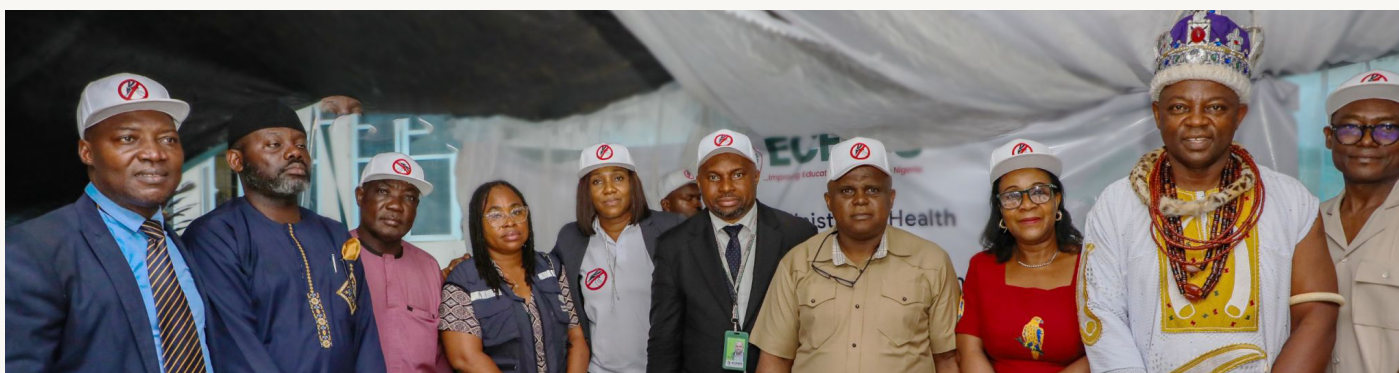


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From the CEO's Desk



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 brings you a powerful story of hope: Itunu's journey through hardship, her remarkable fortitude in overcoming obstacles. Itunu's story beautifully illustrates the transformative power of compassion, collaboration, and unwavering determination – values that lie at the heart of ECEWS's mission. Building on this spirit of impactful action, we also have exciting news to share! ECEWS recently launched our Malaria intervention in partnership with the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) in Enugu State funded by the Islamic Development bank through the Lives & Livelihoods Fund.

This project is deeply focused on driving down malaria mortality rates and fostering healthier communities within the state. This is just one of the many updates on our ongoing projects, all aimed at creating meaningful change.

Your invaluable support – whether through volunteering your time, providing donations, or lending your voice through advocacy – plays a crucial role in amplifying our impact and bringing about this meaningful change.

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

Thank you for being an integral part of the ECEWS journey. Your unwavering support for our cause fuels our efforts and inspires us to reach even greater heights. Let's continue to uplift each other and build a brighter future for all.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Andy Eyo

Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS

ECEWS Engages the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Youth Development to Strengthen Youth-Centred Health Initiatives in the State



Driven by its commitment to empowering young people and strengthening the HIV response, an ECEWS team, led by the Akwa Ibom State Director, Dr. Bala Gana engaged with the Akwa Ibom State Commissioner for Youth Development, Dr. Ekerete Paul Ekanem, and his team. The discussion focused on collaborative strategies to address the specific challenges adolescents and young people face in accessing HIV prevention and treatment services.

The Commissioner expressed strong support for joint programs designed to equip young people with the knowledge, resources, and support necessary to lead healthy lives. This meeting

represents a significant step toward a strong partnership between ECEWS and the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Youth Development, united by a shared vision of impactful, youth-centred health initiatives.

By expanding access to healthcare and forging strategic partnerships, ECEWS is promoting a comprehensive and sustainable approach to the HIV response, ultimately empowering communities, supporting young people, and accelerating progress toward HIV epidemic control in Akwa Ibom State.

World TB Day 2025: ECEWS Joins Partners Across Nigeria to Raise Awareness

In observance of World Tuberculosis Day 2025, ECEWS collaborated with key partners on March 24th to conduct impactful awareness and advocacy activities across all implementing states. These partners included the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program, the States Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programs, KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, and the World Health Organization.

In Akwa Ibom State, ECEWS organized a sensitization session at Ibesikpo Commercial Secondary School, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA, educating students about TB symptoms, prevention, and treatment. The interactive session featured discussions, myth-busting activities, and a Q&A segment, dispelling myths and misconceptions. This early engagement empowers students to become informed advocates for TB prevention and early detection within their communities.

