

Good Health Weekly

EU boosts routine immunisation in Nigeria with N3.8b project

By Chioma Obinna

THE European Union, EU, through its Support to Immunization Governance in Nigeria, (EU-SIGN) initiative weekend boosted routine immunization and primary healthcare services in the country with N3.8 billion.

Under the EU-SIGN project, 23 recipient states including the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, received vehicles, direct solar refrigerators as well as construction and renovation of health facilities and cold stores.

Already, N23 billion has been committed to the project, out of which N11.6 billion was for routine immunisation component while N10.8 billion was committed through the World Health Organisation, WHO, for the polio eradication component.

At the commissioning of the projects in Abuja, the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Osage Ehanire, said the immunization partnership with EU project has taken Nigeria far in terms of routine immunization efficiency and accountability.

"The earlier projects were implemented in 2002 and 2011 with 97.4 million Euros and 15.6 million Euros respectively. It took us several steps forward in our quests to providing medical health and essential services to all Nigerians in the present Universal Healthcare Agenda."

He said the country is committed to



Commissioning: EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Ketil Karlsen inspecting children for immunisation during the commissioning of EU Support to Immunization Governance in Nigeria, EU-SIGN, weekend in Abuja.

institutionalizing routine immunization activities to ensure protection against vaccine preventable diseases.

Speaking, EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Ketil Karlsen who recalled that the long standing relationship with Nigeria was dated back to 2001 with a commitment of N7.2

Efforts to increase capacities in the health centres will amount to little, if there are no sustained supply of potent vaccines

billion towards polio eradication said there are plans to help Nigeria achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.

He said the overall objective of EU-SIGN project was to contribute to reducing sickness and death in children due to vaccine preventable diseases by ensuring quality routine immunization and

Unilever relaunches Pears Baby range products

By Gabriel Olowale

AFTER over four decades of fulfilling its promise of pure, mild and gentle for baby's skin, Unilever Nigeria Plc has repackaged Pears baby range of products, giving it a new look with same unique alluring perfume.

The new refreshing identity of Pears is designed to ensure smooth skin and

a rash free, gently fragranced, comfortable and baby.

Speaking at an event at Amuwo-Odofin Maternal and Child Centre, Festac, Lagos, Category Manager, Adegbite Adeloun said, "Pears baby range made from carefully selected ingredients suitable for baby's tender skin has gone through series of

evolutions since 1971 when it was first introduced into the Nigerian market."

Adegbite further said that for more than 40 years, Pears has served Nigerian babies and mothers with baby care products ranging from Pears Baby Lotion, Pears Baby Oil, Pears Baby Powder to Pears Baby Jelly and Pears Moisturizing Cream made from carefully

selected natural ingredients suitable for the baby's skin.

Pears Baby range has the recognition and endorsement of the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) for its excellent brand quality and contribution to the growth of babies in the country.

Speaking, the Chairman, NANNM, Lagos Chapter, Com. Olurotimi Awojide commended Unilever for its long-standing tradition of excellence and care for the Nigerian family particularly mother and child.

He said, "the relaunch of Pears baby care products is another milestone in the narrative of Unilever Pears Baby range. This is a further demonstration by the brand to continue to provide our mothers and babies with quality products that take care of their skin and keep them healthy and smooth always. We congratulate Unilever and offer our support to this drive as the brand has displayed a commitment to the wellbeing of Nigerian mothers and babies."

Chief Executive Officer, Unilever Nigeria, Yaw Nsarkoh said Pears baby range will keep up the momentum of serving Nigerian households with the right kind of baby care products.

Rotary, USAID provide health services for 2,000 in Eti-Osa

By Elizabeth Uwandu

THE Rotary Club of Ikoyi Metro District 9110 in conjunction with the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, has provided free health services and drugs for about 2,000 participants in Ibeju Lekki, Eti-Osa Local Government Area.

Those in the nooks and crannies of Obalende including under the bridge benefited from the three-day family health programme. President of the Club, Rot Launne Ubanozze, said the programme was to reach out to communities with free tests on diabetes, blood glucose, hypertension and malaria. Residents also got free distribution of mosquito nets, drugs, condoms and sanitary towels.

"As a Club we create awareness for people to live healthy through regular medical screening and monitoring of community members. And where we notice a critical medical challenge in participants, such persons are referred to experts for treatment.

nation's polio eradication efforts, and the world has acknowledged the significance. At last, Nigeria is on the last lap to certification as a polio-free country.

Stroke

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seconds someone is developing stroke while someone is dying.

Ogun who spoke on the theme, 'What is your reason for preventing stroke', urged Nigerians to look out for stroke signs and act fast because stroke is a medical emergency. "If you noticed that someone face is twisted moving one side suddenly or weakness in the arm, the speech is slow or you can't understand what the person is saying and it started suddenly, it maybe warning sign of stroke and time is critical."

The Vice President of the Organization, Professor Njideka Okubadejo advocated for regular blood pressure and sugar level checks, healthy balanced diet, 5 times moderate exercise a week. "Avoid excessive salt intake, stop cigarettes/alcohol, take your drugs if you are hypertensive or diabetic and learn to recognize warning signs of stroke."

Centre counters high cost of infertility treatment

• Offers discounted IVF cycles

By Sola Ogundipe

MEDICAL records show that 1 in 4 Nigerian couples are challenged by infertility even as studies reveal that most infertile couples could benefit from treatment.

Across the world, Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) such as In-vitro Fertilization (IVF) are known to offer one of the best treatment options in boosting patients' chances of conception and livebirths.

However, the relatively high cost of ART, particularly IVF and other treatment modes, is often a hindrance hence the desire for low cost IVF cycles in Nigeria.

In line with this desire

and as part of measures to avail more Nigerian couples opportunity to access treatment, Fertigold Fertility Clinic - a local fertility treatment outlet in Lagos, is offering IVF treatment at a low cost - up to 57 per cent discount.

At a forum held for fertility-challenged couples recently, it was gathered that a full IVF cycle could be obtained for N650,000 at the Clinic.

According to Olajide Wilson, an embryologist and the Head of Operations, Fertigold Fertility Clinic, a Lagos-based fertility treatment facility, is offering the discounted IVF cycles as a response to the high cost of infertility treatment in Nigeria.

Wilson said the development is not in any way helping to douse tension and relax pressure in families challenged by infertility.

"Infertility is already a frustrating and emotionally draining condition as many couples see the inability to have a child as a failure on their part. This unfortunate feeling is reinforced, especially in the low to middle-level income earners, by the high cost of accessing treatment for their condition, which many are unable to afford."

Wilson said the high cost of treatment is attributable to the high cost of equipment, consumables and personnel needed for the qualitative care that

best increases patients' chances to conceive.

He said given the economic situation in the country and the emotional needs of couples battling infertility, fertility clinics should do all they could to lighten the burden of affected couples by reducing the cost of accessing IVF treatment in line with core and essence of medical practice.

Fertigold Fertility Clinic is a dedicated fertility clinic, offering full range of modern fertility services.

Wilson further informed that Fertigold Fertility Clinic believes that its clients deserve to be treated with respect, dignity and privacy and is committed to providing a supportive, compassionate.