

A portrait of Her Excellency Toyin Saraki, a Nigerian politician and philanthropist. She is wearing a grey and red patterned dress with a matching headwrap. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blue wall with a white geometric pattern.

Stronger Together, Accountability for Quality Care

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



TOYIN SARA KI

*Her Excellency Toyin Saraki
Global Policy & Philanthropy*

toyinsaraki.org

*It is with profound honour that I present
The Toyin Saraki Global Office Policy and
Philanthropy Report 2025.*



The global health community stands at a defining juncture, in which the distance between declaration and delivery must be closed if the promise of universal, quality care is to be kept. I offer this report under the theme Stronger Together, Accountability for Quality Care, guided by the conviction that the measure of our partnerships lies in what they deliver for women, newborns, and families at the point where life is most vulnerable. Partnership, in this understanding, is a discipline. It requires institutions to align policy, financing, evidence, and accountability around care that is safe, respectful, and reliable, and to hold themselves answerable for the result.

Stronger Together names the understanding, and the actioning together, of women's, children's, and adolescent health, water, sanitation and hygiene, climate, and nutrition as a single indivisible agenda, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which progress in any one domain depends upon accountable movement in all.

Where my 2024 report advanced the principle that Collaboration is Multiplication, this year's theme carries that arithmetic forward, for multiplication becomes meaningful only when its products are counted, and partnership becomes powerful only when it is answerable.

This conviction shaped a year of work across every level at which health is governed. It carried from the World Economic Forum in Davos, where the launch of the Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap established women's health as foundational to economic resilience and sustainable development, through the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, whose resolutions on the health workforce, newborn survival, and infant nutrition, alongside the historic adoption of the Pandemic Agreement, renewed the normative ground on which delivery depends, to Abuja, where the conclusion of the Global Health Workforce Programme Local Grant 130 demonstrated what disciplined partnership achieves when international investment is matched to national ownership.

At every point, the purpose has remained unchanged, to ensure that frontline realities are present in the spaces where priorities are set, and that global commitments are matched by the conditions in which care is given.

Nowhere was the strength of common purpose more visible than during the Eightieth United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week in New York, where my Global Office and I contributed to a sustained programme of joint dialogue with valued institutional partners, among them the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Concordia Summit, the Clinton Global Initiative, Seed Global Health, the Ban Ki-moon Foundation, the Business Council for International Understanding, the Global Self-Care Federation, the Resilient Cities Network, the Sustainable Markets Initiative, Goals House, Every Pregnancy, the Gates Foundation, Reckitt, 7 Generations Africa, and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

The same standard of accountability extended into the corporate governance of global health through my roles as a Member of the AstraZeneca Global Breast Cancer Care Council and, from this year, the Bayer Sustainability Council, for the private sector's contribution to health must be measured with the same rigour we ask of every other institution.

Accountability also belongs to the generations who will inherit these commitments. At the One Young World Summit in Munich, I mentored as a Counsellor within a gathering of more than two thousand young leaders from over one hundred and ninety countries, an occasion that marked one year since the global launch of Project Oscar, Light for Life, a Neonatal Jaundice Screening, Treatment, and Kernicterus Prevention Programme, the first of its kind in Nigeria, whose evidence continues to inform national policy dialogue and international clinical discourse.

I extend my most sincere gratitude to all partners across government, multilateral institutions, civil society, academia, and the private sector, and above all to the midwives, nurses, doctors, and frontline health workers, whose daily practice defines what quality care requires in reality. The work ahead will be measured by the systems we build to carry our commitments, the financing we align to sustain them, and the accountability we uphold to ensure that for every woman and every newborn, the promise of care becomes its delivery. This is the meaning of Stronger Together, and the standard to which the year ahead calls us.



The measure of our partnerships lies in what they deliver for women, newborns, and families at the point where life is most vulnerable.

H.E. Mrs. Toyin Ojora Saraki, LLB, LLM, BL, FAPH
Founder and President, The Wellbeing Foundation Africa

Policy & Advocacy



The Toyin Saraki Global Policy and Philanthropy Office's 2025 advocacy cycle comprised sustained, structured engagement across multilateral, regional, and national levels, advanced at the intersection of evidence generation, policy influence, and partnership convening.

TOYIN SAKI
Her Excellency Toyin Saraki
Global Policy & Philanthropy

The year opened at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, where Her Excellency Mrs Toyin Ojora Saraki, as a WEF Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, **contributed to the launch of the Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap**, developed with the McKinsey Health Institute, drawing on frontline evidence from the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's programming. The Blueprint provided the year's opening normative frame, namely that women globally live twenty-five per cent more of their lives in poor health than men, and that closing this gap could unlock an estimated one trillion dollars in global GDP by 2040.

The momentum established at Davos carried directly into February, when **Mrs Saraki delivered a goodwill statement at the Global Health Workforce Programme Nigeria Sharing and Learning Event**, an engagement that anticipated the programme's landmark dissemination in Abuja later in the year and sustained the Global Office's accountability presence within Nigeria's health workforce agenda. February also marked the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, convened in Addis Ababa under the theme Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations, which formally launched the African Union Theme of the Year within the framework of Agenda 2063, the continent's strategic vision for an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa. The Global Office engaged the continental policy agenda set at the Summit as the ground on which its African Union advocacy would build across the year, a thread carried forward through Mrs Saraki's Africa REACH Leadership Council membership and culminating in the Pan-African Women's Day op-ed co-authored with the African Union Commission.

March centred on International Women's Day and its surrounding convenings. Mrs Saraki contributed expert commentary to the World Economic Forum's International Women's Day publication on maximising women's health and rights, advancing the position that closing the women's health gap goes beyond access, resting instead on agency, dignity, and the fundamental right to wellbeing, and that women's health is the foundation of a just, sustainable, and equitable society. **At the Sustainable Markets Initiative's Inaugural Terra Carta Summit, she delivered the closing plenary address, Reflections on Global Health Systems in Transition**, and was received by His Majesty King Charles III, Founder of the Initiative, during the SMI Reception, bringing the health of women, children, and communities into the centre of a private sector sustainability platform convened at the highest level. **Later that month, she delivered a keynote partner's remark at the Global Alliance for Women's Health Global Activators Network on Maternal Health Workshop in Abuja**, convened by the World Economic Forum, grounding the Blueprint's global commitments in Nigerian national implementation. **This thread continued into April with a keynote address at the McKinsey Roundtable on Closing the Women's Health Gap in Africa**, completing a first quarter in which the Davos frame was progressively translated from global declaration toward regional and national delivery.



In May, Mrs Saraki engaged with the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in Geneva, convened under the theme One World for Health, where Member States adopted resolutions of direct relevance to the Global Office's priorities: accelerating action on the global health and care workforce by 2030, incorporating World Prematurity Day into the WHO calendar, and regulating the digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes. WHA78 also adopted, by consensus, the world's first Pandemic Agreement, a historic demonstration of multilateral cooperation at a moment of significant geopolitical strain. **On Pan-African Women's Day, Mrs Saraki extended the Office's platform into African Union policy spaces, co-authoring a joint op-ed with Ms Prudence Nonkululeko Ngunwenya of the African Union Commission** on integrating HIV prevention into maternal and child health care, published in her capacity as an Africa REACH Leadership Council Member.

At the Dissemination Meeting of the Global Health Workforce Programme Local Grant 130 in Abuja,



In August, Mrs Saraki delivered the keynote address at the Dissemination Meeting of the Global Health Workforce Programme Local Grant 130 in Abuja, among the most significant national accountability engagements of the year. The programme, led by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in collaboration with the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, Global Health Partnerships, and Ducit Blue Solutions, and funded by the United Kingdom Department of Health and Social Care, trained 266 health professionals across all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, including 98 women, and established two fully equipped Centres of Excellence at the Federal Medical Centre Jabi Abuja and the Lagos University Teaching Hospital as permanent national simulation assets. In her keynote, Mrs Saraki called on governors, commissioners, federal parliamentarians, and First Ladies to embed the training model within national policy frameworks and domestic budgets, framing the transition from donor-supported to nationally owned workforce development as the defining next step in Nigeria's maternal and newborn health agenda.

"We are building a trained health workforce and a resilient, responsive, and inclusive system, one that supports women's health at every level and equips every facility to save lives in moments of critical need."

The Eightieth United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week in New York represented the most concentrated period of multilateral engagement in the annual calendar. The Global Office advanced its mandate at the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health accountability convening; deepened WASH collaboration with UNICEF through a bilateral meeting connecting the Wellbeing Foundation Africa Dettol Nigeria Hygiene Quest evidence to UNICEF's WASH in Institutions agenda; and engaged convenings hosted by the Business Council for International Understanding and the Global Self-Care Federation, the Resilient Cities Network, the Ban Ki-moon Foundation, and 7 Generations Africa with Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.



At the Concordia Annual Summit, marking Concordia's fifteenth anniversary, Mrs Saraki delivered a MainStage anniversary address, moderated the dialogue Repaying the Debt to Women: Advancing Equity in Cancer Care, convened with AstraZeneca and engaging H.E. Laura Chinchilla and Dr Sheila Davis, and joined a high-level First Ladies luncheon. On the margins of the Assembly, she contributed an interview to Devex on disparities in global breast cancer outcomes. At the UN Science Summit, she contributed to the fireside dialogue Women at the Frontlines on midwifery and community-based care, and joined the Philips panel on AI-enabled healthcare education, drawing on the Foundation's experience delivering improved antenatal screening to over 96,000 women.

**A Global Call
for One Million
More Midwives**

Sign the petition

MILLIONMORE.ORG

In October, Mrs Saraki formally signed the International Confederation of Midwives' One Million More petition, calling on governments to invest in one million additional midwives by June 2026, when the 34th ICM Triennial Congress convenes in Lisbon. As Inaugural and Emeritus Global Goodwill Ambassador for the ICM since 2014, her endorsement carried particular institutional weight. Closing the global midwifery gap could prevent sixty-seven per cent of maternal deaths, sixty-four per cent of newborn deaths, and sixty-five per cent of stillbirths, saving an estimated 4.3 million lives by 2035, and the Office will advance this as a flagship priority in the lead-up to the Congress.



In November, Mrs Saraki returned as a Counsellor to the One Young World Summit in Munich, mentoring delegates across the West Africa, Central Africa, and Middle East cohort, introducing Bayer Foundation delegate Ms Sydney A. Montgomery at the Education Plenary, and serving as a Judge of the Reckitt Access Accelerator, a partnership between Reckitt and Yunus Social Business. On World Prematurity Day, she welcomed the global launch of the WHO Kangaroo Mother Care Clinical Practice Guide, of direct relevance to the Foundation's MamaCare360 NICUPlus programme, which has supported 3,445 mothers and 4,264 babies.

OP-ED

A Quiet Revolution in Care: WASH as the Foundation of Health System Quality

By: H.E. Mrs Toyin Ojora Saraki & John Oldfield



Scan the QR code to read the full op-ed.



December closed the cycle with two substantial pieces of published policy writing. With Mr John Oldfield, Founder and Chief Executive of Accelerate Global, Mrs Saraki co-authored **A Quiet Revolution in Care: WASH as the Foundation of Health System Quality,** advancing an evidence-based case for embedding water, sanitation and hygiene as core quality of care indicators within national health sector plans. On Human Rights Day, she published **Digital Dignity: An Everyday Essential for Human Rights,** arguing that digital violence against women is real violence and that the digital domain must be governed by the same human rights standards that apply in every other sphere of life, extending the Office's advocacy remit explicitly into the digital rights arena.

Corporate Governance Engagement



As a Member of the AstraZeneca Global Breast Cancer Care Council, Mrs Saraki contributed to the advancement of the Breast Cancer Care Quality Index (BCCQI) as a practical, evidence-based framework for benchmarking systemic inequities in women's cancer outcomes and accelerating coordinated reform across national health systems. The framework was formally elevated through the Breast Cancer Care Luncheon convened during the Concordia Summit, and consolidated in the subsequent publication of Repaying the Debt to Women: Breast Cancer Policy Report, within which Mrs Saraki's remarks are recorded.

The case for systemic reform is urgent. Global breast cancer incidence is projected to reach 3.2 million new cases annually by 2050, and inequities in early detection, timely diagnosis, and comprehensive care continue to cost women their lives in every region of the world. The BCCQI provides governments with a structured instrument to identify gaps, strengthen

diagnostic and treatment infrastructure, and align National Cancer Control Plans with equitable standards of care. For Nigeria, these recommendations offer tangible pathways for progress through strengthened diagnostic pathways, the integration of breast health within primary and maternal healthcare platforms, and the incorporation of BCCQI indicators into national planning frameworks.



