

METHODIST CHURCH NIGERIA, AMAUDO ITUMBAUZO 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

DIRECTOR'S REVIEW:

Like in other years, the year 2020 began with the usual excitement of preparations like identifying areas of Amaudo that need close attention and setting goals and targets for various projects. We started official activities with great enthusiasm. The divine service to rededicate the staff and Amaudo work into the hands of God was conducted and members of staff began work with zeal. We had great expectations of delivering services that will positively impact the various service users like people who have mental health problems and children with disabilities. Unfortunately, our hopes and interests were weakened by the news of a dangerous illness known as COVID 19. In a few months, this strange and devastating illness -COVID 19 which began in Wuhan China in 2020 had spread around many countries in the West.

In Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Health Confirmed the 1st case of the disease on 27th February 2020. The World Health Organization characterised COVID 19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020, with over 3 million cases and 207, 973 deaths in 213 countries and territories.

4th May 2020 will remain in the memory of the people of Nigerian because of the first lockdown by the Federal government as a protocol to check the spread of the COVID 19 Pandemic. Amaudo activities were affected by the lockdown because we could not move out for various rehabilitation services. The COVID 19 became a public health issue with serious economic and social consequences.

However, the COVID 19 pandemic helped mankind to appreciate the value of life and the value of the world community.

We must praise God Almighty for keeping all our staff and service users especially the residents at Amaudo centres alive despite the COVID 19 pandemic and its effects like hunger, economic difficulties, social change, health challenges and deaths. We are very glad and grateful to God for protecting Sister Rosalind Nkechi Colwill and all at Amaudo UK. We sympathise with those who have lost their father, mother, child, or friend because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

I am grateful to God that we are alive to report the Amaudo rehabilitation activities from January - December 2020.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN 2020

1. **RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION:** Amaudo picked 15 people who have mental health problems and homeless from the street for rehabilitation. This is about 30% of the 50 people we targeted to pick for rehabilitation in 2020. This shortfall was because of the lockdown and the preventive protocols imposed by the Federal Government to control the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic.

However, 29 people with mental health problems were engaged in rehabilitation at Amaudo 1 in 2020. Out of this number, 15 people became mentally stable, and they were discharged in December 2020. Meanwhile, 24 residents continued to receive rehabilitation at Amaudo 2 in 2020.

It is important to state here that God protected the Residents and staff at Amaudo 1 and 2 from the COVID 19 pandemic.



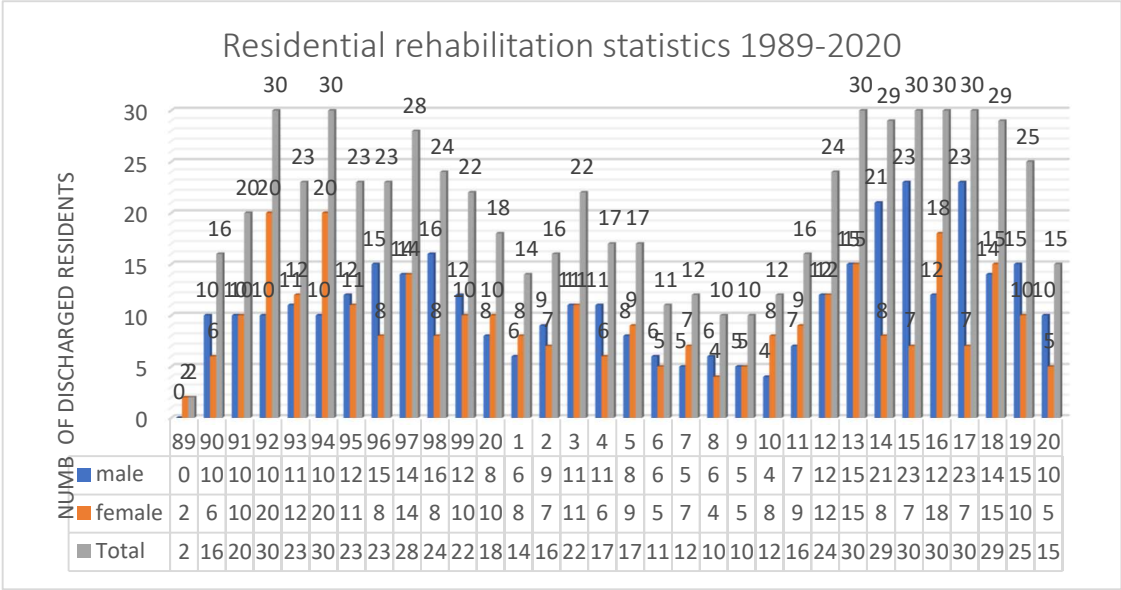
Figure 1 Rehabilitation begins with cleaning up

