



Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development



Annual Report 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

About CHELD

02

Message from the Executive Director

03

Priority SDGs

04

Impact and Reach

05

Migration and Health

06

Advocacy against Gender-Based Violence

07

Disability Awareness

08

Mental Health

09

Non-Communicable Diseases

10

Climate Change and Health

11

Knowledge Products

ABOUT CHELD

Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation registered in Nigeria and established in 2010. We are a research think-tank and an implementer in public health, mental health, child health and survival, gender-based violence, NCDs, and migration, and their intersections with health, amongst other areas of interest.

In support of the principle of “Health for All,” the human right to health and universal health coverage, CHELD provides research, analyses of issues, and reasoned solutions, bringing extensive understanding of health law and policies to various cross-cutting issues such as migration, human rights, gender amongst others. We provide services to governments, regulatory authorities, global health agencies, development organisations, international donors, and persons involved in health development. CHELD provides policymakers with ongoing, systematic, and informed international and comparative analyses and reflections on policy options and their implications from legal, social, and ethical perspectives.

CHELD’s multidisciplinary team consists of a group of experienced legal practitioners and specialist consultants with several years of experience in policy advocacy, legislation development, and conducting research in law, public health, migration, gender, and youth development. The team is led by Prof. Cheluchi Onyemelukwe, a Professor of Law, and a leading health lawyer in Nigeria who has been involved in health law reform nationally and internationally.



OUR VISION

A world where universal and inclusive access to health services and the right to health services and the right to health of individuals and communities are fully recognised and achieved.

OUR MISSION

To promote the right to health in Nigeria and Africa through Law, Policy, Capacity-Building, Research and Advocacy.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2024 in Review

2024 was an important year for us at CHELD. Our work across research, advocacy, and policy enabled us to consistently lend our expertise to developing health interventions. From facilitating the implementation of the FCT Health Insurance Scheme for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to organising girl-child programmes, developing practical guidelines on mainstreaming health into migration policies of AU member states, and anti-GBV engagement sessions at secondary schools in Lagos. Our impact was profound and far-reaching during the year. We hope to deepen these impacts in the coming year.

This year, we carried out a market survey on mental health. The results of that survey were quite revealing and detailed in this report.

In addition, we organised various activities supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 3, 5 and 13. A key highlight was supporting relief efforts for victims of the Maiduguri flooding which displaced residents and communities in Borno State. We aim to improve awareness and use the law to improve health outcomes.

Looking Ahead

At CHELD, we envision a society where everyone enjoys the right to health. Our work supports this vision by applying the tools of law and policy reform and implementation in Nigeria and Africa. For the next year, we look to amplify our work in bringing greater awareness to NCDs in Nigeria and Africa and the rights of persons with disabilities, including mental health conditions.

We will endeavour to do more research work, advocacy and engagement in our programme areas, to ensure wider reach for the communities we serve.

On behalf of the CHELD team, I would like to thank our governing board, partners, friends and funders for their support. With your continued support, we look forward to wider recognition and implementation of the right to health for all, including vulnerable populations.

Prof. Cheluchi Onyemelukwe
Executive Director



At CHELD, we envision a society where everyone enjoys the right to health. Our work supports this vision by applying the tools of law and policy reform and implementation in Nigeria and Africa.

PRIORITY SDGS

Our work at CHELD aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We prioritise and demonstrate how specific SDGs and targets align with our own internal strategy and goals.



SDG 3 — Good Health and Well-Being

CHELD provides rehabilitation and support through its rehabilitation programmes including awareness and support for persons living with mental illness and disability in Nigeria.



SDG 5 — Gender Equality

CHELD is both a research think-tank and an implementer in the area of gender-based violence and its intersections with health, amongst other areas of interest. It does extensive work on the intersections of health and gender-based violence.



SDG 10.7 — Responsible and Well-Managed Migration Policies

Our work in migration brings the approach of Health for All to migrants' health. Health is also a cross-cutting issue in the African Union Migration Framework and within the Action Policy for the National Migration Policy in Nigeria.



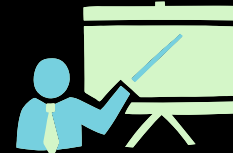
SDG 13 — Climate Action

The CHELD Programme aims to raise awareness of climate change and incorporate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

IMPACT & REACH

During the year, we conducted various activities across the country.

6 training and webinar events organised



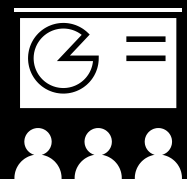
Trained high-level health personnel from across 15 African countries on health & migration

Over 600 secondary and tertiary students involved in our programmes



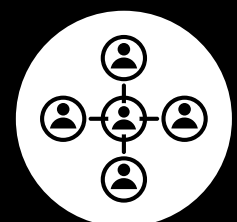
Over 300 women reached for the menstrual hygiene training.

Over 150 participants trained in three Nigerian states



Six states represented in training programmes

50 organisations, ministries and departments involved



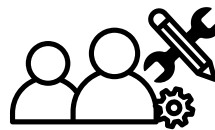
By the numbers 2024...

3000



Persons registered

for the FCT Health Insurance Scheme, Abuja



771

Professionals

trained on online sensitisation on migration and health



12

Knowledge products

have been written to deepen expert knowledge

16



Articles, Briefs and Newsletters

We ensured that statements towards human rights, gender equality, and climate protection are included

2000



Downloads

Our reports and policy briefs have been downloaded over 2000x



1,800

People networked

and exchanged knowledge in over 10 events



120,000

Social media users

were reached in online campaigns



2000+

Students reached

with our GBV awareness programmes

Project REACH:

Restoring Education, Access to Healthcare, and Community Harmony for Internally Displaced Persons



Migration and Health

Our work in migration brings the approach of 'Health for All' to migrants' health. Health is also a cross-cutting issue in the African Union Migration Framework and within the Action Policy for the National Migration Policy in Nigeria.

Our recent migration related research includes a project targeted at improving sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking (VoTs), and other vulnerable groups in Nigeria. Researchers working with CHELD have participated in the development of country level and policy and legislation related to health and migration such as the Action Plan for the National Migration Policy in Nigeria, the National Diaspora Policy, etc. Most recently, CHELD has provided technical expertise on developing training modules on Migrants and Refugees Health for SLE contracted by the African Union.

Our activities in migration involves working with internally displaced persons. ProjectREACH for IDPs involves provision of support and other types of interventions in the areas of health. It is a project that stems from CHELD's work in health and migration.

