

Solina

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insights

From the ED's Desk



Dr. Muyi Aina
Executive Director

Dear reader,

I am pleased to present the second edition of the Solina Quarterly Monitor newsletter!

In addition to keeping you informed on the rapidly broadening scope of our work and impact at Solina, the newsletter's goal is to share our experiences and lessons learned.

In this edition, the GAVI team visited Guinea Bissau's government and other key players to urge support for the immunisation programme and seek updates on the Gavi Health Systems Strengthening (HSS2) and Covid-19 programmes.

It also includes reports on the NMEP's Staff Capacity and Development Program graduation ceremony, our technical support provision at the OBR Africa GPEI WPV outbreak planning and review workshop and GRID3 visioning workshop, and the Smiles for Mothers team's work to close supply chain gaps through health workers training in program states.

For your reading pleasure, there are also featured articles on "Sexual harassment in digital spaces", "Fire Safety Tips" and a motivational article themed "Living with intentions".

I encourage you to engage and truly enjoy the content.

Regards.



NMEP-SCDP Graduation Ceremony



A cross section of the NMEP-SCDP graduands

As part of the continued efforts to strengthen the National Malaria Elimination Project (NMEP)'s leadership and management capacity to coordinate the malaria program, the team collaborated with BMGF, SCIDaR and partners to implement the Institutional Capacity Strengthening program.

The Staff Capacity Development Program (SCDP) was created to help staff build their capacities through five learning approaches: in-class sessions, on-the-job coaching, capstone projects, e-learning, and mentoring.

On the 13th of May 2022, the first cohort of the SCDP graduated from the seven-month capacity-building program at Peniel Apartments, Plot 171 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja.

The graduation ceremony began with the national prayer and the introduction of participants, which was assisted by Anita Onyadongha, the master of the ceremony. The National Coordinator, Dr. Perpetua Uhomoibhi, then made a welcome message, emphasizing the importance of the graduates using the skills they have received to consistently enhance their performance on the job and, consequently, the NMEP's performance. She expressed gratitude to BMGF, SCIDaR, and all other partners (BA-N, UNICEF, IHP, MSH, SFH, WHO, MC, JHPIEGO, GF) for facilitating class sessions and serving as mentors to the students.

The ICS desk officer, Mr Tim Obot, also gave an overview of the SCDP and results from the first cohort, which included a 100% knowledge gain through the understanding of critical leadership and management concepts from taught classes, an 11% to 56% increase in skills development, and increased responsibilities of five (5) enrollees on the job after the SCDP support and the acquisition of e-learning certificates on basic malaria epidemiology and an overview of the malaria program in Nigeria by twenty-one (21) NMEP staff.

The Malaria Technical Director and three (3) NMEP branch heads (Integrated Vector Management (IVM), Procurement and Supply Management (PSM), and Program Management (PM) branches) gave closing remarks, thanking the partners for helping to transform the malaria program at the national and state levels. He promised to help new enrollees in their branches improve their skills by assigning new roles and responsibilities while ensuring the enrollees implement critical recommendations to address the problem identified through their capstone project.



Project Update



GAVI team mission to Guinea Bissau



A delegation of two members visited Guinea Bissau between the 21st and 25th of March 2022, to advocate to the Ministry of public health (MINSAP), National Institute of public health (INASA) and political leaders to obtain their commitment to the immunisation program, follow up on key resolutions from previous visits, monitor the implementation of Gavi's HSS2 and Covid-19 activities, including field visits to health structures to assess the implementation of EPI program activities in a bid to optimise health outcome.

Gavi's partnership with Guinea-Bissau started in 2003 to strengthen the country's health and immunisation systems via the HSS2 and CCEOP grants and provide technical support through WHO and UNICEF. From 2019 to date, Gavi through Solina Health supports the country to strengthen its Leadership, Management and Coordination for routine immunisation and Surveillance for Epidemiological services (SIVE).



The delegation met with the Minister of Health, Dr. Dionisio Cumba, Mr. Mamad Mudjataba BALDÉ, Prime Minister Carlos Rui Ribeiro's Chief of Staff, Carlos Rui Ribeiro, Director of SIVE, Dr. Humberto Imbunda Intchala, Dr. Tomane Balde, and Director of the Center for Management and Institutional Development, Mr Bruno Silva, during their visit.

The topics discussed during the various visits range from the status of Gavi funds management with UNICEF to the recruitment of staff to bridge the HRH gap at MINSAP under the RSS2 subsidy, advocating for government support for SIVE, identifying the point of communication with Gavi, and increasing the fund's allocation for vaccine co-financing.

Strengthening EPI coordination by organizing a quarterly CCIA to oversee the execution of immunisation and SSR activities, organizing RI intensification weeks in April and May 2022, and assuring the renewal of the year three (3) RSS-2 are just a few of the main resolutions from the visit.

