



**04**  
From Servers to Service;  
ECEWS Fortifies HIV Care  
with Digital Transformation  
Tech Upgrade in Delta State

**09**  
ECEWS Receives Maya  
Rockey Moore Cummings  
and Ms. Tanya Curry  
Watkins

**14**  
ECEWS Participates in the  
2025 Green Energy Expo:  
Advancing Renewable  
Solutions and Sustainable  
Development





# ECEWS

*...Improving Education and Health in Nigeria*



# CEO's Desk



**The heart of our work, however, is best captured by the recovery of Baby Happiness.**

Dear Partners and Friends,

As we celebrate this Christmas, I am filled with pride reflecting on a year where ECEWS turned challenges into milestones. From the remote creeks of Delta to the clinics of Ekiti, our mission remains clear: ensuring quality healthcare reaches every Nigerian, regardless of their location.

This edition highlights our focus on sustainability and innovation. We have fortified the "digital lifeblood" of facilities with high-performance servers, transitioned to green energy solutions in Akwa Ibom, and secured landmark commitments in Ekiti for the state to absorb our dedicated healthcare workforce into their permanent systems.

Our "Last Mile" distribution in Enugu successfully reached every supported facility across 17 LGAs, while in Cross River, we are pioneering the rollout of new, life-saving HIV drug combinations.

The heart of our work, however, is best captured by the recovery of Baby Happiness. Her journey from a frail 3kg infant to a healthy, thriving toddler is a powerful reminder that our technical interventions serve a higher purpose: the gift of life and hope.

I want to thank our staff, the Government of Nigeria, and our US partners for their unwavering commitment. Together, we are building a resilient, state-owned health system that will endure long after this season passes.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a productive 2026.

Dr. Andy Eyo  
Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS

# From Servers to Service; ECEWS Fortifies HIV Care with Digital Transformation Tech Upgrade in Delta State

Reliable health data is the lifeblood of effective HIV programming, directly impacting patient care, informing public health strategy, and ensuring the efficient use of resources.

Prior to the intervention, healthcare facilities in Delta State faced significant difficulties navigating outdated and often faulty systems. The core challenge was unreliable and aging server infrastructure, which led to frequent system downtimes, slow data processing, and inconsistent access to the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems. This resulted in data inconsistencies, delayed patient care, and inefficient resource allocation. The manual and error-prone patient identification management system exacerbated the problem, leading to duplicate records, compromised patient safety, and hindered effective HIV programming and public health strategy. However, a recent technological upgrade implemented by the ECEWS-SPEED project aimed to address these challenges.

Upgrading this infrastructure was critical. The outdated systems were not only inefficient but also posed a risk to data integrity and security, especially with the planned rollout of the new Nigeria Medical Record System (NMRS) 3.0. A modern, high-performance backbone is essential to ensure system stability, support the full operationalization of Point-of-Care (POC) electronic medical records, and enable reliable data collection for informed decision-making. The success of this upgrade is now evident. A total of three high-performance Alienware servers were successfully deployed at Central Hospitals in Ughelli, Sapele, and Warri, directly replacing outdated Dell servers. These new servers now provide a robust and stable digital foundation for their respective facilities. The performance improvement is marked by enhanced system reliability, faster data processing speeds, and a more secure environment for patient health information, directly supporting optimized Patient Identification Management Systems (PIMS) and EMR functionality.

Overall, seven facilities across Delta State benefited from the week-long intervention, which included not only server deployments but also hands-on capacity building, system optimization, and technical support. The visited sites were Central Hospital Ughelli, Central Hospital Sapele, St. Elizabeth Hospital Sapele, Central Hospital Warri, St. Andrew Catholic Hospital, General Hospital Ekpan, and Cottage Hospital Uzere.

The "why" of this intensive intervention is rooted in the pursuit of sustainable epidemic control. Reliable,



high-quality health data is the lifeblood of effective HIV programming, directly impacting patient care, informing public health strategy, and ensuring the efficient use of resources. By fortifying the digital backbone of the health system, ECEWS and its stakeholders are not only preparing facilities for the fiscal year but also building local ownership and technical expertise. This ensures that these vital systems remain functional, secure, and effective long-term, turning data into a powerful tool for safeguarding community health and accelerating the journey toward an AIDS-free generation.

The project included intensive training for Government of Nigeria staff and facility personnel on patient identity management, data quality, and biometric deduplication. This aims to ensure the integrity of patient records and support sustainable epidemic control. ECEWS-SPEED project continues to support Nigeria's efforts towards achieving an AIDS-free generation, building local ownership and technical expertise to ensure the long-term functionality and security of these systems.





## Saved Against All Odds: The Remarkable Recovery of Baby Happiness

"On that fateful day, I gave birth to my baby under normal circumstances," narrated Mrs. Affiong John Usung, Happiness' mother. After a while, Mrs. Usung noticed that her baby began to lose weight drastically, and this became a serious cause for concern.

Their neighbors and community members began making assumptions and spreading rumors that the child was evil, even advising her to dump the baby in a sack.