Mrs Saraki's appointment to the Bayer Sustainability Council during 2025 extended the Global Office's contribution to the corporate governance of global health and development priorities, across a portfolio spanning climate-responsive health systems, nutrition, family planning, oncology, and equitable access to essential medicines. The Council convenes independent experts to provide strategic advisory guidance on the alignment of corporate sustainability commitments with global frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and Mrs Saraki's engagement brought frontline evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa and the broader Global South into its deliberations. This engagement was further advanced in Munich, where she engaged senior Bayer ESG leadership alongside the Bayer Foundation's One Young World delegation on inclusion, equitable health access, and the alignment of corporate commitments with frontline delivery. Together, these appointments embody the Global Office's conviction that the private sector's contribution to global health must be governed, measured, and advanced through the same discipline of accountability the Office advocates within multilateral and national systems.



WELLBEING AFRICA INSTITUTE

FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

The Wellbeing Africa Institute for Research and Development serves as the research, evidence, and knowledge translation arm of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, and as the Global Office's principal vehicle for advancing frontline evidence from Nigeria into international clinical and policy spaces.



The Institute operates at the intersection of implementation science and global health governance, occupying a position that is, within African civil society, without precise institutional precedent. Countries that carry the highest burden of preventable disease generate the smallest proportion of the research that governs the clinical and policy standards applied to that burden, and the implementation knowledge held by organisations delivering care at the frontline, knowledge that is contextually specific, operationally validated, and directly actionable, remains systematically underrepresented in the normative frameworks that govern care in those same settings. WAIRD was designed to close this gap, operating from the conviction that evidence generated within and inseparable from the conditions of its delivery constitutes a category of knowledge that cannot be adequately produced by external research institutions, and must instead be generated by the implementing organisations daily present in communities, health facilities, and clinical settings across Nigeria.

Implementation science, the scientific study of the methods and strategies that carry evidence-based interventions into routine practice, provides the Institute's theoretical foundation. Where classical biomedical research asks whether an intervention works under controlled conditions, implementation science asks how it works, for whom, and under what conditions, questions that cannot be answered without the deep contextual knowledge that only implementing organisations possess. WAIRD's foundational claim is that the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's programme infrastructure, its trained midwife and health workforce, community networks, facility partnerships, and long-standing clinical record across Nigeria, constitutes precisely the contextual apparatus that implementation science demands.

The Institute's defining characteristic is its capacity to perform three functions within a single integrated identity, as implementing organisation, as research producer, and as normative policy actor, without structural separation between these roles. WAIRD's integration of these capacities is generative. The quality of its evidence is strengthened by its derivation from active programme delivery, the effectiveness of its advocacy is strengthened by the scientific credibility of its outputs, and each capacity amplifies the others, producing an institutional voice that African civil society research has not previously held. WBFA's implementation informs WAIRD's evidence, WAIRD's evidence informs global norms, and those norms, progressively shaped by Nigerian implementation experience, feed back into programme design, creating a continuous circuit between knowledge generation and service delivery.

In 2025, WAIRD's outputs were advanced at the XXV FIGO World Congress in Cape Town, where the Institute was represented by Ms Zelia Bukhari, Director of Global Health Policy and Advocacy at the Toyin Saraki Global Policy and Philanthropy Office, across three substantive engagements spanning perinatal mental health, postpartum haemorrhage, and cervical cancer prevention. These included the presentation of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's validated Postpartum Mental Health Checklist, representation at the inaugural World Postpartum Haemorrhage Day President's Session, and the delivery of an oral abstract and e-poster on MamaCare360's role in accelerating HPV vaccination uptake, together marking a year of expanded research visibility and strengthened institutional credibility.

THE WELLBEING FOUNDATION AFRICA 20 YEARS
Her Excellency Toyin Saraki
Global Policy & Philanthropy

Midwives as Catalysts: How a Community-Based Antenatal Education Model Drove HPV Vaccine Uptake in Nigeria

INTRODUCTION
Nigeria launched national HPV vaccination in Oct 2023: goal to immunise 7.7M girls (9–14 yrs), supported by NPHCDA, Gavi, WHO, UNICEF.
Cervical cancer = 2nd most common cancer in Nigerian women; HPV vaccine prevents up to 90% of cases.
The Wellbeing Foundation Africa, led by H.E. Mrs Toyin Saraki, has integrated HPV education into its midwife-led MamaCare360 antenatal/postnatal classes in 7 states: Lagos, Abuja FCT, Kwara, Cross River, Osun, Kano, and Sokoto.

METHODS
October 2023 – February 2025: HPV counselling integrated into routine MamaCare360 sessions.
Midwives trained to:
• Frame HPV vaccine as **maternal protection**
• Use **emotional storytelling** and lived experience
• Encourage **trust-based dialogue**
Data collected: vaccine referrals, uptake by household, and hesitancy levels.
Comparative analysis with state immunisation dashboards and UNICEF-supported facilities

RESULTS
A higher uptake among daughters of MamaCare360 mothers
A stark drop in hesitancy after midwife-led sessions.
Mothers are more likely to make consent decisions before school-based programmes.
Midwives' **trustworthiness** was the main driver, not medical detail.

CONCLUSION
Midwives, empowered by structured maternal education, act as **accelerators of adolescent vaccine uptake**.
Antenatal education shifts norms, and mothers become proactive vaccine champions.
Approach aligns with the WHO's 90–70–90 strategy and the UN/Gavi frameworks.
Under the leadership of H.E. Mrs Toyin Saraki, WBFA demonstrates a **scalable, culturally congruent model** for closing the cervical cancer prevention gap.

"She has cared for me and my baby, so I trust her advice."



Global Convenings & High-Level Engagements

<u>80th United Nations General Assembly</u>	14
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<u>Strategic Visit to AstraZeneca's Gaithersburg Campus</u>	29
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<u>WHO Civil Society Commission Annual General Meeting</u>	30
<u>Welcome Reception for the Commonwealth Secretary-General</u>	30

80th United Nations General Assembly

Opening UNGA80 at the PMNCH High-Level Roundtable on Adolescent Girls.



I opened my UNGA80 engagements by speaking at the WHO Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health High-Level Roundtable on Safeguarding Progress for Adolescent Girls in a Shifting Global Landscape. In my remarks, I underscored that while peace is fostered through dialogue among nations, it must also be sustained by investment in health, dignity, education, and opportunity for every adolescent girl. Drawing on the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's MamaCare360 and Adolescent Skills & Drills programmes, I highlighted the importance of community-rooted approaches to advancing adolescent health, rights, and wellbeing.

Every Pregnancy Dialogue: Time to Disrupt – Making Every Pregnancy Safe



At Time to Disrupt: Making Every Pregnancy Safe, convened by Every Pregnancy and Axmed Global Health Advisory with support from the Gates Foundation at Goals House, I joined a dialogue on advancing maternal and newborn health in fragile settings. Moderated by Isra Chaker and Emmanuel Akpakwu, the discussion brought together global leaders to examine both persistent challenges and practical solutions. The convening reinforced that lasting progress depends on investing in community-rooted systems of care, grounded in trust, education, and rights-based approaches, alongside the partnerships and financing needed to ensure no mother or newborn is left behind.

Concordia Breast Cancer Luncheon on Equity in Breast Cancer Care

At the Concordia Summit Breast Cancer Luncheon, convened by AstraZeneca, Siemens Healthineers, Merck, and Movement Health, I contributed to a discussion on advancing equity in breast cancer care. Drawing on the Breast Cancer Care Quality Index and my role on the AstraZeneca Global Breast Cancer Care Council, I highlighted the urgency of strengthening country-level standards, expanding access to timely detection and treatment, and advancing a United Nations Breast Cancer Resolution. Such a resolution would elevate breast cancer on the global policy agenda and strengthen accountability for equitable care, survivorship, and outcomes for women worldwide.



Concordia Summit Mainstage Dialogue on Advancing Equity in Cancer Care

At the 2025 Annual Concordia Summit, I moderated the mainstage dialogue Repaying the Debt to Women: Advancing Equity in Cancer Care, convened with the leadership of AstraZeneca. Joined by H.E. Laura Chinchilla, former President of Costa Rica, and Dr Sheila Davis, CEO of Partners In Health, we examined the urgent need to close the cancer equity gap for women.

Drawing on the newly launched Breast Cancer Care Quality Index, to which I contributed as a member of the AstraZeneca Global Breast Cancer Care Council, we explored how governments and partners can move from aspiration to accountability in ensuring earlier detection, timely treatment, and dignified survivorship.



Executive Roundtable on Consumer Health and Climate Action



At the executive roundtable Unlocking the Power of Consumer Health for Climate Action, convened by Bayer, Diplomatic Courier, and Forum for the Future at the Empire State Building, I joined a discussion on the intersection of planetary and human health. The dialogue recognised the climate crisis as an immediate public health challenge and underscored the role of consumer health, self-care, prevention, and health literacy in building more resilient, prevention-focused systems with climate co-benefits. Achieving meaningful progress will require aligned action across governments, business, and civil society, alongside innovative tools and accountability mechanisms that accelerate impact.

UN Science Summit Fireside Dialogue on Midwifery and Community-Based Care



At the UN Science Summit 2025 fireside dialogue Women at the Frontlines: Midwifery and Community-Based Care That Changes Outcomes, convened by the Society for Women's Health Research and ECHalliance, I reflected on the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's two-decade journey in maternal and newborn health. I shared why investing in and integrating midwives within primary care remains one of the most effective ways to improve maternal and newborn outcomes, strengthen trust, and anchor community-based prevention. I was grateful to Dr Irene O. Aninye for her thoughtful moderation and to the convening partners for advancing a platform where evidence, lived experience, and policy converge.



PMNCH Accountability Breakfast: Equity, Dignity and the Right to Thrive



At the 13th Annual PMNCH Accountability Breakfast, leaders reaffirmed the urgent need to accelerate action to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child mortality. The convening reframed health as a broader movement for equity, dignity, and the right to thrive, alongside the launch of PMNCH's Strategy 2026–2030: Partnership for Change, which places accountability at the centre of collective progress. Grounded in evidence, solidarity, and innovation, the discussion underscored our shared responsibility to translate global commitments into measurable, community-driven impact across the life course, ensuring that women, children, and adolescents are not left behind.

Goalkeepers 2025



At Goalkeepers 2025 and a private reception convened by Bill Gates, I joined global leaders in reaffirming our shared commitment to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the urgent task of ending preventable child deaths. The convening brought together leaders across philanthropy, policy, and development, united by the understanding that progress requires renewed investment, innovation, and accountability. The evening underscored the importance of collective action in global health and development, and the need to sustain momentum behind the unfinished agenda of maternal, newborn, and child survival, especially in the most underserved communities.

Annual Meeting of the Champions for Women's Health



As a World Economic Forum Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, I joined fellow Champions to help shape a stronger global narrative for women's health. Our discussions recognised that, despite growing awareness, investment and action remain insufficient and too often confined to traditional health sectors, rather than engaging finance, technology, governance, and innovation. We advanced a renewed advocacy toolkit to position women's health as a cross-sector priority, grounded in evidence, financing, and implementation. Women's health is not a peripheral issue: it is a driver of economic growth, human capital, societal resilience, and sustainable development.



Concordia Annual Leadership Council Meeting



At Concordia's Annual Leadership Council Meeting, we marked the organisation's 15th anniversary and reflected on its growing global impact in advancing cross-sector collaboration. As a member of the Concordia Leadership Council, I value the opportunity to help shape programming, strengthen the Concordia community, and provide strategic guidance on solutions that bridge policy, philanthropy, business, and civil society. The meeting reaffirmed that many of the most pressing global challenges, from health systems to education and economic inclusion, require collaborative leadership and practical partnerships capable of translating dialogue into measurable, sustained impact.

Goals House Roundtable with Bayer and The Challenge Initiative



At a Goals House roundtable convened by Bayer and The Challenge Initiative, I joined a dialogue on the future of family planning in my capacity as a member of the Bayer Sustainability Council. Our discussion reaffirmed that access to family planning is central to sustainable development, gender equality, and improved health outcomes, and must encompass both contraceptive and fertility choices for individuals and families. Through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, we remain committed to community-based models that integrate health, education, and wellbeing, ensuring that global commitments translate into meaningful and lasting impact at household and community level.