OBR Africa: GPEI WPV outbreak planning and review workshop



From the 9th to the 12th of May 2022, the AFRO Rapid Response Team (RRT) held a four-day multi-country wild poliovirus (WPV) outbreak preparation and review workshop at the Trademark Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

This workshop aimed to bring together the five (5) nations currently reacting to the WPV outbreak in South-Eastern Africa, and twelve other countries at the risk of infection.

The workshop's goal for core outbreak countries like Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe was to review SIA performance in the first two rounds, develop specific plans to address quality gaps ahead of R3 and R4, and update surveillance improvement plans for the rest of 2022, while the goal for non-outbreak countries like Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Namibia, Botswana, DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, and Angola was to review surveillance performance in the first two rounds.

Participants of the workshop were from the Ministry of Health (MoH), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and other partner representatives across the sixteen countries.

The workshop agenda was created to ensure that all countries represented were able to participate fully. Participants worked in groups and reconvened at the plenary to meet the set objectives over the four-day period. Facilitators were appointed to various groups to oversee the completion of all activities over the time frame. Nations in the core outbreak sessions met for four days, whereas non-outbreak countries met for three (3) days.

Solina assisted in securing and coordinating the venue setup, organising logistics for participants, coordinating the plenary and breakout rooms, and providing interpretation services to ensure that the workshop ran smoothly and that all participants, regardless of language barriers, were carried along.

The workshop was a success, with all objectives satisfied, and Solina intends to continue to provide support to WHO AFRO.



live with *intention*

The Most Successful People Don't Set Goals - They Do This Instead

Setting goals without setting intentions is a waste of time. While setting goals is fixated on the future, setting intentions keeps you grounded and present in the moment. In order to achieve optimal success and stay in alignment with your values, your goals should be accompanied by daily intentions.

Setting intentions can be like preparing for a big meeting. You don't know if the meeting will go as planned, but you get your ducks in a row anyway. In this scenario, you could set an intention that regardless of how the meeting goes, you will be receptive, flexible and will easily be able to resolve anything that comes up. If you keep this mentality throughout the day, you can feel confident that you held true to who you are, regardless of the meeting's outcome. Setting intentions allows you to actively participate in living out your values in each and every moment.

Intentions are powerful and setting them allows you to stay aligned with who you are and how you want to live. When you set intentions, you are more equipped to hold yourself accountable, and stay on track no matter what comes your way.

Start the day right by setting a tone

The secret sauce for having your best day possible is all in how you begin. Set an intention each morning that the day ahead will be a success. Spend a couple of minutes mentally running through your day, and aching it out like a boss. It's mind over matter here, and as the saying goes: if you visualize, it will materialize. Choosing good thoughts is just one thing to add to your morning routine, but there are many others that can get your blood flowing and lift your spirits.

Respond rather than react

Bring intention to your reactions and practice response-ability. This idea comes from a quote popularized by the influential author Stephen R. Covey that says, "Between stimulus and response there is space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." Take control of your attitude by setting intentions and don't relinquish a positive mentality for something that can easily be let go of.

Physical movement is a game changer

Whether it's a morning jog, afternoon hike or an evening workout at the gym, being physically fit leads to becoming mentally fit. There's nothing more intentional than taking care of the mind-body connection and putting your mental health at the top of your priority list. The correlation between fitness and highly successful people is no coincidence either.

Tone setting makes all the difference, practicing response-ability can help you feel good about your decisions, and physical fitness is the pick-me-up you benefit from every single time. We can't choose what happens to us, but we can choose how to respond to it. Keep your cool and set yourself up for success by setting intentions for your day, your relationships and your life.

“**The big difference is that intentions are rooted in values, not external outcomes, and they keep your attention in the present, not the future.**”

Smiles for Mothers: Addressing supply chain gaps through health workers training in states



Group of participants after a training session with logisticians and supply chain officers in Niger State

In collaboration with the National Product Supply Chain Management Program (NPSCMP), National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and state Logistics Management and Coordination Units (LMCU), the Smiles for Mothers program trained twenty-seven (27) state supply chain officers and one hundred and thirty-six (136) health facility pharmacists across eighty-seven (87) health facilities in all three program states between March 7 and April 5, 2022.

The training focused on addressing gaps that were identified through the program's baseline assessments on themes like quantification, warehousing, commodity storage, distribution, data management, and pharmacovigilance, across health facilities and state medical stores, and offered a rare forum for participants to interact in a collegiate environment, which is a rarity for pharmacists, especially in Kano and Niger.

After each training, the trainees and facilitators identified key recommendations to strengthen the supply chain across all levels of implementation, at the national, state, and health facility levels. Some of the recommendations include updating existing stock inventory control parameters for minimum reorder and maximum stock levels for use across all stores/pharmacies, including MNCH commodities into the NHLMIS for Kano, Lagos, and Niger, adopting alternative power sources at the DMCSA stores to prevent fire, the major risk associated with an electrical power surge and increasing advocacy to health facilities for pharmacovigilance reporting.

