

# 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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1985 Nobel Peace Prize



# NIGERIA



## 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**

## Cont...

- 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.

## Cont...

- 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.**

## Cont....

- 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!