AUC - GIZ - CHELD Migration and Health Partnership



Introduction

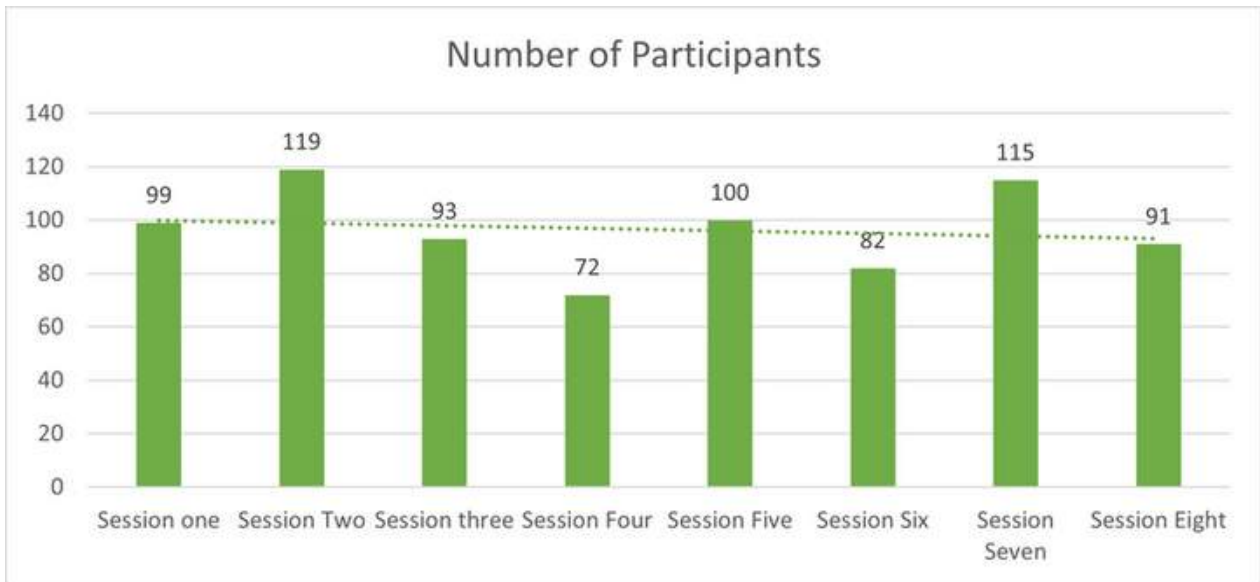
Health is recognized as a key cross-cutting issue in effective migration in Africa under the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and its Plan of Action. However, AU countries have disparate policies that do not adequately address these cross-cutting migration challenges. In addition to this, very few AU Member States have analyzed the health and migration nexus within their contexts or explicitly addressed them in their policies. Few migration policies in the AU Member States include specific or detailed health provisions, and the same applies to health policies. However, migration can also offer better health opportunities for migrants.

To achieve better synergy at the nexus of health and migration, the Center for Health Ethics Law and Development under contract from GIZ and support from the African Union Commission was engaged to strengthen the capacities of AU Member States and RECs on migration and health and also to develop practical guidelines for mainstreaming migration and health into policy framework of Member States.

Activity 1: Online Sensitisation Series on Migration and Health

The online sensitization series consisted of eight monthly sessions on migration and health, conducted from September, 2023 to May, 2024. The sessions were held in English with French interpretation. These sessions brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including NGOs, university and research institutions, and the private sector. Participants came from various sectors within health, migration, and development within Africa and the diaspora. They included Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as the African Coalition of Communities Responsive to Climate Change (ACRCC); Government bodies, including the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Ghana Health Service, the Narcotics Control Commission of Ghana, and the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control of Uganda; Agencies such as the Agence Italienne pour la coopération au développement (AICS) - bureau de Dakar, Senegal; International organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Health Organization (WHO), Africa CDC, ILO, and UNODC; Health institutions such as EFSTH (The Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital), Gambia, along with private sector and tertiary institutions such as Bonga University in Ethiopia, the University of Zalingei in Sudan and Mizan Tepi University in Ethiopia. This diverse participation reflected the wide range of professional backgrounds and interests among the attendees.

Participants responded positively to the sessions, demonstrating high attendance rates and active engagement throughout. The session participants ranged from 72, during the holidays to 119.



Trend of participants for the eight sessions

Activity 2: Production of Newsletters, Articles and Policy Brief

Throughout the sensitization series, our network has successfully expanded to encompass 1,877 active members, including stakeholders from various sectors and organizations. This growth reflects our increased outreach and engagement efforts, strengthening our collaborative efforts and enhancing our capacity to address key issues effectively. This significantly improved the dissemination of publications, including newsletters, project updates, articles and other deliverables on this project.

Newsletter

A newsletter series on Migration and Health in Africa (See Annex 14-17) was initiated to disseminate information and educate our network on these topics:

1. The 1st edition of the newsletter focused on the intersection of migration and health, highlighting the need to address this issue in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and EU priorities.
2. The 2nd edition emphasized equity in access to health services, asserting that everyone should receive necessary care without financial hardship. It showcased examples from Kenya, Italy, and Thailand regarding inclusive Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for migrants.
3. The 3rd edition underscored the importance of gender sensitivity in healthcare for migrants, discussing gender-specific risks such as violence and mental health issues, along with the feminization of migration.
4. The 4th edition focused on the critical need for robust data collection systems to inform tailored health interventions and ensure equitable resource allocation while addressing ethics and privacy concerns surrounding data usage of migrant and health data.



Articles

Based on the findings during the course of the project, a total of four articles have been developed. These articles (See the Articles in Annex 18 -21) cover a range of topics that pertain to migration and health in Africa.

1. The first article is on Leveraging digital health technologies to enhance universal health coverage for migrants in Africa. The article explores using digital health technologies to improve healthcare access for migrants in Africa, aiming to achieve UHC. It discusses the challenges migrants face in accessing healthcare, emphasizing the potential of digital health innovations to support the goal of UHC in Africa by addressing migrant-specific healthcare challenges.
2. The second article, *Towards Sustainable Solutions: Addressing Health Challenges Resulting from Climate-Induced Migration in Africa Healthcare*, focuses on addressing health challenges arising from climate-induced migration in Africa and proposes sustainable solutions. The article suggests integrating climate resilience into healthcare systems, enhancing disease surveillance and response mechanisms and promoting community resilience through education and awareness.
3. The third article on the *Intersection of Migration and Health: Understanding and Addressing the Complexities of Access to Migrants in Africa* explores the complex intersection of migration and health in Africa, focusing on challenges related to healthcare access for migrants. It discusses various factors influencing migrant health, including legal barriers, socio-economic conditions and cultural differences.
4. The fourth article focuses on *Access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for Migrant, Refugee and Internally Displaced Women in Africa*. The article emphasizes the importance of addressing their unique health challenges and rights. It calls for comprehensive policies and inclusive healthcare systems to ensure equitable SRH services for these vulnerable populations.

Policy Brief

Two policy briefs have been developed to provide concise and targeted recommendations on specific policy issues. The first policy brief, *Enhancing Health Insurance Strategies for Migrant Populations in Africa*, focuses on improving health insurance strategies tailored for migrant populations across Africa. Migrants face unique healthcare challenges due to mobility and often lack access to adequate health coverage. This brief proposes several key strategies such as inclusive insurance policies, cross-border health agreements and public-private partnerships.

This second policy brief on *Climate Change, Health and Migration: Strategies For Sustainable Development In Africa* explores the critical intersection of climate change and migration, particularly in the African context and offers sustainable solutions to mitigate challenges at the intersection.

