



ECEWS RISING



MARCH/APRIL 2026 EDITION



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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



In this edition, we share stories that reflect our commitment to impact, collaboration, and excellence in advancing a healthier society. Across communities and at national levels, we continue to see how strong partnerships and evidence-based approaches translate compassion into action and innovation into measurable results.

Our focus story, Evidence in Action: The ECEWS SPEED Project's Global Recognition Story, highlights the growing global recognition of our data-driven work and the effectiveness of our implementation model. We also spotlight, in Moving Nigeria Closer to a Malaria-Free Future, how ECEWS marked World Malaria Day 2026 through collaboration by leading awareness walks in Enugu and Akwa Ibom States, and securing free malaria care for 1,000 pregnant women in Enugu State.

In A New Beginning: ECEWS Supports First Client to Commence MAT Services at AE-FUTHA, we celebrate expanded access to treatment services that are restoring hope and improving lives. Similarly, ECEWS Champions Holistic Care for Women Living with HIV reinforces the importance of integrated, person-centred care that addresses both medical and social needs. In our human-interest story of the month, How Timely, Family-Centred Support Restored Health and Stability to Stella and Henry, captures the heart of our work, highlighting the transformative impact of timely, family-centred care and psychosocial support in pediatric HIV treatment.

Together, these stories reflect the dedication of our teams, partners, and communities in strengthening systems that promote health, resilience, and sustainable development. As always, we appreciate your continued support as we work toward healthier communities where everyone can thrive.

Have fun reading!

Andy Eyo

Chief Executive Officer, ECEWS



ECEWS Deepens Federal Partnership in High-Level Engagement with Nigeria's Minister of Humanitarian Affairs



ECEWS has further deepened its collaboration with the Federal Government of Nigeria through a high-level engagement with the Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Dr. Bernard Doro, reinforcing a shared commitment to advancing humanitarian response, social protection, and sustainable development outcomes across Nigeria.

The engagement provided a strategic platform for dialogue on aligning ECEWS' community-driven interventions with national humanitarian and development priorities. Discussions focused on strengthening synergies to improve access to vital services for vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV, women, children, displaced populations, and underserved communities.

During the visit, the Honourable Minister commended ECEWS for its impactful contributions to humanitarian response and national development programming and expressed the Ministry's readiness to collaborate toward achieving inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

This engagement marks a promising step toward deepening institutionalized partnerships, enhancing coordination service delivery, and accelerating collective action in pursuit of a more resilient, prosperous, and inclusive future for all Nigerians

ECEWS Drives Integrated HIV Service Delivery in Osun State

On March 18, 2026, ECEWS facilitated the State Service Integration Core Group (SSICG) meeting at the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Osun State Ministry of Health (OSMoH), in collaboration with the Hospitals Management Board and the State HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, and STI Control Programme (SASCP).

The meeting brought together relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the State Ministry of Health, Osun State AIDS Control Agency (OSACA), health facilities, community structures, and implementing partners. This multi-stakeholder Participation provided a platform for collaborative planning and coordinated action toward integrated HIV service delivery.

In addition, stakeholders emphasized strengthening government ownership, improving healthcare workers' capacity, enhancing collaboration, and adopting practical integration measures such as unified patient folders and phased service integration.

With ECEWS' strong commitment, momentum is building toward a more sustainable and integrated HIV service delivery framework, expected to improve service coordination, continuity of care, and health outcomes.



Strengthening Laboratory Quality Systems in Akwa Ibom State

ECEWS ACE-5 Project intensified quality management interventions across supported laboratories in Akwa Ibom State to improve accreditation readiness ahead of the ISO 15189:2022 baseline assessment coordinated by the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN).

Following formal notification, the ECEWS ACE-5 Laboratory Team provided logistics and technical

support to finalize documentation reviews, reinforce SOP adherence, and reorient laboratory personnel on accreditation requirements.

MLSCN conducted baseline assessments at St. Mary Hospital, Urua Akpan from 26th - 27th January 2026 and General Hospital, Ikot Ekpene from 28th - 29th January 2026, using ISO 15189:2022 and the WHO-SLIPTA checklist. The team facilitated in-

briefs, tours, reviews, and out-briefs with hospital management.

Capacity strengthening continued at the PCR laboratory through training on ISO-aligned pre-analytical processes. Stakeholder engagements with Commissioner Dr. Ekem Emmanuel John addressed sustainability, staffing, and QMS scale-up, improving operational readiness for successful accreditation.



Leveraging Support Group Meetings to Scale Up Viral Load Sample Collection and ART Refill

Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) continues to strengthen community systems through Global Fund-supported National TB and HIV Reach and Impact Project (NTHRIP). Initiative aims to improve viral suppression outcomes and antiretroviral therapy (ART) refills, targeting 144 clients per month across 13 Local Government Areas in Ebonyi State.

