



# The L' Series



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## Winning the Malaria Battle: The RTS, S Malaria Vaccine S. Akiuyibo

The drone of a mosquito is an irritant for most of us, sending us reaching for a rolled up newspaper or a spray of repellent to avoid an unpleasant itchy bite. But for millions of people in Nigeria these mosquitoes herald a much more serious threat -- malaria.

In the last few decades, science has given us the opportunity to prevent and treat many diseases and alter the natural progression of others. Vaccines have turned the tide against once widespread diseases such as polio and tetanus. Yet a malaria vaccine has remained



elusive.

Little wonder when you consider that *Plasmodium falciparum*, the parasite responsible for the most lethal type of malaria, is a clever yet microscopic opponent which uncannily morphs its complex genetic makeup and its appearance. This enables it to become resistant to the

treatments used against it and to evade normal human immune responses. By changing the proteins on its surface, it prevents the body from mounting an effective defense as it might against many viruses or bacteria.

So how can science be harnessed to tackle this tiny killer?

í ..Continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:

- WINNING THE MALARIA BATTLE
- UNMET FAMILY PLANNING NEED IN NIGERIA
- GETTING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE AND POLICY
- IMPROVING HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
- MICROSOFT: BASIC TIPS



Source: plus.google.com

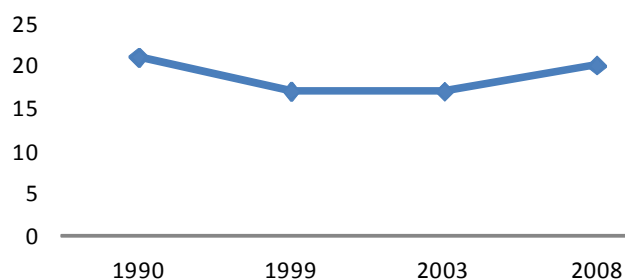
## Addressing the Unmet Need for Family Planning in Nigeria Comfort Oyom

Unmet need for family planning refers to the unavailability of contraception for women who do not want to get pregnant. This includes women whose pregnancies are either un-

wanted or mistimed. Unwanted pregnancies pose risks for maternal and child health and family wellbeing; it contributes to rapid population growth in low income countries. They could also

í ..Continued on page 2

Unmet FP need in Nigeria 1990 - 2008



Source: NDHS 2008

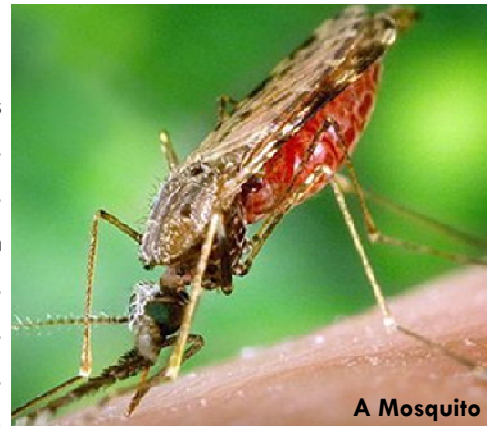
## THE RTS, S MALARIA VACCINE .....cont'd from page 1

**"MALARIA IS A CAUSE OF MORE DEATHS IN AFRICA THAN HIV AND CANCER COMBINED"**

All over the world, a multitude of imaginative approaches are being considered. There are established measures such as using bed nets and insect sprays to stop people from bites and infections, as well as early stage research to genetically modify mosquitoes so that their immune system attacks the parasite they carry, and efforts to create sterile mosquitoes to reduce their overall numbers. But for many, an effective vaccine remains the best hope to

control malaria.

The RTS, S malaria vaccine which is currently being investigated in late-stage studies in Africa was designed with a portion of the parasite's main surface



**A Mosquito**

protein fused to a protein of a virus that the body can more readily recognise—in this case

hepatitis B virus surface protein. The hypothesis is that this would help to stimulate

## Addressing the Unmet Need .....cont'd from page 1

lead to unsafe abortion, which contributes to high maternal death rates. In Nigeria, 20% of women of reproductive age have an unmet need for family planning.

