

# DRIVERS OF SCALE - A TCI NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

March 2022 | Edition #4

*The Challenge Initiative (TCI) accelerates positive changes in reproductive health outcomes through the scale-up of homegrown proven solutions that expand access to quality health services and reduce unmet need for family planning. TCI is guided by principles of a demand-driven model, which requires states to self-select to be part of the TCI network and benefit for the technical and financial support the TCI platform provides. TCI is pioneering a new way of thinking and operating to help support local governments efficiently and effectively drive their own health programs - we refer to this new mindset as "Business Unusual". TCI has partnered with 16 states so far, and currently works with 11 states in Nigeria.*

## **From the Director's Desk**

*Since 2017, The Challenge Initiative (TCI) has supported the Government of Nigeria to scale up High Impact Interventions (HII) on Family Planning with resounding successes. From the outset of engagement, TCI prioritizes sustainability and self-reliance of state governments to lead and own their family planning programs that improve the health and well-being of their communities—even after TCI support ends.*

*In the last 5 years, State governments have committed and released more than US\$3 million (over 1 billion Naira) in funding through the TCI Nigeria co-financing model.*

*Consequently, we are excited to announce that TCI has been awarded new funding to expand its support in Africa and Asia. The new funding comes from two separate grants – from Bayer AG and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The new award covers a four-year period and builds on TCI's achievements over the last five years in 11 countries (Nigeria, India, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Senegal, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, and Philippines) to sustainably scale up proven high-impact family planning interventions.*

*We are optimistic that through this new award, TCI Nigeria will expand its support to more state governments to rapidly scale up proven, high-impact interventions in a more cost-efficient and sustainable manner. As we proceed into this new phase, please take a moment share in our accomplishments that can only be achieved in true partnership with state and local area governments and the communities that they serve and be reminded how each one of you is making an impact in your community.*



Dr. Victor Igharo  
Director, TCI Nigeria

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## Putting Five Nigerian States in the Driver's Seat on FP



TCI began program implementation in 2017 with 5 states - Bauchi, Delta, Kano, Niger, and Ogun – with Expressions of Interest, Program Design and Work planning. Between June and September 2021, after four years of TCI support, these states graduated from receiving active technical and financial support from TCI to periodic technical coaching and mentoring as needed. The states have now taken full ownership of their family planning program and are driving and implementing High Impact Interventions (HIIIs) to improve their respective family planning programs.

The five graduated states achieved remarkable results including:

- Enhanced capacity of government staff to provide strategic coordination and accountability for reproductive health programming, including family planning
- Increased domestic financing for family planning interventions
- Improved societal norms and increasing demand for family planning information and services through advocacy and social and behavior change communication (SBCC)
- Increased uptake of family planning services by improving access and quality of services through deployment of HIIIs
- Improved programming and adaptive management based on more reliable data systems

TCI introduced HIIIs to the states through research, audience segmentation, monitoring, and use of responsive feedback to make changes and course corrections wherever necessary. Implementation of HIIIs contributed to an average of 87% increase in adjusted annual family planning client volume between baseline and June 2021 in TCI demonstration LGAs within the 5 states. In addition, TCI technical support enabled the states to increase access and improve quality of FP services, engage communities with FP messaging and build the capacity of advocacy teams to identify and select FP champions. The 5 graduated states carried out 72-hour makeovers in 48 health facilities, provided FP services to 90,632 persons through in-reaches and attracted domestic government funding for FP to the tune of N473,491,946 million (\$1,152,048) across the 5 graduated states.

TCI Nigeria has chronicled the activities and wins that have brought the 5 states this far in one document. Check out our ['Chronicles of Sustainable Impact at Scale for Reproductive Health: TCI Business Unusual Partnership in Bauchi, Delta, Kano, Niger and Ogun States'](#).

