



2ND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

QUARTER TWO 2026 (APRIL – JUNE)

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The second quarter of 2026 marked another significant milestone in VARCE's commitment to improving lives through integrated health, education, governance, and community development programs across Osun State, Nigeria.

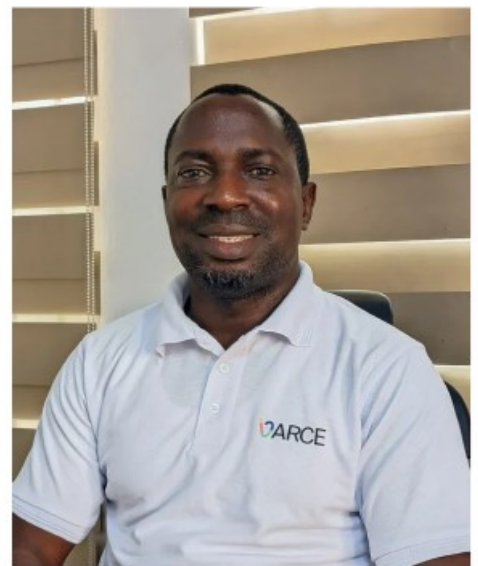
During the quarter, we strengthened our partnerships with government agencies, development partners, schools, community leaders, and other stakeholders to implement sustainable interventions that addressed the needs of vulnerable populations.

Through community engagement, youth-focused initiatives, research, and evidence-based programming.

We continued to improve access to quality health services, promote gender equality, strengthen civic participation, and support community development. Our teams successfully implemented several impactful activities on HIV prevention and care, tuberculosis and malaria awareness, oral health promotion, girls' education, youth leadership development, menstrual health management, gender equality programming, democratic governance, and operational research. These interventions positively impacted thousands of individuals and strengthened community resilience across the state.

These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, schools, community leaders, and beneficiaries. We sincerely appreciate their unwavering support and collaboration throughout the quarter.

As we move forward, VARCE remains committed to delivering innovative, inclusive, and sustainable programs that create lasting change and improve the wellbeing of individuals and communities.



Ademola Adebisi
Executive Director



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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE

- 2,234 individuals reached through Gender and Education interventions
- 33 students reached through He-for-She sessions
- 5,278 sanitary pads distributed
- 104 tested for HIV
- 246 condoms distributed
- 252 lubricants distributed
- Strategic partnerships were strengthened with media organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and other key stakeholders to enhance program delivery and community impact.

INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (IHSD-D)

During the second quarter of 2026, the Integrated Health and Social Development (IHSD) Department continued to implement community-driven health interventions aimed at improving the wellbeing of individuals and families across Osun State.

Through disease prevention, health promotion, research, and governance-focused initiatives, the department strengthened access to quality healthcare services and encouraged healthier communities.

ECEWS SPEED PROJECT

The ECEWS SPEED Project continued to implement community-based HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care activities across the supported Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Osun State.

The project remained committed to achieving and sustaining HIV epidemic control by increasing access to HIV services, identifying new cases early, and ensuring that clients were successfully linked to treatment and care.

	A	B	C	D
1	LGA	Individuals Tested	Negative	Positive
2	Ede North	9	8	1
3	Ede South	9	9	0
4	Ife North	6	6	0
5	Ejigbo	9	8	1
6	Irewole	9	8	1
7	Iwo	7	7	0
8	Total	49	46	3

STRENGTHENING HIV CASE IDENTIFICATION AND CARE

Throughout the reporting period, the department implemented several strategic interventions to improve HIV case identification and strengthen access to treatment and care services.

Index case finding activities were carried out to identify individuals who had not previously been diagnosed with HIV. Newly identified clients were successfully enrolled into treatment and care services to improve their health outcomes and reduce further transmission.

The project also provided Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services to eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women to reduce the risk of HIV infection and improve maternal and child health outcomes.

In addition, referral services were provided to community members to ensure they received appropriate healthcare whenever additional medical support was required. Routine field supervision and monitoring visits were also conducted to improve service quality, strengthen accountability, and ensure compliance with national HIV program standards.

To support these interventions, the project distributed essential HIV prevention commodities, including HIV test kits, condoms, lubricants, and other medical supplies. These resources strengthened community-based HIV prevention efforts and promoted safer sexual practices among beneficiaries.

