

2021 ended in concerted action from the homefront: kick-off the month's engagements at the Africa Private Sector Forum of Forced Displacement with an important high-level yet candid bilateral conversation with UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner, Kelly T Clements.

The 36 Million Solutions Forum is the first of its kind, uniting Africa's business and industry leaders with philanthropists, refugee change-makers, and the public sector. Collectively, we are designing market-based approaches to leverage the potential and power of the 36 million solutions who are forcibly displaced across our continent. Opening with a keynote by the Prime Minister of Rwanda, Right Honorable Dr Edouard Ngirente, the forum inspired and encouraged us to create market-driven, African-led solutions to the issues of forced displacement across our continent.

One such solution was also epitomized in the calls for the strengthening of the regulatory frameworks that protect our women and girls. As a female leader whose main priority is to advocate for women and children across Nigeria, the topic of gender-based violence is extremely near and dear to me, so I was eager to share my Keynote Address at the Global Citizen High-Level Roundtable in Abuja focused on 'Action Against Gender-Based Violence: Full Domestication of VAPP Act by All States in Nigeria' and in support of the petition submitted to the Federal Government through the Federal Minister of Women Affairs for the domestication of the VAPP Act in all 36 States and the FCT - to enable a nationally coordinated implementation strategy against GBV. Until all 36 states are on board and wholly committed to ending gender-based violence, we will not be able to build standard services across the nation, which we need to respond to individuals, families and communities facing this crisis.





Committed to the rise of women and girls I ended 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, on Human Rights Day, reiterating our efforts to strengthen our primary health, education and workplace structures by integrating PSVI at the frontline to bring equity and efficiency to our preventive and response mechanisms. With courage and determination, our goals are within reach.

As the year drew nearer to a close, I was pleased to return home to Ilorin, Kwara, welcomed with warmth and love. Only a few days after the Universal Health Care Day, I reflected on the successes and challenges of my Wellbeing Foundation Africa's 2011-2016 Five-Year Alaafia Universal Health Coverage Fund Program which provided Health Insurance Capacitation Micro-Grants for 25,000 Nigerians in Kwara State. With a thankful heart, I appreciated the Royal Fathers, Religious Leaders and the good people of Kwara State, well-wishers, friends and family across the country for all the kind words and prayers in wishing my wonderful husband a great 59th birthday and congratulated him on the 1000 new enrollees of the Abubakar Bukola Saraki Foundation's Universal Health Coverage Capacitation Grants, and wish everyone good health and happiness.

Recalling, however, that we must venture beyond the umbrella of achieving a universal duty of care through innovative health financing, and embodying the Declaration of Astana, unanimously endorsed by all WHO Member States in 2018, which makes pledges in four key areas: (1) make bold political choices for health across all sectors; (2) build sustainable primary health care; (3) empower individuals and communities; and (4) align stakeholder support to national policies.

Maintaining our measured progress towards universal health coverage during the current public health crisis and the pandemic in West Africa and beyond is a mission that requires tenacity and visionary leadership. It's an issue that has implications not just for African nations, but also globally, because our responses will have lasting effects on how we combat the pandemic going forward.

We must be bold enough to discuss the truths of empowering, skilling, and retaining our health workforce, and tackle the challenge of vaccine equity together, singing in unison, from Alma-Ata to Abuja, and Astana, that health is an investment and not a cost.



# The Journey Continues

PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS  
IN 2021 AND BEYOND

Her Excellency Toyin Saraki's Global  
Office + Philanthropy



# Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy Supported Endowment Programs



## *Mamacare Antenatal and Postnatal Education Programme*

The WBFA's flagship program, the Mamacare Antenatal and Postnatal Education Programme aims to reduce Nigeria's staggering burden of maternal and child mortality and morbidity. The program is guided by the WHO and partners-supported "Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health," which aims to help improve the quality of care, and to respect the rights and dignity of those who seek care.



The MamaCare Antenatal Education classes are led by a qualified midwife and are held weekly. The sessions give pregnant women practical information, advice, and support to help prepare for birth and care for their newborns.