## TCI Nigeria Wins 2021 Curve Award

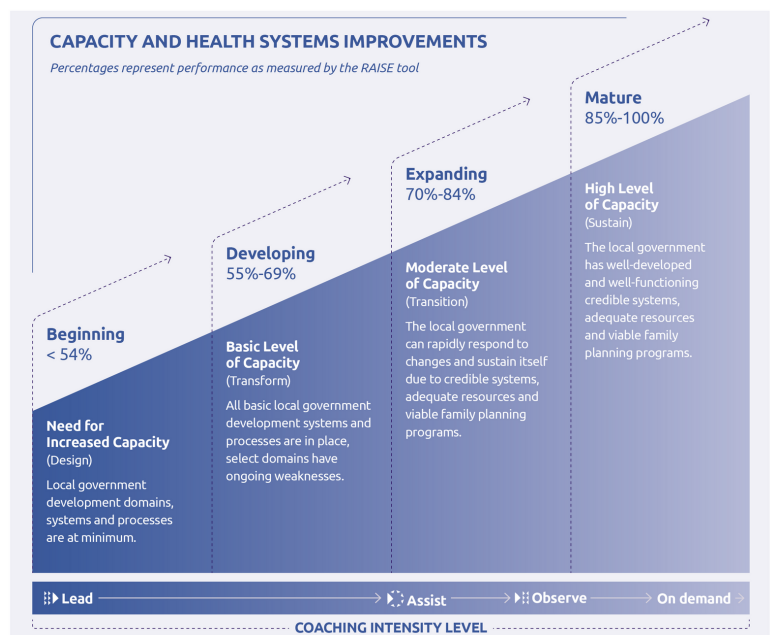
TCI Nigeria won the first edition of The Curve Awards, which is designed to showcase the use of responsive feedback by organizations based in Nigeria. The Curve responsive feedback project is implemented by M&C Saatchi and funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. TCI Nigeria won the award for its abstract entitled, “Use of TCI’s innovative Reflection and Action to Improve Self-reliance and Effectiveness (RAISE) Tool to Improve Government’s Responsiveness to Family Planning Interventions in Nigeria”.



The abstract describes TCI’s innovative RAISE tool, its value for improving government’s response to their family planning needs through its use as a responsive feedback tool and the results of application of the tool in 14 states in Nigeria. Winning The Curve Awards presents TCI with the opportunity to share the tool with a wider audience in Nigeria for scale up to other geographies and projects. The recognition also reaffirms TCI’s commitment to responsive feedback and devising new ways to drive responsive feedback among state government personnel which is key to sustaining interventions in states. The full manuscript will be featured in a special supplement in *Global Health: Science and Practice* journal. This publication will contribute to the diffusion of this tool to other projects and geographies.

## TCI Nigeria Commences TCI NextGen

TCI Nigeria commenced implementation of TCI NextGen, a second phase of the TCI program to enable more state governments to scale up high-impact family planning and adolescent and youth sexual & reproductive health (AYSRH) approaches for the urban poor. TCI’s NextGen goal is to support state governments to achieve “greater self-reliance to scale up FP and AYSRH high-impact interventions leading to sustained improvements in urban health systems and increased use of modern contraception, especially among the urban poor”. The program commenced in October 2021 and will run through December 2025. TCI NextGen currently has 8 states continuing from Phase 1 with a plan to on-board 8 more states in the NextGen.



**TCI Nigeria will continue to deliver high quality coaching to state governments and innovate to strengthen implementation at scale, impact, cost-efficiency, and sustainability.**



Key strategic pivots for TCI's NextGen program:

- Strengthening high impact intervention (HII) implementation capacity and health systems through coaching, RAISE and post-graduation RAISE (PRAISE) assessments and repackaged HIIs.
- Sustained implementation of HIIs post-graduation through the inclusion of HIIs in state Annual Operational Plan/Costed Implementation Plans (AOPs/CIPs), resource mobilization capacity building for pre-graduation states and data monitoring through DHIS
- Expansion and graduation: TCI Nigeria marketed the program approach to 13 state governments and received letters of intent from 11 states. 6 states (Osun, Kwara, Edo, Borno, Yobe & Sokoto) subsequently expressed interest and 3 (Osun, Kwara & Edo) of these states have received approvals to develop their FP program design. In addition, 5 states (Anambra, Rivers, Abia, Plateau & Taraba) will be graduating in NextGen year 1.
- Focus on TCI Nigeria's Challenge Fund co-financing strategy and driving a new 1-1 fund matching from TCI and the state where the state matches every dollar that TCI releases with the same amount.

## Rivers State Wins Grant to Sustain Robust PHCMB Data Management System



In line with TCI's approach to support state government to achieve self-reliance in programming, the Rivers' state government through the Primary Health Care Management Board received technical assistance from TCI and other implementing partners to submit a funding application to Bloomberg Philanthropies Data forHealth Initiative for a grant titled: "Improve access, quality and use of integrated public health data for policy in Rivers State".

**This proposal was successfully awarded!**

In addition to the technical assistance received during the proposal development phase, TCI provided a letter of support to Rivers State to accompany the proposal, participated in and provided technical support for the narrative development, project timeline development, project work plan design and budget development.

