

ECEWS RISING

APRIL 2025 EDITION



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From the CEO's Desk



As we flip through this April edition, I'm reminded of the incredible strength, compassion, and resilience that define the ECEWS family. Each edition offers not just updates but stories that inspire, and this one is no different.

Edidiong's journey from despair to healing, following her diagnosis with advanced HIV during our outreach in Udung Uko, forms its core. Her recovery, made possible through steady support and care, shows how hope can thrive even in the darkest times.

Olusiji's story is equally powerful. Once weighed down by stigma and isolation, he's now a strong advocate, reshaping narratives and encouraging others to seek help. His transformation, supported by our SPEED project and partners, is proof of the life-changing power of compassionate, holistic care support in healing.

This edition also highlights progress across health, education, and leadership. From the renovation of Union Secondary School in Ibiono Ibom, to our World Malaria Day campaigns in Enugu and Akwa Ibom, our efforts

show the power of collaboration in driving change.

I was honoured to speak at the More Leadership Academy graduation part of our ongoing investment in young leaders. And through Aviclaire Farms' work with CWFI, we're bringing sustainable agriculture closer to women and families.

On World Hypertension Day, our outreach in Delta State reminded us that person-centered care remains essential to our work.

None of this would be possible without you, our supporters, partners, volunteers, and team. Your belief in our mission fuels every impact.

Let this newsletter not just inform but inspire us all to keep pushing forward together.
With sincere appreciation,

Andy Eyo

Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS

Dr. Andy Eyo, ECEWS CEO, Delivers Keynote Lecture to More Leadership Academy Graduates

Our CEO delivered an electrifying lecture at the graduation ceremony of More Leadership Academy. Speaking on the powerful theme, "Building Character and Systems for Personal and Organizational Success and Growth," he ignited a vision for the future in the hearts of young

leaders. In his address, Dr. Eyo emphasized that effective leadership is rooted in character, resilience, and sustainable systems. He encouraged the graduates to lead with integrity, innovation, and purpose, and to translate their vision into tangible impact.

Dr. Eyo's message resonated with the audience, motivating them as they prepared to take on leadership roles. His involvement highlights ECEWS's commitment to empowering young leaders and building capacity for positive change.



Ebonyi State's Health Insurance for HIV/TB Patients Strengthened by Global Fund through ECEWS



The Ebonyi State Health Insurance Agency (EBSHIA) convened a two-day stakeholders' meeting aimed at advancing the enrolment of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) patients into the state's health insurance scheme, with funding support from the Global Fund the initiative targets 29,373 beneficiaries and is

expected to run through 2026. The meeting brought together key partners, including representatives from Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), to strategize on effective implementation. Discussions centered on the identification and enrolment of eligible PLHIV, strengthening data-sharing systems

between service providers, and intensifying community engagement to boost enrolment, particularly as most antiretroviral therapy (ART) sites in the state have now been accredited by EBSHIA. Under the scheme, beneficiaries will have access to a comprehensive health insurance package covering routine investigations and essential healthcare services, excluding cancer-related treatments. Enrolment has already commenced; a valid National Identification Number (NIN) is required for registration. Moreso, Day two (2) of the meeting featured group work on

the ongoing protocol development for the evaluation of the phased rollout and operational research on the use of Tenofovir alafenamide (TAF) + Emtricitabine (FTC) + Dolutegravir (DTG) for treatment-naïve PLHIV. This study will be conducted across 13 ART centers representing the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. ECEWS is committed to supporting sustainable health financing solutions that improve access to care for vulnerable populations, including those living with HIV and TB.



ECEWS and Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Education Launch School Renovation Project in Ibiono Ibom LGA

Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), in partnership with the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Education and with funding support from the Bank of Industry (BOI), has officially launched a school renovation project at Union Secondary School, Ibiaku Ibiono Ibom Local Government Area.

The initiative stems from a recently strengthened collaboration between ECEWS and the Ministry, following a strategic meeting between ECEWS CEO, Dr.

Andy Eyo, and the Honourable Commissioner for Education, Prof. Ubong Essien Umoh. Both leaders emphasized the urgent need to improve educational infrastructure across the state, ensuring students have access to safe, conducive, and inspiring learning environments.

