




ECEWS RISING




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03 ECEWS Celebrates Enhanced Laboratory Standards Through ISO Accreditation 15189:2022



04 Aviclaire Farms in Partnership with ECEWS Host Akwa Ibom State Assembly Committee on Nutrition and Food Security



10 From 1.4kg to 4.6kg Abasiyangake's Journey of Survival and System Strengthening



16 Okinano, Enugu, Nigeria Free Malaria Testing and Treatment: ECEWS Takes Initiative to the Streets

11 Ebonyi State Inaugurates Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Center

18 ECEWS Supports Emerging Designers through ARISE Designers Empowerment Initiative

From the CEO's Desk

As we move further into 2026, we remain deeply grateful to our partners, stakeholders, and communities whose commitment and collaboration continue to strengthen our work and expand the reach of our programs. Your support remains central to our mission of building resilient health systems and improving the wellbeing of the communities we serve.

This edition opens with a powerful story of survival that reflects both the resilience of individuals and the strength of responsive health systems. The remarkable progress of a premature newborn who grew from a fragile 1.4 kilograms to a healthy 4.6 kilograms highlights the impact of timely medical care, dedicated health workers, and consistent follow-up support. It is a reminder that strengthened primary healthcare systems can transform even the most vulnerable beginnings into stories of hope and recovery.

Partnerships continue to play a vital role in advancing our shared development goals. In this edition, we highlight ongoing efforts to deepen collaboration with the Delta State First Lady's Foundation to expand social development initiatives that support vulnerable populations. We also share insights from a recent strategic visit to the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, reinforcing our commitment to strengthening partnerships with national research institutions and advancing evidence-based public health interventions. Investments in health system infrastructure remain equally important to sustaining quality service delivery. Across several ECEWS supported facilities in Lagos State, the expansion of solar-powered inverter systems is helping ensure uninterrupted power supply for critical health services. This progress complements our continued focus on strengthening laboratory systems, as demonstrated by the achievement of internationally recognized ISO 15189:2022 laboratory accreditation standards an important milestone in improving diagnostic quality and reliability.

We also continue to prioritize prevention and health education among young people. Through targeted outreach to newly admitted university students, ECEWS is expanding access to life-saving HIV services, empowering young adults with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed health decisions as they begin a new phase of their lives.

Together, the initiatives featured in this edition reflect a shared commitment to strengthening systems, fostering strategic partnerships, and delivering people-centered solutions that improve health outcomes. From newborn survival to youth-focused prevention efforts and infrastructure investments, each story demonstrates what is possible when collaboration, innovation, and community engagement come together.

As we continue our work throughout the year, we remain grateful for your partnership and shared dedication to building healthier, more resilient communities.



Andy Eyo

Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS

ECEWS Celebrates Enhanced Laboratory Standards through ISO Accreditation 15189:2022



On February 17, 2026, ECEWS celebrated a landmark achievement for Nigeria's healthcare system as the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) awarded ISO 15189:2022 accreditation to 11 laboratories across the country.

Among the accredited facilities were the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital in Anambra State, and the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital in Akwa Ibom State, both proudly supported by ECEWS. The ISO 15189:2022 standard is an internationally recognized benchmark for quality and competence in medical laboratories, ensuring accurate, reliable, and timely diagnostic services.

The accreditation ceremony brought together distinguished leaders from the Hospital Management Board, representatives of the Nigerian Navy, laboratory professionals, and key health sector partners. ECEWS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Andy Eyo, joined the celebration and commended the newly accredited laboratories for their unwavering commitment to standardized service delivery. He also noted that the milestone marks a significant step in strengthening Nigeria's health system by aligning local laboratories with global best practices.

ECEWS reaffirms its commitment to sustaining high standards through continuous quality improvement and strategic partnerships, ensuring that improved laboratory services translate into better health outcomes for communities across Nigeria.

Aviclaire Farms in Partnership with ECEWS Host Akwa Ibom State Assembly Committee on Nutrition and Food Security



Aviclaire Farms, in partnership with the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), recently hosted members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly (AKHA) Committee on Food Security during an oversight visit to its greenhouse farming facility in Uruk Uso, Abak Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

The visit allowed the lawmakers to observe the innovative agricultural practices at the facility. Through climate-smart approaches such as greenhouse cultivation and technology-driven farming, ECEWS is supporting year-round food production and efficient resource use, helping communities adapt to changing climate conditions while strengthening local food systems.

Led by Committee Chairman Hon. Moses Essien, the delegation toured the facility and commended the

initiative as an innovative model for improving food production and strengthening agricultural resilience in the state.

Farm managers explained that the greenhouse system allows controlled regulation of temperature, irrigation, humidity, and nutrients, enabling year-round cultivation, efficient use of resources, and improved crop productivity.

Community leaders also noted that the farm is creating employment for residents and supplying produce to market women at the Udua Idoro market, supporting livelihoods and stimulating the local economy.

ECEWS reaffirmed its commitment to advancing climate-smart agriculture and working with partners to strengthen sustainable food systems across Akwa Ibom State.