Activity 3: Develop practical guidelines on mainstreaming migration and health in policy frameworks

The development of the *Guidelines on Migration and Health for Adoption by African Union MS (Guidelines)* involved a comprehensive and multi-faceted process to ensure they were thorough and reflective of best practices and current knowledge. This process included a systematic desk review, key informant interviews and contributions from online sessions. The desk review encompassed a comprehensive literature review, covering topics such as the intersection of migration and health, universal health coverage for migrants and the role of human rights in addressing migrants' health needs. Specific areas of focus included the drivers of health and migration, the impact of securitization, gender issues, private sector involvement and the effects of public health emergencies on migrant populations. Key informant interviews were conducted with stakeholders from RECs and selected AU MS, providing insights that supported the formulation of recommendations and best practices. A detailed questionnaire was developed to gather standardized information (see annex 12). Insights were also gathered from online sensitization sessions across the continent.

Online Review and Validation Meeting of Practical Guidelines on Migration and Health for Adoption by African Union Member States

The Online Review Meeting for the Guidelines (see extensive report in Annex 10) was held on 11th March, 2024, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders from the African Union Commission (AUC), MS and Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The primary agenda of this meeting was to review the draft guidelines and collect constructive feedback. The goal was to enhance the practicability and comprehensiveness of the guidelines, ensuring they are effectively actionable by all relevant parties. This collaborative effort aimed to refine and improve the guidelines to better serve the needs of all stakeholders involved. At the end of the online review meeting the Guidelines were restructured into distinct sections (Capacity building, stakeholder engagement, collaboration, coordination and advocacy thrusts) to improve practicability and enhance user-friendliness, making navigation and implementation easier. The role of RECs was also further strengthened to further emphasize their crucial role in regional policy implementation and fostering cross-border cooperation on migration and health issues. The meetings and materials were available in both French and English.

Physical Review Meeting of Practical Guidelines on Migration and Health for Adoption by African Union Member States



The physical review meeting for the draft Guidelines took place in Lusaka, Zambia, on April 16-17, 2024 (see extensive report in Annex 11). This meeting included representatives from RECs including ECOWAS, IGAD, MS such as Zambia, Congo, South Africa, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal as well as representatives from the AUC. Throughout the workshop, participants reviewed the guidelines in detail, providing critical feedback and suggestions for improvement. Appreciation was extended to GIZ and AUC for their support throughout the project.

During the sessions, several key changes were proposed to enhance the guidelines for migration and health. These included strengthening advocacy and education on migrants' rights to basic healthcare under Universal Health Coverage (UHC), with a focus on Primary Health Coverage (PHC). It was suggested to extend government structures to grassroots levels for better migrant reach and to establish national, state and local frameworks, including border management committees. Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks were recommended to track and sustain efforts across thematic areas. The guidelines were to be made more user-friendly by simplifying content and providing concise summaries. Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on including host communities in health interventions, prioritizing primary healthcare, ensuring language inclusivity to avoid resistance from AU MS and adopting a holistic approach that covers the entire migration journey, from pre-departure to return.

Following the incorporation of feedback and input from participants, the guidelines were officially validated (Find the Guidelines in Annex 13).



Mobilized and coordinated the enrollment of IDPs at the IDP Camps visited by the FHIS

We are happy to report that more than 2000 internally displaced people have been enrolled as beneficiaries of the FHIS insurance program for the vulnerable citizens of the FCT, demonstrating the success of our relationship with the FCT Health Insurance Scheme. The Karamajiji IDP Camp, the Malaysian IDP Camp, the Waru IDP Camp, and the Tarkushara IDP Camp have all profited from this initiative.

As a group, we are ecstatic that these IDPs now have easier access to healthcare. Realizing one of CHELD's [hashtag#ProjectREACH](#) for IDPs goals is satisfying, and we appreciate the FHIS, particularly its Director, [Dr. Mohammed Ahmed-Danfulani](#), for his unwavering dedication to achieving universal coverage in the Federal Capital Territory.



5-Day Capacity Building Workshop on the National Referral Mechanism

[Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development](#) (CHELD) was represented by [Omigbile Olamide](#) at a 5-day capacity building workshop organised by the [IOM - UN Migration](#) on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) provisions. The workshop was attended by State and Non-State Actors providing services to VoTs in Northwest Nigeria.

Previously, the Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development had conducted a mapping assessment of service providers in the region and developed a training manual to address the gaps identified. A significant gap identified was the lack of knowledge of the key provisions of the NRM demonstrated by service providers.



IOM West Africa Conference at Lome, Togo

Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development was represented at the close out of the CAT Phase II project in Lome, Togo. The CAT project was centred on enhancing cross border cooperation in the areas of border management and counter-trafficking between Niger and Nigeria. CHELD, under contract from IOM handled a key component of the project which involved building the capacity of services providers in the Northwest on victim centered approach in service provision.

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

GENEVA HEALTH FORUM 2024 CONFERENCE
HEALTH, A COMMON GOOD!

Geneva Health Forum

Baseline Assessment of Health Services and Living Conditions of IDP Camp Residents in Abuja, Nigeria

Authors: Cheluchi Onyemelukwe, Olamide Omiabile & Chioma Ejimofor
Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development, Lagos, Nigeria

“Baseline Assessment of Health Services and Living Conditions of IDP Camp Residents in Abuja, Nigeria,”

Cheluchi Onyemelukwe, Olamide Omiabile & Chioma Ejimofor
Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD), Lagos, Nigeria

Scientific Poster

May 27 – 29, 2024
From May 24, 2024

Campus Biotech, Geneva
<https://poster2024.genevahealthforum.com>

Baseline Assessment abstract at the Geneva Health Conference

Our abstract on the baseline assessment of living conditions of internally displaced persons in Abuja has now been published on Zenodo

As part of the Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) work on IDOS under its Migration Programme, this baseline assessment was conducted in three randomly selected camps in Abuja using a descriptive cross-sectional study that collected quantitative and qualitative data.

Click the link to find out the outcome of the study> <https://lnkd.in/dnjjiYx>

Facilitated the execution of an MOU between the FHIS and CHELD



Excited to announce that Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) has entered into a formal partnership with the Federal Capital Territory Authority (FCTA) to support the identification and enrolment of IDPs in the Federal Capital Territory into the FCT Health Insurance Scheme, a vehicle for the achievement of UHC in the FCT.

This partnership, a part of CHELD's ongoing IDP ProjectReach under our Health and Migration programme, is aimed at the sustainable provision of quality care for IDPs.

International Migrants Day

International Migrants Day, a day to honour the resilience, contributions and rights of migrants worldwide. Migration has always been a powerful force for growth, innovation, and cultural exchange.

At CHELD, we champion health rights and access to basic necessities for migrants through research, advocacy, community engagement and the development of policies and programs that ensure dignity, safety, and equitable access to essential services. We believe that every individual, regardless of where they come from or where they are going, deserves dignity, safety and support.

Migrants enrich us all. We must remember that migrants are not just individuals on the move but they are students, professionals, workers, and families who contribute significantly to our communities. Together, we can create a world where migrants thrive, and migration is safe and dignified for all. Yet, too often, their health needs are overlooked, and their basic rights are denied.

At CHELD, we reaffirm our commitment to creating a world where migration is safe and dignified and where migrants can thrive.



World Trafficking Day

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights and children are particularly vulnerable.

As this year's theme 'Leave No Child Behind' emphasises, there is an urgent need to protect children from trafficking as they constitute a significant portion of trafficking victims worldwide and are often targeted by traffickers, whose exploitation takes various forms.