Global Alliance for Women's Health: Women's Health Impact Tracking Platform

At the Annual Meeting of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, held alongside the World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Meetings, I contributed to discussions on the future of investment and accountability in women's health. A key highlight was the presentation of the Women's Health Impact Tracking platform, developed by the World Economic Forum and McKinsey Health Institute, the first global tool to quantify both health and economic returns from closing the women's health gap. This transparent, data-driven framework reinforces a principle central to my work: women's health is foundational to sustainable development, prosperity, and equitable growth.





Concordia 15th Anniversary Main Stage Remarks



Speaking on the Concordia Summit Main Stage in celebration of its 15th anniversary, I reflected on the power of collaboration across public, private, and civil society leaders united by shared purpose. As a member of the Concordia Leadership Council, I have seen how dialogue can translate into action, from strengthened health systems to improved access and accountability. My call to fellow leaders was clear: before the close of UNGA week, let each of us commit to one partnership to formalise, one barrier to remove, and one measurable outcome to deliver, judging success not by conversation alone, but by the lives improved.

Healthy Indoor Air: A Global Call to Action



At Healthy Indoor Air: A Global Call to Action, the first UNGA High-Level Week convening dedicated to indoor air quality, I joined global leaders, scientists, policymakers, and advocates in recognising indoor air as a fundamental determinant of health, equity, and resilience. The launch of the Global Pledge for Healthy Indoor Air and the establishment of a Global Commission marked an important step forward. This agenda aligns closely with the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's work, as we formally endorsed the pledge. Indoor air quality is not a matter of comfort, but of justice, dignity, prevention, and survival.

UNFPA–Bayer Dialogue on Partnerships for Women's Health

At the UNFPA & Bayer event Partnerships of the Future: The Role of the Private Sector in Advancing Women's Health – Spotlight on Menopause, I joined a timely discussion on reproductive health across the life course. With more than one billion women projected to be postmenopausal by 2030, the need for menopause-responsive workplaces and health systems is both urgent and essential. The launch of the UNFPA-led Coalition for Reproductive Justice in Business marks an important step in engaging the private sector, while aligning menopause with ESG frameworks and accountability measures will be critical to ensuring meaningful and measurable progress for women at every stage of life.



No Health Without Mental Health: A Shared Commitment

At No Health Without Mental Health: A Shared Commitment, convened by the World Health Organization, Wellcome Trust, and United for Global Mental Health in collaboration with UNICEF and partner governments, I joined leaders in reaffirming that mental health is fundamental to global health. I was encouraged to see Nigeria's Mental Health Desk Team represented, reflecting continued progress following the launch of the National Mental Health Policy. As Honorary Patron of LifeLine International, I remain committed, through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, to ensuring mental health remains central to universal health and wellbeing, and not treated as a secondary or optional priority.



AI for Health Resilience: Innovation in Emergency Preparedness



At AI for Health Resilience: Innovation in Emergency Preparedness, hosted at Goals House by the WHO Foundation, Firuza Foundation, Foundation S, Merck, Pfizer, and ServiceNow, I joined discussions on how innovation can strengthen preparedness and resilience in an era of climate and health shocks. In my capacity as Global Ambassador of the WHO Foundation, I reflected on the importance of integrating climate forecasting with resilient health systems so that communities are better protected from emergencies. The discussion reinforced that technological innovation must be matched by equity, trust, and system readiness if it is to safeguard the most vulnerable.

Launch of the Global Autism Advocacy Coalition



I was honoured to join the launch of the Global Autism Advocacy Coalition, convened by the State of Qatar, Qatar Foundation, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and Autism Speaks. With more than 61 million people on the autism spectrum worldwide, the Coalition marks an important step towards strengthening systems of care, advancing equity, and fostering inclusion across the life course. On behalf of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, I pledged our support to this effort, including promoting awareness, enabling earlier recognition through community health systems, and supporting families to thrive with dignity, inclusion, and access to care.



Stop TB Partnership Roundtable at the Concordia Summit



At the Stop TB Partnership roundtable during the Concordia Summit, I joined leaders from global health, finance, and innovation to examine the urgent need for coordinated action on tuberculosis. With more than 10 million people developing TB each year and 1.25 million lives lost to a preventable and curable disease, the need for collaboration is clear. Our discussions highlighted the potential of digital health and artificial intelligence to accelerate detection, alongside innovative financing and equitable public-private partnerships that can expand access, strengthen systems, and ensure that no community is left behind in the fight against TB.

UN Science Summit Panel on AI-Enabled Healthcare Education



At the UN Science Summit session Transforming Healthcare Education through AI-Enabled Solutions, convened by Philips, I joined colleagues from Aga Khan University, the Gates Foundation, Amref Health Africa, and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre to examine how AI-enabled tools can strengthen healthcare education and frontline care. I highlighted how AI-enabled ultrasound, supported through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's partnership with GE HealthCare and Vscan technology, helped midwives in Nigeria improve antenatal screening for more than 96,000 women in a single year. AI solutions must now move beyond pilots and be embedded as trusted standards of care within universal health coverage.

3rd Annual Global Leaders Network



At the third Annual Global Leaders Network convening at United Nations Headquarters, leaders reaffirmed that the health and rights of women, children, and adolescents are central to peace, security, and sustainable development. Led by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa and supported by PMNCH, the gathering brought together African leaders to underscore a shared commitment to prioritising women and young people on the global agenda. Discussions highlighted the intersection of health and security, particularly in fragile settings, and the urgent need for integrated, community-based approaches to disease prevention, equity, and resilience across the life course.



Concordia Annual Leadership Council Meeting



At Concordia's Annual Leadership Council Meeting, we marked the organisation's 15th anniversary and reflected on its growing global impact in advancing cross-sector collaboration. As a member of the Concordia Leadership Council, I value the opportunity to help shape programming, strengthen the Concordia community, and provide strategic guidance on solutions that bridge policy, philanthropy, business, and civil society. The meeting reaffirmed that many of the most pressing global challenges, from health systems to education and economic inclusion, require collaborative leadership and practical partnerships capable of translating dialogue into measurable, sustained impact.

Goals House Roundtable with Bayer and The Challenge Initiative



At a Goals House roundtable convened by Bayer and The Challenge Initiative, I joined a dialogue on the future of family planning in my capacity as a member of the Bayer Sustainability Council. Our discussion reaffirmed that access to family planning is central to sustainable development, gender equality, and improved health outcomes, and must encompass both contraceptive and fertility choices for individuals and families. Through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, we remain committed to community-based models that integrate health, education, and wellbeing, ensuring that global commitments translate into meaningful and lasting impact at household and community level.

Reckitt Roundtable on Scaling Innovation in Health and Hygiene

At Reckitt's roundtable Catalysing Systemic Change: Scaling Innovation in Health & Hygiene, co-hosted with Serena Williams, Jacqueline Novogratz, Goals House, and the Health Innovation Exchange, I joined a conversation on how to scale grassroots health and hygiene innovation. I welcomed the launch of Reckitt Catalyst, a five-year £10 million commitment to support women and underrepresented founders across Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The discussion reinforced that solutions already exist; what is needed now is catalytic financing, mentorship, and collective will to scale innovations that expand access to health, clean water, and sanitation for vulnerable communities.





Last Mile Lunch: Rare Diseases, Brain Health and NCDs



At the Last Mile Lunch: Implementation for Impact on Rare Diseases, Brain and NCDs, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, I joined a dialogue on how to translate commitment into action across early detection, equitable access, capacity building, and sustainable financing. In my intervention, I spoke through the lens of equity and access, drawing both on my role as Global Health Ambassador of the WHO Foundation and on the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's implementation experience. I emphasised that effective implementation must be judged by universality of reach, timeliness of access, patient-centred care, and consistent quality standards across health systems.

Celebrating 20 Years of Maternity Foundation



It was a privilege to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Maternity Foundation, whose guiding conviction that “it should not cost life to give life” has transformed maternal and newborn care across multiple countries. Today, Maternity Foundation has supported more than 500,000 health professionals across Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and beyond, with its Safe Delivery App playing a major role in strengthening midwifery training and outcomes. In Nigeria, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa has proudly supported the integration of this tool. As both WBFA and Maternity Foundation enter our third decades, I reaffirm our shared commitment to making safe childbirth a universal reality.

Launch of the Resilient Cities “Reimagining Health” Case for Action



On the sidelines of UNGA80, I attended the launch of the Resilient Cities, Reimagining Health – Case for Action, convened by the Resilient Cities Network, the Sustainable Markets Initiative, Reckitt, and the Yale School of Public Health. The initiative, already active in 29 cities across 19 countries, including Lagos, demonstrates that climate action is health action. By addressing climate-related health risks through practical interventions, cities can reduce emissions, improve equity, and strengthen resilience. I welcome this framework and the opportunity to contribute to climate and health solutions that prioritise prevention, justice, and vulnerable urban populations in the Global South.



Ban Ki-moon Foundation 3rd Anniversary Reception



I had the privilege of attending a private reception and dinner hosted by the Ban Ki-moon Foundation to mark its third anniversary and honour the legacy of the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. The evening brought together global leaders committed to collective action and reminded me of the launch of Every Woman Every Child in 2010, a defining moment in the movement for women's, children's, and adolescents' health. Through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, I remain committed to advancing that agenda by ensuring that global commitments are translated into meaningful, community-centred action and enduring partnerships.

7 Generations Africa & Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Reception



At the 7 Generations Africa & Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Reception, I joined a timely conversation on the growing role of African family offices as catalysts for prosperity, unity, and transformative impact through structured philanthropy. Guided by the Rockefeller tradition of philanthropy in service of justice and wellbeing, and inspired by 7 Generations Africa's vision of aligning family capital and values for lasting legacies, the evening highlighted the potential of African families to shape a more resilient and inclusive future. The gathering affirmed the importance of enterprise, collaboration, and values-led investment in advancing health, education, and shared prosperity across generations.

BCIU–Global Self-Care Federation Roundtable on Self-Care and NCDs



At the Business Council for International Understanding and Global Self-Care Federation roundtable, *Unlocking the Potential of Self-Care in the Fight Against NCDs*, my Global Office for Policy and Philanthropy was pleased to join a high-level discussion on the role of self-care in building resilient and equitable health systems. The dialogue underscored that, with noncommunicable diseases accounting for more than 70% of global deaths, self-care must be recognised not as peripheral, but as a vital pillar of prevention, agency, and system resilience. I was pleased to share the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's work advancing community self-care across maternal, newborn, and adolescent health, informed by the evidence and policy insights of the Wellbeing Africa Institute for Research and Development (WAIRD).

One Young World 2025

Bayer Foundation One Young World Delegation



As a member of the Bayer Sustainability Council, I was pleased to meet with the Bayer Foundation One Young World Delegation during the Summit in Munich to advance dialogue on inclusion and equitable access to health. Joined by Dr Chitkala Kalidas, Senior Vice President and Global Head of ESG and Executive Director of the Bayer Foundation, and Rubén Alejandro Ramírez, Global Head of Inclusion and Diversity, our exchange explored how robust ESG governance, inclusive leadership, and science-led solutions can accelerate measurable improvements for women, adolescents, and children, particularly in vulnerable settings, and strengthen pathways to sustainable, community-centred impact.

Education Plenary: Introducing Sydney A. Montgomery



At the Education Plenary of the One Young World 2025 Summit, convened under the theme How Can We Spread and Accelerate Access to Education for All, I was privileged to introduce delegate Sydney A. Montgomery. A first-generation scholar, Princeton and Harvard alumna, and founder of Barrier Breakers, Sydney's leadership reflects a powerful commitment to widening access to higher education for underrepresented and underserved students. The plenary provided a valuable forum for delegates to share lived experiences and practical solutions, reaffirming that education, like health, is foundational to equity, opportunity, and social progress.

Serving as a One Young World Counsellor



It was an honour to serve as a Counsellor at the One Young World Summit 2025, joining a distinguished fellowship of leaders committed to mentoring and amplifying the next generation of changemakers. The Counsellor community reflects One Young World's spirit of stewardship, bringing together voices from government, business, civil society, and the arts in a shared commitment to principled, purpose-driven leadership. Through formal sessions and informal exchanges alike, the role of Counsellor creates space for reflection, collaboration, and mentorship, ensuring that inspiration is matched by practical guidance and that leadership is continually renewed through investment in others.

Mentoring the West Africa, Central Africa, and Middle East Cohort



During the Summit, I was delighted to meet and mentor the exceptional young leaders of the West Africa, Central Africa, and Middle East cohort. Our conversations were a powerful reminder that the future of sustainable development rests on intergenerational guidance, shared purpose, and the courage of young leaders determined to reshape systems and elevate their communities. As a Counsellor at One Young World, and through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's youth mentorship work, I remain committed to supporting the next generation as they translate ideas into action and build a healthier, fairer, and more hopeful future for women, children, and families.