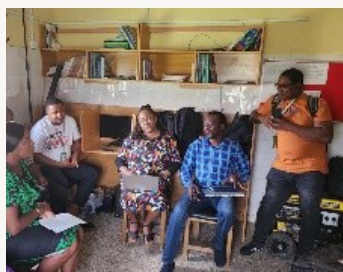
The renovation project will cover key facilities, including the Fine Art block, Administrative block, Classroom blocks, lavatories, and the Staff Room, all aimed at supporting academic excellence and staff efficiency.

The flag-off ceremony, led by Prof. Umoh and Permanent Secretary Lady Rose Bassey, was attended by school management, staff, and community stakeholders. Their presence underscored a shared commitment to advancing educational development in the state.

We remain dedicated to working with government and private sector partners to drive transformative impact in education, health, and community development across Akwa Ibom and beyond.



Strengthening HIV Care in Delta State: ECEWS Team Conducts a Technical Assistance Visit



In a concerted effort to enhance HIV care and treatment services in Delta State, a team from the ECEWS Abuja office, led by Dr. Oche Ekele and Madunagu Uduak, carried out a three-day technical assistance visit to key healthcare facilities across the state.

The visit commenced on Monday, 5th May 2025, with an in-brief session with the Delta State team, setting the tone for a series of targeted facility engagements. The team visited the Oshimili South Community Support Care Centre (CSCC), Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Asaba, General Hospital Okwe, and Ika South CSCC, focusing on process reviews, mentorship, and capacity building.

At Oshimili South CSCC, the team identified gaps in

documentation, particularly within the tracking register, and recommended improvements to strengthen continuity of care. At FMC Asaba, the team inspected the facility's molecular biology laboratory, which houses a 16-module GeneXpert machine currently used for Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) testing. Discussions were held on the facility's readiness to commence viral load testing services.

Logistics management and case manager support were also highlighted as critical areas requiring enhancement across the facilities. At Ika South CSCC, the ECEWS team provided targeted mentorship on pediatric HIV care and violence

protection services, reinforcing best practices and offering practical guidance to frontline healthcare providers.

The visit emphasized peer learning, with facilities encouraged to share successful strategies and lessons learnt in service delivery. Each facility was assigned follow-up actions to address observed gaps and improve overall service quality.

This technical assistance visit reflects ECEWS' ongoing commitment to strengthening health systems and improving outcomes for people living with HIV in Delta State.

Olusiji Launches Book "Drag On" to Tell His Story as ECEWS Reaffirms Commitment

ECEWS proudly participated in the recent book launch of "Drag On" by Olusiji, a beneficiary whose journey from HIV diagnosis to health and advocacy we've supported. His book is a powerful testament to resilience and hope. "Drag On" details Olusiji's journey from initial despair in Ondo State, through crucial early support, to finding comprehensive care under ECEWS's SPEED Project in Osun State, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. His adherence to treatment led to an undetectable viral load, a testament to the effectiveness of dedicated care.

The book launch was also an opportunity for ECEWS to reiterate our enduring commitment to vulnerable communities across Nigeria. Olusiji's transformation, enabled by the support of networks like CISHAN, NEPWHAN, ASWHAN, AYPIN, and the Garnet Youth Development Foundation, showcases the potential of collaborative efforts in providing the right care for clients.

ECEWS remains dedicated to providing essential healthcare services, fostering well-being, and building resilient communities. Olusiji's courage in sharing his story through "Drag On" is a powerful catalyst for change, and we are proud to stand alongside him and countless others on their journeys towards healthier, and more fulfilling lives.



Restoring Hope, Empowering Edidiong

I spent all my money on herbal mixtures and drugs from the chemist, but I was dying slowly. I didn't know that I had HIV until they came to my house to test me and took me to the hospital where I was given free drugs. Now, I can do things that I could not do before. I am starting to look good again," Edidiong recalls.



The Excellent Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), funded by PEPFAR through USAID, is a lifeline for vulnerable populations in Nigeria, particularly those living with HIV.

ECEWS's client-centric, holistic care model goes beyond medical treatment, addressing the social and psychological needs of individuals, especially those with advanced HIV who are at high risk. One such person, Edidiong, a 26-year-old aspiring hairdresser, fell seriously ill in January 2024. After seeking ineffective remedies

and being told her illness was the result of witchcraft, her condition worsened.

