



ECEWS  
...improving Education and Health in Nigeria

# ECEWS Echoes

24  
YEARS  
OF CHANGING LIVES  
SINCE 2001





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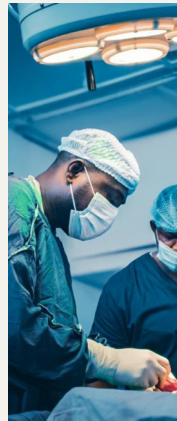


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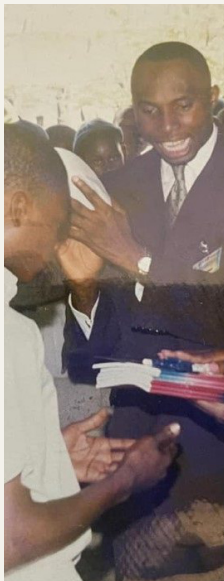
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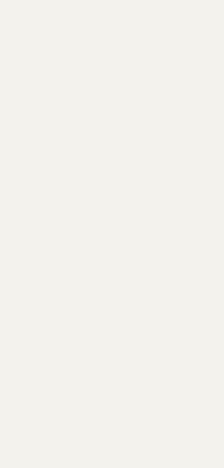
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## CEO'S DESK



As we celebrate 24 years at ECEWS, I'm incredibly proud of our journey. We set out to build healthier communities, and we've done just that by empowering individuals, fostering education, and improving health across communities.

Together with our partners, we've helped support vulnerable individuals and communities. Thank you for trusting us to walk alongside you. We're more committed than ever to building stronger communities for many more years to come.

*Dr. Andy Eyo*

CEO, ECEWS

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## Our Journey So Far

### A Look Back at Our Journey: 24 Years of Building Brighter Futures.

As we mark 24 remarkable years since our inception, ECEWS stands at a pivotal moment, reflecting on a journey driven by an unwavering commitment to human development. From our earliest days, we recognized that lasting change blossoms not from isolated efforts, but from the powerful synergy of interconnected support systems. It was this foundational insight that propelled us to become The Nexus of Opportunity, Knowledge, and Well-being—a guiding principle that has shaped every initiative and transformed countless lives.

In the realm of Economic Strengthening, we've witnessed incredible transformations, moving individuals and families from vulnerability to self-reliance. Through innovative micro-enterprise development, vocational training, and access to crucial financial

literacy, often facilitated by strategic collaborations with organizations like Nkauforoban Inc and other dedicated partners, we've helped countless hands build businesses, cultivate sustainable livelihoods, and actively break generational cycles of poverty. Our work in this pillar has been about much more than just income; it's about igniting a spark of Opportunity and fostering dignity in communities often overlooked.

Our dedication to Education has been equally profound. We've tirelessly championed access to quality learning environments, fostering digital literacy in underserved areas, and equipping individuals with the critical thinking skills essential for navigating a rapidly changing world. Beyond traditional classrooms, our extensive health education campaigns have disseminated life-saving Knowledge, empowering communities to

make informed decisions about their health and well-being, paving the way for brighter, more informed futures.

At the very core of our mission lies the unwavering commitment to Health. We've worked tirelessly to strengthen health systems, improve access to essential services, and combat prevalent diseases such as HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. From vital maternal and child health interventions to comprehensive wellness programs and disease prevention efforts, our initiatives have directly translated into improved Well-being for thousands, fostering healthier populations capable of participating fully in their own development and contributing actively to their communities.





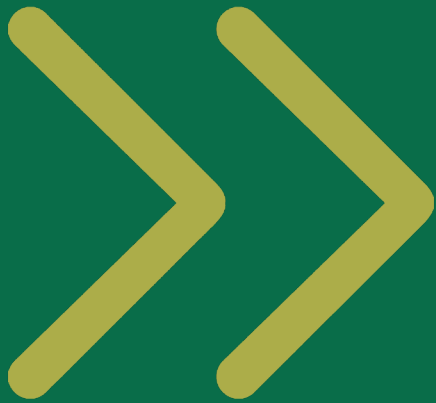


This 24-year journey has been dynamic, challenging, and incredibly rewarding. We've navigated complex socio-economic landscapes, adapted to evolving global challenges, and faced unforeseen hurdles with an unyielding determination. Yet, through it all, our resolve has only strengthened, fueled by the tangible impact we've seen on the ground.

Looking back, the mosaic of change we've collaboratively built is truly inspiring. This monumental progress has been made possible through strategic alliances with critical partners and the invaluable support of visionary donors such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund). Crucially, our efforts have always been in close collaboration with the Government of Nigeria, whose commitment has been fundamental to extending our reach and deepening our impact across the nation. The countless success stories, the vibrant, resilient communities, and the empowered individuals stand as living testaments to the integrated power of our work.

As we stand on the precipice of our 24th anniversary, we extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, unwavering partners, and, most importantly, the communities who have trusted us to walk alongside them. Their collaboration is the bedrock of our achievements. Moving forward, ECEWS remains more committed than ever to its mission—to continue Building Brighter Futures and to deepen our role as The Nexus of Opportunity, Knowledge, and Well-being for many more years to come.





# The Lives We Touched: Stories and Testimonials from Some of Our Beneficiaries





Success Stories



# Bukola's Triumph: From Trauma to Triumph

Bukola, a 15-year-old orphan living in Osogbo, Nigeria, demonstrates triumph from trauma. As the eldest of four orphaned siblings living with their elderly and impoverished grandparents, she bore the brunt of their emotional abuse. The constant verbal assaults and lack of support pushed Bukola to the brink, making her contemplate leaving home.

However, a ray of hope shone through when Bukola was introduced to the CDC-funded Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project implemented by ECEWS. Through the project, she was enrolled in a sewing course, learning valuable skills that would empower her. ECEWS, committed to empowering the communities it serves, provided Bukola with the necessary tools and support to develop her potential.

After completing the sewing program, ECEWS provided Bukola with a sewing machine, enabling her to start her own business. Her newfound ability to generate income not only improved her relationship with her grandparents but also allowed her to support her younger siblings. She was able to contribute to household expenses and help her brother with transportation costs for his shoemaking classes.

With each successful transaction, Bukola's confidence grew. She realized that her skills and determination could lead to a brighter future. Inspired by her progress, Bukola set her sights on financial independence and began saving for her aspirations.





# Restoring Hope, Empowering Edidiong

The Excellence 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.



# 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.





# A Stitch in Time: Idiodo's Tailored Triumph

Idiodo Akpoduado, a seasoned tailor from the heart of Delta State, Nigeria, once found himself entangled in the threads of adversity. Years of financial hardship had frayed the fabric of his family's life, forcing his children out of school and his business to the brink of collapse. But fate, it seemed, had a different pattern in mind. In 2023, a lifeline appeared in the form of the SPEED project, a beacon of hope for countless Nigerians. This project, funded by PEPFAR through the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC) implemented by the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), prioritizes empowerment of the Government and community stakeholders towards reducing HIV incidence for at-risk populations.

Recognizing Mr. Akpoduado's potential, the SPEED project provided him with a much-needed boost. A fresh supply of vibrant male fabrics was delivered to his humble shop, igniting a spark of hope and determination within him. With renewed vigor, he began to meticulously craft garments, each stitching, proof of his resilience and skill.

As his reputation grew, so did his clientele. Customers from far and wide in Warri environs sought out his expertise, drawn to the quality and style of his work. His business, located at No. 105 Ovie Street in Ovwian community, became a bustling hub of activity.

The financial windfall from his thriving business allowed Mr. Akpoduado to provide for his family's needs. His children, once confined to the shadows of poverty, were enrolled back in school, their futures now bright with promise. The once-empty dinner table is now laden with nourishing meals, a testament to the transformative power of the SPEED project.

Mr. Akpoduado's story is more than just a personal triumph; it's a testament to the power of human potential and the impact of well-intentioned programs. By empowering individuals like him, the SPEED project is not only uplifting lives but also strengthening the fabric of society.





## Empowering a GBV Survivor: A Tale of Resilience and Recovery

Socioeconomic challenges create a breeding ground for gender-based violence, especially among vulnerable communities. In Nigeria, the recent economic hardship has pushed many families into poverty creating an atmosphere for the negative coping mechanism among members of the community and, leading to the unintended neglect of minors by struggling caregivers. Three-year-old Justina (real name withheld) was a victim of this situation. While her mother was out working to provide for their family, Justina was sexually assaulted by a stranger.

Justina's mum had stepped out for a few minutes to purchase supplies for the household when she returned to find her child missing. Panic-stricken, she began searching for her daughter with her heart pounding in her chest. "I knew

something was wrong as soon as I entered the house," Justina's mum recalled. "My child is always happy to welcome me. But there was only silence." Her search led her to the compound's public toilet, where she witnessed a horrifying scene. A stranger was emerging from the toilet, zipping up his trousers, carrying her three-year-old daughter, Justina. The child was visibly distressed, and Justina's mum could see blood on her clothes. "I couldn't believe my eyes," Justina's mum said. "It felt like a dream." Without hesitation, Justina's mum confronted the stranger and demanded that he return her daughter. The man fled, leaving Justina in her arms. She rushed the child to the hospital, one of the facilities supported by the CDC-funded Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project implemented by ECEWS.

At the hospital, Justina was examined and found to have suffered a traumatic assault. She received immediate

medical attention and was provided with essential psycho-social therapy to help her healing process from the ordeal. The ECEWS SPEED project also provided Justina's mum with economic empowerment when she was enrolled in life-skilled building activities at the safe space, she went through coaching sessions and learned how to operate a grinding machine, after graduating from the program, she was empowered with the grinding machine as part of ECEWS family support system intervention.