MONITORING OF HIV TREATMENT FACILITIES

The department conducted routine monitoring visits to supported HIV treatment facilities to review client records, antiretroviral therapy (ART) refill histories, appointment registers, and other relevant documentation. These visits assessed the quality and continuity of care provided to clients.



Discussions were also held with healthcare workers on strategies to strengthen appointment follow-up, improve treatment adherence, reduce missed clinic visits, and enhance overall patient retention in care.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITY MONITORING

The department visited Ikinyinwa and Idominasi communities in Obokun Local Government Area to monitor primary healthcare facilities and assess the quality of services provided.

During the visits:

- 30 client exit interviews were conducted to assess client satisfaction and service delivery.
- 30 advocacy follow-up visits were carried out to strengthen community engagement and encourage continued access to healthcare services.
- Two primary healthcare facilities were monitored and evaluated to identify opportunities for service improvement.

The findings from these visits contributed to ongoing efforts to improve healthcare quality and strengthen community health systems.



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

The department held strategic meetings with the Osun State Agency for the Control of AIDS (O'SACA) and the Association of Positive Youths in Nigeria (APYIN) to strengthen collaboration and improve HIV service delivery across the state.

During the meeting with O'SACA, discussions focused on practical strategies for improving client retention in HIV care. Key recommendations included strengthening peer support systems, improving appointment follow-up, enhancing counseling services through structured support group meetings, and working closely with stakeholders to sustain HIV services despite ongoing funding challenges.



The meeting with APYIN reviewed the achievements of the outgoing executive members, conducted leadership elections, and strengthened collaboration among organizations involved in the HIV response.

During the meeting, VARCE received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of its outstanding contribution to HIV prevention, care, and community support initiatives.



HEALTH PROMOTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

During the second quarter of 2026, the IHSD Department implemented several health promotion activities and community outreach programs to raise awareness, encourage healthy lifestyles, and improve access to essential health services.

These activities commemorated important global health events while addressing key public health issues within communities.

WORLD MALARIA DAY

To commemorate **World Malaria Day**, the department produced and shared a two-minute awareness video across VARCE's digital and social media platforms.

The campaign educated the public on malaria prevention, early diagnosis, proper treatment, and the importance of maintaining clean environments to reduce mosquito breeding.

The online awareness campaign reached a wide audience and reinforced the importance of collective action in preventing malaria.

WORLD HYPERTENSION DAY

VARCE also marked **World Hypertension Day** by providing free blood pressure screening and basic health assessments for walk-in participants. Health assessment checklists were used to evaluate participants' blood pressure levels, lifestyle habits, and other risk factors associated with hypertension.

Participants received counseling on healthy eating, regular physical activity, stress management, and the importance of routine medical check-ups. Individuals identified with elevated blood pressure were advised to seek further medical evaluation and appropriate care.



WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

In recognition of **World No Tobacco Day**, the department carried out a digital awareness campaign under the global theme, "**Say No to Tobacco**." Educational messages were shared across the organization's social media platforms to increase public awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke.

The campaign also highlighted the health benefits of quitting tobacco and encouraged individuals, especially young people, to adopt healthier lifestyles.



ADELEKE UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

The department conducted a comprehensive health outreach program at Adeleke University, Iwo, focusing on reproductive health, HIV prevention, and environmental sanitation.

During the outreach, students received health education on responsible sexual behavior, personal hygiene, and environmental cleanliness. Free health services were also provided, including blood pressure screening and voluntary HIV testing and counseling.

The outreach achieved the following:

- 26 individuals received free blood pressure screening.
- 7 individuals voluntarily accessed HIV testing and counseling services.
- 114 condoms were distributed to promote safer sexual practices.
- 200 lubricants were distributed as part of HIV prevention efforts.

The outreach increased awareness of HIV prevention, encouraged early detection of hypertension, promoted safer sexual practices, and reinforced the importance of maintaining a healthy environment.



LASSA FEVER COMMUNITY AWARENESS AT OLU-ODE MARKET, OSOGBO, OSUN STATE

The department organised a community health education session at Olu-Ode Market, Osogbo, Osun State, to raise awareness about Lassa fever among traders and market users. Health educators explained the causes, symptoms, modes of transmission, prevention, and control of the disease. Participants were encouraged to maintain a clean market environment, properly dispose of waste, and store food in covered containers to prevent contamination by rodents, which are the primary carriers of the Lassa fever virus.