FIGO World Congress

Inaugural World Postpartum Haemorrhage Day



Following the inaugural World Postpartum Haemorrhage Day, I welcomed the launch of the new WHO–FIGO–International Confederation of Midwives Consolidated Guidelines for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Postpartum Haemorrhage, announced during the President’s Session at the XXV FIGO World Congress in Cape Town, alongside the declaration of 5 October as World Postpartum Haemorrhage Day with UNICEF and UNFPA. Representing WBFA and WAIRD, Zelia Bukhari, Director of Global Health Policy and Advocacy at my Global Office, joined partners in advancing the shared commitment to end preventable maternal deaths from postpartum haemorrhage through stronger evidence-based care and implementation.

Pre-Congress Workshop on Integrating Mental Healthcare.



At the FIGO 2025 Pre-Congress Workshop on Integrating Mental Healthcare into Maternal and Child Health Services, convened by the University of Cape Town’s Perinatal Mental Health Project, WBFA contributed to discussions on embedding mental health within routine maternal and child health systems. Representing WBFA and WAIRD, Zelia Bukhari presented the Foundation’s validated Postpartum Mental Health Checklist, a practical tool integrated into Nigeria’s national Maternal and Child Health Handbook to support systematic screening for psychological distress and mood disorders after childbirth. The workshop reinforced the importance of integrating emotional wellbeing into maternal care and strengthening referral pathways across the continuum of care.

Presenting WAIRD Research on Cervical Cancer Prevention.

At the FIGO World Congress 2025, WBFA presented research from the Wellbeing Africa Institute for Research and Development (WAIRD) on strengthening cervical cancer prevention through community-driven maternal health systems. Representing WBFA and WAIRD, Zelia Bukhari delivered the abstract Policy and Community-Driven Maternal Health and Cervical Cancer Prevention Initiatives in Nigeria, demonstrating how MamaCare360 has evolved into a trusted platform for accelerating HPV vaccination uptake by embedding adolescent prevention within maternal health engagement. Alongside the oral presentation, WBFA’s e-poster highlighted the pivotal role of midwives in building vaccine confidence, supporting consent, and linking maternal care with cervical cancer prevention.



Sustainable Markets Initiative Terra Carta Roundtables & Exhibition

Seizing the G20 Opportunity – Africa Leading the Way



At the Sustainable Markets Initiative Terra Carta Roundtables & Exhibition at Hampton Court Palace, I was honoured to contribute to the discussion *Seizing the G20 Opportunity: Africa Leading the Way*. Moderated by Gareth Penny, Chairman of Ninety One, the panel brought together leaders from finance, industry, and sustainability to examine how South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025 can help position Africa at the centre of sustainable trade, climate finance, and green industrialisation. I emphasised that Africa's growth must be driven by equitable investment, climate-conscious policy, and private sector collaboration, with health systems, infrastructure, and resilience embedded within the continent's sustainability agenda.

Closing Plenary Reflections on Global Health Systems in Transition



It was a privilege to deliver the Closing Plenary Reflections on Global Health Systems in Transition at the inaugural Terra Carta Summit, where leaders from industry, academia, and multilateral institutions examined the intersection of human, planetary, and economic health. Building on discussions moderated by Dr Maria Neira of the WHO, I reflected on the urgent need to decarbonise health systems while strengthening resilience, prevention, and equitable access to care. Drawing on the WBFA's work, I highlighted the importance of renewable energy, circularity, greener infrastructure, community-based care, and climate-conscious health workforce development in shaping more sustainable health systems.

SMI Terra Carta Summit: VVIP Reception

I was pleased to attend the VVIP Reception at the Sustainable Markets Initiative Terra Carta Summit, where I had the honour of meeting His Majesty The King once again in support of the growing agenda linking planetary health, economic resilience, and sustainable industries. Marking the fifth anniversary of the Sustainable Markets Initiative, the reception brought together leaders across sectors to advance practical solutions for a more sustainable future. It also reaffirmed the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's commitment to promoting sustainability in healthcare.



World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025



I joined the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025 virtually under the theme Collaboration in the Intelligent Age. As a World Economic Forum Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, I am honoured to welcome the launch of the Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap, developed in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute, to which I contributed frontline insights. In my remarks and ongoing engagement, I reaffirmed that closing the women's health gap is fundamental to improving lives, strengthening health systems, and unlocking inclusive economic growth for women and girls worldwide.

World Economic Forum Champions Dialogue on Women's Health



In my capacity as a World Economic Forum Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, I was honoured to deliver the firestarter opening remarks for the Champions Dialogue on Shaping a New Narrative for Women's Health in a Changing Global Landscape, convened at the World Economic Forum headquarters in Geneva during the 78th World Health Assembly. Drawing on the frontline experience of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa and Nigeria, I emphasised that women's health must no longer be treated as peripheral, but recognised as central to resilient health systems, inclusive economic growth, and sustainable development. I also highlighted the catalytic value of coordinated, cross-sector action in improving outcomes for women, families, and communities at scale.

UK–Africa Health Summit 2025



My WBFA Team participated in the UK–Africa Health Summit 2025 at the Royal College of Physicians, London, convened by Global Health Partnerships. The summit brought together leaders, policymakers, and frontline professionals to advance UK–Africa collaboration on workforce development, antimicrobial resistance, migration, and non-communicable diseases. Drawing on our partnership with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine through the Global Health Workforce Programme, the Foundation highlighted progress in strengthening advanced emergency obstetric and newborn care in Nigeria, including the training of postgraduate obstetric clinicians, the establishment of two Centres of Excellence, and the integration of Advanced Obstetric Surgical Skills into the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria curriculum.

Global Partnerships & Engagements



Annual Bayer Sustainability Council Meetings

It was an honour to participate in the Annual Bayer Sustainability Council Meetings at Bayer Global Headquarters in Berlin, where fellow Council members and I advanced discussions on how science, innovation, and partnership can deliver sustainability that is both credible and measurable. Our deliberations explored the intersection of climate action and health action, recognising sustainability not only in environmental terms, but through its implications for healthier mothers, nourished children, resilient communities, and the systems that support them. The meetings also aligned with broader dialogue ahead of COP30, reinforcing the importance of grounding global ambition in local realities and ensuring that sustainability commitments translate into tangible improvements for women, children, and families.

Strategic Visit to AstraZeneca's Gaithersburg Campus



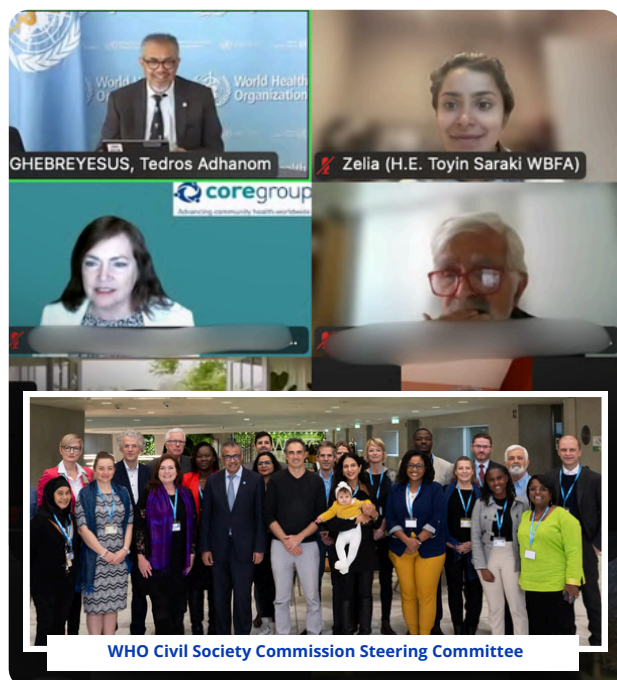
I was honoured to visit AstraZeneca's Gaithersburg, Maryland campus in my capacity as a Global Breast Cancer Care Council Member, in an engagement convened by France Dubé, Director of Global Policy for Precision Medicine and Breast Cancer. The visit provided an important opportunity for strategic dialogue on advancing breast cancer outcomes through innovation, access, and equity, while also offering insight into AstraZeneca's global research and development work in precision medicine and oncology. Our discussions reinforced the importance of public-private collaboration, the expansion of clinical research and training opportunities in Africa, and the need to strengthen integrated, women-centred approaches to breast health within national health systems.

Strategic Engagement with Caring Cross



I was privileged to undertake a strategic engagement visit to the headquarters of Caring Cross in Gaithersburg, Maryland, in continuation of the collaboration formalised through the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Wellbeing Foundation Africa and Caring Cross. Grounded in a shared commitment to expanding access to advanced biotherapeutics, including CAR-T cell and gene therapies, the visit provided an opportunity to align on implementation priorities relevant to cancer, sickle cell disease, and HIV in Nigeria. Our discussions underscored the importance of pairing scientific innovation with regulatory readiness, capacity-building, and community trust, so that transformative therapies can be introduced sustainably, safely, and equitably within Nigeria's health system.

World Health Organization Civil Society Commission Annual General Meeting



I joined the Wellbeing Foundation Africa Global Team in virtually attending the World Health Organization Civil Society Commission Annual General Meeting, in our capacity as a participating member of the WHO Civil Society Commission. The meeting brought together civil society leaders and global health actors to reflect on recent progress and identify strategic priorities for the year ahead, with a focus on strengthening engagement across regional, national, and global platforms. Through WBFA's contributions to the Commission's Communications Working Group and Working Group 2, we continue to support structured collaboration between civil society and WHO technical departments, ensuring that frontline perspectives and community-based experience help inform global health policy, accountability, and inclusive decision-making.

Welcome Reception for the Commonwealth Secretary-General



I was pleased that the Wellbeing Foundation Africa was represented by my Global Policy and Philanthropy Office at the Welcome Reception for the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Honourable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, hosted at Lancaster House in London. I warmly welcomed Secretary-General Botchwey as the first African woman to lead the Commonwealth Secretariat, and appreciated her emphasis on strategic partnerships to advance climate justice, inclusive trade, youth opportunity, and the health and wellbeing of Commonwealth communities. The engagement reflected WBFA's longstanding commitment to multilateral collaboration and equitable development across Commonwealth nations.



National Leadership, Advocacy & Strategic Engagements

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Global Activators Network on Maternal Health



Federal Ministry of
Health & Social Welfare
Federal Republic of Nigeria



At the Global Activators Network on Maternal Health Workshop in Abuja, convened by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health & Social Welfare Nigeria and championed by Ferring Safe Birth, I was pleased to contribute frontline programmatic, advocacy, and policy insights from the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's maternal health work. Joined by my WBFA Abuja team and in my capacity as a World Economic Forum Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, I shared lessons from WBFA's evidence-based maternal and newborn health programming, aligned with MAMII, the Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction Innovation and Initiative, under Nigeria's Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative.

The workshop focused on practical strategies to address the systemic delays that continue to drive maternal and neonatal mortality, including delays in seeking, reaching, and receiving care, as well as wider coordination and accountability gaps. In my keynote partner remarks, I welcomed Nigeria's pioneering position as the first country to commit to the Global Activators Network on Maternal Health, formalised through a strategic agreement between H.E. Dr Muhammad Ali Pate, Coordinating Minister of Health & Social Welfare, and Jeremy Jurgens, Managing Director of the World Economic Forum. The convening reinforced the importance of strengthening country-level ecosystems, scaling proven maternal health interventions, and deepening collaboration across government, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate progress towards safer pregnancies, healthier mothers, and more resilient health systems.

Global Health Workforce Programme and Maternal Health Workforce Strengthening

Dissemination Meeting of the Global Health Workforce Programme Large Grant 130



At the Dissemination Meeting of the Global Health Workforce Programme Large Grant 130 in Abuja, I was pleased to deliver goodwill remarks marking the conclusion of a targeted intervention to strengthen Nigeria's maternal and newborn health workforce through structured clinical training, academic mentorship, and systems strengthening. Delivered by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, in collaboration with the Wellbeing Foundation Africa and the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, the programme trained 266 healthcare professionals across all six geopolitical zones in Advanced Obstetrics and Surgical Skills (AOSS), including consultant obstetricians, senior registrars, registrars, and medical officers. The programme also established two Centres of Excellence at Federal Medical Centre Jabi and Lagos University Teaching Hospital, equipped for simulation-based training and Objective Structured Clinical Examination assessment. I welcomed its alignment with Nigeria's Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction Innovation Initiative (MAMII) and broader efforts to strengthen universal health coverage.