This economic empowerment has provided the family with an income-generating opportunity for the improved well-being of the entire family. Her unwavering determination together with the support she received, helped Justina heal and rebuild her life. "I am incredibly grateful for the help that ECEWS has given us," Justina's mum said.

Over the past year since the incident, Justina's mum has been able to improve her family's financial status. The

grinding machine has enabled her to provide services to the neighborhood, leading to increased income.

With Justina's mum's new found financial stability and with the aim of reintegrating Justina back into the society to help her healing process, she has been able to enroll Justina in a nearby school. This has allowed Justina to interact with other children and develop essential social skills as a positive coping mechanism and improved self-esteem, she has become more confident and outgoing, and her trauma-related symptoms have significantly improved.

This story shows how societal support can improve the resilience of survivors of genderbased violence. Justina's mum has been able to overcome adversity, provide a safe and nurturing environment for her children, and build a brighter future for her family, with support from the CDC-funded ECEWS SPEED Project.

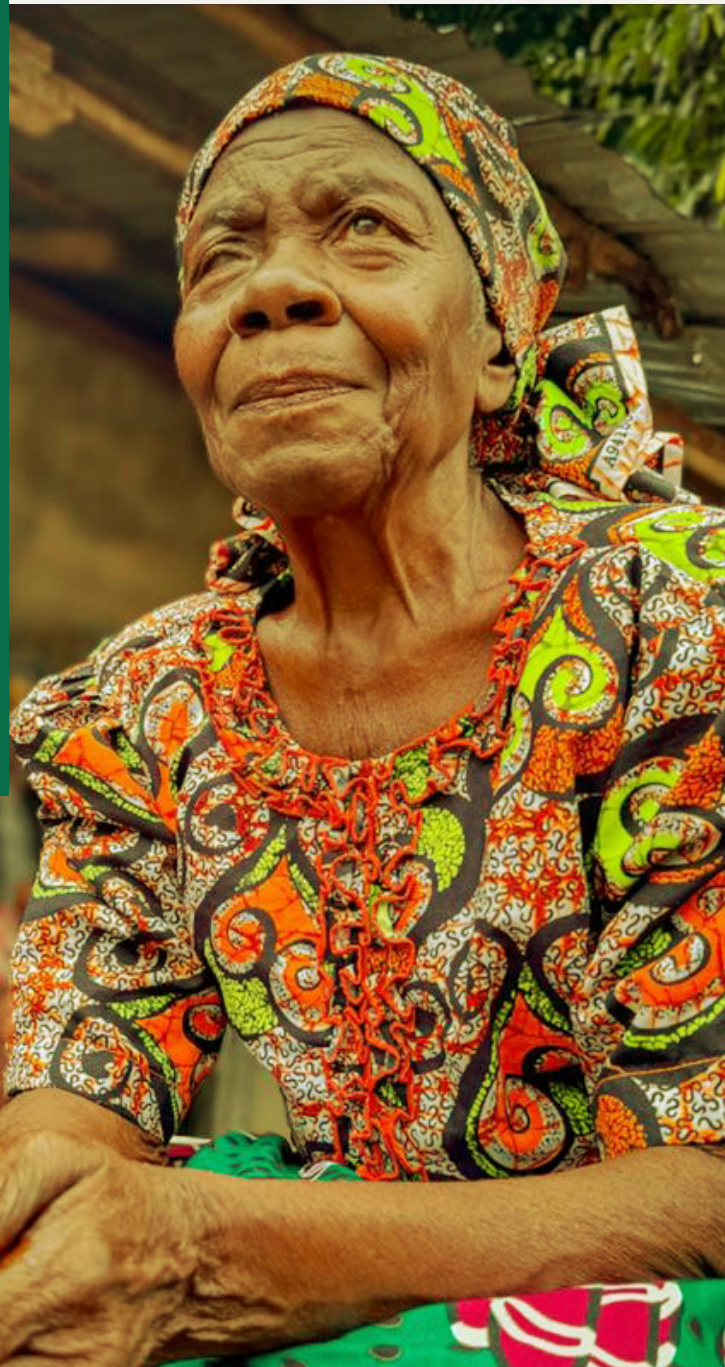


# Against All Odds


## How a Seed Grant Revitalized Elizabeth Etim Udo's Palm Oil Business and Restored Hope

Elizabeth Etim Udo, a 75-year-old widow from Uruk Uso village in Abak LGA, Akwa Ibom State Nigeria, is a testament to resilience. Despite enduring the loss of all her children and a permanent eye injury sustained during her youth, she has remained steadfast in her pursuit of a livelihood. Her primary source of income has been her palm oil business. Years ago, a tragic accident in a palm fruit mill left her with impaired vision in one eye. Undeterred, she continued to operate her small-scale palm oil business, buying and selling the commodity in small quantities to make ends meet.

Elizabeth's unwavering spirit caught the attention of Nkan Uforo Iban USA, working with ECEWS. They awarded her a seed grant designed to empower small-scale traders. This lifeline has provided her with the opportunity to purchase palm oil in bulk, potentially increasing her profit and expanding her business. Elizabeth's story is a beacon of hope, demonstrating that even in the face of adversity, strength and determination can pave the way for a brighter future.







**...everyone said I  
look and feel fresh,  
and my chest no  
longer pains...**

**-Ediye**





## Ediye's Health & Hope: Overcoming HIV, TB, and Anemia

Ediye quote, "I feel great. When I returned from the hospital, everyone said I look and feel fresh, and my chest no longer pains me as it did before."

Ediye, a 14-year-old from a small village in Akwa Ibom State, faced numerous hardships, growing up without his parents and under the care of his elderly grandmother. His life changed when, after frequent illness, he was diagnosed with HIV in 2021 and began antiretroviral treatment (ART). Support from caregivers and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) program helped him attend school, and his grandmother started a business with a conditional cash transfer.

However, Ediye's health worsened when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). He received free TB treatment through the PEPFAR-supported program of KNVC and recovered in August 2022. In early 2023, he experienced a setback with severe anemia, bronchopneumonia, and recurring TB. Thanks to the Enhanced Expert Support Initiative (E2SI), he received specialized care, including blood transfusions and medications. Ediye made a full recovery and now enjoys good health and a hopeful future, expressing gratitude for the life-changing care he received.



## A Taste of Success: Iwebi's Culinary Journey

Iwebi, a 49-year-old woman from Delta State, Nigeria, had been running a small culinary business to supplement her family's income. However, when her husband passed away, she faced the daunting task of becoming the sole provider for her four children. Despite her culinary skills, she struggled to expand her business to meet their growing needs. However, things began to change when she was identified by ECEWS under the US CDC-funded SPEED in Delta State.

Iwebi was enrolled by one of our Community-based organizations, the Nigerian AIDS Counselling Organization (NACO) in 2024, after careful assessment and profiling. She was then supported with a startup fund to bolster her cooking business. Armed with this financial support, Iwebi embarked on a culinary journey that would transform her life. With renewed vigour, she expanded her business offerings, providing a diverse range of delectable snacks. Her culinary creations quickly gained popularity, attracting a growing customer base. As her business flourished, her family's financial situation improved significantly. The once-strained household now enjoys a sense of security and prosperity.

To further solidify her financial future, Iwebi was provided with robust financial education and linked to a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA). This membership has provided her with access to both savings and loan opportunities, allowing her to further invest in her business and secure her family's well-being.

Iwebi's story is a testament to the power of empowerment. Through the SPEED project's targeted support, she was able to turn her culinary passion into a thriving business. Her journey showcases the transformative impact of the program on individuals and communities alike.



# From Crisis to Hope

## How ECEWS' Enhanced Expert Support Initiative (E2SI) is helping people in remote locations triumph over adversity

Joy is a bright 13-year-old girl who lives with her widowed mother and two siblings in a small household. Four years ago, she was diagnosed with HIV and was receiving treatment at Mkpat Enin Primary Health Centre, until 30th August, 2024 when her health took a turn for the worse. She was rushed to the health centre with complaints of shortness of breath, a rapid heartbeat, coughing, and fever. Realizing she was found to be in a critical condition, the health team immediately rushed her to Sacred Hospital in Ukam, where she was given oxygen and blood transfusion, after conducting some tests.

Recognizing that Joy's condition required more specialized care, the health facility engaged the Enhanced Expert Support Initiative (E2SI) for support. The E2SI is an initiative of the USAID-funded ECEWS ACE-5 project in Akwa Ibom and Cross River State that connects health experts at tertiary hospitals with healthcare providers at primary health centers to improve the clinical management of HIV and its comorbidities. An expert pediatrician from the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital (UUTH) was called in to assess her. After a thorough evaluation, the pediatrician diagnosed her with severe anemia and bronchopneumonia, with the possibility of tuberculosis, all occurring in the background of Advanced HIV Disease (Stage 3). Further tests showed she also had malaria and a urinary tract infection. A comprehensive treatment plan was developed that included intermittent virtual check-ins on her by the paediatrician. After five days of following the prescribed treatment plan, Joy was doing very well and was discharged with oral medications.

Joy's journey from the brink of crisis to recovery is a testament to how timely and expert care can change the fortune of those in the most vulnerable situations, giving them hope and healing. The Expert Support Initiative ensures that no child should face such challenges alone.



The medical team attending to Joy after her resuscitation on her first day of admission



During the 2nd day review by the E2SI pediatrician expert



The facility team reviewing Joy's health on the 4th day of her admission

# Margaret's Journey to Self-Sufficiency

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



Before

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.