Reasons for unmet family planning needs in Nigeria include lack of knowledge, personal/

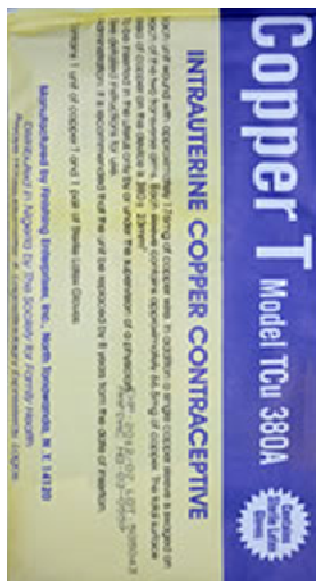
many children and a lack of due concern about adverse health effects and side effects of family planning.

Reducing unmet need is a complicated task because of the wide range of circumstances and beliefs that can prevent women from acting on their intentions. Studies have shown that family planning saves lives, improves



**..Cycle Beads**

health, strengthens communities, and stimulates economic growth. To promote the use of



partner/religious opposition, the desire to bear

## Malaria Vaccine .....cont'd

the immune system to fight off infection by the malaria parasite in the blood. The present formulation of the RTS, S candidate vaccine results from extensive pre-clinical and clinical investigations which indicated that

each component of the vaccine is essential.

The vaccine was formulated by Glaxosmith Kline (GSK) and has been supported with grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to GSK partners at Path Ma-

laria Vaccine Initiative (MVI).

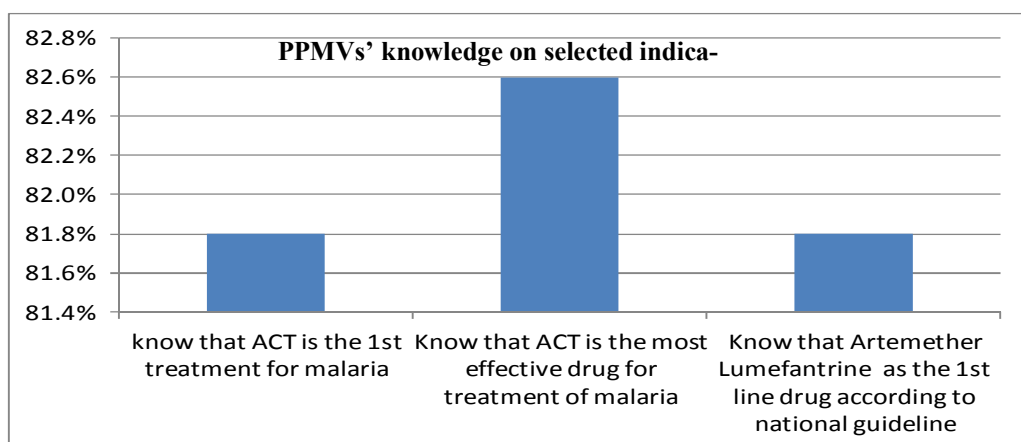
The efficacy and safety results in infants six to 12 weeks old are expected by the end of 2012. RTS, S is the most clinically advanced malaria vaccine candidate in the world today.

## Promoting Access to effective malaria treatment through PPMVs Chinwoke Isiguzo

In 2006, knowledge and awareness of malaria. This marked improvement among the Artemisinin-based combination therapy PPMVs was further shown when respondents (ACT) use among health providers was very low. In a study conducted by SFH in Lagos for malaria and 82.6% of them mentioned and Abia states, only 37.5% of Patent and ACTs. Across the health service outlets, Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMVs) surveyed had heard of ACT. SFH organised a series of capacity building sessions for selected PPMVs and, through their services, Capacity building of PPMVs who, in most make ACTs available in urban and rural locations across Nigeria. A study conducted in 2010 shows that more PPMVs (81.8%) know that ACTs are the first line treatment for ma-



A Patent Medicine Vendor in his shop



“CAPACITY BUILDING OF PPMVS CAN IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN NIGERIA”

## Addressing the Unmet FP Need .....cont'd from page 2

contraceptives, there is a need to provide correct information on family planning methods, especially about possible side effects and how to manage them. Socio-cultural barriers to accessing family planning services must be overcome, and access to high-quality services, including provider-client interactions must be improved. Finally, programmes should focus on men, on encouraging them to discuss family planning with their wives and on creating an environment in which both sexes can seek quality services. The joint effort of all stakeholders will help to make this goal achievable.