In 2021, the WBFA's flagship Programme ran in 66 Healthcare facilities located across Abuja (FCT) (11), Lagos (29), Osun(8), Cross River(4) and Kawara(14) States. In the year under review the programme reached a total of 49,357 beneficiaries out of which 46,157 were pregnant women (35,864) and postnatal women(10,293).

**Table 1 - WBFA Mamacare Antenatal and Postnatal Education Programme, 2021**

States	LGA	HC F	Pregnant women	Postnatal mothers	Total Women	Other Family Members	Counseling	Total Beneficiaries
Abuja (FCT)	6	11	10,731	8,060	18,791	169	385	19,345
Lagos	7	29	9,154	726	9,880	688	584	11,152
Osun	7	8	3,671	-	3,671	-	140	3,811
Cross River	1	4	782	767	1,549	86	48	1,683
Kwara	3	14	11,526	740	12,266	891	389	13,546
Total	24	66	35,864	10,293	46,157	1,834	1,546	49,537

## Training and Medical Technology

In October 2021, GE International Operations donated 8 units of Vscan Access equipment to WBFA to be utilised in hospitals, Medical centres and PHCSs in Kwara, Abuja, Lagos and Osun states. Currently, WBFA is organising Training of Trainers sessions on the efficient and effective use of the machines. The high-tech portable ultrasound machines will contribute to WBFA's progressive antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care pathway; a community-centred offering that daily commits to the early detection and subsequent diagnosis of women and neonates, in a bid to minimise adverse antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal complications. The donation from GE is set to further strengthen the Foundation's community-centred care delivery efforts. This project will benefit both present and prospective frontliners, women of reproductive age and those 'with child.

## Digital Mamacare360

The Online platforms were set up to reach out to more mothers beyond Mamacare educational classes with the right information on maternal, newborn and child health care, and help to combat maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. For the year 2021, 13 new WhatsApp groups were created and 2,356 New contacts added; Abuja (267); Kwara (710); Lagos- (1,234); Osun (97); Kano (16); and Sokoto (32). In addition, 13 new groups were created this year in Abuja (1); Kwara (4); Lagos (5); Osun (1); Sokoto (1) and Kano- (1). In Total, to date, Digital Mamacare has 20 groups with a total of 3, 064 mothers.

## Highlights

### Mamacare Neighbourhood Health Committees - Abuja

Health Committees created based on the principle how healthy a community is highly dependent on the number of informed woman it has. Members of the committees consist of women of reproductive and post-menopausal ages and female adolescents. WBFA midwives hold regular quarterly meetings with the committees, teaching them topics of health importance with the aim of knowledge and practice transfer to the community at large. The Committee members in turn, inform other women on health-related issues and serve as Community WASH Champions. A total of 518 women were constituted in 27 communities across the 6 Area Councils in Abuja.

### Babybliss - Providing Mamacare360 Mothers Access To Covid-19 Palliatives Lagos

The Covid-19 pandemic further emphasized the importance of practising good hygiene as it remains our first line of defence against the novel coronavirus. In an effort to curb the spread of the pandemic, especially among mothers and women, WBFA partnered with Baby Bliss, a fast growing mom and baby business offering the best and largest collection of baby products from infant to toddlers. The company donated 250 Babybliss packages to WBFA on the 17th of December, 2020 to support our Mamacare program and also help reduce the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## *Young Children and Adolescent PSHE*

### *WASH For Wellbeing in Schools*

#### *Program*

The program aims towards educating young children, adolescent girls and boys about their bodies, their relationships, and their health; through sessions and visits to schools and communities. The topics covered includes sensitizing the community girls and women on menstrual hygiene, cleanliness, nutrition (balance diet, exclusive breastfeeding) and care of newborns, respectful relationships, domestic violence, social vices such as drug abuse and there were practical sessions on proper hand washing procedure. In addition, the Young Children and Adolescent PSHE WASH Program distributed handbooks on WASH, facemask, notebooks, snacks, and mathematical sets to students and staff in various sessions, In 2021, PSHE WASH program covered 9 schools reaching a total of 653 Young Children and Adolescent across three states; Abuja (Female 39, Male 51), Kwara (Female 11) and Lagos (Female 293 and Male 253). During the same period, the program reached 460 children and young adults in communities across three states: Abuja (Female 75, Male 10), Kwara (Female 79, Male 41) and Crossriver (Female 179 and Male 76)

## *Highlights*

### **Cross River**

In response to a cholera outbreak, WBFA launched a WASH campaign in selected communities of Cross River state through its PSHE program, educating the young child and adolescent on good hygiene and sanitation practices as it remains a key prevention measure in the spread of cholera. This campaign took place in the Ukende and Adagom resettlement where topics focusing on WASH, girls right, menstrual hygiene, child abuse, HIV/AIDS and increasing community awareness on the impact of cholera.

