



AMURT FOUNDATION 2024 Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Primary Health Care,
Reproductive Health &
Water Projects



AMURT's mission

AMURT's mission is to help improve the quality of life for the poor and disadvantaged people of the world, and those affected by calamity and conflict. We encourage and enable individuals and communities to harness their own resources for securing the basic necessities of life and for gaining greater economic, social and spiritual fulfilment, while respecting their customs, language and religious beliefs.

AMURT (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team) is a private international voluntary organizations founded in India in 1970. The original objective was to help meet the needs of the affected population after disasters. From 1985, AMURT's scope was expanded to include community development with projects in over 30 countries worldwide.

In 2010, AMURT came to Nigeria and entered into a partnership with Ebonyi State government focusing on extending primary healthcare services to the remote rural areas.

In 2024, together with our government and community partners, we took great strides towards ensuring the sustainability of services at the AMURT assisted health centers

Over the past 15 years, AMURT has facilitated the birth of 32,000 babies, performed over 1,800 cesarean sections and 700 pediatric surgeries, established five solar-powered health centers, built over 270 village boreholes, and supported more than 50 scholarship graduates. We remain steadfast in our mission to drive meaningful development in the health sector of Ebonyi State.



AMURT staff at the office in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State

Making primary healthcare work

AMURT is building a sustainable and replicable model for meeting the primary healthcare needs of rural communities through a partnership involving the communities, grassroots organizations, the private sector and government.



AMURT staff doing health education outreach at Offia Oji market.

Strengthening primary healthcare at the grassroots

SUSTAINABILITY

AMURT's approach to primary health care is a development model. Sustainability is achieved through strengthening each primary healthcare center's self reliance, thus reducing financial dependency. Capacity building at the grassroots unlocks local potentials, leading to greater community participation and the emergence of new leadership.

PARTNERSHIP

AMURT's model focuses on empowering health centers to deliver high-quality care sustainably. By strengthening financial independence, enhancing infrastructure, and involving communities in governance, we foster local ownership and accountability. In 2024, the Ebonyi State Government boosted this effort by assimilating 87 AMURT health workers into the civil service fulfilling the M.O.U. between AMURT and the State.



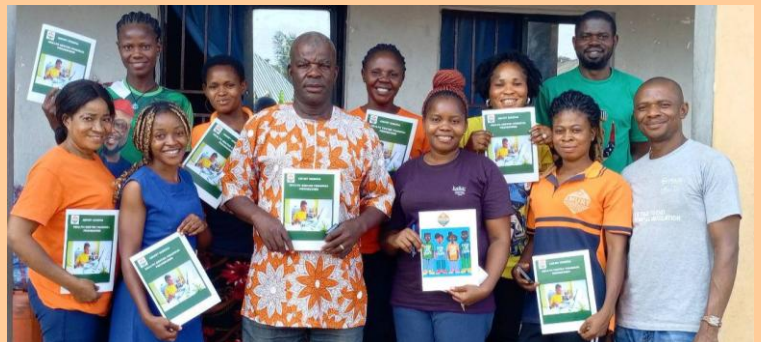
AMURT health workers assimilated at State Service Commission

VALUES and PRINCIPLES

The growing autonomy of the health centers, allows AMURT to enter new project areas across Ebonyi State. Our success depends on building institutions and systems required to sustain primary health care delivery. Strong ethical values guide our partnerships and every aspect of management and service delivery. The development project faces challenges every day. Only through a principled and cohesive approach, can we succeed.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Careful monitoring of financial management and continuous training have yielded good results as health centers now cover their operating expenses, including payment of support staff, while continuing to build savings for maintenance, expansion and upgrades. In 2024, strict revenue management enabled the renovation of the theater building at Ephuenyim, the installation of solar power at Offia Oji, the construction of an incinerator at Odeligbo, and the concreting of facilities at Mgbalukwu.