On April 4th, 2023, Happiness Usung, a frail baby girl, was brought to the Primary Health Center, Uyo Base. At just six months old, her health had deteriorated so badly that she weighed only 3kg. Upon arriving at the hospital, both Mrs. Usung and baby Happiness were tested and diagnosed with HIV; a shocking and devastating moment she will never forget.

Despite the shock, she was determined to follow the counsel of the health workers to ensure her daughter's survival. Baby Happiness

and her mother were immediately enrolled into care and placed on antiretroviral therapy (ARV). The ECEWS team and the Government of Nigeria (GoN) staff at the facility worked tirelessly to stabilize her health and ensure she survived.

Happiness' mother was encouraged not to miss routine checkups and refill sessions, a commitment she gladly upheld. As days turned into weeks, the once frail Happiness began to show signs of recovery. She became stronger and started gaining weight.

"I am very glad and thankful to God when I look at my Happiness today," Mrs. Usung shared joyfully. "She is now healthy, can walk, eat by herself, and is ready to resume school in January." Today, through the ECEWS intervention, baby Happiness has fully recovered. She is hale and hearty and now weighs 10kg. Her story is a powerful reminder that every child deserves a chance to thrive.

“

**She is now healthy, can walk, eat by herself, and is ready to resume school in January**



## ECEWS Engages National Leaders at 66th National Council on Health and Strategic Partners Meeting with NACA DG

The 66th National Council on Health, held between the 17th to 21st of November 2025, where ECEWS joined national health leaders and partners in Calabar for two key engagements shaping Nigeria's health future; the 66th National Council on Health (NCH) and a strategic multi-stakeholder meeting with the NACA Director General.

At the NCH, delegates advanced practical strategies to strengthen Universal Health Coverage, focusing on equitable access, sustainable financing, health workforce reforms, and digital system optimization. The Federal Government and partners reaffirmed commitment to integrating HIV services, expanding local ARV production, and building resilient primary healthcare systems.

During the NACA strategic engagement, partners

reviewed progress toward epidemic control. The Cross River SACA team showcased significant gains, including improved coordination systems, wider access to preventive tools, and integration of HIV services into the State Health Insurance Scheme. Plans for local ARV manufacturing signaled a bold step toward sustainability.

The NACA DG commended all partners, giving special recognition to ECEWS for its leadership and strong ACE-5 results.

Together, these engagements show growing national momentum toward more resilient, equitable, and sustainable healthcare systems reinforcing ECEWS' commitment to driving impactful solutions across Nigeria.





## ECEWS Maintains HIV Lifeline During Strike at FMC Asaba

ECEWS-SPEED project team in Delta State delivered a critical intervention that protected uninterrupted HIV treatment for hundreds of clients at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Asaba. When the ongoing strike by the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) threatened to shut down the ART clinic, ECEWS immediately mobilized personnel and resources to keep services running, averting what could have become a serious public health setback.

By stepping in, the team ensured continuous access to lifesaving antiretroviral drugs, adherence counseling, and clinical monitoring. This rapid response prevented dangerous treatment interruptions that could have led to viral rebound, drug resistance, and increased morbidity for clients dependent on FMC Asaba

for their care. Instead, patients remained stable, supported, and fully engaged in their treatment journey.

Beyond bridging the service gap, ECEWS established ongoing surveillance and support mechanisms to monitor the situation and sustain service continuity for as long as required ensuring no patient was left behind.

This intervention not only safeguarded individual health outcomes but also demonstrated the value of resilient health systems. By acting swiftly and strategically, ECEWS helped preserve Delta State's progress in HIV control despite system shocks, reinforcing its commitment to protecting community well-being in the face of emerging challenges.

## ECEWS Showcases Success at South-South TB/HIV Review Meeting

From November 2nd to 6th, 2025, public health leaders converged in Port Harcourt for the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP) Third Quarter Zonal Review Meeting. This critical forum gathered Program Managers from six South-South states and partners to assess progress and address challenges like funding and stockouts.

The ECEWS-SPEED Project, represented by Dr. Okon Success Michael, delivered a compelling presentation highlighting remarkable outcomes in Delta State's integrated TB/HIV service delivery. Key achievements included a formidable 6.1% TB positivity yield among people living with HIV and 100% coverage for Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT) for all eligible clients. These results were

attributed to strategic innovations like the scale-up of portable digital X-ray (PDX) technology and active participation in state-wide testing initiatives.

The meeting concluded with a clear action plan, demanding a synthesis of ECEWS's proven approaches with renewed systemic advocacy. Collective deliberations emphasized integrating TB case-finding with other disease programs, optimizing domestic resources to mitigate funding shortfalls, and urgently addressing supply chain gaps. For ECEWS, the path forward involves deepening this integrated model and leveraging its data to advocate for sustained investment, transforming local Delta State successes into a blueprint for a more resilient and effective regional public health response for Nigeria.





## ECEWS Receives Maya Rockeymoore Cummings and Ms. Tanya Curry Watkins

On November 24th, the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) received two of its US partners, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore Cummings and Ms. Tanya Curry Watkins, in Lagos State, to gain firsthand insight into program implementation and impact.