Our PSHE program was launched in Cross River State at Adagom resettlement in August 2021. This also correlated with the birthday celebration of the Founder of Wellbeing Foundation Africa, Her Excellency, Toyin Saraki who celebrated with the young children and adolescents in the communities.

**Table 2 – PSHE Program at School**

	No. Schools	Female	Male	Total
Abuja	2	39	51	90
Kwara	1	17	-	17
Lagos	6	293	253	546
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>653</b>

**Table 3 - PSHE Program in Communities**

	No. Communities	Female	Male	Total
Abuja	2	75	10	85
Kwara	2	79	41	120
Cross River	2*	179	76	255
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>460</b>

**Note** - \* Displaced People Resettlement Camp



# Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy Donor Funded Projects

## *Lactation and human milk initiative specifically designed for mothers of infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU):*

WBFA in partnership with Medela Cares has started implementing a new programme in January 2021 named 'Lactation and human milk initiative specifically designed for mothers of infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU)'. The WBFA+Medela program aims to enhance lactation care provided to mothers to improve infant feeding and ultimately health outcomes. The program also aims to upskill and enhance lactation and human milk knowledge, skills and expertise for NICU, maternity and affiliated health care professionals.

The project aims to reach around 200 healthcare professionals annually and through WBFA's midwife network to reach around 2,000 healthcare professionals serving 20, 000 mothers and their vulnerable infants. The WBFA+Medela program is currently running in three states namely Abija (FCT), Lagos and Kawara at two selected healthcare facilities for each state.

Some of the activities completed so far include undertaking baseline assessment using Q.I. tool in facilities with approvals, hold Stakeholders meetings during the WBF week and conduct 5-day in-country workshops for WBFA Midwives.

Furthermore, donation of lactation equipment and materials including 18 breast pumps (3 / NICU), appropriately sized fridges (circa 150L)(1 for each NICU) NICU Facility Breastfeeding Register, Educational materials, Posters among others. The selected facilities have so far received 5 refrigerators, 2kva stabilizers and 5 windows tablets. Other equipment and materials are expected to arrive in January 2022.

Furthermore, Facility Key Stakeholders Meetings were held in December 2021. The stakeholders meeting on the Use of Own Mother's Milk (OMM) to improve the survival of neonates within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was attended by Labor ward, NICU, Antenatal, Postnatal, Obstetrics theatre and Infection Prevention Control Units across different cadres ranging from Head of units, Consultants, Registrars, Midwives and Nurses.

Table 3 - Hospitals participating in the WBFA-Madela program

States	Hospitals
Abuja	Maitama General Hospital
	Asokoro General Hospital
Kwara	State, University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital General Hospital Ilorin
Lagos	Lagos University Teaching Hospital.



Current program data for the WBFA –NI program in Sokoto and Kano States

	Indicators	Sokoto	Kano	Total
1	Number of health workers trained on IMCI	226	682	908
2	Number of caregivers that visited the ANC clinic	2258	13414	15672
3	Number of caregivers that visited the PNC clinic	534	2460	2994
4	Number of under 5 children with diarrhea that visited the clinic	656	892	1157
5	Number of under 5 children with diarrhea treated with ZN LO-ORS as a first line treatment regimen	656	891	1547
6	Number of under 5 diarrhoea treated with ZN LO-ORS that died	0	0	0





# Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy Supported Closed Out Programs

## *MAMACARE+NLIFT*

The WBFA completed its implementation of the 3-year Mamacare+NLift programme in March 2021. The program is based on the Nutrition International and UNFPA Nutrition Leverage and Influence for Transformation (N-LIFT) initiative, set to improve IFA supplementation through its Mamacare+N Maternity platform in FCT Abuja.