Global Health Workforce Programme Nigeria Sharing & Learning Event



I was honoured to deliver a Goodwill Statement at the Global Health Workforce Programme Nigeria Sharing & Learning Event, convened by Global Health Partnerships, Ducit Blue Solutions, and the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The event provided an important opportunity to reflect on the programme's wider contribution to strengthening Nigeria's health workforce through cross-border learning, curriculum reform, institutional capacity building, and improved clinical training. I was particularly pleased to recognise the leadership of Professor Charles Ameh and our longstanding partners at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, whose collaboration with the Wellbeing Foundation Africa has significantly advanced the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria's capacity to deliver advanced emergency obstetric and newborn care training. Together, these efforts have strengthened postgraduate obstetric education, improved the quality of emergency obstetric and newborn care, and contributed to more resilient systems for maternal and newborn health across Nigeria.

WBFA–Dettol Hygiene Quest Phase II National Close-Out



In December 2025, I had the honour of welcoming government representatives, Reckitt Nigeria, and leaders across the health, education, and WASH sectors to the National Close-Out Event of Phase II of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa–Dettol Hygiene Quest Programme in Lagos. The convening marked the conclusion of an important phase of the WBFA–Reckitt partnership under the Clean Naija Campaign, through which the programme has advanced hygiene literacy, behaviour change, and handwashing promotion across schools, healthcare facilities, and communities.

The close-out provided an opportunity to reflect on the programme’s strategic contribution to public health, particularly in strengthening hygiene knowledge and practice among children, mothers, caregivers, and frontline health workers, while also recognising the commitment of implementing partners, government stakeholders, and community actors who helped drive delivery across multiple states. It further reinforced the value of hygiene as a foundational public health intervention, closely linked to maternal, newborn, child, and community health outcomes.

Importantly, the event also marked a forward-looking moment for the partnership, as we welcomed the continuation of the programme into Phase III, building on lessons learned and expanding its ambition to deepen community engagement, strengthen systems-level hygiene promotion, and support healthier outcomes for children, women, and families across Nigeria.

Launch of the Partnership to Eliminate Cervical Cancer



At the Aso Villa State House in Abuja, I was honoured to join Her Excellency Senator Oluremi Tinubu, Dr Iziaq Adekunle Salako, Professor Isaac Adewole, Dr Walter Mulombo, and other national leaders for the launch of the Partnership to Eliminate Cervical Cancer in Nigeria. I welcomed the initiative as an important step in aligning national action with the World Health Organization's 90-70-90 strategy. Through the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's community-rooted programming, we remain committed to advancing HPV vaccination, screening, and cervical health education for women and girls across Nigeria.

WHO Nigeria–TY Danjuma Foundation Partnership



At the United Nations House in Abuja, I was honoured to witness the signing of a landmark partnership between WHO Nigeria and the TY Danjuma Foundation, aimed at strengthening primary healthcare and advancing sustainable domestic health financing in Nigeria. As Inaugural Global Health Ambassador of the WHO Foundation and Special Advisor to the WHO Africa Region, I welcomed this collaboration as a strong example of national leadership, philanthropy, and global expertise aligning around resilient, equitable health systems, particularly in support of maternal, newborn, and child health.

McKinsey Roundtable on Closing the Women's Health Gap



On World Health Day 2025, I was honoured to deliver the keynote at the McKinsey Roundtable on Closing the Women's Health Gap in Africa, convened by the McKinsey Health Institute in Lagos. Drawing on the Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap and my role as a World Economic Forum Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, I shared frontline insights from WBFA's work and underscored that closing the women's health gap is a health, economic and societal imperative.

Stride for HER Rights Walkathon



At Stride for HER Rights, a walkathon led by Global Citizen Africa, I had the privilege of delivering a policy advocacy keynote on maternal and neonatal health rights. Traversing the Lekki–Ikoyi Link Bridge, the event served as a visible call for justice, dignity, and equitable healthcare for women and newborns in Nigeria and across sub-Saharan Africa. In my remarks, I reaffirmed that quality maternal, newborn, and child healthcare is a fundamental human right, and that no woman should die while giving life.

Bilateral Meeting with UNFPA Nigeria



I was pleased to lead WBFA Directorate and frontline programme, policy, and advocacy leads to a bilateral meeting with Mr Koessan Kuawu, Deputy Representative of UNFPA Nigeria, and UNFPA colleagues. The engagement reaffirmed WBFA's strategic alignment with UNFPA's country programme priorities across maternal health, adolescent development, family planning, and health systems strengthening. Our discussions reflected a shared commitment to advancing ICPD25, FP2030, and ICPD30 priorities through evidence-based policy engagement, frontline implementation, and sustained collaboration for women, girls, and families across Nigeria.

Africa Social Impact Summit Pre-Event Luncheon



Ahead of the 2025 Africa Social Impact Summit, I was honoured to attend the UNFPA Nigeria Pre-Event Luncheon, convened with Sterling One Foundation and United Nations Nigeria. Joined by Dr Mojisola Alere, Director of National Programmes, Grants, Policy and Research at WBFA, I welcomed the opportunity to align with leaders committed to rights-based, locally driven solutions for health, gender, and climate justice. The convening reinforced the importance of localisation, catalytic investment, and African-led partnerships in advancing maternal health, youth empowerment, and community resilience.

Strategic Multilateral Meeting with UNICEF Nigeria and Africa CDC



At the invitation of UNICEF Nigeria, I led the WBFA Directorate and frontline programme, policy, and advocacy leads to a high-level strategic meeting at the United Nations House in Abuja with UNICEF and the Africa CDC Centre for Primary Health. Discussions focused on strengthening community-based service delivery, improving continuity of care for children, and expanding the role of primary health centres beyond immunisation and emergency care. The meeting reinforced the importance of integrated investment in community health workers, nutrition, WASH, health education, and accountability to advance stronger primary healthcare systems.

Economic Opportunity for Young People/King's Trust



I was delighted to participate in two engagements at the British Residence in Lagos, both focused on expanding economic opportunity for young people in Nigeria through King's Trust International. The first marked the launch of the Youth Employability Support Project, in partnership with the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, while the second, the Unlocking Generational Potential Private Dinner, brought together leaders committed to youth skills, enterprise, and opportunity. Together, these engagements reinforced the importance of investing in young people, particularly young women.

Women in Business Luncheon: Accelerating Action for Sustainability

I was pleased to attend and address the Women in Business Luncheon convened by the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with Zenith Bank and the Africa Women CEOs Network, in Lagos to mark International Women's Day under the theme Accelerating Action for Sustainability. In my remarks, I reflected on the importance of building systems of opportunity that move beyond representation towards equity, structure, and shared value, recognising women in business as key drivers of more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economies. The luncheon also provided a valuable platform for intergenerational dialogue with distinguished women leaders across diplomacy, finance, energy, hospitality, and enterprise, reaffirming the importance of collaboration, leadership, and innovation in shaping a more equitable future.



Celebrating Nigerian Women's Leadership and Collective Progress



As a Founding Member of the African Women Leaders Network Nigeria Steering Council and a Member of the UN Women Committee in New York, I was pleased to be represented by my Wellbeing Foundation Africa Abuja team at events celebrating Nigerian women's leadership and collective progress. These included the Voice of Women Conference & Awards 2025 and the AWLN Nigeria Steering Council Dinner Reception at the United Nations House in Abuja. The discussions reinforced the importance of advancing women's representation, inclusive leadership, and sustained momentum behind reforms that strengthen women's participation in governance, peace, and security.

Women&Co Pathfinder International Strategy and Innovation Platform



I was pleased to be represented by the Wellbeing Foundation Africa team at the Nigeria launch of Women&Co Pathfinder International's Strategy and Innovation Platform in Abuja, recognising the leadership of women advancing solutions across health, climate, and economic opportunity. At a time when women's participation in innovation is essential to sustainable development, the platform offers an important space for co-creating locally grounded enterprises and solutions aligned with national priorities. I commend Pathfinder International and the Women&Co leadership for championing women's leadership, innovation, and systems change.

Programmes & Partnerships



The Journey of Transforming Lives

Founded in 2004 by Her Excellency Toyin Saraki, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA) is guided by a vision of Wellbeing for All, ensuring that every woman, man, adolescent, child, and infant has the opportunity to achieve optimal health and wellbeing throughout every stage of life. At the heart of Her Excellency Toyin Saraki's national and global advocacy is the commitment to ending preventable maternal and newborn deaths in Nigeria. Over the years, this mission has expanded to encompass child nutrition, cancer prevention and care, neonatal jaundice screening and treatment, mental health, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), reflecting a comprehensive approach to improving health outcomes across the life course.

WBFA's work to advance Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (SRMNCAH+N) is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through strategic partnerships with governments, universities, research institutions, multilateral agencies, healthcare facilities, schools, communities, and the private sector, the Foundation designs and delivers evidence-based programmes, policy advocacy, research, and capacity-building initiatives that strengthen health systems, improve frontline service delivery, and promote lasting behaviour change.

In 2025, WBFA's programmes directly reached more than 110,500 beneficiaries, including pregnant women, mothers, newborns, students, healthcare workers, and government officials. Through Her Excellency Toyin Saraki's leadership, the Foundation continues to improve access to quality healthcare, strengthen health workforce capacity, expand health education, and enhance community resilience, contributing to healthier lives and more equitable, sustainable health systems across Nigeria.





Our Flagship Programme: MamaCare360

The Wellbeing Foundation Africa's MamaCare360 programme is a community-based maternal, newborn, and child health initiative designed to improve health outcomes for women and infants across Nigeria. Through structured antenatal and postnatal education sessions, frontline engagement, referrals, and health promotion activities, the programme equips pregnant women and new mothers with essential knowledge on safe pregnancy, childbirth, newborn care, nutrition, mental health, hygiene, and family wellbeing. MamaCare360 also strengthens links between communities and healthcare facilities, supporting increased service uptake, improved maternal health awareness, and healthier outcomes for mothers and babies.



MamaCare360 reached over 110,500 women, newborns, families, and frontline health workers in 2025, strengthening maternal and child health outcomes across Nigeria.

WBFA implemented MamaCare360, across five Nigerian states (Lagos, Kwara, Abuja, Cross River, Osun) in 2025, achieving an expanded coverage and improved maternal and neonatal health outcomes. The programme reached 69,783 pregnant women and 27,114 nursing mothers which is 15.3% and 8.7% increase compared to the achievements in year 2024, demonstrating increased service uptake across 74 supported facilities.

Antenatal & Postnatal Education Classes in 2025

Antenatal Classes

69,783

PREGNANT WOMEN ENGAGED

Postnatal Classes

27,114

MOTHERS ENGAGED

MamaCare360 continued to expand its reach across Nigeria in 2025, increasing access to essential antenatal and postnatal care services for pregnant women and new mothers. Overall, the programme recorded increased participation across its implementing states.



*The decline in Abuja is largely attributed to periods of school closures and strike actions, which may have affected programme access and engagement.



A total of 18,058 live births were recorded, with zero maternal deaths among beneficiaries, reflecting sustained effectiveness in promoting safe motherhood and access to quality care. The programme recorded 71 neonatal deaths, resulting in a neonatal mortality rate of 3.9 per 1,000 live births, significantly below national estimates (~34 per 1,000). This highlights strong performance in reducing preventable newborn deaths through improved antenatal, delivery, and postnatal interventions.

Overall, MamaCare360 continues to demonstrate a scalable, high-impact model aligned with national priorities and global targets for maternal and newborn health.