The awareness campaign improved public understanding of preventive measures and promoted healthier practices within the market community.

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OTA-EFUN, OSOGBO, OSUN STATE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The department also conducted an integrated health outreach in the Ota-Efun, Osogbo Osun State, community to improve access to preventive healthcare services and promote healthy living.

During the outreach:

- **71 individuals** received HIV testing, blood pressure screening, and Hepatitis B screening.
- **132 condoms** were distributed to promote HIV prevention and safer sexual practices.
- **52 lubricants** were distributed to reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), particularly among commercial drivers and transport workers.

Health education sessions focused on HIV prevention, personal hygiene, early disease detection, and the importance of seeking timely medical care. Community members were encouraged to make regular health checks part of their routine and to adopt healthier lifestyles.



YOUTH-FRIENDLY PROGRAM—"NO SHAME, JUST SENSE"

The department organized a youth-friendly program themed "No Shame, Just Sense" to provide young people with a safe and supportive environment where they could openly discuss issues affecting their health and wellbeing.

Participants received practical information on sexual and reproductive health, healthy relationships, mental wellbeing, and responsible decision-making. They were reassured that VARCE remained a safe and welcoming space where young people could access reliable information, support, and guidance without fear of discrimination or judgment.

The program also featured interactive games, question-and-answer sessions, and motivational talks delivered by the Executive Director, Mr. Ademola Adebisi, and Dr. Adefunke Ogunleye. These activities encouraged active participation, built trust among participants, and inspired young people to make informed choices that would positively impact their future.



GOVERNANCE UNIT OF THE INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

STRENGTHENING CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

During the second quarter of 2026, the Social Governance Department continued to promote democratic values and encourage active civic participation through stakeholder engagement, voter education, and community sensitization activities. These interventions aimed to empower citizens with the knowledge and confidence needed to participate meaningfully in Nigeria's democratic processes.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WITH INEC

The department held a strategic stakeholder meeting with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to discuss preparations for the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise and strengthen collaboration ahead of future electoral activities.

The meeting focused on improving voter registration efforts, securing commitments from transport unions to provide logistics support during voter education campaigns, and developing practical strategies to prevent electoral violence. Participants also discussed the importance of strengthening partnerships among government agencies, civil society organizations, and community stakeholders to ensure peaceful, credible, and inclusive elections.

The engagement reinforced the shared commitment of all stakeholders to increasing voter participation and promoting democratic accountability within communities.



VOTER EDUCATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT FIRST CLASS COLLEGE, OSOGBO, OSUN STATE.

The department conducted a voter education and civic engagement program at First Class College, Osogbo, Osun State. to promote responsible citizenship and increase awareness of democratic values among educators and students.

During the session, participants were educated on the importance of voting based on competence, integrity, and the capacity of candidates to serve the public interest. Facilitators also discouraged vote buying and other forms of electoral malpractice, while emphasizing the need for peaceful participation before, during, and after elections.

Teachers and school administrators were encouraged to serve as positive role models by promoting civic responsibility and democratic values within their schools and communities. The program also highlighted the role of young people in shaping the future of the country through informed and active participation in the electoral process.

The engagement increased participants' understanding of their civic rights and responsibilities and reinforced the importance of free, fair, and peaceful elections.



GENDER AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

EMPOWERING GIRLS, ENGAGING BOYS AND BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

During the second quarter, the Gender and Education Department continued its efforts to educate and empower girls, adolescents, women, and boys across its various programs. Through classroom sessions, mentorship activities, community engagements, and awareness campaigns, participants gained knowledge on menstrual health, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, education, and healthy lifestyles.

The department also strengthened efforts to promote gender equality, encourage boys to become advocates for girls, support girls' access to education, and contribute to the prevention and elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).



PERIOD POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The Period Poverty Alleviation Project began the quarter by reaching 252 girls across four selected schools in Osun State.

The girls received mentorship and education on menstrual hygiene and learned practical ways to manage their menstrual health.



A total of 441 sanitary pads were distributed to support the girls and help reduce the challenges associated with period poverty.

The sessions also provided participants with accurate and practical information about menstrual health and hygiene.