In Cross River State, ECEWS partnered with the state government to conduct awareness campaigns in three secondary schools in Obubra and other communities. These campaigns emphasized the causative organism, preventive hygiene practices (such as handwashing and respiratory etiquette), and the importance of early diagnosis, helping to address persistent myths and promote healthier behaviours.



In Osun State, ECEWS organized an integration meeting with officials from the Osun State Agency for the Control of AIDS, the Osun State Health Management Board, and representatives from the State TB and Leprosy Control program. This meeting served as a strategic platform for partners to share insights into their current activities to control TB and collaboratively design action plans to strengthen the TB program. The Health Management Board pledged to improve communication between state-led TB teams and facility managers to ensure seamless service provision and reporting.

From empowering youth through education to engaging political leaders and communities, the 2025 World TB Day activities led by ECEWS highlight the impact of stakeholder engagement, community action, and strategic advocacy. Aligned with the global #EndTB strategy, these efforts affirm that eliminating TB demands collective action at every level of society.

Itunu's Story: A Journey from Hardship to Hope



At the tender age of six, Itunu's life had already been marked by profound loss. Her mother passed away during childbirth, leaving her without parents. This early vulnerability presented numerous challenges, especially as she was being cared for by her grandmother.

However, a significant turning point came when Itunu and her grandmother encountered the US CDC-funded Sustainable Program for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project, implemented by the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS). This intervention, strengthened by the collaboration of dedicated partners and the generosity of donations, offered a crucial helping hand. One of the most immediate and impactful changes was the provision of a wheelchair for Itunu. For a young child, mobility is crucial for exploration and development. The wheelchair provided Itunu with a newfound sense of independence, allowing her to engage more fully with her surroundings. "Now I can go play with the other children," Itunu would excitedly say, her small face

beaming.

The intervention also focused on empowering Itunu's grandmother, her dedicated caregiver. By providing resources and support to enhance her small provision store, the project helped create a more stable and secure home for Itunu. "Before, I just sell small-small things, and sometimes we no get enough," her grandmother shared, her brow furrowed at the memory of those difficult times. "But now, with their help, my business dey grow, and I can take better care of my granddaughter and even send her go school."

Itunu's story, even at such a young age, beautifully illustrates the profound impact of compassionate and well-directed support on vulnerable children and their caregivers, especially within the context of limited educational opportunities for the guardian. Her journey from early hardship to one filled with greater mobility, educational opportunities, and a more secure home environment underscores the power of community-based interventions.

ECEWS, through the SPEED project, continues to be a beacon of hope for many families in Nigeria, demonstrating the remarkable difference that can be made through equitable service delivery and genuine care that understands and addresses the unique challenges faced by individuals within their specific circumstances.



Little Itunu

University of Calabar (UNICAL) Honours ECEWS CEO

Education plays a transformative role in shaping individuals, providing them with the tools to excel, make impactful contributions, and stand out in their communities. This was the very essence the University of Calabar celebrated its 50th Anniversary and Convocation on March 20, 2025, at the International Conference Center in Calabar, honoring Dr. Andy Eyo, the Chief Executive Officer of Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) as a distinguished alumnus, and one of the Face of UNICAL at 50.

This recognition reflects Dr. Eyo's exceptional service to humanity and his significant achievements. Joined by his wife, Mrs. Victoria Eyo, he expressed gratitude to God and the UNICAL alumni community, acknowledging how the university, particularly the Department of Chemistry, played a pivotal role in shaping his successful journey as a Malabite. He highlighted the transformative work of ECEWS in advancing health, education, and economic empowerment across Nigeria.

Dr. Eyo also stated the importance of continued collaboration between ECEWS and his former department to foster scientific research and academic excellence, strengthening the department's future.

The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including Senate President Sen. Godswill Akpabio, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu, and Acting Governor of Cross River State, Rt. Hon. Peter Odey. The ECEWS ACE-5 leadership team, including Dr. Adeoye Adegboye, Dr. Otoyoy Toyo, and Dr. Joe Umana, also joined in honoring Dr. Eyo's exemplary contributions.





ECEWS Flags Off The National Malaria Elimination Program

To promote a health community, Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), in collaboration with the Enugu State Ministry of Health, officially launched the National Malaria Elimination Programme in Enugu on, April 2nd, 2025. The project is funded by Islamic Development bank through the lives and livelihoods fund (LLF).

The Honourable Commissioner for Health, Prof. Emmanuel Obi, representing His Excellency the Executive Governor of Enugu State, Mr. Peter Mba, led the flag-off event, highlighting the government commitment in supporting the project to thrive. Prof. Emmanuel Obi in his speech nobly recognized ECEWS as the leading partner to implement the malaria project. He also publicly announced free malaria treatment across all the facilities in the state.