Driving Data, Strengthening Systems: Delta State Reviews FY26 Q1 Performance under the SPEED Project

Delta State health stakeholders on January 29, 2026, in Asaba reviewed first-quarter FY26 performance under the CDC-funded Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Service Delivery (SPEED) Project, implemented by ECEWS.

The session brought together government agencies, representatives from the State Ministry of Health, Hospital Management Board, DELSACA, and partners to evaluate progress, address service gaps, and strengthen data-driven accountability in HIV service delivery across the state. Key achievements were highlighted during the review including approval to implement Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) services at the Police Clinic, Okwe, expanding access to



lifescaping prevention services, strengthened Hepatitis B birth dose vaccination efforts and Paediatric-Adolescent Treatment Africa's (PATA).

ECEWS, led by State Project Manager Mr. Henry UDENENWU, presented progress across HIV Testing Services, PrEP, PMTCT, TB/HIV integration, viral load monitoring, paediatric care, violence prevention, and sustainability indicators aligned with WHO Health Systems Building Blocks. Presentations were also delivered by State AIDS and STI Control Programme in Nigeria (SASCP) representative, State HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinator (SAPC) Dr. Linda Peter-Enyi, the Logistics Management Coordinating Unit (LMCU), PATA, and the Hepatitis Advocacy Foundation (HAF), reflecting a multi-partner approach to sustaining impact.

The review reaffirmed a shared commitment to collaboration and evidence-based decision-making to ensure continued progress toward epidemic control in Delta State.

ECEWS Drives Data Quality and Sustainability in Osun State

ECEWS convened the FY26 Q2 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting with Government of Nigeria (GON) stakeholders at the Osun State Ministry of Health, Osogbo, Osun state.

The session focused on reviewing the quarter's performance across key indicators, discussing findings from recent Data Quality Assessments (DQA) and validation exercises, and reinforcing alignment with national reporting platforms. Opening remarks emphasized accountability, data consistency, and the importance of continuous capacity building, particularly for GON M&E officers.

A major highlight was the hands-on data harmonization exercise, targeted capacity-



building sessions were conducted, including live demonstrations on the National Data Repository System (NDR) data entry and guidance on the use of Nigeria Medical Records System (NMRS) line lists for routine monitoring. Immediate corrective actions were implemented across identified facilities, with all action points addressed within set timelines.

ECEWS succeeded in strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, improving data accuracy, and reinforcing the shift toward sustainable, locally owned data systems to support evidence-based planning and improved HIV program outcomes in Osun State.



Advocacy Engagement with Ika South LGA on AYP Incubation hub Programme Sustainability

To ensure long-term sustainability of the Adolescent and Young People (AYP) Hub Program beyond donor funding, ECEWS, in collaboration with its Community-Based Organization partner RULIN, conducted an advocacy visit to the Executive Chairman of Ika South Local Government Area (LGA), Hon. Engr. Jerry Ehiwarior.

During the visit, the Executive Director of RULIN, Prof. Patrick Okoh highlighted the hub's impact in providing youth-friendly, skills-based, and empowerment-focused services that build life skills, employability, resilience, and positive health outcomes among adolescents and young people in the LGA. The State Program Manager, Mr. Henry UDENENWU further outlined the hub's operational components and formally requested LGA support in areas such as infrastructure, funding, and

institutional linkages.

In response, the Chairman commended the initiative and acknowledged the importance of sustaining youth-focused program at the local government level. He expressed political will to support the hub, emphasized the need for proper documentation to guide resource decisions, and reaffirmed the LGA's readiness to partner for continuity.

The visit marks a significant step toward strengthening local ownership and securing institutional backing for the AYP Hub program, ensuring that adolescent and youth development interventions remain impactful and sustainable within Ika South LGA of Delta State.

Strengthening Partnership for Sustainable HIV Service Delivery at Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Ovwian, Delta State

On January 28, 2026, ECEWS through the Sustainable Program for HIV Epidemic control and Service Delivery (SPEED) project team in Delta State, led by State Program Manager (SPM) Mr. Henry UDENENWU, paid an advocacy visit to the newly appointed Chief Medical Director (CMD) of Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Ovwian, Prof. Akaba Kingsley.

Formerly General Hospital Otor Udu, the facility was recently upgraded to a tertiary institution with an important milestone that expands its capacity to deliver high-quality healthcare services. As one of the 57 facilities supported under the CDC-funded SPEED Project, FMC Ovwian remains central to advancing comprehensive and sustainable HIV services under PEPFAR in Delta State.

Discussions explored formalizing the partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), enhancing counselling spaces, and deploying an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Point-of-Care system

to improve data management and efficiency. The CMD acknowledged the progress made since the facility's upgrade and expressed willingness to absorb some ad-hoc staff into government structures as an encouraging step toward sustainability.

The visit concluded with a facility walk-through and renewed commitment to collaboration, system strengthening, and resilient HIV service delivery.