In alignment with Nigeria's national HIV treatment goals and global 95-95-95 targets, ECEWS HIV Program has transformed routine support group meetings into structured service delivery platforms for viral load demand creation, on-site viral load sample collection, and scaled-up ARV refill services.

This innovative approach has significantly improved progress toward second and third 95 targets by ensuring clients on treatment receive timely viral load testing and achieve viral suppression.

By converting peer support groups into decentralized service delivery points, ECEWS has expanded access to care across all age and sex groups. This community-centered model has improved convenience for clients, reduced missed appointments, and strengthened treatment adherence through peer-led engagement.

ECEWS Hosts Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs

The Honourable Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs Akwa Ibom State, Princess Emem Ibanga, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Eno Ime Akpan (FCA), paid an advocacy visit to the Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) Headquarters office, where the delegation met with the CEO, Dr. Andy Eyo.

During the meeting, the team shared plans for the ARISE Share and Care Outreach Programme, an initiative aimed at delivering humanitarian and social development impact across the 31 Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State.

The programme focuses on key areas such as health and medical outreach, as well as educational support it through scholarships, bursaries, digital learning opportunities, and assistance for vulnerable students n response,

Dr Andy Eyo commended the initiative and expressed its willingness to collaborate in advancing the programme's objectives. Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening partnerships with credible development institutions and supporting interventions that expand access to humanitarian services and improve the well-being of vulnerable populations across the state.





EVIDENCE IN ACTION: The ECEWS SPEED Project's Global Recognition Story

ECEWS, as the lead implementer of the US Government-funded Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Service Delivery (SPEED) project, alongside Howard University as one of the sub-recipients, has become a key driver of public health leadership in Nigeria's HIV response. At the heart of this success is ECEWS's commitment to turning program data into valuable scientific contributions.

From 2024 to 2026, ECEWS and Howard University collaborated to present seven peer-reviewed abstracts at four major conferences: the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI), the International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference, the National TB Conference, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) Conference. These efforts ensured that program data and findings from Delta, Ekiti, and Osun States contributed to the global

scientific community, earning the team international recognition and multiple awards for its evidence-based approach.

A major highlight was the oral abstract on the co-administration of Rifapentine with Dolutegravir on viral load suppression, which won Best Oral Presentation at the National TB Conference, out of more than 60 other abstracts entries. The team also received two prestigious international travel scholarships to present at CROI in Colorado, USA and IAS in Kigali, Rwanda, both of which are among the most selective HIV and infectious disease conferences in the world.

These achievements were made possible by ECEWS's strong support for staff to pursue research and develop their scientific writing skills. This progress has been further strengthened by collaboration with Howard University, grounded in a shared commitment to practical science and the application of technical expertise to real-world data. The SPEED project's data is now recognized not only as a monitoring tool but as a source of knowledge that informs global HIV and TB responses.



ECEWS's leadership and commitment to implementation science have helped raise the SPEED project's profile, build staff and Government of Nigeria's employee capacity, and ensure that research generated in Nigeria can impact health outcomes worldwide.

"Amid the daily demands of service delivery, a team found the time and institutional backing to produce science. That does not happen by chance."



Table 1: Abstracts Presented — ECEWS SPEED Project / Howard University Collaboration