We urge the government to continue to make an effort to combat all forms of trafficking and provide service to the victims.

Menstrual Hygiene Training

To commemorate World Menstrual Hygiene Day, Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) held a workshop and outreach on menstrual hygiene for the women and girls at the Bwari IDP Camp as part of its #ProjectReach for IDPs initiative.

During the outreach, participants learned how to make reusable menstrual hygiene pads using materials and items that can be found locally, as well as best practices for menstrual hygiene.

The outreach and workshop's objectives were to give the women the information, knowledge and resources they needed to safeguard their sexual and reproductive health and gain economic independence. Along with other things, reusable pads were given as gifts to the participants.



Advocacy against Gender-Based Violence

CHELD does extensive work at the intersections of health and gender-based violence. We conduct research as well as providing support to various clients which has helped inform the organisation on the importance of this research project.

CHELD has been involved in promoting awareness of sexual and gender-based violence in schools in Nigeria. We also collaborate with government and non-governmental agencies to provide support for clients. We have also provided trainings to students, health professionals, women and other communities on domestic violence and other kinds of gender-based violence. We provide support with obtaining protection orders, divorces, custody in situations of domestic violence.

Since 2012, CHELD has supported over 4,000 women with legal aid, material assistance and referral on domestic violence through its interventions. We have been involved in promoting awareness of sexual and gender-based violence in schools in Nigeria. We also collaborate with government and non-governmental agencies to provide support for clients. We have also provided trainings to students, health professionals, women and other communities on domestic violence and other kinds of gender-based violence. We provide support with obtaining protection orders, divorces, custody in situations of domestic violence.



Orange the World - Campaign to End Gender-Based Violence

As part of the 2024 UNITE 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development continued its outreach to combating GBV by incorporating the often-overlooked male engagement strategy.

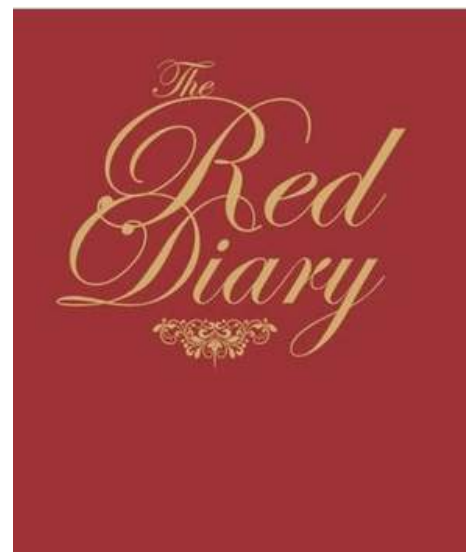
This year's outreach focused on delivering a structured and engaging curriculum to help secondary school boys understand gender-based violence (GBV), dispel harmful myths, and recognize their roles as advocates and allies in prevention. Through interactive discussions, practical examples, and relatable scenarios, the teaching was designed to connect with the students on a personal level.

Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) remains committed to continuing this vital work, ensuring that young men and boys have the knowledge and skills to foster a more equitable and violence-free society.

Red Diary

Domestic violence and abuse is a silent killer that has taken the lives of many people in Nigeria, particularly women. Almost a third of all women in Nigeria have experienced physical violence, mostly within their own homes.

The Red Diary, published by Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development, is a one-stop resource that provides quick, easy-to-understand information to victims and persons seeking support and a way out of domestic violence situations. It describes domestic violence, provides tips on what a person can do if they are in an abusive relationship, and provides contact information for organisations that can provide support.





International Day of the Girl Child

As part of activities to mark the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, CHELD partnered with JCI Delta State University Chapter to organise events including a webinar. The webinar featured three remarkable young women who spoke to attendees about three essential areas crucial for empowering girls to shape the future.

The second phase of the event was held at a local secondary school where the speakers spoke on the importance of maintaining proper hygiene, personal development and education. At the end of the event, the menstrual pads were given to each of the girls present.



FGM Commemoration Day

CHELD participated in a community engagement outreach with the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in preparation for the 2024 Zero Tolerance for FGM.

The outreach aimed to sensitize communities to the dangers and impact of female genital mutilation on its victims.

CHELD was a leading participant at the event where its representative also gave a speech at various communities.



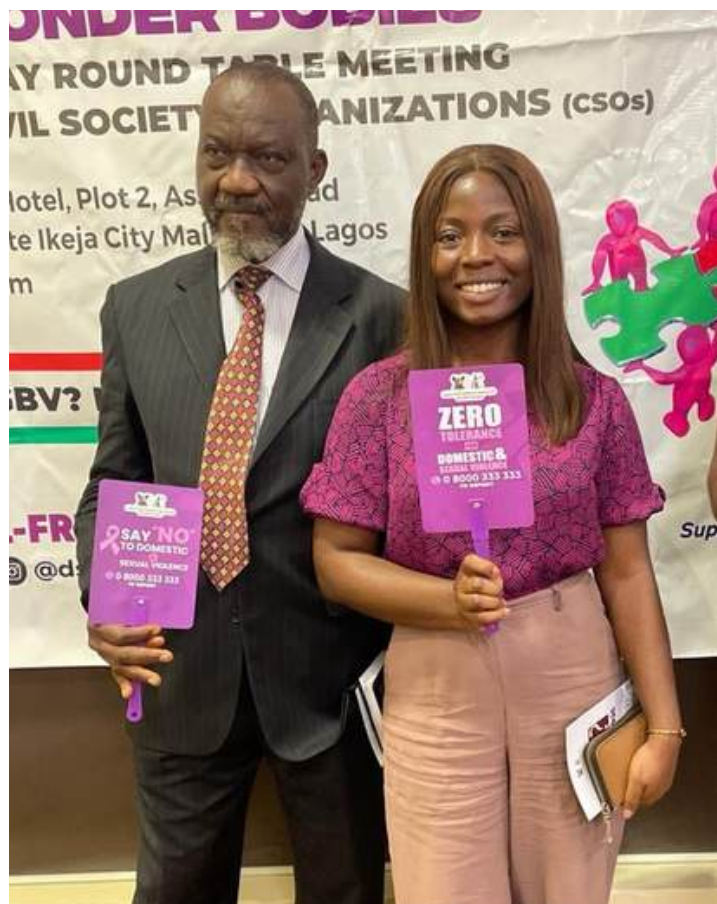


Review of Bauchi State Gender Policy - A Consultative Workshop

CHELD under contract from the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Development, Bauchi State and support from the UNFPA commenced the process for the review of the Bauchi State Gender Policy. As part of the activities for the review, a 3-day stakeholder consultation meeting was held in the state. In attendance were various key stakeholders such as religious and community leaders, implementing partners, and women groups amongst others. Prof Onyemelukwe facilitated the meeting which was aimed at gathering relevant information which will form a key part of the revised policy.

Round-table meeting on combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

CHELD participated in a significant one-day round-table meeting alongside other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) dedicated to combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Hosted by the Lagos State Domestic And Sexual Violence Agency on Friday, 2nd February 2024, the event aimed to enhance collaboration among SGBV responder bodies.



Spotlight Recognition



ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

A Non-profit that is a research think-tank and an implementer in the area of public health, mental health, child health and survival, gender-based violence and their intersections with health, amongst other areas of interest.