ECEWS Accelerates Pediatric HIV Care with Decentralized EID Testing in Delta State



HIV-exposed infants in Ndokwa West LGA, Delta State, can now receive their Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) test results within 24–48 hours, down from the previous 2–4 weeks, following the activation of a GeneXpert Point-of-Care testing platform at Central Hospital Kwale, Delta State. The dramatic reduction in turnaround time is enabling earlier identification of HIV-positive infants and faster initiation of life-saving antiretroviral treatment.

The GeneXpert EID platform was activated on January 29, 2026, by ECEWS in partnership with the Delta State AIDS and STI Control Programme (DELSASCP). The hospital had been selected for optimization in December 2025 after a performance-based assessment by the National AIDS and STI Control Programme (NASCP).

Before this intervention, poor road networks and long distances to centralized laboratories meant that blood samples had to be transported outside the LGA for testing. These logistical barriers delayed results, increased the risk of loss to follow-up, and often postponed treatment initiation for vulnerable infants.

With decentralized, on-site testing now in place, sample transportation delays have been eliminated. Laboratory personnel were trained on EID sample processing, GeneXpert operations, documentation, quality assurance, and routine maintenance to ensure efficiency and sustainability of the service. The intervention has also expanded testing coverage within Delta State and strengthened pediatric HIV case-finding efforts.

By bringing diagnostic services closer to the point of care, ECEWS and Government of Nigeria are demonstrating how strategic decentralization and capacity building can significantly improve child survival outcomes and accelerate progress toward HIV epidemic control.

ECEWS Strengthens HIV Service Delivery Through Strategic Advocacy



ECEWS Osun State Management Team conducted an advocacy and technical support visit to the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC) Virologic Clinic.

The visit held on 3rd February, 2026, was aimed at strengthening collaboration with the newly appointed Project Coordinator, Dr. Muftau Oripelaye, and reinforcing systems for improved HIV service delivery. The engagement provided an opportunity to formally welcome the new leadership and reaffirm



ECEWS' commitment to sustained partnership and program continuity. Discussions further emphasized client-centered care through the conduct of a Client Satisfaction Survey and improvements in clinic flow to reduce waiting time.

The meeting concluded with a strong focus on sustainability planning toward the 2030 transition, ensuring long-term integration of HIV services within the facility system.

ECEWS Supports Capacity-Building on HIV Service Integration at General Hospital, Calabar, Cross River State



ECEWS team in Calabar recently supported a capacity-building session on HIV service integration at General Hospital Calabar, Cross River State, aimed at strengthening sustainable HIV service delivery within the facility. The session was facilitated by the hospital's ART Coordinator, Madam Irene Odey, with support from the ECEWS team and National Clinical Mentor, Dr. Joseph Bassey. Participants included physicians, NYSC doctors, and outpatient department (OPD) nurses.

In her presentation, Madam Odey outlined the principles of integrated service delivery, highlighting the need for a multidisciplinary approach and stronger inter-professional collaboration. She emphasized that all healthcare workers should be equipped to provide comprehensive care to every client, including recipients of care (ROCs), while also discussing the benefits and potential barriers to integration. Madam Odey further guided participants on the clinician's role in HIV service

delivery, referencing both the Adult and Pediatric Initial Clinical Evaluation Forms. She also provided updates on the current treatment regimens and practical considerations for implementation within routine clinical workflows.

Discussions throughout the session focused on achieving full integration despite human resource constraints, aligning with government priorities, harmonizing services and data systems, and establishing a unified patient flow to reduce stigma within the hospital environment.

In his closing remarks, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Takim, appreciated the facilitators and participants, noting that the hospital is well positioned to achieve complete service integration and improve patient-centered care outcomes.

ECEWS Drives Statewide Transition to pALD across Osun State Clusters

ECEWS, under the CDC SPEED Project, organized a two-day Technical Enhancement Meeting across the Osogbo, Ife, and Iwo clusters in Osun State to strengthen the capacity of service providers in the use of the newly formulated pediatric Abacavir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (pALD) regimen. The sessions, held at the ECEWS State Office, SH Iwo, and OAU-THc, brought together doctors, pharmacists, and nurses to advance pediatric ART optimization and pharmacovigilance practices.

The training aimed to support facilities in transitioning children to this simpler fixed-dose HIV treatment which combines three medicines into a single formulation, adopted in line with WHO recommendations, with all eligible children expected to switch by June 2026.

Key takeaways included checking children's weight at every visit, properly transitioning eligible patients to the new



regimen, strengthening caregiver education, and improving monitoring systems. A strong focus was also placed on patient safety, and Health workers were reminded to carefully monitor and report any side effects, as reporting adverse drug reactions is everyone's responsibility.

Overall, the meeting strengthened efforts to improve treatment outcomes and ensure safer, more effective HIV care for children.

ECEWS and Delta State First Lady's Foundation Explore Partnership to Advance Social Development

As part of our commitment to sustainable development in Delta State, our CEO, Dr. Andy Eyo, led a high-level advocacy visit to the first lady of Delta State, Her Excellency, Deaconess Tobore Oborevwo, at the Government House in Asaba. This engagement served as a vital bridge between ECEWS and Her Excellency's flagship initiative, the You Matter Charity (YMC) Foundation.

