THE ONE BULLET STORY

A PROJECT OF:
AIMING FOR PREVENTION:
An IPPNW campaign on the public health consequences of armed violence

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Case 1

Cattle herder mistakenly shot by a hunter.

- This is the story of a 20 yr. old, married cattle herder who was mistakenly shot by a hunter while he was in the forest driving his cattle....
Abubakar’s story...

- Abubakar is a medium scale, somewhat successful cattle herder who was mistakenly shot by a hunter with a locally made gun who took him for game from afar.
- He was lucky as the bullet was very superficial in its course.
Bullet entry point  Bullet final destination
He was immediately rushed from there to UATH (University of Abuja Teaching Hospital) which was about 90 mins drive from the injury scene.

He had lost some blood and was brought in drowsy and weak.
He had wound debridement immediately and was resuscitated and transfused with blood while investigations were carried out to ascertain the location of the bullet and his clinical status.

He had bullet extraction the next day when it was confirmed that the bullet did not affect internal structures.
Bullet removal in casualty theatre...
Bullet
Cont...

- Abubakar was monitored in the hospital on admission for about one week.
- He had wound debridement and daily wound dressing. Drugs were administered.
Abubakar with Drs. Daniel & Adebayo
Costs....

- Travel expenses
  - Procedure and nursing care
  - Anesthetic costs
  - Costs of theatre time
  - Surgical materials
  - Post-operative care

- $USD300

Economic costs – period of time this took place was during the festive period when people buy cattle for meat. Hence:

- He lost between $USD1000 - $USD3000 (depending on the cattle he could sell during that time)

- ... plus psychological and social effects which are immeasurable.
Case 2
Mistaken Identity

Patient with Dr Swomen.  Bullet exit wound.
28 year old commercial driver who was shot by the police when they were in hot pursuit of some armed robbers.

Bullet created an exit wound and patient was extremely lucky that major vessels were not affected.

Patient spent about 2 weeks in the hospital.

**Medical costs** = About $USD500.
Case 3
Stray Bullet

Patient with Dr Adebayo
Cont...

- 25 year old student of the University of Abuja.
- He sustained a bullet exit wound to the arm and subsequently into the chest.
- Bullet was extracted from the pleural space of the right thoracic cavity with chest tube inserted.
- He made significant improvement and was discharged 2 weeks later.

Medical costs = About $USD800
CONCLUSION

- Armed violence continues to be a menace and costly health threat in our society.
- Medical doctors have a role to play through advocacy in:
  - Driving policy change to control firearm violence especially from Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW).
  - Education of the public and policy makers on the health effects of SALW.
  - Victim assistance and rehabilitation.
Thank you!