In April 2024, ECEWS healthcare workers diagnosed her with advanced HIV during a community-based outreach in her hometown of Udung Uko, Akwa Ibom State. Initially reluctant to accept the diagnosis, Edidiong refused treatment, believing in the spiritual cause of her illness.

ECEWS took a compassionate, tailored approach, providing her with weekly home visits,

psychosocial support, and counseling. As her health improved, Edidiong began adhering to her HIV and tuberculosis treatments. Today, her health has dramatically improved, and she is regaining her strength, confidence, and hope for the future. Edidiong's journey highlights ECEWS's commitment to providing comprehensive care to people living with HIV, transforming lives through support and compassion.

ECEWS Participates in 2025 Joint Annual Review to Strengthen Health Systems in Ekiti State

Annual reviews are vital for assessing progress, identifying areas for improvement, and informing strategic decisions in the healthcare sector. This underscores the significance of the 2025 Joint Annual Review of Ekiti State's Health Sector, where stakeholders came together to reflect on the state's health performance, evaluate progress made, and address critical gaps. ECEWS presented comprehensive updates focusing on the quality of care and HIV/AIDS program achievements, highlighting key milestones and challenges. Through robust data review and participatory discussions, the workshop successfully aligned stakeholders on the realities of the health system and collective steps needed to move forward. The Joint Annual Report Scorecard and action plans were finalized for implementation, with expectations that the momentum gained will translate into strengthened systems, better resource utilization, and more impactful health services across the state.



ECEWS Stakeholder Engagement Meeting Fosters Synergy in Cross River State's HIV Response

In a significant step towards collaborative progress, a stakeholder engagement meeting was convened, bringing together key partners from Zipline, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Cross River State AIDS and STIs Control Program (SASCP) and the State AIDS Program Coordinator (SAPC), Madam Mary Amah. The meeting led by Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) management team, comprising of Deputy Chief of Party, Dr. Toyo, Associate Director Paediatrics/Prevention of Mother to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), Dr. Esther Nwanja, Project State Director, Dr. Joseph Umana including other personnel aimed to harmonize efforts and foster synergy among implementing partners working to strengthen the HIV response in Cross River State, Nigeria. The stakeholder engagement meeting provided a platform for in-depth discussions on aligning the revised scope of the ACE-5 project, enhancing coordination, and maximizing impact at the sub-national level. Key focus areas also included deepening state ownership of HIV interventions, streamlining service delivery through innovative logistics solutions such as Zipline's drone-based medical supply distribution, and exploring sustainable financing options through domestic resource mobilization. The meeting successfully reinforced shared priorities and mapped out collaborative approaches for upcoming implementation cycles, ultimately strengthening the HIV response in the state.



World Malaria Day 2025: ECEWS Partners with States to Reignite the Fight Against Malaria

As part of global efforts to mark World Malaria Day 2025, ECEWS joined state-led initiatives in Enugu and Akwa Ibom to raise awareness and strengthen community-based malaria interventions. This year's theme, "Malaria Ends with Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite", underscores the urgent need for renewed commitment, innovation, and collaboration in the fight against malaria. In Enugu State, ECEWS collaborated with the State Malaria Elimination Programme to implement a comprehensive campaign that began with a press briefing

by the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu. He reaffirmed the government's dedication to malaria elimination and called for increased stakeholder support.

A media parley followed, where the commissioner engaged with journalists and civil society groups to promote public awareness, treatment-seeking behaviour, and the use of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs). Community-based activities, including roadshows, health talks,

and free malaria testing and treatment, directly reached over 3,000 individuals, while IEC materials were widely distributed.

In Akwa Ibom State, the ECEWS ACE-5 team led by Dr. Bala Gana participated in the state's official flag-off ceremony on April 24. Organized by the State Malaria Elimination Programme, the event featured the symbolic presentation of donated malaria commodities by Ibom Air to the State Ministry of Health, an example of corporate social

responsibility in action. The event launched a week-long series of sensitization and outreach activities targeting vulnerable groups, particularly pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and children, who bear the highest burden of malaria. Speakers emphasized the importance of multi-sectoral engagement, innovative delivery models, and increased domestic resource mobilization to sustain progress.