During the visit, Her Excellency shared the inspiring vision of the YMC Foundation, which works tirelessly to ensure every individual's worth is recognized through support for children with autism and dyslexia, women's empowerment, and the fight against gender-based violence and substance abuse. Recognizing these shared values, the discussion pivoted toward strategic collaboration, with ECEWS offering technical expertise in resource mobilization, structured information sharing, and human resources support to amplify the Foundation's reach.

With a long-standing footprint in Delta State, ECEWS remains dedicated to public health, gender-based violence prevention, and supporting indigent households. By collaborating with the YMC Foundation and leaders like Executive Director Barr. Lawrentta Ogbedo, ECEWS is dedicated to creating lasting, positive change for the people of Delta State.



CRSHIA Issues NHIS Cards to Ancillary Staff



The Director-General of the Cross River State Health Insurance Agency (CRSHIA) on 6th February 2026 officially presented the State Health Insurance Scheme (SHIS) identity cards to ECEWS ancillary staff enrolled under the programme. This marked another milestone in expanding health coverage in Cross River State.

During the brief ceremony, ECEWS ACE-5 project team received 200 identification cards. The delegation was led by Assistant Director, Programmes, Francisca Mbah, who commended the Cross River State Government for advancing accessible and affordable healthcare through the Health Insurance Scheme. She particularly applauded the inclusion of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV), expressed satisfaction that ECEWS ancillary staff would benefit from the initiative, and praised the professionalism demonstrated

by the agency throughout the enrolment process.

In his remarks, the Director-General appreciated the support of the State Governor and the First Lady in facilitating the programme's implementation and acknowledged ECEWS' continued contributions to strengthening the state's health sector. He reaffirmed the agency's commitment to expanding enrolment, especially among PLHIV and disclosed plans to integrate private and faith-based facilities as accredited service providers.

CRSHIA further indicated that printing of the remaining identity cards will be completed before the end of the month, while access to services under the scheme is scheduled to commence in the first week of March 2026.



From 1.4kg to 4.6kg

Abasibiangake's Journey of Survival and System Strengthening

At Primary Health Center (PHC) Ikot-Ekpor in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, a compelling example of strengthened frontline healthcare delivery unfolded.

Abasibiangake James was born prematurely at 29 weeks of gestation, weighing just 1.4 kilograms. During antenatal care at PHC Ikot-Ekpor, her mother tested positive for HIV. Before comprehensive delivery planning could be completed, complications developed and she delivered twins at a community birth center. Due to prematurity and limited medical care, one of the babies did not survive.

Abasibiangake survived but remained critically fragile. Because of her extremely low birth weight (1.4 kg) and unstable condition, she could not immediately begin lifesaving antiretroviral therapy (ART). She first required stabilization, nutritional support, and close monitoring to safely prepare for treatment.

At this critical stage, the Enhanced Expert Support Initiative (E2Si) under the ECEWS ACE-5 Project strengthened the facility's capacity to respond. Through structured mentorship and clinical guidance, frontline health workers received support to manage complex maternal and pediatric cases more effectively.

Through E2Si, Dr. Dixon Umo, Consultant Pediatrician at the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, provided specialist mentorship and clinical oversight to the PHC team. Her guidance helped refine the care plan, strengthen monitoring systems, and ensure individualized management for the newborn. Feeding strategies using expressed breast milk were optimized, infection-prevention measures reinforced, and weight monitoring conducted more frequently. Abasibiangake's mother also received continuous counseling and practical guidance to care for her premature baby.

Gradually, the results became evident. Abasibiangake's weight increased from 1.4 kilograms to 2.0 kilograms, and by her follow-up appointment on January 9, 2026, she weighed 4.6 kilograms. Her progress reflects improved clinical stability, stronger growth, and renewed hope for her mother.

Abasibiangake's journey demonstrates the impact of strengthening primary healthcare systems through timely expert mentorship. Her story shows how supporting frontline providers with specialist guidance can improve outcomes for vulnerable newborns and give children a stronger chance to survive and thrive.



Ebonyi State Inaugurates Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Center



On 12th March 2026, Ebonyi State reached a major milestone in its health response with the official inauguration of the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Center at Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki (AE-FUTHA).

The MAT Center, funded by the Global Fund through the Primary Recipient Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) to ECEWS as the sub-recipient, is established to provide treatment services for opioid-dependent users free of charge. The center aims to expand access to evidence-based treatment, strengthen the state's response to substance use disorders, and improve patient-centered healthcare outcomes.

The inauguration brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including Dr. Okezie Oyedinachi, ECEWS Chief Health Officer/Technical Lead (CHF/TL), representatives from the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA); the Ebonyi State Agency for the Control of AIDS; the Ebonyi

State AIDS and STIs Control Programme; the Director of Public Health; the Permanent Secretary of the State Ministry of Health; the Chief Medical Director and CMAC of AE-FUTHA, site coordinators, uniformed service personnel, religious and traditional leaders; and other key partners.

The event highlighted a strong spirit of collaboration and a shared commitment to strengthening and sustaining the health response across the state. Speaking through the Director of Public Health, the Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Moses Ikenna Ekuma reaffirmed the government's dedication to supporting the MAT Center and ensuring it develops into one of the nation's leading treatment facilities.

