

Implementation Science: Where Practice Meets Research, Lessons from Nigeria

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In the Beginning.....



TRAINING AND ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MBBS: University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Pediatric Residency: Howard University, Washington DC

Infectious Diseases Fellowship: Rutgers University School of Medicine

MPH: Rutgers University School of Public Health

Fellowship: RWJ Health Policy Fellow, Office of the Secretary for Health

Career Trajectory Last 15 Years

- Clinician
- Implementation Science

Current Project : ACCESS Study

Accelerating Cervical Cancer Elimination through the integration of Screen-and-treat Services

NIH U01CA275118

09/07/2022 - 08/30/2027

Aarons GA and Ezeanolue EE—MPIs

ACCESS STUDY OVERALL GOAL AND AIMS

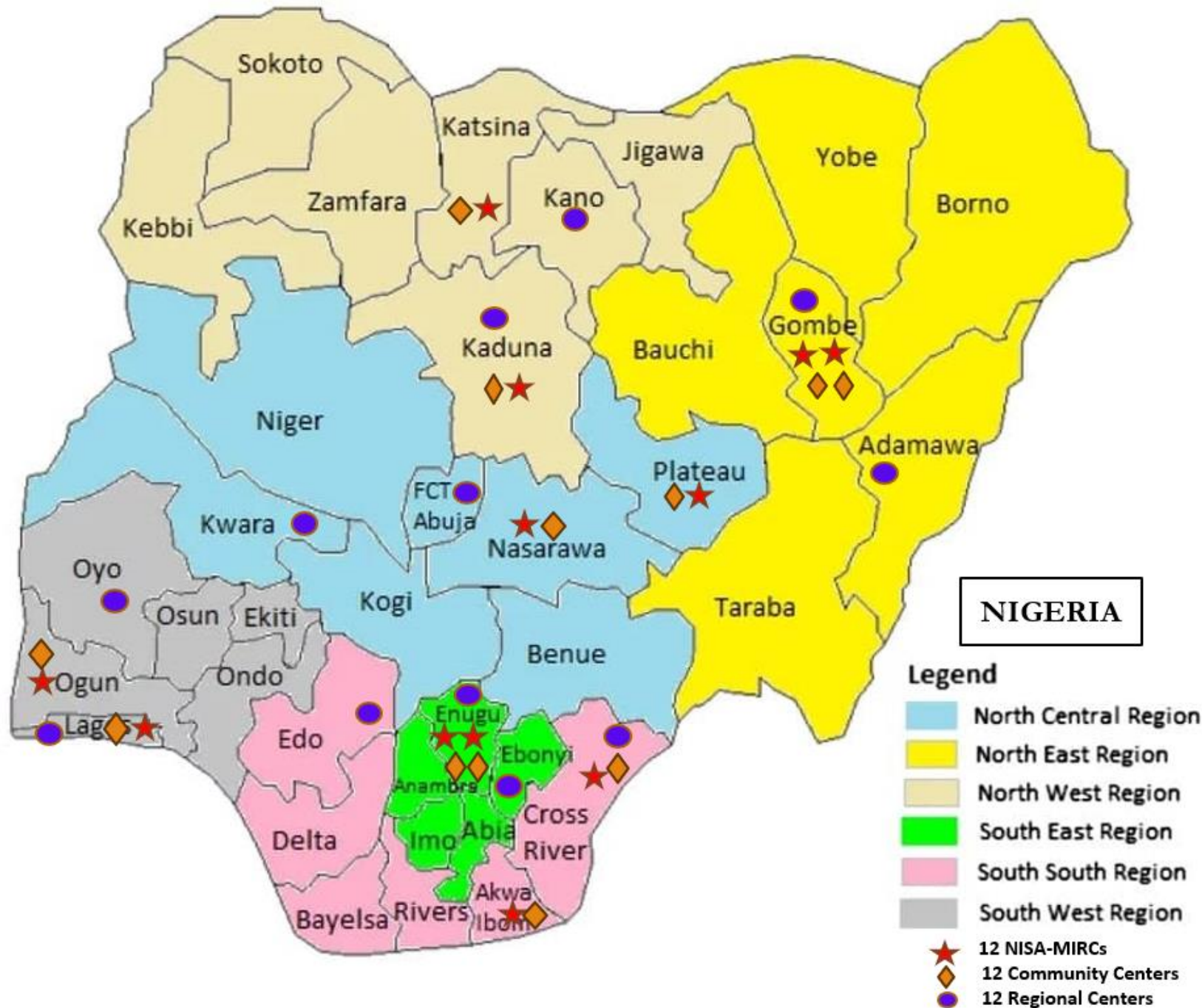
To enhance the integration of cervical cancer screen-and-treat interventions into existing HIV programs to increase CC screening uptake and improve management of screen positives, including on-site treatment and referral for advanced care among women living with HIV in Nigeria