“Development must be within the context of a people for ownership and sustainability”



## The L' Series

### SFH Condom Social Marketing Muhammad Salihu



Packet of Gold Circle Condom

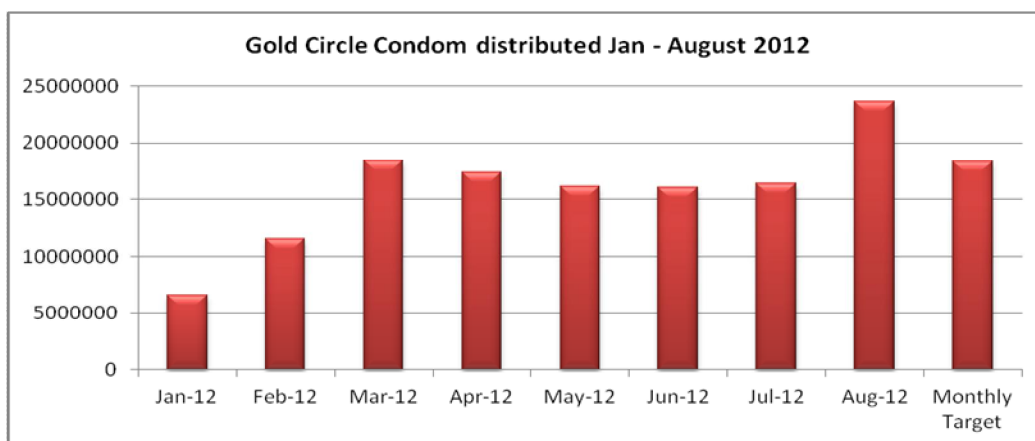
Society for Family Health uses a mix of communication and health commodity distribution approaches to improve the health of poor and vulnerable Nigerians.

**Gold Circle (GC) Condom** is SFH Nigeria's pinnacle product, marketed since 1986 for dual protection to encourage family planning and prevent

sexually transmitted infections in Nigeria. It represents about 74% of the total condom market share in Nigeria (NARHS 2007). Another brand of condom marketed by SFH is **Lifestyles**. SFH uses a variety of media, including TV and radio, to create awareness on its use. The slogan for the *Life-styles* condom is: "Strong for

*maximum protection, sensitive for maximum pleasure*". SFH promotes responsible behaviour and family planning in addition to providing products that effectively enable both. Gold Circle is a trusted brand having over 20 years of controversy-free use in Nigeria.

THROUGH MASSIVE  
CONDOM  
DISTRIBUTION, SFH  
SIGNIFICANTLY  
CONTRIBUTES TO  
THE REDUCTION OF  
HIV TRANSMISSION  
AND UNPLANNED  
PREGNANCIES

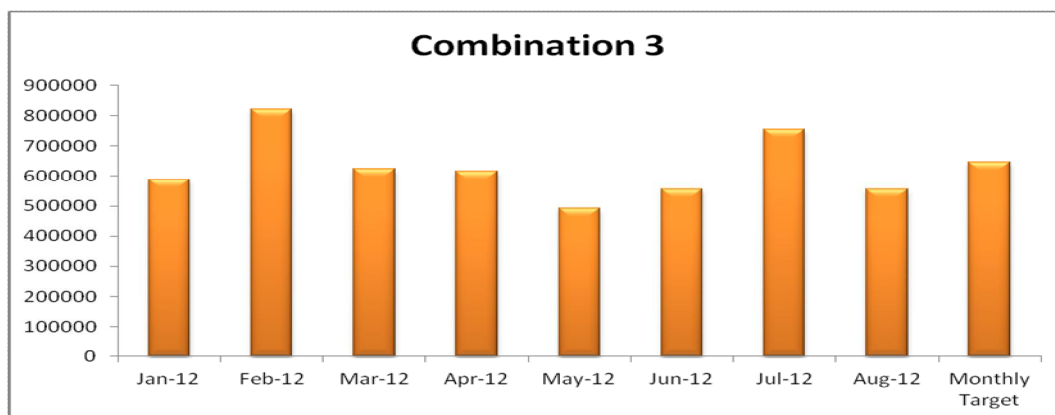


### Combination -3 Muhammad Salihu

**Combination-3** is a new generation low-dose combined oral contraceptive. It contains 28 tablets (21 hormone-containing beige coated and 7 hormone-free brown coated tablets). SFH Nigeria distributes Combination-3 at a subsidised price. It is used by women for family planning / child spacing, and is available wherever family planning products are sold.