The event was attended by notable stakeholders, including Dr. Nnenna Chizaram Ogbulafo, National Coordinator of NMEP, His Royal Majesty, Igwe Samuel Asadu, Chairman of the Enugu State Traditional Rulers Council, Dr. Ifeoma Otiji, Enugu State Malaria Elimination Program Coordinator, Philip Oyale- National Project Manager IMPACT/LLF project along with other state actors and partners. This milestone showcased the effectiveness of collaboration to achieving a malaria-free Enugu state.





NACA, ECEWS, and Partners Launch the Delta State PMTCT Paediatric HIV Acceleration Committee (PPAC) for Accelerated PMTCT and Paediatric HIV Efforts

A crucial step towards a brighter future for children living with HIV was taken in Asaba, Delta State, with the official inauguration of the PMTCT Paediatric HIV Acceleration Committee (PPAC) at the Prof. Chike Edozien State Secretariat Complex. Dr. Temitope Ilori, Director-General of National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), inaugurated the committee, underscoring its critical mission in the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) and improving paediatric HIV care and treatment.

The meeting also featured a presentation and discussions on PMTCT and paediatric HIV care, where Dr. Abutu Inedu, ECEWS Technical Director, emphasized the organization's significant contributions through the SPEED project's Accelerating Progress in Pediatrics and PMTCT (AP3) Program component. He reaffirmed ECEWS's commitment to supporting PPAC's mission, highlighting their leadership in strengthening healthcare services for children in Delta State. The event also featured collaborative input from WHO, Department of Public Health, Delta State AIDS and STIs Control Program (SASCP), and the Association of Women Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria, (ASWHAN), underscoring a unified approach to addressing paediatric HIV.

With the PPAC now operational, ECEWS is more committed to strengthening PMTCT and pediatric HIV services in Delta State.



ECEWS Commemorates World Oral Health Day 2025



The outreach commenced with an engaging oral health education session, delivered during the morning assembly. ECEWS staff, alongside IDFI professionals, highlighted the significance of proper oral hygiene, utilizing visual aids to demonstrate the negative consequences of poor habits, reinforcing the 2025 theme, "A happy mouth is a happy mind."

Following the educational component, ECEWS assisted in the coordination of dental hygiene screenings across five classrooms. Approximately over 200 students were examined, and those identified with oral -health issues were enlisted for - follow-up care. ECEWS also provided crucial technical support throughout the event with staff members actively participating in all aspects of the outreach.

In commemoration of World Oral Health Day 2025, Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), in collaboration with Ideal Dental Foundation, conducted a medical outreach at Junior Secondary School, Karonmajigi, FCT Abuja. ECEWS, recognizing the importance of holistic health, played a key role in the organization and execution of the event.

Oral hygiene gift items were distributed to students and teachers, further promoting positive oral health practices.



Aviclaire Farms Hosts University of Uyo Students on Cutting-Edge Farming Practices

Food security is a fundamental pillar for sustainable development, and Aviclaire Farms is at the forefront of addressing this critical issue through innovative solutions like greenhouse farming. Recently, the farm hosted an 18-person delegation from the Crop Science Association, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Uyo, offering them an in-depth look at modern farming practices.

Comrade Inimfon Thomas, President of the association, expressed his appreciation for Aviclaire Farms' dedication to agricultural excellence, stating the invaluable role of hands-on experience in shaping the future of agriculture. Mrs. Victoria Eyo, CEO of Aviclaire Farms, reiterated the farm's commitment to ensuring food security in Akwa Ibom, emphasizing the importance of local food production and less reliance on external sources. She encouraged the students to view agriculture as a profitable and fulfilling career, aligning with the farm's goal to foster young talent in the sector.

The farm's manager, Hon. Ntuen Anyang, further emphasized the importance of climate-smart farming and post-harvest management, sharing his 21 years of expertise. He passionately encouraged the students to explore farming as a viable and rewarding career.

The delegation was particularly impressed with the farm's greenhouse-grown tomatoes, bell peppers, and habaneros, which mature within 60 days and have a remarkable shelf life. Many students expressed a keen interest in internships and further training to develop their skills.

Through its partnership with ECEWS, Aviclaire Farms is dedicated to building food security in Akwa Ibom and beyond, while empowering the next generation of farmers and agricpreneurs through education, training, and innovative farming practices.