CHELD advocates for women's rights and equity to build a better society where women can thrive.



womenhub.org

CHELD was honoured to have been chosen as a spotlight organisation for its tremendous work in championing health rights across Nigeria and Africa since 2010. Tackling critical issues such as public health, mental health, gender-based violence, NCDs and migration and their intersections with health, amongst other areas of interest.

With a mission to ensure that everyone has the right to health through law, policy, and advocacy, CHELD collaborates with both national and international health organizations on pivotal projects, including those addressing female genital mutilation, migration, and health insurance.

We are committed to making significant strides in addressing urgent healthcare challenges.

Menstrual Hygiene Day



Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is essential to the well-being and empowerment of women and adolescent girls.

However, factors such as gender inequality, discriminatory social norms, cultural taboos, poverty and lack of basic services like toilets and sanitary products can all cause menstrual health and hygiene needs to go unmet.

CHELD observed Menstrual Hygiene Day to highlight good menstrual hygiene practices during your period and to raise awareness about the importance of access to menstrual products, period education, and sanitation facilities.

Disability Awareness

CHELD is dedicated to advocating for disability rights, disability mainstreaming, research and raising awareness through events, educational campaigns and resource development.

CHELD periodically organizes awareness events that spotlight the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities, aiming to foster an inclusive society that prioritizes accessibility, voice and social protection.

Our initiatives include releasing policy briefs, such as the one on glaucoma in Nigeria, and hosting webinars and discussions to educate the public on disability-related issues.



2 -Day National Dialogue on Inclusivity for Persons with Disabilities in Criminal Justice Administration and Reform

Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development participated in a 2-day dialogue on 'Integrating Inclusivity for Persons with Disabilities in Criminal Justice Administration and Reform in Nigeria'.

The project is implemented by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) with funding from the European Union. It aims to draw on the experiences of persons with disabilities in their encounters with the criminal justice system and proffer solutions to ensure their inclusion within the justice system.

The CHELD team, led by Prof Cheluchi Onyemelukwe facilitated panel discussions which provided insights on the subject matter.



National Judicial Institute Retreat on Access to Justice for Persons with Disability

A 5-day retreat on the MoU between Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption Center and National Judicial Institute (NJI) - Nigeria, held from 2nd - 6th September 2024 in Lagos, focused on enhancing NJI's research and training capacity.

Experts discussed strategies for judicial excellence and improved training. At the retreat, Prof Cheluchi Onyemelukwe, Executive Director of Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development, one of the Consultants addressed access to justice for women, children, and PWDs, highlighting gender equality, challenges in child justice, and the need for greater inclusion.

CBM Visit and Potential Partnership

As part of CHELD's ongoing efforts to expand strategic partnerships in disability, the organization engaged in a productive discussion with representatives from the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) on October 23, 2024, via Microsoft Teams. This meeting focused on exploring potential areas of collaboration and aligning efforts to advance shared goals. Key participants included Mr. Abdulazeez Musa (CBM Country Director), Prof. Cheluchi Onyemelukwe (CHELD Executive Director), and representatives from both organizations.

A significant achievement from the meeting was the successful identification of key areas for collaboration. These areas align with the strengths and priorities of both organizations, presenting opportunities for impactful joint initiatives. The discussions highlighted the need for strategic interventions in mental health, disability inclusion, and policy advocacy, with a focus on bridging existing gaps in data, service delivery, and implementation.

Following the virtual discussions, CHELD received an in-person assessment visit from CBM, represented by Philip Ode. This visit further strengthened the partnership conversation, allowing for a deeper understanding of CHELD's work and operational capacity. The assessment provided an opportunity to align expectations and evaluate areas for joint action.

Survey on Public Safety and Rule of Law for Persons with Disability

The criminal justice system in Nigeria is crucial for ensuring public safety, upholding the rule of law, and protecting human rights. However, the experiences of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) within this system reveal significant gaps that hinder access to justice and protection.

To this end, the Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) is researching the current state of inclusion for PWDs within Nigeria's criminal justice system.

The goal is to identify challenges, gather insights on experiences, and propose actionable recommendations to create a more inclusive, accessible, and fair justice system for PWDs



Survey on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System



Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development

www.cheld.org

School of the Blind - International Day of Persons with Disability

As part of efforts to support persons with disability, CHELD visited a school for the blind in Lagos during the year.

During the visit, we met and spoke to the principal of the school who narrated the successes, opportunities created and challenges of the school.

We discussed various ways to help improve the learning quality of the student population to ensure they get the benefit of the education system.

At the end of the meeting, we donated some writing materials to the school.



International Day of Persons with Disability

The number of people who experience significant disability is growing driven by an increased number of people with non-communicable diseases, who are also living longer and ageing with limitations in functioning.

Persons with disabilities around the world experience various exclusions and inequities – they die earlier, have poorer health and experience more limitations in everyday functioning than the rest of the population. These inequities are the result of unjust and unfair conditions they face, including stigma and discrimination, poverty, exclusion from education and employment, and barriers in the health system.

We join our partners to call for Innovative and transformative approaches to inclusive development, which means doing things differently in the health sector.



Mental Health

CHELD Mental Health Programme aims to increase awareness of mental health and support for disability rights in Nigeria and other African countries.

We give support to persons living with and affected by mental health conditions and advocate for their rights, and improve access to mental health services through mental health law and policy reform. Members of the team have supported law reform activities to replace the Lunacy Act. CHELD advocates for the visibility, awareness and support for persons living with mental illness and disability in Nigeria.

Our activities here include dissemination of information on the Convention on the Rights of Persons Living with Disability, analysis of the application of the Convention in African countries, advocacy for law reform based on the CRPD, decriminalization of attempted suicide in Nigeria, support for suicide prevention through policy, law, awareness creation, referral and material assistance.



National Mental Health Technical Working Group

Following the enactment of the National Mental Health Act, of 2021, the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) embarked on developing a roadmap for implementing the Act. The roadmap document provides a clear overview of the strategic tasks, resources and timelines that would aid the attainment of the purpose and objectives of the National Mental Health Act.

After several months of work, the Federal Ministry of Health held a two-day meeting to validate the document, marking the end of this crucial step. Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD), an active member of the NTWG since the start of the process, participated in validating this document.

Mental Health Publication (Call for the implementation of the Act)

During the year, we published an article calling for the “Effective implementation of the National Mental Health Act 2021”. The full implementation of the National Mental Health Act hinges on establishing the Department of Mental Health Services and prompt constitution of the Mental Health Assessment Committee.

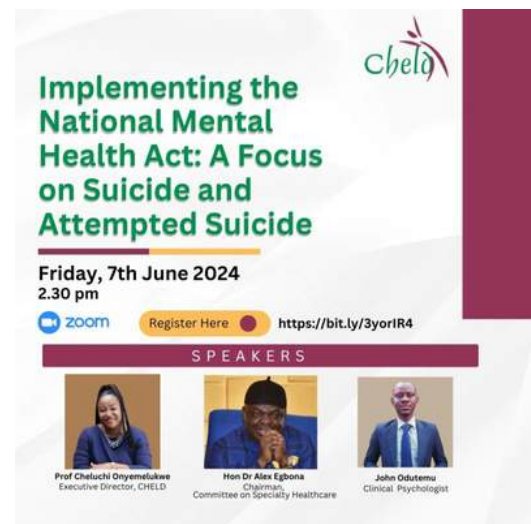
The timely formation of these bodies is vital to protect the well-being of those with mental health conditions.