ECEWS Participates in Stakeholder Engagement for the Review and Alignment of the Akwa Ibom State HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan



ECEWS Akwa Ibom State Director, Dr. Bala Gana, led ECEWS team on April 22, 2025, to participate in a one-day stakeholder sensitization and technical meeting convened by the Akwa Ibom State Agency for the Control of AIDS (AKSACA). The meeting, supported by the Global Fund through the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), brought together high-level stakeholders, including the Akwa Ibom State Honourable Commissioners for Health, Education, and Economic Development, as well as desk officers, development partners, community-based organizations, and media representatives. ECEWS delivered goodwill remarks on behalf of all implementing partners, reinforcing its commitment to supporting a sustainable and inclusive HIV response in the state.

The meeting focused on reviewing and aligning the Akwa Ibom State HIV Strategic Plan (SSP) to national priorities

and the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030. Keynote speaker Dr. Enobong Akpan, Program Manager of AKSACA, addressed the implications of declining U.S. government funding and highlighted strategic adaptations such as the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) model, Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD), and community pharmacy integration to ensure service continuity.

Participants discussed critical issues including stakeholder expectations, implementation challenges from the previous strategic plan, and recommendations for improvement, which included expanding HIV awareness and prevention efforts in schools, traditional institutions, and communities; increasing state-level budgetary allocations to reduce donor dependency; establishing a State HIV Trust Fund to support sustainable programming; and developing a State Unified Operational Plan (SUOP) for quarterly coordination and monitoring of partner activities.

The revised SSP is expected to strengthen integration of HIV services into broader health systems and social protection structures while ensuring equitable access, zero new infections, zero AIDS-related deaths, and zero stigma and discrimination.

Breaking Barriers: Reaching Hard-to-Reach Communities with Life-Saving HIV Services in Cross River State



ECEWS ACE-5 team in Cross River State conducted targeted outreaches in Obubra and Yakurr Local Government Areas (LGAs), focusing on hard-to-reach communities. These outreaches aimed to sustain treatment continuity, enhance HIV case identification, and map healthcare facilities for future drone-supported services. The team's efforts yielded significant results: 42 clients received ART refills, 21 samples were collected for viral load monitoring, and three clients were newly initiated on TB Preventive Therapy (TPT). Efforts in pediatric case finding also advanced, with HIV testing conducted for 30 biological children in Obubra and 14 in

Yakurr. Additionally, 28 pregnant women underwent HIV testing, and 60 OraQuick test kits were distributed to support community-led HIV self-testing. Notably, one new HIV-positive individual was identified and promptly linked to care. These strategic, community-based interventions demonstrate the impact of innovative delivery models, highlighting the need to scale up efforts to expand equitable access to quality HIV care and treatment services in underserved areas.

Drone-Enabled Technology to Revolutionize HIV Treatment: ECEWS and Zipline Partner with Wife of the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Nigeria



On April 7th, 2025, ECEWS convened a pivotal stakeholder engagement meeting with the Solving the Barriers to HIV Prevention and Treatment Amongst Nigeria's Highest Risk Population Project and the First Lady of Cross River State, Mrs. Eyoanwan Bassey Otu. This meeting marked a significant milestone in our collective efforts to revolutionize healthcare delivery in the state, leveraging cutting-edge drone-enabled technology to bridge the gap in accessibility for hard-to-reach populations living with HIV. During the meeting, the First Lady expressed her unequivocal support for the project,

recognizing its vast potential to transform the landscape of healthcare accessibility in Cross River State. A key outcome of the meeting was the agreement to collaborate on promoting and implementing the project, ensuring that it receives the necessary attention, resources, and support to drive success.

The discussions also centered on potential resources and support from the State Government, showing their commitment to ensuring the project's success. With the First Lady's keen interest and the State Government's support, we are confident that this initiative will significantly improve healthcare delivery and accessibility in Cross River State, ultimately enhancing the lives of those affected by HIV. The meeting was also attended by key stakeholders, including ECEWS and Zipline team, dedicated to driving this initiative progress and ensuring its success. As we move forward, we look forward to building on this momentum and working collaboratively to achieve our goals.