The delegation visited the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), a facility that receives technical and financial support from the US Government through ECEWS. At the NIMR molecular laboratory, the team learned that more than 67,190 HIV viral load samples have been tested, reducing turnaround time from over 21 days to just 3 days, significantly improving the speed of diagnosis and treatment decisions.

The team also toured the Harvey Road General Hospital ART Clinic, where detailed updates on ECEWS-supported interventions and notable

program results were provided, including the effectiveness of integrated service delivery models and patient-centered care strategies implemented through the ECEWS-US partnership.

The visit concluded at the ECEWS Lagos State Office, where the delegation received a comprehensive overview of the organization's evolution since its inception in 2001. The interactive engagement included staff introductions, program presentations, and a lively Q&A session.

The guests expressed deep appreciation for the enlightening experience, noting that the visit strengthened their understanding of ECEWS' holistic approach to improving the lives of vulnerable populations through high-quality HIV/AIDS services across Lagos State.

# ECEWS Boosts Laboratory Quality Assurance in Delta State

In a major boost to the quality and reliability of HIV diagnostics in Delta State, the ECEWS-SPEED Laboratory Unit has completed a rigorous quality assurance drive that is already strengthening testing accuracy and improving client outcomes. Throughout early November 2025, the team conducted the FY26 Round 1 SPI-RT audit and competency assessment for HIV serology testers across nine supported laboratories, a hands-on exercise that reinforced global best practices in Rapid Testing Continuous Quality Improvement.

Spanning facilities in both the Asaba and Warri axes, the assessments provided targeted mentorship to laboratory personnel, helping them refine testing techniques, strengthen documentation, and close gaps that could affect diagnostic precision. To deepen the impact, the unit also supplied essential Standard Operating Procedures and job aids—received from ECEWS headquarters to six laboratories in the Warri axis, ensuring that every testing point is equipped with the tools needed to meet high-quality standards.

This systematic strengthening of laboratory processes is already positioning facilities to deliver more accurate, timely, and reliable HIV results as an essential foundation for effective treatment and patient management. Looking ahead, the Laboratory Unit has set a clear plan to sustain and scale this progress: continued competency assessments, intensified viral load and early infant diagnosis of sample collection drives, and strengthened systems for timely results of filing. Together, these actions will reduce turnaround times, support faster clinical decisions, and significantly enhance the overall quality of care for clients across Delta State.

ECEWS' commitment to laboratory excellence is translating into measurable improvements, ensuring that every test result counts and every patient receives the highest standard of diagnostic support.

## ECEWS Technical Assistance in Strengthening Lab Systems in Delta's Hardest-to-Reach Communities

In the remote landscapes of Delta State, the quality of healthcare should never be determined by a patient's location, a principle that recently guided ECEWS team led by Senior Technical Officer Nduka Mba and Lab Services Associate Osato Oghogho on a technical assistance visit to Central Hospital Oleh, General Hospital Bomadi, and Our Lady of Waters, Bomadi. This visit aimed to bridge the diagnostic divide by strengthening reporting on the National Health Logistics Management Information System (NHLMIS) and embedding high-quality operational standards directly within these frontline laboratories.

Moving beyond theory, the ECEWS team provided intensive, on-the-bench mentorship to address critical gaps in the HIV care continuum. They corrected vital biosafety breaches, rectified documentation errors, and conducted step-down training on the National Commodity Management Module to prevent future kit stockouts. By providing hands-on coaching for Quality Control and introducing new tools for dual HIV/Syphilis testing, the team successfully transformed national guidelines into sustainable daily routines for facility staff.

To ensure these improvements endure, ECEWS has established a follow-up protocol of continuous virtual check-ins and remote oversight. This model of intensive support followed by consistent mentorship is designed to foster self-reliant laboratory units. By equipping these facilities with the tools and confidence to maintain diagnostic accuracy, ECEWS is building a resilient healthcare network that ensures every patient, regardless of their community's remoteness, can trust the results guiding their life-saving treatment.



## ECEWS Participates in Rollout Training for a new HIV drug in Cross River State

As part of the national rollout of the Tenofovir Alafenamide/Emtricitabine/Dolutegravir (TAF/FTC/DTG) fixed-dose combination (FDC), the ECEWS Pharmacy Team in Cross River State actively participated in a NASCP-led step-down training held at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) during the first week of November 2025. The training served as a critical preparatory step for the upcoming 12-month pilot implementation of the new antiretroviral regimen.

The session provided detailed insights into the pharmacological properties, clinical advantages, and operational requirements of the TAF/FTC/DTG FDC. It equipped pharmacists with the essential knowledge and skills needed to safely and effectively initiate clients on the regimen, ensuring adherence to national treatment guidelines and donor expectations.

UCTH was selected by NASCP as one of the national pilot sites, underscoring its strategic role in advancing HIV treatment innovations. The participation of the ECEWS Pharmacy Team highlights the organization's strong collaboration with national stakeholders and its readiness to support evidence-based, client-centered treatment approaches.

This activity marks a significant milestone in strengthening HIV care and treatment services in Cross River State and contributes to ongoing national efforts to enhance treatment outcomes for people living with HIV.