With ECEWS providing technical support and capacity building, the MAT Center represents a pivotal step in delivering free, evidence-based treatment services, reinforcing Ebonyi State's commitment to comprehensive, accessible healthcare for all.



ECEWS Leadership Engages Cross River State Health Officials and Staff During State Visit

The leadership of ECEWS Akwa Ibom State team in February 2026, paid a courtesy visit to the Honorable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk, at his office in Cross River State as part of their ongoing state engagement. The visit aimed to strengthen stakeholder collaboration and align with the evolving landscape of HIV/AIDS programming in Nigeria.

During the meeting, the Chief of Party, Dr. Adeoye Adegboye, expressed appreciation to the Hon. Commissioner and, by extension, the Executive Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Senator Bassey Otu, for creating an enabling environment for health programming. Dr. Adeoye reaffirmed ECEWS' commitment to supporting the state government's health initiatives. In response, the Hon. Commissioner commended ECEWS for its impactful work across the state and recognized the project's distinctive approach to implementation in supported facilities.

In line with advocacy efforts, ECEWS team also paid a courtesy visit to the Director-General of the Cross River State Primary Health Development Agency (CRSPHDA), Dr. Vivien Otu. During the discussion, the Chief of Party highlighted the project's commitment to sustaining support for Cross River State, while Dr. Vivien Otu expressed gratitude and noted the state's continued need for ECEWS assistance beyond HIV programming.

The state visit also included engagements with ancillary staff at several health facilities, including Calabar General Hospital, Dr. Lawrence Henshaw Memorial Hospital, Ekpo Abasi Primary Health Centre, and University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. The interactions were interactive, with a focus on ensuring fidelity in the ongoing client verification exercise and promoting due diligence in service delivery.

Additionally, ECEWS team conducted a baseline laboratory audit in preparation for ISO accreditation in Cross River State, reinforcing the project's commitment to quality and sustainable health systems strengthening.



ECEWS Supports Ekori Mentor Mother Group in Strengthening HIV Care

The Ekori Mentor Mother Support Group in Ekori, Yakurr Local Government Area, Cross River State, makes significant strides in supporting women and families affected by HIV. They received technical and capacity-building support from ECEWS ACE-5 Project. Established to address stigma, social isolation, and lack of information among pregnant women living with HIV, the group has grown into a strong community-based platform for education, counseling, and empowerment. During the January 2026 meeting, held at the end of the month, members reflected their progress, shared experiences, and reinforced strategies to promote treatment of adherence and prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

In its early days, many women in Ekori town faced fear, rejection, and misinformation about HIV, often delaying medical care and antiretroviral therapy (ART), which increased the risk of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). Through the dedication of Mentor Mothers and the ongoing support of ECEWS, these barriers are being steadily dismantled. The group provides a safe, confidential space where pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV can share experiences, receive counseling, and strengthen their commitment to treatment adherence.

Mentor Mothers, supported by ECEWS technical staff, play a dual role as educators and role models, inspiring confidence by demonstrating that with consistent ART, proper nutrition, and regular clinical follow-ups, HIV-positive mothers can live healthy lives and deliver HIV-free babies. Their leadership has fostered greater community acceptance, reduced stigma, and strengthened support networks for women and their families. At the meeting, eight members were present, including one pregnant and seven breastfeeding mothers. Services provided included two drug refills, one viral load sample collection for a mother between 32–38 weeks of gestation, and follow-up monitoring for two exposed infants aged 18 months.

The Ekori Mentor Mother Support Group continues to demonstrate the transformative impact of peer-led initiatives in improving health outcomes and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV.



Enhancing HIV Service access through Seasonal Outreach in Oshimili South LGA, Delta State

Oshimili South Community Services Coordination Centre (CSCC) provides lifesaving HIV services to over 2,100 clients in Asaba and surrounding communities. For many, especially those living in riverine and hard-to-reach areas like Elenchere Ndife, Umuche, Ugbolu Camp, Onono, Ikpoto, and Oko, access to care becomes nearly impossible during the April-June flooding season. High transportation costs, flooded roads, and displacement force many clients to miss appointments, interrupt treatment, and face worsening health conditions.

Recognizing this urgent challenge, ECEWS, in partnership with the Delta State Agency for the Control of AIDS (DELSACA) and with funding support from PEPFAR, introduced a package of interventions. These interventions covered behavioral, biomedical, and structural approaches, alongside drug refills and viral load sample collection for eligible clients especially in hard-to-reach areas. These integrated services helped maximize impact and reduce missed opportunities, while community-led approaches fostered trust and encouraged service uptake. Staff also had to overcome significant challenges, such as locating clients without phones in farms or homes, which demanded flexibility and resilience.

For years, clients feared being cut off from treatment as rising water levels displaced families and made travel impossible. With the six-month refill intervention, these fears were eased. One case manager explained:

"My clients used to worry that once the rains came, they would miss their refills and fall out of treatment. But this time, knowing they had enough medication to last through the floods gave them peace of mind. It saved them from becoming IITs (Interrupted in Treatment)."