After

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.

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



In the heart of Ifayong Usuk community, Ifayong-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-uruu 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.



# Finding Relief: Ebere's Health Journey



Ebere quote "Your medicine is amazing and powerful! Look at me now, I will never stop taking it."

Ebere, a young woman facing persistent health challenges, struggled for a year with frequent hospital visits and mounting medical expenses. Despite her efforts, her health continued to decline until she visited the Primary Health Centre in Ikang, Bakassi LGA, supported by the ECEWS ACE-5 project. There, the healthcare team worked collaboratively to provide her with free, enhanced care. After undergoing testing and counseling, Ebere was diagnosed with both HIV and tuberculosis (TB) and immediately started on antiretroviral therapy (ARVs).

Just two weeks after beginning her ARV treatment, Ebere returned to the health center with newfound strength and a positive outlook. Grateful for the support, she shared her enthusiasm with the healthcare providers, expressing amazement at how the medication had transformed her health. Her smile and testimony were clear indicators of her improving well-being, as she proudly stated she would continue her treatment.



## Olusiji's Story of HIV Resilience & Anti-Stigma Advocacy

In May 2019, 53-year-old Olusiji received a life-altering HIV positive diagnosis at Ondo State General Hospital, Akure. This news plunged him into despair, leading to declining health, a significantly low CD4 count, and severe depression that ultimately cost him his job. The mental toll was so profound that he neglected his vital antiretroviral (ARV) medications, further jeopardizing his health.

The stigma surrounding his HIV status proved to be an equally devastating blow. Friends and even close family members recoiled, their judgment driving him to seek solace and solitude in his village, believing it would be his final retreat. Non-adherence to medication led to the progression of his condition to Advanced HIV Disease (AHD).

A turning point arrived with the unwavering support of a compassionate friend. This individual's encouragement was the lifeline that guided Olusiji back to care and consistent medication adherence. However, the persistent sting of stigmatization in Ondo State remained a significant challenge. In 2021, seeking a fresh start and continued access to care, Olusiji transferred his clinic from Akure, Ondo State, to General Hospital in Emure, Ekiti State, initially receiving support from APIN.

Late in 2022, the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), through the Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project, became Olusiji's steadfast ally. Under ECEWS's comprehensive care, with consistent access to ARV drugs and unwavering support from friends and other partners, a remarkable transformation unfolded. Olusiji's health rebounded dramatically, and the once-insidious virus retreated, ultimately becoming undetectable. Today, Olusiji radiates vitality, proclaiming, "I'm even healthier than I was before I was diagnosed."

Olusiji's inspiring story extends far beyond his personal triumph. Following his relocation, he seamlessly transferred his treatment to Osun State, continuing his wellness journey with ECEWS's unwavering support. Having bravely overcome his initial challenges, Olusiji now shares his powerful narrative.

Both ECEWS and the Osun State Ministry of Health have provided crucial platforms to amplify his voice. Further support from networks such as 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) have offered additional avenues for him to share his experiences.

Actively collaborating with organizations like the Garnet Youth Development Foundation, Olusiji lends his voice to vital advocacy efforts. He is dedicated to dismantling the pervasive stigma surrounding HIV and inspiring countless individuals towards testing, consistent treatment adherence, and a future unburdened by their HIV status. His legacy is not merely one of survival, but a powerful and spreading wave of hope and understanding, transforming lives and perceptions within Osun State, Nigeria, and beyond.

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



Testimonials

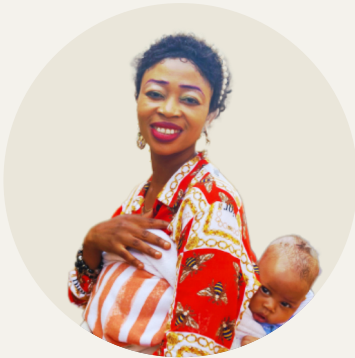






## TESTIMONIALS

ECEWS through funding from PEPFAR, USAID, CDC, Global Fund, Nka Uforo Iban has brought smiles to the faces of beneficiaries thereby, amplifying the impact of our work in underserved communities.



As a mentor mother living with HIV, I am grateful that my child is HIV-negative, thanks to the PMTCT program. With the support of ECEWS and the guidance from clinics, I followed the prescribed procedures and took the necessary drugs, resulting in all my four children being HIV-negative. I am thankful to God and the CDC's PEPFAR for giving me a second chance at life. Now, I use my experience to mentor other women living with the virus, helping them stay virally suppressed and offering hope and support to those going through similar challenges.

**Gbadamosi A,**

**Osogbo, Osun State,  
Nigeria**



I tested positive to HIV and ever since, the OTZ support group has become like family to me. I make sure to follow the OTZ meeting instructions and take my medicine every day. I am now okay, healthy and strong. I am grateful that my baby tested negative. Right now, I am learning how to sew. I can make shirts, trousers, and different kinds of clothes, even the one I am wearing with my daughter. I am so happy for the help from ECEWS, and the American people.

**Eneowo**

**Calabar, Cross Rivers  
State, Nigeria**



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**

**Udong Uko, Akwa Ibom  
State, Nigeria**





ECEWS provided clothes and empowered me with a small business to take care of my orphaned grand daughter.

**Khadijat**



ECEWS through the Nkan Uforo Iban supported me with #50,000. It felt like a dream. I had promised them that I will not squander the fund so I invested the money into my business. I have seen my business grow after the support and I feel very happy. My children are back in school, and surviving is no more hard. Thank you ECEWS. Thank you Nkan Uforo Iban.

**Beneficiary**



...I was brought to ECEWS where I was tutored on tailoring. At the completion of my training, The ECEWS SPEED team equipped me with a sewing machine. I began working from home and earning money to support my grandmother and fend for myself.

**Bukola**



...The grinding machine has allowed me to save more money through VSLA ensuring my daughter's wellbeing and providing for our family. I am incredibly grateful for the help that ECEWS-SPEED Project has given us.

**Abiodun**



As a woman living with HIV for over a decade, I never imagined I would one day empower others like me. ECEWS made this possible. Through the ACE-5 project, they not only provided me with unwavering support but also gave me the tools and platform to become a Mentor Mother - fulfilling my deepest desire to give back to pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW).

Their holistic approach - from health interventions to capacity building - has transformed my life and countless others. Today, I stand proud, knowing I am part of a mission that turns despair into hope. On this anniversary, I pray ECEWS continues to receive the resources needed to uplift vulnerable communities. Thank you for making my journey purposeful.

**Esther James****Mentor Mother  
Itu LGA**

I thank you ECEWS for the support you give us in our facility at Handmaids Hospital. As one of the recipients of care, I have received optimal care and support in my treatment journey. You people are doing a very good job, and I pray God continue to bless you. Happy Anniversary! Please don't stop with the good work.

**Joshua Okon****RoC, Handmaid  
Hospital, Ibiono LGA**

Sonsogo o, ECEWS. I appreciate all you have done for me and my family, I pray God continue to bless you in Jesus' name, Amen! I am a beneficiary of the good work you are doing at West Itam PHC, and since you people came, you have really helped my life. I wish you all more blessings. Happy Anniversary.

**Endurance Paulinus  
Okon****RoC, West Itam PHC, Itu  
LGA**

I really Love ECEWS, they have helped me a lot and they remain an amazing organization. ECEWS has taught me how to educate and handle Pregnant and Breastfeeding Mothers on PMTCT. Since I started as a Mentor Mother with ECEWS, I have been able help a lot of women navigate their pregnancies safely to deliver negative babies. I congratulate ECEWS on their anniversary and I pray they continue to access funds to keep supporting Vulnerable people.

**Udeme Anthony****Mentor Mother  
Ibiono Ibom LGA**





Partnering with ECEWS over the years has been an incredibly rewarding experience. We have gained immense knowledge and expertise from their team, which has been instrumental in transforming our operations.

ECEWS has not only supported us in equipping and upgrading our laboratory to meet ISO accreditation standards but has also played a key role in strengthening our organizational systems, ensuring long-term sustainability. One of the most impactful initiatives was the financial management training in Eket - since returning, we have diligently implemented the best practices we learned, significantly improving our operations.

We are deeply grateful for ECEWS's commitment to excellence and capacity building. Thank you for your invaluable support!

---

**Beatrice Chinke**

**HHCH Administrator  
Handmaids Hospital**



Ever since ECEWS started supporting our facility, we have seen many improvements. One of the major things they did was to provide a 10kVA solar system, which gives us steady light 24 hours a day.

They also supported us with medical supplies and brought in staff to help with ART services. ECEWS gave us important medical equipment and trained many of our staff. What we didn't know before about HIV/AIDS, they have taught us well.

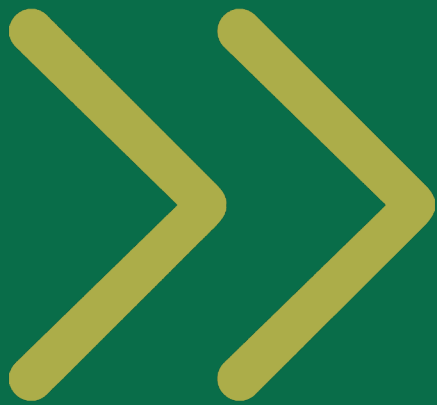
We also received computers, printers, and a motorcycle to help us reach people in the community. Their support has truly made a big difference in how we care for our patients.

Happy Anniversary, ECEWS! Thank you for all the good work and support.