ECEWS advances Akuku-Toru Community Health Insurance Scheme Client Enrolment with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) Partnerships

ECEWS has taken a significant step towards enrolling beneficiaries in the Akuku-Toru Community Health Insurance Scheme, a social health insurance project of Renaissance Africa Energy Company, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with two Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), HCI Healthcare and ProHealth. ECEWS has further strengthened the partnership between the HMOs and healthcare facilities, including the Model Primary Health Center in Abonnema, Rivers State, Nigeria, which serves Wards 1 to 13 within the Akuku-Toru Local Government Area, through strategic discussions focused on enrolment processes, facility and staff roles, identification methods for enrollees, technology integration, community mobilization, and data management. The HMOs have committed to collaborating with the community to recruit local enrolment officers, ensuring a seamless enrolment process. With pre-enrolment activities nearing completion, enrolment is expected to commence soon.



Enhancing HIV Testing Quality: ECEWS Supports Production of Dried Tube Specimen (DTS) Panels in Ekiti State

Striving for excellence in healthcare delivery, accurate and reliable testing is crucial for HIV early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Dried tube specimen (DTS) technology, a universally accepted, cost-effective HIV rapid test Quality Assurance (QA) measure, plays a vital role in achieving this feat. Utilized for Internal Quality Control (IQC) and Proficiency Testing (PT) programs, DTS technology enables healthcare providers to assess the quality of test kits used for HIV serology testing. This technology is particularly supported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) funded Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project in Ekiti, Osun, and Delta States, which uses HIV Serology DTS PT as a key parameter to assess test kit quality following the national serial algorithm protocol.

As part of this effort, ECEWS is providing technical support to 24 multi-testing points, HIV rapid testing at the CDC-supported health facilities in Ekiti State enabling monitoring of the quality of rapid HIV serology testing, the analytical performance of the testers, and improve test accuracy and reliability. Recently, ECEWS Laboratory team, in collaboration with the State Quality Improvement Implementation Team (SQIIT), produced 2,175 DTS panels for Proficiency Testing (PT) and Quality Control (QC) at Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH) during

a 5-day program between April 7th-11th, 2025 to support and improve the quality of HIV serology Testing services across ECEWS-supported facilities in Ekiti State.

This initiative enables healthcare providers to maintain high standards of diagnostic quality and ensure that test results are accurate and reliable. The DTS panels help identify and correct errors in testing procedures, improve laboratory practices, and evaluate the accuracy, precision, and reliability of HIV rapid test kits. By detecting potential issues with test kits, DTS ensures that they provide correct and consistent results, which is critical for public health. This collaborative effort between ECEWS and SQIIT affirms the importance of quality improvement initiatives in HIV testing and care, ultimately contributing to better healthcare outcomes in Ekiti State.



ECEWS Supports Health Facilities with Opportunistic Infection Medications for People Living with HIV (PLHIVs)

In line with its mission to strengthen HIV care and treatment services, Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) Osun State team provided medications to support the treatment of Opportunistic Infections among People Living with HIV across 8 supported health facilities in Osun State. The medications were presented to the Osun State Director of Pharmaceutical Services-Health Management Board (HMB), Dr. Moteehat Olulawal, who appreciated ECEWS's generous support. This initiative ensures that people living with HIV can access timely treatment for infections that can complicate their health, leading to significant morbidity and mortality. ECEWS is committed to making every effort to ensure individuals infected with HIV achieve good health outcomes and improve survival rates.

Finding Strength Beyond Stigma: Olusiji's Story

Olusiji, a vibrant 53-year-old, received news on May 8th, 2019, that felt like a life sentence: he was HIV positive. Within the sterile walls of Ondo State General Hospital in Akure, despair washed over him, convincing him his life had reached its final chapter. The diagnosis triggered a cascade of losses, his physical health waned, his overall well-being plummeted, and his CD4 count was found to be significantly low. This stark reality led him to depression, ultimately costing him his job. In the depths of his depression, Olusiji neglected his antiretroviral (ARV) medications, unknowingly further jeopardizing his health.