## ECEWS Secures Ekiti State Commitment to Absorb Healthcare Workforce

As Nigeria moves toward a sustainable transition phase of the HIV program, ECEWS is working with State Governments to strengthen systems, optimize the health workforce, and ensure uninterrupted quality care. Recently, the ECEWS Ekiti State team, led by Dr. Osilade Adewole, embarked on a strategic advocacy visit to the office of the Honourable Commissioner for Health, which focused on workforce sustainability and long-term program integration.

The Ekiti State government through the Ministry of Health shows commitment to absorb all Doctors and Nurses currently on the ECEWS payroll, retaining them in their facilities and expanding their roles beyond HIV services. This marks a critical step in securing a resilient, state-owned health workforce for HIV response and broader primary healthcare services.

The team also showcased key program gains, from zero stock-out of ARVs, to high patient retention, to strong index testing yields, demonstrating ECEWS' readiness for a seamless transition. Additionally, ECEWS reaffirmed its investment in State systems through support to Emergency Operations Centers and solar-powered cold-chain equipment for vaccines and commodities.

This strengthened partnership signals Ekiti State's commitment to sustaining HIV program gains and advancing a future where quality healthcare remains accessible, reliable, and resilient.



## ECEWS Supports the Lagos State Government on HIV Law Review and Annual Report Development

ECEWS participated in a crucial two-day stakeholders' engagement aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for an inclusive and sustainable HIV response in the state. The event brought together key implementing partners, civil society organizations, community-based organizations, and persons with lived experiences to collaborate on legislative reform and programmatic documentation.

The engagement focused on two major areas central to improving Lagos State's HIV response. The first day centered on the review of the 2007 Law for the Protection of People Living with HIV and Affected Persons, with the goal of aligning it with current national policies, global human rights standards, and modern public health priorities. The review sought to ensure that the law remains effective in addressing stigma, discrimination, and other barriers that limit access to essential HIV services.

ECEWS Lagos State, represented by Dr. John Paul, Senior Technical Advisor, played an active role in providing technical input and programmatic insights. This contribution reinforced ECEWS' commitment to advancing human rights and promoting a supportive legal environment for people living with and affected by HIV.

The session adopted an inclusive and participatory approach, drawing perspectives from legal practitioners, human rights advocates, CBOs, CSOs, and community members—particularly individuals with lived experiences of stigma—to ensure that reform efforts are community-driven and grounded.

The second day focused on drafting the Lagos State HIV Response Annual Report for the 2023–2024 reporting cycle. The report aims to capture progress, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned across the multisectoral response.

ECEWS contributed valuable insights on client support systems, service delivery performance, and program outcomes, demonstrating the organization's dedication to transparency, data quality, and shared accountability. The process also included M&E leads and community representatives to ensure robust data validation and the integration of grassroots perspectives.



# ECEWS Participates in the 2025 Green Energy Expo: Advancing Renewable Solutions and Sustainable Development

The ECEWS Akwa Ibom State team joined government leaders, policymakers, innovators, and private sector partners at the 2025 Green Energy Expo on November 4 at the Ibom E-Library in Uyo; an event dedicated to accelerating renewable energy adoption and strengthening sustainable development in the state. Representing the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Andy Eyo, the ECEWS AKS ACE-5 State Director, Dr. Bala Gana, engaged actively in the discussions, affirming the organization's commitment to advancing clean energy solutions within the health sector.

During the opening session, the Convener, Hon. Prince Idongesit Ituen, emphasized the urgency of transforming Nigeria's energy landscape and highlighted renewable energy as a strategic

pathway for economic stability, environmental stewardship, and inclusive growth. Presentations from innovative companies such as EENOVANCE and ZubGo Projects & Consulting showcased emerging clean energy technologies designed to expand access to affordable, reliable power. Insights from the African Leadership University (Rwanda) further demonstrated how purposeful investments in solarization, recycling, and green infrastructure can shift national development trajectories.

ECEWS' participation signifies its deliberate shift toward sustainable energy solutions as part of its broader commitment to resilient health systems. The organization reiterated ongoing efforts to expand solar power installations across supported

health facilities, ensuring uninterrupted service delivery, strengthening digital health operations, and reducing dependence on fossil-fuel-based energy sources. By championing renewable energy integration, ECEWS continues to demonstrate that environmental responsibility and public health advancement can move together.

This engagement reinforces ECEWS' dedication to driving sustainable transformation, promoting climate-conscious innovations, and building a greener, more resilient foundation for healthcare delivery across Akwa Ibom State.



# ECEWS Champions Collaborative Strategy for Maternal and Child Health in Delta State

In a significant stride toward redefining maternal and child healthcare delivery, the Delta State Core Technical Committee convened its quarterly meeting on October 28, 2025, at the Obi Chika Edozien Secretariat in Asaba. This high-level strategic forum, uniting pivotal stakeholders from the State Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, Marie Stopes International, and other key agencies, was strategically attended by ECEWS, represented by Dr. Chioma Ejifugha, Clinical Services Associate for Paediatrics and PMTCT. The gathering served as a critical platform to dissect the state's MNCH performance, confronting the stark realities of a persistently high maternal mortality ratio alongside celebrated gains, such as a dramatic reduction in under-five mortality. The presence of ECEWS underscored its commitment to a multi-sectoral approach, ensuring that its specialized expertise in HIV and paediatric care is woven directly into the fabric of the state's broader health security agenda.