Mental Health Webinar

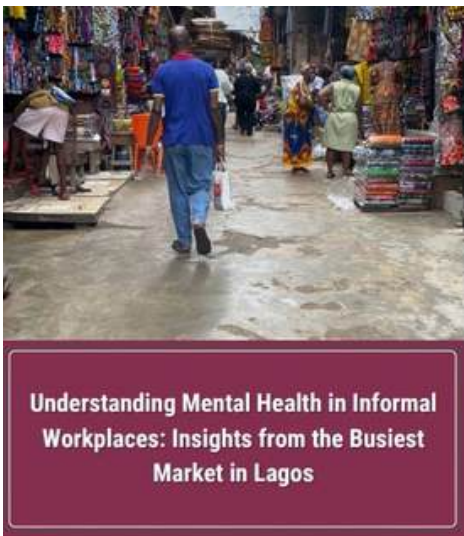
The Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) recently hosted a webinar which focused on the implementation of Nigeria's National Mental Health Act, specifically addressing issues of suicide and attempted suicide.

The speakers discussed the need to enhance understanding of the National Mental Health Act and outlined critical steps to address suicide and attempted suicide including decriminalisation of attempted suicide. They recognised the knowledge gap on mental health in Nigeria and the link to suicide.

The session featured Hon Dr Alex Egbona - Chairman, the House Committee on Speciality Healthcare and other experts.



Market Survey on Mental Health (Report)



Mental health in informal workplaces is essential for several reasons.

The informal sector provides work to a significant part of the population especially marginalized groups, and those who may not have access to formal employment, including women and people living with disabilities.

The informal sector also often complements the formal economy by providing essential services, including food supply, transportation, and maintenance.

In this report, Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development sought to uncover the perceptions of informal sector workers on mental health, their daily stressors and the barriers they face in accessing mental health support.



CHELD and Youth Mental Health

As part of its ongoing mental health initiative, CHELD proudly supported the 2024 Book O'Clock Anniversary Prize, a literary competition aimed at promoting discussions around mental health among secondary school students in Sokoto. As the primary sponsor, CHELD provided essential funding to ensure the smooth running of the three-month competition. Throughout the project, CHELD took an active role in guiding and overseeing its implementation, offering continuous advisory support. From the call for submissions in March to the final award ceremony in June, CHELD provided strategic direction and technical guidance, ensuring that the event effectively raised awareness and encouraged important conversations about mental health among youth.

With CHELD's support, Book O'Clock conducted outreach to 50 schools, hosted a two-stage writing competition, and culminated in a final performance and award ceremony.

At the award ceremony on June 11, 2024, CHELD delivered a keynote address highlighting the importance of mental health awareness, particularly among young people. The speech underscored CHELD's commitment to advocating for mental health as a critical aspect of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) and stressed the importance of creating inclusive platforms where youth can share their experiences and express themselves through art and literature.

CHELD's involvement played a key role in the success of the event and helped achieve its objectives:

- **Raising Mental Health Awareness:** By supporting a competition that encouraged youth to explore and express their thoughts on mental health, CHELD helped initiate vital conversations around this often-overlooked aspect of SDG 3.
- **Empowering Young Voices:** The platform provided students with the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents, boosting their confidence and encouraging self-expression.
- **Promoting Safe Spaces for Dialogue:** The competition fostered an inclusive environment where students from diverse backgrounds could share both personal and fictional stories related to their mental health experiences.

Through its sponsorship and guidance, CHELD made a significant contribution to the success of the Book O'Clock Anniversary Prize 2024. This project not only reaffirmed CHELD's dedication to youth development and mental health advocacy but also highlighted the importance of continued investment in programs that amplify young voices and raise awareness about mental health in Nigeria.

Suicide Prevention Project

CHELD's current activities include the Suicide Prevention Project under its Mental Health Project. The LCR2 Project advocates for the decriminalization of attempted suicide in Nigeria.

Through this Project, CHELD has provided legal support and representation, appearing before courts and obtaining the release of persons who have attempted suicide from prisons. CHELD provides rehabilitation and support through its rehabilitation programmes.

CHELD's work on decriminalizing attempted suicide has appeared in several local and international media outlets, including a CNN appearance in December 2018, and an appearance in Nigeria's Punch newspaper: Police release youth who attempted suicide – Punch Newspapers (punchng.com) amongst others.

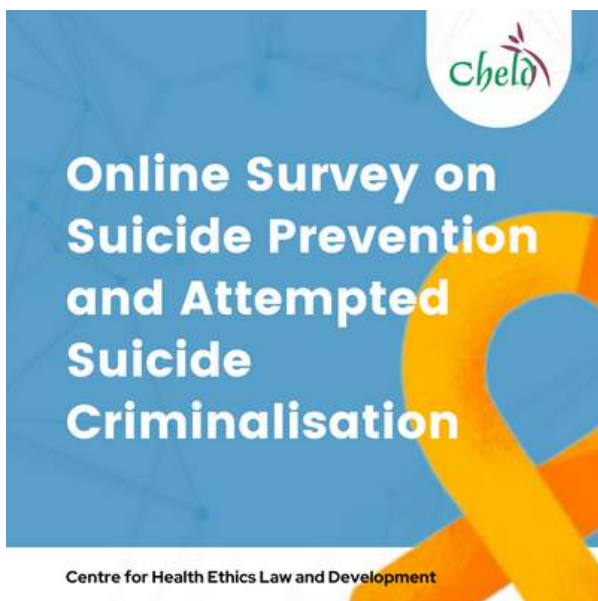


Taskforce on Decriminalisation of Attempted Suicide

Our Executive Director, Prof Cheluchi Onyemelukwe on her appointment as Chair of the National Taskforce on Decriminalisation of Attempted Suicide in Nigeria inaugurated by the Coordinating Minister of the Federal Ministry of Health last week.

Over the years, Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) has worked assiduously towards ending decriminalisation of attempted suicide in Nigeria through direct support and assistance to survivors of attempted suicide and through our work in policy, research and advocacy.

It is our hope that with the inauguration of this National Taskforce, we can decriminalise attempted suicide, improving help-seeking and giving the law a human face in a very short time.



Suicide Prevention Survey

The Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) invites you to participate in an online survey exploring how suicide prevention is perceived in Nigeria.

This survey seeks to assess the general perceptions of suicide and its prevention, identify the key factors influencing these views and evaluate the current level of awareness around prevention strategies.