VARCE HEALTH CLUB

The VARCE Health Club continued to provide girls with a safe space where they could learn, ask questions, and discuss issues that affected their well-being without fear of judgment.

During the quarter, **245 girls from selected schools** participated in sessions covering emotional intelligence, mentorship, self-discovery, entrepreneurship and skills development, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sexually transmitted infections. The activities helped the girls build confidence, improve their



knowledge, and develop skills that could support their personal growth and future development.



WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

In commemoration of World Menstrual Hygiene Day, VARCE reaffirmed its commitment to promoting menstrual health and dignity among adolescent girls.

The organization distributed 207 sanitary pads to girls in selected schools and provided essential information on menstrual hygiene. The sessions also addressed common myths and misconceptions about menstruation and encouraged girls to adopt healthy menstrual hygiene practices.

The schools were also encouraged to provide greater support for girls and create an environment where menstrual health could be discussed openly and respectfully.



HE FOR SHE PROJECT

During the second quarter, the HeForShe Project engaged boys in conversations around gender equality, menstruation, gender stereotypes, and positive masculinity.

The boys explored how traditional stereotypes could affect girls and learned how they could become allies and advocates for gender equality. The sessions encouraged them to promote respect, inclusion, and safety for girls in their schools and communities. By encouraging boys to become champions of respect and equality, the project contributed to building healthier relationships, families, and communities.



VARCE GIRL'S LEARNING HUB

The VARCE Girls' Learning Hub continued to provide a safe and supportive environment where girls developed academic, leadership, and life skills.

During the quarter, the girls began the GEMMA term with welcoming activities and participated in structured academic sessions, extracurricular activities, and leadership development programmes.



The Hub continued to support the girls in building confidence, improving their academic performance, and developing skills that would help them become responsible and empowered young women.



VOICE IT OUT PODCAST

VARCE continued to use the Voice It Out Podcast as a platform for open, relatable, and meaningful conversations about important social issues.

During the quarter, the platform launched its introductory episode and featured discussions on topics including "Breaking the Silence: Understanding Depression & Mental Health," "Behind the Mission: Realities of Running an NGO," and "Fatherhood Matters: Breaking the Cycle of Absent Parenting."

The podcast provided an opportunity to raise public awareness, encourage open conversations, and strengthen VARCE's digital advocacy efforts.

UNJP PROJECT

The quarter marked the implementation of Phase Five of the UNJP Project, with several activities carried out to strengthen efforts towards ending Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Osun State.

Key activities included Capacity-Building Sessions, the Selection of 10 Intervention Communities, Mapping and Advocacy Visits to Community Stakeholders, Orientation of Community Facilitators and the Male Engagement Alliance, Training of Adolescents Gender Champions (AGCs), and Documentation of Survivor Stories.

These activities helped lay the foundation for accelerated and coordinated action towards the prevention and elimination of FGM in the targeted communities.



YOPA PROJECT

The YOPA Project commenced the quarter with structured after-school activities and health education sessions.

During the quarter, nine after-school physical activity sessions and six health education sessions were conducted, resulting in improved participation among students.

The Realist-Informed Ripple Effects Mapping (RREM) methodology was also used to encourage reflection, dialogue, and learning among participants. The approach strengthened stakeholders' capacity to contribute to the planning and implementation of sustainable school-based physical activity programs.



LOOKING AHEAD

As VARCE entered the third quarter of 2026, the organization remained committed to expanding its impact through innovative, inclusive, and evidence-based program. Building on the achievements of the second quarter, the organization planned to strengthen partnerships, improve service delivery, and implement sustainable interventions that address the evolving needs of communities across Osun State.

Priority areas for the coming quarter included expanding access to quality healthcare services, promoting gender equality and youth development, strengthening democratic governance, supporting vulnerable populations, and enhancing community participation in development initiatives.

VARCE remained grateful to its donors, development partners, government agencies, community leaders, volunteers, schools, and beneficiaries whose continued support made its work possible. Together, these partnerships would continue to drive positive change and create healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.

Thank You

Thank you for following our journey and supporting our mission to create lasting change in communities.

Value Re-Orientation for Community Enhancement (VARCE) remains committed to improving lives through impactful program in health, education, governance, and community development.

Together, we are building stronger communities and transforming lives.