S/N	Study Title	Type	Year	Conference	First Author	Author List
1	Risk factors of HIV/AIDS Mortality Among HIV Recipients of Care in Southern Nigeria	Poster	2026	CROI	Afeez Oyetola	Oyetola A., Agada P., Raji K., Asuquo B., Omeh O., Oqua D., Inichinbia B., Iliyasu S., Oslade A., Okoh P., Esara E., Ekele O., Inedu A., Onyednachi O., Eyo A.
2	Assessing Effect of Co-Administration of Rifapentine with Dolutegravir on Viral Load Suppression Among Recipients of Care on TB Preventive Therapy in Delta, Ekiti and Osun States	Poster	2025	IAS	Afeez Oyetola	Oyetola A., Agada P., Raji K., Asuquo B., Oqua D., Omeh O., Agu K., Idoko E., Ukwuaba S., Oluwayinka S., Egwuogu A., Emah B., Augustine U., Abojeh P., Okoh P., Law-Maduka C., Ochedomi E., Abutu I., Onyednachi O., Eyo A., Olu-Lawal M., Kolawole T.
3	Drug Therapy Problems among Recipients of HIV Care in Southern Nigeria: Identification and Management	Poster	2024	PSN	Raji Kowam	Raji K., Agada P., Oyetola A., Asuquo B., Oqua D., Omeh O., Agu K., Idoko E., Ukwuaba S., Oluwayinka S., Egwuogu A., Emah B., Augustine U., Abojeh P., Okoh P., Ochedomi E., Abutu I., Onyednachi O., Eyo A., Olu-Lawal M., Kolawole T.
4	Outcome of Weekly and Monthly Stock Status Trackers (W/MSST) in Delta, Ekiti and Osun States	Poster	2024	PSN	Blessing Asuquo	Asuquo B., Agada P., Oyetola A., Raji K., Oqua D., Omeh O., Agu K., Idoko E., Ukwuaba S., Egwuogu A., Emah B., Augustine U., Abojeh P., Okoh P., Ochedomi E., Abutu I., Onyednachi O., Eyo A., Ebebi O., Ojewoye Y., Omoniyi W.
5	Sustained Viral Load Suppression Achieved with Patients on Differentiated Services Delivery in Southern Nigeria	Poster	2024	PSN	Afeez Oyetola	Oyetola A., Agada P., Raji K., Asuquo B., Oqua D., Omeh O., Agu K., Idoko E., Ukwuaba S., Oluwayinka S., Egwuogu A., Emah B., Augustine U., Abojeh P., Okoh P., Ochedomi E., Abutu I., Onyednachi O., Eyo A., Olu-Lawal M., Kolawole T.
6	Assessing Effect of Co-Administration of Rifapentine with Dolutegravir on Viral Load Suppression Among Recipients of Care on TB Preventive Therapy in Delta, Ekiti and Osun States	Oral	2024	National TB	Afeez Oyetola	Oyetola A., Agada P., Raji K., Asuquo B., Oqua D., Omeh O., Agu K., Idoko E., Ukwuaba S., Oluwayinka S., Egwuogu A., Emah B., Augustine U., Abojeh P., Okoh P., Law-Maduka C., Ochedomi E., Abutu I., Onyednachi O., Eyo A., Olu-Lawal M., Kolawole T.
7	Incidence of adverse drug reactions among clients on Rifapentine-based TB preventive therapy in Southern Nigeria	Poster	2024	National TB	Raji Kowam	Raji K., Agada P., Oyetola A., Asuquo B., Oqua D., Omeh O., Agu K., Idoko E., Ukwuaba S., Oluwayinka S., Egwuogu A., Emah B., Augustine U., Abojeh P., Okoh P., Onyekwelu I., Law-Maduka C., Ochedomi E., Abutu I., Onyednachi O., Eyo A.

Best Oral Presentation — National TB Conference (selected from 60+ abstracts)

Healthier Enugu State: How ECEWS Is Reducing Malaria Burden and Driving Economic Growth



Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), in collaboration with the Enugu State Ministry of Health (PIU), is strengthening healthcare delivery across Enugu State through the Impact Malaria Project, with a focus on improving access to quality malaria prevention and treatment services.

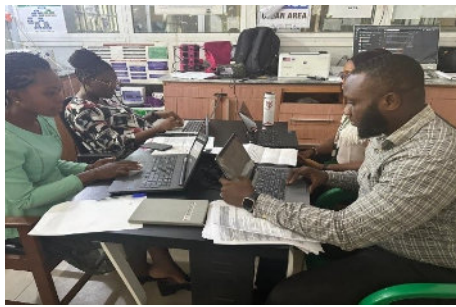
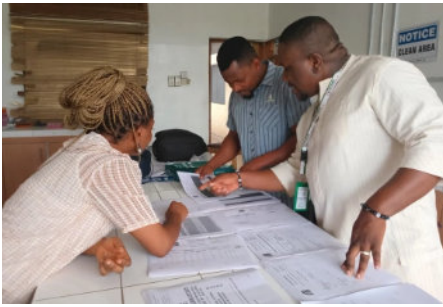
Driven by a strong commitment to improving health outcomes, the project is supporting the distribution of free malaria commodities and testing kits to over 527 health facilities across the state's 17 LGAs and 260 political wards. Essential supplies such as Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACTs), Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests (mRDTs), gloves, and other consumables are being provided to ensure uninterrupted access to life-saving malaria prevention and treatment services.

The impact of this initiative has been profound. For over a year, communities across Enugu state have benefited from free malaria testing and treatment services, improving healthcare access, and restoring public confidence in the system. The routine use of ACTs for confirmed malaria cases and Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SP) for intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy has contributed to measurable reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality.

In addition to improved health outcomes, the project has reduced the financial burden of malaria care on households. With reduced out-of-pocket expenses for malaria care, families can redirect resources toward education, and other essential needs contributing to economic strengthening across the state.

As the implementation of the 4th Long-Lasting Insecticidal Net Distribution (LLIN) campaign continues, progress in malaria prevention and treatment remains consistent and accessible. This sustained effort reflects the joint commitment of ECEWS and the Enugu State Ministry of Health (PIU) to safeguard lives and build a malaria-free Enugu State.