This strategy drastically reduced missed appointments, ensured continuity of care, and restored





client confidence. One of the clients, who was close to running out of medication and unsure of how to get a refill, expressed her relief and joy when she heard the team had come to her community. She said:

"I had almost lost hope. When I heard that some people had stopped work and that it would be difficult for us to get our drugs, especially with the rising water levels, my worries only grew. But today, thank God, you are here. My fears and worries have reduced. At least now I am sure of getting my drugs for the next six months from you."

Also, in Onono and Ikpoto communities, persistent coughs were often dismissed as 'River Cold' or treated with herbs, delaying diagnosis of serious illnesses. During a community refill exercise, a farmer, "Mr. Chukwu" (not real name), presented with a cough and fever. He had sought help from a local chemist, but symptoms persisted. The outreach team screened him, collected sputum for GeneXpert testing, and ordered a chest X-ray. Results showed he was negative for TB but had



pneumonia. He was promptly placed on antibiotics and fully recovered. Without this intervention, his condition could have worsened, risking severe complications or even death. Left unchecked, his cough would also have fueled stigma, as TB is closely linked with HIV in community perceptions. His recovery not only restores his health but also his ability to continue farming and support his family.

The Oshimili South experience demonstrates how proactive planning, integrated services, health financing, and community-based delivery models can transform barriers into opportunities. By meeting clients where they are, even in flooded, hard-to-reach villages, health teams protect lives, sustained treatment, and build stronger trust with communities. This story is a testament that with resilient health systems, empowered staff, and targeted donor support, even the toughest challenges like seasonal inaccessibility can be overcome.





Free Malaria Testing and Treatment: ECEWS Takes Initiative to the Streets

In a strong demonstration of its commitment to the health and well being of citizens in Enugu State, ECEWS has launched an extensive sensitization and awareness campaign. The initiative aims to educate the public on the availability of free malaria testing and treatment services, empowering communities and promoting positive health seeking behavior in the fight against malaria.

To maximize reach and impact, ECEWS has strategically installed billboards in high traffic areas across the state. These billboards boldly communicate the availability of free malaria testing and treatment, serving as constant visual reminders to residents. This approach ensures that the message reaches a wide audience, cutting across language and socio economic barriers.

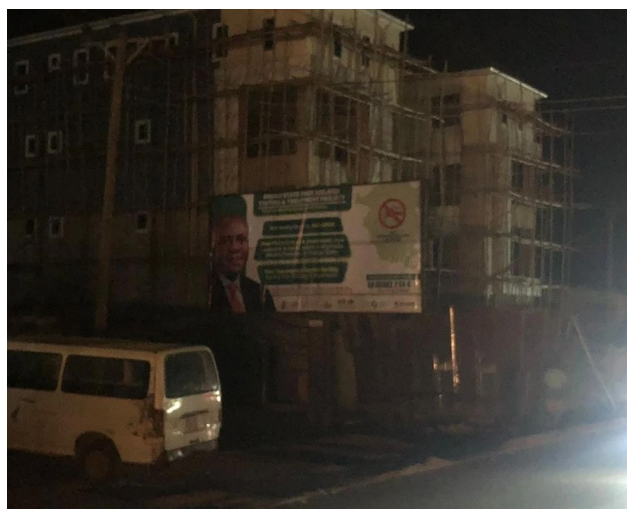
The campaign is already yielding encouraging results, with more residents taking advantage of the free services available at supported health facilities. This increased uptake highlights the effectiveness

of ECEWS' community focused strategy, which emphasizes awareness, education, and engagement.

As more individuals access these essential services, the benefits are clear. Families are healthier, communities are stronger, and Enugu State is moving closer to a malaria free future.

ECEWS' deliberate and structured approach to sensitization reflects its dedication to ensuring that every resident is informed and able to benefit from these services. By bridging the knowledge gap and fostering a culture of awareness, ECEWS continues to play a vital role in improving public health outcomes.

The strategic placement of billboards further reinforces this effort, ensuring broad visibility and inclusivity. As residents embrace the message and take proactive steps toward their health, there is growing optimism for a future where malaria is no longer a major public health concern in Enugu State.



ECEWS ACE-5 Project Leadership Visit Strengthens HIV Program Oversight in Lagos State

On 19th January 2026, ECEWS ACE-5 project leadership team undertook a comprehensive oversight visit to Lagos State to reinforce collaboration, assess program implementation, and guide strategic decision-making. The visit was led by the Chief of Party (COP), Dr. Adeoye Adegboye and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP), Dr. Toyo Otoy bringing together headquarters of leadership, state teams, and representatives from other ACE-5 Project supported states to promote coordinated engagement and cross-learning.

A key highlight was a leadership meeting at the Lagos State office, where the team reviewed state-level achievements and discussed strategies to strengthen service delivery. Deliberations focused on client verification processes, cluster restructuring, and progress on the ongoing ART Impact Survey (AIS). During a strategic engagement with the State AIDS Program Coordinator, discussions centered on AIS implementation, sustainability planning beyond donor funding, expansion of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services, EMR integration, and further decentralization of services through Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

The team also conducted site visits to Ikorodu General Hospital and the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research, gaining firsthand insight into ART service delivery, infrastructure investments, and operational challenges, including power reliability and data management systems.