The meeting revealed a landscape of both promising progress and profound challenges. While under-five mortality was nearly halved, falling from 57 to 27 per 1,000 live births, the maternal mortality ratio remained alarmingly high at 1,400 per 100,000 live births. Other critical gaps identified included a worrying drop in attendance for subsequent antenatal care visits after the first, low uptake of family planning services, and recurrent stockouts

of essential medical commodities. A pivotal point of discussion was the high patronage of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), who often lack the skills to manage PMTCT, complicated deliveries, and neonatal emergencies, highlighting an urgent need for system-level integration and capacity building at the community level.

The path forward, heavily influenced by the collaborative dialogue ECEWS helped to shape, is decisively focused on integration and system strengthening. The collective resolved to move beyond isolated interventions by developing joint work plans, conducting integrated supervisory visits, and creating sustainable state-level funding strategies. A key action point involved formally integrating family planning services into the state's contributory health scheme and launching a major public awareness campaign for the emergency ambulance service. For ECEWS, this means leveraging its deep community ties and technical prowess to support the state in training and sensitizing TBAs, ensuring they become a formalized, knowledgeable part of the referral pathway rather than a parallel system. By anchoring its efforts within this unified state-led framework, ECEWS is not only contributing to saving lives but is helping to architect a more resilient, interconnected, and equitable health system for the most vulnerable mothers and children in Delta State.



# Empowering the Next Generation: ECEWS Partners with HERCODE Technology Initiative

ECEWS is proud to partner with HERCODE Technology Initiative, an organization empowering women, girls, and underserved communities across Nigeria through technology education, innovation, and opportunity.

Through this collaboration, ECEWS is strengthening its commitment to digital inclusion by expanding access to tech education, building practical digital skills, and creating opportunities that enable individuals and communities to thrive.

By leveraging technology as a tool for learning and empowerment, we are supporting pathways to innovation, self-reliance, and sustainable development.

Together with HERCODE Technology Initiative, ECEWS is reaffirming its role in using education and technology to empower people and transform lives.



## ECEWS and FHI 360 Reaffirm Commitment to Nigeria's Health

The management of ECEWS recently met with the FHI 360 team to reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing sustainable health and development outcomes in Nigeria.

The engagement focused on strengthening our long-standing partnership, exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration, and building on past successes to deliver people-centred, community-driven interventions.

At ECEWS, we believe strong partnerships are critical to driving lasting change, and we remain committed to working with trusted partners like FHI 360 to improve lives and strengthen systems where it matters most.



# ECEWS Strengthens Partnerships and Foundation for a Productive FY26 in Delta State

In a strategic push to ensure a seamless and impactful 2026 fiscal year, the Finance and Grants unit of the ECEWS-SPEED project in Delta State embarked on a series of critical partnership and capability strengthening activities throughout early November 2025. These engagements, spanning from formal facility introductions to hands-on community support, were designed to solidify operational foundations and empower local partners for sustained success.

A key step in this process was a high-level courtesy visit to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Ovwian. The ECEWS grants, and the Adult ART teams, met formally with the facility's Chief Medical Director and Chief Finance Officer. This meeting served to reinforce the collaborative relationship and navigate important administrative

updates, including the facility's official change of name and account details. Such proactive engagement is a cornerstone of ECEWS's forward-looking strategy to foster greater program ownership and self-reliance at the facility level.

Simultaneously, demonstrating a commitment to grassroots empowerment, the state grant focal person joined the State Program Manager and the CCMP Technical Lead on a support mission to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in the Warri axis. During these visits, the team moved beyond oversight to provide direct, hands-on technical assistance, guiding partners through the intricacies of budget development and work plan preparation. This mentorship is vital for building the financial and managerial autonomy of local organizations, ensuring they are

equipped to manage their sub-awards effectively and deliver quality services to the community.

Moving forward is clear and action oriented. ECEWS Delta State will continue to build on this momentum through the systematic distribution and sign-off of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with all facilities and DSD partners, ensuring clear roles and responsibilities. The finance team will also prioritize and maintain the cycle of ongoing mentorship. This comprehensive approach ensures that every link in the implementation chain from the central office to the community level is fully equipped and aligned to meet the ambitious targets of FY26, ultimately guaranteeing that life-saving services continue to reach those who need them most.

## LMIS Review Meeting Paves Way for Improved Healthcare Logistics

The Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) Data Review Meeting convened, bringing together key stakeholders, including Malaria Focal Persons (MFPs), the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Logistics Officer, ECEWS Logistics and Pharmacy Units, and the State Logistics Management Coordination Unit (LMCU) Team. This critical meeting provided a Platform for reviewing and validating bi-monthly reports from supported facilities across the 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the State, prior to uploading the data onto the National Health Logistics Management Information System (NHLMIS) Platform.