ECEWS Participates in NISRN Supportive Supervisory Visit



ECEWS ACE5 project Akwa Ibom state laboratory team participated in a five-day joint supervisory exercise with National Integrated Specimen Referral Network (NISRN) across Abak, Uyo, Essien Udim, Esit Eket, Eastern Obolo, Mkpato Enin, Ikot Abasi, Etinan, Nsit Ubium, and Ibesikpo Asutan LGAs from Monday 9th to Friday 13th February 2026, to strengthen laboratory coordination and referral systems.

The team visited the state Ministry of Health, Implementing Partner offices, Primary Health Centers, General

Hospitals, and specialized service points including University of Uyo Teaching Hospital and Nigerian Navy Ship JUBILEE.

Activities during the visit focused on reviewing sample flow processes, verifying documentation, observing service points, and engaging facility teams to assess operational gaps affecting turnaround time and service quality. Targeted recommendations were provided to improve readiness and efficiency, including preparing samples before rider arrival, strengthening

coordination between laboratory and DOTS units, and maintaining clear communication with transport personnel. Close-out meetings with key stakeholders reinforced timelines, accountability, and adherence to standard procedures.

The visit strengthened collaboration among supported and unsupported facilities, improved referral linkages, and enhanced consistency in laboratory practices, ultimately supporting faster diagnostics and more reliable service delivery across the network.

Inter-agency Data Quality Assessment Conducted Across ECEWS-Supported Facilities in Lagos State

From March 24–27, 2026, a multi-agency Data Quality Assessment (DQA) was conducted across Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) ACE-5 project-supported facilities in Lagos State to validate the reliability and readiness of HIV program data systems for improved service delivery and reporting under new national guidelines. Led by officials from the United States Department of State, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Defense, and PEPFAR Health Information Systems 3 (PHIS3), the assessment focused on validating the integrity of HIV treatment data and evaluating the effectiveness of service delivery processes across selected facilities.

The exercise also brought together key stakeholders, including ECEWS CEO, Dr. Andy Eyo, ECEWS ACE-5 Project Chief of Party, Dr. Adeoye Adegboye, Deputy Chief of Party, Dr. Toyo Otoy, State Director, and both ECEWS and Lagos State ACE-5 teams, reinforcing strong collaboration and government ownership.


Using a rigorous, multi-layered methodology, the team conducted detailed folder audits, data abstraction exercises, and cross-

checked pharmacy records by comparing Combined Report and Requisition Forms with actual antiretroviral (ARV) drug consumption data. Client verification calls further confirmed active patient engagement and continuity of treatment, while facility ART Coordinators provided operational insights and demonstrated adherence to data management protocols. Findings revealed robust data quality systems, accurate documentation practices, and effective client tracking mechanisms across ECEWS-supported facilities, ensuring that program data can be trusted for decision-making and resource allocation.

A key highlight was the Lagos State Ministry of Health's commitment to expand Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems to General Hospitals, an important step toward paperless reporting, improved data accuracy, and better service integration.

With the rollout of new national HIV reporting tools commencing April 1, 2026, the DQA exercise confirms Lagos State's readiness to transition seamlessly while maintaining high data quality standards, strengthening accountability, and supporting sustained improvements in HIV program performance.



A man in a black and red uniform is shown in profile, drinking water from a clear plastic bottle. He is standing outdoors near a green metal structure. The background is a blurred green wall.

A New Beginning: ECEWS Supports First Client to Commence MAT Services at AE-FUTHA

A significant milestone was achieved at the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Center of Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki (AE-FUTHA) in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, as the first client officially commenced treatment services following the successful inauguration of the Center weeks earlier.

The MAT center is projected to serve approximately 150 clients in FY26, providing treatment for opioid use disorder through medication, counselling, and psychosocial support. The intervention will also strengthen integrated service delivery for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C among affected populations.

Upon completion of all requisite enrolment protocols including compulsory drug screening and a series of laboratory assessments, the client was confirmed eligible and enrolled into the MAT program. Supported by a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, the client received the first dose of medication under close clinical supervision, alongside counseling and guidance tailored to individual needs. The process marked more than just the initiation of treatment, but also reflects the center's dedication to evidence-based and client-centered care ensuring that every client begins their journey with safety, dignity, and comprehensive support.

This milestone underscores the operational readiness of the AE-FUTHA MAT Center, Supported by IHVN and ECEWS, to provide life-changing services to individuals battling substance use disorders, paving the way for many more success stories in the days ahead as the programme continues to expand access to quality, integrated, and sustainable treatment services in Ebonyi State.