Statistics of residents at A1 and A2

	A 1	A2	TOTAL
Regular residents	18	25	
Discharged	5		
Ex-residents	4		
Short stay	2		
Total	29	25	54

2. THE 2020 DISCHARGE/REUNION SERVICE FOR 15 MENTALLY STABLE RESIDENTS: The discharge service was conducted on Saturday 5th December 2020 for 15 mentally stable residents at Amaudo Chapel of peace. The service was conducted by the Rt. Rev O. C Chiemeka, The Bishop of Uzuakoli Diocese. He was assisted by Very Rev Kenneth E. Nwaubani and other Ministers. Members of the host community and some family members of the discharged residents were our guest because people could not travel because of the restrictions in movement because of the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic. It is amazing that the 13 of the 15 residents who were discharged have been reunited with their families despite the COVID 19.

Training on Mental health was organized for the discharged residents and their family members on Friday 4th December 2020. The training was carried out to ensure that families of discharged residents



and the residents were prepared to reunite properly and to enable the families to support the discharged residents at home.



Figure 2 The Board Chairman Rt Rev. O. C. Chiemeka in a handshake with a discharged resident. The service was conducted in the newly renovated chapel.

3. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE: The community mental health programme provided mental health care for about 5200 people in communities in Abia, Imo, Ebonyi and the Anambra States. Our Psychiatric Nurses demonstrated great commitment in providing mental health care for the people within the communities, especially during the lockdown because of the COVID 19. We noticed a few relapse cases because of economic challenges and the restrictions in movement which made it difficult for some clients to assess mental health from the clinics. We ensured that psychotropic drugs were constantly supplied to nurses during the lockdown.

METHODIST CHURCH NIGERIA AMAUDO ITUMBAUZO COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME 2020 ABIA STATE STATISTICS OLD PATIENTS SEEN PER MONTH													
LGAs	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Umuhia North	100	98	94	38	59	49	55	49	49	52	36	44	723
Umuhia South	41	38	48	32	38	44	50	40	42	37	32	32	474
Ikwuano	61	28	41	28	42	43	46	36	40				365
Isiala Ngwa North	31	31	14	14	15	16	15	17	18	19	19	29	238
Isiala Ngwa South													
Aba North	6	5	5	0	5	7	6	5	4	4	5	0	52
Aba South	58	48	25	45	56	56	60	60	33	22	0	0	463
Ukwa West	16	14	15	9	12	13	13	13	13	13	12		143
Ohafia													
Obingwa	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	7
Ugwunagbo													
Item Bende	0	1	2	1	1	3							8
Uzuakoli	6	0	3	6	9	10	15	23	24	21	18		135
Umunneochie	18	13	17	13	22								83
Total	337	277	265	188	260	241	261	243	223	168	122	106	2691
Average	56.1667	46.1667	44.16667	31.3333	43.3333	43.8182	52.2	48.6	44.6	37.3333	27.11111	30.286	448.5

NEW REFERAL SEEN PER MONTH													
LGAs	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Umuhia North	0	0	1	1	5	5	3	1	9	3	3	3	34
Umuhia South	6	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	13
Ikwuano	4	2	3	0	2	2	3	3	2	3			24
Isiala Ngwa North	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	8
Isiala Ngwa South													
Aba North	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	11
Aba South	5	4	3	4	2	3	4	2	2	2	0	0	31
Ukwa West	1	3	2	3	0	2	1	2	0	2	3		19
Ohafia													
Obingwa	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	8
Ugwunagbo													
Item Bende	0	0	0	0	0	1							1
Uzuakoli	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	0	1	0		9
Umunneochie	4	4	1	4	4								17
	4	4	2	5	4	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	27
Total	8	8	16	10	8	18	0	8	8	2	0	2	44
Average	2.462	2.154	2.3077	2.692	2.231	3.1667	1.364	2.363636	2.182	1.909	0.7	0.625	18.92

4. COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION (CBR) FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: Project Comfort provided rehabilitation for 88 children with various physical and learning disabilities in Bende, Ohafia and Isuikwuato LGAs. The project provided assistive devices like crutches for some children. Malnourished children were supported to regain their growth. Some children were also given some palliative like indomie and rice to reduce the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic.