---

**Nrs. Mercy Victor  
Bassey**

**Director Health,  
West Itam Public Health  
Center**



# Quotes from Stakeholders & Partners



We get the work  
done through

*Active Collaboration*



## QUOTES



The impact of ECEWS work extends far beyond the people and communities you serve. Everyday, you are helping the country, region and continent to move towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the 2030 target date.

### Steve WILLS

Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of States



I am so impressed with ECEWS's work. I see a lot of commissioning here and there, as well as ECEWS' engagement with the youth, women and children in different communities all over Nigeria. I pray that ECEWS will celebrate many more years of excellence.

### Temitope ILORI

Director-General, National Agency  
for the Control of AIDS (NACA)



We are very happy with ECEWS. We must commend the effort, resilience, dedication and the commitment to excellence of the Visioner who have shown class and leadership.

### Dr. Enobong AKPAN

Project Manager, Akwa Ibom State Agency  
for the Control of AIDS (AKSACA)



ECEWS has made it possible for health services to reach the creek and hard-to-reach areas. We now have the Community Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programs in the riverine areas...

### Grace SIFO

Director, Policy & Partnership Coordination, Delta State  
Agency for the Control of AIDS (DELSACA)





ECEWS presence in Ekiti State has been of tremendous impact especially in minimizing mother to child's transmission, ensuring that Stigmatisation is reduced to the barest minimum and that our people can live the lives they truly deserve.

I rejoice with you on your anniversary. Congratulations and more wins.

### **Sola GBENGA-IGOTUN**

Permanent Secretary, MOH  
& HS Ekiti State

ECEWS has done marvelously well as the sole implementing partner for HIV response in the State. They brought innovation, coordination and sustainable response to HIV epidemic control.

### **Dr. Ojo DAIRO**

Executive Secretary, Ekiti State Agency for  
the Control of AIDS (EKSACA)



The inclusion of Secondary Health Facilities by ECEWS in its program has improved the uptake of ARV drugs and reduced Prevention of Mother- to -Child Transmission by a very large percentage.

I commend their outstanding work in the health sector in Ekiti State and wish them a happy anniversary. Greater feats.

### **Dr. Olasunkanmi O. ALABI**

Permanent Secretary, Hospitals Management  
Board, Ekiti State

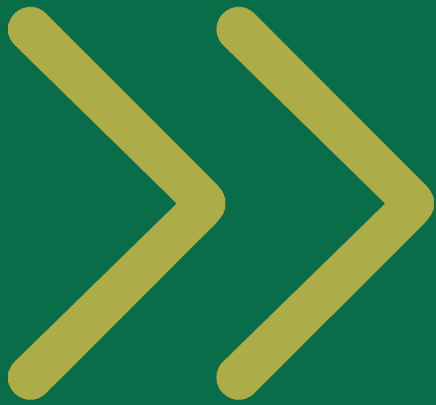
ECEWS has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, competence, and professionalism in achieving the Vision 95:95:95 targets. Its ability to seamlessly align with and contribute to the state's health goals further sets it apart as a truly outstanding organization.

### **Dr. Charles Olusegun DOHERTY**

General Manager, Ekiti state Health Insurance Scheme.







# Activity Spotlight



## 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.



# 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.





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



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.

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.





## 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 enrollment 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 enrollment 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. Enrollment 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 Block Grant Initiative empowers Orphaned and Vulnerable Children through Education in Delta State

In its mission to combat HIV/AIDS, ECEWS with support from the United States Centre for Disease Control (US CDC) through the Sustainable Program for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) project introduced a Block Grant Initiative for orphaned and vulnerable children in Delta State. This initiative, which is implemented through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), is focused on improving school infrastructure, fostering an environment for academic growth and creativity, and providing high quality education, including school fee waivers for these children. As part of this initiative, 20 triple-seater desks each were provided to Umutu Mixed Secondary School in Ukwani LGA and Okpe Mixed Secondary School in Agbor in July 2024. The handover events were attended by the representatives of the Honourable Commissioners for Education and Women Affairs Community and Social Development, Dr. Mike Emeshili and Mrs. Emekpe, respectively.

ECEWS remains committed to ensuring quality education for every child in its program.





## ECEWS Presents 10 Scientific Abstracts at the International AIDS Conference in Germany

ECEWS presented 10 scientific abstracts at the 25th International AIDS Conference in Germany, AIDS2024, which was held from July, 22- 26th 2024, highlighting our significant work in HIV epidemic control in Nigeria. The abstracts drew the interest of a wide range of attendees at the conference, notably, the Honorable Minister of State for Health,

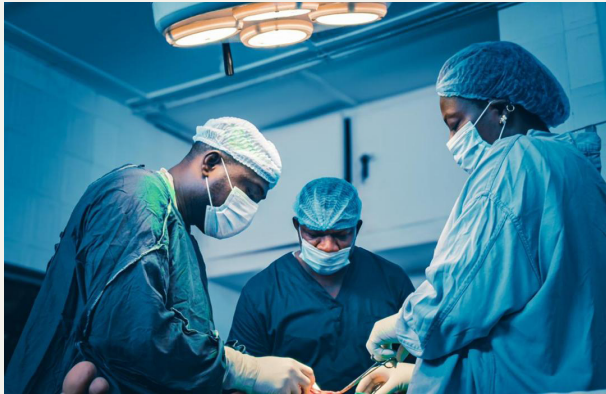
Dr. Tunji Alausa, the Director General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS, Dr Temitope Ilori, and the PEPFAR Chair Dr. Shabeen Ally. The Associate Director for HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment on the ECEWS ACE-5 Project, Dr. Oghenezuazo Onwah made an oral presentation showing how the use of a urine-based

test improved uptake of tuberculosis testing among children with advanced HIV disease in Southern Nigeria. Similarly, Pharm Sherrif Arthur, a Pharmacy Specialist with the project, also discussed Enhanced HIV Treatment Continuity via Community Pharmacy in Southern Nigeria at a PEPFAR session during the conference.





## ECEWS Conducts Free Hydrocele Surgeries to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases in Cross River State



Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of medical conditions that affect people living in impoverished communities. Prioritising these communities, ECEWS in collaboration with the Cross River State Ministry of Health, conducted a pilot program to provide free hydrocele surgeries for 10 indigent individuals out of 64 identified cases across four LGAs in the state. This initiative aimed to strengthen the health system by offering necessary surgical interventions for those with hydrocele in vulnerable communities, building the capacity of surgeons in the state, and enhancing the state's healthcare capabilities for integrated disease management.



The intervention took place from July 16th to July 20th, 2024, at the General Hospital in Calabar, with support from various stakeholders and partners. This collaboration is an outcome of the mentorship ECEWS has been receiving from Hellen Keller International in managing NTDs in Nigeria.



Present at the opening ceremony to mark the commencement of the surgery was the wife of the Executive Governor of the State, Rev Mrs Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, ably represented by her Senior Special Adviser on Programs (Dr Mrs Queen Eton Essien), the Director of Public Health (Dr Jonah Offor); the Director of Medical Services (Dr Stephen Agbor), the National Coordinator for NTDs at the Federal Ministry of Health (Dr Fatai Oyediran), Cross River State NTDs Coordinator (Mrs Veronica Mark), the Medical Superintendent of General Hospital Calabar (Dr. Kenneth Takim), a representative from Research Triangle Institute (Mr Chukwuma Okonkwo), and a representative of Hellen Keller International (Ms Unyime), among a host of others.

# ECEWS Hosts 5th CDC Nigeria Biannual Meeting: A Focus on Simplification and Sustainability



The 5th CDC Nigeria Biannual Meeting, hosted by the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), marked a significant milestone in Nigeria's public health landscape. Themed "Strategic pivoting towards program simplification and sustainable public health intervention," the two-day event brought together diverse stakeholders to address critical health challenges and chart a path towards a healthier Nigeria.

Key discussions centered on simplifying healthcare programs, reducing maternal and infant mortality, addressing rising healthcare burdens, and preparing for new health threats. Community engagement, data-driven decision-making, and innovative approaches were emphasized.

Acting Country Director of CDC Nigeria, Suzanne Theroux, called for a coordinated HIV response. U.S. Ambassador Richard Mills Jr. stressed the importance of simplifying health programs for sustainability and state ownership. NACA Director General Dr. Temitope Ilori shared the government's plan to integrate HIV response into national structures.

The event also focused on state-led HIV workplan implementation, the role of state health ministries in outbreak responses and data management, and the potential of health insurance and program simplification for sustainability.

This biannual meeting, hosted by ECEWS, serves as a crucial platform to drive progress, foster innovation, and ensure a healthier future for Nigerians. By fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing, the 5th Biannual Meeting aimed to strengthen Nigeria's public health system and improve the lives of millions.







## ECEWS Supports 5-Day Free Medical Outreach Organized by Hon. Moses Essien, Ibiono Ibom Constituency

The ECEWS ACE-5 Project partnered with Hon. (Comrade) Moses Essien, a member of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, to provide free medical outreach services for people in Ibiono Ibom LGA. The outreach, which was held at the Health Center in Ikot Uba, Ibiono Ibom LGA between August 5th to August 9th, 2024, saw over 700 persons receiving care, including surgeries, blood pressure checks and treatment, blood sugar checks and treatment, deworming of children, malaria rapid diagnostic testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, eye examinations with the provision of eyeglasses, and general medical consultations.

This collaboration is a further demonstration of the ECEWS ACE-5 Project's commitment to improving community health and strengthening the health system in Akwa Ibom State.