The visit concluded with a review session to consolidate observations, address data quality and biometric recall processes, and agree on remediation actions. Overall, the engagement strengthened HQ-state coordination, reinforced partnerships with key stakeholders, and outlined clear next steps to enhance service delivery, improve data integrity, and advance the sustainability of HIV programs in Lagos State.¹





ECEWS Supports Emerging Designers through ARISE Designers Empowerment Initiative

ECEWS reaffirmed its commitment to youth empowerment and creative enterprise through its support for the ARISE Designers Empowerment Initiative, providing financial assistance to emerging designers to help strengthen their entrepreneurial capacity.

The support was delivered in collaboration with Uyo Fashion Week, convened by Lady Mae Edmonds, who joined the benefiting designers at the official presentation ceremony. The initiative aims to equip talented young designers with the resources they need to refine their craft, build sustainable businesses, and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's vibrant creative economy.

Present at the ceremony were Prof. Enobasi Urua, Chairman of the ECEWS Board, and Dr. Andy Eyo, Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS, alongside members of staff. They congratulated the designers on their achievements and encouraged them to continue innovating and pursuing excellence in their craft.

Through initiatives like this, ECEWS continues to expand its impact beyond health and education by supporting pathways for economic empowerment, skills development, and sustainable livelihoods for young people across communities.



A Healthy Future: ECEWS Reaches New University Students with Life-saving HIV Services

190
tested

3
Positives &
Prompt Linkage
to Care

As part of a two-day HIV Testing Services (HTS) outreach on January 20–21, 2026, at Dennis Osadebay University, Anwai, Delta State, 196 students were tested for HIV during the institution's orientation programme. The initiative, jointly organized by the Delta State Government and ECEWS, aimed to promote early detection, prevent transmission, and ensure timely access to treatment. Three students tested positive and were immediately linked to care, highlighting the importance of HIV testing in safeguarding the health and wellbeing of young people.

With trained counsellors providing immediate emotional support, the freshmen received comprehensive post-test counselling and were promptly linked to a treatment and care center to begin Antiretroviral Therapy (ART).

By integrating HIV testing into orientation week activities, the Delta State Government and ECEWS brought essential health services directly to young people in a familiar, stigma-free environment. As the students embark on their academic journey, they do so empowered with knowledge about their health, proving that every new beginning should start with knowing one's status.



Expansion of Solar Inverter Installations Strengthens Service Continuity across ECEWS-Supported Facilities in Lagos State

ECEWS continues to scale up renewable energy solutions across supported health facilities in Lagos State, marked by the successful installation of a solar inverter system at Odunbalu Primary Health Care Centre in the first week of February 2026. The installation was witnessed by the Agege Local Government Area Chairman, Hon. Abdulganiyu Vinod Obasa and representatives of the Ministry of Health, reflecting strong government ownership and stakeholder commitment to sustainable health system strengthening.

This milestone builds earlier installations at Badagry General Hospital, Ojo Primary Health Centre, Sango Primary Health Centre, and other supported sites. With these additions, a total of fifteen facilities were equipped with solar inverter systems within the reporting week alone.

The intervention directly addresses persistent power supply challenges that impact critical services, including laboratory diagnostics, antiretroviral therapy (ART) delivery, cold chain management, and real-time data reporting. To promote sustainability, facility staff received orientation on the operation and basic maintenance of the systems, ensuring optimal utilization and long-term functionality.

Overall, the continued expansion of solar energy solutions has strengthened facility resilience, ensured uninterrupted service delivery, and enhanced operational capacity, contributing to improved quality of care and better health outcomes for clients across the state.



ECEWS Participates in Pre-Assessment Strategy Meeting to Strengthen HIV Testing Quality in Cross River State

As part of ongoing efforts to improve the quality, accuracy, and reliability of HIV testing services in ECEWS ACE-5 Project, the Laboratory Team participated in a strategic pre-assessment meeting convened by the Director of Medical Laboratory Services at the State Ministry of Health. The meeting held in February, 2026, brought together members of the State Quality Assurance Champion Team (SQACT) to prepare for the statewide evaluation of HIV testing points across ACE-5 supported facilities.

The engagement focused on reviewing the Stepwise Process for Improving the Quality of HIV Rapid Testing (SPI-RT) audit checklist ahead of the planned assessments. It provided a platform to harmonize expectations, clarify assessment methodologies, and ensure alignment with national HIV testing quality standards.

During the session, participants conducted a detailed walkthrough of SPI-RT domains, including tester competency, documentation practices, quality control procedures, inventory management, safety compliance, and adherence to the national HIV testing algorithm.

Emphasis was placed on identifying recurring gaps from previous assessments and agreeing on standardized scoring approaches to promote consistency and objectivity across assessment teams.