During the meeting, participants engaged in an in-depth review of the reports, scrutinizing data for accuracy and completeness. This process ensured that the information reflected the actual situation on the ground, enabling informed decision-making and timely interventions. The meeting also provided an opportunity for MFPs and other stakeholders to share their observations, challenges, and best practices, fostering a culture of collaboration and problem-solving.

The interactive discussions and deliberations centered on addressing the challenges faced by facilities, with a view to proffering lasting solutions. The collective expertise and experiences shared by participants helped identify bottlenecks and develop strategies to overcome them, ultimately strengthening the logistics system and improving healthcare service delivery. The meeting underscored the importance of accurate and timely data in driving decision-making and reaffirmed the commitment of stakeholders to ensure that the NHLMIS Platform is populated with reliable and quality data.

The meeting concluded with clear action points and recommendations, which will guide future interventions and support the overall goal of enhancing the effectiveness of the logistics system in the state.





## Delivering Essential Medicines to the Last Mile in Enugu State

The Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) and the Enugu State Government, achieved a breakthrough in strengthening healthcare delivery across the state. Together, they completed a 13-day Last Mile Distribution (LMD) exercise—the third cycle under the Impact Malaria Project—ensuring that essential medicines reached every supported facility across all 17 LGAs. The round of distribution did more than move commodities; it closed

long-standing logistical gaps that often hinder timely treatment. By deploying a tightly coordinated pick-and-pack system, ECEWS teams and the State Project Implementation Unit (PIU) delivered malaria commodities directly to facility doorsteps, sparing health workers the burden of traveling long distances to collect supplies. Every supported facility received its full allocation between the 12th and 28th of November 2025, safeguarding continuity of care for thousands of patients.

The exercise also strengthened operational systems in practical ways. Waste bins were deployed to facilities in Udi and Enugu East LGAs to improve infection prevention and waste control, laying out the groundwork for safer care environments. Key data tools such as; Bi-monthly Registers, Stock-at-Hand Registers, stock cards/bin cards, and OPD Registers, were distributed alongside the commodities to support accurate record-keeping and better inventory management.



By executing this LMD seamlessly, ECEWS and the Enugu State Government demonstrated how well-orchestrated logistics can directly improve service delivery. The exercise protected facilities from stockouts, stabilized treatment availability, and reinforced the state's broader goals of reducing malaria burden and improving patient outcomes.

More importantly, the collaboration has become a practical model for how government and technical partners can pool expertise, manpower, and accountability to strengthen public health systems at scale. The gains recorded during this distribution cycle have created a stronger foundation for future rounds, setting a clear path for sustained availability of life-saving commodities across Enugu State.

With continued joint commitment to efficient supply chains, improved waste management, and accurate facility data, ECEWS and the Enugu State Government are shaping a more reliable healthcare ecosystem—one where essential medicines truly reach the people who need them, no matter how remote the facility.

This LMD success stands as a powerful reminder: when partners work in lockstep, the last mile is no longer a barrier, but a milestone toward better health for the entire state.

## Driving Epidemic Control through Enhanced Service Delivery

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen program oversight, optimize service delivery, and reinforce alignment with the SPEED Project's strategic priorities, the CEO undertook a two-day touch-base visit to Ekiti State. The visit deepened leadership engagement with field teams, assessed implementation realities, reviewed performance against key indicators, and identified improvement opportunities across facility and community levels. This engagement aligns with the organization's commitment to continuous quality improvement, digital innovation, and health systems strengthening under the PEPFAR-supported SPEED Project. Accompanied by Dr. Abutu Inedu, Deputy Project Director/Technical Director and Dr. Chioma Helga Law-Maduka, Director, HSS/CQIM), the CEO visited the Ekiti State office, Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH – SPEEDY App pilot site), selected Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and the Community Service Coordination Center (CSCC).

The visit also featured an in-depth program review covering SPEEDY App performance, TX\_CURR trends, PMTCT data gaps, solar deployment status, and progress on EKHIS enrolment. The CEO emphasized data-driven improvements, stronger client engagement, and innovative approaches to sustain epidemic control. Field visits to EKSUTH, LIWOM, BIGIF, and the Ado-Ekiti CSCC further highlighted the dedication and ownership demonstrated by facility and community teams.

Overall, the CEO commended the Ekiti team's cohesion, steady progress, and commitment to quality, urging them to maintain momentum as the state advances toward achieving HIV epidemic control.



offer live coverage of major events, and, critically, to integrate HIV awareness messages into its regular programming, ensuring inclusivity by broadcasting content in local Delta languages. This partnership aims to transform public understanding, strengthen community participation, and showcase the state's unwavering commitment to inclusive healthcare.

In a resounding endorsement of this shared goal, General Manager Mrs. Christy Emetulu affirmed the station's mandate to disseminate state government activities and pledged DBS's full support. She emphasized the corporation's commitment to a healthy populace and outlined a collaborative path forward, requesting the support of medical experts from the HIV response team to help develop culturally resonant content in indigenous languages. The commitment was met with gratitude, as expressed by ECEWS's Henry Udenenwu, who highlighted the profound impact such awareness can have on reducing stigma and transmission. This partnership, solidified by action points to expand health programming and highly subsidize airtime, marks a significant step in using the public airwaves to ensure that the life-saving messages of HIV prevention, testing, and treatment reach every corner of Delta State, turning up the volume on hope and health for all its citizens.