Packet of Combination 3





## HIV Counselling and Testing Among Most at Risk Persons

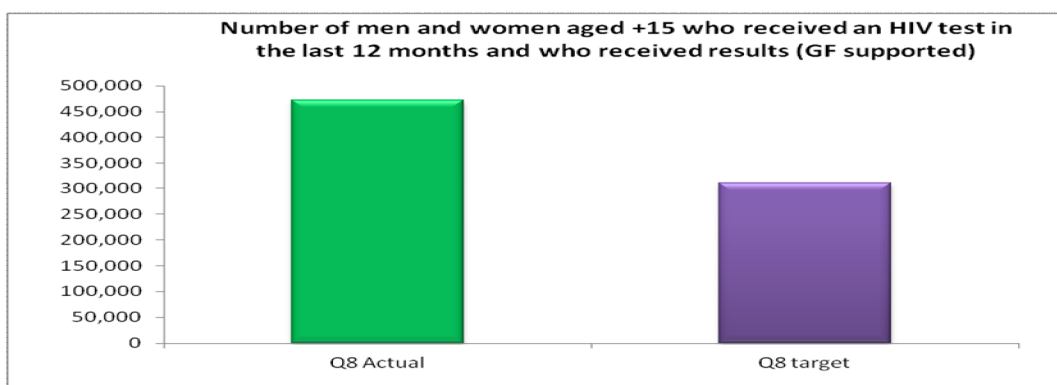
Mohammed Salihu

Society for Family Health, a Principal Recipient of the Global Fund Round 9 HIV grant, contributes to scaling up HIV prevention services among the general population and most at risk persons using tested and proven strategies.

A key component of the project is HIV testing and counselling services.

Between January and June 2012, 472,865 people nationwide were counselled, tested and received test results. This translated to a cumulative achievement of

152% of the target. A major reason for the sustained success is the continuous availability of testing kits and massive demand creation activities.



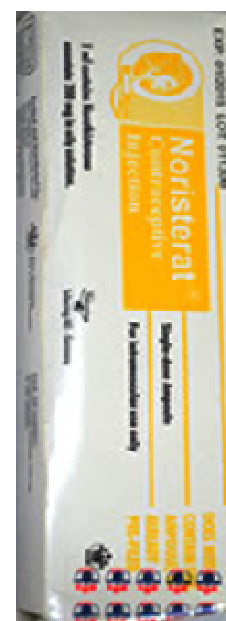
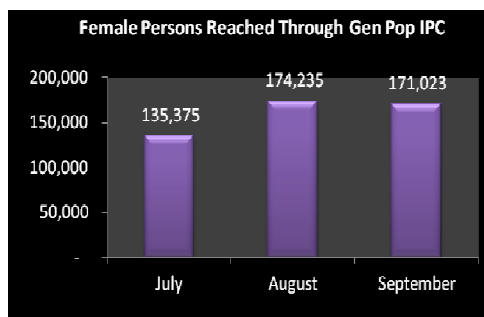
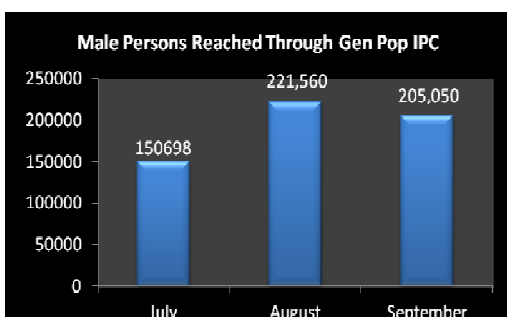
## HIV prevention activities among General Population in Seven Nigerian States

Chioma Ofoegbu

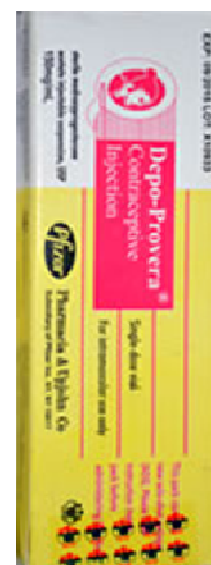
Enhancing Nigeria's Response to HIV&AIDS (ENR) programme prevention interventions aim at reducing infection rates across behavioural, biomedical, and structural drivers of HIV infection in

communities. The programme uses a combination of approaches and tools including Mass Media, Mid Mass (Road shows) and Interpersonal Communication which includes Peer Education Plus (PEP), Priority

for Local AIDS Control Effort (PLACE), Societies Tackling AIDS through Rights (STAR), as well as one on one and group sessions using IPC conductors and Positive Prevention.

