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# From the CEO's Desk



As we flip through the pages of another enlightening edition of our newsletter, I am filled with pride and thankfulness to observe our community's unwavering spirit in action. Each story, article, and activity highlighted on these pages exemplifies the unwavering commitment and passion that propel us ahead in our purpose.

This edition features inspiring stories of change-makers who are making a difference in the lives of many people, overcoming obstacles with fortitude, and paving the path for a brighter, more inclusive future. Their tales highlight the transforming power of compassion, collaboration, and determination.

We are also excited to share updates on our ongoing projects, upcoming events, and opportunities for you to get involved. Your support, whether through volunteering, donations or advocacy, plays

a crucial role in amplifying our impact and bringing about meaningful change.

As we navigate through these challenging times, let us remember that our strength lies in unity and solidarity. Together, we can create a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their circumstances.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Your unwavering support in our cause fuel our efforts and inspire us to reach greater heights.

Let's continue to stand together, uplift each other, and build a brighter future for all.

With gratitude

*Andy Eyo*

Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS



## ECEWS Facilitates Stakeholder Engagement Meetings for Malaria Impact Project in Enugu State



As part of comprehensive approach to combat malaria, ECEWS team recently facilitated stakeholder engagement meetings in Enugu State, Nigeria. This critical initiative aimed to facilitate stakeholder collaboration and support for the Malaria Elimination Project, ensuring a united front against this pervasive disease. Led by the ECEWS Project Director and the Program Manager of the Enugu State Malaria Elimination Program, the meetings brought together key officers from the Enugu State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (ESPHCDA), Enugu State

Hospital Services Management Board (ESHSMB), and Enugu State Universal Health Coverage (ESUHC). The meetings discussions focused on introducing the ECEWS team to key stakeholders strengthening the health system at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level, capacity building in malaria case management, monitoring, and supportive supervision, as well as data management and commodity distribution strategies.

Key outcomes from the meetings included stakeholder buy-in and support for the Malaria Impact Project, high-volume sites for prioritized commodity distribution. The project's action plan includes conducting capacity-building training for healthcare workers and LGA teams, strengthening data collection and synchronization, implementing targeted commodity distribution for facilities in Polly, Nussuka, Enugu Ezike, Agbani, Ogwu, Udi, Uwani and Oji River Hospitals, engaging community volunteers, and establishing monitoring teams.

ECEWS further recommended that state agencies ensure effective participation in training programs, prioritize strengthening PHC-level health systems, accelerate electronic data entry expansion, and hold regular coordination meetings to review progress and address challenges.

The successful stakeholder engagement meetings marked a significant milestone in the Malaria Impact Project's efforts to combat malaria in Enugu State. ECEWS looks forward to a continued collaboration with stakeholders to achieve project goals.

## ECEWS And Ebonyi State Ministry Of Health Collaborate To Enhance Data Management Skills Through National Data Reporting System (NDARS) Training

In collaboration with the Ebonyi State Ministry of Health, ECEWS successfully conducted a three-day National Data Reporting System (NDARS) training program from December 18th to 20th, 2024. This initiative aimed to equip healthcare stakeholders with essential skills to optimize data management, reporting, and decision-making for improved healthcare delivery in the state.

The training brought together 64 participants, including key figures such as the Chief Executive of the Hospital Management Board, the State AIDS Program Coordinator, the Program Manager of the State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA), Local Government Area (LGA) M&E Officers, LACA Desk Officers, and Facility M&E Officers. This diverse group underscored the collective commitment to strengthening data systems across all levels of healthcare in Ebonyi State.

Facilitated by the ECEWS Global Fund Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Manager and M&E Officer, the training provided practical and interactive sessions to ensure participants could apply their new skills effectively. Key aspects of the training included data entry, reporting, pivot tables, and dashboards.



A notable achievement during the training was the development of an HIV dashboard for Ebonyi State on the NDARS DHIS platform, showcasing the practical application of the skills gained.

The training was a transformative experience, equipping participants with critical data management skills and fostering a deeper understanding of the NDARS platform. By engaging in live demonstrations and collaborative exercises, attendees left with the confidence to enhance reporting processes and contribute to evidence-based healthcare improvements.

This collaboration between ECEWS and the Ebonyi State Ministry of Health reflects a shared commitment to strengthening healthcare systems through capacity building. The success of the NDARS training marks a pivotal step in improving data-driven decision-making processes, ensuring better healthcare outcomes.







# ECEWS Nka Uforo Iban;

## Celebrating Progress, Empowering Lives

Empowering women is not just a social imperative; it's a catalyst for economic growth. In Nigeria, a groundbreaking initiative from the Nka Uforo Iban Association, USA, in partnership with ECEWS, is proving this to be true, transforming the lives of rural women in Akwa Ibom State.

Last year, 180 market women across 9 Local Government Areas in Akwa Ibom State were empowered with seed grants of ₦100,000 each to support business growth. A Monitoring and Evaluation team recently visited the beneficiaries and found that the women had turned their seed grants into thriving enterprises, driving personal growth and economic development in their communities. One beneficiary, a seller of onions, was able to double her stock and purchase a larger stall in the market.