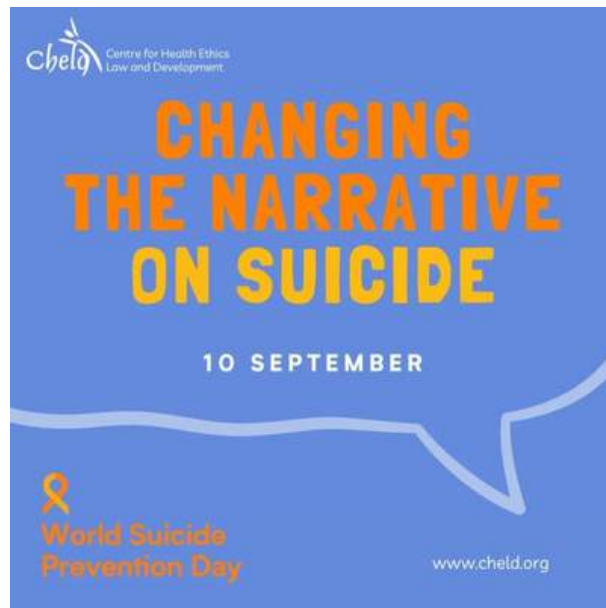
Your insights are vital to informing better suicide prevention approaches, potentially saving lives and creating more supportive communities.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Untreated mental health problems, societal pressures, and repressed emotions are some of the factors driving the rise in suicidal ideation in Nigeria where 3 out of every 10 Nigerians suffer from some form of mental illness, and over 20 million Nigerians are affected by various degrees of mental illness or disorder but lack access to psychiatric health care.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is an occasion to discuss the importance of mental health and suicide prevention education and access to mental health services and resources as important drivers in the prevention of suicide in Nigeria.

As a cornerstone of our well-being, we must take actionable steps to address the root causes of suicide and to act with urgency and compassion towards those with mental health conditions.



World Suicide Prevention Day and Webinar

On this World Suicide Prevention Day, Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD), continues to work to change the narrative on suicide as a public health and human rights issue. We continue to challenge the current legal status in Nigeria which criminalises attempted suicide.

Our work supports persons who have been charged with attempted suicide, liaising with law enforcement, and providing free legal aid. We continue to work with the legislature to address this challenge. Our support for the enactment of Nigeria's National Mental Health Act and for provisions that support assistance instead of criminalisation and the promulgation of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy in line with the Act are further steps towards addressing the challenge.

Through its activities in mental health and suicide prevention, CHELD has been at the forefront of helping individuals with mental health conditions including survivors of attempted suicide. Our material assistance has supported needed mental health treatment, university education and housing for persons who have attempted suicide.

Our continuing awareness-creation brings these important matters into the open. By fostering open conversations, showing empathy, and offering support, we can create a culture of understanding and hope.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory diseases, kidney diseases, mental ill health etc – are a growing challenge for Nigeria and other countries.

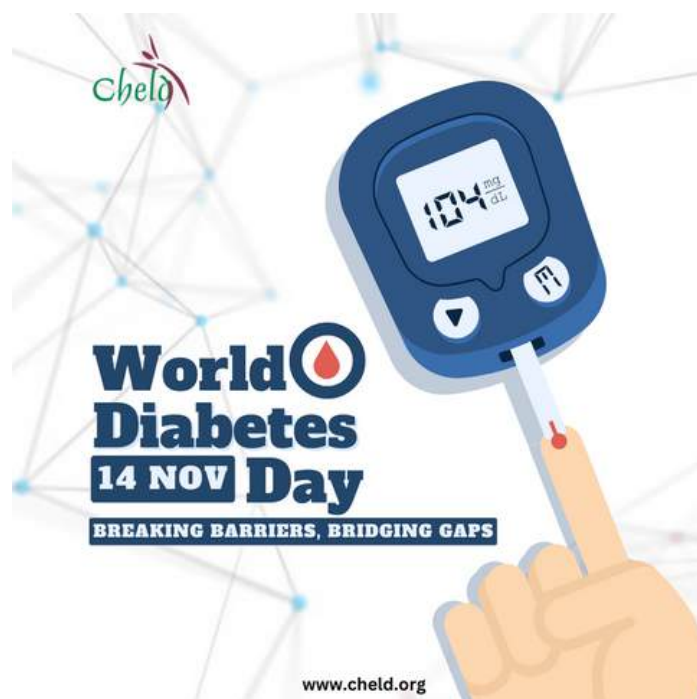
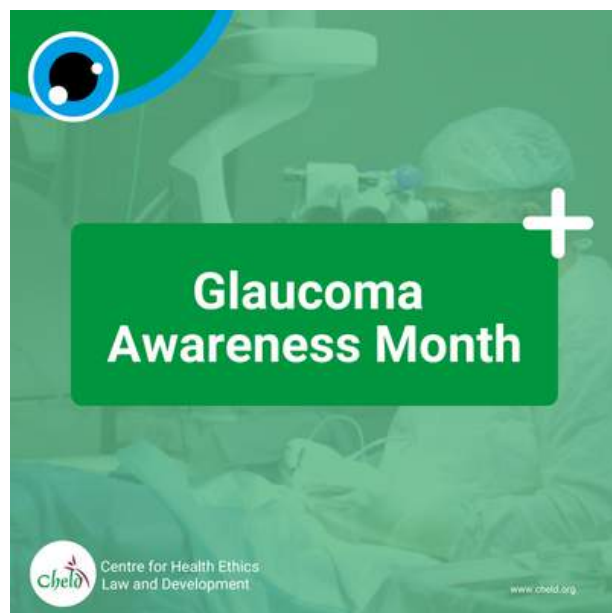
Globally, NCDs are estimated to cause 63 per cents of all deaths (WHO). 80 per cent of this occurs in low- and middle-income countries.

CHELD's NCDs programme aims to carry out projects in the areas of safe awareness campaigns, transfats policy advocacy, cancer and the law, and improving school health programmes.

Social Media Campaigns

CHELD commemorated observance days for several diseases to create awareness of the dangers of Non-Communicable Diseases.

As part of our public health advocacy, we embarked on awareness creation through social media to educate the public on the importance of avoiding habits, nutrition and lifestyles that encourage NCDs.



Climate Change and Health

CHELD's climate change and health programme aims to increase awareness of climate change.

We are thrilled about the recent focus on climate change and health at COP28, marked by the endorsement of the climate and health declaration by 123 nations. Recognising the interconnectedness of the climate crisis and health, we emphasise the urgency of collective action.



URGENT: Help Flood Victims in Maiduguri Today

Support Asido Foundation's Mission to Provide Psychosocial and Emotional Support

#Several lives lost #Many loved ones still missing

We are setting up a dedicated 24/7 Helpline to provide psychosocial support for affected flood victims, especially those dealing with loss, trauma, and displacement. We will also conduct outreaches to provide emotional support and provide relief materials.

SUPPORT US BY DONATING TODAY

Asido Ohieku Foundation
2034923483 (Narration: Maiduguri Support)
First Bank

For more information, please contact the Asido Foundation's Northeast Regional Coordinators: (all based in Maiduguri and coordinating efforts there)

Dr Asmau Dahiru 08036015440
 Mr Abdullahi Bakar 08022029595
 Dr Mahmood Mohammed 08067216316

Or the Asido Head Office via 08180777458

Partners: asido FOUNDATION, Chely

Maiduguri Flood Support

Centre For Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) in partnership with the Asido Foundation and the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Maiduguri, worked to provide mental health support to the people of Maiduguri in the aftermath of the flooding disaster which left many in significant trauma.

CHELD worked with its partners to provide around the clock **mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**, material aid and relief materials for those affected.