The stigma that followed was a cruel blow. Friends and even close family members recoiled, their judgment a heavy burden that drove him to seek refuge in his village, a place he envisioned as his final retreat. As his health deteriorated further due to non-adherence to his medication, his situation progressed to Advanced HIV Disease (AHD). A lifeline emerged in the form of a compassionate friend. This individual's unwavering encouragement and counsel nudged Olusiji back to care and towards his medications. Yet, the sting of stigmatization in Ondo proved too sharp to bear. In 2021, seeking a fresh start and continued care, Olusiji transferred his clinic from Akure, Ondo State, to General Hospital in Emure, Ekiti State, initially supported by APIN.

Then, in late 2022, the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) stepped in, through the Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project becoming Olusiji's steadfast ally. Under our care, with consistent access to his ARV drugs and comprehensive support from friends and other partners, a remarkable transformation began. His health rebounded dramatically, the once-insidious virus retreating until it became undetectable. Today, Olusiji beams with a vitality he hadn't felt in years, in his words, "I'm even healthier than I was before I was diagnosed."

Olusiji's story, however, extends beyond his personal triumph. Following his relocation, he seamlessly transferred his treatment to Osun State, continuing his wellness journey with ECEWS's steadfast support. Having overcome his initial challenges, Olusiji now shares his powerful narrative. Both ECEWS and the Osun State Ministry of Health have provided platforms to amplify his voice, with further support from networks like the Network of People Living with HIV (NEPWHAN), the Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN), the Adolescents and Youth in Nigeria (AYPIN) and the Civil Society for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CiSHAN), all offering avenues to share his experiences. Actively collaborating with organizations such as the Garnet Youth Development Foundation, Olusiji lends his voice to advocacy, dismantling stigma, and inspiring countless individuals towards testing, treatment adherence, and a future unburdened by their HIV status. His legacy is not merely one of survival, but a spreading wave of hope and understanding, transforming lives and perceptions within Osun State, Nigeria, and beyond.

ECEWS continues its commitment to providing comprehensive support to vulnerable populations across Nigeria, ensuring access to essential healthcare services, promoting well-being, and fostering resilient communities where individuals can thrive, regardless of their health status.



ECEWS Partner: Aviclaire Farms Empowers Communities through Sustainable Agriculture Workshop



Aviclaire Farms recently had the privilege of supporting the Christian Women Fellowship International (CWFI) during their Akwa Ibom State Bishopric Convention in Uyo. Our team delivered a training session on "Go Green in Agriculture," focusing on accessible approaches to agriculture that can be adopted at the household level.

The session introduced participants to innovative methods such as using planting bags and containers to create small-scale gardens, even in limited spaces. This approach is practical for both urban and rural households, promoting self-reliance and food sustainability. The training drew strong engagement from attendees, with many expressing enthusiasm to start small-scale farming. This response highlights the need for community-based interventions in agriculture and reinforces Aviclaire Farms' commitment to driving food security and inclusive agricultural participation through education and hands-on training.

This successful collaboration with CWFI underscores the power of partnerships in advancing local agricultural knowledge and building stronger food systems. We're excited to continue working together to empower more women and communities.



ECEWS Marks World Hypertension Day with Person Centered Care Outreach in Delta State, Nigeria

In a significant move to promote public health and combat non-communicable diseases, ECEWS commemorated World Hypertension Day 2025 with a community outreach initiative in Delta State, Nigeria. Our dedicated team organized an impactful road walk that began at the Central Hospital, Warri, and culminated at the bustling Enerhen Junction Market.

This comprehensive initiative was designed to empower the public with health knowledge and direct access to essential services. During the outreach, we provided health promotion education, offered free screenings for three prevalent health challenges: hypertension, diabetes, and HIV. Crucially, participants also received personalized treatment recommendations, ensuring that individuals gained actionable insights into managing their health.

Beyond the numbers and statistics, a core tenet of our outreach was the unwavering commitment to person-centred care. We deeply emphasized the importance of individuals taking ownership of their health journeys and actively participating in shared



decision-making processes with healthcare providers. This approach fosters greater engagement and better long-term health outcomes.

The response was truly inspiring. We witnessed enthusiastic engagement from both market traders and the general public, many of whom committed to incorporating regular health check-ups into their routines. This level of participation underscores a growing awareness and desire within the community for improved health.