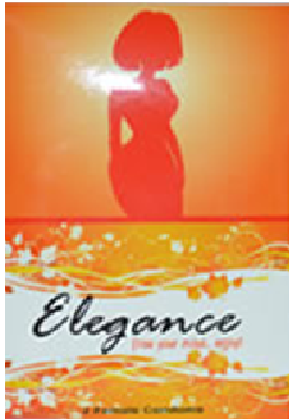


EARLY KNOWLEDGE OF ONE'S HIV STATUS CAN SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTHY LIVING





## The L' Series



Elegance Female Condom

THE UNIVERSAL  
ACCESS TO FEMALE  
CONDOMS JOINT  
PROGRAMME  
MAKES FEMALE  
CONDOMS  
AVAILABLE,  
ACCESSIBLE AND  
AFFORDABLE FOR  
ALL



### Barriers to Repeated use of Female Condoms: Evidence from a qualitative study in Nigeria. Onoriode Ezire

Society for Family Health, with the support of Oxfam Novib, promotes the use of the Female Condom in Nigeria. The project, implemented in three states in Nigeria since 2009, has distributed over 4 million female condoms. In August 2011, a project post intervention evaluation was done. Key findings from the evaluation showed that while

the number of female condoms distributed annually has been on the rise; this increase has been largely due to the introduction of the commodity to new users. The report shows that over half of those who have ever used a female condom had not used it within the last 12 months. About 7 out of every 10 women who have ever used a female con-

dom have stopped using it. SFH conducted a qualitative study with the specific objective of identifying the possible reasons for the low repeated use of female condoms in Nigeria. Researchers gathered data through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and In-depth interviews (IDIs) held in Lagos, Edo and Delta States. A total of 16 FGDs

### 8 Microsoft Word Shortcuts You Probably Don't Know- culled from yahoo news by Chinwoke Isiguzo

Microsoft Word: Love it or hate it, practically everyone uses it. Here are some super helpful shortcuts that make Microsoft Word easier and faster.

#### 1. Double Click And Drag

If you're like most people, when you want to move a section of text from one place to another, you use Control-C to copy and Control-V to paste. That's fine. It works. But there's a faster way: Double click or highlight what you want to move, then simply drag what you've highlighted to where you want it to land.

#### 2. Double Underline

You know you can affect text by hitting Control-B to make it **bold** or Control-U to underline.

But if one line of underlining just isn't emphatic enough, Control-Shift-D will double underline. (On a Mac, use Command-Shift-D.)

#### 3. Change Case

Instead of retyping everything to change from lower case to Title Case or to UPPERCASE, just highlight the text you want to change, click the case button, and then choose which case you want.

#### 4. Adding Buttons to Your Toolbar

Suppose you just tried using shortcut #3, but the case button isn't on your toolbar, no worries; you can add it (and almost any other command). Go to View, Toolbars, Customize Toolbars, Commands, then

scroll to find the command you want — and drag it to where on the toolbar you want it.

#### 5. Add the Date

How many times a day do you type the date? If you do it even once, that's too much. Next time, just hit Alt-Shift-D (or Control-Shift -D on a Mac) to add the date automatically.

#### 6. Quick Parts

This next tip builds on what the Autotext function did in older versions of Word: If you have a certain paragraph of text you regularly need to add to a document — like a boilerplate disclaimer, or maybe directions to your office — turn it into a Quick Part. Here's how:

## Barriers to Repeated use of Female Condoms cont'd

and 16 IDIs were conducted among women who are currently using or have used but stopped using, female condoms.