## ECEWS Hosts Abbott's Molecular Team, Explores Diagnostic

ECEWS had the pleasure of hosting Abbott's Molecular Team at its headquarters in Akwa Ibom State. Led by Mr. Sanjay Rudnath, Africa Director, the Abbott Molecular Team were warmly received by the CEO, ECEWS, Dr. Andy Eyo. The team's visit aimed to foster collaboration and explore growth opportunities. The Abbott Director expressed his appreciation for the organization's significant world-class investments in laboratory services in Akwa Ibom State made possible through the PEPFAR/USAID-funded Accelerating Control of the HIV Epidemic (ACE-5) Project. The discussion also centered on expanding diagnostic capabilities at molecular laboratories supported by the project, leveraging Abbott's cutting-edge Alinity M analyzers. Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) looks forward to continued partnership with Abbott, empowering communities and enhancing health outcomes.



## Scaling Up PMTCT Services: Activation of Five Community Birth Centers In Akwa Ibom State



The National AIDS and STI Control Program (NASCP) has identified the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV as a key priority in Nigeria's fight against new HIV infections. With Nigeria accounting for the highest number of new HIV infections among children globally, 90% of these cases are linked to mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). Despite ongoing efforts, an estimated 7.7 million pregnant women, with 33% of pregnant women in Nigeria have received antiretroviral therapy (ARV) to prevent MTCT by the end of 2022. This challenge is particularly severe in rural areas with limited access to healthcare. To address this, NASCP, in collaboration with partners like USAID, has developed state-specific strategic frameworks aimed at eliminating mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV. These frameworks are designed to improve service delivery in healthcare facilities and communities. However, significant gaps remain, particularly in linking pregnant women in rural areas, including Community Birth Centers (CBCs), to PMTCT services. In Akwa Ibom State, the government with support from USAID-funded initiatives like the ECEWS-implemented ACE-5 project, has mapped out over 2,000 CBCs from which the project currently supports 522. The project has been instrumental in addressing this gap, particularly in vulnerable areas. On September 12th and 13th, the ACE-5 project team activated five CBCs in Abak, Etim Ekpo, and Itu Local Government Areas, providing comprehensive HIV testing services to pregnant women and focusing on PMTCT. This activation marks significant progress in expanding PMTCT services to hard-to-reach communities, ensuring that pregnant women receive timely, high-quality HIV testing

and care. A crucial aspect of this initiative was empowering local healthcare workers. Through competency assessments and training on the "5 Cs" of HIV testing (Consent, Confidentiality, Counselling, Correct Results, and Connection to Care), healthcare workers were equipped to deliver compassionate and effective care. Additionally, the team evaluated the physical infrastructure of the CBCs and assessed Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) using the Site Improvement through Monitoring System (SIMS) and Stepwise Process for Improving the Quality of HIV Rapid and Recency Test (SPI-RRT SPI-RRT) checklist. These assessments identified key areas for improvement, ensuring that services at the CBCs remain safe and reliable. In addition to training, HIV testing commodities were also provided to ensure continuous service delivery. For women like Imaobong Ezekiel from the Imaobong Ekaiko Delivery Home, these CBCs are more than medical centers, they are lifelines offering hope and essential care. However, the activation process faced challenges, such as flooding, poor road conditions, and long distances between centers. Yet, the dedication of the ACE-5 healthcare teams ensured success, contributing to breaking the cycle of HIV transmission in these communities. With continued support from USAID through PEPFAR, the ACE-5 project implemented by ECEWS is committed to working with the Akwa Ibom State Government to expand these services. By empowering healthcare workers like Mary Essien at Ammesdy Homes, and Etimbuk Ime at 'We Care' Medical Centre, ECEWS is helping to achieve the national goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



## ECEWS Receives USAID Mission Director and Her Team on a Working Visit

ECEWS received the USAID Mission Director, Ms. Melissa Jones, and the USAID Nutrition Ambassador, Chioma Chukwuka-Akpotha, who visited Akwa Ibom State from December 1 to 6, 2024. The visit aimed to strengthen ongoing partnerships, showcase USAID's impact on health and nutrition. The delegation engaged with key stakeholders, visited primary and tertiary healthcare facilities, interacted with community members, and participated in advocacy and stakeholder engagement sessions.

A major highlight of the visit was the stop at Ikot Ebok Polyclinic, where Mrs. Chukwuka actively participated in community

health promotion activities, including a food demonstration on local nutritious dishes. The team also visited the Uyo Base Primary Health Centre, where the Mission Director interacted with community members, inspected key service delivery units, and emphasized the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and proper child nutrition.

As part of activities, ECEWS also organized a Meet & Greet Dinner. This provided a platform for engagement between the USAID Mission Director, USAID Nutrition Ambassador, key state government officials, implementing partners, and civil society organizations. The event fostered deeper collaboration,

highlighted the impact of ongoing interventions, and identified areas for sustained partnership to improve health and nutrition outcomes in Akwa Ibom State.

The visit concluded with a visit to healthcare infrastructure provided with USAID support at the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital (UUTH), including an oxygen tank and a 130kVA solar power system. A debrief session was held at the ECEWS Headquarters, Uyo, where key successes, lessons learned, and next steps were discussed.





## ECEWS Participation in the 12th National Colloquium on Mental Health and Development

ECEWS actively participated in the 12th National Colloquium on Mental Health and Development, organized by the Mobile Manna Foundation to commemorate World Mental Health Day 2024 in Akwa Ibom State.

Chaired by Mkpisong (Obong) Idewodiong-Idemeko, Chairman of the Akwa Ibom Investment Corporation, the event brought together mental health professionals, government officials, and other key stakeholders to discuss pressing mental health issues, including insecurity, depression, and trauma.

Dr. Bala Gana, representing ECEWS, delivered a thought-provoking keynote address on "Mental Health in the Workplace for Those Serving Vulnerable Populations." The address emphasized the critical need to support caregivers' mental well-being to ensure they can continue to provide quality care to those in need. Through interactive discussions and practical sessions, participants gained valuable insights and strategies to improve mental well-being. The colloquium underscored the importance of mental health in promoting individual and community well-being, highlighting the need for expanded mental health initiatives.



## Enhancing Healthcare Sustainability through Solar Power Interventions in Cross River State

In line with the ECEWS ACE-5 Project sustainability plans, the project has initiated several solar power interventions to improve healthcare facilities across the supported project states. This includes the deployment of 10KVA inverters with Lithium-ion batteries at four key locations: Calabar General Hospital, Ugep General Hospital, Dr. Lawrence Henshaw Memorial Hospital, and Ekpo Abasi Primary Health Centre. Six solar freezers have also been installed at these facilities to support eco-friendly practices and enable efficient remote sample logging.

Another significant aspect of this initiative involved the installation of a solar inverter at the

University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) to provide a reliable power supply for the Serology Lab, thereby improving the efficiency and reliability of critical laboratory operations. The ECEWS ACE-5 team in Cross River also repaired and returned a malfunctioning inverter to Dr. Lawrence Henshaw Memorial Hospital, further strengthening laboratory infrastructure and service delivery. These efforts reflect the project's commitment to promoting sustainable energy solutions and ensuring uninterrupted laboratory operations, ultimately contributing to improved healthcare outcomes in the region.





## ECEWS Participates at the 2024 10th Annual NISA & GIS Conference

ECEWS participated in the 2024 10th Annual Nigerian Implementation Science Alliance (NISA) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Conference. This event, held from November 14th to 16th at the Abuja Continental Hotel, focused on the theme "Driving Change: Everyday Implementation." It brought together healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers to explore data-informed solutions and promote the adoption of

evidence-based practices in healthcare delivery. The conference covered a wide range of topics, including the implementation of evidence-based practices for a healthier world, the role of civil society and faith-based organizations in advancing implementation practices, digital interventions for development work, and optimizing nurse leadership in Nigeria.

Over the years, ECEWS has supported NISA's vision by

sharing our unique experiences, showcasing our evidence-based programs, and participating in innovative dialogues that drive policy and practice improvements. ECEWS remains committed to pushing boundaries, fostering value-driven partnerships, and sharing our implementation successes and lessons learned. Here's to new partnerships, shared successes, and a brighter future.



The National TB Conference 2024, co-hosted by the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Stop TB Partnership Nigeria, brought together Nigeria's scientific community in Abuja from December 10-12, 2024. The conference, centered on the theme "Public-Private Partnership and Integrated Service Delivery: Panacea to END TB in Nigeria," focused on accelerating TB elimination efforts.



ECEWS actively participated in the conference, showcasing its commitment to eradicating TB through six impactful presentations: three compelling oral presentations and three informative posters. These presentations highlighted ECEWS's innovative approaches to TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, underscoring its crucial role in advancing Nigeria's goal of TB elimination by 2030.



ECEWS's exceptional work was recognized with prestigious awards, securing both First and Second Place for its outstanding oral presentations.

## ECEWS' Recognition of Excellence at the 2024 National TB Conference





## 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.

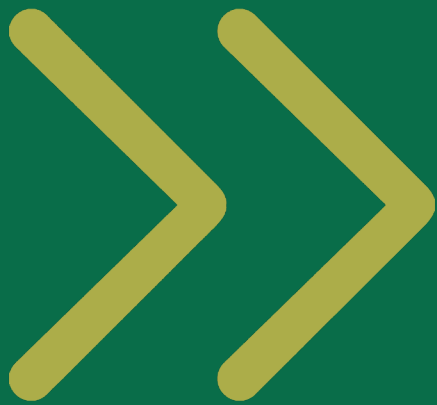
AviClaire Farms operates a state-of-the-art greenhouse farm designed to provide consistent, year-round yields, defying seasonal and climatic barriers. With four expansive 8m by 24m greenhouses, the farm cultivates a range of crops, including spicy habanero peppers, vibrant bell peppers, juicy tomatoes, 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.