Advancing HIV Treatment Optimization in Osun State



In driving improved HIV treatment outcomes and strengthening the quality of care, Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS), through the United States Government (USG)-funded Sustainable Programs for HIV Epidemic Control and Service Delivery (SPEED) Project, conducted its quarterly Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions on HIV Treatment Optimization in Osun State in March 2026. The sessions convened antiretroviral therapy (ART) clinicians and nurses from 22 supported facilities, providing a structured platform for intensive learning, peer engagement, and experience sharing across two clusters.

Key deliberations focused on strengthening shared understanding and practical application of priority HIV service areas, including TB preventive therapy eligibility, TB cascade integration, Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) screening for newly enrolled clients, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) management, and the comprehensive re-engagement package for interrupted-in-treatment (IIT) clients. A major highlight was the group-based review of seven real-life case scenarios, which strengthened practical clinical decision-making through application of national treatment guidelines.

These technical deliberations reinforced aligned understanding and best practices across facilities and are expected to enhance adherence monitoring, improve viral suppression outcomes, and strengthen accountability across supported sites.



Bolstering Viral Load Ownership in Delta State

At Udu Community Services Coordination Centre (CSCC) in Delta State, one of ECEWS-supported sites under the USG-funded SPEED project, a significant shift is reshaping HIV care. Clients are no longer passive recipients of treatment, they are becoming active participants and informed decision-makers in managing their health. Viral load monitoring, used to evaluate the success of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART), has evolved from a routine clinical requirement into a service actively demanded by clients. Achieving and sustaining a suppressed viral load (less than 1,000 copies/ml) not only enhances the health and quality of life of people living with HIV but also greatly reduces the risk of transmission. However, reaching and maintaining this milestone requires more than medication; it depends on strong health literacy, mutual trust, and sustained commitment from both healthcare providers and clients.

This transformation at Udu CSCC is driven by a clear, coordinated multidisciplinary approach led by pharmacy counseling and supported by nurses, laboratory scientists, clinical psychologists, and M&E officers. Together, they strengthen adherence, ensure timely viral load testing, address emotional and access barriers, and maintain accurate data systems for effective tracking, follow-up, and continuity of care, ultimately improving retention in HIV services.

The traditional model of healthcare workers actively pursuing clients for follow-up is rapidly becoming obsolete. Today, clients at Udu CSCC are taking initiative, often asking, "When is my next check? I haven't done my viral load this year." By linking viral load outcomes to personal health and well-being, the ECEWS Delta State team has successfully transformed initial resistance into informed ownership. This culture of shared responsibility not only sustains viral suppression but also promotes long-term survival, improved quality of life, and dignity for every client served.

ECEWS Boosts Akuku-Toru Community Health Insurance Coverage to 2,300+ Enrollees

Since the launch of the Akuku-Toru Community Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) on August 1, 2025, at the Model Primary Health Centre (MPHC), Abonnema, Rivers State, Excellence Community Education Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) has played a central role in driving measurable progress in expanding access to affordable, quality healthcare services across the community.

Through its leadership in strengthening health systems,

improving drug availability, enhancing facility management, and sustaining stakeholder engagement, ECEWS has supported the successful enrollment of over 2,300 individuals into the scheme.

This growing coverage is already reducing out-of-pocket health expenses, preventing avoidable financial shocks, and improving health-seeking behavior across the community. Enrollees can access a defined benefits package covering consultations, treatment of

common illnesses, maternal and child healthcare, laboratory services, inpatient care, and counselling. This increased utilization has also strengthened the health facility, improved staffing capacity, and ensured more consistent availability of essential medicines.

Through continuous awareness campaigns and capacity-building initiatives, ECEWS continues to support the sustainability of the scheme, and contributes to improved health outcomes for the people of Akuku-Toru Community.



Strengthening Government Ownership to Sustain the Ward-Based Implementation

ECEWS ACE-5 Project convened series of high-level stakeholder engagements, including the State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA), the Akwa Ibom State Primary Health Care Development Agency (AKSPHCDA), the Director of Public Health, and the Hospital Management Board (HMB). These engagements were strategically convened to strengthen stakeholder rapport and reinforce collaborative governance for HIV program implementation in the state.

Discussions centered on aligning state priorities with project objectives and emphasizing institutional roles. Emphasis was placed on sustaining the ward-

based implementation of the state Bridge plan as a critical service delivery strategy across the wards in the state. Stakeholders reviewed implementation progress and operational bottlenecks. Policy-level support and coordination mechanisms were also examined.

The engagements promoted mutual accountability among partners and government agencies. Through these engagements, commitments toward increased government collaboration and ownership of the ward-based implementation were reinforced. One of the milestones achieved was the formal buy-in of the Executive Secretary of the Akwa Ibom State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Eno Attah, which

culminated in the issuance of a statewide directive from her office to all Primary Health Care Directors and Officers-in-Charge across Akwa Ibom State including both ECEWS-supported and non-supported facilities mandating full cooperation, alignment, and active participation in the implementation of the ward-based strategy.