Financial Management training at Aguotu Health Center

Project areas & health centers



Happy new mothers with their babies at Offia Oji Health Center



Training for AMURT doctors in ultrasound scanning of pregnant women

	HEALTH CENTER	LOCAL GOVT	OPENED
1	Gmelina	Abakaliki	Sep 2010
2	Offia Oji	Abakaliki	Nov 2010
3	Ephuenyim	Abakaliki	Nov 2010
4	Elugwu Ettam	Ikwo	Feb 2012
5	Odeligbo	Ikwo	Jun 2012
6	Akparata- suspended	Ohaukwu	Apr 2015
7	Inikiri - suspended	Ohaukwu	Oct 2016
8	Mgbalukwu	Onicha	Nov 2017
9	Uloanwu	Ebonyi	Aug 2018
10	Ohagelode	Ebonyi	Mar 2020
11	Item Amagu	Ikwo	Dec 2020
12	Agutu	Ishielu	Jul 2022

Safe motherhood

24 HOUR SERVICE

AMURT ensures continuous care to reduce maternal and child mortality, with health workers operating in 24/7 shifts and doctors and midwives on call at CEmONC centers, keeping facilities open for emergencies at no extra cost.

MATERNAL HEALTH PROMOTERS

AMURT trains Maternal Health Promoters who play a crucial role by tracking every pregnancy in every village. They encourage the mothers to go for pre-natal check-up and give birth in the health center. They host monthly support group meetings, where the mothers learn about danger signs in pregnancy, and how to take care of themselves as they prepare to give birth.

COMPREHENSIVE ANTE-NATAL CARE

AMURT ensures that comprehensive antenatal care is accessible across all project areas. In 2024, 4,460 women attended ANC days at AMURT-assisted health centers. Doctors are present to examine patients, identify danger signs, and provide counseling. Equipped with ultrasound machines, our centers facilitate early detection of high-risk cases. Health workers also conduct home visits for follow-ups on these cases.

During ANC visits, mothers undergo tests for dangerous diseases, while lab scientists perform PCV blood tests and determine blood groups to expedite care during emergencies. Additionally, AMURT offers family planning counseling, routine medications, tetanus vaccines, and preventive malaria treatment. Notably, 47% of women attending ANC at AMURT-assisted centers in 2024 traveled from outside the project areas, reflecting the trust and impact of our services.



Mother with newborn twins at Elugwu Ettam Health Center

BIRTHS	
HEALTH CENTER BIRTHS	2338
OUTSIDE PROJECT AREA	37%
CAESAREAN SECTIONS (C.S.) AT HEALTH CENTER	294
C.S. as % OF TOTAL BIRTH	13 %
FACILITY BIRTHS vs HOME BIRTHS	69 %
OBSTETRIC AMBULANCE REFERRALS TO TERTIARY	28
% OF BIRTHS REFERRED TO TERTIARY	0.9 %
AMBULANCE REFERRALS TO TERTIARY HOSPITAL RESULTING IN BIRTHS	21

Making emergency obstetric care accessible and affordable

EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC SERVICES: Filling the gap

Starting in 2017, AMURT has been providing emergency obstetric services. To reduce maternal and newborn mortality, emergency services need to be made accessible and affordable for the rural population. Four health centres, spanning Ikwo, Abakaliki, Onitsha and Ebonyi LGAs, have been equipped with operating theatres, facilities for blood transfusions, and stand-by ambulances, along with resident doctors, laboratory scientists, midwives and health workers on shift around the clock.



Ultrasound scanning at Ephuenyim

AMBULANCE SERVICES & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For complicated cases, AMURT's dedicated drivers stand by at all hours to carry consultants from Abakaliki for life saving interventions in the rural centers. AMURT's lab department provides blood for life saving transfusion. AMURT responds to all obstetric emergencies, like severe ante-partum and post-partum bleeding, ectopic pregnancy, etc. 61 % of the cesarean sections in AMURT assisted health centers were paid in full by the patients. 77 % of the cesarean sections came from other wards. Only 3 % of the cesarean sections were elective.




Emergency obstetric referral from Uloanwu




Mother after successful cesarean section at Uloanwu Health Center.

EVERY LIFE COUNTS: Pediatric Surgeries


In addition to Making Primary Healthcare Work, AMURT’s engages in direct service delivery to save lives of mothers, newborn babies and children. We make pediatric surgery available in the rural health centers. In 2024, we sponsored 157 pediatric surgeries, performed by consultants in the 10 AMURT assisted health centers, with Offia Oji Health Center leading the way with 32 surgeries. In addition, 46 major pediatric surgeries were taken to AEFUTHA teaching hospital in Abakaliki under AMURT’s referral program, giving the rural population access to life saving interventions.