# Project Spotlight By Numbers

Visual infographics of people reached, lives saved,  
communities served

## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

# ECEWS ACE 5 PROJECT

The Accelerating Control of the HIV Epidemic in Nigeria (ACE-5 Project) is a 5-year activity funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and awarded to Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) on May 18th 2022.

ECEWS ACE-5 implementation strategies and interventions are guided by three overarching objectives:

- Increased Resiliency, Responsiveness, and Accountability of the Health System
- Increased uptake and retention of HIV/AIDS/TB services
- Improved Access and Provision of HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Services within Primary Health Care Interventions

**1,740,500**

People tested for HIV

**398,299**

Pregnant women tested for HIV

**8,647**

Babies born HIV free due to life saving medications

**218,679**

Number of people currently receiving lifesaving ART

**172,658**

Number of people currently receiving life saving ART

**6,401**

Children currently receiving lifesaving ART

ART Coverage

**83%****99%**

Viral suppression

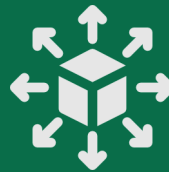
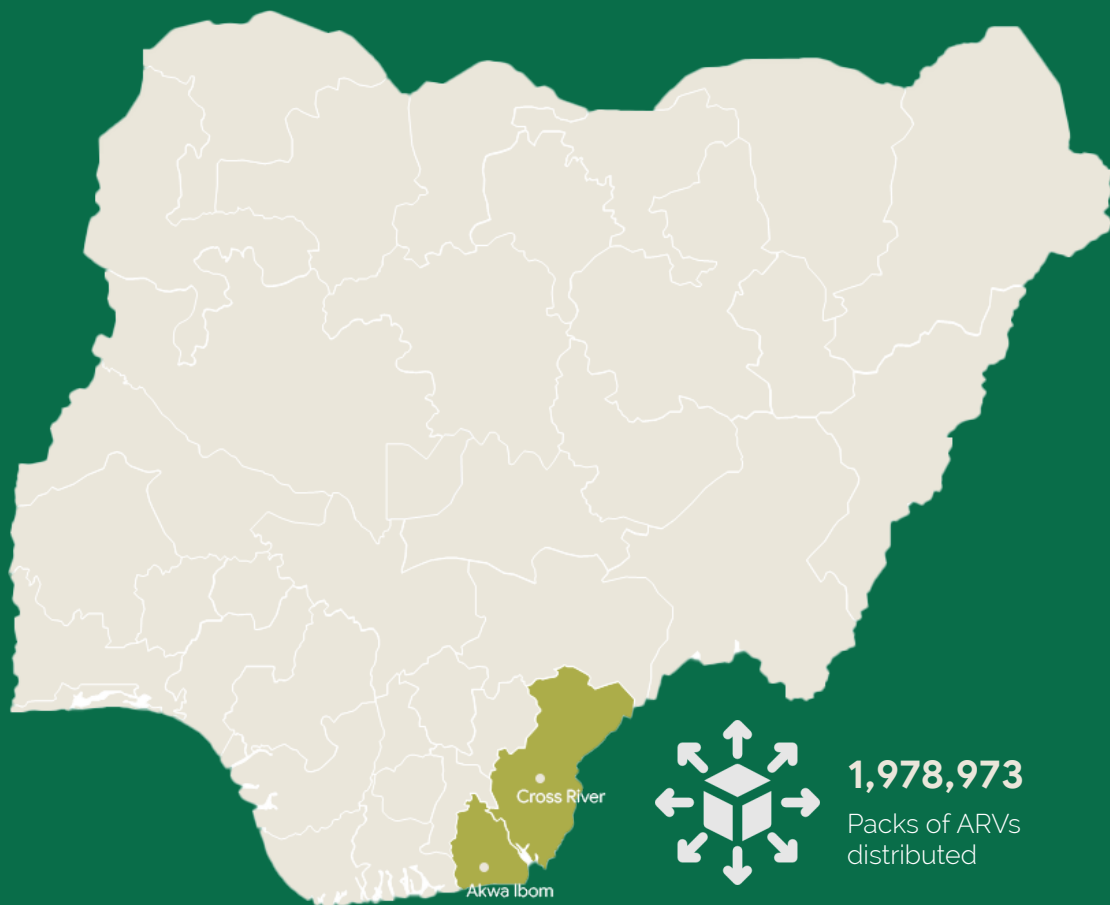
**1,535,243**

VL test performed since 2022

**149,275**

Undetectable viremia



**1,978,973**

Packs of ARVs distributed

The project is implemented in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States and aims to achieve sub-population control of the HIV epidemic by addressing the barriers limiting access to treatment through high-impact, evidence-based interventions within the focused states. The project supports comprehensive HIV/TB

prevention, treatment and care services in 226 health facilities spread across all the Local Government Areas in Akwa Ibom and Cross River States. This includes HIV case identification and linkage to treatment, adult HIV care and treatment, pediatric/adolescent care and treatment, triple elimination of

mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B, TB/HIV service integration, cervical cancer screening for women with HIV, screening for non-communicable diseases, laboratory services, health systems strengthening, and private sector engagement, etc.



## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

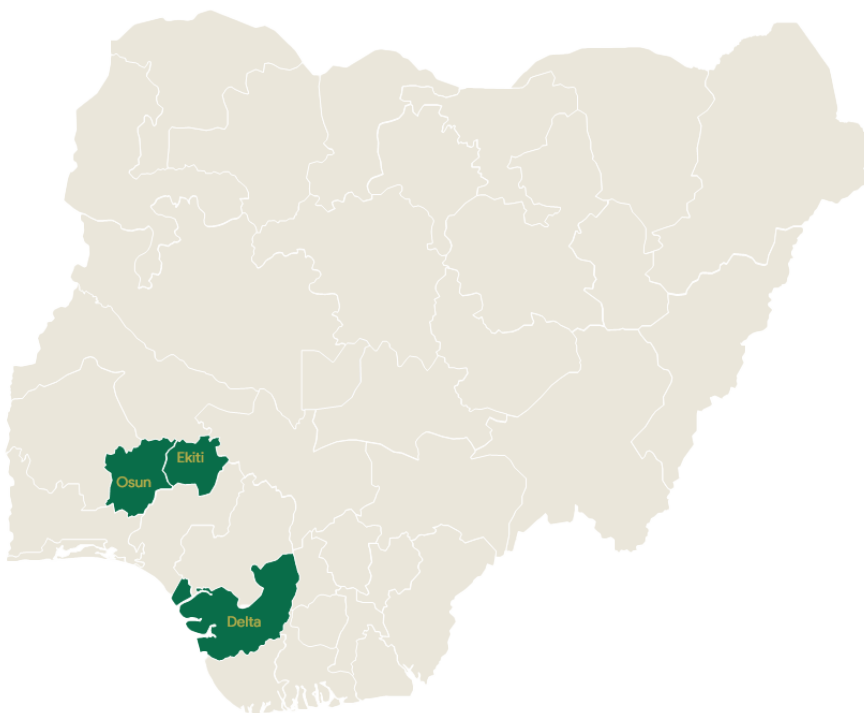
# ECEWS SPEED PROJECT

Excellence Community Educational Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) is implementing a 5-year Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Equitable Service Delivery (SPEED) Project in Delta, Osun, and Ekiti States in Nigeria. The SPEED Project is funded by PEPFAR through the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC).

Across the three states, the SPEED project supports 90

health facilities, 7 One Stop Shop (OSS), 11 Key Population Community Based Organizations (CBOs), 7 Orphans and vulnerable Children (OVC) CBOs and 9 ART Drop-in-Centers to deliver comprehensive and wholistic services across sub thematic program areas including PMTCT, HIV/TB prevention, care and treatment for Pediatric and Adult sub-populations, Gender-based Violence (GBV), NCD program integration, Mental Health and

Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC). To ensure equitable service delivery for all sub-population the SPEED project adopts a Pediatric, Adolescent and Key population friendly service provision model at both facilities and communities. These services are coordinated at both facility and community levels to achieve optimum coverage for beneficiaries across all the LGAs and communities in the three states.



**1,954,736**  
People tested for HIV



**95**

Total health  
facilities



**22**

Community  
Based  
Organization



**7**

Community  
Service  
Coordination  
Centers



The objectives of the SPEED project include:

- To reduce HIV-related morbidity and mortality
- To achieve sustainable epidemic control for HIV across sub-populations and sub-national geographies including the elimination of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV (eMTCT)
- To reduce HIV incidence for at-risk populations
- To sustain the ability of state governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) to lead and manage comprehensive HIV programs.



**16,536**

Positive Individuals  
Initiated on ART

**89,241**

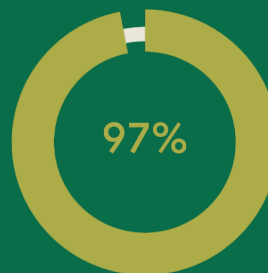
Individuals currently on  
treatment (TX\_CURR)

**64,985**

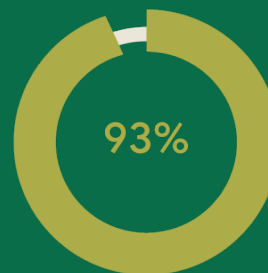
Individuals  
currently on  
Treatment  
(Facility)

**24,256**

Individuals  
currently on  
treatment  
(Community)



Viral  
Suppression



ART  
Coverage



**387,773**

Pregnant women reached with  
services (PMTCT\_STAT\_Num)

**5,482**

Pregnant women who received  
ART services to prevent MTCT

## More Highlights

A total of 63,311 individuals were reached with education activities. In addition, 1,303 households received household economic strengthening (HES), and 3,377 individuals were reached with food security and nutrition initiatives. Furthermore, 4,869 violence survivors received client-centric services, and 1,654 adolescents received menstrual hygiene kits.



## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

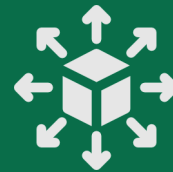
# ECEWS N-THRIP PROJECT

The Nigeria TB//HIV Reach Integrated and Impact Project (N-THRIP) is a 3-years Global Funded project in Ebonyi with IHVN as primary recipients and ECEWS as secondary recipient. The overarching goal of the grant is to contribute to the reduction of the incidence of new HIV infections as well as the mortality and morbidity due to HIV/AIDS in Nigeria both in general and key/vulnerable populations. Accelerating efforts at ending HIV epidemic in Nigeria by the year 2030.



56

Health facilities supported



20,000

Persons reached with prevention intervention

13

Local Government Areas covered



Over  
**85%**

Estimated Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) reached



Viral Suppression



**14,697**

PLHIV receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

Over  
**5,000**

Children and malnourished PLHIV receiving nutritional supplement



## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

# NKA UFORO IBAN PROJECT



In September 2013 – 2014, ECEWS received funding support from Nka Uforo Iban Akwa Ibom State USA Inc. to implement an empowerment project for ultra-poor market women in the Akpan Andem entrepreneurial market, Uyo, and Abak main market. The project's active implementation began with advocacy to relevant stakeholders, community mobilization and sensitization, identification and selection of beneficiaries, capacity building in Basic Business Practices, seed grants disbursement, supporting the market association to achieve minimum operating standards, monitoring, and reporting on the project. The Market Women Association now has a well-documented list of members by group, holds regular executive and general meetings with minutes, and can monitor projects executed to benefit their members.



**14** Communities reached  
in Akwa Ibom State

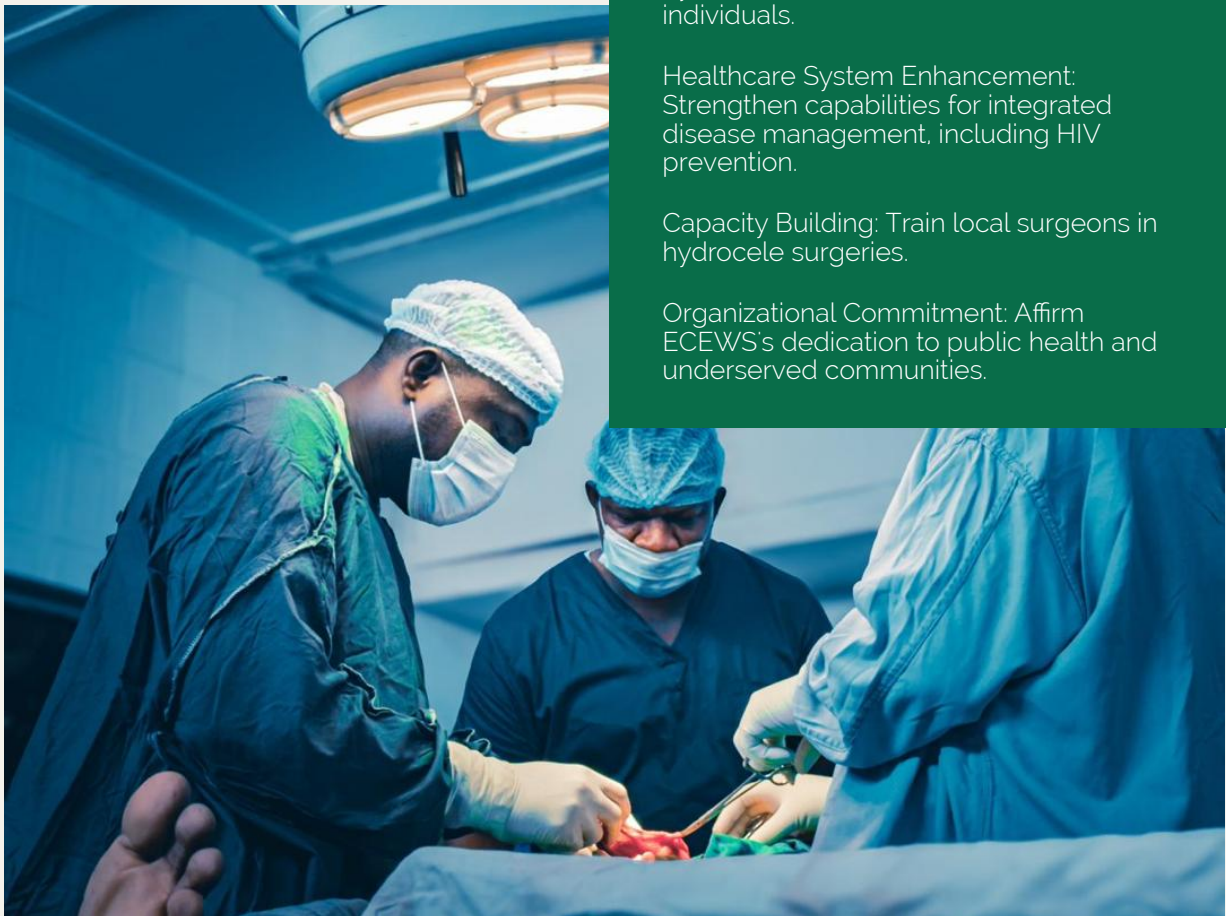


Over  
**500** Ultra-poor  
market women  
reached

## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

ECEWS NTD  
PROJECT

ECEWS commenced a partnership with Helen Keller International – HKI in October 2022, to control and eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases in Cross River State through preventive chemotherapy and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP). This project is funded by THE END FUND, to successfully eliminate NTDs by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goal- SDG 3.



10

Beneficiaries received  
free hydrocelectomies  
surgery

64

Untreated  
hydrocele cases  
identified

4

Local Government  
Areas in Cross River  
State

## Key Objectives

Surgical Intervention: Provide free hydrocelectomies for 10 vulnerable individuals.

Healthcare System Enhancement: Strengthen capabilities for integrated disease management, including HIV prevention.

Capacity Building: Train local surgeons in hydrocele surgeries.

Organizational Commitment: Affirm ECEWS's dedication to public health and underserved communities.

## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

# Aviclaire Farms

### Focus Areas:

Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, Community Engagement

### Reach & Coverage:

#### Communities Served:

- Akpan Andem Market (Uyo)
- Abak Markets
- Itam Markets
- Eket

Neighboring States: Including Port Harcourt (Rivers State)

### Beneficiaries

#### Direct Employment:

- 3 Greenhouse (Kit) Attendants
- 1 Farm Manager
- Educational Beneficiaries:
  - University of Uyo (Crop Science students, interns)
  - Secondary School Students (via WIMBIZ Big Sister)
  - Community Women (via CFI Women Fellowship)

#### Indirect Beneficiaries:

Market women and consumers in Akwa Ibom and neighboring regions



## Employment

**3**

Greenhouse Attendants

**1**

Farm Manager



## Harvested Quantity

**4,608.26 Kg**

Habanero Pepper

**1,385.51 Kg**

Bell Pepper

**386.49 Kg**

Fresh Tomatoes



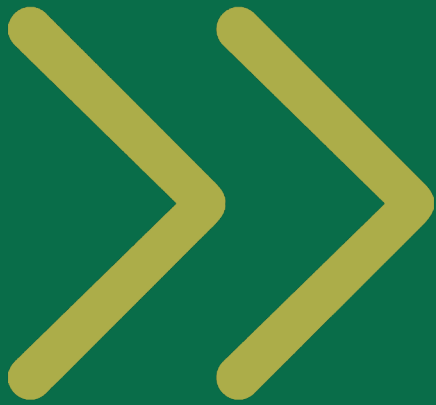
## LIFE OF PROJECT DATA

# AKUKU-TORU COMMUNITY HEALTH INSURANCE PROJECT

The Community Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) project is a social health investment program of Renaissance Africa Energy Company (formerly Shell Petroleum Development Company) for her host communities. Renaissance is collaborating with the Rivers State Government, ECEWS and the people of Akuku-Toru Local Government Area (AKULGA) on the implementation of this project in the LGA.



**Project Commencement:**  
Enrolment began in the first week of June 2025; service delivery to begin before the end of June 2025.



# What the Future Looks Like

Pioneering Tomorrow's Impact

## Pioneering Tomorrow's Impact

As we celebrate 24 years of impactful strides, ECEWS is not merely looking back at our journey; we are boldly looking forward, charting a course for even greater impact in the coming years. Our strategic direction is defined by an intensified commitment to evolve and deepen the Nexus of Opportunity, Knowledge, and Well-being, adapting our proven approach to address the dynamic realities of the development landscape.



Our future is rooted in innovation, scalability, and sustainability. We envision a future where our interventions are even more localized, leveraging cutting-edge technology and data-driven insights to ensure precision and effectiveness. Across our core pillars, we are set to launch pioneering initiatives:



### Health

We look forward to expanding our reach beyond existing priorities, such as HIV, Tuberculosis (TB), and Malaria, while strengthening health systems to address emerging threats, including the complex interplay of climate change on public health. We also aim to scale up interventions for non-communicable diseases and mental health. We will explore advanced digital health solutions to ensure equitable access to quality care and empower communities with real-time health information.