These dialogues continue to support the integration of the strategy into existing state health systems and planning frameworks. This strengthened collaboration has created an enabling environment for sustained service delivery at the ward level. Collectively, these outcomes are advancing sustainable implementation and long-term program impact.



When Henry was sick at the hospital

How Timely, Family-Centred Support Restored Health and Stability to Stella and Henry

Sustained viral suppression requires more than consistent access to antiretroviral therapy. Caregiver stability and socioeconomic security are equally critical determinants of treatment adherence and long-term clinical outcomes. When these foundations are disrupted, the consequences can be swift and severe.

This was the lived reality for Stella, aged 12, and her brother Henry, 7. Previously stable and virally suppressed under the care of their parents in Ekiti State, the siblings' circumstances changed significantly following their mother's death and their father's subsequent relocation to another city. Placed in the care of their elderly aunt with limited capacity to manage their complex medical needs, adherence to treatment declined steadily.

Between 2022 and 2025, their viral loads rose, Stella to 2,830,000 copies/ml and Henry to over 101,000 copies/ml. Both were also severely malnourished, each weighing just 24kg, well below expected ranges for their respective ages.

ECEWS Ekiti State team, through the USG-funded Sustainable Program for HIV Epidemic Control & Service Delivery (SPEED) Project, identified the crisis and initiated comprehensive care immediately. The team introduced Daily Observed Therapy (DOT), nutritional support, and monthly financial assistance to ensure strict treatment adherence and improve feeding. During the intervention period, both children developed additional health complications. Stella was treated for an ear infection and infected wounds, while Henry was diagnosed with typhoid fever and tuberculosis, conditions that required prompt clinical management alongside their ongoing HIV care. The ECEWS team maintained close monitoring throughout, provided treatment support, and ensured continuity of care without interruption.

Beyond clinical support, the team extended its commitment to the children's broader well-being by covering school fees for both Stella and Henry and providing consistent cash transfers to strengthen the caregiver's capacity to meet daily needs, including food, transportation, and general household stability.

After 15 months of sustained ECEWS support, the results were transformative. Both children are fully virally suppressed at 19 copies/ml undetectable. Stella's weight increased from 24kg to 28kg, and Henry's from 24kg to 36kg, reflecting marked nutritional recovery. Both children are now back in school and demonstrating measurable improvements in their overall health and quality of life.

Through timely, family-centred support, ECEWS demonstrates how integrating treatment, nutrition, and caregiver care transforms health and secures a dignified future.



A healthy Henry



Stella Ear Before Intervention



Stella Ear after Intervention

ECEWS Strengthens TB/HIV Response on World TB Day 2026

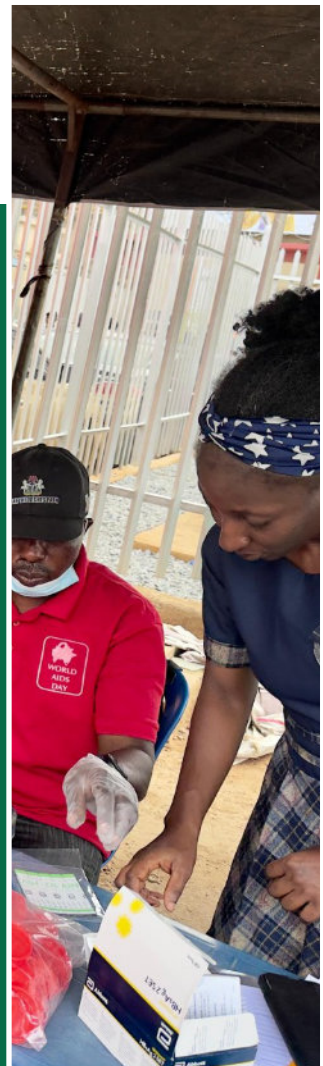


To commemorate the 2026 World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, themed "Yes! We can end TB – Led by Countries. Powered by People," Excellence Community Education and Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) actively joined nationwide activities across multiple states, reinforcing its commitment to tuberculosis (TB) awareness, prevention, and integrated service delivery.

In Warri South Local Government Area, Delta State, ECEWS participated in a community road walk from the LGA Secretariat to Iyara community, aimed at increasing public awareness and promoting early health-seeking behaviour. During the exercise, the team distributed educational pamphlets, conducted one-on-one health talks, and addressed common myths and misconceptions about tuberculosis. The team also provided laboratory consumables to the TB, Leprosy, and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme (TBLS) as part of infection prevention efforts.

