



For immediate release

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**Launch of Rural Contraceptives Access Campaign (RCAC) Phase II**

The Lighthouse Global Health Initiative (LGHI) is pleased to announce the launch of Rural Contraceptives Access Campaign Phase II today – Monday 30th October, 2017.

The Rural Contraceptives Access Campaign (RCAC) Phase II is a continuation of the project implemented in selected hard-to-reach communities in Nigeria to showcase level of knowledge, uptake, access to, and quality of family planning services available to rural community dwellers. This phase II will promote male involvement in family planning through targeted advocacy and data capturing activities on knowledge, attitude, perception and practices of rural boys and men in support of family planning uptake in selected rural communities in Ife North Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. RCAC is sponsored by the World Contraception Day Ambassadors Project.

Report has it that 214 million women in developing countries (including Nigeria) have unmet need for modern contraception. If this need is met, we can achieve 75% reduction in unintended pregnancy, 74% decline in induced abortion, and 73% decline in maternal deaths (Guttmacher, 2017). Therefore, unrestricted access to contraception is a simple and effective solution for high maternal mortality rate of 814 deaths per 100,000 live births in Nigeria.

According to the Nigeria 2013 Demography and Health Survey (NDHS, 2013), the prevalence of contraceptive use varies significantly when urban areas (>25%) are compared with rural areas (9%). Although, contraceptive use vary based on the region in the country, observed pattern in rural communities across the country remain consistent possibly due to common factors such as low level of education and awareness, poor access to family planning commodities and health services, stronger cultural and religious barriers, among others. One of the main lessons learnt from the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of RCAC was the important role men play in decisions that affect girls' and women's sexual health.

“We cannot afford to leave anyone behind in our quest to make the world a healthier, safer and better place by the year 2030. The poorest, weakest and farthest ones are the true measure of our progress in Sustainable Development Goals” says Adebisi Adenipekun, President of LGHI and World Contraception Day Ambassador. “The RCAC will contribute to Nigeria's progress towards FP2020 commitment and the SDGs 3, 5 and 10”.

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## LIGHTHOUSE GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

**About Lighthouse Global Health Initiative (LGHI):** LGHI is a non-governmental organization which envisions a world where vulnerable populations (especially adolescents, girls and women) are empowered to lead healthy and productive lives. Our mission is to encourage, envision and empower vulnerable populations to lead productive and healthy lives by providing quality health information and services for them through; public health interventions, service delivery, research, advocacy, capacity building and partnerships with relevant stakeholders. Read more at [www.lghi.org](http://www.lghi.org)

**About World Contraception Day:** The World Contraception Day (WCD) is supported by a coalition of 13 international non-governmental organizations, a governmental organization, and scientific and medical societies with an interest in sexual and reproductive health and is sponsored by Bayer. The mission of WCD is to spread the word and raise awareness about contraception and safe sex. The aim is to help each new generation of adults make informed decisions until every pregnancy is a planned one. Read more at [www.wcdambassadors.com](http://www.wcdambassadors.com).