### Education

Our focus will sharpen on fostering future-ready skills, bridging the pervasive digital divide, and championing equitable access to quality learning that transcends traditional boundaries. This includes investing in vocational training for green economies, promoting critical thinking, and nurturing a culture of lifelong learning that empowers individuals to adapt and thrive in an ever-evolving world.



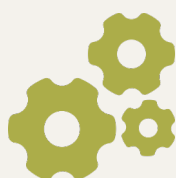
### Economic Strengthening

Our Economic Strengthening initiatives will increasingly target innovative models for youth entrepreneurship, climate-smart agriculture, and enhanced financial inclusion for marginalized populations. We aim to build robust, resilient livelihoods that not only lift families out of poverty but also safeguard them against economic shocks and create sustainable pathways to prosperity for generations.





The development landscape is constantly evolving, presenting new complexities from rapid urbanization and demographic shifts to geopolitical instability and resource scarcity. Recognizing the inherent challenges, ECEWS plans to confront these emerging issues by:



#### **Adaptive Programming:**

Investing in flexible, evidence-based approaches that can quickly pivot to address unforeseen crises and new community needs, ensuring our programs remain responsive and effective.



#### **Enhanced Partnerships:**

Deepening our collaboration with local governments, community-based organizations, and global thought leaders to foster collective action and shared ownership of development goals.



#### **Technological Integration:**

Fully harnessing digital tools for program delivery, monitoring, data collection, and communication, ensuring greater efficiency and reach, especially in hard-to-access areas.



#### **Diversifying Funding & Local Resource Mobilization:**

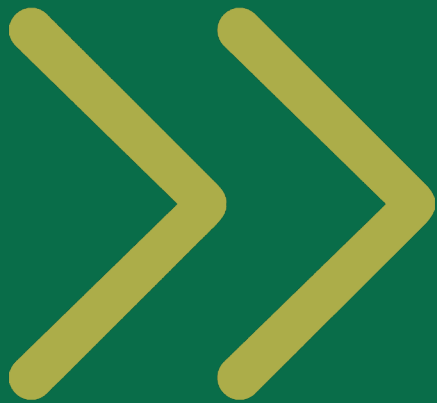
Strengthening our financial resilience by actively exploring innovative funding mechanisms, fostering new donor partnerships, and empowering local communities to drive their development financing. This strategic approach mitigates risks from shifting global aid landscapes and ensures the long-term sustainability of our programs.



#### **Advocacy & Policy Influence:**

Engaging more actively in policy dialogues at national and international levels to ensure that our on-the-ground experiences inform broader strategies and create a more enabling environment for sustainable development.

Our aspiration is clear: to deepen our transformative impact, creating a future where every community can truly thrive, resilient in the face of adversity and equipped with the tools for self-determination. ECEWS will continue to be the vital nexus, Building Brighter Futures and serving as a beacon of opportunity, knowledge, and well-being for many more years to come.



# Goodwill Messages

# GOODWILL MESSAGES



## Felicitations to ECEWS on Your 24th Anniversary

Dear ECEWS Team,

On behalf of the Department of Public Health, I extend warm congratulations to Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) on the occasion of your 24th anniversary.

ECEWS has been an excellent partner in our collective efforts to strengthen public health systems, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment. Your technical assistance has significantly contributed to building the capacity of our health workforce and improving service delivery across the state.

The impact of your work is evident in the progress we have made in combating HIV/AIDS and enhancing the quality of care provided to our Deltans.

As you celebrate this significant milestone, we commend your tireless efforts and look forward to deepening our collaboration in the years to come.

Congratulations, and thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Christian TETSOLA**

Director of Public Health

Delta State Ministry of Health

## Congratulations on ECEWS' 24th Anniversary

Dear ECEWS Team,

On behalf of the Delta State Ministry of Health, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) on the occasion of your 24th anniversary.

Over the years, ECEWS has demonstrated unwavering commitment, professionalism, and innovation in strengthening the health system and advancing the HIV/AIDS response in Delta State. As our principal Implementing Partner, your technical assistance and collaboration have been instrumental in improving health outcomes and expanding access to lifesaving services for Deltans.

We value the partnership we share and commend your dedication to excellence, community impact, and sustainable development.

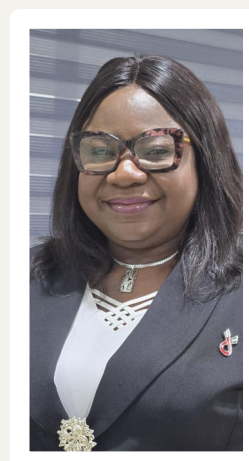
As you mark this important milestone, we wish you continued growth, resilience, and success in your mission to build healthier communities across Nigeria.

Congratulations once again!

Warm regards,

**Dr. Philomena OKEOWO,**

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health







## Congratulations to ECEWS on 24 Years of Remarkable Service

On behalf of the Delta State Hospitals Management Board, I extend warm congratulations to Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) on the celebration of your 24th anniversary.

ECEWS has been a steadfast and valued partner in strengthening healthcare delivery systems across Delta State. Your technical assistance and support, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS programming, have been instrumental in enhancing the capacity of our secondary health facilities and improving service outcomes for the people we serve. We value all the health system strengthening support we have received over the years. Your commitment to excellence and collaboration is commendable.

As you mark this significant milestone, we celebrate your achievements and look forward to many more years of impactful partnership in our shared mission to provide quality, accessible healthcare to all Deltans in line with the the MORE agenda of His Excellency, Rt Hon, Elder Sheriff Oborevwori, the Governor of Delta State.

Congratulations once again, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Paul OKUBOR**  
 Permanent Secretary  
 Delta State Hospitals Management Board

On behalf of the Akwa Ibom State Agency for the Control of AIDS (AKSACA), I extend heartfelt congratulations to ECEWS on the occasion of your 24th anniversary.

Over the years, ECEWS has demonstrated unwavering commitment and leadership in the HIV response, standing as a pillar of support and a trusted partner in our shared mission to improve the lives of People Living with HIV (PLHIVs) in Akwa Ibom State. Your impactful interventions, technical expertise, and humanitarian services have strengthened the health system, deepened community engagement, and brought hope to countless lives across the state.

We commend your consistency, innovation, and dedication to excellence. As you mark this remarkable milestone, we look forward to continued collaboration and greater achievements together in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again, and thank you for all you do!"

**Dr. Enobong AKPAN**  
 ES/Program Manager, Akwa Ibom State Agency  
 for the Control of AIDS (AKSACA)



## Congratulations to ECEWS on 24 Years of Dedicated Service

Dear ECEWS Team,

On behalf of the Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA), I extend heartfelt congratulations to Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) on the occasion of your 24th anniversary.

Your organization has played an instrumental role in strengthening HIV/AIDS programming in Delta State through consistent technical support, strategic collaboration, and a shared commitment to epidemic control. ECEWS has not only supported service delivery but has also helped build resilient systems that are responsive, inclusive, and evidence-driven.



Your partnership with SACA and other stakeholders has contributed immensely to the gains we have recorded in prevention, treatment, care, and support services, especially in reaching Priority Populations and ensuring no one is left behind.

As you mark this milestone, we celebrate your vision, dedication, and tangible impact across the state. We look forward to deepening our collaboration as we work toward achieving and sustaining HIV epidemic control in Delta State.

Congratulations once again, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Rudolf HOBSON**  
 Executive Secretary,  
 Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS (DELSACA)



Dear ECEWS Team,

It is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the Delta State Ministry of Health, extend warm congratulations to Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) on the celebration of your 24th anniversary.

ECEWS has remained a vital partner in advancing public health across Nigeria, and particularly in Delta State. Your leadership as our principal Implementing Partner in the HIV/AIDS response has significantly strengthened the state's capacity to deliver high-quality, people-centered services.

Your dedication to technical excellence, innovation, and community engagement continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our people. We deeply appreciate the collaborative spirit and professionalism that ECEWS brings to our shared mission of building a healthier Delta State.

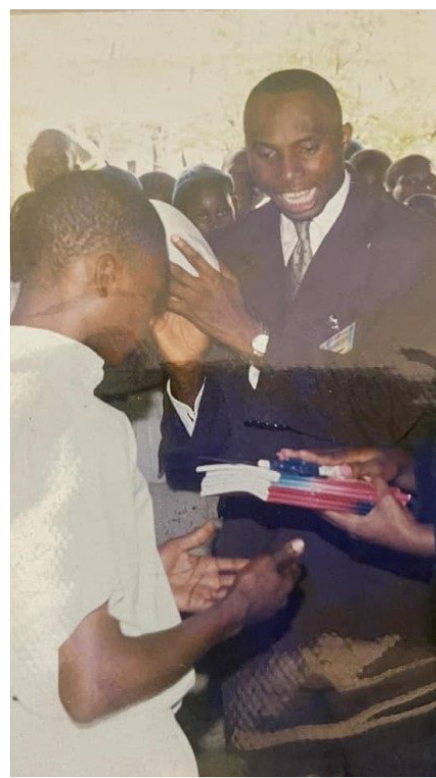
As you mark this remarkable milestone, I commend your achievements and look forward to even greater strides in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Joseph ONOJAEME**  
 Honourable Commissioner for Health  
 Delta State Ministry of Health



# PICTURE C





# GALLERY







# Changing Lives

SINCE 2001



[eceans.org](http://eceans.org)