



Major Challenges to Combat HIV/AIDS

Nigeria — with an estimated population of 133 million — has one of the most rapidly increasing rates of new infections in West Africa. About 4 million Nigerians are infected with HIV, and over 2 million have died of AIDS-related diseases. Approximately 1.8 million children have been orphaned by AIDS in the country. Some of the factors contributing to the rapid spread of HIV in Nigeria are: multiple sexual partners, mother-to-child transmission, blood transfusions, low condom use, untreated sexually transmitted infections and denial of possible HIV-infection by the majority of Nigerians. These factors are compounded by widespread poverty, low literacy rates, the low status of women and an overburdened health care system.

Our Results

As of September 2005, GHAIN has provided:

- 849,472 people with abstinence and be faithful education through community outreach programs
- 20,687 people with HIV prevention information
- 75,254 people, including pregnant women as part of prevention of mother-to-child transmission programs, with voluntary HIV counseling and testing services
- 1,175 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) with antiretroviral therapy
- 1,790 PLHA with palliative and basic health care
- 169 people with tuberculosis treatment

The Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) Project

The Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) is rapidly strengthening and expanding HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services in support of the Government of Nigeria's response to the epidemic. Launched in December 2004 and funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through the U. S. Agency for International Development, GHAIN is a coalition of seven partners led and managed by Family Health International. The GHAIN

partners are: the American Red Cross/Nigerian Red Cross Society (ARC/NRCS), the Axios Foundation, the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), Family Health International (FHI), the Futures Group, the German Leprosy and TB Relief Association (GLRA) and Howard University.

Headquartered in the capital city of Abuja, GHAIN currently has six state offices in Anambra, Cross River, Federal Capital Territory, Edo, Kano and Lagos and an office for faith-based initiatives in Bauchi. GHAIN plans to reach 22 states in Nigeria by 2009.

GHAIN has built strong collaborative partnerships with more than 120 organizations — public, private and faith-based — at the community, state and national levels. Under GHAIN, FHI and its international and local partners are providing technical support to the National Action Committee on AIDS and assisting the National AIDS and STD Control Programme with capacity building and the development of national guidelines and manuals for HIV/AIDS and STI management. GHAIN is also working to integrate HIV/AIDS programming into key national structures, such as the uniformed services and workplaces.

GHAIN is committed to developing new initiatives with its partners in the critical fight against HIV/AIDS.



A laboratory scientist at the newly activated antiretroviral therapy comprehensive site at Central Hospital, Benin

GHAIN's Strategies and Program Elements

- **Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT):**
GHAIN's approach to PMTCT is three-pronged: prevent HIV infection among women of childbearing age, prevent perinatal HIV infection, and provide follow-up care and support for mothers, infants and their families.
- **Abstinence and be faithful initiatives:**
GHAIN's abstinence and be faithful activities focus on youth prevention activities carried out by faith-based organizations through education, behavior change and youth peer education programs.
- **Other prevention initiatives:**
GHAIN's additional prevention work reaches uniformed services personnel and their dependents, transport workers, female sex workers, men and women in workplace, men who have sex with men, and PLHA through nongovernmental and community-based organizations, national associations and unions, and the private sector.
- **Palliative care for basic health care and support:**
GHAIN supports palliative care in secondary and primary health care facilities as well as in communities. Services include management of opportunistic infections, home-base care and clinical management of HIV-infected people who do not qualify for antiretroviral therapy.
- **Palliative care for tuberculosis and HIV:**
GHAIN's palliative care strategy also addresses the relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and HIV by strengthening and integrating TB and HIV services, improving drug storage and laboratory services, expanding service delivery points and increasing diagnosis and referrals.



Participants at a treatment adherence workshop

- **Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC):**
GHAIN seeks to protect and improve the well-being of OVC and to decrease the burden of HIV/AIDS on children, families and communities through multi-sectoral partnerships with communities; medical, educational and psychosocial support for children; and support for households containing OVC.
- **Counseling and testing:**
GHAIN is expanding and strengthening counseling and testing in its six focus states. Target audiences include TB patients; clients of tertiary, secondary and primary health care facilities; most at-risk populations; and maternal and child health clients.
- **HIV/AIDS treatment/antiretroviral therapy (ART):**
GHAIN is introducing ART in nine secondary health care facilities, creating multiple entry points for eligible patients to access ART, training clinical staff in standard operating procedures for ART, improving drug security and commodity management in hospital pharmacies and ensuring confidential patient management.
- **Strategic information:**
GHAIN is establishing a strong strategic information system that includes patient management and monitoring, and program monitoring and evaluation.



Participants at a workshop on HIV/AIDS counseling

For more information, please contact:

Family Health International
Institute for HIV/AIDS
2101 Wilson Boulevard,
Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22201 USA
Tel: + 1.703.516.9779
Fax: + 1.703.516.9781
www.fhi.org

Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria
(GHAIN)
Family Health International/Nigeria
Plot 1073-A1 Godab Plaza
J. S. Tarka Street, Area 3 Garki,
Abuja, FCT/Nigeria
Tel: 234-9-461-5555
Fax: 234-9-461-5511