## Bolstering Delta State Health Data Reliability

In a powerful demonstration of multi-sectoral collaboration, a high-level delegation from the Delta State HIV response team convened with the leadership of the Delta State Broadcasting Service (DBS) on Tuesday, November 11th, 2025. Led by Dr. Rudolf Hobson, Executive Secretary of the Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS (DELSACA), the advocacy visits to the DBS General Manager's conference room in Asaba sought to forge a strategic media partnership for the upcoming World AIDS Day (WAD) commemoration. The meeting united key voices from government, civil society, and networks of people living with HIV, including the State Program Manager from ECEWS, Mr. Henry Udenenwu, and coordinators

from NEPWHAN and ASWHAN, with the full management team of the state's premier broadcast corporation under General Manager Mrs. Christy Emetulu.

The central mission of this gathering was to secure a powerful media platform to amplify the 2025 theme, "Overcoming Disruptions, Sustaining Nigeria's HIV Response." Dr. Hobson outlined an ambitious schedule of activities designed to re-energize the public, from a symbolic road walk and a solemn candlelight memorial to digital campaigns featuring Nollywood skits and the launch of a groundbreaking HIV awareness mobile app. The specific appeal to DBS was to leverage its vast reach through television, radio, and social media to provide dedicated airtime for jingles and discussions,



## ECEWS Strengthens HIV Service Delivery Through Integrated PCT Activities in Yakurr LGA

The Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) Cross River team intensified its Prevention, Care, and Treatment (PCT) activities across all three program clusters, reinforcing statewide efforts to enhance client-centered HIV services. These initiatives are part of ongoing strategies to expand service coverage, promote retention in care, and support sustained viral suppression.

In Yakurr LGA, the team focused on expanding integrated service delivery models that merge prevention, treatment, and community engagement to drive improved health outcomes. A key highlight of the week was the successful implementation of the Community ART Refill Club (CARC) in Assiga community.

The CARC model is designed to improve continuity of care by providing stable clients with convenient access to antiretroviral medications closer to their homes. This approach reduces the burden of routine facility visits, supports peer engagement, and promotes long-term treatment adherence and retention.

During the CARC session, all participating clients underwent tuberculosis (TB) screening as part of the integrated service package. Four sputum samples were collected from individuals exhibiting TB symptoms, while ART refills were issued to eligible clients. In addition, viral load samples were collected to monitor treatment outcomes and track progress toward viral suppression targets. Biometric recapturing was also conducted for clients due to updates, ensuring accurate client matching and data integrity in the National Data Repository (NDR).

The Assiga CARC activity demonstrated the strong impact of integrated PCT interventions in improving access to HIV services, strengthening retention in care, and enhancing overall service quality in Yakurr LGA. Community feedback was highly positive, with clients expressing appreciation for the convenience, efficiency, and supportive environment created by the community-based model.

## ECEWS Optimizes Community and Facility PMTCT Implementation in Cross River State

In November 2025, the ECEWS Cross River State team strengthened community-level PMTCT implementation by ensuring that women delivering at Community Birth Centres (CBCs) received a full, integrated package of maternal and HIV services. The team embedded HIV testing, counseling, and immediate linkage to treatment into routine antenatal care, helping ensure that no pregnant woman was left unidentified or unsupported.

A major success was recorded in Ikom LGA, where the Etung Epidemic Response Team mapped and activated a new CBC in an underserved community. Every pregnant woman visiting the site was screened for HIV, and those who tested positive were promptly linked to ART, counseled on PMTCT adherence, and guided on safe delivery and follow-up care. This expansion directly widened PMTCT coverage and improved access for women previously beyond the reach of formal health services.

Across the central cluster, integrating PMTCT services into immunization clinics is transforming the continuum of care for mothers and infants. By leveraging high client turnout at immunization sessions, health workers deliver HIV testing, counseling, and exposure tracking alongside routine maternal and child health services. Mentor Mothers and trained providers offer individualized counseling, psychosocial support, and follow-up reminders, strengthening adherence to HIV care and improving retention.

This integrated approach has also enhanced real-time tracking of HIV-exposed infants. Closer collaboration between routine immunization officers and PMTCT focal persons has improved documentation, minimized loss to follow-up, and ensured quicker access to early infant diagnosis services.

## ECEWS organizes an Adolescent Club in Yakurr, Cross River State

On the 17th of November, 2025, ECEWS, in collaboration with key partners in Cross River State, strengthened adolescent HIV care through a targeted Adolescent Refill Club meeting in Yakurr LGA, an intervention that delivered real gains in treatment continuity, viral load monitoring, and TB screening for young people living with HIV.

The session brought together 23 adolescents in a supportive, youth-friendly environment that doubled as a peer-engagement platform and a service delivery point. Eighteen participants received timely ART refills, helping prevent treatment of interruptions and reinforcing adherence. Viral load monitoring was also intensified, with 15 samples collected to track treatment effectiveness and guide clinical decisions.