LOUIS. At 7 months Louis was referred from Euphenyim Health Center to AEFUTHA on account of spina bifida and hydrocephalus, a congenital condition affecting the spine. He had surgery at AEFUTHA, supported by AMURT



MESSIAH was referred from Item Amagu Health Center due to imperforate anus. The process involved colostomy and several surgical procedures that took many months. The surgeries were supported by AMURT.



KODIRICHI is a 15 year old boy referred from Ephenyim on account of intestinal perforation due to untreated typhoid. He had surgery to repair the intestines. A critical case, he took four weeks to recover. The surgery was supported by AMURT.



Pediatric surgery at Offia Oji Health Centre

PEDIATRIC SURGERIES SPONSORED AT TERTIARY HOSPITALS	#
HYDROCEPHALUS	9
TYPHOID PEFORATION	7
INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION / INTUSSUSCEPTION	9
OTHER	11
TOTAL	46

Engaging with adolescents on sexual and reproductive health

In 2024, AMURT's Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Unit reached over 3000 adolescents in six project areas with messages on Drug Substance Abuse, Sexual Abstinence, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Harmful Traditional Practices (Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage), Gender Based Violence, etc.

SCHOOL LEVEL: PEER EDUCATORS

AMURT partners with 13 secondary schools. In cooperation with the teachers, potential peer educators are identified. They are trained in monthly sessions, where the kids also report back on their activities with their co-students. Quiz competitions between boys and girls were arranged for motivation.

VILLAGE LEVEL: YOUTH CHAMPIONS

At the village level, Youth Champions are identified with the help of village leaders. Every month they are taught a new topic related to reproductive health that they share with the teenagers in their village. This program reaches youth in 73 villages.

TEENAGE MOTHERS PROGRAM

The ASRH team conducts regular meetings in each of the six project areas where teenagers who are pregnant, or have recently given birth, receive special attention, support and guidance, and sessions to boost their self-esteem. They benefit from counselling sessions. The young mothers are motivated and supported to return to school to complete their education that was interrupted by the unplanned pregnancy. The young mothers are also supported in learning skills like tailoring, hair-braiding and decoration, and four were supported to start own business.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE

Sensitization on Menstrual Health/Hygiene in commemoration of the World Menstrual Hygiene Day was also carried out with free distribution of sanitary pads to 1573 girls.

TO EVERY GIRL-CHILD

We are girls, growing in an environment that thinks being a girl is a disadvantage. Despite how much is invested in us or the potentials we carry, they say we are just going to be men's properties; cooks, housekeepers and caregivers without a salary. Some look at us as nothing but reproductive factories, good for nothing other than sprouting offspring of our specie. Some see us as tools to satisfy their libido and a few think of us as fragile objects that shouldn't be pushed too hard, lest we break.

We listened so much to people's opinions, we began to doubt ourselves. We heard so much discouragement, we almost gave up. BUT we remembered people like us who never gave up their dreams and became HEROES of their time. So, we picked up ourselves from where we had fallen and dusted ourselves.

We are girls, our gender is not a disadvantage. We have wombs so we are CREATORS. We create living and non-living things. We have the capacity to persevere and prevail, just like a woman who goes through gestation and travail, we will bring-forth. We have huge dreams and we will prevail. We will bring life and joy to the world around us.

YES! We are girls. We do more than what they say. We affect and change the world. We will do more than reproduce offspring. We will also produce ideas, innovations and solutions. We are not what they say, we are MORE. We are strong, beautiful and intelligent. We are resilient, hardworking and courageous.

Even if we fail, we will pick up the pieces and try again. Our mistakes don't define us. Our goals, dreams and hope do. A lot has gone ahead of us, we will not be the last. We shall touch the world, break existing records and create new ones.

We are girls. Our gender doesn't define us. The society doesn't define us. Our mistakes don't define us. Our pains don't define us. We are not who THEY say we are. We are who WE say we are.

There is HOPE for every girl-child.

Written by:
AMURT
Adolescent Sexual
and Reproductive
Health Unit



ANANDA MARGA UNIVERSAL RELIEF TEAM

Inspirational message from AMURT to the girl child.



Menstrual hygiene day program at Azu-Offia Community Secondary School.