Building on its community-level initiatives, ECEWS expanded its engagement to Ekiti and Osun States through a partnership with the State TB and Leprosy Control Programme (STBLCP) during a week-long celebration. The activities began with intensified, on-the-spot community-based TB screening and HIV testing, complemented by targeted outreach in Igbono Market, Ayetoro, and other parts of Osun State's capital, as well as in Ekiti Southwest and Ise LGAs of Ekiti State. These efforts were designed to reach high-risk and underserved populations, supported by ECEWS through technical assistance and the provision of essential supplies.

Collectively, these coordinated multi-state initiatives underscore ECEWS' emphasis on community awareness, enhanced TB case detection, and integrated TB/HIV service delivery, reinforcing the message that ending TB is possible with country-led, community-powered action.



Scaling Up Clinical Excellence

In March 2026, ECEWS Osun State team conducted a comprehensive clinical audit aimed at strengthening health system service delivery and completeness of data across supported facilities. The exercise focused on verifying that Clinical services provided in Osun State align with the approved national treatment guidelines provided, and that all care provided is accurately documented in both the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system and the corresponding hospital care cards.

The Clinical audit team, led by the Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Emmanuel Esara, visited two model facilities State Hospital, Asubiaro, and University of Osun Teaching Hospital.

During the assessment, all client folders were meticulously reviewed to ensure that clinical documentation remains reliable and reflects true client care outcomes. This precise approach highlighted the quality of clinical services delivered over time. The audit also provided valuable insights into areas requiring targeted mentoring for service providers, and reinforced the importance of integrating routine clinical audits into ongoing program activities.

By consistently prioritizing accuracy, accountability, and continuous improvement, ECEWS continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring that health facilities deliver consistent, high quality care to the communities they serve.



ECEWS Facilitates HTS Refresher Training for Community Case Workers

ECEWS ACE-5 Project convened series of high-level stakeholder engagements, including the State Agency for the Control of AIDS (SACA), the Akwa Ibom State Primary Health Care Development Agency (AKSPHCDA), the Director of Public Health, and the Hospital Management Board (HMB). These engagements were strategically convened to strengthen stakeholder rapport and reinforce collaborative governance for HIV program implementation in the state.

Discussions centered on aligning state priorities with project objectives and emphasizing institutional roles. Emphasis was placed on sustaining the ward-based implementation of the state Bridge plan as a critical service delivery strategy across the wards in the state. Stakeholders reviewed implementation progress and operational bottlenecks. Policy-level support and coordination mechanisms were also examined.

The engagements promoted mutual accountability among partners and government agencies. Through these engagements, commitments toward increased government collaboration and ownership of the ward-based implementation were reinforced. One of the milestones achieved was the formal buy-in of the Executive Secretary of the Akwa Ibom State Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Eno Attah, which culminated in the issuance of a statewide directive from her office to all Primary Health Care Directors and Officers-in-Charge across Akwa Ibom State including both ECEWS-supported and non-supported facilities mandating full cooperation, alignment, and active participation in the implementation of the ward-based strategy.

These dialogues continue to support the integration of the strategy into existing state health systems and planning frameworks. Stakeholders emphasized coordinated supervision and shared monitoring responsibilities, while the engagements improved consensus on implementation approaches and resource optimization. This strengthened collaboration has created an enabling environment for sustained service delivery at the ward level. Collectively, these outcomes are advancing sustainable implementation and long-term program impact.

Breaking Barriers in Essential Healthcare Delivery Through Drone Technology

In the remote clusters of Cross River State, Nigeria, geographical barriers and infrastructure deficits have long hindered the timely delivery of life-saving medical supplies. Through a strategic partnership with Zipline, the state has successfully integrated autonomous drone technology into its public health supply chain. This initiative has transformed the “last mile” into the “first priority,” ensuring that essential vaccines, blood products, and medications reach even the most isolated Primary Health Centres (PHCs) within minutes.

For communities in the Central Cluster of Cross River State, spanning LGAs such as Ikom, Etung, Obubra, and Boki, accessing healthcare was often a race against time. Traditional ground logistics faced numerous

hurdles. The challenges included, difficult terrain, dense forests and seasonal flooding often rendered roads impassable. Also, cold chain maintenance, transporting temperature-sensitive vaccines to remote areas like Bashua PHC or Danare 2 HP was nearly impossible without consistent refrigeration. Rural facilities frequently experienced shortages of critical supplies, leading to preventable deaths.

The introduction of Zipline's drone technology has effectively bypassed these terrestrial barriers. Operating from a central distribution hub, autonomous drones (Zips) deliver medical packages via parachute to designated drop sites.





