



PROFESSIONALS FOR HUMANITY (PROFOH)

Medical . Water . Education

Incorporated: Germany, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Nepal, Ivory Coast, and United States.

**"We can't help everyone,
but everyone can help someone."
Ronald Reagan**

Q2 REPORT MAY- AUGUST 2014

Greetings to all PROFOH members and volunteers.

I want to start by expressing my gratitude. Thank you for enabling PROFOH to provide free quality treatment for those in distress while demanding efforts to strengthen health care in the communities we serve. Thank you for enabling PROFOH to stay at the front lines of safe water and enhance the education of hundreds of African children. .

PROFOH RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION AT UNITED STATES EMBASSY- WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY



Switch off all cell phones

May: For our humanitarian work in Nigeria, our organization was given a standing ovation at the Conference of World Press Day at the US Embassy, on May 6, 2014. The Guest Speaker, Eduardo Cue, was introduced as a Paris-based American freelance journalist. Eduardo spoke through a Digital Video Conference (DVC). He spoke extensively on his experiences across the globe on "Press Freedom: A Necessity for Free, Fair and Violence-free Election"

Eduardo stated the major role of the press to the society especially as election is fast approaching. According to him, election is the key moment in a democracy and therefore, the press has a major role in educating the society on the need for a violence-free election.

However, he emphasized the need for the electorate to be well informed about the capabilities of each candidate and the people influencing and sponsoring him or her, because whoever sponsors or influences a candidate determines the candidate's performance in office. Therefore, the press should provide adequate information about candidates to the electorate.

In conclusion, Eduardo expressed his concern about the menace of the Boko Haram, especially the abduction of the over 200 girls in Chibok, Borno State, North-East Nigeria. He charged the Nigerian government to provide security for her

citizens and also to organize programs that will orientate and encourage the girls in that region to go back to school. Eduardo advised the government to re-strategize in order to tackle the insurgency in the country.

BOARD GIVES THE NOD TO PROFOH, GHANA TO JOIN ITC



PROFOH team and Ghanaians during medical mission

June: The Board of Directors of PROFOH gave the nod to PROFOH, Ghana Chapter, to accept the invitation to join the ITC. Excerpts of the letter from Melenie Walker read... “It is with pleasure that I would like to invite Professionals for Humanity (PROFOH) to become a member of the International Trade Council at no cost this year.

“The role of the Council is to provide businesses, nonprofit organizations and policymakers with networking opportunities, business introductions, market research, news and information to build sensible, equitable and sustainable trade relationships locally, nationally and internationally.

Working with its legal partners in more than 50 countries, the International Trade Council also plays a key role in researching, developing and promoting various regulatory and industry standards, with the aim of creating industry consensus on technical and business best practice. Subject matter experts from around the world participate in the development of these regulations and/or standards, many of which are used by the industry in various countries. Membership in the Council brings prestige, fund raising opportunity and validates your **PROFOH** as a trusted organization.”

PROFOH AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA



PROFOH at the United Nations

June. PROFOH has been a member of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) since 2006. Therefore, we are proud to have invested a lot of resources in the war against corruption. We are even prouder to have used our medical and social interventions as a soft power to fight corruption in some of the communities we serve, especially in the health sector which most people have taken for granted, and yet it is massively corrupt. Our participation at the United Nations was in accordance with resolution 4/6 entitled “Non-governmental organizations and the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption”.

For the second consecutive year, PROFOH Germany’s Ms. Janice Kuehn and Markus von Have led our delegation to Vienna. The briefing was held on the outcomes of the review process, including on the technical assistance needs that were identified and implementation of the Convention. The briefing took place at the United Nations Office at the Vienna International Centre, Austria. Ms. Janice Kuehn was also selected as a committee member. Her participation was laced with a moral burden as a German. Germany is NOT listed among the 171 countries that has ratified the UNCAC Convention (May 2014) That awkward position put Germany in a group with countries like North Korea, Syria, Sudan, etc

PROFOH SUPPORT NOVARTIS E-HEALTH INITIATIVE IN NIGERIA



Next surgery case-at PROFOH medical mission in Lagos, Nigeria

July: As part of efforts to strengthen health system in Nigeria, Novartis has introduced ‘eHealth For Africa’ initiative into the country – being an updated version of the Short Message Service (SMS) for Life system in public health facilities. And given the Lagos State Ministry of Health’s approval, the initiative is set to commence operation in public health facilities in Lagos. ‘eHealth For Africa’ is a new computer-based solution to support medical stock visibility and reporting, disease surveillance, and health workers’ training.