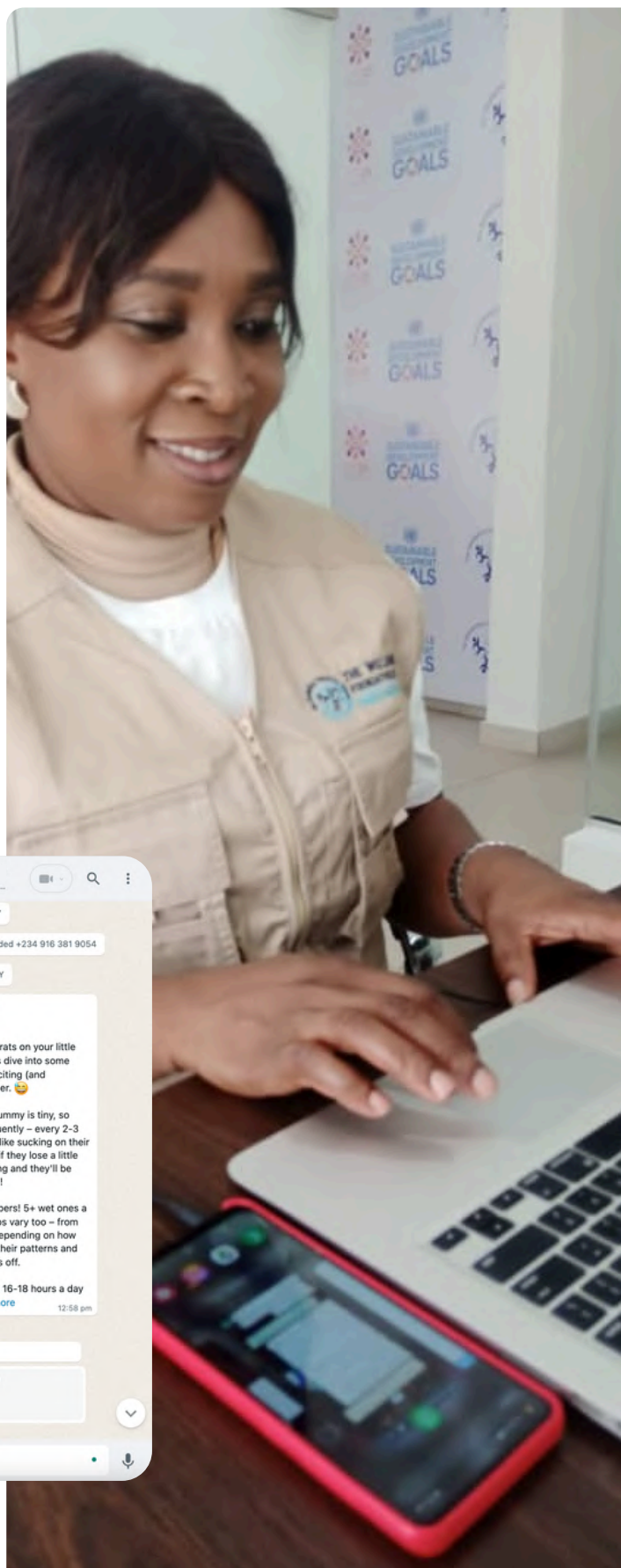
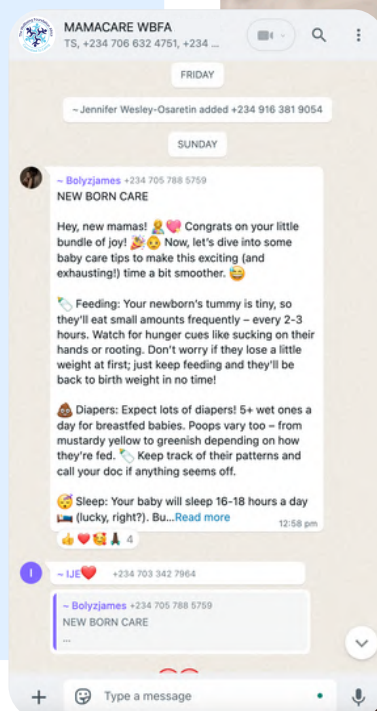
MamaCare360 Digital Midwifery



The Digital Midwifery Service, an extension of the MamaCare360 programme, provides pregnant women and nursing mothers with 24/7 access to maternal and newborn health information, counseling, and midwife-led support through WhatsApp.

This digital midwifery approach, is the first of its kind in Nigeria, and it continues to enhance access to maternal health services by providing timely health information, structured education, and personalised support. The model offers a scalable and efficient platform for improving maternal knowledge, engagement, and health-seeking behaviours.

In 2025, a total of 4,563 new mothers enrolled in MamaCare360's Digital Midwifery Service, spanning across the 31 WhatsApp groups and increasing the total number of participants to 12,329 mothers across the five implementing states.





MAMACARE 360°

NICU Plus

*MamaCare360
NICU Plus*



The Wellbeing Foundation Africa's MamaCare360 NICU Plus programme strengthens newborn survival by supporting mothers and babies in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) through structured lactation assistance, breastfeeding support, and improved access to expressed breast milk, enabled by Symphony breast pumps and skilled midwife support. The programme supports preterm and critically ill newborns, including those with low birth weight, respiratory distress, and perinatal asphyxia, through targeted breastfeeding and nutritional interventions.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

In 2025, MamaCare360 NICU Plus was implemented across 5 hospitals across 3 states (Lagos, Kwara and Abuja) in Nigeria



By working alongside frontline health workers and caregivers, MamaCare360 NICU Plus improves neonatal nutrition, maternal confidence, and the quality of care for vulnerable infants, while reinforcing family-centred support within hospital settings.

Programme Objectives

MamaCare360 NICU Plus is designed to:

Improve neonatal outcomes for preterm and critically ill infants through breastfeeding and nutritional support;

Equip mothers with practical lactation knowledge and confidence to sustain breastfeeding in neonatal care settings;

Strengthen adherence to best practices in neonatal feeding and family-centred care; and

Support healthcare providers and facilities to deliver improved neonatal nutrition and lactation support services.



2025 Programme Highlights

MamaCare360 NICU Plus recorded steady growth in 2025, reflecting expanded neonatal care coverage and increased uptake of lactation support services across participating facilities.



1,002

BABIES SUPPORTED

up from 876 in 2024
(+14.4%) ▲



1,164,428_{ML}

OF BREAST MILK EXPRESSED

up from 852,172 ml
in 2024 ▲



892

MOTHERS SUPPORTED

up from 818 in 2024
(+9.0%) ▲

These gains demonstrate the growing capacity of the NICU Plus model to support vulnerable newborns and their mothers through improved lactation support and neonatal nutrition.

Exclusive Breastfeeding Performance



During the reporting period, 1,002 neonates received feeding support across the five implementing facilities. Of these, 875 infants were fed exclusively with their mother's own milk, resulting in an overall exclusive breastfeeding rate of 87.3%.

Facility performance remained strong across all sites. Asokoro District Hospital recorded the highest exclusive breastfeeding rate at 96.9%, followed by Lagos Island Maternity Hospital (90.2%), Maitama District Hospital (89.2%), and General Hospital Ilorin (88.9%). University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (75.3%) also contributed significantly to overall programme outcomes. Overall, the results demonstrate the effectiveness of the NICU Plus model in promoting exclusive breastfeeding and strengthening neonatal nutrition for vulnerable infants.

Monitoring, Documentation & Data Tracking

Daily documentation and monitoring remain central to the NICU Plus model, providing valuable insight into maternal and neonatal care practices across participating facilities. Key indicators tracked include neonatal admissions, mothers enrolled, frequency of milk expression, and total volume of breast milk expressed using the Symphony Breast Pump. The table below presents total client numbers, breast milk expression sessions, and milk volumes recorded across all five participating health facilities in 2025.

Healthcare Facility	Total Eligible Babies	Total Eligible Mothers	Total Number of Expressions	Volume of Milk Expressed (ml)
General Hospital Ilorin	335	287	9,208	440,224 ml
Lagos Island Maternity Hospital	215	193	5,749	273,196 ml
University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital	198	159	4,503	231,513 ml
Maitama District Hospital	157	157	2,977	152,180 ml
Asokoro District Hospital	97	96	1,302	67,315 ml

**Global Health
Workforce
Programme**

**125
YEARS**

LSTM
LIVERPOOL SCHOOL
OF TROPICAL MEDICINE



**THE WELLBEING
FOUNDATION AFRICA**
Health and Wellbeing



**Global Health
Partnerships**
FORMERLY THET



**UK International
Development**
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



**Department
of Health &
Social Care**



Global Health Workforce Programme

Advanced Emergency Obstetric, Newborn Care and
Surgical Skills (AOSS)



The Advanced Obstetric and Surgical Skills (AOSS) programme was delivered in Nigeria under the Global Health Workforce Programme (GHWP) with lead partner the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN). Funded by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and managed by Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET), the programme was designed to strengthen the capacity of Nigeria's maternal and newborn health workforce through a competency-based AOSS curriculum for resident doctors in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.



**By investing in postgraduate
clinical training, the
programme contributed to
improved emergency obstetric
and newborn care and
strengthened the systems
needed to reduce preventable
maternal and neonatal deaths.**

Programme Objectives

The AOSS programme was designed to:

Strengthen the capacity of the NPMCN to deliver a competency-based advanced obstetric surgical skills curriculum;

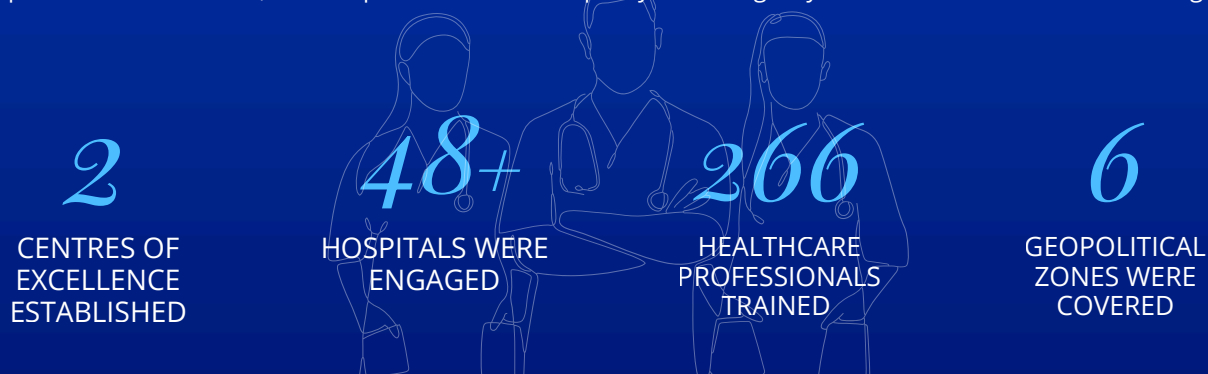
Improve the quality of emergency obstetric and newborn care delivered in public health facilities;

Equip healthcare providers with life-saving skills in obstetric emergencies and surgical care; and

Contribute to reductions in preventable maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality through improved provider competence and confidence.

2025 Programme Highlights

In 2025, the AOSS programme reached several important milestones that strengthened training infrastructure, expanded national reach, and deepened workforce capacity for emergency obstetric and newborn care in Nigeria.



Together, these achievements reflect the programme's growing national footprint and its contribution to strengthening Nigeria's specialist maternal and newborn care workforce through sustained training, institutional capacity building, and equitable geographic reach.

Centres of Excellence and Training Infrastructure

To decentralise access to high-quality hands-on training, the programme established two AOSS Centres of Excellence at **Federal Medical Centre, Jabi, Abuja** and **Lagos University Teaching Hospital Surgical Skills Centre, Lagos**.

Following the success of the initial phase, a costed extension further broadened the programme's reach, with new training sites established in Port Harcourt and Gombe, extending AOSS coverage across more than 48 hospitals in all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

A further milestone of the extension phase was the donation of Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) equipment to the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, including obstetric simulators and neonatal resuscitation models to support simulation-based learning and strengthen postgraduate clinical training.



Training Outcomes and Impact

The AOSS programme strengthened participants' ability to manage obstetric emergencies, perform life-saving surgical interventions, improve perioperative care, and work more effectively within maternity teams. Through competency-based instruction, hands-on simulation, and expert mentorship, the programme contributed to improved quality of care, increased provider confidence, and stronger maternal and newborn health outcomes.



WBFA's Role

WBFA led programme coordination, national stakeholder engagement, and advocacy for curriculum transformation within the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. Working closely with LSTM and national partners, WBFA helped drive the design, rollout, and institutionalisation of the AOSS curriculum, ensuring that competency-based obstetric surgical training is embedded within Nigeria's postgraduate medical framework and aligned with national efforts to reduce maternal and newborn mortality.



WBFA
Primary and Adolescent
PHSE-WASH in Schools
Physical and Sexual Health Education
with Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene

WBFA-Dettol Hygiene Quest Programme

Accelerating Hygiene Quest program in Schools, Communities and Healthcare Facilities across Nigeria



The WBFA-Dettol Hygiene Quest (DHQ) Programme is a multi-sectoral hygiene promotion initiative implemented by the Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA) in partnership with Reckitt, the manufacturer of Dettol antiseptic products. Delivered across schools, communities, and healthcare facilities, the programme aims to strengthen hygiene knowledge, shape positive attitudes, and promote sustained behaviour change through handwashing education, hygiene sensitisation, and community engagement. Through a structured approach that integrates education, behaviour change communication, and practical demonstration, WBFA-DHQ promotes handwashing as an essential daily practice while supporting healthier schools, households, healthcare settings, and communities.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Between February and September 2025, WBFA-DHQ was implemented across Lagos, Kwara, and the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) through a structured, results-based work plan supported by refresher training, field supervision, and routine monitoring.



