



# GERIATRIC CARE AND VULNERABLE SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Defending the Rights and Dignity of the Vulnerable Population

## 2016 ACTIVITIES REPORT



# Welcome Address

## by the Executive Board Chairman to GCVSI General Assembly Members on the Maiden Annual General Meeting. Holding in NTA Owerri Premises Imo State

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are most welcome today to this great occasion, the first of its kind we have ever had as members of GCVSI's general assembly to discuss the way forward of our very baby organization, which became functional only in May 2016. I am so happy for the common position which we as members of the society have taken to make a difference in addressing the ever increasing disparities between the rich and the poor which is actually exerting more on Older Persons, pregnant women and children under 5 years mostly in rural communities in Nigeria and indeed Africa.

Social determinants of health are continuing to be disproportionately distributed not only between the rich and the poor but even among population age groups, within our society and unfortunately Older persons, pregnant women and children under five continue to suffer from healthcare service disparities, which is claiming thousands of lives on daily bases.

As responsible citizens we should do all we can to change the narrative using all available strategies to achieve our common position to improve the lives of the underserved in our society. Its unfortunate that after many years of my father's death, a simple thought of the distressing and excruciating pains he passed through continue to resource in my memories because I continue to see a handful of our people still passing through similar distressing situation my father experienced. The lack of community recourse to support

the vulnerable groups is the major reason why rural dwellers continue to be complacent towards taking actions in improving their health conditions and social. Health seeking behaviors are most of the times depended on the availability of community resources and services within the community hence pathways to health are largely determined on the level of information flow between individuals in the community, especially the vulnerable population who from time to time may depend on significant others around them.

I remain grateful to the founding members of this great mission for finding in their hearts a soft spot to absorb my story and join me in this course, posterity will always continue to speak for us even when we are gone to the world beyond. Today being my birthday, I received the best gift ever given to any person on earth, because each time I understand that an old, abandoned and a desperate person has to glorify God because of our kindness, I remain satisfied for the rest of my life.

Today the general assembly will formally grant the Board of Director of this great mission the powers to run this GCVSI and report back to them as shall be agreed here today. Once more thanks to all our members for their commitments and generous donations and physical sacrifices towards our course and I pray God almighty to continue to bless all of you.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL SUPPORTS FOR VULNERABLE PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN



GCVSI began its community engagements and humanitarian services in June 2016 after the founding visioner received a distress call about some highly malnourished patients from Mbiatoli LGA of Imo State who were abandoned in the federal medical center Owerri by their family for lack of money. The Executive Director of GCVSI in collaboration with the Matron of the ward, to plan adequate clinical care and all the bills were paid and the highly malnourished pregnant woman with her 3 malnourished children were discharged.







GCVSI team continued a follow-up care and support of the patients to their communities only to discovered that the pregnant woman's husband was block molder who admitted that he deliberately abscond from the hospital because he could not foot the hospital bills. GCVSI through its community intervention program to improve social determinant of health and empowerment of the poor decided to provide high food items and cash donations to the family to begin pity business to support their families. Similarly, GCVSI prioritized the empowerment of women who have suffered various windows of systemic and institutional discriminations and marginalization.





# ANTHROPOMETRY SURVEY ON THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY PUPILS IN IMO STATE

A statewide anthropometric survey on the nutritional status of pre-primary and primary pupil in 3 local governments areas of Imo State in Collaboration with the Imo State University Department of Nutrition cutting across the 3 senatorial zones. The LGAs are namely: Oru East, Isiala Mbano and Ngor-Opkala respectively with a total sampling size of 1200 pupils.













# COMMUNITY GERIATRIC HOME VISITS TO VERY AGED AND ABANDONED OLDER PERSON IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN AWO-OMAMMA IN ORU EAST LGA OF IMO STATE

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November GCVSI conducted its last program for 2016 with prior before its first general assemble meeting. A handful of Older Persons who have suffered various forms of marginalization and discrimination as well as multi-dimensional poverty and devastating effects had the privilege for a long while to see healthcare providers to their doorsteps to provide them free medical services, food, love and belonging. Most of them have been suffering from multiple geriatric epidemiological disease, including eye pathologies and can not access healthcare services due to poverty, absence or negligence of family members and the larger community.















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