A major highlight was the integration of TB screening using a mobile chest X-ray unit. Twenty-two adolescents were screened, and six presumptive cases were immediately linked to DOT services for further evaluation ensuring early detection and rapid care.

This coordinated effort showcases the

impact of integrated, multi-partner service delivery on adolescent health outcomes. Through initiatives like this, ECEWS and its partners continue to advance comprehensive and accessible care for adolescents living with HIV in Yakurr LGA and across Cross River State.



## ECEWS joins Stakeholders in Lagos State Bi-Annual Review Meeting

During the 2025 Bi-Annual Review Meeting in Lagos, ECEWS joined key health stakeholders including the Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN) and the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) to strategize on sustaining the state's HIV response amid declining international funding. The review highlighted ECEWS' outstanding performance, specifically a 95% ART initiation rate and a significant increase in Return-to-Treatment numbers, which underscored the effectiveness of intentional community engagement. Despite these gains, data from LSACA revealed critical challenges in Advanced HIV Disease management and PrEP uptake among pregnant women, prompting a consensus to strengthen laboratory pathways and operationalize life-saving waivers to ensure service accessibility.

The engagement shifted focus toward a government-led, integrated service model, drawing inspiration from successful facility-level practices like real-time digital problem-solving and home-visit protocols. Stakeholders committed to harmonizing electronic medical records and deepening the enrollment of people living with HIV into social health protection schemes. By the meeting's close, the transition toward a more resilient and sustainable HIV response was solidified, with a clear roadmap designed to anchor essential services firmly within the Lagos State health system.



## Advancing Public Health Together: ECEWS Hosts CDC for Strategic Site Visit

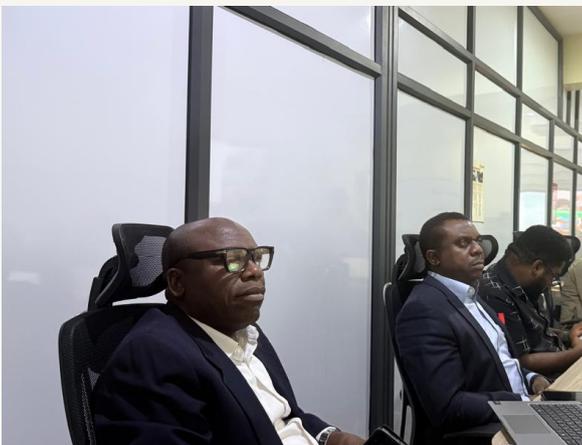
We recently welcomed a team from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to ECEWS as part of their routine engagement with implementing partners.

The visit provided an opportunity to highlight our systems, compliance with CDC guidelines, and the processes we have in

place to ensure effective and accountable use of resources.

At the close of the engagement, the CDC team shared their observations, with responses from the ECEWS leadership and technical teams, led by our CEO and Principal Investigator, Dr. Andy Eyo.

The visit also created space for reflection and learning, reinforcing our commitment to continuous improvement and strong partnerships in advancing quality health programs across the communities we serve.





## ECEWS Conducts Advocacy Visit to Lagos SAPC on PMTCT Scale-Up in Lagos State

ECEWS embarked on a strategic advocacy visit to the State AIDS Program Coordinator (SAPC) on Monday, 17th November 2025, to strengthen collaboration on the scale-up of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services across Lagos State. The visit was led by the ECEWS State Director, Dr Idayat Uthman.

The discussion also focused on the planned expansion of PMTCT services across the state. The SAPC highlighted strategic steps being taken to extend PMTCT coverage to additional healthcare facilities while strengthening logistics and securing adequate commodity supplies to support the scale-up. In response, ECEWS submitted a comprehensive list of mapped facilities to aid implementation planning and resource allocation.

The advocacy visit reaffirmed ECEWS' commitment to supporting Lagos State's efforts to advance HIV prevention, treatment, and care, and to ensure that no one living with or affected by HIV is left behind.

## ECEWS Strengthens PMTCT Service Delivery Through Clinician Capacity Building in Akwa Ibom State

The Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), under the ACE-5 project, has intensified efforts to improve the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV in Akwa Ibom State through targeted clinician capacity building. On November 6 and 7, 2025, the ACE-5 team hosted a two-day technical training for clinicians at the State Office, led by the Senior Technical Advisor for AP3, Dr. Mary Enyenihi.

The training focused on reviewing PMTCT service delivery modalities under ACE-5 and ensuring full alignment with national protocols. Clinicians engaged in detailed sessions examining PMTCT tools and reporting instruments, including registers, forms, and essential data entry indicators to deepen their understanding of proper documentation, data accuracy, and expected reporting outcomes. The hands-on engagement strengthened participants' technical proficiency and enhanced their ability to deliver high-quality PMTCT services to pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV.

This initiative shows ECEWS' commitment to achieving the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) by investing in continuous capacity building, improving clinical systems, and reinforcing accountability across service delivery points. Through such interventions, ECEWS continues to support a more resilient and responsive health system in Akwa Ibom State.



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# Season's Greetings

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27