The project which is expected to be implemented from November 2021 to March 2023 will help to sustain the State's robust data management system by creating a pathway for the State to be self-reliant and more resourceful. The project has begun execution with an inception/orientation meeting held in December 2021 with the State, LGA officials and policy makers and heads of the units in attendance. The PHCMB briefed stakeholders on the new project, familiarizing participants with the project implementation steps, and outlining roles and responsibilities of stakeholders. The orientation also served as an avenue to achieve the buy-in of a variety of stakeholders which would encourage ownership and drive sustainability as the state becomes motivated to develop for more grants.

TCI Rivers Hub provided further provided support in scripting on ODK for the baseline/inception survey, analyzing findings for data visibility and use as the state moves into the implementation phase.

## 72-Hour Clinic Makeover Modeled in Nasarawa State

The 72-Hour Clinic Makeover is one of TCI's high impact interventions to ensure a conducive environment for FP service provision aimed at increasing both access and quality of FP services available across the facilities. The intervention also strengthens community ownership of primary health care services by ensuring community participation and contribution during the makeover. The makeover has become a source of motivation for individuals and stakeholders to do more for their communities. With government stakeholders, TCI facilitated the implementation of 72-hour clinic makeover following a health facility assessment conducted to select health facilities and determine the scope of work for 72-Hour Clinic Makeover. The Makeovers were conducted in 4 health facilities and co-funded with the state government. Nasarawa State funded the makeover in 2 health facilities and TCI funded 2 health facilities.

The 4 facilities renovated are Keana LGA - PHC Amiri & PHC Kadarko and Karu LGA- PHC Masaka & PHC New Karu. In addition to the structural upgrade, medical equipment, furniture and consumables were supplied to improve the quality of services. To ensure ownership and sustainability, the makeover processes were fully planned and supervised by the makeover team led by the Director Community and Family Health Services and comprising of state officers and TCI support team. There was full LGA and community participation as well towards ensuring the success of the makeover and community ownership and maintenance of the facility. The co-funding model implies that the state has adopted the TCI model and is willingly committing its own funds to ensure the improvement of FP services in the state. The state continues its plans to conduct 2 more health facility makeovers in a non-TCI LGA (Lafia LGA) in the coming months with full funding by the state government.



*PHC Amiri in Nasarawa State before and after the 72-hour clinic makeover (Roof Repairs). Credit: Dr. Deborah Samaila*

## TCI University (TCI-U) Online Learning Platform Challenge Strengthens Capacity in Abia State to Implement AYSRH Interventions

Agwu Florence Kalu – the Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health (AYRH) Officer in the Bende local government area (LGA) of Abia State, Nigeria – became one of the winners of the TCI-U Challenge, completing over 20 high-impact intervention assessments. The Abia State Advocacy Core Group (ACG) decorated her as a TCI-U Ambassador to recognize her professional development achievements and serve as a role model, helping others enroll and utilize the resources and toolkits as well as complete assessments on the TCI-U.

Florence shared what TCI-U has meant to her:



“

*After I was appointed Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health Officer, I just did not understand my role and responsibilities. I did not know what to do exactly with this new appointment. We had a series of meetings at the state level, but the situation did not get better. It was not easy to admit this at that time because of the risk of being capped incompetent. In one of the capacity building sessions by TCI, we were introduced to the TCI University by the TCI State Program Coordinator. He encouraged all the TWG [technical working group] members to register and even offered TA [technical assistance] on registration. Many of us did not take this seriously, especially considering the fact that the university was totally free.*

*When I heard of the TCI University Challenge on our WhatsApp platform, something in me told me this is the motivation I need to make my work easy and successful. I took time to go through the AYSRH toolkit [on TCI-U] and did all the assessment there. At the end, with minimal technical support from TCI, I now know what to do as an AYRH Officer in my LGA. The knowledge I have gained from TCI and indeed TCI University has made my work very successful.”*

Florence now conducts outreaches to schools and other places where young people are gathered, to talk to them about their reproductive health and rights.

TCI has also supported Abia State to resuscitate the state’s AYSRH governance body, the AYRH Technical Working Group, which is comprised of AYRH Officers from all 17 LGAs and state counterparts from the Abia State Primary Health Care Development Agency. Through technical assistance coaching provided by TCI, young people and representatives from youth-serving civil society organizations have also become key members of the TWG, providing them a voice in the design and monitoring of interventions intended to reach and serve youth.

Through TCI coaching and capacity strengthening support, the capacity of the AYRH Officers and the TWG has been enhanced.