The N-LIFT initiative, which is funded by the Government of Canada was supplemented by Nutrition International investment to incorporate nutrition components into existing UNFPA sexual and reproductive health services. In 2019, WBFA became an Implementing Partner and carried out the programme in 30 health care facilities (with a total of 62 Wards) across all the six Area Councils of Abuja from July 2019 until March 2021.

WBFA was responsible for conducting sensitization of ward development committee (WDC) members in the HCF wards; 255 WDC members comprising 237 males and 18 females were reached. The program also provided RMNCAH and nutrition counselling through trained nurse/midwives, and provided supportive supervision at the antenatal clinic (ANC), postnatal clinic (PNC), and family planning (FP) service delivery points.

Despite all these confronting challenges in Q2 2020 due to COvid-17 pandemic, WBFA through her volunteer community of midwives continued to educate women across her implementing facilities on maternal nutrition and RMNCAH. This was possible due to our strategy of selecting midwives resident in the communities where we serve or operate.

The midwives adopted the use of anatomical models from Laerdal in teaching across all benefiting facilities. By March 2021 a total of 306,101 women were reached at the ANCs (117,484), PNCs (133,469) and FPs (55,178).

		ANC	PNC	FPC	Total
2019	Q1	18,659	6,876	8,336	33,871
	Q2	15,409	7,471	8,504	31,384
	Total	34068	14347	16840	65,255
2020	Q1	17,208	15,913	40,966	40,966
	Q2	12,548	20,667	39,707	39,707
	Q3	18,947	31,062	56,786	56,786
	Q4	17,052	24,186	51,641	51,641
	Total	65,755	91,828	31,517	189,100
2021	Q1	17,661	27,294	51,776	51,776
	Total	17,661	27,294	51,776	51,776
Total		117,484	133,469	55,178	306,131

## ***Emergency Obstetric & Newborn Care (EmONC) Project***

31st May 2021, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), in line with its consistent efforts in advocating for safe births, recently closed out a 5 year 'Emergency Obstetric & Newborn Care (EmONC) Project' to improve the availability and quality of maternal and newborn care in Kwara State, Nigeria. The project was implemented in collaboration with Johnson & Johnson and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). Through the EmONC Project, training was provided to 723 Healthcare providers, 72 Master trainers and CME coordinators, 12 midwife tutors, and 70 managers and Healthcare practitioners.

It is estimated that 62,900 women and their newborns will derive continued benefit annually from quality improvement at 51 supported health facilities, which include 10 skills laboratories and 2 state centres of excellence. The establishment of a national centre of excellence at Kwara State School of Nursing and Midwifery is expected to take pre-service quality improvement to a national scale, in conjunction with the Nigeria Nursing and Midwifery Council. The project Close-Out Impact Study shows that, the EmONC project has equipped doctors, nurses and midwives, as a collective team, with the skills needed to overcome obstetric emergencies - resulting in a 38% reduction in facility stillbirth rate in Kwara, since 2015.

### **cEmONC Community-based Extension Training**

The Kwara Office joined LSTM on 23rd to 25th March 2021 to carry out a Nurses-only training course titled "Life Saving Skills – Essential Obstetric Care & Newborn Care Course for Kwara State". Participants were drawn from Kwara State Ministry of health, School of Nursing Ilorin, General Hospital Ilorin, School of Midwifery, Alawamu Basic Health Centre, Yusjib Medical Centre Ilorin, Lafiagi Clinic and Maternity, Oke-Ola PHC Oro and Nursing and Midwifery Council Abuja.

All the LSTM equipment, training manuals and models safely stored at the WBFA Kwara Office were donated to the Kwara State School of Nursing and Midwifery, towards establishing a national centre of excellence on 31st May 2021.

# Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy Supported Partnerships

## *ICPD25 Gender Equality Advocacy*

WBFA recognises that reproductive health and the empowerment of women and girls, and gender equality are paramount pillars in attaining sustainable development, achieving peace, ending poverty and hunger, and improving health and well-being. To meet its objective in advocating for gender equality, WBFA's Women, Girls, and Gender Targets Policy (WGGDT) launched in November 2020, integrates the ICPD25 accelerating gender equality strategy across its current programming.