"Before the drones, we often had to tell mothers to come back another day because the vaccines hadn't arrived. Now, with a simple order, the supplies land right at our doorstep. It has restored the community's trust in our health centre."

Health Worker at a PHC in the Boki Cluster

An analysis of the Central Cluster operations reveals a robust network of 45 **active drop** sites across four key Local Government Areas (LGAs), ensuring comprehensive coverage:



The transition to drone-based logistics has yielded demonstrable improvements in healthcare outcomes including:

Zero-Dose Reduction: By delivering vaccines to remote sites like Ayughasa HP and Akorofonor HP, the program has significantly reduced the number of "zero-dose" children who previously had no access to immunization.

Emergency Response: Critical supplies, including anti-venom and blood for postpartum hemorrhage, are now delivered in under 30 minutes, a journey that previously took hours or days.

Efficiency and Sustainability: The fully electric drones reduce delivery emissions by up to 97% compared to traditional vehicles, aligning with global climate and health goals.

The success in the Central Cluster serves as a blueprint for scaling innovative health logistics across Nigeria and beyond. By leveraging technology to bridge the gap between supply and demand, the partnership is ensuring that no one is left behind, regardless of how remote their community may be.



Moving Nigeria Closer to a Malaria-Free Future

As part of activities marking World Malaria Day 2026, ECEWS led engagements across Enugu and Akwa Ibom States, bringing together government, communities, and development partners in a shared commitment to end malaria.

In Enugu State, ECEWS partnered with the Enugu State Ministry of Health and the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) to organise a citywide awareness walk that reached women, children, youths, law enforcement officers, senior citizens, and civil servants. Participants received guidance on malaria prevention, early testing, and treatment, and were informed about free malaria testing services available in healthcare facilities across the state. A State Press Briefing led by Prof. George O. Ugwu, Honourable Commissioner for Health, closed the day's activities, with government and partners reaffirming their commitment to reducing the malaria burden in Enugu State.

The activities culminated in a high-level engagement at the International Conference Center, Enugu on 30th April 2026. The Governor of Enugu State, the Honourable Commissioner for Health, development partners, and key stakeholders convened for dialogue on malaria prevention, control, and elimination. The event delivered a major outcome: the provision of free malaria testing and treatment for 1,000 pregnant women in Enugu State.

In Akwa Ibom State, ECEWS joined Ibom Air, the Akwa Ibom State Government, and community partners for an awareness walk from Ibom Plaza to the University of Uyo Permanent Site in Uyo. The walk was accompanied by public sensitisation, health education, and community engagement sessions reinforcing the importance of prevention, early testing, and treatment.

From prevention to treatment, ECEWS, working with the Enugu State Ministry of Health and NMEP, with support from Islamic Development Bank and Lives and Livelihood Fund, has delivered life-saving malaria services across communities in Enugu State.

Through strengthened collaboration, community driven action, and sustained advocacy, ECEWS remains committed to supporting Nigeria's path to a malaria free future.







ECEWS Champions Holistic Care for Women Living With HIV

In commemoration of International Women's Day 2026, Excellence Community Education and Welfare Scheme (ECEWS) supported a one-day multi-stakeholder engagement in Akwa Ibom State focused on "Ageing and Menopause Among Women Living with HIV (WLHIV)." The engagement was convened by the Akwa Ibom State Chapter of the Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN) in collaboration with the Association of Women Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (ASWHAN) and Joint National Association of Persons

with Disabilities (JONAPWD).

Aligned with the IWD 2026 theme, "Give 2 Gain," the dialogue emphasized the need to recognize women's contributions while expanding access to essential health information and services, particularly for WLHIV transitioning through menopause. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from WLHIV networks, Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State Agency for the Control of AIDS (AKSACA) amongst others.

Delivering the keynote address, Mrs. Victoria Andy, CEO of Aviclaire Farms spoke on the theme highlighting common menopausal symptoms such as night sweats, excessive body heat, weight changes, and joint pain. She noted that WLHIV often faces additional emotional and social challenges, including stigma and discrimination. She emphasized that menopause is a natural stage of life and underscored the importance of holistic care integrating mental health support, sexual and reproductive health services, and strong social support systems.



A dedicated session on health insurance enrollment was also facilitated by Dr. Awak Enwongo, ECEWS Senior Technical Advisor, Care and Treatment. Participants were sensitized on the benefits and enrollment processes for the National Health Insurance Authority and the Akwa Ibom State Health Insurance Scheme. The session provided practical guidance on enrollment requirements and referral pathways within the healthcare system, beginning at Primary Health Care facilities.



In his closing remarks, Enobong Akpan, Program Manager of Akwa Ibom State Agency for the Control of AIDS (AKSACA), commended ECEWS for its continued support and emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration in advancing the health and well-being of women living with HIV.