At the end of the training, the participants indicated a lot of new knowledge they obtained and were excited to go and implement some changes with this new information in their facilities.

Read more about the Smiles for Mothers project work on their [Medium Page](#).



Training participants engaging in a workshop session on quantification in Lagos state



GRID 3 Visioning Workshop



From June 28 to June 30, 2022, our team facilitated a 3-day visioning workshop for the GRID3 Organizational Review Program (GORP) team which aimed at defining the organisational focus for GRID3 (Geo-referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development) over the next 5 – 10 years.

Participants at the workshop included donor organisations (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, The Global Fund, and US CDC), implementing partners (Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc., World Health Organization, PATH, UNICEF, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC) and government representatives from relevant ministries in Nigeria, DRC, Sierra Leone, and Zambia.

The participants jointly reviewed the GRID3 organisational structure and later split up into groups to discuss strategies to deploy capabilities in line with donor and country geospatial demands as well as the best approaches to increase organisational presence on the African continent.

Our team assisted in securing and coordinating the venue setup, organizing logistics for participants, coordinating the breakout sessions, and synthesizing findings.

The workshop was a success, with all objectives achieved, and Solina plans to keep supporting GRID3 to create a final report with recommendations for possible options on a way forward.



Online Sexual harassment

Let's join hands to fight it



Sexual harassment

In digital spaces

Online harassment includes any virtual interaction, action, or reaction that makes a person feel unsafe or discriminated against (Nimisire, 2021). According to Pew Research Center in a January 2021 survey, online harassment is measured by the following behaviours: offensive name-calling, purposeful embarrassment, stalking, physical threats, harassment over a sustained period, and sexual harassment. However, it is essential to note that online harassment can be a subjective and personal experience.

Sexual harassment online can make a person feel threatened, exploited, coerced, humiliated, upset, sexualised or discriminated against. On many occasions, women and girls are harassed because of their gender and for having opinions. In another research in 2017, Pew Research Centre found that women are about twice as likely as men to say they have been targeted due to their gender (11% vs 5%). Moreso, marginalised women, are more at risk of online violence.

Online sexual harassment encompasses a wide range of behaviours that use digital content (images, videos, posts, messages, pages) on a variety of different platforms (private or public) to harass or assault a person, ranging from unsolicited nude photos to rape and murder threats. A survey conducted by German advisory organisation, HateAid, shows that around 52% of women between the ages of 18 and 35 have suffered digital violence at least once.

Photo Credit: AWDF

Written by Nimisire (Oluwatobiloba Emitomo) and adapted from AWDF

The impact of online harassment on women and girls ranges from silence, physical insecurity to psychosocial stress and loss of access to digital resources

How to handle Online Harassment

- ❖ Report harassers' content and account: Many social media platforms have functions for reporting abusive content and get support.
- ❖ Report to a local police station: According to the [Nigerian Cybercrime Act 2015](#), child pornography and related offences – cyberstalking, racist offences, conspiracy, etc. – are crimes that can be reported to the police and are punishable by law.
- ❖ Be an active digital bystander: When a person is being harassed online, do not engage the content rather report it and the harasser's account. You may also check on the survivor to see how they are doing, offer support, or share helpful resources or tools [Feminist Internet](#), [EndTAB](#) and [Web Foundation](#) with them.

The respect of the dignity of women and girls in the digital world is as important as their rights in the non-digital world

FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION



Why is a fire safety and prevention plan important?

To provide comprehensive fire prevention, protection and safety guidelines for every Solina staff to reference to ensure safety at work, personal safety and regulatory compliance.

Classes of Fire



Sound the alarm by pulling the closest fire alarm bell

Immediately leave everything behind and evacuate the building

Assist to evacuate babies, the disabled, and the elderly

What to do when there is a fire? If you see a fire;

Move towards the muster point or move 300 feet away from the building

Call the emergency fire service number and give details of the type of fire

Do not re-enter the building and shut the door if you are the last person

The State team lead, and supervisor/manager should take a roll call to ensure that all staff in their work area are accounted for

If you hear a fire alarm;

Evacuate the building immediately

If smoke is present, crouch to your knees and crawl to the exit

Before opening the door, feel the upper part of the door or the door handle/knob with the back of your hand. If it is hot, do not open the door

If you cannot leave the room, keep the door firmly closed and open the windows to let out the heat and smoke. Seal off the crack around the door and drop objects from the windows to attract attention while staying low on the floor

After you leave the room, close the door firmly to slow down the spread of the smoke

Do not use the elevator, pulley or electro-mechanically powered conveyor

If you smell smoke or have any other indications of fire;

1 Immediately call the facility manager or the closest fire marshal

2 Alert the occupant of the building in the immediate area and prepare for evacuation

3 Evacuate the building if the situation gets worse or if you are directed by the facility manager or a fire marshal to do so

Special thanks

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