This impactful initiative was made possible with the support of the International Aids Society (IAS)-funded Community Person-Centered Care (COMPERC) seed grant intervention. ECEWS is committed to collaborations that are key in strengthening public health efforts and reaching communities with life-saving information and services. We remains committed to fostering a healthier Nigeria through proactive engagement and sustainable health solutions.



ECEWS Strengthens Monitoring & Evaluation for Enugu State Malaria Control



ECEWS, through its Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)-funded NMEP-Malaria project, recently wrapped up a successful four-day integrated Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) training in Enugu. Held from May 12-15, 2025, the intensive program drew a wide range of key participants, including M&E personnel and Heads of Departments/Health Secretaries from all 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs), M&E officers from various ministries and MDAs, representatives from tertiary health facilities, Malaria Focal Persons, Health Educators, and staff from both the State Implementation Unit and ECEWS.

The training kicked off with

a welcome address from Dr. Ayodele Alegbeleye, who, as the Project Director, underscored the critical importance of robust data management in ensuring accountability and driving effective interventions against malaria. Dr. Chiedozie Anunobi, Head of Programs at ECEWS, then provided an insightful overview of ECEWS's broad interventions across education, health, and economic strengthening sectors, demonstrating how accurate data underpins success in all these areas.

Expert resource persons, including Abuja-based M&E Specialist Mr. Abdullah Muhammad and ECEWS M&E Manager Mr. Chukwuemeka Ekwelem, led dynamic sessions. Topics covered included a wide array of topics, from the fundamentals of M&E

and reporting basics to advanced components like Data Quality Assurance (DQA), data triangulation, and supportive supervision, including review and validation meetings.

Participants also delved into national health management information system tools, data quality assurance, data triangulation, and supportive supervision techniques. The hands-on training featured practical exercises, such as filling OPD registers and utilizing Kobocollect for supervision visits, ensuring real-world applicability.

The program wrapped up with a comprehensive review of key takeaways and an analysis of Enugu State's malaria impact dashboard. By empowering participants with these vital skills,

ECEWS is committed to improving M&E reporting and enhancing the effective delivery of malaria impact projects at the LGA level across Enugu State.



ECEWS Participates in Law Enforcement Agencies Training on Harm Reduction

Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) N-THRIP project team participated in a multi-agency training on harm reduction, organized by the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) in Abuja. The training brought together key stakeholders from Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) across 10 states representing all geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Participants included representatives from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Nigeria

Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), alongside implementing partners (IPs) from the various Global Fund-supported states.

The training aimed to strengthen collaboration between LEAs and the State Implementation Teams (SITs) on harm reduction strategies within the Global Fund implementation framework. A key takeaway from the sessions was the call for stronger partnership and alignment between law enforcement agencies and state-level actors to ensure

effective harm reduction programming for people who use drugs, particularly in high-burden states.

ECEWS reaffirms its commitment to advancing inclusive health

interventions and fostering multi-sectoral partnerships in the fight against HIV and other public health challenges.



Strengthening Pharmaceutical Services for PLHIV: Enhanced Refill Protocols, Stock Management, and Stakeholder Engagement Across Supported Facilities

In line with ongoing efforts to improve logistics and commodity management for the care of People Living with HIV (PLHIV), ECEWS ACE-5 team intensified support for People Living with HIV (PLHIV) across health facilities, focusing on logistics and commodity management to enhance service quality and efficiency. Additionally, key interventions included maintaining optimal stock levels, triangulating consumption data, and coordinating client refills with viral load sample collection. As a result, clients received a three-month supply of antiretroviral medications

for six months, supporting continuity of care. Furthermore, ECEWS facilitated supportive initiatives, including child, teen, and adolescent clubs, Mentor Mother-led support groups, and Drug Therapeutic Committee meetings, promoting adherence and improving health outcomes. Meanwhile, weekly ARV stock-taking exercises were conducted, and stock data was uploaded to Google Sheets and the DPT platform for real-time monitoring. The team worked in close collaboration with Akwa Ibom State Government personnel and project staff at hub-and-spoke facilities, including those in remote creek communities, to ensure uniform adoption and effective implementation of the new guidance. Consequently, these efforts ensured uninterrupted treatment, enhanced patient satisfaction, and strengthened collaboration with healthcare providers and community stakeholders. Ultimately, the team's proactive approach improved data-driven decision-making and optimized resource allocation.





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