

The Faith Effect: Nigeria

NIFAA Monitoring and Evaluation Results for Interfaith Action Against Malaria

The independent evaluation conducted by Wise Solutions LLC of the Faiths United for Health Campaign in Nigeria highlights the efficacy and promise of the partnership between the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty (CIFA) and the Nigerian Inter-Faith Action Association (NIFAA). It indicates that the pilot program model has achieved swift success, yet also has room for growth. The following are excerpts and distillations from the report.

Program Impact

- Evaluation data indicate a clear impact on knowledge and attitudes and reported net utilization. Comparison of reported net usage in a “NIFAA state” with a state in which NIFAA was not active shows a significant difference in reported net utilization (51.6 percent of under-5s in a NIFAA state versus less than half of that in a demographically comparable state, according to World Bank LQAS data).
- The NIFAA program is cost-effective. Even in the absence of significant follow up and supervision, it is proving effective. Using a simple formula and some assumptions, the report indicates the following cost-effectiveness calculations:
 - *Cost-effectiveness per contact:* 6,500 trained faith leaders in one of three states times 100 contacts per faith leader. When this number is divided by 1/3 of the total NIFAA budget, we find it takes \$0.51 to reach each contact through a trusted faith leader.
 - *Cost-effectiveness per congregant reached:* Assuming the 100 contacts are couples representing a household with seven members (children, servants and extended family) the cost per beneficiary would be \$0.07.
- Faith leaders who train other faith leaders (“FL1s”) are found to be “getting the message” of the training, acting on it for themselves and imparting it correctly to other faith leaders and their congregants.
- Training tools have been effective, yet there is scope for revision and development of additional training materials and modalities to enhance impact. Data collection is at an early stage. Monitoring and evaluation systems, along with other management systems, should be more fully developed and implemented.

The CIFA/NIFAA Partnership

- CIFA provides NIFAA with both organizational and project support with an emphasis on technical support. NIFAA’s partnership with CIFA is seen as a positive and contributing factor to the growth and success of NIFAA. CIFA’s value is in its ongoing advocacy, flexibility and credibility. CIFA has also been used as a neutral third party in making sensitive management changes and as an intermediary with other organizations, such as the World Bank and the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP).
- The CIFA/NIFAA partnership has played a critical role in NIFAA’s start-up phase. As NIFAA aims to continue working in the area of social development and interfaith cooperation, the CIFA/NIFAA partnership will remain important. The partnership can play a key role as NIFAA undergoes its next phase of stabilization, growth, credibility building and sustainability.