"The smile on their faces," noted Nka Uforo Iban Secretary, Eno Okon, "symbolizes what empowerment can achieve." This initiative represents a sustained commitment to empowering women and fostering economic growth in rural communities.

ECEWS is proud to partner with the Nka Uforo Iban Association, USA INC, and looks forward to expanding this impactful program in the coming years.

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*Eno Okon*  
Director, Nka Uforo Iban





# Nka Uforo Iban, Through ECEWS Donated \$20,000 to Two Organizations Dedicated to Delivering Vital Health Service

ECEWS, NKA Uforo Iban Women Empowerment Project is a proof to the power of collaboration in driving social change. This initiative empowers vulnerable women in local communities by providing seed grants, access to financial inclusion, and capacity-building opportunities. Yesterday, in a display of compassion,

ECEWS, with the support of Nka Uforo Iban USA inc., donated \$10,000 each to Mother Charles Walker Children Home and Family Life Centre/VVF Hospital Mbribi. These organizations work tirelessly to provide essential services to vulnerable orphans, and this donation will further fuel their mission. The

ceremony at ECEWS headquarters was a celebration of partnership and shared commitment. Representatives from the beneficiary organizations were present to express their gratitude and celebrate this impactful support. This project embodies ECEWS' commitment to transforming lives and communities.







# Margaret's Journey to Self-Sufficiency

How Margaret grew her business from reselling crayfish on credit to buying in bags and reselling to customers.

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**I can now buy crayfish in large quantities, cover my business expenses easily, and make more profit**

Before



After



Margaret Jonah, a determined widow and mother of seven from Uruk Uso village in Abak LGA, has faced the tough realities of poverty with profound strength. For years, she made a living by selling Bonga fish (Ibat) on a small scale, often buying on credit. Each sale brought her a modest profit of around N1,000 which was enough to feed her children and keep going, but not enough to break free from financial struggles.

Everything changed when Margaret received an empowerment grant from ECEWS, through the Nka Uforo Iban Women Empowerment Project.

This grant gave her the boost she needed to transform her business. With the additional capital, she expanded her operations by purchasing a variety of fish and crayfish in bulk.

"I can now buy crayfish in large quantities, cover my business expenses easily, and make more

profit." Margaret said happily

This reduced her costs, increased her profit margins, and helped her build a more sustainable business. Today, Margaret no longer buys on credit or struggles with debt. "I can now buy crayfish in large quantities, cover my business expenses easily, and make more profit," she shares with pride. Thanks to the support she received, Margaret achieved financial stability and created a better life for herself and her seven children. Margaret's story is a significant example of how strategic support can empower women to overcome challenges, grow their businesses, and build a future of family. Her unwavering determination together with the support she received, helped Justina heal and rebuild her life.





Before



After

## Victoria's Flourishing Market Stall: A Story of Resilience and Empowerment

In the heart of Ifiayong Usuk community, Ifiayong-Uruan, Uruan LGA, resides Victoria Victor Ime, a woman whose story embodies resilience and the transformative power of empowerment. Seven years ago, Victoria's life took an unexpected turn when her husband left, leaving her to single-handedly care for their family. Undeterred by this challenge, she embraced the responsibility of providing for her children, starting by selling small goods at the local Idu-uruan market.

Victoria's entrepreneurial spirit ignited further when she received a ₦100,000 seed grant through the ECEWS Nka Uforo Iban Market Women Empowerment Project. This pivotal moment, coupled with the project's training opportunities, allowed Victoria to expand her business significantly. Her small stall, once offering only basic necessities, now boasts a vibrant array of foodstuffs, a testament to her hard work and the project's support. During a joint monitoring and evaluation visit to the Idu-Uruan market by ECEWS and the Nka Uforo Iban team, a grateful Victoria shared how the grant had been instrumental in the remarkable turnaround of her business. Her flourishing market stall stands not only as a source of income, but also as a symbol of her strength and determination.



## ECEWS Engages Community Leaders on the SPDC-Funded Community Health Insurance Scheme in Rivers State

Effective stakeholder engagement is paramount for the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of any community health program. This essential element was demonstrated at a crucial stakeholder meeting held on January 27, 2025, at the Hotel Presidential in Port Harcourt. The gathering focused on the significant progress being made in the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC)-funded Community Health Insurance Project in Akuku-Toru Local Government Area. The meeting served as an important platform for collaborative discussion and planning, bringing together a diverse range of key stakeholders. Among those in attendance were Chief (Dr.) M. S. D. Bobmanuel and esteemed members of the Akuku-Toru LGA Council of Chiefs Health Committee, whose local knowledge and leadership are invaluable to the project's success. Dr John Chukwu, the Medical Officer of Health for Akuku-Toru LGA, was also present, providing crucial insights from a public health perspective. Dr Andrew Etete, Medical Officer