CURRENT STATICS OF PROJECT COMFORT = 83 CHILDREN

LGAs	Club Foot	Paraplegia	Hemiplegia	Quadriplegia	Down Syndrome	Autism	Cerebral Palsy	Monoplegia	Learning Disability
Ohafia	6	7	6	6	6	-	6	1	6
Isuikwuato	5	5	-	2	2	2	4	1	
Bende	1	6	2	-	4	-	4	-	1
Total	12	18	8	8	12	2	14	2	7



Figure 3 The Physiotherapist examined a child with disability.

5. TRAINING ON “COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE SKILLS” FOR STUDENT NURSES: In February 2020, Amaudo hosted 30 student nurses from the Federal School of Psychiatric Nursing Calabar who were trained on skills in community mental health care. No school has visited again because of the COVID 19.



Figure 4. Student Nurses from Federal School of psychiatric Nursing Calabar at Amaudo for training

6. CBM VISIT: CBM withdrew funding from the Amaudo project especially the Mental Health in 2013. This was even when the final evaluation of the Mental Health Awareness Programme (MHAP) and the Project assessment conducted by CBM through their agents did not fault the performance and strength of Amaudo. All attempts made to renew collaboration with CBM did not yield a meaningful result. However, on 28th September 2020, the CBM Nigeria Country Director, the Programme Manager, the Accountant, and the Mental Health Advisor visited Amaudo for project assessment. After a rigorous review of Amaudo’s organizational structure, management skills, project proposals and implantations, and outcomes, accounting systems, collaborations, policies and procedures, the Country Director and his team were impressed with the result of the assessment. The Country Director approved the revival of collaboration with Amaudo. It important to note that Amaudo continued to provide service without the CBM support and funding since 2013. Nevertheless the renewal of partnership with CBM will improve funding for Amaudo and increase service delivery by Amaudo which will impact the service users.

7. INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT: We have renovated the chapel and the community hall at Amaudo 1. The renovation of the community hall was funded by Amaudo UK. The Chapel and the community hall were dedicated by Rt Rev O C Chiemeka the Bishop of Uzuakoli Diocese on 5th December 2020. Maintenance repairs of some residential buildings at Amaudo 1 and 2 were carried out.



Figure 5. Rt Rev O C Chiemeka with Amaudo Community after dedicating the reconstructed chapel of peace.

8. AGRICULTURE: Farming has become an important investment in Amaudo. In 2020 we engaged in extensive farming of cassava, melon, and vegetable. The crops are very strategic to the reduction of cost of the feeding of residents at Amaudo 1 and 2. The palm plantation has been the source of palm oil used at Amaudo 1 and 2. Over 5 years now Amaudo has produced the palm oil and garri that we use at Amaudo 1 and 2. We have improved in vegetable and melon. Other aspects of farming include goat keeping, cocoa and plantain. The investment in agriculture has helped to reduce the cost of feeding the residents. This is important for the sustainability of Amaudo services.