- Refine strategies to integrate cervical cancer screening and treatment within existing HIV comprehensive treatment programs
- Determine the comparative effectiveness of the Core vs Core+ Implementation Strategies
- Assess the sustainment of the integration of cervical cancer screening and treatment intervention into HIV program

ACCESS STUDY

- Leverages existing HIV care infrastructure to deliver cervical cancer screening & same-day treatment where feasible
- Uses EPIS and RE-AIM frameworks and compares tailored implementation strategies (e.g., facilitation, patient navigation, task-sharing).
- Cluster randomized, Hybrid Type III prioritizes implementation outcomes (adoption, fidelity, sustainment) while assessing clinical outcomes.

ICON-3 PBRN



Opportunities, Challenges and Lesson Learned

- Cancer Care Integration: Early screening, Vaccination
- Diagnostic Pathways: Integrated Diagnostic, Referral and Tracking System
- Consistent Availability of Screening Consumables
- Referral Completion
- Calibrating GeneXpert and PCR machines in TB and HIV programs
- Patient Navigator Program
- With COVID Govt support GeneXpert in all tertiary program that allowed the integration

NISA Objectives

Goal - To generate, evaluate and disseminate evidence through implementation science to improve outcomes for diseases of public health importance in Africa.

Specific Objectives:

- Create a dissemination platform bringing together policymakers, implementing partners, researchers, and funding agencies
- Enhance capacity in implementation science for a well-educated workforce both for research and implementation
- Build research infrastructure to conduct clinical trials and implementation research.

PARTNERS OVER THE YEARS



Overall Structure of ACCESS Study



Grant Multiple Principal Investigators



Gregory A. Aarons, *Ph.D.*
Professor of Psychiatry,
University of California, San Diego

UC San Diego



Echezona Ezeanolue, *MD, MPH*
Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology
Director, UNN-CTAIR



ACCESS Co-Investigators



Babayemi Olakunde, MBChB, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
National Agency for Control of AIDS



John Olawepo, MBBS, PhD
Associate Clinical Professor
Northeastern University, USA



Ijeoma Itanyi, MBBS, MPH
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Comm. Medicine, UNN



Nwamaka Lasebikan, MBBS, FMCR
Director of Oncology, UNTH



Cyril C. Dim, MBBS, MSc
Professor
Obstetrics & Gynecology, UNN



Chibuike Chigbu, MBBS, Ph.D.
Professor
Obstetrics & Gynecology, UNN



Lin Liu, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Biostatistics
University of California, San Diego



Tonia C. Onyeka, MBBS, MSc
Professor, Anesthesiology and
Pain Management, UNN

Impact of Culture, Context and Lived Experience



Ngozi Idemili-Aronu, PhD
Lead- Qualitative Core



Stephanie Ibemere, PhD
Faculty, Qualitative Core



John Jemisenia, PhD-C
Pre-Doctoral Fellow



Idris Saidu, MBBS, MPH
Post- Doctoral Fellow

Thank You