The programme originates from SMS for Life, a Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership Initiative led by Novartis and introduced in Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Cameroon. ‘eHealth For Africa’ will provide the Lagos State Ministry of Health with information covering disease areas such as malaria, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), measles, yellow fever and cholera. Africa is still disproportionately affected by infectious diseases that put a significant burden on developing economies, with life expectancy 15 years less than the global average.

“In supporting the implementation of ‘eHealth For Africa’ in Nigeria, PROFOH and other stakeholders remain committed to fighting the battle against malaria and other infectious diseases and improving the lives of patients in other countries across Africa as well,” he said. The new enhanced version –‘eHealth For Africa’– will use tablet computers at all public health facilities to provide a two-way system of stock identification and disease surveillance data, together with training in disease management for healthcare professionals. ‘eHealth For Africa’ will be implemented in all public primary health care facilities in the 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Lagos State between July, 2014 and March 2015 in the pilot phase. Lagos Commissioner of Health, Dr Jide Idris said using technology to track and secure the availability of vital medicines, in a health system that serves a 21 million people.

NIGERIA'S SHOCKING HEALTH STATISTICS



Thousands of Patients waiting for PROFOH at Medical Mission, Abuja Nigeria

July: Nigeria accounts for about 13 percent of the global maternal death rates with an estimated 36,000 women dying in pregnancy or at child birth each year. At least 5500 of these deaths are among teenage mothers. This is as Jigawa State in the North topped the list of teenage mothers with 78 percent of its girls between ages 15-19 in early marriage. Jigawa is closely followed by Katsina, Zamfara, Bauchi and Sokoto states.

These figures were revealed in the Demographic Health Survey 2013, which also noted that 70 percent of the maternal deaths in Nigeria are due to four conditions: haemorrhage, eclampsia, sepsis and abortion complications. Only 38 percent of the annual 6.6 million births in Nigeria were assisted by a skilled attendant," it read. Nigeria also has about 260,000 neonatal deaths annually, 13 percent of which can be prevented with life saving interventions such as provision of required maternal health medicines and supplies. On child marriage, it was revealed that Nigeria has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world.

WHO: Ebola 'an international emergency'



Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

August: The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the spread of Ebola in West Africa an international health emergency. WHO officials said a coordinated international response was essential to stop and reverse the spread of the virus. The announcement came after experts convened a two-day emergency meeting in Switzerland. So far, more than 1,500 people have died from Ebola in West Africa this year.

The United Nations health agency said the outbreak was an "extraordinary event". "The possible consequences of further international spread are particularly serious in view of the virulence of the virus," it said in a statement. More than 3000 cases of Ebola have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan appealed for help for the countries hit by the "most complex outbreak in the four decades of this disease". She said there would be no general ban on international travel or trade. However, states should be prepared to detect, investigate and manage Ebola cases, including at airports, she said.

Other recommendations include:

- Good surveillance to pick up potential cases
- Giving people in affected countries up-to-date information on risks
- Effective measures to manage risks to healthcare workers.

There were a number of challenges in affected countries, said the WHO. These include "very weak health system capacity" and lack of medical staff, laboratory technicians and protective clothing. States of emergency are in effect in a number of West Africa countries.

Ebola spreads through contact with an infected person's bodily fluids and kills up to 90% of those infected. The health ministers of West African states met in Accra last week promising to work more closely together to combat the outbreak. So far, over 2500 people have been infected with the virus in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Most of the 1500 deaths have been centred in the southern Guekedou region of Guinea, where the outbreak was first reported, and Liberia.

PROFOH has designed and printed leaflets and posters and commenced Ebola Education program in Abuja, Nigeria and Accra, Ghana. The Board sincerely thanks the Abuja team for the wonderful work on Ebola Education. Currently, discussion is on-going with Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Health for possible collaboration with PROFOH team to fight the disease. PROFOH Germany has also shown some interest in helping out. Our organization agrees with Keiji Fukuda of WHO, who said, 'This is not a mysterious disease. This is an infectious disease that can be contained'.



A Liberian woman weeps over the death of a relative from Ebola on the outskirts of Monrovia