The Director of Medical Laboratory Services reaffirmed the State Ministry of Health's commitment to strengthening quality assurance systems and emphasized the role of routine supportive supervision in sustaining improvements in testing accuracy and reducing errors. The SQACT members also reviewed roles, timelines, and reporting templates to support coordinated field implementation.

The pre-assessment engagement reinforces government ownership of the quality improvement process and enhances readiness for the upcoming SPI-RT exercise. By aligning stakeholders and standardizing procedures ahead of the rollout, the ECEWS ACE-5 Project continues to promote continuous quality improvement, improve tester competency, and minimize diagnostic errors across supported HIV testing sites.



In commemoration of World Kidney Day 2026, ECEWS partnered with the Dialysis Unit of the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital, Akwa Ibom State to support a community medical outreach at Ekom Iman Motor Park in Uyo.

The outreach provided community members with essential screening services, including serum creatinine testing and urinalysis, aimed at promoting early detection and raising awareness about kidney-related conditions. Through these services, many participants gained valuable insights into their kidney health and the importance of regular screening.

The initiative highlights the impact of strategic partnerships in expanding access to preventive healthcare and strengthening public awareness on critical health issues.

ECEWS remains focused on advancing efforts that bring life-saving health information and essential services closer to communities.

ECEWS Supports Community Outreach to Mark World Kidney Day 2026



ECEWS Participates in Technical Stakeholders' Review of the National Essential Diagnostic List



ECEWS Laboratory Unit in Lagos State, represented by the State Technical Officer (STO) Laboratory, actively participated in the national technical stakeholders' review meeting held from 19–23 January 2026 to assess and update Nigeria's National Essential Diagnostic List (NEDL). The engagement convened key stakeholders from across the health sector to evaluate the relevance, completeness, and alignment of the diagnostic list with current national health priorities and global standards.

Throughout the meeting, the STO Laboratory served as team secretary, providing critical coordination and

documentation support. In this capacity, the STO presented consolidated inputs from plenary and group review sessions, ensuring that stakeholder contributions were accurately captured and reflected in deliberations. These inputs were systematically reviewed, harmonized, and synthesized into a single working document through a collaborative validation process.

A major outcome of the engagement was the development of the zero draft of the second edition of the National Essential Diagnostic List. This milestone marks significant progress toward strengthening diagnostic services, improving equitable access to essential tests, and promoting evidence-based clinical decision-making across health facilities nationwide.

ECEWS' participation in the review process underscores its commitment to national policy development, technical leadership, and the continuous strengthening of laboratory systems in support of improved health outcomes in Nigeria.

ECEWS Advances TB/HIV Integration through National Strategic Plan Review and Facility Engagement



In the first week of February 2026, ECEWS participated in the End-Term Review of the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy, and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme (NTBLCP) Tuberculosis National Strategic Plan in Lagos State. The review assessed the implementation, effectiveness, and outcomes of tuberculosis (TB) interventions across the state, with particular emphasis on program performance and alignment with national targets.

As part of the process, the NTBLCP team conducted monitoring visits to selected ECEWS-supported health facilities to evaluate TB service delivery and the level of integration with HIV services. The visits

revealed strong TB/HIV collaboration at the facility level, characterized by seamless coordination between TB and HIV units.

Notably, high TB screening coverage among people living with HIV (PLHIV) was observed, reflecting effective case-finding strategies and adherence to national guidelines. Service delivery processes were found to be efficient and well-coordinated, contributing to improved patient outcomes and strengthened continuum of care.

Overall, the engagement reaffirmed the impact of ECEWS-supported interventions and highlighted best practices in TB/HIV integration that can be sustained and scaled to further enhance program implementation across Lagos State.



Peer Exchange Drives: Akwa Ibom and Cross River States Innovation towards HIV Program Delivery and Strengthening

From the 2nd to 6th of February 2026, ECEWS ACE-5 Project team in Akwa Ibom State hosted a high-level delegation from Cross River State (CRS) led by the State Director, Dr. Joe Umanah, in a peer-to-peer learning exchange designed to deepen collaboration and improve HIV program performance across both states.

During the visit, the CRS team observed ongoing client validation exercises, interacted with high-burden facilities, and held consultative meetings with senior government health stakeholders and implementing partners. Facility visits covered both primary and secondary levels of care, including St. Luke's Hospital Anua, Immanuel General Hospital Eket, PHC Operational Base Uyo, Ikot Ebak PHC Eket, Ikot Ekpene General Hospital, and the UUTH PCRL.

The engagement emphasized hands-on technical learning, allowing participants to practically review verification methodologies, service integration

approaches, and data integrity processes. Technical sessions focused on strengthening infection prevention and control systems, improving client flow, reinforcing pharmacy-clinical integration, and enhancing validation accuracy using blended biometric and clinical review approaches. Discussions also explored community-driven case finding, ward-based implementation strategies, treatment literacy, digital innovations, and emerging program challenges.

Overall, the exchange fostered shared accountability, mutual learning, and integrated service delivery. The actionable insights generated are expected to inform adaptive programming and strengthen HIV program outcomes in both implementing states demonstrating how peer collaboration can accelerate public health impact.



