



ARISE

African Research And Innovative
Initiative For Sickle Cell Education

Train-the-Trainer Workshop

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SICKLE CELL DISEASE, THE SOCIETY AND EDUCATION

- In line with findings of the ARISE project which states that out of the 400,000 annual births of children with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), 85% of these births are predominant in sub-Saharan Africa. Nigeria as the most populous black nation bears its greatest burden in sub-Saharan Africa, it is said that 2 -3% of the Nigerian has SCD. Although there is said to be remarkable progress in understanding treatment and management of the disease world over, Nigeria still has a high prevalence of the disease.



Map of SCD estimates

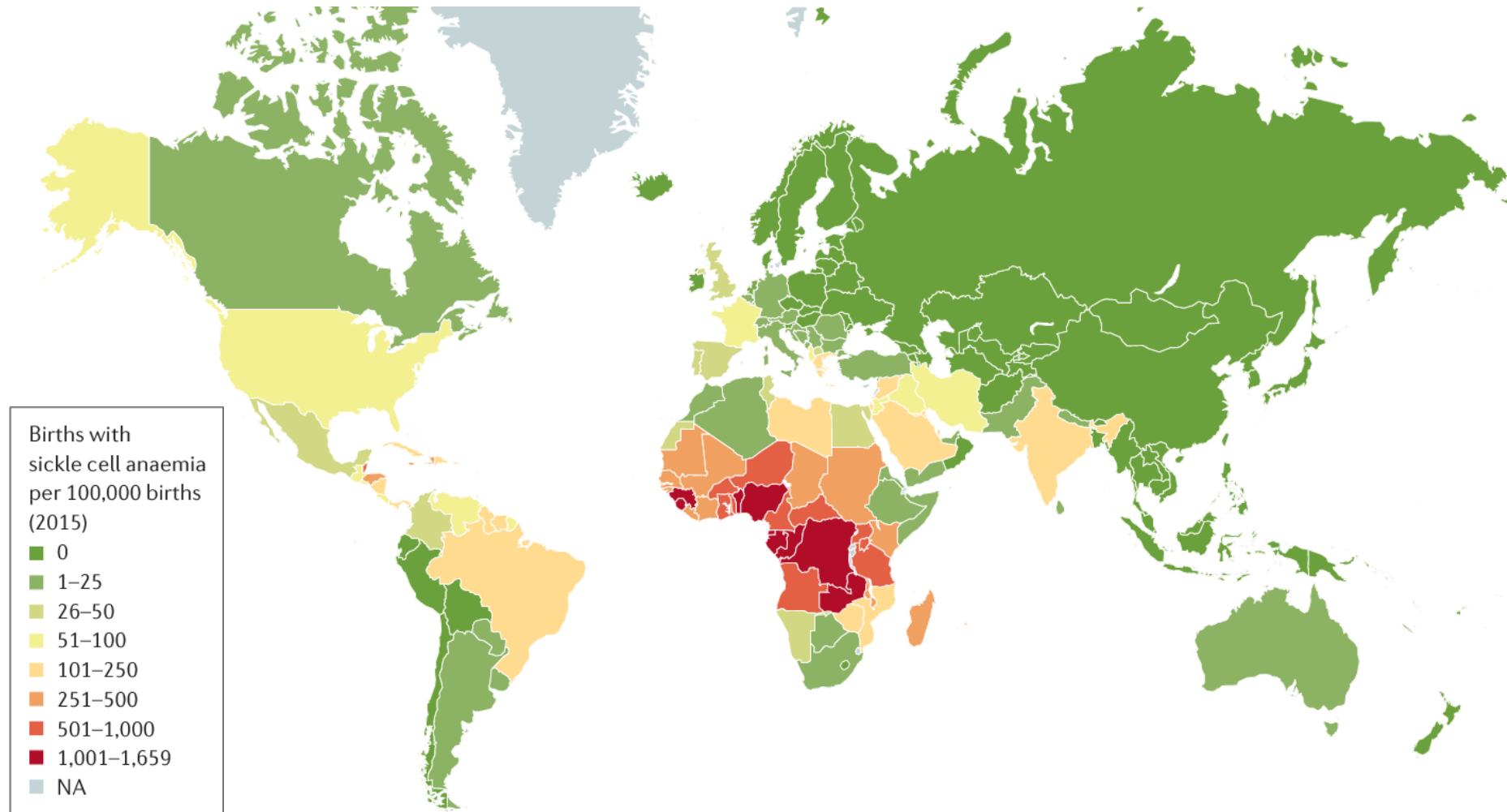


Figure 2 | **Map of the estimated numbers of births with sickle cell anaemia.** Estimated numbers of births with sickle cell



SCD as a public health crisis

- With UN estimates of the population growth of Nigeria at 2.6% annually. Ranked as the 7th most populous nation in the world, we can only imagine that 2% of the 200, 000, 000m population estimated in 2019, translates to an estimate of 4,000,000 births with sickle cell disease / trait.
- To say the figure is alarming is an understatement. Sickle cell is a major challenge in our society and can even be called a public health crisis because despite present seeming awareness, the figure is on the increase due to many reasons including but not limited to:
 - Culture.
 - Religious beliefs.
 - Poverty.
 - Lack of Education etc.



Education as a tool

- This is why ARISE wishes to use Education as a means to an end. The target groups would be taught Sickle Cell education, complications of the disease, patient care, (including education policies, guidelines for teachers and caregivers etc) use of medications and potential new therapies etc.
- Advocacy visits will be carried out to officials of the Ministry of Education, Teachers council, Public and Private schools Management boards and other governing bodies to ensure approvals and access to schools, students, teachers and even parents.
- Another approach is to include Sickle Cell education in our school curriculum just like HIV/AIDS, STIs and other communicable and non communicable diseases. This is already receiving attention of some book publishers.



The Teachers approach

- As teachers in the ARISE project, our approach is to carry out massive enlightenment and education in schools of all levels because knowledge is Power. With Kaduna in Kaduna state as our starting point, the intension is to reach children in Primary (ages 5-10), Secondary (ages 11-16) and Tertiary institutions (ages 17 and young adults) with the main aim of prevention.
- This will be carried out in English and Hausa languages with the use of the Information, Education and communication (IEC) materials, info graphics, eLearning modules, animated videos etc which are all mediums that appeal to the target groups.
- Beginning from September 2019, the target is to reach 20 schools by the end of the year 2019.



THANK YOU





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