Since serving on the International Steering Committee for the Nairobi ICPD25 Summit in 2019, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa has continued its commitment to accelerate progress towards the ICPD agenda. In line with the ICDP Programme of action, WBFA recognises that reproductive health and the empowerment of women and girls, gender equality opportunity are paramount pillars in attaining sustainable development. Therefore since November 2019, we have so far achieved the following progress towards the three zeros of: 1) zero unmet needs for family planning information and services; 2) zero preventable maternal and infant deaths; 3) zero sexual and gender based violence, including early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

On November 2021 participated at an event Commitment Progress was reported on a newsletter achieved through various programs and advocacy activities. Mamacare360 Community Midwifery Antenatal and Postnatal Education Program including its Digital Midwifery platform, WBFA Mamacare+Lift program, Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care (EmONC) program WBFA's Adolescent Skills and Drills PSHE WASH. The WBFA's Women, Girls and Gender Targets Policy (WGGDT) launched in November 2020, integrates the ICPD25 three zeros strategy across its current programming and was also highlighted in the update provided.



## UNHCR

36 Million Solutions – Africa Private Sector Forum  
AFRICA PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM ON FORCED  
DISPLACEMENT PANEL: Inclusive Health Systems  
Date: December 2, 2021. Joined by Michel Sidibé of  
the Africa Union Special Envoy for The African  
Medicine Agency, Dr. Githinji Gitahi – CEO Amref  
Health Africa, Diana Mulili – Chief Growth Officer at  
Xetova and Nancy Moloantoa of Open Society  
Foundation on the panel for Inclusive Health  
Systems – The Only Way. The forum highlighted  
the importance of uniting Africa's business and  
industry leaders with philanthropists, refugee  
change-makers, and the public sector when  
designing market-based approaches to leverage  
the potential and power of the 36 million solutions  
who are forcibly displaced across our continent.

Africa hosts the largest number of forcibly  
displaced persons worldwide: 36 million. 36 million  
families and neighbours. 36 million customers and  
suppliers. 36 million innovators, entrepreneurs,  
and employers. The intimate forum and gathering  
hosted by the UNHCR was a unique opportunity to  
inspire and encourage African-led solutions to the  
issues of forced displacement across our  
continent.

Every person deserves the right to dignified  
healthcare, regardless of their migration status.  
Yet, health systems too often fail forcibly displaced  
people, who already face numerous obstacles in  
accessing high-quality care. COVID-19 has exposed  
the inequities in healthcare and the reality that its  
delivery cannot be separated from the unique  
economic, cultural and social circumstances of  
communities in need.

The private sector is often at the forefront of  
creating solutions that lift thousands of  
marginalized and underserved communities out of  
abject poverty. Unfortunately, often enough  
forcibly displaced people who represent some of  
the most vulnerable communities on the  
continent, are overlooked and therefore do not  
fully benefit from the innovative solutions and  
social investment programs spearheaded by the  
private sector in Africa.

Therefore, with this knowledge and the aid of the  
UNHCR and their forum, Africa's private sector is  
positioned to be a critical agent of change. As  
investors in refugee-hosting communities, as  
partners, donors or employers, the private sector  
must continue to increasingly step into the  
humanitarian relief space to support innovative  
responses to the urgent and critical needs of the  
vulnerable communities.

## **WHOF**

World Health Organization,  
Inaugural Ambassador for Global Health

On 12 Jan 2022 The WHO Foundation announced their appointment of Her Excellency Toyin Ojora Saraki as WHO Foundation Ambassador for Global Health. Mrs Toyin Ojora Saraki is a highly esteemed global advocate with decades of work dedicated to women's and children's health and empowerment, ending gender-based violence, and improving lives in sub-Saharan Africa.

Together, Her Excellency will support the WHO Foundation in their WHO Triple Billions target. The Triple Billion targets are an ambitious initiative to improve the health of billions of people by 2023. They are the foundation of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW 13) and focus on the execution and delivery of significant improvements in the health of the world's population through evidence-based interventions, strengthened health information systems, and support for transformational public health policy. By 2023, WHO proposes to achieve:

- 1 billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage
- 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies
- 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being.

