



World**HealthWorker**Week2018



Health workers - nurses, midwives, community health workers, pharmacists, peer counselors, doctors, pharmacists, and other cadres - working at the facility and community, are usually the first point of contact for people who need health services.

They often come from the very communities they serve. With the proper training and supervision, they make a difference by learning skills that save hundreds of lives. Millions of people in low- and middle-income countries are alive today because a midwife was by their side at birth; because a nurse vaccinated them as infants; because a community health worker taught their families to adapt healthy behaviors like breastfeeding, hand-washing, birth spacing, and sleeping under a mosquito net.

Celebrating the **FRONTLINE HEROES**

They are **caretakers**. They are **educators**. They are your **neighbors, friends, and family**.

They are on the frontlines every day.

#WHWWeek #HealthWorkersCount #HealthWorkers

Strengthening Integrated Delivery of **HIV/AIDS** Services



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Funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through U.S. Agency for International Development

World Health Worker Week 2018 – Celebrating SIDHAS Frontliners!

This week, April 1-7, is World Health Worker Week. All over the world, it is a time to mobilize communities, partners and policy makers in support of health workers worldwide.

Health workers serve a critical role keeping communities healthy. They educate, treat, heal and sometimes comfort us through difficult times. From community health workers in remote rural villages to doctors and health managers in urban hospitals and beyond, a country's health workforce is the primary link to the health system for individuals, families and communities. A capable health workforce is critical to advancing and sustaining achievements in global health, including efforts to control the HIV/AIDS epidemic, prevent child and maternal deaths and combat infectious disease threats.



Figure 1. At a SIDHAS supported facility in Akwa Ibom State, a health worker attends to a client in a medical laboratory. Photo credit: SIDHAS Communications team



Figure 2. A team of health workers at a SIDHAS-supported medical laboratory. Photo credit: SIDHAS Communications team

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Eventual by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through IIC. Agency for International Development

Last year, 2017, FHI 360 Nigeria Country and State offices conducted a campaign called “**SIDHAS Health Workers - Setting the Standard**” which called for nominations of health workers in SIDHAS-supported sites who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to work, clients and the community at large.

Below, we feature some of the compelling health worker stories gathered.



Mary Archibong, Chief Medical Records Officer, PHC Base, Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom

Mary was nominated by Laurina Nyang, SIDHAS ATO/PCT for her selflessness and hard work and for going beyond the call of duty to meet deadlines, without requiring any incentives. Mary ensures patients in her facility are well taken care of and she is always open to learning new things that will enhance how she does her job as a health care worker. She provides training opportunities to subordinates so they can also enhance their skills for smooth running of her unit. Her work in PHC base Ikot Abasi has ensured the smooth implementation of the SIDHAS project in the facility as she is always supportive and cooperates to ensure the project delivers regardless of the time demand made on her. Moreover, Mary is kind and gracious to everyone that comes her way. Mary read Medical Records in the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital and graduated in 1993. She lives with her husband in Ikot Abasi town and loves sewing and cooking.



Mary-Gabriel Izuorah, Matron/Chief Nursing Officer, Divine Love Hospital, Etim Ekpo, Akwa Ibom

Mary-Gabriel was nominated by Helen Nwaba, SIDHAS SPO for her energy and sacrifice in bringing succor to patients in the remote community of Utu Ikot Imonte in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Mary-Gabriel met a dilapidated hospital in 2001 and her advocacy to the state government led to the construction of a new maternity ward and operating theatre.

Divine Love Hospital was eventually upgraded to a full comprehensive HIV treatment. Mary-Gabriel conducts outreaches to rural communities to create awareness on HIV/AIDS. Her community sensitization efforts have encouraged members of the community to seek health care. Clients, once averse to accessing HIV services, now flock to the facility and due to her kind disposition, many Traditional Birth Attendants eagerly refer their clients to the facility for HIV Testing Services. Sister Mary-Gabriel is a reverend sister with Daughters of Divine Love Congregation, Enugu. She is a registered nurse/midwife, public health nursing officer and community health nursing officer.

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Mansur Aminu, Laboratory Officer, Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH), Kano

Mansur was nominated by Yahaya Ibrahim, the SIDHAS State Program Manager, Kano for his commitment to work. As Quality Officer of IDH laboratory, Mansur has been making significant contributions to quality management system implementation since 2010 under the GHAIN project. The laboratory has moved from a zero-star rating in 2010 to a four-star rating within two years of quality management system implementation and as by April 2017, the laboratory was given a 3-star rating by Africa Society of Laboratory Medicine (ASLM) certified auditors in WHO-AFRO recognition of laboratory quality and competency. Mansur has provided mentorship to counterparts at the Federal Medical Center, Jalingo in northern Nigeria on quality management system implementation and has provided support as facilitator in FHI 360 laboratory trainings in other states. Mansur read microbiology and graduated from Bayero University, Kano in 2003. He is married with children.



Dr. Edith Ochuenweike, ART Coordinator, Iyi Enu Hospital, Ogidi, Anambra

Edith was nominated by Chukwuemeka Amuta, SIDHAS STO/PCT for her embodiment of passion and drive to excel in quality health care provision. Edith is committed to SIDHAS' goals of quality ART service provision and has exemplified this by supporting the continued provision and improvement of ART clinic services despite human resource challenges at her facility. She is knowledgeable about the technical aspect of HIV/AIDS care. This commitment led her to equally seek to understand and support the programmatic aspects of the ART program. In so doing, she has repeatedly recorded successes in mentoring other health workers through the series of changes in administrative management, thus ensuring that all staff are abreast of the project's guidelines and stipulations for best practice. Edith is a joy to work with and is constantly on the quest for self-improvement.

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