From classrooms to clinics to communities, the WBFA-Dettol Hygiene Quest Programme is expanding access to hygiene education and practical behaviour change at scale.

2025 Reach and Performance

School Reach

WBFA-DHQ exceeded its school-based target, **reaching 102,350 students against an expected 99,200, achieving 103% overall.**



STATE	EXPECTED	STUDENTS REACHED	% ACHIEVED
Lagos	31,200	42,953	138%
FCT	36,000	27,614	77%
Kwara	32,000	31,783	99%
Total	99,200	102,350	103%

Community Reach

At community level, WBFA-DHQ **reached 15,182 people against an expected 11,376, achieving 133% of target.**



STATE	EXPECTED	COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED	% ACHIEVED
Lagos	3,792	4,714	124%
FCT	3,792	5,426	143%
Kwara	3,792	5,042	133%
Total	11,376	15,182	133%

Healthcare Facility Reach

The programme significantly exceeded its healthcare facility target, **reaching 44,504 pregnant and lactating mothers against an expected 19,200, achieving 232% overall.**



STATE	EXPECTED	WOMEN REACHED	% ACHIEVED
Lagos	6,400	12,253	191%
FCT	6,400	14,447	226%
Kwara	6,400	17,804	278%
Total	19,200	44,504	232%

2025 Programme Highlights

Between February and September 2025, the WBFA-Dettol Hygiene Quest (DHQ) programme reached:

102,350

STUDENTS ACROSS

44,504

PREGNANT AND LACTATING
MOTHERS ACROSS

730

HEALTHCARE WORKERS
THROUGH

15,182

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS ACROSS

248

248 SCHOOLS

36

HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

542

TEACH CLEAN
SESSIONS

145

COMMUNITIES

Programme delivery combined school sensitisation sessions, classroom hygiene education, maternal hygiene and WASH engagement in healthcare facilities, community demonstrations, TEACH CLEAN training for healthcare workers, radio broadcasts, and stakeholder advocacy.

Driving Measurable Hygiene and Health Outcomes

The WBFA-DHQ endline evaluation highlights substantial gains in hygiene knowledge, attitudes, and practices across all target groups, demonstrating the effectiveness of the programme's behaviour change approach.

Among students in Lagos, the proportion rated “excellent” in handwashing knowledge more than doubled from 28.1% at baseline to 63.5% at endline, while Kwara recorded an increase from 43.5% to 58.5%. Positive attitudes towards hand hygiene remained consistently high, exceeding 90% across most cohorts and reaching 97.9% among pregnant and nursing mothers in Kwara.

These knowledge gains translated into strong behavioural improvements. In Lagos, the proportion of students rated “excellent” in handwashing practice at critical times increased from 16.7% to 72.8%, while Kwara recorded an increase from 33.2% to 65.9%. These results demonstrate strong conversion of awareness into practice, while also highlighting areas where targeted reinforcement can further strengthen outcomes.



Importantly, these behavioural shifts contributed to measurable public health gains. In Kwara, reported flu prevalence among students declined from 8.4% to 4.2%. In Abuja, diarrhoea prevalence among students fell from 2.7% to 1.3%, while school absenteeism due to flu declined from 3.6% to 1.9%, with similar downward trends observed across other illness categories. Brand awareness and product utilisation remained consistently high, exceeding 90% across all participant groups. Notably, Dettol usage among pregnant and nursing mothers in Abuja increased from 81.1% to 89.8%, while teacher usage rates exceeded 97% in Lagos and Kwara at endline.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that the WBFA-Dettol Hygiene Quest programme has not only improved hygiene knowledge and attitudes, but also driven sustained behaviour change, reduced the burden of communicable diseases, and contributed to healthier schools, households, and communities.



Looking Ahead: Phase III Expansion

Building on the impact and lessons of previous phases, the WBFA-Dettol Hygiene Quest Programme was confirmed for Phase III in early 2026. The next phase continues implementation in Lagos State while expanding into Kano and Rivers States, further broadening the programme's public health footprint across schools, healthcare facilities, and communities.

Through Phase III, the programme is expected to engage:

More than 750,000 students across 750 schools

Over 90,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers

Caregivers and healthcare beneficiaries across 78 healthcare facilities

Wider community stakeholders through hygiene education, behaviour change communication, WASH advocacy, infection prevention sensitisation, maternal and newborn hygiene engagement, and practical handwashing demonstrations.



reckitt®

**LIGHT
FOR LIFE**



Project Oscar — Light for Life

Neonatal Jaundice Screening, Treatment and
Kernicterus Prevention

Building on the success of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa–Reckitt partnership through the Dettol Hygiene Quest Programme, WBFA and Reckitt launched Project Oscar – Light for Life to address the urgent need for improved early detection, treatment, and prevention of neonatal jaundice (NNJ) in Nigeria. Neonatal jaundice remains a significant public health challenge, with an estimated 5.5% of Nigerian newborns developing clinically significant jaundice requiring intervention, and the condition accounting for nearly 20% of neonatal admissions.

Launched globally at One Young World in Montreal in September 2024 and nationally in Lagos in December 2024, Project Oscar - Light for Life is an 18-month intervention (September 2024 – March 2026) funded by Reckitt and implemented by WBFA in partnership with the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board. The programme adopts a health systems strengthening approach to improve early detection, timely treatment, referral, and prevention of kernicterus by equipping facilities, training healthcare workers, strengthening maternal awareness, and improving access to neonatal care services.



By combining routine screening, frontline training, maternal education, and strengthened referral systems, Project Oscar - Light for Life is helping to improve early detection and treatment of neonatal jaundice, protecting newborns from preventable disability and death.

2025 Programme Highlights

In 2025, Project Oscar – Light for Life reached 29,871 mothers through facility and community-based education sessions, and 16 primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare facilities were equipped to provide more reliable neonatal jaundice screening and treatment services.



8,366

NEWBORNS SCREENED
for neonatal jaundice



879

NEWBORNS IDENTIFIED
with elevated bilirubin levels



231

HEALTHCARE
WORKERS TRAINED
in neonatal jaundice care



16

HEALTHCARE
FACILITIES EQUIPPED
for screening and treatment

Among affected newborns, 274 cases (32.1%) were referred to higher-level facilities for advanced care, reflecting strengthened referral pathways and appropriate escalation for severe presentations. Across implementing facilities, 837 babies were treated, with a 98% treatment success rate and minimal mortality recorded.

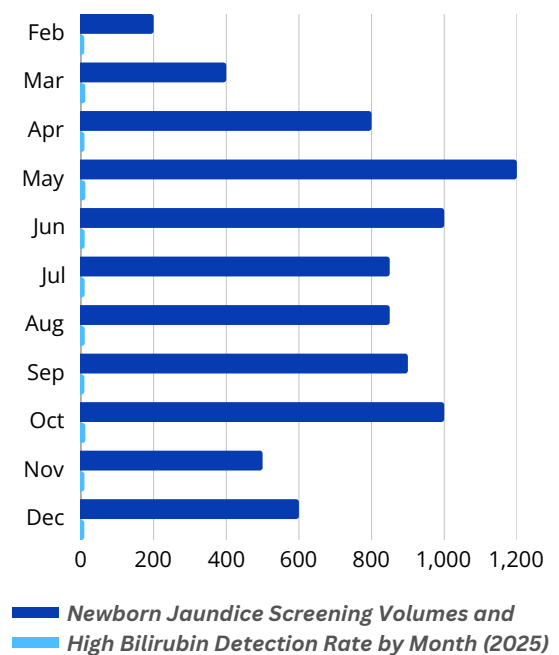
2025 Project Oscar – Light for Life Results

INDICATOR	RESULT (2025)	IMPACT
Healthcare workers trained	231	Strengthened neonatal care and jaundice management capacity
Mothers educated	29,871	Expanded maternal awareness and community-level prevention
Healthcare facilities equipped	16	Improved access to reliable screening and treatment
Newborns screened	8,366	Early detection across 16 healthcare facilities
Newborns with elevated bilirubin	879 (10.5%)	Prompt identification of at-risk newborns
Newborns referred to higher-level care	274 (32.1%)	Strengthened referral pathways for advanced care
Babies treated	837	High treatment success with minimal mortality

Screening Trends and Case Detection

Screening volumes increased steadily through the first half of 2025, peaking around May–June, before stabilising towards the end of the year. The proportion of newborns identified with elevated bilirubin remained relatively stable at approximately 9–12% across reporting months, indicating consistent screening quality and reliable case detection over time.

Overall, 89.5% of screened newborns had normal bilirubin levels, while 10.5% were identified with elevated bilirubin requiring closer monitoring, treatment, or referral. This distribution reflects effective screening coverage and appropriate identification of neonatal jaundice cases within expected clinical ranges.



Programme Impact

Project Oscar – Light for Life is demonstrating the value of a systems-based approach to neonatal jaundice management in Nigeria. By combining routine screening, strengthened treatment capacity, healthcare worker training, maternal education, and referral support, the programme is helping to reduce delays in diagnosis and treatment, improve survival outcomes for newborns with jaundice, and strengthen facility readiness to prevent kernicterus and other avoidable complications.



UPCOMING PROGRAMME

WBFA–Bayer Partnership for 2026



In late 2025, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa and Bayer began collaborating to co-develop two new programmes in Nigeria focused on advancing access to Family Planning and Maternal Nutrition. These two pivotal initiatives, the Stronger Together: Health for All (STHA) programme and MMS for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, represent an expansion of WBFA's MamaCare360 model and reflect a shared commitment to deliver sustainable, systems-level change in women's health.

The STHA programme focuses on an integrated approach spanning SRHR distribution, capacity building, immediate post-partum family planning, male advocacy, community engagement, and government stakeholder engagement. The MMS programme will complement STHA's impact by improving maternal and child health and nutrition among underserved populations through expanding access to supplements, delivering midwife-led nutrition education, and strengthening health system capacity through a Train-the-Trainer model while creating a sustainable market.

Together, we aim to address barriers like low awareness, cultural misconceptions, and supply gaps, using community engagement and monitoring to drive behaviour change and support scalable, government-led adoption.

*Report
Contributions
and Strategic
Publications*



REPORT CONTRIBUTIONS AND STRATEGIC PUBLICATIONS



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I also welcomed the release of the **Comprehensive Breast Cancer Policy Report**, jointly developed by AstraZeneca and the Concordia Summit, to which I contributed through my role as a Global Breast Cancer Care Council Member and moderator of the 2024 Concordia Annual Summit First Ladies Luncheon. The report highlights the urgency of breast cancer as a global women's health challenge and emphasises early detection, equitable access to care, patient navigation, and stronger accountability. The Wellbeing Foundation Africa contributed perspectives on integrating breast cancer awareness and referral pathways into maternal and community health platforms, helping position women-centred care within a broader continuum of health equity.



DOWNLOAD



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As a Member of the AstraZeneca Global Breast Cancer Care Council and the Concordia Leadership Council, I welcomed the publication of **Repaying the Debt to Women: Breast Cancer Policy Report**, developed following the Breast Cancer Care Luncheon at the 2025 Concordia Summit during UNGA80, where I had the honour to contribute. The report highlights persistent inequities in early detection, timely diagnosis, and comprehensive breast cancer care, and sets out practical recommendations for governments and health systems through the Breast Cancer Care Quality Index (BCCQI). Its recommendations reinforce WBFA's longstanding position that improving women's cancer outcomes requires coordinated action across policy, healthcare delivery, and community engagement.

As a World Economic Forum Champion of the Global Alliance for Women's Health, I was honoured to contribute to and welcome the launch of the **Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap: How to Improve Lives and Economies for All**, developed in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute. The report highlights the structural inequities that leave women globally spending more of their lives in poor health than men, while also demonstrating the economic and societal gains that could be unlocked by closing this gap. It offers a practical framework for governments, institutions, and partners to improve health outcomes, expand healthy life years, and place women's wellbeing at the centre of inclusive growth.

