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MINDING THE HIV AND AIDS RESOURCE GAP IN NIGERIA

Nigeria has the biggest economy on the African continent, fueled by its oil exports, according to World Bank estimates. This wealth, however, has not yet translated into significant increases in allocation of domestic resources to support Nigeria’s HIV and AIDS response. Instead, most of the country’s funding for its HIV and AIDS programs is provided by international development partners, including PEPFAR and USAID.

This donor dependence creates a sustainability challenge for Nigeria, particularly under the current international funding climate, in which international development partners are unlikely to increase their HIV and AIDS funding to meet in the future. Increasing domestic resources for HIV and AIDS is consistent with the PEPFAR road map for an AIDS-free generation, and also with the Nigerian President’s 2013 Comprehensive Response Plan (PCRP) for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.

Mobilizing Nigeria’s Resources

To support the Nigerian government in closing this HIV and AIDS financing gap, the HFG project is working with Nigerian institutions, particularly at state levels, to support the mobilization of Nigerian resources from the public sector, private for-profit sector and NGOs. The mobilization of domestic resources is critical to ensuring that funding is consistently and continuously allocated to pay for the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV and AIDS services for Nigerians.

Specifically, on the public sector side, HFG has engaged key Nigerian institutions, including the National Agency for the Control of AIDS, State Agencies for the Control of

AIDS, Federal and State level Ministries of Health, Budget and Economic Planning, and Finance.



The state run agencies are a particularly vital component of the resource mobilization strategy as they share the mandate for crafting and implementing HIV and AIDS response policies and also take the lead in delivering preventive, care and treatment services to people living with HIV and AIDS.

Budget Allocations Increase

HFG has seen incremental, yet worthwhile, gains, including a 300 percent increase in budgetary allocation for HIV and AIDS by the state government in Cross Rivers State: from NGN58 million (\$291,385) in 2014 to NGN184 million (\$924,392) in 2015.



A flagship project of USAID's Office of Health Systems, the Health Finance and Governance (HFG) Project supports its partners in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the health finance and governance functions of their health systems, expanding access to life-saving health services. The HFG project is a five-year (2012-2017), \$209 million global health project. The project builds on the achievements of the Health Systems 20/20 project. To learn more, please visit www.hfgproject.org.

The HFG project is led by Abt Associates in collaboration with Avenir Health, Broad Branch Associates, Development Alternatives Inc., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Results for Development Institute, RTI International, and Training Resources Group, Inc.

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In addition, HFG has engaged in dialogue with the office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals to encourage the states to take advantage of an existing NGN3 billion (\$ 15.7 million) of available funding from that office, for potential allocation for the HIV and AIDS response.

Recently, HFG facilitated a health financing training to focus on the issue of Universal Health Care. The workshop was attended by over 50 participants representing local organizations and national and state agencies including the Federal Ministry of Health, eleven State Ministries of Health, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, the National Health Insurance Scheme, and the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme. During the workshop, HFG contributed to the information that led five states (Anambra, Bayelsa, Ekiti, Niger, and, Sokoto) to plan the adoption of Health Insurance and the promotion of community-based health insurance.