**Key Findings:** The reasons for non-repeated use of FCs included negative first experiences, resistance to change, peer influence and ignorance, phobia for the FC size and concerns about the possibility of the FC sliding in; discomfort that

comes with holding the FC during sex, difficulty and length of time to insert the FC, as well as scarcity and price of the commodity. Respondents who were more likely to use the female condom again had a positive first experience and perceived the benefits accruable from FC use to be - efficacy of the product, derived sexual pleasure and

family togetherness.

To improve the use of FCs, it will be necessary to provide education to erase erroneous perceptions, increase women's awareness and knowledge of the product, produce flavoured FCs of various sizes, with a more sensitive texture, and reduce the price to N30



Female Condom

## 8 Microsoft Word Shortcuts..... Cont'd



### Quick Parts

i. Highlight the text you regularly use

ii. Click the insert tab

Hit Quick Parts, and choose "Save Selection To The Quick Part Gallery"

Now any time you want to insert that chunk of text into a document, either a new one or an old one you're editing, just hit that Quick Parts button. Just one more click will select which saved Quick Part to insert. This trick will even work as a shortcut for adding a logo or letterhead.

### 7. Conform Fonts

This one used to drive me crazy: I'd copy and paste some bit of text from another document or from the Web, and then I'd have to click all over the place to get the font size and style to match the surrounding text of my existing document. No longer.

Here's all you need to do: Highlight the non-conforming text, then hit Control-Spacebar. Done.

### 8. Customise Quick Access Toolbar

There is one way to get your most commonly used commands in the same place - that's to customize the Quick Access Toolbar. It's like the center drawer in your desk that has all the stuff you use

most in one easy-to-access place. No organisation, just (as the name implies) quick access. So take the things you like most and add them to the Quick Access toolbar. Click the little down arrow tab to get to the Customize Quick Access Toolbar drop down menu:



Hit "more commands" and add whatever you use most. You can also position this toolbar below the ribbon if you prefer it to be closer to your document text.

THE USE OF FEMALE  
CONDOMS CAN  
PROTECT AGAINST  
UNPLANNED  
PREGNANCIES AND  
STI, INCLUDING HIV  
AND AIDS





## Highlights of Key Research Activities, July and September 2012 Chinwoke Isiguzo

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- **ACT Watch Survey and Data Entry:** The ACT Watch survey addresses information gaps on how to improve access to high quality ACTs. The 5 year, seven country research project began in 2008 and came to an end in the month of October 2012.
- **Technical, Logistic and Financial support to NASCAP in the conduct of National HIV&AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey (NARHS plus).** NARHS is a bi-annual general population-based survey on sexual and reproductive health in Nigeria with a sample size of over 35,000 persons.
- **Rapid Examination of Malaria and Evaluation of Diagnostic Information (REMEDI) Study:** The objective of this study, which is funded by Exxon Mobil and conducted in partnership with the University of California San Francisco, is to measure the prevalence of malaria among purchasers of antimalarial drugs at private drug shops, assess the acceptability of providing malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) to customers seeking malaria treatment in private drug shops and determine the key demographic, socio-economic, and behavioural correlates of adherence to RDT results.

## An Assessment of Research Utilisation by Policy Makers and Programme Managers in Nigeria Onoriode Ezire

### Important Quote

**"A resourceful person can see opportunity when others only see obstacles."**

— **Garrett Gunderson:** is a financial advocate author

- With growing health needs in Nigeria, the government and partners have responded with multiple policy formulations and programming initiatives. The role of research remains marginal in shaping health financing, decision-making and practices in Nigeria. The growing expectations for cost-effective quality services have made it imperative for policy-makers and managers to translate research outputs into practical, impactful-decisions and actions.
- Government needs to commit its resources, not just for data generation but also for their daily use.
  - A periodic work-plan review system that reviews activities implemented vis a vis planned actions for the period should be institutionalised.
  - Improved communication between data generators and users should be promoted.
  - Research activities should be conducted in a timely manner and reported in user friendly ways.
  - Programme managers' data utilisation skills should be strengthened.

**An assessment of Research Utilisation by Policy Makers and Programme Managers in Nigeria recommended the following:**

### Acknowledgements

Some pictures were downloaded from [www.googlepictures.com](http://www.googlepictures.com), [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)

### Disclaimer:

Contents of this Newsletter are the views of the authors and not necessarily that of the funders of the different projects referred to herein