Strengthening Health Partnerships in Ekiti State



ECEWS recently paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Ekiti State, Dr. Oyebanji Filani and other stakeholders in Ekiti state health sector, including Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Executive Secretaries, and General Managers of major health parastatals to discuss strategies for enhancing service integration across all its supported health facilities in the state and to strengthen partnerships aimed at improving the health and well-being of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Ekiti State. It also served as a platform for sharing updates on the progress of HIV implementation and interventions in the state.



Stake holders focused on reviewing the current achievements, identifying existing gaps, and discussing the necessary strategies to strengthen the HIV response in Ekiti State. By ensuring accurate data checks and situational awareness, to help them effectively address challenges and drive improvements in the HIV response, ultimately enhancing health outcomes across the state.

By fostering strong collaborations, these efforts will contribute to more effective, coordinated healthcare services and better outcomes for the communities they serve.



ECEWS Supports Statewide Distribution of Life-Saving Anti-Tuberculosis Medications in Akwa Ibom State



ECEWS collaborated with the Akwa Ibom State Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program to distribute a limited stock of anti-TB medications to health facilities in the state. These essential medications, provided by the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program, were dispatched from the Akwa Ibom State Central Medical Store. By supporting the state in maintaining uninterrupted access to TB treatment, ECEWS is contributing to the critical goal of eliminating TB and improving health outcomes in local communities. This partnership demonstrates the power of collaboration in tackling public health challenges.

ECEWS Strengthens Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV through Community Outreach

The ECEWS, Epidemic Response Team in Ikom, Ogoja, Obudu, Yala and Bekwarra Local Government Areas, in Cross River State, conducted targeted visits to Community Birth Centres. These visits aimed to ensure that pregnant women receive essential interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

During the visit, pregnant women received counselling on the importance of treatment adherence and regular follow-up care, HIV Testing Services were provided, and HIV-negative pregnant women were educated on the role of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in reducing the risk of HIV acquisition during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

At the Lutheran Hospital, Ikom, an infant exposed to HIV was identified and started on prophylaxis treatment within 72 hours of birth, and a blood sample was collected for early infant diagnosis. The mother received counselling on exclusive breastfeeding, immunization, family planning, and was encouraged to return for follow-up care, including Cotrimoxazole initiation and a second DBS collection at six weeks. ECEWS is committed to eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission, by integrating education, and preventive measures, to improve maternal and child health, promoting a healthier future for mothers and newborns in the community.





ECEWS Advances Laboratory Quality with Specialized Training for ISO 15189:2022 Accreditation Standards

In a concerted effort to strengthen laboratory quality management systems, ECEWS partnered with the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital to deliver a two-day training program focused on transitioning to ISO 15189:2022. The training is an important component of a comprehensive health and safety program, and ISO 15189:2022 is the most recent edition of the ISO standard for Medical Laboratory Management Systems. The revised standard places greater emphasis on quality and competence, requiring laboratory staff to adapt to new requirements.

The training, which brought together 20 participants in two batches, with the first batch held from March 26 to 27, 2025. This training is a critical component of the laboratory's quality assurance strategy, reinforcing adherence to international best practices and improving the reliability of diagnostic services.

Topics covered include risk-based thinking, process control, and continuous quality improvement. A comparative assessment demonstrated a 30% increase in knowledge, with average scores improving from 40% on the pretest to 70% on the post-test. The second batch of training took place from April 2 to 3, 2025.

ECEWS remains dedicated to advancing laboratory standards and ensuring the best possible patient care outcomes.

Enhancing HIV Response in Osun State: ECEWS Participates in Osun State Partners Coordination Platform (PCP)– Steering Committee for State-Led HIV Response



The Osun State government recently convened a crucial Partners Coordination Platform Forum, demonstrating strong ownership of its HIV response. Planned and executed by the state, chaired by the Director of Public Health, Dr. Akeem Bello, the meeting highlighted the state's commitment without direct ECEWS financial support. ECEWS, through the SPEED Project, provided technical support and guidance during the forum. State Program Manager Dr. Oluwaseunfunmi Adefiranye emphasized ECEWS's ongoing commitment to delivering technical guidance aimed at ensuring the delivery of high-quality services to people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Osun State, thereby sustaining access to life-saving medications and strengthening health systems.

The meeting, a clear indication of the state's proactive approach, underscored the critical importance of multi-sector collaboration, strategic review, and the seamless integration of HIV services within the broader health sector to build resilient systems. A significant focus was the collaborative planning process for the State Strategic Plan 2025-2027, with Dr. Adefiranye encouraging active participation from all stakeholders, supported by ECEWS's technical insights.

This state-led initiative, with ECEWS's technical backing, showcases a strong and sustainable approach to strengthening Osun State's HIV response.



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