in Charge of the Model Primary Health Care Thompson, and Barr. Theresa Dominic, underscoring their commitment to effective project execution. SPDC's dedication to the initiative was evident in the presence of key Centre in Abonnema, further enriched the discussion with his frontline experience in healthcare delivery. The implementing partner, ECEWS, was represented by Dr. Abiye Somiari, Mr. Salvation personnel, including Chief Evans Krukrubo, External Relations Manager – East; Dr. Alali Aloni, Public Health Advisor; Prof. Moses Oyefabi; Engr. Prince Irhete; and Mrs. Happiness Vincent. This robust meeting proved highly productive, facilitating a comprehensive review of key activity areas, the establishment of realistic and achievable timelines, and clarifying community responsibilities, all of which are essential for a smooth and successful launch of the scheme. ECEWS, as the implementing partner, remains steadfast in its commitment to working closely with all stakeholders to improve access to quality healthcare services for the people of Rivers State.





## Malaria Elimination Efforts gain Momentum

As the fight against malaria continues, ECEWS remains committed to supporting Nigeria's malaria elimination efforts through the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) within the Department of Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. At the recent State Level Training Workshop on Malaria Program Implementation in Nasarawa State, our Chief Health Officer, Dr. Okezie Onyedinachi, reaffirmed ECEWS's dedication to this critical cause. During his address, Dr. Onyedinachi emphasized the importance of collective action in combating malaria. Our mission, he stressed, is clear to support the government's efforts in eliminating malaria and promoting access to quality healthcare for all Nigerians. As we forge ahead in our malaria elimination efforts, ECEWS is poised to launch a series of innovative initiatives. From community-based malaria prevention and treatment programs to capacity building for healthcare workers and advocacy.



## Empowering Healthcare Professionals in Ebonyi State

In an effort to further reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, ECEWS recently conducted a two-day training in Ebonyi State. Implemented through the Global Fund N-THRIP project, the training focused on strengthening PMTCT service delivery by equipping healthcare center Officer in Charge (OICs) with the knowledge and skills to effectively deliver PMTCT interventions and prevent HIV transmission from mother to child. Participants gained a deeper understanding of the program's core components, key interventions, and the critical role of community engagement in successful implementation.

ECEWS staff, including Dr. Onyeka Osabiku, Dr. Frank Bokime, and Dr. Obi Olisa, facilitated interactive sessions covering a range of essential PMTCT topics. These sessions encompassed prevention strategies, treatment protocols, and comprehensive care approaches. Mr. Austin Obasi also provided specialized training on the accurate use of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) registers and the importance of meticulous documentation of client information.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the valuable training, noting its positive impact on their ability to provide quality care. ECEWS is proud to support these healthcare professionals in their dedication to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Ebonyi State.





## AviClaire Farms: ECEWS' Newest Addition in the Fight for Food Security

In its continued commitment to sustainable development, ECEWS has welcomed AviClaire Farms, a new partner in the battle for food security. Founded in April 2024, AviClaire Farms is on a mission to promote food security through environmentally friendly agronomic practices and innovative solutions to the challenges posed by climate change.

AviClaire Farms operates a state-of-the-art greenhouse farm designed to provide consistent, year-round yields, defying seasonal and climatic barriers. With four expansive 8m by 24m greenhouses, the farm cultivates a range of crops, including spicy habanero peppers, vibrant bell peppers, juicy tomatoes, and thriving seedlings ready for transplanting. So far, the farm has harvested 3 cycles of 303kg tomatoes, 25 cycles of 3349.36kg Habanero and Bell pepper 20 cycles 1059.22. Additionally, AviClaire offers expert consultancy and brokerage services for greenhouse farming, as well as training and management of greenhouse staff. The farm's commitment to community

engagement is evident in its employment of local indigenes. By providing jobs and training opportunities, AviClaire is helping to uplift the local population while promoting sustainable farming practices.

Key highlight of AviClaire's mission was a successful one-day training session held in October 2024, facilitated by a consultant from Dizengoff Nigeria. This training aimed to equip greenhouse farmers, open-field farmers, and agricultural stakeholders in Akwa Ibom State with essential climate-smart farm management techniques, integrated pest management, soil conservation, and entrepreneurship in agriculture. The event attracted 20 participants, including the CEO, Dr. Andy Eyo and Board members of ECEWS, AviClaire's management and staff, greenhouse owners, farmers from Uyo, Ikot Ekpene, and Abak Local Government Areas (LGA), as well as community stakeholders such as Akwa Ibom State Female Farmers Association and representatives from the Akwa Ibom State ARISE Agenda.







Through a combination of expert presentations, practical illustrations, and interactive discussions, participants gained a deeper understanding of the importance of sustainable agriculture and the role they can play in promoting food security. As the management noted, "Our goal is to not only produce high-quality crops but also to contribute to the development of our local community and promote sustainable agriculture practices that benefit both our people and the environment."

Overall, ECEWS' continuous support for initiatives that champion food security such as AviClaire Farms, represents a promising step forward. With its innovative approach to agriculture and commitment to community development, as well as commitment to sustainability, AviClaire is helping to shape the future of agriculture in Akwa Ibom and beyond, encouraging a more food-secure and climate-friendly world







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