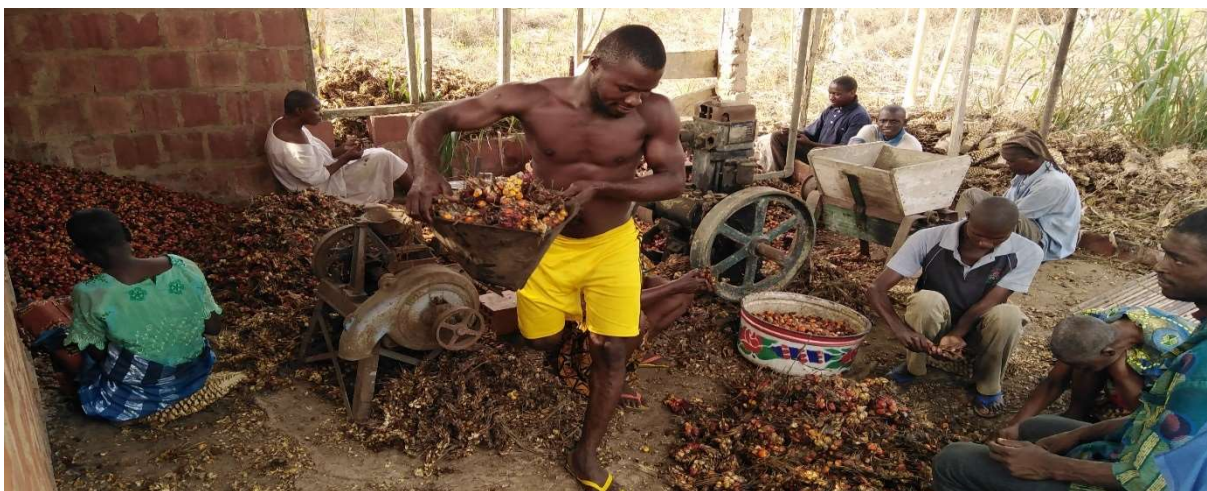


Figure 6. Processing of palm fruits at Amaudo

9. THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

In February 2020 we began to hear about the menace of the COVID 19 overseas.

The COVID 19 pandemic brought about “the new normal” like hand washing, social distancing, avoiding handshaking and hugging, wearing of face mask etc. The affected the social life of the people while the lockdown imposed by the government to control the spread of the pandemic had negative effects like an increase in hunger, scarcity of food and other essential commodities, health challenges and an increase in the number of deaths.

Amaudo implemented the COVID 19 guidelines by NCDC like hand washing, wearing of face mask and social distancing. We received a grant from Amaudo UK which helped us to purchase more diesel for regular pumping of water to ensure regular hand washing and other forms of personal hygiene by staff and residents. The fund from Amaudo UK was used to purchase face masks, hand sanitisers and food. We also receive palliatives from Abia State Government through the Diocese of Uzuakoli and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. Other individuals donated some food items to Amaudo to help reduce the effect of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Amaudo did not use the palliatives for the residents at the centre only, we extended the distribution of the palliatives to children with disabilities in communities like Ohafia, Bende and Isuikwuato. The indigent people among our host communities also received palliatives like rice and face mask from Amaudo. Amaudo also distributed some palliative like indomie and rice to people with mental health problems in Ikwuano, Umuahia North and Umuahia South. We are grateful to God for protecting us during the COVID 19 in 2020 because none of our staff or residents contacted the COVID 19 and we were able to contend with the challenges.



Figure 7. A Resident wash their hands before going into the dining to eat as personal hygiene to check the spread of COVID 19

PROSPECT:

Amaudo will review her work as a “A stand alone mental health service” to an “Integrated Community Mental Health Services”. This means that aspects of physical health care like provision of primary health care and community development and empowerment like provision of basic education for children of our host community which Amaudo is already carrying out will now form the component of Amaudo services.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Given the realities which COVID 19 has exposed in our health systems and other aspects of our lives, Governments at all levels, Corporate bodies, the Church and other stakeholders in health should engage in a holistic approach to health care which should include medical, economic, and social to meet the present health needs of our population.

APPRECIATION/CONCLUSION

We wish to appreciate God Almighty for all his blessing and protection upon Amaudo throughout the difficulties experienced in 2020 because of the COVID 19 pandemic. We equally thank God for protecting all the Trustees of Amaudo UK and other Foreign partners through the difficulties experienced in the year 2020.

We are immensely grateful to Amaudo UK for supporting Amaudo Itumbauzo in 2020 despite the difficult situations occasioned by COVID 19 pandemic in the UK.

We are grateful to Abia State Government for the Subvention which the Government paid to Amaudo in 2020.

We thank Methodist Church Nigeria especially His Eminence Dr Samuel Chukwuemeka Kanu Uche for paying the salaries of Ministers stationed at Amaudo. This has helped in the payment of staff salary.

We are grateful to the Board led by Rt Rev O C Chiemeka the Board Chairman, the Management Chairman Sir Emma Ndukwe and the entire members of Board and Management for their support. We commend all the staff of Amaudo for their commitment and resilience in serving humanity at Amaudo. May God continue to bless Sister Rosalind Colwill for her vision in establishing Amaudo.

Very Rev Kenneth E. Nwaubani
DIRECTOR