



## **REPORT ON A 3 DAY COMMUNITY HEALTH MEDICAL AND RESEARCH OUTREACH HELD ON TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> TO TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2022.**

### **Preamble**

The Centre for Public Health and Toxicological Research in collaboration with Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) Rivers State chapter and Medical Women Association of Nigeria Rivers State chapter, organized a 3-day Community Health outreach at Ibaa and Obele towns in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers state. This was coordinated by a team led by Dr Catherine Ikewuchi and Dr Faith Diorgu.

The 3-day event started on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and ended on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at the AT Ibaa town opposite State Primary School 1 Ibaa. The event featured Health talk, free breast cancer screening, free cervical cancer screening, free medical consultation and free eye and ear check and treatment.

### **Methodology**

Community entry and mobilization was done in February 2022 with the visit of the PUTOR leadership to the paramount ruler and chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC) of Ibaa and Obele communities. The Community Chief, Elders, Youths, Security and the entire Ibaa people were officially informed through a letter from the Centre Leader of the ACE-PUTOR about the Health outreach. The community leadership took on the responsibility of mobilization of their wards through town announcers and assured of adequate security for the exercise. The Centre (ACE-PUTOR) in collaboration with other bodies mentioned above, came with a comprehensive range of drugs, injections, laboratory equipments to administer to the residents of Ibaa. Vehicles were provided by the University for ease of movement of equipment and medical personnel's to and from Ibaa.

### **Research Outreach**

The research was aimed at exploring the impact of artisanal refining on the nutritional/medical status of pregnant women, nursing women, children and the elderly living within Ibaa community in Emohua Local Government Area of River State. Activities undertaken included determination of the anthropometric indices of pregnant women, nursing mothers, children and the elderly living in Ibaa community; measurement of biochemical indices (albumin, iron, urea, creatinine, total protein, electrolytes) of pregnant women, nursing mothers, children and the elderly living in Ibaa community; measurement of haematological parameters namely, Packed cell Volume (PCV), Red blood cell (RBC), Haemoglobin (Hb), Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin (MCH), Mean corpuscular Volume (MCV), Mean Corpuscular Haemoglobin Concentration

(MCHC) and White blood cells (WBC) of pregnant women, nursing mothers, children and the elderly living in Ibaa community.

### **Health Outreach**

The Chief, elders, youths, women, children of Ibaa community welcomed the medical team on arrival. There was a brief health talk on health challenges as they inhale the black soot from artisanal refineries (kpo- fire) operating in the area. The hall was rearranged as soon as the health talk was over for registration, physical examination, collection of laboratory samples, consultation and receipt of medications by the medical personnel. There was some emphasis on elicitation of clinical signs of the impact of artisanal refining on pregnant women, nursing mothers, children and the elderly living in Ibaa community. The programme was open to all children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, Nursing mothers and elderly men and women.

### **Recommendation**

The Community showed appreciation to the University of Port Harcourt and requested the conduct of quarterly outreach by the University and its partners to every village in the local government.

### **Pictures**

The pictures of the events are shown below