Established in 2020 as an independent entity, the WHO Foundation complements and strengthens the work of WHO and its global network of partners by mobilizing new funding from diverse sources—including philanthropists, corporate entities, and the public—to drive innovation and transform the global health ecosystem. By addressing the world's most urgent health issues in a new, transformative, catalytic way, the WHO Foundation aims to provide everyone, everywhere, a healthier, more equitable future. Together, we have so much to achieve.

# About

## *About Her Excellency Toyin Ojora Saraki*

As Founder-President of The Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), Her Excellency Mrs Toyin Ojora Saraki is a global advocate for women's and children's health and empowerment, with two decades of advocacy covering reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health; ending gender-based discrimination and violence; and improving education, socio-economic empowerment, and community livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mrs Saraki is the Inaugural and Emeritus Global Goodwill Ambassador for the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM); special adviser and member of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), was named by Devex as UHC Global Champion, is the UNFPA Nigeria Family Planning Champion, is the Save the Children Newborn Health Champion for Nigeria; and is a Global Champion for the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, and member of the International Steering Committee ICPD25.





## ***About Toyin Saraki Global Office + Philanthropy***

Her Excellency Toyin Saraki Global Office and Philanthropy strives to fulfil her Excellency's vision of 'Alaafia' - the Yoruba philosophy of a harmonious state of peace and wellbeing for all – every man, woman, adolescent, child, and infant, from all stages of life.

Since its inception, the Global Office has invested their efforts in devising advocacy initiatives and strategies to uplift healthcare workers, particularly midwives with a central mission of engendering and empowering safer births. Through multi-layered strategic engagement with global partners, the Global Office has developed and fostered behaviour and systemic change initiatives on nutrition, preventable diseases, reproductive health education and family planning. Key engagements have witnessed improved water sanitation and hand washing; and advocacy initiatives for gender equality and equity.

The team comprises 5 executive experts, each with diverse backgrounds and experiences from different parts of the globe - 3 continents and counting! This multidisciplinary scope brings a wealth of experience from healthcare to politics, from economics to advocacy, from strategy and planning to communication. Taking pride in every task that it undertakes, the team works to achieve Her Excellency Toyin Saraki's goal including evidence-based policy analysis and development; programme design and strategy, impact investment in healthcare, private sector engagement; advocacy and communication.

## *About The Wellbeing Foundation Africa*

The Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA) is a non-governmental organization, founded in 2004, by Her Excellency, Mrs Toyin Ojora-Saraki, with the aim of improving health outcomes for women, infants and children. The Foundation combines its programmes with advocacy in Nigeria and around the world to provide robust support for its primary stakeholders from birth to age. WBFA's community interlocutors uphold the 10 pillars of rights for every childbearing woman and her newborn, that:

- Pregnant women should receive care at the right time;
  - Newborns should receive essential care immediately after birth;
  - Small and sick babies should be well cared for in a facility that is prepared to care for their fragility;
  - That all women and newborns must receive care that prevents hospital-acquired infections.
  - Also, the hospital must have an appropriate physical environment;
  - That communication with women and their families must be effective to respond to their needs;
  - That women and newborns who need referrals can obtain them without delay.
- Others are that no woman should be subjected to harmful practices during labour, childbirth and early postnatal period;
  - That health facilities need well trained and motivated staff that are consistently available to provide care;
  - That every woman and newborn should have a complete, accurate and standardised medical record.

At the heart of our multi-pronged strategy of research, advocacy, policy development, community engagement, philanthropy and education, are:

- Empowering and educating front line community health workers, including midwives and nurses.
- Increasing accessibility of sustainable maternal, new-born, infant, child and adolescent continuum of care through a lifetime of healthy habits from reproductive health education and family planning, to improved water sanitation and handwashing (WASH) behaviours.
- Advocating for gender equality with the acknowledgement that the status of women, children and families in Africa requires improved resources, support, and advocacy.





TOYIN SARA KI

2021

Year in  
Review

**Full circle,  
reinforcement and  
replenishment to  
protect the progress -  
a healthy future for all**

*Presented By*

*Toyin Saraki Global Office +  
Philanthropy*