Knowledge Products



Mental Health Policy Brief

CHELD has been at the forefront of issues of mental health in Nigeria through various advocacy programmes, including advocacy for the decriminalisation of attempted suicide, support for the rights of persons with mental health conditions and advocacy for the passage of the Act.

Led by its Executive Director, Prof Cheluchi Onyemelukwe, CHELD contributed significantly to the drafts of the recently passed National Mental Health Act 2021.

CHELD in its latest Mental Health Policy Brief discusses the historical context of mental health in Nigeria and the rationale behind the Act.

Essentially, the policy brief discusses the rights granted to persons with mental health conditions by the Act, such as humane and dignified treatment despite their mental health status, protection from discrimination, prohibition of abuse by health workers, the rights to housing and employment, and protection against wrongful termination of employment, etc. Furthermore, the policy brief outlines the next steps towards full implementation of the Act.



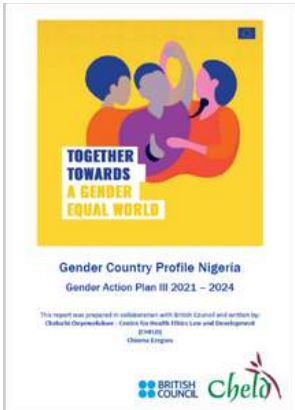
Menstrual Hygiene Report

The plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abuja is characterized by significant challenges in accessing vital services, such as healthcare, education, and sanitation. These vulnerable populations are often forced to leave their homes due to conflicts, natural disasters, or other factors beyond their control, leading to displacement and a loss of essential resources.



Ban on Single - Use Plastics

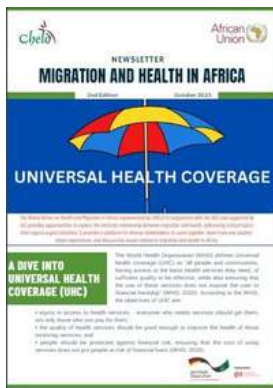
The Lagos state government banned Styrofoam and other single-use plastic products. The ban was to curtail the environmental impact of these products in the State. Widely used throughout the State by canteens, cafeterias and other types of food sellers serving the 20-million population of one of the most densely populated cities in the world, the ban has elicited many complaints from different quarters. The ban is the first of its kind by a government in Nigeria and has the potential to pave the way for similar prohibitions to be imposed by the federal and other state governments. This article reviews this ban and highlights key steps to be taken to ensure that the ban is effective.



Nigeria Country Gender Profile

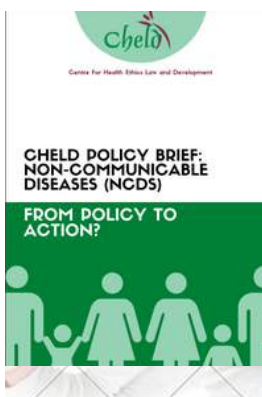
The Country Gender Profile for Nigeria was prepared by CHELD in collaboration with the British Council for the European Union.

It provides an understanding of gender equality challenges and opportunities, the position and roles of girls, boys, women, and men, in all their diversity, in society, as well as the distribution of resources and power between them. The Report considers and analyses gender equality broadly in various spheres of activity and sectors including poverty and inequality, employment and enterprise, peace and security, health, education, gender-based violence, digitalisation, climate change, and inclusion and intersectionality.



Migration and Health Newsletters

The Online Series on Health and Migration in Africa implemented by CHELD in conjunction with the AUC and supported by GIZ provides opportunities to explore the intricate relationship between migration and health, addressing critical topics that require urgent attention. It provides a platform for diverse stakeholders to come together, learn from one another, share experiences, and discuss key issues related to migration and health in Africa.



Non – Communicable Diseases Policy Brief

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), is classified as chronic diseases, cannot be passed from one person to another. These include cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, cancers, diabetes, mental health disorders and sickle cell disease.

Primarily, NCDs can be attributed to four major risk factors consisting of unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, use of tobacco and excessive consumption of alcohol. People across all age groups are susceptible to these risk factors, but a higher percentage of NCD-related deaths occur among people aged between 30 and 70 years.

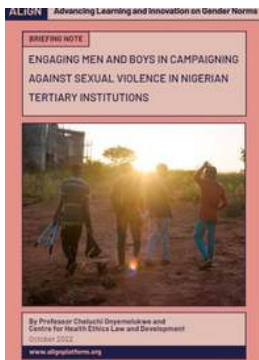
Glaucoma in Nigeria



Glaucoma is the primary cause of irreversible blindness globally. Besides cataracts, it is the second leading cause of vision loss and vision impairment. In Nigeria, about 1.1 – 1.4 million adults aged 40 years and above suffer from glaucoma. Amongst the ethnic groups in Nigeria, the Igbo of South-East Nigeria have the highest prevalence of glaucoma which may be a result of genetic susceptibility.

The policy brief highlights the low levels of knowledge, screening, finance, inadequate equipment, paucity of human resources for health, timely referral, and dearth of ophthalmologists as challenges bedevilling the management of glaucoma in Nigeria.

Engaging Men and Boys in Campaigning against Sexual Violence in Tertiary Institutions



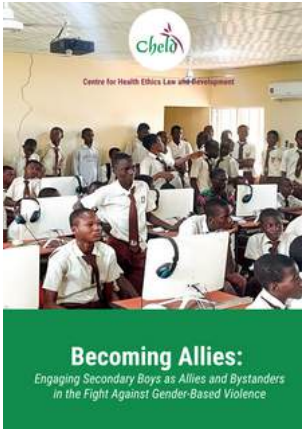
This research, conducted by the Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) sought to assess the level of male engagement by Women’s Rights Organisations (WROs) involved in the campaign against sexual violence in Nigerian tertiary institutions. These organisations generally support policy development on sexual and gender-based violence in tertiary institutions, establish sexual violence response teams, and undertake awareness creation and training of students on sexual and other gender-based violence.

Baseline Assessment of Health Services and Living Conditions of IDP Camp Residents in Abuja, Nigeria



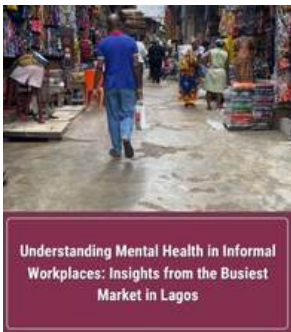
This research, conducted by the Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) sought to assess the living conditions of internally displaced persons in camps in Abuja, Nigeria.

The majority of IDPs resided in camps that lacked access to water, sanitary facilities. Results also revealed a higher prevalence of sexual violence and mental health challenges amongst Female IDPs. However access to services such as psychosocial support, nutrition, sexual and reproductive health was limited in the camps assessed.



Becoming Allies: Engaging Secondary Boys as Allies and Bystanders in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

This report delves into our activities in engaging men and boys in the fight against gender-based violence. A product of research conducted in 2021, we continue to partner with institutions to help facilitate the engagement of male in defeating GBV in our communities.



Understanding Mental Health in Informal Workplaces: Insights from the Busiest Market in Lagos

This research, conducted by the Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD) sought to assess if workers understood mental health and how it is managed. The research was conducted in one of the busiest markets in Lagos and the outcome of the research is revealing.



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