

(1) ISSUES

- Due to the high level of neglect, stigma and discrimination in the Southern part of Nigeria, people affected by Hansen's disease and their family members particularly the women and children have suffered total exclusion of their social positions example:
- Lack of access to a decent health care services
- Lack of participation in decision making process even when it concerns them
- Total violation of their fundamental human rights
- Informal segregation from their community
- Total deprivation of their inheritance
- Lastly people affected by Hansen's disease are always subjected to dehumanized lives' making them feel hopeless and rejected



(2) MEASURES

- Because of this unspeakable situation of women affected by Hansen's disease, the idea to set up a strong association was birthed.
- Purple Hope Initiative Nigeria was established in October 2018:
 - To raise awareness and sensitize the public on the right information about Hansen's disease
 - To promote inclusiveness and acceptance of people affected Hansen's disease and their family members in their various communities
 - To protect our human rights and counsel our members on mental well being because many of them are depressed and have low self esteem
 - To encourage child and adult education of its members.



(3) MEASURES

- In furtherance of bettering the lives of our members we created self care/self help groups with their leaders who report to the national on weekly basis in 5 States in Nigeria namely: Lagos, Ogun, Abia, Enugu and Ebonyi States
- These groups gather every week to discuss about their challenges, concerns and progresses and also received mental health counselling and training on how best to treat any ulcer from Purple Hope Initiative Nigeria self care groups coordinator
- Follow up visits were made to members who benefitted from various income generating and livelihood support to ensure that members are taking their business serious.



(4) ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Purple Hope Initiative Nigeria have made the following achievements despite the fact that we are still in our infant stage of formation:

- **Capacity building:**

We have trained our members to take up tasks by themselves. We have articulate leaders in the various states who have continued to show determination to succeed.

- **Skills acquisition:**

Two of our members have been trained in tailoring and have now started their own business of making dresses for the public.



(5) ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Small scale loans:**

Five of our members were supported by Sasakawa Health Foundation with the sum of thirty thousand naira only (NGN30,000) to start up business during the covid 19 support project. Presently we have 9 members who are doing well in their various chosen business through the help of our revolving loan we created to generate money for other members who may want to go into business.



(6) ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Awareness and street campaign:**

Since fighting stigma is our mandate in PHIN we make sure that we don't leave any stone unturned in bringing the right information about Hansen's disease to the knowledge of the public through : Road show, Radio talk show, Television talk show, Advocacy visit, Distribution of fliers, hand bills with the right information about Hansen's Disease in local languages.



(7) LESSONS LEARNT

- Increased capacity building will empower more persons affected by Hansen's disease by giving them a voice in the society.
- Our field experience has shown that improved capacity will increase inclusion and participation in mainstream socio economic activities of the society
- Through increased funding and stakeholder partnership, Purple Hope Initiative Nigeria will expand and scale up its scope of operation to the 37 States in Nigeria and reach more Person's affected by Hansen's disease.

(8) NEXT STEPS

- PHIN wishes to continue in our people oriented mandate by focusing on capacity building of women, children and men affected by Hansen's disease who are in the rural communities and hard to reach areas.
- We hope to engage in more stakeholder's collaboration and partnership in order to learn and upgrade in our capacity building methods thereby having a sustainable association, hence well supported.
- PHIN plan to expand its scope of operation and scale up to a nation wide coverage targeting the 37 States of Nigeria. Presently we have chapters and operating in 5 States in Nigeria. We plan to reach 37 States in Nigeria through a phased approach.