Cooperative model for women's economic empowerment

AMURT's Economic Empowerment program supports widows and women who are sole breadwinners in their families to start their own businesses to support their families. Since 2016, we have started 12 groups set up as Cooperatively Managed Revolving Credit Schemes. 145 additional women were empowered through these groups in 2024, reaching a total of 918 cooperative members who have benefited. Most of the members were identified at the health centres, as they struggled to afford the treatment for their children. In nine years, we have had only 16 defaulters, that is less than 2%. Some of the groups have set up saving schemes for the members and succeeded to save for Christmas and other special occasions. Some have also invested in income generating programs for the benefit of members.



Chiege and her friends frying garri (made from cassava). They belong to the Mgbalukwu group.



Christina has done well in her rice processing business as part of the Item Amagu cooperative.



The cooperative group at Ohagelode, Ishieke

Empowered in 2024	145
Empowered since 2016	918
COOPERATIVE GROUPS	12

Water is life: Reaching every village

Many rural villages in Ebonyi State still rely on rivers and ponds for their drinking water. The water is often contaminated and causes the spread of cholera, gastroenteritis and other water borne diseases. In 2024, the AMURT Water and Sanitation team brought safe water to twenty-five communities in Ezza North, Abakaliki, Izzi and Ebonyi Local Government Areas. This work was made possible through partnerships with AMURT Italy and private sponsors in Nigeria. WASHCOMs (Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committees) were formed and trained on how to use the toolbox they were supplied.



Water flowing for the first time at Ofutu. Ebor, Abakaliki L.G.A.



Women WASHCOM members installing the borehole at Azu-Akpalolo, Izzi L.G.A.

BOREHOLES SINCE 2011	272
NEW BOREHOLES 2024	25
BOREHOLES REPAIRED 2024	32

Youth capacity building: a career in health

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

In coordination with community leadership, AMURT recruits community volunteers from the local project areas to help ensure 24 hour service in all the health centers. Locals on the staff have been crucial in strengthening the bond between the health centers and the communities. It has contributed to increased community confidence and higher patronage. The presence of well-trained community members is significant as we work to ensure sustainability and prepare the health centers for greater self-reliance. It helps to ensure that the community will be able to enjoy the benefits of the project after AMURT withdraws.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AMURT offers a scholarship program to give the most talented and committed of these community volunteers the opportunity to become qualified health workers. In 2024, eight graduated, leaving 12 candidates in school. Through support for higher education and employment, AMURT has given 54 young rural women, and a few young men, a career and opportunity to serve their communities in the health sector. Most of the candidates enter the School of Health Technology to become CHEWs (Community Health Extension Workers) or Junior CHEWs. A few entered university to become registered nurses and medical lab scientists. AMURT cultivates a close relationship with the academic institutions and in 2024 we accepted over 200 IT students to get practical experience by placement in the AMURT assisted health centers.

Capacity building in the rural health sector is a key factor for increased self-reliance of primary healthcare facilities in remote villages.



AMURT scholarship students at School of Health, 135 Ezzangbo

Fighting malnutrition: the silent killer

SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

AMURT worked in partnership with the Ebonyi State Ministry of Health to assist severely malnourished children. The officers in charge accompanied AMURT to Offia Oji, Odeligbo and Uloanwu Health Centers for SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) clinics, to reach the children in the remote villages. Severely malnourished children regularly come to the health centers. AMURT responds with packages of nutritious and protein rich food for them. Many have gone on admission in the health centres for special care.

FOOD DEMONSTRATION

For AMURT's health education department, the fight against malnutrition was a priority again in 2024. In many rural villages the rate of malnourishment increased due to the economic hardship in the country. Poverty in the rural areas is one cause, but ignorance plays an even greater role. Many of the children are left to survive largely on starchy foods, with cassava being the main crop in the area. The AMURT health education team held Food Demonstration programs in villages to teach how to combine locally available foods to give the children a more balanced diet with more protein



Mother feeding malnourished child with RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic food)



Staff members doing food demonstration at Ochoenyim, Ikwo



Measure of Mid Upper Arm Circumference of less than 10 cm, is an indication of severe acute malnutrition. Above: Ephuenyim and Odeligbo Health Centers.

SAM - SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION	
IDENTIFIED IN SAM CLINICS	215
TREATED WITH RUTF	215
CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM SUPPLEMENTARY FOOD PACKAGES FROM AMURT	89

Testimonials



"How time flies! It's been fifteen years since AMURT launched its Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services in Ebonyi State Nigeria. The program package - serving remote rural communities, drug revolving fund, community participation, ambulance service, maternal promoters, women's empowerment and in-service training - has transformed the health outcomes in the state. AMURT has demonstrated WHO's principle that primary health care is the foundation of an effective healthcare system."