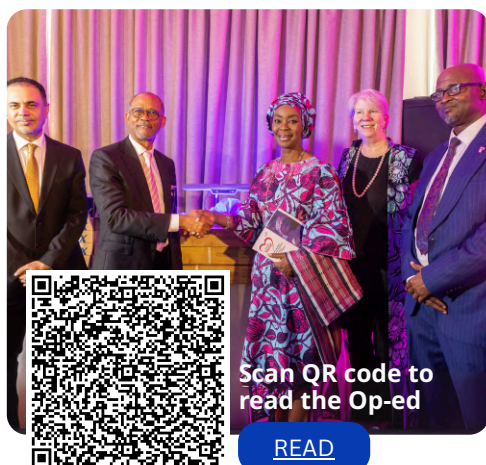


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The Challenges and Solutions in Neonatal Health and Disability Inclusion: Project Oscar's Unified Response & Vision



In my first op-ed of 2025, *The Challenges and Solutions in Neonatal Health and Disability Inclusion: Project Oscar's Unified Response & Vision*, I reflected on the momentum behind the Wellbeing Foundation Africa and Reckitt's pioneering Neonatal Jaundice Screening, Treatment, and Kernicterus Prevention Programme. The piece situated Project Oscar within a wider movement for neonatal health and disability inclusion, drawing connections between its origins in Vietnam and its rollout in Nigeria. I highlighted the importance of equipping mothers with the knowledge, tools, and access to quality care needed to seek timely intervention for newborn jaundice, while also recognising the role of policy reform, frontline health systems, and strategic partnerships in scaling impact.

From Innocenti to Impact – Advancing a World Fit for the Future and Fit for Every Child.

In my op-ed *From Innocenti to Impact – Advancing a World Fit for the Future and Fit for Every Child*, published to mark the Day of the African Child, I reflected on the urgent need to align planning, budgeting, and public systems with the rights, health, and wellbeing of children. Drawing on Nigeria's persistent burdens of child food poverty, malnutrition, and low social protection investment, I argued that the solutions are already well known, from early childhood nutrition and immunisation to girls' education and child-focused social protection, but require far greater prioritisation and scale. The piece reaffirmed that building a world fit for every child begins with investing in mothers, nutrition, care, and dignity from the start of life.



Empowering African Women from the Start: Integrating HIV Prevention into the First Bonds of Life.

[READ](#)

Scan QR code to read the Op-ed



PAN-AFRICAN
WOMEN'S DAY

OP-ED

Empowering African Women from the Start:
Integrating HIV Prevention into the First Bonds of Life



Ms. Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya
Director of the Women, Gender, & Youth
Directorate, AUC



H.E. Toyin Saraki
Africa REACH Leadership Council Member, and
Founder-President of The Wellbeing Foundation Africa

On Pan-African Women's Day 2025, I was proud to co-author *Empowering African Women from the Start: Integrating HIV Prevention into the First Bonds of Life* with Ms Prudence Nonkululeko Ngwenya, Director of the African Union Commission's Women, Gender and Youth Directorate. Written in my capacity as an Africa REACH Leadership Council Member, the op-ed called for stronger integration of HIV prevention within maternal and newborn care. Published on the eve of World Breastfeeding Week, it argued that support for mothers and babies must include routine antenatal testing, early infant diagnosis, and equitable access to prevention tools, reinforcing HIV prevention as a core part of respectful, gender-responsive maternal care.

Digital Dignity, An Everyday Essential for Human Rights

On United Nations Human Rights Day 2025, I published the op-ed *Digital Dignity, An Everyday Essential for Human Rights*, reflecting on the year's theme, *Human Rights: Everyday Essentials*, and the urgent need to uphold dignity, safety, and equality in digital spaces. The piece argues that digital abuse, including cyberstalking, deepfake exploitation, image-based sexual violence, and disinformation, must be recognised as a serious human rights concern and as a contemporary form of gender-based violence. Grounded in the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's rights-based approach to health, education, and gender equality, the op-ed calls for stronger legal, institutional, and societal action to protect women and girls online as part of a broader commitment to human rights, safety, and inclusion.



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A Quiet Revolution in Care: WASH as the Foundation of Health System Quality.



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I was pleased to co-author the op-ed *A Quiet Revolution in Care: WASH as the Foundation of Health System Quality* with John Oldfield, Founder and CEO of Accelerate Global and former Managing Principal of Global Water 2020. The piece argues that water, sanitation, and hygiene are not peripheral amenities, but essential foundations of safe, dignified, and high-quality healthcare. Drawing on global and Nigerian evidence, it highlights how gaps in clean water, sanitation, and hand hygiene continue to undermine infection prevention, maternal and newborn care, and patient safety. It also reflects on the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's Dettol Hygiene Quest Programme, which has strengthened hygiene practices across schools, communities, and healthcare facilities, reinforcing WASH as a core pillar of resilient health systems and quality care.

Appointments and Awards



Appointments and Leadership Roles

Appointment to the Bayer Sustainability Council



I was pleased to be appointed to the Bayer Sustainability Council, a global advisory body bringing together leaders across healthcare, food security, regenerative agriculture, climate action, and sustainable investing. Guided by Bayer's mission of Health for All, Hunger for None, the appointment provides an important platform to contribute insights drawn from over two decades of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa's advocacy, implementation, and systems-strengthening work in RMNCAH+N. I welcomed the Council's renewed structure as a timely opportunity to connect frontline realities with global sustainability strategy, and I look forward to contributing alongside fellow Council members to advancing dignity, equity, and measurable impact across communities and generations.

Induction into the Friends of FLAC Network



I was honoured to be officially inducted into the Friends of FLAC network at the Friends of FLAC Inaugural Induction and Book Launch: Renewed Hope for Cancer Patients, convened by FLAC Nigeria in Lagos. Although I was unable to attend in person, the Wellbeing Foundation Africa was represented in full support of this important national platform, which brings together distinguished leaders to strengthen Nigeria's response to the growing burden of cancer. The induction reflects WBFA's continued commitment to advancing equitable access to cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship through integrated policy advocacy and frontline community health programming. I also welcomed the signing of a landmark memorandum of understanding between FLAC and the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment, which signals an important step towards more coordinated national cancer action.

Awards and Honours

Distinguished Member of the Nigerian Bar Association Award



I was deeply honoured to receive a Distinguished Member of the Nigerian Bar Association Award, in recognition of my contribution to the legal profession and public service. The award was conferred during the 65th Annual General Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association in Enugu State, held under the theme Stand Out, Stand Tall. Represented by the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, I was also pleased to contribute to the conference's discourse on women in leadership, where the importance of mentorship, sponsorship, and gender-sensitive professional cultures was reaffirmed. As a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria since 1989, I received the recognition with gratitude, as an affirmation of the enduring relationship between justice, equity, leadership, and service.

ARISE News and ThisDay Style Power 50 Women of Influence

I was honoured to be recognised by ARISE News and ThisDay Style among the Power 50 Women of Influence for Activism and Social Impact, and to be featured among the honourees of The ARISE Women of Power: Healthcare and Social Impact. I received the recognition as an encouragement to continue advancing health equity, maternal and newborn wellbeing, and systems change through the work of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa. It was also a privilege to be counted among a distinguished cohort of women whose leadership across public life, business, media, law, and social impact is helping to shape a more just, inclusive, and healthier future.



Africa's Best Quality Women Health Outcome Improvement Services Company of the Year 2025



I was pleased to acknowledge the recognition of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa as Africa's Best Quality Women Health Outcome Improvement Services Company of the Year 2025 by the African Quality Achievement Awards. This recognition reflects WBFA's sustained commitment to improving women's health outcomes through evidence-based programming, robust monitoring and evaluation, and the consistent application of quality standards across service delivery, policy engagement, and community outreach. It affirms the Foundation's approach of combining frontline implementation with systems strengthening, while reinforcing our conviction that quality is not incidental to health improvement, but fundamental to achieving measurable and equitable outcomes for women and families across Africa.

Protecting the Progress



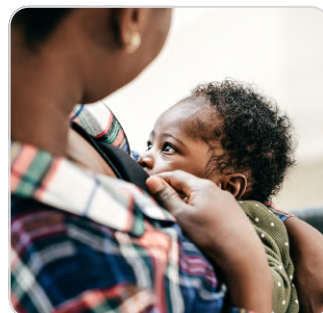
From Advocacy to Action

In 2025, The Toyin Saraki Global Office for Policy and Philanthropy, working in close alignment with the Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), advanced an integrated agenda for **Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N)** through global advocacy, strategic partnerships, policy engagement, and frontline implementation. Across multilateral, national, and community platforms, the Global Office continued to mobilise partnerships, philanthropic support, and institutional collaboration that strengthened WBFA's delivery of evidence-based programmes and amplified frontline priorities within global health and development discourse.

Throughout the year, this combined platform championed the reduction of **maternal and newborn mortality**, the strengthening of **midwifery and frontline health workforces**, and the expansion of quality **emergency obstetric and newborn care** through competency-based training, systems strengthening, and curriculum reform. The Global Office also advanced advocacy for **universal health coverage, primary healthcare investment, and water, sanitation, and hygiene** in healthcare facilities, schools and communities while supporting WBFA's implementation of practical, locally-rooted interventions that translate these priorities into measurable outcomes for women, newborns, and families.

A central focus of 2025 was the **health and wellbeing of women and girls** across the life course. Through strategic engagement, convening power, and global thought leadership, the Global Office elevated priorities spanning **family planning, cervical cancer prevention, adolescent health, maternal nutrition, breast cancer care, postpartum mental health, and neonatal survival**. At the same time, WBFA continued to deliver these priorities on the ground through platforms such as **MamaCare360, MamaCare360 NICU Plus, Project Oscar – Light for Life, the WBFA - Dettol Hygiene Quest, and the Global Health Workforce Programme**, ensuring that advocacy remained rooted in frontline evidence and lived realities.

Together, the Global Office and WBFA continued to advance a model in which **policy influence, partnership-building, and philanthropy are directly connected to implementation, accountability, and impact**. This approach remains central to H.E. Toyin Saraki's leadership: bringing global visibility, strategic alliances, and catalytic support to the issues that matter most, while ensuring that these commitments are translated into stronger systems of care, better health outcomes, and greater dignity for women, children, and communities across Nigeria and beyond.



Her Excellency Toyin Ojora Saraki

LLB, LLM, BL, FPH

Founder The Wellbeing Foundation Africa
WHO Foundation Ambassador for Global Health.
Advocate for RMNCAH+N, EmONC, and WASH

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 over 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, the Save the Children Newborn Health Champion for Nigeria; and is a Global Champion for the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood. Mrs Saraki is a member of the International Steering Committee ICPD25 and was appointed the inaugural WHO Foundation Global Health Ambassador in 2022. Mrs Saraki currently sits on the Board of Trustees for Seed Global Health, the Leadership Council of Africa Reach and the Global Advisory Board of the World Humanitarian Forum. Recently, in 2024, Mrs Saraki was appointed a World Economic Forum Champion for Global Health and the Honorary Patron of LifeLine International.

TOYIN SARAKI



Her Excellency Toyin Saraki Global Policy & 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.



TOYIN SARAKI

*Her Excellency Toyin Saraki
Global Policy & Philanthropy*

The Wellbeing Foundation Africa

The Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), founded in 2004 by H.E. Mrs Toyin Ojora Saraki, is a leading Nigerian non-governmental organisation advancing health and wellbeing across Nigeria and Africa. Committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, WBFA works at the intersection of policy, philanthropy, and implementation to improve outcomes for women, infants, children, adolescents, and families through evidence-based advocacy, frontline programming, and strategic partnerships.

WBFA advances an integrated agenda for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N), with a focus on maternal and newborn survival, adolescent health, women's health, nutrition, hygiene and WASH, early childhood development, gender equality, climate-conscious community wellbeing, and frontline health workforce strengthening. Through strong partnerships and community engagement, the Foundation empowers women, children, and families with access to quality healthcare, education, and support.

Through its flagship MamaCare360 platform and programmes including NICU Plus, Project Oscar – Light for Life, the Dettol Hygiene Quest, and the Global Health Workforce Programme, WBFA combines service delivery, health worker training, systems strengthening, and policy engagement to build healthier, more resilient communities. Its work is amplified by The Toyin Saraki Global Office for Policy and Philanthropy, which supports strategic partnerships, diplomacy, global advocacy, and resource mobilisation aligned with WBFA's mission. Guided by compassion, innovation, and evidence-based practice, WBFA remains committed to ensuring that every woman, every child, and every family can thrive in health, dignity, and wellbeing.

RMNCAH+N

Health Systems Strengthening

WASH

Women's and Adolescent Health

Frontline Workforce Development

EmONC

www.wbfafrica.org



**THE WELLBEING
FOUNDATION AFRICA**
Health and Wellbeing





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