Mr. Matthew Ougaru

**Director Population Program State
Reproductive Health Coordinator,
Ministry of Health, Ebonyi State**



"As CMC Chairman for eight years, I have closely followed the NGO. So far, AMURT's work in Ebonyi State has been successful, commendable, and of immense value in reducing maternal and infant mortality to the barest minimum. Their Primary Health Care services have significantly increased facility-based deliveries, antenatal care attendance, and improved nutritional status in rural communities across the state."

Mr. Paul Oshine N.

**Chairman
Clinic Management Committee
Odeligbo Health Center, Ananyima, Okpuituma, Ikwo LGA**



"AMURT came into Ebonyi State in 2010 and has been doing well in reducing maternal and child deaths across our communities. They have supported our health facilities by employing health workers to ensure 24-hour service, providing ambulances for easier referrals, and assisting families referred to higher-level facilities for expert care. I deeply appreciate AMURT for all they have done in Ebonyi State so far."

Mrs. Nwogu Peace

**Officer-in-Charge
Gmelina Health Center
Okpuitumo, Ndiebor, Abakaliki LGA**



"Thank you, AMURT, for bringing back hope to Ebonyi State—for making healthcare accessible to people in rural areas, for the lives of children and pregnant women you have saved and continue to save. We are truly grateful. Thank you for the assimilation of 87 health workers into the state civil service. Thank you for all you've done and are still doing."

Mrs. Ume Bianca Eke

**Community Health Extension Worker
Odeligbo Health Center, Amainyima, Okpuituma, Ikwo LGA**



"It has been a wonderful 15 years of fruitful collaboration with AMURT in Ebonyi State. AMURT is a unique International NGO that has significantly improved the quality of Primary Health Care services in the most remote communities in the State. AMURT remains the most reliable partner in Ebonyi State and we look forward to continued our successful partnership."

**Dr. Lawrence
Mkpuma Eseogo**

**Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Health,
Ebonyi State**



"I would like to take this opportunity to thank AMURT for assisting me and my son. Testimony. When I gave birth to my son in 2016, he was diagnosed with hydrocephalus, they came to my rescue by doing the first surgery. Since then AMURT has supported multiple follow up surgeries. After the last he became fine, he is ok now, he can do what he could not do before. So I want to use this opportunity to thank AMURT. May Lord Almighty bless them. They will never lack. I pray God will multiply them a hundred times in Jesus name."

Mrs. Victoria Steven

Mother of Testimony

PARTNERS and AMURT STAFF

SPONSORS	COUNTRY	PROGRAM
GMT-NIGERIA, LTD.	Lagos Nigeria	Main sponsor
Voice of a Child	California USA	Medical equipment, Emergency assistance
AMURT UK	London, UK	Emergency assistance
Dangote Foundation	Lagos Nigeria	Cement
Rotary International	Nigeria Italy Norway USA	Water & Sanitation, primary healthcare
Antola Foundation	New York USA	Water & Sanitation
AMURT Italy	Parma Italy	Water & Sanitation
AMURT USA	Maryland USA	Technical support, Emergency assistance
AMURT Norway	Oslo, Norway	Emergency assistance
AMURTEL USA	Vermont, USA	Scholarships, Emergency assistance
AMURTEL GERMANY	Berlin, Germany	Emergency Assistance
A.S.M.	U.S.A. & Finland	Economic Empowerment

AMURT STAFF

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HR Manager	Ruth Chukwuemerie
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H.O.D. Laboratories	Sct. Daniel Ejiofor
WASH Manager	Peter Chukwu Elem
Logistics / Procurements	Paul Haligah
Program Manager	Ibiam Iro Oji
Adolescent Health	Esther Amah
Referral Officer	Friday Oke
Economic Empowerment	Afuluenu Onu
Head Midwife	Rita Obiakor
Head Driver	Sunday Nwonuku

DOCTORS at PROJECT AREAS

Abakliki LGA	Dr. Duru Stephen
Ikwo LGA	Dr. Orji Jim
Onitsha Ishielu LG	Dr. Godwin Godswill
Ebonyi LGA	Dr. Igwe Kingsley

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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